

It gives me pleasure, brothers and sons, the valiant men of the naval forces, to meet you here, to meet with heroism and manhood, with the cream of the men who started the battle of depth for depth at a time when the world thought that we, as military men, were defeated, that the defeat of 1967 was conclusive and that we would not stand on our feet again.

It is a good opportunity for me to be in Alexandria having cordial talks with King Feisal, and to meet you as I have already met with your brothers on the front-line during the past two weeks. I am as keen to meet you as I was to meet your brothers in all the army corps, and to talk to you.

Before anything else, I would like to convey to you my thanks and gratitude, on behalf of our noble people and in my own name, for the heroism you showed when you carried out miraculous operations in the depth, foremost among which was the Eilath Port operation. The enemy used to boast in arrogance that his depth is unattainable and inaccessible.

The three operations you carried out in Eilath are gloriously significant, not in the way they were performed, nor in the military tactics or the manner of execution, but in their great meaning. As military men, we were seriously wounded in 1967. Before us many countries were wounded.

Major powers, too, were wounded, more than we were. The United States itself was defeated in Pearl Harbour. It had no excuse for this defeat ; for it owned aircraft carriers, submarines, modern radar equipment and all the potentialities of victory. Nevertheless, it suffered a crushing defeat. But when we were wounded in 1967 they launched wide propaganda campaigns to cast doubt on our capability. They said that we are not men of war or of fighting.

They, thus, tried to sow the seeds of despair and of doubt in the hearts of our forces and our people. By your heroic acts, before the whole world and before your own people, you restored confidence, in our Armed Forces, our military honour and our capability as fighters, and confirmed the confidence of the millions of sons of Egypt and the Arab world, in you and their solicitude for your safety.

I would like, on this occasion, to state frankly that the coming battles will be more violent and fiercer by several times more than the previous ones.

The Egyptian Navy has always shown its strength, its fierceness with the enemy, its competence and its capability.

Our Armed Forces will prove that the people of Egypt are worthy of leading this area — the people who do not accept defeat. We lost a battle, but we do not accept defeat or surrender whatever the circumstances and the sacrifices may be.

I shall deal, briefly, with the minor events which a few conspirators attempted to use to cause a crack and a

rift in the home front. The Socialist Public Prosecutor has almost finished investigating them.

From the first moment, our people rejected those conspirators when millions went out, after my speech to the people and unveiled their conspiracy.

Their confessions are conclusive and do not need any further proof. Unfortunately for them and fortunately for our people and our country, they used to make recordings against each other like a gang of thieves. Each distrusts the other; each records things against the other.

The new Chief of Intelligence, whom I have appointed, went to the General Intelligence Department, at once, and found that the former Chief of Intelligence had recorded things on each one, on an order from Samy Sharaf, and even on Samy Sharaf himself.

Samy Sharaf would take the recordings and keep what concerned him and reveal only that which he wanted at the appropriate time for his own purposes.

Two days ago, when Ali Sabry was made to hear his talk in his own voice, he collapsed.

The former Chief of Intelligence, Ahmed Kamel, made a conclusive confession. He said : «These are all the recordings in the voices of the conspirators themselves and they are transcribed in files.»

They thought that they would not be exposed and that there was no evidence against them. Two days ago, when Ali Sabry heard his own voice saying "get ready" and boasting of the nonsense he had said at the Central Committee meeting he burst into bitter tears.

The Socialist Public Prosecutor will announce in the People's Assembly and the Broadcasting Service all about the confessions they made. He will explain and describe the kind of political corruption this group of persons undertook against the interests of the country and against their own interests.

Please, my sons, consider this issue as a secondary one. Thanks to God Almighty it did not last for more than twenty-four hours. The home front is strong and solid. Our Armed Forces on the front, in their posts, are devoted to their sacred task of confronting the enemy. Under no circumstances, will we allow any individual or any group of our sons on the military front to be preoccupied with anything other than this sacred task.

I want to say to you that what happened might be to our own good because it has increased the solidity of the home front.

The second aspect about which I want to speak to you, which is the basic and most important aspect, is the battle. I hereby say that it is, perhaps, good to enter the battle while the home front is solid. I will never allow any single crack in our national unity and our home front. I fully understand my duty towards my nation, the cause of my nation and our heroic Armed Forces. Be confident that the thirty-four million constitute a sound and solid power.

As for those persons, they are but some mercenary elements living on particular privileges at the expense of the masses. They used to obtain money, remunerations and salaries with no limit whatsoever.

You have to be sure, that the 34 million, before and after the acts committed by these elements, are one people and one front, seeking to achieve one aim. They are holding out firmly and pin all their hopes on you. I have only one per cent hope in a peaceful solution. It seems that the Israelis and their military commanders will not come to their senses except through a battle. This is due to their arrogance and stubbornness. This is an axiom and a definite fact.

I tell you and our people very sincerely and clearly that 1971 is a decisive year. We cannot wait for ever, but we have always to be ready. I would like to state before you, my sons and men of the Navy, that the Minister of War Mohamed Sadek managed, with honesty, sincerity, patriotism and with proper military traditions, to spare the Armed Forces the battle of trifles which took place in the past few weeks at the hands of the conspiring clique.

