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FROM : USLO, Khartoum

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Khartoum's despatch 258, May 13, 1954

259  
DESP. NO.

May 14 1954  
DATE

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SUBJECT: Umma Party Protests to Co-Domini About Egyptian Interference and the Removal of Pro-Independence Member of Governor General's Commission

745W. 00/5-1454

At the direction of Sayed Abdel Rahman El Mahdi (SAR) the reporting officer has been given copies of the confidential letters sent by the Umma Party (signed by Siddik El Mahdi, President) to the Co-Domini. It is understood that I will make this information available to the Department of State but I have been requested to see that the British and Egyptians are not informed that the US has been given these copies.

Enclosure No. 1, "Copy of Umma Party Letter to the Foreign Ministers of the Co-Domini Re Change in Balance of Governor General's Commission", is a protest against the removal of Sayed Ibrahim Ahmed, the pro-independence member. This Umma letter states categorically that the Umma Party now consider the Governor General's Commission unconstitutional and implies that if nothing is done about this situation the Umma Party will repudiate the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of February 12, 1953.

Enclosure No. 2, "Copy of Umma Party Letter to Foreign Ministers of Co-Domini Re Egyptian 'Interference'", is a protest against alleged actions by the Egyptian Government. In this complaint the Umma Party lists a series of incidents which it claims constitute Egyptian "interference". Unfortunately for the Umma Party case, these incidents are not proof of interference, although it is obvious that the Umma Party so considers them.

SAR and the Umma Party set a great deal of store by these two letters. They anticipate a favorable reply from Britain and hope that the tone will inform Egypt of how serious and concerned the Umma Party is about Egyptian actions in the Sudan.

*Joseph Sweeney*  
Joseph Sweeney  
United States Liaison Officer

Enclosures: As stated.

cc: Cairo, London

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20 MAY 1954

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

Authority ANDRE 112  
By S NARA Date 3/27COPY OF UMMA PARTY LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CO-DOMINI  
RE CHANGE IN BALANCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S COMMISSION

UMMA PARTY

Omdurman,

4th May, 1954.

H.E. The Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
London,  
U.K.

H.E. The Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Cairo,  
EGYPT.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the decision of the Sudanese Parliament concerning the removal of Sayed Ibrahim Ahmed, the representative of the independence point of view, from the membership of the Governor General's Commission and his replacement by a Unionist member, and the confirmation of the membership of Sayed Dardiri Mohamed Osman, another representative of the Unionist Party.

I wish to forward in the name of the Umma Party the strongest protest against this decision which shows that the Unionist Government is not ready to follow a national policy during the transitional period as has been the aim of the Agreement and according to the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the first session of the first Sudanese Parliament. Undoubtedly the Constitution which makes the Governor General and his Commission the supreme authority aims at the realization of self-determination in a free and neutral atmosphere. As self-determination is on the two issues of complete independence and a sort of link with Egypt, it is essential that the two points of view should be represented in the Governor General's Commission.

The first appointment of the two Sudanese members is in itself a precedent and a strong proof that the two points of view should be represented in the Commission. This policy was strongly supported by the National Unionist Party and was confirmed by both Mr. Selwyn Lloyd and Major Salim, representing the Co-Domini when they visited Khartoum especially for this purpose just before the conclusion of the Agreement.

Although it has been stated in Article 4 of the Sudan Agreement that the confirmation of the Sudanese Parliament for the appointment of the two Sudanese members is necessary, yet it is understood implicitly and from the previous events that the two points of view must be represented.

It

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It was the duty of the Parliament which rejected Sayed Ibrahim Ahmed being the representative of the independence point of view, to appoint another pro-independence member instead.

The Unionist Government, by nominating Sayed Sirisio Iro, who is a member of the National Unionist Party, has violated both the Agreement and the constitution word and spirit, thus making it impossible to provide the free and neutral atmosphere for self-determination as has been laid down in the Agreement.

The Commission in its present form gives the Unionists full control over the supreme constitutional power in the country because the Egyptian representative, together with the two Unionist members, constitute a majority and thus the independence vote is suppressed in this Commission whose President has practically lost his powers.

We must mention that the present situation in the Commission is largely due to the open intervention and pressure of Egypt. This has been revealed by the numerous statements and declarations of the Egyptian Government and her representatives in the Governor General's Commission.

We hereby wish to record that the Commission in its new form is unconstitutional, and to draw the attention of the co-Domini to this serious violation of the Constitution and the Agreement, and demand from them to stop this procedure, otherwise we shall consider the Agreement invalid and we shall find ourselves compelled to release ourselves from any obligations we have previously undertaken in the Agreement.

We are forwarding another note in which we state fully the extent of the far reaching Egyptian intervention in the Sudan in favour of the Unionist point of view.

