

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

by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

to the Iranian News Agency

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The President warned that if the Geneva Conference were resumed and failed in achieving its objectives, this would lead to a catastrophe, and there would be no alternative to war.

In a private interview granted by the President to the 'Pars' Iranian News Agency, just before flying to Saudi Arabia, he denied any possibility of conducting direct negotiations with Israel, since it occupies Arab territories and aims at imposing its own conditions.

Concerning the opposition of some Arab sides to the second agreement of the disengagement of forces in Sinai, the President commented: «Unfortunately, there are some people in the Arab world who are more satisfied with emotional statements than with the logic of the mind». The President described the agreement as a step towards peace, but not as an overall solution to the problem. He added that the strategy of Egypt is based on two fundamental principles namely : not to surrender an inch of the Arab land, and not to conclude any deals at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

President Sadat continued to say that as long as the initiative remains in our hands, we must continue to move towards a

final solution in the presence of all the parties concerned, including the Palestinians, at the Geneva Conference. The President affirmed that Israel and the World were now convinced that Israel can by no means impose peace through force, and that the only way to peace is the Geneva Conference.

President Sadat noted that relations with the Soviet Union were still bad because of continuing disagreements concerning military aid and the re-scheduling of Egypt's debts.

He also said that they have been striving to establish relations with the Soviet Union, always keeping in mind that these should not be accompanied by a privileged position for the Soviet Union in Egypt.

The President then described the USA as a decisive factor in the situation of the Middle East in view of the fact that it provides Israel with experts, guns and planes. However, he expressed his hope that relations with America could be reinforced without compromising their relations with the Soviet Union.

Referring to relations with Libya, the President said that although the «propaganda warfare» between the two countries had come to a stop, relations had not yet gone back to normal. He also added that there are numerous questions which Libya must find answers to. Moreover, the President pointed to Egypt's close relations with Iran saying that his Majesty the Emperor Shahinshah and himself had come to complete understanding during the official visit paid by the Emperor and the Empress to Egypt last year. He also extolled the economic aid offered by Iran to Egypt, and denied the news that certain countries are trying to spoil the cordial relations existing between the two countries.