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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 16 July 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your urgent attention to the indiscriminate shelling of civilian centres in the north of Israel yesterday and today, 15 and 16 July 1981, by PLO terrorists operating from Lebanon.

Yesterday evening, hundreds of 122 mm. Soviet-made Katyusha rockets were fired from different positions in Lebanon at civilian targets in Upper and Western Galilee. As a result, 3 civilians were killed in Nahariya and 25 others were wounded in various locations. The 40-barrel Katyusha launchers, mounted on heavy trucks, were recently supplied to the PLO by Syria and Libya. A PLO spokesman was quoted on Radio Monte Carlo last night as taking full responsibility for these wanton attacks and the ensuing casualties.

This afternoon (local time) Katyusha rockets were again fired at civilian targets in Upper and Western Galilee. Two civilians were wounded in Nahariya.

In this connexion, I should also like to draw your attention to the heavy shelling last Friday, 10 July 1981, of the town of Kiryat Shmonah in the Galilee Panhandle, again by PLO terrorists operating in Lebanon. In that attack, 6 civilians were wounded and a synagogue was destroyed, together with its holy Torah scrolls. In addition, considerable damage was done to private homes and property in the town.

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

* A/36/150.