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By ROBERT C. DOTY Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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Cairo Says Leader's Removal Prevented Assassination by Enraged Army Officers

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CAIRO, Feb. 26—Egypt's ruling military junta relieved Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib from his posts as President and Premier to save him from a threat of assassination, a Government spokesman asserted tonight.

This was the explanation given by Maj. Salah Salem, Minister of National Guidance and Sudan Affairs, in the course of a radio broadcast answering the "thousands of queries" received by the Government concerning the deposition of General Naguib.

Confronted by General Naguib's demands for dictatorial powers, Major Salem said, the eleven other members of the Revolution Command Council had decided early this week to resign from their own posts rather than yield. When the Free Officers—an army faction supporting the regime—learned of this decision, he said, they demanded that the council accept General Naguib's resignation and continue to rule the country without him.

"Do you know what would have happened if we had refused?" Major Salem asked rhetorically. "The situation was so bad that Army officers warned us that unless we stayed in our posts and continued our work they would at once go to Mohammed Naguib and kill him and then go to our homes, pull us out by force and hand us back the administration, even against our will."

Chose the Lesser Evil

In this tight corner, Major Salem said, he and his colleagues chose the lesser evil and ousted General Naguib.

Much of Major Salem's speech was devoted to an effort to document the main charge against General Naguib, who yielded the Premiership to Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, the allegation that the former had sought by every means to concentrate all power in his hands.

The former President flew into a temper whenever Colonel Nasser, Major Salem, or any other member of the Council conferred with a foreign diplomat and insisted that this should be done only with his permission, the spokesman declared.

Major Salem hinted at a new Egyptian attitude with respect to the recent decision of Pakistan to enter into a security pact with Turkey and solicit arms aid from the United States. Egypt has sought to hold the Moslem world aloof from Western alliances as long as British troops occupied the Suez Canal zone and the Cairo press has denounced what editorialists considered to be a Pakistani defection.

Tonight the minister disclosed that he had stopped publication here of a statement by General Naguib early this week that was "violently critical of Pakistan." This, Major Salem said, ran counter to the policy of the Revolution Command Council.

Hint of Canal Solution

There was a tendency here to view the suppression of this statement as a tentative and delicate intimation that Egypt might be again ready actively to seek a solution to the dispute with Britain over control of the Canal zone to pave the way for the receipt of arms and economic aid from the West.

This incident was only one of a dozen public relations crises precipitated by General Naguib. Major Salem said he, himself, had borne the brunt of these incidents, which had driven him to the verge of a nervous breakdown and caused him to seek a quiet refuge in a military jail cell at one time.

As Minister of National Guidance, Major Salem is responsible for the operation of the Egyptian State Broadcasting Company and for relations with the press.

General Naguib, he said, continually gave orders to subordinate officials of the state radio concerning the broadcasting of his speeches and harried newspaper editors with instructions on how news and pictures of himself were to be handled in the newspapers.

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