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Authority **EO 12958**
By **PRO** NARA Date **9/9/03**

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Operations Center

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE
Situation Report #18

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Situation Report in the Middle East as of 1800 EDT, **Oct. 10, 1973**

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October 10 was a day of sparring and regrouping on the ground, with most of the action in the air. On the Golan Heights, Israeli forces consolidated positions on the 1967 cease-fire line. Israel claimed that al-Quneitra had been at least turned into a no-man's land. The Syrian air force, perhaps including Iraqi planes, was unusually active. According to Israel, the Syrians lost 19 aircraft fighting IDF forces along the border with a loss of only one Israeli aircraft. The IAF attacked Damascus International Airport and conducted repeated attacks against the power station in northern Syria as well as the refinery at Homs. The German, Swedish and Dutch Embassies at Damascus were reported to be evacuating dependents.

The Egyptian air force was inactive. At the end of the day, Egyptian ground forces were positioned on a line 6 kilometers east of the Canal, in some places bulging to 10 kilometers. According to Israeli sources the IDF repulsed Egyptian forces attempting to turn south below Suez. Israeli aircraft hit Port Said defenses again heavily, as well as targets elsewhere in Egypt.

Greek, Israeli and our intelligence all reported an airlift of AN-12's to Aleppo (the Israelis claim 16 flights). The Israelis speculate the main cargo is missiles. There were also press reports that a Boeing 707 with Israeli markings was loaded with missiles and bombs in Norfolk October 10.

Jordan announced mobilization, but the King told us this was a psychological act. Ambassador Brown delivered a copy of Allon's warning re Jordanian involvement to the King and Prime Minister. At 11:00 P.M. Jordanian time * the Prime Minister phoned to say the situation was increasingly critical. He is still trying to resist the demands of the Egyptians and Syrians that Jordan enter the battle immediately, but thinks the King is weakening.

(* 5:00 p.m. EDT)

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He is reportedly finding it particularly difficult to turn down an urgent Syrian request for tank transporters, needed to transport the Iraqi armored division to the Syrian front. The Prime Minister asked that the U.S. do everything possible in the next few hours to calm the situation in the Middle East.

Saudi Minister of Petroleum Yamani has reportedly told the oil companies that if the U.S. makes a misstep during the present hostilities--i.e., such as resupplying Israel--Saudi Arabia will immediately reduce oil production from 9 to 7.5 million barrels per day, and a further 5% over specific intervals until U.S. policy changes.

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