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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 9 March 1981 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to draw your urgent attention to two attempts made on 7 March 1981 by PLO criminals to fly from Lebanon into Israel on terrorist missions.

The attempts were made in single-seater gliders with auxiliary engines. One terrorist brought his plane down north of Rosh HaNiqra and was captured. The other terrorist landed his craft early in the morning in western Galilee near Kibbutz Afek. He took a young man hostage and, after wandering around for several hours, he eventually reached the village of Tamra, where he first broke into a house and was subsequently captured. The terrorist told the people in the house that his mission was to take hostages and demand the release of other terrorists detained in Israeli gaols.

The so-called "Front for the Liberation of Palestine", a group belonging to the PLO, immediately took responsibility for these attempts in statements which were broadcast yesterday on the PLO radio in Lebanon.

As is well known, the PLO has for years made repeated attempts to send its criminals by land and sea from Lebanon on brutal terrorist missions against Israel's civilian population. These attempts have of late been largely foiled by the measures taken by the Israel Defence Forces. Thus the attempts to fly into Israel represent a new departure with potentially serious implications. The Government of Israel views this development with the utmost gravity, and is therefore duty-bound to take all appropriate measures necessary to protect the lives and safety of its citizens

\* A/36/50.

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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 33 of the preliminary list.

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

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