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pour le Liban**

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Tuesday, 21 July 2009

Good Morning,

I just had an excellent meeting with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Mr. Nabih Berri. Our discussion focused on the situation in south Lebanon during the past few days where there have been serious tension following several incidents. I have also met with Hizbullah and I had a frank discussion with them to ascertain how we can reduce tensions in the south.

The Speaker, Mr. Berri, assured me that he was working very hard to reduce the tensions in the south following recent incidents and I am confident that his statement underlines the actions that he has taken and that also Hizbullah is trying to make.

The United Nations has requested all sides to recommit to the terms of resolution 1701. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces are working in close cooperation to ensure that the situation remains under control. I discussed with Speaker Berri and with Hizbullah measures to be taken by Lebanon but also by Israel to avoid any further incidents. Noting the sensitivity of the situation, we agreed that all sides should refrain from any provocative actions which could spur undesirable results.

I have also raised these issues and the importance of respecting all provisions of Resolution 1701 in my talks yesterday with Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri and Prime Minister Fuad Siniora.

Speaker Berri relayed to me his very deep concerns regarding Israel's violations of Lebanon's sovereignty. I hope to be travelling to Israel later this week to discuss with Israeli officials the importance of fully implementing Resolution 1701 in all respects.

The United Nations works with all parties to strive to ensure respect for 1701. The United Nations' role is an impartial one that aims at preventing violence and enabling the continued cessation of hostilities and the attainment of a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution for peace.

Thank you very much
