



Statement by Robert H. Serry

United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Following his meeting with Jordanian Government Officials

On 16 March, Special Coordinator Serry traveled to Jordan to meet Prime Minister Marouf Bakhit and Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. Mr. Serry briefed the Ministers on recent Quartet activities and ongoing discussions with the parties on ways to bring about resumed negotiations.

Mr. Serry also discussed with his Jordanian counterparts recent developments in the oPt, including President Abbas' recent initiative to travel to Gaza in an effort to end Palestinian divisions and address popular demands for reunification. Serry welcomed this development and hoped that President Abbas visit to Gaza will happen soon. He noted that it was very important that the leaders responded to the clear wish of the people to reunite.

Prime Minister Marouf Bakhit stressed that peace and settlements are contradictory. Bakhit expressed the hope that the Israelis would come to the right conclusion about what is happening in the region and stop procrastination in resuming the peace negotiation which should come after Israel halts building of settlements and accepts the two- state solution.