

*editorial*  
**israeli rescue  
deserves praise**

LAS VEGAS PANORAMA

When a small band of Israeli commandos made a daring raid into Uganda to free 103 hostages this July 4th, they struck a blow not only for their own small nation but for freedom-loving people everywhere.

In the current political climate, where the worth of the individual has been lost in the shadow of ever-growing nationalism and international cliques, this dramatic action renewed a spirit of justice on a human scale that has been on the wane in recent years.

Risking the censure of the world community, the raiders cut through the ridiculous political red-tape that even now hobbles the United Nations, and which had allowed Ugandan President Idi Amin to drag his feet unmercifully while the lives of these innocent people hung in the balance.

There was no question as to the "legality" of the situation: the hostages were being detained, under the threat of death, by radical hijackers without due process of law, for the 'crime' of being citizens of Israel.

Kidnapping and extortion may be valid political weapons in the minds of radical leaders — there will un-

doubtedly be similar attempts in the future — but the actions of the Israeli commandos should serve notice that the rights of the kidnapped are just as important as fuzzy, ever-changing ideological views and must be protected at all costs.

It is fitting that the rescue should have taken place on the 4th of July. While this Nation celebrated its heritage as a bastion of democracy and individual freedom, the drama that unfolded in Uganda graphically reaffirmed the fact that ideals are only as valid as the actions which back them. Empty words are meaningless, and even worse, dangerous in a world of armed camps.

We salute the spirit and the fact of the July 4th rescue, demonstrating to the world community that despite recent trends the individual is not a faceless pawn and is not expendable for any reason.

The night of the 4th, in Jerusalem, a lone skywriter wrote in Hebrew, "Kol Hakavod Zahal," or, "All Honor To The Army."

In this case, we can only say "Amen."



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