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TO DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T NOFORN 2102 NOV 73.

SUBJ: TRIP RPORT - SINAI FROMUGK U)

1. (SNF) ON NOV 1, 2, AND 3 RD VISITED THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS WITH THE US MILITARY EQUIPMENT VALIDATION TEAM. WE WERE ACCOMPANIED BY BG MORDECAI TZIPORI, DIRECTOR ARMOR FORCES, AND BG ELAZAR BARAK, CHIEF ORDNANCE CORPS. THIS REPORT ONLY ON 1 NOV TRIP.

2. (SNF) IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE HEREIN THAT PRIOR TO THE US TEAMS MOVEMENT INTO THE BATTLE AREAS THE IDF GENERAL STAFF GAVE EXTENSIVE AND FORTHRIGHT BRIEFINGS ON THE MID EAST WAR. THESE WERE VERY OPEN PRESENTATIONS IN WHICH BOTH THE USCSSES AND PROBLEM AREAS WERE PRESENTED. FROM THE CHIEF OF LOGISTICS, MG NEHEMIA KAIN, WE RECEIVED THE TOTAL IDF EQUIPMENT LOSSES. DURING THE TRIPS WER WERE ALSO GIVEN CANDID AND OPEN DESCRIPTIONS OF IDF ORBAT AND MANUEVER TECHNIQUES. THIS REPORT WILL BE GENERAL IN NATURE SINCE THE COMPILATION OF NUMEROUS STATISTICS, PROBLEM AREAS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF STILL AND 8MM MOVIES) WILL BE FORWARDED LATER.

3. (SNF) ON 1 NOV RD ACCOMPANIED GROUND FORCES TEAM TO SINAI. TEAM WAS HELICOPTERED TO THE EAST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL TO THE BRIDGE POSITIONS JUST NORTH OF GRAT BITTER LAKE. FROM THIS POINT WE MOVED BY COMMAND CAR ACROSS THE CANAL INTO "AFRICA" AND DROVE NORTH ALONG THE CANAL APPROXIMATELY SIX MILES TO A OBSERVATION POST

***** *WHSR COMMENT*****

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ON A LARGE HILL MASS WHICH PROVIDED AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF THE BATTLEFIELD ALONG THE EAST BANK. THIS VIEW EXTENDED A DISTANCE OF EIGHT TO TEN KILOMETERS DEEP BY TEN TO FIFTEEN KILOMETERS LONG AND WAS A PART OF WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "CANAL BR GEHEAD BATTLE". TO DESCRIBE THE SCENE WHICH LAY BEFORE US IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. IT WAS A GRAVEYARD OF 1000-1500 DESTROYED VEHICLES OF ALL MAKES AND TYPES. IDF STATED THAT IN THIS AREA WERE APPROXIMATELY 400 TANKS WITH 108700T BEING ISRAELI. IDF ALSO STATED THAT THESE WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND MANY OTHERS WHICH HAD BEEN DAMAGED (BOTH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI) BUT MAY HAVE A CHANCE OF BEING REPAIRED HAD BEEN ALLREADY EVACUATED. TANKS, HALF TRACKS, TRUCKS ARTY PIECES, ARMORED CARS AND SAM MISSILE TRANSPORTERS LITTERED THE AREA. RO ESTIMATES THAT THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE VEHICLE FOR EACH 100 SQUARE METERS. WE WERED SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN BACK ACROSS THE CANAL INTO THE CENTER OF THE MAIN BATTLE AREA WHERE WE WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT THE DESTROYED VEHICLES. RO BEING AN ARMORED OFFICER TOOK SPECIAL INTEREST IN DESTROYED TANKS, BOTH EAF AND IDF. RO SHOULD HAVE STAYED HOME. CLOSE INSPECTION IF IDF TANKS SHOWED MOST HAD SUFFERED "OVER KILLS" IN HITS. IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON TO FIND M-48'S AND M-60'S WITH FROM 3-5 PENETRATIONS IN BOTH HULL AND TURRET. THESE HOLES RANGED FROM 1 MCH IN DIAMETERS TO 4 INCHES IN DIAMETER. THS CONFIRMS IDF COMMANDERS STATEMENTS THAT RPG'S AND SAGGERS RAINED ON THEM. BY USING A STIFF WIRE IT WAS ASCERTAINED THAT EVEN THE SMALL ANTI-TANK MUNITIONS PENETRATED THE M-60 TURRET. (PHOTOS OF THESE WILL BE FORWARDED).

