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LETTER DATED 6 JUNE 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In reference to letters addressed to you, contained in documents S/10668, S/10670 and S/10671, dated 31 May 1972, I have the honour to bring to your attention the enclosed memorandum issued by the Palestine Liberation Organization regarding the recent incident at Lydda Airport.

I shall be very grateful if this letter and the enclosed memorandum are issued as official documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansur R. KIKHIA  
Permanent Representative of the  
Libyan Arab Republic

Memorandum regarding the recent incident at  
Lydda Airport

The Palestine Liberation Organization, the recognized representative of the Palestinian people, has the honour to draw your attention to the incident which took place at Lydda Airport on 30 May 1972, in order to place it in its proper historical context. Indeed, this incident must not be viewed as an isolated phenomenon but must be seen as part of a protracted conflict which has been going on in that part of the Middle East for most of this century. This conflict is the necessary outcome of the designs of modern political Zionism on Palestine, designs which have resulted in the denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people and the usurpation of the land of Palestine, part of which was placed under a colonizing military occupation in 1948, and the rest of which came under occupation in 1967. The violence which has been done to the people and land of Palestine by the Zionist movement and, later, the State of Israel is directly responsible for the continuing state of tension in the area.

The Palestinian response to this violence, since its inception, has been armed resistance. However, it must be borne in mind that the Palestinian resistance movement did not initiate the shooting of civilian passengers in aircraft - on 9 May 1972, the Israeli armed forces entered a hijacked Sabena airliner shooting indiscriminately at all passengers alike. That plane had been commandeered by Palestinian guerrillas with the intention of releasing a few of the thousands of their comrades who are currently in Israeli prisons. Furthermore, the Palestinians did not initiate shooting in airports - it was the Israeli armed forces who entered Beirut Airport on 28 December 1968 in an unprecedented act of destruction. Finally, the Palestinians did not initiate attacks on civilian targets - it was the Israeli armed forces who attacked Bahr al-Bakar Primary School in Egypt on 8 April 1970, killing 30 children and wounding 36 others, all of them under 12 years of age; who attacked a factory in Abu Zabal, Egypt, on 12 February 1970, killing 70 workers and wounding 69 others; who have, on numerous occasions, attacked Palestinian refugee camps with artillery, bombs, and napalm, killing and maiming large numbers of our people. Thus, the use of terror has, in every case, been initiated by Israel.

Viewed from an historical perspective, we note that terrorism has been an integral part of Zionist thought and philosophy. The writings of early Zionist thinkers and leaders emphasize the important role of terror in the establishment of the State of Israel. From Herzl to Jabotinsky, from Weizmann to Meir, from Ben-Gurion to Dayan, terror and violence have been advocated as a means of achieving the establishment of the State and maintaining it. Influenced by the work of Nietzsche and Nazi and Fascist writers, those leaders have adopted terror as their instrument for occupying Palestine, dispossessing and displacing its indigenous population and forcing upon it an alien military rule and occupation.

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To illustrate with a partial and very incomplete record: The King David Hotel in Jerusalem was partially destroyed on 22 July 1946 by a Zionist terrorist group, causing the deaths of 100 British, Jewish and Arab officials. On 9 April 1948, in the Palestinian village of Deir Yasin, 250 men, women and children were killed by a Zionist terrorist group. In July 1948, in the town of Lydda itself, the civilian population was forced into mosques and churches while the Zionist armed forces opened fire on them, forcing the civilian population to flee the town. Incidents such as these, as well as the bombing of crowded market-places in Jaffa, Haifa and Jerusalem before 1948, were not the isolated acts of independent terrorist organizations but were under the cognizance and direction of the Jewish Agency, the immediate forerunner of the State Government of Israel, thus demonstrating the official character of terrorism in early Zionist strategy. (This is clearly documented in British Government Command 6873.)

Since the establishment of the State of Israel these acts of wanton terror have not ceased: The village of Qibya in Jordan was attacked by Israeli armed forces on 14-15 October 1953, causing 75 deaths. On 28-29 March 1954, 14 people were killed by an Israeli attack on Nahhalin, Jordan. In the city of Gaza on 5 April 1956, an Israeli attack killed 59 civilians, wounded 102 others and damaged two of the city's hospitals. And in the village of Sammu', Jordan, on 13 November 1966, an Israeli attack resulted in 18 dead, 130 wounded and the destruction of the school, clinic and mosque, among other buildings. As the British Secretary of State for the Colonies said in Parliament on 12 April 1948, speaking about the massacre of Deir Yasin, it "added up to a long list of atrocities committed by the Zionists to this day".

The purpose of these barbaric attacks has always been to consolidate the spoils of earlier aggressions and to extend those aggressions still deeper into the Arab world. Thus, the frantic propaganda campaign launched by Israel against the Palestinian resistance and some of the Arab States since the Lydda Airport incident has had a twofold purpose: to prepare world public opinion for further aggression on Arab territory and to create dissent between the Palestinian resistance and those Arab States.

Let us be perfectly clear: No Arab State can be held responsible for the incident at Lydda Airport. The responsibility must lie with the Zionist movement and Israel, a responsibility born of Israel's denial of the right of national self-determination of the Palestinian people, the usurpation of the land of Palestine and Israel's history of aggression against the Arab people and States.

Finally, we regret the loss of innocent civilian lives, particularly those victims who were so misguided as to venture into a zone of conflict. We have always said that the Middle East is in a state of war; thus it must be understood that, as in any war zone, travellers enter at their own risk.

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