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 TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.** DATE **February 26, 1954**
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SUBJECT: **The Political Future of the Sudan**

Professor J. C. Hurewitz of Columbia University has just completed a brief visit to the Sudan, February 21-25. During this visit to the Khartoum area he spoke to a wide cross section of Sudanese leaders as well as the ranking British and Egyptian officials, accompanied by the reporting officer. Professor Hurewitz made an excellent impression on the Sudanese, Egyptian and British with whom he talked and they were all impressed with his wide knowledge of Near and Middle Eastern affairs. The information he obtained and the discussions he stimulated have prompted a brief recapitulation on the political future of the Sudan, although it should be realized that his discussions took place before the fall of General Magoub which has dampened Sudanese enthusiasm for unity with Egypt.

1. Sudanese Opinion.

Professor Hurewitz found that majority opinion among the Sudanese favors independence, but an independence geared into a close relationship with Egypt. He was surprised by the depth of anti-British feeling. Although the National Unionist Party (NUP), the party in power, favors some sort of unity with Egypt, Professor Hurewitz found that the precise form of this unity has not been carefully thought out and no attempt has been made to define it. It seems clear that the NUP does not want a federal union and the closest he could press the leaders to come to a definition was an "alliance plus." The NUP leaders indicated that they first wanted to remove British influence from the Sudan and that they would explicit Egyptian help to accomplish this. They will face the decision on what their relations with Egypt will be when the British are gone. Despite the fact that the Sudanese are not taken in by the Egyptians completely, they feel more sympathetic toward them than they do toward the British. In a very significant statement made in confidence, Khidir HAMAD, Secretary General of the NUP told Professor Hurewitz that his party was wise to the Egyptian game but that they would play it for all it was worth to get rid of the British and then they would make up their minds about their relationship with Egypt. In general Khidir Hamad believed this relationship would be cooperation between two equal and independent states.

The Opposition, made up of the Umma and Liberal Parties is led by an independent Mohamed Ahmed MANSOUR, with whom Professor Hurewitz talked.

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