

1st March, 1953.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Your Excellency will remember that on the 12th February, just before the signing of the Agreement between our two Governments concerning Self-Government and Self-Determination in the Sudan, it was agreed that some reference to the Agreement should be made in the preamble to the Self-Government Statute.

2. I therefore have the honour to propose that the following paragraph should be inserted in the preamble immediately after the second recital, as follows :-

"AND WHEREAS by an Agreement dated the twelfth day of February, 1953, and made between the Egyptian Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Self-Government and Self-Determination for the Sudan, the said two Governments have agreed that the Governor-General should promulgate a law providing full Self-Government for the Sudan".

3. I would also propose the following further alterations to the Draft Statute, which are of a purely technical nature consequential on the agreement between the two Governments :-

- (1) Substitute "article" and "paragraph" throughout for "section" and "sub-section" respectively.
- (2) Article 1. Substitute for "On the day of1952" the words "Forthwith upon signature by the Governor-General".
- (3) Article 2. For "the Commission" substitute "the Governor-General's Commission". The same alteration is proposed for Articles 12(3) once and for Article 102(3) four times. This alteration is desirable because the fact was overlooked that Article 89(1) defines the Public Service Commission as "the Commission" in that Chapter.
- (4) Article 12(1). See Annex IV of the Agreement: for "this Agreement" substitute "the Agreement".
- (5) Article 12(2). For "the Statute" substitute "this Order".
- (6) Article 41(1). Delete "save as hereinafter mentioned" since the reference was to Article 43 which has since been deleted.

/(7)...

His Excellency
Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
CAIRO.

FO 371/102749

- 2 -

(7) Article 42(2). Delete "other than dissolution under the following section". The reference was similarly to the deleted Article 43.

(8) Article 88. Insert as the heading: "Special responsibility of the Governor-General for the Public Service".

(9) Article 90. For "(d)" substitute "(c)".

(10) Article 102(3). Insert before "Parliament shall thereupon stand suspended" the words "Upon the proclamation of a Constitutional Emergency", and delete "thereupon", which the amended form of the preceding paragraph has made inappropriate.

(11) The Items in Parts I and II of the Second Schedule to be numbered 1-9 and 1-6 respectively.

4. In view of the fact that it is highly desirable that the Self-Government Statute should be promulgated as soon as possible, I trust that the Egyptian Government will be able to signify their agreement to these amendments in the very near future.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my very high consideration.

DALPE SERRINE STEVENSON

/JDC.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

No.1041/1/5/53.

2nd March, 1953.

Monsieur le Ministre,

On the 28th February Your Excellency informed me that the Egyptian Government wished to propose Sayed Ibrahim Ahmed and Ustaz Dardiri Mohammed Osman as the Sudanese members of the Governor-General's Commission in the Sudan.

2. I now have the honour to inform Your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concur in the nomination of Sayed Ibrahim Ahmed but wish to nominate Ustaz Mohammed El Hassan Diab in the place of Ustaz Dardiri Mohammed Osman. Her Majesty's Government consider that Ustaz Hassan Diab is particularly suitable, in view of the fact that he is the first choice of the four main Sudanese parties, and would be reluctant to neglect this clear indication of his acceptability to the Sudanese people.

3. I also take the opportunity of acknowledging the information which you were also good enough to give me on the 28th February, that the Egyptian Government has appointed Wing Commander Hussein Zulficar Sabri as its representative on the Governor-General's Commission and Lieutenant-Colonel Abdel Fattah Hassan as its representative on the Electoral Commission.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my very high consideration.

RALPH BURNIE STEVENSON

His Excellency,
Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
CAIRO

371/102749

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

J E 1051/334

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 422
6th March, 1953.

INDEXED

D. 11.30 a.m. 6th March, 1953.
R. 12.13 p.m. 6th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

J E 1051/334

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 422 of 6th March
Repeated for information to Khartoum

My telegram No. 385: Sudan Statute.

