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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL Thirtieth year

Letter dated 22 January 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government and further to my previous letters addressed to you, I have the honour to draw your attention once more to the fact that the murder régime of the PLO terror organization in Lebanon continues its attacks from Lebanese territory against Israel and its citizens.

On 16 and 17 January 1975, the border town of Metulla came under artillery fire from Lebanon.

In the night of 16/17 January 1975, PLO terrorists twice opened bazooka and automatic fire from Lebanese territory on Israeli security forces on patrol duty in Israel along the border area north of Shatoola and in the Zarit area.

On 18 January 1975, three PLO murder agents infiltrated from Lebanon into Israel near the village of Zarit. In a subsequent exchange of fire with a unit of the Israel Defence Forces, the three terrorists were shot and killed. Two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded.

In "communiqués" issued in Beirut, PLO spokesmen continuously glorify such attacks.

The village of Shouba constitutes one of the main bases for the activities of the PLO murder gangs against Israel. It is from Shouba that many of the perpetrators of these attacks set out on their terror missions, being personally instructed by Yasser Arafat, the head of the PLO, as reported in the Lebanese press. (Radio Cairo, quoting on 19 January 1975 the Beirut newspaper el-Anwar).

In these circumstances, the letter addressed to you on 21 January 1975 by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon (A/10041-S/11604) is but another hypocritical and transparent attempt, just like the preceding letters from that Mission, on the part of the Government of Lebanon to mislead public opinion as to the facts regarding the situation in the area.

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The true situation prevailing in that area of Lebanon is, however, well known, namely that the Government of Lebanon has practically abdicated its authority there to the PLO murder gangs, which are thus enabled to embark from there with complete freedom on their sanguinary attacks against Israeli territory and citizens. It is not without good reason that the whole of that area, where the village of Shouba is also located, is known by the name of "Fatahland".

It is high time for the Government of Lebanon and its representatives at the United Nations to stop protecting and covering up the PLO atrocities. Nobody will be deceived by the sanctimonious Lebanese protestations. Nobody will free Lebanon from its international obligations and its duty to eliminate from its soil the murder bases maintained there by the PLO.

Israel on its part has been taking all appropriate action, and will continue to do so, for the defence of its citizens from the murder attacks directed against them from Lebanon, and it is the Government of Lebanon which bears the sole responsibility for the consequences resulting from this situation.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations