

MESSAGE

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

**to the Conference of the Young Men's Christian Association
in Egypt and America, held in Alexandria**

March 25th, 1976

At the inauguration of your conference, which deals with one of the most serious human issues of our times, I would like to greet you and welcome you to Alexandria; the city of science and knowledge established 23 centuries ago to be a source of knowledge and a beacon which guided the first philosophers and scientists along the path of the successive civilisations which finally brought us to the 20th century civilisation of the atom and outer space. We must go on along this path towards a better life full of prosperity and peace for all the people of the world.

Such a meeting between the Egyptian and the American YMCA and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology in the Arab Republic of Egypt, undoubtedly represents an important part of the cooperation between Egypt and the United States of America. It deepens it and affirms the friendship and the mutual understanding between the two countries, especially that it is based on the most sublime human values, including the teachings of the heavenly religions and the achievements of modern science. Therefore, I am delighted to see the motto «Science and Faith», on the basis of

which we are establishing our modern Egyptian state, manifested in your conference.

Faith united you, to enable you to perform a great human mission, and to put science to the task of insuring the life of humanity in the present and the future by finding the suitable formula for men to make environment more generous in elements of prosperity, security and peace.

Choosing the Egyptian environment as a sample for your study has a most noble significance. You combined science with faith, thus consolidating friendship and cooperation among our peoples.

The faith we defend and abide to is a faith devoid of hatred and fanaticism which encourages work, research and knowledge. The faith preached by Christianity has greatly developed human spirit and thought as well as social theory. It was based on freeing man from slavery and spreading amity among people. It is also the faith expounded by Islam and which fixed the human spiritual values and established the Islamic state on the basis of political and social legislations based on justice, amity and equity.

We believe in all the heavenly religions, and we urge their study because in their teachings we can find the way to establish an international society based on love, understanding, equity and mutual interests.

It is a good omen that your conference should be held at a time when we are working seriously to draw a new plan for Egypt in which all the major elements of establishing a modern state are available. We are determined to achieve great targets in order to bridge the gap of backwardness and to recover our place in the march of progress.

Our country is full of riches and natural resources. It is high time to break the bonds imposed by nature throughout centuries, confining us within the limits of the narrow strip represented by the banks of the Nile river, constituting 4% of the total area of our country. Faced with an increasing population and the increasing demands of modern life upon natural resources, we have no alternative but to push towards the desert, to reclaim its land, to look for its riches and to encourage settlement therein, so that our society might be secure, prosperous, generous with its resources and invincible by its people. A society in which a citizen feels secure about his day and the morrow.

Science is our ideal mean to achieve these targets and Faith is the decisive weapon to face the challenges of the march.

The problem of the environment is one of the most serious issues with which all the under-developed countries are preoccupied, because they aim at catching up with the march of progress, and enjoying the free dignified life of prosperity. These issues also interest the advanced countries so they might keep what they have and guarantee the continuation of progress which is threatened by the possibility of the depletion of traditional natural resources and the pollution of the environment.

It is consequently, a matter of great interest to the entire world. Collective, serious and sincere work is necessary to face this challenge. In this respect our policy is clear. We cooperate with all nations on the basis of a broad-minded outlook, without resorting to hatred or taking sides. We give and take for the sake of the prosperity and the security of humanity.

The main lines of our policy are clearly reflected in your conference. I am looking forward to the conclusions of your studies

and debates, so that they might be a guide for us and for other nations in drawing their plans for a more prosperous and secure society.

May God grant you success, guide your steps and make faith your guide and science your method to face the challenges of progress and peace.