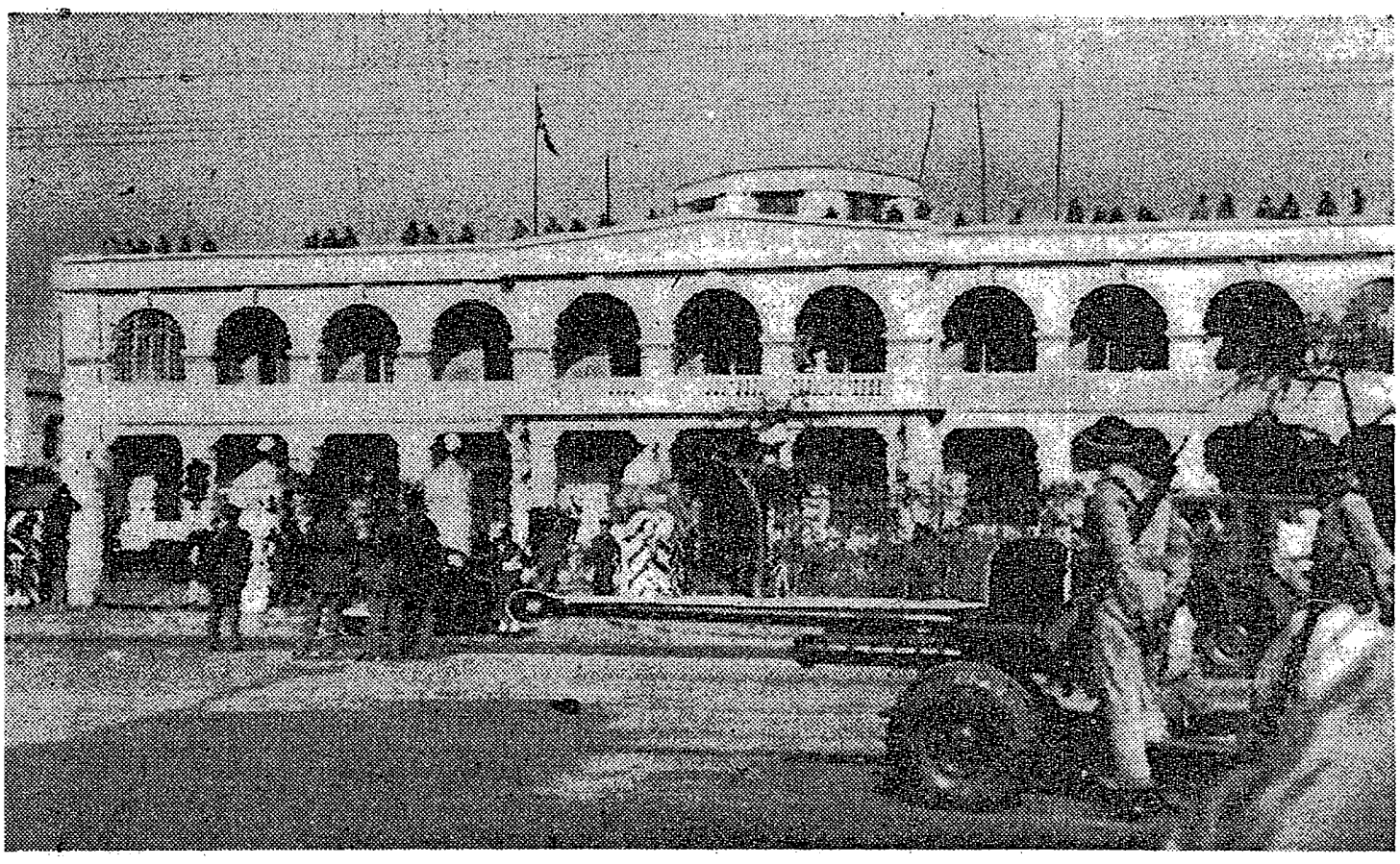
NAGUIB RESTORED AS EGYPT'S LEADER IN SUDDEN SWITCH
By ROBERT C. DOTYSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Feb 28, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 1



Associated Press Radiophoto

ON GUARD IN CAIRO: Egyptian soldiers, equipped with an anti-tank gun, mount guard on roof in vicinity of Abbassia military barracks during tense political situation that saw Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib swept back into power.

