

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL - USSR: Both fronts were relatively quiet yesterday. Most forces appeared to be under orders to observe the cease-fire.

The Egyptians claim to have beaten off a small attack on Suez city during the day, but otherwise only scattered firing was reported. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Egyptian 3rd Army remains cut off on the east bank, but there are no indications that it is about to surrender.

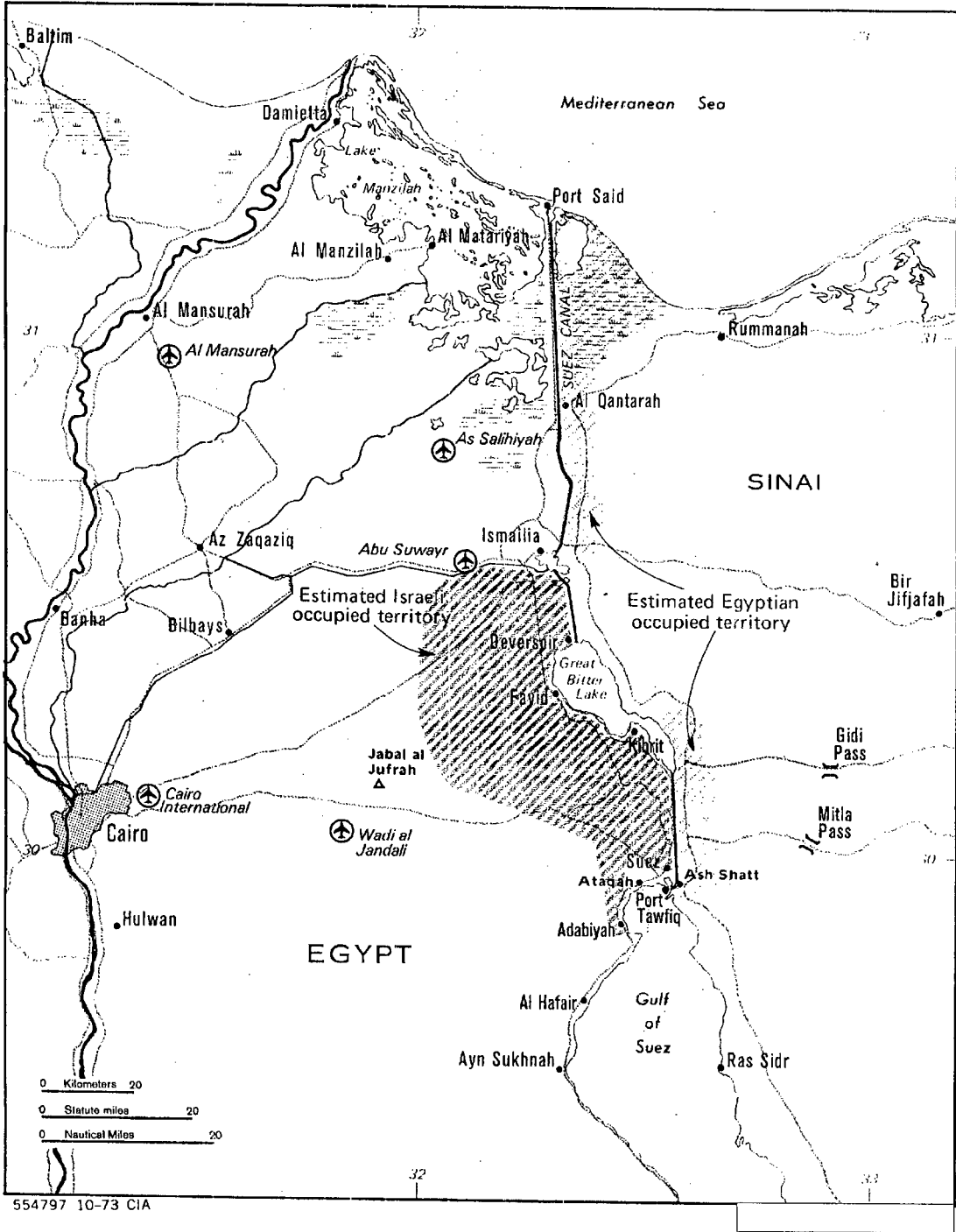
The Syrian front was quiet except for some ground activity in the central sector. [REDACTED]

There has been no public Soviet reaction to the announcement that US forces are on alert. The initial TASS report on Secretary Kissinger's press conference yesterday is positive, and gives no hint of US concern about Soviet intentions. TASS stresses the Secretary's remarks regarding joint Soviet-US actions to resolve the crisis and quotes his references to the "most promising" possibilities for peace in the Middle East.

