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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

Further to my letter of 5 June 1979 (A/34/298-S/13376), I wish to draw your attention to the ongoing acts of indiscriminate terror against the civilian population of Israel by PLO terrorists based in southern Lebanon. Civilian centres in the "panhandle" of northern Galilee were shelled across the border with Lebanon on 8, 9, 10 and 19 June 1979, with considerable damage being done to property.

These repeated bombardments demonstrate the worthlessness of the so-called "renewed commitment" of the PLO not to "shell IDF /Israel Defence Forces/ or de facto forces targets from Lebanese territory unless they are attacked first", which was highlighted in paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon of 8 June 1979 (S/13384). As I pointed out in my statement in the Security Council on 12 June 1979, this so-called commitment is carefully phrased so as not to apply to civilians, the traditional and almost exclusive target of PLO barbarity (S/PV.2147, p. 32).

In this connexion, I should also like to draw attention to Associated Press reports from Beirut of last week. Those reports vividly give the lie to the much-heralded joint communiqué (also cited in the same paragraph of the Secretary-General's report mentioned above), whereby the terrorist PLO and its allies in southern Lebanon announced that "all armed forces will be evacuated from villages and towns" and "the PLO will remove all its offices from the city of Tyre".

According to the Associated Press reports,

"Life is returning to Tyre, the southern Lebanese city, a week after Palestinian terrorists withdrew from there.

* A/34/50.

"Terrorist officers say their units were moved to neighbouring refugee camps and the countryside in line with the PLO's plan to deprive Israel of its excuse for attacking south Lebanese villages.

"The PLO maintains its presence north of the strategic Litani River, which zigzags 18-30 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

"All PLO factions have closed down their offices in Tyre and villages of the county and set up bases in the countryside', said Sami Daher, commander of the Lebanese police in the area. Daher's policemen were directing traffic in downtown Tyre for the first time in two years. Up to now, police functions had been performed by terrorists and their Lebanese leftist militia allies.

"I have police stations at all villages of the county and they reported the withdrawals to me', he said. Daher refused to name the villages that housed terrorist bases ...

"Terrorists maintained control over three Palestinian refugee camps of Tyre's southern and eastern outskirts.

"Running the camps and handling their defences is a PLO responsibility under existing agreements with the Lebanese Government', Major Saed /the PLO liaison officer in Tyre/ explained.

"Field commanders refuse to disclose the location of new terrorist bases in the Tyre area after the pullout from Lebanese-populated towns.

"North of the Litani, the terrorists maintained their usual presence in almost every town and village.

"Young gunmen in green fatigues drove their jeeps in the inland market town of Nabatiyeh, 20 kilometres north of Israel, and manned sand bags at the entrance to their offices.

"Nabatiyeh has been almost empty except for the terrorists and their Lebanese leftist militia allies."

As I warned in my statements in the Security Council on 12 and 14 June 1979 (S/PV.2147 and 2148), when the Council was discussing the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL, the practical implications of that communiqué are virtually meaningless and it will only serve as a smoke-screen for continued PLO violence both within the area of operation of UNIFIL and across the border with Israel. Even if the communiqué were implemented, all that would happen is that some PLO operatives would be redeployed at a distance of a few kilometres from the villages in which they have taken cover thus far, apparently under pressure from the local inhabitants themselves, who are no longer prepared to put up with the devastation and agony inflicted on them by the terrorist PLO. Also, as the communiqué makes clear, there is no intention of removing the hundreds of PLO terrorists located

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inside the area controlled by UNIFIL or to withdraw the 1,500 or so PLO terrorists and their weaponry from the Tyre pocket, which reaches to within eight miles of Israel.

In short, the communiqué is nothing more than a transparent exercise in deception. The Associated Press reports prove these points.

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
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to the United Nations
