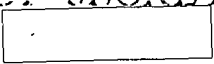


6 November 1973

DCI BRIEFING FOR
6 NOVEMBER WSAG MEETINGTHE MIDDLE EASTStatus of the Cease-Fire

- I. The cease-fire remains generally in force, despite daily clashes on the Egyptian front.
- A. The Egyptians' 3rd Army remains cut off, and a major attempt to break out is a very live possibility.
1. The army's combat capabilities are probably declining daily, and it cannot survive as a fighting force indefinitely.
 2. Costly Egyptian efforts to bridge the canal, and efforts to resupply the army by air at night indicate that the encircled force is running short of food, water, and medicine. The Israelis have permitted only about 100 UN-driven trucks through the lines. Another 50 trucks may have been authorized today.

State, NAVY, USAF reviews
completed[REDACTED]
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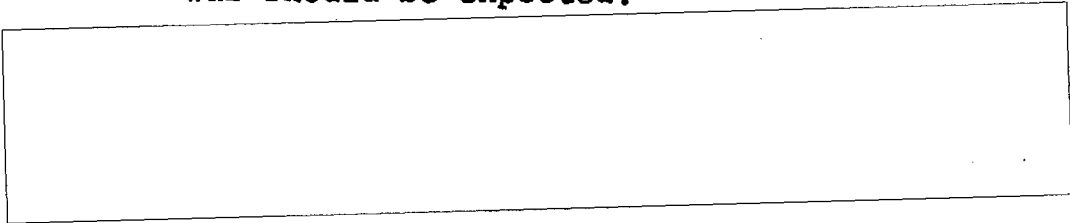
3. Some reports suggest that as its supplies give out, the 3rd Army may mount a desperation attack to break out--although we doubt that in its present state it could sustain intensive combat for more than 12 hours.

B. Pressures are said to be mounting in Cairo to have Egyptian forces launch major attacks on all fronts to ease the situation in the south.

1. A senior UN observer reports that some 15,000 to 20,000 Egyptian troops have moved to the northern sector in the past few days.

2. Yesterday, for the first time since the cease-fire, clashes were reported in the north. The Israelis say that Egyptian tanks and infantry were driven off after six hours' fighting.

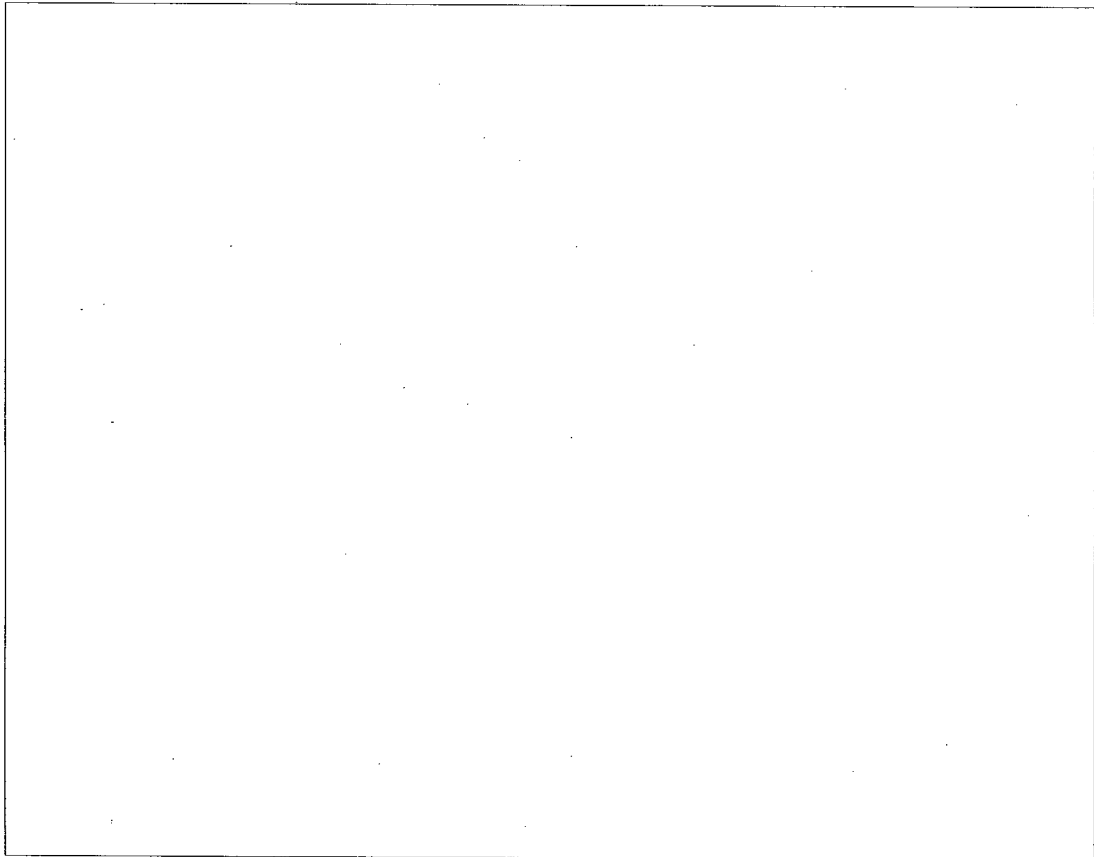
3. The Cairo press continues to claim that Egypt is prepared to resume the war, and Israeli Defense Minister ^aDyan says that war should be expected.



