

SENSITIVE

PAGE 224 SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 211515Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 53

TO PETER RODMAN FOR DR. KISSINGER

~~T O P S E C R E T~~ CONTAINS CODEWORD WH32583 SECT ONE OF TWO

TOHAK 53

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES

REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

1. GENERAL

A. (S/NFO) THE EGYPTIAN FRONT WAS AGAIN THE MOST ACTIVE, WITH THE ISRAELI ARMORED-TASK FORCE -- NOW ESTIMATED TO HAVE ABOUT 500 TANKS AND BETWEEN 15,000 AND 20,000 TROOPS -- REGAINING SOME FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, AND ITS SOUTHERN COLUMNS MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD THE KEY LOCATIONS OF SUEZ CITY AND JEBEL JAPRA. THE ISRAELIS CLAIM THAT AS A RESULT OF TODAY'S OPERATIONS, ALL THE HIGHWAYS AND RAIL LINES FROM CAIRO TO ISMAILIA AND SUEZ CITY HAVE BEEN CUT. THE ISRAELI DRIVES TOWARD JEBEL JAPRA AND ALONG THE CAIRO-ISMAILIA DESERT ROAD ALSO THREATEN EGYPTIAN SUPPLY CENTERS EAST OF CAIRO. EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE EAST BANK ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE ENOUGH SUPPLIES FOR THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE DAYS. THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE ISRAELI TASK FORCE IS PUTTING THE EGYPTIAN ARMY IN AN INCREASINGLY PRECARIOUS POSITION. THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE GOOD SUPPORT FOR THE GROUND FORCES YESTERDAY.

B. (S/NFO) THE SYRIAN FRONT REMAINED RELATIVELY STATIC ON THE 20TH, WITH NO MAJOR GROUND OR AIR ACTIONS NOTED.

C. (S/NFO) IF IRAQ COMMITS A TOTAL OF FOUR DIVISIONS TO THE SYRIAN FRONT, AS REPORTED BY A LEBANESE SOURCE, THE MAJORITY OF THE IRAQI ARMY WILL BE OUT-OF-COUNTRY.

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

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B, (U) IN SUPPORTING THE ARAB CAUSE, BAHRAIN HAS DECIDED TO TERMINATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE PORT OF BAHRAIN,

2. EGYPTIAN FRONT

A, (S/NF) UNDER THE COMMAND OF FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, CHAIM BAR-LEV, THE ISRAELI TASK FORCE OPERATING ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE SUEZ CANAL MADE GOOD PROGRESS ON THE 20TH, AFTER HAVING BEEN TEMPORARILY STALLED BY EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE 19TH, FOUR IDF COLUMNS, EACH PROBABLY CONSISTING OF ONE OR MORE BRIGADES, CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THE WEST BANK. THE NORTHERN COLUMN, COMMANDED BY MAJ GEN ARIEL SHARON, HAS APPARENTLY SECURED THE NORTHERN FLANK OF THE ISRAELI WEST BANK BRIDGEHEAD. THE CENTRAL ARMORED BRIGADE COLUMN, WHICH HAD BEEN ADVANCING ON THE JEBEL JAFRA AREA ON THE 19TH, CHANGED DIRECTION ON THE 20TH, VEERING TO THE NORTHWEST AND CUTTING THE CAIRO-ISMAILIA DESERT ROAD AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 25 TO 30 KILOMETERS (13 TO 16NM,) FROM THE SUEZ CANAL. THE MAJOR COMBAT OF THE DAY APPARENTLY INVOLVED MAJ GEN ADANIS SUEZ CITY-BOUND ARMORED COLUMN. A MAJOR BATTLE TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 201200Z INVOLVING ADANIS COLUMN AND UNITS OF THE EGYPTIAN 4TH ARMORED DIVISION. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 4TH ARMORED WAS OVERRUN BY THE ISRAELIS. FOLLOWING THIS ACTION, PART OF ADANIS FORCE TURNED TO THE SOUTHWEST AND ADVANCED ON THE EGYPTIAN 3D ARMY HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN THE JEBEL JAFRA AREA. THE REST OF ADANIS COLUMN CONTINUED TO ADVANCE ON SUEZ CITY, BYPASSING REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH ARMORED DIVISION AND DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN THE 4TH DIVISION AND 3D ARMY UNITS ON THE EAST BANK. AS OF 202145Z, PART OF ADANIS COLUMN HAD APPARENTLY ADVANCED TO THE SOUTHERN END OF THE LITTLE BITTER LAKE AND WAS USING EGYPTIAN-BUILT POSITIONS TO FORD ON EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE EAST BANK. THE ISRAELIS NOW COULD HAVE INTERDICTED ALL HIGHWAYS AND RAIL LINES FROM CAIRO TO SUEZ CITY AND ISMAILIA. THIS, IF TRUE, WILL MAKE RESUPPLY OF EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE EAST BANK INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. THE FOLLOWING THREE FORWARD LOGISTIC BASES ARE PROBABLY AMONG THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE ISRAELI CURRENT WEST BANK OPERATIONS:

