

## JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

**HAIFA** -- Three hundred and thirty advanced degrees and an Honorary Doctorate were conferred by the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.

**HAIFA** -- A 32 million dollar overall budget for 1976/77 was unanimously approved yesterday (23 June) by the International Board of Governors of the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, at its final session. A separate 2.7 million dollar budget was also approved for the Technion's School of Medicine.

**HAIFA** -- Members of the Board of Governors of the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology participated in the formal opening of two new student hostels which will provide accommodation for 120 students.

**RAMAT-GAN, ISRAEL** -- In spite of the Israel Government's cutback in its support to the country's institutions of higher learning, Bar-Ilan, Israel's only religious oriented university continued to expand during the past year. This year's graduating class of some 1,000 students is the largest in the University's history and almost 25% more than last year, with a total student body exceeding 7,600.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- Judge Paul Ribner, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., on behalf of the entire organization, vigorously protested the nomination of General George S. Brown for a second term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

**NEW YORK (WUP)** -- TIME Magazine, in a two-page report, termed the Israeli operation as "one of the most daring, spectacular rescues of modern times."

**NEW YORK (WUP)** -- In a leading editorial published in the Washington Post on July 6 under the caption "A Victory Over Terrorism," the widely-read Washington Post stated that the "Israeli rescue mission in Uganda was a brilliant and heart-lifting victory over terrorism, demonstrating that in the absence of concerned international action against this paralyzing modern disease, a government of valor and imagination can still act."

**NEW YORK (WUP)** -- The New York Times in its leading July 6 editorial, captioned "A Legend Is Born," stated that "the civilized world owes the Government and armed forces of Israel a permanent debt of gratitude for the courageously-conceived and brilliantly executed rescue of more than 100 hostages from pro-Palestinian terrorists at Entebbe airport in Uganda early in the morning of -- appropriately enough -- America's Independence Day."

**LONDON (WNS)** -- Arkady and Leonid Vainman, two twin brothers from Kharkov have been granted permission to leave the Soviet Union for Israel after four years in hard labor camps.

**VANCOUVER (WNS)** -- Tamar Eshel, secretary general of Moerzet Hapoalot in Israel, was elected one of six vice-presidents of the International Council of Women at the Council's conference here despite strong Arab opposition.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Hebrew University has published a facsimile edition of the oldest known manuscript of the Hebrew Bible -- the Aleppo Codex.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- The Jewish National Fund dedicated its American Bicentennial Park near Jerusalem amid joy over the Israel Army's rescue of some 100 hostages in Uganda.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Tourism figures for the first six months of 1976 are at an all time high, from January through June a total of 364,200 three percent higher than the same period in 1972, the record year to date. The figure was also 41 percent higher than for the same period last year.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Jewish education for the young is more important than aliyah as "the prime task of Zionism in the diaspora," Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, told those attending the annual AJCongress American - Israeli Dialogue.

## RECONSTRUCTION OF DARING ISRAELI RAID TO FREE HOSTAGES

**Editors note:** Full details of Israel's daring rescue of more than 100 hijack hostages from Entebbe Airport in Uganda still are cloaked in official secrecy. But from official statements in Israel, interviews with hostages and reports from sources in Uganda and Kenya, United Press International correspondent Aline Mosby in Paris has written the following reconstruction of the raid from its inception to execution.

In the early hours of Monday, June 28, a hijacked Air France Dassault airbus carrying 258 passengers and crew touched down on the runway beside Lake Victoria at the tawdry African airport of Entebbe.

The four pro-Palestinian hijackers were triumphant. They had boarded the Tel Aviv-Paris flight in Athens and seized it on takeoff. Now they were in friendly territory—the Uganda of President Idi Amin, who once praised Adolf Hitler's extermination of six million Jews and who supports the Palestinian cause.

Among the passengers were more than 100 Israelis and other Jews whose lives they could barter for the freedom of their jailed Palestinian comrades in Israel, France, Switzerland and West Germany.

