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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: Yesterday's fighting resulted in little change on either front.

There was no significant ground force activity on the Egyptian front yesterday, as both sides sought to consolidate their positions following the attempted Egyptian advance on 14 October. The Israelis claim to have repulsed Egyptian helicopter attacks along the Gulf of Suez coast and an amphibious attack behind Israeli lines in the Bay of Pelusium, along the Mediterranean coast. Air activity was also down from its 14 October high, with Israeli aircraft flying fewer than 200 sorties. Targets included Egyptian armored concentrations near Port Said and several airfields in the Nile delta and south of Cairo. Few aircraft were lost on either side, although the Egyptians, [redacted] lost one of their 24 TU-16 medium bombers.

On the Syrian front, the two sides continued to engage in artillery and tank duels, with Israeli forces intensely shelling areas about eight miles southeast of Sasa. In all, Syrian forces appeared to be fighting doggedly, and the Israelis making little progress. Reports from the Lebanese, Syrians, and fedayeen suggest that renewed fighting broke out in the northern sector, and Tel Aviv reports that it repulsed a small Syrian-Iraqi counterattack in the central sector. [redacted]

[redacted] press reports indicate that the Syrians are taking steps to arm the populace in defense of Damascus. The Israeli Air Force yesterday resumed heavy action on the Syrian front, flying more than 350 sorties in ground-support operations.

After ten days of fighting, combined Arab losses are estimated at 13,500 to 16,600 men, 1,150-1,240 tanks, 250-270 aircraft, and 20-26 ships. Israeli losses are estimated at 2,900-3,100 men, 750-850 tanks, 95-110 aircraft, and as many as 4 ships.

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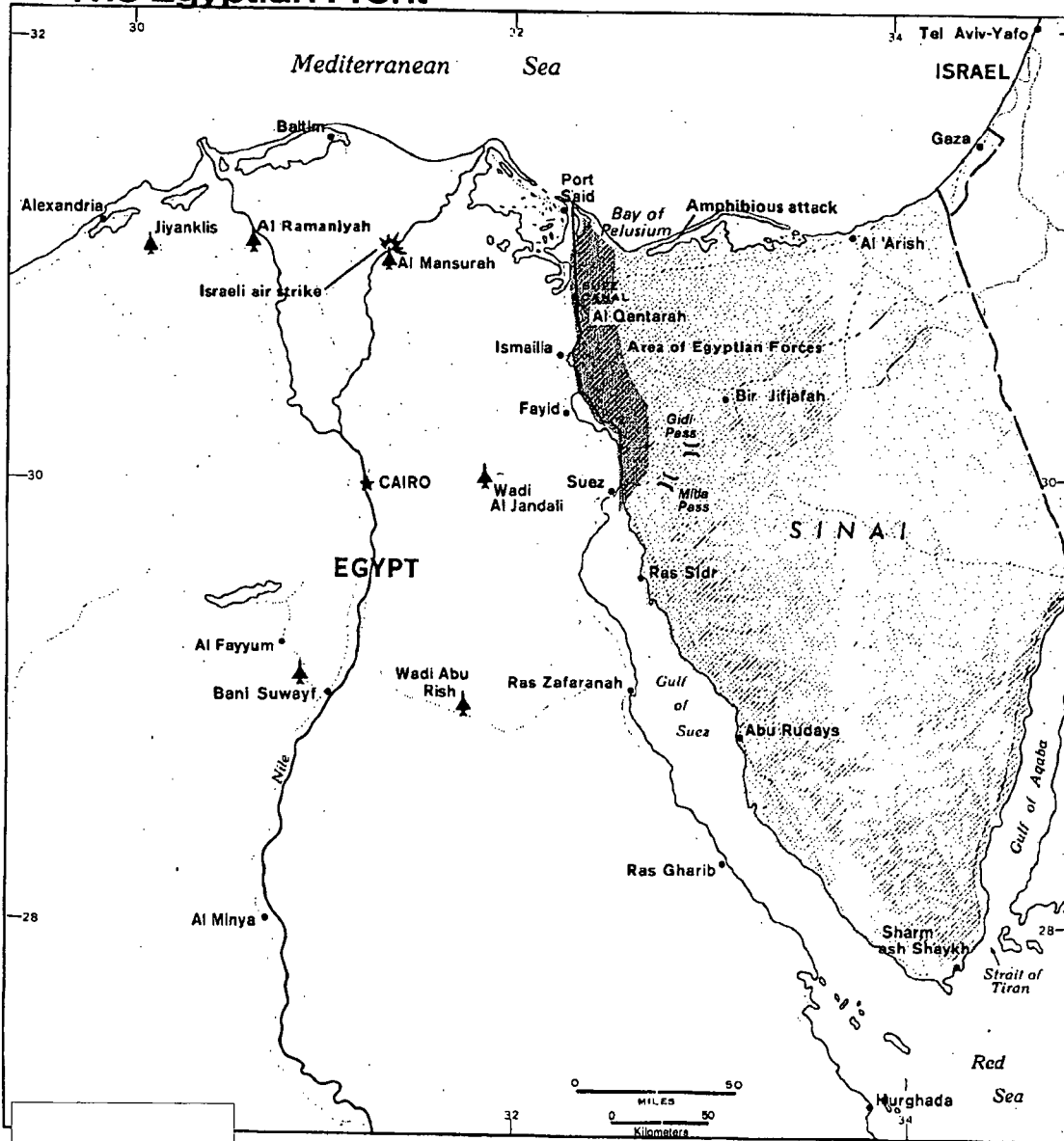
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The Egyptian Front



