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AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

1055
JE1058/378

EGYPT AND SUDAN

FROM

Sir K. Helm,
Khartoum, (candid)

No. GG/97.8.1/8

Dated Dec. 12

Received in Registry— Dec. 15

Sudan: International Commission.

Copy of a letter to the Egyptian Prime Minister enclosing a copy of a letter from the Sudanese P.M. about the terms of reference of the Commission.

References to former relevant papers

- | ~~377~~ | 341

MINUTES

I think that there is perhaps no need to reply to this now. The only additional answer we could give is that to have brought the Sudanese into the talks would have meant further delay. The real answer is that the Egyptians procrastinated and, as Agher's letter points out, when they replied saying yes it was too late.

J. W. Ridd.
23/12.

I think this is a very silly and ill-mannered letter, which does the Sudan Govt no credit. There is no point in agreeing it now.

W. R. Shepherd
25/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

gm
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(Index)

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31/157-

References to later relevant papers

Water over the Dam

Thuz
25/12

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"HAKIMAM"

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
KHARTOUM.

GG/97.8.1/8

12 December, 1955

INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL

JE 1058/378

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram of 3rd December to Your Excellency regarding the reply of the Egyptian Government to the Sudanese Council of Ministers' request concerning the terms of reference of the International Commission.

In accordance with the request of the Prime Minister of the Sudan, I am transmitting herewith to Your Excellency a copy of a letter I have received from him regarding the replies of the two Contracting Governments.

I am sending a similar communication to the British Government.

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

(Sd) A. K. Helmi.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE SUDAN.

His Excellency
Lieutenant-Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
CAIRO.

JFT

Advance copy by air mail direct.
Original & 1 copy to Sudan Agent, Cairo
Copy to: ~~Headquarters, Cairo.~~
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The International Commission for Self-Determination.

I. A. 5/4/705.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
KHARTOUM.

11th December, 1955.

His Excellency,
The Governor-General.

With reference to your letter No.
GG/97-8-1/8 of 3rd instant.

At the time Mr. Luce delivered the said letter to me he informed me that the supplementary agreement for the establishment of the Commission and its terms of reference had already been signed.

I have explained the situation to the Council of Ministers in its meeting held on 10.12.1955.

The Council wish to express very strongly their grave disappointment on the regrettable refusal by the two Contracting Governments to accord the Sudan Government the opportunity of expressing its views on this vital matter affecting the right of Sudanese to self-determination.

The reasons given by Her Majesty's Government are, in the considered opinion of the Council, most unconvincing.

The Egyptian Government's acceptance expressed in its letter dated 29.11.1955 has not, in our view, been genuine. It is inconsistent with the signing of the supplementary agreement only a few days later and without waiting to receive the views of the Sudan Government or even for the contents of its letter to be communicated to us.

Although the agreement has been universally broadcast and published in the press, we have not as yet received the official text. Your Excellency must have realised by the strong opposition to, and the disapproval of, the terms of reference of the Commission by the Sudanese public opinion.

However, the Government will on receipt of the text of the agreement consider the matter very carefully and submit its views thereon.

I shall be very much obliged if Your Excellency will kindly convey the contents of this letter to the two Contracting Governments.

(Signed) ISMAIL EL AZHARI.
PRIME MINISTER.

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JE1058/379(A)

THE SUDAN

Brief for the Secretary of State

Agreement was reached with the Egyptian Government on December 3 on a supplementary agreement to establish an international Commission to supervise the process of self-determination in the Sudan and on its terms of reference. The terms of reference give the Commission full power to supervise the plebiscite, which will determine the Sudan's future status, and elections for a constituent Assembly, which will draw up a constitution for the Sudan. Invitations have been sent out to the seven countries nominated by the Sudanese Parliament to serve on the international Commission.

The plebiscite and elections will be held throughout the Sudan. The situation in the Southern Sudan where a mutiny broke out last August, is gradually improving. Life in Equatoria Province is slowly returning to normal. Administrators are again present at all the main centres, although supported by small detachments of troops. It will be some time before confidence between Northerners and Southerners is achieved. But the Sudanese Government is aware of the necessity to seek a solution of the problem.

X
X
About 450 Northerners lost their lives during the disturbances and civil courts are trying those who were involved in the murders, (cases of mutiny are being tried by courts martial). I am satisfied that the trials are being carried out with due regard for legal processes. The moderation and restraint with which the Sudan Government has dealt with the situation does them credit.

JE1058/393

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FROM KHARTOUM TO FOREIGN OFFICE INDEXED

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Office of the Governor General

No. 435
December 19, 1955.

D. 12.25 p.m. December 19, 1955.
R. 12.33 p.m. December 19, 1955.

EMERGENCY
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Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 435 of December 19.
Repeated for information to Cairo
P.O.M.E.F.

My telegram No. 432, NYR
Following from Luce.

JE1058/387

The Sudanese Minister (my telegram No. 430, paragraph 2) who returned from Cairo this morning, confirms that Nasser will today announce Egyptian acceptance of the declaration about independence.

2. Salah Salem is arriving in Khartoum tonight on a "private" visit to convey Nasser's greetings to the Sudanese. It is unlikely that this is the only purpose of the visit.

Foreign Office pass Cairo Immediate and P.O.M.E.F. Priority as my telegrams Nos. 243 and 92 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo and P.O.M.E.F.]

SSSSS

ADVANCE COPIES

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

