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**ARAB STATES - ISRAEL:** Battle lines on both fronts remain relatively unchanged. President Sadat and Prime Minister Meir appear unwilling to make concessions that would lead to a cease-fire.

A small Israeli tank force crossed the Suez Canal north of Great Bitter Lake early yesterday, apparently in an effort to destroy Egyptian SAM and anti-aircraft batteries on the west bank. The Egyptians claim to have engaged the Israeli force with armor and mechanized infantry units, and to have inflicted heavy losses. [redacted]

[redacted] Israeli air activity on the Egyptian front was moderate yesterday, targeted against a variety of radar sites, airfields, and troop concentrations east of Cairo, in the northern Nile delta, in the Sinai, and in the Great Bitter Lake area. An air battle involving 15 Egyptian MIG-21s and several Israeli Mirages took place over the lake, [redacted]

Fighting continues in the central sector of the Syrian front. A combined Syrian and Iraqi force attacked Israeli positions at dawn yesterday, resulting in heavy tank battles near Al Harrah. [redacted]

[redacted] that Jordan's armored brigade advanced toward Israeli lines from Jasim, but pulled back after having suffered substantial losses, and that an Iraqi unit was [redacted] Tel Aviv's announced strategy is to destroy the forces of other Arab states "piece-meal" before they can join with the Syrians in a unified command. Unconfirmed reports suggest that Syrian forces in the northern sector may have advanced two to three miles to Tell ech Chaar, overlooking the Qunavtirah-Damascus road. [redacted]

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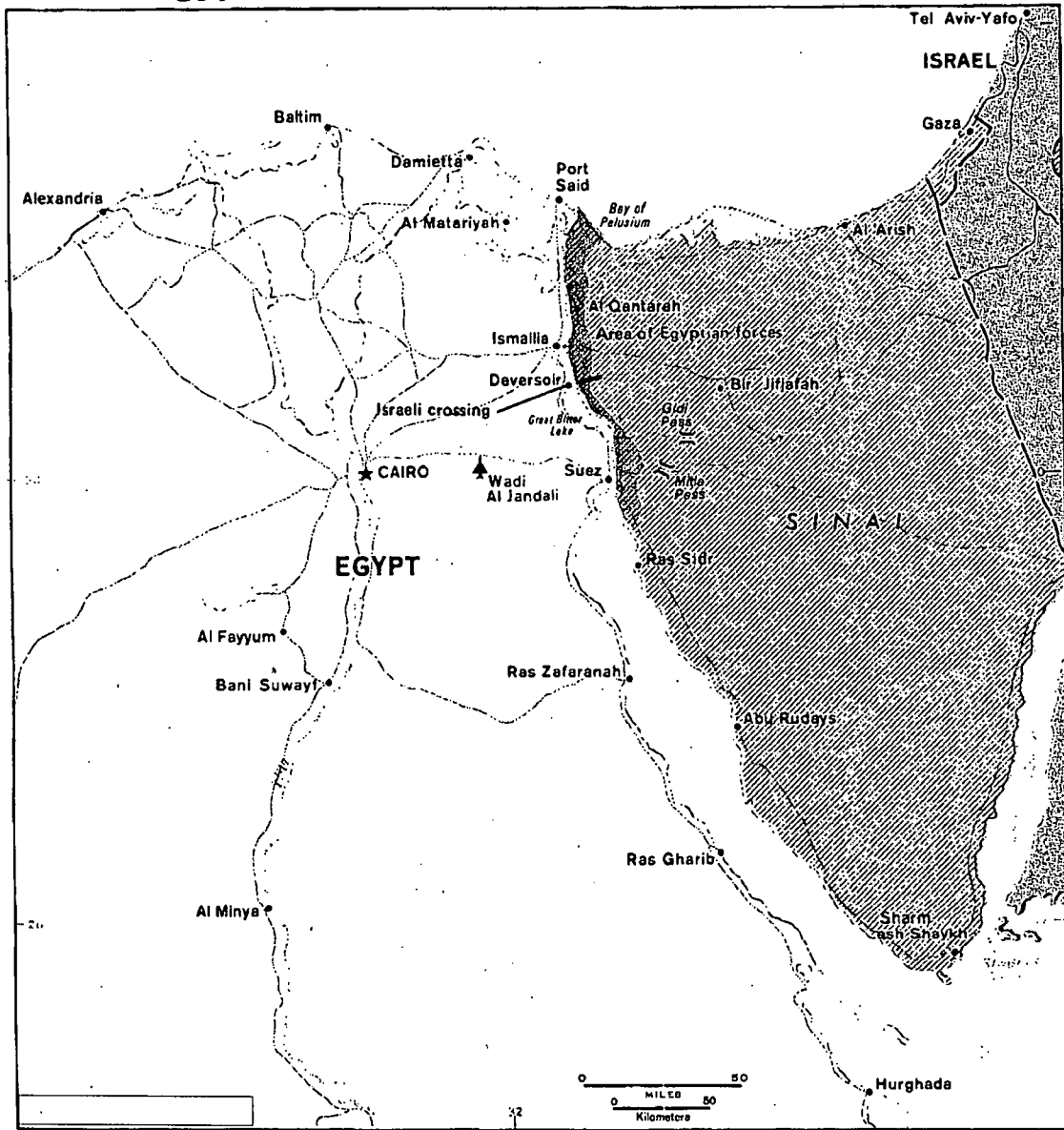
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### The Egyptian Front