But even as the plane touched down, a daring plan had begun to form in the minds of two men reading the incoming news bulletins in the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

To Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur and Defense Minister Shimon Peres, the prospect of Israeli army raiders leap-frogging 2,000 miles to save the hostages seemed far-fetched but just feasible.

Their plan became reality six days later. Israeli commandos swooped into Entebbe, shot dead the hijackers, killed 30 or more Ugandan troops, destroyed a quarter of Amin's Soviet-built air force and roared away again with more than 100 hostages safely aboard a Hercules transport plane. The price was three passengers and one Israeli soldier dead.

The full details of how Israel planned and executed one of the most spectacular military operations of modern times, while publicly announcing that it would negotiate with the hijackers, still are not known.

To avoid giving away information of possible benefit to future hijackers, Israel refuses to tell the whole story.

But from Israeli official statements, interviews with the plane hostages and sources in Uganda and neighboring Kenya, it is possible to reconstruct the broad outlines of the operation.

On Tuesday, June 29, after a day of nervous waiting and indecision, a team of Israeli government ministers appointed to handle the affair called in Gur and Maj. Gen. Benjamin Peled, the air force commander.

The ministers asked if a military rescue of the hostages was feasible. The answer from the generals was affirmative.

The ministers ordered them to start planning a rescue operation.

That night, several planning teams went to work and by the next morning had begun to produce operational plans. Gur found holes in all of them.

Reports indicated 500 to 1,000 Ugandan soldiers were guarding the hijacked plane. The problem, Gur recalled later, was how to avoid heavy casualties among the hostages before the rescuers could reach them.

By Thursday morning, the first draft plan was on the table and the operation moved forward.

Gur went to an undisclosed air base somewhere in Israel and met with the crews of four planes. The crews went through a dry run of two hours, practicing what Gur called "unconventional landing techniques."

He also met with the chief of operations, Maj. Gen. Yekutiel Adam, who was in charge of planning, and Brig. Gen. Dan Shomron, chief infantry and paratroop officer.

"It was the tone of voice of these officers in spelling out their plans and especially the quiet confidence of the commander of the air force that convinced me that we had a plan that could be carried out," Gur said.

On Thursday, Israel made its surprise announcement that it would negotiate with the hijackers—something it has steadfastly refused to do in the past. On the same day, the military task force that would carry out the rescue was assembled.

The task force was composed of army units, including paratroopers and infantry, air force units, communications and maintenance units and medical personnel. Thirty-three doctors were mobilized in expectation of possible heavy casualties.

By Friday, all of the hijacked passengers except the more than 100 Jews had been released. Those who remained in Entebbe that night sang Sabbath hymns, "but in soft tones so the terrorists would not hear us," 15-year-old Michael Warshavsky said later.

That same night, the Israeli land forces involved in the task force went through a trial run.

Israel has denied that Kenya collaborated in the operation. But reports from Nairobi say an Israeli Boeing 707 jet landed in Nairobi Friday with doctors and medicine aboard. Nothing was unloaded from the plane. Also, Israeli secret agents had been in Nairobi since Wednesday, trying to find out the state of Entebbe airport.

The Israelis had built the airport when relations with Uganda were friendly, and they still had the plans. But the Italians had since enlarged it.

The agents found out how the hijackers were guarding their hostages, the number and habits of the Uganda guards and their placement, the functioning of the Uganda radar and the number of military aircraft and weapons on the field.

General Gur went back before the government ministers Saturday morning with the final plan. Even before final approval, several units had moved into jump-off position but could have been recalled if necessary, Gur said.

The Israelis will not reveal details of the flight to Entebbe but said it was "complicated."

On the seven-hour flight in bad weather, the four Hercules C130s are believed to have gone single file, spaced out, to avoid radar contact. Israeli sources in Paris believe they used the regular air corridor of the Israeli airline, which habitually flies across the Negev desert and the Red Sea to Nairobi.

