Confusion In Egypt
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him to reopen negotiations with the British over the long-vexed question of the Suez Canal.

But Nasser's defeat was not as decisive nor his subsequent gesture of subordination as genuine as at first appeared. Evidently his agents were busily at work among the Moslem Brotherhood and some other elements of the population; for over the weekend a series of strikes and riots erupted. It was plain that these demonstrations were not spontaneous but were part of a carefully organized *coup.* What the rioters demanded was that the Revolutionary Council rescind the resolution it had taken last week under pressure from Naguib, to dissolve itself after the convocation of the constituent assembly. The mobs shouted that they wanted the council to remain in power indefinitely. Presently it was announced that the council had acceded to the popular will in this matter and that a kind of "consultative committee," carefully chosen from members of the various political parties, would be substituted for the constituent assembly.

But there were also demonstrations in favor of the constitution. It began to appear that Naguib, too, had been busy and had come to some arrangement with the outlawed but still active and powerful Wafdist party. Notwithstanding the restrictive laws against them the Wafdists remain the most significant of the several political forces in Egypt which are opposed to the rule of the Revolutionary Council. There is no reason to suppose their strength among the masses has been greatly diminished; there they have everything to gain and virtually nothing to lose by supporting Naguib's plan for a constituent assembly, in which, under their old name or some other, they would be almost certain to play a dominant role. Thus it may be that the struggle between Naguib and Nasser is really working out into one between the Wafdists and the Moslem Brotherhood.

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Whether the latest effort of the Egyptian military clique to regain control of the country has succeeded or has ended in a kind of compromise and a new realignment of forces is now highly uncertain. Earlier reports that Gen. Mohammed Naguib had collapsed at the Cairo airport after seeing off the King of Saudi Arabia suggested the triumph of his rival, Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser; but later announcements that Naguib would retain his posts as both Preident and Premier threw the question again into doubt.

A few weeks ago the military clique, apparently alarmed by General Naguib's growing popularity and independence attempted to depose him after having chosen him as their "front man." Colonel Nasser, the actual leader of the clique and supposed "strong man" of the revolutionary government, emerged into the open to claim the jobs of Premier and chairman of the *junta,* or revolutionary council. Naguib, however, soon rallied enough support not only among the various Arab factions but in the army itself to force Nasser to relinquish both jobs. Thereupon Naguib announced a plan for the transition of Egypt from military to a civilian government, saying that elections would be held early in the summer to choose a constituent assembly to prepare and ratify a new constitution. There were even indications that Naguib believed his personal power to be stable enough to permit

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