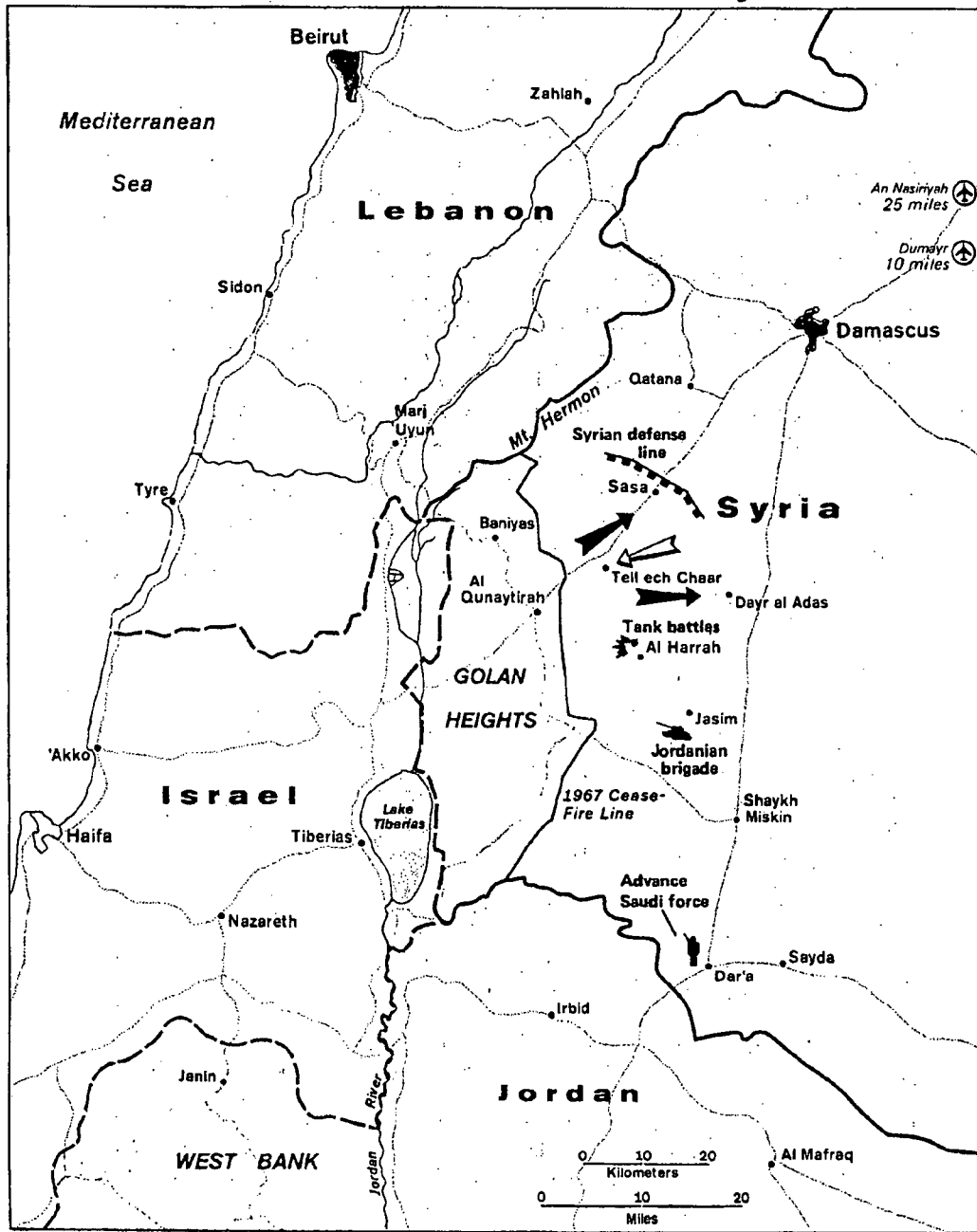


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### The Syrian Front



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 [REDACTED] Soviet pilots yesterday ferried recently assembled MIG-21s from Aleppo in northern Syria to Dumayr and An Nasriye airfields north of Damascus. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] identified a Hawk surface-to-air missile battery in Aleppo, which they surmise was probably supplied by Saudi Arabia.

President Sadat, in a speech yesterday to a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Arab Socialist Union Central Committee, laid out a tough peace proposal coupled with some hints of flexibility. Sadat's position--presented as an open letter to President Nixon--is that Egypt will accept a cease-fire when Israel has agreed to a withdrawal to the boundaries existing prior to the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and that upon completion of such a withdrawal, Egypt will enter into a UN-sponsored international peace conference. This position on Israeli withdrawal appears to be unequivocal, but Sadat's willingness to enter into an international peace conference and his repeated statements that he does not seek to annihilate Israel suggest that he may later accept minor compromises. Sadat made it clear that he will not back Palestinian claims to the territory of Israel proper, although he did call for some recognition of Palestinian rights. In a reference almost certainly designed both to intimidate Israel and to demonstrate that Egypt is exercising restraint, Sadat claimed that "Egyptian-Arab rockets" are capable of striking at any point in Israel, but that he is "aware of the responsibility of using certain types of arms."

