

EO 13526 3.3(b)(6)>25Yrs

~~TOP SECRET~~

*Memorandum  
to Lehman  
to Colby*

24 October 1973

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: De Facto Middle East Cease-Fire Lines  
and Alleged Violations

1. The available evidence does not allow us to define precisely the de facto lines of control at the time of the first cease-fire deadline on 22 October.

The situation on the two fronts on the evening of 22 October is roughly as follows:

a. Syrian Front. The Israelis claimed control of all territory from the summit of Mount Hermon southeast to Sasa, then down to a point east of Tell Aantar, then west to the border. Since the Israelis had just occupied the slopes of Mount Hermon that day,  indicated continued Syrian resistance after the cease-fire deadline in the area.

b. Egyptian Front. Tel Aviv admitted that the Egyptians controlled two areas along the east bank of the canal to a depth of up to six miles. The northern sector extended from a point east of Ismailia north to the marsh region southeast of Port Said. The southern sector extended from a point east of the southern tip of Great Bitter Lake down to the Port Tawfiq area. The Israelis claimed control of a broad area of the west bank from a point well beyond Ismailia south to near Jabal al Jufrah, and then roughly southeast to a point south of Shallufa. Cairo violently disputes this claim, however,

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE - CIA INFO □ DATE: 29-Aug-2012

[redacted] Due to the mobile tactics which the relatively small Israeli armored forces on the west bank employed, much of the ground may not actually have been occupied, and the tactical situation could be extremely fluid. In addition, the Israelis had seized territory around Shallufa during the day, and fighting was still heavy near the cease-fire deadline.

[redacted]

3. With the onset of the second cease-fire at 1:00 AM EDT this morning, air activity over Syria and along the Suez Canal was limited to defensive patrols and reconnaissance flights. A few ground support strikes and medical evacuation flights in support of Israeli forces on the west bank of the canal have also occurred. Significant ground force activity is centered near Suez City on the west bank of the canal. The Israelis continued to attack an Egyptian naval facility there some two hours after the cease-fire.

[redacted]

[redacted] The arrival of additional Israelis in launches at the port facility evidently led the Egyptians there to resume fighting.

[redacted]

4. With the successful drive to the Gulf of Suez nearly complete, the Israelis now claim to have cut the supply routes to the Egyptian forces in the southern sector of the east bank, isolating them from any chance of an easy retreat. Artillery exchanges and skirmishing on the east bank continues.