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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

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

(Delivered in Arabic)

Beirut, Lebanon

Tuesday, 24 July 2012

I just had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Mikati. I congratulated the Prime Minister, and take this opportunity to congratulate other friends in Lebanon, on the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

I briefed the Prime Minister today on my recent visit to New York and on the Security Council session on the implementation of resolution 1701. I conveyed Council members' thanks to the Prime Minister for his action in transferring the necessary funds to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

I told the Prime Minister that Council members were concerned by the incidents along Lebanon's borders with Syria and that they had stressed the importance of respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Council members also emphasized their commitment and the commitment of the international community to Lebanon's security and stability. In that regard, they appreciated the determination of Lebanon's leaders to protect their country from the effects of the crisis in neighboring Syria and other regional developments.

I also relayed to Premier Mikati the commitment of the international community to continue supporting the Lebanese Government in meeting its humanitarian obligations towards the thousands of displaced Syrians who have taken refuge in Lebanon. As you know, the Prime Minister met yesterday with UNHCR to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between the UN and the international community on one hand and the Government of Lebanon on the other in this field.

QUESTION: Mr. Plumbly, are you concerned of any implications of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon?

UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR DEREK PLUMBLY: This was of course reflected in the statement I just read. Security Council members were concerned, and so naturally am I, very concerned, at the border incidents that have been taking place in the north and the Bekaa. I hope that all will hear the message that Lebanon's sovereignty must be respected.

QUESTION: What do you think about the postponing of the National Dialogue?

UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR DEREK PLUMBLY: The National Dialogue is important. The United Nations, the Security Council in its press statement and the Secretary-General, we are all concerned with the National Dialogue. We believe that it is something positive, particularly at this time. We hope that the obstacles to convening the National Dialogue will be overcome in order to allow the next session that the President has now scheduled for August to take place.