I have received a reply to my note concerning amendments to the preamble and to the body of the Statute. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has proposed the following redraft for the preamble:-

"Whereas the Egyptian Government and Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, firmly believe in the right of the Sudanese people to self-determination and the effective exercise thereof, and whereas in order to enable the Sudanese people to exercise self-determination, a transitional period providing full self-government for the Sudanese as a preparation for the effective termination of the dual administration, shall begin forthwith, and whereas by an agreement dated the twelfth day of February, 1953, and made between the Egyptian Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning self-government and self-determination for the Sudan, the said two Governments have agreed that the Governor-General should promulgate a law providing full self-government for the Sudan, and therefore in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Governor-General by the said agreement, the Governor-General of the Sudan hereby makes the following order."

2. It is of course not strictly accurate to say that the Governor-General is empowered to promulgate the Statute by the agreement itself, since the document makes no specific reference to the issuing of the necessary order by the Governor-General.

3. It is



CONFIDENTIALCairo telegram No. 422 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

3. It is extremely tiresome that differences have arisen between the Egyptians and ourselves over the preamble, but I hope that it will be possible to avoid making an issue of the matter, which is of relatively minor importance. See also my telegram No. 375 *JE1051/306*

4. The Egyptian Government has agreed to all the other amendments contained in Khartoum telegram No. 82 to me.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Khartoum as my telegram No. 155.

[Repeated to Khartoum].

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Middle East Secretariat
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Private Secretary
Sir J. Bowker
Head of African
Department
Head of News Department

B B B

FO 371/102749

CONFIDENTIALFROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO KHARTOUM

Cypher/OTF

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTIONNo. 333

D. 2.20 p.m. 7th March, 1953.

7th March, 1953.

PRIORITYCONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Khartoum telegram No. 333 of 7th March, 1953.
Repeated for information to Cairo.

Cairo telegram No. 422 [of the 6th March:]

Preamble of the Sudan Statute.

We do not like re-draft by the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs which does not meet the objections to deletion of references to 1948 Ordinance stated in my telegram No. 424 to Cairo.

2. We should like your views on the re-draft in my immediately following telegram. This would involve omission of the two first consideranda of the original preamble.

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CONFIDENTIALFROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO KHARTOUM

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTIONNo. 331
7th March, 1953

D. 3.40 p.m. 7th March, 1953

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIALAddressed to Khartoum telegram No. 331 of 7th March
Repeated for information to Cairo.

My immediately preceding telegram: [Sudan Statute].

Whereas the Egyptian Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland firmly believe in the right of the Sudanese people to self-determination and the effective exercise thereof, and

Whereas in order to enable the Sudanese people to exercise self-determination, a transitional period providing full self-government for the Sudanese as a preparation for the effective termination of the dual administration, shall begin forthwith.

Now therefore in accordance with the Agreement dated the 12th day of February, 1953, between the Egyptian Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning self-government and self-determination for the Sudan, and in accordance with Section 66 of the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly Ordinance of 1948, the Governor-General of the Sudan hereby makes the following order:-

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

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DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 429
7th March, 1953

D. 6.20 p.m. 7th March, 1953
R. 7.07 p.m. 7th March, 1953

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

J E.1051/337

INDEXED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 429 of 7th March
Repeated for information to Khartoum.

My telegram No. 422: Sudan.

Preamble to Statute.

In the hope of avoiding a deadlock Her Majesty's Minister is putting to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (with whom he is lunching today) the following formula as a purely personal suggestion:

"Whereas by the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly Ordinance 1948, measures were taken to promote the realisation of the desire of the peoples of the Sudan to attain full self-government by the creation of an Executive Council and Legislative Assembly and delegation thereto of executive and legislative power.

And whereas after taking into consideration the views of the said Assembly and Council the Governor-General submitted under Section 66 of the said Ordinance proposals to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Egyptian Government concerning full self-government in the Sudan.

And whereas by an agreement dated the 12th day of February 1953 the said two governments have agreed that the Governor-General should promulgate a law providing full self-government for the Sudan.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him the Governor-General of the Sudan hereby makes the following order."

Foreign Office please pass Priority to Khartoum as my telegram No. 157.

[Repeated to Khartoum].

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K K K



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DEPARTMENTAL

DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 433

9th March, 1953.

D. 1.20 p.m. 9th March, 1953.

R. 1.46 p.m. 9th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

J JE 1051/344 INDEXED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 433 of 9th March.
Repeated for information to Khartoum.

