



## **Situation in the Middle East Communiqué issued by the Presidency of the Republic following M. CHIRAC's meeting with the Prime minister and ministers of the Interior, Defence and Foreign Affairs**

Paris, 28 July 2006

The President of the Republic today, Friday, 28 July, held a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Ministre d'Etat, Interior Minister, the Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs to consider the latest developments in the situation in the Middle East.

President Chirac stressed the gravity of the situation.

He asked the members of the government to convey his thanks to all the civilian and military personnel who have worked unrelentingly for several weeks organizing the return of our compatriots and foreign nationals.

In the face of the worsening of the humanitarian situation in Lebanon, he asked for the measures announced in Rome to be implemented as soon as possible. He stressed the urgent need for the maritime and internal humanitarian corridors so that aid can reach the civilians quickly and safely.

President Chirac wished France to work for the earliest adoption of a Security Council resolution signalling the international community's commitment to an immediate ceasefire based on a political agreement between the parties and supported by the deployment of an international force under UN mandate.