

ADDRESS
by
THE U.A.R. PRESIDENT DESIGNATE
ANWAR EL SADAT
BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**on the occasion of his candidature
to the Presidency of the Republic,
October 7, 1970**

Fellow-citizens, members of the National
Assembly,

I came to you along the path of Gamal
Abdel Nasser; for, I consider your decision
to nominate me for the Presidency of the Re-
public as a direction for me to pursue the
path of Gamal Abdel Nasser. And if the vote
of our masses in the general plebiscite will be
« Yes », I shall consider this as an order to
me to pursue the path of Gamal Abdel Nasser
which I declare before you, in all honesty,
that I will continue to follow, whatever the
case may be and from whatever position.

The past few days in our life were days of deep grief. But this immortal nation, thanks to its outstanding steadfastness, has been able to transfer its feelings of great sorrow into a tremendous source of power. And so, it was able to get over all its suffering sooner than anybody has expected. It has decided and made up its mind resolutely in one definite and comprehensive phrase; saying in one breath : « The path of Gamal Abdel Nasser ».

Brothers,

I thought long during the past days what we could do in the face of what the Almighty God has willed. I based all my thinking on one criterion, namely to begin any action by asking myself a specific question : « What would we have been asked to do had he still been among us ? »

In the light of my knowledge of him through 30 years of comradeship in struggle, fighting one battle after the other; and in the light of my understanding of him as a friend, I assessed the paces and positions, examining them in this manner and looking for inspiration.

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at these very moments he would have said :
« Do not grieve, but move. Do not stand still,
but advance. Do not hesitate, but continue the
march to the end of the road ». And that
is what our great people have done; and that
is exactly what all the political and consti-
tutional institutions which represent the peo-
ple's authority and sovereignty over their land
have done.

Brethren,

I find no need to prolong my talk by des-
cribing the features of the path of Gamal
Abdel Nasser. You all know it, our people
know it, our Arab nation knows it and the
entire world knows it.

It is a long road extending as far as our
aspirations reach, it is an arduous road in
measure of the dangers which we face.

Our hopes extend widely over the horizon
and the danger we face from our enemies is
such that it includes the occupation of a part
of our sacred, national soil.

I would like to define, before you, a
number of points which I find specially im-
portant, before summing up the significance
of pursuing the path of Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The specially important points are :

First — We are required — above all and by all means — to continue the struggle for the liberation of all Arab lands occupied during the 1967 aggression : Arab Jerusalem, Gaza, the Western bank of Jordan, the Syrian Heights and the Egyptian Sinai desert. Besides, we are required to safeguard, fully, the rights of the Palestinian people and the continuation of their struggle for their land and destiny. The real safeguard of this legitimate object of our struggle lies in one requisite; namely, the consolidation of the fighting capacity of the Egyptian Armed Forces so that they may be able to protect peace based upon justice or to impose it.

Second — We are required to continue the struggle for the unity of the Arab nation. The contradictions and state of tension existing in this nation are only natural at the present stage through which it lives. But this should not distract us from the essential fact which was advocated by Gamal Abdel Nasser and for which he has worked; namely, that we are one nation, bound by one history, one struggle and the same fate.

Third — We are required to define the enemies of our nation without any equivocation, and our enemies are Israel, international Zionism and world imperialism. We are in a struggle of destiny with all of them; it is a struggle which is not aimed at a person but demands a nation; it is a struggle which does not aim at invasion but at security, it does not aim at domination but strives for freedom, it does not aim at war for the sake of war but demands peace as peace should be.

Fourth — We are required to adhere to the policy of non-alignment, yet the policy of non-alignment, as we learnt from Gamal Abdel Nasser, is not a negative attitude. As practised by him it means standing by our independence, standing for our freedom, for peace and progress, thence it implies that we should face up to the dangers which threaten all these values.

Our special friendship with the Soviet Union, its great peoples and the big group of the socialist peoples behind it is fully compatible with the policy of non-alignment which is a practical and realistic application of one of the most prominent slogans of our great leader who said; « We befriend those who are

friendly to us and stand against those who are inimical to us. »

Fifth — We are constantly required to remember, and never to forget, that we are part of the great national liberation movement with its progressive socialist trend, that we are part of the major world progressive movement, and that we are, with our people and nation, an effective civilised current which gives and takes, acts and reacts.

Sixth — We are required, first and foremost, to preserve the socialist gains which were accomplished in the interest of the masses of our people's working powers, and to march forward along the road which was laid down and defined by our leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, in honest interpretation of the aspirations of the people's working powers and the inevitability of their destiny and existence.

Brethren,

I come to the significance of the path of Gamal Abdel Nasser and you shall not hear anything new about this. All I shall do is to confirm his pledge.

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which I shall entrust to this Assembly and I leave you saying: this is his programme and it is also mine since this is the will of the people.

I entrust the Statement of March 30 to this Assembly. It is the last comprehensive programme given by Gamal Abdel Nasser to his nation and approved by his masses in a free public referendum who considered it our path for the struggle and an organic extension of the Charter in the light of the critical circumstances which faced our struggle starting from June 1967. The Statement of March 30 represents at this stage the unity of our nation and we are in need of this unity. It also represents our clear objectives.

We need to clarify our objectives. The Statement of March 30 represents at this stage the popular will which is higher than any other. It is the embodiment of a popular will on which no shadow of doubt is cast.

Above all the Statement of March 30 is an organic extension of the Charter — the sign-post that Gamal Abdel Nasser himself placed at the head of his path.

I wanted to add something to this and to say, prompted by a sense of responsibility, that the endeavours to put into application the Programme of March 30 in the presence of Gamal Abdel Nasser is one thing and that the endeavours and application in the absence of Abdel Nasser is another thing.

Gamal Abdel Nasser was a historical hero and the hero cannot be made rather he is born and begot from the conscience of his nation. Therefore, his ability cannot be measured according to the conventional standard laid down by the people.

The absence of the hero implies something which should never be overlooked, namely, that the entire responsibility should be undertaken by the masses comprising the working forces, their bodies and organisations and their free generations which are closely linked with the day-to-day struggle. Therefore, our assertion of the pledge must go hand in hand with our preparedness, all of us, to bear responsibilities which in the presence of the late President we were relieved from.

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is not within my ability nor within the ability of any individual to carry the burden which Gamal Abdel Nasser had carried.

As a consequence it is necessary to re-distribute the responsibilities so as to guarantee the adequate undertaking and fulfilment of the task in order to be loyal to the people's right and to pay homage to the memory of the people's leader.

Brethren,

You have vested me with an honour which, God knows, has never crossed my mind throughout my life; nor have I striven for it. I appreciate the responsibility of your choice; but what will help me to bear the burden of this responsibility is that you all, and the whole nation as well, should stand by me in word and deed, and that we should all pursue the road of Gamal Abdel Nasser in word and deed — Gamal Abdel Nasser who lives now in the heart of the Arab nation as much as this nation has lived in his heart until the moment when he handed over to us the banner of the struggle. « ...Our Lord! do not punish us if we forget or err; our Lord! do not lay on

us a burden as Thou didst lay on those before us; our Lord! do not impose upon us that which we have not the strength to bear; and forgive us, and pardon us, and have mercy on us. Thou art our Protector : so help us against the non-believers ».

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

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