

London should advise Foreign Office our concern re possibility violence Sudan.

Ambassador Caffery's effective intervention with Egyptians re Brit compromise formula on South has been valuable. Dept hopes he will be able to continue urge moderation and reasonableness upon Egyptians.

MATTHEWS

No. 1090

745W.00/2-853: Telegram

*The Chargé in the United Kingdom (Holmes) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

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4288. Embassy today discussed Sudan problem with Foreign Office in light Deptel 5104 February 2. On basis this and other recent conversations, following Embassy comments may clarify specific points raised by Department:

1. Department's understanding "Sudanization" issue essentially correct as stated Department's reference telegram. Reasons for British stand are three-fold:

(a) They do not feel that situation should be created whereby Sudanese would be debarred from retaining experienced British officials at time of self-determination, even though Sudanese might desire keep them. To some extent, British position ties in with problem of south since it is in this area that they feel there will be greatest need for qualified personnel.

(b) British suspect that main reason for Egyptian insistence on removal all British officials is to pave way for Egyptian hegemony at time of self-determination.

(c) For prestige reasons, British would find it most difficult to agree to procedure which would in fact be discriminatory against British nationals by making it impossible for them to continue service with Sudanese Government.

2. British admit that many and perhaps most Sudan civil servants would not be willing remain after self-determination. Extent to which this would be true would depend in large measure on Sudan's future status. Closer association to Egypt, less likely British officials would desire remain. Nevertheless, this consideration does not destroy in British eyes validity points set forth (1) above.

3. In British minds, Sudanization has always been point of approximately vital importance to that of south. Main emphasis has been on south merely because it had appeared earlier that Egp-

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 225 and to Khartoum as telegram 15.