

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
27 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 87
(As of 1630 EDT)

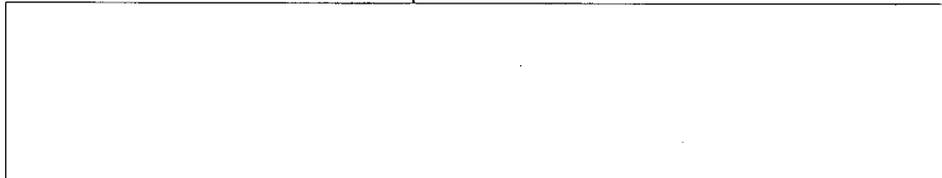
THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

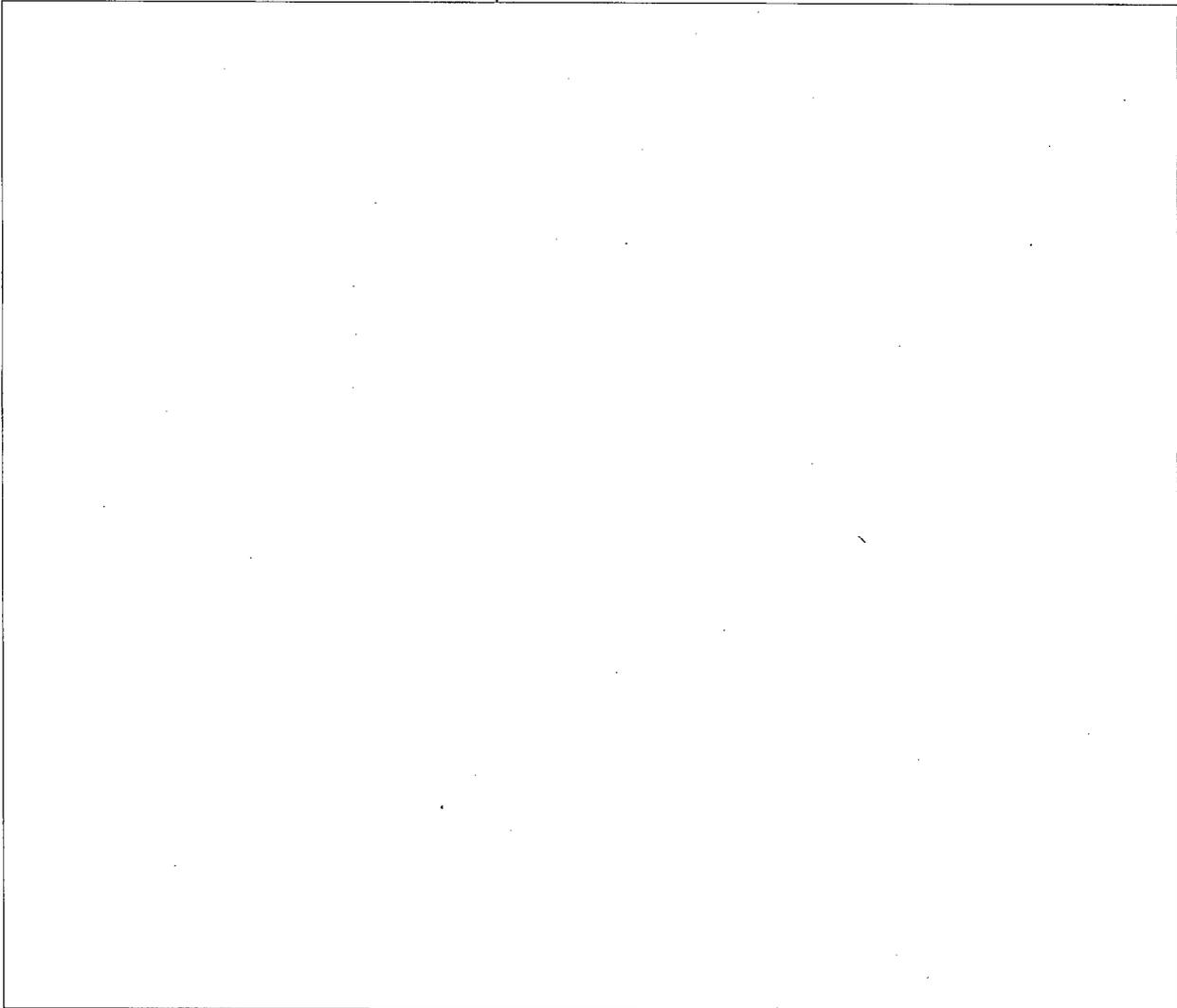
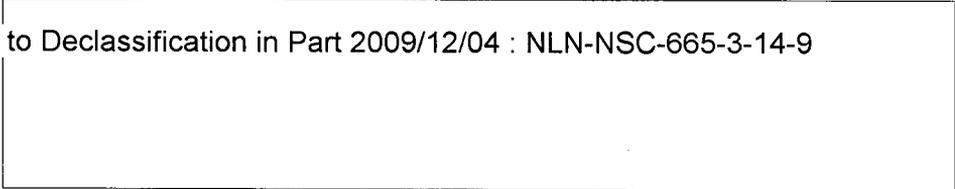
(All times cited in military paragraphs are Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. Earlier today an Israeli military spokesman reported that the Egyptians had crected two bridges across the canal south of Little Bitter Lake and that at that time the IDF intended to attack the bridges with air and ground forces. There have been no reports of Israeli military actions in the area. The Israelis may be delaying combat operations pending a meeting that has been arranged between Israeli and Egyptian military officers to discuss the supply of nonmilitary supplies to the Third Army. This meeting had been arranged through the good offices of the United States, but there is no indication when it will be held. Elsewhere, Israeli and Egyptian aircraft flew defensive fighter patrols, but no combat operations were conducted either on the Egyptian or Syrian fronts. The Egyptians, however, believe that some sort of Israeli attack is impending on the coast of the Red Sea, and have alerted their units to this possibility.

