



Office of the Special Coordinator  
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial  
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Ad Interim Robert Watkins  
Press Encounter Following Meeting with Samir Geagea, Leader of the Lebanese  
Forces Party  
Beirut, Lebanon**

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

QUESTION: How do you view the explosions today in Tyre?

ACTING SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR LEBANON ROBERT WATKINS: We are very concerned of course by any kind of rupture of stability in the country and explosions of this nature are an issue of concern, particularly when they happen in the south. We are very concerned always about the security of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the south, UNIFIL. They were obviously aware of the issue right away and took the necessary steps to ensure the safety of all the staff. We do not believe that this was necessarily targeted towards the United Nations but, as I say, we are very sensitive both from our own security perspective and also for the security and fragility of Lebanon. So we look forward to find out the report of the investigation and hope that those who were behind the crime will be punished.

QUESTION: Do you expect any attacks against the UNIFIL (inaudible)

ACTING SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR LEBANON ROBERT WATKINS: We don't expect attacks but of course we always have to be prepared. We have had two attacks in the last six months but were very serious in our eyes and we take all the security precautions that we can and work very closed with the Lebanese armed forces to ensure the safety of all staff.

QUESTION: What about the Syrian incursions across the Lebanese borders and when will be the full implementation of resolution 1701?

ACTING SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR LEBANON ROBERT WATKINS: That was one of the issues that I was speaking about with Dr. Geagea just now, the report that we have prepared on 1701, which is going to be discussed at the Security Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. We talked about the different problems in the progress towards a permanent ceasefire that we have noted. That being said however, we are relatively pleased with the quiet and stability in the south, which in the last reporting period has been quite quiet. But in terms of making steps that need to be taken on both sides, in Israel and in Lebanon, we still feel there is a lot of progress that needs to be made towards a permanent ceasefire. One of the problems in Lebanon, as you pointed out, has

been the border incursions. We are very concerned about that because they demonstrate that Lebanon still does not yet have complete control over its borders and that's a very important part of the Security Council resolution 1701 that Lebanon is responsible for controlling and managing and ensuring that it is able to control the movement of goods and people across the border.

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