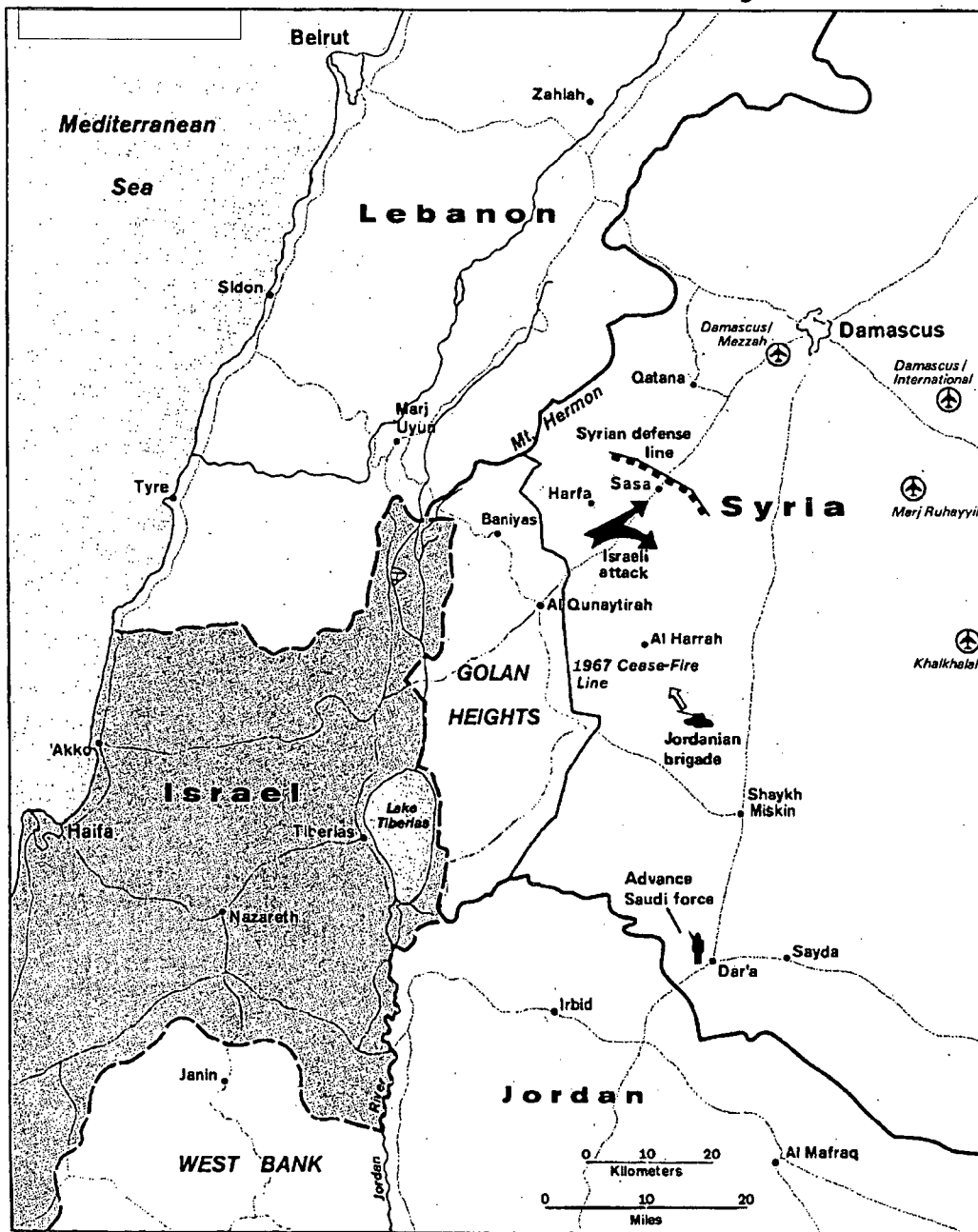
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The Syrian Front



