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UN/ISA COLLECTION
CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THIRTY-EIGHTH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 20 October 1983 from the Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 19 October 1983 addressed to Your Excellency by a number of representatives (A/38/520). That letter contains a gratuitous and completely unfounded attack on the credentials of the delegation of Israel to the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, notwithstanding the fact that they were found in due form by the Credentials Committee and accepted by it at its 1st meeting on 12 October 1983 (see the first report of the Credentials Committee, A/38/508 of 17 October 1983).

The letter under reference is thus a crude and transparent attempt to abuse the credentials procedure in order to introduce matters completely extraneous and irrelevant to it. It constitutes one more manifestation of the obsessive hatred towards Israel of certain States which, ever since Israel's establishment in 1948, have been bent on my country's destruction and in the process have flagrantly violated both general international law and the Charter of the United Nations. These violations include most specifically consistent breaches of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter which prohibits the use and even threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and of Article 2, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Charter which enjoins all Members to settle their international disputes by peaceful means.

It is evident that the contentions advanced in the letter under reference - attesting not only to the well-known obsession of certain States with my country but also to the cynical exploitation of that obsession by some other States - would be irrelevant to the credentials procedure even if they were true - which they are not. It is not my intention to be drawn into such abuse of the credentials procedure. I will therefore confine myself to the following observations:

(a) The report of the Credentials Committee is not the occasion for any country to engage in polemics of the kind in the letter under reference;

(b) Such unjustified aspersions cast on credentials which are in due form, and have been accepted as such by the Credentials Committee, are in violation of the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter, as well as of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

(c) The approach reflected in that letter is also incompatible with the principles guiding the United Nations, including the duty incumbent on all Members of the United Nations to use it, as the Charter enjoins, as a "centre for harmonizing the actions of nations" (Article 1, paragraph 4);

(d) This approach does not merely redound to the general discredit of the United Nations system as a whole; it is also liable to affect adversely the ability of the United Nations to perform its primary functions for the maintenance of international peace and security.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 3.

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