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FROM : USLO, Khartoum

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 29, 1954
 DATE

REF : Khartoum's 45, September 18, 1954

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SUBJECT: Sudan Government Groping Toward Expression of Sudanese Independence

1954-9-29, Dardiri, Independence

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Aspects of current Cabinet discussion on whether the Sudan should publicly reveal its determination to achieve independence have leaked through remarks by Cabinet Ministers, both publicly and privately.

1. Khalafalla Khalid, Minister of Defense, and a stormy petrel in Sudanese politics told two public gatherings, one in Juba and one in Gedaref (Eastern Sudan) that the Sudan would choose independence and would not be closely united with Egypt.
2. The local Arabic press, particularly the Opposition, made political capital out of this and pressed Khalafalla on the extent to which he meant what he said.
3. Yahia El Fadli, in his capacity as the Prime Minister's hatchet man, publicly stated that Khalafalla should not make such statements. Khalafalla responded with what was in effect a sarcastic "Look who's talking." The Prime Minister intervened and said only he or one designated by the Cabinet could speak for the Government. Khalafalla made some testy remarks about this and then the calmer heads worked on them, apologetic statements were made, and Yahia has since made a highly publicized statement to the effect that he personally agreed with Khalafalla that the Sudan would choose independence.
4. Dardiri Mohammed Osman, just arrived from Cairo where he accompanied Sayed Ali El Mirghani, came out strongly for Khalafalla's views on independence. As Dardiri is SAM's confidant, his views have a particular significance.
5. In an incident about Sudanese representation at a Middle Eastern medical conference under WHO, the Prime Minister directed the Acting Advisor on Constitutional and External Affairs to inform the appropriate body that the Sudan preferred independent representation and refused to be connected with the Egyptian delegation.
6. Discussions have been held between representatives of the Cabinet and the Egyptian Government and a further reliable source informs me the Egyptians have been given to understand that the NUP Government will have to accede to internal demands for independence, but it will cooperate with Egypt.

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J Sweeney/ht
 REPORTER

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By *[Signature]* NARA Date *3/21/54*

ed to me that he hoped no publicity would be given to the foregoing because he feared that at this point publicity of such views would serve to weaken the Nasir regime in Egypt which would be accused of "having lost the Sudan". He intimated the NUP were now trying to persuade Nasir to make a statement which would allow the Egyptians to save face.

8. NUP leaders still toy with the possibility of gaining Opposition agreement and on the basis of this agreement declaring independence without the necessity of another election.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

cc: London
Cairo

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