TURMOIL IN EGYPT
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Confronted with mob violence and threatened revolt in the army and navy, President Naguib and the Revolutionary Council ruling Egypt have been compelled to make another kaleidoscopic change in the political scenery of their turbulent country. Four days ago they announced that the Council, by a majority vote and over the determined opposition of the younger officers in it, had decided to liquidate the revolution which deposed King Farouk and the political parties, and to return to civilian parliamentary government under the supreme authority of an elected Constituent Assembly meeting in July. Yesterday, however, while mobs roamed the streets of Cairo and forced their way into the Presidential grounds, while the army was put under a "state of emergency" to keep it under control and navy units departed without orders, and while the country was being paralyzed by strikes, the Council seems to have "agreed in principle" to abandon this effort for the present and to remain in power and office. Whether such an agreement will end the political crisis remains to be seen.

Whether this agreement will end the political crisis remains to be seen. The latest events have again revealed that the ruling military junta is badly split within itself, and that this split is now spreading to the rank and file of the army and navy whose cohesion is the only thing that can save Egypt from civil war and chaos. President Naguib, who was himself recently deposed by that junta and then returned to power, has sought to save the situation by ending military rule and turning power over to a civilian body elected by the people. But that effort, laudable in itself, meant the prospective return to power of the old political parties which have discredited themselves by their inefficiency and corruption. It is against this prospect that the younger officers rebelled, and though Egyptian mobs are easily assembled there are some indications that their viewpoint is shared by a good part of the people themselves.

The future of Egypt is dark and casts new shadows over both the Suez Canal dispute and the problem of Middle Eastern defense. But it can be brightened if all the elements involved learn that their common salvation can lie only in a spirit of moderation and compromise at home and abroad. It must be hoped that this spirit will prevail.

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