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**1968-3-22, Nasser, Problems, French**

TO : Department of State-WASHINGTON

INFO : American Embassies: ALGIERS, BEIRUT, RABAT, TEL AVIV, TUNIS

Department Pass CAIRO

Group 3 - To be downgraded at 12-year intervals.

FROM : American Embassy-PARIS DATE: 3/26/68

SUBJECT: Nasser Under Pressure.

REF :

Many NASSER watchers in Paris contend he is nearing the end of the line. The Embassy has heard this opinion put forward by two French politicians, several military officers, diplomats (Moroccan, Tunisian, Israeli and Syrian), an Algerian student leader, several Quai officials (who give evidence of jitters because they do not know who comes next), and journalists.

Among the most articulate of these latter is Georges HENEIN, an Egyptian (Copt), who came here from Egypt with his wife, an attractive, unusually well-informed Egyptian woman (Moslem), about seven years ago. Henein left Jeune Afrique for L'Express recently.

Henein believes that Nasser put off far too long the explanation he owes his people about what went wrong last June. Now that he has finally done it, and done it poorly, he has sought to blame it on the military, which everyone recognized as his chief support. The sentences against the "traitor generals" were inadequate to satisfy the masses. An arrangement had been worked out whereby the officers would go along with their being tried, receive light sentences and serve only part of these. Intelligence Chiefs Chaim BADRANE and Salah NASSER resisted. Nasser escaped from a "hospital" where his "mind was being changed", ran through the streets calling for help, was picked up by the police, but the story was out. This, and other things like it, contributed to the outbreak of indignation last month. There have been many revelations of corruption in high places; HAIKAL's admission of this, that the rot had set in even before the June war, was not enough and too late.

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