

No. 1027

745W.00/11-1552 Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Gifford) to the
Department of State*¹

SECRET

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2798. Following points emerged from conversation with FonOff yesterday re Sudan:

1. FonOff hopeful Brit Emb Cairo and Sudan admin close to agreement re recommendations on future course of action on Egypt proposals which can then be considered by Eden prior replying Naguib. Robertson going Cairo within next day or two in effort complete agreement and FonOff hopes be able reply Naguib end next week. (Embassy regards this timetable as overly optimistic.)

2. FonOff generally applauds approach to Sudan problem reflected Egyptian note. It recognizes that it took great courage on Naguib's part to alter policies of previous govts. Naguib has now been astute enough to realize that through this kind of approach to problem, Egypt has opportunity within next three years to reestablish position of influence in Sudan.

3. Consideration of Egyptian note has been somewhat hampered by inconsistencies between its provisions and agreements with various Sudan parties. Most of these differences can probably be resolved quite easily, altho some may prove troublesome (e.g., agreement with SAR provides Sudanese members Advisory Council shall be chosen by Sudan Parliament, while note says they shall be proposed by UK and Egypt subject subsequent approval by Sudan Parliament, etc.).

4. On more fundamental aspects of Egyptian proposals, FonOff preliminary views are that following require close examination with Egyptians:

a. Proposal that Govt-Gens responsibilities for South should be subject Advisory Council procedure. FonOff feels this will be unpopular in South and administratively undesirable, feels present provision of new constitution should be obtained whereby South is among Governor Generals reserved powers.

b. Provisions of new constitution relating to Gov-Gens emergency powers should be retained substantially as they are at present and not made subject Advisory Council procedure which would be too slow and cumbersome in event quick and decisive action necessary.

c. Sudanisation Committee procedures, if adopted, wld undoubtedly result injection political factors into dipl service with conse-

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 151, to Khartoum as telegram 2, and unnumbered to Rome for Unger and to Paris for Reinhardt.