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State Dept. review completed



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
11 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DIA Review
Completed.

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 22
(As of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. After a relatively quiet night, the Israeli air force returned to the skys over both fronts at dawn on the sixth day of a war that is demonstrably not a six day war. The Israelis report a commando raid behind Egyptian lines at Port Suez in which Egyptian supply lines were attacked. At dawn the Israeli air force was reportedly attacking Syrian armored units in the Golan Heights and an air battle was raging along the northern Israeli border. Israeli naval units raided Syrian ports during the night and on into this morning with conflicting reports of damage.

25X1

2. Activity was relatively quiet last night, but has resumed in the early hours of this morning.



According to an Associated Press release, IAF units resumed action at dawn over the Golan Heights and are attacking Syrian armored units. Overnight reports from UN observers confirmed earlier reports that Israeli forces now hold Qunaytirah, but have not yet driven Syrian forces back across the cease-fire line.



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[REDACTED]

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3.

[REDACTED]

An IDF spokesman stated that petroleum installations at Tartus, Latakia, and Baniyas had been struck during the evening and claimed the sinking of two Syrian missile boats. The spokesman claimed that no Israeli losses were sustained, disputing a Syrian military spokesman who stated that Syrian naval ships and coastal artillery had destroyed eight Israeli warships with no Syrian losses. The Syrian claimed also that a Greek freighter was sunk.

4.

[REDACTED]

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the Jordanians have reportedly moved at least two brigades of the 5th Armored Division into reinforcing positions behind infantry troops south and west of Amman. Although much of the division's equipment is at least ten years old, it is estimated to be an effective fighting force, especially if artillery and/or air support were to be made available.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

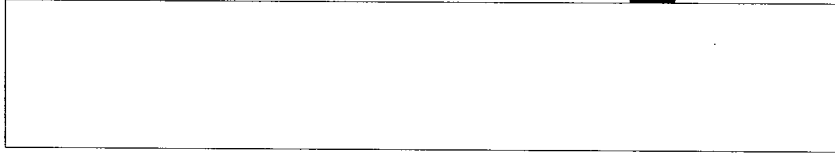
5. The Israeli air force renewed its attacks on Egyptian positions on the East bank of the canal this morning, resuming the operations they have conducted for the last three days. Last night, the Israelis reportedly reached the banks of the canal in the northern sector, linking up with an outpost that had been isolated since the first days of the war. Early this morning Israeli commandos reportedly raided Egyptian supply lines west of Suez in the southern part of the canal. The military effect of these raids probably was not significant and their primary effect may have been to raise the morale on the home front and to have some successes to show for five days of indecisive operations.

6. The Israelis seem content for the present to maintain contact with the Egyptian forces already across the canal without becoming involved in major ground action.

