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Entebbe mission film [David L. Wolper]. 1976.

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#### WOLPER PRODUCTIONS, INC.

DAVID L. WOLPER PRESIDENT

September 17, 1976

Mr. Herb Friedman 10 Herold Hemelech Caesarea ISRAEL

Dear Herb:

Well, we are underway on our script and our project on ENTEBBE. I certainly appreciate all the help you gave to Bob Guenette and Ernest Kinoy on their trip to Israel. We were able to get all the information we needed and Kinoy is really at work on a three hour script.

As things turned out, we will not be doing the films in Israel. We will probably be filming the entire thing right here in the Unite States. It worked out this way because of your governments arrangement with Warner Bros. The arrangement with Warner Bros. did not bother us. We are going to proceed full blast, but in just a completely different direction.

Be assured that the script will be something you will be very proud of. I will forward a copy to you as soon as it is completed.

I tried to think of a gift I could give you for helping us in setting up all the arrangements, but couldn't think of anything. So, I hope you will accept the enclosed check and buy your wife a present for your new apartment in Jerusalem. Mr. Herb Friedman September 17, 1976 Page 2

Look forward to seeing you when you come to the States. Hopefully I will visit Israel soon.

Best personal regards,

David L. Wolper

DLW:dct Enclosure



## **A Daring Rescue**

Israel's daring rescue of 103 civilian hostages at Uganda's Entebbe Airport over the weekend made the Bicentennial celebration more meaningful for many Americans.

The brilliantly-executed operation was a necessary response to a senseless act of terrorism committed in the name of the Palestinian cause and has rightfully won the respect and admiration of the Western World, with few exceptions. Predictably, Arab, Communist, and some Third World and black African spokesmen hypocritically denounced Israel's "aggression," but this was more an indictment of their own lack of basic moral scruples than of Israel. Somewhat more surprisingly, however, UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim termed the action "a violation of the sovereignty of a member state" –a statement which will further add to the moral bankruptcy of the world organization and diminish Waldheim's own stature.

Israel acted in the best tradition of international law by defending its citizens—and others—from international piracy and extortion. The pro-Palestinian terrorists who commandeered an Air France airliner en route to Paris from Tel-Aviv shortly after a stopover in Athens, were permitted to refuel in Libya before continuing on to Uganda. There "Field Marshall" Idi Amin became a willing accomplice to the crime by assisting the terrorists and calling their demands for the release of prisoners in Israel and four other countries "reasonable." In fact, he asked the hijackers to place on their list of demands five Ugandans, detained in Kenya, to be exchanged for the pasengers.

There is evidence that the original hijackers, all of whom were killed in the Israeli assault, had chosen Uganda as their destination from the start and both the hijackers and their Ugandan hosts received their just deserts.

#### **PLO Involvement**

The hijackers, two of whom were Germans, said they were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The PLO, despite its "denunciation" of the hijacking, has recently accepted a "division of labor" within the Palestinian terrorist movement, allocating such acts to other splinter groups under its overall umbrella. PLO officials in Uganda were driven to and from the airport throughout the week-long ordeal, and took an active role in the negotiations.

The PLO-PFLP connection was clear during the Uganda hijacking. And it was foreshadowed Mar. 30, when PLO Leader Yassir Arafat said in Beirut, with his PFLP counterpart, George Habash, standing at his side: "We will continue our struggle in spirit and in blood until we succeed in establishing our secular democratic state over the entire territory of Palestine. There is no difference between myself and Dr. Habash, the national movement representing the entire Palestinian nation."

President Ford in a message to Prime Minister Rabin said: "The American people join me in expressing our great satisfaction that the passengers of the Air France flight seized earlier this week have been saved and a senseless act of terrorism thwarted." There were similar statements of support from several Western nations. Privately, officials in other countries voiced similar pleasure that the terrorists' plan had failed and Amin had been embarrassed. Fearing retaliation from the Arab-Soviet-Third World bloc, they did not do so publicly.

