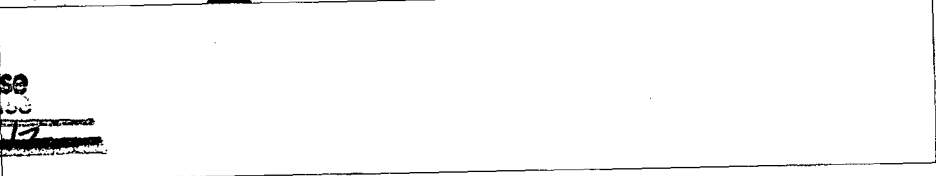


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
12 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 118  
(as of 1500 EST)

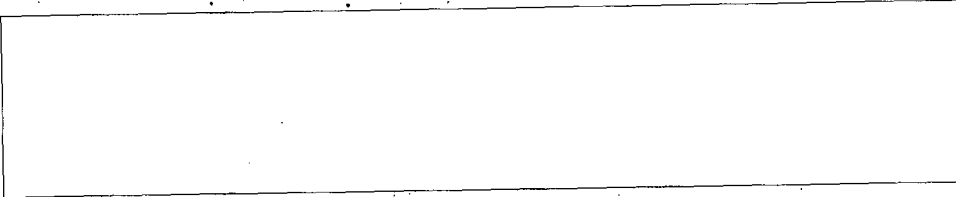
(All times cited in military paragraphs are  
Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. NOTE: As of Tuesday 13 November a single  
daily Middle East Situation Report will be scheduled  
by the CIA Task Force at approximately 1500 EST. The  
Central Intelligence Bulletin will take the place of  
the Situation Report formerly published at 0630.

EGYPT - ISRAEL - UN

2. Egyptian and Israeli military representatives  
met again today on the Cairo-Suez road. There has been  
no indication of the results of the four-hour meeting,  
but press reports out of Tel Aviv pre-dating the ses-  
sion suggest that there are continuing differences of  
interpretation between the two sides on the terms of  
the six-point agreement. Israeli checkpoints on the  
Cairo-Suez road have reportedly been handed over to  
Austrian and Swedish soldiers of the UNEP, but Israeli  
spokesmen continue to insist that the road itself is  
under Israeli military control, suggesting that the  
Egyptians have put no objections on this score. The

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[REDACTED]

Israelis have also complained that Egypt is giving priority to opening a supply corridor to the Third Army rather than to exchanging prisoners; Israeli spokesmen claim the exchange is to be immediate under the terms of the six-point agreement.

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THE MILITARY SITUATION

4. No cease-fire violations have been noted on either the Egyptian or Syrian fronts since early morning. Israeli aircraft flew several reconnaissance missions over the Suez Canal between the Great Bitter Lake and Suez during the day. There were no reports of reactions by Egyptian aircraft or SAMs. No air activity was noted over the Syrian front.

BAB AL-MANDAB

5. Israeli Transport Minister Peres announced today that Israel would soon test the Egyptian blockade of the Bab al-Mandab by sending a ship through the strait. The Israelis have continued to hit hard at this issue; both Prime Minister Meir and Deputy Prime Minister Allon have reiterated in public statements, the Israeli view that the cease-fire is not a cease-fire without an end to hostile acts at sea as well as on land.

6. Mrs. Meir touched on other issues connected with negotiations at a press conference before her departure

25X1

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from London today. Although she urged early direct talks, she reportedly also noted that her interpretation of negotiations does not exclude the presence of outside powers at a peace conference. She repeated Israel's longstanding opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and its determination to retain control of Jerusalem as a united city in which all religions would have freedom to administer their own holy places.

#### SOVIET POLITICAL ACTIVITY

7. Late Sunday evening the official Soviet news agency TASS reported the signing of the cease-fire accord. In a brief announcement from Cairo, TASS stated that "representatives of the Egyptian and Israeli sides today signed a protocol on the observance of the cease-fire, the ending of military operations, and the return of troops to positions they occupied on 22 October." TASS noted that UNEF commander Siilasvuo "was present."

8. Belgrade radio has announced that "political talks" began this afternoon in Kiev between Yugoslav President Tito and Soviet party chief Brezhnev. The talks are expected to deal in part with the Middle East situation. There has been no additional information on the reported trip to Moscow of Yasir Arafat, Fatah leader and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Late yesterday the Voice of Palestine radio in Cairo announced that Arafat had departed Cairo for Moscow after meeting at noon on Sunday with Egyptian President Sadat. Today, the Lebanese daily An-Nahar, quoting "informed diplomatic sources," said that there will be "an important political surprise" during the visit of the Arafat delegation to Moscow. According to a Middle East News Agency account of the An-Nahar article, the main topic of the discussion in Moscow will be the question of PLO participation in the international peace conference.

