

## M E S S A G E

sent by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

to the People's Assembly, on the anniversary  
of the Rectification Revolution.

May 15, 1976

President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat addressed a message to the People's Assembly on the occasion of the anniversary of the Rectification Revolution. The message said :

« May 14, 1971 was a memorable day in the history of our nation. The people stopped to ask themselves the question : Who is to practise sovereignty ? The people, or the oppressive and despotic centres of power. With their healthy instinct and their civilizational authenticity, they decided that the sovereignty should belong to the people, and that freedom and the sovereignty of law should have the upper hand. The people brushed aside those who set an obstacle on its way, and thus it was opened to reconstruction in the various fields.

« The sovereignty of law was realised in meaning and context; the citizen was assured of his present and future, and the rule was in the hands of the State of Institutions and not an individual. Thus constitutional legitimacy was secured.

« When you were chosen for this August Assembly by the free will of the people, on November 11, 1971, to give a hand in

building up the homeland, the way was paved before you to enrich our political experiment. Your august Assembly witnessed a living embodiment of live and democratic practice, as well as cooperation and creative reaction between the state authorities and its constitutional institutions; each practising its right in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, and seeking nothing other than to serve the people and protect public interest.

« Brothers and sisters, you all know that what is left of my presidential term and the People's Assembly term does not exceed a few months, after which the people will have their say as to whom they will give their confidence to lead the march. This is one of the pivots on which rests sound democratic practice, as followed by the various constitutions of the nations of the world, amongst which is our permanent Constitution.

The purpose of this operation is to infuse new blood into the veins of the nation to rejuvenate it.

I recall with appreciation a happening that took place for the first time in our entire constitutional history; the fact that your constitutional term has been completed. So far, Egypt has not known a parliamentary body to complete its constitutional term, except yours.

People who wish to compare what we used to be, in the pre-revolution era and what we are now, can contemplate the incident of the dissolution of the House of Representatives, on March 23, 1925, a few hours after it was convened, thus violating the Constitution and all the parliamentary practices in the world.

The formula adopted by our permanent Constitution, in connection with our selection of the Head of State, is the one most suited to our circumstances, traditions, and environment. In virtue of its nature, this position should not be contested. Article 73 of the Constitution provides : « The Head of State is the President of the

Republic. He is to assert the sovereignty of the people, respect the Constitution, sovereignty of law, protect national unity and socialist gains and observe the limitations among the authorities to ensure performance of their parts in the national action. » In his functions he is like an arbiter among the state authorities and constitutional institutions. He is the symbol for national unity and a guardian of it. To ensure the complete neutrality of the Head of State, being the arbiter, the Constitution stipulates that election of the Head of State should be by nomination of 1/3 of the members of the People's Assembly. If the candidate obtains nomination of 2/3 of the members of the People's Assembly, he is referred for plebiscite.

The nominee will not be considered as President of the Republic except after obtaining an absolute majority in the plebiscite. If the nominee does not get the absolute majority, the Assembly should nominate someone else, following the same measures of candidature and nomination.

This method of selecting the head of state ensures that the representatives of the people have their say as to his running for office, and the people themselves in the plebiscite in choosing the President.

Brothers and sisters, we are now passing through a most critical and important stage, and should accomplish the following :

**First :** Liberating the occupied Arab lands and working for restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This is our major responsibility, from the patriotic, national and Arab points of view. We shall struggle to achieve it with all our force, as this is the will of the Egyptian people and the Arab nation.

**Second :** Asserting democratic practice through political organisations which resulted from the works of the Committee for the future of Political Action in Egypt. This is commensurated with

the formula of the alliance of the working forces of the people which our nation has chosen, and which is based on national unity, inevitability of the socialist solution, the gains of farmers and workers and social peace.

We should all work honourably and with a sense of responsibility to give this pioneer experiment in democratic practice all the chances of success, and to give the final touches to the democratic structure and the make-up of the Egyptian Man.

**Third :** The re-building of the Egyptian economy to be able to cope with the complicated economic crisis, resulting from four wars we waged in defence of Arab rights. This led to negligence in the field of development. We should therefore toil and sweat these coming years, to pass the crisis, relying on God, our good right hands and the aid of our brothers and friends. This can only be achieved by increasing production and rationalisation of expenditures in the public and private sectors.

Brothers and sisters, the great success realised by our people was the outcome of free will, the unity of the Arab nation in defiance of threats, an overall planning, accurate calculations, and integrated coordination between the Arab people.

We should wage our economic battle in the same manner as our military one, and should proceed towards our targets with large, steady and secure steps, in the right direction.

The Arab nation is one and indivisible. And this our Egypt with its civilisational bounty, is a precious trust. It has given plentifully and is entitled to receive equal measure : our efforts, our sweat and our blood are but part of what we owe her.

« You should be responsible for the promises you make ».