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By *D* NARA Date *3/27/78*

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : USLO, Khartoum

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF : *NH*, NARA, Date *1/19/53*

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SUBJECT: Governor General's Speech Seeks to Boost Morale of British in the Sudan Civil Service.

The Governor General of the Sudan, Sir Robert HOWE, took the occasion of the Caledonian dinner on November 30, 1953, to make a speech calculated to boost the sagging morale of the British in the Sudan Civil Service. This was the first public occasion after the results of the election were indicated and his speech has been given publicity in British circles. Sir Robert recognized the concern among the British and urged them to meet the challenge of "the final stage in the fulfillment of our policy." He reassured them about the security of their pensions and a future salary settlement, about which they are very much concerned, by explaining that during his recent conversations in London he was "very much impressed by the strength of Her Majesty's Government's determination to see that British officials are treated fairly. Such pledges are not given lightly and I believe that they should be accepted as providing a very real degree of security." The whole tenor of the Governor General's speech, the full text of which is attached as Enclosure No. 1, UNCLASSIFIED, is a frank recognition of the low state of British morale in the Sudan and an appeal to leave with credit to the aims of the British inspired Sudan Civil Service.

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Enclosure:

*Joseph Sweeney*

Joseph Sweeney,  
United States Liaison Office.

✓ 1. Governor General's Speech of November 30, 1953.

cc: London  
Cairo

J Sweeney:ef  
REPORTER

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16 DEC 1954

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at the Dinner of the Caledonian Society of the Sudan  
Held at Khartoum on St. Andrew's Night,  
(30th. November), 1953.

"Your Society, Chieftain, goes from strength to strength unremoved by the clash of dynasties. I see in this a good augury for the future.

"We do in every truth meet here tonight in the midst of great events in the history of this country. Throughout the 55 years that the British have worked here, whether in Government service or business, we have followed two aims - to do our best for the good of the Sudanese and to lead them to maturity and to the political independence which comes with maturity. I say without hesitation that we have pursued our course faithfully; seeking nothing for ourselves, we have administered this country with charity and vision and have built up a civil service whose renown is second to none. Now we have reached the final stage in the fulfillment of our policy. With it comes new problems which call for still higher efforts of faith, skill and example. There is a fresh challenge to us all; we must not let it be said that we met it any less courageously than our predecessors met the challenge of their times.

"We should look upon the period of self-government now before us, not as the ending of all our work and effort in this country, but as a new beginning, which marks, not the decline of our power, but the fulfillment of our whole purpose. This is no time for lamenting: we must look to the future of this country and do our utmost in the time that is left to help in forming the new nation.

"Some of you, and particularly those who have no choice but to leave the Sudan in the near future, may feel that you can hardly be expected to put much zest into this last effort which will bring for many the end of their careers here. But surely this is a mistaken feeling. We have been building in this country to a design; there may have been alterations of details, some of them not altogether to our taste, but the main structure has followed our plans. Like all great buildings, no one could say in advance just when it would be completed and it was inevitable that while many would spend the whole of their working life on it, others would take part in its completion at the prime of their careers. But no craftsman worth his salt lowers his standards or loses heart as he nears the end of his task; so here, we should enter on this last stage of our work with robust hearts, to complete our work to the best of our ability. So that it may be said of us that our departure may become us as much as our stay has done.

"Each one of us has an important part to play, whether it is in the next one or two years or over a longer period. In the field of administration, and I use the term in its widest sense, our task is to press on with the training of Sudanese to take our places and to hand over to them a smooth-running organisation, free from waste and muddle, and adapted as far as possible to the needs and resources of the country. Above all by continuing to do our jobs as thoroughly and

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conscientiously as in the past we will by our example help to strengthen and perpetuate the spirit of public service which has always been so notable a feature of this country.

"You may say that it is difficult to put your hearts into this work when many are worried about their futures and their security. I cannot tonight say more on that subject than to tell you that during recent conversations in London I was very much impressed by the strength of Her Majesty's Government's determination to stand by the pledges already given to see that British officials are treated fairly. Such pledges are not given lightly and I believe that they should be accepted as providing a very real degree of security. For my <sup>own</sup> part, the new constitution lays upon me certain definite duties and responsibilities regarding the interests of the civil service and I intend to carry them out to the limit of my powers.

"If at times you feel discouraged or doubtful about the value of your own particular work, I would ask you to lift your eyes from the immediate present and to look ahead into the future. The histories of Greece and Rome - to mention no others - show us that it is not the passing of a particular form of administration that matters, but the impulses and influences which it leaves behind it. It is these which, absorbed into the life and heritage of societies, mould their character and inform their spirit - No good is ever lost.

"Let us strive therefore, in the time that remains to us here, to leave by our example an imperishable imprint on the Sudanese people of those qualities in our way of life of which we are justly proud - tolerance and patience, energy and thoroughness, fair dealing and integrity, loyalty and service.

"I would like to leave with you some words written by Lord Cromer in a very similar situation:-

"These are gains which angels greet

As joyously such deeds they see

Inscribed upon the balance sheet

Which lies in Heaven's chancery.

Let these suffice for Britain's need,

No nobler prize was ever won,

The blessing of a people freed,

The consciousness of duty done.!"

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