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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Former President Amine Gemayel, Leader of the
Kataeb Party**

Bikfaya, Lebanon

Tuesday, 17 May 2011

Good morning

I want to say how pleased I was that I had a very detailed and a very lengthy meeting with President Amine Gemayel.

We discussed the situation here in Lebanon and also the situation in the wider region and on many many points, we were in close agreement. Lebanon faces challenges and we saw those challenges on Sunday in the south on the Blue Line and also the challenges in the north now. For these reasons, I find myself in complete agreement with the President that the sooner a new government is formed the better, the better for Lebanon and its people and the better for the region as a whole.

President Gemayel and I also discussed developments in the wider Arab world and I emphasized the Secretary-General's strong commitment for the need for all governments, in whatever country, in Syria, in Libya or Bahrain, the importance to try and avoid violence and to engage in immediate reforms and dialogue. There is no other way. And this is the lesson, we believe, of history in the rest of the world and increasingly in the Arab world.

Thank you very much.
