I had a fruitful meeting with H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs. I briefed him on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, which has just been circulated to Security Council members. The report highlights the calm which thankfully prevails in the south and across the Blue Line, but also the remaining steps that need to be taken to fully implement the resolution.

It also addresses issues of security and stability in Lebanon, which are crucial to the implementation of the resolution, and thanks the Government and people of Lebanon for the hospitality shown to displaced persons from Syria. It commends the efforts of Lebanon’s leaders to protect the country from the negative effects of the Syrian crisis, and specifically the initiative of H.E. the President in pursuing the National Dialogue.

We also discussed the results of the Syria Working Group meeting held in Geneva at the weekend, and the importance of all parties in Syria engaging on the conclusions of that meeting and bringing an end to the violence and initiating a political process there.

In answer to a question about a report of a cross border attack in the north of Lebanon, Mr. Plumbly said he had no information on it but that the Secretary-General’s report addressed the general issue of the importance of all parties respecting Lebanon’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and specifically called on Syria to respect the border. It also made the point that, even where there was uncertainty as to the precise delineation of the border, there could be no justification for the killing or abduction of citizens.

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