

Feltman on Kalam Al Nass and meeting with Samir Geagea Supports Free Lebanon

Contributed by Administrator
Saturday, 07 July 2007

In an interview with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International aired on Thursday night with the "Kalam al-Nass" talk show, Feltman accused Hizbullah of being a "multinational terrorist organization," adding that the group constituted a "real threat to Lebanon's stability and unity."

Asked about Hizbullah's arms, Feltman said armed militias, in reference to Hizbullah, "are known to weaken the government rather than support it."

Feltman on Thursday saluted the "high performance" of the Lebanese Army in its fight against Fatah al-Islam militants at Nahr al-Bared and in preserving stability in Lebanon, adding that the army "would have a key role to play in the future."

"The Lebanese Army has proved to be strong and united and is therefore supported by both the Lebanese and the international community," Feltman said in the interview. "The performance of the army might have future repercussions on the Lebanese political scene, yet only the Lebanese are entitled to decide on their nature."

Feltman said international initiatives to solve the crisis in Lebanon such as the French, Swiss or Arab "might help Lebanon overcome the impasse, but we believe that only dialogue among all Lebanese groups is likely to provide efficient solutions."

He said the US hoped that the next Lebanese president will "serve the interests of Lebanon solely, and not be affiliated with any regional or foreign forces, including the US."

The US ambassador reiterated his support for the "legitimate" government of Premier Fouad Siniora, adding that Lebanon was facing two "real" threats: the situation at the Lebanese-Syrian borders, and the Palestinian refugee camps.

"However," he added, "both the Lebanese and the government informed us that UNIFIL Forces are not to be implicated in such issues."

On Friday, Feltman reiterated the need to have the Lebanese Army "spread its control over all Lebanese territories," following a meeting with head of the Lebanese Forces Samir Geagea in Maarab.

Feltman said his visit to Geagea was a "necessary one" after many developments took place since their last meeting. Feltman said he discussed with Geagea the situation in the South, and expressed his disappointment concerning attacks on the UNIFIL

- The Daily Star

Feltman visit to Geagea 2007-07-06
{youtube}680lfqSxpbw{/youtube}

Samir Geagea 2007-07-05
{youtube}_iLnLBmnA7w{/youtube}