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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Letter dated 21 December 1978 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our conversations of 22 November and 4 December 1978, I wish to register my Government's strong protest against the misuse of the facilities of the United Nations from 29 November to 3 December to house an exhibition mounted by the terrorist organization known as the PLO.

It is absolutely unacceptable that little more than three decades after the victory of the United Nations over the Nazis, an exhibition, reminiscent of the worst kind of Nazi incitement against the Jewish people, should have been entertained in the Headquarters of the United Nations. This exhibition constituted a vulgar attack on a Member State. It also vilified the Bible, Judaism and values which have contributed so much to world civilization as a whole.

While it is outrageous that the Headquarters of the Organization should have been exploited for this purpose, it is not surprising that the PLO should have produced an exhibit which would have been worthy of the anti-Semitic Nazi publication Der Stürmer. The ideological and political mentor of that group of international terrorists is the notorious Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who in the 1920s and 1930s was the leader of the Palestine Higher Arab Committee, and who after the Second World War was wanted as a war criminal for his active collaboration with the Nazis. In this attack on Judaism and universal values, the PLO has revealed its true face as an enemy of civilization.

A/33/545  
English  
Page 2

I should also like to take this opportunity to register Israel's objection to the exhibit by the Office of Public Information which was also displayed at the same time, since it contained a series of inaccuracies, all designed to give a highly partisan interpretation to the question of the Palestinian Arabs, as treated by the United Nations since 1947.

I should be grateful if arrangements could be made to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 30, 77 and 100.

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

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