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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 June 1979 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 yesterday, 24 June 1979, by the terrorist PLO at mass murder of civilians in Israel.

At about 10 a.m. (local time), a van containing explosives blew up in a narrow street close to the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv. The driver of the van and his companion were killed by the explosion. Three passers-by were lightly injured. Nearby shops were damaged and many windows were shattered by the blast. The terrorist PLO immediately boasted on its radio in Lebanon of its responsibility for this incident.

The fact that this attempted outrage failed to achieve its apparent objective in no way diminishes its gravity. In common with the many other incidents, which I have drawn to your attention in recent months, particularly since the signing of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty on 26 March 1979, this attempt was designed to take place in a teeming public facility at a time when it would be most crowded. Had it been successful, it would undoubtedly have wrought a heavy toll in human life.

The mindless killing of civilians has been the barbaric aim of the terrorist PLO throughout its existence. Its designs, whether successful or not, are characteristic of a group of international criminals of the worst kind which masquerades, in the particular case of the PLO, under the banner of a national liberation movement.

Given the true character of the PLO and its violent aims, 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.

* A/34/50.

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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 25 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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