

Authority *AMUR 11*  
 (By) NARA Date *3/21/84*  
 ATTCH

*745w.00/3-954*

FROM : USLO, Khartoum  
 TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.  
 REF : Khartoum 172, February 5, 1954 *x R 44.74 new serial was written*

193  
 DESP. NO.  
 March 9, 1954  
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SUBJECT: Appointment of the Sudanization Committee

On February 20, 1954 the Governor General appointed the following persons to be members of the Sudanization Committee:

Part I: Voting Members

- Sayed Abdel Hamid Daud
- Mr. R.R. Burnett, C.M.G., C.I.E., O.B.E.
- Sayed Ibrahim Yusuf Suleiman
- Dr. Osman Abu Akar
- Sayed Mahmoud El Fadli

Part II: Non-Voting Members

- Sayed Abdel Magid Ahmed
- Judge Ahmed Mitwalli El Atabani
- Mr. A.M. Hankin

In his announcement the Governor General indicated that he did so "with the approval of the Governor-General's Commission so far as regards the three Sudanese members whose names are contained in the First Part of this Appointment." This meant that he had made the appointments of the non-voting members on his own authority and this has given rise to resentment among the NUP leadership. The Governor General further aroused NUP opposition by authorizing and empowering the Chairman of the Public Service Commission (Sayed Abdel Magid Ahmed) in the exercise of his discretion from time to time to determine how many and which of the non-voting members shall attend the meetings of the said Commission.

The Sudanization Committee or Commission has already experienced difficulty. There was no provision for a chairman. It has tentatively agreed, although not publicly announced, that the three Sudanese members shall rotate as chairmen a month at a time. A deadlock has occurred over what constitutes a quorum of the Sudanization Committee. The British member, Burnett, has insisted that a non-voting member must be present and his advice heard, even though there is no necessity, if the Committee so decides, for accepting this advice. The other members of the Committee have insisted that the quorum shall be confined to the voting members

and this.....

JSweeney:jstf  
 REPORTER

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this deadlock the British members has been accused by the remaining members of the Council of Ministers. As a result of trying to delay the work of the Sudanization Committee.

The Egyptian member, Sayed Abdel Hamid Daud, is the Egyptian Irrigation Inspector in the Sudan. A huge corpulent man, he is not known for his knowledge or his flexibility. Major Saleh Salem and Group Captain Zulficar Sabry indicated to the reporting officer that they were not too well satisfied with him, but had no one else to appoint at this time and would eventually provide him with an advisor. For the British member see the reference despatch. Sayed Ibrahim Yusuf Suleiman is a senior accountant in the Department of Finance. An ardent member of the NUP he is a dignified old man who recently told the reporting officer he hoped the Committee would complete its work within 18 months. Dr. Abu Akar has been stationed in Juba, and alone of the Committee's membership has personal knowledge of the South. He was the president of the Northern Officials Club in Juba and when I met him there I found him pleasant but violently anti-British. Sayed Mahmud El Fadli has been the editor of the pro NUP paper, El Ittihad, the Government did not expect him to be selected as they thought a Southern nominee would be selected, but the Governor General who had the right to take three out of five names submitted to him rejected the Southern nominee because he was inexperienced and had done badly as a junior civil servant. For biographical information on the non-voting members see Khartoum 179, February 13, 1954.

Government leaders have said in so many words that they consider the Sudanese members of the Sudanization Committee a sort of rubber stamp to implement Government policy which is the Sudanization of the civil service as rapidly as possible. Burnett, the British member informed me recently that he has not been well received by his fellow committee members. He has let it be known that he intends to insist on Sudanization of the police, the Sudan Defense Force and the administration in that order because that is the way they are listed in the terms of reference, and this has thrown the other members of the Committee into an uproar as they feel they have the authority to proceed with the whole plan of Sudanization.

cc: Cairo  
London

*Joseph Sweeney*  
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United States Liaison Officer

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