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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to an attempted terrorist outrage which, had it been successful, could have caused numerous civilian fatalities in one of the main thoroughfares in the centre of Jerusalem.

Early in the morning of 16 January, a Mercedes car was noted to be suspiciously parked in an alley beside Ben Yehuda Street, one of the busiest streets in the city. The police were summoned to the spot and discovered that a powerful explosive device was concealed in the trunk of the vehicle. Police sappers safely dismantled the device and thereby averted what may well have been a major tragedy.

A police investigation later revealed that the car had been stolen the previous evening from a resident of Jerusalem.

On 17 January, Cairo Radio broadcast a report carried by the press agency of the so-called PLO in which that terrorist organization took responsibility for the attempted outrage in Jerusalem.

This is yet another illustration of the character of the terrorist organization in question, whose aim, as I noted in my letter of 14 January 1979 (S/13028), is to disrupt any movement towards peace in the Middle East and to endanger indiscriminately the lives and safety of innocent human beings, while at the same time masquerading under the banner of a national liberation movement.

Despite the obvious danger which the PLO constitutes to international peace and security, it enjoys observer status in the United Nations and has been accorded irregular privileges as well as opportunities to participate in the deliberations of various organs of the United Nations, in violation of the United Nations Charter and of the Rules of Procedure of the organs concerned.

Given the true character of this murderous organization, 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.

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I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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