

HAK, Security

Israeli position

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DIA REVIEWED 01-Dec-2010: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

72  
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-07 PM-03 NEA-05 EUR-06  
IO-03 PRS-01 /036 W

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FM [redacted] 25x1

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

SECRET NOFORN 1558 OCT 73. SUBJECT: INCREASED OPTIMISM  
IN IDF (SNF)

1. (MF) IN TRYING TO REPORT ON COMBAT IN ISRAEL WHERE  
FACTS AND FIGURES ARE CLOSELY HELD AND WHERE THE  
IDF IS NOT ABOVE EXAGGERATING ITS SUCCESSES AND ITS  
ENEMIES FAILURES. ONE MUST TRY TO ASSESS ALL POS-  
SIBLE FACTORS. NOT THE LEAST OF THESE IS MODD.

GHM (SNF) EVENING OF 7 OCT. DISCERNIBLE LFX

X. WAS  
DISPLAYED BY IDF INYHW PERS DURING BRIEFING. SIT  
IN SOUTHERN SECTOR OF GOLAN HTS WAS NOT GOOD. IN  
FACT, IN DATT'S VIEW, IF WSATHER HAD BEEN IO BAD THE  
NEXT MORNING AS TO PREVENT OC APPLICATION OF  
ISRAEL TAC AIR, DATT FEELS THERE WAS A DISTINCT  
POSSIBILITY THAT IDF COULD HAVE BEEN THROWN OFF  
THE GOLAN HTS THAT DAY.

3. (SNF) IAF TAC AIR WAS APPLIED, HOWEVER, AND THE  
SYRIAN ADVANCE WAS CONTAINED, AND, REINFORCED WITH

FRESH UNITS, THE IDF WENT ON OFFENSIVE AND PUSHED  
SYRIANS BACK. BY DAYS END IDF CLAIMED TO HAVE RE-  
OCCUPIED NEARLY ALL OF PRE YXNNDT TERRITORY ON THE  
HTS. THAT THIS CLAIM CONFLICTED SLIGHTLY WITH  
OBSERVATIONS OF ATTACHES LTJ UNTSO PERS (PROTECT)  
NOT TERRIBWY SIGNIFICANT. FACT WAS THAT IDF HAD  
GONE FROM PRECARIOUS DEFENSIVE TOE HOLD IN SOUTHERN  
SECTOR TO REAFNABLY COMFORTABLE OFFENSIVE PSNKM  
THIS TURNAROUND JUSTIFIED ELATION AND THERE WAS

NEA-2  
TF-3  
MR  
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SIS-8  
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MUCH IN EVIDENCE THAT NIGHT. MG ZEIRA'S BRFG WAS TOUGH, HAWKISH AND UNCOMPROMISING. THE IDF SMELLED VICTORY, AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS CLEARLY INCLUDED THE ELIMINATION OF THE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN ARMIES AS VIABLE FIGHTING FORCES. ONE PERCEIVED THAT THEIR HORIZONS INCVVDEH AT LEAST TEMPORARY TENURE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BOTH CEASE-FIRE LINES.

4. (SNF) THE IDF'S TACTICAL PSN AON THE SYRIAN FRONT IS NOT DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT TONIGHT FROM WHAT IT HAD BEEN 24 HOURS EARLIER. IN FACT, THE IDF POSITION SEEMS MORE FAVORABLE NOW. THE NEW FRONT LINE IS BASICALLY THE SAME AS BEFORE 6 OCT. ZEIRA ESTIMATES THE SYRIA HAVE LOST 600 TANKS, SYRIA HS NO RESERVES TO SPEAK OF AND LITTLE REAL OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. YET THE IDF MOOD IS NOT EXULTANT AND FLUSH WITH IMPENDING VICTORY. IT IS NOT AS GLOOMY AS 48 HRS EARLIER, BUT IS FAR MORE RESTRAINED THAN YESTERDAY.

5. (SNF) IN SEARCHING FOR CAUSE(S) OF THIS CHANGE, ONE ASSUMES THAT IT MUST BE EITHER SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED OR CHANGED TODAY OR, AT LEAST, WAS PERCEIVED BY IDF WITHIN LAST 24 HRS. THE ANSWER IS NOT EVIDENT IN THE MILITARY ACTIONS OF PAST 24 HRS. O. GRD, SIT HAS IMPROVED. AT SEA, IDF NAVY CONTINUES TO SCORE VICTORIES, AND IN THE AIR. IAF IZCVXV TOTAL LOSSES THAN

HER ENEMIES AND IAF CLAIMS SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL AIR ATTACKS IN BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT DURING THIS PERIOD.

