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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT:

1954-0-25-0220: Umma Khalid

Reported Secret Agreement Between Khalafalla Khalid and Umma Khalid
 The French Liaison Officer, Count Victor de Lesseps, confided to me that Khalafalla Khalid, the Minister of Defense, told him that he had entered into a secret arrangement with the Umma Party to achieve independence for the Sudan. On the basis of this, de Lesseps believes that the future of Egyptian domination in the Sudan will not be allowed to proceed without a struggle. He also believes that Khalafalla's antipathy toward Egypt is shared by many other NUP leaders, particularly on the Khatmia side.

Comment: This information is reported because if it is true it is significant in the current Sudanese scene. I am skeptical of it because Khalafalla and de Lesseps are not particularly friendly. However, in all fairness, it should be pointed out that Khalafalla is an unpredictable old rascal who is capable of almost any indiscretion when aroused. It may be of further significance that Premier Gamal Abd Al Nasir recently singled him out by saying that Khalafalla's views meant nothing and there would be ten thousand Khatmia to repudiate him. Khalafalla is a Khatmia leader and his strength is entirely dependent on Sayed Ali El Mirghani (SAM). If the Egyptians have SAM on their side, as Major Salim claims, then Khalafalla could be rendered powerless at any time. If the information is correct, it suggests that SAM is playing both ends against the middle, a role not unfamiliar to him.

Joseph Sweeney
Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

cc: Cairo
London

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