PRESS CONFERENCE
BY
PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT
Washington, October 28, 1975

President Anwar El Sadat held a press-conference in Washington on October 28, 1975 which was attended by over 100 pressmen.

The President started the conference by expressing his thanks to the American people and the U.S. press for the warm welcome given him since his arrival in the United States. He told the American people that Egypt shall always remain their friend and that the Egyptian people were looking forward to the best of relations between the two countries.

The President was asked of the possibilities of holding the Geneva conference, at present. He replied, that after effecting a second disengagement on the Golan Heights, it will be necessary to hold the Geneva Conference.

He was also asked whether he considered it necessary to hold another meeting, prior to Geneva, to consider the participation of Palestine in the Conference. He replied,

“If this would facilitate and pave the way to Geneva, I agree, on condition that it is not an alternative to Geneva”.

He was asked whether he considered that the United States should be the sole supplier of arms to Egypt, to which he replied,

“We had asked the United States to supply us with arms, since 1953, but it refused. Consequently, in 1955, we sought to
purchase arms from the Soviet Union. Last year I adopted a decision for the diversification of the sources of arms and breaking the arms monopoly. I should like to purchase arms from America, Western Europe and the Soviet Union, if that is possible. But I have not come with a shopping list. I discussed the subject, with President Ford in general. I refer the subject to the American people as our position is an extraordinary one. The Soviet Union has refused to replace the arms we used up in the October War. Israel's losses were replaced before the cease-fire, and the same thing applied to Syria. After the cease-fire, Israel obtained sophisticated arms from the United States.

However, what interests me here is not arms but reconstruction projects.

The President said that the question of arms should be studied with utmost care, as it was necessary to adopt decisions thereon, in the near future.

The President was asked about relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He replied.

«Ever since July 72, our relations have come to a stalemate or are characterised by lack of understanding, for two reasons:

First: Arms

Second: Their refusal to give us a period of grace for settlement of our debts.

To the question on whether considering Zionism as a form of racialism would affect his relations with the United States, the President replied,

"It is up to you to decide. This is our view. We do not expect to be always of the same opinion. We could have different views in certain matters, but if each understands the position of the other, our friendship could continue."
Replying to a question on the situation in Lebanon the President said. I discussed the subject with President Ford as Lebanon is part of the region. We are both deeply distressed at what is taking place in Lebanon. My view as I announced it in the People's Assembly is 'Hands off Lebanon' both foreign and Arab”.

Replying to a question on whether President Ford had promised him to work for effecting a second disengagement in Golan the President replied.

“As has happened in the first disengagement, I asked the United States to effect a disengagement on the Golan Front, which actually happened. After the second disengagement I also asked for a second disengagement on the Golan Front and the United States has promised to use its good offices to realise this and I am content with their promise”.

President Sadat spoke of the attitude of the United States towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation saying.

“I made a complete analysis of the situation in the Middle East to President Ford and exhorted America to hold a dialogue with the PLO. I cannot say more than that at present”.

Replying to another question on the PLO the President said.

“To reach an overall settlement, all the parties concerned should participate in the Geneva Conference. Before going to Geneva, we should sit together to organise our policy (meaning with the PLO) but time is not ripe yet”.

Replying to still another question the President said,

“The PLO should join the Geneva Conference upon the same footing as any other member and should not come as part of any delegations.”
The President was asked whether he had hoped to return with a positive decision concerning arms. He replied,

"What I consider as my greatest success here, is my meeting with the American people and my exchange of views with my friend President Ford and my friend Dr. Henry Kissinger and reviewing the (Middle East) problem in all its dimensions. When I return to Egypt, I needn't say here, I brought this and this with me".

The President was asked about the present efficacy of the Armed force, to which he replied.

"Despite the fact that this is considered a military secret I can tell you that until now our position is good. But the sophisticated weapons the U.S. will be supplying to Israel will upset the balance".

When he was asked on how to overcome terrorism he said,

"Restore the rights to those who lost everything: their homes and all their rights".

On relations between Egypt and Syria the President said,

"It is very natural that differences should occur among the Arab family. This does not bother me at all; we have our strategy, and are responsible before the Arab world to adhere to it. This is: 1) Not to relinquish one inch of Arab soil. 2) not to make compromises on the Palestine cause. But there can be differences over the tactics employed.