Especially disheartening for the prospect of progress toward peace was the vitriolic condemnation of Israel levelled by Egypt. Foreign Minister Fahmy said in a formal statement that "Israel's military aggression" reflected the "real terrorist face of the Zionist state." Those who hoped that Egypt was entering a more "moderate" stage in its dealings with Israel must now, unfortunately, reassess that evaluation.

Prodded by Amin, the UN Security Council has been asked by the Organization of African Unity to take up this issue. If there were ever an instance in international relations where the issues in terms of right and justice were clearly defined, it is this Israeli rescue mission. Those leaders and nations who failed to recognize this truth have destroyed their moral credibility.

The blood of the three Israeli hostages, the Israeli commander, and the 20 Ugandan soldiers is first and foremost on the hands of those criminals who perpetrated the crime. But much of the world community, especially the Arab and Communist bloc nations which have tolerated and even encouraged terrorist acts in the past, also share the blame. The time is long past due when the world should refuse to reward such terrorism, as Israel has so courageously done.

# NEAR EAST report

### Washington letter on American policy in the Near East

Vol. XX, No. 27, July 7, 1976

Viewing the news in Arab World

The sectarian battles of Lebanon have been of world concern because of the unabated slaughter of thousands, the virtual dismemberment of a sovereign state, and the threat of a spillover into the Arab-Israeli arena. While the last concern has not materialized, the shock waves of Lebanon have strongly shaken the Arab world and possibilities of inter-Arab conflagrations have emerged.

Syria's provocateur cum protector role in Lebanon has been the latest cause of inter-Arab feuding. Egypt, still bitter over Syrian opposition to its Sinai Agreement, took the lead in criticizing the Damascus intervention by permitting demonstrations against the Syrian Embassy in Cairo and the reopening of the PLO's Voice of Palestine radio station in Cairo. The PLO station has been virulently attacking the Damascus regime and the "Syrianisolationist scheme to ... liquidate the Palestinian revolution." In retaliation, Syria last month allowed-and perhaps sponsored -demonstrations which smashed the Egyptian-Embassy in Damascus.

By the end of June, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait brought about a tentative reconcilliation to eliminate what Egypt's *Al Ahram* described as "the causes of difference between Egypt and Syria, both of which endured the blood of their martyrs and the greatest sacrifices in defense of the Arab nation against an enemy who is lying in wait for this nation." However, political observers skeptically saw the reconcilliation as merely a papering over of basic disagreements.

More ominous, simply because of the proximity of armies, is the Syrian-Iraqi

Continued on page 117



Nearly a year after the 1976 fiscal year began. Congress on June 29 approved that year's foreign assistance appropriations bill containing approximately \$6.7 billion in worldwide military and economic aid and almost \$1 billion for the July through September transition quarter. On that day, the Senate approved the appropriations conference report by voice vote. The House had adopted the same report the day before by a 231 to 158 vote-compared to last year's narrow margin of 193 to 185. The President signed the measure into law on June 30.

For Israel the bill contained \$1.5 billion in military loans (of which repayment of \$750 million would be forgiven), \$700 million in security-related economic supporting assistance and a \$15 million program for the resettlement of Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Egypt was provided \$695 million in economic supporting assistance and Syria with \$80 million. Jordan was earmarked to receive \$72.5 million in supporting assistance, \$50 million in military grants and \$75 million in military loans. Also approved was a \$50 million Middle East Special Requirements Fund, of which \$13 million was set aside to assist Egypt in constructing an early-warning station in the Sinai. The total amount appropriated by Congress included minor cuts from the Administration's initial recommendations for Middle Eastern aid recipients: \$55 million each less for Israel, Egypt and Jordan and \$10 million less for Syria. The legislation also canceled a \$28 million debt owed to the United States by nine educational institutes in Israel. **Bill Delayed** 

There were two major causes for the 12month delay in final action on the appropriations measure: (1) Because of the Administration's Middle East policy "reassessment" announced last March, President Ford postponed his recommendations for assistance to the Middle East countries until October, already four months into fiscal year 1976; (2) Disputes arose over the accompanying fiscal year 1976 foreign military assistance authorization legislation (International Security Assistance Act) because Ford contended that many of its arms control policy provisions interfered with his "constitutional responsibilities for conducting foreign affairs." As a result, he vetoed the authorization bill on May 7. A replacement

The Foreign Aid Bill Approved compromise bill eliminating many of the policy provisions to which Ford had objected, and combining funding in the package with fiscal year 1977 won final Congressional approval on June 25.

