

MORI/CDF  
C01382652

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 12958 3.3(b)(6)>25Yrs

TOP SECRET [redacted]

NIC No. 73-0120A

SCOWCROFT  
LL

SPECIAL MEETING  
of the  
WATCH COMMITTEE

No. 1206A

6 October 1973

1. The Watch Committee met in special session at 0900 on 6 October 1973 to consider the outbreak of Israeli-Arab hostilities and Soviet actions with respect to the situation.

2. We can find no hard evidence of a major, coordinated Egyptian/Syrian offensive across the Canal and in the Golan Heights area. Rather, the weight of evidence indicates an action-reaction situation where a series of responses by each side to perceived threats created an increasingly dangerous potential for confrontation. The current hostilities are apparently a result of that situation, although we are not in a position to clarify the sequence of events. It is possible that the Egyptians or Syrians, particularly the latter, may have been preparing a raid or other small-scale action. [redacted]

SECRET UMBRA) (NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

[redacted] s that the Soviets became alarmed by the escalating situation and withdrew a number of personnel, probably dependents, on a hasty basis. This action itself served to further heighten tensions. [redacted]

TOP SECRET [redacted]

**TOP SECRET** [redacted]

**6 October 1973**

[redacted] other

than the above, we have seen no evidence of Soviet military alerts or other preparedness measures.

[redacted]

[redacted]

**TOP SECRET** [redacted]