

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
13 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

DIA Review
Completed.

Situation Report Number 32

(As of 1630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. The Israelis claim to be widening their salient in the Syrian front after beating back an Iraqi counterattack during the night. In the Sinai, the Egyptians say they have made significant progress in a thrust south along the Gulf of Suez.

THE SYRIAN FRONT

2. Tel Aviv stated today that its forces were moving north and south of their major thrust into Syria and had widened their advance to a front of 25 kilometers. The Israeli forces apparently are concentrating on enlarging and securing their flanks. There are no indications of significant progress towards Damascus, although earlier press reports claimed that they had advanced to within 16 miles of the Syrian capital. The Israelis also claimed to have smashed an Iraqi counterattack begun during the night, destroying another 60 tanks in the process.

3. The Moroccan forces on the Syrian front reportedly have been withdrawn for a rest on 12

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State Dept. review completed

October. These forces have been involved in heavy fighting since the beginning of the war.

4. There are some indications that Syria has requested additional armor from Iraq, and that they have proposed that the equipment transit Turkey to save time and effort. The Syrians have lost almost half their tank inventory of nearly 1500 tanks, and the request for more armor is not surprising.

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THE EGYPTIAN FRONT

7. The intensity of fighting along the Egyptian front increased slightly during the day. The Egyptians claim to have pushed along the coastal road and captured Ras Sidr on the morning of 13 October. They also allege to have crushed an Israeli counterattack yesterday in the central sector of the Sinai front, destroying 25 tanks. Prisoners taken reportedly have brought the total number of Israelis captured to 425.

8. The Israelis now say that Egyptian forces on the east bank of the Suez Canal have been built up significantly. They claim the Egyptian have nine divisions and over 1,000 tanks in the Sinai.

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9. Since the outbreak of the war, Israel has conducted repeated air strikes on Port Said, continuing up to the present. Information received from the Israeli Defense Attache in Washington today indicates that the attention devoted to the area results from Israeli fears that Soviet SCUD surface-to-surface missile might be deployed there against Israel. The Israelis believe that the Soviets might attempt to introduce SCUDs into Egypt, and two other potential sites in the country are under close surveillance.

10. The Israeli Attache also stated that Israeli aircraft losses were the result of air defense missiles, especially the SA-6, and that the Sagger anti-tank missile had been particularly effective against them in terms of armor losses. He added that the Syrians may have a new air defense weapon capable of firing SA-7 missiles in salvos of eight.

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SOVIET MILITARY

12. There have been no significant changes in Soviet naval deployments in the Mediterranean, or in the status of Soviet forces in the USSR since our last Sitrep.

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EGYPT - One Week After

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14. The US Interests Section in Cairo reports that the mood in the Egyptian capital is one of increasing confidence and that President Sadat's position has been strongly reinforced. Egyptian steadfastness on the east bank of the Suez Canal into the eighth day of the war has removed the stigma of the defeat in the six-day war of 1967. In addition, the Egyptian population has not suffered measurably from the present fighting. Anticipated Israeli deep-penetration raids have not occurred on a scale to terrorize the population, and what disruption has resulted from Israeli air attacks has been quickly repaired. The blackout in Cairo, never total, has been reduced to about 50-60 percent. Shortages of certain consumer commodities in the first days of the war, resulting from restrictions on the sale of gasoline and other goods, for the most part no longer exist. Foodstuffs have been resupplied to cooperative and other stores and, except for sugar, are available at controlled prices or on the black market at higher prices. The rationing of gasoline appears to have done little to cut down on Cairo traffic. Normal congestion has been reduced only slightly by the absence of transport vehicles commandeered by the military.

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15. Probably the most significant result of the Egyptian military position and the mood of confidence is the increased standing this has given President Sadat in the eyes of most Egyptians, including intellectuals and former leftist opponents. Sadat has delivered a war which he has long promised, thereby lending credibility to his own position, and he has benefited from the intense feeling of relief felt throughout Egypt at the fact that this war has resulted in some successes rather than immediate defeat. There is also a widespread feeling of gratification among Egyptians, for which Sadat is also given credit, that the Egyptians are being told the truth on the situation and are not being promised, as so often in the past, victories which cannot be realized.

