

Nasser: Friend or Foe?

(Just when many in the West had worriedly written off Gamal Abdel Nasser as an ally of Soviet Russia, the president of the United Arab Republic turned on Moscow with the same vigor that had previously gone into his attacks on the Free World. Following is the first of three dispatches explaining Nasser and Nasserism—the most powerful single man and the most powerful single force in the Middle East today.)

By WILBUR G. LANDREY
UPI Correspondent

Cairo—(UPI)—When Gamal Abdel Nasser was a little boy, his father once whipped him for digging holes in the backyard. So Gamal went out and dug a bigger one.

This, perhaps, explains as well as anything why Nasser, president of the United Arab Republic, did not surprise those who knew him when he did surprise the rest of the world by proving he could kick Russia in the pants just

as hard as he could the West. And, as for the vigor of those kicks, Nasser himself recalls that when he saw an airplane in the sky during his boyhood, he would shout: "O Almighty God, may disaster take the English."

That was the blossoming of his hatred for the Western "imperialists." When the Communists dared poach on his Middle East preserve, he merely turned his wrath on them as well.

At 41, Nasser is the most powerful single leader in the Middle East. Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev may try to brush him off as a "hot-headed young man," but to his followers, Nasser is a modern Saladin, the 12th century sultan of Egypt and Syria.

Nasser was born the son of

a postal clerk in the Upper Egyptian village of Beni Mor in 1918. He climbed to the top by conspiracy, leadership and strength.

These talents he first directed at the British and the corrupt government of former King Farouk. In the end, he helped overthrow Farouk and succeeded in ousting British—and Western—influence from much of the Middle East.

In the only book that has ever appeared under his name, he tells how he once considered assassination as a means of liberating Egypt from corrupt leadership. He recalls thankfully that his first and only attempt failed. He changed his mind the same night.

He says he came to see that only a revolution by the army, as the "vanguard" of the people, could do the job. College at Age 19

Nasser entered military college in 1937 at the age of 19 and emerged a year later as second lieutenant. He began meeting and selecting the young officers who later carried out the revolution.

When British tanks surrounded Abdin Palace in 1942 and forced a change in cabinet, Nasser wrote to a friend that he felt overwhelmed with shame because the Egyptian army took the blow "lying down." It was then that he launched his "Free Officers" movement.

The young officers came back from the Palestine War of 1948 further haunted by shame at the Arab defeat. They decided, as other young officers were deciding in other parts of the Arab world, that the fault lay with corruption at home.

Nasser was the chairman of the Free Officers in those early days. But six months before the revolution, Gen. Mohamed Naguib was brought in so the nominal head would be a senior officer.

Won Power Struggle
The revolution broke out on July 23, 1952. Farouk fled. Naguib became Egypt's first president. Two years later Nasser won a struggle of power and succeeded him.

Nasser's primary aim was to erase the "shame" of past centuries of occupation and restore his people's dignity by ejecting the British from Egypt and Western influence from the Middle East. Next, he wanted to create a "neutral" unified Arab bloc that would be a power in world affairs.

Until he tangled with Russia, he was busy at that task.

Three Circles
In his book, Nasser saw Egypt at the center of three circles—first an Arab circle, second an African circle, and third the circle of the Moslem world.

There was, he wrote, "a role, wandering aimlessly in search of a hero... We alone by virtue of our place, can perform the role."

Millions of Arabs see Nasser himself as the hero. (Next: Nasser 'Neutralism.')



ATTENDING SESSION of Second National People's Congress in Peiping, Mao Tse-tung, walks with Liu Shao-chi (left), his newly elected successor as chief of the People's Republic of China. Mao, as head of Communist Party, still retains working control of Red China.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Tallahassee, Fla.—Clifford Taylor, student government leader at Florida A&M (Negro) university, calling a student classroom strike to protest the alleged rape of a Negro coed by four white youths:

"We want the world to know that we are disturbed about this. As students we are concerned about this happening to our student women on the campus."

Washington—Former President Truman, advising a 30-minute nap every day, such as he takes:

"When you get to be my age or approaching it you've got to rest the machine. It took me a long time to find that out."

Panama—Gilberto Visbal, one of the group of Cuban and Panamanian rebels who surrendered after an abortive invasion of Panama, asking to be released from jail:

"We thought we would be here one or two days and then be freed or turned over to the Cuban Embassy."

Moscow—William Dubois, 91-year-old American Negro author on being awarded the Lenin Peace prize by Russia:

"As I told the Lenin Peace committee, I can't see why they picked out an American for the peace prize. America isn't known as an advocate for peace."

Memphis, Tenn.—(UPI)—The Memphis Humane Shelter's dogs, 301 cats, four foxes, seven squirrels, two rabbits, four fowls, one horse, one lion and one steer.

EASTER MAIL SERVICE
Washington—(UPI)—Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield said Sunday that by June 30 more than half the nation's population will be receiving "next day delivery service" on much first class mail.

There are 140,000 species of butterflies and moths in the order lepidoptera.

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HOSPITAL—A photographer aims his camera at the windows of Arthur Godfrey's 10th-floor suite at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. The TV star was reported to be in "very good" condition following his five-hour operation for lung cancer, but his doctors refused to speculate on his chances for eventual recovery.

Stenographer-Typist Examination Opens

Civil Service examination is now open for the position of clerk stenographer-typist, it was reported today by Enid L. Brown, executive secretary for the board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners Veterans Administration domiciliary, Camp White.

Registers established as a result of the examinations will be used for filling vacancies in various federal agencies in Klamath, Josephine, Jackson and Douglas counties.

Information concerning experience requirements may be obtained at local post offices or boards of civil service examiners at the VA hospital, Camp White; VA hospital, Roseburg; or Kingsley Air Force base, Klamath Falls.

Chicago—(UPI)—An unidentified woman declined to use a storage locker at a Chicago elevated station. Inside the locker attendants found five garter snakes up to two feet in length.

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