

I N T E R V I E W

given by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

to the Irani Newspaper « Rastakheras »

Teheran, June 20, 1976

Answering a question on the nature of his talks with the Shahenshah, President Sadat said : « We had dealt with numerous bilateral questions, and reviewed all the problems of the area in general. Our viewpoints were identical regarding all these issues. We faced a very urgent and critical question, namely, the Lebanese problem. We spent long hours in discussing it, and decided to form a working group composed of the Egyptian Ambassador to Beirut, the Irani Ambassador to Beirut, and the Palestinian leaderships in Beirut, with a view to seeking a solution of the problem. We also discussed the question of evacuating members of the American community from Lebanon. Our first and foremost objective was to stop bloodshed at once. »

The President added : « We had dealt with all the aspects of the problem, and President d'Estaing contacted me, and we were able to reach a conclusion to stop bloodshed at once. We welcomed the Arab initiative, as well as the idea of a French initiative so that we can prevent bloodshed and pave the way to a meeting of all the Lebanese powers. »

On the Shah's proposal to hold an Islamic meeting to reach a solution of the Lebanese problem, President Sadat answered say-

ing : « I agree with the Shah that if the Islamic meeting will help to solve the problem, we have no objection whatsoever. »

Asked about the Arab-Israeli problem, and the Arab disagreements at present, President Sadat answered : « I have discussed the Arab-Israeli problem in general with the Shah, and informed him that the current Arab disagreements do not, in any way, affect the Arab strategy, namely that we shall not give up one inch of the Arab territories, and we shall not bargain over the rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent entity. Our disagreements are in tactics only, and the best proof of this is that the Palestinians were disagreeing with us in the past few months, then we discussed matters and everything was clear once again, and there is no disagreement anymore now. I believe 1977 will be the year of a comprehensive solution in Geneva. »

In answer to a question on China and what was said about Egypt having a Chinese trend, President Sadat said : « Once I was accused with walking in the orbit of the Soviet Union.. When I expelled the Soviet experts in 1972, I was accused with selling the cause to the American.. Then, after I abrogated the treaty with the Soviet Union and our Vice-President visited China, it was said that we are directing our faces towards China. I would like to state that neither do I revolve in the orbit of the Soviets nor that of the Americans or Chinese.. We are an independent country.. I told the Egyptian Ambassador who left for Moscow ten days ago, that we want to resume the best of relations with the Soviets.. We want natural and balanced relations with all.. All I ask of them is to accept us as we are. »

Asked whether there are contacts between the Ruling Party in Iran and the political organisations in Egypt, President Sadat answered : « We agreed that contacts will be conducted at all

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levels.. We have only to commence.. All I ask for is that the re-
lation between me and the Shahenshah should be translated at all
levels. We also agreed on many other points foremost among which
is that we should meet occasionally because the changes surround-
ing us require consultations from time to time ».