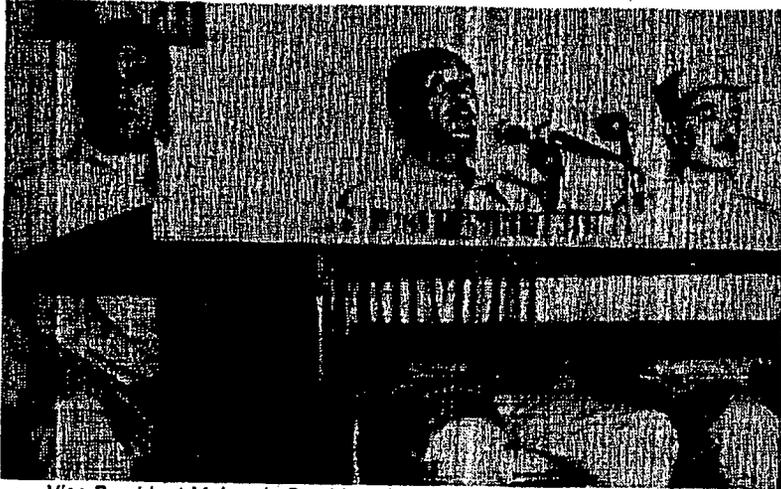


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Vice President Mubarak, President Sadat, and former War Minister Jamasi
at a conference of military commanders

ushers in a new stage with new problems and opportunities and that this requires new faces. Many Egyptians interpret the changes as presaging new policies. More politically sophisticated Egyptians are skeptical on this score. [redacted]

EGYPT

President Sadat has dismissed two more members of his inner circle. As in the firings of Prime Minister Salim and Minister of War Jamasi early in the month, the new ousters were abrupt, leaving the departing officials bitter.

Ashraf Marwan, a close adviser and Sadat's chief liaison to Saudi and Iranian leaders as well as the Egyptian head of the multinational organization charged with building an Arab arms industry, was moved on 9 October to an unspecified job in Egypt's Foreign Ministry. One Egyptian paper implied that the change was linked to corruption—for which Marwan has a reputation.

The second victim was Sayid Mari, Speaker of the Peoples Assembly and for years one of Sadat's most trusted advisers on domestic affairs. On 16 October, Mari was named a special presidential assistant—the same title given other recently dismissed advisers—and the next day the press reported that he would soon be replaced as Speaker. [redacted]

[redacted] links Mari's departure to his warnings, unwelcome to Sadat, that popular grumbling over inflation had reached a dangerous level.

Four of Sadat's six closest advisers have now been dismissed—Salim, Jamasi, Marwan, and Mari. The two survivors are Vice President Mubarak—who profits politically from the recent personnel changes—and businessman Uthman Ahmad Uthman—who holds no official position but is related to Sadat by marriage.

Each of the four ousted officials was fired abruptly with little public expression of thanks for past services. Both the extent and manner of the changes are unprecedented during Sadat's eight years in office.

Some changes at high levels were expected once the Camp David talks were concluded, but Sadat's blunt dismissal of the four key advisers is hard to explain. Sadat may have been motivated by a combination of factors that vary with individual cases. [redacted]

[redacted] At least three of those dismissed questioned Sadat's policies during the past year.

[redacted] Sadat has emphasized that peace with Israel

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