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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
19 October 1973

W. [unclear]
10/20/73

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 55
(as of 1130 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

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GENERAL

[Redacted]

2. Egyptian military leaders have been unable to muster sufficient forces to attack the Israeli bridgehead, and the most recent military communique issued by Cairo is cautious in tone. The communique makes no claim of new Egyptian successes and states that the war in the central sector of the front "has intensified." Cairo admits that the Israeli force "which infiltrated at night" has only been partially destroyed.

3. On the Syrian front, the level of ground activity increased this morning. An Israeli military spokesman reports that Syrian, Iraqi, and Jordanian armor

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[Redacted]

State Department
review completed

[Redacted]

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was attacking Israeli positions in the central sector

[Redacted]

EGYPTIAN FRONT

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4. The Israeli force on the west bank may now be as large as a division. Tel Aviv says that the force-- which has over 200 tanks--holds an area eight miles wide and eight miles deep. An Israeli spokesman claims that the force is being supplied through a four mile wide salient held by Israeli forces on the east bank.

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5. According to Israeli reports [Redacted]

[Redacted] the Israeli force on the west bank has been active as far north as Abu Suwayr and as far south as Fayid. Egyptian tanks units were moving into the battle area this morning, but the main Egyptian effort yesterday was carried out by the air force. Israeli spokesman report that two waves of Egyptian aircraft attacked their force, and that 23 Egyptian fighters and helicopters were downed.

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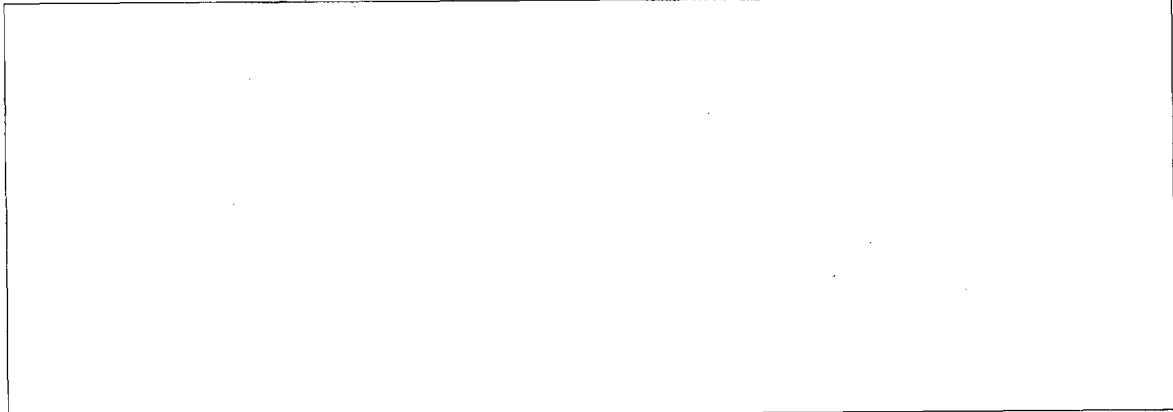
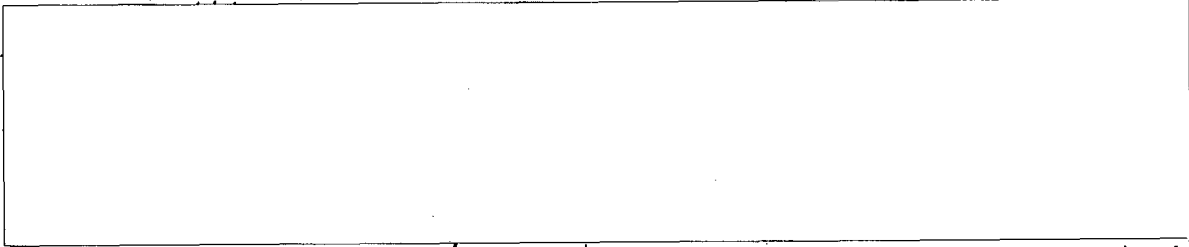
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8. The tone of the latest Egyptian military communique is somber and is notable for its lack of optimistic claims of victories. The communique characterizes the fighting as fierce and admits that the Israeli force on the west bank has not been totally destroyed. The communique only claims that "big losses" have been inflicted on the Israelis.

