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E 1058/187 INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan
No. 1487
October 19, 1955.

D: 7.19 p.m. October 19, 1955.
R: 7.50 p.m. October 19, 1955.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

E 1071/187

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1487 of October 19.
Repeated for information to Governor General Khartoum
U.K.T.C. Khartoum
and Saving to P.O.M.E.F.

My telegram No. 1484.

Following is translation of Egyptian Prime Minister's letter
to Governor General.

Begins.

Mr. Luce, Your Excellency's political adviser, issued a
declaration which was published in "Al Umma" of October 13 and
circulated by A.N.A. A copy of the text is attached. (Text in
my immediately following telegram).

Mr. Luce who made this declaration is Your Excellency's
political adviser appointed in accordance with Article 103 of
the Sudan Self-Government Statute to assist Your Excellency in
carrying out your responsibilities in governing the Sudan. If he
made this declaration in that capacity, there is no doubt that he
made it on instructions of which Your Excellency did not inform
the Egyptian Government in writing. Nor did you invite their
opinion thereon, so that the declaration might express the view
of the two Governments, whom Your Excellency specifically represents.
The statement contradicts the provisions of the agreement between
the two Governments, which should be respected.

If Mr. Luce made the statement as a spokesman of the British
Government, then apart from the breach of Article 103 of the
Self-Government Statute, the Egyptian Government would like to
know whether this view expresses the official viewpoint of the
British Government. The statement contradicts the text of the
Anglo-Egyptian Agreement, the provisions of which the two
Governments undertook to respect.

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Cairo telegram No. 1487 to Foreign Office

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In the expectation of receiving an explanation from Your Excellency about this declaration, I send my sincere greetings. Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the Council of Ministers. October 17, 1955.

Ends.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Governor-General and U.K.T.C. Khartoum as my telegrams Nos. 184 and 195 respectively.

[Repeated to Governor General Khartoum and U.K.T.C. Khartoum].

ADVANCE COPIES

Private Secretary
Sir H. Caccia
Mr. Shuckburgh
Head of African Department
Head of News Department
Resident Clerk

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

JE 1058/196

Sir H. Trevelyan
No. 1510
October 22, 1955

D. 1.57 p.m. October 22, 1955
R. 2.55 p.m. October 22, 1955

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1510 of October 22
Repeated for information to Gov. Gen. Khartoum
U.K.T.C. Khartoum
and Saving to P.O.M.E.F.
My telegram No. 1498 of October 21: Sudan.

Ahram editorial today comments on the plebiscite and election for the Constituent Assembly. It describes past, largely successful Egyptian efforts to eradicate British influence in the Sudan in the interests of true Sudanese freedom. International body of control was necessary as ultimate safeguard to guarantee that no pressure was exerted on the Sudanese at the time of drafting the constitution and electoral law. Recent events in the South had shown that imperialism was still able to cause disturbances and influence popular representatives.

2. It was now being said that Sudanese parties had adopted an attitude which might render plebiscite or elections for Constituent Assembly unnecessary. Author asked, however, what harm would there be in these parties seeking renewed and confirmed popular support for their position from the people as final authority. Only at elections could people participate effectively in self rule. What occasion was more fitting for such participation than that of self-determination? Modern world constitutional tendencies were inclined to give constitutional supremacy to the will of the people. Peoples today insisted on being referred to in certain important matters. This had resulted in development of principle of the referendum and in the rights of initiation and recall. Modern constitutions thus sought to control any extremism there might be in parliamentary procedures. Prominence was given to the authority of people so that political balance might be achieved.

OCT 22 1955
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Cairo telegram No. 1510 to Foreign Office

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3. Sudanese people had moved with the time in expressing wish to decide their own future and to announce their will without relying on parties or deputies, i.e. direct popular plebiscite. Egypt responded to this wish. If plebiscite was carried out and constituent body set up to discharge all constitutional and political powers and draft a constitution and electoral law, then the Sudan would have the necessary foundations of stability for progress.

