

(a) We believe that the Egyptian-Sudanese talks are most important and significant, although we do not know what if any results have been achieved.

(b) We think it important that encouragement be given to the extension of these talks. The UK for its part may wish through the Sudan administration to urge other Sudan political parties to enter into contact with Egypt in the same manner as the Mahdi's delegation. Obviously, wider Sudanese representation would be desirable, since all points of view would then be represented and no one party could claim that its interests were being overlooked or compromised. We realize that this may be difficult, but we think it is worth a try by the Sudan administration. We, for our part, will be glad to tell the Egyptians of our hope that they will continue and expand their contact with the Sudanese.

(c) It may be desirable at some point to consider the possibility of a UK-Egypt-Sudan Round Table Discussion. We recall that this was suggested by the UK both in June and October 1951. We realize that this would have to be carefully handled, since such a suggestion at the present time might compromise the possibilities of further bilateral contact between the Egyptians and Sudanese.

III. If Mr. Eden's comments on I and II, above, reveal a wide gap between the UK and US views, you may wish to suggest a joint appraisal by our two embassies in Cairo:

Since there appears to be a difference of opinion between the US and the UK regarding the urgency of the situation and the strength of the Hilali Government, it might be useful for the two embassies in Cairo to undertake another joint appraisal. Mr. Eden will probably agree that this exercise, both in Egypt and Iran, has been useful. Since it has been six months since the last appraisal on Egypt was prepared, this might be a good time to have another joint look at the situation.

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TOP SECRET

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Present:

*United Kingdom*  
Mr. Eden  
Sir William Strang  
Sir Oliver Franks  
Sir Pierson Dixon

*United States*  
Secretary Acheson  
Ambassador Gifford  
Ambassador Jessup  
Mr. Perkins