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EGYPT-USSR: Moscow has confirmed the recall of Soviet military personnel from Egypt.

In language calculated to comply with President Sadat's decision to terminate the Soviet military advisory presence, TASS yesterday announced that Soviet forces in Egypt had "completed their functions" and would "shortly return" to the USSR. Moscow explained that these forces were intended to remain in Egypt for only a "limited period" and that, following an exchange of opinions, both sides had "deemed it expedient" to bring them home. Thus the Soviets have chosen conciliatory language in order to minimize the damage both to their prestige and their presence in Egypt.

Reaction in the Middle East to President Sadat's move has been guarded. While Libya and Sudan have issued terse statements saying they have received the news of the Egyptian leader's decision with great satisfaction, most Arab states have remained silent. The Arabic press has been mixed; the reaction of pro-Egyptian newspapers has been predictable. Both conservative and leftist papers condemned Sadat's move as an attempt to win US friendship while placing the Arabs in a dangerous position vis-a-vis the Israelis. Tel Aviv announced Prime Minister Golda Meir will make a statement Monday to the Knesset. Meanwhile her confidant, Information Minister Galili, said the departure of the Soviets would not of itself justify a change in Israeli policy toward Egypt.

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