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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION,
SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND
REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Letter dated 12 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 16 August 1982 (A/37/392), I now wish to draw Your Excellency's urgent attention to yet another manifestation of violent anti-Semitism, this time in Rome, the capital of Italy.

This past Saturday, 9 October 1982, worshippers leaving the central synagogue of Rome at the conclusion of the services marking both the Sabbath and Simchat Torah ("Rejoicing in the Law") were attacked by a gang of cowardly assassins. Using Polish-manufactured submachine guns and grenades of Soviet origin, the terrorists left one small child, aged two, dead and 35 persons wounded, many of them seriously, including the mother and brother of the dead child.

Among the more bizarre circumstances surrounding this attack have been the subsequent condolences expressed by none other than Yasser Arafat, the chief of the terrorist PLO (the organization which has made the killing of Jewish children in Israel and elsewhere a specialty), and other members of his organization, notably Archbishop Hilarion Capucci. (Capucci, it will be remembered, was caught red-handed by the Israel authorities on 18 August 1974 in the act of smuggling weaponry and explosives for the use of PLO terrorist groups operating against similar civilian targets within Israel. He was sentenced to prison, and after

...serving three years was pardoned in 1977 at the intercession of the Holy See and later became a member of the "National Council" of the PLO.)

Last Saturday's attack was but the latest in a series of atrocities committed over recent months in which innocent civilians and children have been selected as unsuspecting targets by professional criminals. These attacks have once again highlighted the well-known link that exists between the plague of international terror and the dark horrors of anti-Semitism.

This latest outrage is but the most recent link in a chain of crimes that have marked the resurgence of violent anti-Semitism in recent months. These developments cannot be divorced from the campaign of horror propaganda that has been orchestrated against Israel during this period and which has played a pivotal role in creating the atmosphere in which such brutal attacks can be conceived, executed and even accepted as a norm of behaviour towards Israel and the Jewish people.

In my letter of 16 August of this year (A/37/392), I informed Your Excellency of the dastardly attack on 9 August 1982 on a Jewish restaurant in Paris in which six persons were killed.

On 20 July 1982, two bombs exploded outside an Israel bank in the rue des Italiens in Paris, whilst still another bomb was detonated outside the premises of an Israel electronics company in that same city. PLO leaflets were left at the scene of both explosions.

On 1 August 1982, seven people were injured, two of them seriously, when a bomb in a suitcase exploded at the airport counter in Munich. The suitcase was assigned to Tel Aviv.

On that same day, the parked car of an Israel diplomat was machine-gunned in Paris.

On 8 August, and again on 11 August 1982, bombs in Paris seriously damaged Jewish banks and stores.

On 17 September 1982, the car of an Israel diplomat in Paris was blown up. Three persons were seriously injured and 40 bystanders (mainly children) were hit by flying glass.

Shortly before noon on Saturday, 18 September 1982, the day of Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year), a gunman opened submachine-gun fire on Jewish worshippers outside the packed main synagogue in Brussels at a moment when services were still in progress. Four persons sustained serious injuries.

On 29 September 1982, the synagogue of Milan was likewise severely damaged by a bomb thrown by terrorists.

In my letter of 16 August 1982, I had occasion to draw Your Excellency's attention to the grave responsibility which rests with the United Nations for these ominous and sinister developments. In addition to conferring irregular rights and

privileges on the terrorist PLO - an organization committed not only to the destruction of a State Member of the United Nations, but also to the perpetration of brutal crimes against Jews around the world - the United Nations, in a barrage of "anti-Zionist" and "anti-Israel" resolutions accompanied by "anti-Zionist" rhetoric and activities of various kinds, has also been converted into one of the foremost forums of contemporary international anti-Semitism. The endless broadsides of hate and vituperation launched against Israel and the Jewish people from platforms of the United Nations, or under its aegis, have found their echo, and their mainstay, in the official pronouncements of government, and the distortions of the media, in many countries.

At the same time, it is impossible to absolve from shared responsibility for the recrudescence of this ugly phenomenon all those public personalities, including world leaders who, over the years, through irresponsible and loose statements as well as frivolous gestures, have given encouragement to this age-old scourge of civilization. The inescapable connexion between the sad and degrading deterioration of the United Nations into a cover for the call to terror, and the acts of world leaders who have endeavoured to cast a cloak of legitimacy upon the terrorist PLO must, and should, stand at the forefront of our most immediate concerns. Indeed, it must be clear that Governments and others who in recent months have tried to enhance the standing of the terrorist PLO cannot now wash their hands of these recent eruptions of anti-Jewish violence.

I take this opportunity to appeal to Your Excellency to use your best endeavours, with a view to combatting within the United Nations this most vile form of racism and racial and religious discrimination.

I also appeal to Your Excellency to exert your influence with the Member States of this Organization to ensure that the plague-carriers of international terrorism (led by its flag-bearer, the terrorist PLO) and of international anti-Semitism be prevented from continuing to operate freely in an atmosphere of benevolent consent, formal protestations notwithstanding.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 80, 84, 120 and 127.

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