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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Letter dated 18 March 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

In a statement addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Democratic Yemen to the United Nations dated 18 February 1986 (A/40/1086-S/17846), a "responsible source" in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Yemen claims that the war between Iran and Iraq serves as a justification "for imperialist and Zionist forces ... for intensifying their military presence in the region and for intervention in its internal affairs".

It seems that Democratic Yemen's "deep concern" for peace and stability in the region excludes the war and upheaval in Democratic Yemen itself. During the months of January and February 1986 over 15,000 residents of Aden, Democratic Yemen's capital city, were killed in street battles and at least four members of the ruling politbureau were murdered along with 55 other top officials in the Government. The wholesale destruction of Aden has left the majority of that city's population homeless and close to starvation.

In order to deflect international attention away from its own domestic turmoil, the Government of Democratic Yemen seeks to blame the "Zionists" for these and other problems in the region. This libel is part of the familiar pattern set by certain Arab and other Governments of blaming the "Jews" or the "Zionists" for all the world's calamities. No amount of obfuscation, however, will clear the Government of Democratic Yemen from its leading role in the murder, violence and devastation that its country recently suffered.

* A/41/50/Rev.1.

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I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
