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for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael C. Williams
Statement following Meeting with Prime Minister Najib Mikati
Beirut, Lebanon**

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

Ramadan Kareem. I just had a very good meeting with the Prime Minister, H.E. Najib Mikati. We discussed my recent visit to New York and the discussions on the Security Council with regard to Lebanon.

I took the opportunity to wish the Prime Minister and all the Lebanese people on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan my very best wishes on this important occasion. It is, I think, a matter of some sadness that this month, the holiest of months for Moslems, finds many in the Arab world suffering at the hands of Governments that do not listen to their people.

I also discussed with the Prime Minister the recent bomb attack on UNIFIL on July 26 and pointed out the very considerable concern that this generated in France and in all troop contributing countries. I believe it is imperative that the Lebanese Government take concrete and firm action on this. In the first place, the culprits for this attack and the previous attack on the Italians on May 27 must be found and detained and tried. I also expressed my concern to the Prime Minister that the movement of UNIFIL convoys needs to be closely coordinated with the LAF (Lebanese Armed Forces) and with the ISF (Internal Security Forces) to prevent any further attacks of this nature.

Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Dina Ramadan of Tele-Liban: Are you concerned about the incident at Wazzani yesterday? Are you concerned also about the situation in Syria. You said that Governments are not listening to their people. Are you concerned more about the situation in Syria?

SCL MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Two things. First on the Wazzani. This was a very disturbing incident. The good thing is that nobody was injured it seems on either side. The bad news is that we cannot afford any incidents like this. You can go from an incident like this to war within a few hours. That is the reality. I will be meeting now very shortly with Gen. (Santi) Bonfanti, the Deputy Force Commander of UNIFIL, to find out his conclusions on the events yesterday and how we can prevent any further occurrence. Your second question with regard to Syria, I think I can best refer you to the Secretary-General's statement yesterday (Sunday) on the events in Hama.

Thank you very much.