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ISRAEL

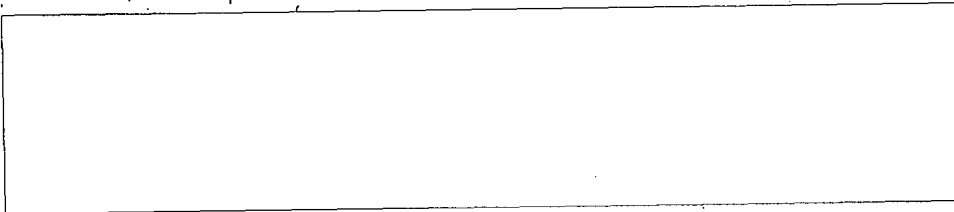
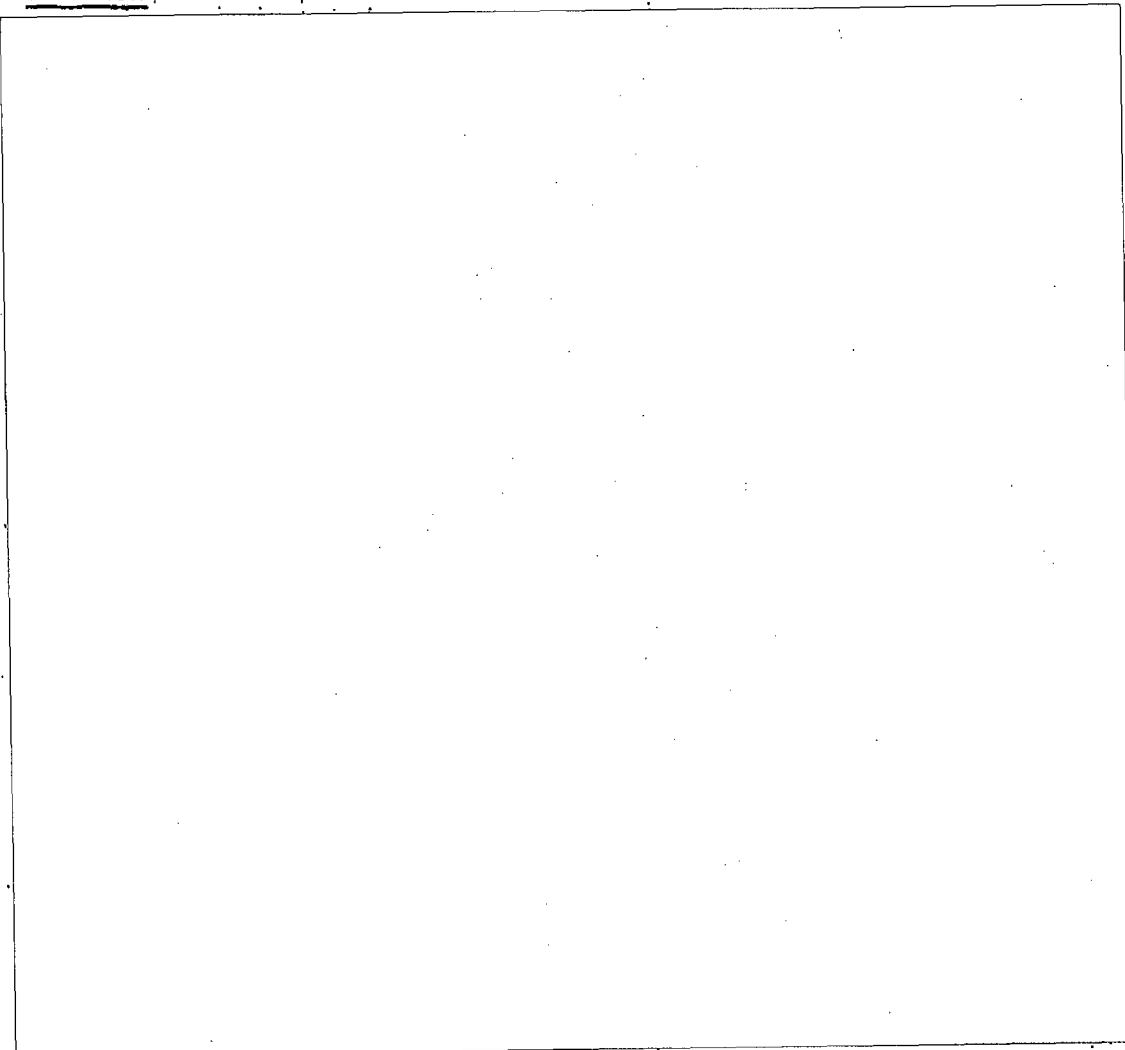
17. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, speaking at a press conference today, declared that Israel had not started the war, but would now wage it until "victory." Mrs. Meir criticized the Soviet Union for having supplied the Arabs with "all the arms they can absorb." The Israeli prime minister expressed ambivalence regarding Israel's decision

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not to launch a pre-emptive strike. She said a pre-emptive strike would have prevented a number of Israeli casualties, but would also have stimulated international criticism against Israel. She emphasized that the war had not changed the Arab-Israel stand off, arguing that, after the fighting ended, negotiations would still be the only way to break the diplomatic deadlock.

