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4076
 DESP. NO.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

JUN 18 1954
 June 18 1954
 DATE

REF : Our Despatch 3975, June 8, 1954 re Sudan.

27 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	<i>NER-4</i>	<i>DEAR-2 EHR-5 OLI-6 UNA-4</i>
REC'D	OTHER	
<i>6-22</i>	<i>0 CIA-7</i>	

SUBJECT: Conversations between Foreign Office and Siddiq

745 w. 00/6-85472a. Ev P. 261 Umma CR

In a further discussion of Sudanese affairs on June 17 an officer of the Embassy was told by an official of the Foreign Office that Siddiq, son of the Mahdi, is still in London and has been having a number of conversations with Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State, which have been kept very quiet.

The official said that Siddiq has been trying to persuade the British Government to agree to a proposal put forward by his father that the Anglo-Egyptian agreement of February 1953 be denounced by HMG on the grounds that it has been flagrantly violated by the Egyptians and that an international commission instead be set up to supervise the transition of the Sudanese people to independence. The British Government does not feel that any useful purpose would be served by such action at this time and Lloyd has so informed Siddiq. Lloyd has also suggested to Siddiq that consideration might be given to expediting the setting up of the "international body" mentioned in Article 10 of the Agreement. In these conversations the British have reiterated the desirability, as mentioned in the Embassy's Despatch No. 3975, of working through the representative institutions which the Sudan now possesses and have told Siddiq that the Umma should take the lead in forming a strong opposition bloc in Parliament. The Foreign Office has also taken the position that if, as the Umma claims, the Egyptians are behaving in an outrageous manner it is up to the Sudanese people themselves to make their position known to the Egyptians rather than simply complaining to HMG.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Evan M. Wilson

Evan M. Wilson
 First Secretary of Embassy

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EMWilson/ghw
 REPORTER

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