My dear President Richard Nixon:

I thank you sincerely for your kind message to me, dated October 14, 1970 and would like you to know that we deeply appreciated your sending that distinguished delegation headed by Mr. Elliot Richardson to participate on your behalf and on the behalf of the people of the United States of America in the mourning of our great leader President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

We honestly believe, dear President, that Gamal Abdel Nasser was an historic figure, who transcended, through the formidable role he filled, all the bounds and obstacles of the phasic [transitory] and narrow differences brought about by the political developments of events. For he gave his life and [dedicated] his efforts to the cause of the just struggle of his Arab nation and that of other nations looking forward to, and hoping and struggling for, the realization of political and social progress for subjugated peoples, the prevalence of the principles of true freedom [in the lives] of both nations and individuals, and the vindication of the principles of peace based on justice.

I [should like to] assure you that the people of the United Arab Republic, having resolutely chosen to follow the path mapped out by Gamal

President Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States of America
Abdel Nasser, as demonstrated by everyday developments since his passing away, do in effect proclaim their adherence to the objectives for which that great man struggled and fought until the end of his life.

We shall do our utmost for [the realization of] political and social progress, the prevalence of the principle of true freedom, and the achievement and assurance of peace based on justice.

All of these objectives and principles were not Gamal Abdel Nasser's alone. Nor are they ours alone as we continue, after him, along the road he built. For we consider them to be, above all, our only means to [insure] the security of that part of the world in which we live and the tranquillity and well-being of its peoples - all of which affect world progress and peace.

It had long been his view, and likewise has been ours, that the achievement of all these objectives could be brought about through closer relations with the people and Government of the United States.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser worked toward that end, as you heard him say to you personally when you met with him in Cairo in 1963. And I know positively that [this was the case, for] he chose me once, in 1966, to undertake a mission to express friendship and goodwill toward the United States. During that trip I had the good fortune of talking and listening to many people in the United States, [but] doing more of the latter.

I wish to assure you, dear President, that the state of relations between our two countries does not please us at all. We wish it were
better. We have made many efforts, toward that end, but as the saying goes, the road has two sides. We have gone a long way on our side of the street, and are still going ahead. The latest evidence of that was our acceptance of the initiative of your Secretary of State Mr. William Rogers.

In his relationship with the United States, President Gamal Abdel Nasser did not ask for much. Nor do we, after him, ask for much. He stated several times, and I have since confirmed, that what we seek and desire the most is an understanding of the realities of our position, the motives of our struggle, and our concern about the security and territorial integrity of our nation, which have been violated by Israel three times within the lifetime of our generation. Not once were we the initiators of the carrying of arms; others were. Not once did we attack; we were attacked. Not once did we commit aggression against the national territory of others; rather, our national territory was subjected to aggression, and part of it remains to this day chained to occupation. It has been grievous, deeply grievous, to us, particularly in recent years since 1967, that all this could not have taken place or continued had it not been for American support of the aggressor.

It is not my intention to avail myself of this opportunity to explain to you the details of our problems. I have no doubt that you follow [these] matters closely. I was prompted, however, to make the [foregoing] observations by your [expressing] best wishes for the success
of my efforts in bringing the blessings of peace and well-being to my people.

No matter what happens, I hope that some day we may have the opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual concern to us, particularly those that have a direct bearing on relations between our two countries.

Please accept, dear President, my sincere thanks and greetings.

/s/ Anwar El Sadat

Cairo
November 23, 1970