On the occasion of the President and President Sadat of Egypt at a Dinner Honoring President Ford. October 28, 1975

Mr. President, Mrs. Sadat, ladies and gentlemen:

First, may I express on behalf of my wife, Betty, and all the ladies that she represents in the United States, and on behalf of myself as well as my country, our appreciation for the wonderful recognition that you have given to those we represent. We in the United States are most grateful for these wonderful awards, and I can't express deeply enough our personal appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

Obviously it is very difficult, Mr. President, to match your eloquence in the circumstances here this evening. I want to express as best I can the appreciation that all of us have for your visit to the United States. You have in this audience here this evening many outstanding Members of the legislative branch, Members of the House and Senate, leaders, individuals who you have met and I hope you will get better acquainted with, so that they can have an opportunity of getting to know you as I have from our first meeting in Salzburg. Because I am convinced that they will share with me, once that acquaintanceship begins and develops, the strength and the statesmanship that you have exhibited in the Middle East during a most trying and a very difficult time.

So, as you meet my former colleagues, the Members of the legislative branch of the Government of the United States, I am sure that you will learn of the importance and their significance in the development of our friendship between your Government as well as ours.

Your hospitality this evening, Mr. President, is almost overwhelming, not only to Mrs. Ford and myself but all of our guests—your guests, I should say.

Your historic visit to this country, and it is historic, will lead, I am certain, as you travel from here to New York, to Chicago, to Houston, to Florida, to a breadth of understanding between not only yourself and our people but between your people as well as ours.

I think this opportunity for you to be here and to travel is unique in that they find in you a leader in the Middle East who has not only had the statesmanship to strive for peace but the leadership to achieve and accomplish peace, and to broaden and to deepen it, not only on behalf of your people but all of the Arab people.

We feel that your presence here in the Capital of the United States is of a special significance. We were delighted to have you in the White House last
I want to state that I know the secretary hosted some outstanding American citizens, including Members of the legislature, with you as his principal guest today, which gave to them, as I have had the opportunity, to see and to hear the breadth and strength of your leadership in the Middle East.

I can assure you that we in the United States cherish and will further the same ideals in the future that we have in the past. And we are pleased to know that those are likewise the same ideals and aims and ambitions that you have for your people in your country.

It seems to me that as we work together—and we do have the need and necessity to do that—we can convince others in the Middle East that progress is essential not only in that area—a stalemate and stagnation cannot be condoned—that it is in the best interest of Egypt and Israel, the United States, and all Middle Eastern countries. And I can assure you, Mr. President, that the American people will work with you and seek to achieve with you the aims of your people and yourself for the kind of a peace on a broad, firm, equitable, secure basis that is in the dreams of people in all of the Middle East.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, that Mrs. Ford and I have been delighted to have the opportunity to get better acquainted. And let me add in closing that I have instructed our Secretary of State to continue to explore every possibility to continue the diplomatic successes that were achieved in recent months.

I know that he will continue to work with the Foreign Minister, Foreign Minister Fahmy. They have been a good team in the step-by-step process that was essential to keep the momentum going. Both are seasoned, tireless, effective, dedicated diplomats that have and will contribute to the success in the future.

Let me simply conclude by saying that we are honored to have you in America, with Mrs. Sadat, and let me say that it is a pleasure and a privilege for me to offer a toast to you and the people that you represent, the great people of the Government of Israel—Egypt, excuse me.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:35 p.m. at Anderson House in response to a toast proposed by President Sadat. President Sadat spoke as follows:

President and Mrs. Ford, ladies and gentlemen:
I hope I have adequately expressed my feeling, and that of the Egyptian people, towards President Ford and the people of the United States. What I would like to add, however, is that the more I meet with President Ford and pursue with him the stimulating talks and pleasant conversations, the more confirmed becomes the initial impression I got when I first met him. His personality conveys to anyone who gets to know him a sense of confidence, genuineness, and warmth.

As you know, President Ford and I will meet again more than once before I leave your beautiful country. And we will have the chance to solidify our relations even further. But let me now express my admiration and deep appreciation of President Ford's method of dealing with different situations and his enlightened approach to people and human relations. From this standpoint, he can achieve tremendous progress in various domains, and the United States, under his leadership, can reach new horizons commensurate with the challenges of our time. I have no doubt that he will play a most constructive role, both in bringing about peace in the Middle East and in solving complex international problems. It is an asset that he has an able and
and Secretary of State who is a man of
prudence and vision.

While I propose a toast for President Ford, his
lady wife, and for the friendship between the
American and Egyptian peoples, I am sure that I
am expressing sentiments which are genuinely re-
ected by President Ford, his assistants, and
our friends towards a country that is known for its
size, culture, and historical heritage.

I am certain that when my visit is completed,
the picture will be clearer to the American public,
government officials, and legislators. This would
definitely lead to cementing the relations between
the American people and the Egyptian people as
well as the entire Arab nation.

May I propose a toast to the health of President
Ford and Mrs. Ford, our dear friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, I seize this opportunity
and present to our dear friend, President Ford, our
highest decoration. It is the Nile decoration. This
is a sign of great respect to himself and to the whole
American people.

As a token of our friendship and our admiration
to the First Lady and the ladies of the United States,
may I present our highest decoration, El Kema.