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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
2 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 99
(as of 0630 EST)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

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

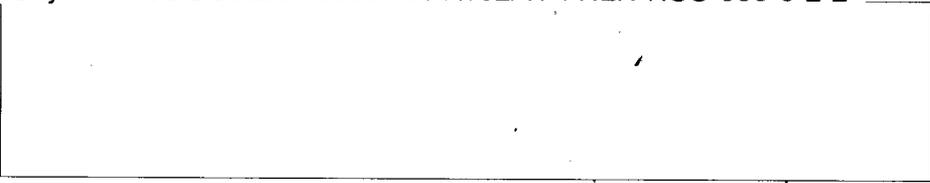
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State Department review completed

NAVY review(s) completed

MORI/CDF C03223773

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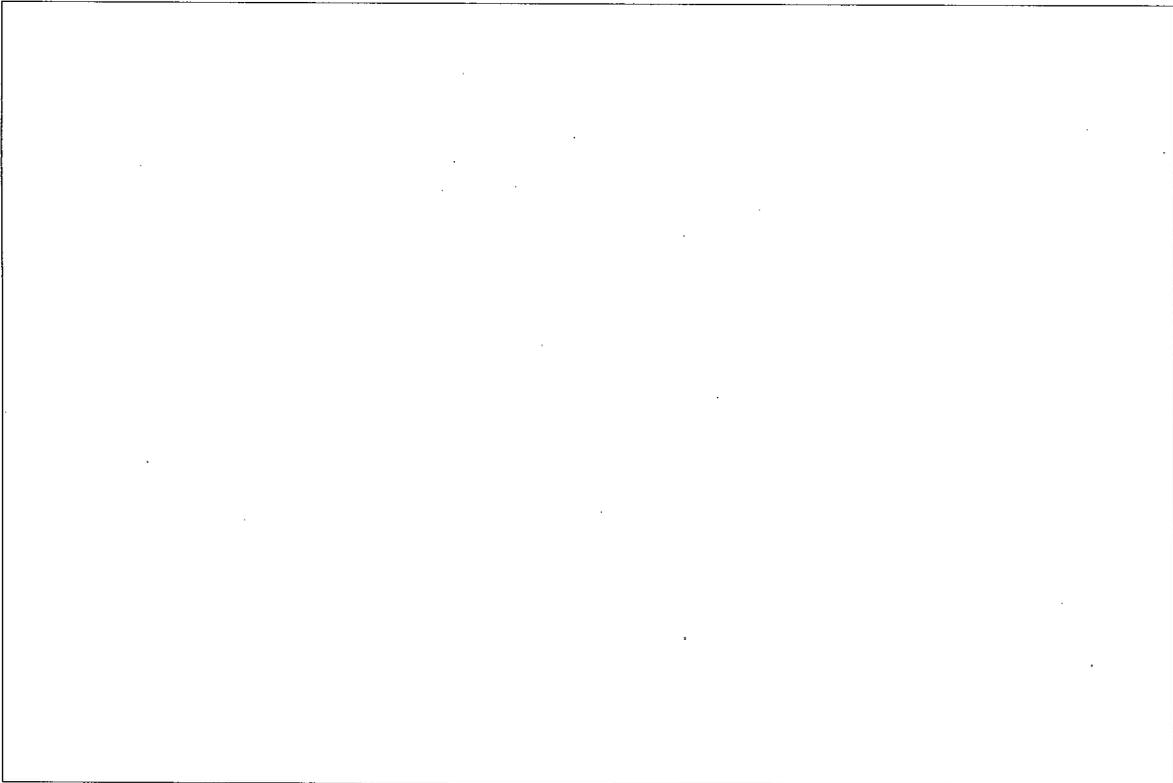


PRISONERS OF WAR

3. An Egyptian official claimed yesterday that a POW exchange could occur only after a successful peace conference, according to Reuter news service. Commenting on President Sadat's remarks at his 30 October press conference that Cairo would be ready to deal with the exchange of wounded and other POWs once Tel Aviv moves its forces to positions held on 22 October, the official said only that some wounded POWs might be exchanged at that time.

