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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Letter dated 16 November 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my Mission's letters of 21 August 1978 (A/33/209) and 1 September 1978 (A/33/229), I wish to register my Government's strong objection to the release today of a United Nations study entitled The Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem, Part I: 1917-1947 (ST/SG/SER.F/1). 1/

Even the most cursory reading of this document can leave no doubt that the means and machinery of the United Nations have been misused once again to disseminate highly selective and tendentious information under the guise, in this instance, of what purports to be a scholarly study.

The history of international conflicts, and particularly those with complex historical origins, can only be properly written by objective historians who enjoy complete academic freedom. The practice of writing and rewriting history according to the transient interests of a political body is of course characteristic of certain régimes. It is regrettable that the United Nations has now been drawn into that pattern.

The vital need to resolve the Israel-Arab conflict through better understanding, mutual respect and peace negotiations has been too often obstructed by the ill-intentioned exploitation of various United Nations organs. The publication in question can only be seen as yet another manifestation of that negative practice,

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.I.19.

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in flagrant violation of the purposes of the United Nations, as laid down in Article 1 of the Charter.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 30, 77 and 100.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
