



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 Mr. Samir Geagea, Leader of the Lebanese Forces
Party**

Maarab, Lebanon

Monday, 26 September 2011

I just had a good meeting with Dr. Samir Geagea. I thanked him not only for seeing me today but for seeing me many times over the past three years. Today, as in the past, we discussed the situation in Lebanon but also in the broader Arab region.

I shared with Dr. Geagea the position of the Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, who has repeatedly and strongly called for an immediate halt to all violence in Syria, for the full respect of human rights and for a serious process of political reform. We also agreed I think that Lebanon must remain vigilant during a time of dramatic change and upheaval in the Arab world.

And finally we discussed the situation regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, the prospects for Palestinian statehood and the very important address to the General Assembly made by President Mahmoud Abbas last Friday. Lebanon of course remains on the Security Council and is President of the Security Council this month and I believe tomorrow the Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, will chair a session of the Security Council on the Middle East. So we hope and pray that something promising and positive will come from that.

Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. Williams, did you discuss the financial funding of the International Tribunal?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: We did a little. Of course, Lebanon has its obligations on the funding of the international tribunal and that's very clear. But I am confident following statements from Prime Minister Najib Mikati and also President (Michel) Sleiman that Lebanon will fulfil its obligations in 2011 on this.

QUESTION: (inaudible)

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Well that would not be for me to decide. It would be for the Security Council to decide. But for me it is almost unthinkable that Lebanon will not meet its obligations. Member states of the UN have obligations in the same way that we as

individuals have obligations. And of course there are many resolutions that affect Lebanon: 1701 for example which has brought stability to south Lebanon. Now Lebanon is also asking the Secretary-General to see if something can be done to help with the difficult question of maritime boundaries, which is very hard. So, to be frank it is difficult to ask for help with one hand and then say with the other hand no we will not pay our obligations. So we remain confident that Lebanon will pay.

Very good. Thank you very much.
