

I N T E R V I E W

granted

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

to the Italian Radio

April 8, 1976

Question : Mr. President, what is Egypt's attitude concerning the Geneva conference ?

President : We consider the Geneva conference, the best place wherein to discuss peace in this part of the world, because all the concerned parties, including the Palestinians, will take part in it.

Question : Should Syria and Jordan change their attitude, what will Egypt do then ?

President : There is an English proverb which says : « Do not cross your bridges before you reach them ». We are waiting; should they change their attitude, Egypt will then follow a new political line.

Question : Is the abrogation of the friendship treaty between Egypt and the Soviet Union an emotional act or is it a decisive decision taken as a reaction to all the pressures imposed by Russia ?

President : No, it is not an emotional reaction. When I noticed that the Soviet Union is imposing heavy military and economic

pressures on me, and when India, a non-aligned country, informed me that the Soviet Union would not allow it to help us with military equipment, then, I felt that it was high time to tell my people and the whole world everything.

Question : Is your telegramme to President Mao Tse Tung to be considered a beginning of a new era in Egypt's foreign policy ?

President : It was a message, not a telegramme. I sent it this morning to President Mao in answer to the help he gave us and his refusal to take anything in return for his noble action. The Chinese said : « We are not arms dealers » and as you said, yes, it is a beginning of a new era.

Question : Do you expect a visit from President Ford in April ?

President : Yes, I expect a visit, but the date is not yet fixed.

Question : What will be the topic of your conversation with Pope Paul the sixth ?

President : It is an opportunity for me to meet him and inform him of all that occurs concerning Middle East problems, we shall particularly talk of Jerusalem and the sacred places.

Question : Mr. President, what sort of economic agreements did you come to ask for or to offer in Italy ?

President : I shall ask for long-term loans and for joint commercial initiatives. I know that Italy is now going through hard economic conditions, accordingly I shall not ask for things which may overburden it. I shall consider the initiatives I mentioned as an actual help from the Italian people who on many occasions showed their friendship to my people.

Question : Thank you, Mr. President.

President : You are welcome dear friend.

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