

Recent events have undoubtedly proved that our commitment to establish peace in the area is the decisive element which guide our policy. I took my decision for reopening the Suez Canal as a unilateral participation on the part of Egypt towards achieving peace and prosperity to all friendly countries. You are all acquainted with the agreements we concluded to defuse the explosive situation and promote the chances for peace.

However, we must not overlook the fact that there are still outstanding efforts which must be exerted to make of peace a living reality. The motive for peace should not be squandered or misused; I have asserted on more than one occasion that we welcome any active and positive role for Europe in the cause of peace, and I expressed my hope in particular that the United Kingdom would play an active role in this respect.

In this context, I believe that the Palestine people's issue requires your special attention. By forfeiting justice, the Palestinians will remain not only deprived of their natural right to self-determination but also of the mere fact of being heard or sharing in the peace settlement. Once they are allowed to play their part, despair and negativism will disappear.

With this understanding I submitted my initiative a few days ago in my speech before the U.N. General Assembly and I am sure we can rely upon your understanding and cooperation.

**(From a speech at the dinner banquet given in his honour by
the Mayor of London, November 7, 1975)**