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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic Information

'AMIR, 'Abd al-Hakim (Maj. Gen.)

EGYPT

Minister of Defense

General 'Abd al-Hakim 'Amir, young career army officer, is Minister of Defense and Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces. In addition, he holds the title of Chief of the Joint Egyptian-Syrian armed forces and of the Egyptian-Saudi Arabian armed forces. 'Amir was a member of the group of Free Officers that planned and executed the 1952 coup and a key member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). He had been described as absolutely loyal to President Nasir. There is little to indicate that 'Amir has taken initiative in political affairs of state; his greatest significance has been his role in maintaining the Army's support for Nasir and the military regime. 'Amir has given no evidence of his personal political views. Quiet, reserved, almost gentle in manner, 'Amir gives the impression of possessing considerable intelligence and is regarded as a forceful army officer with considerable strategic ability. Although there has been no indication of a diminution of his loyalty to Nasir, there were reports that 'Amir differed with the Egyptian President during the Israeli invasion of Sinai. General 'Amir apparently felt that Egyptian forces should not be withdrawn from the Sinai area during the early stages of the hostilities.

Jan. 1957

'Amir was born in 1919. He graduated from the Egyptian Royal Military College as an infantry officer. 'Amir was given the unprecedented promotion from major to major general to give him appropriate rank for his appointment as Commander in Chief in 1953. He became Minister of Defense in 1954. General 'Amir speaks English.

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