

Following the lead of the U.A.R., the Arab Nationalists entered fully in the dispute between the pro-West government of President Sham'un and the pro-U.A.R. politicians who feared the reelection of Sham'un. In the ensuing civil war the Arab Nationalists singled out themselves as a well-disciplined and organized group. Their organizations in the poor quarters of Beirut, Sidon and the port of Tripoli played an increasingly important role in the civil war as the battles against the government forces dragged on through the summer of 1958.

It was most unfortunate for the ANM to place their forces under the leadership of the traditional politicians, who were themselves part of the old establishment, for these politicians were inclined to accept a compromise, which they did, with the other faction of the establishment. Indeed the formula "no victor, no vanquished" reached by the major contenders in the civil war settled a "family affair" between the traditional leaders to the dissatisfaction of the ANM and its followers. It is believed that if it were not for the U.A.R., the Arab Nationalists would not have followed the lead of the traditional Lebanese politicians. Indeed the latter used them to settle their disputes with each other in the same way they used their own followers. Again, could the ANM have done otherwise? It is rather difficult to answer in the affirmative, for on the one hand, the Arab Nationalists were trained, equipped and supported by the U.A.R., and on the other hand, their followers were fighting for Nasser and