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KHARTUM, Sudan, Nov. 21—A Sudanese political leader reported today a strong trend in the Sudan for independence rather than union with Egypt.

Mirghani Hamza, leader of an important segment of the Sudanese political coalition identified with a policy of some form of union with Egypt, acknowledged the situation in an interview. He heads the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Irrigation in the Cabinet of the generally pro-Egyptian National Unionist party. He is also the political spokesman in the coalition for the Khatmia, the most important Moslem sect here, whose spiritual leader is Ali al-Mirghani.

"I have no doubt that it is the keen desire of the overwhelming majority of the people that the Sudan and Egypt each preserve full international identity while coordinating policies in economics, foreign affairs and defense to the extent that this is mutually advantageous," the Minister said.

He said the arrest of General Naguib probably had intensified the desire here for independence by raising doubts of the political stability of Cairo.

It was clear, however, that a struggle was developing between the factions forming the National Unionist party over two questions: When it would be expedient for the party to define sharply its policy on links with Egypt and the nature of those links, if any.

Mirghani Hamza said today there was a "great demand throughout the Sudan that we reach a decision on these questions." His own view was that the work of reconciling the conflicting views inside the party should begin speedily.

A similar view was expressed by Premier Ismail el Azhari in London during his recent visit there.

A few days before Mr. el Azhari's statement, however, Mohammed Nur ed-Din, Minister of Works, expressed the opposite view.

Most neutral observers here are convinced that a free vote on the issue would produce an overwhelming majority for independence as advocated by the Opposition Umma party.

Qualified observers here foresaw the likelihood that Egypt would achieve a substantial degree of dominance in the Sudan, even under such a mild formula for "coordination" of the two countries' policies in certain spheres as advocated by Mirghani Hamza.

The only currently functioning joint Sudanese-Egyptian body, the Nile Waters Commission, is considering proposals by the Sudan to build a storage dam at Roseires on the Blue Nile and by Egypt to construct a high dam at Aswan for power and irrigation.

The possibility that a bargain was in prospect was suggested by the recent Egyptian action approving the Sudan's right to raise the water level behind the Jebel Aulia Dam on the White Nile to withdraw an additional 200,000,000 cubic meters of water shared by the two countries.

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