4. (SNF) INTERMIXED ON THE BATTLEFIELD WERE RUSSIAN MADE WHELLED VEHICLES OF ALL TYPES. THE MAJOR PORTION OF EAF ARMOR WERE THE T-54 AND T-55 TANKS. MOST OF EAF TANKS HAD BURNED. THREE BATTERIES OF 120MM FIELD GUNS AND APPROXIMATELY 8-10 ANTI-TANK GUNS OF THE 85MM AND 100 MM VARIETY WERE SEEN AND LOOKED SERVICEABLE. A TEAM MEMBER REPORTED SEEING FIVE SAM-3 MISSILE TRANSPORTERS WITH ALL THEIR MISSILES INTACT.

5. (SNF) MOVING FURTHER NORTH ALONG THE ROAD ADJACENT TO THE CANAL WE REACHED THE FURTHER MOST ISRAELI POSITION ALONG THE ESTABLISHED CEASE FIRE LINE. WE PLACED OUR POSITION ALMOST DUE WEST OF ISMALIA, 2 MILES SOUTH OF THE MAIN EAST WEST ROAD AND FIVE FIFES EAST OF THE CANAL. DURING OUR DRIVE TO THIS POSITION IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT ALONG THIS 10 KILOMETER DRIVE THERE WAS AN UNENDING VIEW OF DESTROYED VEHICLES. ONCE ON THE

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CEASE FIRE LINE ELEMENTS OF THE 20 ARMY, EAF, COULD BE SEEN APPROXIMATELY 1500 METERS NORTH OF IDF LINES. EAF WAS ACTIVE IN ALSO POLICING THE BATTLEFIELD. IDF TANK CREWS IN POSITION ALONG LINE WERE ALERT, IN A HAPPY MOOD, AND FLOCKED AROUND THE TWO IDF GENERALS ACCOMPANYING US. THEIR MORALE WAS EXTREMELY HIGH AND THEY WERE COMBAT READY. IDF FLAG WAS SEEN FLYING AT THIS POSITION WITH STAFF TIED ON THE TURRET OF BURNED OUT T-62 TANK. THE BDE COMMANDER OF THIS UNIT AND THE ASST DIV COMMANDER OF THE BRIDGE HAED DIVISION WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED US ON THE BATTLEFIELD TOUR REPEATEDLY REMARKED THAT IF THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN ANOTHER 36-48 HOURS THERE WOULD BE NO EGYPTIAN ARMY LEFT AND THIS FEELING OF FRUSTRATION AMONG THE MILITARY IN RO'S OPINION IS COMMON.

6. (SNF) WE BOARDED OUR VEHICLES, MOVED SOUTH AND CROSSED TO THE WEST BANK OVER THE SOUTHERN BRIDGE OF THE CANAL AND PROCEEDED TO FAID AIRPORT. LITTLE BATTLE DAMAGE WAS SEEN ALONG THIS ROUTE (4 IDF TANKS AND 7 EAF TANKS). TWO IDF 175MM GUNS WERE OBSERVED IN A DAMAGED STATE. BOARDING THE HELICOPTER AT FAID WE FLEW TO BIR GAFGAF (3037N3312E) WHERE THE IDF HAS A FORWARD AIRFIELD AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT/REPAIR CENTER FOR THE IDF SOUTHER COMMAND FORCES. THE TEAM TOURED THE TRACK VEHICLE REPAIR CENTER AND WAS INFORMED THAT DURING THE WAR OVER 170 VEHICLES HAD BEEN SENT THERE FOR REPAIR. OVER 120 M-60 AND M-48'S HAD BEEN RESTORED TO OPERATIVE CONDITION AND RETURNED TO THE EGYPTAIN FRONT.

7. (SNF) THIS REPORT BEING SENT TO DIA ONLY SINCE CANNOT GUESS SENSITIVITY OF FACT THAT 25x1 OCCUPIED BY IDF DURING THIS WAR. WE DEFER TO YOU ON FURTHER DISTRIBUTION.

8. (U) SUCCESSIVE MSGS OF TRIP REPORTS ON 2 AND 3 NOV FOLLOWING.
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