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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 2 July 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Over the past few weeks a variety of letters and communications have been addressed to Your Excellency and the President of the Security Council containing insinuations, distortions and sheer fabrications concerning Operation "Peace for Galilee".

As I have had occasion to point out in the Security Council and in the General Assembly in recent weeks, Operation "Peace for Galilee" was directed solely against the PLO - a terrorist organization being used as the spearhead of the Arab military onslaught seeking the destruction of Israel. Evidence of this criminal scheme is unfolding daily through the discovery of the elaborate infrastructure of the PLO in Lebanon. This infrastructure comprised stockpiled weaponry so enormous in quantity and diverse in range as to be out of all proportion to the numbers of the PLO's armed terrorists.

As the truth emerges regarding the enormity of the devastation wrought by the PLO upon Lebanon and its people over eight long years in creating a régime of lawlessness and anarchy in that country, we are witnessing attempts by the PLO and its assorted surrogates and supporters in the Middle East and beyond, to lay the blame for the years of devastation at Israel's door.

Israel categorically rejects all such attempted imputations, as well as the falsifications upon which they are based.

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\* A/37/50/Rev.1.

Rarely, if ever, in modern history has an army hazarded so much, as did the Israel Defence Forces, in the attempt to minimize casualties among the civilian population. As is well known, the PLO in its cowardly fashion has deliberately established its emplacements within refugee camps, villages and civilian neighbourhoods, using the civilian population in an attempt to shield itself.

A particularly flagrant example of the cynical exploitation of the agony of Lebanon for the purpose of fanning the flames of anti-Israel incitement is to be found in the letter of the Permanent Representative of Jordan of 22 June 1982, addressed to Your Excellency and to the President of the Security Council, and enclosing a message dated 13 June 1982 from King Hussein of Jordan to the heads of State of the permanent members of the Security Council (A/37/304-S/15248). As will be recalled, Jordan and its King in September 1970 did not hesitate to take all military actions necessary to expel the terrorist PLO from Jordanian territory, thus preventing it from subverting Jordanian sovereignty. It would appear that Jordan is now trying to deny Lebanon the same right which it claimed for itself in September 1970 and thereafter, namely, the right to exercise sovereignty over its territory unimpeded by the presence of a group of international terrorists bent on the destruction of the country's independence.

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  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

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