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Private Secretary

Sir I. Kirkpatrick

Mr. Shuckburgh

Head of African Department

Resident Clerk

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

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Cypher/OTF

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

JE 1058/19

Sir H. Trevelyan

No. 1514

October 22, 1955

D. 5.36 p.m. October 22, 1955

R. 5.36 p.m. October 22, 1955

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1514 of October 22
Repeated for information to Gov. Gen. Khartoum
U.K.T.C. Khartoum
and Saving to P.O.M.E.F.
Your telegram No. 2291: Sudan. JE 1058/195

Following is text of Note which I am delivering to Minister for Sudan Affairs at 1700 hours today.

Begins.

Excellency,

When on the 19th of October I received Your Excellency's letter dated the 18th of October about the proposed international commission for the Sudan, together with its enclosures dated the 17th of October, I immediately reported to Her Majesty's Government the action which the Egyptian Government had taken. I now have the honour, on instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to convey to you the following observations.

2. Her Majesty's Government note that the Egyptian Government, for their part, have issued invitations to the representatives in Cairo of the seven States nominated by the resolution of the Sudanese Parliament of the 22nd August, on the basis of draft terms of reference (a working document submitted by this Embassy ad referendum to Her Majesty's Government) discussion of which has not been completed between the two Governments. The supplementary agreement providing for the establishment of the commission has also not yet been concluded. Moreover, neither of these uncompleted documents takes account of the subsequent resolution of the Sudanese Parliament on the 29th of August requesting a plebiscite, which would clearly require their amendment.

24 OCT 1955
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STATE
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FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Cairo telegram No. 1514 to Foreign Office

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3. Furthermore, it appears from a public statement made by the Prime Minister of the Sudan on the 18th October that the Sudanese Parliament may wish shortly to make further suggestions to the two Governments on the procedure to be adopted in carrying out the self-determination process. In the circumstances, Her Majesty's Government believe that the co-dominii should jointly consider any resolution which the Sudanese Parliament may put forward. Such a resolution might be found to affect the nature of the work which the commission is called upon to perform.

4. Her Majesty's Government therefore suggest that as soon as sufficient time has been given to the Sudanese Parliament to express its views again, the co-dominii should take account of any such views expressed before proceeding further together. Agreement could then be reached regarding the invitations of the seven Governments in the light of the decisions reached by the co-dominii.

5. The Egyptian Government have referred to the necessity for settling the question of the supreme command of the Sudanese armed forces. Her Majesty's Government recognise the need for reaching a decision on this point. They observe however that no question of a vacuum in the command of the Sudanese armed forces arises. The supreme military command in the Sudan remains vested in the Governor General under Article 11 of the Self-Government Statute until that statute is amended.

6. Her Majesty's Government trust that the Egyptian Government will further consider the position in the light of the views expressed above.

Avail etc.

Ends.

Foreign Office please pass immediate Governor General and U.K.T.C. Khartoum as my telegrams 195 and 205 respectively.

[Repeated to Gov. Gen. and U.K.T.C. Khartoum]

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Private Secretary	Head African Department
Sir I. Kirkpatrick	Head News Department
Mr. Shuckburgh	Resident Clerk

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

JE 1058/148 INDEXED

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan

No. 1515

October 22, 1955

D. 7.27 p.m. October 22, 1955

R. 8. 0 p.m. October 22, 1955

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1515 of October 22

Repeated for information to Gov. Gen. Khartoum

U.K.T.C. Khartoum

and Saving to P.O.M.E.F.
JE 1058/147

My immediately preceding telegram: Sudan.

I delivered the Note, text of which is in my telegram under reference, to the Minister of the Interior today. I added that I was sorry that they had decided to issue these invitations without waiting for further discussion with us, and to publicise the matter in the Press. The Press had suggested that we were responsible for delays, but I could recall a number of occasions in recent months when I had pressed the Egyptian Government, who had required further time for consideration. He produced something of an apology.

