

## EGYPT

**Dates of Elections:** October 28 and November 4, 1976

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Egypt, the People's Assembly, has 360 members: 350 are elected, at least half of whom must be workers and farmers; 10 are members appointed by the President of the Republic. The Assembly has a 5-year term.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens at least 18 years old have the right to vote (naturalized citizens obtain this right five years after naturalization). Disqualified are the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons convicted of crime or whose property has been sequestrated, persons who have been dismissed from guardianship for reasons of bad conduct or betrayal and persons who have been dismissed from employment in the Government or the public sector for dishonourable reasons.

Electoral registers are revised each year in December. Male electors are automatically registered; women, on request. Voting is compulsory for men, failure to do so resulting in a fine of one Egyptian pound.

Any candidate for election to the People's Assembly must be a qualified and registered elector who is at least 30 years old and proficient in reading and writing and who has either been enlisted in or exempted from military service. (Naturalized citizens may be candidates 10 years after naturalization.) Except in certain cases determined by the Assembly, the office of parliamentarian is incompatible with that of employee of the Government.

Every candidate must make a monetary deposit equivalent to approximately US\$29, which is reimbursed if he obtains at least 20% of the valid votes cast in his constituency.

For election purposes, Egypt is divided into 175 constituencies. In each, two members are elected; at least one of them must be a worker or a farmer.

A *vrker* is any person who, in industry, agriculture or the services, is

engaged in manual or intellectual work, is dependent upon this work for his livelihood, and does not possess any diploma from a university, institute of higher education or military school. However, any person who started out in life as a worker and later obtained a university diploma, but has remained affiliated to his worker's trade union is regarded as a worker, notwithstanding his having obtained such diploma.

A *farmer* is any person who, together with his wife and minor children, does not own more than 10 *feddans* (four hectares) of land, and for whom agriculture is the sole income and occupation. He must moreover reside in a rural area.

The elective seats are filled through a two-ballot absolute majority system, as follows:

- If , in a constituency, two candidates, including at least one worker or farmer, obtain an absolute majority of votes cast in the first round of voting, both are declared elected.
- If neither of the two candidates who have obtained an absolute majority is a worker or farmer, only the one who has received the most votes is elected. A second round of voting is then organized for the election of the constituency's second deputy, in which only the two workers or farmers who were best placed in the first round may participate.
- If only one candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first round, a second round of voting is organized. All candidates may participate in this second round if the person elected in the first round is a worker or farmer; if this is not the case, only worker and farmer candidates may participate.
- If none of the candidates secures an absolute majority of the votes cast, a second election is held among the first four candidates who have received a relative majority, provided that at least two of them are workers or farmers. In this case, if no candidate secures an absolute majority in the second round, the seats are attributed to the two best-placed candidates on condition that at least one of them is a farmer or worker and that they have won at least 20% of the votes cast in their constituency.

Where any seat becomes vacant between general elections, it is filled by electing or appointing a new member, according to whether the seat, before it became vacant, was filled by election or appointment.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Competing for the 342 parliamentary seats at stake on October 28 (polls for the eight remaining elective seats were to follow later in the year) were a large number of independent candidates and the right, left and centrist

" platforms " of the Arab Socialist Union, the country's only legal political party prior to the elections. In a campaign marked by lively debate, the rightists, known as the Socialst Liberal Organization, advocated increased economic and political freedom, considering that the State should control only heavy industry and tolerate increased foreign investment. The central group, called the Arab Socialst Organization of Egypt and led by outgoing Prime Minister General Mamdouh Salem, supported the Government's policies of a mixed (socialist and private sector) economy and emphasized the importance of friendship with the West. The left-wing National Progressive Unionist Rassemblement, finally, called for a return to stricter socialism. A second ballot was held on November 4 in constituencies where no candidate obtained a 51 % majority of the votes cast on October 28.

Final results, announced on November 6, showed that the central group had won an overwhelming majority, obtaining a total of 280 seats.

President of the Republic Sadat subsequently appointed another 10 deputies, as provided for under the Constitution. The President then reappointed General Salem as Prime Minister, and the latter announced his re-organized Cabinet on November 9. On November 11, the President announced the reinstatement of a limited version of the multiple political party system.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly*

Number of registered voters . . . . .	9,564,482
Voters . . . . .	3,803,973 (39.77%)

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
Arab Socialist Organization of Egypt . . . . .	476	295
Socialst Liberal Organization . . . . .	211	15
National Progressive Unionist Rassemblement	65	4
Independents . . . . .	208	47
		360

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Farmers and workers. . . . .	201
Civil servants . . . . .	63
Lawyers. . . . .	60
Members of the armed forces. . . . .	16
Engineers. . . . .	12
Doctors . . . . .	4
Policemen. . . . .	4
	360

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	354
Women. . . . .	6

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

30-39 years. . . . .	51
40-49. . . . .	131
50-59. . . . .	134
60-69. . . . .	40
70-79. . . . .	4
	360