

UNCLASSIFIED
 Authority AD 82915
 By D NARA Date 3/27

INFORMATION
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The tenants and workers in the Gezira Scheme, the largest agricultural scheme in the Sudan, have not formed any such organizations and, according to Mr. R. J. SANDISON, Commissioner of Labor, they are unlikely to do so for the following reasons: 1) The Gezira tenants who cultivate ten feddans of crop land per year each have become quite well-to-do because of recent high cotton yields and prices, and they now constitute a minor landlord class, hiring other workers to cultivate. 2) In any case, there already exists an adequate organization of agriculturalists in the Gezira, the Gezira Tenants' Association, which acts in close cooperation with the Gezira Board on economic and social questions. 3) The paid agricultural laborers in the Gezira are in large part migrant labor from the Western Sudan and from French Equatorial Africa, most of whom are on their way to Arabia to make the Moslem pilgrimage. Being migrants, they do not remain long enough in the Gezira to form such agricultural organizations.

Both internal Sudanese Communist organs and the Cominform Journal have sought to identify the cause of the Sudanese agriculturalist with the purposes of the MNL and the SWIUF. (A translation of two articles from the Sudan Communist organ Red Banner, issue of February 12, 1953, is attached as Enclosure No. 2 RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION.) A copy of an article on Sudanese agriculturalists which appeared in Cominform Journal on July 3, 1953 and which has been reproduced by the Sudan Government Public Relations Office as an appendix to PROJECT, issue of August 28, 1953, is attached as Enclosure No. 3 UNCLASSIFIED. One original Arabic copy of the February 12 issue of Red Banner which has been supplied by the Sudan Police is attached as Enclosure No. 4 RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION.) According to the Sudan Police, it is MNL policy to effect a unity of the workers and cultivators before they will consider making use of violence. Police estimate that among the present leadership in agriculturalists' organizations, about three out of ten are Communists or Communist sympathizers.

More detailed information on this subject is presently unavailable in Khartoum. The Sudan Police, whose information on this matter seems to be sketchy and incomplete (the reporting officer has seen the relevant files) are currently seeking additional information on Communist influence among the cultivators. Should any additional significant information be developed, the Liaison Office will submit it in a supplementary despatch.

Comment

From various other enquiries made on the subject of Communist influence among Sudanese cultivators, the Liaison Office tends to agree with the evaluation made by the Labor Office and the Sudan Police, that this trend is generally not important. The only organized agricultural group for whom the Communists have a strong appeal is the agricultural workers at Shendi (an area just north of Khartoum) where there are a number of private estates, and where working conditions are generally poor.

* Previously referred to by the Liaison Office as the Red Flag. "Banner" is a more accurate translation.

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Another real danger of Communist infiltration is posed by an as yet unorganized group of agricultural workers. It has been suggested by informed circles in Khartoum that the cultivators who are most badly treated, and who are ripe for Communist purposes, are the agricultural workers on the estates of Sayed Abdel RAHMAN, leader of the Ansar religious sect and the principal moral and financial force behind the Umma Party. SAR, it appears, does not pay his workers any cash wage, but relies on their lack of education and religious fervor to render him service. According to the Commissioner of Labor and the Superintendent of Police, a real danger of Communist activity is presented by conditions at Kosti, where the workers live who farm SAR's estates on Aba Island in the White Nile. According to the above sources, when once such a worker or a member of his family becomes educated and realizes the extent of labor exploitation that is taking place on SAR's estates, his immediate reaction is to seek somehow to vent his indignation. The Sudanese Communist movement so far has seemed to satisfy the needs of the Kosti people in this respect.

Sources:

1. Babiker M. el Deeb, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Headquarters, Sudan Police
2. Abdel Nur Khalil, Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Sudan Police
3. R. J. Sandison, Commissioner of Labor
4. Fadl Beshir, Labor journalist, Khartoum

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney,
 United States Liaison Officer.

✓ Enclosures: *att.*

1. "Important Resolutions of the First Congress of the Northern Province Cultivators," UNCLASSIFIED.
2. Translation of an article published in al Lewa al Ahmar (Red Banner) issue No. 2331 of 12 February, 1953, RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION
3. Extract from PROJECT, issue of August 28, 1953, "Peasant Movement in the Sudan," UNCLASSIFIED.
4. One original Arabic copy of al Lewa al Ahmar (Red Banner), issue No. 2331 of 12 February 1953, RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION.

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