



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 MP Michel Aoun
Rabieh, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 24 May 2010

Good Morning.

I just had a very good meeting with MP Michel Aoun. We discussed the general situation in Lebanon and in the broader region.

On 1701, we focused on the implementation of the Resolution and recent concerns in that regard. I am reassured by the fact, which the General shares with me, that all parties are still committed to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 and to the cessation of hostilities. I believe all parties must also refrain from any provocative action or statements that could lead to tension.

This month, Lebanon is presiding over the Security Council of the United Nations in New York and on Wednesday, Prime Minister Saad Hariri will chair a meeting of the Council. He will also meet with the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that day. These are opportunities for Lebanon to make its voice heard at the international level and to contribute actively to the international efforts for promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and around the world.

I also discussed with Gen. Aoun the municipal elections in Lebanon. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Lebanese Army and the ISF and the security forces for their handling of the elections, the three rounds that have taken place, and also to congratulate the Minister of Interior Ziad Baroud on the role that his Ministry has played and above all to congratulate those parties that have been successful in the elections and to commiserate with those who have been unsuccessful. But I think the elections are testimony to the Lebanese people and to the way they exercise their democratic rights and I look forward to a successful conclusion of this process next week on Sunday, May 30, in the last round of the elections in the north.

Shoukran. Thank you.

QUESTION: Do you think the region towards certain peace?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I think the region is very very active diplomacy now. The visits recently over the weekend of the French and German foreign ministers, last week of

the Emir of Kuwait, the Prime Minister's visit to Syria and now to New York. I think all this is aimed at reinforcing stability in the region and I think the signs for this are getting more optimistic.

QUESTION: All states are afraid of Iran agreement about...

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Let's see because I think that situation is developing. There were visits of President Lula of Brazil and Prime Minister Erdogan to Iran, the matter is being discussed in the Security Council. I hope we can see a solution to it.

Thank you
