



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 Minister of Defence Elias Murr
Yarzeh, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 22 September 2010

Good Afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with the Minister of Defense, Elias Murr.

Although most of our discussion was on Resolution 1701, I would like to say first of all how pleased I am with the meeting of the Council of Ministers yesterday, under the leadership of President Sleiman. We are very pleased that the decision of the Council to try to put an end to the rhetoric of recent days and to preserve and strengthen the institutions of the State and to rely upon dialogue. This is an important conclusion for Lebanon but also for the implementation of Resolution 1701. I know President Sleiman has now left for New York and the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is looking forward to meeting him tomorrow.

With the Defense Minister, we discussed the situation in the south and along the Blue Line. I am pleased that the incident that happened at al-Adaysseh on 3 August, since then the situation has returned to calm and quiet.

At the same time, we remain conscious of the need to move forward towards a permanent cease-fire, as envisaged in the resolution, and to end all violations of the resolution, such as Israel's occupation of northern part of Ghajar and also the daily over-flights.

In my meeting with the Defense Minister, and also earlier with Army Commander Gen. Kahwaji, I thanked them both for the very strong support and cooperation given to UNIFIL. It is very very clear to me, and even more so to the Commander of UNIFIL Gen. Asarta, that without this cooperation, UNIFIL couldn't continue its work.

Thank you very much.

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