

A MESSAGE DESPATCHED

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

to Africa

(March 21, 1976)

Gentlemen;

The peoples of the world are called upon for a pause of contemplation and a pause of hope while we celebrated the International Day for Combating Racial Discrimination. Racial discrimination, in this our age, is a phenomenon against nature, opposed to the logic of development and to the facts of science, it is disapproved by the conscience of the world, yet it is present, and is being practised in some of the southern regions of Africa. It is also being practised in the cherished Arab land, in Palestine. Those who kept shooting at the innocents in Sharpeville, on March 21, 1960, are still doing so in both South of Africa and Palestine.

Violating the rights of man by imposing legislations set up by the white man in Southern Africa, the policy of robbing the people of their wealth and resources, controlling by arms the destiny of peoples oppressed and deprived of justice, these are all examples of tyranny and exploitation which are no less dangerous than the bullets which hit the people who have the right to claim justice and hail freedom.

Colonial oppression in Palestine was not confined to such inhuman and barbaric forms, it is coupled with cultural oppression apparent in the judaization of Jerusalem.

Thus the settler colonialism's attempts were not satisfied with imposing a new invading ethnic group on a land which is not theirs, they went as far as to tamper with the sacred historic sites and values of the country, by imposing a foreign and alien character on an ancient Arab country highly esteemed by millions of people from the Islamic and Christian world.

Gentlemen;

Humanity has and is still putting up with various allegations of racial supremacy based on colour or religion. Past attempts of racial discrimination have led to many wars and catastrophes. They cost humanity a lot in wealth and lives. We can still find violation of man's right to justice, freedom and equality, despite the condemnation of such violations by the conscience of the world.

Some countries where scientific development and production of arms has reached its peak, and where they have a somewhat balanced economy tend to impose their will and cause oppressive discrimination. Some ideologies, despite their claims of respect for equality and freedom, have helped impose racial discrimination in various forms, trying to rob the peoples of the world of their sovereign rights and of the freedom to select the suitable manner by which they wish to run their country.

The policy of survival of the fittest is still prevalent on an international scale. It is clearly evident that some countries work for the purpose of extending their influence along the vastest areas possible, and to exploit as many peoples as possible. These are all masked forms of racial discrimination which deepen the differences between the various races, peoples and nations.

If the United Nations Organisation is making efforts to fight racial discrimination, it had better direct all its interest towards a thorough study of discrimination in both its traditional and new aspects, so that the world conscience would be well informed of those various forms. This will enable the world community to eliminate these forms, and to establish the right to self-determination and the right to select the suitable manner of government and development of each country.

Gentlemen;

We all recall the day of the battle, of Sharpeville which was a frightful and criminal massacre in the true sense of the word. The sad memory of that day shakes the conscience of man, but it does not prevent us from convening every year for the sake of condemning all the forms and aspects of racial discrimination and resolve to combat oppression and tyranny.

Through our persisting efforts, equality, justice and freedom will undoubtedly be achieved, and we shall witness the downfall of colonialism and racial discrimination. Only then, can one say that humanity has accomplished its salvation and is consequently capable of reaching progress.

God peace be upon you.