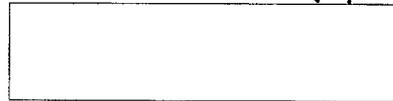
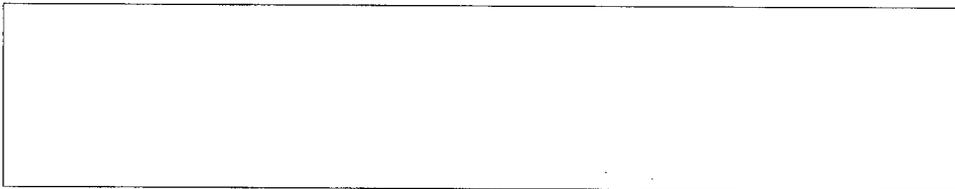


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
13 November 1973

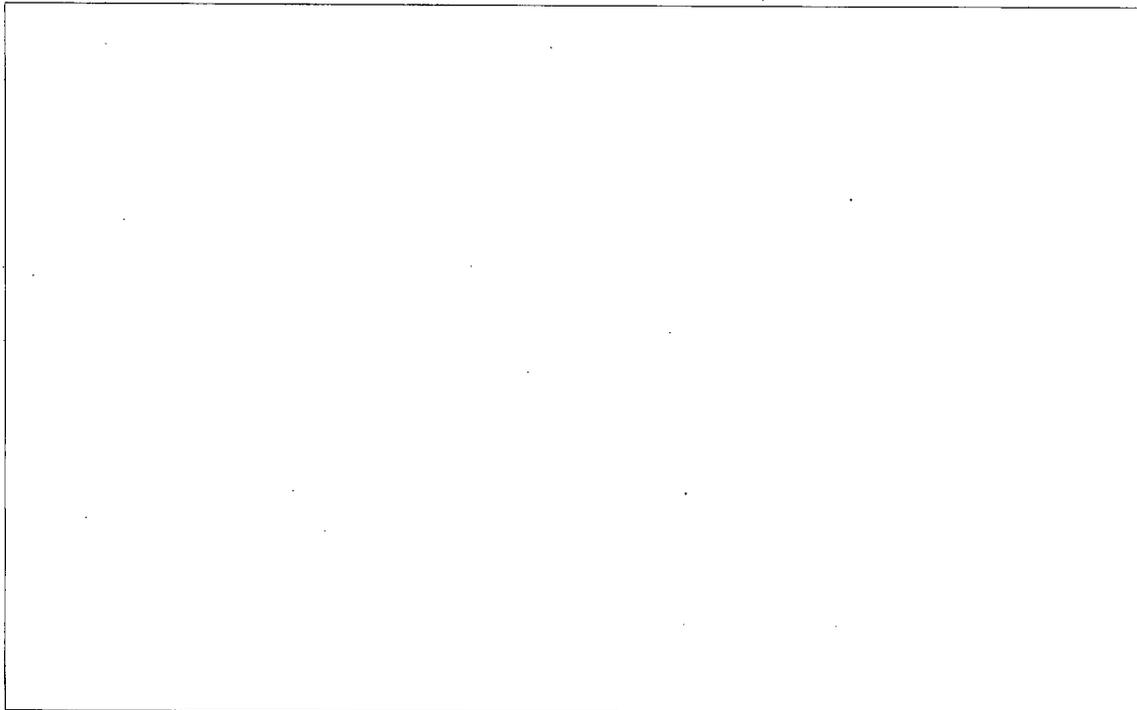
INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 119
(as of 1500 EST)

