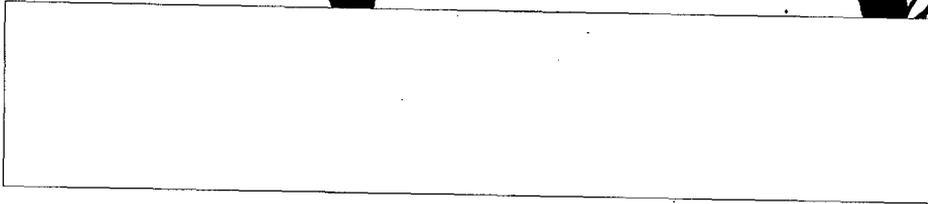


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~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~
18 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

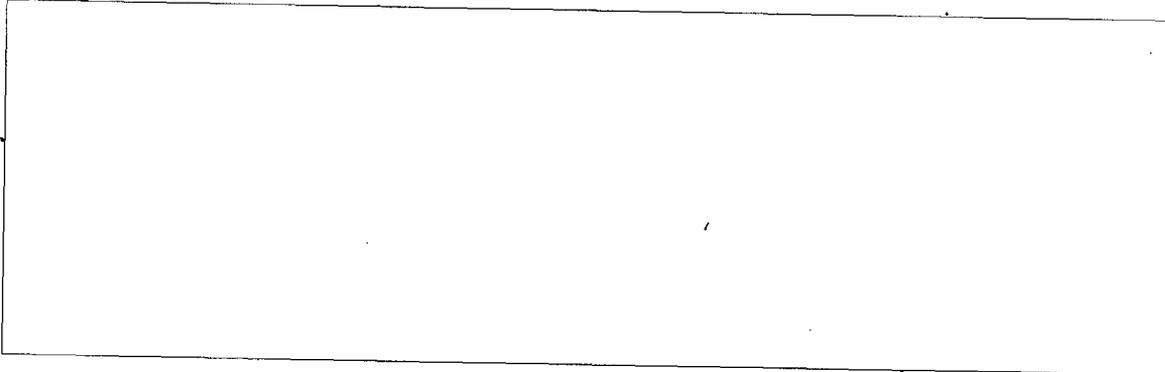
Situation Report Number 124
(as of 1500 EDT)

POW EXCHANGE

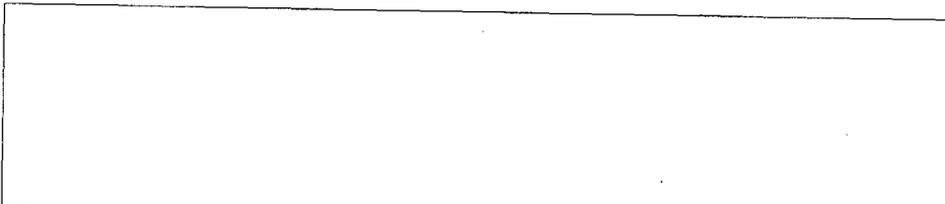
1. More Israeli POWS arrived in Tel Aviv early today, but the exact number of returning prisoners was not given. Jerusalem Domestic Service reports that another group is scheduled to arrive this evening from Egypt. A total of 1,506 Egyptian POWS are reportedly due to leave Israel sometime today. The Israelis reportedly were upset over the number of POWS the Egyptians released Saturday. Apparently only 27 of the 47 prisoners that were expected to be returned were repatriated.

