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DESP. NO. 186

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE June 20, 1953

U.S. EYES ONLY

REF : Khartoum 111, March 31, 1953; Khartoum 122, April 9, 1953.

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SUBJECT: Change in Communist Tactics toward Anglo-Egyptian Agreement and the Coming Elections

Previous reports that the Communist "line" in the Sudan has been reversed and that now it favors support of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of February 12 and participation in the coming elections have been confirmed by documents captured by the Sudan Police. According to these documents the Communists hope to gain several seats in the Sudanese Parliament which will be elected in the fall; they will use any seats gained to disrupt normal parliamentary action as much as possible. According to the same documents, Communist policy considers participation in parliamentary government as only a tactic, with the ultimate goal to be the establishment of Communist rule in the Sudan by means of an armed revolution.

Evidence of Change in Communist Tactics

Evidence of the new Communist tactics which has come to the attention of the Liaison Office originates from four sources. 1) Intelligence officers in the Sudan Police Force (Babiker Mohammed ED DEEB, Assistant Commissioner of Police for Intelligence, and Abdel Nur KHALIL, Superintendent of Police for Intelligence) have informed the reporting officer that in April the Sudan Police intercepted private letters between known Communists, and that these letters referred explicitly to the change in tactics outlined above. The Liaison Office has seen neither these letters nor translations of them. 2) Mimeographed statements of Communist policy together with copies of the illegal internal Communist organ, Red Flag, were seized in early May from a Communist courier on the train northbound from Khartoum. (A copy of the policy statement, in Arabic, is attached as Enclosure 1, SECRET, and two copies of the seized issues of Red Flag are attached as Enclosure 2, SECRET.) According to the police the policy statement explains that the Communists should cooperate in the coming elections and should nominate candidates. Any seats gained in the Parliament should be used for disruptive purposes. Violence is cited as the only effective means for gaining Communist ends, and nostalgic reference is made to the abortive uprisings in the Sudan in 1924. (The Liaison Office is transmitting this document untranslated since the Sudan Police have requested us to keep it highly classified, and translation in this office is performed by local personnel.) 3) An editorial in the May 10 issue of Red Flag restated the above-outlined position. The reporting officer has read the Sudan Police official translation of this editorial. The editorial was signed by "Rashid," and according to the Sudan Police it was written by Khalig MAHJOUB who is believed to be the secretary of the Communist Central

RTMurphy:ef
REPORTER

[redacted]

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اتفاقية السودان حتى يفصل بين كفاح الطبقة العاملة
في السودان والشعب وبين نضال عمال مصر وشعبها
ان الاستعماريين والخونة يحاولون استغلال
هذه الاتفاقية لاسكات صوت شعبنا ضد مؤامرات
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
فنحن نؤيد نضال المعرضين وندعو جميع الشعب على

العاملة السودانية ان توجه النداء الى جميع
المواطنين لكشف مزالق هذه الاتفاقية وان يكافحوا
بعزم واصرار ضد حلف الشرق الاوسط الاثم . ان
(البقية على ص ٢)

[redacted]

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Committee in the [illegible] then, can be taken as reflecting Central Committee policy. 4) [illegible] ts reaching the Liaison Office from both the local press and from reliable informants indicate that various known Communists are preparing to run in the elections.

Communist Candidates for Election

The reporting officer was informed by the Assistant Commissioner of Police that the police expect about twenty known Communists to be nominated in the coming elections. The police estimate that about five out of this total will be elected. On the question of whether the Communists will run as independents or seek the support of the major parties, available evidence is conflicting. In the past all the major parties have denounced the Communists. Additionally, in the May 10 issue of Red Flag, in the above-cited editorial, the Communists condemned the Umma Party and the Socialist Republican Party as "capitalists and supporters of imperialism" and the National Unionist Party as "bourgeois elements," and have given instructions that Communist candidates are not to cooperate with the other parties. On the other hand, press reports persist that the Communists plan to trade support with the major parties. (For example see press report cited in Khartoum 122 dated April 9, 1953.) The NUP is reported to be most favorably disposed to such an arrangement, and the Liaison Office has been informed that Mohammed JUBARA, believed by the police to be a Communist, will run as NUP candidate in Kassala.

In any event Communists will not run as candidates of the Communist Party, since the latter is, for practical purposes, outlawed in the Sudan.

Among Communists known by the police to be planning to run in the coming elections are 1) Mohammed Sayed SALAAM, President of the Sudan Workers' Federation, who will run as candidate in Khartoum North, 2) Gasim AMIN, who will be a candidate in Atbara, 3) Hassan SALAAMA, who will be a candidate in Omdurman, and 4) Mohammed JUBARA (cited above), who will be a candidate in Kassala. The police indicate that Communists have also been selected to run in El Obeid and in Kosti.

Police Estimate of Communist Strength

The Sudan Police believe that the Communists have not regained their previous popularity which they lost through their opposition to the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement. At the present time their strength is considered as negligible. However, the Assistant Commissioner of Police is of the opinion that the change in tactics evidenced by the present Communist support of the Agreement and the decision to participate in the elections will have the effect of restoring the Communists to their previous popular position. Ed Deeb expects that by election time in the fall, the Communists will be supported by about ten per cent of the population of the Sudan.

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[redacted] INFORMATION

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(البقية على ص ٢)

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Data on the Seizures ... ents

1. Enclosures 1 and 2: These documents were seized by a Sudan police officer on the Khartoum-Wadi Halfa passenger train about the first week in May. These documents were part of a large bundle which contained approximately one hundred copies each of Red Flag and the policy statement. The bundle is known by the police to have come from Khartoum and is believed to have been destined for Atbara, the Railway Headquarters and one of the principal centers of Communist agitation in the Sudan. The bundle was in the possession of Mohammed El Amin Abdalla ABBAS, Sudanese student in the Coptic College in Khartoum. The police plan to prosecute Abbas for the possession of these illegal papers and they will probably obtain a conviction. Abbas is described by the police as "a very minor figure" in the Communist organization.

2. Red Flag, issue of May 10, 1953. A few copies of this issue were seized in the Omdurman home of Abdel Wahab EL BESHIR.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney,
United States Liaison Officer.

Enclosures: att

1. One copy of Communist policy statement, in Arabic (mimeographed) ~~SECRET.~~
2. Two copies of Red Flag (mimeographed) ~~SECRET.~~

CC: Cairo

[redacted]

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في السودان والشعب وبين نضال عمال مصر وشعبها
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ضد
العاملة السودانية ان توجه النداء الى جميع
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بعزم واصرار ضد حلف الشرق الاوسط الاثم . ان
(يتبع على ص ٢)
[redacted]
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