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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
9 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 114
(As of 1300 EST)

GENERAL

1. Both fronts were calm today after the downing of an Israeli aircraft by an Egyptian SAM this morning. Various military units were warned [Redacted] to be prepared for Israeli retaliation, and although Israeli aircraft have been noted active over the canal front and over northern Israel through early afternoon, there are no reports of significant incidents involving Israeli aircraft or ground units. Except for extensive Israeli reconnaissance missions over the canal front, there are no new indications of an imminent resumption of hostilities. Press reports of shelling on the Syrian front cannot be confirmed from other sources.

2. According to a Reuters report from Tel Aviv, Israel has announced that it will accept the six-point agreement with Egypt, announced by Secretary Kissinger, only after a special cabinet meeting called for this evening. The Israeli press is still claiming that lifting of the Bab al-Mandab blockade is a condition of the agreement.

KISSINGER ANNOUNCEMENT

3. Secretary Kissinger announced today the following agreement between Egypt and Israel:

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- Egypt and Israel agree to observe scrupulously the cease-fire called for by the UN Security Council;
- both sides agree that discussions between them will begin immediately to settle the question of a return to the 22 October battlelines;
- the town of Suez will receive daily supplies of food, water, and medicine, and all wounded civilians in the city will be evacuated;
- there shall be no impediments to the movement of non-military supplies to the east bank of the Suez;
- Israeli checkpoints along the Cairo-Suez road will be replaced by UN checkpoints, but at the Suez end of the road, Israeli military officers can monitor resupply cargo;
- as soon as the UN checkpoints are established on the Cairo-Suez road, there will be an exchange of all prisoners of war, including the wounded.

EGYPTIAN REACTION TO AGREEMENT

4. The Egyptian public has reacted with a general feeling of relief and moderate optimism to the results of Secretary of State Kissinger's visit to Cairo, [redacted] However, any intellectuals, particularly the al-Ahram political analysts, are highly skeptical. Several political writers are asking what Egypt has really gained, and whether Secretary Kissinger, backed by a "weak" president, can guarantee even acceptable terms. Haykal himself reportedly characterized the Egyptian-Israeli agreement as a deliberate attempt by the US to procrastinate. Haykal said he told Sadat that the terms of the agreement will not work.

ISRAELI PRESS REACTION

5. The Israeli press continues to claim that a lifting of the blockade of the Bab al-Mandab is part of the agreement between Israel and Egypt. One paper, for example, explains that the omission of this condition

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from the official text of the agreement was simply "a gesture to Egypt" on the part of the Israeli government. Other reports, however, claim that the issue of the blockade has caused a last-minute hitch in Israel's acceptance of the agreement. One press account suggests that the debate centers on Egypt's refusal to announce a lifting of a blockade it never officially instituted. Reuters reports from Tel Aviv that a special cabinet meeting to discuss acceptance of the agreement will be held this evening.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING: MEIR GAMBIT

6. [REDACTED] Prime Minister Meir telephoned Chancellor Willy Brandt on 6 November to request a meeting of European socialist leaders to discuss the Middle East situation. She said she intended to express her disappointment with the US and the European powers and to attempt to obtain a declaration of solidarity with Israel from the conference. Neither Brandt, Swedish Prime Minister Palme, nor Austrian Chancellor Kreisky is enthusiastic about attending the meeting; they see problems trying to reconcile any Socialist International expression of solidarity with Israel and the Middle East resolution adopted by the European Community's Council of Ministers on 6 November. Mrs. Meir is likely to encounter stiff resistance, therefore, if she goes ahead with her plans to push for the adoption of such a declaration. The conference is scheduled for 11 November in London.

FAYSAL GREETINGS TO MOSCOW

7. UPI has publicized the message of congratulations and good wishes cabled by King Faysal to the Soviet leadership and people on the anniversary of the October Revolution. Faysal's uncharacteristic gesture, originally broadcast over the Riyadh radio on 7 November, is interpreted by UPI as a strong warning by the king to the United States.

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8. Chancellor Brandt has again distanced himself from the European Community's pro-Arab resolution. Speaking before a joint Bundestag session today, Brandt stated that the Federal Republic did not intend to hide behind joint EC statements on the Middle East. Reaffirming the special character of Germany's relations with Israel, Brandt told his audience that the government's attempt to remain neutral should not be interpreted as "a neutrality of heart and mind." Concerning the Arab use of oil as a weapon in the Middle East struggle, Brandt repeated an earlier warning that "threats and extortion" cannot win friends. The German leader's remarks no doubt reflect his true conviction but may have been calculated to placate Israeli displeasure over Foreign Minister Scheel's statement earlier this week that Bonn also has special relations with the Arabs.

UNEF

9. The United Nations Emergency Force expects to receive next week, battalion-strength contingents from Indonesia, Panama, and Peru. The arrival of the Indonesian troops may heighten the controversy over Israel's refusal to permit troops of states which have broken relations with it to operate in Israeli controlled territory. Indonesia has severed relations with Tel Aviv and present plans are to deploy its units along the east side of the canal.

