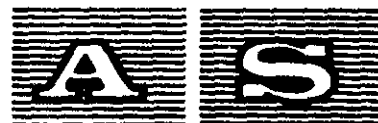


UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/212
S/14449
20 April 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-sixth session
Item 33 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 April 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your urgent attention to an attempt by PLO terrorists to cross by balloon into Israel from Lebanese territory yesterday, 16 April 1981.

At about 0430 hours (local time), an Israel Defence Forces patrol near Kibbutz Manara on the Lebanese border spotted the balloon on its approach to Israel and shot it down from a height of several hundred metres. The two heavily-armed terrorists in it were killed. Their equipment indicated that the terrorists, who were apparently trained in Syria, intended to carry out an outrage against a civilian centre in the north of Israel.

The PLO immediately took responsibility for this attempt in statements issued both in Beirut and Damascus.

This is not the first time that PLO terrorists have attempted to enter Israel by balloon from Lebanese territory. A previous attempt was made on 20 July 1980 (mentioned in the annex to my letter of 11 March 1981 to Your Excellency, circulated both as documents S/14398 and A/36/130). On that occasion, the balloon, also carrying two terrorists, caught fire shortly after it was launched from a Lebanese village.

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. However, the recent attempts to cross into Israel by air, both by balloon and by glider aircraft (see my letter of 9 March 1981 to Your Excellency, circulated both as documents S/14394 and A/36/122), represent a new departure with potentially serious implications. The Government of Israel views these attempts with the utmost gravity and is duty-bound to take all appropriate measures necessary to protect the lives and safety of its citizens.

* A/36/50.

A/36/212
S/14449
English
Page 2

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, and of the Security Council.

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