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**Office of the
Special Coordinator
for Lebanon**

**Bureau du
Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban**

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement After Meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri
Ain El-Tineh, Lebanon
Wednesday, 13 May 2009**

Thank you very much. I just had very a good discussion with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri in which we focused on the general situation in Lebanon and the developments in the broader region.

It was an opportunity to brief the Speaker Berri with the welcome news that Israel yesterday handed over technical strike data of the cluster munitions fired at Lebanon during the 2006 war. This information was passed to the UNIFIL Commander General Graziano yesterday. UNIFIL is currently examining and assessing the data received, but we believe the documentation that has been passed over is very significant. If confirmed, this would be an important step in the implementation of Resolution 1701 but more importantly in putting an end to the humanitarian tragedy that the cluster munitions have caused. Earlier Speaker Berri reminded me of the very many casualties in South Lebanon, fatalities and injured, men, women and children, that have suffered as a result of these cluster munitions. The United Nations had repeatedly called on Israel to provide this data since the 2006 conflict.

Other aspects of Resolution 1701 and the general situation in south Lebanon were also raised today in my meeting with Speaker Berri. I assured Mr. Berri that the United Nations will continue to closely follow up on the full implementation of that resolution by all sides concerned.

I also discussed with Speaker Berri the recent reports of a number of Israeli spy rings uncovered by the security forces in Lebanon. This is a very serious matter which was raised earlier this week in my meetings also with President Sleiman on Tuesday and with Prime Minister Siniora on Monday.

The operation of any spy cell in Lebanon would constitute a serious violation of Security Council resolution 1701. I have requested the Lebanese authorities to provide us with all relevant information in this regard in order to include it in the next report on the implementation of Resolution 1701.

As we get closer to June 7, another topic I raised with Speaker Berri was the period leading up to the parliamentary elections. I am very encouraged by the calm that has prevailed in Lebanon so far. We, the United Nations, have strongly supported the pledge made by the National Dialogue participants to commit to a non-violent environment during the electoral period and we hope that it will be one of the elements that contribute to making the elections a free, fair and democratic process.

I also raised with Speaker Berri, as I have with President Sleiman and Prime Minister Siniora, the deadlock over the Constitutional Council and expressed the hope that this important institution will be formally established as soon as possible.

Thank you.