

LECTURE

delivered by

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Thank you very much for affording me the opportunity to meet with you in order to discuss together the important questions of common interest to us. It gives me great pleasure to talk to this elite of Germans who are interested in international affairs.

As you know, we have great respect and appreciation for the German people.

The bonds of the past and the hopes of the future link us together, and make it necessary for us to maintain and preserve the strongest of relations between us in all fields of life.

There is no alternative to achieving this end but mutual understanding and frank exchange of views, hence my intention to talk to you with all frankness and without any reservations, and with the spirit which promoted me to accept your invitation.

The well-knit and strong links between our two countries are not a new phenomenon; in fact they go back to many centuries ago when Charlemagne received a delegation sent by Harun El Rashid in the year 800 A.D. Eversince, there has been an uninterrupted exchange of views between the Moslem Arab and German scholars and thinkers. German researchers have shown their appreciation

in the form of endless studies and researches in order to reach the facts through their studies of the original works of Avicenna, El Khawarazmy, Ibn El Haithem, Ibn Roshd and many others. When Fredrick II tried to conduct a scientific dialogue with those who could improve the life of humanity and man's understanding of the universe around him, he directed all his attention of Cairo, Baghdad, Jaffa and many other cities in the Arab West. Thus, the Emperor who set foot in the area as a fighter turned into a researcher in the humanities, and dedicated his life to knowledge.

The Koran, our holy Book, was printed in Germany in 1954.

Johan Reisky also made of Arab philosophy an academic topic to be studied at universities. Perhaps nobody has ever contributed to the cause of understanding the Arabs and Islam in Europe as much as your great poet Goethe.

He incarnated German humanity and objectivity, and paid justice to Islam and Arabism in his immortal poetic collection «The West and East.»

This academic tradition flourished until it reached its zenith in the second half of the 19th. century and the first half of the 20th. century. It is sufficient to mention here the German scientist George Schwainfurt who conducted his researches for 56 years in Egypt. In fact, he was not the only one to dedicate all this effort to study, but was followed by each of Sebitta, Litmann, Bilhara and Koch.

We have always admired your dedication and seriousness, in work, your magnificent organisational skill; the superiority of your products, and your unique capacity to overcome all the drawbacks that prevailed in the past, and to establish a better future. We also admire your capacity for collective work in harmony and with excellence. You have succeeded in giving a brilliant example

in achieving equilibrium between the individual's freedom and social necessity for collective effort.

So, there is nothing strange about our attempt and aspiration to strengthen our relations and consolidate our cooperation with you in all fields. Isn't it only logical that we should expect the future to be an extension of the happy past, and a fulfilment of present aspirations ?

I believe that each of our countries has a role to assume and a mission to fulfil in the region it belongs to. The contribution of the two states to social and economic development, and consequently to the political development of each of these two strategic areas, namely, the Middle East and Europe, is and will always be a living fact, and a solid proof of the Egyptian and German people's readiness to assume their great responsibilities in the face of changeable circumstances and growing challenges.

Perhaps this would give me a chance to speak, briefly, about the question of Arab unity. We, the Arabs, feel and we have our strong justifications — that we are affiliated to one nation that was borne under the banners of freedom, justice, equality and submission to God's will.

History has linked us with unique bonds that have their symbolic and practical effect on the development of each Arab people. This, in its turn, has penetrated a feeling of unity and collectivism amongst us.

This feeling was also subjected to suppression on the part of alien rulers who considered it difficult to rule a united nation. Nevertheless, the feeling of the oneness of objective and destiny prevailed over all the attempts of suppression as it has always survived in the conscience of the masses everywhere.

Naturally, there were different trends to Arab unity. For example, we, in Egypt, firmly believe that Unity must be achieved without resorting to means of pressure or coercion. It must come as a true 'translation' of the will of the people's and not as a "dictation" on the part of a certain leader or a political organisation. It must be founded on the basis of amity and tolerance, and not hatred or bias. If the unity is comprehensive, it, certainly, does not exclude anything. In other words, it is an objective, constructive and propelling spirit, and not an isolationist, passive movement.

By our union we enhance our capacity to deal with the outside world rather than immune ourselves against it. In compliance with our cultural heritage, we do not bear any grudges or bias against any nation. We have learned, since our childhood, that all peoples are equals, and that all nations stand on equal footing however different their creed, or colour or origin may be. The teachings of Islam cause us to deal with all believers as our equals, and it is their right to adhere to their creed without any interference or terrorism. We adhere firmly to our teachings which say that all peoples were born equals and should always remain so. We also reject all allegations of superiority or discrimination. For this reason, it is incumbent upon us to help and stand by our African fellowmen in their noble struggle against apartheid and racial injustice.

Our first commitment is towards the cause of peace. There were several wars we had to wage during our legitimate struggle for the liberation of our land and the restoration of the rights of our Palestinian brothers. We wish to put an end to human suffering and misery, as we are also keen on relieving the burden of defence budgets and military expenses of our economy. This is because we are badly in need of our resources in order to carry on the enormous reconstruction process.

As your experience in this concern is admired by the whole world, we would like to benefit from it. To be frank with you, it has often been mentioned that the Palestinian cause is a sensitive one in connection to the Germans, but I disagree with this pretext. I believe that vestiges of the past must not be allowed to overshadow the picture of the future. Our consciousness and our loyalty to the truth are only what guides our steps towards the world of the future.

