

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: Egyptian and Israeli representatives agreed yesterday in a meeting at Kilometer 101 that implementation of four items of the six-point cease-fire accord of 11 November would get under way today.

One provision of the arrangement called for the exchange of prisoners of war under the supervision of the International Red Cross. Planes began making direct flights between Egypt and Israel this morning repatriating the prisoners. The exchange is to be completed within eight days.

The two sides also agreed that Israel would turn over the checkpoints at Kilometers 101 and 119 to the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) this morning (see map facing page 5). This element of the agreement could still cause trouble, however. Tel Aviv interprets the arrangement as providing for Israeli control of the Cairo-Suez road between the two checkpoints; a UN press spokesman in Cairo, however, said the Israelis should now "leave the task of controlling the road to the UNEF." The UN spokesman said it would be up to the local UNEF commander to decide whether additional UN checkpoints should be set up on the road.

The Egyptian-Israeli accord also provides for the supply of nonmilitary goods to the Egyptian Third Army on the east bank of the canal, and the daily provisioning of food and water to Suez city. The evacuation of wounded from the Third Army and Suez city is to begin Friday. According to press reports, Egyptian and Israeli representatives will meet again sometime next week.

The Israeli press on 14 November said that Tel Aviv may be preparing in the near future to test the blockade of the Bab al-Mandab, the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Eleven Israeli ships from the Far East are said to be en route to Elat, where another 13 ships are reportedly ready to sail. Yesterday, an Israeli military source told the US Defense Attaché in Tel Aviv that although the timing had not

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been set for any test. "everyone" agreed there must be one.

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Minor cease-fire violations were reported on both fronts yesterday.

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There were several exchanges of fire, including artillery, yesterday on the Syrian front west of Sasa [redacted]. Radio Jerusalem charged Damascus with violations of the cease-fire agreement in this area. The Syrians apparently pushed a salient into Israeli lines west of Sasa last week, and Israel has been making attempts to reduce it. There were no reports of aircraft activity over the Syrian front.

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An Arab summit conference will be held in Algiers, according to an Arab League spokesman. The date of the meeting remains uncertain, with press mentioning both 26 and 28 November. Prior to the meeting of the heads of state, Arab foreign ministers will meet in Algiers or Cairo on 24 November. According to Al Ahram, the foreign ministers will prepare an agenda for the summit session, as well as review the war effort, the use of oil, relations with other countries based on their attitude toward the Arab cause during the conflict, and Arab economic and propaganda activities.

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Reacting to charges in the Knesset and the press about Tel Aviv's lack of preparedness in the face of the Egyptian-Syrian attack, Defense Minister Dayan told army officers on the Syrian front last night that "until the morning of the Day of Atonement, I did not think there would be war, nor was anyone else of this opinion."

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Yesterday's Soviet press continued to play down US diplomatic efforts in the Middle East and to stress the ongoing need for a Soviet Middle East role. Soviet newspapers did this by juxtaposing articles stressing the tenuous nature of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement with a report of Secretary Kissinger's Peeking press conference which emphasized the Secretary's remarks supporting detente. In addition, Radio Moscow took note of Israeli Prime Minister Meir's speech to the Knesset on 13 November by saying the speech confirmed Tel Aviv's intention to obstruct implementation of the six-point accord.

Radio Moscow on 13 November praised King Faysal's congratulatory telegram on the anniversary of the Soviet revolution. It noted that the message was a first from the Saudi monarch and hoped it would "serve the cause of consolidating Arab-Soviet relations." The Saudi gesture probably was intended as a jibe at the US. Although Moscow probably realizes this, it would like to establish diplomatic ties with Riyadh.

Political directors of the EC countries have been working on a proposed joint demarche to the Arabs. According to a senior West German official, their effort is the result of the increasing irritation of some of the EC member states with Arab behavior. The demarche is intended as a follow-up to the EC's Middle East declaration of 6 November and will probably ask for clarification of "contradictions"

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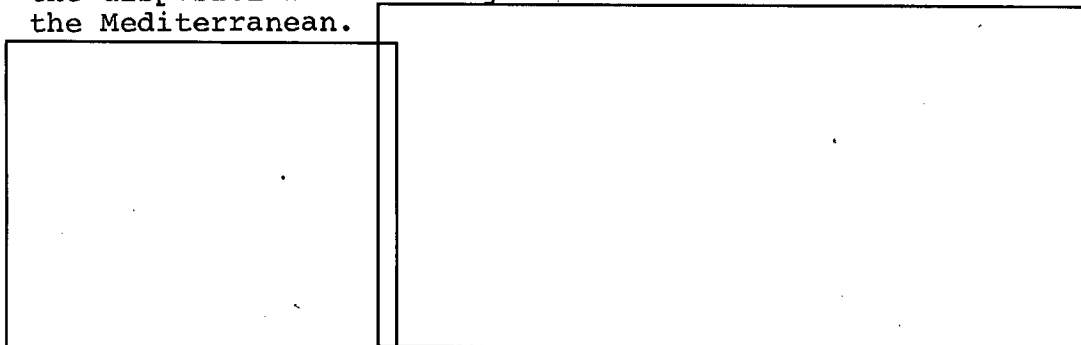
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in Arab policies toward the Europeans. Drafting is said to have been extremely difficult. Presumably, Paris and London are still seeking to maintain a relatively friendly tone, while some other governments may be asking why the declaration of 6 November has not resulted in the easing of the Arab oil squeeze.

There were no significant changes yesterday in the disposition of the major Soviet naval units in the Mediterranean.

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SYRIA: Intense efforts are under way to re-store Syria's electric power capacity, roughly half of which was knocked out by Israeli air strikes. Priority has apparently been assigned to repairing the Czech-built powerplant at Qattinah, the country's largest power facility. This plant serves the important areas of Hims and Damascus. Czech specialists have arrived at Qattinah in response to Syrian appeals, and Damascus claims that the plant will be functioning by about 18 November, although probably at partial capacity.

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