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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 19 April 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to an attempt made on 15 April 1979 by a group of terrorists belonging to the organization known as the PLO to cross the River Jordan into Israel in the vicinity of Kibbutz Tirat Zvi in the Beit Shean Valley.

The group of four terrorists, armed with rifles and hand grenades, was intercepted by the Israel Defence Forces and in an exchange of fire all four were killed. There is evidence that they planned to carry out an attack on civilians.

The responsibility for the dispatch of these terrorists was taken by the PLO the same day. A broadcast on the so-called "Voice of Palestine" from Lebanon on 15 April indicated that this group was sent in pursuance of the policy of escalating terrorist activities with a view to subverting the ongoing peace process in the Middle East.

This is the second attempt by PLO terrorists to cross the River Jordan in recent weeks. On 10 March 1979, the Israel Defence Forces detected and eliminated four other terrorists who had crossed the Jordan south of the Adam bridge. They were armed with weapons and explosive materials. According to Baghdad Radio the same day, the PLO took responsibility for sending this group in a statement which was published in Beirut on 10 March. Reuters reporting from Beirut confirmed this.

These terrorist acts are clearly the work of international criminals of the worst kind, bent on the indiscriminate murder of civilians while masquerading under the banner of a national liberation movement. The PLO is but an instrument in the hands of the opponents of peace in the Middle East and beyond, who are determined to frustrate any progress towards peace in the Middle East, particularly in the light of the peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt on 26 March 1979.

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Given the true intentions of the terrorist PLO and the criminal methods of operation favoured by it throughout its existence, the Government of Israel is duty bound, as I have indicated in previous letters, to take all measures necessary to protect the lives and safety of its citizens.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 25 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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