ADDRESS
by
PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT
AT THE POPULAR RALLY HELD
IN ASSIUT
January 11, 1971

Before I start my speech to you as we meet for the first time on the land that begot Gamal, let us observe a minute’s silence in tribute to Gamal’s memory.

Today, people of Upper Egypt, kinsfolk of Gamal, we meet for the third time, rallied around the mission entrusted to us by God Almighty, and bound by loyalty to the memory of our leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The last time we met here was before the beginning of 1970 when I told you about our plan in 1970, and the enemy’s plan in that year. You may recall with me that at that time you had overcome the deep raids perpetrated by the enemy which he stopped
after two raids on Suhag, in particular, since he could not achieve any of his goals.

The President charged me, at that time, to tell you that you had overcome the deep raids against your part of the country; yet the battle is still a long one. We have reached the stage in which the future of this battle must be decided after three and a half years of steadfastness during which Gamal devoted his life and strained his nerves in order to rebuild the military and political structures. Gamal did not leave us, God be praised, until we had reached the time when we can say both to our enemies and friends that we are the masters of our own destiny; no one can decide it for us, we alone decide it for ourselves.

Gamal did not leave us until the rebuilding of the military structure had already achieved considerable progress, and so did the political structure which you represent. All our political organs, after the loss of Gamal, have moved together with the whole people in order to fill the vacuum left after Gamal.

America exerted pressure thinking that we would collapse. But our people proved to
be genuine and solid, and so we were able to surmount the crisis, build the State structure and return to the battle stronger than we were.

In the second meeting with you, I conveyed to you Gamal's greetings. You knew already that in the first six months of 1970, with the weapons we received from the Soviet Union, we were able to repel the Israeli air raids. By the beginning of March 1970, the enemy stopped the deep raids and concentrated on the Canal line manned by our Armed Forces and extending from Port Said to Suez with the object of destroying the morale of our soldiers and impressing upon us that we had no hope in the battle.

Then the United States came forward with the American initiative which comprised two points: accepting the implementation of the Security Council Resolution and contacting Jarring with a view to its implementation, and observing a temporary ceasefire for 90 days to enable Jarring to make his contacts.

Before that we had accepted the Security Council Resolution. So we agreed to contact Jarring and to a temporary ceasefire as of
August 8, 1970. Gamal accepted the American initiative and thus confused the American plans. Then they started their machinations because the President had put them in a corner. America, the originator of the initiative, together with Israel, had to find a way out of this impasse; all this started the story of Egypt's violation of the ceasefire by moving its missiles, and that it did not keep its word. They made propaganda all over the world with the object of evading their obligations as presented in their plan which we accepted, namely the Rogers' initiative.

During those days the regrettable events of Jordan took place in September 1970; and President Gamal Abdel Nasser was pre-occupied with the Conference of the Arab Kings and Heads of State held in Cairo. America and Israel used all their power in propagating that Egypt violated the ceasefire and that it did not keep its word.

America started supplying Israel with all kinds of arms after it had pledged to stop the arms supply during the ceasefire period. America supplied Israel with Phantom planes and with all kinds of weapons.

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Following the Conference of the Arab Kings and Heads of State, it was obvious that the American people were not consulted on the issue. The American government was exerting pressure, knowing that we would have to comply with them. America was in trouble because the American people had not been consulted on the issue.
American machinations put them in a state of the initiation to find a way to get the story of the initial refire by mov- not keep its over the world r accepte over the world obligations. we accepted, inevitable events of September 28, Gamal Nasser died and left us. At that time America was exercising pressure upon us, usurer style, thinking that we were finished.

Gamal Abdel Nasser was truly a giant; and our loss of him in these circumstances would have caused the collapse of any people; but our people are genuine, they grieved as no people had ever grieved in the world, but they were careful to let their grief go by and continue the march which Gamal Abdel Nasser began and which we also began with him.

America imagined that we were finished. So, it increased its pressures on us hoping that the home-front would collapse and Israel would be able to realise in 1970 what it failed to achieve in 1967.

Following the referendum and the building of the State structure we all began to continue the march to the end. We raised the problem in the U.N. and world public opinion stood against them. The world community reminded America and Israel of the cause, thanks to the political campaign which Mahmud Riad waged in the U.N. Accordingly, we obtained a resolution condemning Israel and unveiling America's attitude.
What is the situation today? The situation is exactly as we expected it to be. We said a month ago that Israel would make contacts with Jarring before January 5, the date fixed for Jarring to submit his report. It was said that America exercised pressure on Israel in order to resume its contacts with Jarring.

