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DESP. NO.

USLO KHARTOUM

NOVEMBER 27, 1954
DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Khartoum Despatch #81, November 16, 1954

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	NEA-4	OKR-2 OKI-6 IO-4 EUR-5
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DEC 21 1954
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: SAR Concerned About Egyptian Interference in the Sudan

1954-11-27 Azhari, Mahdi, Egypt

Sayed Abdul Raiman, the leader of the Ansar sect, invited the reporting officer to visit him for a general discussion of local political developments. Also present were E. Wyllys Andrews (see Department Cirtel 223, November 2); Sayed Siddik, President of the Umma Party; Abdullah Khalil, secretary of the Party; Ibrahim Ahmed, advisor to SAR; and Mohammed Ahmed Omar of the pro-independence press. SAR took this opportunity to outline his current thinking on the Sudanese scene and made the following points:

- (1) He and his followers are concerned over flagrant Egyptian interference and propaganda which can influence any election.
- (2) He believes that the United States should intervene to prevent Egypt from carrying on with this propaganda in order to provide a free and neutral atmosphere as provided in the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement.
- (3) The Umma Party is planning to refer this problem of Egyptian violation of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement to the UN and anticipates that it will be supported by the US at that time.
- (4) SAR emphasized that he had no personal ambitions in the future political scene but was only concerned in having a free and neutral atmosphere so that the Sudanese people could choose the independence which he believes that they want.
- (5) SAR was concerned because he has nowhere else to turn as he is now convinced that the Egyptians and British have aligned themselves together to control the future of the Sudan. What he means by this is that he thinks Britian has accepted Egypt's right to dominate the Sudan.

The foregoing is by and large a restatement of views which SAR has put forward before. This interview took place on the second floor of SAR's Khartoum palace and he explained that this location was chosen because his present health did not permit him to go up and down stairs. He appeared thinner and more feeble than at any time in my two year acquaintance with him. The only accurate parts of his analysis are that the Egyptians are exerting influence and that if they keep up they can control any elections. SAR was informed that American

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REPORTER

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intervention was not possible; that he and his followers had yet to prove in a court of law that any Egyptian interference existed; and it was once again emphasized to him that the decision on the future of the Sudan must be made by the Sudanese people and if the majority truly believed in independence and had effective leaders and organization it could achieve its goal. SAR is too willing to believe that some sort of outside interference such as the United Nations could solve all of his problems. At the same time it is clear that he and his people are concerned about the future and they would go to great lengths to achieve a compromise even, as SAR indicated, coming to an agreement with SAM and the Khatmia.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

cc: London, Cairo

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