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JORDAN



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No Objection To Declassification 2009/05/26 : NLN-NSC-665-1-9-7

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20. The US Embassy Amman reports that the Jordanian public is not happy to see Jordanian forces enter the war, but is ready to accept what appears to be inevitable.

SAUDI ARABIA

21. Prince Saud, the King's son and Deputy Minister of Petroleum, reiterated today that the US should take seriously Saudi concern about rising war tensions. He said that the Saudis are waiting for a response to King Faysal's letters to Secretary Kissinger and the President that urged the US to press Israel to accept a "just" solution. He added that no Arab state would ever make peace on Israel's terms nor could any Arab state accept a return to the "intolerable" situation that has existed since 1967.

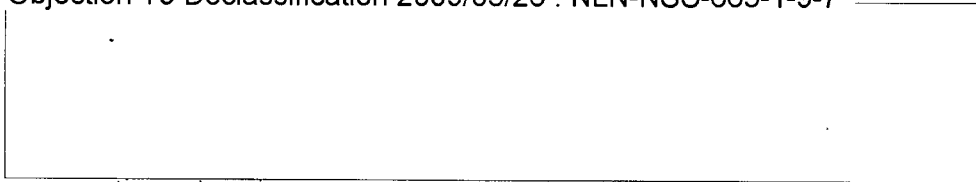
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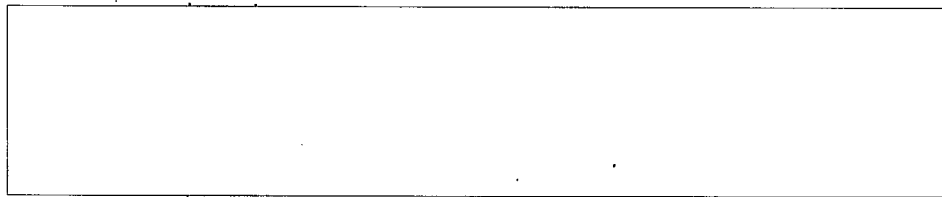
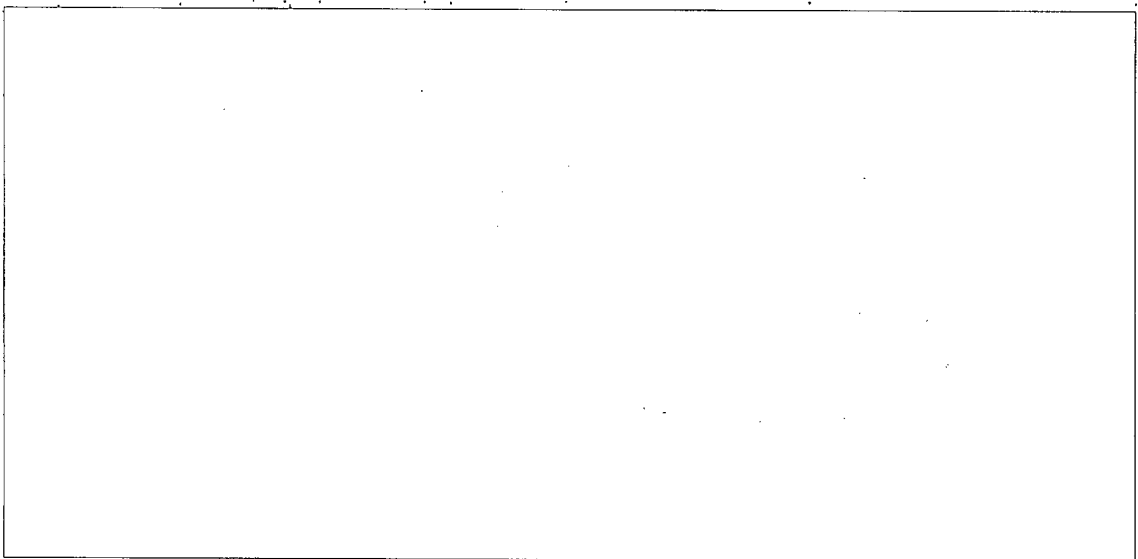


ANNEX

BATTLE LOSSES

Estimated Losses as of 1600, 13 October

	ISRAEL	ARAB
Personnel	2,900-3,400	13,000-16,000
Aircraft	105-110	240-260
Tanks	670-720	1,000-1,100
Ships	4 (possible)	20-25



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