

*Liberalization
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and about 100 ministers and high-ranking politicians, including members of the ASU, were arrested on May 15 in connection with the "plot". They were later tried and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 15 years to life.

Reorganization of the ASU and elections in the Assembly and trade unions completed the purge of dissident elements or "power-centres", as Sadat called them, and placed the country's political party and institution firmly under the control of the new ruler. These moves were interpreted in Cairo's political circles as Sadat's first step towards "de-Nasserization", the removal of these elements considered loyal supporters of Arab socialism for Egypt and the union of progressive Arab countries.

Despite President Sadat's assurances when he came to power that "the revolution goes on" and his exhortations to "safeguard the socialist gains", the trend is undoubtedly towards "de-Nasserization", and is meeting with strong opposition. Consequently, liberalization and "open" policies have stopped short once more of greater political freedom. Censorship was abolished and freedom of the press proclaimed, but chief editors were appointed by presidential decree to all newspapers and held responsible for what appeared in print, and articles and editorials on foreign policy remain as drearily uniform as they were at the height of Nasser's censorship.

Middle East

The Israeli officer corps after the Yom Kippur War

By Edward Bernard Glick

In recent years, Canadians have invested a great deal of diplomatic and military energy in international peacekeeping activities. Since much — though by no means all — of it has involved the Arab-Israeli conflict, Canadians have a natural interest in any factors that might affect the military balance and upset the delicate peacekeeping arrangements in which their countrymen, as well as others, are now engaged.

One such factor is the impact the Yom Kippur War has had on the Israeli officer corps. This impact can be categorised under three headings — prestige, personnel

Student riots in 1971 and 1972, protesting against Sadat's pro-American "anti-socialist" policies, and demanding democracy and personal freedoms, were followed by a massive purge of Egypt's teachers, writers, journalists and intellectuals on charges of "incitement". Mohammed Hassanain Haikal, chief editor of *Al-Ahram*, was sacked without notice by presidential decree for writing a couple of articles expressing doubts about a change in U.S. Middle East policy.

In recent months, action has been increasing against the left — a loose term covering all tendencies from liberals and Nasserists to Communists and the New Left. The latest swoop came after workers' protests against low wages, high prices and confusion about the status of workers degenerated on New Year's Day 1975 into street riots. Several hundred leftists were arrested, allegedly for organizing the riots and plotting to overthrow the regime.

Yet another "reorganization" of the ASU has been under debate in recent months, grappling with the traditional dilemma of delegating some powers to the people, granting more political freedom, without, however, diminishing or weakening the control of the central authority. In Nasser's lifetime his critics said that he wanted a "socialist Egypt without socialists". Sadat's opponents are saying that what he wants is a "democratic Egypt without democrats".

and politics —, bearing in mind that the categories overlap at certain points.

In a book I published last year called *Between Israel and Death*, I wrote that Israelis "accord to Zahal (the Hebrew acronym and nickname for the IDF or Israel Defence Forces) a degree of devotion unique in the history of democratic societies. One could almost describe that devotion as sanctification." I said further that "the practical result of this feeling toward Zahal is that no group of Israelis, including the politicians, who wield great power, and the professors, who enjoy great prestige, possess the esteem, the love, and the post-