

F U K L I G I T A T C H

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SUBJECT: Cabinet Crisis

The NUP Government is undergoing a cabinet crisis which is: hurting the prestige of the Government; giving rise to rumors of a change in the balance of the Cabinet; and causing some observers to prophesy the Government's fall. The evidence at this point does not indicate the Government will fall. However, this crisis is causing concern in the NUP. It was caused by:

1. A protest from the Khatmia wing of the Cabinet led by Mirghani HAMZA against the Ashigga wing led by the Prime Minister because the Prime Minister capitulated to the Governor General's decision to take over in the riot emergency of March 1.
2. The Khatmia want quick punishment of those who caused the riot no matter who they are (even if this means arresting SIDDIK, SAR's son and President of the Umma Party) whereas the Ashigga want to proceed more slowly to avoid a civil war.
3. Their unity of the Nile Valley view weakened by what happened to NEGUIB the Ashigga are trying to keep the more pro-independence minded Khatmia from pressing their advantage.
4. The Ashigga wing want Yahia EL FADLI (see Khartoum 183, February 20, 1954) in the Cabinet despite his dishonest reputation because he works well with AZHARI who needs help. Three of the most prominent Khatmia Ministers have threatened to resign if Yahia enters the Cabinet.
5. The Governor General's demand that the Cabinet explain why it accused civil servants of failing to carry out ministerial orders when there was no proof of this has aroused endless Cabinet arguing and recrimination.
6. Whether Neguib's return to the Sudan now or in the near future would disturb public security rocked the Cabinet, but, although they have decided it would, the fight goes on between the Ashigga who still consider Neguib an important political asset and the Khatmia who are prepared to stop emphasizing Neguib because they don't know how long he will be in office.
7. As Prime.....

JSweeney:jsf

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As Prime Minister, Azhari is having trouble controlling the Cabinet. He tries to lead by compromise and some Cabinet members feel these times call for action and firmness. He is blamed because the Cabinet argues endlessly (there have been all night sittings) and accomplishes little.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

cc: Cairo
London

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