Here we are confronted with a situation wherein we find a number of militants, who fought for freedom, internationally, recognised as the sole representatives of the Palestinian people. They seek peace not war, construction and reconstruction instead of destruction. If nations adopt a negative attitude towards their position, this could be a call for extremism and violence.

Dear friends,

We have, during the past few years, exerted our utmost effort in order to show clearly how we encourage an extremely active European role to be assumed not only for the sake of setting the Middle East crisis, but also to facilitate the immense and tremendous socio-economic conversion now occurring in every corner of our region.

Moreover, we reject the idea of becoming a party to the game of polarisation practised by the super-powers. Consequently, we exert efforts so as to diversify our relations and to establish a healthy balance in conducting our foreign policy. Commensurate with this, Europe has a commitment, namely to respond, in a positive manner, to our initiative and to meet us midway along the path leading to the setting up of mutual beneficial relations.

Thus, it is not logical nor is it useful that these countries stand as spectators or observers since experience has shown that Eu-

rope is the continent most subjected to the efforts from any escalation of tension in the Middle East.

Let me confirm, to you, the importance we attach to developing further cooperation between our two countries in all fields.

We have earnestly sought to raise the standard of our production in both quantity and quality. Meanwhile, the Federal Republic of Germany occupies a very special position among the countries from which we hope to acquire technology and know-how. It may interest you to know that the trademark « Made in Germany » is to our people a testimony of excellence and perfection.

We have set out on the open-door economic policy for the realisation and activation of interaction between local resources, on one hand, and foreign investment and expertise, on the other hand, for the mutual benefit of both sides.

Mr. Chancellor,

I would like to express our satisfaction with the visits we paid and the talks we held for the welfare of our two peoples as well as for the cause of international cooperation. I look forward to the intensification of relations and contacts among officials, intellectuals, scientists, businessmen, students and artists in our countries, to which you, generously, and without the least hesitation have effectively contributed.

Dear friends :

Allow me to call upon you to stand up in honour of Chancellor Schmidt, the people of the Federal Republic of Germany and the real friendship between our two peoples and countries.

The Mediterranean sea connects many of the Arab countries with the southern part of Europe. It is an important and a v

matter for us that this sea should be a link and a means of interaction and not a barrier.

It should witness an increase in trade and other dealings; we look upon it as a lake of peace and prosperity. This view has been behind the decision we adopted last year, namely to open the Suez Canal to international navigation. Facilitating world trade was as important to me as seeking the prosperity of my people.

To a certain extent, we feel that cooperation between Europe and the Arab world could have been deeper and quicker than it is. I shall not try to blame any side, I am only expressing the hope that each shall exert further efforts towards the real causes and improving the situation by removing any obstacles in the way of the exchange among us in the various fields.

While speaking about Europe we do not mean a particular country. We are most willing to establish joint relations with every European country equally, on the basis of common interests and rejection of exploitation. Among the European countries, the Federal Republic of Germany occupies a prominent position among the first countries capable of performing such a role in the political, economic and cultural sphere. We welcome an active dynamic German role for the sake of world peace and overall benefit for humanity.

I think that the volume of trade between our two countries can be increased. Right now, we are waging an extraordinary campaign to rebuild our previously destroyed cities and to restore vitality to our economy. We are determined to follow an open-door policy with the aim of encouraging foreign investments.

Certainly foreign capital, is not our sole target; before anything else we need an overall change and adaptation to modern technology. Therefore, we call upon investors to join us in a new kind

of joint action in the framework of our general aims and comprehensive development plans. We offer cooperation instead of conflicts. We would like investors to take interest in making our technological progress a matter of priority by providing it with the latest discoveries and developments. Therefore, we think of foreign investments from the viewpoint of a long-term policy and not as a temporary solution. That is why we offer foreign investors, guarantees against nationalisation, sequestration, expropriation or requisition.

We are convinced that the vast resources in the Arab area coupled with the modern technology and expertise of Europe can give birth to a new economic power not only for the welfare of the parties concerned but also for international cooperation and the progress of humanity.

It is true that many European countries have responded to my call in this respect but hesitantly and shyly. However, I believe that the coming years shall witness a rush in the right direction.

You may agree with me that the word 'detente' has been overused and in many times its usage has been unsteady. It seems to mean different things to different parties. Some take it to mean getting ride of the Cold War and easing international tension. Others consider it as new arrangements designed by some at the expense of the majority of nations. Naturally one's attitude towards this phenomenon depends, to a great extent, on its dimensions. If it were a matter of easing international tension and paving the way to an era of peace and stability, we would be the first to back it. In fact the non-aligned countries were the first to call for quickly getting ride of all reasons for international tension and that was of the Belgrade Conference in 1961. But if detente were a means to realise selfish interests at the expense of other nations

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or to reestablish spheres of influence, we would not consider ourselves bound by any decision or policy which would destroy our interests.

We support disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We support international cooperation and we cannot close our eyes to the fact that more than one thousand million persons are living in a state of deprivation that is below the level of an acceptable definition for proper human existence. This condition must be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Relations between the industrially developed countries and the third world should be based on understanding and compatibility and not on confrontation and the use of force.

We have no time or efforts to lose in the conflicts among the international blocs. We are now facing the greatest challenges of the age, and we must use any means we can for the sake of the coming generations throughout the world.

We should direct ourselves without delay towards combatting famine, illiteracy, deprivation and aggression.

To attain this end, we must work together and believe completely in God and in the nature of human beings. We shall always remain committed and devote our efforts along this path. Thank you.