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FEATURE ARTICLE

THE UAR MISSILE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In connection with the recent week-long celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, the UAR displayed two missiles as evidence of Arab scientific and technological achievement. On 21 July the press witnessed, from a distance of six or seven miles, the firing of four missiles at a location 30 to 50 miles northwest of Cairo. The UAR announced that two different types of single-stage missiles had been fired. Ten of each of these types were displayed in the military parade on 23 July in Cairo. The larger missile, called Conqueror, was described by Western sources as 40 feet long, 4 feet in diameter with a cluster of four exhaust nozzles visible at the rear. The smaller missile, Victor, was described as 18 feet in length, 30 inches in diameter with a bell-shaped nozzle protruding from the side of the missile at about the mid-point. The Egyptians claimed a range of 375 miles for the Conqueror and 220 miles for the Victor. No mention of payload was made at any time.

In a press conference on 21 July, President Nasir outlined the development program for the Conqueror, stating that a task force for the creation of a UAR missile program had been set up several years ago, with final assembly of the first missile taking place early in 1961. The first flight test in April 1961 was admittedly a failure. Nasir stated the second flight test in May 1961 was "successful," but that Egyptian scientists destroyed it at an altitude of 30 kilometers to prevent its observation by foreigners.

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The United Arab Republic has displayed an intense interest in acquiring guided missiles since shortly after World War II and has approached most of the missile-producing nations of the world at one time or another.

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[redacted] Four two-stage, solid-propellant sounding rockets capable of lifting a 50-pound payload to an altitude of 165 miles were delivered by a U. S. manufacturer to the UAR in February 1962.

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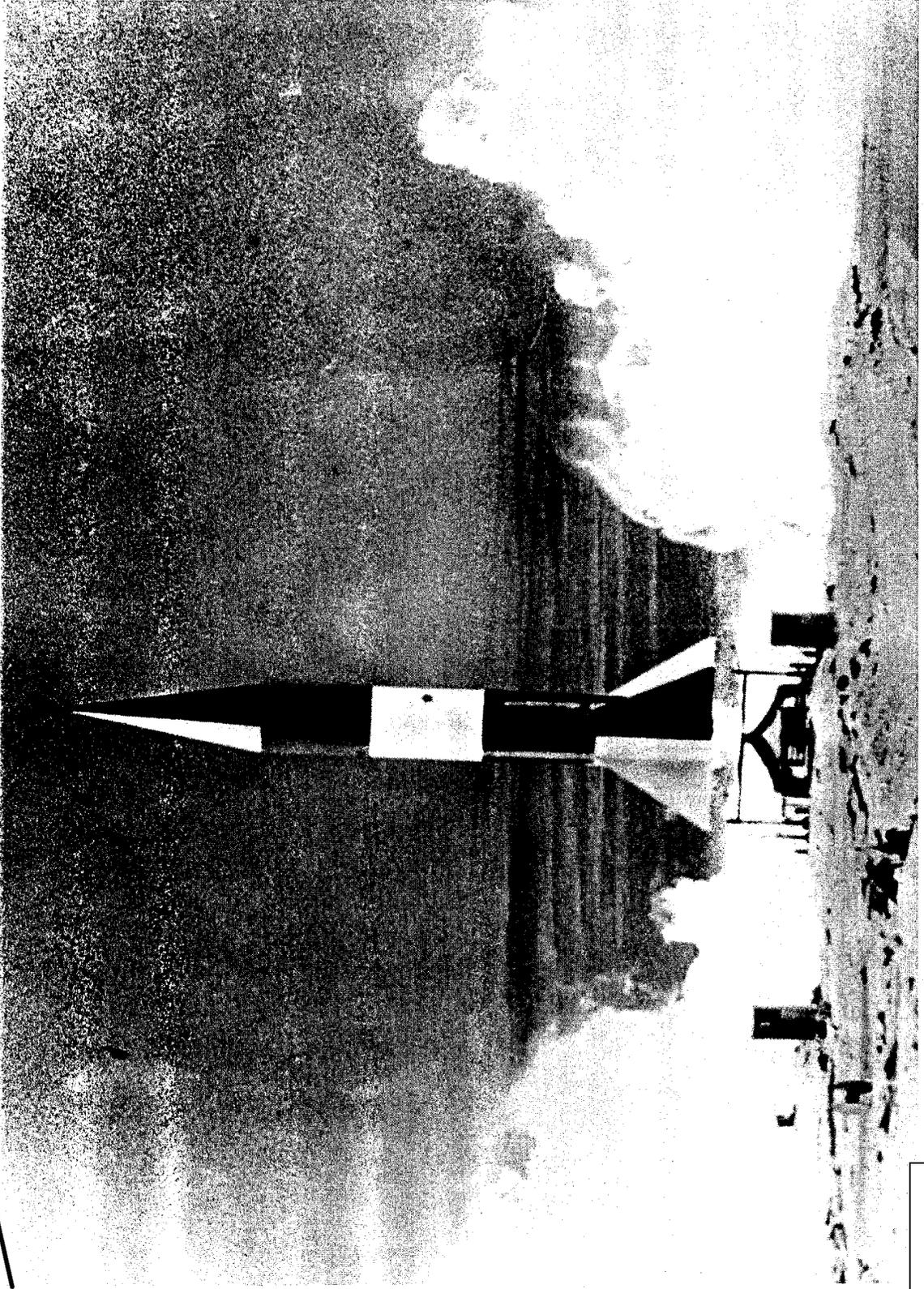
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UAR Conqueror Rocket

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The history of German work on missiles in Egypt stems from the efforts of German expatriates with wartime missile experience shortly after World War II. A number of task forces have been assembled for the purpose of developing a ballistic missile; these have heretofore had negative results. Previous groups seem to have failed either from disagreements between the Germans and the Egyptians or the inability of the Egyptians to translate the German designs into actual hardware.

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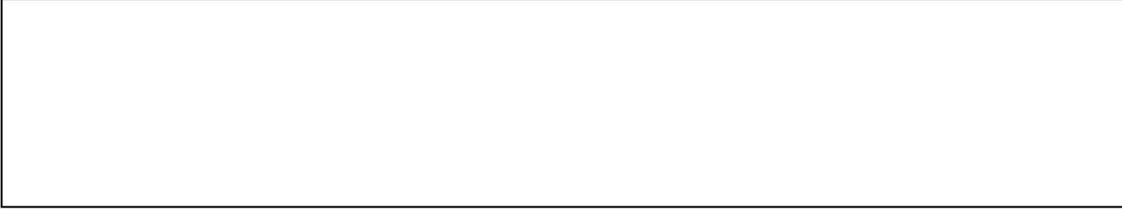
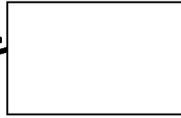
In November 1961 Saenger was asked by the West Germans to resign from his position as director because of the publicity accorded his work as a consultant to the UAR and a possible conflict of interest with classified work done at his institute for NATO.

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