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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Monday, 23 May 2011

I am very grateful to his H.E. Nabih Berri, the Speaker of Parliament, for receiving me today. We had a very lengthy meeting and we discussed several issues, domestic issues and regional issues.

We talked about the situation in the south and the implementation of Resolution 1701 and how to try and avoid a repetition of the tragedy that happened in Maroun El-Ras. I think all of us need to work to prevent any repetition of that tragedy, the LAF, UNIFIL, the Palestinians and the Lebanese authorities.

Earlier this morning, I also met President Sleiman where we discussed the situation on the Blue Line and resolution 1701.

With both the President and with Speaker Berri, I expressed our strong belief that the sooner a new government was formed, the better. There are many problems before Lebanon, problems of economy, problems of security and these problems are growing, they grow by the day. We also believe that now opportunities are being lost, for example the maritime resources. These issues can only be tackled by the formation of a new government, which I believe to be in the best interest of the Lebanese people.

Thank you.
