

EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION ELATED BY ISRAEL'S BRAVE ACTION

LONDON (WNS) -- Public opinion in West Europe was highly pleased by the Israeli rescue of hostages held in Uganda. But some of the official comments were more guarded.

Prime Minister James Callaghan issued a statement saying he was pleased at the outcome of the Air France hijacking affair, but he did not send an official message to Israel. Some members of Parliament have urged the government "to congratulate the government of Israel on brilliantly and bravely confounding an act of air piracy, to condemn President (Idi) Amin (of Uganda) for aiding and arming international terrorists, and to control terrorism both at home and abroad with equal vigor and determination." Labor MP Grenville Janner urged the government to take action against Uganda, for its alleged collusion with the terrorists.

In the British Jewish community, there was rejoicing and thanksgiving. Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Britain's Chief Rabbi, said in a special appearance before the Board of Deputies of British Jews, that the rescue was "one of the most memorable episodes of our long blood-stained history." He noted that "in our synagogues we wept and pleaded with God for his intervention and succor, now we have witnessed

a great salvation." In West Germany, the government expressed "relief and satisfaction" over the success of the Israeli operation and observed that "the behavior of the authorities in Uganda needs clarification." The Bonn government also revealed that it never had any intention of submitting to the hijackers' demand for the release of six pro-Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in West Germany. The government said the imprisoned terrorists were "not freedom fighters" as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed but "criminals wanted on murder and other capital charges." West Germany called on all nations to "double their efforts to combat the dangers emanating from terrorism." Former Chancellor Willy Brandt sent a message to the Israeli Ambassador in Bonn declaring that the rescue operation "will go down in history as an important date in the struggle against international terrorism."

In Vienna Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky described the Israeli action as an "act of self defense." However, he said the hijacking of the Air France plane has no influence on his government's attitude to grant permission for the opening of an information office of the Palestine Liberation Organization. "It seems that the PLO had nothing to do with the hijacking of the Air France Plane," Kreisky said.

In the Netherlands, Foreign Minister Max Van Der Stoep gave a non-committal answer when asked about the Israeli operation on television, saying only that it was "unusual." The Netherlands - Israel Friendship League sent him a telegram expressing its "disappointment" over his lukewarm reaction. The Israeli Embassy in the Hague has received thousands of enthusiastic letters, cables and flowers from citizens throughout Holland congratulating Israel on its rescue operations.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry issued a brief statement expressing satisfaction at the outcome but deploring the casualties. Israeli circles in Paris were unhappy with the statement by the returned Air Force crew paying tribute to Amin. The French government, according to observers in Paris, fear the possible consequences of the Israeli action both in Africa and among the Arab states. However, the French press has approved the mission.

The Soviet Union denounced the Israeli action as another manifestation of "Zionist aggression" a violation of Ugandan sovereignty.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE AMIN LAUDS ISRAEL?

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- from Entebbe Airport. Reserve Lt. Col. Baruch Barlev has confirmed that he has received a telephone call from Uganda President Idi Amin in which Amin congratulated Israel on its successful rescue of hostages. Barlev, former head of the Israeli military training mission in Uganda, said Amin also vowed he was finished with the Palestinians. He asked Israel for military spare parts.

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