10. France has officially declined the UN's request for airlift and other logistics assistance to UNEF. the decision was based on the fact that the resolution establishing UNEF had excluded participation of permanent Security Council members despite France's efforts to delete that provision. The French refusal may increase concern that the Soviet Union will dominate the airlift: Moscow has assumed responsibility for airlifting Austrian and Swedish units in addition to the Finnish contingent. France's refusal to provide the much-needed equipment could, however, be more damaging to

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the peacekeeping operation--particularly if other Europeans follow suite. [REDACTED] the decision may not be final and that France and Britain might eventually participate in an "overall Arab/Israeli settlement."

QADHAFI OPPOSES SADAT AND SETTLEMENT

11. [REDACTED]
President Qadhafi received a petition from several "senior" Egyptian military officers in early November asking him to reject any peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Qadhafi sent a hand-carried reply, saying that he would continue to support the Palestinians and any other Arab liberation movement no matter what Sadat or any of the other Arab leaders do. [REDACTED]

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ANNEX

BATTLEFIELD TOUR

On 1 November, [redacted] toured both banks of the Suez Canal where the mid-October battle for the Israeli bridgehead had taken place. The number of destroyed vehicles and the extensive damage to many of them attest to the severity of the fighting reported by Cairo at the time and Tel Aviv somewhat later. [redacted]

[redacted] Egyptian and Israeli reports indicated that heavy fighting on the ground and extensive Israeli air strikes began in this area on 14 October. Fierce battles in which hundreds of Egyptian and Israeli tanks reportedly were destroyed continued during the following week. Two to three hundred Israeli air sorties were noted over the front each day, and although Egyptian air strikes were infrequent, Egyptian air defense units fired large numbers of SAMs each day. The battle on the east bank continued as Egyptian forces attempted to cut off the Israeli task force which crossed to the west bank on 16 October. [redacted] described the fighting as the biggest tank battles in Israeli history.

[redacted] taken to a point about six miles north of Deversoir where he observed an area on the east bank about five miles deep and as much as nine miles along the canal this was only a part of the battlefield. [redacted] the area was a graveyard of 1,000 to 1,500 destroyed vehicles of all types, a scene almost impossible to describe.

The Israelis [redacted] that approximately 400 destroyed tanks, including about 100 Israeli tanks, were in the area, but that only completely destroyed vehicles were left on the battlefield. Many others--Egyptian and Israeli--which might be repaired had already been removed.

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[redacted] estimated that there was at least one vehicle for each hundred square meters. Tanks, half-tracks, trucks, artillery, armored cars, and SAM transporters littered the area.

Close inspection of the destroyed Israeli tanks showed that most had been hit several times and many US-made M-48s and M-60s had from three to five penetrations both in their hulls and turrets. The holes were from one to four inches in diameter, and [redacted] confirmed Israeli claims that Sagger antitank missiles and infantry-manned anti-tank rocket launchers had "rained on them." [redacted] even small anti-tank munitions had penetrated the turret of the US-made M-60 main battle tank.

[redacted] drove north along the canal's east bank up to the cease-fire line facing the Egyptian Second Army. During this six-mile trip, [redacted] an unending view of destroyed vehicles. Most of the destroyed Egyptian tanks were T-54s and T-55s which had burned.

Israeli tank troops observed along the battle line were alert, spirited, and combat-ready. [redacted]

[redacted] that given another 36 to 48 hours, there would have been no Egyptian army left. [redacted] that this feeling of frustration was common among the Israeli military.

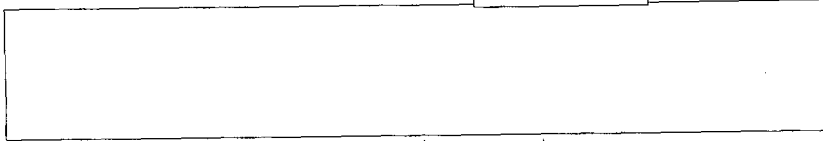
[redacted] crossed to the west bank, probably near Deversoir, and drove to Fayid airfield, but observed only 11 destroyed tanks along the way.

[redacted] returned to the Israeli base at Bir Jifjafah in the Sinai where they toured a vehicle repair center. [redacted] was informed that the center had received over 170 vehicles for repair during the war and had returned over 120 Israeli tanks to the battlefront.

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SC No. 09043/73

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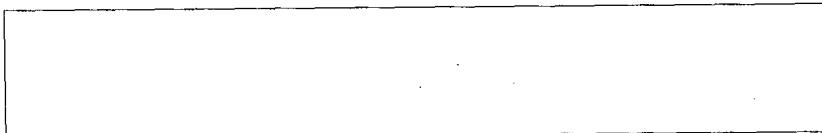
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MIDDLE EAST

Correction to Situation Report Number 114
(As of 1300 EST)

Editors Note: The second point of Secretary Kissinger's announcement concerning the cease-fire agreement between Egypt and Israel should have read:

--both sides agree that discussions between them will begin immediately to settle the question of the return to the 22 October positions in the framework of agreement on the disengagement and separation of forces under the auspices of the UN.



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