



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 Lebanese Forces Leader Samir Geagea
Maarab, Lebanon**

Friday, 21 May 2010

Good morning.

I just had a very good meeting with Dr. Samir Geagea.

We reviewed the latest domestic and regional developments in and around Lebanon.

The United Nations is encouraged by the calm and stability that has prevailed in Lebanon since the formation of the Government and by the revival of the work of the country's state institutions. We are pleased by the calm and stable atmosphere that has prevailed since the beginning of the municipal elections earlier this month. I am confident this will continue for the remaining two rounds in south and north Lebanon.

I also discussed with Dr. Geagea the implementation of Resolution 1701 and the need to keep moving forward towards a long-term ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel.

Thank you.

QUESTION: What is required for the full implementation of resolution 1701?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I think both sides have to do things. On the Israeli side, there are the daily violations of Lebanese territory, the air violations, which have to stop. There is also the village of Ghajar, and I think I can say that there were talks again on this issue yesterday, and we hope there will be progress soon. There is also Shebaa. On the other side, in Lebanon, there are concerns over the maintenance of the arms embargo and the armory of Hizbullah.

QUESTION: Will there be a regional war?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I don't think so. Recent tension is now subsiding. And there are many foreign visitors coming to Lebanon, for example the German and French Foreign Ministers this weekend, or earlier this week the Kuwaiti Emir, and the Qatari Emir. Of course, these visits are also a sign of concern, but they also show the commitment of these countries to the stability of Lebanon and the region.