

USE ONLY (Classification)

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FROM : USLO, Khartoum

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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REF : Khartoum's 44, September 18, 1954

By: VHF

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NARA, Date: 9-19-88

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SUBJECT:

Prime Minister Announces Concessions to the South
ARMSC-10-14-Azhar South, Concessions

Prime Minister Ismail El Azhari announced a series of concessions to the South on October 13, 1954 over the state radio. This announcement, a copy of which is attached as Enclosure No. 1 (Unclassified), placed the responsibility for the backwardness of the South on the previous Administration, i.e., the British. It emphasized the National Unionist Party Government's willingness to take definite steps to raise standards of living in the South and the first measures have been instituted to provide an equality of opportunity and salary between the civil servants in the South and the North.

In ten detailed aspects of policy the NUP Government put forward concessions it believes will mollify Southern opinion which in recent weeks has claimed that the Government has not been sufficiently interested in the welfare of the South. Over two hundred chiefs and several hundred workers will receive wage increases.

Having made this announcement the Prime Minister left for the South where he will spend a week. He plans to be present in Juba at the time of the Juba Conference now scheduled to open on October 15 and may address the Conference.

Enclosure: [Handwritten mark]

As stated.

cc: Cairo
London

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

J Sweeney/ht

19 OCT 1954

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

LWC

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10 OCT 1954

STATE DEPARTMENT

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By S. NARA Date 3/27/78

(fiction)

Desp. No. 62
From KhartoumSTATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Listeners:

Since their coming to power, the present National Government have considered it one of their main objectives to introduce certain essential reforms with a view to raising standards in the comparatively backward areas especially the three Southern Provinces and the Nuba Mountains. The Government are fully aware that these areas had not received the care and attention they should have got. This state of affairs is responsible for the present differences in the standard of living and wage rates in Northern and Southern Provinces. It is the duty of any Government alive to their responsibilities that such inequalities should be removed for the sake of achieving unity and coherence in the social, cultural and intellectual structure of the nation. Indeed whenever the Government expressed the desire to remove this inequality, they were applauded by Northern Members of Parliament and intellectuals in the interest of the country as a whole. This healthy response is a strong evidence that the Government's projected policy is in fact an expression of the nation's feelings in this direction. It also indicates the willingness of the Northern Provinces to do all that they can to promote the interests of backward regions.

It will be recalled that I have on several occasions given accounts of this policy to the Parliament and that last reference made to it was in my letter to Southern Chiefs dated the 14th of July, 1954. May I quote this letter.

"Furthermore, I wish to assure you that this Government condemns any racial discrimination of any sort and looks upon Southerners and Northerners as fellow citizens with equal rights and responsibilities. Qualities, qualifications and capabilities of a person are the decisive factors which determine the career of a citizen - Northerner he may be or Southerner.

"Looking objectively into the matter - the present Government and its composition - we find that our Southern compatriots have been given a fair share in shouldering the responsibilities of ruling this country."

The Government is determined to rectify all mistakes and is aiming at enabling the South to catch up with the North as quickly as possible.

In order to honour the promise I made to the Chiefs in July last and to implement the policy declared long before that date the Government has been considering ways and means of executing urgent reforms. When our plans took final form they were discussed with members of Parliament from the Southern Provinces and Nuba Mountains. In the light of these discussions the Council of Ministers in their meeting of yesterday, October 12th, resolved the policy to be adopted.

Following

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By S. NARA Date 3/2/78CLASSIFIED
(category)ENCL. NO. _____
Desp. No. 62
From Khartoum

Following is the policy:--

OFFICIALS AND WORKERS IN THE SOUTH.

(1) Southern Schools Graduates

The Council of Ministers resolved that Graduates of Southern Schools with qualifications equivalent to those of their colleagues in the North shall receive equal treatment and that their salaries shall be adjusted on this basis with effect from 1.7.1952 and that payment at the adjusted salaries shall take effect from 1.10.1954 without payment of arrears.

(2) Executive Officers and Sub-Mamurs

The Council has decided that Southern Executive Officers and Sub-Mamurs shall be treated in the same way as their corresponding Northern colleagues.

(3) Chiefs' Salaries

The Council has resolved that the salaries of Chiefs, Sub-chiefs, Presidents of Courts, retainers and Court Clerks shall be raised by 50% with effect from 1.10.1954.

(4) Police, Army and Prisons

The Council has resolved that the pays of Southerners in the Police, S.D.F. and Prison wardens be equal to those of their Northern colleagues.

(5) Workers

The Council has resolved that minimum wages of labour in the South shall be as follows:--

In the Zande and Maridi areas PT150 per month.

In the Bahr El Ghazal and Equatoria excluding Zande and Maridi Districts PT205 per month.

And in the Upper Nile Province PT250 per month.

Similar variations in rates of pay exist in the North.

(6) Belts of Honour

The Council has resolved that Belts of Honour for Southerners shall be replaced by Robes of Honour as in the North.

(7) Administration

The Council has resolved to create three training posts for Assistant

District

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District Commissioners and three similar posts for Mamurs in the three Southern Provinces.

(8) Technical Departments

The Council has resolved that various Ministries should consider the possibility of creating training posts.

(9) Clerks and Bookkeepers

The Council has decided that three G clerical and three G bookkeepers posts be created in the three Southern Provinces for training purposes.

In addition to the above, the school for the training of Administrators and Local Government Executive Officers now in Juba will continue and will be moved to Khartoum. Suitable candidates from the Southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains and other backward areas will be admitted.

(10) Nile Pump Control Board

The Council has resolved that the Upper Nile Province shall be represented in the Board by a member to be nominated by the Council of Ministers.

At the same meeting the Council of Ministers approved the recommendations of the Labour Department for improving the wages of the Nzara workers employed by the Equatoria Projects Board.

These recommendations are:--

With effect from 1st September 1954:--

- (a) The daily rate to be PT5 minimum (now PT3 plus good attendance bonus of PT $\frac{1}{2}$) with PT 1 increase for all those now paid PT5 or more by day; the bonus to be discontinued.
- (b) Monthly rates - those now between LE1.300 and LE2.700 to have an increase of PT45 (being 3 increments).
Those now between LE2.700 and LE7.000 to have an increase of PT60 (being 3 increments).
Those now over LE7.000 but not over Group IV to have an increase of LE1.000.

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