

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: Several violations of the cease-fire on both the northern and the southern sectors of the Egyptian front yesterday and reports of heavy Egyptian troop movements may be harbingers of a higher level of military activity.

The Syrian front remained calm yesterday, but in the Sinai Israeli military spokesmen claim that Egyptian forces violated the cease-fire four times. One small clash occurred between a Third Army patrol and Israeli forces in the southern sector, and the Egyptians conducted three attacks in the Second Army area in the northern Sinai--the first there since the cease-fire. The fighting in the northern sector included Egyptian tank and infantry attacks which lasted for six hours before the Egyptians were reportedly stopped. Israeli spokesmen have stated that the Egyptians made some initial gains and still hold some of the ground taken during the fighting.

The Israelis claim that the attacks were not particularly large or militarily significant. Nonetheless, press reports from Tel Aviv have cited concern in Israeli military circles about the possibility of renewed Egyptian attacks in the northern sector. Defense Minister Dayan said yesterday that Egypt can definitely be expected to renew fighting along the Suez front which could involve Egypt's Second Army. Last night another spokesman indicated his belief that the Egyptians are in position for military action; "we are ready for it," he said.

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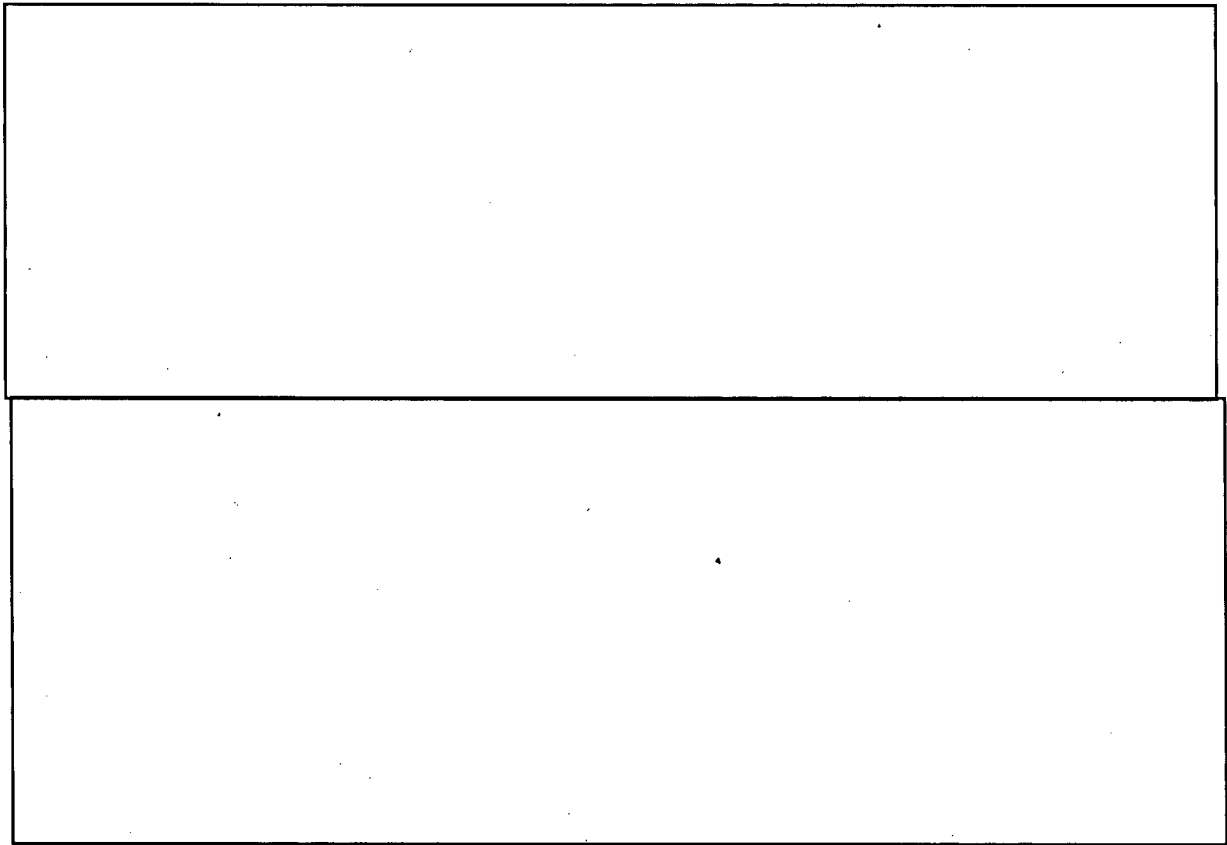
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Libyan President Qadhafi and Algerian President Boumediene are in the midst of separate whirlwind tours of Middle East capitals, and other Arab leaders appear on the verge of similar trips. Since the first of the month, Qadhafi and Boumediene have visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria; Boumediene also visited Kuwait. Tunisian Foreign Minister Masmoudi completed a week's visit to the Egyptian capital yesterday. The meetings have undoubtedly included an exchange of views on future strategy in view of Secretary Kissinger's visit, and Qadhafi and Boumediene have probably attempted to press a hard line on their more moderate colleagues. Lobbying for an Arab summit conference, possibly to be held in Cairo or Algiers within a week, may also have been on the agenda.

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