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ARMY-10-14-Azhar South, Concessions

SUBJECT: Prime Minister Announces Concessions to the South

Prime Minister Ismail El Azhari announced a series of concessions to the South on October 13, 1954 over the state radio. This announcement, a copy of which is attached as Enclosure No. 1 (Unclassified), placed the responsibility for the backwardness of the South on the previous Administration, i.e., the British. It emphasized the National Unionist Party Government's willingness to take definite steps to raise standards of living in the South and the first measures have been instituted to provide an equality of opportunity and salary between the civil servants in the South and the North.

In ten detailed aspects of policy the NUP Government put forward concessions it believes will mollify Southern opinion which in recent weeks has claimed that the Government has not been sufficiently interested in the welfare of the South. Over two hundred chiefs and several hundred workers will receive wage increases.

Having made this announcement the Prime Minister left for the South where he will spend a week. He plans to be present in Juba at the time of the Juba Conference now scheduled to open on October 15 and may address the Conference.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

Enclosure: *ht*

As stated.

cc: Cairo
London

J.Sweeney/ht

19 OCT 1954

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OCT 19 1954

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