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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 17 June 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 urgent attention to the following:

On Friday, 15 June 1979, at 1630 hours (local time), a United Nations vehicle was involved in a road accident at Sha'ar Ha-Ga'i on the main highway to Jerusalem. The vehicle was driven by a Nigerian officer serving with UNIFIL, Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Gom; he was accompanied by Mark Okoronkwo, also from Nigeria, who works at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura. The officer's behaviour aroused suspicion and, as a result an Israel police officer decided to search two cases which were found in the car. They were discovered to contain:

- (a) Twenty-eight sticks of explosive material, each weighing 500 grams;
- (b) Seventy "fingers" of gelignite, each weighing 100 grams;
- (c) Sixty detonators;
- (d) Ten hand-grenades;
- (e) Three sub-machine-guns;
- (f) A large quantity of ammunition.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gom admitted that he had received the cases from a PLO terrorist in Lebanon and that he was to deliver them to a PLO contact-man in Jerusalem.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gom and his companion were brought before a magistrate today, Sunday, 17 June 1979. He was remanded for 15 days and his companion for six days.

* A/34/50.

As you are aware, this is not the first time that a soldier serving with UNIFIL has been caught red-handed while attempting to smuggle into Israel arms and explosives for the terrorist PLO. I am instructed to protest vigorously and emphatically against this repeated criminal abuse of a United Nations peace-keeping force to serve as a cover for co-operation with PLO terrorists - despite assurances received from the United Nations to take action to prevent the recurrence of activities of this kind. The acts of terror carried out by PLO criminals against innocent civilians in Israel, whether successful or not, demonstrate the special gravity of such activities. Anyone aiding and abetting the PLO in its activities aimed at the indiscriminate mass murder of civilians bears a heavy responsibility, particularly if he happens to be a member, and a high-ranking officer at that, of a United Nations force.

Accordingly, I must earnestly request that action be taken forthwith to prevent once and for all any recurrence of such activities which, as you will surely agree, are in flagrant violation of the peace-keeping mandate of UNIFIL.

I should be grateful if arrangements could be made to have this letter distributed as an official 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