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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 30 December 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 14 November 1980 (A/35/630-S/14257) and of 16 December 1980 (A/35/783, also circulated as S/14297), I wish to draw your attention to yet another attempt by PLO terrorists based in Lebanon to cross the border with a view to perpetrating indiscriminate murder and violence in Israel.

On the afternoon of 25 December 1980, a group of PLO terrorists passed through the UNIFIL area of operation in southern Lebanon and was spotted while trying to penetrate the border with Israel near Kibbutz Hanita, close to the Mediterranean Sea. In the ensuing encounter with an Israel Defence Forces patrol, all five terrorists in the group were killed.

The PLO took responsibility for this attempted outrage in a statement broadcast on its radio in Lebanon on 27 December 1980.

This was the third such attempt in the last six weeks. As on the previous occasions, the terrorists involved were heavily armed with hand-grenades, rocket launchers and assault rifles, mainly of Soviet manufacture.

As indicated in my letter of 16 December, one terrorist was killed in the encounter which took place near the village of Zar'it on 14 December 1980. I now wish to add that two terrorists were captured in the same encounter. They disclosed that they had been briefed personally by Abu Jihad, one of Yasser Arafat's leading henchmen in the Fatah organization, and that their orders had been to perpetrate "indiscriminate massacre" at Zar'it.

Moreover, they had been instructed to return to Lebanese territory on the completion of their criminal mission, and to hand themselves over to UNIFIL which, they were assured by Abu Jihad, would escort them back to their base in Tyre.

These recent events again demonstrate the need and duty of the Government of Israel to take appropriate measures to protect the lives and safety of its citizens.

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I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

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