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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

24 October 1973

*Wednesday  
morning*

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 74  
(as of 0630 EDT)

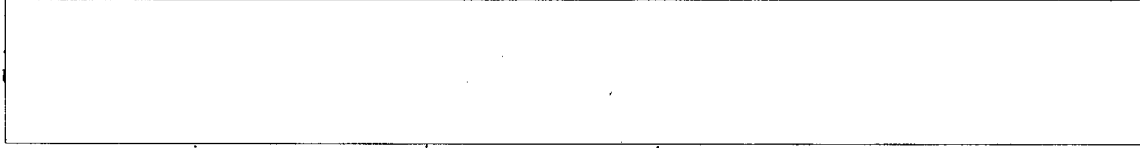
THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. Both Israel and Egypt agreed to a second cease-fire to take effect at 0100 EDT this morning. The second cease-fire proposal had been adopted Tuesday evening by the UN Security Council. Syria also announced late last night that it accepted the UN cease-fire resolution. Egypt and Syria conditioned their acceptance upon complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

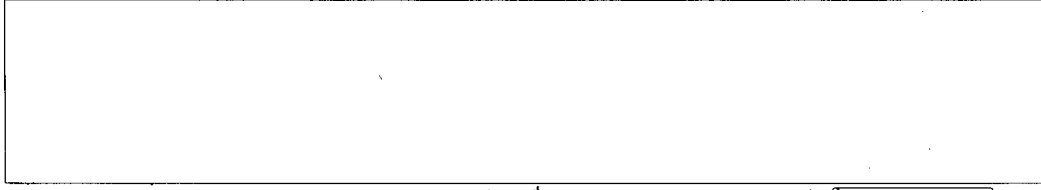
2. The Israeli Chief of Staff instructed all Israeli forces along the Suez Canal to observe the cease-fire as of the 0100 deadline suggested by Israeli Defense Minister Dayan.

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3. Following the cease-fire, air activity in Syria and along the Suez Canal included defensive patrolling, reconnaissance flights, and possibly some Israeli air support for its ground units on the west



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MORI/CDF

bank. Light ground skirmishing had continued also along the east bank of the canal and near Suez City on the west bank where an Egyptian naval facility at Adabiya was under attack by an Israeli armored unit.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

4. Tel Aviv has admitted that the Egyptians control two areas along the east bank of the canal to a depth of up to six miles. In the north the Egyptians hold a sector extending from a point east of Ismailia north to the marsh region southeast of Port Said. The southern sector extends from a point east of the southern tip of the Great Bitter Lake south to Port Tawfiq, opposite Suez City on the Gulf of Suez. The Egyptians had not been able to expand their foothold in the Sinai since Monday.

5. On the west bank the Israelis claim control of a broad area from a point about 20 miles west of Ismailia, south to near Jabal al Jufrah, and roughly south-east to the outskirts of Suez City. Israeli advances on the west bank since Monday have been mainly confined to the Suez City area where they claim to have isolated the southern concentration of Egyptian forces on the east bank.

SYRIAN FRONT

7. The Israelis claim control of all territory from the summit of Mount Hermon southeast through Sasa and extending to a point east of Tell Aantar, and then west to the 1967 cease-fire line. There is no evidence that any Syrian forces remain intact within this area and are still offering resistance. There had been no significant advances by either side since Monday's short-lived cease-fire.

8. Last night, Israeli Saar-class missile boats participated in the shelling of the ports of Baniyas and Latakia. Small fedayeen units were active near the Golan Heights. No major ground force activity was noted on either side. Air activity was limited to defensive patrols and reconnaissance flights.

SOVIET AIRLIFT

9. Soviet transport flight activity to the Middle East on 23 October dropped to its lowest level since the military airlift began two weeks ago. Only 20 aircraft arrived, down from 55 the previous day. Of 14 AN-12 arrivals, eight went to Syria, three to Iraq, two to Egypt, and one to an undisclosed location. Five of six AN-22 arrivals landed in Cairo. These aircraft carried 440 tons of military cargo, about one-half of the total delivered in each of the three previous days.

10. As of 0600 this morning, no Soviet transport aircraft have been en route to or scheduled for the Middle East. The absence of flight activity thus far today, while unusual, does not preclude the possibility that sizable numbers of aircraft will leave later in the day for Middle East destinations.