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- D. The Syrian front has been quiet, at least until today.
1. Press reports from Damascus this morning claim Israeli aircraft attacked Syrian ground positions. We have observed unusual numbers of Israeli aircraft flying high defensive patrols over Syria today, but cannot confirm any low-level attacks.
 2. President Asad, too, is reported to be under



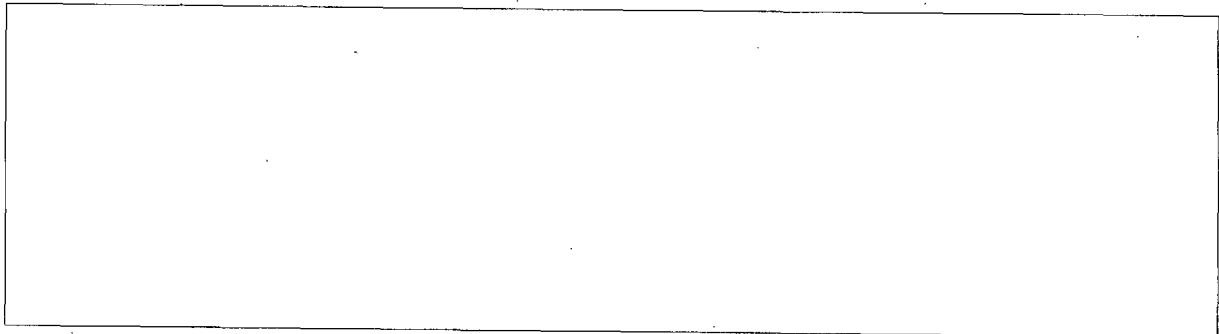
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pressure to resume the war. Reservists under 17 and over 45 are being mobilized.

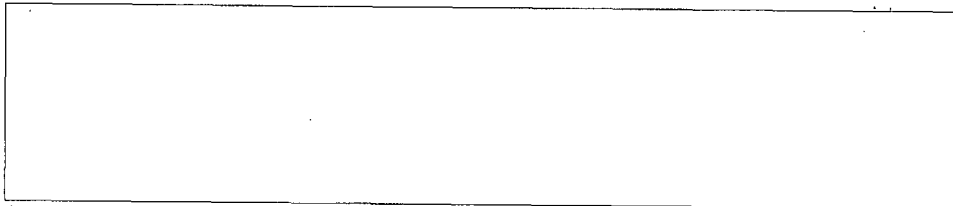
II. As for the Soviet resupply effort, the sealift is still substantial. Some 91,000 tons of cargo have already arrived or are en route to Egyptian and Syrian ports, on 38 ships. No new ships have joined the movement since Sunday, however.

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B. By last weekend the Soviet naval squadron in the Mediterranean reached an all-time high of 95 ships and submarines, compared with around 45 to 50.

