**Egypt to Shift to Civilian Rule In July, Army Junta Declares**
By ROBERT C. DOTYSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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# *Egypt to Shift to Civilian Rule In July, Army Junta Declares*

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

CAIRO, March 25 — Egypt's military rulers announced today plans to end their revolutionary mission and surrender all power to a civilian government in July.

The decision, made public by the twelve officers who seized power in July, 1952, appeared to end for the time being the behind-the-scenes struggle between members of the regime who wanted to retain power and those who insisted on honoring the two-week-old promise to restore parliamentary life.

The statement declared:

"1. The Revolution Command Council will transfer sovereignty to a constituent assembly on July 24, 1954, with a declaration that the revolution is ended.

"2. The political parties dissolved by the military regime, may re-form immediately.

"3. The Revolution Command Council will not form a new political party.

"4. All citizens will enjoy full political rights.

"5. The election for a constituent assembly will be free and direct; no assemblymen will be appointed.

"6. The immediate task of the contituent assembly, which will meet on July 23, will be the election of a President of the Republic."

With little clarification or amplification, this bald announcement was forthcoming as the leaders continued to meet late tonight.

The principal change from the program originally announced March 6 was in the definition of the future of the Revolution Command Council. At that time it was stated that the council would continue to function as the supreme authority in the period between the election of the constituent assembly and the convening of the permanent Parliament, following the adoption of a new Constitution. The council has now decided to invest the constituent assembly with supreme power during this period.

All these events stemmed from the open split that developed late in February between Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib, President and Premier, and Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Deputy Premier and organizer of the military revolution. General Naguib, ousted by Colonel Nasser for three days, returned to power with the support of the civilian

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# EGYPT SETS SHIFT TO CIVILIAN RULE

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politicians, part of the army and the Cairo crowds.

His restoration failed to resolve the basic conflict with Colonel Nasser, and in the two weeks that followed General Naguib consistently threw his weight on the side of the civilians clamoring for a return to parliamentary life.

Among the first orders issued following today's announcement was for the release of political prisoners.

Among those for whom specific orders of release were issued were Hassan el Hodeiby, supreme guide of the Moslem Brotherhood, the fanatical religious organization that was outlawed by the regime in January, and Abdel Kader Oudda, a member of the brotherhood's supreme council.

Although all surface evidence pointed to a victory for the Naguib faction, many observers did not exclude the possibility that today's action might be part of a maneuver by other members of the Revolution Command Council.

Throughout the morning rumors circulated in Cairo that the council majority had decided that General Naguib had to be deposed again.

During the upheavals at the beginning of the montn Colonel Nasser, on two occasions, was reported to have made a decision to withdraw with the council and leave all power to General Naguib. Both times the members of the so-called Free Officers movement in the army loyal to Colonel Nasser reacted violently to this suggestion before it was made public and dissuaded Colonel Nasser from carrying it out.

On the night of Feb. 27 this group went to the length of kidnapping General Naguib and threatening him with death.

There was a distinct possibility that the Free Officers might again intervene to change the course of events. Any disorders in Cairo, provoked either by the political parties or by elements loyal to the military regime, also might cause a modification of today's decision.

That General Naguib and the Revolution Command Council majority viewed today's decisions in vastly different lights was evident in statements emanating from the two camps.

The President told the press that it was "one of the happiest days of my life," adding:

"God knows what efforts I made to lay the foundation for a healthy democratic and constitutional life. I am happy today because I succeeded in doing so before the expiration of the transitional period (originally fixed at three years from date of the military revolution of July, 1952)."

At Gezira Island, headquarters of the Revolution Command Council, where Colonel Nasser and his closest associates continued to confer after General Naguib and the others had left, the atmosphere was less enthusiastic.

When Colonel Nasser left at midnight he was asked whether it was planned to release all political internees.

"Yes," we are going to release them," he replied. "What else are we going to do with them now?"

The decision to end the military rule appeared to be such a complete and uncharacteristic capitulation by Colonel Nasser that some skeptics were inclined to reserve judgment on its ultimate effect. They pointed out that history offers few precedents in which a group of revolutionaries have voluntarily and peacefully returned the power they seized to those from whom they took it.

That is apparently what the military junta has promised to do in permitting the old political parties, notably the powerful Wafd, to re-emerge and contest an election in which they will not even be opposed by candidates representing the revolutionary movement.

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