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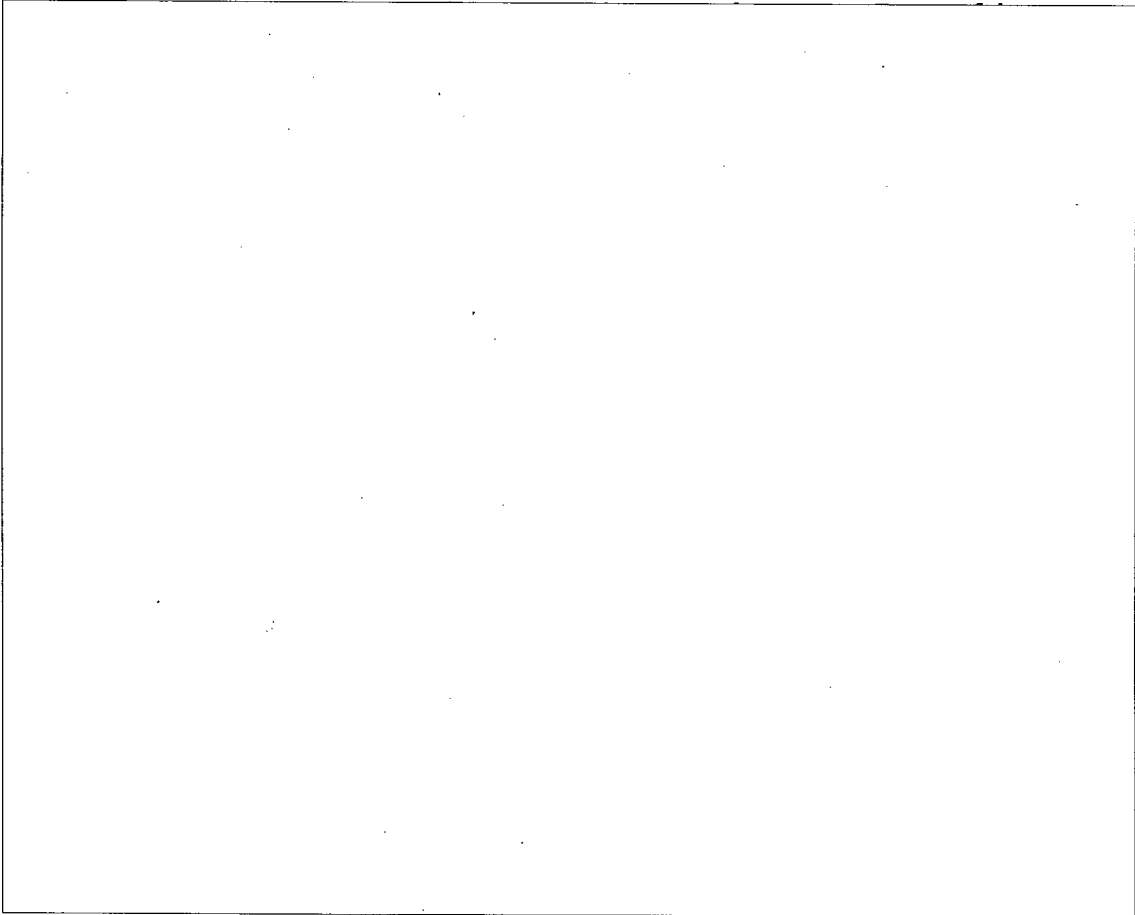
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This characterized yesterday's operations along the front with the Israelis pushing out to meet Egyptian forces, withdrawing when pressed by superior Egyptian forces. The Israelis apparently are trying to contain the Egyptian forces without becoming heavily involved.

7. The Egyptian army pushed down the coast along the Gulf of Suez yesterday, but apparently was repulsed. 25X1



ISRAELI STRATEGY

10. The US Defense Attache in Tel Aviv observes that there appears to be a difference in the nature of Israeli air force targets within Egypt and Syria. In



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Egypt the Israelis are attacking military air fields, radar sites, guns, mortars and bunkers, while in Syria the targets are airfields, a major headquarters, power stations and refineries. He believes that the tactical nature of the targets in Egypt may portend some future tactical move. In Syria, the bombing of the more strategic targets may be intended to bring Syria to her knees, although the attache doubts that bombing on the present scale is doing much more than angering the Syrians.

ISRAELI MOOD

11. Although public confidence in eventual victory remains high, there is some concern over the continued call-up of reservists. The populace is, however, apprehensive about the official silence on matters such as casualty counts and rumors are afloat in Tel Aviv about large numbers of wounded, leading Israelis to suspect that their casualty rates might be startling. There is public pressure for the Israelis to cross the Suez Canal and to surgically neutralize a wide strip of territory on the west bank.

