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October 2, 1954

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DESP. NO.

FROM : USLO, Khartoum
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

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SUBJECT: Ethiopian Interest in Sudanese Independence
MS4-10-95-2221, Ethiopia, Independence
 M. M. Andoum, Ethiopian Liaison Officer in Khartoum, informed me, O.A.

emphasizing the highly secret nature of his revelation, that the Ethiopian Government is so anxious to achieve Sudanese independence that it would be interested in coordinating its planning with the leader of the independence movement. It would be willing to make available substantial funds to the Sudanese independence movement. However, it has found no one reliable to deal with in the independence movement. Any move along the above lines which it might make to the present leadership would be known to the NUP within 30 minutes and would seriously jeopardize Sudanese-Ethiopian relations in future. Haile Selassie himself has given orders that his representatives should not deal through Sayed Abdel Rahman El Mahdi (SAR) in such an agreement because he is not convinced that SAR, leader of the Ansars, is genuinely interested in independence. By this he means that SAR is interested first in power and secondly in independence.

The reason for this interest on the part of the Ethiopians in Sudanese independence is because the Emperor is convinced that if the Sudan becomes united with Egypt, this united country will attempt to stir up trouble among the Moslems in Eritrea and Ethiopia and will seek to expand its influence. If this happens within the next 10 years, he believes an Egyptian state, comprising the present Egypt and the Sudan, could make serious inroads in Ethiopia both as regards territory and influence. He believes that Egyptian arms manned by Sudanese troops could defeat any force the Ethiopians could place in the field. After 10 or 15 years have elapsed then the Emperor is not particularly concerned with what happens in the Sudan as he anticipates Ethiopia will be strong enough to defend its interests.

cc: Addis Ababa
Cairo
London

J Sweeney/ht

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Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

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