



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 October 2009

I just had a very good meeting with the leader of the Lebanese Forces, Dr. Samir Geagea.

We had wide-ranging discussions about developments here in Lebanon, but also in the region. We touched on the formation of a new government and the delay that this process has faced since the parliamentary elections on June 7, now almost five months ago. I expressed our concern, the concern of the United Nations, over this delay and the hope that the different Lebanese sides will be able to make the necessary compromises in order to push the formation of a government forward.

We are pleased by the policy of open dialogue that has prevailed during the past weeks but we hope this helps in reaching a solution very soon.

I also briefed Dr. Geagea about the forthcoming 1701 report and about the consultations the Security Council will have on this on November 10, and I will be going to New York in ten days' time for that.

Thank you very much

Q: Are you with [do you favour] the formation of a majority government in case there is no agreement on a national unity government?

A: I'm pleased that the discussions are involving all the parties, and I think there is a clear determination on the part of all the parties to bring about a national unity government, but I think the details [inaudible]

Q: What do you think about the security situation in the south of Lebanon?

A: We are very concerned over the security situation in the south of Lebanon, because now there have been several incidents over the past two or three weeks. You know we had

a rocket attack two days ago, we had rocket attacks on September 11, [and] in July, we had the incident in Khirbet Silim, then some sort of incident in Tir Filsay. This is too much, and with every incident, there is the risk, the danger, that somebody could be injured or, God forbid, that somebody could be killed, and then the tension could rise dramatically. It's more than three years since the war and so far, the cessation of hostilities has held very well, but incidents like this put the cessation of hostilities at risk, and we cannot afford it.

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