

M E S S A G E

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT
to the First National Conference
of the Socialist Youth Organisation

March 31, 1976

My sons and daughters, members of First National Conference of the Socialist Youth Organisation :

The top interest of our dear cherished homeland necessitated that I be abroad to pursue the international mobilization policy adopted with the friendly country at the time in which your first national conference of the socialist youth organisation is being held.

All the enormous burdens I had to bear since I have assumed the responsibility of our country, had not diverted me from the continual keenness on providing you with care, nor did they prevent me from touching your feelings and aspirations as well as working for their realisation.

I knew beforehand that you were eager to build your organisation on a democratic basis through elections from the base to the top, for it is quite natural for youth to be of free will, to have a spirit of persistence and to be most concerned with the practice of democracy. My guideline has always been for this democracy to become a real and a responsible practice.

Today, your conference is the crowning of the democratic practice you, yourselves, have started from the bases of your youth organisation through free election. Thanks be to God, you meet in your conference as youth whose heads are raised high, and whose dignity is ensured after your nation had defended its honour, wiped out the crisis of despair — wherein it had lived since the June defeat in 1967; this was done in a glorious awakening of pride which was translated by our valiant armed forces into a great crossing on the 10th of Ramadan and whereby our great people, whether youth, men, women or old men, had obliterated the spirit of despair which for so long had smothered us.

Following this momentary defeat, it was proved to the entire world that the people of Egypt are everlasting, due to untiring efforts exerted throughout years of patience and silence during which I promised God and promised you that « Our generation shall never hand over its banners humiliated or humbled, but rather hoisted high in dignity, though they might be stained with blood. It is enough that we had kept our heads sky-high at a time when our foreheads were bleeding with pain and bitterness. »

You have been following up what has been decided with regard to the future of national action in Egypt. It really concerns me, in the midst of the questions raised, for you to acknowledge in your minds and consciences the following facts and principles I always underlined on every occasion :

First : That the hands of the clock of history can never be turned back. The confirmed sovereignty of the law will always be raised above everything else. The achievements and gains fulfilled by the July 23 Revolution and the Rectification Revolution out of faith in the national unity, in the alliance, the inevitability of the socialist solution, and in social peace, these accomplishments shall always be safeguarded and consolidated in the interest of the

people's working forces, the State of institutions and true democracy.

Second : Anyone who imagines himself capable of arousing contradictions among the stages of our struggle and building processes since the establishment of our Revolution, is, in fact, doing wrong to our people, as the life of our people is a connected history, and the continuous evaluation of our performance is a national duty, to catch up with the overwhelming progress of the procession of life and to keep up with the successive variables demonstrated on the international arena. If not so, we shall be lagging behind, unable to keep pace with the world progress.

Third : Deepening the democratic values we believe it requires from us the trust of practice; for freedom is responsibility and responsibility is trust.

Dear Sons,

You remember that I have entrusted you on July 24, 1973, with the responsibility of preserving your Revolution. I have also told you then that you are the trustees on the Revolutionary thought. Today, I repeat to you the fact that you, gifted with broad-minded thought, enlightened mind, a responsible sense of freedom and true democracy, will be as you have always been, the trustees on the Revolutionary thought, loyal to it so as to rejuvenate it and revitalise its assimilation of all the national and world changes surrounding national work.

May your faith in God, the Almighty, be the best guard in all your actions.

May your youth be the incentive motivating your creative capabilities towards the promotion of national work in every position.

May your purity be the framework protecting your democratic experience from any slip into pitfalls.

Be to your nation the constant source of strong arms and open minds needed to spur on the wheel of progress.

Be to your homeland the overflowing blood inspiring strong and healthy life on its land.

Be always loyal to your people who have sacrificed for the sake of your present and future.

« Honour the pledge, for the pledge is a responsibility ».