Naguib Quits in Cairo Row; Nasser Takes Premiership
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Associated Press

President Mohammed Naguib, left, and Lieut. Col. Gamal Nasser as they appeared at a meeting last May in Cairo.

By The United Press.

CAIRO, Thursday, Feb. 25 — Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib, Egypt's "iron man" President and Premier, resigned three days ago after demanding "absolute autocratic authority," it was announced today.

A communiqué said General Naguib resigned all his official positions, including the Presidency and leadership of the Revolutionary Council, which helped him to power in 1952.

Lieut. Col. Gamal Nasser, General Naguib's Vice President, became leader of the Revolutionary Council and Premier, but the Presidency will remain vacant until elections are held.

[Colonel Nasser, as new chief of the Revolutionary Council, proclaimed a state of emergency for all Egypt effective at dawn Thursday, Reuters said.]

The communiqué said that General Naguib insisted on "absolute autocratic authority" and

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NAGUIB QUITS ROLE IN EGYPT'S REGIME

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that the Revolutionary Council had been unable to persuade him to give up the demand during the past ten months.

General Naguib submitted his resignation three days ago, the communiqué said, "thus facing the Council with a fait accompli, knowing that any rift in the present circumstances would be unsafe."

The communiqué was issued after an emergency Cabinet meeting, which was followed by a closed "family meeting" of the Revolutionary Junta. General Naguib did not attend the Junta session.

General Naguib resigned after the Council refused his demand for veto rights over Council decisions. He also had demanded the right to appoint and remove Cabinet Ministers and the right to promote or cashier army officers.

The communiqué said Colonel Nasser had allowed General Naguib to assume leadership of the Revolutionary Council, even though Colonel Nasser had been elected leader before execution of the 1952 coup that ousted King Farouk.

"As a result of this abnormal situation, Naguib continued to be beset by a psychological complex from which he suffered much, though we all made an effort to present him to the world as the actual leader of the revolution," the communiqué stated.

The communiqué charged that General Naguib had resorted to the practice of staying at home to force the Revolutionary Council to accept his demands.

Political observers recently had taken note of rumors that a rift existed between General Naguib and Colonel Nasser, but there had been little actual evidence to justify such reports. It had been noted that the two men were not attending meetings together.

Today's meeting of the military junta, held at Egyptian Army headquarters, was called by Wing Commander Abdel Latif Boghdadi, War Minister in the Naguib Cabinet. Reporters were barred from the session.

A full Cabinet meeting was held before the military leaders gathered in secret. General Naguib attended the Cabinet meeting but left for home before the military session got underway.

An official announcement said Colonel Nasser assumed the leadership of the Revolutionary Council and the Premiership.

General Naguib was named first President of the new Egyptian Republic on June 18, 1953. The coup d'etat that had overthrown Farouk and forced him into exile was on July 23, 1952.

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