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TRUCE MEETINGS



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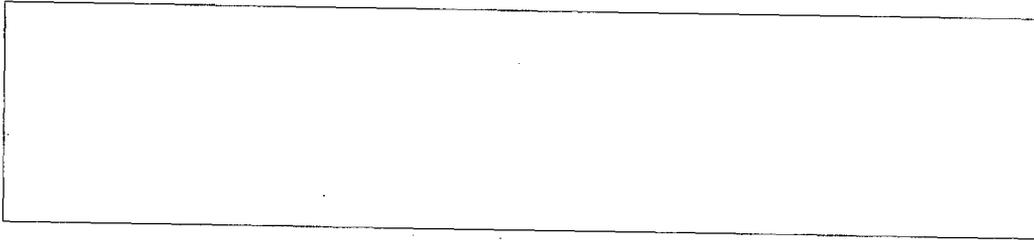
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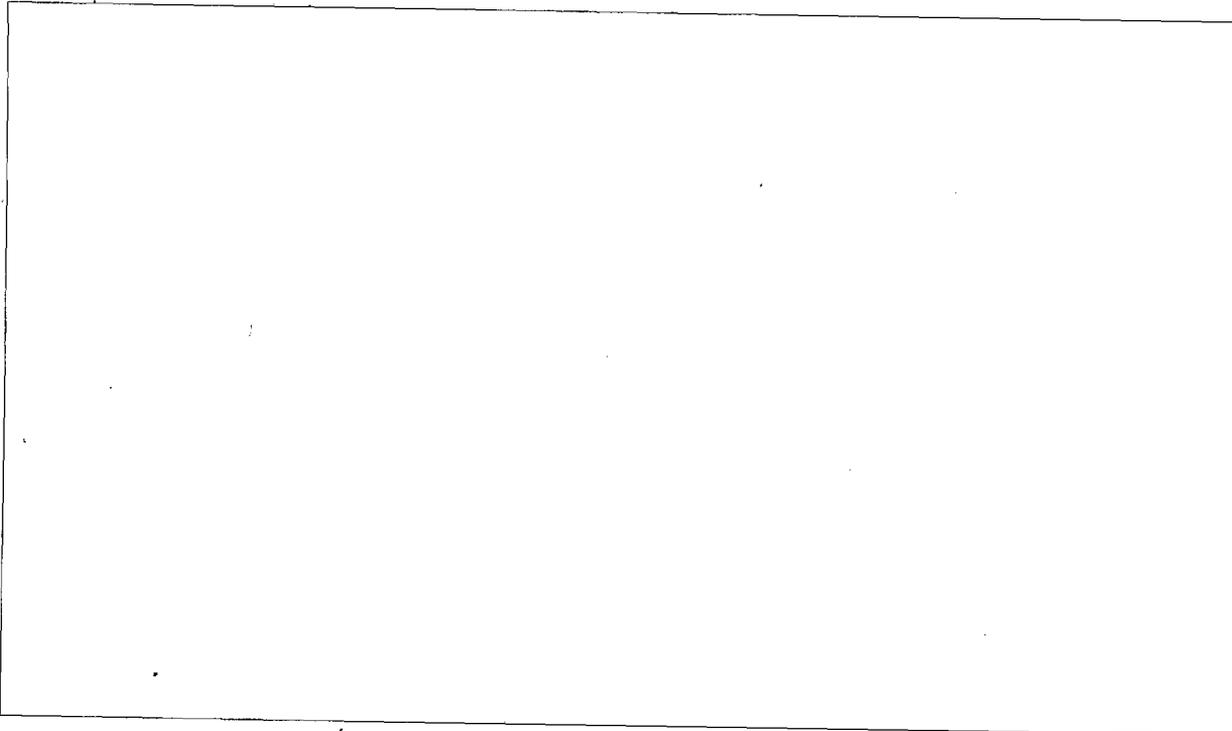


THE MILITARY SITUATION

3. An Israeli aircraft was shot down by Egyptian surface-to-air (SAM) missiles today (1400 hours Middle East time). The aircraft crashed on the east bank of the Suez Canal, about 10 miles northeast of Ismailia. At least two SAMs were launched from the Port Said area, according to an Egyptian observer and UN Emergency Force patrols in the area. The Israelis have confirmed the loss to a UN patrol, but did not identify the type of aircraft downed.

4. A UN Emergency Force patrol located near Adabiya south of Suez City reported heavy machine gun fire early this afternoon. Later, they indicated that an Egyptian truck had been hit near Israeli lines--three Egyptians were killed, three were wounded and three escaped unharmed.

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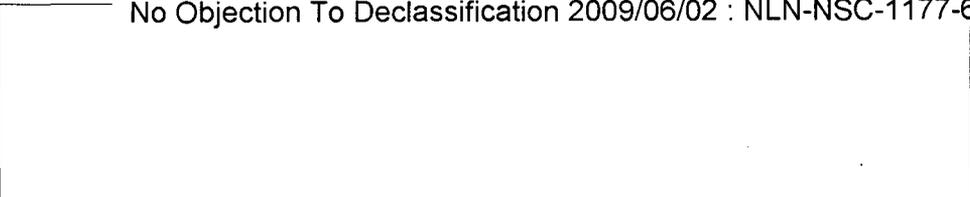
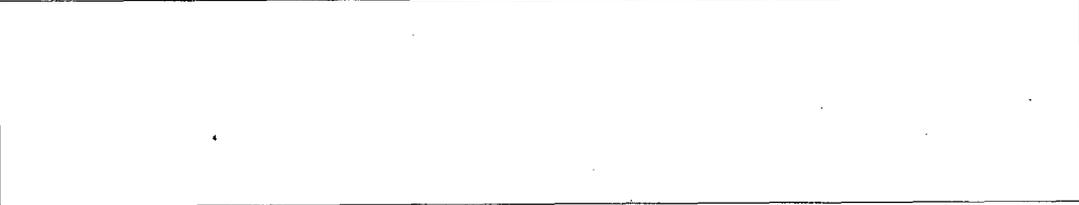


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QADHAFI IN YUGOSLAVIA

10. President Qadhafi began a four-day visit to Yugoslavia today--his first trip outside the Arab world since he took power in 1969. Qadhafi's selection of Yugoslavia as the site for his first venture into the outside world is not surprising. The Libyan leader considers Yugoslavia to be the most independent state in Europe and a trustworthy friend to the Arabs. Judging by the composition of his delegation, Qadhafi apparently hopes to finalize a sizeable oil sale in exchange for arms and a military assistance program. Qadhafi's decision to take his trip at this critical point in Middle East politics may have been designed to underscore Libya's disregard for current peace efforts.

11. Meanwhile, press reports from Baghdad predict that President Sadat will fly to Belgrade to explain Egypt's acceptance of the cease-fire to his angry neighbor. According to the reports, Sadat made the request for President Tito to host the fence-mending effort. Although the prospect of Sadat and Qadhafi meeting in Yugoslavia to resolve their differences sounds implausible, Sadat may feel that President Tito could serve as an objective third party mediator--a key ingredient for the resolution of Arab quarrels.

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EGYPTIAN NAVAL UNITS IN THE RED SEA
