



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Prime Minister Saad Hariri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 16 June 2010

Good afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

The main focus of our discussions was on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. I informed the Prime Minister that the next report to the Security Council would be due at the end of this month, at the end of June, and we accordingly discussed today some of the provisions of the resolution that require further progress and also greater effort. This applies to both Lebanon and Israel: we hope both sides exert more efforts to help push the current cessation of hostilities towards a long-term ceasefire. Both sides must do their best to respect the Blue Line and Lebanon, as the Prime Minister assured me that the Lebanese would be doing this, respecting the Blue Line in its entirety. But also we must see an end to violations, including the daily violations by Israel of Lebanese airspace and the continued occupation of the northern part of the village of Ghajar.

I also discussed with the Prime Minister the notable progress in recent days in Lebanese-Syrian relations. In particular, I was pleased to hear that President Sleiman and President Assad discussed yesterday the delineation and demarcation of the common border and expressed their intent to make progress on this issue. I warmly welcome progress on such bilateral issues, which are of direct relevance to the implementation of 1701.

Finally, I understand that the National Dialogue, chaired by President Sleiman, will resume its discussions tomorrow. As I told the Prime Minister today, we hope the National Dialogue will be able to make progress on the development of a national defence strategy to address the issue of arms outside state control, as stipulated in resolution 1701.

Thank you very much.
