

USIB 73 War
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EO 12958 3.3(b)(1) > 25 Yrs
EO 12958 3.3(b)(6) > 25 Yrs

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

NIC No. 73-0120A

SCOWCROFT
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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**SPECIAL MEETING
of the
WATCH COMMITTEE**

No. 1206A

6 October 1973

1. The Watch Committee met in special session at 0900 on 6 October 1973 to consider the outbreak of Israeli-Arab hostilities and Soviet actions with respect to the situation.

2. We can find no hard evidence of a major, coordinated Egyptian/Syrian offensive across the Canal and in the Golan Heights area. Rather, the weight of evidence indicates an action-reaction situation where a series of responses by each side to perceived threats created an increasingly dangerous potential for confrontation. The current hostilities are apparently a result of that situation, although we are not in a position to clarify the sequence of events. It is possible that the Egyptians or Syrians, particularly the latter, may have been preparing a raid or other small-scale action. [redacted]

[redacted]

3. The available evidence suggests that the Soviets became alarmed by the escalating situation and withdrew a number of personnel, probably dependents, on a hasty basis. This action itself served to further heighten tensions. [redacted]

[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

6 October 1973

[redacted]

Other]

than the above, we have seen no evidence of Soviet military alerts or other preparedness measures.

[redacted]

[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]