

## **I N T E R V I E W**

granted by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

to the Italian T.V. Channel Two

March 28th, 1976

**Question :** Mr. President, you spoke lately about certain elements of the old centres of power. Who are they ? What do they want ? What interests are they serving ?

**President :** Some of these elements have acquired influence among journalists, others are from the organisations of free professions. I handed all the responsibility to the people and we are about to tread the path of real democracy, and the basis is there in the Socialist Union. It is divided into three organisations : right, centre and left. We are practising a full democratic life. These elements seem to realise that they would not have the chance, that is why they are working stealthily and not in the day-light. These elements are of no importance, but while preparing my country for democracy, I wanted to speak about all the elements threatening democracy and its application. I repeat, they are of no importance.

**Question :** Mr. President, Have you laid down an alternative for the peace project in case of its failure ?

**President :** I hope it will not be a failure. We still have time, and up to this moment, can say that the things we agreed upon last year in Salzburg with President Ford are following their course.

The new thing is that the Syrians did not accomplish the second disengagement agreement. Apart from that, we are calling for the Geneva conference, and both the United States and the Soviet Union agree. We do not know the viewpoint of our brothers the Syrians and the Jordanians and we are now following the policy of «wait and see».

**Question :** What happened since 1973 which led to the new positive relations between Egypt and Europe ? What made you so famous in the Western world ?

**President :** I do not know that I am famous, but if I am, then I am very proud. Anyhow, it is obvious that during the October war and after it, we have adopted a logical attitude directed towards achieving peace. In spite of the fact that it was we who started the October 6 war, I gave a speech during the battle at the People's Assembly, and suggested the peace conference. All the peace initiatives I have taken showed the world that I wanted peace, especially when the second agreement of the disengagement of forces failed in its first stage. I did not lose hope; on the contrary I opened the Suez Canal though the three Canal cities were within the range of the Israeli guns. I took the risk and opened the Canal for the sake of peace. Consequently, this had its effect on the Western world. I am glad and proud of that.

**Question :** Mr. President, Why did you choose this particular period to visit the Suez Canal region and meet the Forces ?

**President :** I am used to visiting the Suez Canal from time to time ever since the beginning of the reconstruction operations, because I have adopted a political decision that the Canal and its region should have the priority. We have problems in housing and transport all over the country, but I have given priority to the Suez Canal region, that is why from time to time I visit it to

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for myself how matters proceed. I was very happy to see two new districts and new buildings in the city of Suez. In Port Said, which has become a free zone, matters are proceeding at their best in an atmosphere of complete harmony. In Ismailia, I met the head of the Suez Canal company and its responsible authorities, and I could see closely the progress and the project carried out by the Japanese concerning widening the Canal. As for the Forces, I am used to visiting them since June 5th. Last June 5th I did not go because it was the day for reopening the Suez Canal, that is why I went these days to visit them and tell the officers about July 23rd and May 15th, the date of the revolution which rectified all the negative effects of the July 23rd Revolution. I went to tell them that I handed over all their responsibilities to the people and to inform them of the new developments in our relations with the Soviet Union, and the end of the friendship treaty in order to give them a complete report on the situation.

**Question :** Mr. President, I have a personal opinion, namely that you abrogated the Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union when you visited the Suez Canal region, and in 1972, when you made the technical experts leave Egypt, you also visited the Forces in the Canal region. Do you think, President Sadat that the peace project will fail ?

**President :** Not at all, I have never thought of that.

**Question :** Do you guarantee it ?

**President :** Absolutely, because as I told you, that so far, all the things I agreed upon with President Ford and Dr. Kissinger in Salzburg and during my visit to the United States last year, are proceeding exactly as we agreed. I can never say that the peace project has failed. No, not at all. Should any failure seems probable, I would have informed the whole world and gone to the

United Nations and the Security Council to inform all the world of it. No. No. Concerning this matter, I can say No.

**Question :** Mr. President, What are the new more effective bases on which relations between Egypt and Italy may develop ?

**President :** I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Italians and the Italian government for the support you gave us after the 1967 defeat. All the West European countries boycotted us, except for Italy which remained by our side till this moment. Our relations continued at their best with the cooperation which is still prevailing. But, there are many fields to be added to our cooperation, because we have started the process of constructing our country. You have the technology which we do not have. I think that my visit will give us the opportunity to organise a joint committee between our two countries to activate and widen the fields of cooperation.

I want you to participate in preparing the new projects which may help us in constructing new cities and reorganising services in our country because they were badly affected. The fields of cooperation between us are numerous, and if we succeed in forming a joint committee between our two countries to meet in Rome and Cairo, the fields of cooperation between us will increase.