According to some accounts, the pilots spoke Arabic when flying within radio range of checkpoints in Egypt and the Sudan. Phantom jets accompanied them to the Red Sea.

The four Hercules craft arrived on a cloudless, moonlit night with Lake Victoria shimmering below at the far end of the runway. Floodlights played on the old terminal where the hostages were sleeping on mattresses on the floor except for four who were playing bridge.

All were there except for Mrs. Dora Bloch, who had choked on a piece of meat earlier and had been taken to a Kampala hospital. She was the only hostage who missed the rescue, and Washington reports later said she may have been suffocated by Ugandan secret service agents who dragged her screaming from the hospital after the rescue.

Israel described the landing of the big planes only as "unconventional."

Military experts explain it this way: the Hercules is a quiet turboprop, not a jet, that makes a whistling sound, not a whining jet noise, as it flies.

The plane's engines can be throttled down to a virtual stop so that the craft can slide into an airport silently under the hand of an experienced pilot. With a slide-in landing, the pilot does not have to reverse the propellers to stop the craft, which would make a high decibel sound.

The rear hatch of the Hercules opened up when the first plane touched down, and Israeli commandos in armored jeeps rolled out of the aircraft even before it rolled to a stop.

The Ugandans were taken by surprise.

Only the vehicle that carried the raid commander, American-born Lt. Col. Yonathan Netanyahu, was challenged by two Ugandan soldiers. The Israelis fired a burst at them and sped on to the terminal.

Two more Hercules C130s then landed and taxied close to the terminal. They parked on either side of the hijacked airbus and never turned off their engines.

Kampala sources say the fourth Israeli plane circling the field diverted the control tower when the pilot radioed in French-accented English that a French plane was arriving with the pro-

Palestinian prisoners whose release the hijackers had demanded.

The Israeli plan called for the task force to invade the terminal from all its entrances simultaneously.

Colonel Netanyahu's forces burst through the lighted air terminal doors at once. Two hijackers, apparently the two Germans involved in the affair, were gunned down at once.

Screaming "lie down" to the hostages, the commandos fired on two other hijackers standing guard. The terrorists fired back and injured two passengers, one fatally. Another passenger was killed as he ran in panic to the door. Then the two hijackers crumpled under another hail of fire.

The killing of the four hijackers took 45 seconds.

But the original four had been joined by an estimated six other terrorists after the plane arrived in Uganda.

Another terrorist, a South American-born Arab named Ali, fled and tried to melt into the crowd of passengers. The Israelis yelled at the hostages to identify him. Passengers pointed him out and he was shot to death.

Two more terrorists were found hiding in an upstairs toilet and were gunned down.

Gur said three other terrorists got away.

Ten doctors were brought in by vehicle to take care of the wounded. At that point Colonel Netanyahu was hit in the back near the main entrance to the terminal by fire from the control tower. He died just before the Israelis landed at Nairobi.

The terminal secured, the Israeli soldiers shouted in Hebrew to the passengers, "Come home...We've got planes for you." The hostages stumbled out in pajamas, nightgowns, underclothes, many with bare feet. One Israeli soldier ran to the plane with a four-year-old boy under his arm.

While the terrorists were being hunted down in the old terminal, the commandos from Hercules No. 2 had sped to the new terminal building and seized it, winning control of the airfield. One Israeli soldier was seriously wounded in this operation.

The commandos from Hercules No. 3 rushed to the Uganda MIG fighters on the field, shooting the soldiers guarding them and planting explosives. They blew up 10 of Uganda's 40-plane air force.

The Hercules with the hostages on board took off 53 minutes after the operation began.

The commandos had planned to refuel at Entebbe with a special fueling hose of their own, but decided at the last moment to fly to Nairobi. Sources in Kenya said three of the planes were refueled by the regular crew that fuels El Al planes that land there.

Within 15 minutes after landing at Nairobi the plane with the hostages took off again—this time for Tel Aviv.

The operation was over.