NAGUIB RESTORED AS EGYPT'S LEADER IN SUDDEN SWITCH

General Is Back as President by a Bloodless Coup Within Junta That Ousted Him

NASSER STILL PREMIER

Parliamentary Regime Urged as Dissident Faction Calls on Council to Resign

By ROBERT C. DOTY
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, Sunday, Feb. 28—Dissident members of Egypt's ruling military junta restored Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib to power as President of the republic in a bloodless coup early yesterday that left the fate of the revolutionary regime hanging in the balance.

The reinstatement of General Naguib was brought about through a show of force, engineered by two or three members of the Revolution Command Council, without actual violence.

Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, 36-year-old founder and driving force of the revolution that overthrew King Farouk and the parliamentary regime in July, 1952, continues for the present as Premier. Colonel Nasser took that post Thursday after deposing General Naguib.

Leaders of the dissident movement were reported to be demanding, however, that all members of the Revolution Command Council resign.

Officers' Meetings Go On

The possibility of a return to civilian parliamentary rule began to take shape in meetings of officers of all branches of the service that began late last night and were adjourned until later today. The possibility was foreshadowed also in a communiqué issued at 2:30 A. M., after a meeting of some members of the Revolution Command Council at Colonel Nasser's home in suburban Heliopolis.

The communiqué referred three times to the "Parliamentary Republic of Egypt," a term not heretofore used.

The communiqué began with the text of a letter sent to the Command Council by General Naguib at noon yesterday. It quoted General Naguib as saying that he had resigned—the euphemism applied to his deposition—only to give his colleagues a chance to continue the task of freeing Egypt from "the enemy who still occupies part of the country." This was a reference to the British garrison in the Suez Canal Zone, the subject of a long dispute between Cairo and London.

Then followed this statement:

"The Revolution Command Council decided to invite General Naguib to be President once more of the Parliamentary Republic of Egypt and General Naguib gave this statement: 'Being very keen about the unity of our country, I accept the Presidency of the Parliamentary Republic of Egypt in response to the invitation of the Revolution's Command Council'."

'Forget About This Crisis'

The final section of the communiqué said that the revolutionary movement continued to be headed by General Naguib, once more identified as President of a "Parliamentary Republic."

The Revolution Command Council headed by Colonel Nasser as the Premier, the communiqué concluded, entreated "all Egyptians, beloved Sudanese and Arabs to help keep order and security, and forget all about this crisis, which only showed a real self-sacrifice for the higher interest of the country at whatever price."

In a situation that was confused and fluid, these points seemed established:

¶The principal asset of the Revolution Command Council—the united front its eleven members had presented to the world in their dictatorship-by-committee—was gone. Avowal of reconciliation did not convince observers that the Council could again function as it has in the past. This was bound to reduce its authority at home and abroad.

¶The prestige of Colonel Nasser, long the dominant figure of the revolution, has been shaken severely by the internal revolt that forced him to accept the return of General Naguib. It appeared most likely that the pro-Naguib faction of the Council and Colonel Nasser's supporters

Continued on Page 2, Column 4

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.



Associated Press Radiophoto

NAGUIB BACK IN POWER: An Army officer, center background, reading statement yesterday to newsmen outside Abbassia barracks, that Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib is President.

NAGUIB RESTORED AS EGYPT'S LEADER

Continued From Page 1

would in the future view each other with mutual suspicion.

¶General Naguib, who was selected originally by younger colleagues to lend his maturity and prestige to the revolutionary movement, without at the time receiving any real power, has emerged from the brief eclipse with his position strengthened.

While the popular will seems to have played no direct part in the reversal of General Naguib's fortunes, as soon as his reinstatement became known, crowds numbering thousands gathered before his home and in many sections of Cairo, cheering him wildly in new evidence of his popular appeal.

The dissident movement, led by Maj. Khalid Mohieddine, who had resigned from the military junta following the decision to jettison General Naguib, and Lieut. Col. Hussein el Shaffei, also a member of the junta, was supported by a majority of the officers of the Egyptian Cavalry Corps. A third member of the Revolution Command Council, Maj. Kamaleddine Hussein, Minister of Social Affairs, was also reported to have deserted the Nasser faction and rallied to General Naguib.