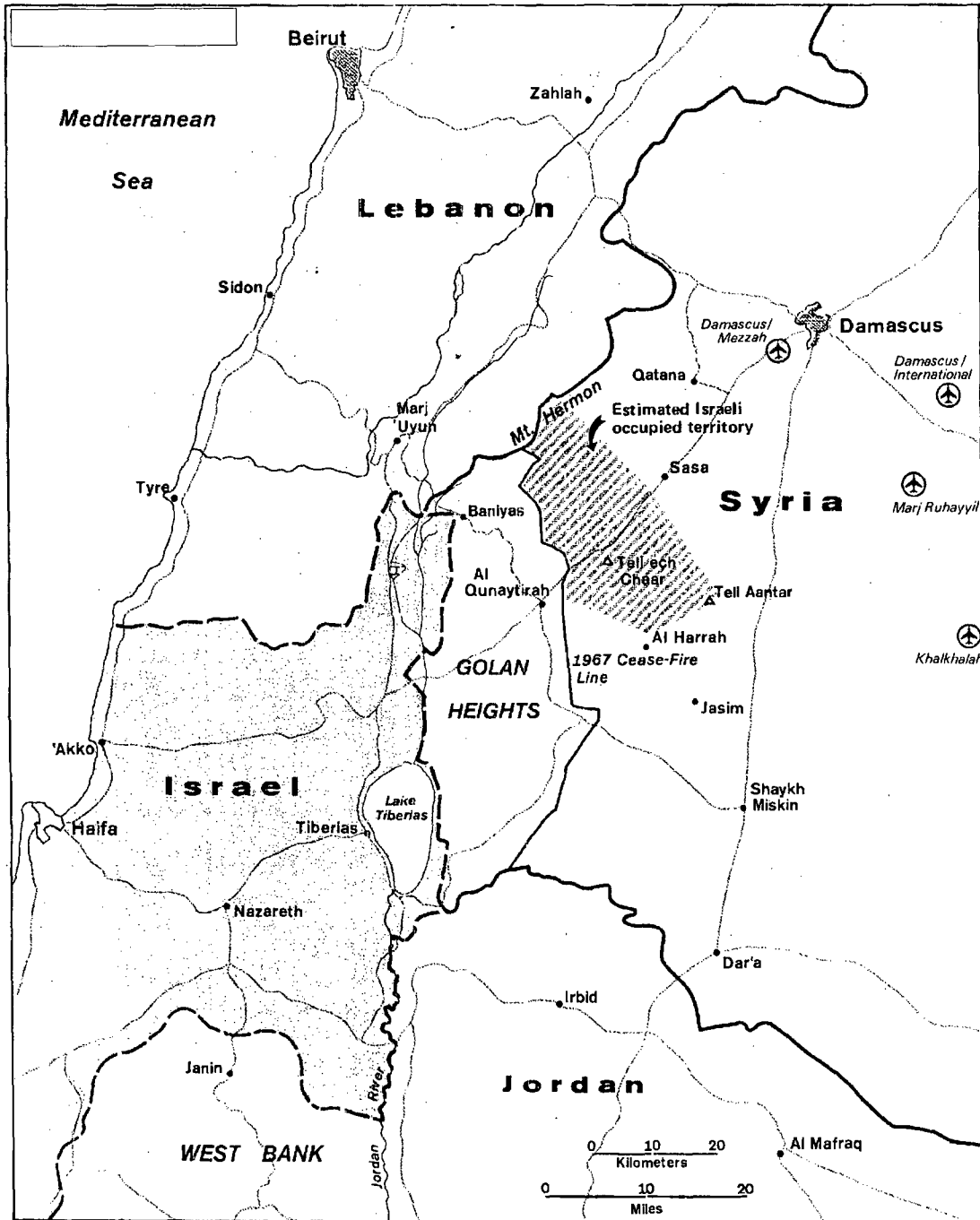
At the UN, the Security Council approved a resolution by eight nonaligned nations authorizing a new UN Emergency Force. The vote was 14-0, with China abstaining. Agreement was assured when the Soviets and the nonaligned members agreed to a US amendment excluding troops of the permanent members of the Security Council from participating in the proposed force. Last evening Secretary General Waldheim announced he was transferring more than 900 men from UN forces on Cyprus to the Middle East as an "interim measure." The maximum authorized strength of the current UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) force in the Middle East is 221.