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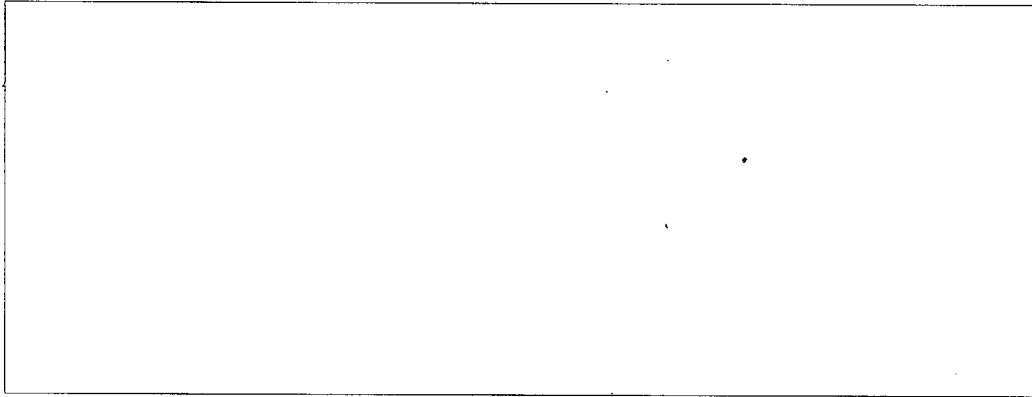
2. Only six surface combatants are now involved in surveillance of the US carriers southwest of Crete.

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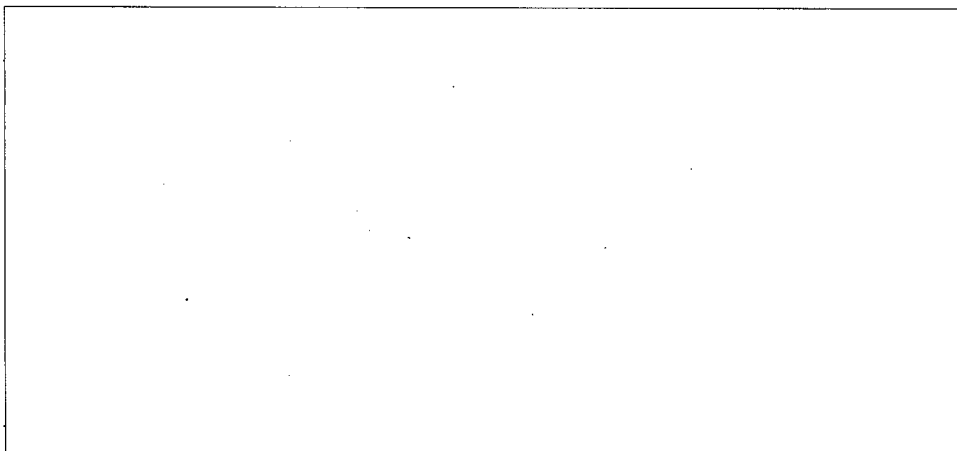
III.



A. These reports include:

- arrival of three Soviet armored units by sea on October 26.
- the presence this month of Soviet SAM units near Latakia
- the presence of as many as 3,000 Russians, mostly assigned to anti-aircraft units around Damascus, Latakia, and Dayr Az-Zawr airfield, and
- Scud missiles are also said to be deployed near Damascus.

B.



