

A

15 October 1973

DCI BRIEFING FOR  
15 October WSAG Meeting

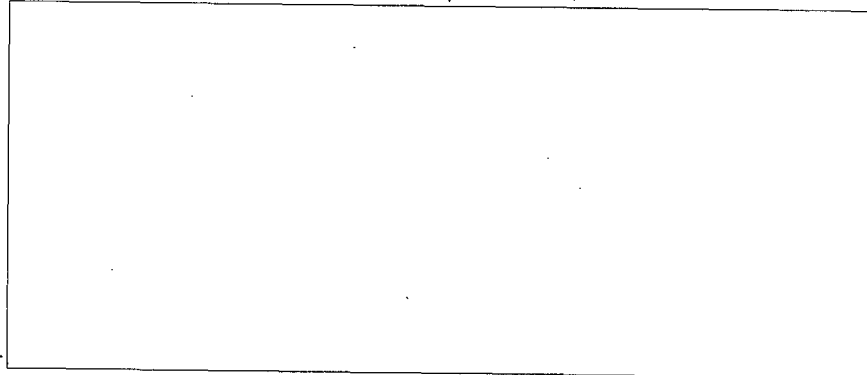
THE MIDDLE EAST

I. There has been considerable ground and air activity over both fronts since our last meeting, but no significant change in the battle positions.

A. Both sides admit that there was a major battle in the Sinai yesterday, but the results appear inconclusive. Egyptians do not appear to have made any

substantial gains.

B.



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C. In addition, the Israeli claim to have made a naval attack last night on the

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Egyptian port of Ras Gharib--an alleged  
commando staging area--in the southern  
Gulf of Suez. This was no doubt an  
effort and forestall any Egyptian landings  
in the southern Sinai.

(B)

II. On the Syrian front, <sup>the</sup> Israelis still have  
the initiative, <sup>but only</sup> and are inching toward  
Damascus. The Syrians are now occupying  
heavily fortified positions along the approaches  
to <sup>the city</sup> ~~Damascus~~.

(A) →

A. The Israelis probably will not advance  
much further toward Damascus--<sup>it is</sup> ~~but con-~~ <sup>other</sup>  
~~solidate their positions along the road;~~  
and try to destroy the Syrian forces

along the cease-fire line to the south. <sup>does not</sup>  
<sup>appear to have made substantial progress either.</sup>

1. They are unlikely to transfer sub-  
stantial forces to the Egyptian front  
as long as a viable Syrian force is  
still <sup>in</sup> the Golan Heights area.
2. They might consider, however, that  
one armored division could be transferred

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to Sinai. The remaining armored division on the Syrian front will probably remain there as a ~~mobile~~<sup>mobile</sup> reserve against any serious Arab counterattack.

- B. The Jordanians brigade which entered Syria on October 13 has moved somewhat closer to the Israeli-Syrian battle area, ~~it~~<sup>but</sup> has not yet joined in the fighting.

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SYRIAN FRONT

Syrian artillery—long-range equipment supplied by the Soviets—is continuing to pound the Israeli forces from the right flank. To the left, Moroccans or perhaps Palestinian irregulars are holding the slopes of Mt. Hermon while the Syrians consolidate in front behind Soviet-designed fortifications.

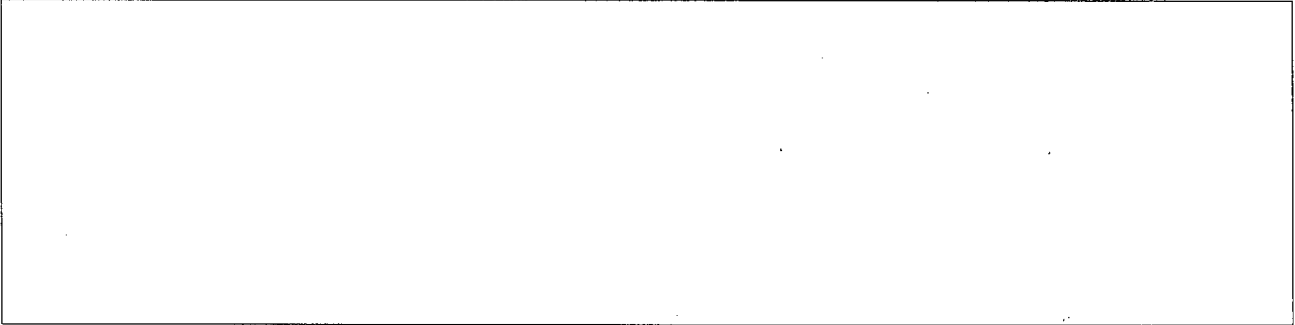
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SECRET SPOKE

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EGYPTIAN FRONT



Ground activity appeared to be light early this morning. Our  
another tank battle is probably shaping up.

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