



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 Lebanese Forces Leader Samir Geagea
Maarab, Lebanon**

Thursday, 29 July 2010

I just had a very good meeting with Dr. Samir Geagea.

With Dr. Geagea, we discussed both the domestic situation and the regional situation at the moment.

I took the opportunity to welcome the initiative of President Sleiman in meeting with all key domestic players over the last week or ten days and I discussed this also with the President earlier this week. I also take this opportunity to welcome the intensive regional diplomacy involving key Arab parties to help defuse the tensions of recent days.

On Security Council Resolution 1701, I briefed Dr. Geagea on the recent meeting of the Security Council on 14 July when I addressed the Council about the problems and issues that are confronted by the implementation of 1701.

I also took the opportunity with Dr. Geagea to discuss the situation in the south and express our satisfaction that calm has been restored. But everyone has to work very hard to maintain that stability and that is absolutely vital now and in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you.

QUESTION: About the regional and international situation and its impact on the Lebanese soil? What do you think about the international tribunal and its impact especially after the statement of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah against the international tribunal?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: The Special Tribunal for Lebanon of course was established by the Security Council. It is an independent entity. In all my career as an official and as a diplomat whether in national or in international service, I have always respected the freedom of the judiciary and we have to see what happens with the Tribunal and on what the decisions of that court will be in due time. But it is not for me to comment directly about actions the Tribunal may or may not take because I don't believe anybody knows the substance of that.

QUESTION: But the result of this Tribunal might affect stability in Lebanon?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: It might but you know lots of things might happen with regard to the Tribunal and with regard to many other issues. One thing we are always constantly aware of is that there might be another conflict with Israel and God forbid that that happens because Lebanon suffered enough in the 2006 war but this is something that we try and work as hard as we can to prevent and I think with other tensions also and issues we are active in trying to cool things down and to deal with realities.

Thank you very much.