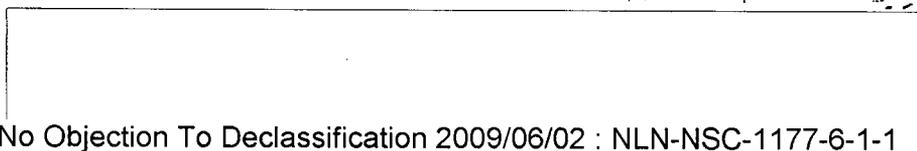
THE MILITARY SITUATION

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

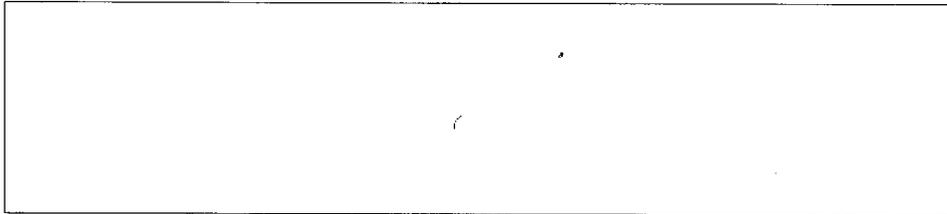


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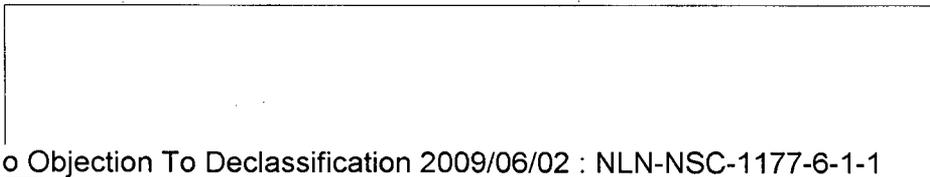
3. The Israeli press also reports that the Suez Canal front is not completely quiet today. At 0925 small arms fire reportedly was directed at an Israeli unit engaged in fortification work east of the Great Bitter Lake. Half an hour later, two Israeli bulldozers building a dirt embankment near Lake Timsah came under fire. Israel claims that the incidents today are different from earlier ones; the Egyptians apparently opened fire in an attempt to prevent the Israelis from working within their own area of control, rather than firing on troops where the line between forces had been unclear.

4. There were no reports of cease-fire violations on the Syrian front today, although earlier reports had indicated that there has been minor ground activity each day in the no-man's land between Israeli and Syrian forces in the northern sector. No aircraft were active over the front this morning.

ISRAELI - UN DISPUTE

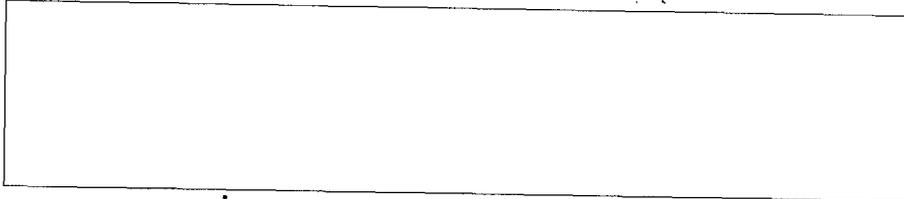
5. UN Secretary General Waldheim has ordered the withdrawal of UNEF forces from Kilometer 119 at the eastern end of the Cairo-Suez road following an ultimatum from Defense Minister Dayan, according to a sensitive State Department cable. Reporting on the meeting today between UNEF Commander Sillasvuo and Dayan at Jerusalem, Waldheim told USUN officials that Dayan had threatened to remove the disputed UN troops by force if the UN does not withdraw them. Dayan said that the Israelis do not interpret the six-point agreement as allowing the UN to replace Israeli checkpoints on the Cairo-Suez road; Tel Aviv can accept the checkpoint at Kilometer 101, he said, because that constitutes the western limits of the Israeli position, but a checkpoint at Kilometer 119 could block supply of Israeli forces.

