June 25, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

Now that I have returned to Washington and have had time to reflect on my visit to the Middle East, I want to share with you my thoughts about the significance for our two countries of the journey I have just completed.

By visiting the Middle East at this time, I wanted to demonstrate the strength of the United States commitment to work for a just and lasting peace consistent with the dignity and legitimate interests of all the states and peoples of the Middle East. I also wanted to underline the friendship of the American people for the peoples of the Arab world and to give impetus to the various steps now underway to strengthen and to give more concrete expression to the historic as well as the newly evolving links between the United States and the Arab countries. Progress toward peace, and progress in American-Arab relations, will reinforce each other, and I believe we have together made significant progress toward these objectives.

I also feel that, as a result of our talks, each of us has a better understanding of the other's concerns, hopes and political realities. I particularly welcomed the opportunity to describe to you in detail our concept of approaching a final settlement step-by-step, so that each succeeding step will build on the confidence and
experience gained in the preceding one. In this process, we consider it important that there be flexibility about procedures while keeping clearly in mind that the final goal is an overall settlement among all of the parties, and on all the fundamental issues.

As we move toward the goal, our relations will be strengthened and guided by the statement of principles you and I signed on my last day in Cairo. We intend to move ahead quickly with your government in establishing the Joint Commission and Working Groups we have agreed upon, and I look forward to keeping in close touch with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Mr. President, I am convinced that we have witnessed in recent months a turning point in the history of the Middle East -- a turning toward an honorable, just and durable peace -- and have ushered in a new era in U.S.-Arab relations. The period ahead will be difficult at times, and the way will not always be as smooth or the pace as rapid as you and I would wish. But a direction has been set, and it is my firm intention to stay on the course we have charted.

Finally, allow me to express again my very deepest appreciation to you and Mrs. Sadat and your government for the warm hospitality accorded Mrs. Nixon and me throughout our visit to Egypt.

With warm personal wishes,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

His Excellency
Anwar al-Sadat
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Cairo