We are interested in a peaceful solution, if possible, but at the same time we are determined not to surrender, yield or bargain with any of our rights.

Nowadays America says that Egypt should be prepared to make some concessions because Israel has made concessions by accepting to resume its contacts with Jarring and abandoning the idea of direct negotiations. These, from America's point of view, are considered as concessions made by Israel. This is very odd; it is the perverse logic of blackmailing. The Americans forgot that Israel usurped and occupied our land, attacked and shelled our cities — Suez and Ismailia. They forgot all this and endeavoured to impose this logic of blackmail on us, but we declare that we do not accept this logic. We reject it with all our strength; so let America hear us.

I wish to place before you and the whole
Abu Zaabal or the school of Bahr El Bakar; and Israel will never escape punishment, no matter how long it takes.

America should know full well that we will never forget its communication with us in May 1967, before the aggression, to the effect that they guaranteed peace and the safety of the frontiers of the states of this area; and thus they would be opposed to the country which began the aggression.

When Israel launched its aggression America denied and forgot its official communication; but we did not forget it, and the day
will come when it will be asked to account for everything it did. We will not accept Israel's arrogance and conceit. It is very obvious that America supplies Israel with weapons, American aircraft, equipment and all kinds of aid. America should know full well that we will never forget the fact that it was U.S. President Johnson who gave the green light to Israel to start the war. Yet, today America talks about concessions. It would be more honourable for America to keep its word as a big power in the world community, or at least not to turn its back on the values of honour in the way it does today. We shall not make concessions, and no power on earth can force us to make concessions. We refuse the cheap logic of blackmail. We have trodden upon the logic of arrogance and conceit a long time ago; since the inception of the July 23, 1952 Revolution. We shall not accept the American attitude of conceited power, by which it asks us for concessions while our lands are occupied. Well, why didn't America make concessions when the Japanese fleet struck America in one day? Yet they come today and ask us to make concessions to Israel!

I wish to remind the United States of the simple Vietnamese peasant whom all the
Brothers, I want the United States, the Arabs, and the whole world to hear that an American responsible official told Mahmut Rid that our people did not want to fight; they wanted the ceasefire to continue instead.

Because I say that I have the right to liberate my land according to international law and divine canons, the United States is today propagating throughout the world that we are declaring a war, the United States and Israel is one of conciliatory and arrogate, rejected in form and context throughout the ages and throughout history. The position of our country has caused it to be the goal of all invaders. They came and went, but the Egyptian people remained and they shall, by God's help, remain forever. The last invasion was that of 1967. By God's help, we shall continue to be masters of our destiny on this land until the end of time.
(An outburst of shouting: «We shall fight, We shall fight.)

I want the United States, our Arab brothers and the whole world to know of our attitude. We reject the logic of highwaymen. We are fully prepared to come to terms with anyone on the basis of justice, for a peace based on justice. No matter how powerful it is, the logic of highwaymen is the logic of blackmail; therefore, we shall fight it and through God's help and the faith of our people we shall achieve victory.

On February 5, 1971, and even before then, we have to be ready; each one of us must be ready at his post. If a war breaks out today it will be an all-out battle. It will not be limited to the frontline, but will extend to every part of our country, in the houses, the factories, the villages and the streets. We have to organise ourselves on the home-front just as the army has organised itself on the frontline. The enemy's aim is to destroy our morale and make us surrender. I want every person to take his position on the home-front and in work, for every one of us must be a soldier ready to face the enemy.

There is one basic thing that you have
We shall
direct our Arab
forces to the rear of our
people and our army personnel.

To continue my remarks with
a new subject, I would like to talk
about a peace settlement. It is very
powerful in the logic of our
people and our people's
thoughts, and it is one of the keys
to our people's freedom.

I believe that before
one of us breaks
even one of us,
it will extend
every street,
our people's
homeland,
our people,
on the
same
place.

We have to be prepared
to confront the
enemy in every part of our
country. Our sons
on the frontline are
prepared and will
fight
the
next battle, if God
wills, and you have
to stand
behind them. You have
to take a firm
stand on the
homefront and on the second
line.

I cannot
withhold
from
you
that if a new
war breaks out it will be an extremely
violent one.

We have to be fully
conscious and frank
with ourselves. The United States
provides
Israel with weapons and wishes to
humiliate
us. However, we will not be
humiliated. We
shall resist, pay the price
and enter into this
costly battle, for our honour is priceless.