My telegram No. 429. JE 1051/337

The Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Legal Adviser have told my Legal Adviser that the formula in my telegram under reference is unacceptable to them since they do not agree to the inclusion of any reference to the 1948 Ordinance, (particularly to Article 66). They propose that the Statute should be promulgated with virtually no preamble at all, except a bare reference to the powers vested in the Governor-General by the two Governments in virtue of the Angle-Egyptian Agreement of 12th February.

2. I have now seen your telegrams Nos. 333 and 334 to Khartoum, and I consider that the Egyptian Government will accept the formula in the latter telegram if, and only if, the words "in accordance with Section 66 of the Executive Council and Legislative Ordinance 1948" are omitted.

Foreign Office please pass Khartoum (Immediate) as my telegram No. 158.

[Repeated to Khartoum].

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Head of African Department
Head of News Department

END

MAR 1953

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTIONNo. 551
12th March, 1953.

D. 12.35 p.m. 12th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIALAddressed to Cairo telegram No. 551 of 12th March
repeated for information to:- Khartoum [Immediate]Your telegram No. 433 [of 9th March: Preamble to
Sudan Statute].I am advised that there is no legal necessity for a
preamble, although it is customary to have one in instruments
of this kind.

2. The basic question under dispute is, of course, the source of the Governor-General's power to promulgate the Statute. We shall never agree with the Egyptians about this, and I therefore think that, subject to the Governor-General's views, the best course would be to omit the preamble altogether. Unless you or the Governor-General see objection, please suggest this to the Egyptians.

3. The Heading of the Statute would thus read: "Draft Self-Government Statute. An order to provide for full self-government in the Sudan. The Governor-General of the Sudan hereby makes the following order:-"

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37/102749

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTF

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 440
10th March, 1953.

D. 8.37 p.m. 10th March, 1953.
R. 9.09 p.m. 10th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

J E 1051 / 347

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 440 of 10th March.
Repeated for information to: Khartoum.

The Egyptian press is indulging in a campaign against the British members of the Sudan Administration and there are daily accusations that they are not carrying out the terms of the agreement.

2. During the last three days, the suggestion has been repeatedly ventilated that the Egyptian Government should call for the formation of an international commission to investigate the alleged misdemeanours of British officials in the Southern Sudan.

3. Other specific accusations include:

- (I) Persecution of certain Chiefs for having supported the Sudan Agreement.
- (II) Pressure by District Commissioners in the South to influence Chiefs to sign a petition requesting separate representation of the South on the Governor General's Commission.
- (III) The appointment of 25 British officials on long term contracts for employment that could equally well be done by Sudanese.
- (IV) Subversive activities by British Intelligence amongst Sudanese students at El Azhar and other universities.

4. Comment of this nature is not confined to journalists alone. The Minister of National Guidance, in an interview, recently stated that he was certain that the British Administration in the Sudan was working to foment disorders.

5. Hussein Zulficar, in conversation, also referred to an /incident ...

MAR 10 1953

CONFIDENTIALCairo Telegram No. 110 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

incident (which he claimed to have discussed with the Civil Secretary) concerning the dismissal of a government employee in the South on the grounds that he signed Salah Salem's manifesto.

6. The fact that the Egyptians have started this campaign without any attempts to verify the facts through this Embassy or the Sudan Agency, casts doubt on their desire to make the agreement work. If the campaign continues, cooperation will sooner or later become quite impossible.

7. I therefore believe that we should carry the war into their camp without delay and submit a strong protest to the Egyptian Government, not only about the press campaign but also about their attempts to secure "packed elections" and their attempts to secure a pro-Unity Sudanese member on the Governor General's Commission regardless of the expressed wishes of the parties.

8. Before such an approach could be made, however, I should be grateful for any facts which the Governor General may be able to let me have to refute specific accusations.

Foreign Office please pass Khartoum immediate as my telegram No. 162.

[Repeated to Khartoum].