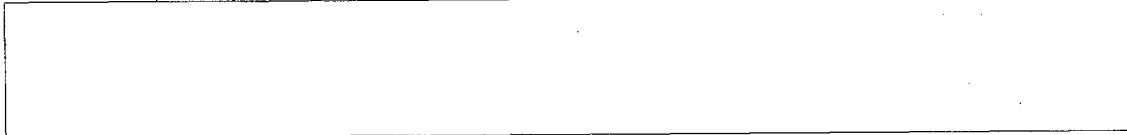
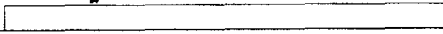
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KOSYGIN IN CAIRO

15. TASS this morning briefly announced that Kosygin has returned to Moscow from Cairo, where it said he had meetings with President Sadat. The dispatch contained no further information. Egyptian press reports indicate that during his visit Kosygin used Soviet Embassy facilities to conduct two telephone conversations with party chief Brezhnev.



EGYPTIAN POSITION ON CEASE-FIRE

16. Commentary from Cairo continues to indicate resistance to an in-place cease-fire. A Cairo news service today quotes Acting Foreign Minister Fahmi as



saying that any cease-fire must be accompanied by a restoration of the international borders "as they were before." Al-Ahram editor Haykal's regular Friday article takes a similar position, stating that it is "imperative" that the Arabs fight on until the aim of the fighting is achieved.

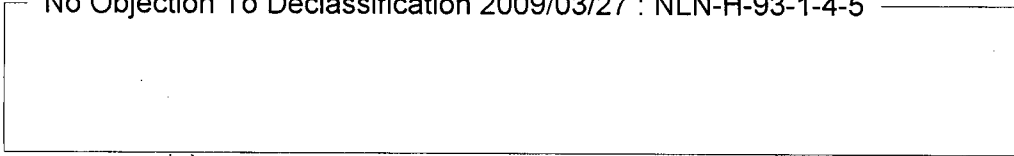
17. Haykal says he believes that a cease-fire is not imminent and warns that, even should one occur, Israel would view it as a breathing spell rather than a surrender. The coincidence of the Fahmi statement and the Haykal article with Soviet Premier Kosygin's visit to Cairo suggests that any effort he may have made to urge a cease-fire on the Egyptians is meeting with some opposition.

THE UN

18. The Security Council--which has not met since 12 October--has no present plans to resume its emergency session. Members do not intend to act until some definite proposal is prepared--a step that still seems to await decisive developments on the battlefield. UN Middle East envoy Jarring has no immediate plans to return to New York because he also feels that the situation is not yet ready for a peace initiative.

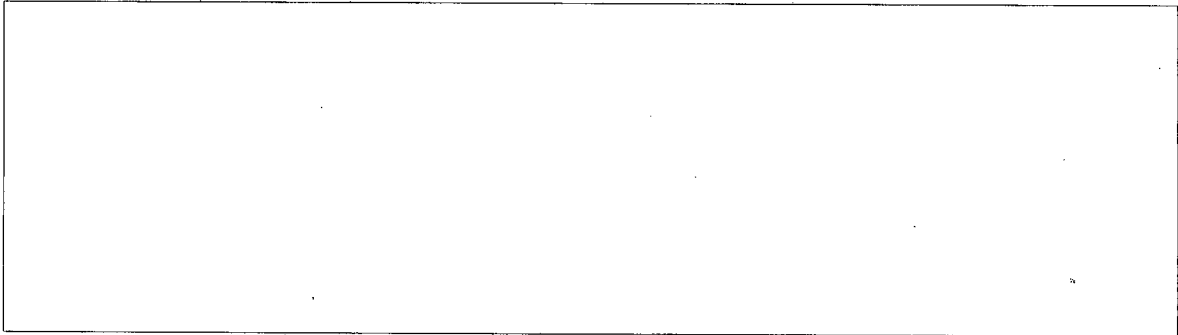
19. Arab foreign ministers at the UN will meet again this afternoon to plan diplomatic activities supporting Sadat's five-point statement. They should firm up their proposed visits to European capitals--most of the ministers intend to leave New York within the next few days. The ministers have agreed to return, however, if Egypt takes the Middle East issue to the General Assembly, where the Arabs would be unhampered by great power vetoes. Egypt has apparently been in contact with Yugoslavia concerning a draft resolution. As a Security Council member, Yugoslavia could introduce a resolution which, if vetoed, would open the possibility of a special session of the Assembly.

