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July 13, 1976

SCRANTON ON ROAD IN UGANDA

Q. Yesterday Ambassador William Scranton told the Security Council that Israel's recent raid on Uganda was "a combination of guts and brains that has seldom if ever been surpassed." Was he speaking for the President when he made those remarks? How does the United States intend to proceed on this issue at the Security Council?

A. In answer to your first question, Ambassador Scranton was speaking with the President's authority as his UN representative. His statements speak for themselves.

As for our position at the UN, you may know that the U. S. and United Kingdom have presented a draft resolution condemning hijacking and other acts that threaten the lives of airliner passengers and crews, deplores the loss of human life, in the hijacking, reaffirms the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in accordance with the UN charter and international law, and enjoins the international law, and enjoins the international community to give highest priority to consideration of further means of assuring the safety and reliability of international civil aviation. (See attached USUN cable).

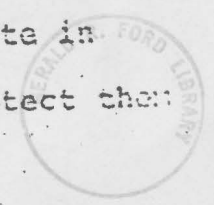
Q. How will the U. S. vote on a resolution condemning the Israeli rescue?

A. At this stage, I think we will just have to see how the debate develops.

*From: State approved
guidance on 11:00 am
The General has a copy.*

ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION IN UGANDA

- Q. Was Ugandan territorial sovereignty violated in the Israeli raid at Entebbe airport?
- A. The interest of Uganda as territorial sovereign must be balanced against the interest of Israel in defending its nationals from an immediate threat to their lives. There are two interrelated sets of rights here. Different judgments are possible on such a question of balance, but we believe that Israel had a reasonable basis for its judgment and its actions.
- Q. Did the Israeli action constitute aggression?
- A. No. That term is reserved for grave violations of the prohibition on the use of force, and is to be applied in light of all the relevant circumstances. In this case, we do not believe the rescue operation was unlawful, let alone an act of aggression.
- Q. Is there an American restriction against Israeli use of American-supplied C-130's in this type of operation?
- A. Israel has received its C-130's and most other defense articles from the United States under the Foreign Military Sales System. The arrangements made with Israel permit the use of such defense articles for self-defense. Self-defense, within the meaning of these bilateral arrangements, includes necessary and proportionate action to save the lives of a state's nationals abroad, when the state in which they are held is unable or unwilling to protect them.



from an immediate threat of injury or death. We believe Israel had a reasonable basis for concluding that its operation was necessary to save the lives of its nationals.

Clearances: L - Mr. Aldrich ✓
NEA - Mr. Atherton ✓
IO - Mr. Lewis ✓

L/NEA:DSmall
7/8/76