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SOVIET AIRLIFT

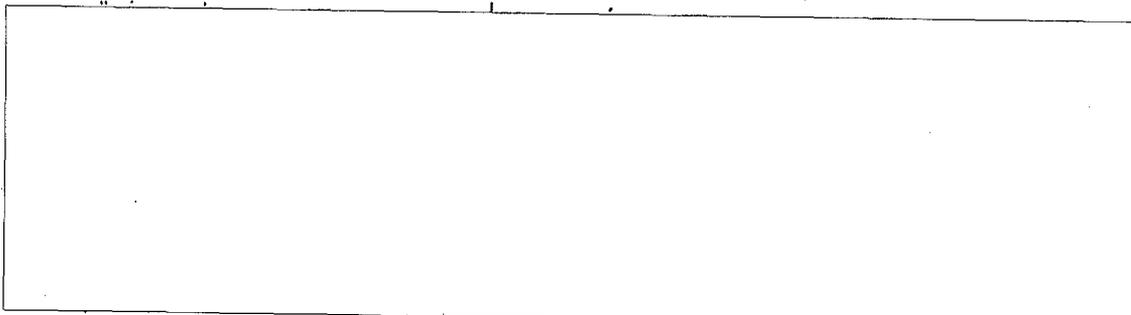
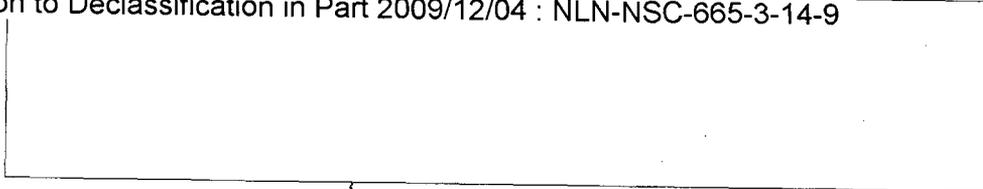
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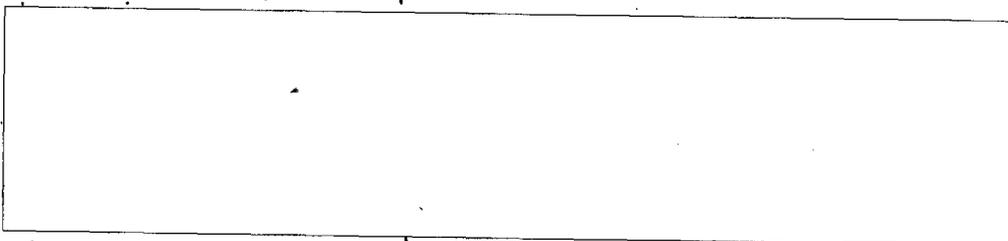
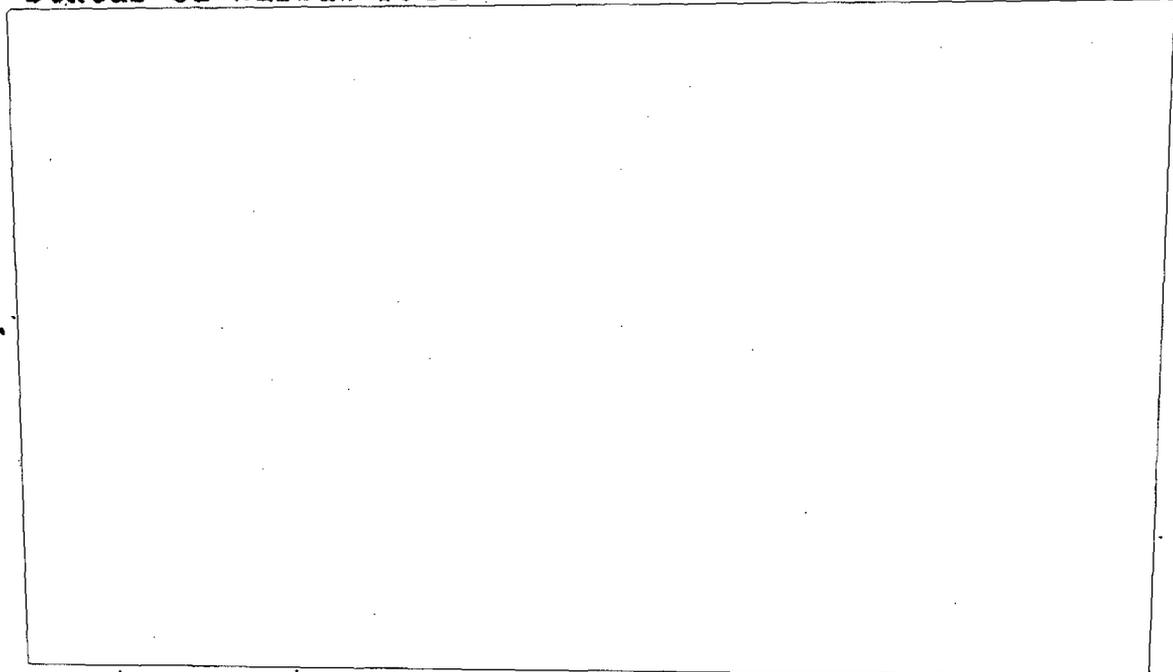
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SOVIET SEALIFT