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir W. Strang
Private Secretary
Sir J. Bowker
Head of African Department
Head of News Department



PW

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall. *A*

E 1051/397

12 March 1953

Confidential

Van Ford *13/3*

- 1. Sir W. Strang.*
- 2. Sir J. Bowker. 173*
- 3. African Dept.*
- 4. Etc.*

off 4/3

The Prime Minister has seen
Cairo telegram No. 440 of March 10
and has commented on paragraph 7
in these terms:

"Sir William Strang. *JE 1051/267*

Good.

W.S.C."

Yours ever
Anthony Ashley-Cooper

J.A. Ford, Esq., M.C.
Foreign Office.

R371/102749

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

J

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 444

10th March, 1953.

D. 7.37 p.m. 10th March, 1953.

R. 8.00 p.m. 10th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

J 1037/1348

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 444 of 10th March.
Repeated for information to Khartoum.

My telegram No. 440.

It is now reported that General Neguib has himself ventured his hand at the new diplomacy by press conference.

2. He is reported as repeating most of the canards contained in my telegram under reference and as adding that pro-Unionist supporters in the South have been imprisoned, that the Southerners have requested an international commission of enquiry (of which suggestion he approves) and that the British have demonstrated their lack of goodwill by refusing to agree to the Sudanese candidates for the Governor-General's Commission who have been nominated by Sayed Abdul Rahman el Mahdi and Sayed Ali Mirghani.

3. I am sure that action on the lines suggested in my telegram under reference is necessary.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Khartoum as my telegram 163.

[Repeated to Khartoum]

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir W. Strang

Private Secretary

Sir J. Bowker

Head of African Department

Head of News Department

L.L.L.

MAR 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

Cypher/GTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 532

11th March 1953

D:3.48 p.m. 11th March 1953

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 532 of 11th March
Repeated for information to : Khartoum [Immediate].

Your telegrams Nos. 440 and 444 [of 10th March].

I entirely agree. Please act as you propose as early as possible.

2. Minister of State sent for Egyptian Ambassador this morning and made a strong protest to him about language used by General Neguib yesterday and the fact that he had discussed these matters publicly. He made it clear that General Neguib's statement would have most unfortunate effect and would poison the atmosphere both for the carrying out of the Sudan Agreement and for the opening of the negotiations; no doubt some people would say this was the deliberate intention of the Egyptian Government. As regards opinion here, it was being made very difficult for those in this country who wanted a reasonable agreement with Egypt. By their public misinterpretation the Egyptians had jeopardised the Sudan Agreement immediately it had been signed, and now they were apparently trying to sabotage it before it has come into effective operation. Egypt herself would be the only loser by this.

3. As regards specific accusations, the Minister made it clear that the complaints about pressure by British officials were, so far as we knew, quite untrue, and that in any case they should be taken up by the Egyptians direct with the Governor-General or through you. As regards the appointment of resident magistrates, the facts did not bear out the Egyptian accusations. As regards the appointment of Sudanese members to the Governor-General's Commission, the facts were contrary to the Egyptian assertions.

4. A Private Notice question has been put down for answer this afternoon, and the Egyptian Ambassador was informed of this.

20371/102749

CONFIDENTIAL

J

FROM KHARTOUM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Howe

D. 12.20 a.m. 12th March, 1953

No. 162

R. 2.15 a.m. 12th March, 1953

11th March, 1953

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

JE 1051/347
JE 1051/348

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 162 of 11th March

Repeated for information to Cairo

Washington

Cairo telegrams Nos. 440 and 441.

CAIRO
E 1051/354

The campaign referred to is gaining strength both in the Press and radio, and General Neguib's statement to a Press conference as broadcast on the Egyptian State Broadcasting Service at 8.30 p.m. last night made most serious attacks against the British administration in the Sudan.

2. Unless our administration is to be seriously weakened at the very beginning of this three year period, it is essential that these unfounded attacks be stopped. The situation in the Southern Sudan is difficult enough without further incitement being given to dissident groups, and confidence in the administration is being shaken. The result can only be a widespread breakdown of law and order.

3. To deal with the points raised in paragraph 3 of telegram No. 440 -

(i) No (repeat no) Chiefs have been persecuted for supporting the agreement. On the contrary Chief Jambo, for instance, [? grp. omitted] signed Saleh Salim's paper, has been retained in his chieftainship and as the Head of the Joint Tribal Court, in spite of an almost unanimous application from fellow Chiefs of the Meru tribes to have him dismissed. I know of the dismissal of no Chiefs for these reasons.

