Nasser Decides to Remain, Yielding to 'People's Will'
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By ERIC PACE

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CAIRO, June 10 — Gamal Abdel Nasser declared today that, as President of the United Arab Republic, he had decided to remain in office "in view of the people's determination to refuse my resignation."

[The Cairo radio announced that the Egyptian National Assembly unanimously voted full powers Saturday to President Nasser "to mobilize all the popular forces and rebuild the country politically and militarily," news agencies reported.]

Mr. Nasser's decision, disclosed in a broadcast message, set off a wave of dancing and cheering among the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who had thronged Cairo's dusty streets to demonstrate their support for the 49-year-old President.

Anguished crowds began boiling out into the avenues last night to shout their support of Mr. Nasser after he said in a radio address that he had decided to retire from public life.

He had said he would resign in view of what he called "serious setbacks" in this week's

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NASSER DECIDES TO KEEP HIS POST

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fighting with Israel. He said he took full responsibility for the turn of events, which has left Cairo anxious and subdued.

His announcement that he would remain in office, coming only about 16 hours after his speech, sent Cairo's crowds into exultation. The dry air abruptly rang with the zagrouta—the Arab woman's traditional shrill cry of joy, which is usually uttered at times of family happiness like weddings.

In his message Mr. Nasser said a referendum should be held—he did not specify what question the electorate would be asked to decide, but from the context of his remarks it was evident that it would in effect be a vote of confidence on the performance of his regime—after "all the traces of aggression are erased." He did not elaborate, nor did he indicate when he would hold the vote, in which he appeared certain to win overwhelming support from the more than 30 million Egyptians.

Besides dispelling the gloom over the military situation, the President's about-face demonstrated his hold over the loyalties and emotions of the high-strung populace. Western observers critical of the President said this seemed to have been his intent.

It appeared to leave him the unrivaled master of his citizenry. There were no overt signs of a challenge to his authority.

His message was read before the 360 members of the National Assembly—who earlier decried the prospect of Mr. Nasser's resignation—by Anwar Sadat, the Speaker.

The emotional tones of Mr. Sadat, a former army officer, were relayed from the domed building across the nation by the Cairo radio.

The Text of the Message

According to an unofficial translation, the message said:

"I wished, if the nation had helped me, to stand by my decision to resign. [But] no one can imagine my feelings at this moment in view of the people's determination to refuse my resignation. I feel that the people's will cannot be refused; therefore I have decided to stay where the people want me to stay until all traces of aggression are erased. Afterward there should be a plebiscite. The people alone is the eternal leader."

Mr. Nasser who has been President since 1956, had said he would go before the Assembly in person, but he did not, apparently because enthusiastic crowds might have blocked his way.

The crowds began to disperse this afternoon, without violence or serious disorder, according to initial reports.

But usually reliable sources reported that the British Consulate in Port Said was burned down by a mob. There were no casualties.

Mr. Nasser and the press have charged that Britain as well as the United States rendered military support to Israel during the fighting this week. London and Washington have repeatedly denied the allegations.

Defense Chief Resigns

The ranking Egyptian officer, Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, and the Defense Minister, Shamseddin Badran, also announced their resignations last night. There was no indication today that they had changed their minds. They were not mentioned in the demonstrators' chanting.

Earlier, Vice President Zakariya Mohieddine declined to take over the Presidency. Mr. Mohieddine, whom Mr. Nasser put forward as his successor, said in a two-minute radio speech today: "Like other citizens of this nation, I accept no leadership but his leadership." He added that, "as for myself, I do not accept" the presidency."

There was no indication of any faltering of the central government. The Cairo radio continued its programming unimpaired and the Egyptian national news service poured out reports of assurances of support to President Nasser from all over the Arab world.

The deployment of security forces within the city seemed intended entirely to cope with possible civilian disorders and there was no armor abroad in the capital.

A close friend and confidant of the President since they fought together in the Palestine war of 1948, Vice President Mohieddine warmly expressed his loyalty today. He said that "President Nasser's decision [to resign] came as a surprise to me and to all our people because he did not want anyone to know about it—for he wanted to bear the responsibility."

'Now More Than Ever'

"Circumstances now more than ever required the leadership of the man who has led us from 1952 until today," he added, referring to the year of the successful military coup against Egypt's last King, Farouk.

The Cairo Government took extreme security precautions around foreign embassies and luxury hotels. A shiny red fire truck was parked near of the United States Embassy and policemen erected iron-grill barriers in streets leadings to the pale yellow building.

For the first time harsh though oblique criticism of the Soviet Union appeared in the Cairo press. Cairo residents privately expressed bitterness that Moscow had failed to support the United Arab Republic militarily.

Mohammed el-Tabie, co-editor of the weekly Akhbar el Yom, in an editorial made public today said: "I wish that words were deadly poison . . . in the throats of the leaders of the great power that was supposed to be our friend and could have supported us in repelling new tripartite aggression."

He said that the leaders "could have provided us with air cover if they had wanted to, as the United States and Britain did for Israel."

The Egyptian national news agency said that demonstrators had set fire to the United States Consulate at Alexandria, which had already been badly damaged in anti-American rioting earlier this week. No casualties were reported.

Cairo police officials said there had not been an Israeli air raid on Cairo last night. The police said that sirens had been sounded and antiaircraft batteries had been fired to discourage crowds from forming on the streets.

The commanders of the three branches of the Egyptian armed forces all sent him telegrams urging him to remain. The commanders are Adm. Soleiman Ezzat, the navy; Gen. Sidky Mahmoud, the air force, and Gen. Abdul Mohsen Mortaga, the land forces.

More than 200 Americans, almost all those remaining in Cairo, left for Alexandria by train early this morning for evacuation to Greece aboard a steamer chartered by the United States Government.

Many of those aboard the train were embassy officials leaving the country at the request of the Cairo Government after the rupture of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Republic and the United States earlier this week.

Background of Parliament

The current Egyptian National Assembly was convened March 25, 1964, after having been elected for a five-year term. Its purpose was to give the Egyptian people a sense of President Nasser's dictatorial regime.

It was the third time he had made such an attempt in a 12-year period of what had been virtually one-man rule.

His approach was through the Arab Socialist Union, an organization set up to take the place of political parties, which had been banned.

Candidates were drawn from members of the Socialist Union, which was said to total more than 5 million. The deputies were chosen from each of 175 districts throughout the country.

Any person wishing to become a national legislator was invited to register for certification. Only those in good membership standing in the Socialist Union got the certificates.

On March 10, 1964, an estimated total of seven million Egyptians balloted to elect members to the National Assembly. The voters marked their ballots in secret.

A total of 1,743 candidates sought seats and on the approved list of candidates there were 512 workers and 481 farmers. The majority of those elected represented the farming and working groups.

Zoo Officials Lay Egg

ST. LOUIS, June 10 (UPI)—Zoo officials learned something new when one of three ostriches at the St. Louis Zoo laid an egg. They had thought all their ostriches were males. A zoo spokesman said of the now recognized female ostrich, "She had black plumage when she arrived here, and that usually indicates a male. It's most unusual."

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