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Suez Canal Zone



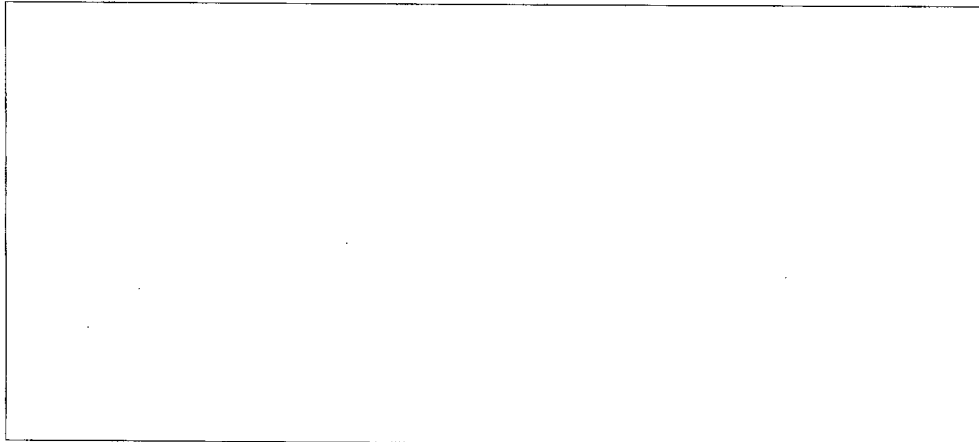
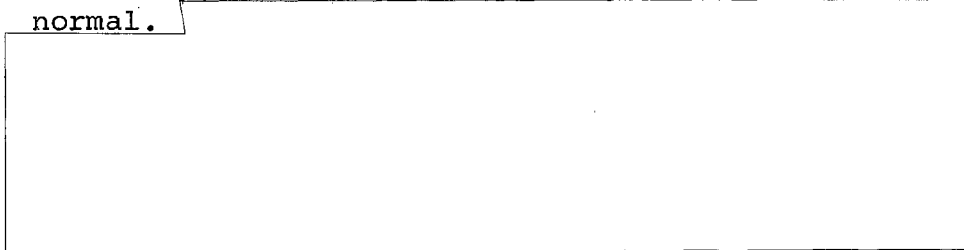
The Syrian Front



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The Security Council resolution and the Secretary General's alacrity in moving to implement it has probably reduced--at least for the present--the threat of unilateral Soviet action. The Communists clearly intend to play a more active role in UN peacekeeping than heretofore. During the Security Council debate, Soviet Ambassador Malik indicated that he expected troops from Communist and nonaligned countries to participate in the new peacekeeping force.

Soviet military activity generally remains normal.



Part of the Soviet naval force near Crete began moving south toward the combat area after US forces were alerted on 25 October. The ships are now holding in a position about 100 nautical miles north of the Egyptian coast. Included in the force are a missile frigate, three destroyers, and two amphibious ships. A Kotlin-class destroyer has

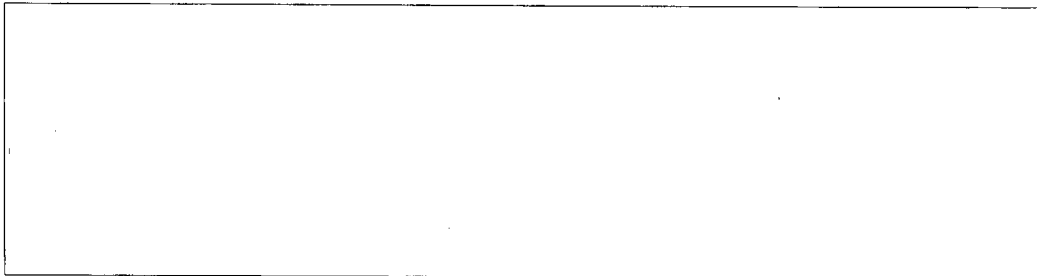
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also moved closer to the combat area and is now holding at a position about 80 nautical miles north of Port Said.

The Soviets are probably anticipating the arrival of US ships in the eastern Mediterranean. When the carriers Roosevelt and Kennedy join the Independence in the eastern Mediterranean, the US will have from 25 to 30 ships in the area.



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Israeli Prime Minister Meir yesterday publicly reaffirmed her full confidence in Defense Minister Dayan. Her statement was made in response to press reports that Justice Minister Shapiro had criticized Dayan as being responsible for Israel's alleged lack of preparedness when the Egyptian and Syrian armies struck on 6 October. Shapiro, a member of a rival faction in Mrs. Meir's Israel Labor Party, had been close to the Prime Minister in the past but reportedly has drifted away from her in recent months. His criticism reflects some of the views of conservative groups in Israel which have also criticized the government's acceptance of the cease-fire. []