6. On Sillasvuo's recommendation, Waldheim has thus decided to withdraw the UN contingent--which had remained in place overnight despite the removal of its



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Handwritten: Cairo

checkpoint installation--on the clear understanding that this is a temporary move. Siilasvuo has said that he would prefer withdrawal to shooting it out with the Israelis, and Waldheim feels that the matter must be settled by political rather than military means. The Secretary General believes that the situation is more serious today than it was yesterday and he has urged immediate US intervention.] ✓

7. The Israelis continue in public statements to justify their action in dismantling the UN checkpoint yesterday, and an Israeli military commentator has called indirectly for Secretary Kissinger's intervention. Noting that the UN "is not here to replace national sovereignty," Israeli spokesman General Herzog commented on Jerusalem radio today that it is "inconceivable" that the UN should attempt to interpose itself in an area controlled by one party without that party's permission. He attributed the incident to the ambiguous terms of the six-point agreement which, he said, "is perhaps in the style of Dr. Kissinger but which doesn't always work." As with Resolution 242, Herzog noted, everyone has different interpretations of the six-point agreement and, since Dr. Kissinger is the architect of the agreement, "I would estimate that he is the one who must rule in the incident."

8. [Redacted] the

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Israelis are reinforcing their positions around the disputed checkpoint. Newsweek editor de Brochgrave, who was at the Kilometer 119 area yesterday, has told the UN Interests Section in Cairo that the Israelis were then in the process of moving more artillery pieces to a point near the road and were reinforcing their own checkpoint with barbed wire. [Redacted]

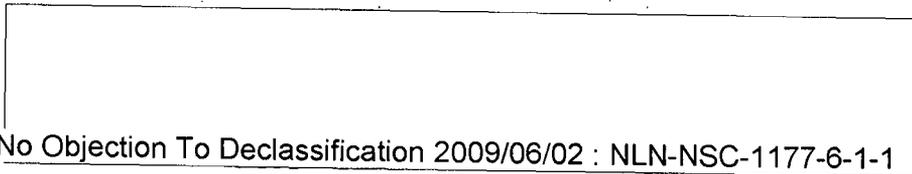
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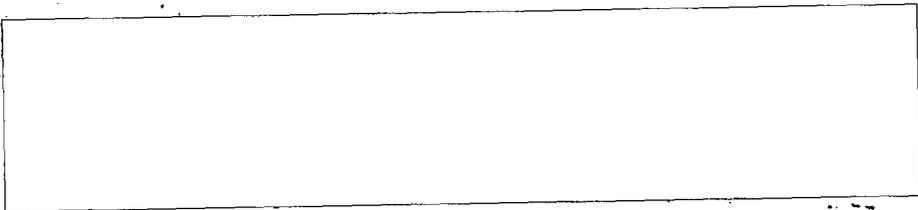
[Redacted] on 11 November the Israelis were reinforcing positions on the heights of Jabal Ataqa, which is southwest of Suez City and overlooks both the city and the Cairo-Suez road.

9. De Borchgrave and Ambassador-designate to the US Ashraf Ghorbal have also reported that the Israelis were holding up supply trucks at the Kilometer 101

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checkpoint. A Red Cross caravan was reportedly delayed for some time before the Israelis removed most items-- including blankets and clothing destined for Suez City-- allowing passage of only 500 bottles of plasma and some syringes. Ghorbal contends that the Israelis permitted only eight resupply trucks to pass the checkpoint yesterday, claiming that logistical difficulties over unloading operations at the other end prevented heavier movement. Ghorbal claims, on the other hand, that the Egyptians had already mobilized 100 people on both banks of the canal to handle the unloading at four crossing points.

10. Beyond Ghorbal's private and relatively low-key complaints and the Egyptian statements earlier today that the situation had "reached a crisis stage," the Egyptians appear to be keeping silent on the Israeli-UN dispute. One Cairo spokesman has noted that this is a matter for Israel, the UN, and the US, and not for Egypt. The Egyptians will probably not remain silent, however, when they learn of the UN withdrawal from the Kilometer 119 checkpoint.