2. The Minister asked whether Her Majesty's Government wished to delay the establishment of the commission. I said that our proposals were designed to complete the process of self-determination in as quick and as orderly a manner as possible, and stressed that we wished to work out a common policy with the Egyptian Government, while taking into account evolving Sudanese opinion. The Minister then asked why we should not set up the commission for the purpose of making the decision on the question of the command of the armed forces. I pointed out the obvious difficulties in this proposal, and he did not pursue it.

3. The Minister then produced the Note, the text of which is contained in my immediately following telegram, stating the desire of the Egyptian Government formally to declare acceptance

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OCT 22 1955

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CONFIDENTIAL

Cairo telegram No. 1515 to Foreign Office

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of the plebiscite proposal and to hold a concurrent election for a constituent assembly. I restated our position and fearing that Egyptians intended to make a unilateral announcement, I asked him to confirm that this was a proposal for discussion between Her Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Government, and said that I would send it to you at once, and would communicate your views to him. He confirmed.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Gov. Gen. and U.K.T.C. Khartoum as my telegrams 196 and 206 respectively.

[Repeated to Gov. Gen. and U.K.T.C. Khartoum]

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Private Secretary
Sir I. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Shuckburgh
Head African Department
Head News Department
Resident Clerk

bbbb

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
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Sir H. Trevelyan
No. 1518
October 23, 1955.

D. 8.17 p. m. October 23, 1955.
R. 9.29 p. m. October 23, 1955.

OCT 23 1955
Khartoum

PRIORITY

JE 1058/200 INDEXED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1518 of October 23
Repeated for information Governor General Khartoum, U.K.T.C. Khartoum
And Saving to P.O.M.E.F.

Cairo

My telegram No. 1510. JE 1058/196

Press today reported that Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday (Saturday) that Egypt ought to have consulted Britain with a view to reaching agreement over International Commission's terms of reference before issuing invitation to the seven member countries.

2. Following is summary of Egyptian Government spokesman's comment on this as it appeared in all papers. British statement lacked precision. Egypt had asked Britain some time ago that co-dominium should address invitations to member-States of International Commission. Britain had shown no inclination to answer this request, and had indeed shown unwillingness to take this step. Egypt saw no reason why Commission should not be invited to convene, especially as Egypt had already approved, without alteration, text on Commission's terms of reference put forward by Britain. In this situation Egyptian Government had found no alternative but to observe Anglo-Egyptian Agreement, which provided for meeting of International Commission before complete withdrawal of co-dominium forces, Egypt had informed Britain of her actions and had again requested Britain to take similar steps. In so doing Egypt was simply carrying out her commitments under the Agreement, especially as urgent question of Supreme Command of Sudan Defence Force should be settled before final date of evacuation November 13. In this connexion it was worth recalling that while drafting Agreement Egypt had absolutely refused to agree to the Governor General's remaining as Supreme Commander after evacuation. It had been agreed to leave settlement of this disputed point to International Commission. Subsequently Sudanese Parliament chose seven countries for membership of Commission and conveyed its wishes to co-dominium.

Sudanese Parliament also expressed to co-dominium wish to carry out general popular plebiscite instead of constituent Assembly election. Egypt had immediately approved these two requests and informed Britain of her approval, but Britain had not taken similar steps. Therefore Egypt could affirm that Britain did not welcome convening of Commission, but was obstructing its formation, aiming by this at keeping Supreme Command in hands of British Governor-General. Britain was also trying to have self-determination process carried out without any international supervision. Egypt's action simply

/expresses opinion

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Cairo telegram No. 1518 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

expresses opinion of Sudanese peoples' parties and other organisations which would never accept British Governor as head of their army after evacuation of foreign troops.

3. All papers also published separate statement (without attribution) referring to alleged B. B. C. announcement on October 22 that Sudanese Parliament has asked co-dominion for the holding of direct plebiscite on future of Sudan without supervision by international body. Statement affirmed that Sudanese Parliament had not put forward any such curious request, and had said nothing whatever about the International Commission. The setting up of which was a matter concerning the co-dominion. It was absurd to think that the carrying out of self-determination without international body was desired by Sudanese people, though it might be by British Government.

