

Tank Corps Leads Coup In Sudan

7 High Military
Officers Arrested,
Cairo Report Says

From News Dispatches

CAIRO, Nov. 9—The Sudanese army tank corps moved out of its barracks tonight "in order to carry out a reactionary coup" against the new civilian government, Radio Omdurman, the Sudanese state radio, reported.

The radio, in a broadcast monitored here, appealed to citizens to "be ready to take to the streets to defend the presidency residence and the broadcasting building."

The government's National Front called on the population to "stage immediate demonstrations" to counter the army move and preserve the fledgling government of Premier Sirr-el-Shatm el Khalifa.

The reported move by the army came several hours after the arrest of top military men who had ruled Sudan for six years. There was speculation that the arrests triggered the troop movement.

All Seven Arrested

The new civilian government arrested all seven members of the dissolved armed forces Supreme Council, former Foreign Minister Ahmed Kheir, and two senior police officials.

Today's arrests followed the action of President Ibrahim Abboud yesterday in detaining seven senior army officers.

According to army sources, the seven officers urged alignment of the Sudan with the policies of President Nasser of the United Arab Republic, but government supporters claimed the arrests were a pretext to remove men loyal to the new regime.

The National Front supports the new administration headed by El Khalifa, who took power Oct. 31 following the resignation of President Abboud's military junta.

The junta was brought down during 10 days of demonstrations, strikes and riots in which at least 40 persons died.

Whereabouts Secret

The news of the attempted coup broke suddenly when the radio interrupted normal broadcasting to read the following message from the National Front:

"The National Front learns the army tank corps and maintenance corps started moving from their barracks in order to carry out a reactionary revolution against the people's gains.

"We appeal to all citizens in all parts of the country to be prepared to take to the streets and head for the presidency and broadcasting buildings to protect them and to stage immediate demonstrations."