

Authority **AD 8295**
By **A** NARA Date **3/2/8**

INFORMATION (Classification) TCH

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

745W.001/9-1253
XR 945W.062

72

FOREIGN

FROM : USLO, Khartoum
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : Khartoum 27, August 8, 1953

SEP. 54
DESP. NO.
September 12, 1953
DATE

WCB

ACTION	W
For Dept. Use Only	116
REC'D	10/A
OTHER	

DEPT. REPT
I DC/R-2 EUR-5 OLI-6 I-3 ONA-4 RI
N F OTHER
O AG-5 FOR LAB-3 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Communists Attempting to Organize "Front" Among Sudanese Cultivators

During the past year the Communist-dominated Sudan Workers' Trade Unions Federation and the central Communist body in the Sudan, the Movement for National Liberation, have been successful in forming certain organizations of farmers and farm workers and in infiltrating other newly-established organizations among similar groups. Such action is a concrete manifestation of the MML's policy of becoming the "party of the Peasant and Working Classes." To date agriculturalists' organizations are still in the initial stages of development and they embrace less than half of the agricultural workers in the Sudan. Police estimate that Communists are presently supplying about thirty per cent of their leadership. Labor and police circles do not regard these developments as significant at the present although they indicate that they may well become so in the future.

The initial such organization was formed at Atbara on August 17, 1952, when certain cultivators, at the urging of the Sudan Workers' Trade Unions Federation, held a Congress of Northern Province Cultivators and passed resolutions calling for Government action to better their lot. (A copy of the resolutions is attached as Enclosure No. 1, UNCLASSIFIED.) Subsequent to this meeting, similar organizations of cultivators have been formed in Dongola, Shendi, the Nuba Mountains, and in the Cash and Tokar deltas. Some of these other groups have been formed at the urging of SWTUF leaders and some have been formed on their own initiative in imitation of the Congress of Northern Province Cultivators. All of these organizations, including the Congress, are loose knit and still in the primary stage of organization, and both the Sudan Police and the Labor Branch believe that a substantial period, perhaps six years, will be needed before these groups crystallize into a final form. Police estimate that at the present time approximately forty per cent of agriculturalists in the Sudan are cultivating in areas which these organizations claim to represent.

No clear distinction has been made in these organizations among farmers who own their land, tenant farmers, and paid farm laborers. In point of fact, many of the cultivators who are being organized are landowners, as in the Northern Province and in the Nuba Mountains, or tenants on Government-operated schemes, in the Cash and Tokar deltas, whose privileges are such that they closely approximate landowners. The discrepancy in reasoning which seeks to identify the farmers' organizations with the labor movement in the Sudan has been pointed up by the Labor Branch in refusing to recognize such organizations as trade unions on the grounds that a farmer is as much an employer as he is a worker.

RTM
RTM:ef
REPORTER

SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

SECRET FILE

FILED
13 1953

This Document Must Be Returned To
745W.001/9-1253