In her speech to the Knesset yesterday, Prime Minister Meir said that Tel Aviv would never agree to a cease-fire predicated on an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders. A cease-fire will only come about, according to the Prime Minister, when the Arabs are defeated on both fronts. Meir voiced complete disbelief in Arab claims that their goal is limited to retaking territory lost during the 1967 hostilities, charging that the Arab aim is the destruction of Israel. "This is a war against our

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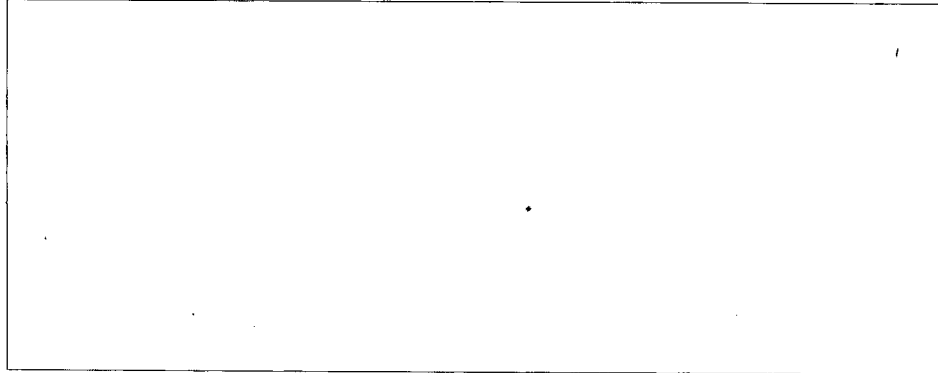
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every existence as a state and a people." In commenting on the military situation, she avoided extravagant claims, reporting only that Syria's "strategic infrastructure" has been seriously damaged and that "signs indicate that Egypt's initiative has been destroyed."



Soviet media continue to issue brief, straightforward accounts of US arms deliveries to Israel. A Moscow radio broadcast yesterday repeated a Western wire service report that US Air Force transports had started arriving in Israel. Another Moscow broadcast, beamed to the Arab world, focused on the need for peace, but chastised Prime Minister Meir for her insistence that peace is contingent on the return to the 6 October cease-fire lines. □



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