7. No additional suspect arms carriers have entered the sealift since the last reported in Situation Report #87.

STATUS OF WARSAW PACT FORCES

8. There has been no significant change in the status of Warsaw Pact forces since this afternoon.



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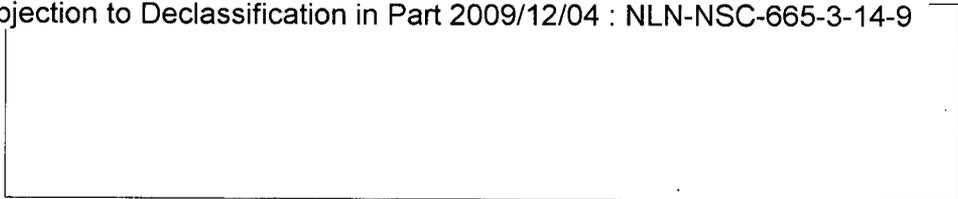
IRAQ

12. Several Arab countries are showing concern that Iraqi forces might take military actions against Syria before withdrawing. [redacted] Syria requested Jordan's help if such a threat should develop. There is also apprehension that Iraq may move against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, both of which have depleted defense forces at this time. Iraq is reported to have moved two armored divisions, two infantry brigades and twenty-one battalions of AAA, field artillery and special forces troops inside Syria.