This compromise authorization measure signed by the President, however, still contained new controls on the sale of arms to foreign countries which:

 Terminated grant military assistance programs, effective September 30, 1977, unless authorized by Congress in specific amounts for individual countries.

· Provided that all sales of major defense equipment to foreign countries of \$25 million or more had to be made through government, rather than commercial, channels.

· Extended from 20 to 30 days the time alloted to Congress to disapprove by concurrent resolution (not subject to Presidential veto) proposed governmentto-government arms sales.

· Required the President to submit to Congress annually an estimate of the amount of sales, credits and loan guarantees expected to be extended to foreign governments in the coming year and an arms control impact statement for each country.

· Gave Congress authority to curtail sales of military equipment to nations that discriminated against U.S. citizens on the basis of race, religion or sex by approving a joint resolution, requiring the President's signature.

 Provided that the proposed arms sales automatically would be stopped if Congress requested a report from the executive branch on discriminatory practices and the report was not transmitted to Congress within 60 days.

· Barred military assistance to countries that gave sanctuary to terrorists, unless the President reported promptly to Congress that the assistance was necessary for the security of the United States.

· Required the President to submit to Congress reports on agents' fees paid by U.S. defense contractors to promote arms sales to foreign countries.

#### The Transition Quarter

Also delaying passage of the foreign aid legislation was the controversy over aid to Israel during the three-month transition quarter, after which the government will begin its new fiscal year on October 1.

Congress had authorized and the Senate had appropriated an additional \$550

million (\$175 million in economic aid and \$375 million in military assistance) for Israel during this three-month period, as well as \$174 million in economic assistance for Egypt, \$20 million for Syria, and \$18 million for Jordan. Meeting in a House-Senate conference committee on the appropriations bill, however, the House conferees, at the urging of the Administration, voted 7 to 6 not to accept the Senate's amount for transition quarter funding.

On April 6, President Ford sent a message to Congress threatening to veto the fiscal year 1976 appropriations measure if additional transition quarter aid were voted. "My FY 76 and FY 77 budget requests provide sufficient levels of assistance to meet that nation's (Israel's) needs," Ford declared.

A number of prominent legislators, led by Senators CLIFFORD P. CASE (R-N.J.), DANIEL K. INOUYE (D-Hawaii), HUBERT H. HUMPHREY (D-Minn.) and JACOB K. JAVITS (R-N.Y.), maintained, however, that the funding was crucial in order for Israel to purchase vitally-needed U.S. military equipment already approved by the Administration.

The President subsequently eased his opposition to any funding to Israel during the transition quarter. Meeting with Senate and House leaders, Ford negotiated a compromise over the transition funds, agreeing to the following aid levels: \$275 million for Israel (\$75 million in economic assistance and \$200 million in military credits, half of which would not have to be repaid); \$100 million in economic aid for Egypt, \$60 million for Jordan, and \$15 million for Syria. The Senators had sought a \$375 million compromise figure for Israel, but reluctantly accepted the smaller amount when faced with another possible Presidential veto. Proportionately, under this new formula, the Arab states fared much better than did Israel.

