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 BY **DR/SPC/NARA** DATE **3/10/2005**

DESP. NO. **1771**

February 11, 1954
 DATE

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SUBJECT: Dissension in the Governor General's Commission

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Group Captain Hussein Zulficar SABRY, Egyptian member of the Governor General's Commission has informed the reporting officer -- emphasizing the secrecy of his disclosure at this time -- that a serious difference has arisen in the Commission between himself and the Pakistani Chairman, Mian Ziaud DIN. Zulficar accuses Ziaud Din of not taking his responsibilities seriously, of being "captured" by the British, and of jeopardizing the future of the Sudan. Indeed, so seriously does he consider the actions of the Pakistani Chairman that Zulficar prophesied it was bound to have an adverse effect on Egyptian-Pakistani relations.

In order "to provide the free and neutral atmosphere requisite for Self-Determination" the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of February 12, 1952 sets forth that a Sudanization Committee shall be established. The Committee will consist of one British member, one Egyptian member, and three Sudanese members. Zulficar has pointed out, and rightly, that in the present atmosphere in which the British Government recently accused the Egyptian Minister of National Guidance (Major Salah SALEM) of violating this free and neutral atmosphere, it is extremely important that the Committee responsible for providing this free and neutral atmosphere should be appointed. Furthermore, this Committee must supervise the "Sudanization" of the present civil service.

Zulficar has spent a lot of time working behind the scenes to accelerate the selection of the three Sudanese members by the National Unionist Government. (According to the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement the Prime Minister submits five names to the Governor General who then selects three with the approval of the Governor General's Commission.) Zulficar learned before the public announcement that the United Kingdom had selected Colonel R. M. BURNETT, former Deputy U.K. High Commissioner for Pakistan, as the British member of the Sudanization Committee (See Khartoum Desp. 172, February 5, 1954). Zulficar also knew that the Egyptian Government would appoint Abdel Hamid DAWOOD, Egyptian Irrigation Inspector in the Sudan, as the Egyptian Representative, although this appointment has not yet been announced. Furthermore, Zulficar knew that the Prime Minister had discussed five names with the Governor General and that the two had done a little "horse-trading" in altering the names of these five in exchange for a change in the

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Governor General's appointments to the Public Service Committee (which the Governor General approached without any Commission approval). With this background Zulficar approached Ziaud Din at a Palace reception on February 4th and insisted that Ziaud Din take the initiative and arrange for the completion of the appointments and approval for the Sudanese members of the Sudanization Committee. He stressed the importance of forming the Sudanization Committee as quickly as possible. Ziaud Din answered that he was powerless to take the initiative, this must await action by the Governor General. Zulficar disagreed with this and insisted there was nothing to prevent Ziaud Din going to the Governor General and explaining the need for prompt action. Ziaud Din countered this by stating that Sir Lawrence Grafftey SMITH, the British member of the Governor General's Commission, was leaving the next day for a sightseeing visit in the Western Sudan and would probably meet there Dardiri Mohammed OSMAN, the NUP member, and that he, Ziaud Din, intended to leave on February 6 for a trip to Port Sudan and that he intended to go on for a visit to Mecca and could not interfere with these plans. Zulficar somewhat heatedly emphasized that the responsibilities of the Governor General's Commission came before individual sightseeing trips by members and that Ziaud Din should cancel all of these trips and get on with the business of completing the Sudanization Committee. Ziaud Din ended the conversation from his point of view by simply stating he did not agree with Zulficar's claim that speed was needed to complete this particular committee. Zulficar then said he would deliver a letter setting forth his views on the following day.

On February 5 Zulficar had delivered to Ziaud Din a long letter urging him to summon the Governor General's Commission together at once, accused him of not taking his responsibilities seriously as head of the Governor General's Committee, and stressed the importance which the Egyptian Government placed on these matters. Ziaud Din tried to contact Zulficar personally to answer his letter orally and to try to get him to withdraw it. Zulficar purposely arranged that Ziaud Din could not find him in order to force him to answer his letter in writing. On February 6 Zulficar received a letter from Ziaud Din stating that it was necessary for two members of the Governor General's Commission to demand a meeting before one could be held, and as Zulficar was apparently the only member who wanted a meeting he, Ziaud Din, could not legally oblige him. However, some of the charges which Zulficar had made were so serious that they must be discussed by the whole Commission and he would summon such a meeting when he returned to Khartoum in about two weeks time. And here the matter stands.

All of the foregoing is Zulficar's uncorroborated account, Zulficar has a reputation for honesty. Undoubtedly, however, there is another side in this dissension. Some of Zulficar's other remarks throw additional light on this difficulty. He claims that Ziaud Din is not interested in his job, despises the Sudan and the Sudanese, (See Khartoum Desp. 157, January 12, 1954. for Ziaud Din's views to the reporting officer which are in accord with part of this observation.) Zulficar also referred to a request that I had previously made of him

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that he aid Ziaud Din to become better acquainted with the Sudanese. During a conversation with the reporting officer Ziaud Din said frankly that he was having trouble getting acquainted with the Sudanese leaders, that he understood that the reporting officer had been fortunate in gaining their friendship, and would I help him. I, of course, agreed and have arranged for him to meet several informally in my home. I also asked Zulficar, who is highly respected among the Sudanese, to aid in bringing Ziaud Din into informal contact with Sudanese leaders, and he generously agreed. At our discussion Zulficar said flatly that this had been a failure, Ziaud Din did not fit in with the Sudanese and did not appear to like them. My own experience has been that Ziaud Din, a highly sophisticated and intelligent man, has been bored with the Sudanese, and apart from one or two, has not found them stimulating.

Zulficar also charged that Ziaud Din had been "captured" by Sir Lawrence GRAFFTEY-SMITH, British member of the Governor General's Commission, and his wife, Sir Lawrence and his wife have gone out of their way to be hospitable to Ziaud Din and since they served in Pakistan where he was the U.K. High Commissioner the three have many common interests. I do not think that the present evidence indicates that Ziaud Din has been "captured" by anyone. He has definite reservations about the British administration here. However, he is a man who appears to prefer conciliation to taking a firm and aggressive stand.

The root of this dissension apparently is that Ziaud Din and Zulficar differ on the function of the Commission. Zulficar believes the Commission must be constantly in session and act as a sort of watch-dog for the Governor General whom he distrusts. Ziaud Din believes the Commission should remain in session only when parliament is in session and that they should definitely absent themselves from the Sudan during the oppressively hot months. Ziaud Din has been strongly backed by Sir Lawrence in this stand.

Zulficar believes the only possible solution would be to remove Ziaud Din as Chairman and secure another Pakistani to replace him. However, he recognizes this is difficult, as the Egyptian Government has apparently carefully canvassed the Pakistani Foreign Service and has concluded that there are few able men, of sufficient stature who could replace Ziaud Din. One of the dangers in this whole situation is that Zulficar may so antagonize Ziaud Din as to unwittingly push him over to the British side. This does not worry Zulficar since the Parliament will not approve Ibrahim Ahmed, the present pro-Umma member of the Governor General's Commission and intend to replace him with Siricio IRO, a pro-NUP Southerner, and if this happened Zulficar could count on a 3 to 2 vote on any controversial issue with himself, Dardiri Mohammed Osman and Siricio Iro on one side and Ziaud Din and Sir Lawrence Grafftey-Smith on the other.

cc: London, Cairo, Karachi

Joseph Sweeney,
United States Liaison Officer.~~SECRET~~

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