CAIRO JUNTA MAPS OPPOSITION PURGE
Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Apr 4, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002
pg. 21

CAIRO JUNTA MAPS OPPOSITION PURGE

Rulers Prepare Crackdown on Dissidents in Own Ranks and Hostile Press Groups

Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, April 3—The military rulers of Egypt were reported tonight to be preparing a purge of their own ranks and of press elements hostile to the military regime.

According to a high-ranking Government source, Maj. Khalid Mohieddine, a member of the junta who broke with the majority in February and worked for the return to civilian rule, has already resigned from the ruling group to go into voluntary exile abroad.

Major Mohieddine was semi-officially reported to be preparing to leave Monday for Rome on a mission of the National Production Council, of which he is a member.

The ten other members of the Revolution Command Council held a long meeting under the chairmanship of Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Deputy Premier and strong man of the regime, who emerged victorious from a month-long battle with Maj Gen. Mohammed Naguib, President and Premier, over the latter's demands for a return of power to an elected assembly.

It was announced that the discussions centered on measures to "protect the revolution," with announcements promised for tomorrow.

Punitive Action Indicated

From a source close to the military leadership it was learned that moves to tighten control of the press and take stringent punitive action against some anti-regime publishers were under consideration.

The principal target of these measures is reported to be the extensive publishing empire of two brothers, Mahmoud Hussein and Ahmed Abul Fath. Their principal morning paper, Al Misri, long the organ of the dissolved Wafd party, led criticism of the regime during the three-week period in March when press censorship was lifted. They control also the only Cairo English-language daily, The Egyptian Gazette, two French-language dailies and a number of magazines.

Mr. Hussein is president of the Press Syndicate and is held responsible by the regime for resolutions hostile to it passed by the syndicate during the recent crisis.

At the same time those in the publishing business whose names figured on lists of those who received payments from the so-called "secret" funds of the old regime would be barred from journalism.

Meanwhile, the security forces in Cairo resorted to the use of tear gas bombs to disperse a demonstration of students at Ibrahim University shouting for the election of a constituent assembly to assume power from the military junta. This plan was abandoned Monday in favor of continued military rule, with the advice of an appointed national assembly of 150 to 200 members representing all classes of interest in the nation.

Cairo University, the scene of demonstrations in the past four days, was closed, by Government order, today and tomorrow. The university council and the councils of Ibrahim and Alexandria Universities voted to discontinue classes until Thursday, extending the Government shutdown order four days.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.