Please deliver following message from President Nixon to President Sadat:

QUOTE:

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your messages of March 5/ and 17. I deeply appreciate this thoughtful, personal and candid presentation of your views.

I am keenly aware of the problems that you face and the steps you have taken recently to help facilitate the negotiations currently being pursued under Ambassador Jarring's auspices. The steps you have taken with such political skill have strengthened your nation's international position and moved your people closer to peace.

For its part the United States wants one thing: a
just and lasting peace agreement that meets the legitimate concerns of both sides and that both sides can accept with honor, dignity, and confidence in their future security. I am under no illusions, Mr. President, that the clouds of suspicion that exist between the Arabs and the Israelis will be easily dispelled. Both sides view the issues as fundamental. But I am struck with the fact that some modest progress has been made during this past year on which, hopefully, more progress can be built in the days ahead.

There is an opportunity today which has not existed—
since the June war. The political climate and the situation generally in the Middle East have been evolving. I wish there were a better prescription than time, but some time must be allowed for the changes which are occurring to be fully understood by leaders and peoples who live in the area.

Moreover, we both know there is a political process involved, both in Egypt and in Israel. Patience and determination will be required to overcome the difficulties in a manner that best preserves public support for the painful decisions which could eventually make a peace agreement possible. From your own skillful management of your nation's foreign affairs, I believe you understand this point. For our part, I hope I made it clear in my February 25th message to Congress on which you were asked to comment favorably that we intend to remain fully involved and to help both sides toward a peace agreement.
which could mean so much for all peoples in the area and for my own country.

I welcome your reaffirmation of the proposal for a partial Israeli withdrawal and the reopening of the Suez Canal. We have told the Israelis that in our view your statement of February 5 on this matter and that made by Prime Minister Golda Meir on February 9 are worth careful study. I hope that further explorations can proceed in the days ahead.

I appreciate very much your confidence in alerting me to the developments which you foresee and mentioned in your message of March 17. We will also give careful consideration to the specific views you express on the disposition of Gaza and the question of demilitarization.

Once again, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for bringing to my personal attention your concerns at this stage of our peace settlement efforts. I place high value on the direct communication we have established...
in these messages and want to assure you that I 
reciprocate the sincerity which they so clearly convey.

With my best personal wishes, Sincerely, Richard

Nixon  UNQUOTE

GP-3  END