

## INTERVIEW

given by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

to the Danish T.V.

April 30, 1976

President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat granted an exclusive interview to the Danish TV. Following is the text :

**Question :** Mr. President, you have visited 5 European countries recently. Did you note any change in the viewpoint of European leaders towards the settlement of the Middle East crisis, such as readiness to take part in the political side of the debate ?

**President :** I did visit six European countries and did witness a new understanding of our cause, I mean the Arab-Israeli dispute. I don't mean by that, that we have asked anyone to sever relations with Israel, renounce friendship to it to side with us. Nothing of the sort has happened. Our purpose was to expound the entire problem, objectively.

Here I must state that a radical change has occurred in the outlook towards the entire cause. It has been viewed objectively ever since the joint statement issued by the nine European Market Nations, in November 1973.

On the other hand, I discovered that most of the countries I visited were truly prepared to take part and share in the responsibility of seeking a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, since this region constitutes the right wing of European Security. For in-

stance, West-German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt agreed to Germany's participation in any political guarantees that needed to be offered, but not in the military ones. Whilst Britain and France agreed to participate in any guarantees they may be required to contribute, when formerly, the two super-powers never allowed any country to be involved in this problem. However, Leonid Brezhnev announced recently in the General Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, last February, that Moscow welcomed the participation of Britain and France. A year ago I had proposed their participation which was not accepted at first but it is now, for which I am overjoyed. I believe all of the countries I visited desire to take part in any solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

**Question :** Being a peace-loving man, what do you consider as the most important steps that need to be taken towards the solution.

**President :** In my view, the Geneva Conference has to be held. All the parties to the dispute must attend, including the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

**Question :** The Palestinian Organisation as an independent entity ?

**President :** Yes, as an independent entity, and upon the same footing as the other parties. In Geneva we can find a framework for an overall solution or a final one and thus achieve lasting peace in the region.

**Question :** How does the abrogation of the Egyptian-Soviet Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation affect your military position ?

**President :** There is a strange position indeed, which I want the Danish people to know about. Israel had replacements for all its used up arms, even before the cease-fire of October 22, 1973. Syria, too, received replacements before October 22, 1973. Ever

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since, and for a period over two and a half years, the United States has been supplying Israel with up-to-date arms and the Soviet Union has been supplying Syria with still more modern arms. As for Egypt, which is the real power, no one has replaced her losses, nor has she received up-to-date arms like the ones actually supplied to Syria, by the Soviet Union.

After that, recently, the Soviet Union tried to interfere in our internal affairs and gave false interpretations to everything. This is why I wanted to place the whole position, in utmost lucidity, before my nation, the Arab people and the world at large. All I did was placing the facts before my people and then I proposed a draft law to terminate the validity of the Egyptian Soviet Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation which was approved by 358 votes out of 360. Only two members were against the abrogation, and therefore I abrogated it.

By placing the facts before my people, and the world, my purpose was to assert that the Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union must be observed by the two parties and not just one, while the other exploits it in its own interest.

**Question :** Do you expect a political step from the United States, before elections ?

**President :** The United States holds 99% of the cards in the game of the Arab-Israeli dispute, for the simple fact that it supplies Israel with everything : food, butter, aircraft and guns. This is why it is the only party capable of exerting influence for the solution. The United States is now in its presidential elections year and the U.S. Government is generally paralysed during that year. We saw what happened, there, during the recent interval in the controversy between Government and Congress. Therefore, I

do not believe that it is possible to reach anything worthwhile, prior to elections. Let us be practical.

We hope that after elections, and in the course of 1977, we can reach an overall solution to the entire problem with the aid of the United States which is a highly important factor, being the principal party.

**Question :** But this year is an election year in Egypt, too.

**President :** That is true. We shall be having two elections : one for electing the President and the other for electing the People's Assembly members, since the Assembly's constitutional term is five years, while the President's is six.

I attempted to rest after 35 years of involvement in politics but the A.S.U. General Congress adopted a resolution that I should run for re-election. All the measures relative to that will be adopted in August. I hope that in the meanwhile I can reach a decision over this matter.

**Question :** Thank you, Mr. President.

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