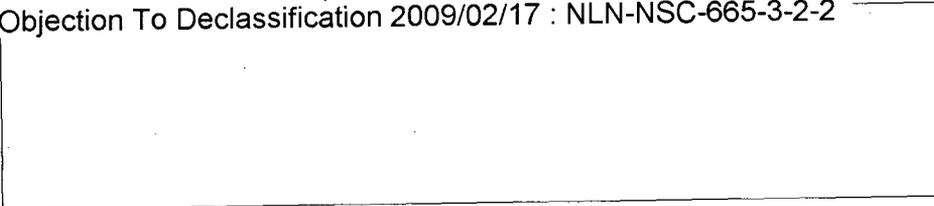
4. Some Israeli POWs in hospitals in Syria were reportedly interviewed by Lebanese journalists, according to the US Embassy in Beirut. The Israelis claimed to be receiving good treatment.

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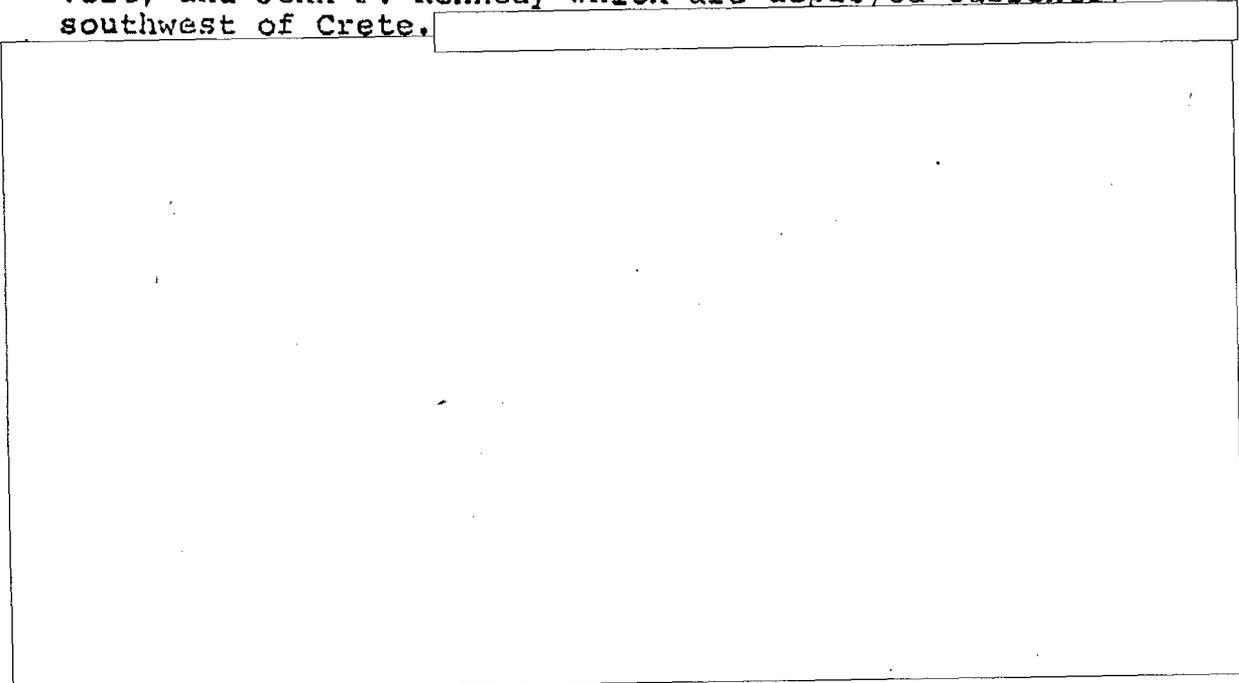
STATUS OF SOVIET NAVAL FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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8.

