

# WXPost Soviet Move Seen as a Bid to

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Washington Post Foreign Service

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25—The Russian demand for super-power forces to police the cease-fire line in Egypt was keyed to the plight of the trapped Egyptian 3d Army, according to responsible sources here.

This Egyptian force of about 20,000 men sits on a narrow slice of the Suez Canal's east bank, between Ismailia and the northern tip of the Gulf of Suez. It is encircled by Israeli forces on three sides and is cut off from Egypt proper by the Israeli bulge on the canal's west bank, Tel Aviv says.

An example of the 3d Army's situation was given Thursday night when the military spokesman here announced that Israel had agreed to a Red Cross request from Cairo to supply blood plasma for the wounded in the encircled force.

The spokesman said that the Egyptians had first asked permission to bring in the blood plasma themselves. But this, the spokesman went on, was "too complicated." Jittery Israeli troops, he explained, might shoot down an Egyptian helicopter flying low over Israeli lines to the beleaguered 3d Army. Instead, Red Cross vehicles will pass through the Israeli forces to the Egyptians on the east bank.

It is thought here that the Russians wanted a joint Soviet-American force between the combatants in order to open supply lines without Israeli permission. The cease-fire says nothing about resupply of ammunition, and open lines, it is said here, could enable the 3d Army to be reconstituted as a fighting force. Therefore, the Israelis oppose the introduction of big-power troops in Egypt as vehemently as did the United States.

The spokesman indicated that on humanitarian grounds Israel would permit food and water to reach the Egyptian soldiers. But he said Israel would oppose with force any Egyptian effort to bring in these sup-

plies on their own. In other words, the Egyptians again must ask Israeli permission. Tel Shams and Kenkor. Two or three more teams are on their way from Jerusalem to the Israeli side of the line.

U.N. observers have now left Cairo and Jerusalem to watch the much more contentious lines held by Israelis and Egyptians on the east and west banks of the Suez Canal.

Israeli sources said that one unresolved problem is whether Egypt is blockading the straits at the southern tip of the Red Sea. While the fighting was in progress, Egyptian naval vessels patrolled these waters, and the Israelis did not attempt to send any civilian ships through. Whether or not they can now is an issue that has not yet been tested.

Israel receives its oil supplies by tankers which use the straits.

For the moment, food and water are no problem, the spokesman said. A force that large has ample provisions of its own, he said.

Hundreds of 3d army men surrendered Thursday, but they were all taken on the west bank, pockets of soldiers cut off from their encircled comrades on the east bank according to the spokesman.

The military here claimed that the cease-fire was rigorously observed on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts Thursday.

The spokesman denied reports from Cairo that Israel had sunk a small Greek ship in the Egyptian port of Alexandria and that South African planes were flying alongside the Israelis.

The spokesman also said that the United Nations teams of observers are now in position on the Syrian side of the cease-fire line in the north, at Mt. Hermon,

## Nigeria Breaks

### Ties With Israel

From News Dispatches

LAGOS, Oct. 25.—Nigeria, which had been under pressure from Arab nations, broke diplomatic relations with Israel charging that country with "bad faith" in

crossing to the west bank of the Suez Canal and "taking military advantage" of the cease-fire.

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## Save Egyptian Unit

Some 17 Black African states have cut ties with Israel in the past 19 months in a growing show of African-

Arab solidarity. Over half of the breaks have come since the outbreak of the Middle East war on Oct. 6.