

I N T E R V I E W

given by

PRESIDENT MOHAMED ANWAR EL SADAT

Prior to his Departure from Abu Dhabi

February 28, 1976

In the name of God,

It gives me great pleasure to convey to our kinsmen and people in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi greetings and best wishes from the people of Egypt, as well as their gratitude and appreciation.

Egyptians will never forget, and as you know, they are people of great loyalty and values, Egyptians will never forget that directly after the battle, our brothers came to our rescue. Sheikh Zayed was in Europe at the time and was determined to contribute, in your name, in the name of the people of Kuwait, the first help we received. He had to obtain a loan for the purpose from the banks, since the oil battle was going on at the time.

We shall never forget. This reflects observance of values, and material things compared to values, become of no consequence. Values are more lasting...

Replying to a question on coordinating cooperation among Arabs to face the common enemy, the President replied :

«Strangely enough, prior to the October War the Arab nation was disrupted, the spirit of defeatism prevailed amongst us. We

had the feeling that we were incapable of conducting a war or anything like that, that the Arab nation was doomed and that a chosen few in Israel were the only initiators to modern technology, etc. etc.

«All this caused us to be disrupted from within. The October War was not only responsible for tearing down the wall of defeatism, fear and lack of confidence in ourselves, there were other things besides.

«We restored the confidence of the world in us as well as our confidence in ourselves, and were rated by the world as the Sixth Power. The Strategic Studies Institute in London has announced that Arabs are, at present, the sixth greatest power on two points: the military performance they rendered and the use of up-to-date weapons and technology, as well as the use of the oil weapon.

«I was in the United States, recently, and you saw how we were welcomed in a joint meeting of U.S. Congress, how we were received by the American people, and how we were considered by Europeans as their equals.

«In the midst of all this, whilst still in the battle, some of us wanted to bring back the disruption we had exported to Israel, following the October battle. It is Israel who is disrupted now, Golda Meir and Dayan. The old Guard has fallen and has been replaced by others. As for the new ones, you all heard of the differences among Allon, Rabin and Perez and, differences among parties. They called the 'October War' the Earthquake and the earthquake is still causing splits in the Israeli society, and all is not over yet.

«Why then do some of us seek to take us back to the state of disruption ?

«As far as we are concerned we shall not go back to the state of disruption in Egypt, nor will our Arab brothers. I saw King

Khaled, the Sultan of Oman, and my brother Sheikh Zayed and none of us is prepared to go back to the state of disruption. We exported it to Israel and will never re-import it, with patience and our target in view, we can mend what I call Israeli attempts to merely scratch the Arab position.»

In reply to a question on whether agreement had been reached on matters likely to consolidate bilateral relations between Egypt and the State of Arab Emirates, President Sadat replied :

«Thank God, we do not need to do that for the relations between Egypt and the State of Arab Emirates are solid and deep-rooted. God willing, they shall last forever, since both of us are governed by principles and values»

On a question concerning Egypt's relation with Syria the President replied :

«There is nothing wrong between me and President El Assad. On the contrary I have great affection and loyalty for this man who put his hand in mine, against the desire of the two super-powers, America and Russia.

«We were guided in our actions by values and principles. But when it is said that the battle was merely a show put up by Egypt, America and Israel I reply : it is a shame to say that I will answer that, for we are people of values and will not spread accusations of treachery and insults indiscriminately».

On the Geneva Conference the President said that it has to be convened since there can be no peace without the participation of all the parties, including the Palestinians, because the core of the problem is Palestine and not Sinai or the Golan.

The President pointed to the fact that he had previously announced in the United Nations that 1976 would be the Palestine Year, and that he would struggle if Israel attempted to manoeuvre.

On the question of armament the President said that Egypt suffered from certain difficulties, particularly because of spare parts which had not been supplied, He said : «After the decision to diversify the sources of arms, I thank God that we were able to restore the balance (between us and Israel) and shall preserve it. As for securing arms from America, I do not consider it a basic thing.»

On the position in the Maghreb the President said : «I am sorry to say that the (dispute) in the Maghreb is between brothers. I was telling Sheikh Zayed that I had seen a film on the World War II wherein nations of different ideologies allied together against Nazis, even Communist Russia joined the alliance. They won their battle and then went back to their former differences.

«It is a regrettable thing. We exerted great efforts for the Sahara cause. Vice-President Mubarak stayed ten days in the Maghreb and was able to prevent a sanguinary battle, thanks to the wisdom of King El Hassan II and President Houari Boumedienne. Our efforts were terminated when the two parties agreed on meetings at the level of Foreign Ministers.»

Pointing to Egyptian-Syrian relations the President said :

«Egypt's principled attitude is quite clear.»

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