We hope that our protest will find the necessary consideration from all the concerned parties so that the Agreement can be saved before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

President  
UMMA PARTY

Copy to: H.E. The Governor General of the Sudan  
The Governor General's Commission  
H.E. The Prime Minister of Pakistan

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Authority ANWAR ILYAS  
 By A NARA Date 3/2/78

Exp. NO. 639  
 From Khartoum

COPY OF UMMA PARTY LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CO-DOMINI  
RE EGYPTIAN "INTERFERENCE"

UMMA PARTY

Omdurman,

4th May, 1954.

H.E. The Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
 London,  
U.K.

H.E. The Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
 Cairo,  
EGYPT.

Dear Sir,

You know that the Sudan Agreement, signed by the Co-Domini of the 12th February, 1953, considers the period between the establishment of Self-Government on the appointed day and the date of Self-Determination a transitional period the major aim of which is to provide a free and neutral atmosphere for self-determination.

It is clear that the main reason which made all the Sudanese people back the Agreement is that it gives them the unchallenged right of self-determination.

It is also clear that the pro-independence elements and especially the Umma Party which has been working earnestly for the realization of the independence of the Sudan are most desirous of the provision of a free and neutral atmosphere because they depend completely on pure Sudanese potentialities and they do not rely on any foreign aid.

It is regretted that since the Agreement was concluded up to this very moment Egypt, which is a party in this Agreement, has openly continued to breach the word and spirit of the Agreement which necessitates the free and neutral atmosphere during the transitional period bringing about the complete destruction of the Agreement. The undermentioned examples give a fair idea about the Egyptian intervention.

(a) During the Election campaign Egypt had openly thrown its lot in favour of the pro-Unity elements by putting under their control all its visible and invisible potentialities regardless of all considerations. The Umma Party protested to the Electoral Commission at that time and had it not been for our earnest desire to preserve the national cause we would have withdrawn and self-government would have vanished.

(b) Major

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- (b) Major Salah Salim and General Abdel Hakim Amir accompanied by a group of Egyptian journalists and specialized propagandists equipped with propaganda films and the like, toured the different parts of the Sudan by aeroplane, especially set for this purpose. The National Unionist Party prepared for them political meetings in which Major Salim delivered political speeches in favour of the Unionists' point of view. In one of his speeches in Port Sudan he attacked the Agreement and described it as a useless piece of paper.
- (c) Egypt had sent a number of military men to the Southern Sudan under the cover of aviatational training, whose real purpose was to spread Unionist propaganda and look for strategic positions.
- (d) Large groups of Egyptian students from different institutes and secondary schools were also sent to the Sudan for propaganda purposes.
- (e) A special daily programme from the Egyptian Broadcasting Station was started to attack the cause of independence and defame its champions. For this purpose they have exploited prominent figures like the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar University and its learned men and the outstanding politicians. This programme has been very active ever since.
- (f) The Egyptian propaganda was culminated by the visit of the President of the Egyptian Republic General Naguib to Khartoum on the 1st March, 1954.
- (g) Egypt recently sent a gift of fire arms and ammunition to the Sudan and promised to send aeroplanes and other similar gifts and to accept a number of Sudanese in its military institutes to train for aviation and other military activities.
- (h) Egypt also sent a number of its Sudanese civil servants to spread Unionist propaganda in the Sudan. These include Sayed Dardiri Ahmed Ismail, Under Secretary for the Egyptian Ministry of Sudanese Affairs, and Sheikh Mohamed Nur Al Hassan, the Under Secretary for the Egyptian Ministry of National Guidance, who had visited a number of towns and villages in the Sudan offering, in the name of Egypt, financial aid for different religious institutions.
- (i) Egypt has allotted a large part of her budget for expenditure in the Sudan for the purpose of opening a University, for religious institutes, secondary schools, hospitals, etc.
- (j) The Egyptian Government has started a special fund to help the Sudan Government to pay compensation to the foreign government officials whose contracts are to be terminated for Sudanization measures.

Undoubtedly

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Authority *NARA 115*  
(citation)By *D* NARA Date *3/21/84*Desp. No. *224*  
From *Khartoum*

Undoubtedly the indifference of Britain as a party in the Agreement and its failure to take strong measures in this respect has encouraged the Egyptian intervention.

We believe that these actions which are a clear breach of the Agreement made it extremely difficult for the supporters of independence to work for their ends according to the democratic lines while locally depending on their limited Sudanese means against the unlimited potentialities of Egypt. We must mention herein that the supporters of independence compose a clear majority in this country. The proof of this is supplied by the figures of the official report of the Electoral Commission which shows 275,000 voted for independence candidates while only 230,000 voted for Unity candidates.

For all these reasons, we believe that the state of affairs is extremely serious and strong steps should be taken so that we can have a chance equal to that of the other side to work for the cause of independence for which we have been striving hard for the last few years.

In anticipation of an urgent solution, I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

President, Umma Party (signed)

cc: H.E. The Governor General of the Sudan  
Governor General's Commission  
H.E. The Prime Minister of Pakistan

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