(ii) No pressure has been put on the Chiefs or anyone else by the District Commissioners to do anything. It is true that many Southerners are angry and disillusioned by the failure of Egyptians and Northern Sudanese to consult them about the changes in statute.

They are also dissatisfied that they have not been /called ...

12 MAR 1953

371/102749
Khartoum telegram No. 162 to Foreign Office

2.

called into conference, and many have submitted petitions as well as applications. These cannot be rejected out of hand, and it has never been our policy to refuse the right of petition or application.

(iii) No British officials have not recently been appointed to long term contracts.

(iv) I know nothing about this.

4. Regarding General Neguib's accusations mentioned in his broadcast -

(i) Is answered by my paragraph 3 (ii) above.

(ii) No recent appointments have been made to [grps. unrec. long term essential executive] posts, and in any case, if such appointments had been made, the forthcoming Sudanisation Commission could deal with them if they affected the "free and neutral atmosphere" required.

(iii) History of appointment of the Sudanese to Governor-General's Commission is well known to you. All that has been done from here is to point out that when the parties voted (at Zulficar's initiative) Diab obtained three votes, Ibrahim Ahmad two votes and Dardiri one vote. We suggested that those with the most votes should be appointed. Sayed Ali Mirghani, to the best of our knowledge, has not supported either Diab or Dardiri.

5. Reference paragraph 5 of telegram No. 140, this refers to the Sergeant-Major of police at Rumbek who signed Salah Salim's document. As Salim's tour caused considerable divergence of feeling in this primitive Dinka area, and it was essential that the most senior police non-commissioned officer in the area should not appear to have taken sides in the matter, he was retired some months before his retirement was due. He received his full entitlements of pay and his post-service benefits.

6. Three Egyptian lawyers, including the ex-Foreign Minister Salah el Din have now arrived at Khartoum to defend those accused in the Southern provinces on such charges. As far as
/is known ...

CONFIDENTIALKhartoum telegram No. 162 to Foreign Office

3.

is known here no one at all is being prosecuted for such incidents, and it is only to be supposed that this is more propaganda. If such a party goes to the South we shall undoubtedly have a further [grp. undec.] of the Salah type, and, in addition, they have no licences to practice in the Sudan Courts.

7. It is essential that the strongest representations be made to Egypt to stop this campaign before serious internal trouble occurs in the Sudan. I greatly fear that this is the beginning of the end.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Cairo and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 121 and 90 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo and Washington]

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir W. Strang
Private Secretary
Sir J. Bowker
Head of African Department
Head of News Department

K K K K

P0371/102749

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO KHARTOUM

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 364

12th March, 1953.

D. 9.27 p.m. 12th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Khartoum telegram No. 364 of 12th March.
Repeated for information to Cairo [Immediate],
Washington.

Your telegrams Nos. 160 [of 11th March] and 162 [of 12th March].

I hope that Minister of State's statement to the House of Commons yesterday will help you to hold the position. I think however that we are now more or less committed to support Hassan Diab and I hope that the Sudanese parties will stick to him. But unless the Egyptians climb down over Bardiri, which seems unlikely, we may have an awkward deadlock. It seems essential that, as a first step, the Sudanese parties should meet again and vote on the candidates, especially since it is my understanding that no vote has actually been cast for Bardiri but for the candidate who stood down in his favour. There are however many local factors in all this which we here cannot assess, and while I agree with you that this is not a matter in which the Sudan Government should be quoted as having any preference, it is for you to judge these factors and advise me on the best course, bearing in mind the terms of the Parliamentary statement referred to.

2. Press reports that Neguib has stated that he has agreed with Southern Sudanese leaders that an international commission should visit Southern Sudan to investigate complaints against British administrators. This seems to me most undesirable and unnecessary. I see no reason why any international commission should visit the South at this moment, but I might perhaps agree that members of the Governor-General's Commission should do so, subject to your views. A suggestion that such a visit might be arranged later might be an inducement to the Egyptians to break the deadlock over the Sudanese appointments.

