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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN
LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF
THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF
VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION,
GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE SOME
PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING
THEIR OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL
CHANGES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 13 November 1979 (A/34/681-S/13625), I wish to draw your attention to still further attempts at indiscriminate murder directed against Israel civilians by the terrorist PLO:

I

Late in the evening of 18 November 1979, an Israel Navy patrol encountered a small rubber dinghy off the Mediterranean coast from Achziv, a village in the north of Israel, three miles south of the border with Lebanon. The dinghy had set out from the Tyre region in Lebanon and was manned by four PLO criminals.

When the rubber dinghy was spotted, it was ordered to identify itself. An exchange of fire ensued, in the course of which the dinghy capsized, two terrorists were killed and two were pulled out of the water and apprehended.

According to news agency reports, the PLO has taken responsibility for this terrorist attempt.

This attempted outrage, which could have had grave consequences, must be seen against the background of a series of related incidents.

On 22 April 1979, a sea-borne attack by PLO criminals took its tragic toll. On that occasion, four PLO terrorists succeeded in beaching a rubber dinghy at Nahariya and, in the course of the ensuing violence, four Israeli civilians, including two little sisters, aged two and four, died and two other civilians were wounded (see my letter of 22 April 1979 circulated under the symbol A/34/207-S/13264).

It will also be recalled that the Israel Navy foiled similar sea-borne attempts by the PLO from Lebanon at the beginning of April this year, as well as on 4 June 1979 and the night of 17/18 August 1979 (see my letters of 22 April 1979, 5 June 1979 and 20 August 1979, circulated as documents A/34/207-S/13264; A/34/298-S/13376; and A/34/429-S/13508).

II

During the morning rush hour on 19 November 1979, two bombs exploded on public buses in Jerusalem, wounding several innocent bystanders and damaging property.

In the first instance, the device was fortunately spotted in time to evacuate the bus, which was on its way through the city centre, and hence a major tragedy was providentially averted. None the less, the bus driver and two policemen were injured and considerable damage was done to stores in the vicinity.

In the second instance, which occurred shortly thereafter, an explosive device went off in an empty bus parked in a residential suburb of Jerusalem. Eight people, including two children, were wounded, while the bus was badly damaged.

As is its wont, the terrorist PLO immediately bragged of its responsibility for both of these outrages through its radio in Lebanon.

Since the PLO is a pliant instrument in the hands of those Arab States opposed to the peace process in the Middle East, it is clear that the latest incidents described in this letter were fomented in the hope of interfering with the ongoing negotiations in the Middle East.

Given the true character and aims of the terrorist PLO, the Government of Israel is duty-bound, as I have indicated in previous letters, to take all measures necessary to protect the lives and safety of its citizens.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 25 and 112, and of the Security Council.

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