I tell you, for the first time, that it was General Mohamed Sadek who personally did this on his own. No one must imagine that it was I who asked him to do this. But he undertook this noble act motivated by his patriotism. It was he who took the initiative when he got in touch with me on May 13 and reported to me that the Armed Forces were all right and away from all these trifles.

History will record this stand of the Armed Forces because your people who rose on May 15 were motivated by noble feelings, that no one can accept trifles at this stage of our struggle and history. None of our people

can accept for our sons to be on the front, in their posts on land or in sea and we distract their attention from the battle which is the hope of the millions who rose for your sake, to safeguard our military front. The battle is inevitable as long as the enemy persists in his stubbornness and arrogance.

I wish to tell you that during the battle, and in confronting raids in depth for raids in depth, we will sustain casualties. We are ready to meet all that the battle requires of potentialities and sacrifices.

Someone, meanwhile, might ask why did we contact America? I wish to tell you that whoever refrains from considering America as a basic factor in the battle would be like the ostrich which buries its head in sand in order not to see anything. We have the practical example in front of us. How can Israel, with its two and a half million persons and limited potentialities, launch air raids for seventeen hours a day, dropping hundreds of tons of bombs and spending one million pounds daily, unless America had been giving it such possibilities?

I said to Rogers that America was supplying Israel with everything, from the loaf of bread to the rockets and Phantoms. As for us, we cultivate wheat and thanks to God Almighty our crops are abundant and increasing. If we need any extra wheat we buy it and nobody gives us cheques each year. We do not, every now and then, get cheques for \$500 million or \$1,000 million, the way the U.S. grants Israel.

The former Minister of War once requested a credit of L.E. 100 million which he obtained in a quarter of

an hour, the National Assembly having approved it immediately. We used to spend about one million pounds daily to build the missile bases which downed the Phantoms.

We give priority to the requirements of the battle. Today, we possess a firm and productive industrial base which has proved to be a fundamental element in our steadfastness and struggle. In other words, we do not receive grants, donations or cheques in millions of dollars, neither from America nor from anyone else.

When America said it was ready to interfere, we agreed, I even said that I am ready to reopen the Suez Canal on the basis of the following three conditions which are not subject to controversy or discussion: that the whole Egyptian Armed Forces cross to the east of the straits, as a first stage, that we observe the ceasefire for a period of six months only, during which Dr. Gunnar Jarring is to arrange for a complete withdrawal, and that in the event of Israel's refusal to withdraw, I would then be free to have my forces liberate the occupied territory.

This initiative greatly affected world public opinion and particularly Western Europe.

We do not accept to open the Canal just to obtain its revenues. The Arab support we receive at present from the sister Arab states runs into L.E. 109 million annually; a sum which makes up for what we have lost of the Suez Canal income. Furthermore, the implementation of the first stage is to pave the way for the last stage, namely, full withdrawal to our international borders.

Our basic strategy is that we shall not give up a single inch of Arab land, neither shall we bargain over the rights of the Palestine people. There is absolutely no question of this.

The other subject I would like to talk to you about is the conclusion of a treaty with the Soviet Union.

Modern warfare is no longer the mere provision of planes or tanks. It has become a science which is daily developing and progressing. The United States is giving Israel all the modern and new weapons, including air-to-land missiles and other weapons.

Are we to assume a spectators' role in the face of all this? We must have the latest weapons of electronic warfare which modern science has achieved. We are living in the Twentieth Century and as I said in my Labour Day speech, I cannot accept to ask my sons to go to fight with cudgels, while the Israelis have the arms of the Twentieth Century.

The Egyptian-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation provides the means whereby we can obtain all the up-to-date achievements of the age for the Armed Forces, the industrial base and the development we aspire to.

We must all realise that any country without an advanced and developed industrial base is in no position to fight. Nor can it hold out, grow or develop.

If Israel, after the present battle, returns to the June 4 borders, I cannot rest on my laurels, rejoice and celebrate. We must proceed with the building of the mo-

modern state and its development in the spheres of military, industrial and civil construction.

A country without a solid and developed industrial base cannot fight or hold out nor can it achieve victory or progress and development. If a country depends on others and on donations and grants, it will lose all elements of independence. We meet all the requirements of the military front as well as those of civil production, for the growth and development of home reconstruction.

We must continue the struggle for building the modern state. We must also continue building our military power and provide it with the most up-to-date military techniques of this age. We have to continue our industrial build-up and provide it with modern technology. We are proceeding with the consolidation of our military build-up and, at the same time, we continue our active political action. We must also proceed with the third parallel line; namely, that of building the modern state.

What we are working and hoping for is to achieve the development of the Government bodies and the various organisations so that they may catch up with this age and its achievements and correspond to our traditions and aspirations for progress and development. However, priority is given to you, to the battle and to victory.

Heroes, men of the Armed Forces, you may rest assured that your people stand behind you with all their potentialities and that the safeguarding of their honour is your responsibility.

I hope that each one of us, in any post, shall fulfil his duty and shoulder his responsibilities to the best of

his ability, either on the battle front or on the home front. The outcome of the battle depends, first and foremost, on the amount of sacrifices which we shall make and on the extent of our efforts, on our sweat and our loyalty.

When we enter the battle we want to be fully prepared to fight and to make sacrifices. This is the basis and there is no other basis. I pray to God to help our country attain its aspirations, and to help our Arab people realise all their aspirations. May God guide you to achieve these cherished aspirations. Peace be upon you.