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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Letter dated 25 January 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to yet another attempt, made on 15 January 1980 by the terrorist PLO, at indiscriminate murder of civilians in Israel.

On that date, two large explosive devices were discovered in a children's playground near the Municipal Building in the coastal town of Bat-Yam, south of Tel Aviv. The devices were found a short time before they were set to go off. They were dismantled by the police and a tragedy of major dimensions, potentially involving many little children and their mothers, was providentially averted.

Later the same day, PLO criminals boasted on their radio in Lebanon of their responsibility for this attempt at mass murder.

In this connexion, mention should also be made of an explosive device which went off on the night of 26/27 December 1979, under a small bridge south of the settlement of Tsofar, in the Negev, not far from the border with Jordan. Once again, the criminal PLO took responsibility for this incident in a broadcast on their radio in Lebanon on 28 December 1979.

These attempts illustrate once again the true character of the PLO and its violent aims. In these circumstances, the Government of Israel is duty-bound, as I have indicated in previous letters, 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 an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

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