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Items 12, 36, 88, 95 and 134
of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATIONLetter dated 13 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 16 January 1984, addressed to Your Excellency and circulated as document A/39/79 and Corr.1, I now wish to refer to the recent PLO exhibit held from 16 to 20 January 1984 at the United Nations Information Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The exhibition in question, which was opened by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe, contained pictorial material offensive not only to the State of Israel, a Member State of the United Nations, but also to the Jewish people and the Jewish faith. According to The Herald newspaper of Harare, among the pictures in the exhibition was one showing "Christ on the Cross after being killed by the Jews". According to the same report, "drawings of skeletons and skulls portraying the Israelis' blood-lust were also displayed".

In a letter addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, dated 29 March 1984, I sought clarifications in regard to this grave episode. In a

* A/39/50.

letter of reply, dated 5 April 1984, I was informed that while the United Nations Information Centre in Harare had no official involvement with this exhibition, it had responded to a request from the Government of Zimbabwe that the United Nations premises in Harare be made available for the purpose of this PLO exhibition. In the same letter, I was assured that the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Zimbabwe was reprimanded for allowing his office premises to be used in this manner.

While noting the position of the United Nations Secretariat on this matter, I must express both profound regret and vigorous protest over the fact that such an event should have been permitted to take place on United Nations premises, in the first instance. I wish to express my hope that all measures will indeed now be taken, as stated in the said Secretariat letter of 5 April 1984, to prevent a recurrence of incidents of this kind in the future and that the United Nations will, henceforth, scrupulously observe its own guidelines for exhibitions, which inter alia, include the injunction that "due regard should be paid to the sensitivities of Member States".

I should like to take this occasion also to repeat my emphatic appeal to Your Excellency, contained in my said letter of 16 January 1984, that all necessary steps be taken to ensure that the United Nations cease in the future from countenancing, in any form, such manifestations of anti-Semitic racism and religious intolerance, alongside all manifestations of racist and religious incitement and prejudice.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 12, 36, 88, 95 and 134 of the preliminary list.

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