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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Khartoum's Despatch 50, October 5, 1954; Cairo's Despatch 997, November 23, 1954.  
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SUBJECT:

Egyptian Plans for Domination of the Sudan  
 954-12-8, Azhari, Egypt, Plans

In a depressed mood Hussein Zulficar Sabry, the Egyptian member of the Governor General's Commission, confided to me that he has been shown of all authority in the direction of Egyptian policy in the Sudan. Gamal Abdel Nasser has ruled for the time being that Major Salah Salem shall direct Egyptian policy in the Sudan. There are two extremes of opinion in Egypt about the future of the Sudan. At one extreme, led by Salah Salem, it is believed that by purchasing influence and Members of Parliament, Egypt can obtain control of the Sudan. This wing has thus far controlled Egyptian policy. At the other extreme, led by Zulficar, it is believed that Egypt should accept the inevitability of an independent Sudan and arrange for friendly cooperation between the two countries in matters of water sharing, defense and economic affairs. Under this policy Egypt would spend no money to influence Sudanese opinion but would cooperate with a close neighbor. In the middle between these two opinions is Gamal Abdel Nasser. At the moment he has accepted the RCC decision that Salah Salem's policy shall prevail. When this decision was made known to him Zulficar at once submitted his resignation. Gamal Abdel Nasser sent for him and after a very long session persuaded Zulficar that he should withdraw his resignation and cooperate by carrying out his duties as the Egyptian member of the Governor General's Commission as his resignation would be too revealing of a difference of opinion in Egyptian thinking. Although Gamal Abdel Nasser is committed for the time being to the Salah Salem policy of "buy and rule", he is by no means convinced that this is the best policy and Zulficar has been given a tenuous assurance that if Salah Salem is repudiated that he, Zulficar, will be given charge of Egyptian policy toward the Sudan. However, he is not optimistic about such an opportunity arising.

In his long talk with Gamal Abdel Nasser at the time he tried to resign from the Governor General's Commission, and on many previous opportunities, Zulficar has insisted that Salah Salem's policy will result in trouble in the Sudan. Trouble in the Sudan is the last thing that Egypt wants, as in this trouble the danger of disrupting the Nile flow of water to Egypt is too great. Furthermore, Salah Salem is identifying Egyptian policy with the most venal elements in the Sudanese body politic. If Salah Salem goes ahead with his plan to purchase Egyptian-Sudanese unity through bribery and intrigue, Zulficar prophesied that there will be a solidification of Sudanese nationalism that will have as its goal the eradication of all Egyptian influence in the Sudan.

J Sweeney:am

REPORTER

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