

**MESSAGE**

by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

**to the General Conference of the International Confederation of  
Arab Trade Unions on its 20th anniversary**

March 24th, 1976

I am delighted to speak to you and through you to my brothers the Arab workers in all our great Arab World at the inauguration of your Sixth Conference held on such a cherished occasion for you and for all the Arab people : that is the passage of 20 years since the establishment of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. This Confederation had a prominent role in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and exploitation.

My speech to you reveals my appreciation for the importance of the role of your Confederation, not only concerning the problems of workers, but also the problems of all the Arab Nation, namely liberation, unity and progress.

It is a good omen that your Conference shall be held in such bright Arab and International circumstances for our struggle and fateful causes. The circumstances were born of the glorious victory of October. We have to go on struggling with all will and power despite all the obstacles which may include occasional clouds darkening the sky of Arab solidarity.

I do not doubt that you will assume your responsibilities fully for the sake of realising all the aims of the Arab Nation, because you are its trusted hands and the vanguard of its liberation struggle. Your history is full of struggles and victories over the powers of Zionism and imperialism.

I would like, on this occasion, to express my joy and satisfaction in seeing your rally as an example to be followed in as far as unity and solidarity will be among the forces of Arab people. Such a great national meeting drives us to look forward to the future with hope and trust.

The International Trade Union Organisation has always been a school of and a bastion for democracy, because its structure is based on the true practice of democracy through direct free elections and legitimate brotherly competition. Therefore, I cherish and value your confederation and your conference which is a real embodiment of the unity of the Arab World, a unity which could not have been achieved save on the basis of sound democracy.

Throughout history, Arab solidarity has proved its efficiency and capability to achieve the goals of the struggle of our Arab Nation. The glorious October War unified the Arab will and was an embodiment of the unity of the Arab potentialities and capability to overcome difficulties and obstacles, and to remove the illusion built by the Israeli enemy around themselves in order to appear as an invincible military power. However, our armed forces have inflicted terrible losses and defeats upon them in Sinai, in the Golan and in the occupied territories. All the world military experts testified to that.

The wide-ranged consequences of Arab victories in the glorious October War have violently shaken the entity of the Israeli society, destroyed the theory of the safe borders, blew up internal conflicts among their groups and spread the spirit of despair and defeat.

The world public opinion has several times condemned the Zionist aggression, and today it is witnessing the Israeli violations of the United Nations' principles and of Human Rights be it in the savage attacks against unarmed Arab citizens in the occupied land, or in the desecration of the sanctities of Arab Jerusalem.

Our support for the Palestinian cause will always remain. Whatever the sacrifices, we shall never neglect assuming our responsibility towards our Palestinian brothers nor towards other fateful causes of the Arab Nation. I shall, therefore, speak of the things your Confederation can perform in the international field about explaining our just causes to world public opinion, and unmasking the plots and methods of the imperialist and Zionist information-media.

Today's world has become more conscious and understanding for the causes of our struggle. Thus, we must make use of such circumstances since your labour organisations are more capable of moving because of their direct contact with the groups and the popular masses.

The sources of power owned by our Arab people are numerous and represented mainly by human power with the workers in the vanguard, also by our economic power, mainly petroleum, as well as by the fairness of our causes and our right to liberate our land.

The economic conditions that Egypt is undergoing are a result of the sacrifice it has always been bearing for the sake of rallying capacities to face the forces of Zionism and imperialism, and for the sake of its national commitment to liberate the land. Despite all challenges, God willing, the people of Egypt will remain a shield for the Arab people, and the vanguard in the struggle for the sacred battle. Our motto will always be : «A hand building and another carrying weapons».

We are opening up economically and politically to the world for the welfare of our masses. At the same time, we declare that no monopoly or exploitation of our capacities will be accepted, that the public sector is the major support of our economy and that social equity and equal chances are the guarantee for social peace and national unity.

You Arab workers have to assume great responsibilities in bearing the burdens of the plans of economic and social development, and implementing them. You have to keep pace with the technology of the age so that our nation might increase its intensive power and catch up with civilisation and development. These are the responsibilities we all have to assume towards our Arab Nation and its future generations.

Once more, I greet you and wish you a happy stay in Egypt which is a part of your great Arab World. I wish you all success and to the themes of your conference. «Say, work for God; his prophet and the believers are going to witness your work.»