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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 June 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter dated 25 May 1979 addressed to Your Excellency by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

I would like this letter to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 25 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulla Y. BISHARA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 25 May 1979 from the Chairman of the Executive Committee
of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the Secretary-General

On 23 May 1979 the Israeli Air Force launched a savage air attack on the villages of Damour and An Na'ma to the south of Beirut, inflicting a large number of casualties on the population, mostly children, women and the elderly - both Palestinian and Lebanese. At the same time, the Israeli armed forces continued their attacks by air, land and sea on the region of southern Lebanon, directing their guns and artillery against all the residential areas in villages and camps and against schools, economic establishments and agricultural lands, causing great losses of life and property and the evacuation of a large number of the inhabitants, who became homeless. In their attacks the Israeli forces used internationally prohibited anti-personnel weapons, such as concussion, time and incendiary bombs. Moreover, their aggression was directed against the places where international forces are stationed in southern Lebanon.

Then the Israeli leaders, with their customary arrogance, declared that the aggression against the Palestinians and Lebanon would continue and that it would be a daily task of the Israeli forces. This announcement comes at a time when some parties are still claiming that the Washington agreement concluded between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli Government, under the auspices of the Government of the United States of America, is a step towards a so-called peace. The matter has gone beyond the excuses which the Israeli aggressor uses to justify his aggression and has become an officially declared war against the Palestine Liberation Organization, against the Palestinian Arab people in their camps and against other Lebanese villages and towns. Moreover, it is a war of aggression against the sovereignty and security of the Lebanese Arab people themselves. The war of annihilation which the aggressor Israeli authorities are waging against our people, our institutions and our camps is a crime punishable under international law and is taking place at this stage in this century in which all mankind, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of civilized nations have condemned such heinous crimes as are being perpetrated by the Israeli forces against us on land, by sea and by air. Moreover, they even boastfully announce it and declare their resolve to continue it and to regard it as part of the daily operations of their forces, as was stated by Ezer Weizman, the Minister of Defence of Israel.

But that is not all. The Zionist entity is engaging in piracy in Lebanese territorial waters and on the high seas. Its naval force destroyed two civilian ships in the ports of Sidon and Tyre, which were carrying foodstuffs and medical supplies, and Israeli naval forces seized another ship which was proceeding from Cyprus to Tripoli, carrying civilian automobiles and ambulances to Samed, which finds employment for the children and families of Palestinian martyrs and is registered with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs as a philanthropic organization. All this constitutes a violation of the freedom of maritime trade and is piracy punishable under international law.

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We are confident that the international community will not permit the aggressor to continue his aggression and to declare boastfully that he will persist in it and in defying the international will and the prestige of international forces by aggression against the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations, namely Lebanon, and endeavouring to annihilate our Palestinian Arab people, whose right to struggle for the restoration of their land and to return to it, to self-determination in freedom and to the establishment of an independent national state on its territory has been affirmed by the United Nations.

On grounds of national and international responsibility, I call upon you to take action to stop the aggressor and to stand by our people and their inalienable rights. I would also request you to distribute this communication to representatives of all States Members of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Yasser ARAFAT
Chairman of the Executive Committee
and Commander in Chief of the
Palestine Revolutionary Forces