

DEATH DEMANDED FOR CAIRO EDITOR

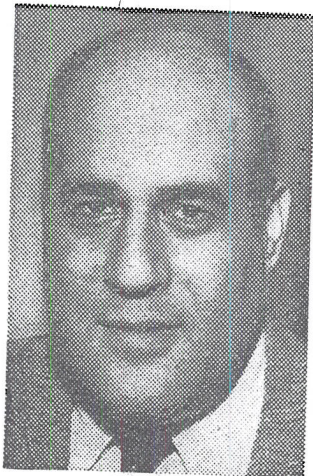
Amin Is Indicted as Spy—
U.S. Not Mentioned

By HEDRICK SMITH

CAIRO, Nov. 30—The Prosecutor General of the United Arab Republic today indicted Mustafa Amin, one of Cairo's most prominent newspaper editors, on charges of spying and demanded the death penalty.

The formal indictment charged Mr. Amin with having passed national defense secrets and information, some of which it said he "falsely attributed" to President Gamal Abdel Nasser to an "agent of a foreign country." It did not identify the country.

At the time of Mr. Amin's arrest last July 21, the official Middle East News Agency identified the United States as the foreign power allegedly involved



The New York Times

Moustafa Amin

and contended that Amin had been spying "for a long time." Egyptian officials later said privately that Mr. Amin had confessed this.

He was arrested at his home in Alexandria while lunching with Bruce Taylor Odell, Political Attaché at the United States Embassy, who Cairo authorities said was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. A few days later Mr. Odell was transferred back to Washington.

Basis for Omission of U.S.

The omission of specific reference to the United States in the indictment was seen in some quarters as an effort by the Nasser regime to prevent unnecessary tensions in its relations with Washington. It also led to speculation that the prosecution might hold a secret trial to play down publicity on the case.

Mr. Amin, burly 52-year-old former publisher and editor of the newspaper Al Akhbar, will be tried by the State Security Court, but the indictment did not set a date for the trial.

A five-count indictment formally charged Mr. Amin, who has been in jail since his arrest, with having delivered "to the agent of a foreign power military, political, diplomatic and economic information considered national defense secrets that should be known only to authorized persons," and with having illegally transferred aboard £20,000 Egyptian (\$46,000).

"This crime occurred in wartime," the prosecution said, invoking the section of the Egyptian penal code that provides for the death penalty for passing military secrets during wartime. This presumably alludes to the technical state of war with Israel, which has existed since 1948.

Rumors About Nasser

The reference in the indictment to Mr. Amin's allegedly false contentions that some of his information came from President Nasser was apparently intended to rebut rumors that have circulated widely in Cairo since his arrest. They stated that some of Mr. Nasser's private conversations with Egyptian associates were reported in confidence to Mr. Amin, who allegedly then passed them to his foreign contact.

Another charge said that Mr. Amin had agreed to supply his contact with "news and information" on the Egyptian armed forces and foreign relations and that he had acted "with the intention of harming the military, political, diplomatic and economic position of the state."

It was not immediately indicated who would handle Mr. Amin's defense. He comes from one of the socially most prominent families in Egypt.