

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
6 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

corrected  
Zulu time

(Situation Report Number  
as of 5:30 EDT)

ISRAELI ACTIVITY

1. A briefing by the Israeli military officer for the attache corps at 1630 local time (~~1630~~) <sup>placed the</sup> 1430 ~~placed~~ blame for the attack on the Egyptians and Syrians. The Israeli officer stated that the Egyptians and Syrians launched a simultaneous air attacks at 1400 local (~~1600~~). The Arab aircraft, which were said to number in the "tens" on both fronts, attacked military targets in northern Israel, the Golan Heights, and in the western and southern Sinai. The defending Israeli aircraft reportedly shot down over a dozen aircraft in these initial attacks.

2. The Israeli officer stated that the air attack was followed by a combined infantry armor attack all along the Golan Heights and the entire Suez Canal. The Egyptians succeeding in crossing the Canal at several points, including near Port Fuad at the northern end of the Canal. As of 1630, local time (~~1630~~) <sup>1450</sup>, fighting was continuing on all fronts.

3. According to the Israelis the IDF did not commence mobilizing until noon and were not yet completely mobilized. He claimed this was a planned, coordinated attack by the Syrians and Egyptians, and that the Israeli decision to mobilize was not made till today in the hopes of preventing such an attack.

NLNP  
Mandatory Review  
Case NLN 02-24  
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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

4. At approximately 1650 Tel Aviv time (1450Z) two Egyptian TU-16 Badger jet medium bombers approached Tel Aviv from the Mediterranean and one of the bombers launched a Kelt air-to-surface cruise missile. Israeli aircraft intercepted and shot down the sub-sonic missile some 70 nm from the city but the bombers apparently were not attacked. The Kelt missile carries a 1,100 lb high explosive warhead.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

5. Israeli forces on the canal were still under attack by Egyptian forces as of 2136 local time (~~2130Z~~). 1926

[REDACTED]

6. An Israeli <sup>1730</sup> spokesman said in Jerusalem as of 1930 local time (~~2130Z~~) that Egyptian attacks had continued along the entire canal during the late afternoon and into the evening. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Egyptians succeeded in bridging the canal in at least two places and were still putting forces across the east bank as of 1915 local time (~~2115Z~~). 1715

He stated that the Israelis are claiming that their armor and air forces have engaged and stopped the Egyptians along the entire front. Radio Cairo has claimed that their naval forces have attacked Israeli positions along the northern coast of Sinai, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. Reuters reports that a UN spokesman has stated that Israel shot down eight Egyptian helicopters carrying airborne troops in Israeli-occupied Sinai, about 30 miles south of the city of Suez.

SYRIAN FRONT

9. [redacted] military activities in the Syrian sector [redacted] appears to have subsided because of darkness. Tel Aviv claimed in a radiobroadcast that "the advance and breakthrough of the Syrians have been checked." The broadcast indicated that the Syrians probably have had some local successes in the Golan Heights area.

SOVIET POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

10. [redacted] Moscow gave orders to evacuate its dependents on 3 October. [redacted]

[redacted] the Soviets did not give a reason for their action. [redacted] the Soviet government "undoubtedly" had information that the Egyptians were preparing an attack. [redacted]

11. Soviet media have continued to offer Arab-originated reports to the effect that Israel has launched attacks against Syria and Egypt. Moscow has not so far originated any of its own commentary. In Moscow, meanwhile, the [redacted] reports no unusual military activity. The Ministry of Defense Offices appeared to be active but no late night oil was being burnt at party headquarters or other civilian offices.

OTHER ARAB STATES

12. Jordan's King Husayn was advised of the Syrian attack [redacted]

His only reported action was to put two divisions in north Jordan on alert. [redacted]

13. The only reference seen so far to Libyan reactions was a Tripoli radio announcement that Presidents Sadat and Qadhafi had discussed the battle by phone on Qadhafi's initiative

14. The Moroccan radio has reported the participation of the Moroccan expeditionary unit in the Golan Heights fighting.

WHO INITIATED HOSTILITIES?

15. As a result of the Egyptian maneuvers and associated alerts, the reports of Syrian redeployments, and rumors of Israeli preparations to attack, both Arab and Israeli forces were much more than usually alert to movements by the other side and would have been conducting vigorous reconnaissance. Israeli aircraft made a fast sweep up and down the canal this morning at 0854 Tel Aviv time, for instance.

16. [redacted]

17. Egypt has stated in broadcast accounts and in a statement distributed to foreign embassies in Cairo that "an obvious aggression" was launched against Egypt and Syria by Israeli with an attack on the Za'afra and Sukna areas of the Gulf of Suez employing

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aircraft and naval boats. The statement did not give a time for the attack it said was "launched also in the Syrian borders."

described in the Egyptian statement.

18. Israeli statements have consistently reported a simultaneous air attack by Syria and Egypt at 1400 (1200Z) in northern Israel and in Sinai.