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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 23 November 1978 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our conversation of yesterday, I am directed to request that arrangements be made to remove the passage showing the Foreign Minister of Israel speaking in the General Assembly from the film which has been produced by the Office of Public Information under the guidance of the "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People".

As you know, the dominant voice in that Committee has been that of the observer of the so-called "PLO". The Committee's recommendations, formulated in 1976, are little more than a recension in United Nations jargon of the PLO's ideological programme for the dismantlement of Israel in stages - in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. From the information available to me, the above-mentioned film is tendentious and one-sided from start to finish, and, given the close involvement of the "Palestine Committee", it cannot be otherwise. It certainly cannot be made objective or balanced by a few fleeting shots of the Foreign Minister of Israel, which in any event, as I am given to understand, serve only as a pretext for an Arab retort in the next sequence.

If there are other passages in the film showing Israeli representatives speaking, I request that they too be removed from the film.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

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