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ADDRESS

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

at the closing session of the A.S.U.

General National Congress

November 13, 1970

Brethren, Members of the National Congress,

Your Congress which concluded its works was an outstanding landmark because it was the second step in the transitional process from a stage during which we were with Gamal Abdel Nasser to a stage in which we are living without his being present among us with his mind, management and leadership, even though his thoughts, principles and stance will continue to be a legacy on which we will rely forever.

Your Congress was the final step in the preparations for the process of transition and crossing the bridge from one stage to another.

Our people have proved their mettle in the

period of great grief and confirmed, in an ordeal of great danger, that they were taking deep roots on the land, in life, civilisation and history amidst griefs. In confrontation of danger, they bore one of the most difficult responsibilities they have ever faced in their long experience. They marched along firmly while their Arab nation looked up to them with love and admiration and the entire world was watching them with appreciation and respect.

It was one of the most difficult stages in our struggle, and history will record that it was one of the noblest stages of our struggle.

The masses of our people turned grief into a glorious experience in the capability of endurance. The masses of our people turned the shock into a march which will never stop before anything. The masses of our people turned the shock into a will for victory. A nation rises with faith and falls without it. Our nation was at the height of faith and consequently is rising to the peak of its destiny. It is God's will to test the determination of these masses who showed no weakness or hesitation.

We have proceeded one step on the bridge

of transition. Your Congress then came to complete the crossing process which I do not think any other nation has faced under similar circumstances. I do not think that any other nation would have acted better in confronting these conditions.

I testify that I have come to understand now more than any time before what the leader and mentor used to say when he repeated on every occasion that the people are the greater teacher and it is the people that will remain forever. In all what we faced, the people were a teacher for all of us and were always our forerunner towards the correct path. Thanks be to God, brothers, that He helped us and led us to this right path.

But I find it incumbent upon me to make it clear before you, while the Congress is about to end that crossing the bridge is the beginning of a long way where we all carry a responsibility bigger than we have ever shouldered before.

We all have to carry what we were carrying, added to it what Gamal Abdel Nasser was carrying. Added to it further the designs of the enemy to exploit the absence of Abdel

Nasser. We must not think that our crossing the bridge has relieved us of the evils of these designs.

On the contrary, I would say that our safe crossing of the bridge will make hatred towards us more ferocious and more bitter. This is because our enemies have realised the deep roots that keep our people tied to the land and life, to culture and history.

We did in fact shoulder a heavy burden in a battle, simply described as a battle of destiny.

What Gamal Abdel Nasser shouldered was beyond human endurance, but he was a man whose fortitude was enough to bear the hopes of his nation and whose concern to realise them was more than his concern to live.

What should be imposed upon us as a result of the steadfastness, conviction and faith we have displayed would be parallel to what we have shown, like action and reaction.

From here, brothers, you will leave this hall after the end of your Congress with your burden becoming heavier.

You came into this hall carrying a big

trust, and you will leave it carrying a bigger responsibility. Anyhow, that is the sacred relationship between trust and responsibility.

You are, or in other words, we all are heading towards one of the most important stages in the history of Egypt and the Arab nation.

We are all heading towards a test whereby God wishes to examine our courage and steadfastness.

We are all heading towards a struggle of wills in which the face of truth will shine.

Brethren,

We will be sincere and honest. We will have the courage; we will achieve victory and we will keep Gamal Abdel Nasser as our good example. The light of Almighty God will be around us to lead us to the right path and give us victory.

May God's peace and mercy be upon you.