

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
13 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 30
(As of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. A relatively quiet night passed on both fronts with the fighting beginning again at dawn. The Israeli Air Force returned to the skies over southern Syria, conducting ground attacks in support of the Israeli thrust toward Damascus. At last report, the Israelis were 12 miles beyond the 1967 cease-fire line on the road leading to Damascus and still facing resistance from the Syrian forces. According to an Israeli spokesman the Syrians are now preparing defensive positions further back toward Damascus. These positions probably will be tested today. The Israelis claim that the Iraqi forces committed to battle yesterday were destroyed in the morning's fighting and were retreating. During the evening, according to official Israeli announcements, commandos raided deep into Syria, some 60 miles northeast of Damascus, destroying a bridge and attacking an Iraqi convoy.

2. The Egyptian front remains quiet with little change in the dispositions over the past few days. The Israeli air force was active over the

canal this morning, but the flights have been much fewer than against the Syrians. The Egyptians continue to reinforce the east bank of the canal but the Israelis claim substantial Egyptian forces are still being held in reserve on the west bank. The Israelis apparently are maintaining contact with the Egyptian positions in light probing raids but are not committing any substantial forces at this time.

THE EGYPTIAN FRONT

3. Little activity was noted along the canal during the night. This morning Israeli aircraft were active in the area north of the Breat Bitter Lake, over the Gulf of Suez and Port Said. As in past Israeli overflights, Egyptian fighter reaction was limited and no air battles have been detected. Egyptian reinforcement of the east bank of the canal continues unabated. The Israelis are continuing to hold back from any major engagement in the Sinai until the outcome on the Syrian front is assured.

4. An Israeli armored brigade that has moved north in the past few days from Ras As Sidr on the Gulf of Suez probed Egyptian forces on the southern flank of their Sinai front yesterday. No significant breakthroughs have been detected.

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SYRIAN FRONT

6. There was no reported change over the evening in the disposition of the Israeli forces on the road

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to Damascus. At last report, the Israelis had advanced 12 miles beyond the 1967 cease-fire line and were still meeting Syrian resistance. Iraqi forces were committed to battle yesterday, attacking the flank of the Israeli salient.

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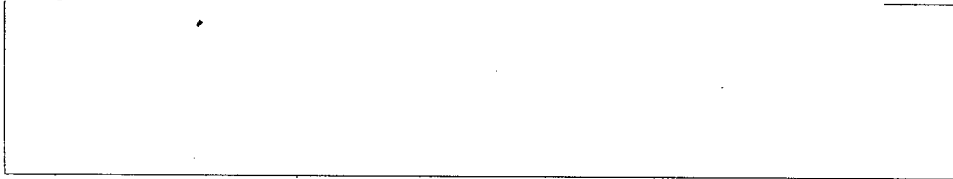
7. During the evening Israeli commandos raided deep into Syria. According to Israeli announcements, the raiding party destroyed a bridge and attacked an Iraqi column some 60 miles northeast of Damascus, returning safely after the raid. The Iraqis claim to be sending some 16,000 troops to fight in Syria, and this column probably contained the rear elements of the forces already committed or additional forces coming up.

8. There are still substantial forces--Syrian or Iraqi--on the flanks of the Israeli salient. One Israeli aircraft was reported downed this morning in ground attacks in the vicinity of Kudnah and Agrabah. Kudnah is only three miles from the cease-fire line near the base of the Israeli salient.

