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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-first session
MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN
LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF
THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF
VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION,
GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE
SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES,
INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO
EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Letter dated 8 January 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 5 January 1986 from the Minister for Transportation, Mr. Haim Corfu, to his colleagues - ministers for transportation, members of the International Civil Aviation Organization - on the subject of an international conference on the safety of civilian air traffic. The purpose of the suggested conference would be to discuss steps to combat terror against civil aviation and airports.

I have the honour to request that this letter and the attached correspondence be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item on measures to prevent international terrorism, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

* Reissued for technical reasons.

ANNEX

Letter dated 5 January 1986 from the Minister for Transportation of Israel
to the members of the International Civil Aviation Organization

The enlightened world has once again been shocked by a brutal act of murder caused by Arab terror, when a band of bloodthirsty murderers slayed, without mercy, innocent civilians and killed men, women and children at the Rome and Vienna airports.

This last act of "atrocities" adds to a long list of previous acts of terror directed against the safety and well-being of civilian air traffic. To recall just a few of these, one may mention the blowing up of the Air India plane in mid-flight, the bombing at Tokyo airport, the hijackings of the TWA aircraft to Beirut and of the EgyptAir plane to Malta. A long, sad list of those occurrences has been published recently by ICAO, and I trust you are familiar with it. I have no doubt that any civilized person recoils from the acts of these murderers, yet more condemnations of the atrocities cannot suffice any longer.

It is our duty, as ministers responsible for the civilian air transport in our respective countries, to adopt more stringent measures than those previously taken in order to ensure that such acts will not continue, that innocent blood not be shed any longer, and that a free and safe civilian air transport system will be ensured.

Israel, which itself has taken the appropriate security measures to prevent these acts of terror, has put forth in the past a number of proposals within the framework of ICAO. Had they been accepted by the international community, these proposals would have assisted in the elimination of air terrorism.

I am sorry to say that these initiatives were not successful because of political motives.

The latest acts of terror have proven that international terror has no regard for boundaries and that it affects also those countries who thought themselves immune to its scourge. International terrorism strikes the airports of all countries, the aircraft of all States, and does not distinguish between passengers and crew on account of nationality, religion or origin.

Only international co-operation can bring tangible results.

Therefore, as a continuation of our efforts within the framework of ICAO, I now turn to you, as the one charged with the responsibility for civil aviation in your country, and call upon you to join in the planning of and to attend an urgent conference of all ministers for transport and aviation of the world's nations. The conference will examine the matters at hand, reach critical decisions and take practical steps which will ensure the safety of civil aviation. I hope the possibility of convening such a conference will be realized in a short while.

The very fact of convening such a special conference, as well as the great numbers of participating ministers, will express the resolve of all enlightened and civilized nations to combat terror against civil aviation and airports.