

**Middle East conflict -
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Press Release

UN observers in Lebanon meet opposition leader

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UN OBSERVERS IN LEBANON MEET OPPOSITION LEADER,
ARRANGE FOR TRAVEL IN NORTHEASTERN AREA
Number of Observers Rises to 135 from 14 Countries

(The following was received here from a UN Information Officer with UNOGIL, Beirut.)

Senior United Nations observers in Lebanon yesterday for the first time met Sabri Hamadi, opposition leader of the northeastern region in Lebanon, and arranged for UN observers to travel in this area in the future.

At a recent press briefing at an outstation at Chtaura, UN observers explained that this was the only area -- covering about 60 to 70 kilometers (35 to 45 miles) of the Lebanese-Syrian frontier -- to which they so far had not had access.

The UN observers met Mr. Hamadi near his home at Hermel, about 12 kilometers (7-1/2 miles) south of Lebanon's northeastern frontier. The meeting was held on a small island in the middle of the River Assi.

The observers also made a trip farther north to Koussair, on the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Five military observers from Nepal arrived in Beirut by air this morning (12 July) to join the UN observation team in Lebanon. The total number of observers now has reached 135 from 14 countries.

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