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THE DESTRUCTION OR CAPTURE OF THESE THREE MAJOR SUPPLY POINTS WOULD SERIOUSLY DEGRADE IF NOT TERMINATE THE RESUPPLY OF EGYPTIAN EAST BANK FORCES. IF CURRENT ISRAELI OPERATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, THE EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE EAST BANK WOULD HAVE AN ESTIMATED THREE TO FIVE DAYS OF SUPPLIES REMAINING.

R, (S/NFO) THE IDF HAS SO FAR NOT NOTED ANY MAJOR WEAKENING OF THE EGYPTIAN WILL TO RESIST. MOST EGYPTIAN ARMY UNITS ARE APPARENTLY PUTTING UP DETERMINED RESISTANCE. SOME EGYPTIAN VEHICULAR MOVEMENT FROM THE EAST BANK TO THE WEST BANK WAS NOTED. THE IDF NOW ESTIMATES THAT A TOTAL OF ONLY 500 EGYPTIAN TANKS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CANAL REMAIN OPERATIONAL, AND THAT TWO ARMORED BRIGADES OF THE 9TH ARMORED DIVISION ARE THE ONLY EFFECTIVE UNITS LEFT ON THE WEST BANK. THE 9TH ARMORED DIVISION WAS PROBABLY CREATED FROM HASTILY FORMED OR RESERVE UNITS, SUCH AS THE 35TH ARMORED BRIGADE.

C, (S/NFO) THE EGYPTIAN ORDER OF BATTLE ON THE EAST BANK IS CURRENTLY:

PORT SAID TO EL QANTARA -- ONE INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE AND ONE ARMORED BATTALION.

EL QANTARA TO ISMAILIA -- 20 AND 10TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS, BETWEEN ISMAILIA AND 10F BRIDGEHEAD -- REMAINING ELEMENTS OF 10TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND 21ST ARMORED DIVISION, BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN END OF GREAT BITTER LAKE AND SUEZ CITY -- 7TH AND 19TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

D, (S/NFO) ISRAEL CLAIMS 10 EGYPTIAN MIGS (PROBABLY MIG-21/ FISHBEDS) AND THREE SU-7/PIITERS WERE DOWNED AND ONE HELICOPTER DESTROYED NORTH OF SHARM EL SHEIK YESTERDAY, WHILE LOSING ONE PHANTOM. TWO ADDITIONAL MIGS WERE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY EGYPTIAN SAMS.

E, (FOUO) THE EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER AL AHRAH STATED YESTERDAY THAT A CAPTURED ISRAELI PILOT CONFESSED THAT US CREWS ARE FLYING 35 PHANTOMS RECENTLY DELIVERED TO ISRAEL.

F, (S/NFO) THE EGYPTIAN ORDER-OF-BATTLE SITUATION ON THE WEST BANK IS LESS CLEAR, BUT THE FOLLOWING UNITS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING WEST OF THE CANAL:

CAIRO-ISMAILIA ROAD -- 30 MECHANIZED INFANTRY DIVISION;

POSSIBLY ONLY THE ARMORED BRIGADE OF THIS DIVISION.

JEBEL JAFRA AREA -- POSSIBLY THE NEWLY FORMED 9TH ARMORED DIVISION WITH TWO RESERVE OR NEWLY RAISED ARMORED BRIGADES.

