Gamal Abdel Nasser, who now assumes the Premiership. On the night of the coup General Naguib, a highly respected and popular senior officer, then 51 years old, was told to stay in his quarters. The next day he was put forward by the young officers as the leader of the revolt. In this curious and (at the time) little-known circumstance lies the genesis of the present trouble.

The Revolutionary Command Council always remained the dominant force in Egypt and Colonel Nasser always was the dominating figure in the Council and in the Officers Corps that supported it. These young officers (Nasser is an "elder" at 36) were hard-working, dedicated, patriotic and—a remarkable thing in modern Egypt—free from corruption. However, they were naturally tyros when it came to politics and economics, and they had the typical strong nationalism of a military junta. They worked secretly as a group, by majority vote. No one, not even Colonel Nasser, ruled as a one-man dictator.

Now they say that General Naguib demanded complete dictatorial powers. If that be true, then we have the explanation of what happened. It looks on the surface like an internal struggle for power either between Colonel Nasser and General Naguib or between two groups of officers supporting these champions.

If this analysis proves correct there will be no change in Egypt's foreign policies, which comprehend the negotiations over the Suez Canal. The neutral observer can only register regret that a hopeful, honest, patriotic regime in Egypt has now been shaken —but it may turn out that it has only been shaken on the surface.

CRISIS IN EGYPT

Pending some real clarification of what has happened in Cairo—and we will probably have to wait some days —it will be useful to sketch in the background.

The deposition of Major General Naguib as President and Premier of Egypt did not come as a bolt from the blue. One can understand it better by recalling the circumstances of the coup d'état that ousted King Farouk on July 26, 1952. This was engineered by a small group of young lieutenant colonels and majors who formed a Revolutionary Command Council. The head of this group and the real organizer was Lieut. Col.

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