EGYPTIAN FEMINIST TO FAST FOR RIGHTS
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THREATENS ACTION: Mme. Doria Shafik, leader of Egypt's feminist movement, who threatened hunger strike "until women are admitted to the Assembly."

EGYPTIAN FEMINIST TO FAST FOR RIGHTS

Chief of Woman's Movement Vows Strike 'to Last Breath' to Win Political Equality

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, March 12—The leader of the Egyptian feminist movement announced today she intended to fast "to my last breath" if necessary to win political rights for women.

She is Mme. Doria Shafik, 35-year-old wife of a Cairo lawyer, and president of the Bent El Nil (Daughter of the Nile) movement.

She announced the hunger strike in telegrams to Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib, President and Premier; members of the ruling military junta, and civilian, political and religious leaders.

It was brought on, she said, in protest against a decision barring women from the right to elect or sit in a constituent assembly that will review a draft of the Constitution for Republican Egypt.

"I have taken a firm resolution to go on a hunger strike until my last breath, or until Egyptian women attain their constitutional rights, and without conditions," she said in the messages.

"I demand that the women of Egypt be admitted to the Constituent Assembly. I demand their admission because we are convinced that the women who form more than half of the Egyptian nation must not, at any cost, be governed by a Constitution in the making of which they played no part."

Mme. Shafik set up a strike headquarters in the offices of the Cairo Press Syndicate. As the editor of three feminist publications, she is a member of this group. In an interview there, she said she expected to be joined soon in the fast by at least three or four other leaders of the movement.

Mme. Shafik is small and chic, with dark hair and eyes and arching eyebrows. She wore a black skirt and clinging black jersey bodice. She obtained a doctorate of philosophy at the Sorbonne, where she met her husband, Dr. Nour el-Din Ragai, Professor of Law at Cairo University. She is the mother of two daughters, 12 and 10, and the author of a novel with a strong feminist slant.

"I am going to fast until I get a written promise from someone in authority that under the new constitution women will have the same political rights as men," she said.

A proposal is now under consideration by the committee drafting the Constitution to bar women from the right to hold office. It also grants them suffrage only as individuals and by special request. This is totally unsatisfactory Mme. Shafik said.

Egyptian women, she asserted, have proved themselves to be capable as lawyers, doctors and journalists. Farm women who work all day in fields and in the home at night have earned the same rights as men, she added.

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