#### The 1977 Bill

Meanwhile, on June 29, the House, by a vote of 238 to 169, also approved legislation appropriating a total of \$6.4 billion in world-wide foreign military and economic aid programs during fiscal year 1977 (October 1, 1976-September 30, 1977). As in fiscal 1976, the bulk of funds was allocated to Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Israel was provided \$735 million in economic assistance, \$1 billion in military credits, of which \$500 million would not have to be repaid, and \$15 million for

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L Kenen, Editor Emeritus

Jewish refugee resettlement. Egypt was allocated \$700 million in economic assistance and \$80 million was earmarked for Syria. Jordan is to receive \$70 million in economic aid, \$55 million in military assistance grants, and \$75 million in arms credits. Also, an additional \$35 million was appropriated for the Middle East Special Requirements Fund to meet unexpected and unspecified developments in the region. Small cuts to the Middle East were again made from the amounts originally requested by the Administration: \$50 million less for Israel and Egypt, \$10 million for Syria, and \$22.5 million for Jordan. The fiscal year 1977 appropriations bill has now been sent to the Senate for its consideration after Congress reconvenes on July 19.

Assistance to Israel during the course of the eight-month Congressional debate received strong bipartisan support, and two efforts to adversely affect the aid to Israel were soundly defeated. In March, the House defeated by a vote of 342 to 31 an amendment by Rep. DAVID R. OBEY (D-Wis.) which sought to cut military credits to Israel by \$200 million, and in February, the Senate turned back by a vote of 79 to 8, a proposal by Sen. JAMES ABOUREZK (D-S.Dak.) which in effect would have prohibited U.S. assistance to Israel because of its actions against terrorist bases in Lebanon.

Despite the unprecedented size of the assistance program for Israel, the large margins in the votes on the aid bills indicated a broad base of Congressional support for Israel's defense capacity and economic viability.

#### Amin Speaks Out

Since breaking relations with Israel in 1973. Field Marshall Idi Amin of Uganda has regularly denounced the Jewish State, going so far as to praise Hitler openly and to call for the "extinction of Israel as a state."

Last October, he told the United Nations that Zionists "own the United States of America," and a "Zionist conspiracy...had colonized the United States." He claimed that the Zionists had taken over the CIA and "turned it into a murder squad to eliminate any form of just resistance anywhere in the world."

He defended his domestic repression in Uganda—which has taken approximately 100,000 lives during the past 2 years—by saying that "imperialist and Zionist organizations" were working to "eliminate or murder some brilliant strong leaders like me."

Uganda had good relations with Israel prior to the 1973 war. In fact, Amin spent a brief period of time in Israel training. He recently told an interviewer that he was not anti-Jewish, only "anti-Zionist," adding: "I want Israelis to come to Uganda. They are welcome because I want peace in the world. That is my message to the Jews...I love very much the Jews..."

Since breaking relations with Israel, Amin has established close relations with the PLO, allowing hundreds of Palestinians to train and operate in Uganda. The Lebanese newspaper *El-Hayat* reported May 14, 1975, that a squadron of Palestinian "suicide pilots" was training in Uganda.

#### viewing the news... continued

feud. The two rival Ba'athist regimes have been at loggerheads for years over conflicting ideology and the distribution of water from the Euphrates River. In recent weeks, however, Iraq has stepped up its propaganda battle against the "renegade regime in Syria," shut off vital oil supplies to Damascus, and massed troops along the Syrian border. Iraq recently contributed \$3 million to the Arab Liberation Front, one of the chief opponents of the Syrianbacked forces in Lebanon.

The perennial Arab world troublemaker, Muammer Qaddafi of Libya, has also been hard at work. Sudanese President Jaaffar Numeiry this week, citing "massive evidence," accused Qaddafi of masterminding the unsuccessful July 2 coup attempt in Khartoum, in which 300 people were killed. Numeiry claimed Libya dispatched 1,000 mercenaries to attack Sudanese troops and installations. The Libyan-Sudanese feud also erupted in Lebanon on Tuesday when fighting reportedly broke out between Libyan and Sudanese soldiers in the Arab League "peacekeeping" contingent.

On June 29, bombs allegedly placed by Libyan agents were found on an Egyptian passenger train, and on June 30, Libyan Ambassador to Egypt, Milod el Sedek Ramadan, was expelled after distributing pamphlets calling for the overthrow of Sadat's government. Libya has also been linked to recent assassination attempts in Morocco. Egypt and Tunisia, and continues to fund worldwide terrorist groups.

