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FROM : USLO, Khartoum

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 4, 1953

REF : Khartoum 27, August 8, 1953

58 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4 REC'D	I N F O
11-16	<i>DC/R-2 EUR-5 04-6 I-4 LMA-4 P-1 EUR-4</i>	
SUBJECT: Provisional Enactment of Anti-Communist Legislation		

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CIA-7 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3 ~~RE~~ OCA-1

A stringent anti-Communist ordinance was passed by the Executive Council and signed by the Governor General on September 30, 1953. No publicity was given to the measure, and it first became public knowledge on October 15, with its publication in the Sudan Gazette. Public reaction was immediate and adverse, and most criticism has been based not upon the outlawing of Communism but upon the ordinance's possible restriction of freedom. The Assistant Commissioner of Police believes that only the Umma Party would be prepared to ratify the ordinance in a future Parliament. (A copy of the Ordinance is attached as Enclosure No. 1, UNCLASSIFIED.)

- The anti-Communist legislation makes it an offense: a) to propagate forms of undemocratic government, b) to possess any literature emanating from specified Cominform bodies, c) to possess literature containing ideas similar to the ideas of these bodies, d) to be a member of, or to correspond with, these bodies, and 3) to attend any of their meetings without permission of the Executive Council. Communism and Fascism are defined as theories which advocate forms of undemocratic government. Maximum penalty under this legislation is fourteen years imprisonment, with or without a fine.
- Popular reaction has been generally adverse, but all save that of the local Communists is based upon the point that anti-Communist legislation should be enacted, but that this legislation is too severe and is badly timed.
 - press: Sudan el Gedid (claims to be independent but is pro-Umma) in its issue of 22 October, and Rai el Amm (generally independent) objected to the law because it undermines freedom of opinion and consequently the freedom of the forthcoming election. Sudan el Gedid, however, implied that the Government was at fault for not enacting anti-Communist legislation before this time. Al Sarahah (pro-Communist) objected violently to the legislation and claimed that it was passed under pressure from the Liaison Office on instructions from the United States Government. Al Sarahah has subsequently been conducting an anti-American campaign in its columns.

- party reaction: In response to queries directed by Sudan el Gedid, the following party reactions were forthcoming:

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Mohammed Nur ED DIN of the National Unionist Party stated that a special party committee was being formed to study the ordinance, and that the N.U.P. would publish its views when it had completed a study of the ordinance.

Ibrahim BEDRI, President of the Socialist Republican Party, stated that his party would oppose the ordinance and work for its abolition since it threatens the individual freedom of the Sudanese. Bedri stated that his party would be directly affected since it advocated a socialist regime.

No Umma comment was forthcoming. However, it is obvious that the Umma favors the ordinance, since the Sudanese members of the Executive Council, which passed the Ordinance without much debate, are all members of the Umma Party.

c) other:

The students of the University College of Khartoum issued a statement deprecating the ordinance and calling for its suppression.

The Sudanese University Graduates Association, in a meeting held on November 2, decided to appeal to their National Conference to consider the ordinance. They called for a petition to the Governor General against the ordinance together with a peaceful demonstration to the Palace.

The Communist-dominated Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation has announced its opposition to the ordinance. Mohammed Sayed SALLAM, President of the Federation, stated that the S.W.T.U.F.'s political goal in the new Parliament would be "...above all to ask for the abolition of the newly enacted ordinance suppressing public freedoms." Hamza EL JAK, Vice President of the Federation, stated that the S.W.T.U.F. wants to call a round table of all bodies and parties for taking unified action against the ordinance.

3. The Sudan Police are glad that the ordinance has been passed since it is the first legislation which they have considered adequate for prosecuting known Communists. In conversation with the reporting officer, however, Babiker ED DEEB, Assistant Commissioner for Intelligence, stated that popular reaction had been so strong that he doubted whether the N.U.P., if elected to the majority, could ratify this ordinance. The Umma, he said, would probably ratify the ordinance since it depends less upon popular opinion than the N.U.P.

According to Ed Deeb, the Police did not originate this legislation, and he suspects that British Intelligence may have had a part in its enactment. As reported in Khartoum 27, August 3, 1953, Ed Deeb had submitted previous anti-Communist legislation, but it was held up by the Solicitor-General pending a definition of "Communism." The text of the present legislation,

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which is far stronger than that proposed by Ed Deeb, was drafted by the Solicitor-General himself. Ed Deeb says that he has no evidence to support his theory, but he believes that Mr. G. I. ELLIOTT, MI-5 agent from Aden who recently spent some time in the Sudan (Khartoum 27, August 8), recommended stronger anti-Communist legislation.

Comment

Although this legislation gives the police the legal authority which they have long lacked for suppressing Communism, it has been passed at an inopportune time, just on the eve of elections. Considerable public opinion has been built up against the ordinance, and it will probably be strongly opposed when it comes up for ratification in the new Parliament.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney,
 United States Liaison Officer.

Enclosure: *1*

/Suppression of Subversive Activities Ordinance

cc: London
 Cairo

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