Cairo Junta Decides To Remain in Power
By ROBERT C. DOTYSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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CAIRO, March 29—The military rulers of Egypt postponed indefinitely today the plan to turn control over to elected civilians.

The decision to prolong the authority of the Revolution Command Council followed the physical collapse of Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib, President, Premier and chief advocate of a return to civilian rule, apparently from exhaustion brought on by a month of almost uninterrupted political crisis.

It also may signal his collapse as a major factor in Egyptian politics, although the announcement by the military junta was silent on his future status.

A spokesman for the military junta announced that it would retain authority until it had achieved its aims of freeing the

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Suez Canal zone from British occupation and of winning social justice for the workers and fellahin (peasants). The people have shown they will not tolerate the return to power of "the old politicians who exploited their poverty and misery," he said.

Leaders of the regime moved swiftly to restore order after strikes and demonstrations begun with their tacit approval and encouragement had brought Cairo almost to a standstill and produced a violent incident. Tonight troops in battle dress patroled the capital, internal press censorship was reimposed and further demonstrations were banned.

Mob Attacks Top Jurist

The military regime asserted the need for firm action was demonstrated in midafternoon when a mob protesting against a threat by the military leaders to abdicate had invaded the quarters of the State Council, Egypt's constitutional court, and attacked its president, Dr. Abdel Razek el Sanhoury. The jurist shot and wounded at least two of his attackers and was extricated from the mob by Maj. Salah Salem, a Cabinet Minister and member of the ruling junta, who shouted denials of the demonstrators' charge that Dr. Sanhoury had acted traitorously.

It was Major Salem, Minister of National Guidance and Sudanese Affairs, who announced the Revolution Command Council's decision to revoke the concessions it had made to the Naguib faction March 5 and 25. These covered an agreement to hold elections in June for a constituent assembly that would approve a new constitution and exercise interim parliamentary powers, and to dissolve the Revolution Council July 24, the day after the assembly was to convene.

Nasser's Role Held Key

Instead, Major Salem announced that the council, bowing to the expressed will of the people and Army, would carry full responsibility once again. Few observers doubted that it was the loyalty of the Army to the faction headed by Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Vice Premier and organizer of the revolutionary movement, that was the determining factor or that expressions of popular will were organized through the Liberation Rally, the mass organization financed and directed by the Revolution Council.

Specifically, Major Salem said, the council had decided to delay implementing its recent decisions until the end of a "transitional period." This period originally was fixed at three years from the date of the military coup of July 23, 1952.

Major Salem said the council also had decided to choose an advisory commission representing various professional, economic and social groups and regional interests to work with the Revolution Command Council. The composition and powers of this body still are to be defined, he added.

These decisions, conveyed to union leaders tonight by Colonel Nasser, Major Salem and Maj. Kamaleddine Hussein, also a member of the military junta, were sufficient to produce an order from the labor chiefs to end the strike that had paralyzed ground transport throughout the country and brought other activity nearly to a halt today.

General Naguib's collapse occurred at Almaza Airport this morning, where he and other leaders had gone to bid farewell to King Saud of Saudi Arabia, who was leaving after a state visit.

General Naguib is fifteen to twenty years older than his antagonists and has been under almost continuous nervous and physical strain since Feb. 25, when he was ousted temporarily from his posts by the council majority. He has had few respites since then in the dizzying series of events that included his return to power with some Army and popular support three days later, a hectic visit to riot-torn Sudan and a gruelling campaign to bolster his position by an alliance with civilian political forces.

Two Conferences Held

Yesterday he confronted Colonel Nasser in a nine-hour conference that led observers to believe he was maintaining his position with sufficient strength to discourage any attempt to ride him down summarily. The settlement announced today after a further five-hour meeting in General Naguib's home, where he had been taken from the airport, had few of the characteristics of the compromise that had been indicated.

However, the agreement to establish even the advisory body represented some concession by Colonel Nasser to the idea of popular government. The Vice Premier has indignantly rejected the charge that he is basically hostile to this concept, but he has insisted that Egypt must be strengthened socially and economically by authoritarian measures and purged of corrupt political elements before full responsibility for government can again be vested in democratic institutions.

It was reported by a source close to the council majority that General Naguib would continue for a time as President, yielding his posts as Premier and council chairman to Colonel Nasser on the ground that his health made it impossible for him to fill a more active role. The informant did not exclude the possibility that the general might retire completely.



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BEATEN IN RIOT: Dr. Abdel Razek el Sanhoury, the president of Egypt's constitutional court, who was attacked by demonstrators.

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