4. Ahran, London correspondent, said Egyptian diplomacy had triumphed over British manoeuvres aimed at enabling Azhari to convert Khartoum Parliament into a constituent Assembly with powers of self-determination. Correspondent added that after opposing idea of plebiscite at outset Britain was now changing her mind and inclining towards it despite present impracticability owing to state of the South. Gemhouria remarked that although Her Majesty's Government had not announced official view on Sudanese Parliament's wish for plebiscite, it was nevertheless always understood that Her Majesty's Government agreed to this wish.

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO OSLO

Cypher/OTF

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 378

October 22, 1955.

D: 2.45 p.m. October 22, 1955.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Oslo telegram No. 378 of October 22.

And to Stockholm No. 432 Berne No. 211

Prague No. 453 Belgrade No. 571

The Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of February 12, 1953 about self-government and self-determination for the Sudan provides that the detailed preparations for the process of self-determination shall be subject to international supervision. On August 16, the Sudanese Parliament passed a resolution requesting the co-dominii to set in motion the process of self-determination. Before the passage of this resolution we had been discussing with the Egyptian Government the terms of reference for the International Commission but had been unable to agree as to which Nations should be represented.

2. As a result of disagreement between Her Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Government the question of which countries should be represented was referred to the Sudanese Parliament for a decision. On August 22 that Parliament chose Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, India and Pakistan.

3. On August 29, however, the Sudanese Parliament passed a further resolution asking that the choice between union with Egypt and independence should be made not by means of a Constituent Assembly elected for the purpose as laid down in the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement but by means of a plebiscite. In subsequent discussions the Egyptian Government urged that a plebiscite should be held and pressed us to join with them in sending out invitations for the International Commission. They have now done so without our agreement.

4. It is now by no means certain that the Sudanese Parliament are still themselves in favour of holding a plebiscite or for that matter of having elections for a Constituent Assembly to draw up the constitution. In fact, in a public statement on October 18 Sayed Ismail el Azhari the Sudanese Prime Minister

/ said

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Foreign Office telegram No. 378 to Oslo

- 2 -

said that "it appears that the public feeling is that the present Parliament should carry out the functions of the Constituent Assembly as provided by Article 12 of the Sudan Agreement, and that this Parliament, which represents all the parties, should decide the future of the Sudan by adopting one of the two alternatives laid down in the agreement, and should draw up the Sudan's constitution and electoral law. If this feeling crystallises the Parliament will pass a resolution requesting the amendment of the agreement to enable the Parliament to exercise the functions of the Constituent Assembly. There is great hope that the two Governments will accept this."

5. Her Majesty's Government consider that in view of this recent statement and other indications that many Sudanese want to speed up the process of self-determination the ~~pe-dominant~~ should wait to see what the final Sudanese view is and consider together any resolution which the Sudanese Parliament may pass in the near future. They consider, therefore, that it would be better to wait until the Sudanese Parliament meets again on November 3 and has an opportunity to make such a resolution, since it may affect the work of the Commission (or even render one unnecessary).

6. You should, therefore, inform the Government to which you are accredited, that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared at this stage to join with the Egyptian Government in issuing these invitations for the reasons given above, and that Her Majesty's Government hope that the Norwegian/Swedish/Swiss/Yugoslav/Czech Governments will not accept the Egyptian invitation until we have been able to work out an agreed course of action with the Egyptian Government.

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P/w tel No 378
to Oslo

Outward Telegram from Commonwealth Relations Office

TO: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN INDIA
U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN PAKISTAN

RPTD: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CANADA
U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA
U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW ZEALAND
U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SOUTH AFRICA
U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CEYLON
U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN THE FEDERATION
OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

(BY AIR MAIL)

(Sent 19.05 hours 22nd October 1955)

CYPHER
PRIORITY

J E1058/204(A)

W. No. 263 CONFIDENTIAL

Repeated Air Mail to U.K. High Commissioners in Ottawa, Canberra, Wellington, Pretoria, Colombo and Salisbury.

My telegram W. No. 215.

