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Authority E.O. 12958By AB NARA Date 8/26/03*War*S  
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CSECRET/EXDISDEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Operations CenterMIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE  
Situation Report #36S/S (3)  
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S/PCSituation Report in the Middle East as of 1800 EDT Oct. 16, 1973Military Situation

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Neither Israelis nor Arabs attempted to mount major attacks today. A Syrian-Iraqi counterattack against the south-central sector of the Israeli line apparently was repulsed by the IDF which claimed it knocked out 100 enemy tanks in the action. The Israelis also claim to have downed 10 planes on the Syrian front today, and 12 on the Egyptian front. Mrs. Meir told the Knesset that IDF forces have crossed to the western bank of the canal; the IDF later confirmed this and added that the crossing force is an armored one (we believe of small size) which is targeted against Egyptian artillery and air defense batteries.

Jordanian media reported today that Jordanian forces have been in action today and suffered their first casualties. An IDF source claims the Jordanians lost 30 tanks before retiring to their starting point.

The Oil Weapon

The Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister today called in the Ambassador of EC countries represented in Jidda and gave them an aide memoire which, in gist, urged the EC countries to use their influence to change America's policy in the Middle East. The Saudi aide memoire said that the Saudis must react to the US resupply effort and most likely will do so by decreasing oil production, a decrease which will hurt the EC countries first.

Soviet Activities

The Soviet resupply of Arab arsenals has at this writing involved some ~~400~~ flights and over 5,000 tons of war materiel. Soviet resupply by sea also is reported. There are indications that Prime Minister Kosygin may have been flown to Cairo today.

Arab Reactions to US Resupply

The only violent reaction so far took place in Kuala Lumpur where Muslim students broke windows in a USIS facility and insisted it be closed. In the Arab world the anti-American theme is getting even wider play. As further, more detailed

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press reports of our effort are spread, such as US marines being embarked today for the area in the USS Iwo Jima, the anti-American temperature is bound to rise.

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*Regina M. Elly*

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