

The above affair, that is the demonstration of the Arab Nationalists against the Baghdad Pact and the expulsion of their activists from the American University brought the ANM closer to the young officers of Egypt. On the one hand, Egypt was now hardening its position on the Western-initiated defensive pacts and as such was seeking the alliance of all revolutionary forces in its forthcoming battle against the Baghdad Pact. On the other hand, the admittance of the Arab Nationalists students, who were expelled from the American University of Beirut, in the Egyptian universities by order of Premier Nasser himself was greatly appreciated by the ANM and its members.⁹

A number of the Arab Nationalists who were admitted to Cairo University ranked high in the ANM's hierarchy. As such, they were well-prepared to perform two important tasks. First, they established a channel of communication between the ANM and the Egyptian departments responsible for Arab affairs. In time, these students had a better understanding of the workings of the Egyptian machinery which they conveyed to their leadership. Second, they opened new horizons for the ANM by recruiting a number of Arab students from more than one Arab state. In the later 'fifties, the ANM dispatched these students to build its organizations in

⁹This and the information which appear in the following paragraph is mainly based on the author's personal interviews with two leading members who played an important role in the activities of the ANM during the period under discussion, July 17, 1967.