

PRESS CONFERENCE

held by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

before his departure from Austria

April 13, 1976

Question : What is Egypt's reaction to the latest news which state that Israel possesses atomic weapons ?

President : I have repeatedly said that this frightens us not at all. We shall not be the initiators of introducing atomic weapons in the area, and if Israel does this, it has to bear the consequences. . . However, I repeat, such a question does not cause us any apprehension.

Question : What does President Sadat have to say concerning Moammar El Kazzafy's actions and behaviour, particularly as you, sometimes described him as mad ?

President : Kazzafy is mentally sick, and whatever weapons he obtains, this is absolutely no concern of ours as long as they are for the use of the Libyan soldiers. . . If the Libyan army is incapable of using these weapons, and another power uses them instead, this will be of special interest to us. If the whole question is just having piles and piles of arms, it is no concern of us.

Question : There are some news reports indicating that Kazzafy dispatched some commandos to assassinate you. . .

President : I am perfectly aware of all this. . . However, this does not change my opinion, and I still maintain that they are all very trivial operations and of no importance to us at all.

Question : How far do your new relations with China go, and how did these relations begin ?

President : As I said before, when we felt that an embargo was imposed on the shipments of spare parts to our weapons, and the overhaul necessary for our planes by the Soviet Union, we contacted China and India, the two states which use the same type of planes and carry out the overhaul themselves. . .

China's reaction was very positive, and they began sending us some MIG engines and spare parts. When we asked for more and said that we are ready to pay their answer was that they are not arms dealers. As for India, and in accordance with its agreement with the Soviet Union, the latter prevented it from sending anything to us. It was only natural to dispatch a delegation to China in expression of our extreme appreciation of their noble attitude, and also to seek other means of cooperation between our two countries.

Question : Is there any kind of personal contact between you and Mao Tse Tung ?

President : I wrote to Mao Tse Tung and thanked him personally, as well as the Chinese government. The Egyptian delegation to China will be headed by the Vice-President. On his return, we shall see the dimensions of cooperation that can be achieved between us and China.

Question : Are you of the opinion that China should take part in the Middle East Crisis ?

President : I always say that we do not want to enter the game of big nations, nor do we desire to be party to it ?

Question : Do you, Mr. President, concentrate on one super-power or both ?

President : In this respect our policy is very clear. . . We have contacts with the Soviet Union, the United States and Europe. Last year, I suggested that France and Britain should participate in the guarantees.

This year, Brezhnev supported my proposal in his speech at the Conference of the Soviet Communist Party. We endeavour to have all the powers interested in the problem take part in the methods of its solution.

Question : Will you visit China shortly ?

President : No, I have no plans.

Question : What was the reason for convening the National Security Council in Egypt ?

President : I asked the National Security Council to meet in order to acquaint it with the effects of my trip to Europe. We are a state of institutions, and it is my duty to inform the heads of these institutions with the results of my trip.

Question : Did Yasser Arafat send you a message calling for assistance ?

President : No comment. .

Question : Will you attempt to use your influence with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in order to adopt more moderate attitudes ?

President : I do not think that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is extremist. .

They are moderate people, and when they call for a secular state this is not extremism. They have always denounced all terrorist actions and plans of hijacking incidents which happened in

Europe, as well as the OPEC terrorist operation which occurred here in Vienna. . . Therefore, I do not think that they are extremists at all. Perhaps there are some extremist elements, but the Organisation itself is moderate.

Question : What about the Organisation's charter ?

President : If you put yourself in their place, you will definitely take the same attitude. . . They are people who have been deprived of everything in life, even the simplest human rights for 27 long years. So, let us be fair and not judge them from one angle only. Let us give them something in their hands, and treat them in a just and human manner, and I believe that, then, everything will be all right.

Question : Do you believe that it is much easier to reach an agreement between Egypt and Israel than it is to reach an agreement between Israel and the Arab world ?

President : No. . . No. . . The Arab cause cannot be splintered. . . The problem is not that of Sinai or the Golan. . . Absolutely not. . . The problem is that of Palestine, and if we solve this problem, it will be very easy and feasible to solve the others, including Sinai and the Golan. . . I am an Egyptian, but I have to shoulder the responsibilities of the future of my country and the Arab world as well. Egypt has historical responsibilities towards the Arab World, and it can never give them up.

Question : Are you ready to meet Itzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister ?

President : How can I meet him while he is occupying part of our homeland ? This would be tantamount to surrender. . . Would it have been possible, for example for America to sit with Japan after the Pearl Harbour raid.

Question : Have you discussed the question of armament with

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Yugoslavia and what is the objective of Gamassy's visit to Rumania ?

President : We have traditional relations with Yugoslavia which began between Abdel Nasser and Tito, then I continued it because it became a personal relationship. When we meet, we discuss numerous topics not only that of armaments.. We talk about our bilateral relations, the question of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the latest world developments, etc.

Certainly this means that there is no one particular item I discuss with Tito.

As for Rumania, this visit was supposed to take place last year, even before Gamassy had become a Minister, but it was postponed for some reasons. The late Minister of War, Ahmed Ismail was supposed to pay this visit to Rumania, but it was postponed as a result of his death. Now, Gamassy is paying it in his capacity as Minister of War.

Question : Would you please speak to us about the effects of your trip ?

President : I am more than content about my trip to Europe, and my talks in Germany, with President Giscard D'Estaing, Italy's President Leoni, Mr. Aldo Morro, and my meeting with the Pope. I am very satisfied with the results of these talks. There was also an exchange of views with Tito and here in Austria.

As a matter of fact, my talks with President Schlieger and Chancellor Kreisky were extremely encouraging and satisfactory.

Question : What are the facts about the international consortium to assist Egypt ?

President : When I visited the six Arab countries, we agreed to set up a fund to consolidate the Egyptian economy.. Last year

in Salzburg, I agreed with President Ford and Kissinger to set up a Western Consortium to assist us economically.

Question : Are the Gaza Sector and the Western Bank sufficient as a basis for the establishment of the State of Palestine.

President : Don't ask me, you should ask Yasser Arafat himself.

Question : Would Egypt accept to give up a part of the Sinai Peninsula ?

President : I shall never give up one inch of my land.. This was what we agreed upon at the Rabat Arab Summit Conference -- namely, we shall never relinquish one inch of our territories, nor bargain over the rights of the Palestinian people.. These two principles are, in fact, the pivot of Arab strategy.

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