



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, 28 October 2009

Thank you very much.

Good Morning to you all.

I just had a long meeting with Gen. Michel Aoun, and we discussed the situation in Lebanon and also in the region. We talked about the process of government formation here in Lebanon and also the latest incidents in the south of Lebanon.

My visit to Gen. Aoun today is in line with a round of meetings that I have been holding and conducting with Lebanese leaders over the last few days, in fact over the last few weeks. I expressed my support for the policy of open dialogue that has been adopted by Gen. Aoun and, I think, by all political sides. But I also reiterated my deep concern that a new government has not been formed yet. It is my strong hope that a government will be formed by the time the Security Council discusses Lebanon and Security Resolution 1701 two weeks from now on 10 November.

Yesterday, we witnessed the launch of a Katyusha rocket from south Lebanon into Israel and the discovery of four rockets for launching in the same area this morning. These are issues of serious concern, as also is the concern that we have about the counter-fire from Israel yesterday evening. In recent weeks, we have had a number of serious violations of Security Council resolution 1701, and this underscores that we must all work very hard to prevent further incidents and restore stability and calm.

Thank you very much.

Q: *Craignez-vous une explosion dans la region?*

A: Well, we see many positive things in the region, perhaps above all the summit meeting, just two weeks ago, I think, on October 7 and 8, between his Majesty King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and the President of Syria, President Assad. We think that this was a very important meeting for the region and particularly, for Lebanon. And I think it has had a positive effect

on Lebanon, I think it has encouraged, perhaps, the process of government formation in Lebanon. We are also concerned about some of the negative trends in the region, and I have to say we are very concerned in that regard about the situation in Palestine, the absence of a peace process, the situation with regard to the al-Aqsa mosque, and we welcome the report by Judge Goldstone, an internationally known jurist, and we wish to see that report now implemented and pushed forward.

Q: *Et au Liban, est-ce que vous craignez une explosion?*

A: For Lebanon, I think, we have high hopes. I hope that in two weeks' time when I go to New York, a government will already be formed.

Q: Regarding 1701, the Lebanese fear that the overall look at the implementation of the resolution isn't very justified, regarding the Lebanese authorities, they think that you will be biased...

A: I think the report will be very clear on violations, many of which are daily violations, not irregular, but daily, and we think above all of the Israeli air violations of Lebanese sovereignty and of course of resolution 1701. Now, there is a new issue, which was the discovery, ten days ago, nearly two weeks ago, of what appear to be listening devices in southern Lebanon. And it doesn't matter if these were planted two weeks ago or two years ago or three years ago, they seemed to be active, and this is a clear violation of Lebanon's sovereignty.

Thank you very much, merci bien, shukran.
