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By ROBERT C. DOTYSpecial to The New York Times.
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CAIRO SEIZES 52, CITING MAY 1 PLOT

Accused Include 12 Officers —Conspiring With Reds Is Charged to Whole Group

By ROBERT C. DOTY
Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, April 28—The revolutionary rulers of Egypt early this morning arrested twelve army officers and forty civilians accused of plotting May Day disorders with Communists and other dissident elements.

The action was decided upon at an all-night meeting of the Revolution Command Council, with Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Premier, presiding.

Apparently to guard against any violent reaction from army elements supporting the arrested officers, the junta called out infantry and anti-tank guns to surround army headquarters at Koubbeh, where the meeting took place.

Maj. Amin Shaker, principal aide to Premier Nasser, said the twelve officers, ranging from lieutenant to major, would face court-martial and "most severe punishment."

Among them were nine Leftist cavalry officers, henchmen of Maj. Khalid Mohieddine, a former member of the ruling junta, who led the dissident movement in favor of the restoration of Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib, Egypt's President, when he was ousted temporarily in February by Colonel Nasser.

Failed to Heed Warning

The officers were arrested then but released in accordance with Colonel Nasser's promise that there would be no reprisals to mar the general reconciliation that followed the first round of the two-month-long dispute with General Naguib. This culminated in Colonel Nasser's assumption of the Premiership on April 17, leaving General Naguib in the role of a figurehead President.

The dissident officers failed to heed the warning and renewed their contacts with the so-called United Front, the Wafdists and Socialists, with the dominant role exercised by a small group of Communists, Major Shaker said.

This alliance had planned to cooperate with Communists in the universities and factories in promoting demonstrations and disorders against the military regime on May 1, traditional workers' holiday, he added.

"This time they will face court-martial and there will be no pardon," Major Shaker said. "The punishments are going to be very severe."

He did not specify the Cairo court that will try the forty civilians rounded up, but it was likely they would face the Revolutionary Tribunal, composed of three of the ten-man Revolution Command Council. This court is empowered to impose the death penalty.

With this action Colonel Nasser

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Cairo Junta Seizes 12 Officers And 40 Civilians in May Day Plot

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extended to the Army the purge of elements hostile to the revolutionary regime that has already struck the ranks of civilian politicians and the press.

The upheavals attendant upon the Naguib-Nasser rivalry drew opposition elements into the open and, since his victory, Colonel Nasser has engaged in cutting these groups down and consolidating the position of the regime that seized power under his leadership in July, 1952.

Thirty-eight former ministers of the Wafd, Saadist and Liberal Constitutionalist parties, who overtly or covertly supported General Naguib in the latter's bid to return power to civilian hands, have been deprived of political rights for ten years. The regime is in process of purging the Press Syndicate of journalists alleged to have taken bribes under the old regime.

One of the most prominent of the purged journalists, Hussein Abul Fath, co-publisher of the Wafdist newspaper Al Misri, who was recently ousted from the presidency of the Press Syndicate, went on trial today before the Revolutionary Tribunal on charges of activities inimical to the regime. He pleaded not guilty.

Attorneys for his brother and co-defendant, Mahmoud Abul Fath, made a similar plea on behalf of their client who is in Europe and is being tried in absentia. The hearing was continued to Saturday.

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