

***** T O P S E C R E T - CODE WORD*****S COPY

FLASH

[REDACTED]

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Z 070113Z NOV 73 ZFF-1 ZFF-4
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 29

TO USINT CAIRO

T O P S E C R E T/RUFF

[REDACTED]

WH37236

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TO: DICK CAMPBELL FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TOHAK 29

NOVEMBER 6, 1973
FOR SECRETARY HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM BRENT SCOWCROFT
REFERENCE: SECTO 10

FOLLOWING IS DIA ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET TROOPS IN
IRAQ, EGYPT AND SYRIA.

SOVIET TROOPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (S)

1. (S/NFO) AT THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE
SOVIETS HAD APPROXIMATELY 80 MILITARY ADVISORS IN EGYPT, ABOUT 1400 IN
SYRIA AND AN ESTIMATED 550 IN IRAQ. IN ADDITION THERE WERE AN UNKNOWN
NUMBER OF SOVIET CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND IRAQ.

[REDACTED]

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3. (TS U/BACKGROUND USE ONLY) SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES,
INDICATIONS OF CHANGES IN SOVIET PERSONNEL IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND IRAQ
HAVE BEEN NOTED AS FOLLOWS:

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A. IRAQ - WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET AD-
VISORY GROUP TO IRAQ HAS BEEN INCREASED.

B. EGYPT - WE CAN CONFIRM THAT SOME 70 TO 80 SOVIETS INCLUDING
20 INTERPRETERS ARRIVED IN CAIRO AS OF OCTOBER 25TH. AN UNCONFIRMED
REPORT INDICATED THAT SOME 300 SOVIETS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES ARRIVED
IN CAIRO ON THE 26TH AND AN ADDITIONAL 700 ARRIVED IN THE CITY ON

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

SCOWCROFT, HOWE

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NSA review completed

DIA review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ANGA Review Completed

THE EVENING OF 27/28 OCTOBER. ALTHOUGH SOVIET TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN CAIRO ON THOSE DAYS, WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THIS REPORT.

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THIS REPORT COULD HAVE REFERRED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF SCUD MISSILES INTO THE COUNTRY. SCUD UNITS NORMALLY ARE ORGANIZED AS BRIGADES. SCUDS WERE SEEN IN SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY AT CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD, AL QAHIRAH SAM SUPPORT FACILITY AND THE

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WHETHER THIS SYSTEM IS BEING OPERATED BY SOVIET PERSONNEL IS NOT KNOWN, HOWEVER AN EGYPTIAN POW STATED THAT EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL WERE BEING TRAINED ON A SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE HAVING A RANGE COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE SCUD.

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IF FOXBATS ARE OPERATING FROM EGYPT, ABOUT 100 SOVIET PERSONNEL WOULD BE INVOLVED IN GROUND SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE, FLIGHT CREW AND PHOTO PROCESSING OPERATIONS.

C. SYRIA-THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF SOVIET OPERATIONAL UNITS IN SYRIA.

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(1) AIR DEFENSE-AN [REDACTED] SOME OPERATIONAL SOVIET MILITARY UNITS WERE PRESENT IN SYRIA BY EARLY NOVEMBER. THESE UNITS WERE ALLEGEDLY TO BE USED PRIMARILY FOR AIR DEFENSE PURPOSES IN THE LATAKIA AREA TO PROTECT SOVIET SHIPPING LANES TO THAT PORT FACILITY. [REDACTED] INDICATED IN LATE OCTOBER THAT SOME 200-300 SOVIETS, WHO HAD AN AIR DEFENSE ROLE WITH POSSIBLY THE SA-6/GAINFUL SYSTEM, WERE IN THE LATAKIA AREA.

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(2) GROUND FORCES-[REDACTED] SOVIET ARMOR UNITS OF UNKNOWN SIZE ARRIVED IN SYRIA ON APPROXIMATELY 26 OCTOBER AND WERE BIVOUACED IN A COMOUFLAGED SITE EAST OF DAMASCUS. IT IS KNOWN THAT SOME 800 TANKS WITHOUT SUPPORT EQUIPMENT PASSED THROUGH THE PORT FACILITIES OF NIKOLAYEV SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE ARRIVED IN SYRIA. A TOTAL OF 8 AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE CALLED AT LATAKIA, HOWEVER, THE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT UNLOADED IS NOT KNOWN. THE GIANT REACH SR-71 MISSION OF 4 NOVEMBER DID NOT REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET UNITS TO THE EAST OF DAMASCUS; BUY CLOUD COVER OF THE AREA PRECLUDED A FULL READOUT. AN UNCONFIRMED CIA REPORT INDICATES THAT AN ADVANCE PARTY FOR A SOVIET AIRBORNE CONTINGENT IS PRESENT IN DAMASCUS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO OTHER EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS.

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4. (TS) IN SUMMARY, THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MILITARY PERSONNEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE MANY AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS (INCLUDING AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS OF THE SOVIET NAVY) WHICH

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HAVE ARRIVED IN THE AREA SINCE THE WAR BEGAN. BUY WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET MILITARY FORCES AS OPERATIONAL UNITS, OR OF THE INCREMENTAL INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET TROOPS TO BUILD UNITS IN PLACE. IF SUCH FORCES, HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN SENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THEY MOST LIKELY ARE THERE IN NO MORE THAN SMALL NUMBERS. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THE SOVIET ADVISORS PRESENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES ARE STILL THERE, AND THAT SOME ADDITIONAL ADVISORS AND TECHNICIANS--PERHAPS AS MANY AS A FEW HUNDRED--HAVE ARRIVED SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.
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