/3. Meanwhile

CONFIDENTIALForeign Office telegram No. 364 to Khartoum.

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3. Meanwhile I am also strongly opposed to any visit by the Egyptian lawyers to the South. You could surely refuse this on the ground that it is unprecedented for a party of lawyers to set off in this way in search of clients. The Egyptians seem to have made fools of themselves by sending off this party without knowing whom they are to defend or on what charges and we should have no hesitation in doing what we can to exploit the absurdity of this position and make them look ridiculous.
4. In order to do this, and to follow up our counter-attack, I suggest that you should consider making an early public statement refuting the Egyptian allegations and using the material in paragraph 3 of your telegram No. 162.
5. I also agree with the suggestion in Cairo telegram No. 166 to you.

XXX

1	2
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See W. Sec. 1953
 Now see our tel. to Khartoum No. 364
 RA. 14/3
 10, Downing Street,
 Whitehall.
 Mr. Tel. No 204
 to Khartoum

Confidential

13 March 1953. Wm

Dear Jamieson

E 1051/354. B
 JE 1051/354 20/3

The Prime Minister has seen Khartoum
 Telegram No. 162 of March 11, and has
 commented: "Foreign Secretary. At your
 leisure let us talk about this."

Yours ever
 Anthony Montague Brown

K.D. Jamieson, Esq.,
 Foreign Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

P 371/102749

INDEXED

E 1051/353-

The Egyptian Ambassador visited me this morning at my request. I told him of the reports which we had received from Cairo of the statement said to have been made by General Neguib with regard to the Sudan. I said that I wished to protest very strongly at the language used by General Neguib and of the fact that he had discussed these matters publicly. If he had any complaint to make of the conduct either of the Sudan Government or Her Majesty's Government, surely the proper course was for him to make that complaint either to the Governor-General or to H.M.G. in the normal manner. I said that for example, had he raised with the Governor-General his allegation that since the signing of the Agreement the British were transferring some of their officials to posts as Resident Magistrates so that they could stay in the Sudan permanently, he would have received a categorical assurance from the Governor-General that no British official had been appointed a Resident Magistrate since the signing of the Agreement.

I also took up General Neguib's allegation that after the Egyptian Government had approved the appointment to the Governor-General's Commission of two Sudanese members nominated by S.A.R. and S.A.M., the British had made objection to one of the nominees for no apparent reason. I said that the facts were a meeting had been held on the 25th February by representatives of all four Northern Political Parties to consider Sudanese membership of the Governor-General's Commission. At that meeting five candidates had been considered. Of these Mohamed el Hassan Diab received three votes, Ibrahim Ahmed two votes, and the remainder one vote each. All that H.M.G. had done in the matter was to say that they would accept the two first named candidates. When the Agreement had been signed the broadcast of General Neguib with its misinterpretation of the article about independence and its provocative statement about clearing the imperialists out of the Nile Valley had a lamentable effect.

This new statement of General Neguib's would also have a most unfortunate effect and would poison the atmosphere both for the carrying out of the Sudan Agreement and for the opening of new negotiations. I had no doubt that some people would say that this was the deliberate intention of the Egyptian Government. I did not yet myself agree with that view but he must

realise/

- 2 -

realise that it was being made very difficult for those in this country who wanted a reasonable agreement with Egypt.

The Ambassador said that he had not himself read General Neguib's latest statement. He would convey to Cairo the substance of our conversation but he expressed the hope that I would not make a provocative reply. He said "please do not put more oil on the fire". I said that my words would certainly not be as provocative as those attributed to General Neguib.



(Selwyn Lloyd)
11th March, 1953.

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Sir W. Strang
Mr. Nutting
Sir J. Bowker
Private Secretary

P 371/102749

Return to
Office Dept

In the course of his attack on Her Majesty's Government and the Sudan Government, reported in The Times this morning, General Neguib said: "... after the Egyptian Government had approved the appointment to the Governor-General's Commission of two Sudanese members nominated by Sayed Sir Abdel Rahman el-Mahdi and Sayed Ali el-Mirghani, the British made objection to one of the nominees for no apparent reason and thus unjustifiably delayed elections.