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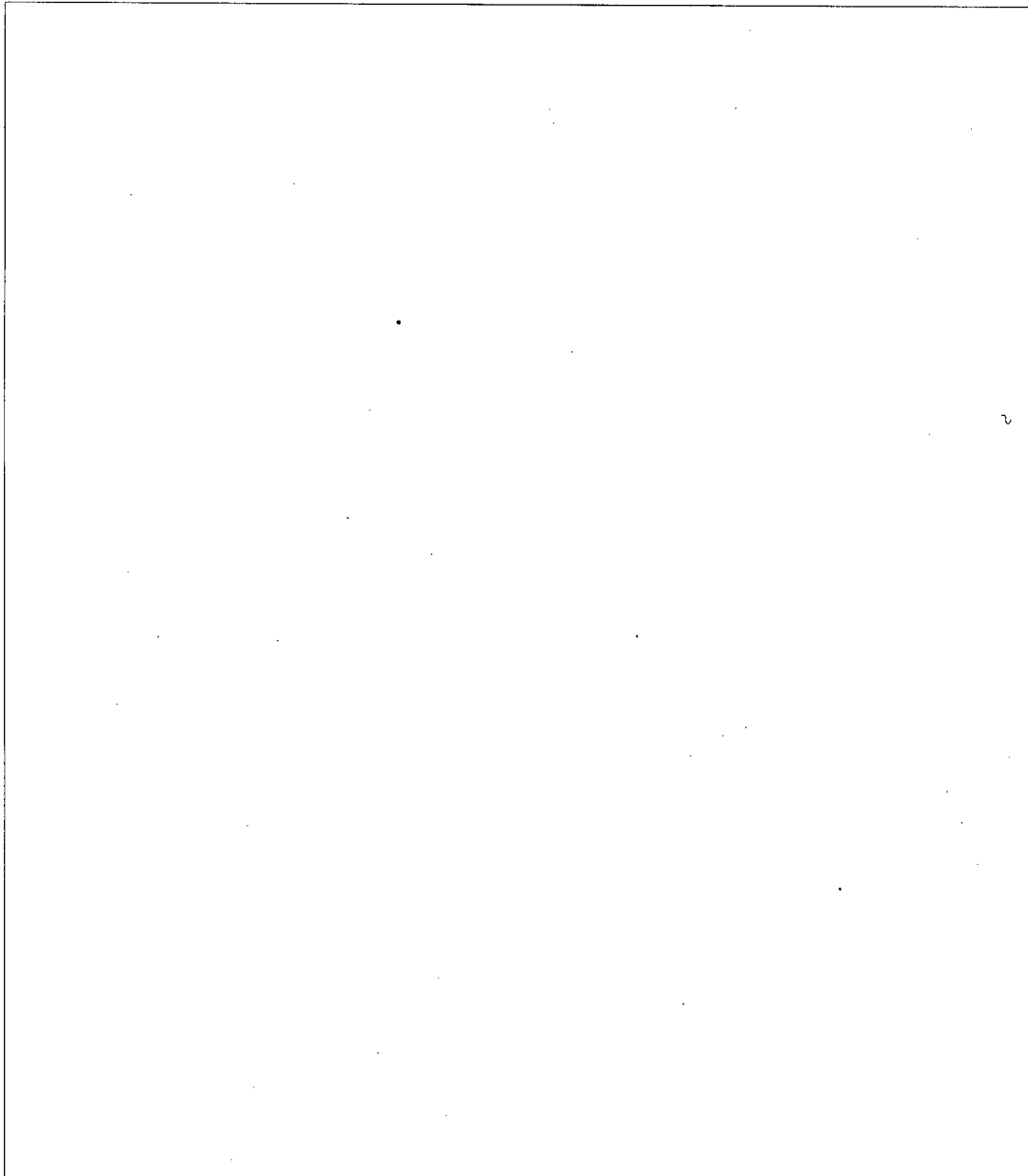
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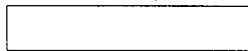
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1. This could be an indication of a rapid resupply effort to the Arabs or actual Soviet units being shipped to the Middle East.



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1. There has not been any diplomatic activity suggesting that Moscow is considering this course of action, however. Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuzentsov arrived in Cairo on 30 October and continued on to Damascus on 3 November. His mission is unknown, but we have thought that he was coordinating Arab-Soviet negotiations strategy.

E. There were approximately 1,400 Soviet advisors and technicians in Syria at the outbreak of hostilities; they have been observed in such activities as ferrying aircraft, training pilots and manning electronic equipment associated with SAMs.

1. Some of the units employing Soviet advisors may have assumed a more aggressive posture, particularly after Soviet facilities, like the freighter in Latakia, were damaged by Israeli forces, but we cannot confirm or exclude the arrival of new Soviet combat units in Syria.

1. Yet we are better off than most major consumers because of our domestic production and potential saving from a relatively large amount of nonessential energy consumption.
2. Most other major consuming countries are trying to cut their losses without alienating either the Arabs or the US. The Arabs promise to favor their "friends"-- notably Britain and France--which greatly complicates the EC's efforts to formulate a common policy.