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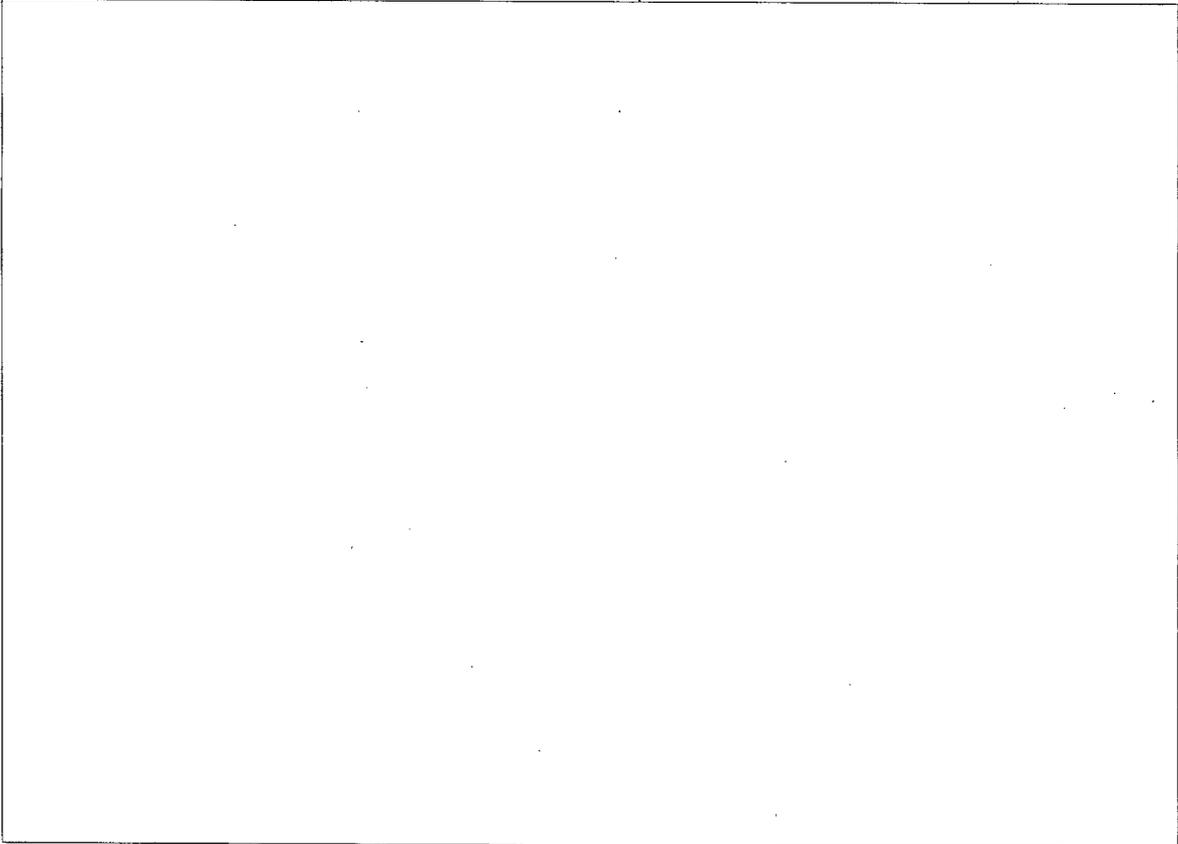
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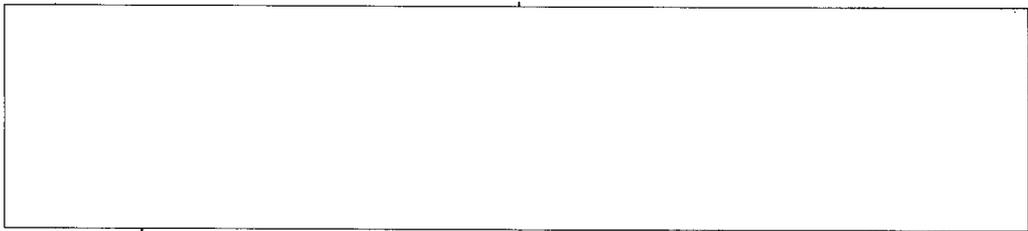
 Jordanian officials have been told that all Iraqi troops will be out of Syria by 3 November. Withdrawals were expected to begin about October 25.

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ISRAEL OUTLINES PEACE PLAN

14. Foreign Minister Eban told newsmen Friday night that peace talks with Egypt should start soon, provided Cairo goes along with a complete exchange of prisoners of war. Without specifying the venue or procedures for the talks, Eban did set forth the following scenario of what could happen:



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- Israel would withdraw its troops from the west bank of the Suez Canal and Egypt would withdraw from the east bank.
- Israel then would pull back farther from the waterway to allow the Egyptians to reopen it.
- New demarcation lines would be drawn and there would be an agreement granting Israel the rights to Sharm el Sheikh.
- A full peace accord would be signed granting Israel the secure, agreed, and recognized borders it has been demanding.

15. Deputy Prime Minister Allen has announced that political discussions are underway to help extricate the Egyptian Third Army, according to a press report from Tel Aviv. He also confirmed that arrangements were being considered for direct communication between senior Israeli and Egyptian officers to implement the cease-fire. Allen expressed the hope that such contacts would lead from "the passive stage of cease-fire to the dynamism of negotiations."

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SYRIA

16. [redacted] the morale in Syria is high and the popularity of the Asad regime has risen dramatically since the outbreak of hostilities. The change is reportedly due to the popular view that the Syrian army is performing beyond any pre-war expectations. [redacted] view is at odds with Jordanian appraisals of the Syrian domestic political situation. As part of the general enthusiasm about the war the Soviets have been praised for their support of the Arabs.

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LEBANON

17. Israeli radio today accused Lebanon of supplying large quantities of fuel to the Syrian army to replace stores lost as a result of Israeli shellings. The broadcast claimed that French T.V. crews had photographic evidence of the Lebanese move.