

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

NSA review
completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MORI/CDF C03340868

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

0 201213Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK07

TO: PETER RODMAN FOR DR KISSINGER

~~T J P S E C R E T~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH32533

OCTOBER 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT

HENRY A. KISSINGER

INFORMATION ITEMS

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: AN OFFICIAL ISRAELI SITUATION REPORT THIS MORNING VIEWS TODAY'S BATTLE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE CANAL AS "PERHAPS THE KEY" TO HOW LONG EGYPT CAN CONTINUE IN THE WAR. THE ISRAELIS, AT LAST REPORT, HAD PUSHED NORTH TO A POINT WEST OF ISMAILIA, SOUTHWEST TO THE CAIRO-SUEZ RAIL LINE AND SOUTH TO AN AIRFIELD BEYOND PAYID. THE EGYPTIANS, AFTER THEIR INITIAL INDECISION, APPARENTLY HAVE RECOGNIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND ARE REPORTED TO BE BRINGING UP A MECHANIZED DIVISION AS WELL AS OTHER FORCES THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN RESERVE ON THE WEST BANK AND TO BE BRINGING BACK AN ARMORED DIVISION FROM THE EAST BANK OF THE CANAL. THE ISRAELIS EXPECT THE MAJOR ACTION TO BE AGAINST THEIR SOUTHERN AND SOUTHWESTERN POSITIONS. NO MAJOR GROUND ACTIONS WERE REPORTED DURING THE NIGHT, AS BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY PREPARED FOR TODAY'S ACTION. THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE ATTACKED LATE INTO THE EVENING HOURS AND RESUMED ATTACKS ON EGYPTIAN GROUND POSITIONS ON THE EAST BANK, EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS, AND PORT SAID, EARLY THIS MORNING. AS THE MORNING PROGRESSED, THE AIR FORCE BEGAN TO CONCENTRATE ON WEST BANK TARGETS. THE ISRAELIS EXPECT HEAVY AIR ENGAGEMENTS TODAY AS THE EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSES ON THE WEST BANK WERE REDUCED BY YESTERDAY DESTRUCTION OF TEN SAM SITES. RELATIVE QUIET HAS PREVAILED ON THE SYRIAN FRONT. SYRIAN MILITARY FORWARD OBSERVERS REPORTED THIS MORNING SOME 30 ISRAELI

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SEC FILE

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TANKS AND SEVERAL HALF-TRACKS OPERATING NORTH AND SOUTH OF TELL AANTAR, THE SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING YESTERDAY. SYRIAN ARTILLERY IS SHELLING THE AREA. MODERATE ISRAELI AIR ACTIVITY HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED OVER SOUTHERN LEBANON AND NORTHERN ISRAEL SINCE EARLY MORNING.

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SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: IN CAMBODIA, GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS ASSIGNED TO THE OPERATION TO REOPEN ROUTE 5 HAVE BEGUN CLEARING OPERATIONS AROUND THE TOWN OF SALA LEK PRAM, 30 MILES NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. IF AND WHEN ROUTE 5 IS REOPENED, IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO REPAIR THE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE BY THE COMMUNISTS TO THE EIGHT-MILE STRETCH OF THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNS. ELSEWHERE, THE COMMUNISTS DROVE GOVERNMENT FORCES FROM THE TOWN OF TRAM KHNAK -- THE GOVERNMENT'S SOUTHERNMOST POSITION ON ROUTE 3 SOME 25 MILES FROM PHNOM PENH. THE WITHDRAWING GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE REGROUPING JUST NORTH OF TRAM KHNAK. NO NEW COMMUNIST INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALONG ROUTE 4, AND TRUCK CONVOYS ARE AGAIN MOVING OVER THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM AND PHNOM PENH. FIGHTING CONTINUES TO BE LIGHT THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM, DESPITE NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS INTEND TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITY, ESPECIALLY IN MILITARY REGION 3. MINOR SHELLINGS WERE REPORTED IN MILITARY REGION 1 AND IN THE HIGHLANDS, WITH FEW CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE. FIGHTING IN THE DELTA WAS CONCENTRATED IN DINH TUONG AND KIEN PHONG PROVINCES, WHERE VIET CONG GUNNERS SHELLED VARIOUS TARGETS. SAIGON TO SUPPLY RICE TO CAMBODIA: SAIGON HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY 1,000 TONS OF RICE TO CAMBODIA, BEGINNING WITH 1,800 TONS TODAY AND A SIMILAR AMOUNT ON MONDAY. THESE TWO DELIVERIES AMOUNT TO ABOUT ONE WEEK'S SUPPLY. PHNOM PENH HAD BEEN DOWN TO ONLY ABOUT

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A NINE-DAY SUPPLY.
FIRM CONTRACTS FOR ADDITIONAL RICE DELIVERIES NOW AMOUNT TO
12,500 TONS: THAILAND (12,500 TONS); SOUTH KOREA (20,000 TONS);
AND SOUTH VIETNAM (1,400 TONS). REGULAR DELIVERY OF THE THAI
RICE IS PLANNED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK, AND SOUTH KOREAN SHIPMENTS
ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE ON NOVEMBER 2. THESE
CONTRACTS REPRESENT SOME TWO MONTHS' SUPPLY AT CURRENT CONSUMP-
TION RATES.

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PHNOM PENH NOW SEEMS ASSURED OF BASIC RICE SUPPLIES UNTIL U.S.
PL 480 DELIVERIES BEGIN TO COME IN DURING DECEMBER -- PROVIDED
THERE ARE NO HITCHES IN SHIPPING PLANS. NEGOTIATIONS FOR 5,000
TONS FROM JAPAN AND A SECOND ALLOTMENT OF 12,500 TONS FROM THAI-
LAND HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALLY WORKED OUT. IF THESE ARE ALSO
FORTHCOMING, CAMBODIA MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO BUILD UP A SMALL RE-
SERVE CUSHION.

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