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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 25 August 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letters to the Secretary-General dated 16 November 1978 (A/33/376), 20 December 1978 (A/33/543) and 27 June 1980 (A/35/316-S/14045), I wish to register my Government's strong protest at the recent release by the United Nations of a series of so-called "studies" prepared for "the International Conference on the Question of Palestine".

It is to be regretted that in so doing, the United Nations should have been drawn once again into the pattern, so characteristic of certain régimes, of rewriting history according to the transient interests of a political body.

Even the most cursory reading of these documents can leave no doubt that the means and machinery of the United Nations have been misused once again to disseminate highly selective and tendentious information. Thus, what purport to be "scholarly studies", supported by what appears to be a scientific apparatus, are no more than crude pieces of propaganda. In a systematic way, this propaganda is marked by deliberate distortions of fact, by the inclusion of selective and tendentious material and by the use of techniques, including semantic devices and highly slanted terminology, foreign to the accepted norms of serious writing, but well known to the art of propaganda. It seeks to achieve its purposes as much by what it consciously omits as by what it actually says.

The recent pseudo-scientific publications - which follow the standards of intellectual dishonesty set over the years in the publications of the "Special Unit on Palestinian Rights" (which subsequently became the "Division for Palestinian

* A/38/150.

Rights") within the United Nations Secretariat - have been prepared by or under the aegis of the "Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine". The Preparatory Committee in question is virtually identical in composition with the "Special Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People".

Of all the "studies" released since 1978 only two are said to express the views of their authors, while the remainder were published only in the name of anonymous "consultants".

While such anonymous authorship suggests an unwillingness to take responsibility for the contents of the "studies" concerned, it does not succeed in disguising the intellectual cowardice of the exercise. Nor can it succeed in absolving the United Nations of its responsibility for information published in its name.

Emblazoned with the emblem of the United Nations, these "studies" are designed not only to give further currency to a completely misleading version of the history of the Arab-Israel conflict, but also to propagate bogus theories with regard to a number of complex legal and other issues connected with the Arab-Israel conflict.

The partisan views expressed in all these "studies" accord fully with those held by the PLO - a terrorist organization which is committed to the destruction of Israel, a State Member of the United Nations.

By producing and disseminating these publications, the United Nations is serving the cause of international terror, not the cause of international peace. In the process, the United Nations has once again misused international funds, gravely compromised the integrity of the Secretariat and exposed the Organization to severe and more than justified criticism.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the provisional agenda.

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