

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) -- All of the passengers and crew aboard a hijacked Air France jetliner left the plane today but were still under control of the Palestinian hijackers in an airport lounge, a British diplomatic spokesman said.

"The plane is empty," said the spokesman for the British High Commission, which is similar to an embassy.

He said everybody was gathered in a transit lounge at the old Entebbe airport, which is now used by the Ugandan military, but did not say what was happening in negotiations for release of the 256 hostages.

French government sources in Paris said Ambassador Pierre Renard, who was at the airport with Ugandan President Idi Amin, had firm instructions to seek the release of everybody aboard without discrimination on the basis of nationality.

About 80 Israelis and at least nine Americans were reported aboard the Tel Aviv-Paris flight.

The Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the hijacking, but the number of hijackers was not known.

Uganda radio broadcast a long statement it said was made by the hijackers condemning France as an imperialist enemy of Arabs. The statement also attacked the United States, Israel, Egypt and Syria.

The French Embassy said the hijackers asked for food and water for the passengers after the plane reached here with just half an hour's fuel left in the tanks.

An Air France spokesman in neighboring Kenya said the hijackers had presented written demands to the Ugandan government but that they were

in Arabic and officials were awaiting a translation.

The Israeli government has been concerned the hijackers would try to hold the Israelis for special ransom, but Radio Israel reported after a telephone call to Amin's palace that there was no indication of that.

Asked whether Israeli passengers

man at the palace was quoted as saying, "Of course. Yes, why not?"

A pregnant woman allowed to leave the plane when it stopped at Benghazi, Libya, left there for London today after medical treatment and an overnight rest. The Tripoli-based Arab Revolution News Agency said Patricia Suzan, a 30-year-old Briton, was allowed off the plane because she was hemorrhaging.

The plane was hijacked over Greece

during a flight Sunday from Tel Aviv to Paris.

Middle East hijackers, even when they surrender to authorities, usually get little punishment. Those ending up in the Middle East or North Africa often go free or get light house arrest while a number of those imprisoned in Europe have been freed when Palestinian guerrilla colleagues hijacked other planes and demanded their release.