Good Afternoon,

I just had a very good meeting with H.E. Amr Moussa, the Secretary-General of the Arab League. I was very pleased that the Secretary General could see me on the eve of his visit to China for the China-Arab Forum.

Today, we reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East, including of course Lebanon and the wider region. We talked about the Middle East peace process and the Arab League’s backing for the start of proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinians. We are hopeful that peace negotiations will help steer the region towards peace and stability.

We also spent some time talking about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, and I warmly welcomed the continued support of the Secretary-General and of the Arab League for the full implementation of that resolution.

As you know, Lebanon is currently presiding over the United Nations Security Council in the month of May in its capacity as the representative of the Arab Group, and we discussed some of the salient issues that the Council will be tackling in the coming period.

I also reiterated again to Amr Moussa the importance that the United Nations ascribes to the Arab League and the positive role that it plays in this region. I know we, the United Nations, but also Lebanon, on which I focus, have an important and reliable partner in the Arab League and in its Secretary-General Amr Moussa.

Thank you very much

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