No Violence or Arrests

The threat of violence hovered over the city from early yesterday, when cavalry troops surrounded army headquarters at Abbassia in support of the demand by a majority of the Officers Corps for the return of General Naguib. However, so far as is known now, not a shot was fired and there were no arrests.

The least enviable position was that of Maj. Salah Salem, Minister of National Guidance and Sudan Affairs, who has served as spokesman for the Government and the Revolution Command Council. In two press conferences and a radio broadcast soon after the deposition of General Naguib, Major Salem had presented General Naguib as an ambitious, devious man, an avid publicity seeker, and as one who sought to be all things to all men even at the price of disavowing decisions taken by the Revolution Command Council with his assent.

Normally the announcement concerning General Naguib's reinstatement would have been made by Major Salem but he was nowhere in evidence and street crowds were heard shouting "Down with Salem!" His brother, Wing Comdr. Gamal Salem, named Deputy Premier following the departure of General Naguib, also was an object of hostile epithets hurled by the crowds.

Correspondents who fought their way into General Naguib's modest house through the crowds and guards there yesterday found him dressed in a major general's uniform and apparently waiting word from his supporters before making his reappearance.

Naguib Minimizes Crisis

"This dissension has been a tempest in a teapot," he told the visitors. "We must all sacrifice ourselves for the good of Egypt. In all revolutions incidents like this occur. Our sacred aim is the welfare of the country. For its sake we must face all difficulties."

Colonel Nasser was quoted as having told friends that the events of the last few days had been the "work of the devil" and that the Revolution Command Council would heal the breach and go on as before. There was an almost universal tendency to be skeptical about this declaration.

The dissident movement began, apparently, with the resignation of Major Mohieddine, a cavalry officer, from the Revolution Command Council soon after the deposition of General Naguib. If this is true it was a well kept secret for two days. It was indicated that Major Mohieddine took his dissatisfaction to fellow officers of the Cavalry Corps and found them receptive.

Sometime Friday night a group of these officers—reports of the number varied between forty and 400—met to concert action on General Naguib's behalf. They were joined by Colonel el Shaffei, a tall, blue-eyed tank commander, who sports an impressive walrus moustache. It was Colonel el Shaffei, according to all indications, who went to Colonel Nasser and presented an ultimatum sometime late Friday light, or early yesterday demanding the reinstatement of General Naguib.

Colonel Nasser is believed to have gone alone and unarmed to face the meeting of the dissident cavalrymen.

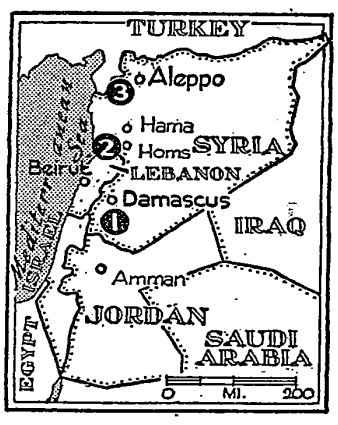
At Cairo University during the night, students demonstrated in favor of General Naguib and against Colonel Nasser but apparently without disorder.

As nearly as could be ascertained, the division in the Revolution Command Council gave this line-up:

With Colonel Nasser are the Salem brothers, Wing Comdr. Abdel Latif Boghdadi, Minister of Defense; Squadron Leader Hassan Ibrahim and Lieut. Col. Anwar el Sadat, the last three being the judges of the Revolutionary Tribunal that has been trying political figures of the old regime on charges of corruption and abuse of power.

The establishment and functioning of this tribunal was one of the measures, reportedly opposed by General Naguib, that led him to demand veto rights over council decisions, together with the right to appoint and dismiss ministers.

Arrayed behind General Naguib were Major Mohieddine, Colonel Shaffei and Major Kamaleddine Hussein. The neutrals were Lieut. Col. Zachariah Mohieddine, a cousin of Major Mohieddine, Minister of Interior and Chief of Army Intelligence; and Maj. Gen. Abdel Hakim Amer, a Nasser protégé catapulted from major to his present rank and the post of Commander in Chief of the armed forces last July 18 when the council abolished the monarchy and established the republic.



The New York Times Feb. 28, 1954

REBELS MOVE: Syria rebels were reported moving toward the capital of Damascus (1) from the area of Homs (2). The rebel stronghold is at Aleppo (3).

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.