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UNEF

9. The Soviet airlift of Finnish troops and equipment for UNEF has been suspended since 8 November and there are apparently no flights planned for tomorrow.

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[redacted] the Soviets have made no statement on when or even if the flights will resume. There was a similar suspension without explanation early last week, but flights continued after only a day and a half delay. Approximately 100 men, 50 vehicles, and 50 tons of equipment are waiting in Helsinki for Soviet transport planes. Growing dissatisfaction in Helsinki may prompt the Finnish UN delegation to request that the US assume responsibility for the airlift. Finland had originally expressed a strong preference for US transport, but Moscow eagerly undertook the mission when Egypt delayed landing rights for US flights. There have also been delays in the Soviet airlift of Austrian UNEF contingents, but they were apparently caused by loading problems. (See Annex)

10. A second round of negotiations on UNEF participants is beginning in New York. In contrast to the negotiations which preceded the peace agreement, several African states are showing interest in contributing. Although many Africans may wish to reserve a final decision until after the OAU summit; Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia have indicated that they may be willing to

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QADHAFI ON PEACE

11. Libyan President Qadhafi has again voiced his skepticism of the latest moves toward peace. Qadhafi told a Beirut newspaper interviewer today that he regards these moves as a "mere tranquilizer" and that he, as "one of the responsible Arabs," is still preparing for another round of fighting with Israel. He derided those other Arabs who aim not at full victory but only at "a quarter, a half, or two-thirds of a battle."

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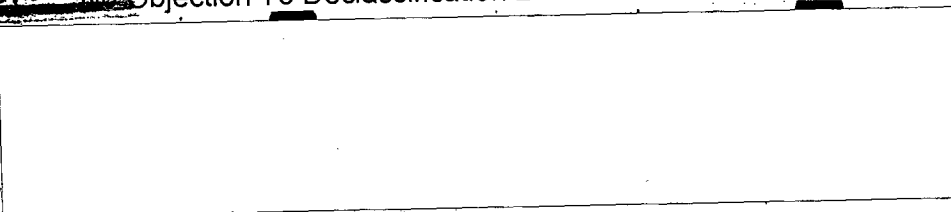
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<u>STATE</u>	<u>PERSONNEL IN M.E.</u>	<u>SITUATION</u>
Sweden	532	Serving in Ismailia area
Ireland	260	Patrolling between Israeli front and Egyptian second army, only unit now on east bank
Austria	205	Patrolling in Bitter Lake area. Additional 295 troops and equipment are being airlifted by Soviets
Finland	493	Patrolling Suez City and Israeli-controlled area to the west. Arrival of 100-man reinforcement unit and equipment is being delayed by suspension of Soviet airlift
Canada	43	Airlift now in progress, full 400-man communications unit expected by 21 November. Further contributions are being negotiated
Poland	5	Advance team for 200-man engineering squadron. Contingent may be enlarged later
Indonesia		600 troops are scheduled to arrive Cairo on 12 November
Panama		407-man battalion expected between 12 and 18 November
Peru		500-man battalion expected between 12 and 18 November

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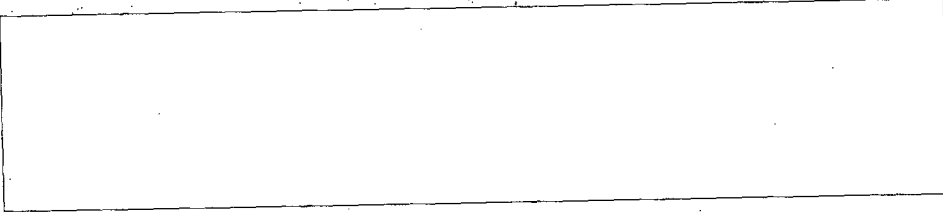
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<u>STATE</u>	<u>PERSONNEL IN M.E.</u>	<u>SITUATION</u>
Nepal		Has agreed to contribute 500 Gurkhas
Ghana	20	Advance team preparing for 500 infantry troops

Comments: All units are in need of supplies but the Finnish contingent has been the most severely hampered in the delay of over half of its equipment by the suspended Soviet airlift. UNEF command is having considerable difficulty processing incoming troops and may request a postponement of arrival dates.



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