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### THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 13 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to bring to your urgent attention the act of PLO gangsterism perpetrated against Israel civilians yesterday, 12 April 1984.

At approximately 1900 hours local time, four PLO terrorists hijacked a civilian bus with more than 30 passengers on board (including women and children) while the bus was on its way from Tel-Aviv to Ashkelon to the south. The terrorists, who were armed with hand-grenades, gasoline bombs and enough explosives to destroy the vehicle, forced the driver to proceed along the coastal highway in the direction of the Egyptian border. The bus was eventually stopped by the Israel Defence Forces who shot into the vehicle's tires. Some 10 hours later - after some of the passengers managed to escape from the bus - the Israel Defence Forces rescued the passengers still on board. In the course of the rescue operation, eight passengers were injured, one of whom subsequently died of her injuries. The four PLO criminals were killed in the rescue operation.

The Government of Israel will continue to take all the steps necessary to ensure the lives and safety of its citizens. Its response to this most recent manifestation of PLO barbarism serves as further proof of the unflinching determination of the people of Israel to combat resolutely and firmly the scourge of international gangsterism and lawlessness and its linchpin - the terrorist PLO - one of whose constituent groups known as "the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine" - from its headquarters in Damascus - has already claimed responsibility for this dastardly crime. It will be noted that Damascus has now become the regional centre of international terrorism.

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\* A/39/50.

Outrages of this kind, aimed deliberately and indiscriminately at innocent civilians, must surely disabuse of any illusions all those who may still be entertaining them with regard to the true nature and objectives of the terrorist PLO, which cannot be considered by any stretch of the imagination a "national liberation movement".

In this connection, it must also be stated with regret that the United Nations has not only failed to discharge its responsibilities in combating international terrorism which threatens the very fabric of civilized international society; it has, in fact, encouraged this despicable phenomenon by granting, inter alia, irregular privileges within the Organization to the terrorist PLO, in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the rules of procedure of the various organs.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 36 of the preliminary list.

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

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