



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement at the Stakeout Following Security Council Session on Resolution 1701**

Thursday, 18 November 2010

I just briefed the Security Council, as you know, on the fourteenth report of the Secretary General on Security Council Resolution on 1701. I took the opportunity at the beginning of welcoming the decision taken by the Israeli security Cabinet yesterday, Wednesday, to accept in principle a United Nations proposal for a withdrawal of the Israeli Defense Force from the northern part of Ghajar and its redeployment south of the Blue Line.

The IDF withdrawal from northern Ghajar would be an important step towards the full implementation of 1701. The United Nations would then seek to continue to work closely with the parties in a process to resolve the permanent status of Ghajar as soon as the withdrawal is complete.

Earlier, before the briefing, I spoke to Gen. Asarta, the UNIFIL Force Commander, and we agreed, subject to the approval of the Israeli authorities, to make a visit to Israel for this purpose early next week.

Of course, there is much other work to do. In recent months we have seen a number of incidents of considerable concern and in particular I refer to the incidents in the village of El-Adaysseh on August the 3rd when for the first time since the war of 2006 there were fatalities on both sides. In my concluding remarks to the Council just now, I stated strongly that we could not afford, we could not afford, to see any repetition of that sort of incident. There have also been smaller incidents and notably the explosion in Shehabiyeh, the village of Shehabiyeh, on September the 3rd.

Israel and Lebanon have obligations to meet under the resolution. I welcomed again today the expressions of continued commitment to the resolution. But I also warned that progress made so far could be undermined if the parties do not couple their assertions for support with further concrete steps.

I impressed on the Security Council this morning that 1701 has played an important role in keeping the situation calm and stable along the Blue Line. And it always needs to be remembered how different that situation was before 1701.

I also took this occasion to update the Council on the situation within Lebanon and the effect that this could have on the implementation of Resolution 1701. I have consistently stressed that, even in these difficult times and because of these difficult times, the importance of dialogue among all Lebanese sides to resolve outstanding issues no matter

how sensitive to safeguard the role of Lebanese State institutions. We hope that all Lebanese will strive to overcome, and they have done in the past, current political difficulties through dialogue and including very sensitive issues, such as the Special Tribunal on Lebanon.

Thank you very much. I will take any questions now.

QUESTION: (inaudible)

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I am grateful you have given me the opportunity to comment on that. We all benefit from the great freedom of the press in Lebanon. I'd like to say that I expect to see indictments from the Special Tribunal in the coming months. I don't know whether that's next week or next year. That's obviously a matter for the Tribunal, and above all for the Prosecutor,

I can't say a lot in this regard at this moment and this precisely the reason why Gen. Asarta and I need to go to Israel next week. But I feel confident this is going in the right direction and that we will be able to agree with Israel and I am sure that the villagers will be able to go about their every day activities.

Q: (inaudible)

SCL WILLIAMS: Well, no, no, no there are no fights between us and (inaudible). Look I follow very closely the speeches of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and on many times the Secretary General of Hizbullah has referred openly to Hizbullah's considerable armaments, sometimes in some detail. And he has referred also to the replenishment of those armaments since the war of 2006. So I have to assume that this is weaponry smuggled into the country.