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SUEZ AREA -- REMNANTS OF TWO BRIGADES OF THE 4TH ARMORED DIVISION AND POSSIBLY SOME ELEMENTS OF THE 6TH MECHANIZED INFANTRY DIVISION.

G, (S/NFD) AS OF 202145Z, THE ISRAELIS CLAIM TO HAVE DESTROYED FOUR SAM SITES IN THE AREA SOUTH OF THE GREAT BITTER LAKE, WHILE ADMITTING THAT SOME SAM SITES ARE STILL OPERATIONAL IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE LITTLE BITTER LAKE AND SUEZ CITY. IF THE ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO MOVE SOUTH, THESE SITES WILL BE OVERRUN, SINCE OPERATIONS BEGAN ON THE WEST BANK ON 16 OCTOBER, THE IDF CLAIMS TO HAVE DESTROYED 50 EGYPTIAN SAM SITES. ISRAELI ARMY UNITS HAVE BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTURE RATHER THAN DESTROY SAM/GAINFUL EQUIPMENT.

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H, (S/NFD) ##### AIR ACTIVITY OVER THE EGYPTIAN FRONT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY AIR BATTLES OVER THE EXPANDING ISRAELI WEST BANK BRIDGEHEAD. THE EAF REPORTEDLY MOUNTED A MAJOR ATTACK AGAINST ISRAELI BRIDGES OVER THE CANAL YESTERDAY. TWELVE SU-7/FITTERS AND EIGHT MIG-21/FISHBEDS WERE INVOLVED. THE IAF ENGAGED THE ATTACKERS AT 201400Z AND CLAIM TO HAVE DOWNED ALL EIGHT MIGS AND THREE SU-7S. THE EGYPTIANS ARE ALSO APPARENTLY USING TRAININGS AND TWO PREVIOUSLY UNCOMMITTED SQUADRONS (ONE MIG-17/FRESCO AND ONE MIG-21/FISHBED) TO BOLSTER THE AIR EFFORTS OVER THE FRONT. THE IAF, IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING ISRAELI GROUND UNITS WEST OF THE CANAL, ATTACKED PORT SAID AND THE EL QANTARA AREAS. AIR CREWS REPORTED DESTROYING EGYPTIAN TANKS IN THE EL QANTARA AREA. ISRAEL ADMITTED THE LOSS OF TWO F-4S AND ONE MIRAGE.

I, (S/NFD) AS MANY AS FIVE EGYPTIAN SUBMARINES MAY BE TRYING TO INTERCEPT THE ISRAELI MERCHANT SHIP HANNA. THE POSITION OF THESE SUBMARINES IS NOT KNOWN. THE CURRENT LOCATION OF THE HANNA IS ALSO NOT KNOWN BUT IT MAY NOW BE NEARING THE PORT OF ASHOOD.

3, SYRIAN FRONT

A, (S/NFD) GROUND ACTIVITY ON THE SYRIAN FRONT WAS DESCRIBED AS LIGHT, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NO MAJOR GROUND ENGAGEMENTS WERE NOTED.

B, (C)

[REDACTED] MOST OF SYRIA'S 2D ARMORED DIVISION'S T-62 TANK LOSSES HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY THE SOVIETS. THE DIVISION PLUS TWO UNIDENTIFIED BRIGADES ARE IN RESERVE IN THE [REDACTED]

C, (SS) AIR ACTIVITY ON THE SYRIAN FRONT CONSISTED MOSTLY OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT FLYING DEFENSIVE PATROLS OVER NORTHERN ISRAEL, THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND JORDAN. TWO

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SYRIAN AIRCRAFT PENETRATED THE ISRAELI AIRSPACE ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST IN AN ATTEMPTED STRIKE AGAINST THE HAIFA OIL REFINERY, ONE AIRCRAFT, POSSIBLY A FITTER TYPE, CRASHED DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES.

