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SUBJECT: FORMATION OF KHATMIA POLITICAL PARTY NAMED "PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY".

The formation of a Khatmia political party and its probable alignment with elements in the National Government opposed to the Azhari-led NUP, threatens the early fall of the ~~present~~ present National Government headed by Prime Minister Azhari and fore-shadows a Coalition Government based on the Umma, Khatmia, and Southern Liberal parties.

During the past ten days a new, Khatmia supported, political party called the "Peoples Democratic Party," has been organized in the Sudan. The party includes the Khatmia wing of the NUP Parliamentary group, led by Ali Abdel Rahman, Minister of Education, and former NUP Khatmia elements who have been working with the opposition including the Independence Republican Party led by Mirghani Harza, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Irrigation, and the Mohammed Nur El Din group including Ibrahim El Mahallawa. Defection of the Khatmia wing of the NUP represents an immediate loss of strength by the NUP Parliamentary group of about 15 members. These members together with the Khatmia elements already in the opposition represent a Khatmia party Parliamentary strength of about eighteen.

Khatmia members of the NUP Parliamentary group who have joined the new party are reported to include Ali Abdel Rahman, Minister of Education, Hammad Tewfik, Minister of Communications, Dr. Amin Es Sayed, Minister of Health, Mardi Mohammed Rahma (Berber), Mohammed Hamad Abu Sin (Rufaa), Omer Hamza Mohammed Ahmed (Khartoum Rural North), Ibrahim El Hassan Abu El Maali (Khartoum Rural South), Hassan Mohammed Zaki (Fung South), Magdoub Ibrahim Farah (Shendi), Mohammed Kerar Kujur (Asmarar and Bisharin), Tayfor Mohammed Sherif (El Damer), Hashem Mohammed Saad (Port Sudan), Magzout Abu Ali Musa (Fokar), Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed (Kassala Rural), and Abu Fatma Bakash (Hadendowa).

The new "Peoples Democratic Party" is reported to have the blessing and patronage of Sayed Ali El Mirghani, head of the Khatmia religious sect. The Constitution of the party as published in the local press of June 28, 1956 calls for a United Sudan within the present boundaries, Islam as the official religion and Arabic as

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the office arrives a foreign policy plank of the Constitution of the world, especially with the Arab and African countries, at keeping aloof from aggressive facts and working for the decisions of the Bandung Conference which Egypt is following.

The new party is supposed to come into active Parliamentary operation with the close of Parliamentary debate on and passage of the Sudan budget, early in July. One of the prime objectives of the new party, and of the opposition to the NUP in the present National Government, is to bring about a downfall of Azhari led NUP dominance in the political scene. A censure motion has been tabled by the opposition parties and is expected to be brought up as soon as the Budget is approved. It is believed that the UMWMA and other opposition Ministers in the National Government Cabinet will resign their portfolios just before the censure motion is moved. It appears that the UMWMA with some 24-26 votes, the Khatmia with some 16 to 18 votes and the Southern Liberals with some 12 votes can secure the downfall of the Azhari government.

Negotiations have taken place between the UMWMA and opposition leaders and leaders of the defecting Khatmia members of the NUP, and it is believed that there has been interparty agreement on the selection of Abdulla Bey Khalil (UMWMA), Minister of Defense in the present National Government, to be Prime Minister.

Organization of the new Peoples Democratic Party as a rallying point for present and former Khatmia members of the NUP represents growing Khatmia dissatisfaction with the non-sectarian influence in the Sudan political scene represented by Prime Minister Ismail El Azhari and many of his followers. More basically it represents a growing suspicion of Azhari's ambitions for non-sectarian political power on the part of the two religious Sayeds, and a growing conviction that they must unite their political forces in opposition to Azhari - NUP non-sectarian strength. The new Peoples Democratic Party hopes to obtain further recruits from the NUP ranks once the censure motion is carried and the new party is firmly established, however, current political guesses are that NUP hard core Parliamentary strength may approximate about 30 members. Local elections during the past week in Khartoum North and Omdurman, and in other areas have shown remarkable NUP strength against combined UMWMA-Khatmia opposition.

There have been rumors that the NUP would be invited to join in a new National Government under Abdulla Bey Khalil. However, authoritative opinion indicates that the NUP will form as opposition to the Coalition Khatmia-UMWMA-Southern Liberal group.

It seems doubtful that such fundamentally differing elements as the Khatmia-UMWMA groups can long maintain the close working relationship required for political control. This is especially true since

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with the Southern Liberal Party. The Southern Liberal Party will seek the Southern Liberal Party for the South as the price of cooperation for the South. While Umma-Khatmia strength combined with a few individual personalities such as Tahir Zarroug (Anti-Imperial Front), Ahmed Mohammed Mahgoub (Independent-Graduates), and a few Socialist Republicans might be able to maintain a Parliamentary voting majority, the strains within the Coalition would be considerable, not only because of historical differences, but also because of the contrast between the independence views of the Umma and the past and present pro-Egyptianism of many of the Khatmia group.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

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