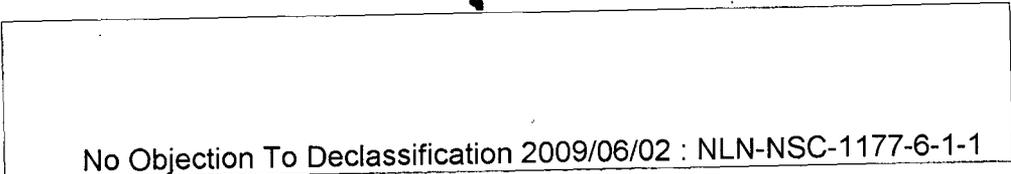
Sil. went to explain

MRS. MEIR ON THE SIX-POINT AGREEMENT

11. Prime Minister Meir addressed the Knesset today and declared that the 22 October cease-fire lines were non-existent. Israel was engaged that day in a running battle with Egyptian forces, she said, and since there were no UN observers in the area, no one can determine the positions of the opposing forces. She accused Egypt of continuing the fighting beyond 22 October, and derided both attempts to place the blame for cease-fire violations solely on Israel and efforts to divide the responsibility equally between the two sides. On the subject of the six-point agreement just signed between Egypt and Israel, Mrs. Meir noted that it is conditioned on reciprocal observance of all its provisions and stated that Israel has been "apprehensive from the beginning."

12. Despite her hard line on these issues, however, Mrs. Meir expressed the hope that the six-point agreement

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would be only the first step on the path toward genuine peace. She noted that Israel has no intention of holding onto the territory it occupies on the Suez Canal west bank, and she reminded her listeners that, when in Washington a few weeks ago, she had proposed a mutual pullback of both Egyptian and Israeli forces to opposite sides of the canal.

13. Both Mrs. Meir and Defense Minister Dayan, speaking at a separate conclave, have emphasized Israel's continued strong position. Mrs. Meir stated that the US is continuing its arms aid to Israel and claimed that the Israelis are strong enough to defeat Egypt and Syria if they resume the fighting. Dayan asserted today in a speech before a special session of the Jewish Agency that Israel will soon be stronger than it was before 6 October. He said Israel will enter peace talks in a greater position of strength than either Egypt or Syria because its cease-fire lines are now nearer to Cairo and Damascus.

SOVIET POLITICAL ACTIVITY

14. The USSR is still demonstrating some reserve in its handling of the cease-fire agreement. At a dinner in honor of Tito last night in Kiev, Soviet party boss Brezhnev referred to the agreement only indirectly, saying that "the truce which has now been achieved is very unstable." Today's Soviet press has made no mention of the agreement or the US role in it. The US Embassy in Moscow has commented that this indicates that the Soviets are having some difficulty coping publicly with the US seizure of the diplomatic initiative.

15. The Soviet controlled or influenced press in Beirut has also displayed some uncertainty in balancing criticism of the US role with support for the cease-fire and a peaceful settlement of the dispute. Al Nida the Communist party daily, for example, is arguing that the Kissinger trip and the restoration of US-Egyptian relations represented only a gain for the US and that Washington has not dropped its support for Israel.

