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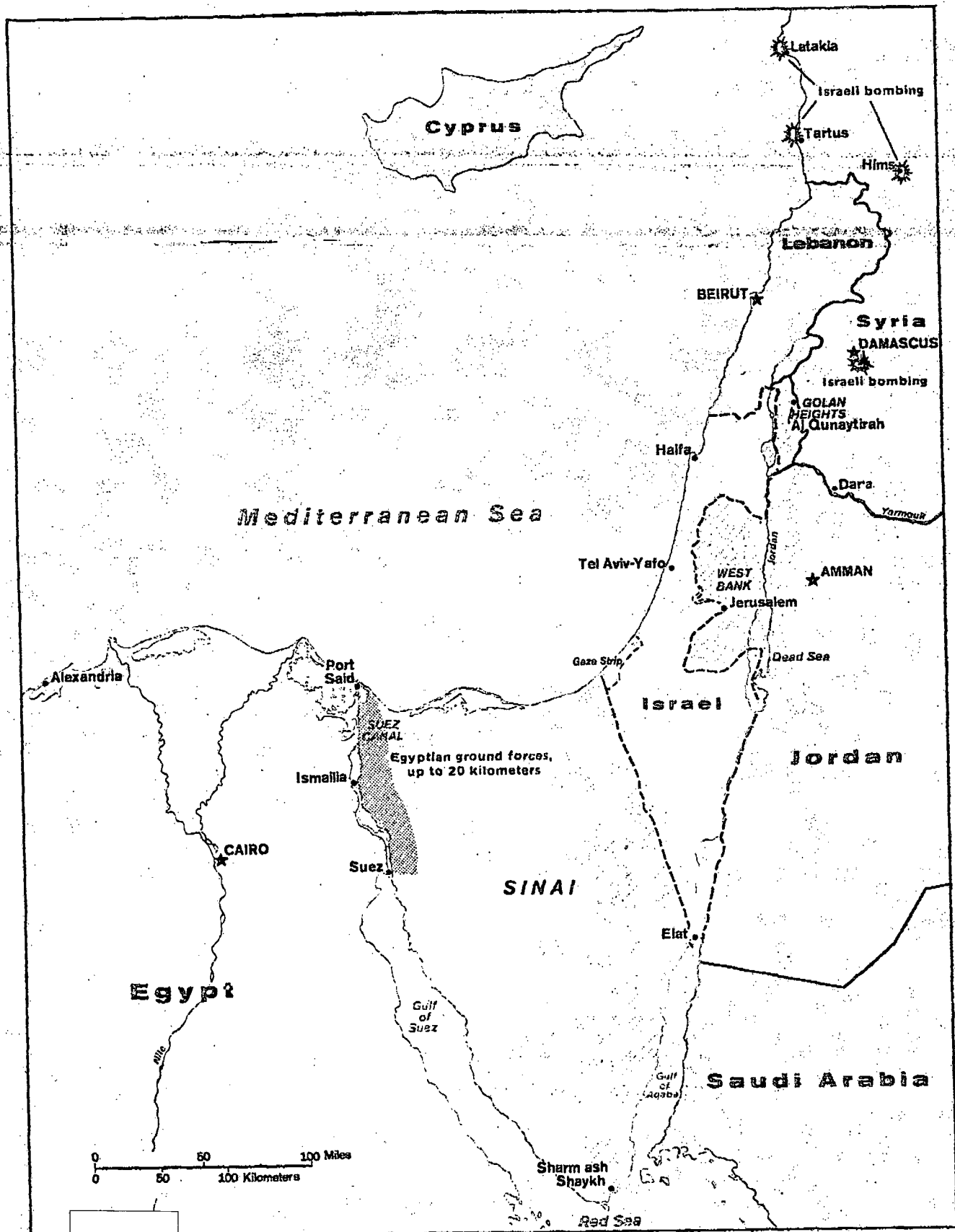
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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: The fighting still has not taken a decisive turn on either front. The Israelis have made some gains in the Golan Heights, and the Egyptians have consolidated their positions east of the Suez Canal.

Fighting slacked off on the Golan Heights last night after a day of heavy fighting in the air and on the ground. Israeli and Syrian planes engaged in dogfights early in the day, and Israeli aircraft--in the course of flying more than 300 sorties--struck the ports of Latakia and Tartus, the interior city of Hims, and Damascus international airport. Despite significant air losses, the Syrian Air Force continued to attack Israeli ground units. In ground action, the Israelis appear to be in control of Qunaytirah, but fighting continues along the 1967 cease-fire line.

Along the Suez Canal fighting also continues, but there is little evidence of significant progress by either side. The Egyptians are maintaining bridges across the canal, and are reinforcing their sizable force on the east bank. For the present, the Egyptians appear content to consolidate their positions, and although they have extended their control to an area ranging from 10 to 20 kilometers into the Sinai, they have not yet attempted a strong drive toward the Gidi and Mitla passes. The Israelis also have refrained from mounting a strong counterattack, preferring to contain the Egyptians' occasional, minor thrusts, while presumably awaiting reinforcements from the Golan front. Air activity in the Sinai is much lighter than on the Syrian front, although both sides are mounting harassing--and sometimes intense--strikes.

In a televised speech designed to reassure the Israeli public about the progress of the war effort, Prime Minister Meir yesterday claimed that the Golan Heights were in Israeli hands, and that settlers were returning to their homes in the area. She added that a "basic change" had taken place in the Sinai, with Israeli forces "standing very close to the canal." As for the future, the Prime Minister

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(said there was no doubt that Israel would be victorious, but that difficult days were ahead. She urged that King Husayn be "wise enough and responsible enough to keep out of the fighting," reminding him that Tel Aviv had once before--in 1967--asked him not to enter the war with Israel.

Jordan has tentatively decided to send an armored brigade to Syria, [redacted]. The Jordanians are hopeful that their troops can occupy an area in southern Syria that is sufficiently far from the present ground fighting to avoid involvement in hostilities and forestall an Israeli reprisal. [redacted]

[redacted] In a probable reflection [redacted] that such a cease-fire is unlikely, however, the government yesterday announced that it was calling up reserves and "mobilizing all the country's resources for the war effort."

Libya has used the occasion of the current hostilities to claim "full sovereignty" over the Gulf of Sirte, according to press reports. Tripoli warned yesterday that no ship will be permitted to enter the large body of water along the central coastline without special permission. This is no doubt a reaction to reported movements of the US Sixth Fleet and to recent articles in the US press discussing the possibility of an American take-over of Libyan oilfields. Most of Libya's important oil terminals are located at the port of Sirte.

Baghdad radio yesterday called on all Arabs to halt oil exports to the US. Neither Egypt nor Syria have requested such action, however, with the result that the war has not yet resulted in politically-motivated oil cutbacks. The hostilities are indirectly restricting exports, however. The closure of an oil terminal in Syria and a 50-percent reduction in the Arabian-American Oil Company's tapline

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have reduced the flow of oil to Western Europe by about 6 percent. Kuwait's call yesterday for a meeting--still unscheduled--of Arab oil ministers to consider the use of oil as a means of pressuring the West not to support Israel in the current conflict seems to have been prompted by pressure from radical Arabs and Kuwaiti leftists. Kuwait's Oil Minister, although bitter about the US cease-fire proposal, has said that he hopes the meeting will reach "realistic conclusions," but that Kuwait will go along with the meeting's recommendations.

[REDACTED]

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