

Toasts of the President and President Sadat of Egypt.
October 27, 1975

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

It is obviously a very, very great honor to have Mrs. Sadat and you with us this evening, and particularly for me to have the opportunity today, tonight, and tomorrow, and next Sunday, to strengthen our personal relationship.

Although you have been in our country before, Mr. President, this is the first state visit by an Egyptian President to visit the United States. I believe your visit, Mr. President, symbolizes the very close working relationship of our two countries and what has been achieved in the last 2 years.

We honor you tonight as a friend of the United States and for your commitment to provide your people many of the same goals that the American people have striven for and cherished over the long 200 years of our young history.

You are committed, I know from our personal discussions, to improving the conditions of life for all Egyptians, and for the people of the entire Arab world.

You have recognized that we must work together to overcome the tragedy of unfulfilled lives—lives marked by disease, malnutrition, undereducation, underemployment, and the devastation of war.

Americans—and I say this from personal contact—respect your vigorous pursuit of peace and your efforts to devote your nation's energy and your nation's resources not to continue conflict, but to meet the needs of your people.

We in the United States are committed to work with you toward such world goals. Failure to achieve peace in the Middle East will affect the lives of Americans.

