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RNR49

SCOWCRAFT
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***** U R G E N T

MIDEAST--MISSILE

TEL AVIV, NOV. 9, REUTER--ISRAEL CLAIMED TODAY THAT AN
ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS DOWNED BY AN EGYPTIAN SURFACE-
TO-AIR MISSILE TODAY OVER THE FRONT WITH EGYPT.

MORE WRM/JK0534

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RNR50
MIEAST--MISSILE 2 TEL AVIC

IT WAS THE FIRST REPORTED BREACH OF THE UNEASY CEASEFIRE SINCE REPORTS OF AN AGREEMENT ARRANGED BY UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER FOR STABILIZING THE CEASEFIRE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

THE OFFICIAL MILITARY COMMUNIQUE SAID THE PILOTS WERE SEEN BALING OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT, WHOSE TYPE WAS NOT SPECIFIED, AND THEIR NAMES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

THE PLANE WAS SAID TO BE ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION, BUT THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE DETAILS OF EXACTLY WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

IT WAS THE FIRST ISRAELI PLANE REPORTED DOWNED SINCE THE TWO AND HALF WEEK OLD CEASEFIRE CAME INTO EFFECT, THOUGH ISRAEL HAS COMPLAINED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASSIONS THAT MISSILES HAD BEEN FIRED AT ITS AERIAL PATROLS.

REUTER DJN/J No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-187-7-10-6