



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
13 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 31  
(As of 1130 EDT)

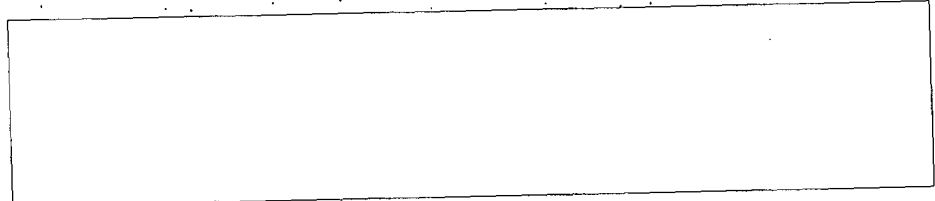
THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. Little change has been reported in the military situation on both fronts during the early morning of 13 October. The Jordanian Government has officially announced the movement of units to Syria, and small numbers of Saudi Arabian forces already in Jordan may be moved also. The Israelis have indicated that the rough terrain and heavy Syrian defenses may result in only slow progress along the road towards Damascus. Combat activity on the Egyptian front remains at a low level.

THE SYRIAN FRONT

2. The Jordanian 40th Armored Brigade of the 3rd Armored Division has been reported by USDAO in Amman as the unit probably deployed to the Syrian front. Whether the unit--with over 2,000 troops--will occupy defensive positions south of the main front or actually advance into the combat area is not clear. The Jordanian 5th Armored Division reportedly has moved elements north to occupy the



DIA review(s) completed.

positions of the 40th Brigade. The Jordanian army numbers some 65,000 men, and includes two infantry divisions, two armored divisions, a mechanized division, and several smaller units. Two divisions are located near the Syrian border and the rest generally are deployed opposite Israel.

3. USDAO Amman also reported the presence of Saudi Arabian military police in Jordan and heavy truck activity near the Saudi border. This may indicate preparations for the transit of Saudi military units through Jordan to the Syrian border. Saudi infantry units have been stationed in Jordan for several years, and although a Beirut newspaper claimed that Saudi troops already have entered Syria, this cannot be confirmed.

4. Heavy fighting continues along the lines of the Israeli advance toward Damascus and on the flanks of the Israeli salient. A press photographer in the area estimates that the Israeli vanguard has moved within 16 miles of the ancient Syrian capital. Israeli airstrikes this morning were observed against targets along the flanks of the advance and in the Golan Heights. This indicates that Syrian forces are still located in strength near the 1967 cease-fire line.

5. There have been no further reports of the status of the Iraqi units in Syria. The Israelis have qualified an earlier report of destroying the Iraqi force. They now claim to have routed an advanced Iraqi brigade and destroyed nearly 80 tanks.

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SOVIET POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

10. Soviet press coverage of the war took on a somewhat harsher tone today. Pravda front-paged the TASS statement of 12 October that the "Soviet Union cannot regard the criminal actions of the Israeli military with indifference." Accompanying stories noted the sinking of the Soviet freighter in Tartous and the bombing of the Soviet cultural center in Damascus. Pravda makes clear, however, that there were no Soviet casualties in the freighter incident and only one Soviet woman killed in the bombing of the cultural center. A Soviet official in Algiers has confirmed that one Soviet national was killed and five wounded at the cultural center. Today's Pravda also picks up reports from western press sources on US shipments of arms to Israel.

11. Despite this escalation, any threat of Soviet reaction is left vague. Pravda balanced its Middle East coverage with five paragraphs on President Nixon's meeting with business leaders that emphasized the free trade aspects of the President's remarks.

EGYPTIAN PRESS CRITICISM

12. Editorials in the Egyptian press today continued to attack the US, but front-page articles were overshadowed by news of the fighting and diplomatic developments. Stories focus on the US reported shipments of US military equipment to Israel, the arrival of Phantoms with US pilots in Spain en route to Israel, and the augmentation of the Sixth Fleet with a helicopter carrier. An editorial in Cairo's leading daily Al Ahram states that the uproar about Soviet arms deliveries to the Arabs is a vicious ruse to permit the US to justify the shipment of sophisticated weaponry to Israel. The answer, the editorial concludes, is to cut off Arab oil to the US.

IRAQ

13. The Iraqi press is calling on the Arabs to strike at US interests throughout the Arab world. The ruling Iraqi Baath party newspaper published what it called a list of the principal US military bases in the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa. It claims these are used to support Israel, and called for their liquidation. The paper urged that demonstrations protesting US support of Israel be held, that workers strike American-owned property, and that life be made into a "hell" for US military advisers and other American experts.

