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Case # NLJ/RAC13-31SCAP Appeal
Document # 70a

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2 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

General Meir Amit, Chief of the Israeli Intelligence Service, held discussions on 1 June 1967 with me and some of my senior experts, pursuant to your agreement in this regard with Israeli Foreign Minister Eban. This memorandum summarizes the main points of General Amit's presentation. I have also attached a memorandum of my private conversation with him.

Amit thinks the Israelis' decision will be to strike. Regarding the outcome of a war, Amit said he sees an Israeli victory in three to four weeks, with Israeli losses of about 4,000 military personnel. There would be damage to Israel from Egyptian air strikes and from the Egyptians' missile boats, but, Amit said, Israel had "some surprises" of its own.

Again, Amit said Israel wants nothing from the U.S. -- except to continue to supply weapons already arranged for, to give diplomatic

Declassified Under Authority of the
Interagency Security Classification
Appeals Panel,
E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2016-138,
Document 1
Declassification Date: March 15, 2026

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support, and to keep the USSR out of the ring. He indicated they have everything they need.

After learning today of his and Ambassador Harman's orders to return, Amit told one of our senior officers this morning that he felt this must mean the time of decision has come for the Israeli Government. He stated there would have to be a decision in a matter of days. He said that Eban's mission was seen by him and the Israeli nation as a failure. Here Amit almost certainly shares the views of General Dayan, who is Israel's new defense minister, since Amit and Dayan have been very close for many years. Both are Sabras -- men born in Israel -- and their past careers have been closely connected.

It seems clear from Amit's remarks that the "tough" Israelis, who have never forgotten that they are surrounded by hostile Arabs, are driving hard for a forceful solution, with us and with their own government. Dayan's appointment, combined with Amit's and Harman's recall, can be interpreted as an ominous portent, considering the Israelis' military capability to strike with little or no warning at a time of their choosing. Amit opined, however, that Israel had lost the

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"moment of surprise" by its failure to strike early last week. He indicated that this was a very important element, implying that the Israelis may engage in some kind of deception to lull the Arabs.

Rich

Richard Helms
Director

Attachment - 1

SUBJECT: Views of General Meir Amit, Head of the
Israel Intelligence Service, on the Crisis
in the Middle East

cc: The Honorable Dean Rusk
The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
The Honorable Walt W. Rostow