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By KENNETT LOVESpecial to The New York Times.
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NASSER TURNS TO ECONOMIC REFORM

By KENNETT LOVE
Special to The New York Times.

Now Solidly in Power, He Seeks to Raise Living Standards

CAIRO, Egypt, Nov. 20—Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's Premier, added the presidential powers this week to those he already possessed as state executive and leader of the governing Revolution Command Council.

In ousting Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib from the presidency last Sunday and assuming the functions of that office three days later, Colonel Nasser took full governing power into his own hands. At the same time, he continued what promises to be a mortal attack on the once-dreaded Moslem Brotherhood, the only outside power seemingly capable of effectively opposing him.

These two closely related moves—Colonel Nasser's seizure of the post and his destruction of whatever political power in Egypt that was not already his—were regarded by impartial observers as stabilizing actions.

Premier Nasser is expected now to turn the greater part of his energies toward solving the country's formidable economic and social problems—a program he is known to regard as the key to the success of his regime.

The Egyptian people, who loved General Naguib as a warm and fatherly personality, respect Colonel Nasser's intentions as honest, and they respect his ability. They seem to expect him to do something about disease, overpopulation and poverty; and he continues making progress toward bettering the miserable existence of the Egyptian masses.

Personal Status

However, the 36-year-old strong man does not enjoy either the tumultuous personal affection evoked by General Naguib or the semi-mystical adulation that was given former King Farouk in the latter's younger days. The tough and brilliant Colonel Nasser is selflessly devoted to making Egyptians do what he feels is good for them and is ruthlessly determined to remove anyone who tries to stand in his way.

At present, with General Naguib under house arrest in a palace in the Nile Delta and most of the leadership of the Moslem Brotherhood in prison on charges of terrorist conspiracy, no one appears able or willing to stand in Colonel Nasser's way. Curiously, scarcely a single Egyptian voice has been raised in support of General Naguib.

Premier Nasser's adherents in the Army, known as the Free Officers, have ended dissidence in the military ranks—cavalry officers nearly made General Naguib dictator last spring. The nine other young officers of the ruling junta are believed to give Colonel Nasser their full loyalty.

A prominent Western importer said this week, "I think we can now assume once and for all that they are here to stay."

Arabs Impressed

The Arab world appears to be similarly impressed. High Syrian diplomats have spent the week trying to make amends for having harbored Egyptian political refugees, including the Wafdist publisher, Mahmound Abul Fath, and members of the Moslem Brotherhood.

Jordan has promised to prevent anti-Nasser activity within her borders. Iraq, Egypt's chief rival for the Arab leadership, broadcast yesterday an attack on the Moslem Brotherhood. Denouncing the abortive attempt on Colonel Nasser's life on Oct. 26, the Baghdad radio said:

"Any success that Egypt achieves is a success for the Arab countries."

The Nasser regime's successes have already been great enough to evoke from the United States Ambassador, Jefferson Caffery, this comment: "They have done more for Egypt in two years than all their predecessors put together did before them."

The most notable political success of the Nasser regime, a thing Egyptian leaders had failed to achieve for seventy-two years, has been the signing of the agreement with Britain this autumn by which the British Suez garrison will withdraw in twenty months and Britain will restore months.

In the economic field, the junta has reduced the international balance-of-payments deficit from $160,000,000 in 1952 to $23,000,000 as of 1953, and the position is expected to show a surplus in Egypt's favor this year.

Democratic Goals

In addition to accomplishing much-needed economic and social reforms, Colonel Nasser strongly hopes to establish responsible democratic government here some day. He expected, in fact, to turn over his political and economic revolution to civilians soon after he overthrew the monarchy on July 23, 1952.

However, the outlook for the indefinite future is continued authoritarian control by the junta, none of whose members seems individually authoritarian by nature. Before relinquishing the Government, they want to develop in the Egyptians and their potential leaders a sense of national dignity and group responsibility, instead of the type of individualism that expressed itself in corruption and favoritism at the expense of the general welfare.

Such idealistic intentions require a firm hand and may take a generation to realize, as they did in Turkey. General Naguib had eagerly criticized the junta and, more recently, the Suez agreement, in talks with virtually every Egyptian and foreigner who came to see him. Thus, regardless of his alleged implication in the Moslem Brotherhood conspiracy, stated as the reason for his ouster, the general had to go. In fact he had been on the way out ever since he was kicked upstairs to the Presidency June 18, 1953.

With the two last foci of opposition out of the way, the only serious danger now is the possibility of further assassination attempts by individual members of the broken and desperate Moslem Brotherhood.

Western diplomats here say such an event would be a catastrophe for the free world because Egypt is the anchor on which the Middle East swings, and Colonel Nasser has dropped it in Western waters.

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