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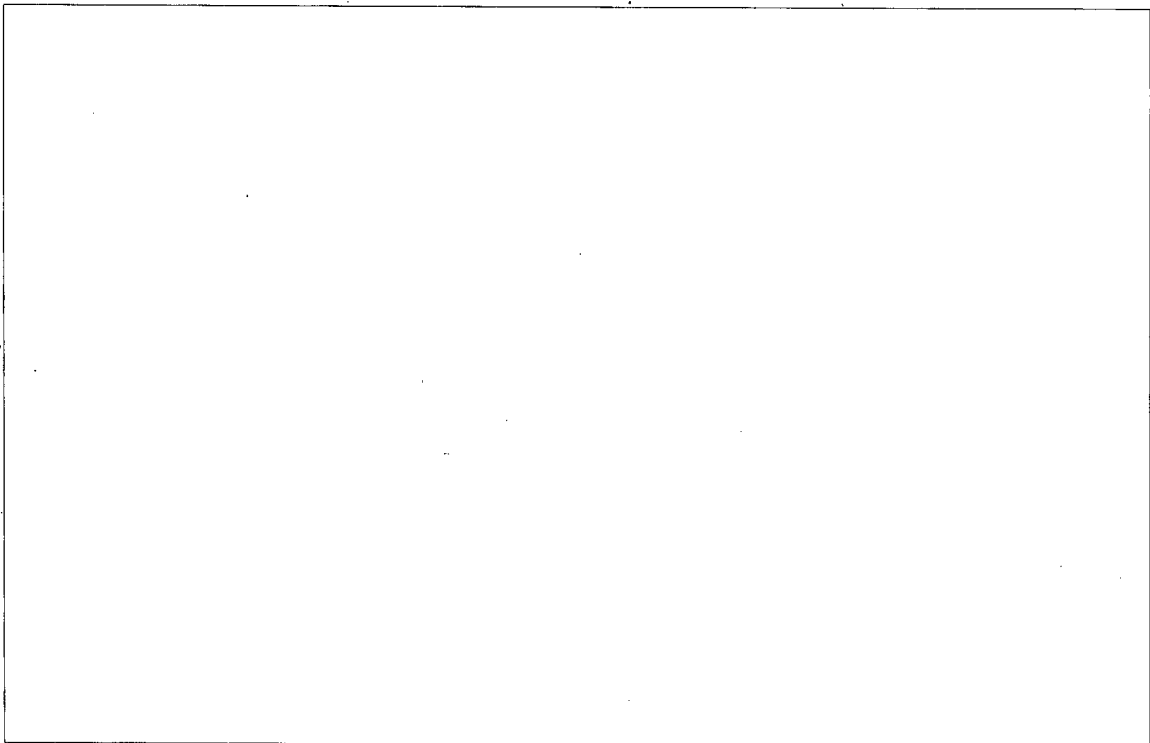
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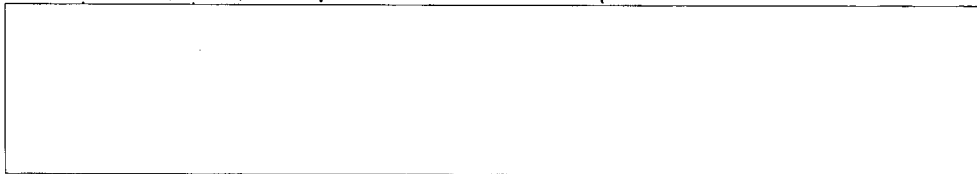


21. A later announcement on Jerusalem radio claimed that by 18 October, Israel had captured a total of 945 Egyptian and Syrian prisoners.

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LEBANON

23. All the terrorists involved in the attack on the Bank of America in Beirut were either killed or wounded when Lebanese security forces stormed the building early this morning. A US citizen who had been held as one of the hostages was killed by the terrorists shortly before the bank was retaken. The US Embassy believes the government took firm action in order to signal the fedayeen that it will not tolerate lawlessness. The embassy also believes that the fact that the terrorists did not belong to any fedayeen group reduces the risk of a retaliatory attack on US interests.

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