

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic InformationHASANAYN, MagdiEGYPT

Magdi Hasanayn, former Governor of Liberation Province and presently a member of the National Assembly, is an ardent Egyptian nationalist with alleged Communist sympathies, according to the U.S. Military Attaché in Cairo in October 1956. Another report describes him as a Communist. In 1956 Hasanayn led an Egyptian study group to the German Democratic Republic and in August 1956 he visited Moscow. There is no available information concerning his attitude toward the United States.

Biographic information on Hasanayn is sparse. He served in the Western Desert in 1941-42, and at that time joined Anwar Sadat and one other Egyptian officer to form a committee for preservation of enemy property left in the desert. In 1948 Hasanayn volunteered to fight in Palestine but was given instead the task of training volunteers and of collecting weapons. A member of the Free Officers group, Hasanayn from 1952 to about 1954 (possibly 1953) served either as Director or Deputy Director of Muhammad Nagib's personal cabinet. He also directed certain relief projects. In July 1954 it was reported that he had been retired from the army in order to devote full time to his position as Director of the Liberation Province project. The so-called model province, the Liberation Province, has been under fire almost from its inception as a wasteful scheme, and for some time has been described by critics as a "failure." Whether Hasanayn was "dismissed" for certain irregularities in his management of the province as the press reported (he was cleared of this charge by the National Assembly) is not clear at this point. In a report of October 1957, Nasir allegedly told Hasanayn he must choose between his position as Governor and membership in the National Assembly.

IRC:BI:VHMacLean:mh

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