

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
2 November 1973

DIA review(s)
completed.

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

NSA review
completed

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 100
(As of 1500 EST)

State Dept. review
completed

GENERAL

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

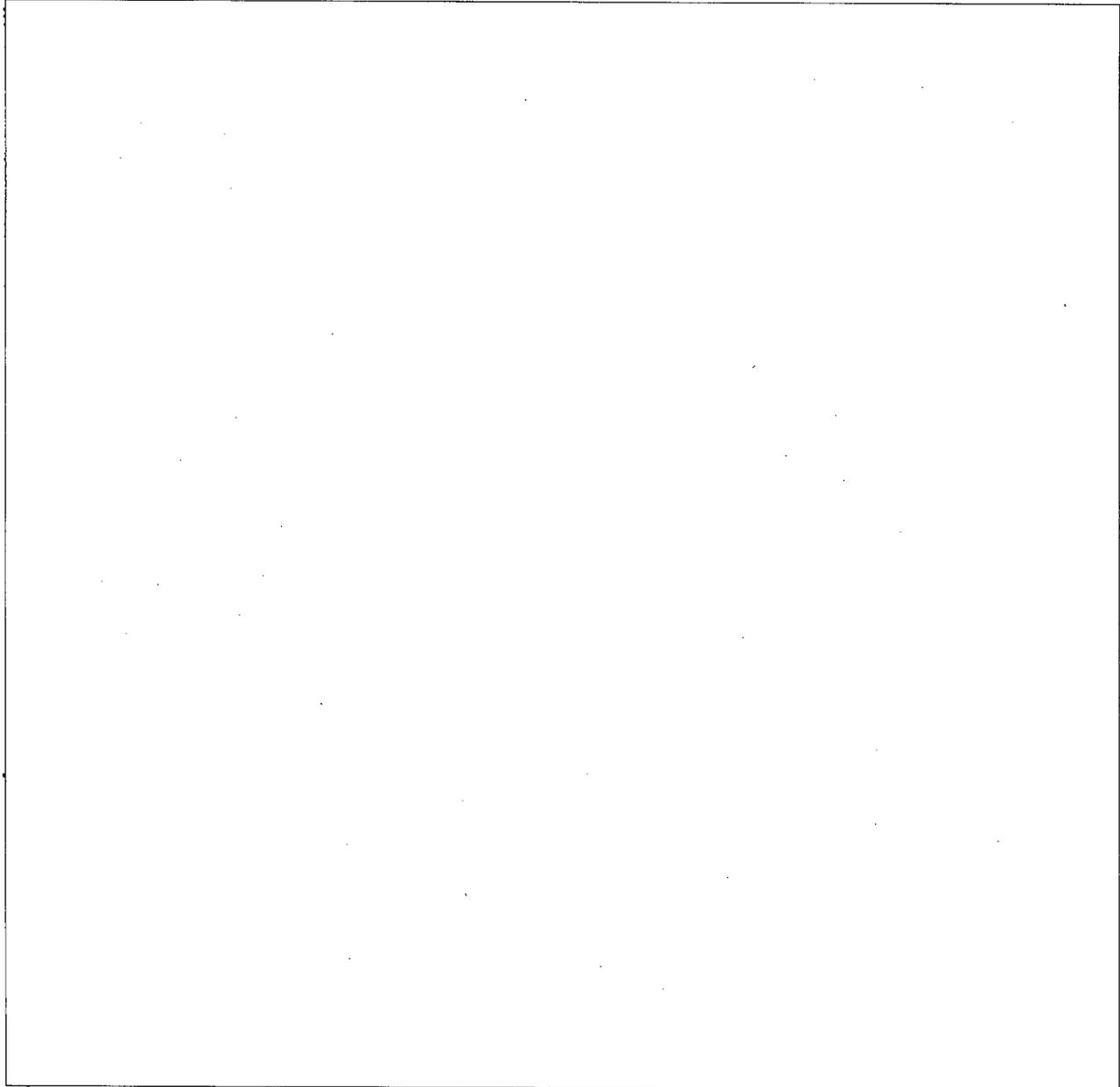
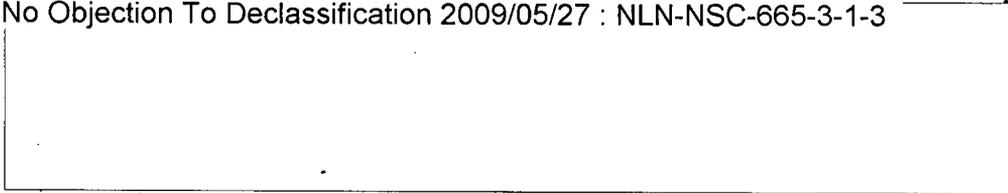
1. The cease-fire is being honored on both fronts today. Israeli air activity on both fronts was moderate and consisted of supply, patrol, and reconnaissance flights. Talk of the resumption of hostilities is nevertheless being heard from both sides of the cease-fire lines.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

2. The entire front was calm today with only one minor incident reported this morning. In that incident, Israeli forces fired warning shots at Egyptian units reportedly advancing in an area five miles east of the Little Bitter Lake. Some of the Egyptians then withdrew. The UN patrol in the area reported machine gun and mortar fire and was attempting to calm the situation. The incident appears to be minor.