"It was the duty of the British to approve the appointment of these two Sudanese without raising any objection, because they had been chosen by the Mahdi and Mirghani, and their appointment had received Egyptian approval."

2. The facts are as follows. A meeting of representatives of all four Northern political parties was held on the 25th February to consider the question of Sudanese membership of the Governor-General's Commission. At this meeting five candidates were put up for membership. Of these, Mohamed el Hassan Diab received three votes, Ibrahim Ahmed two votes and the remainder (~~including Mirghani Hamza~~) one vote each. The parties sent the Governor-General and the Egyptian staff officer a formal letter informing them of this. On 27th February we instructed H.M. Ambassador to make a formal approach to the Egyptian Government proposing the appointment of the first two candidates. H.M. Ambassador carried out these instructions on 2nd March. Meanwhile, however, the Egyptians had indicated their wish to substitute Dardiri Mohamed Osman for Mohamed el Hassan Diab. Dardiri was not one of the original candidates. He is, however, a prominent Unionist (which Mohamed el Hassan Diab is not) and would therefore suit the Egyptians book far better to have him on the Commission. They are both supporters of Sayed Ali Mirghani, and the Egyptian tactics are clearly to see that the

/letter's

latter's supporter should also be a Unionist. The Egyptians did not tell us directly that they would not accept our candidates, but induced the Sudanese parties to substitute Dardiri for one of the other candidates after the meeting of February 25th. Even then Dardiri has, of course, no votes. Since then the Egyptians have been trying to get Sayed Ali Mirghani to commit himself to Dardiri as his candidate, and Neguib's present action is merely another of the series of attempts to rig the nominations in the Egyptians' favour. We have now given these details to the press.

3. General Neguib also mentioned an earlier Egyptian accusation that the Sudan Government had transferred some British officers to posts in the Judiciary Service so that they can stay in the Sudan permanently. This accusation is also entirely false. The facts are that two resident Magistrates were appointed to take over district criminal and civil work and to inspect and supervise the work of the native courts, one in Gedaref district in 1951, and the second in Western Kordefan in 1952. Since then, no Magistrates have been appointed, and the matter has been referred to the Sudan Executive Council for direction. (In accordance with the Sudan Agreement no new Magistrates may be appointed without the concurrence of the Governor-General's Commission.)

11th March, 1953.

FO 371/102749

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Bir R. Stevenson

No. 456

D. 3.00 p.m 12th March, 1953

12th March, 1953

R. 3.36 p.m. 12th March, 1953

PRIORITY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 456 of 12th March
Repeated for information Saving to Paris

Washington

B.M.E.O.

My telegram No. 444.

JE 1051/248
JE 1051/35B

Mr. Lloyd's statement on General Neguib's declaration was fully reported by press 12th. The views expressed by British newspapers were also given and, in some cases, criticised as "exaggerated".

2. The comments of the Egyptian press were hostile and unrepentant. Al Ahram joyfully took Her Majesty's Government to task for acting on press reports without waiting for official texts. Al Akhbar denounced the British protest and called upon Her Majesty's Government to respect its signature otherwise Egypt, as Neguib had said, would tear up the agreement. Al Misri declared that the British were terrified by Neguib's statement as the very wording of their denial proved the truth of the accusation - Edgar Gallad in Le Journal d'Egypte asserted that General Neguib's accusations were well-founded and that the Sudan Administration must give an account of its actions. He repeated the demand made recently by other papers that Her Majesty's Government should prove its sincerity by replacing the Governor-General and his immediate assistants.

Foreign Office please pass Paris and Washington as my Saving telegrams Nos. 120 and 91.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington].

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MAR. 1953

R 371/102749

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

J

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 451

11th March, 1953

D. 5.42 p.m. 11th March, 1953

R. 6.55 p.m. 11th March, 1953

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

J 13/03/53 INDEXED

Addressed to Khartoum telegram No. 166 of 11th March
Repeated for information to Foreign Office

Following for Civil Secretary from Sudan Agent.

I suggest Governor-General should telegraph to Neguib on following lines.

(Begins.)

