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The current leaders of the Arab world were among the mourners at President Nasser's funeral in October 1970. Surrounding Nasser's son Khaled Hamid are his successor Anwar Sadat, Yassir Arafat, now Leader of the PLO, and Houari Boumedienne, Prime Minister of Algeria.

oneself" in debate. Above all, however, it reflected an awareness of the towering figure of Nasser, who had established himself as the supreme decision- and policy-maker and who was effectively in control of every institution in the country.

Irritated by this lack of response, Nasser urged upon the ASU in May 1964 the need to create within the organization a "genuine avant-garde" party capable of breaking the resistance of the still powerful reactionary elements. He warned of the dangerous political situations that might arise during the period of transition from capitalism to socialism.

Less than three years later, in March 1968, he felt that this *enfant terrible* of his own creation was getting out of hand and ordered a reorganization of the ASU from top to bottom, this time through "free elections". This move followed widespread worker and student riots, in which the loudest calls were for more freedom, political parties and a freely-elected parliament. The rebuilt ASU did not satisfy these demands for popular political participation, and in November 1968 there were renewed student protests and riots.

Sadat's succession

In December 1969, Nasser appointed Anwar Sadat Vice-President and his deputy.

This meant that Sadat would take over the Presidency in case of Nasser's absence or illness and in the interim period before presidential elections. Ten days after Nasser's death, the ASU unanimously approved the selection of Sadat as its nominee for the Presidency, and on November 12 he was unanimously elected President of the ASU.

In October 1974, Sadat went a long way towards ensuring his own succession. Sayed Narei, who had been Secretary-General of the ASU in 1972-73, was elected President of the People's Assembly. Under the constitution drafted by Sadat in 1971, the president of the Assembly takes over the Presidency of the country in the event of the President's being incapacitated and during the interim period before presidential elections. The election of Sayed Narei, who is related to Sadat through his son's marriage to the President's daughter, places him in a strong position for election to the Presidency on Sadat's resignation, overthrow or death.

It was only a few months after the political organization had brought him to power that the new President ordered its complete reorganization after the discovery of an alleged plot to overthrow the regime. He claimed that the 1968 ASU elections had been rigged. Vice-President Ali Sabri