

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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THE MILITARY COUP IN EGYPT. The military coup d'etat of 23 July--ostensibly directed against top officers who were involved in corruption during the 1948 Palestine fighting--has resulted in:

- a. The removal of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, General Haidar Pasha, and the installation of the leader of the revolt, General Mohammed Nagib, who has been the Director General of the Infantry and who was a popular war hero during the Palestine fighting in 1948;
- b. The arrest of Haidar Pasha, Chief of Staff Farid Pasha, and other high ranking officers;
- c. The fall of the two-day old Hilali Cabinet; and
- d. The reported appointment of Ali Maher as new Prime Minister of Egypt.

Dissatisfaction within the army over corruption in the high command dates back to 1948, when censorship failed to hide a serious arms scandal in which Haidar Pasha and Farid Pasa were reportedly involved. In spite of government attempts to whitewash the affair, army and popular resentment forced the replacement of Haidar and Farid. When the affair subsided, King Farouk wuietly reappointed Haidar and Farid to their former positions.

Army dissatisfaction with the top military leaders again began to make itself felt when, partly as a result of Palace intrigue, the Hilali Cabinet was replaced three weeks ago by the less competent Sirry government. When King Farouk tried to force a Palace favorite into the membership of the exclusive officers' club, Army opposition became so intense that Farouk backed down. The King, however, refused to allow Sirry to make a compromise appointment of Nagib as Minister of War and Marine. Sirry resigned over this issue, reportedly against the King's wishes, and Hilali came back in as Prime Minister.

The military coup of General Mohammed Nagib represents the most drastic step to date away from constitutional government in Egypt. Whether or not harmony is fully restored between King Farouk and the army, it furnishes a precedent for military d'etation to civil government in Egypt. Secretary of Interior, War, and Marine Maraghi, often considered as a future Prime Minister, was a member of Ali Maher's first cabinet in February.

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