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Items 37 and 39 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 7 March 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Since Yassir Arafat purported to renounce all forms of terrorism in Geneva on 14 December 1988, there have been five attempts by PLO terrorist squads to infiltrate Israel's northern border with Lebanon. The common objective of these infiltrations was to carry out attacks against Israeli civilians within Israel. The squads were all under the direction of various factions in the PLO which participated in the Algiers PNC in November 1988.

Among the PLO factions that planned and facilitated these terrorists acts, the most prominent are the PFLP headed by George Habash and the DFLP headed by Nayif Hawatmeh. To recall just one of the most notorious acts of terror against civilians in Israel, the DFLP was responsible in May 1974 for the massacre in the school in Maalot in which 24 Israeli citizens were killed and 62 wounded, the majority of which were children.

In the most recent of these attacks on 2 March 1989, for which Nayif Hawatmeh of the DFLP claimed responsibility, the terrorists had in their possession, flyers which indicated clearly that they were acting on behalf of the PLO. These flyers stated: "This is the complete way by all the honourable forms of struggle, which our people is taking under the flag of its national leadership - the PLO, and its revolutionary pioneers in our homeland and the countries where they have been dispersed".

* A/44/50.

The incident however on 2 March 1989 was not an isolated one:

On 26 December 1988, a squad of four terrorists belonging to the faction of the Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Goesha attempted unsuccessfully to infiltrate Israel by sea.

On 28 December 1988, a squad of terrorists from the Palestine Liberation Front of Tlat Yacoub was apprehended at the border fence with Lebanon near Kibbutz Manara.

On 4 February 1989, five terrorists belonging to the PFLP faction of George Habash were apprehended by the IDF on its way to attack an Israeli civilian population centre in the Galilee.

On 23 February 1989, a squad of 3 terrorists belonging to the DFLP faction of Hawatmeh was prevented from carrying out a similar objective.

There is no doubt that had these infiltrations not been prevented by the IDF, Israeli citizens would have been targeted and killed by the terrorists.

All these factions are part of the PLO organization, chaired by Yassir Arafat. The PFLP and DFLP, in particular, are central factions in the PLO, and both participated in the PNC in Algiers. All the above mentioned infiltrations were aimed at Israeli civilians in Israel, and five attempts in nine weeks demonstrate that the PLO has in no way curtailed its terrorist activity. The fact that Yassir Arafat did not prevent or even condemn these terrorist acts reveals that Arafat and the PLO have no intention of ceasing violent terrorist acts that were supposedly renounced in Geneva. These senseless acts of blatant terror reveal the true nature of the PLO, and the objectives to which it remains committed.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 37 and 39 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
Acting Permanent Representative
