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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 24 June 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter to you of 19 June 1980 (A/35/293), I wish to draw your urgent attention to a series of ongoing attempts by PLO terrorists to conduct acts of indiscriminate terror against the civilian population in Israel:

(a) In the early morning hours of Friday, 20 June 1980, three terrorists were captured when they laid a thermos jug filled with explosives on the Bat-Galim beach in Haifa. A device attached to the bomb had been timed to detonate several hours later, when the beach would have been teeming with bathers. Thanks to the vigilance of an elderly bather who spotted the jug, the police was able to dismantle the bomb safely. At the time of their arrest, another explosive-filled thermos jug was found in the possession of the terrorists. Thus a tragedy of major proportions, potentially involving many innocent civilians, was providentially averted. The PLO took responsibility for this crime in a broadcast on the terrorist radio in Baghdad on 22 June 1980.

(b) In the afternoon of Sunday, 22 June 1980, an explosive device went off under a car in the market place in Gaza. The driver of the car was slightly injured.

(c) In the early morning hours of 23 June 1980, an explosive charge went off at a bus stop in the French Hill section of Jerusalem, without causing injuries.

(d) Also on the same morning an explosive device planted on the upper shelf of a grocery store went off in Pardes-Katz, a suburb east of Tel Aviv, seriously wounding a pregnant female shopper and also injuring another customer as well as the grocer.

* A/35/50.

Later on the same day of 23 June, the terrorist PLO, on its radio in Lebanon, boasted of its responsibility for these three latest attempts at mass murder.

All these cowardly acts have one thing in common: they are aimed at the mass murder of innocent men, women and children in crowded places, such as beaches, bus stations and open markets.

The senseless killing of civilians has been the barbaric aim of the terrorist PLO throughout its existence. Its designs, whether successful or not, are characteristic of a group of international criminals of the worst kind which masquerades, in the case of the PLO, under the banner of a national liberation movement.

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 item 26 on the preliminary list.

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