

Visit of President Sadat of Egypt

*Toasts of the President and President Sadat
at a Dinner Honoring the Egyptian
President. April 4, 1977*

PRESIDENT CARTER. First of all, I'd like to say how grateful I am to all the Members of the Congress and distinguished guests who have come here tonight to be with us

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to honor one of my very close, personal friends.

I've been looking forward to the visit by President Sadat for a long time. I think everyone that I've talked to who's been to Egypt, no matter what their political persuasion might be or under what circumstances they went to that great country, have come back impressed with him.

He's a man from a small village. And when I met with him early this morning, he said that the consciousness of the villagers was the guiding concept in his own political life—a commitment to the closeness of families, a pledge to the individual human being and the individuality that exists there; an unswerving religious commitment, a pride in one's heritage. And no nation on Earth has a heritage as admirable as does the country of Egypt.

He talked to me about the need for his visiting his home people frequently to re cement his ties with the people of Egypt who look to him for great leadership.

He's a man who, when he first took office, played a strong role in the establishment of a firm commitment to basic human rights. Although they were turbulent times, the release of political prisoners was an instantaneous action on his part.

He's a man who has been courageous in proposing, boldly, new ideas and new concepts which might be the basis for peace in his troubled region of the world. I've found, and all the visitors to Egypt have found, that he's a man of superb frankness; if he believes something, he tells you.

You never know from one moment to another exactly how political consequences might evolve. But he analyzes complicated issues and is able to express himself quickly and clearly. He's a man of his word, and within the Arab nations,

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