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ISRAEL-U.S.

BY FRED S. HOFFMAN

I WASHINGTON (AP) - THE UNITED STATES WILL START REPLACING SOME OF ISRAEL'S SEVERE BATTLE LOSSES IN PLANES, TANKS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN A FEW DAYS, U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE PENTAGON REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

BUT NIXON ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID THE BASIC DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AND THAT MOVEMENTS OF MAJOR U.S. MILITARY GEAR TO ISRAEL WOULD BEGIN SOON.

SOURCES SAID DETAILS ON NUMBERS AND QUANTITIES STILL ARE UNDER DISCUSSION.

I THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD DRAW FROM ITS AIR FORCE AND ARMY RESOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES, POSSIBLY EUROPE AND OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD.

A WIDE VARIETY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS SAID TO BE ON THE LIST. THE ACTION, MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN AN AMMUNITION RESUPPLY AIRLIFT ALREADY UNDER WAY, COMES AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF MOUNTAINING ISRAELI COMBAT LOSSES, A GROWING SOVIET SUPPLY AIRLIFT TO EGYPT AND SYRIA AND A WIDENING OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

MEANWHILE, U.S. INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS ESTIMATED THAT ISRAEL'S WAR SUPPLIES MIGHT LAST ONLY ANOTHER TWO WEEKS IF THE FIGHTING CONTINUES AT THE TEMPO OF THE FIRST WEEK'S AIR AND GROUND BATTLES.

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WASH--ADD ISRAEL-U.S. (72)

SINCE LAST SATURDAY, AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, THE ISRAELIS HAVE LOST AT LEAST 90 OF THEIR FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER-BOMBERS, NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF THE ISRAELI AIR STRIKING FORCE BEFORE THE OUTBREAK.

ISRAEL'S TANK LOSSES HAVE RANGED AROUND 650, OR MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF ITS ARMOR STRENGTH GOING INTO THIS NEW ROUND OF WAR, U.S. SOURCES SAID.

ARAB LOSSES ALSO HAVE BEEN HEAVY. AMERICAN ANALYSTS CALCULATE SYRIAN ARMS STOCKS MIGHT LAST LESS THAN A WEEK, EGYPTIAN SUPPLIES PERHAPS 10 DAYS MORE UNLESS THE FIGHTING SLACKENS.

SYRIA IS SAID TO HAVE LOST MORE THAN 90 PLANES OUT OF ITS APPROXIMATELY 250 FIGHTERS AND EGYPT OVER 80 OF ITS ROUGHLY 550 STRIKE PLANES.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THE SOVIET AIRLIFT TO SYRIA AND EGYPT IS OPERATING AROUND-THE-CLOCK AND THAT MORE THAN 2,000 TONS OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER MILITARY SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY SOVIET TRANSPORT PLANES SINCE MID-WEEK.

IN THE OPINION OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS, SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL, EXCEPT FOR ADVISERS, ALMOST EXCEPT FOR ADVISERS, ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI FIGHTING.

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