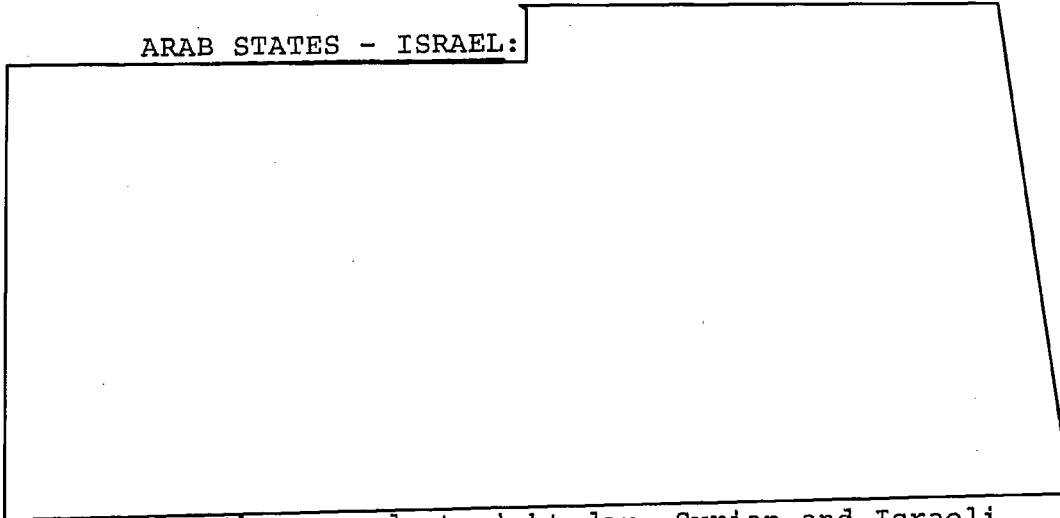


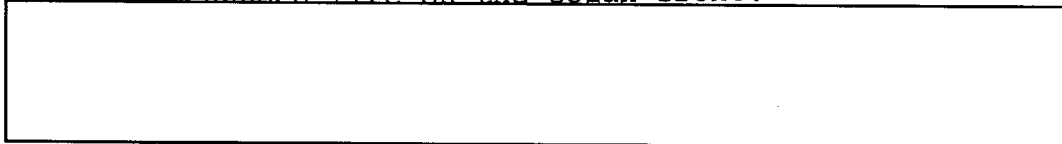
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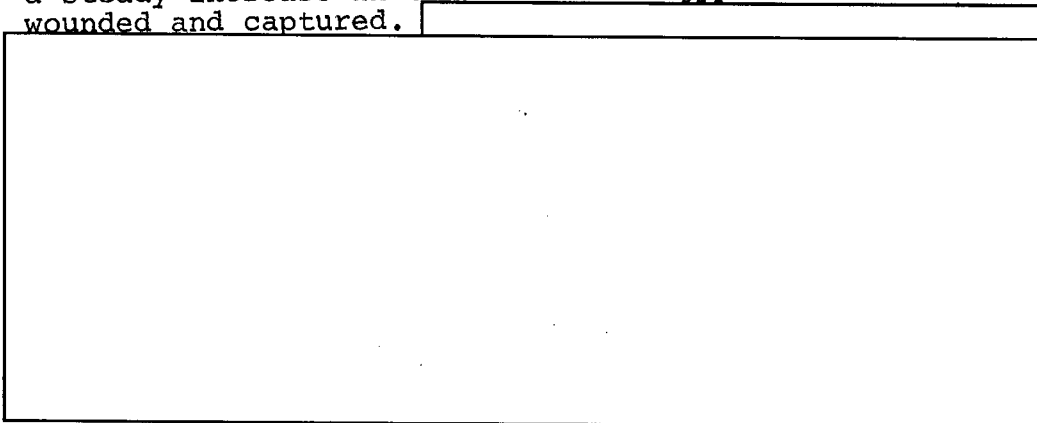


For the second straight day, Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged fire on the Golan front. The



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Military activity along the Egyptian front was light yesterday. The continued small-scale incidents on the Egyptian front are, nevertheless, resulting in a steady increase in the number of Egyptians being wounded and captured.



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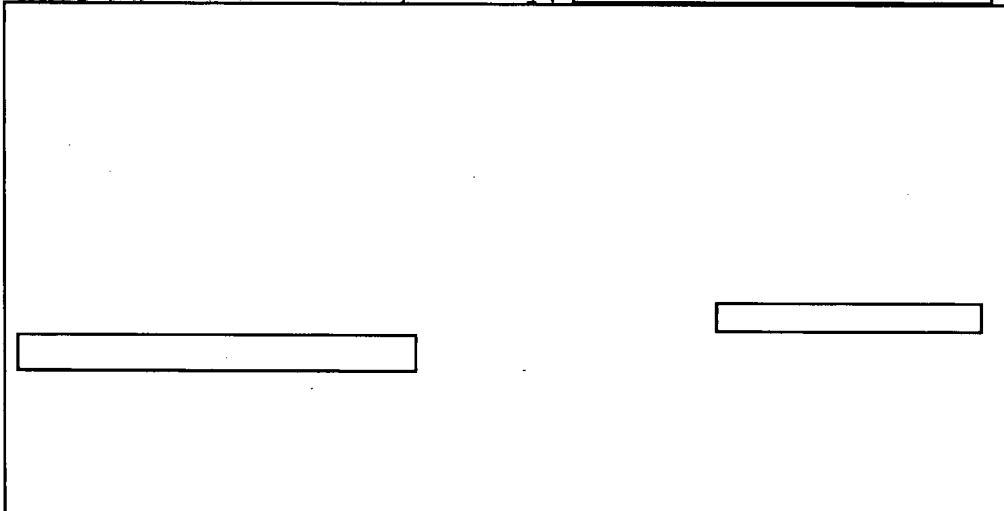
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There are persistent reports that the Third Army is being resupplied with ammunition, probably in small amounts, via the Gulf of Suez. The Egyptians have made this claim publicly, [redacted]

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A Red Cross official in Cairo who spoke to most of the approximately 240 Israeli prisoners before their repatriation last month has told the US Interests Section that he cannot corroborate Israeli charges of maltreatment. The Israelis filed and subsequently publicized an official complaint to the International Committee of the Red Cross on 10 December, charging Egypt with "murder, acts of brutality, and calculated humiliation" of Israeli prisoners. The Red Cross official, although noting that maltreatment could have occurred after he spoke to the prisoners, said that several of the wounded made particular note of their good treatment. He does not believe the allegations of torture or the charges that the Egyptians are still holding Israeli prisoners captured before the prisoner exchange was completed.

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The Egyptians have countered with their own charges of Israeli torture of prisoners--accusations for which there is also no corroboration. The exchange of accusations may be designed, in part, simply to escalate tensions as the start of negotiations approaches. The Israelis may also hope, by turning their attack toward the Egyptians, to divert domestic attention from the completely stalemated and controversial prisoner issue with Syria. [REDACTED]

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