PLOT WITH NAGUIB LAID TO SUDANESE
By KENNETT LOVESpecial to the New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Dec 20, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 13

PLOT WITH NAGUIB LAID TO SUDANESE

Cairo Aide Says 3 Officials Tried to Place General in Presidency in Khartum

By KENNETT LOVE

Special to the New York Times.

CAIRO, Dec. 19—Maj. Salah Salem, Minister of National Guidance and Sudanese Affairs, said tonight that three Sudanese Cabinet Ministers had planned to "kidnap" then President Mohammed Naguib before his dismissal last month. He said the three had planned to take him to the Sudan and place him in the presidency there.

At his press conference Major Salem named Mirghani Hamza, Sudanese Minister of Education and Agriculture, Khalaf Allah Khalid, Minister of Defense, and Ahmed Gili, Minister of State, as the three that participated in the alleged kidnapping conspiracy. Major Salem said the plans had been made in collaboration with General Naguib during a visit of the three Ministers here.

The Sudanese Ministers were declared to have offered General Naguib their aid in preparing a coup against the ruling military junta headed by Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser, of which General Naguib was a member before his removal from all political offices Nov. 14. The plan to spirit General Naguib to the Sudan was said by Major Salem to have been an alternative to the coup.

Egypt's relations with the Sudan have deteriorated as a result of General Naguib's removal. The former President is half Sudanese and is very popular there. But Major Salem's statement is regarded as an indication the relations were worse than had been suspected.

Shortly after General Naguib was removed and placed under house arrest amid allegations he was involved in a Moslem Brotherhood conspiracy to assassinate all other junta members, a Sudanese ministerial delegation came here to seek assurances he would not be mistreated or tried, regardless of his guilt or innocence in the brotherhood plot. The delegation announced before its departure it was satisfied with the assurances given by the junta.

The Sudanese Ministers are members of the governing National Unionist party, a coalition of pro-Egyptian splinter groups formed two years ago under the guidance of General Naguib. The party won a solid victory in the elections last fall, which were a prerequisite to Sudanese self-government after fifty-four years' rule by a British-Egyptian condominium.

The statement caused evident consternation among the other members of the junta, whose pursuance of the closest possible relations with the Sudan had been a mainstay of their policy.

The censorship of the local press deleted the word "kidnap" and ordered the article to be printed without attribution to Major Salem so that his name will not appear tomorrow in connection with the accusation. The semi-official Government paper Al Gamhouriya will devote its leading editorial tomorrow to the accusation. In making the statement that Major Salem had directed the local press to print it as he said it, but this was overruled by the censorship, which does not apply to the foreign press.

The statement may be an attempt to preserve the leadership of Premier Ismail el Azhari, who is strongly pro-Egyptian. Anti-Egyptian feeling, which has increased in recent weeks, has endangered Mr. el Azhari's position, according to reports reaching here.

In Khartum, Mr. Azhari stated officially today that Mirghani Hamza and "two other Ministers" had refused to attend Cabinet meetings during his recent trip to England, thus preventing a quorum. He also said he had been informed by Mubarak Zaraoug, Deputy Premier, that Mr. Hamza was leading the Khatmia Moslem group that was trying to remove him from power. Mr. Hamza is a close adviser to Sir Ali el Mirghany, the leader of the orthodox Khatmia sect of Sudanese Moslems, in which the National Unionists found most of their strength.

Mr. el Azhari revealed a crisis in his Cabinet in a statement issued in Khartum this afternoon. He said he had been requested on his return from Europe Dec. 3 to dismiss "certain Ministers and other members of Parliament who are in agreement with UMMA [Opposition party favoring independence rather than ties with Egypt], to overthrow this Cabinet and replace it with one of their own." Mr. el Azhari said the request had been made by several Ministers and transmitted to him by Deputy Premier Mubarak Zarroug.

Although he did not identify the alleged dissident Ministers, Mr. el Azhari said Mr. Hamza and "two other Ministers" had boycotted Cabinet meetings during his recent trip to southern Sudan, thus preventing a quorum needed to pass on urgent measures in the Sudanization of British-held civil service posts.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.