



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 Sleiman Franjieh
Bnachii, Lebanon**

Tuesday, 31 August 2010

Good afternoon.

First of all let me say what a pleasure it is to be here in Bnachii and to meet again with Member of Parliament Sleiman Franjieh.

We had a very long discussion this morning about many issues in Lebanon and also in the region.

I took the opportunity to brief Member of Parliament Sleiman Franjieh about the situation with regard to resolution 1701 and in particular about the important news from New York yesterday that the Security Council agreed to the extension of the mandate of UNIFIL. This was very important. There has been much speculation in Lebanon about this issue and of course the mandate of UNIFIL was extended without any changes to the mandate. Some people had said that there would be changes. The Security Council also called on all parties to respect the cessation of hostilities and to respect the Blue Line. This is very very important to avoid any future incidents, such as the incident in Al-Adaysseh on August 3.

I also discussed with Sleiman Franjieh some of the internal developments and in particular the disturbances last week in Beirut, in Burj Abi-Haidar, and I expressed great regret that this had happened and that lives had been lost. I think we both agreed that it is very very important now for all sides to work very hard to avoid such events in the future.

In this regard too, I strongly welcomed the meeting which took place yesterday in Damascus between President El-Assad and Prime Minister Hariri. I think this sent a very very important signal that the two men are constantly in communication and pledged to the stability of Lebanon.

Thank you very much.

QUESTION: You mentioned that the Blue Line must be respected. This respect should be from both sides, from the Lebanese and Israeli side. That's what didn't happen in Adaysseh.

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: There is a report now about Adaysseh. That will be discussed I think on Thursday between all the parties in the meeting of the tripartite group in Naqoura. There are many violations. There are violations which occurred at Adaysseh on 3 August and tragically led to the loss of life. But there are also violations, which occur every day or almost day, for example the air violations by the Israeli air force and these are absolutely critical and they are condemned and they should stop.

Shoukran. Thank you very much.
