



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 Prime Minister Saad Hariri  
Beirut, Lebanon**

Thursday, 23 September 2010

Good Afternoon

I just had a very good meeting with the Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

With the Prime Minister, we talked about the developments that have taken place in Lebanon in the past few weeks and also in the region since we last met just three or four weeks ago at the end of August.

I expressed to the Prime Minister my very strong support, the support of the United Nations, for the decision taken by the Lebanese Council of Ministers earlier this week to bring an end to the rhetoric that has contributed to tension in the country. I commended the Prime Minister for his principled stand in favor of continued unity and dialogue and his firm opposition to the division and polarization that has characterized Lebanon in previous periods. Dialogue is the best means of addressing any sensitive issue in Lebanon or in any other country in the world.

We also concurred with the Prime Minister that all Lebanese should focus on safeguarding the institutions of the State, which again are the pillars of stability in any country in the world. Lebanon can only be strong through strong State institutions and all Lebanese should unite behind this goal.

Later today, President Sleiman will meet in New York with the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and I am sure that the Secretary-General will wish to convey the same message to the President. The Secretary-General has been concerned by the tension that has arisen, and especially the impact that this could have on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701.

I also discussed 1701 with the Prime Minister in our meeting just now and informed him that we will be preparing our next report for the Security Council by the end of October. In that regard, we are pleased that after recent tensions the situation in south Lebanon has returned to calm and quiet.

Thank you

QUESTION: What do you have to say about what happened at the airport on Sunday (Saturday), the show (inaudible)...?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: This is an example of the tensions that we have seen frankly in recent weeks and I would wish that they can be avoided and it seems to me following the Council of ministers meeting on Tuesday evening that there is the political will now, clearly manifested in the Council of Ministers discussions, and decision to reduce the tensions.

QUESTION: How about the international Tribunal, would something like this affect the work of the Tribunal, how (inaudible)?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: No, not at all. The Tribunal is an independent entity created by the Security Council and separate from the United Nations but this is a body whose work continues. It cannot be affected by events of one day.

Thank you.

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