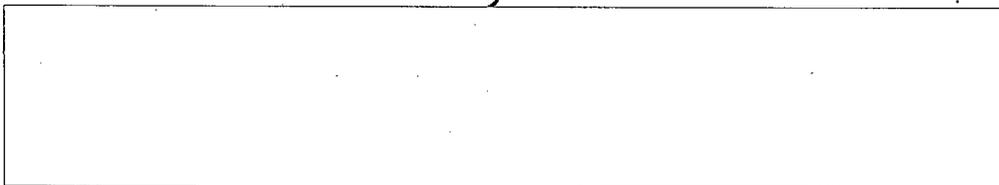
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SYRIAN FRONT

8. No incidents were reported on the front today as both sides continue to honor the cease-fire. Israeli air activity was at a higher level than yesterday and involved 16 aircraft, but no hostile actions were detected.



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10. A correspondent for the Toronto Star told the Canadian attache in Beirut that a mutiny or revolt in a Syrian army unit was quelled today and 33 officers, including two generals, were executed. There is no supporting evidence available, although the US attache in Beirut reports that Syrian army units were unhappy with the cease-fire.

ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES

11. Israeli intelligence fears that Damascus, despite its recent war losses, may resume hostilities within the next few weeks, according to a USDAO cable from Tel Aviv. The Israelis base this fear on an alleged Syrian need to save "face". The report says that Syrian arms inventories have been resupplied to pre-war stocks; they estimate that some 800 tanks and enough MIG-21s and SAMs to replace losses have been delivered and hastily redeployed to operational units. This replenishment, the Israelis say, will again offer the Syrians a "tremendous advantage" if trained tank crews are available and if the operation is implemented within the next four weeks; after a month, rains and the resultant muddy conditions will make impossible effective military operations in the Golan area.

12. Delivery of all the equipment that the Israelis claim has arrived is theoretically possible. However, the arrival of this much equipment would have been at the upper limits of the estimated tonnages involved and probably at the expense of non-delivery of small arms, ammunition, and other expendables.

13. President Asad would base any such decision to move largely on the mood and support he has from the military and the populace. the majority feeling in both sectors was favorable to Asad's actions so far, including his decision to accept a cease-fire. In time the military and the people may gain a clearer view of Syrian losses and decide that some of the pre-war

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conditions must be restored, and Asad could be moved to act in response to pressures from below.

14. Another factor is the Soviet one. There is one body of opinion that believes that the Syrians hold a special place with the Soviets, who might risk more direct involvement in order to protect the Syrians or to restore their previous territorial holdings. This view, if also held by the Syrians could make a major contribution to any new decision to act in Damascus.

15. The Israeli Defense Forces, even on the basis of incomplete and uncertain intelligence assessments, might be quick to launch a pre-emptive attack on the Syrians to avoid another "surprise" attack, even without the spur of Defense Minister Dayan, whose reputation and political standing could not survive another setback.

16. Israel's General Bar Lev, now returned from war duty to his post as commerce and industry minister, warned in a newspaper interview today that Israel will be ready for the next Egyptian attack if there is to be one. Israel was surprised once, he said, but this will not happen again.

17. Bar Lev also seemed to issue a warning to those responsible for Israel's lapse. He believes that the government should and will conduct an inquiry, no matter how painful, into the "mistakes which have been committed." Former air force chief General Ezer Weizman, who joined Bar Lev in the interview, added his view that no mercy should be shown anyone found guilty of "mistakes, failures or mistakes, failures or misdoings."

18. An Israeli Army spokesman has announced, in the meantime, that the General Staff is being reorganized, but he stressed that the reshuffle had been planned before the war began. He gave no details.

EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

19. Egypt's refusal today to grant landing and over-flight permission for a US airlift of Finnish UNEF soldiers contrasts sharply with its earlier haste to deploy the force as quickly as possible. It coincides, however, with

reports that Egypt may not want the force deployed along cease-fire lines until the Israelis have pulled back to 22 October positions. Some observers believe that Egyptian efforts are now directed more toward bolstering their military position than reinforcing the cease-fire. A UN officer on the scene has confided his personal estimate that chances of maintaining the cease-fire are no more than 50-50.

