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4. ARAB MINORITY OPPOSITION TO NASR

Charles Malik, former Lebanese ambassador to Washington, expressed opposition to Nasr's tactics in a conversation with the American counselor of embassy in Beirut on 14 August. Malik insisted that Nasr does not represent all Arabs and must not be permitted to succeed. There were, he said, both pro-Western and anti-Western Arabs and the West should not be deluded by the seeming unanimity of the current Arab clamor in favor of Nasr.

In Damascus, Kikran Jirajian, an Armenian member of the Syrian parliament, voiced similar opinions to an American embassy officer. He said Nasr was leading the Arabs to ruin and made a plea for Western solidarity. Syrians as a whole, he maintained, do not wish union with Egypt.

Comment

Malik as a Christian and Jirajian as an Armenian have expressed sentiments which are probably shared by some independent elements throughout the Arab world. These elements lack leadership, and may be expected to remain acquiescent while anti-Westernism dominates the scene. The mass of the population, inspired by Arab nationalism, is strongly behind Nasr.

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6. GROWING POLITICAL TENSION IN HONDURAS

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US chargé d'affaires Pool, following a 17 August visit with the chief of state, does not believe Lozano, who suffered a stroke on 11 August, is physically capable of providing the strong government now needed by the country. The decree under which Lozano has been ruling makes no provision for a transfer of power.

Members of the Honduran army's new Defense Co-ordinating Command proposed to Colonel Caraccioli, chief of the air force, on 14 August that they assume control of the government, according to [redacted] [redacted] the American army attaché. Caraccioli reportedly had not given his answer by 16 August, but did discuss the problem with former president Galvez, strongly urging him to take control himself.

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The army is in an excellent position to assume power, but Galvez, who is now head of the supreme court, would give the regime at least some semblance of legality if he headed it and he would probably have the support of most key officers.

Foreign Minister Mendoza had told Pool on 17 August that General Abraham Williams, unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1954, is considering a desperate attempt to seize the presidency and is spreading a story that Lozano is leaving the country on 21 August.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 19 August)

A Jordanian army spokesman said an Israeli soldier was killed in a border clash when an Israeli patrol penetrated about 100 yards inside Jordan in the Tulkarm area.

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The UN secretary general has sent his second message in two days to the Arab and Israeli governments urging precautions against cease-fire violations in unusually strong terms. At Hammarskjold's request the UN truce organization is preparing a report on recent border incidents for presentation to the Security Council.

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The recent outbreak in Gaza is receiving wide coverage in Egypt, second only to the Suez issue. Egyptian press sources believe that Israel is attempting to take advantage of the Suez crisis, but Cairo radio broadcasts in Hebrew charged "foreign elements" were trying to create new trouble between Israel and the Arab states and hinted that the British might be involved.

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The American army attaché in Tel Aviv reports that the Israeli radio blames Egypt for the bus ambush on 16 August. According to the American embassy in Tel Aviv, the recent incidents suggest that Fedayeen terrorists are operating from the Jordanian side of the Negev desert and that similar groups are laying mines inside Israel from the Egyptian side of the desert. The embassy reports that Tel Aviv still appears to be reluctant to resume retaliatory action but that the government may be forced to take some action owing to the increasing number of casualties.

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The former Syrian chief of staff told the American army attaché in Beirut on 14 August that Lebanese commanding general Chehab was "reaching the end of the rope" over the failure of the West to supply military equipment and that Chehab might be forced to purchase Czech arms despite his desire to avoid any Soviet bloc arms deal.

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