

In the name of God.

Brothers and sisters,

I should have liked to come to you before now to meet you and the masses of our people and our Arab Nation, but my duties have been such as you know about and have always wished me to undertake. I am confident that you appreciate and understand them. I felt that you were with me in every opinion I formed, and that you, and our people and our Arab Nation were with me in every decision I took. All of you were with me in every responsibility I have undertaken as an expression of the will of the Arab Nation and the destiny of a people.

I found it fitting to come to you today to speak to you, to the masses of our people, to the peoples of our Arab Nation and to a world concerned with what occurs on our territory because it is closely connected with the most dangerous causes of humanity, namely, the cause of war and peace, for we do not consider our patriotic and national struggle as a local or regional phenomenon. For the area in which we live, with its civilisation, its strategic role, is situated in the very heart of the world, and in the midst of its action. Because these are major events, and developments are successive and decisions fateful, I should like to deal directly with what I want to talk to you about. I will concentrate on two major points: war and peace.

First, war. I do not think you expect me to stand in front of you in order that we may boast together about what we have realised in eleven days; the most dangerous, magnificent and glorious days of history. Perhaps the day will come when we shall together, not to glorify ourselves and boast, but to remember, to study and teach our children and grandchildren and the successive generations the story of our struggle, the bitterness and sufferings of defeat and the sweet taste of victory and its hope.

The day will come when we shall recount what each of us has done in his position, and how each one carried out the charge entrusted to him, and played his role, how the heroes of this people and the Arab Nation went out in a dark, pitch-black period carrying the torches of light, pointing out the road so that their Nation could cross the bridge between despair and hope. The time for all this will come. I am sure that you agree with me that we have duties and responsibilities to which we should devote all our time and exert all our efforts.