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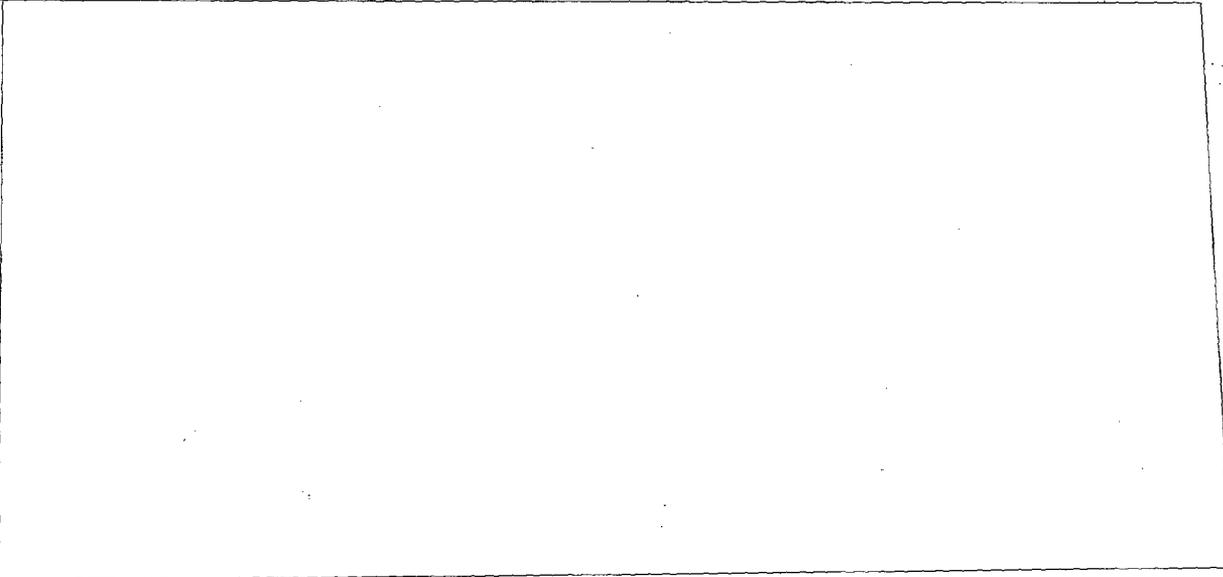
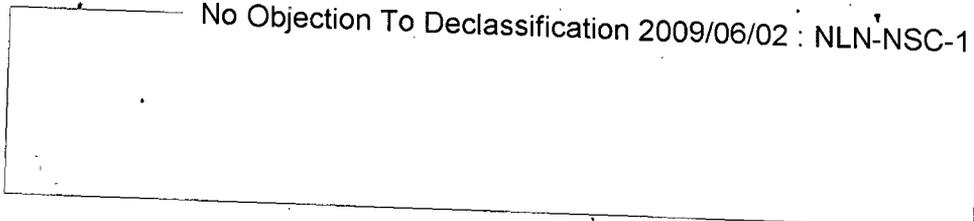
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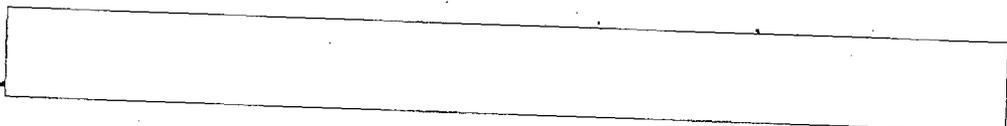
NEW POLICY ON JERUSALEM?

29. The Spanish foreign minister claims that the Israelis have approached Madrid with a request that the Spanish government take responsibility for Catholic places of worship in Jerusalem. Similar requests, he says, have been made to the Greek government with regard to Orthodox churches and to an unnamed Muslim country with regard to Muslim holy sites. The US Consulate at Jerusalem expresses puzzlement at this information, among other reasons because it apparently ignores the interests of the Vatican and of France, which has traditionally considered itself the guardian of Catholic interests in Jerusalem.

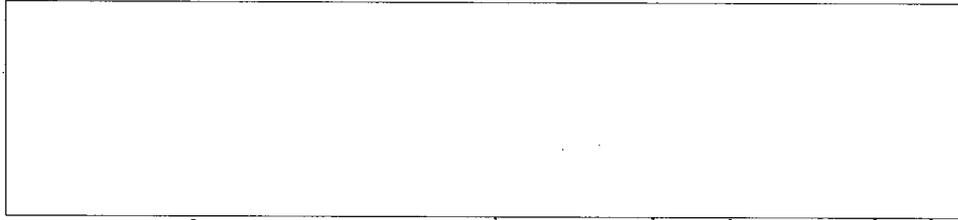
not seen

cause Faisal dealings with them
US probably would less pro-Arabs force than Vatican & France

30. The Israeli proposal to the various governments, if accurately represented, would indeed appear to be a departure from past policy and could indicate some Israeli willingness to give Jerusalem at least a semblance of "internationalization." The Israelis have heretofore rejected any proposal for internationalizing the city and, while they are willing that the various religions administer religious sites, they have shown no inclination to turn the administration over to the gov-



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ernments. They may hope by selecting themselves the governments that might oversee the holy places to forestall pressures at a peace conference to turn the city itself over to international control.