4. OTHER ARAB ACTIVITY

A. IRAQ-SYRIA

(SYNPD) A LEBANESE MILITARY SPOESMAN WITH GOOD IRAQI SOURCES STATED THAT IRAQ WILL COMMIT A TOTAL OF FOUR DIVISIONS TO THE SYRIAN FRONT, HE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE BAGHDAD-DAMASCUS ROAD WAS CLOGGED WITH IRAQI TROOPS, TANKS, AND TRUCKS, PRESUMABLY HEADING TOWARD THE FRONT, IRAQ CURRENTLY HAS COMMITTED TO THE FIGHTING ONE ARMORED DIVISION, ONE ARMORED BRIGADE, AND TWO INFANTRY BRIGADES WITH ARMOR, ALSO, BAGHDAD HAS PROMISED A SECOND ARMORED DIVISION AND ONE AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY UNIT, IRAQ COULD COMMIT A TOTAL OF FOUR DIVISIONS TO THE FIGHTING, BUT THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE MAJORITY OF THEIR GROUND FORCES BEING OUT-OF-COUNTRY, PRIOR TO THE WAR'S OUTBREAK, IRAQI FORCES CONSISTED OF FOUR INFANTRY DIVISIONS, TWO ARMORED DIVISIONS, ONE ARMORED BRIGADE, ONE ARTILLERY BATTALION, ONE AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION, AND OTHER SMALLER INDEPENDENT UNITS.

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0 211515Z OCT 73

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TO : PETER ROUMAN FOR DR. KISSINGER

T O P S E C R E T CONTAINS CODEWORD FINAL SECTION OF TWO

TOHAK 53

B. TUNISIA-MOROCCO-EGYPT

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C. BAHRAIN

(U) THE BAHRAIN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS REPORTEDLY
DECIDED TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE US PROVID-
ING CERTAIN FACILITIES TO US SHIPS IN THE PORT OF BAHRAIN.
THE US NAVY USES THE FACILITIES OF THIS PORT.
5. OTHER ACTIVITY

A. FRANCE-LIBYA-EGYPT

(C) THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV SAID ON
20 OCTOBER THAT FRANCE WILL NOT TAKE OFFICIAL ACTION ON MIRAGE
SUPPORT TO LIBYA UNTIL IT HAS UNDENIABLE PROOF OF MISUSE OF
LIBYAN MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, NEVERTHELESS, FRANCE BELIEVES THESE
AIRCRAFT ARE BEING FLOWN IN EGYPT BY EGYPTIAN PILOTS.

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

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B, SOVIET

1) GROUND

(S) THE GROUND FORCES IN THE USSR AND EAST EUROPEAN FORWARD AREA CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ROUTINE TRAINING ACTIVITY DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD,

2) AIR

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B) (S) IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, A SOVIET NAVAL MINE-SWEEPER, ESTIMATED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OILER, IS TRANSITING INTO THE SOUTHERN PERSIAN GULF, A SECOND GROUP OF SHIPS, CONSISTING OF A DESTROYER AND DESTROYER-ESCORT, WITH THE PROBABLE COMMANDER OF SOVIET NAVAL UNITS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ABOARD, IS ALSO POSSIBLY EN ROUTE TO THE PERSIAN GULF, THESE LAST TWO UNITS, LOCATED WEST OF INDIA ON THE 20TH, RECENTLY COMPLETED A PORT VISIT TO COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, PREVIOUS ESTIMATES WERE THAT, DUE TO LENGTH OF TIME IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE DESTROYER AND ESCORT WOULD BEGIN A TRANSIT TO PACIFIC FLEET HOME WATERS UPON TERMINATION OF THE COLOMBO VISIT, THE TWO UNITS LINGERED SOUTH OF SRI LANKA FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE BEGINNING A TRANSIT TO THEIR PRESENT LOCATION,

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E) (S) A TANK-LANDING SHIP WHICH RECENTLY DEPLOYED TO CONAKRY, GUINEA, WAS NOTED TRANSITING NORTHERLY, EAST OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS EARLY ON 21 OCTOBER. THIS UNIT COULD POSSIBLY AUGMENT THE SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON IN A FEW DAYS AS COULD A GUIDED-MISSILE LIGHT CRUISER RETURNING FROM A CARIBBEAN DEPLOYMENT. THE CRUISER WAS LOCATED EAST OF BERMUDA WELL AHEAD OF THE OTHER THREE UNITS SHE HAD BEEN ACCOMPANYING.

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