

# Israel holds bridgehead across Suez

By the Associated Press

New tank battles raged today on the Syrian front and in a crucial fight along the Suez Canal as Israel broadened its hold on the western bank with reinforcements ferried across the waterway, Tel Aviv claimed.

Cairo said the Israeli report of a major thrust into Egypt was false and claimed the large-scale attack had been repelled. Israeli units are infiltrating across the canal at night, Egypt conceded, but claimed they were being surrounded and one unit was wiped out.

The Russian Embassy in Cairo said Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin left the Egyptian capital for Moscow after four days of secret talks with President Anwar Sadat on "all questions of common interest." He declined to say whether peace proposals were part of their discussions. Other reports said the Soviet leader might stop off in Damascus on the way home.

Secretary of State Henry A.

Kissinger continued talks in Washington with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. But despite the high-level contacts, officials predicted no quick end to the war. The fighting went on for the 14th day.

The Israeli command said its forces continued their attacks on Egyptian positions east of the Suez Canal in the Israeli-occupied Sinai Desert and around the bridgehead that Israel said Thursday it had established on the western bank of the canal, in Egyptian territory.

"In a series of battles being waged since this morning, dozens of enemy tanks, missile barriers and infantry deployments have been destroyed," a communique said.

An Israeli beachhead on the western bank of the canal would be the first time in the Middle East ground war that Israel had penetrated the Egyptian heartland, although Israeli jets have been striking targets in the Nile delta. An official Egyptian spokesman in Cairo scoffed at the claim and depicted the Is-

rael forces as commandos on a series of raids.

"A group of foreign correspondents are visiting the Sinai battlefield today to prove that the Israeli claims are false," he added.

The Israelis said their planes and tanks on the Syrian front repulsed a combined attack by Syrian, Iraqi and Jordanian infantry and tanks. They claimed the Arabs took severe losses.

"A large battle by tanks and artillery is raging since the early hours of this morning between our forces and the enemy in the central and northern sectors," reported the Syrian command. "The battle is still going on."

Saudi Arabia announced it was cutting oil production 10 per cent and threatened to stop all shipments of Saudi oil to the United States unless Washington quits supplying arms to Israel. But the Nixon administration expressed confidence that it could handle any cutbacks in the oil supply.

Kosygin, Sadat and secret talks