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DESP. NO.

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE: October 19, 1954

REF : Khartoum's 50, October 5, 1954

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	I N	EUR-5, IO-4
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SUBJECT:

Current Trends and Thinking Among NUP Leadership Re Future of the Sudan

**1954-10-19, Azharis of Egypt, Unity**

On the basis of a representative sampling of NUP leaders, their current thinking appears to be in favor of a form of unity with Egypt in which the Sudan would obtain limited independence. Major Salim has done an effective piece of work and he and the Prime Minister have now convinced the NUP leadership that the Sudan will not be coerced by Egypt but instead will have its own local government and its own army. Together with Egypt it will form a sort of Republic of the Nile Valley. At one period a Sudanese will be the President of the Republic and at another period an Egyptian will occupy this post. (NUP leaders claim that Dardiri Mohamed Osman, NUP member of the Governor General's Commission, made a mistake in trying to become the first president of the Republic of the Nile Valley. He has pushed himself too hard and will not obtain this post which may well go, they claim, to Ismail El Azhari.)

Although the Sudan will have its own army, the direction of both Egyptian and Sudanese armies will be by a joint committee. Similarly, overall problems concerning the two countries, such as foreign affairs, the Nile waters, agricultural policy, and internal development will be decided by joint committees. The composition of these joint committees will be small and will be equally divided between Egyptians and Sudanese.

There does not appear to be any leader in the NUP who has not agreed with this program within the past two days. Although three Ministers are out of the country at the present time, they are known to be pro-Egyptian and are expected to accept this policy. The current rumor is that Prime Minister Azhari will make some type of announcement after his return from a visit to the United Kingdom which will indicate the NUP's policy on the future of the Sudan. He will call for an election in accordance with the provisions of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement. His party will then go to the country on a program asking for both independence and unity. In reality this means that Egypt will control the Sudan through its willing minions, the leaders of the NUP.

cc: Cairo, London

*APPROVA 8-24-54*  
Joseph Sweeney  
United States Liaison Officer

J Sweeney/at

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