



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**

Beirut, Lebanon

Wednesday, 28 September 2011

Let me say what a great honour it was today to be received by H.E. Nabih Berri, the Speaker of Parliament. I've had many many meetings with him over the past three years. Always, even in difficult times, he has received me with great courtesy, great warmth and real humanity. For me, it's a particular privilege to be received by him for the first time in this building, the building of the Lebanese Parliament. That is a particular honour for me and as he said, it is perhaps appropriate because I will become a member of the British Parliament very soon and of the House of Lords.

Over the past three years in my meetings with the Speaker, I think I have benefited on every occasion I have met with him. I want to thank him in particular for his support for UNIFIL and for resolution 1701. In that regard, he has been one of the most staunch supporters and we both always agreed that 1701 contributes so much to the long term stability and security of Lebanon.

Obviously we talked about other issues, domestic and regional. We talked a little also about the situation in Syria and the need to see stability return there but also an end to violence and the need for real political reform.

And once again, I take the opportunity to reiterate my thanks to Speaker Nabih Berri and to the Lebanese Parliament and people for all their support and encouragement for me over the last three years. Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Did you talk about financing of the STL (Special Tribunal for Lebanon)?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Actually we did not talk about that issue. It didn't come up in the discussion. But let me say for the record that I was very pleased to see the remarks of President Michel Sleiman and also yesterday of Prime Minister Najib Mikati in New York with regard to the tribunal. I think those remarks were very clear. Thank you.

Thank you very much.
