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pour le Liban**

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 22 July 2009

Good Morning,

I wanted to say I've just had an excellent meeting with the Foreign Minister of Lebanon Mr. Fawzi Salloukh. We discussed in great details the importance of Resolution 1701 and that all sides concerned recommit to its full implementation in order to maintain calm and stability in the region. Minister Salloukh underlined with me the importance that he attaches personally and that the Lebanese Government does to strongly supporting the full implementation of this Resolution.

We also agreed with Minister Salloukh on the importance of reducing the tension that flared in southern Lebanon during the past few days. I have also discussed this issue with Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri and also with Hizbullah. All, and I repeat all, have assured me strongly that active efforts are underway to reduce the tension and restore stability to the area.

UNIFIL continues to coordinate closely with the Lebanese army to ensure that the situation remains under control in line with the implementation of Resolution 1701. Furthermore, the United Nations has urged both Lebanon and Israel to refrain from any actions which could be perceived as provocative and which could spiral into undesirable results.

Q: How do you see the situation in the south Lebanon now?

A: I think after the incident of last week we see the situation as calming down and above all I am assured that everybody, UNIFIL, the LAF, the Lebanese Government, Hizbullah are working to reduce tension.

Q: Will UNIFIL apologize for violation 1701?

A: You know that quite a number of UNIFIL soldiers were injured and at least one soldier was hospitalized. That incident is under investigation, I think both by UNIFIL and by the LAF and I think that it is important that that be looked at thoroughly and very

very rigorously to avoid anything like this happening again. The Minister pointed out to me that the incident is very regrettable and that nothing like this has happened in the 30 year presence of UNIFIL before so we take comfort from that and I think all of us want to work hard to prevent anything like this from happening again.

Thank you very much
