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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement After Meeting with Minister of Labor Mohammad Fneish
Beirut, Lebanon
Thursday, 18 June 2009**

Good Afternoon.

I wanted to say that I just had a very good meeting with Minister Mohammad Fneish. It was my first opportunity to meet with him since the parliamentary elections on June 7. It was an opportunity to go over many recent developments, both in Lebanon and in the Middle East.

One of the issues that we discussed today was the implementation of Resolution 1701 and the next report on the Resolution 1701 that will go to the Security Council at the end of this month. I will be travelling to New York in early July to brief the Security Council on the report on the situation in Lebanon. One of the things that we expect from the new Lebanese government is that it commits again to the continued implementation of resolution 1701. This is very important for peace and stability in the region.

In this regard, we also discussed with Minister Fneish the very worrying and troubling issue of the recently uncovered spy cells in Lebanon. I informed the Minister that the UN has requested all necessary information on this issue from the Lebanese authorities and that it will be included in the next report on Resolution 1701.

On the domestic situation, the UN has been very encouraged by the atmosphere of calm and dialogue that preceded the elections, the calm that continued on the day of the elections and which thankfully has prevailed since then. I also congratulated Minister Fneish on his personal success in regaining his seat in his constituency in the city of Tyre. I also discussed with him and noted remarks by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah himself and especially the important remarks he made on June 8, the day after the elections, when he talked of accepting the results with democratic spirit and sportsmanship.

Finally, I also discussed with Minister Fneish the prospects for the formation of a new government in the coming weeks. We both agreed that the sooner this was taking place, it would be better for the people of Lebanon and for the region and I encouraged Minister

Fneish and Hizbullah to work as hard as possible with the other political parties in seeing the formation of a new government.

Thank you very much.
