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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to three bomb outrages which took place in Jerusalem this week, leading to the injury of 29 men, women and children.

The first of these incidents, in which 20 persons were injured, involved the blowing up of a public bus which was on its regular run in a residential section of the city on Sunday, 17 December 1978. The following day, the terrorist organization known as the "Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine", which operates under the umbrella of the so-called PLO, took responsibility in Beirut for this atrocity and issued an announcement to that effect.

This is the second time this year that an incident of this kind has been perpetrated on the same bus route in Jerusalem. On 2 June 1978 a similar explosion occurred on a bus, which led to the death of five Israeli children and a young visitor from abroad. The Permanent Representative of Israel sent a letter about that incident to the President of the Security Council on 6 June 1978 (S/12730).

The other outrages this week took place on Wednesday, 20 December. In the first of them, an explosive device went off at the entrance to a restaurant and a shop in the Old City of Jerusalem, injuring six persons, four of them Arabs. In the second incident, a hand grenade was thrown from the wall of the Old City at people who were standing near Herod's Gate outside the wall. In the explosion, two Israelis and one tourist were injured.

These are but the latest incidents in the long catalogue of crimes perpetrated by the PLO, a terrorist organization masquerading under the banner of a national liberation movement. Between 1 November and 20 December of this year, there have been some 14 outrages (including attempts) of the kind described above which have caused the deaths of four people and the wounding of 67 others. In my letter of 23 November 1978 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/33/388), details were given of the blowing up of a public bus on the Jerusalem-Jericho highway on 19 November 1978, which led to the deaths of four people, three from Israel and one from abroad, as well as to the injury of 36 others, four of them seriously.

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The criminal record of the PLO and its terrorist methods indiscriminately aimed against civilian populations, both Jewish and Arab, are common knowledge. The Government of Israel is therefore duty bound to take all measures necessary to protect the lives and safety of its citizens.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
