

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: A six-point cease-fire agreement was signed Sunday morning by Egyptian and Israeli military officers at Kilometer 101 on the Cairo-Suez road. After the signing, representatives of the two sides met for more than one hour with UN officials to discuss the implementation of the agreement. An Egyptian spokesman in Cairo implied that the next step would be to disentangle opposing military forces west of the canal "and return them to the positions of 22 October," and to secure Egyptian road communications to Suez City and the east bank. He sidestepped a question on the blockade of the Bab al-Mandab, the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Talks between Egyptian and Israeli officers will resume at noon on Monday at Kilometer 101. They are scheduled to discuss the exchange of prisoners of war.

The military situation is quiet, although reports of minor cease-fire violations continued to be received up to a few hours before the signing of the six-point agreement. The violations consisted of artillery and small arms exchanges in areas along the canal.

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Prime Minister Meir attended an emergency meeting of the Socialist International in London yesterday. The meeting, attended by Socialists from 20 countries, centered largely on the recent declaration by the nine members of the European Communities that called on Israel to return to pre-June 1967 boundaries. West German Chancellor Brandt and Dutch Premier den Uyl denied that the EC resolution represented any hardening beyond mere support of the 1967 UN Security Council resolution, which urged an Israeli withdrawal. Because of the trip, the Israeli Knesset has postponed debate on the six-point agreement with Egypt until Tuesday.

In Tel Aviv, leaders of Likud, the Israeli opposition party, decided Sunday night not to support the government's cease-fire agreement with Cairo. Likud opposes the accord on the grounds that it does not ensure the release of all Israeli POWs and does not explicitly include provisions for the lifting of the blockade of the Bab al-Mandab. In addition, Likud

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Text of the Egyptian-Israeli Agreement
Signed on 11 November 1973:

--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 the return to the October 22 positions in the framework of agreement on the disengagement and separation of forces under the auspices of the UN.

--The town of Suez will receive daily supplies of food, water and medicine. All wounded civilians in the town of Suez will be evacuated.

--There shall be no impediment to the movement of non-military supplies to the East Bank.

--The Israeli checkpoints on the Cairo-Suez road will be replaced by UN checkpoints. At the Suez end of the road Israeli officers can participate with the UN to supervise the non-military nature of the cargo at the bank of the Canal.

--As soon as the UN checkpoints are established on the Cairo-Suez road, there will be an exchange of all prisoners of war, including wounded.

contends that in effect the siege of the Egyptian Third Army has been lifted. Likud also argues that the Meir government has no mandate to take on obligations on behalf of Israel. The opposition points out that the government's term of office ended on 28 October; elections were postponed because of the war emergency. Likud is demanding that the cabinet declare in advance that only a new government--elections are scheduled for 31 December--has the authority to negotiate future settlements.

Deputy Prime Minister Allon, in an Israeli television interview, said that, although Israel wanted negotiations, talks could not possibly become substantive before the elections on 31 December. He said many people in Israel, including himself, thought the government needed a new mandate before concluding any agreements, but that no opportunity should be missed for the opening of talks, even before the December elections.

Meanwhile, a controversy is growing in Israel over the conduct of the war. The Israeli cabinet announced yesterday that Mrs. Meir had proposed a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the war and that the army would also conduct its own inquiry. Foreign Minister Eban earlier had called for a special commission to look into Israel's preparedness on the eve of the war. Eban, never a close political ally of Defense Minister Dayan, criticized Dayan's defense concepts, including his approach to the question of the Suez Canal.

Major General Sharon, a top Israeli commander on the Egyptian front, also stoked the controversy in two recent interviews with foreign correspondents when he criticized the Israeli high command for its conduct of the war. Sharon, who had retired from the army earlier this year to enter politics, is a leader of Likud, which is challenging the governing Labor Party in next month's elections.

Yasir Arafat, Fatah leader and Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, left for Moscow yesterday after meeting briefly in Cairo with President Sadat,

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According to a press report. Arafat's stopover in Egypt followed his meeting with King Faysal on 10 November and other Arab leaders earlier. Fatah reportedly has been in the forefront of the commando groups favoring fedayeen participation in a peace conference.

King Husayn made a whirlwind visit to Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain yesterday. The Jordanian King made a similar one-day swing through Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, and Syria about a week ago. Husayn has close ties with some of the rulers of the Gulf states and he may be trying to rally support for a Jordanian role in post-war negotiations.

Press reports indicate that the Chinese are adopting a more flexible position on a political settlement in the Middle East. The US Consulate in Hong Kong views Peking's press treatment of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the US and Egypt as a shift away from previous categorical condemnations of efforts toward a negotiated settlement. In the past few days, the earlier and frequent condemnation of an "imposed settlement" in the Middle East has been conspicuously absent; there has been no criticism of current US diplomatic efforts.

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INTERNATIONAL OIL: Libya and Algeria, neither of which fully implemented the October agreement to cut oil production, now appear to be implementing the 25-percent cut agreed to at the second Arab oil producers' meeting in November. One of the US oil companies operating in Libya was told Friday to cut its production by some 25 percent. The US Interests Section in Algiers, relying on information concerning only two fields, has reported that Algeria has already cut oil production by at least 15 percent from its September level. The two countries account for about 17 percent of Arab oil production. All Arab oil producers that signed the agreement now seem to be following through on the 25-percent cutback. Iraq, which did not sign either agreement, lost about 20-30 percent of its production because of war damage to its terminal at Baniyas. [REDACTED]

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