Tensions between Algeria and Morocco remain high in the dispute over the phosphate-rich Spanish Sahara. Ideological conflict between revolutionary Algeria and monarchal Morocco has only intensified the feud.

The Palestinian movement is also in



#### Carter on Jerusalem

Democratic Presidential Candidate Jimmy Carter told a Houston press conference July I that, if he were the Prime Minister of Israel, he would be inclined to retain control of Jewish and Christian holy places in Jerusalem. But the former Georgia Governor also spoke of suggestions made by others that "might possibly give access to Moslem places" in Jerusalem for Moslems. "I do think Moslems should have access to their own holy places."

Carter also said that some aspects of the proposed Democratic Party Platform were not phrased in the way that he might have wished. The Platform's recommendation that the American Embassy in Israel be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem could pose problems, he said, expressing fear that it could alienate Arab states. He pointed out that he has publicly promised to consider such a move but added: "I want to understand the consequence of it after I am thoroughly briefed." The proposed Middle East plank in the platform is considered the most pro-Israel ever drafted by the Democrats.

Carter praised Israel's "courage, incisiveness and success" in its surprise raid at Entebbe Airport. He thought Israel's action was "right" and served as "a good deterrent to terrorists," adding: "I have great admiration for their well-planned and courageous operations."

Republican Presidential Contender Ronald Reagan also praised Israel's rescue of hostages in Uganda. He declared that Israel reacted "the way America used to," and expressed hope that other nations would react forcefully to combat international terrorism.

complete disarray. The Lebanese fighting has pitted one large segment of the PLO, the Syrian-backed Saiqa, against Fatah and the Rejection Front groups. Losses in terms of personnel and materiel have been staggering. More extremist elements in the terrorist movement have resorted once again to hijacking of planes and assassinations.

Several other potential Arab boiling points remain on the back burner. The Marxist regime in South Yemen recently began to normalize relations with traditional Saudi Arabia, but there are no signs that it intends to tone down its rhetoric, cease its involvement in the insurgency in the Dhofar region of Oman, or mitigate its rivalry with North Yemen.

With no end in sight to the savage fighting in Lebanon, the world will likely be faced with additional inter-Arab conflicts based on personality, ideology, natural resources and religious differences.



## "Birth of an Israeli Legend"

It was a double celebration for American friends of Israel last week as they hailed America's Bicentennial and simultaneously rejoiced over Israel's declaration of independence from terrorism.

Virtually all newspapers and commentators paid tribute to Israel's daring exploit and criticized the Organization of African Unity's cooperation with Uganda in its condemnation of Israel. The reaction of the media demonstrated anew that opinion about Israel is crystallized by her own deeds.

The New York Times (July 5) declared that "the Israelis have every justification to take any steps within their power to neutralize the criminal behavior of hijackers. . . They succeeded magnificently,"

The next day the *Times* went further in another leader:

"The civilized world owes the Government and armed forces of Israel a permanent debt of gratitude for the courageously conceived and brilliantly executed rescue ... appropriately enough (on) America's Independence Day. By this unprecedented action the Israelis have demonstrated that the criminal terrorist practice of holding the lives of innocent civilians for ransom to achieve political ends can be successfully thwarted by application of sufficient a mounts of resourcefulness, determination—and guts."

Similarly, *The Baltimore Sun* (July 5) referred to the "Birth of an Israeli 'Legend'...

"Israel did what it had to do, and it did it brilliantly. . . . No self-respecting nation can idly stand by and allow its citizens to be executed or threatened with execution by foreign terrorists."

The Sun declared that "Kenya deserves support for its unyielding resistance to the kind of air piracy Mr. Amin's policies encouraged." Significantly, it noted, five of the prisoners whose release the hijackers were demanding are now in Kenya jails for attacking an Israeli plane at Nairobi airport.