THE SUDAN

1. United Kingdom Ambassador in Cairo told Colonel Nasser on 1st October that while we would agree to a plebiscite in Sudan, we considered that whole process of self-determination should be shortened, since we knew Sudanese opinion was increasingly in favour of obtaining independence without recourse to a plebiscite or Constituent Assembly. On 18th October Sudanese Prime Minister made following statement:-

"No reply has yet been received from British and Egyptian Governments to Sudanese Parliament's request for a direct plebiscite. It appears that public feeling is that present Parliament should carry out functions of Constituent Assembly as provided by Article 12 of Sudan Agreement, and that this Parliament, which represents all the parties, should decide future of Sudan by adopting one of two alternatives laid down in Agreement, and should draw up Sudan's constitution and electoral law. If this feeling crystallizes Parliament will pass a resolution requesting amendment of Agreement to enable Parliament to exercise functions of Constituent Assembly. There is great hope that two Governments would accept this".

2. Resolution on lines indicated by Prime Minister cannot be introduced before 3rd November, when Sudanese Parliament reassembles. It might either request Co-dominion to amend Anglo-Egyptian Agreement to empower present Sudanese Parliament to carry out duties of Constituent Assembly as laid down in Article 12, or might ask Co-dominion to recognise outright that Sudan is to become completely independent and then to empower present Parliament to draw up new constitution. In this case International Commission may not be required.

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3. United Kingdom Government sympathise with growing desire of Sudanese to achieve self-determination without going through long processes laid down in Anglo-Egyptian Agreement. Although Sudanese Parliament have asked that there should be a plebiscite, rather than elections for a Constituent Assembly, organisation of a plebiscite might well be just as complex and lengthy. It would in practice be impossible to arrange for a long time to come in much of Southern Sudan where authority of Administration has yet to be fully restored. It is sufficiently clear that overwhelming majority of Sudanese people desire independence and any further consultation of popular opinion seems therefore unnecessary. Present Parliament is fully representative of all shades of Sudanese opinion, and was elected under supervision of an international electoral commission. It could, therefore, very well be entrusted with responsibility for deciding future status of Sudan and with drafting of new constitution.
4. On other hand Egyptian Government are not at present willing to allow Sudan to dispense with processes of self-determination as laid down in Anglo-Egyptian Agreement. Colonel Nasser feels that this would mean public abandonment of those Sudanese who are still in favour of union with Egypt and it would make his own internal position difficult if he should take such an initiative.
5. Against our wishes Egyptian Government have now sent letter to representatives in Cairo of seven countries nominated by Sudanese Parliament to comprise Commission. This letter invites Governments concerned to nominate their representatives immediately with view to Commission holding its first meeting during last week of October. Reason given for this haste is that under Anglo-Egyptian Agreement, Commission has to decide question of Supreme Command of Sudanese Armed Forces as from completion of withdrawal of Egyptian and United Kingdom Armed Forces from Sudan (13th November). It appears that Egyptians have taken this action so that they can argue that self-determination process is firmly in hands of Commission and that it is not legally open to Co-dominion to vary procedure laid down in Agreement.
6. Egyptians have also sent note to H.M. Ambassador in Cairo asking us to issue a similar invitation to diplomatic representatives in Cairo of States designated as members of Commission. We intend to reply on following lines:-
- (a) it appears from recent public statement of Sudanese Prime Minister that Sudanese Parliament will wish to make further suggestions to Co-dominion on self-determination process. We believe that Co-dominion should, together, consider any resolution which Sudanese Parliament may make on this matter in near future. It would be better therefore to wait until Sudanese Parliament has reassembled and has had an opportunity to pass such a resolution, since it may affect work of Commission or even make one unnecessary.
- (b) point out that Egyptian Government have issued invitations on basis of terms of reference which have not been completed by parties and take no account of Sudanese Parliament's resolution on plebiscite.

/(c)

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(c) Supreme Military Command in Sudan will automatically remain vested in Governor-General under Article 11 of Self-Government Statute until that Statute is amended in light of any recommendation made by Commission after its establishment. We do not therefore think that Commission need meet before 13th November to consider this question and in any case it would now be very difficult for Commission to be established before that date.