31. King Faysal, who regards himself as the protector of Arab Jerusalem, is reported in the meantime to be developing a plan for the joint administration, with the Vatican, of Christian and Muslim holy places in the eastern sector of the city. According to a Beirut newspaper, Faysal intends to send a high-level Saudi delegation to Rome in the near future to discuss the fate of East Jerusalem.

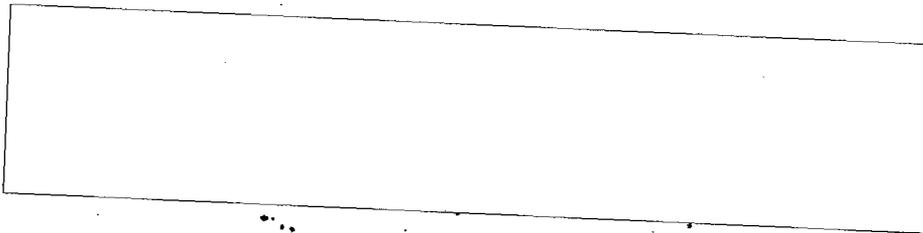
ARAFAT POSTPONES MOSCOW TRIP

32. Fedayeen leader Yasir Arafat has at least temporarily postponed his visit to Moscow. Contrary to earlier reports in the Arab press, Arafat did not go directly to Moscow from Cairo yesterday, but instead went to Baghdad. According to one press report, he may visit Kuwait before making the Moscow trip. Another report, from a pro-fedayeen paper in Beirut, indicates that the date of the visit to Moscow is now uncertain. The postponement is apparently the result of Arafat's attempts to unify the factious fedayeen movement behind him. One Beirut paper says the reason for Arafat's presence in Baghdad is to persuade Iraq to send a representative of the Iraqi-supported Arab Liberation Front with him to the USSR. The Arab press also now indicates it is uncertain whether George Habbash, head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will accompany Arafat.

33. The Soviets have been urging the fedayeen to unify behind Arafat in order to present a united front at any peace conference. If the remarks of a Soviet official in Cairo today are any indication, the Soviets may be getting discouraged. The Soviets admitted that "there is no easy solution" to the "major problem" of who is to represent the Palestinians. It is possible that Moscow, which apparently wanted to accord the fedayeen a high-level reception, has told Arafat to postpone his trip until he can get the fedayeen house in order.



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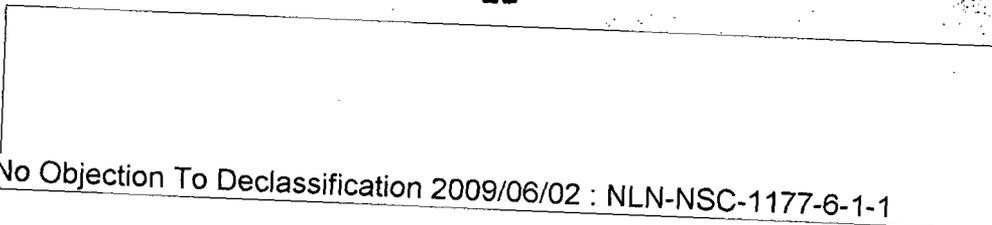
BAB AL MANDAB

34. A western journalist flew over the Bab al Mandab area on 11 November to observe the reported blockade. At 1150 he saw only one small freighter of unknown nationality heading northwest in the direction of the Red Sea. He also reported no unusual activity at Perim Island.

UN PEACEKEEPING

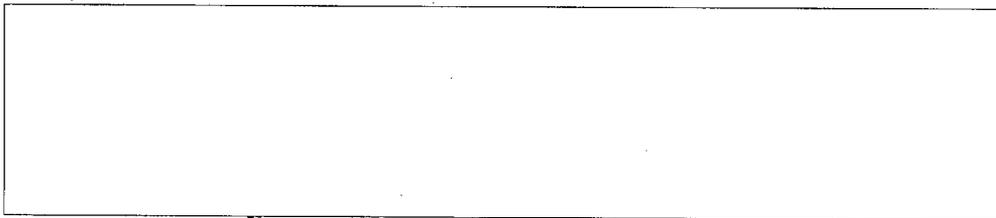
35. Difficulties are arising in the joint Canadian/Polish logistics unit. Canada had planned for a totally integrated maintenance battalion and only reluctantly agreed to divide responsibilities with the Poles, who apparently have rejected several proposals for dividing logistics tasks. Poland, also apparently a reluctant participant, accepted the logistics assignment only at Moscow's urging that it represent the Soviet bloc.

