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DATE November 17, 1954

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SUBJECT:

Muslim Brotherhood in the Sudan  
**1954-11-17, Azhari, Islamists, QrA**

The Muslim Brotherhood in the Sudan has never been a particularly strong organization, but it is generally respected as a defender of Islam. With the difficulties of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt the Sudanese organization has naturally received more publicity. Its greatest strength is in the "three towns" (Khartoum, Omdurman and Khartoum North) and in this area its supporters come primarily from among university students and the effendiya class of the same approximate age, although a few older civil servants and merchants also belong. Its exact membership is not known but informed guesses here place the figure as around five hundred with an active core of around a hundred.

It is sufficiently respected as an organization in the Sudan that no public figure would care to speak out against it. Considered an extreme rightist group by Sudanese intellectuals, the average Sudanese thinks of it primarily as a defender of the tenets and traditions of Islam. Since the Anglo-Egyptian Canal Agreement the Sudan branch has cooperated with the local Communists in attacking the agreement. It has condemned the RCC attitude toward the Brotherhood in Egypt and this anti-RCC attitude has meant that the local branch receives more public support from the Opposition than from the Government. As far as can be learned it contains members from both the Khatmia and Ansar sects with the Khatmia in the majority; this has not occasioned trouble so far as it had previously not espoused any issue or cause which cuts across sectarian lines.

On November 11, 1954, En Nil, an official organ of the Umma Party, published an interview between the Leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Sudan and Tahrir, a semi-official Egyptian news-magazine. Although the Leader was not identified in this interview he is Ali Talballa, a civil servant in the Ministry of Social Welfare who works on problems of the Southern Sudan. The interview reportedly took place over the telephone and was released to the local press by the press secretary of the Local Muslim Brotherhood, Omer Ed Darouti, a local merchant. The questions that follow were reportedly asked by Tahrir and answered by Ali Talballa and indicate that the local branch supports its brother organization in Egypt:

Q. What do you think of the conspiracy against Colonel Gamal?

J Sweeney:am  
REPORTER

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By *A* NARA Date *3/2/78*

- A. I do not think it is a conspiracy against Colonel Gamal but against the Muslim Brotherhood.
- Q. What do you think of the "secret body" of the Muslim Brotherhood?
- A. As a Muslim Brother I know nothing of it, maybe those who have fabricated this "secret body" know something about it.
- Q. What is the relation of the Sudan Muslim Brotherhood to that of Egypt?
- A. It is the relation of the Muslim to his Muslim brother in all Muslim countries that oblige us to support the Egyptian nation to achieve freedom.
- Q. What do you think of the Canal Zone Agreement?
- A. I met with Major Salem during his recent visit to the Sudan and he told me that there were 300 defects in the Agreement, not 13 as appeared in Muslim Brotherhood's memorandum. He told me that could not achieve any better agreement.
- Q. What does the Sudan Muslim Brotherhood think of the National Unionist Party Government of the Sudan?
- A. The Muslim Brothers trust and support the NUP Government because it is headed by freedom-loving people who have not erected prisons or military courts.

*Joseph Sweeney*  
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United States Liaison Officer

cc: Cairo

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