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DIA SITUATION REPORT
SUPPLEMENT

#57

[TS-HK-AS673]

DIA, NAVY
reviews
completed.

NSA review completed

DATE: 20 Oct 73
TIME: 0130

SUBJECT: Summary of Soviet Reactions to the
Middle East Hostilities (U)

REFERENCE: DIA Spot Report Supplement 53B (U)

1. (TSU) Summary:

The massive Soviet airlift and sealift to the Middle East continues. The Soviet Union continues to pour supplies into the Middle East.

If the Egyptian situation becomes more precarious due to the crossing of the Suez by Israeli tanks and troops in large numbers, the Soviets will be forced to either call for an immediate cease-fire or their reactions will take on more serious overtones than seen to date.

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2. (C) Political:

A. The Kosygin peace-mission, after three days of talks, reflect no visible change in Middle East activities.

b. Based on high-level Soviet, Israeli, and Egyptian statements, a cease-fire is going to be difficult to achieve. The high-level importance of this is underscored by Kosygin's four days spent in Cairo.

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c. With the Israeli's making a major penetration of the Suez canal, Soviet reactions and activities over the next 48 hours will depend to a great extent on Soviet perception of the immediate threat to Cairo.

d. There has been little change in the treatment of the Middle East war or detente in the Soviet press on 19 October. Moscow's media continues to support the Arab position on a settlement.

e. The Yugoslav news agency sketched a rumored Soviet cease-fire plan guaranteed by UN, US and Soviet forces with Israel withdrawing to its pre-1967 borders.

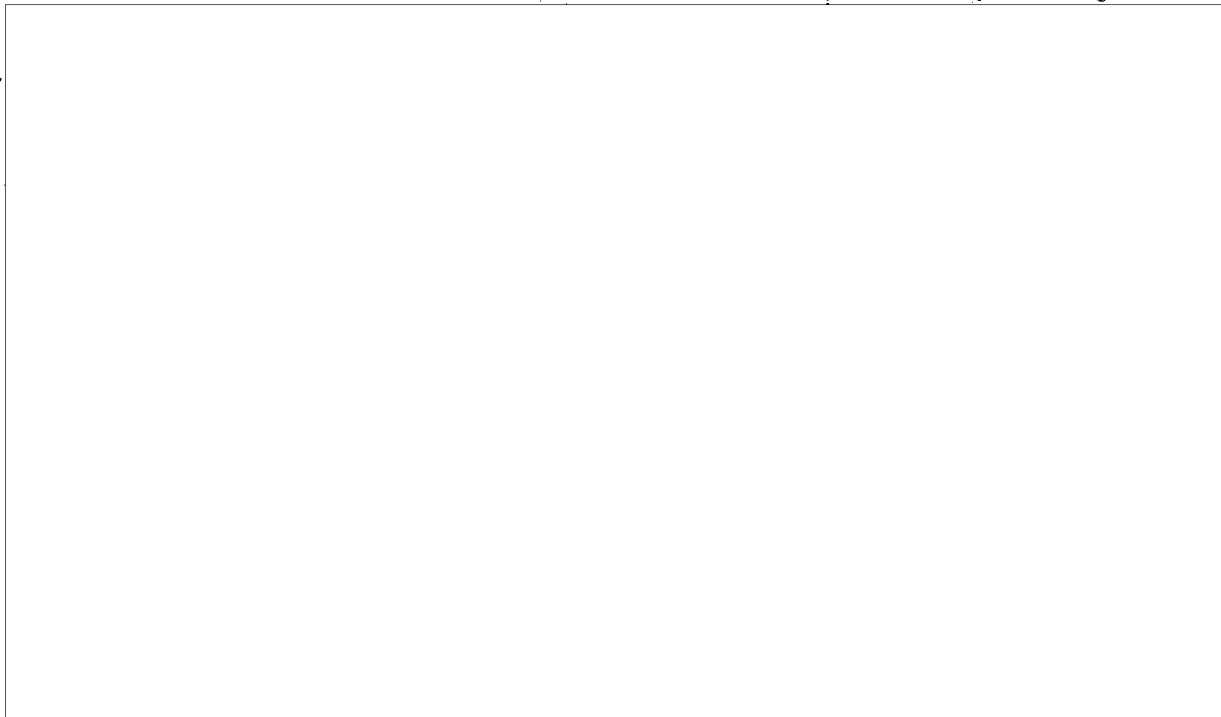
3. (C) Operations - Ground:

a. [redacted] regular forces are on alert. Tours by the US and friendly attaches have revealed none of the usual evidence of an alert i.e. officers in field uniforms or increased military movements. A slightly higher than usual number of alert aircraft was noted at one airfield, but other fields observed appeared normal. Security forces, however, were reported to be on alert, possibly with increased training under way.

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b. [redacted] two westbound Soviet trains composed of a total of 28 sleeper cars carrying Soviet military personnel. The significance of this sighting is unknown; however, it could represent periodic officer turnover. Normally, officers and NCOs do receive better treatment, such as sleepers, when sent to Germany as replacements.

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- 6. (U) SECURITY: No change
- 7. (U) ECONOMIC: No change
- 8. (U) LOGISTICS: As the Egyptian military situations worsens, Soviet logistical support activities from Russia and Eastern Europe are expected to increase. The focus of logistical support effort will probably be to Egypt where the average number of flights in the past two days (35) will probably increase to 60.
- 9. PERSONNEL: No change.

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