(d) we trust that Egyptian Government will further consider their position in light of views expressed.

7. Please inform Indian/Pakistan Governments and explain that for the reasons given above we are unable to associate ourselves with Egyptian invitation to nominate an Indian/Pakistan representative on Commission. Our Ambassador in Cairo is also explaining our views to Indian/Pakistan Ambassadors there. We hope therefore that Indian/Pakistan Governments will not accept Egyptian invitation, which was issued without approval of United Kingdom Government, until we have been able to work out agreed course of action with Egyptians.

Copy to:-

D.II

C.R.O. Mr. Rogers
Foreign Office
(African Dept.) Mr. T.E. Bromley
Mr. J. Ridd
H.M. Ambassador for U.K. in Dublin
U.K. Embassy Washington Mr. J.R. A. Bottomley
U.K. Delegation to U.N.,
New York Mr. M.E. Allen
Accra Governor's Office Mr. F.E. Cumming-Bruce
U.K. High Commissioner in Ottawa (8)
U.K. High Commissioner in Canberra (3)
U.K. High Commissioner in Wellington (3)
U.K. High Commissioner in Pretoria (3)
U.K. High Commissioner in Colombo (3)
U.K. High Commissioner in Salisbury (3)

SOUTH ASIA & MIDDLE EAST DEPT.
SA.203/45/2



J.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

JE1058/205

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan
No. 1521
October 24, 1955

INDEXED

D. 3.35 p.m. October 24, 1955
R. 5.15 p.m. October 24, 1955

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1521 of October 24
Repeated for information to Gov. Gen. Khartoum
U.K.T.C. Khartoum
and Saving to P.O.M.E.F.

My telegram No. 1518. JE1058/200

Gomhouria today carried editorial reiterating Egyptian views on Sudanese self-determination. Author emphasises essential role of International Commission on the formation of which Sudanese Parliament had agreed. Plebiscite was another essential element for which Sudanese Parliament had expressed its desire. Egypt had responded to Sudanese wishes in both these matters. Britain however, was equivocating and preparing some new surprise (unspecified) for Sudanese. Luce's statement (my telegram 1471) had been meant to lull Sudanese who however had been quick to realise the intrigues behind it.

2. All papers reported in almost identical terms that, according to a responsible source, Egyptian Government had made strong protest to British Government about Mr. Luce's statement which it considered breach of Anglo-Egyptian agreement and proof that Britain was trying to infringe that agreement in fulfilment of her own special interests in the Sudan. Gomhouria in addition, republished statement falsely attributed to Luce by Al Umma of October 13. Kahbar said that British Embassy said they had received Note about this but had not yet replied.

3. Ahram carried report from special correspondent in Khartoum dated October 23 that National Parliamentary Committee representing Government and Opposition had decided that its members should return each to his own party to discuss suggestion that right of self determination should be left to present Parliament. Correspondent learned that Umma party felt there should be electoral campaign, even if only formal one supervised

/by International

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Cairo telegram No. 1521 to Foreign Office

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by International Commission so that no further difficulties might arise on account of present Parliament's neglect of some provision of the Agreement. It was known that Egypt had agreed to plebiscite and was trying to accelerate formation of International Commission. British Press had repeatedly commented however on impossibility of plebiscite in Southern Provinces. From this it appeared that Britain was trying to obstruct the carrying out of self determination. Correspondent also reported statement made by Azhari that Sudanese Government had not been informed by Egypt about recent invitations to members of International Commission. Azhari had expressed the hope that Anglo Egyptian situation would not reach crisis stage over Sudan and that both sides would at least agree on all matters connected with execution of agreement. Correspondent also quoted Sawt El Sudan of October 23 as saying that

- (i) According to reliable sources Egyptian Government had informed Britain of its agreement to a plebiscite more than a month ago.
- (ii) Immediately afterwards British Ambassador had received important Egyptian personality, told him that Britain had committed herself to agree to a plebiscite and asked him to find a way out of this difficulty for Britain.

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