

State Dept. review completed



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DIA Review Completed.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
24 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

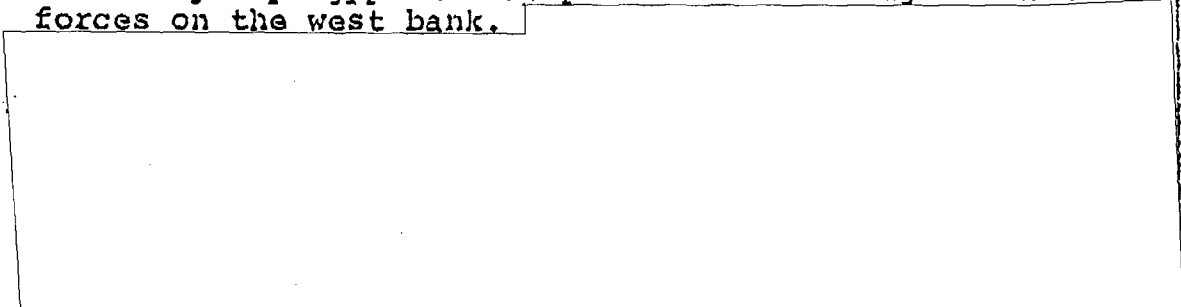
Situation Report Number 75
(as of 1130 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. Fighting continued on the Egyptian front this morning, but the Syrian front appears quiet. Tel Aviv, announcing that the cease-fire had broken down in the southern sector of the canal, claimed that the cause was an attempt by Egyptian troops to break through Israeli forces on the west bank.

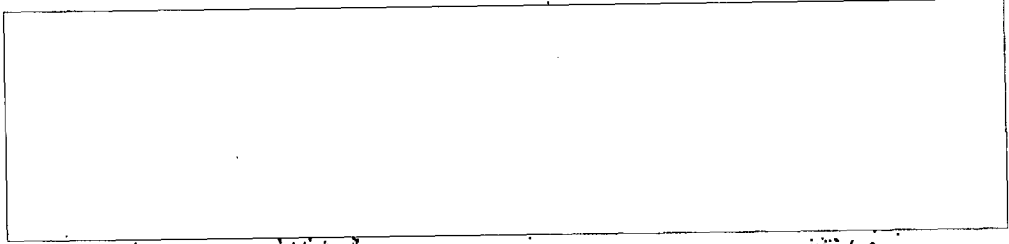
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EGYPTIAN FRONT

2. Ground and air action continued through the morning in the vicinity of Suez and Port Tawfiq. There are no reports of fighting in the central or northern sectors. Tel Aviv claimed that the Egyptian forces are

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attempting to extricate Third Army units on the east bank near Suez. At least 42 Israeli aircraft flew strike missions about dawn against targets in the Suez City area. Tel Aviv claims that 15 Egyptian aircraft were shot down as the Egyptian air force attacked Israeli positions in the southern sector. At about 1340 local, [redacted]

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[redacted]

3. An Israeli military spokesman said the Egyptian force in the southern sector of the east bank is isolated and completely surrounded. He said the Egyptian force consists of about two and one-half divisions of the Third Army, which he credited with 200 tanks, 60 artillery battalions, and some infantry units. He claimed that these units were running short of fuel, ammunition, and water.

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[redacted]

