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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: Egyptian Member of the Governor General's Commission Discusses British Intentions in the Sudan.

Group Captain Hussein Zulficar SABRY, the Egyptian Member of the Governor General's Commission has an enviable reputation in the Sudan as a moderate whose personal integrity is unchallenged. One of the leading members of the British administration once said to the reporting officer in discussing Zulficar, "Why that chap is practically a gentleman!" Although the Sudanese of both major parties respect him, the Umma leaders feel that he does not have sufficient personal political strength to dispute Salah SALEM's decisions with any success. In a discussion on January 12th Zulficar spoke frankly about the future of the Sudan and alleged that the British have no intention of leaving the Sudan and will take definite steps to provide for their presence here regardless of the Anglo-Egyptian agreement or the wishes of the Sudanese. The highlights of his views were:

1. The British have no intention of leaving the Sudan.
2. Because of the anti-British vote in the recent elections and the recent loss of prestige the British have suffered here they will deliberately bring about a financial collapse of the Sudan in order to allow the Governor General to take over the Government.
3. It will be practically impossible to prove that the British have engineered such a financial collapse, but it will be done by them deliberately through manipulation of reserves in London.
4. There is no Sudanese, including Hamad TEMFIK, the newly appointed Minister of Finance, with sufficient financial knowledge to prevent the British from carrying out their plans.
5. Despite his conviction that the British intend to bring about such a financial collapse of the Sudan, Zulficar is at a loss as to what the Egyptian Government can do by itself to prevent it.
6. He believes ...

JSweeney:md
 REPORTER

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6. He believes the only way to prevent the British from carrying out what he alleges are their plans would be for the United States to bring pressure on them to solve the Suez dispute and with this out of the way the United States could dissuade them from arranging a financial collapse in the Sudan.

7. Upon being questioned as to why the British want to stay in the Sudan in the face of their own statements that they are willing to allow the Sudanese to decide their own destiny, he had no specific answer other than to shrug his shoulders and to suggest that nevertheless it was a fact.

8. Zulficar sees little likelihood of any genuine cooperation between the new NUP Government and the British administration.

Comment:

There is no question in the reporting officer's mind but that Zulficar sincerely believes what he says. The British administrators insist that they will carry out the Anglo-Egyptian agreement on the Sudan. At the same time it must be admitted that the British administrators are not going out of their way to cooperate with the NUP. The British in turn are hyper-suspicious of the Egyptians and believe the Egyptian Government wants "to take over" the Sudan. USLO has been unable to detect any intent on the part of the British administrators to bring about a financial collapse in the Sudan, however, the financial future of the Sudan is to a very large extent within the control of British finance. A possible suggestion to obviate the suspicions on this matter might be the appointment of an impartial financial expert from the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank to serve as temporary advisor or to conduct a survey. Such an appointment would have to be based on a recommendation from the new Sudanese Government, the seed of this idea would have to be planted, and whether or not it would be accepted is problematical. In any event, if this suggestion has merit, it would only be possible with an advisor whom all sides looked upon as impartial, and that just about limits it to an American since the Sudanese would not trust a British advisor and the British would not trust an Egyptian.

Since Zulficar is not a financial expert it seems likely that his remarks are a reflection of official Egyptian opinion. No Sudanese leader has suggested that the British administration might attempt to engineer a financial collapse.

It may...

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It may also be pointed out that while Zulficar has always been skeptical of the British in his talks with the reporting officer he seems to have become more anti-British than before. He also intimated that his government questioned whether the United States would ever bring itself to take a firm stand against the British on any Middle Eastern problem, and here again we suggest that his remarks may have reflected the thinking of his superiors.

Approved. S. Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney,
United States Liaison Officer.

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