36. Present plans are for Ottawa to provide a four-hundred man communications unit with Poland contributing an engineering corp of the same size Secretariat plans to more than double each of these contributions may be challenged if a controversy arises over the sharing of responsibilities.



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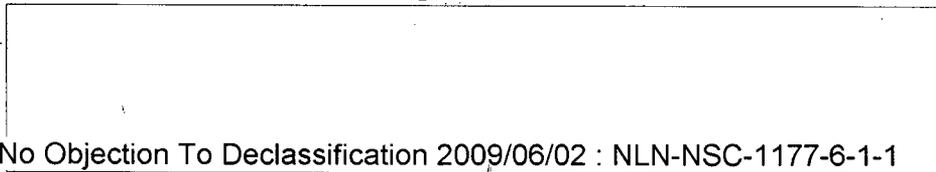
ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

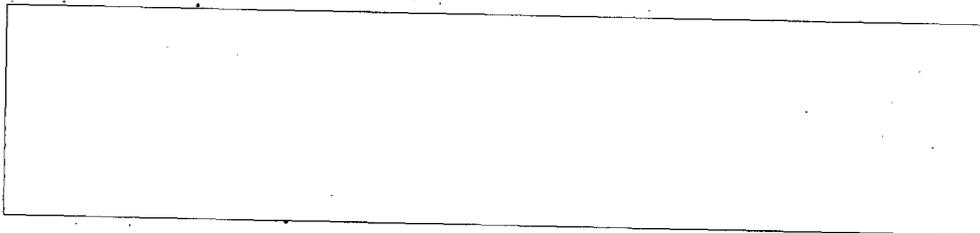
<u>STATE</u>	<u>PERSONNEL IN M.E.</u>	<u>SITUATION</u>
Sweden	537	Patrolling Ismailia area, one company on Cairo-Suez road
Ireland	262	Patrolling between Israeli front and Egyptian second army only unit now on east bank
Austria	275	Patrolling Bitter Lake area, one company on Cairo-Suez road. 125 additional troops and equipment are being airlifted by USSR
Finland	500	Patrolling Suez City and Israeli-controlled area to the west. Resumed Soviet airlift is bringing 99 additional troops and equipment
Canada	374	Airlift now in progress, full 400 man communications unit expected by 15 November
Poland	5	Advance team for 200-man engineering squadron
Peru		500-man battalion staging for US airlift between 15-22 November
Panama		407-man battalion to be airlifted by US after Peruvian contingent
Indonesia		600 troops to be airlifted by US immediately after Panamanian contingent
Nepal		Has agreed to contribute 400-500 Gurkhas

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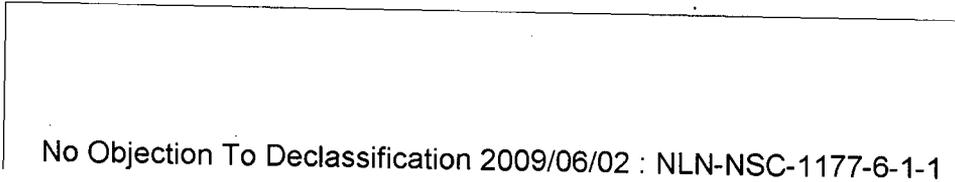
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Advance team for 500 infantry

Comments: Secretary-General Waldheim yesterday invited Senegal to participate. If they contribute one battalion each, UNEF will have the specified minimum of three African participants and commitments for less than 6,000 troops. According to an FBIS report, Zaire, in response to UN request, has agreed to provide 600 troops for UNEF. UNEF's prescribed strength is 7,000; on 13 November 1,953 peacekeeping troops were in Egypt.

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