UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL

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Thirty-third session
Items 30 and 122 of the provisional agenda*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES

Letter dated 21 August 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention an attack perpetrated by one of the Palestinian Arab terror groups on Sunday, 20 August 1978, on a bus carrying a crew of El-Al Israel Airlines from Heathrow Airport to their hotel in London. As a result of this cold-blooded attack, a stewardess was killed and three members of the crew and a number of passers-by were injured, some of them critically.

The group called "The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - Special Operations" has since claimed responsibility for this attack. This is apparently the same group that carried out the hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner to Mogadiscio in October 1977. The group is a member of the PLO umbrella organization.

The attack once again underlines the absurdity of the fact that the United Nations and its various organs lend themselves to the aims of Arab terror by co-operating with the PLO through the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which serves as a tool in the hands of the PLO, and through the Special Unit on Palestinian Rights, which is subordinate to that Committee. The terror organizations involved derive encouragement from the assistance rendered to them by the United Nations. Such assistance, therefore, carries with it grave responsibility.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 30 and 122 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Shamay CAHANA
Ambassador
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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* A/33/150.