The Washington Post (July 6) called Israel's rescue mission "a brilliant and heart-lifting victory over terrorism, demonstrating that in the absence of concerted international action against the paralyzing modern disease, a government of valor and imagination can still act." It noted that Mr. Ford's congratulations were "richly deserved."

However, another editorial in the Post on the same day asks whether the Lebanese crisis would have exploded last year if the Palestinians had been brought into the diplomatic search for a settlement.

The *Post's* tendency to attribute Middle East turmoil to the Arab-Israeli conflict overlooks the reality that three other conflicts rage in the Middle East: the war between the haves and the have-nots; Moslem intolerance of religious and national minorities; and, not the least, the Cold War.

While sympathizing with "the joy and relief in Israël," *The Christian Science Monitor* (July 6) questioned the propriety and legality of Israel's "violation of the sovereignty of Uganda," noting that "Ugandan lives are just as valuable as anyone elses."

The air waves warmed the hearts of American listeners.

David Brinkley, over NBC, declared that Israel went into Uganda "to do what Uganda failed to do itself." It was a "difficult and dangerous" mission—"the basic human thing and the only possible thing to do, and well done."

And Howard K. Smith of *ABC* declared that "terrorism, whose potential victim is no one nation but civilization itself, was dealt a mortal blow." It illustrates that "a nation capable of so impossibly daring a rescue . . . is not going to wither or die under threats of attack. Israel's existence is a fact of life, hard as steel, and the Palestinians can hope for success only by dropping their belief to the contrary and seeking negotiated terms."

-1. L. KENEN

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July 7, 1976

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HERBERT A FRIEDMAN 15 IBN GARIROL JERUSALEM ISRAEL NOTES OF SHIMON PERES CONVERSATION ABOUT ENTEBBE RAID - GIVEN TO DAVID WOLPER CREW 16.8. 76

Idi Amin psychology obtained from all experts

Long chain of negotiation made it difficult

Tuesday, got military option, 1000 men available

Emotional evertone, German Jewish selections

Negotiations were sincere while Ministry of Defense looked for another alternative

Amin took time enjoyed changing his mind.

Idea, then plan, then operational plan.

I was confident we had time, on Wednesday we had plan.

On Thursday before cabinet I asked Col. Bar Lev to call Marshall and say we would send negotiator. Amin said tj listen to Kampala radio, ll a.m. Amin's attitude to Israel is ambivalent.

At Cabinet the Government decided to give back terrorists,

After cabinet I called in 8 most brilliant officers, seven of them voted for operation.

I said 100 per cent chance, appointed Shomron commander

Whole group worked in harmoney and trust, no politics.

By Thursday afternoon, plan became operational. Training required, no chance to work until Sturday night.

Meanwhile. terrorists postponed deadline until Sunday noon.

Thursday night cabinet committee met again, how to continue negotiations.

I lobbied with individual ministers to convince them of plan, talked to C/S until 4 a.m. Friday and then later p.m. Army people were sceptical that government woudl approve. Cabinet committee met at Friday noon. Saturday morning met with officers again, tested model, sent planes to Sharm, then called cabinet for approval to 2 p.m. Got approval from PM at 3, planes left at 3:30 At 11 p.m., the PM and other Ministers came to Peres' office and listened. Then we told then to refule in Kenya.

I cried at Jonathon's death.

#### Philosophy:

- People say if you resist terrorism, they will escalate their operations.
   I don't believe this, they are already escalated to the maximum, they kill indiscriminately.
- Conflict between raison d'etat, and individual life. But there's really no such conflict. If you give in you encourage them and risk future life. There is no way but to act in complete determination. If State is paralyse you will edd the state.
- 3. If Israel especially doesn't fight terrorism, who will ?

Plan was 55 minutes from landing to take off. This was the answer how to minimize c asualties.

outline of payfor I reactions of hostages to terrorists . how do terrorists act . That are Proughts of citizens in regard & what their gov' will do for them I. what decision - making provers of E. govid. III. The rest AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVE

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