

b-SP8201

Notes on Sudan Film Unit Film on "Flag Day"
taken in Khartoum on 1st January, 1956

Sequence

The first scenes were taken in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both Houses met simultaneously under the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sayed Babiker Awadalla.

In the pictures, the House of Representatives can be distinguished as having a public gallery, whereas the Senate has no gallery. In the House of Representatives, the Government is on the left of the picture and the Opposition on the right. His Excellency, the Prime Minister Ismail El Ashari (thick set with glasses), can be seen in the front row (middle) wearing a white double-breasted suit.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister handed to the Speaker, the letters of recognition, received from Great Britain and Egypt, which letters were read to the members.

The Prime Minister then read a short statement: saying "that he had received additional letters from Britain and Egypt asking that all existing contractual agreements entered into with foreign nations should be honoured. He said that, as the Sudanese had not been responsible for foreign affairs up till now, he would have first to examine any agreements which had been made and then he would notify the powers concerned".

The procession seen in the picture led from the Sudan Parliament via Gordon Avenue and the Central Square (where you see crowds watching from the balconies of Government Buildings) to the Palace.

The ceremony of the flying of the Sudan National Flag took place in the grounds of the Palace, Khartoum, where simultaneously the Sudan flag was raised and the British and Egyptian flags lowered.

In the picture of the Flag Ceremony, you see His Excellency, the Prime Minister with Sayed Mohammad Ahmed Mahgoub, the leader of the Opposition. The Military represented at the Ceremony, is the Sudan Defence Force.

The Sudan National Flag is Blue (symbol for the Nile), Yellow (symbol for the desert), Green (symbol for Agriculture).

Later in the picture you see a Sudanese woman draped in the Sudan flag.

The film then returns to Sudan Parliament where you see the members of the Supreme Commission. Actually, this picture of the Commission could be brought in with the early picture of Parliament, and was only delayed due to the late arrival of one member, Sayed Siricid Ire. The members were sworn in at the early session. I am sending a photograph, giving the names of the members of the Commission.

In the final scene you see the handing over to the British Representative, Mr. Dodds-Parker, Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.