ANTI-BRITISH VIEW COSTLY FOR SUDAN
By ROBERT C. DOTYSpecial to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Dec 5, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 20
pg. 24

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Dismissals From Civil Service Could Also Prove Harmful to Good Administration

By ROBERT C. DOTY
Special to The New York Times.

KHARTUM, the Sudan, Nov. 16—The Sudanese effort to rout out British political influence—real or imagined—from the government civil service is proving to be expensive and potentially damaging to good administration.

Expensive because, under the liberal compensation terms drafted to cover employes whose posts had been "Sudanized," the official estimate of cost is about $5,780,000. Unofficial but informed estimates place the total cost of Sudanization at up to twice that amount.

It is potentially damaging to good government because there are not enough qualified Sudanese available to replace all the British administrators and technicians who are being Sudanized or who are expected to take advantage of the opportunity to resign with compensation after the first of next year.

The agreement between Britain and Egypt ending their condominium over the Sudan provided for establishment of a Sudanization committee "to provide the free and neutral atmosphere requisite for self-determination." It was directed to completely Sudanize the administration, Sudan Defense Force and Police and "any other government post that may affect the freedom of the Sudanese at the time of self-determination." A Briton, an Egyptian and three Sudanese were named to the committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Abu Akr, an aggressively nationalist Sudanese.

Of 1,150 British personnel on the rolls at the time the committee began its work, only ninety-nine civilians and thirty-six officers of the Sudan Defense Force and Police have actually been separated from service. Three-fourths of the civilians were the entire staff of the political service, the corps that provided the Sudan with Provincial Governors and District Commissioners.

British Member a Dissenter

Thus far, the committee, with the British member reduced to the role of persistent dissenter, has operated on the theory that any British official whose duties require him to travel extensively is capable of influencing the electorate—presumably against future links with Egypt.

Thus, the entire educational administration except for school teachers, has been marked for Sudanization despite unpublicized protests by the Minister of Education, Sayed Mirghany Hamza, that such a sweeping ruling might cripple the school system. The most recent count available showed that there were 142 British in the school system, most of them exercising supervisory functions and therefore marked for dismissal.

The Government, and through it, the Sudanization committee, is under great pressure from job-hunting Sudanese.

More serious, perhaps than the Sudanization program itself is the anticipation that vast numbers of technicians not already marked for replacement will give six months notice when that becomes legal next Jan. 1. Lack of confidence in new Sudanese supervisors, unwillingness, for social but not racial reasons, to continue in isolated posts in the absence of other British personnel, and an understandable desire to take advantage of compensation opportunities are among the reasons for resignation advanced privately by many.

Salaries for expatriate officials in the Sudan were high by British colonial service standards. A Provincial Governor received in salary and allowances the equivalent of about $8,500. All expatriate officials received annual passage-paid leave of eighty-five days in Britain and the normal retirement age was 50.

Pension rights and gratuities were drafted for long-term service and are being paid in full in cases of cancellation of contract under Sudanization proceedings. Thus, young men who had served only six or seven years of a twenty-year contract are now being mustered out with payment of gratuities of up to $23,000.

Many of the separated officials are simply moving across the border to new jobs in Kenya and Uganda or to Nigeria on the West Coast. One of them, Lieut. Col. Peter deRobeck, former District Commissioner for the Eastern District of Equatoria Province, will become district commissioner of the area of Kenya immediately adjacent to his old area.

The international boundary is less than an abstraction to the wild Turkana tribesmen who straddle it, and the Sudanese see sinister motives in the assignment of Colonel deRobeck there. From the standpoint of the authorities in Kenya the availability of a man fluent in native dialects and familiar with the personalities and problems of the area offered obvious advantages.

South Viewed As Key Area

It is the opinion of many British and neutral observers that the Sudanization program will stand or fall in the South. There, outbreaks of tribal warfare have been kept to a minimum by diligent, persistent trekking around the districts by British Commissioners and their assistants.

"The big thing in such affairs is to get someone on the spot quickly to step between the two parties and get the spear work stopped while the issues are being sorted out," said a former British district man now in the central administration in Khartum.

Mohammed Nur ed-Din, Minister of Works, returned recently from a trip through Western Europe in search of Continental technicians to replace the departing British. He said he had found most qualified personnel already employed at salaries higher than the Sudan could offer.

The problem will become less acute once the self-determination issue is out of the way and the Sudan is no longer preoccupied with maintenance of a neutral atmosphere. With the choice between full independence and links with Egypt made, it will be possible to accept the offers of both Britain and Egypt to supply technicians from their own Government services.

Mr. Nur ed-Din said the Government was hoping also that the United States might "open its heart and help us."

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