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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Khartoum #50, October 5, 1954

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	RECD <i>12-20</i>	OTHER <i>0 CIA-7 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-3</i>	NOV 21 1954

SUBJECT: Mirghani Hamza Advocates Independent Sudan

1954-11-30, Arzhan, Hamza, Independent

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Mirghani Hamza, Minister of Education, Agriculture and Irrigation, who has recently returned from an extended visit in Egypt, believes that the present sympathy of the Sudanese people is overwhelmingly in favor of independence. He claims the Khatmia, of which he is the acknowledge political leader under Sayed Ali El Mirghani (SAM), will come out in favor of independence. It can not do so publicly at the moment because it must bring the Ashigga leaders along with this point of view in order to avoid a split in the National Unionist Party. At the same time, the Khatmia will advocate a close association with Egypt. This association or union will be between two independent states. Recent events in Egypt have illustrated how unsatisfactory one head of the two states might turn out. This decision in favor of independence reflects SAM's thinking. However, Mirghani Hamza candidly admitted that although SAM has not specifically said he favored independence he knew him well enough to know that this was his true feeling. During SAM's stay in Egypt he had made no political arrangement or commitment with the Egyptians and Mirghani Hamza emphasized that he could be categoric about this. (This is the direct opposite of what Major Salah Salem claimed in the above referenced despatch.)

After probing about the relationship between SAM and Major Salem, I was given to understand that while SAM wanted the friendliest of relations with Salem and Egypt, he felt under no obligation to adhere to any specific Egyptian point of view or the counsel of any Egyptian. Mirghani Hamza illustrated SAM's aloofness by the following incident which he witnessed. Major Salem complained that when he was in Khartoum on his last visit Dardiri Mohammed Osman (SAM's advisor and the NUP member of the Governor General's Commission) had been unkind and uncooperative to him personally. SAM immediately summoned Dardiri from Khartoum and arranged for the two men to meet in front of him to settle their personal differences. Major Salem opened the discussion by saying that the root of his difference with Dardiri was that they disagreed politically. SAM at once interrupted and said, "If it is a political difference between you then you must go from my presence to settle it, as I have nothing to do with politics, but if it is a personal difference I will listen and try to help." The discussion went on for over an hour without completely resolving the differences between Salem and Dardiri.

J'Sweeney:am

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Comment: If Mirghani Hamza is telling the truth and acts in the way that he says, then his statement is of major importance in the Sudan. At the same time it is difficult to accept this myth that SAM does not take political decisions but manages to control political development. SAM is quite capable of saying one thing to Major Salem and another to Mirghani Hamza. However, traditionally, SAM studies what the majority wants and if he cannot influence it in another direction, he goes along with it. The political future of the Sudan depends on his decision and he will make it in terms of the best interest of the Mirghani family and the Khatmia. Mirghani Hamza has become politically more important as a leader and many pro-independence members of Parliament would be prepared to enter a coalition government if he agreed to lead it to independence.

Joseph R. Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney
United States Liaison Officer

cc: Cairo, London

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