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FROM : USLO Khartoum 186
 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 25, 1954
 DATE

REF :

FOR Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
<u>NEA-4</u>	<u>DC/R-2 EUR-5</u>	<u>6 UNA-4 P-1</u>
<u>3/8</u>	<u>Cia-7</u>	<u>Army-3 Navy-3 Air-3</u>

SUBJECT: France Not Invited to Send an Official Representative to the Opening of Parliament Ceremonies

The Sudan Government has invited some nineteen countries to send official representatives of their governments to an Opening of Parliament Ceremony on March 1 (see Khartoum 184, February 23, 1954), but did not invite France. The French Liaison Officer, Count Victor de LESSEPS, informed the reporting officer that his Government had instructed him to find out why France had not been invited. De Lesseps approached W. H. T. Luce, the Advisor on Constitutional and External Affairs to the Governor General about this matter and was informed that this was partially an oversight, that de Lesseps himself would be invited to attend the ceremonies since he was an official representative of France, and that since France had played no role in the setting up of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement the Government did not feel it was necessary to extend an invitation. Furthermore, although French Equatorial Africa is a bordering country it was felt that because it was not an independent country no representative should be invited. De Lesseps has cabled this information to his Government and informed the reporting officer that he believed this was a full explanation.

Although I have not communicated this information to de Lesseps, I understand from the Secretary General of the NUP, Khidr HAMMAD, that this was a deliberate slight and the Government of France was not invited to send an official representative because of French policy in North Africa. Two other members of the NUP Government have explained that French imperialism and what they describe as a generally anti-Arab policy by France is resented in the Sudan and the Sudanese people are not anxious to have close relations with such a power.

Joseph Sweeney,
 United States Liaison Officer.

cc: London
 Cairo

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J.Sweeney:ind
 REPORTER

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