



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 Foreign Minister Ali Shami
Beirut, Lebanon**

Tuesday, 21 September 2010

Good Morning

I just met with H.E. Ali Shami, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As you know, the Minister will be accompanying the Head of State, President Sleiman, tomorrow to attend the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where the President, whom I will be meeting shortly in Baabda, will also meet with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Participation by the President and the Foreign Minister in the General Debate is a very important opportunity for Lebanon, particularly given its current membership of the Security Council. It will also be an opportunity to discuss the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. I know that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is looking forward to meeting with President Sleiman and with Minister Ali Shami to discuss 1701 and other issues relevant to Lebanon and the region.

In that regard, in our discussion today, we also touched on the recent escalation of rhetoric and tension in Lebanon over the past few weeks. I told Minister Shami that this has generated some concerns for Lebanon's stability. The United Nations continues to believe that any differences should be resolved through calm and rational dialogue between all sides, and through the work of Lebanon's state institutions.

Thank you very much.

QUESTION: What about the latest Israeli violation yesterday when they fired towards the Lebanese army location?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: In fact just prior to this meeting, we spoke with UNIFIL in Naqoura and consulted them and they are now carrying out an investigation into what happened yesterday.

Thank you.