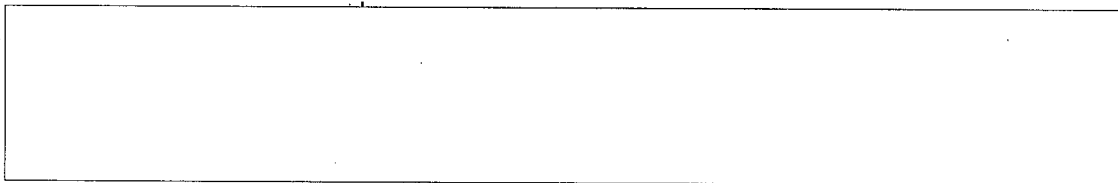
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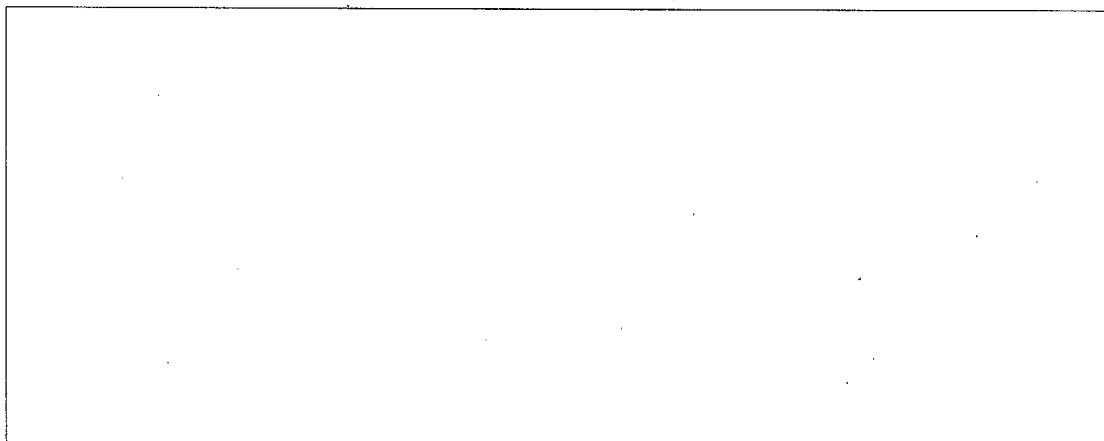
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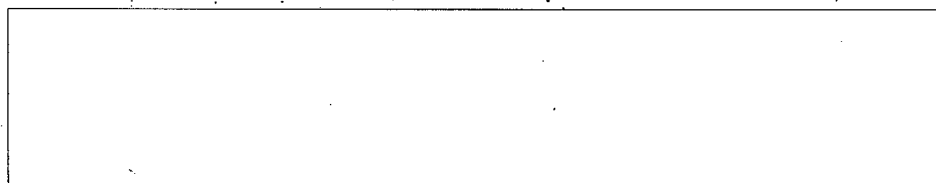
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11. There have been no further reports on the Jordanian forces that had been expected to cross into Syria last night. The last reports had the Jordanians moving only to straddle the Jordanian-Syrian border near Sa'ida today and then on to a position between Dar'a and Shaykh Miskin on Sunday night. From these positions the Jordanians would be well away from the operations currently under way.

12. Two Greek and two Japanese ships have sustained heavy damage during recent Israeli naval attacks at Latakia and Baniyas. The two Greek ships have sunk. One Japanese ship was also sunk at Latakia but is not in danger of sinking. The second Japanese vessel was hit at Baniyas and is seriously damaged.

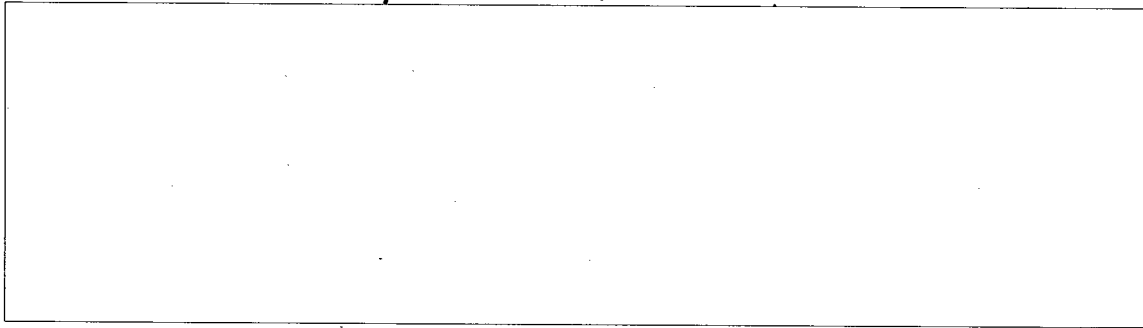


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EGYPT

18. Egypt has imposed a "holy war" tax on gasoline, cigarettes and Liquor along with an increased percent on higher level income to help pay for the current fighting. An official announcement stated that the Egyptian Government had taken its action in response to a desire of the populace to "contribute to the liberation battle."

