

**Question :** Mr. President, we seem to have a lot of conferences just now, not only the Cairo conference, there is one in Tripoli now and one has been called for in Baghdad and one in the United Nations. Do you think this is confusing the issue ? having too many conferences ?

**Answer :** Not at all, not at all. Let us drop this Tripoli and Baghdad and all these rejection conferences and let us concentrate on Cairo and New York. Well, for me Cairo is the best place for preparatory arrangements for Geneva. It has been said that Israel refused the proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General Waldheim for New York. Anyhow, from our side we are ready..

**Question :** To go to New York ?

**Answer :** We are ready, but we should start in Cairo. We should start in Cairo, but we have no objection to go to New York after that in another phase.

**Question :** Mr. President, did you get the impression from what Mr. Carter said today that the United States properly understands what you are trying to do and gives you its full support ?

**Answer :** For sure. I was very happy to listen to what my friend President Carter said. I must tell you this, the man is honest, as I told you before, last April. The man knows the whole minute details of the whole problem here, because we always suffered from the ignorance of the details and the depth of the problem here. But the man has already stated really and told something that really went at heart and I am at rest, because he knows the full details and mechanics of the whole problem. Last April I said this in Washington after I met with him, I said this man will leave his fingerprints on the history of the United States and of the whole world. This is certain to me now.

**Question :** Mr. President, since the Soviet will not be attending your preparatory conference here in Cairo, May I put to you the same question that was put to President Carter? Do you think a Middle East peace is possible without the Soviets?

**Answer :** Those who are responsible after anything that takes place in this area are those who are living in this area. Well, whenever we find peace built on justice, and whenever we feel that we are the parties concerned living here ready to reach, I don't think the Soviet Union can influence anything, because whenever we agree we shall not need to anything from anyone, the Soviet Union or any other power.

**Question :** Mr. President, another question that was asked President Carter just a few minutes ago. The question was how can you alone sit down with the Israelis and negotiate for other Arab countries that are not present ?

**Answer :** Well, let me be clear on this aspect. I must tell you quite clearly, I have already invited all the parties concerned to come to the Cairo conference. If any of the parties concerned doesn't come except Israel, I shall be continuing. This does not mean that I shall be speaking for this or that, I shall be discussing with the Israelis a comprehensive settlement, because...

**Question :** Will you have maps on the table doing that early discussion ?

**Answer :** Maps or any other thing. I shall be discussing with the Israelis this comprehensive settlement because the Egyptian-Israeli dispute is only a fraction, a small part of this dispute all over the Arab world, so we should discuss the comprehensive settlement. The details of everything between Israel and any other Arab country they should discuss together, but I am mainly concerned about two main issues, the first one is the evacuation of the land occupied after 67.

**Question :** Not only Egyptian land but all...

**Answer :** No, all the Arab land. Number

two is solving the Palestinian question which is the core and crux of the whole problem. Well, if we agree upon those two points I am quite satisfied, I shall be bringing this comprehensive settlement to an Arab Summit to decide upon it and every Arab country should discuss with Israel, like I am going to discuss with Israel, the details on any bilateral treaty. Did you get me ?

**Question :** Yes, Sir. Thank you. Now I am clear. One of the issues that has been raised in the last few days and did come up in the news conference again today is the fact that the United States has seemed not to be giving you full support in your effort. Do you feel that the United States, President Carter particularly, has given you adequate support at this time ?

**Answer :** Yes, for sure, for sure. For sure he has given me his adequate support. The man, as I told you, is very honest and he is very true to himself and to the others. And, let me tell you this, the American role in any settlement in the Middle East, especially after my visit to Jerusalem, is confirmed again, 99 per cent of the cards.

**Question :** Mr. President, do you have any assurance that the Israelis will talk with you about a comprehensive settlement ?

**Answer :** From whom am I going to get this assurance ?

**Question :** From Prime minister Beigin when you were there ?

**Answer :** Beigin ? With Beigin I agreed upon two main principles : let us have no war after the October War, and let us discuss the security issue for both of us quite candidly. This is what I have agreed upon with Mr. Beigin. If the Israelis choose not to discuss the comprehensive settlement, well, I shall be putting them before the whole world again.

**Question :** Mr. Sadat, when will you be returning to Cairo ? Are you going to stay here even as the conference begins on the thirteenth or will you take an appearance ?

**Answer :** Not at all. I hoped I can have some rest in this place but I couldn't have it. The day, after tomorrow, I shall be returning to Cairo after I have a village here that we have already rebuilt and I shall be going the day after tomorrow, Friday, to deliver the new houses for the people there, and then I shall be proceeding to Cairo, the day after tomorrow. I didn't have rest, unfortunately, I am very exhausted, but for sure I shall be returning to Cairo to proceed.

**Question :** Thank you, Sir.

**Answer :** Not at all.

**Question :** I would like to ask you one more question. Now, we know that both you and President Carter hope that Syria, Jordan

and Lebanon will join the talks at some point. I have also heard there is a mediation effort going on between you and Syrian President Hafez el Assad. Has any progress been made ?

**Answer :** No, no, mediation between me and President Assad, but as you said correctly, I am hoping, like President Carter, that sometime they will be coming, even the Soviet Union itself, which has rejected the whole idea. I hope they will be coming because they know after I have declared that I shall be proceeding to the end from here, Cairo, to Geneva. If any other party doesn't come, I shall be bringing what ever I shall reach with the Israelis to an Arab Summit here.

**Question :** It seems to me that in your plan from here to Geneva, you have built in steps so that every second step you can then invite the other Arabs to join the conference and invite the Soviet Union to joint. Is that a correct assessment ?

**Answer :** I am not going to uncover whatever I feel now before your Television. The man Carter, really I admire him, really for his statement that he gave, and so, because behind scenes he knows lots and he could have answered lots. But really the man is a statesman. He is not a farmer from Georgia. He is not a politician, no, he is a statesman. He is a statesman.