



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/14264
20 November 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to draw your urgent attention to the campaign of intimidation and subversion by the terrorist PLO, which has been intensified in recent days in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

The campaign thus far has taken two forms: political assassinations in the Gaza District, and disturbances in the streets of towns in Judea and Samaria.

On 18 November, Mr. Muhammad Abu Warde, the deputy-mayor of Jabelieh near the town of Gaza, was assassinated. Through its news agency in Lebanon, the PLO immediately took responsibility for what it called the "liquidation" of its victim.

Mr. Abu Warde was a supporter of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed in March of last year and was a member of the group which, headed by the Imam of Gaza, Sheikh Hashem Khuzander, went to Egypt shortly after the signing of that treaty to express support of the peace process. It will be recalled that the Imam of Gaza was assassinated in cold blood by the PLO on 1 June 1979, on his way home from evening prayers, also because he was prepared to work for peace. After his murder, the PLO announced that it would continue to assassinate Arab leaders of whose political views it disapproved.

Two hours before Mr. Abu Warde was assassinated, a merchant in the Shatti refugee camp, Hassan Muhammad al-Bazzam, was also murdered, apparently because he too was not prepared to abide by PLO orders, and was willing to work for peaceful coexistence with Israel.

The disturbances in Ramallah, Bethlehem and al-Bireh which occurred on 17 and 18 November were preceded by deliberate incitement at the end of last week at the University of Bir Zeit. As will be recalled from my letters of 28 February 1979 (A/34/101-S/13126) and of 18 June 1979 (A/34/304-S/13385), this University has been a hotbed of PLO subversive activities for the last few years. As an extension of the technique of working through the student body at institutions of higher learning, the PLO agents have also chosen to work through teen-age boys and girls who were, as on previous occasions, at the forefront of the disturbances at the beginning of this week, undoubtedly with a view to creating a "media event".

All these activities have one object in mind, namely to frustrate as far as possible the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, and in particular, to intimidate and silence the residents of the areas concerned who yearn for peace. Since these activities endanger the lives and safety of private individuals, Jews and Arabs alike, Israel is duty bound to take whatever steps are necessary to maintain and safeguard public security.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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