

# Key tank battle raging in Sinai

## Israeli drive stalls in Syria

By the Associated Press

Egyptian and Israeli tanks clashed furiously today in the large and possibly decisive Suez Canal battle. Syria said its tanks knocked back an Israeli probe on the Golan Heights front.

Egypt said the Suez fighting centered around the central Bitter Lakes section of the canal and called on Israelis there to "surrender or face complete destruction."

"The battles raging since Wednesday, in the middle sector, are the most ferocious of all since the war began," said Cairo radio. "But our troops will continue, according to plan, to achieve victory."

Israel said its jets were pounding Egyptian targets in support of the Sinai armored forces and claimed Israeli ground fire downed two Soviet-built MIG warplanes and two Egyptian helicopters.

The Egyptians claimed their air defenses shot down 12 Israeli planes and said four Israeli pilots were captured.

Intense diplomatic activity was reported under way to end the fighting. Unconfirmed reports circulated in Washington, Moscow and other world capitals that Soviet Premier

Alexei N. Kosygin was in Cairo heading a Soviet mission.

The New York Times reported in a dispatch quoting diplomats in the Egyptian capital that Moscow has begun high-level efforts to bring about a settlement of the 13-day-old Middle East war.

But as the reported peace moves went on in secret, five Arabic-speaking gunmen stormed a building housing three American banks in Beirut, the Lebanese capital.

Police said they captured up to 60 hostages and threatened to kill them unless authorities provided a plane to carry them to Algeria or Yemen and released all Palestinian guerrillas

held in Lebanese jails.

The Middle East war also came home to noncombatant Beirut with offshore explosions that cut an undersea cable linking Lebanon and Europe. Military sources in Beirut said the five explosions were the work of Israeli frogmen but the Israeli radio quoted military spokesmen as denying the charge.

The Israeli drive into Syria remained bogged down about 21 miles from Damascus. The Syrians claimed they knocked out seven Israeli tanks just after dawn "when our forces repelled an enemy attack on one of our forward positions."

The Middle East war also entered finance with an an-

nouncement by Arab oil countries in Kuwait on Wednesday that they will cut their production by 5 per cent a month and increase the cut by 5 per cent a month as long as Israel holds onto Arab lands seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Their hope is that their West European and Japanese customers — who will feel the squeeze first and hardest — will pressure the United States into ending its shipments of war supplies to Israel.

There was intense diplomatic activity in Washington, the United Nations and other capitals aimed at ending the fighting. But no sign of progress was apparent.

## Israelis encounter N. Korean pilots

Washington (AP)

Israeli fighter planes have tangled with Soviet MIG fighters piloted by North Koreans flying over Egypt, the Pentagon said today.

Pentagon spokesman William Beecher said North Korean pilots on loan to the Egyptian air force engaged in a brief dogfight with Israeli fighters in the air south of Cairo.

Beecher said no planes were downed on either side, though

shots were exchanged.

There were approximately 30 North Korean pilots in Egypt before the latest Arab-Israeli fighting began almost two weeks ago, but today's report was the first indication of an Israeli-Korean encounter.

The Pentagon declined to identify the source of its information, but the report apparently came from Israeli pilots.

"Neither side took any losses

or hits," Beecher said. "It was a short dogfight situation."

Beecher was asked if there has been any evidence of other Communist-bloc nations providing pilots for the Egyptian or Syrian air forces.

He responded that Israeli pilots have indicated they believe they were fighting pilots of other Communist-bloc nations, but said there is no firm substantiating evidence.

## suit

four which plaintiffs name, warrants an assumption of jurisdiction, and the court is therefore left with no alternative here but to dismiss the action," Serica wrote.

He added that Congress could have authorized the suit, but

## Warmer

Champaign County — Tonight fair, the low 47 to 52. Friday mostly sunny and warmer, the high 75 to 80.

High Wednesday 60 degrees; low 40 degrees; mean 50 degrees; 7 a.m. temperature today 48 degrees with 68 per cent humidity low today 48 degrees

## Kissinger says solution possible

Washington (AP)

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger says an opportunity exists for settlement of the

Arab-Israel war fair to both sides, but that first all fighting must stop.

The end of hostilities must then