



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 Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri
Beirut, Lebanon**

Tuesday, 21 September 2010

Good afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with H.E. Nabih Berri, the Speaker of Parliament.

We covered many issues, domestic and regional and, of course, Security Council Resolution 1701. Earlier this morning, I had meetings with his H.E. President Sleiman and also with Foreign Minister Ali Shami. We wished the President and Foreign Minister all very best wishes and support for their forthcoming visit tomorrow to New York for meetings with the Secretary-General and to attend the General Assembly and also for the very important State visit, the first by any Lebanese President, to Mexico.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, is looking forward to his meeting with President Sleiman, to discuss the implementation of 1701 and also to discuss regional issues.

Inevitably in my discussions this morning with Speaker Berri, we also discussed the domestic situation here in Lebanon and the effect that may have on 1701. I shared with the Speaker my concerns about recent rhetoric and the rise in tension. Speaker Berri and I are, I believe, in full agreement that differences must be resolved through calm and rational dialogue and by reinforcing the work of the institutions of the State. All Lebanese must work to safeguard these institutions, which are the pillars of the stability of any country, including Lebanon. Only calm dialogue can take the country forward, rather than backwards into instability and that calm dialogue I believe is what everybody should work for in these days.

Thank you very much.
