



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/33/388
23 November 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-third session
Agenda item 30

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 23 November 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to 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.

This civilian bus was on its regular run between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea in the middle of the afternoon. Most of the passengers had spent the day at various bathing resorts along the Dead Sea. According to Associated Press reports from Beirut, al-Fatah, the largest of the Arab terrorist groups within the umbrella of the so-called "PLO", took responsibility for the blast.

The timing of this atrocity was not incidental. Its date was the anniversary of President Sadat's historic meeting in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Begin in 1977, and WAFA, the news agency operated by PLO, announced shortly after the explosion that it, as well as a bomb which went off in Jaffa at noon slightly injuring two persons, and another explosive device safely dismantled that evening in the heart of Jerusalem's shopping area were all designed to demonstrate rejection of the Camp David talks and condemnation of President Sadat as a "traitor".

These latest outrages serve as still other violent and unconscionable reminders of the PLO's continued commitment to its aim, grotesquely described in its covenant as a "national duty", to eliminate the State of Israel - in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

Despite the obvious danger it constitutes to international peace and security, PLO continues to enjoy observer status in the United Nations and has been accorded irregular privileges both in the General Assembly and the Security Council. Equally regrettable, it has been able, through the "Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People",

to exploit the means and machinery of the United Nations system. This has been done, inter alia, by the creation of a Special Unit in the United Nations Secretariat which is preparing pseudo-scientific studies disseminating PLO propaganda under the emblem of the United Nations, and also by the celebration of a "Palestine Day" on 29 November, which no doubt will offer the opportunity for more invective against the ongoing peace process in the Middle East.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

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