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LETTER DATED 29 JUNE 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to refer to the statement made by Mr. Al-Qaysi of Iraq at the end of the Security Council's 2,288th meeting on 19 June 1981, with regard to the quotation from a lecture by Sir Humphrey Waldoock included in my statements to the Council of 12 and 19 June 1981.

Subsequent consultation of the source has revealed that the quotation in question, as supplied to me, was not complete. For this I can only express regret.

At the same time, it should be noted that Mr. Al-Qaysi saw fit to omit, in his statement, a highly pertinent sentence contained in the very same paragraph of Sir Humphrey Waldoock's lecture. That sentence reads as follows:

"Indeed, in the Atomic Energy Commission [Document A.E.C./18/Rev.1, p. 24] it has been suggested that - assuming atomic weapons to be controlled by Convention - preparations for atomic warfare in breach of the Convention would in view of the appalling power of the weapon, have to be treated as an 'armed attack' within Article 51."

The relevance of this sentence to the matter then before the Council is obvious. It is equally obvious why Mr. Al-Qaysi should have chosen to ignore it, even though it is contained in Whiteman's Digest of International Law, volume 5, page 986, which Mr. Al-Qaysi indicated as his source.

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