[Redacted] This morning, twelve combatants and two intelligence collectors were deployed in the vicinity of the US aircraft carriers Independence, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy which are deployed currently southwest of Crete. [Redacted]

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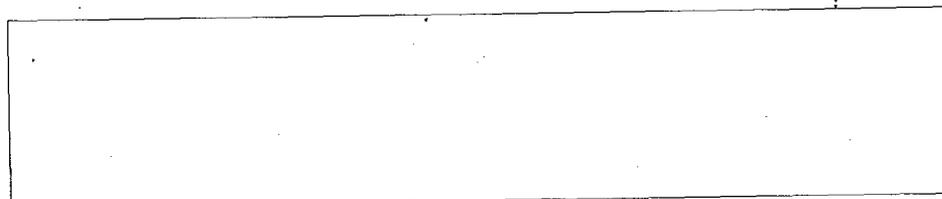


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HAYKAL ON WAR

11. Al-Ahram editor Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal writes in his column this week about war. In a particularly verbose exposition of his view of the situation in general, he concludes that it is Israel which is likely to initiate any new hostilities, but he implies obliquely that Egypt is ready itself.

12. Haykal sets the scene by stating his view of the prospects for a negotiated settlement. "Peace is far, far off--very far off. Even the road to peace is



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still far off. Even the start of the road to peace is still far off." He then explains that Israel stopped fighting only under pressure from the US, knows that it could not have continued the war in any case without US assistance, and thus feels boxed in by this new awareness of its dependence on Washington. Haykal concludes that Israel "might now be beset by the temptation to slip free" and take action toward "redressing the situation on the battlefield."

13. Despite this heavy treatment of Israel, Haykal does not limit the possibility of renewed military action to the Israelis. In his concluding paragraph, acknowledging that Egypt achieved only limited military gains, he rejects any argument that these are sufficient. "I am one of those," he notes, "who believes in the principle that the one who does not advance is in fact retreating." Haykal thus joins a growing list of Egyptian commentators who are advocating renewed war.

EGYPTIAN BLACKOUT

14. A total blackout, partially lifted only a few days ago, will be reimposed in Cairo, Alexandria and other cities in the Suez Canal and northern Nile Delta regions, according to an article in the semi-official daily Al-Ahram. Other Egyptian regions will maintain the partial blackout already in effect for some time.

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THE PALESTINIANS

19. Yesterday's An-Nahar from Beirut quotes a "prominent Palestinian spokesman" as saying that the Palestinian resistance movement will declare its position on participation in the proposed international peace conference only at the last minute. According to the official, no decision has yet been made regarding the conference, but consultations on the issue are taking place at various levels.

20. The Beirut newspaper claims that the Soviet Embassy in Beirut has conveyed a verbal message to Yasir

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Arafat in which the Soviet Union acknowledges the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people and invites the organization to attend the projected conference in that capacity. This article goes on to say that most of the fedayeen organizations do not object in principle to participating in an international peace conference and that various Palestinian circles have suggested that one of the following proposals on representation be adopted:

- a provisional Palestinian government be formed to represent the Palestinian people;
- a high-level PLO delegation represent the body of Palestinian people;
- the PLO appoint independent Palestinian figures to attend the conference.

21. According to the press account, the entire issue of participation at the conference will be studied at an extraordinary session of the Palestinian National Council to be held soon, perhaps in Cairo.

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

22. Algeria has called for an extraordinary meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers to establish a unified position on a solution to the Middle East crisis, according to an Algerian broadcast. Algiers is prepared to host such a meeting.

EUROPE

23. British Prime Minister Heath said in a press interview yesterday that Europe had a role to play in the urgent search for a Middle East peace, but that it may be in the area of concerted private diplomacy rather than in public initiatives. Heath also called for a common energy policy for the European Community states and for a strengthening of the powers of the European parliament as part of the long-term goal to achieve a common foreign policy.