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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 21 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 1 June 1984 addressed to Your Excellency by the Permanent Representative of Jordan (A/39/283-S/16598).

In the Jordanian letter under reply, yet another attempt has been made to revive the by now totally discredited canard about the "imminent" collapse of Temple Mount in Jerusalem, this attempt being apparently a periodic rehash of one of the staples in Jordan's anti-Israel propaganda arsenal. Thus, for example, in his letter of 8 September 1981 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/489-S/14684), the then Permanent Representative of Jordan made one of those periodic assertions about the "imminent" collapse of Temple Mount and repeated it also in his statement of 26 October 1981 in the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly (see A/SPC/36/SR.13, p. 6).

The true state of affairs was fully set out in my letter to the Secretary-General dated 24 September 1981 (A/36/555-S/14708), as well as in the statement of 26 October 1981 of the representative of Israel in the Special Political Committee (see A/SPC/36/SR.13, pp. 3 and 4). This, of course, did not prevent the Special Political Committee from recommending on 26 October 1981 to the General Assembly - and the Assembly from adopting on 28 October 1981 - resolution 36/15 which incorporated Jordan's false allegations.

As is well known, Jordan considers itself as being in a state of war with Israel. The Jordanian letter under reply and the false allegations contained in it must thus be viewed as yet another attempt to exploit the United Nations and its

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machinery in the relentless campaign of vilification against Israel conducted by certain Member States, including Jordan. It is certainly regrettable that, in promoting these obsessions, the Jordanian letter should have exhibited once again a total lack of compunction in fanning the flames of religious incitement.

Israel's record in safeguarding the holy shrines of all faiths finds expression not only in the Protection of Holy Places Law, 5727 - 1967, which stipulates that the Holy Places "shall be protected from desecration and any other violation and from anything likely to violate the freedom of access of the members of different religions to the places sacred to them or their feelings with regard to those places", and which also provides for imprisonment of up to seven years for the violation of the law; it is also evidenced in the scrupulous adherence to these provisions in Israel's practice over the years. This stands in stark contrast to the dismal record of Jordan during the 19 years of Jordanian occupation of the Walled City of Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967. The recapitulation of that record is hardly necessary in view of the notoriety of Jordan's behaviour (see my letter dated 12 February 1980 (A/35/98-S/13793); see also my statements in the Security Council of 24 June 1980 (S/PV.2234, pp. 57-62 and 72-77)).

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, and of the Security Council.

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