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LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter S/16203 of 6 December 1983, I now wish to inform Your Excellency that in the wake of the terrorist atrocity perpetrated in Jerusalem yesterday, Arafat's spokesman from Tripoli, Lebanon, took responsibility for that heinous crime, claiming that the PLO perpetrators blew up an "Israel military bus", thereby inflicting death and injury on more than forty "military personnel".

At the same time, in a statement issued in Damascus, a spokesman for Abu Musa's wing of the PLO - now engaged in a bloody power struggle with Arafat's wing in Tripoli - also took responsibility for yesterday's barbarity.

It will be recalled that the "military personnel" who were the targets of that terrorist outrage included 4 killed, among them 2 schoolgirls - Esther Adi aged 14 and Nurit Pollack aged 11 - and a senior citizen - Yehuda Kaplan aged 77. Moreover, as it turns out, 46 were injured, among them 30 women and 4 children. Ten of the injured are still in critical condition.

This is not the first time that rival PLO factions have been competing in claiming responsibility for the wanton and deliberate murder of civilians in Israel and elsewhere. The fact that in this particular case Arafat's "moderate" wing is vying with the "extreme" faction of Abu Musa for the distinction of having perpetrated the crime in Jerusalem serves only to illustrate once again the criminal character of the PLO as a whole.

It should be recalled in this connection that Yasser Arafat - whose faction is now bragging from Tripoli about its responsibility for the outrage in question - asked several days ago that the United Nations flag be put at his disposal, on "humanitarian grounds", to enable him and his terrorists to escape from Tripoli (S/16194 of 3 December 1983) and that the Security Council acceded to this request (S/16195 of 3 December 1983).

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

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