

October 9 -- Noon -- Excerpt (overview) of Agency situation Report:

GENERAL

1. The war continues to be bitterly contested on both fronts. Tel Aviv is beginning to issue more sober appraisals of the situation, and there is no indication that the Israelis have achieved their anticipated breakthrough in Syria. Tel Aviv appears to be preparing the Israeli public for hard days of fighting ahead. Israeli correspondents are now reporting "bitter battles" against "an immense invasion force" in the Sinai.

2. The Syrians continue to fight well on the Golan Heights. Despite the Israeli counterattack, the Syrians do not appear to have been driven from all areas they captured in the last few days nor have they broken as the Israelis had anticipated.

3. The most recent fighting appears to have involved the continued engagement of the Israeli air force against both the Syrians and Egyptians. In the Sinai, the Israelis are concentrating on the Egyptian forces close to the canal particularly in the northern sector. The Israelis also returned to the Syrian front attacking the cities of Damascus and Homs in the interior. In contrast to their concentration on purely tactical targets in previous days, the Israelis apparently broadened their target list to include Syria's only oil refinery and its military headquarters in the Damascus area. (full available if needed)

Agency paper also included the following on oil:

"According to press reports, Kuwait called today for an immediate meeting of Arab oil ministers to discuss the role of petroleum in the current crisis. The emergency meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could be for the purpose of discussing the flow of Arab oil to Western consumer countries. Some of the Arab ministers who will be called to attend the session are currently attending the OPEC conference in Vienna. Today's Journal of Commerce reports that three Arab Mediterranean oil terminals -- Baniyas (IPC/Syria); Tripoli (IPC/Lebanon); and Sidon (Tapline/Lebanon) have been closed to shipping presumably as a result of the current crisis. This report has not been confirmed, but seems reasonably in light of the danger to oil tankers in the area. If the terminals have been shut down, it would represent a flow stoppage of approximately 1.6 million barrels per day, almost all of which goes to Western Europe."

On Resupply, Agency paper also notes "the Israelis have sufficient quantities of ordnance of all kinds to pursue the war at a relatively heavy level of intensity for about two weeks...the Syrians probably have enough fuel and ordnance on hand to continue