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LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention a grave armed attack perpetrated yesterday, 30 May 1972, at the Lod airport.

Three men, who arrived at Lod at 2230 hours local time by Air France flight number 132 en route from Paris and Rome, entered the airport lounge, took out of their luggage automatic Klachnikov rifles and grenades and opened fire indiscriminately on the crowd at the terminal.

Twenty-five persons were killed and more than 70 wounded, 10 of whom are critically injured. Among the dead are 15 American Christian pilgrims from Puerto Rico, five of them women.

Two of the assailants were killed. The third, who was caught alive, declared that he and his colleagues were Japanese nationals hired by an Arab terror organization known as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to carry out the dastardly crime. According to his testimony, the three received training under the supervision of a member of the Popular Front.

Less than 30 minutes after the attack the Beirut headquarters of the Popular Front issued a communique claiming responsibility for the mass murder.

Radio broadcasts from Syria and Egypt acclaimed the attack. The semi-official Cairo daily El-Ahram jubilantly announced this morning that "the action was carried out scrupulously with speed and surprise".

The above act of premeditated mass murder of innocent civilians is part of the campaign of wanton and indiscriminate slaughter waged by Arab terror organizations. It is reminiscent in particular of the blowing up on 21 February 1970 by Arab terror agents of a Swissair aircraft, in which 47 passengers lost their lives.

It is to be observed that the attack at Lod was carried out by hired henchmen, though it is not the first time that Arab terror organizations employ foreign mercenaries to strike at helpless men, women and children.

Israel has repeatedly drawn attention to the responsibility of Arab Governments, and in particular of the Government of Lebanon, for the initiation, planning and execution of the criminal operations conducted by Arab terror organizations. I again emphasized this responsibility only recently in my letter of 11 May 1972 to the Secretary-General (A/8684, S/10639) following the attempt on 8 May 1972 to hijack a Sabena airplane. It is a matter of common knowledge that Beirut is the seat of the Arab terror organizations' headquarters and that those organizations also maintain offices in other Lebanese towns and in refugee camps located in Lebanon. It is known that terror actions carried out abroad are planned and organized in the Beirut headquarters of the terror groups.

Despite repeated calls by Israel to terminate these criminal activities, Lebanon and the other Arab States have continued to harbour the terror organizations on their soil and to give support to their operations.

Israel must insist that the Arab Governments and especially Lebanon, from whose territory and under whose patronage terror organizations continue to operate in complete freedom, put an immediate and effective end to these nefarious activities.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
