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Research Memorandum

1969-10-20, Nasser, Problems

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To : The Secretary
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From : INR - George C. Denney, Jr. *h.c.d.l*
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The Nasser era constitutes but a brief moment in the panorama of Egyptian history. Even so, Nasser's government has lasted so long in the modern life of the nation that it has become difficult to conceive of Egypt without him. The regime, however, is facing increasingly difficult challenges, and the widespread currency given recent rumors of a significant alteration of the Egyptian power balance calls into question the staying power of the Nasser government. This paper examines the current position of the revolutionary regime and considers the factors that ultimately may force its architects to relinquish control of Egypt's destiny.

ABSTRACT

President Nasser apparently remains in firm control of the Egyptian regime, even though his personal popularity has suffered as a result of Egypt's defeat in the June war. The Revolution, which Nasser symbolizes, has lost most of its momentum, and many of the serious political and economic problems confronting Egypt remain to be solved. Nevertheless, the regime Nasser has fashioned seems capable of assuring the survival of the present leadership for some time to come. With only two of his original revolutionary compatriots remaining in his good graces, Nasser has organized an extensive and effective intelligence and security apparatus which reaches into almost every corner of Egyptian society. Nasser's dependence on this system has concentrated significant power in the hands of those individuals--Amin

Huwaydi, Sharawi Juma, and Sami Sharaf--who manipulate the several arms

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