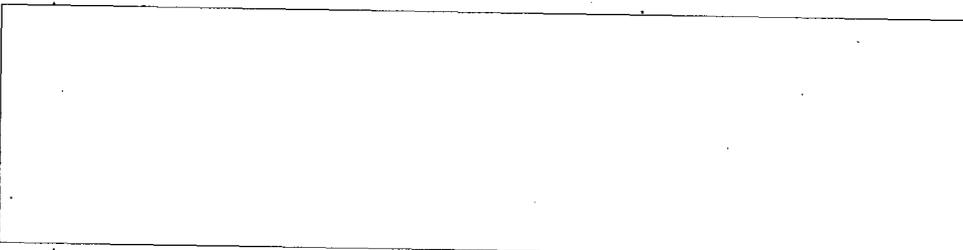
20. A UN official traveling from Ismailia to Cairo Yesterday afternoon reported seeing three or four Egyptian convoys heading toward Ismailia. Each convoy was three to six miles long and carried "all sorts of equipment, up to the heaviest."

21. In the southern sector, relatively few Egyptian troops are facing the westernmost Israeli positions along the Suez-Cairo road, according to a UN observer. Only a small number of Egyptian units are located between the forward Egyptian positions and the main Egyptian line of defense about 30 miles east of Cairo.

22. According to the source, the disposition of the Egyptian forces suggests that any Egyptian offensive would more likely be launched north of the Israeli bridgehead near Deversoir. The forces in the southern sector are in an essentially defensive posture.

SADAT MEETINGS

23. Cairo radio confirmed today that President Sadat had met yesterday in Kuwait with Syrian President Asad and with the ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah. Sadat and Asad conferred first in the airport lounge, after which Asad returned to Damascus. A meeting between Sadat and Kuwaiti leaders followed, after which Sadat flew to Riyadh for a long meeting with King Faysal this morning. No details have been given of the quick summitry. Coordination of plans for next week's discussions with Secretary Kissinger may have been a main item on the agenda, but since Asad and Sadat are not known to have met since before the war, some discussion of that subject must have taken place.



24. Algerian President Boumediene arrived in Cairo this afternoon, according to an Egyptian news service. The purpose of the visit is not known, but the Algerians have been unhappy with Egypt's acceptance of the cease-fire and, in view of Secretary Kissinger's impending visit to Egypt, Boumediene may hope to persuade President Sadat to take a hard position on Israeli withdrawal, if not to initiate new hostilities.

EGYPT

25. The Cairo press is exhibiting some misgivings that Egypt's own representations to the US to induce an Israeli withdrawal to the 22 October cease-fire lines may be countered successfully by Israeli pressures. The newspaper Al-Ahram comments today that Prime Minister Meir's visit to the US has added a new dimension to diplomacy in Washington and leaves US officials with a choice between continuing heavy support for Israel and "opposing the ambitions of the Israeli military establishment." Al-Ahram offers inducements rather than direct threats to aid the US in its choice. By choosing the latter option, the paper comments, the US "would preserve its interests in international detente and in the unity of the western world and the stability of its defense system." It would also no longer be subject to Arab "blackmail."

EUROPE

26. 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.

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UNITED NATIONS

30. The Security Council will meet informally again today to try to reach agreement on the composition of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF). Although the Council may be able to approve the participation of Warsaw Pact and NATO members. Secretary-General Waldheim is anxious to maintain momentum with the addition of forces from Latin America and Asia. That momentum could be dealt a serious blow, however, if the decision for a Canadian logistical support unit is reversed. Nonaligned states have suggested, with Soviet support, a compromise Polish-Canadian logistics unit. Secretary-General Waldheim may be seeking an alternative Romanian-Canadian unit, although the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are resisting this proposal. Romania has come under strong pressure from Moscow and Belgrade to decline a role in UNEF,

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The problem of agreeing upon African contributors was further

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complicated today when Liberia--one of the few African states that met Israel's requirement of maintaining diplomatic ties with it--severed relations with Tel Aviv. The nonaligned states--which are arguing that Israel should not have a veto over contributors--had proposed yesterday that Liberia and Ghana be the African representatives.

LIBERIA

38. President Tolbert told the US Ambassador this morning that he had reluctantly decided that Liberia must break relations with Israel. Tolbert said he can no longer afford to be out of step with his OAU colleagues. Liberia thus became the 18th African country to break relations with Israel since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East. Only six black African governments still retain ties with Tel Aviv. Israel's staunchest friend in Africa, Ivory Coast, is still among the holdouts, but pressure on President Houphouet-Boigny is intense and he may have to climb on the bandwagon before long.

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