SADAT: A MAN OF VISION: SOL LINOWITZ'S REFLECTIONS

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OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Speaker, despite the tragedy that brought us together for hours of airplane flight several weeks ago, it was indeed a privilege for me to travel to the funeral of President Anwar Sadat in the company of three former Presidents of the United States: Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, and Jimmy Carter. Their coming together at this sad moment in history was in itself an historic event and I was honored to be a part of it.

Also accompanying the U.S. delegation that traveled to Cairo was the Honorable Sol Linowitz, Ambassador Linowitz, appreciated for his own dedicated service on behalf of peace in the Middle East, added to the distinguished observance that President Sadat's death deserved.

In the course of Ambassador Linowitz's intense negotiations on the autonomy issue relating to the Camp David accords, he was afforded many opportunities to learn of President Sadat in his more quiet and contemplative moments. For this reason, his recent reflections in the Los Angeles Times deserve our attention. I therefore ask unanimous consent that Ambassador Linowitz’s remarks be included in the RECORD at this point.

MEMORIES: A MAN OF VISION
(By Sol M. Linowitz)

Anwar Sadat was the irreplaceable man of our time. He was a man of deep faith and unshakable commitment to peace. To be with Sadat was to be with a man who always seemed serene and at ease with himself—confident of his intuitive judgment and bolstered by his religious commitment.

I remember my first visit with Sadat at his home outside Cairo. He greeted me warmly and took me into his study. Relaxed and apparently without any sense of schedule, he talked with me for several hours. I knew that an important foreign delegation was awaiting him in the anteroom, but he never gave any indication that he was aware of another appointment.

I noted with interest that, six minutes after he and I began talking, he was calling me “Sol.” Thereafter, in our subsequent conversations and in his meetings with the press, he always referred to me as “my dear friend Sol.” And I always felt that he meant it—that his friendship was real.

Friendship was for Sadat a very important quality. I was with him a day or two after the shah had arrived in Egypt, and I said to him: “It must have been a very difficult decision for you to make—to decide to invite the shah, knowing that it might cause some real repercussions.” Sadat stopped and said to me, with indignation, “Difficult? Why should it be difficult to decide how to treat a friend? For me there was no difficulty.”

Above all, Sadat showed himself as a leader in the effort to find peace in the Middle East. Committed to Camp David, he was determined to move forward resolutely to carry out the provisions of the accords, often deriding those raising questions about his leadership. He was supremely confident that, in due course, other Arab leaders would join him in supporting Camp David.

Sadat was truly committed to help the Palestinians achieve full autonomy, and seemed confident that one day this would be accomplished. He had a feeling of respect and real liking for Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, but he also became impatient and sometimes deeply annoyed at what he regarded as Begin’s unwillingness to take steps that might move them closer to an agreement.

He did, however, understand Begin’s problems. On one occasion, when I was discussing my forthcoming visit to see Begin in Israel, Sadat suggested that I talk to him about Jerusalem, and then he added: “But approach it very carefully, because with him it is a very, very sensitive subject.”

Anwar Sadat towered over the Egyptian landscape, but he knew that not everyone in his government was in agreement with him on his policies. As a realist, he also knew that he lived in a world in which one force must be balanced against another, and he had the politician’s sure instinct for the act or word that might create the effect he wanted. He played his role on the world stage with consummate skill, knowing that, when he was center stage, his country would also be a focal point of attention and of world concern.

Sadat was a man of vision whose reactions seemed to be instinctive and visceral rather than the result of long contemplation. He