

AUTHORITY *ANNUAL '55*
By *D* NARA Date *3/27/88*

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

MAR 16 1954
3126

FROM : LONDON

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embassy's telegram 3875, March 9, 1954

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
745W.00/3-1654
DC/R
Central
files
March 16, 1954
DATE
1954 MAR 22 AM 10 02

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D 3/17	DC/R-2 041*6 EUR*5 CIA-7 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Foreign Secretary's Parliamentary Statement on Disturbances in the Sudan

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, made statements in Parliament on March 3 and 8 on the disturbances which occurred in Khartoum on March 1.

In brief, in his statement on March 3 Mr. Eden expressed the Government's regret for the casualties from the rioting which he stated totaled 30 persons killed and about 100 injured. Among these casualties were included 10 policemen killed, including the British Commandant of Police in Khartoum and his Sudanese second in command and 66 injured. Mr. Eden emphasized that the Governor-General had declared a state of emergency under the Defense of the Sudan Ordinance and not under the Self-Government statute; that consequently the Council of Ministers remained responsible for law and order and public security; and that the orders giving effect to the Governor-General's declaration had been made by him on the advice of the Council.

Although Mr. Eden said that he did not intend nor was it his duty to pass judgement on the event, he pointed out "...that a large measure of responsibility must rest upon those who have in the recent past sought to raise the emotional temperature in the Sudan. We have repeatedly emphasized that the Sudanese people should be allowed to work out their political development free from all outside interference and we have scrupulously observed this principle".

In reply to Mr. Eden, Mr. Herbert Morrison, deputy leader of the Opposition, stated that the Opposition was in general agreement with Mr. Eden's statement.

The matter was raised again in Parliament on March 8 when the Foreign Secretary was asked for a further statement on the Sudan by Mr. T. Reid and Mr. T. Driberg, both Labor members. Mr. Eden replied that he would prefer to wait for the return of Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State, from the Sudan before making a further statement.*

* The Minister of State returned from the Sudan on March 9.

RBHoughton:mh

REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

representation arises. With regard to this this principle. It will, I am sure, be the

80 H 19
*over*CONFIDENTIAL FILE
LWC
FILED
MAR 26 1954

745W.00/3-1654

ment:

Although the Foreign Office is still very much concerned with the dangers inherent in the present situation in the Sudan, UK policy towards the Sudan, according to the Foreign Office, still remains as stated by Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State, in Parliament on December 7, i.e. "to see that the new constitutional arrangements come into operation in as expeditious and orderly a manner as possible and to assist the Sudanese Government" (Embassy toward the next stage--that of self determination". (Embassy despatch 2718, December 11, 1953). The Foreign Office is worried at the possibility of the Ansars' inciting disturbances in the provinces. With the small number of troops available (5000 man Sudan defense force, 1000 British troops and 1000 Egyptian troops), their concentration in Khartoum and the primitiveness of the Sudanese transportation system, disturbances in the provinces, would be most difficult to control. The Foreign Office stated it has no indication that the Ansars intend to incite trouble outside of Khartoum other than the fact that the Mahdi certainly did not consider the riots of March 1 as, in any way, a defeat. On the credit side, the Foreign Office states that Prime Minister Azhari has temporarily eased the situation concerning membership on the Governor-General's commission by agreeing to postpone raising that issue for a month.

For the Ambassador:

Robert B. Houghton
Robert B. Houghton
Second Secretary of Embassy

Evan M. Wilson
(Approved)

Evan M. Wilson
First Secretary of Embassy

Copies to:
Ambassy Cairo
Liaison Office Khartoum

Enclosures:
✓ Excerpts from Hansard
March 3 and 8.

CONFIDENTIAL

Am

...we have almost development free from all outside interference, and no question of formal ence, and we have scrupulously observed representation arises. With regard to this this principle. It will, I am sure, be the

80 H 19

over