The reports of Your Excellency's statement to Journalists on 10th March suggest that Your Excellency has been misled by messages from irresponsible persons. All members of the administration, whatever their nationality, are faithfully performing their normal duties and many reports which have reached you are, in fact, unfounded. I am most anxious that the necessary commissions should be appointed at once so that the election can be held as soon as possible and that a Sudanese Government can be formed. In the meantime, I must ask that Your Excellency should not repeat complain which have not been confirmed and so increase the difficulties of my subordinates in preparing inexperienced people to register their votes in a calm atmosphere. I will gladly investigate with the help of members of the commissions who have reached Khartoum any complaint against oppressive treatment which Your Excellency wishes to refer to me.

(Ends.)

2. Above refers to telephone conversation between Robertson and Haselden this morning.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Khartoum as by telegram No. 166.

[Repeated to Khartoum]

19 MAR 1953

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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

INDEXED
E 1051/357

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 461
12th March, 1953.

D. 1.48 p.m. 12th March, 1953.

R. 2.32 p.m. 12th March, 1953.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 461 of 12th March
Repeated for information to Khartoum Washington B. M. E. O.

Your telegram No. 532.

I called on Egyptian Foreign Minister this morning and made representations as directed. I asked the Foreign Minister whether he could confirm the accuracy of these statements by the Prime Minister, and, if so, if he could inform me of the intention which lay behind them. It appeared to me that if these statements were in fact accurate, they threw doubts on the intention of the Egyptian Government to make the Sudan Agreement work. Secondly, they appeared to indicate that the Egyptian Government were not ready to enter into any further negotiations with Great Britain. I deeply deplored this method of "diplomacy by press conference" and said that, in my view, a continuation of it would make relations between our two countries quite impossible.

2. Foreign Minister said that his first task would be to raise the matter with the Prime Minister and establish with him the accuracy or otherwise of the published statements and clarify his intentions in making them. He could, however, assure me that the policy of the Egyptian Government remained the same, i.e. that they had every intention of making the Sudan Agreement work and that they remained as anxious as ever to start negotiations on outstanding Anglo-Egyptian issues. He asked me to assure you personally that his confidence in the firm intention of both Governments to make the Sudan Agreement work remained unshaken.

3. He went on to deplore the way small incidents and ill-considered accusations were expanded by the press into international issues. He asked Her Majesty's Government to consider whether it would be possible to establish some machinery on the official level in the Sudan to deal with such matters and clear up small difficulties on the spot. He asked whether it would be possible, for example, for the Governor General to detail an official who, together with an Egyptian official, could be asked to make the necessary enquiries on an ad hoc basis. I said that there was nothing to prevent the Egyptian Government communicating direct with the Governor General and raising any points on which they required enlightenment. I was not at all sure whether special machinery was necessary for this purpose but I was ready to put forward the proposal. Foreign Minister said he would also think it over and we might talk about it again. In the meantime I would be glad of the Governor General's views on this point.

18 MAR 1953

/ 4. Foreign

CONFIDENTIALCairo telegram No. 461 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

4. Foreign Minister then asked me to explain to you the Egyptian Government were in a difficult position in that there was no Parliament in which matters of public concern could be ventilated. It was necessary from time to time to make the attitude and opinions of the Egyptian Government clear to the people. There was no other way of doing this than by the press and by the radio, hence the press conferences given by different members of the Government. I replied that this was comprehensible but that in such circumstances it behoved the Egyptian Government to be very careful in the expression of their opinions and the description of their attitude. Full censorship of the press existed and it seemed to me a fairly simple matter to control what was published, even though the heckling of journalists might provoke the Prime Minister and others into thoughtless or excited utterances. Foreign Minister agreed and said that the machinery was sadly lacking. He would make very effort to see that it was improved. In the meantime he deplored, as much as I did, the deterioration in the atmosphere caused by these uncontrolled press activities.

5. I understand from my United States colleague who also saw the Foreign Minister this morning, that the latter did not attempt to explain or excuse recent public statements by the Prime Minister and others and fully agreed with United States Ambassador that they were in every way deplorable.

Foreign Office please pass Khartoum Immediate and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 188 and 159.

[Repeated to Khartoum and Washington].

ADVANCE COPIES TO:-

Sir W. Strang
Private Secretary
Sir J. Bowker
Head of African Department
Head of News Department

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