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pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly  
Statement following Meeting with Prime Minister Najib Mikati**

(Delivered in Arabic)  
**Beirut, Lebanon**

Thursday, 24 May 2012

I discussed a number of subjects with Prime Minister Mikati including the efforts that are underway to strengthen calm and stability in Lebanon following the recent tensions. I welcomed the Prime Minister's tireless efforts to this end, and the efforts of Lebanon's other political leaders, and of course the vigilance and readiness of the army and the security forces.

I told the Prime Minister that the United Nations supports all steps aimed at safeguarding Lebanon's stability and security and the wellbeing of its citizens. I relayed the same message to H.E. President Sleiman when I met him yesterday. In this context, we warmly welcome the President's determination to revive dialogue in Lebanon at a time when such dialogue and communication is obviously a necessity.

I know there is public concern about the manifestations of insecurity that have been seen over the past two weeks. But I believe they have also alerted all of us to the need to work together to sustain calm and stability in Lebanon at this time of turbulence in the region.

Finally I would like to put on record the United Nations' concern at the abduction of 11 Lebanese pilgrims in Syria earlier this week. We hope for their safe return to their families as soon as possible.

Thank you.

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QUESTION: What are your comments on the letter of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz for relaunching the dialogue in Lebanon?

SCL DEREK PLUMBLY: (in Arabic): I of course did not see the letter from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques but as I said, the interest in the matter is very important and we welcome any suggestions for dialogue and I am certain that dialogue is very important in such circumstances.