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By *JD* NARA Date *3/20/84*

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FROM : USLO, Khartoum
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : Khartoum's 62, October 14, 1954

October 20, 1954
DATE

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1954 NOV 4 AM 10 51
MESSAGE CENTER

SUBJECT: Development in the Southern Provinces
1954-0-20, As My South, Plan
see old file 100-2-10-11-6
 The Prime Minister's announcement of concessions to the South (see above reference despatch) provoked a number of comments in the local press to the effect that the statement did not touch upon the need for development in the South. To meet these objections the Prime Minister has issued through the National Guidance Office an additional statement outlining the Government's plans for development in the South. A copy of the statement is attached as Enclosure No. 1 (Unclassified).

He has emphasized the need for expanding the work of the Equatoria Projects Board with a view to achieving a higher standard of living for the people in its area, and he has noted the work of the Southern Development Investigation Team which should issue a preliminary report in the near future. The Prime Minister has also announced that a team of international experts will be invited to the Sudan soon to conduct an overall survey, and this team will give special attention to the development potentialities of the South.

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

Enclosure: *1A*
As stated.

cc: Cairo
London

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(Classification)Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 69
From Khartoum

A STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT IN
THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES

During the course of commenting on the Prime Minister's recent statement on Government policy regarding reform in the Southern Provinces some newspapers pointed out that the statement did not touch upon development.

It is important to remember that the reforms which were mentioned by the Prime Minister represented only those which required urgent consideration. Development is a matter which needs careful thought and planning especially that the development of the South will have to be considered in relation to development of the whole economy of the Sudan. Yet development in the South has not been neglected. The greatest development project in the South is, as is well known, the Equatoria Projects Board for which a capital sum of £1 million was provided by the Government. The production division of the Board encouraged cotton growing in the Zande land and established cotton spinning and weaving mills, a sugar mill, an oil mill and a soap factory; thus providing an opening for industrial development in the South.

It is the Government's considered policy to review the aims and activities of this undertaking and to direct it towards the achievement of a high standard of living for the people of that area. Apart from the Equatoria Projects Board extensive experimental work, under the Sudan 1946-51 and 1951-56 Development Programmes, is being done. Experiments are being conducted to find out the possibilities for rice at Malakal and Aweil, for sugar at Mongolla and Sapuri, and tobacco and coffee in Yei district and other neighboring areas; for mechanized dura production at Lafon and for sisal and other fibers at Amadi. The long-term policy behind these experiments is to find out the most suitable crops which could be grown successfully with a view to increasing production and national income.

In this connection the Southern Development Investigation Team should be mentioned. This Team has now almost completed a preliminary report about the natural resources for the South which, it is hoped, will be valuable in indicating the future lines of development. Once the report is submitted and the pilot scheme mentioned above show some encouraging results the Government will consider the planning of the overall development of the three Southern Provinces. It hardly needs saying that large development funds are being spent on education, health, roads, electricity and water supplies and sawmills and many other development items.

It is not possible at this stage to give the total money that is being spent on development in the South but roughly speaking it amounts to millions of pounds, a sum which will naturally be increased once the potentialities of the South are known.

In conclusion, it is hoped that a team of international experts will soon come out to the Sudan to conduct an economic survey of its economy and the team will naturally be asked to give special attention to the development potentialities of the South Provinces.

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