

Libya, the Sudan, the Yemen and South Arabia. It goes without saying that the expulsion of the Arab Nationalists from the American University and the crack down on their hard-core militants had turned out to be beneficial for the ANM which may not have had the opportunity otherwise to build its bridges with the July 23 Revolution in such a short time.

Henceforth, the ANM was drawn closer and closer to the July 23 Revolution. Egypt's adoption of an uncompromising policy of neutralism; the Nasser arms deal with the USSR; the proclamation that Egyptians were "an Arab people" and part of a wider "Arab nation" in the constitution of 1956; and the nationalization of the Suez Canal following the withdrawal of the American offer of aid to build the Aswan Dam were landmarks in the history of the Egyptian Revolution. They were also the instruments which have brought up greater affinity between the ANM and Nasser-led revolution.¹⁰ Indeed, the Arab Nationalists who were reserved in their appraisal of the Egyptian Revolution up to the mid-fifties, turned fully in support of Nasser's leadership late in 1955, when they learned of the "Czech" arms deal.¹¹

In the following years the Arab Nationalists found themselves, whether by design or sheer coincidence, fighting

¹⁰ Statement by al-Hakam Darwaza, personal interview, December 29, 1968.

¹¹ "Masr Tunhi Akhta' Arba'in 'Aman" [Egypt Ends the Mistakes of Forty Years], al-Ra'i, October 3, 1955, p. 1.