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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 4 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw to your most urgent attention the heinous terrorist outrage perpetrated in London last night against Mr. Shlomo Argov, the Israel Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

Ambassador Argov was seriously wounded in the head by an Arab terrorist who fired repeatedly at him as he was leaving the Dorchester Hotel in central London. Ambassador Argov is in critical condition after undergoing brain surgery in a London hospital. The assailant was apprehended on the spot while his three accomplices were arrested shortly afterwards.

As I have pointed out on numerous occasions, such terror attacks constitute a central objective in the deliberate and vicious strategy of the PLO to cause maximum loss of life and limb among Israelis and Jews everywhere, whether officials or civilians, including men, women and children.

The dastardly crime perpetrated against Ambassador Argov comes in the wake of the murder in Paris on 3 April 1982 of Mr. Yacov Bar-Simantov, a diplomat at the Israel Embassy in France (see the letter dated 3 April 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Israel - S/14951).

It will be recalled that on that occasion the terrorist PLO sought to deny its responsibility by resorting to the cowardly practice of hiding behind assumed names, specially invented for such purposes ("Black September"; "Eagles of the Revolution", etc., all aliases for the same group of murderers).

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As has been stated by the spokesman for Your Excellency in expressing shock and revulsion at the attempt on the life of Ambassador Argov, "attacks on diplomats representing their countries abroad damage the whole structure of international relations" (SG/SM/3290 of 4 June 1982). In fact it is the phenomenon of international terrorism as such which has become one of the scourges of mankind in recent years, that poses a grave threat to the very fabric of civilization.

It is regrettable that the United Nations which, under its Charter, is committed to maintaining and promoting international peace and security, should instead have granted irregular rights and privileges - in violation of the Charter - to the PLO, which, as is well known, constitutes one of the foremost exponents and linchpins of international terrorism.

The Government of Israel for its part will take the measures necessary to protect the lives and ensure the safety of its citizens.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the preliminary list.

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

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