Good morning,

I just had an excellent meeting with MP Michel Aoun. We exchanged ideas on the situation in Lebanon and in the region.

I reiterated my belief that the formation of a new government in Lebanon is needed as soon as possible to address the many challenges that the Lebanese people face. These challenges cannot be met without an active government particularly at a time of dramatic and rapid changes in the Arab region. I was pleased that Gen. Aoun is positive that there can be progress in the formation of a government soon.

On the wider Arab situation, I underlined the importance of dialogue, of avoiding violence and of respecting human rights in all countries in the region and the United Nations attaches enormous importance to that idea.

Thank you very much.

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