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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH

ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR  
JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, AND STUDY  
OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS OF  
TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN  
MISERY, FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR  
AND WHICH CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE  
HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN  
ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 August 1979 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Yet again, I wish to draw your attention to the ongoing attempts by PLO terrorists based in Lebanon to conduct acts of indiscriminate terror against the civilian population of Israel.

On the night of 17/18 August 1979, an Israel Navy patrol spotted and intercepted a rubber dinghy entering Israel coastal waters off Rosh Hanikra, in northern Israel. Aboard the craft were four PLO criminals dispatched to carry out acts of terror in Israel. In an exchange of fire, the dinghy was sunk, one terrorist drowned and the three others were captured.

The following day, Saturday 18 August, radio Sawt al-Arab broadcast a report that the terrorists aboard were sent by a group belonging to the PLO.

This criminal attempt, which could have had grave consequences, must be seen against the background of a series of related incidents. As will be recalled, the Israel Navy providentially foiled similar sea-borne attempts by the PLO from Lebanon at the beginning of April of this year and also on 4 June 1979 (see my letters of 22 April 1979 and of 5 June 1979, circulated as documents A/34/207-S/13264 and A/34/298-S/13376).

\* A/34/150.

On 22 April 1979, a design of this kind took its tragic toll. On that occasion, as reported to you at the time (A/34/207-S/13264), four PLO terrorists landed by means of a rubber dinghy at Nahariya some six miles from the Lebanese border. In the course of the ensuing atrocity, four Israeli civilians, including two little sisters, died, and two other civilians were wounded.

All these attempts are part of a concerted PLO campaign of violence being waged from Lebanon which, as you noted in your statement to the Security Council on 31 May 1979 (S/PV.2146, pp. 4-5), has a direct bearing on the situation in southern Lebanon.

In this context, mention should also be made of the following recent incidents which have occurred in the course of the current month:

(a) On 3 August 1979, an explosive device was discovered in Jerusalem and dismantled without causing injury.

(b) On 5 August, a large explosive device went off opposite the Municipal Building in Jerusalem, injuring six persons, two of them seriously (see the letter of the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Israel of 7 August, circulated as document A/34/403-S/13490).

(c) On 15 August, an explosive device went off at the Beit Lid Junction, near the coastal town of Natanya, injuring two persons.

(d) On the same day, another explosive device went off in the centre of the town of Kfar Saba (inland from Tel-Aviv), injuring one person.

Beyond indiscriminate terror for its own sake, the declared aim of this campaign of violence by the PLO is to subvert the ongoing peace process in the Middle East.

Given the true character and aims of the terrorist PLO, 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 an official document of the General Assembly, under items 25 and 114 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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