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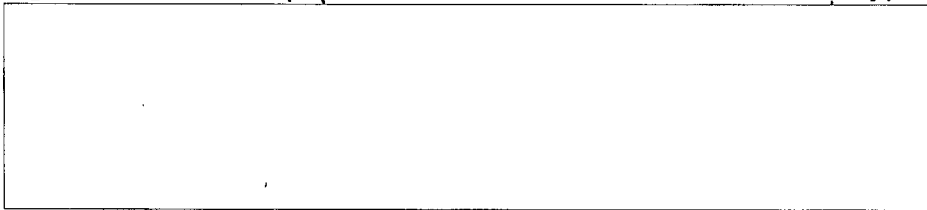
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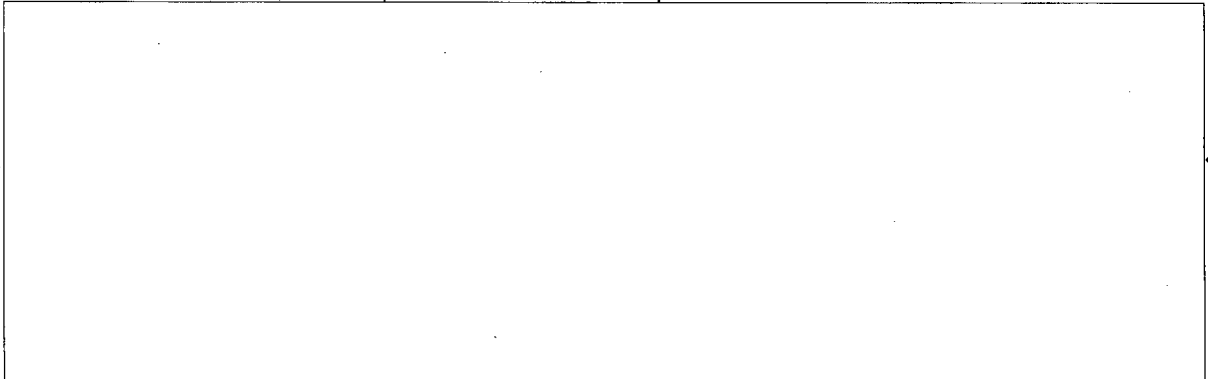
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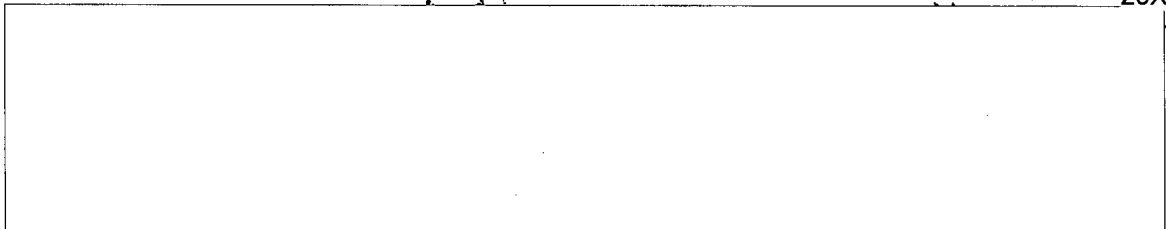


ISRAEL

11. In a conversation with the US defense attache, an Israeli general officer stated that the Israeli forces could contain another Syrian tank attack even if outnumbered 3 to 1. In attributing this capability to Israeli forces, he noted the decisive role TOW antitank missiles have played in the action on the Syrian front.

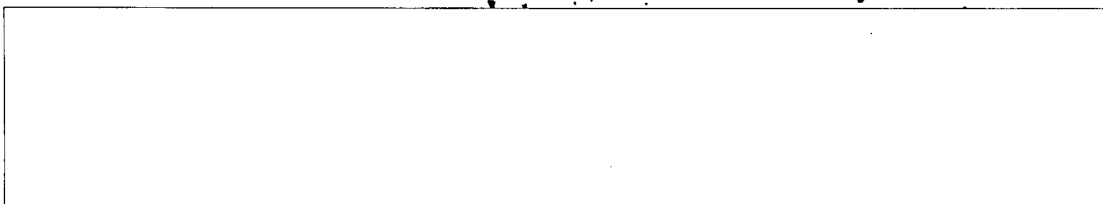
12. The Israeli military attache in Washington says the Israeli forces have an SA-6 surface-to-air missile that had failed to detonate. The attache indicated that Tel Aviv was prepared to exploit the missile for technical intelligence purposes jointly with the US.

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OIL

14. Iraq, Algeria, Qatar, and Kuwait have embargoed oil shipments to The Netherlands as well as the United States. If other Arab states join the embargo, The Netherlands--long considered Israel's best friend in Europe--could lose some 70 percent of its imports and come under



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considerable pressure to modify its foreign policy. However, because almost all Dutch imports are controlled by the major international oil companies, there is an excellent chance that the embargo can be circumvented somewhat by intra-company maneuvers. Moreover, as more than half of Dutch imports are normally re-exported, it will be difficult for the Arabs to cut Dutch supplies without affecting other West European countries.

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CHINA

16. Chinese chagrin over US-Soviet cooperation in initiating the cease-fire resolution passed by the Security Council on Sunday night was evident in the remarks of a bitter Chinese official to a USUN mission officer that Peking's failure to veto the resolution had been a mistake. He said it was only the urging of its "Arab friends" that persuaded China not to veto and warned that "this is the last time" Peking would allow US and Soviet collusion in the Security Council to go unopposed.

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LATE ITEM

18. According to Cairo radio, Egypt has informed UN Secretary General Waldheim that Israel is impeding UN observers from reaching their positions. Egypt claims Israel is doing this so it can continue to violate the cease-fire.

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