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SUBJECT: Nuba Leader Resigns from the NUP

Nasralla Sarmin, MHR for Northern Jebels West, recently announced his resignation from the National Unionist Party. This distinguished Nuba leader gave three main reasons for his resignation:

- 1) Nuba candidates were not being accepted into the military and police colleges and were being denied admission to the prison service;
- 2) Nuba candidates were not being recruited for the police service and he implied that there was a prejudice against having Nuba mountain people serving on the police force; and
- 3) The Nuba Mountains were not specifically mentioned by the Government as an underdeveloped area which needed better educational and health systems.

This is the first significant resignation from the NUP Government. Nasralla Sarmin did not join any other party but indicated he would continue as an independent and vote with the Opposition. This resignation is further significant at this time because the reporting officer has been given to understand by Government leaders that in its plan to expand the Sudan Defense Force it would enlist Nuba mountain people because they had no ties to either the Ansar or Khatmia sects and would be loyal to the Government in power. Despite opposition claims to the contrary, Nasralla Sarmin is not impressed with the program of the Opposition and his resignation was a gesture of protest. There is some possibility that if the Government took steps to meet his objections he would return to the NUP.

Coming at a time when the NUP is having internal difficulties this resignation has been given considerable publicity by the Opposition press and is being exaggerated into a symbol of the disintegration of the NUP. This is flagrantly untrue. The NUP is not disintegrating, although it is having internal difficulties.

cc: London
 Cairo
 Joseph Sweeney
 United States Liaison Officer

J Sweeney/htr
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