EGYPTIAN MOOD

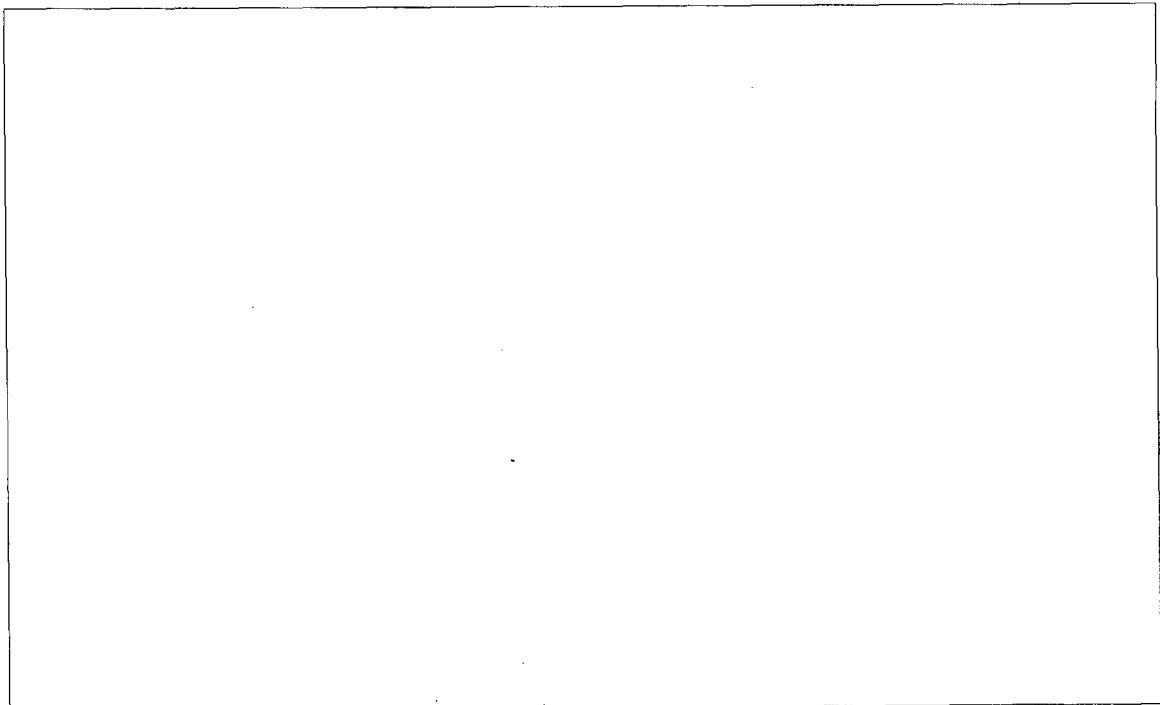
12. The US Interests Section in Cairo reports that there has been a dramatic rise in Egyptian self confidence during the past several days. US Interests Section contacts have said that, whatever the final outcome of the fighting, the Egyptians "have kicked the Israelis in the teeth." By crossing the canal, seizing the Bar-Lev Line, and planting the Egyptian flag on occupied Egyptian territory, the Egyptians have proven themselves and have at least temporarily discarded the sense of inadequacy which characterized their self perception vis-a-vis the Israelis. This change in mood may be short lived, but the Interest Section notes that the Egyptians may now believe they are more able to bargain effectively over settlement terms directly with the Israelis.

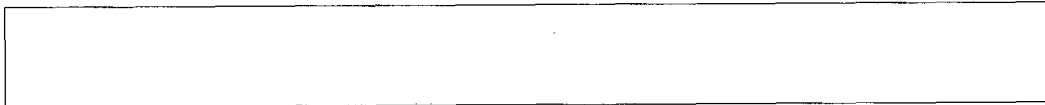
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ARAB PRESS REACTION

14. Articles and commentaries in several Arab newspapers indicate great interest in the US reaction to the fighting, and in particular to the possible replacement of Israeli equipment losses by Washington. Moroccan papers ran strongly anti-American commentaries hinting that replacement aircraft may already be flying to Israel. They also cited Washington's call for a cease-fire and return to the previous cease-fire line as evidence of growing US hostility toward the Arabs. Saudi papers also speculated over how quickly the US will make up Tel Aviv's losses. The papers highlight the heavy Israeli losses and point to the evidence of Arab unity and mutual support.





17. In Ghana, a government owned newspaper has editorially approved Zaire's break with Tel Aviv on 5 October, raising the possibility that Ghana may be next; Dahomey and Rwanda followed Zaire and severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the outbreak of hostilities.

