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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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

Letter dated 6 December 1977 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following extracts from an interview which was conducted on 4 December 1977 with the President of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the ABC television network programme, "Issues and Answers". The interviewers were Mr. Bob Clark and Mr. Frank Reynolds, both of ABC Television.

In reply to a question as to whether Libya would accept the right of Israel to exist if a United Nations resolution stated that there would be a Palestinian homeland, Colonel Qaddafi, speaking through an interpreter said:

"If a homeland is established for the Palestinians, this means that the Palestinians have returned to their homeland. But if you mean the establishing of a Palestinian state in the West Bank only, or Gaza Strip, this, in the point of view of Yasir Arafat and all the Palestinian leaders, is only as a base for them to continue their struggle for the liberation of their homeland. And this is the point of view of all Palestinians from the right to the left.

"They are viewing this subject as a precise determination that they should continue their struggle from the river to the sea. This is the truth, because I don't want to deceive the public opinion."

In reply to a question as to whether he, perhaps jointly with the other "rejectionist" Arab leaders who met in Tripoli last week-end, would be willing under any circumstances to meet anywhere with the Prime Minister of Israel, as did President Sadat of Egypt, Colonel Qaddafi replied:

"We reject this. Not only we, but from the point of principle. We reject to negotiate with an enemy who are occupying our land. Also, we know the so-called Begin, that he has no right as a civilized or a decent individual, because he used to be a terrorist.

"He used to be a terrorist, and he is anti-Semitic."

This response led to a discussion of international terror:

"Reynolds: Colonel Qaddafi, on that subject. Don't you support groups that in many parts of the world are considered terrorists?"

"Qaddafi: This is the claim of the Zionists and the Americans, without any proof, or without any foundation. We challenge those who accuse us to bring any proof. We are a great nation, which has very high values, and it is a nation who make the international civilization, so our behaviour and our values cannot permit us to make any terrorist actions.

"But the United States, which has two hundred years old, and which has been touted (?) as a state, because of the terrorist actions in Europe, has now been making terrorist actions against the countries of the world.

"Clark: But, Colonel Qaddafi, you have --

"Reynolds: Where? Where? Wait a moment. Where are we, where is the United States making terrorist action? If I understood, Colonel --

"Qaddafi: The United States, the United States is making terrorist actions against people by making warnings that the United States will occupy the oil fields of certain countries. The United States prevents the sale of food-stuffs, and, to poor nations, and also warning the many countries of the world by its fleets and its armed arsenals, and also with the mercenary, merciless mission against the, against people in many countries.

"Clark: Colonel, if I may interrupt --

"Qaddafi: And also making the world fearful of the United States atomic bomb.

"Clark: Colonel --

"Qaddafi: So, the United States is rightfully the leader of the international terrorists."

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"Qaddafi: (in English) He (President Carter) is not the leader of the United States forever. He is only the temporary President.

"Clark: You don't hold him responsible, then, for what you consider past actions?

"Qaddafi: (in English) No. I mean, the policy for the United States of America is responsible for that terrorism in the world."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 31, 50 and 118.

(Signed) Chaim HERZOG
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
