



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**

Wednesday, 28 April 2010

Good Morning

My meeting with Prime Minister Saad Hariri was an opportunity to go over the latest developments in Lebanon and the region.

Prime Minister Hariri and I discussed the tension that has arisen as a result of allegations and counter-allegations that have been made in recent days and weeks. I know there is a lot of concern in Lebanon -- Prime Minister Hariri relayed that to me -- and there has been much media attention on this. I commended Prime Minister Hariri for his efforts to reduce tension and especially his visit yesterday to Sharm El-Sheikh to meet with H.E. President Mubarak of Egypt.

I am convinced that it remains in the interest of all parties to abide by Resolution 1701 and to preserve the cessation of hostilities. I was in Israel earlier this week and officials there expressed to me their continued commitment to the implementation of 1701.

I also know, and I heard again today from Prime Minister Hariri, that Lebanon remains fully committed to Resolution 1701. I expect that all parties will do their part to maintain the stability in the south and across the Blue Line and that tension will dissipate.

Thank you.

QUESTION: Do you consider that the Israeli threats are directed to Syria in the atmosphere of threats to Iran?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Well, we have been very very concerned about all the tensions in the region. I hope and believe that they may dissipate a little now. I noticed that even Prime Minister Netanyahu said explicitly yesterday that there would be no war with Syria. The last thing that this region wants and needs is further conflict. It has had enough of that over the years.

QUESTION: Do you consider that there is a possibility of a war?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: No, I don't believe that there will be. I think there is too much at stake to lose for all the parties. I think tensions have been high the last few days. But I hope that those will lower now.

QUESTION: Does the UN have any specific issue it wants to raise to Hizbullah?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: We are often in meetings with Hizbullah, very very regularly. I met Minister Fneish about a week ago and discussed a whole range of issues, domestic and regional. And I asked them for their views and Minister Fneish and other Hizbullah interlocutors that I have met have reconfirmed their commitment to 1701.

QUESTION: Do you believe also that the Scud is the real thing, that Hizbullah has Scud missiles?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: I really don't know about that at all. I cannot make an assessment on that issue. What is important for me is Resolution 1701 because I think that is the key to peace and in Resolution 1701 it does state quite clearly that any transfer of arms to Lebanon should only be to the Government of Lebanon.

Shukran, Merci.

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