

**MESSAGE**

sent by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

**to the Agricultural Cooperative Conference**

February, 7, 1976

On the occasion of the convocation of the Agricultural Cooperative Conference, it pleases me to feel Egypt's pulse, the pulse of the broad base and true beneficiary in the re-building of the present and the aspirations of the future.

Not only do Egypt's farmers constitute a numerical superiority, but they are also the source which has given Egypt its most distinguished thinkers, scientists, politicians, writers and leaders, in all fields, those who placed their experience and knowledge at the service of the Egyptian society with the precious values of fraternity, solidarity, constructive work, love and faith in God.

Throughout the history of the national struggle of this people, the contributions of farmers have been boundless. The Ahmed Orabi Revolution sprang from the ranks of farmers. Egyptian farmers and townsfolk, all along the Nile Valley, rejected foreign occupation and worked for national independence, as witnessed and recorded by history in Denshway, in Upper Egypt and during the 1919 Revolution, as well as evident in the various uprisings paving the way to the 1952 Revolution.

Farmers continue to play their role in consolidating the course of national action. From among their ranks come the most precious

sons of Egypt who give the best of themselves in the struggle for development and reconstruction. During the liberation war, they gave life itself for the glorious October.

The first lesson we learned from these battles was loyalty to Egypt, to its history, civilization, hopes and legitimate aspirations.

True loyalty to Egypt calls upon us to contemplate the future, to draw lessons from the negative aspects, and gain confidence from the achievements of the past and the present for further success and achievements in the future.

The second lesson we derived was commitment to the values and morals of the Egyptian society. This leads us to deepening the spirit of cooperation and solidarity among ourselves, and dealing with our problems with open heart and enlightened mind; coping with our differences of opinion within the framework of national unity, through constructive democratic dialogue and by means of the democratic practice based on the values established by the May 15, 1971 Rectification Revolution.

The third lesson is that we should have greater faith in our Arab nation and the dimensions of Arab solidarity in its true sense, that would ensure greater integration of human potentials and economic resources, thus allowing our nation to attain its national aims in the liberation of the various territories, recovery of its legitimate rights and driving forwards the wheel of progress and prosperity in its lands.

The fourth lesson is being conscious of the variables around us. We are not struggling in a void, nor are we building up our country in isolation from the international reality surrounding us, a reality teeming with political and economic problems; we should establish our relations with the world, on the basis of the logic

of give and take, to serve common interests, through our firm desire for peace based upon justice.

The fifth lesson is that we should watch our footsteps so that we do not deviate from the right path.

This can never be accomplished without knowing the true sources of both human and material resources, and putting them to the best possible use, thus rendering work and sacrifice a true criterion for sound national action, independent of mere hopes and aspirations.

Brothers,

While the May 15 Revolution took upon itself rectification of the political, economic, and social course, in the light of this rectification we find the occasion for the broad popular masses to participate as fully as possible in development and reconstructions in a manner arising from the concept of democracy and in the context of an all-producer society, seeking to meet the social and economic challenges obstructing the course of national action, and also seeking to realise the hopes of our people in the liberation of their land so that they could devote their efforts to develop their capacities and make ideal use of them to attain the society of prosperity and abundance.

Since we are assessing the sources of our power for national action in Egypt, undoubtedly the agricultural sphere should occupy the leading position in the principal sector of the Egyptian economy, in addition to its being a source for supplying the basic nutritional requirements of the masses of the people, also, agriculture, being an economic activity and one of the sources of life, employs more than half of our population.

Hence the necessity for rectifying the economic course, and

realising social justice so that efforts should be especially directed to the sector of farmers and workers, as an attempt to eliminate injustice and to alleviate the burden, providing them with the opportunity for a life of justice, progress and stability.

I find your Conference a favourable opportunity for taking up and standing the various problems facing the agricultural sector or the workers in it, throughout the country. Undoubtedly, it will adopt recommendations and resolutions on the means to rectify the course compatible with the development plan aiming to respond to the legitimate requirements of the masses.

I imagine that this is connected with the agricultural development system and cooperative legislation in such a way as to allow for broader participation within the framework of sound democratic practice, and one that would move this sector to the sphere of production and service.

It is also connected with the guidance and development of the cooperative marketing sector, so that this system will get to realise the sound cooperative concept that protects farmers and cultivators against exploitation and monopoly, giving guaranteed good profit, within the framework of solidarity, cooperation and national unity.

I also imagine that your Conference will study the most important fields of agricultural industrialisation, and the introduction of mechanisation, development of animal wealth and study of the best means to benefit from the experience of many other nations in the field of agriculture, irrigation, and drainage so as to raise production and increase the income of farmers. You will, doubtless, study the need for linking cooperative agricultural projects with the projects for the development of the village and the provincial environment.

I am confident that your Conference, with the participation of scientific and practical experience in the various fields of agricultural production, is capable of supplying new experience at this stage wherein we mobilize all our potentials for development and progress.

On this occasion, I express my appreciation to all who contributed towards the preparation of the Conference and ensured its success. I welcome all the brothers and friends from Arab and foreign countries whose participation in this Conference I consider as a symbol of brotherly relations and an expression of Arab and international cooperation in the field of agriculture and development.

Brothers, the course of development is arduous, requiring efforts and sacrifices. If the Government chose to acquaint you, in its statements, with all the dimensions of the economic situation, it is because of the boundless confidence in the masses of our people, who at all times live up to the responsibility when they are aware of its nature and size.

The Bar Lev Line was an obstacle in the course of the liberation march. But with the consciousness, the struggle and the sacrifice of our people, the obstacle collapsed and the march went on.

History will record that the great Egyptian people have also overcome the problems piled up from the past, that they faced the challenges of the present, and opened the way before the march of development, reconstruction and rehabilitation, on their way to progress and development, God willing.

I thank you and wish you a successful Conference.

«Say, work and God, His prophets and the faithful shall witness your work.»