If by February 5, the contacts
with Jarring would not have
taken a serious turn, that
is if the Big Four or the Security Council
together with Jarring would not, by that
time,
have worked out a time-table for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution, we will never accept to extend the ceasefire.

They say we are declaring war; however, they can say what they please. We are in the right, our territories were usurped and are now occupied and we shall never allow a repetition of the Palestinian tragedy which remained unsolved for 20 years just because the international community neglected it. They want us to extend the ceasefire in order that the international community may forget us too. We will liberate our territories, at whatever cost. We want the United States and Israel to come to their senses before resuming their contacts with Jarring. Jarring has already spent one and a half years in fruitless effort, and he will be driven to exasperation again this time before they come to their senses, for we shall never accept the policy of force and blackmail which the U.S.A. wants to impose upon us.

I must repeat before you that the Soviet Union is taking an honourable friend's stand towards us. The Soviet Union has two designations; that of a super-power and of a friend.

...
Thanks to the Soviet Union's friendship we were able to build not only the High Dam but over 1,000 factories besides reclaiming vast areas of land. Today we are engaged in the building of the "second high dam", the L.E. 400 million Iron and Steel Complex which is being done with the Soviet Union's help. More important is the Soviet Union's stand by our side against American attempts to give Israel superiority over us.

I recall having once told an American correspondent that even if each of the two and a half million Israelis was given one tank and one gun, Israel will not gain superiority over the Arabs. Israel is being given weapons of modern warfare by America, but we also received from the Soviet Union electronic equipment and modern weapons with which to defend ourselves if the peace efforts prove unsuccessful. The Soviet Union gave us all these weapons unconditionally. I say this in answer to the campaign launched these days by America, aiming at sowing dissension between us and the Soviet Union. We are a people who can differentiate between the friend and the enemy in time of distress. In the critical days of June 9, 10 while the U.S. was hailing Israel's victory, the Soviet Union established an
air bridge between Cairo and Moscow to transport Soviet aid to us. Also, at the time of Gamal's death, with the Eastern front falling to pieces and America exerting full pressure on us, the Soviet Union sent us urgent reinforcements and aid although these things were supposed to be supplied during the following year. On the other hand, the U.S. stood and declared to the whole world that Egypt had collapsed, and its people were finished and urged all countries to cut off all relations with Egypt as Nasser's revolutionary regime was falling to pieces.

I repeat that in the time of distress we must be on the alert in order to recognise the friend and the enemy. Our people must be warned against the deliberate plan aiming at sowing dissension between us and the Soviet Union. Our enemies claim that the Soviet Union has occupied Egypt. To them I reply that our land and our sky are our own, and we will not allow any one to interfere in our affairs. We will treat our friends as friends and our enemies as enemies.

We provide the Soviet Union with all facilities. We supply the Soviet fleet with water and comfort because it stood with us
in the dark hours. The Soviet Union should be made to feel our gratitude, that we are a grateful people.

I ask you to warn our masses against the intrigues plotted by the U.S.A. and other Western countries against the Soviet Union; otherwise we shall find ourselves without friends to stand on our side.

Brethren,

I began my speech by speaking about the trust which we all bear towards our Creator; so I ask you not to be prodigal with the land which begot us; we must protect it and safeguard our dignity against any attempt to flaunt it at the hands of any invader. We must protect the edifice built by Gamal Abdel Nasser who began with us the march of liberation, and of dignity; the march to assert our control over our own destiny as masters of our country. It is our charge to be faithful to the future generations — our sons who come after us — so as to leave them the country cleansed and purged from any invader; to be exclusively possessed by them, its wealth exclusively exploited for their benefit alone, and its destiny exclusively decided by
them. I charge you with one thing which the Almighty God has charged us with, in all divine religions, that is to have faith. I ask you to have faith; for at this time, more than ever before, we need to fill our souls with faith in addition to the arms which we bear in order to launch the battle. By faith we shall be able to face the mighty forces, whoever they may be. With faith, in the darkest hours of June 9 and 10, our people, though defeated, went out to reject defeat. We had nothing but 5,000 rifles, yet the whole people went out to reject defeat depending on faith alone. We are preparing ourselves in every way. Every minute; indeed, every second, we must spend in preparing ourselves on the internal front. Behind us stands a cohesive army, armed with a formidable weapon — namely, faith in our goal and land, as well as in the inevitability of victory. We shall certainly be victorious, with God's help.

We shall be victorious after having paid the cost.

Brethren,

I wish to conclude my address by adding one more thing. We must rise to the responsi-
which the heavens, the earth and mountains have shirked, but which we have to bear.

God bless you.