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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: The Israelis are making hard-won advances in the Golan Heights and in their efforts to penetrate into Syria. There is little action in the Sinai.

Heavy fighting on the Golan Heights died down last night with Israeli forces about 12 miles beyond the cease-fire line, but unable to achieve a decisive breakthrough on the road to Damascus. In the southern sector of the Heights, the Syrians claim to have made advances, and may have overrun a UN observation post early yesterday. The area was relatively quiet later in the day, however, with indications that the Israelis may have retaken the post and were slightly beyond the cease-fire line. The Syrians are reportedly withdrawing tank units from the front and deploying them to a second defense line nearer Damascus. For the first time, Damascus has acknowledged publicly that Israeli troops have made progress on the "war's northern front." In air activity, the Israelis made over 400 sorties yesterday, making it the heaviest day of the war. Despite this intense activity and their own heavy losses in dogfights, the Syrians continued throughout most of the day to fly ground-support missions.

Activity on the Sinai front yesterday was limited to artillery exchanges and a reduced number of Israeli air strikes. Neither side claimed significant advances, and neither suffered serious losses. Early yesterday the Israelis charged that the Egyptians had moved four SAM batteries to the east side of the canal, but today they reported that [REDACTED] they had determined that the presumed SAMs were dummies. [REDACTED] the Egyptians mounted helicopter assaults at three points on the Sinai coast, including Abu Rudesis, where a limited number of Egyptian troops and a helicopter pilot were captured. [REDACTED] Soviet experts have reviewed three areas--Port Said, Ismailia, and Dumyat--to decide on the positioning of surface-to-surface missiles.

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After a week's fighting, Israeli losses are estimated at 100-105 aircraft, 650-700 tanks, as many as 4 ships, and 2,700-3,200 men. Arab losses are estimated at 210-220 aircraft, 950-1,000 tanks, 20-25 ships, and 12,600-15,600 men. Supply problems appear most acute for the Israelis; pilots yesterday were instructed to conserve both fuel and ordnance.

The movement to Syria of a Jordanian brigade that was scheduled for tonight reportedly has been postponed until Sunday night, when it is to take up a position between Dar'a and Shaykh Miskin. However, there may be further delays because of opposition to the move from high-level government figures. These critics fear that the brigade may be chewed up before it ever arrives, and question why Jordan's force should move before those of such other conservative Arab states as Saudi Arabia. For his part, King Husayn reportedly still intends to commit the Jordanian unit.

Fatah, the largest fedayeen organization, may be preparing to strike at American oil interests in the Middle East.

[REDACTED] the attacks will come if the US supplies Israel with aircraft or involves the Sixth Fleet in the current hostilities. In other fedayeen actions, the Palestine Liberation Organization last night accused Jordan of "actual coordination" with Israel, and called on soldiers of the Jordanian Army to fight Israel even if it meant the downfall of King Husayn. The fedayeen themselves continue to carry out minor operations against Israel. As of 11 October, all of Fatah's principal military commanders were in southern Lebanon, and the Fatah command had infiltrated 55 commandos across the border into Israel. The Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon, [REDACTED] has counseled Fatah chief Yasir Arafat and Popular Front for the

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Liberation of Palestine head Habbash that they should avoid provocative acts for the present, but be prepared to enter the fray immediately if Lebanon becomes embroiled in the fighting with Israel.

Muhammad Haykal, chief editor of the authoritative Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram, has joined in the call for using oil as a weapon to bring pressure against the US. Reacting to news reports that senior US officials were about to make decisions to help Israel militarily, Haykal warned in an Al Ahram article that Arab oil producers have the power to "deny the US access to its interests in the Middle East." Reports from both Cairo and Kuwait indicate that anti-American feeling is growing among the general population largely in response to quasi-official media attacks on the US.

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**USSR - US - MIDDLE EAST:** The Soviets are using discussions with US officials to create the impression that the Arab-Israeli war should not be allowed to interfere with the "larger picture" of Soviet-US detente.

The Soviet [REDACTED] for example, [REDACTED] that it was important for the two superpowers to remain friends and not permit the Arab-Israeli war to alter the relationship developed over the past year. Soviet [REDACTED] took a similar line with their US counterparts the same day, indicating that the Soviets have used a circular diplomatic message to instruct their representatives along these lines. The Soviet [REDACTED] said that both sides would be obliged to resupply their allies with war materiel, but that this should not affect relations between the US and USSR. The Soviets are also querying US officials on the possible nature of the US effort in behalf of Israel, including the possible introduction of US military personnel and the resupply of F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft.

A carefully worded TASS statement of 12 October that protested Israeli attacks on the Soviet Cultural Center in Damascus and a Soviet merchant vessel in a Syrian port testifies to Moscow's concern over possible sources of pressure on the USSR to increase its own involvement. The statement noted that the "Soviet people" (not the Soviet Government) strongly condemned Israeli bombing of civilian targets; a TASS statement is of course less authoritative than a governmental one. TASS warned, however, that the USSR cannot regard Israeli actions "indifferently" and that Israel's continued failure to observe international law "will lead to grave consequences."

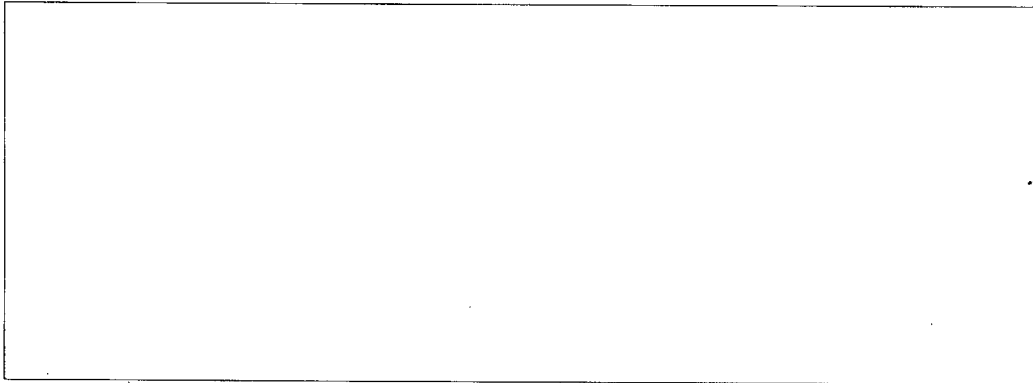
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USSR - MIDDLE EAST: Soviet airborne divisions have gone into an increased state of readiness, probably because of the Middle East conflict.

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The Soviets also placed at least one airborne division on alert during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

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The fall exercise activity in Eastern Europe has proceeded on schedule, and Grechko is in Warsaw to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Polish Army.

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Some unusual movements of transport aircraft have occurred and certain transport units appear to be in an increased alert status, but this probably is a result of the resupply activity under way between the USSR and the Middle East. [redacted]

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