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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Mohammad Fneish
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 14 April 2009

I just had a very good meeting with Minister Mohammad Fneish; it was sometime since we met. We had a good discussion about the general situation in Lebanon, in particularly about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

As the preparations are now underway for municipal elections next month, I also raised this issue with Minister Fneish; I hope the municipal elections will take place in a democratic and safe atmosphere. In that regard, I welcomed the decision taken at the last meeting of the National Dialogue on March 09, in which all political sides agreed to maintain a calm atmosphere.

In my discussions with Minister Fneish, I also voiced my support for the Lebanese National Dialogue, which will be meeting again tomorrow, in its endeavours to develop a national defence strategy but also in keeping the channels of dialogue open among the different political parties in Lebanon.

I also expressed to Minister Fneish the support of the United Nations for the reinforcement of Lebanon's State institutions and we believe the Ministry of Administrative Reform, which is led by Minister Fneish, has a very important role to play in this regard.

Thank you very much.

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