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[] a Jordanian tank column is moving north toward Al Harrah, a town very close to Israeli positions. []

[] Amman has announced--probably with some exaggeration--that six Israeli tanks were destroyed in a clash between the Jordanian unit and an Israeli force. [] an Israeli rocket attack yesterday killed one and injured two of the Jordanian soldiers. Jordan's involvement in the war, however minimal, is having the desired political effects. King Husayn has been receiving favorable publicity throughout the Arab world, and Algeria and Tunisia reportedly have decided to restore diplomatic relations with Jordan.

President Asad of Syria last night appealed to his countrymen for continued optimism and support "as the battle takes its real shape as a full war of liberation." Similar appeals for perseverance were expected to be made early this morning by the leaders of Egypt and Israel. In what will be his first public statement since the hostilities began, President Sadat is scheduled to address a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Arab Socialist Union Central Committee. Prime Minister Meir is scheduled to deliver a statement in the Knesset on the security and political situations.

All of the major pipeline terminals in the eastern Mediterranean are now closed. The resulting loss to Western Europe is about 2 million barrels of crude oil a day, or about 13 percent of normal consumption. Italy, Spain, and Austria are most affected by the loss, and both Italy and Spain have instituted controls to prevent the export of petroleum products.

Libya has formally denied that its French-made Mirage aircraft have been used in the conflict, according to press reports. The Libyan denial came in response to a 14 October French demarche, which had been prompted by an Israeli protest to the French. The Israelis yesterday concluded that one of the "Mirages" shot down was probably an Iraqi Hawker Hunter, since an Iraqi pilot was found.)

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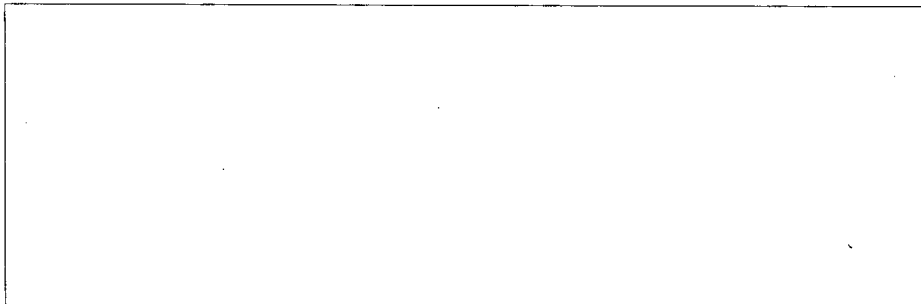
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Moscow's media have announced the US decision to mount a military resupply operation to Israel, but there has not been any official reaction or press commentary on the decision. Premier Kosygin avoided the topic in a speech last night, although he did make the standard pledge to continue support to the Arabs and the customary accusations of Israeli "aggressions." He also expressed some concern that the "opponents of detente" would use the Middle East crisis as a pretext to revive the cold war. □



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