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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 16 May 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I wish to draw your urgent attention to yet another attempt at indiscriminate terror in Israel launched by PLO criminals based in Lebanon who crossed UNIFIL's lines.

On the night of 14/15 May 1980, a group of PLO terrorists attempted to cross into Israel from Lebanon close to Kibbutz Hanita, which is only a few hundred yards south of the border. The terrorists were spotted by an Israel Defence Forces patrol and in the ensuing encounter three were killed. They were armed with Kalatchnikov submachine guns, hand-grenades and a considerable quantity of ammunition. They were also carrying written material making clear their intention to take hostages at Hanita with a view to seeking the release of convicted terrorists held in Israel gaols, and flying them out of Israel.

Shortly after this incident, the so-called "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" - one of the constituents of the PLO - took responsibility for it in an announcement broadcast on the terrorists' radio in Lebanon and picked up by Associated Press and Reuters on 15 May.

This is only the latest in a long series of similar PLO attempts to cross the border from Lebanon through UNIFIL's lines with the intention of perpetrating mass murder or taking hostage innocent men, women and children in Israel (see my letter of 7 April 1980 to the President of the Security Council - circulated as document S/13876 of the same date and as document A/35/171 of 10 April 1980).

It will be recalled that the latest of those outrages was perpetrated on 7 April 1980 when five PLO criminals seized two nursery buildings at Kibbutz Misgav Am. That atrocity resulted, inter alia, in the death of one toddler and

* A/35/50.

A/35/235
S/13947
English
Page 2

one civilian, as well as the wounding of four infants. In that case as well, the terrorists' aim was to take the children hostage in an attempt to gain the release of PLO criminals sentenced by Israel courts to various terms of imprisonment.

The mindless killing of civilians and the callous taking of hostages have been characteristic of the PLO since its inception. Its designs, whether successful or not, are those of a group of international criminals of the worst kind which masquerade, in the case of the PLO, under the banner of a national liberation movement.

Given the true character of the criminal PLO and its violent aims, the Government of Israel, for its part, 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 item 26 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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