14. The Iraqi Workers Trade Union Federation has called on Arab workers elsewhere to boycott all US ships and for the suspension of Arab oil shipments to America. According to an Arab news agency, the Kuwait workers union has also issued an appeal for "firm" measures against US interests, and two days ago the Kuwait oil workers union called for a take-over of American oil interests there.

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ANNEX

Israel in the Sinai

1. Bernard D. Nossiter, in an article dated Tel Aviv 12 October printed in this morning's Washington Post, states that "it is understood" that Prime Minister Meir's government "may be considering" leaving the Egyptian military forces in place on the east bank of the Suez.

2. We have no confirmation that Tel Aviv is considering such a move, and this idea may be too speculative at this point. There are, however, several factors which could lead the Israelis to move in such a direction:

-- Of all the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli position regarding the retention of the Sinai has been the most fluid. The Israelis have been adamant only on holding control of Sharm ash Shaykh at the entrance to the Strait of Tiran. They have built a land connection to Sharm ash Shaykh and established settlements and military installations there. On the western side of Sinai, they have concentrated only on a group of settlements at the southern end of the Gaza Strip to provide a forward buffer zone. Defense Minister Dayan, who will play a determining role in what Israel will eventually accept as "secure borders," has left the Sinai line very vague. He has said only that a new line should be drawn "somewhere" between the canal and the old pre-war lines. Israel could not return to the old pre-1967 lines. Most observers believe that Dayan is thinking of a line running roughly from the El Arish area on the Mediterranean across to Sharm ash Shaykh. With an Egyptian military force in place on

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the east side of the canal, Israel almost certainly would insist on retaining control of the key passes at Mitla and Gidi.

-- Tel Aviv, while admittedly concentrating its efforts first on driving back the Syrians before it turns to the canal, seems to have bought only token effort to bear on the Egyptians. They have "permitted"--if that is the word--Egypt to build up a military force of considerable size and strength which Israel must now know will be extremely difficult and costly to dislodge.

-- Indeed, if Israel does indeed intend to "throw the Egyptians back across the canal," it will necessarily have to have commitments from the US for a massive re-supply in aircraft and tanks. Tel Aviv's losses on the Syrian front to Soviet missiles would indicate that throwing the Egyptians back across the canal will be even more costly.

-- While there could be political repercussions on such a settlement in the Sinai, most of the political parties, except some parts of the right-wing GANAL party, would basically not oppose such an agreement.

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## ANNEX

SOVIET AIRCRAFT CAPABILITIES

The AN-12 transport has a cargo carrying capacity of about 10 tons. There are about 900 of these aircraft in Soviet inventories. Some of the major items which can be airlifted in the AN-12 include fighter aircraft, artillery, certain short-range surface-to-surface missiles, antitank weapons, assault guns, rocket launchers, and aircraft maintenance equipment. The shipment of tanks and other similarly bulky equipment is beyond the capability of the AN-12 (CUB).

It is estimated that one CUB is required to carry one MIG-17 (FRESCO). It would take three CUBs to airlift two complete MIG-21 (FISHBED) or SU-7 (FITTER) fighter-bombers.

A three-launcher FROG battalion with a 3-day supply of ammunition can be lifted by using 10 to 12 CUBs, except that the trailers and tank recovery vehicles of the battalion could not be accommodated. SWATTER, SNAPPER, and SAGGER antitank guided missiles mounted on a GAZ-69 truck can be lifted, three to an aircraft, along with a 3-day supply of ammunition. If these missiles are mounted on an armored personnel carrier (BRDM), two launcher systems and their ammunition can be loaded on one CUB.

There are about 35 AN-22 transports in the Soviet inventory. The AN-22 can carry about 50 tons of cargo. It was designed for moving bulky and heavy cargo over long distances and can operate from hard natural surfaced fields. The aircraft is capable of carrying virtually all the surface-to-air missiles, ground support equipment such as trailers, electronic vans, missile transporters, launchers and handling equipment,

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as well as unguided field artillery rockets (FROGS).  
The following combat vehicles could also be lifted:

	<u>Aircraft Capacity</u>
57-mm Assault Gun, ASU-57	4
Twin 57-mm AA Gun, ZSU-57-2	1
85-mm Assault Gun, ASU-85	3
100-mm Assault Gun, SU-100	1
Amphibious Armored Reconnaissance, BRDM	4
Armored Personnel Carrier, BTR-40	5
Armored Personnel Carrier, BTR-152	4
Amphibious Armored Personnel Carrier, BTR-60P	3
Amphibious Armored Personnel Carrier, BTR-50P	3
PT-76 Amphibious Tank	3
T-54 Medium Tank	1
T-55 Medium Tank	1
T-62 Medium Tank	1

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