SOVIET SEALIFT

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AT THE UNITED NATIONS

12. The UN Security Council resolution approved last night, again co-sponsored by the US and the Soviet Union,

--reaffirms Monday's call for a cease-fire and urges all parties to return to the positions they occupied at the time the truce became effective (1:00 PM EDT October 22).

--requests that the Secretary-General dispatch UN observers to supervise the cease-fire along the Egyptian front.

12. This first effort of the Council to enforce its much-violated cease-fire should bring UN observers quickly into place. It avoids, however, the difficult problem of where the cease-fire line should be drawn and also failed to address the questions of how to initiate peace negotiations or how to implement the ambiguous Resolution 242. While there is continuing resentment of US-Soviet dominance, Council members seem to be awaiting initiatives from Washington and Moscow on these issues also.

13. Three observer teams were being sent immediately to the west bank of the Suez Canal; Egypt has approved their deployment. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is scheduled to meet today with a UN representative to discuss placement of observers along the east bank. Some UN observer teams have remained on the Syrian front throughout the war. The Council will eventually have to consider, however, the need for additional observers in both areas.

14. Although the resolution was approved without opposition, the meeting was marked by stormy debate. China, which again refused to participate, in the vote, vehemently objected to superpowers' use of the Security Council as a rubber stamp. A heated exchange between Chinese and Soviet Ambassadors on this point forces the president to adjourn the session for a quarter of an hour. While non-aligned

states also deplored the lack of time for consultations, there were no efforts to oppose the resolution or offer alternatives.

15. Israel accused Egypt of continuing attacks in violation of the cease-fire. Ambassador Tekoah stated that Israel would stop fighting as soon as Egypt stops and reiterated the requirement that all prisoners of war be returned.

16. Egyptian Foreign Minister Zayyat emphasized the Arab demand that all occupied territories be returned, indicating that Cairo now considers this a responsibility of the superpowers.

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RESENTMENT AGAINST US IN JORDANIAN OFFICER CORPS

17. [redacted] resentment<sup>25X1</sup> is growing in the Jordanian Army over the US resupply effort to Israel. The resentment reportedly has been intensified by Jordan's inability to get equipment from the US that has been provided the Israelis. [redacted]

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SAUDI ARABIA

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A KGB VIEW OF THE SITUATION

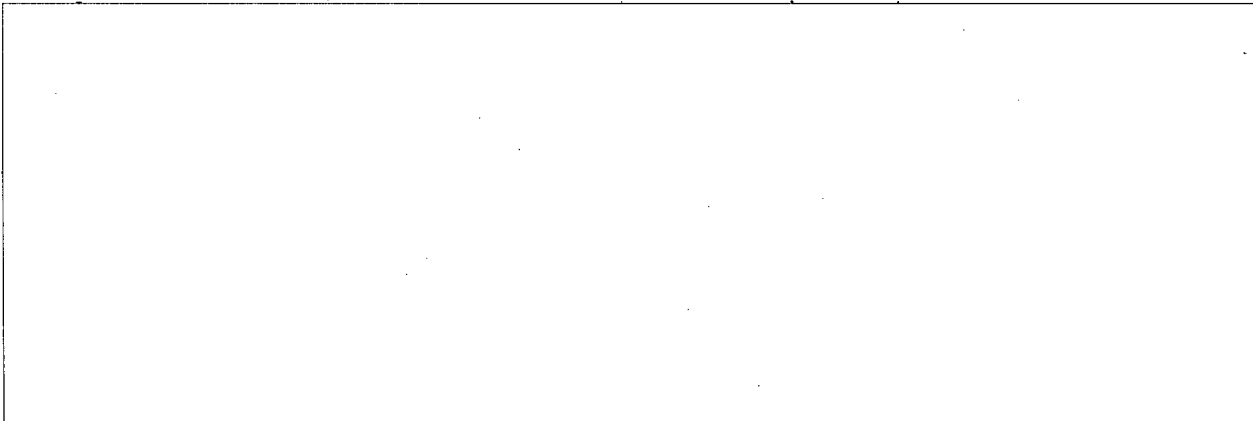
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CHINA

20. The Chinese press, in its first direct comment on the US-Soviet resolution calling for a Middle East cease-fire, accused Washington and Moscow of trying to "put out the blazing fire of this just war." The Chinese characterized calls for an in-place cease-fire as an effort by the US and the USSR to maintain the stalemate for their own selfish ends. The commentary by the New China News Agency followed closely the arguments put forward by China's UN representatives, who declined to support the Security Council resolution.