6. (SNF) THERE ARE MANY FACTORS WHICH MAY BEAR. WHILE IDF WILL NOT DISCUSS CASUALTIES, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THEY ARE HIGH. ZEIRA CONCEDED THIS IS A BLODDY WAR. TODAY MAY HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY COSTLY OR ELSE THE STEADILY MOUNTING TOTALS MAY BE SHOCKING.

7. (SNF) ATTRITION OF EQUIP MAY ALSO BE FACTOR. 500 TANKS OUT OF USE MUST BE SOBERING. SIMILARLY, THE LOSS OF 11 ACFT TODAY IS NOT CATOSTROPIC, BUT THE MOUNTING TOTAL AND PROJECTED LOSSES BASED ON CONTINUED VULNERABILITY TO SA-6 IN PARTICULAR MUST ALSO BE DISHEARTENING. FACT THAT FOR FIRST TIME, IAF LOST MORE ACFT THAN HER ENEMIES COMBINED MUST ALSO HAVE DEPRESSANT EFFECT. FACT THAT ISRAELI INVENT-

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ORIES ATTRITING WHILE ENEMIES LOSSES BEING OFFSET,  
IN PART AT LEAST, BY REINFORCEMENTS FROM OTHER ARAB

COUNTRIES MUST ADD TO SENCE OF FRUSTRATION.

8. (SNF) GRZPTED THAT CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF CASUAL-  
TIES AND ATTRITION COULD INDUCE A DEGREE OF PESSIMISM.  
BUT, IN DATT'S VIEW THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER. MOD OF 24  
HRS AGO WAS THAT IDF COULD BREAK THROUGH SYRIAN  
FRONT AND WREAK HAVOC IN FEW DAYS TIME. EVEN WITH  
CASUALTIES, THEY STILL HAD ENOUGH TROOPS TO MAN TANKS  
AND ACFT. U NELVEN WITH ATTRITION, IEF STILL HAD  
ENOUGH TANKS ON SYRIAN FRONT AND ACFT IN INVENTORY TO  
SUPPORT ALL OUT OFFENSIVE FOR A FEW DAYS. IT SEEMS TO  
ME THAT ABOVE FACTORS WOULD, IF ANYTHING, PROMPT IDF  
TO MOVE OUT ASAP.

9. (SNF) TODAY ONE SENSES A DOUBT OR RELUCTANCE SUG-  
GESTING A SERIOUS LIMITING FACTOR. ZEIRA MAY HAD ID-  
ENTIFIED IT WHEN HE BRFD THAT IDF MUST BEGIN USING  
AMMO SPARINGLY. ESPECIALLY CRITICAL ARE 125MM  
ROUNDS FOR TANK GUNS AND 175MM ROUNDS. IN THE LATTER  
CASE HE STATED THEY ARE CONSIDERING CHANGING BARRELS  
SINCE THEY WVE THOSE RDS AVAIL. THE SHORTAGE OF  
125MM SEEMS TO HVE COME UP SUDDENLY. IT MAY BE  
RESULT OF EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION. MY LIMITED KNOW-  
LEDGE OF IDF SUPPLY ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL  
PROCEDURES. I CANNOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY  
THAT THEIR COMPUTER MAY HAVE HAD A HERNIA AND  
REFLECTED EXORBITANTLY HIGH STOCKS ON HAND.  
XTWECWDJOC) THE FACTOR IS BEHIND THE CHANGED MOOD MAY  
BE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE EXPLORED ABOVE.  
THE POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL DECISION PROSCRIBING ATTACK  
IS NOT DISCUSSED IN THIS MSG BUT CANNOT BE RULED OUT.  
RO FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT ALL OF ABOVE ARRIMPACTING  
ON MOOD AND IF FORCED TO PICK MOST LIKELY ONE WOULD  
OPT FOR RECENTLY PERCEIVED AMMO SHORTAGE. OF ALL  
FACTORS DISCUSSED THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE ONLY ONE  
WHICH COULD FORCE IDF TO RULE OUT ARMOR ATTACK.  
IF IN FACT THEY HAVE, ADDING TO FRUSTRATION IS IDF  
SURPRISE, EXPRESSED BY ZEIRA, AT ARABS SEEMINGLY  
LIMITLESS AMMO STOCKS. HE STATED ARABS VE THOUS-  
ANDS OF SA-7S, THOUSANDS OF ANTI-TANK MISSILES, AND

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USE UP ARTY SHELLS P KD THERE'S NO TOMORROW.  
II. (U) REGRET EXCESSIVELY LONG MSG. I DIDN'T

HAVE TIME TO WRITE A SHORT ONE. COORD W/AMB. XGDS-i

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE GARBLED THROUGHOUT: CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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