The President was asked whether he believed Israel possessed nuclear arms and whether this question provoked his anxiety.
The President replied,

“What provokes my anxiety is Israel’s refusal to sign the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Arms. This shows that they are up to something. They have the nuclear reactor they obtained from France some years ago. They attained certain levels of nuclear production but I cannot say that they have atomic bombs”.

In reply to a question on how America could be his friend, when it Israel’s best friend, and in the meantime defend Arab interests?

“I see no inconsistency in this, “the President said. I am not America’s agent, nor will I ever be anybody else’s. I am a friend; if we agree, well and good, if we differ, that is possible as well. However, This is a way of thinking I came across before:

First: with the former Secretary of State, Foster Dulles who believed in the principle of who is not with me, is against me. Thus you are either black or white.

Second: This is the line pursued by the Soviet Union at present. No. I do not approve of this principle at all. There is the national dignity and the free will of every nation.

The President was asked whether he believed Egypt should pressure the PLO to accept the 242 Resolution.

“I am not at all prepared to pressure the Palestinians for the simple reason that they have been denied everything for the past 27 years. If pressure need be exerted, I would pressure the United States”.

In reply to another question, President Sadat said,
thus asserting the principles of justice, the United Nations Charter and its provisions.

While taking pleasure in addressing you, I consider it equally pleasurable to find in front of and around me this great number of friendly states with which we have strong ties, and with which we have a common understanding of and a positive interaction with our present political line. This is not due to Egypt’s strategic weight or standing or to its civilizational heritage, as much as it is due to the principles to which we are committed in our policy.

These are, fundamentally, the desire to deal within a framework of brotherhood and friendship, respect for the states’ independence and their sovereignty, non-interference in their internal affairs and last but not least, interaction with the present day circumstances of our contemporary world, regardless of its different circles.

As far as Egypt is concerned, the Arab circle of which we are part and to which we belong, is the basic circle; it comes first and it assumes a special position in all these circles. There is no doubt that the Arab world, as one family, has come to assume a prestigious position among all political circles. It is a fact made prominent and crystallized by the great sixth of October (1973) day, as well as by the spontaneous Arab solidarity which immediately manifested itself following that day. I have no doubt that this solidarity will continue and further develop. The Arab world undoubtedly will play its role as a sixth power, which has its standing and weight and will together with the other circles participate in the political and economic development of our world and the advancement of its civilization.

It is my conviction that the potentialities of the Arab world will be fulfilled its responsibilities and will interact with the productive spirit.

Closely linked to this is the Afro-Arab circle which comprises many brotherhoods of all nations of the world; the ideology or heritage except for the corrupt.

Brothers and colleagues,

As you all know, one of the oldest brotherhoods of the world is the Afro-Arab one, one which has no ideology or heritage except for the concept of freedom and protection within the United Nations Organization and the solidarity and interdependence and the use of the Afro-Arab identity will, in the God willing, in the near future contribute to this cooperation and effectiveness.

There is yet another circle, the Afro-Arab one, the racial composition and the identical nation, the near past against the movement was
It is my conviction that the other circles, realizing the potentialities of the Arab world and its true determination to fulfill its responsibilities in an active manner, will cooperate and interact with the Arab world in a positive manner and a constructive spirit.

Closely linked to this Arab circle is the Islamic circle which comprises many peoples believing in the equality and brotherhood of all nations and peoples regardless of differences of ideology or heritage, with no discrimination and with no bias except for the common good.

Brothers and colleagues,

As you all know, Egypt is an African country which belongs to one of the oldest continents of the world, though, unfortunately, one which has suffered most through the evils of colonialism, exploitation and backwardness. Now, however, Africa stands with its head high, exerting the utmost effort for the realization of freedom and progress, either through pure African interactions within the Organization of African Unity, or through African solidarity and interdependence with the Arab nation, making use of the Afro-Arab dialogue which is to crystallize next year, God willing, in the form of an Afro-Arab charter which will regulate this cooperation at the highest level of responsibility and effectiveness.

There is yet another circle which links together many states of the world regardless of their geographical situation or the racial composition of their people, namely the non-aligned group. This movement has emanated from a deep feeling of the identical nature of the experiences of those states in the near past against colonialism and backwardness. The birth of this movement was a beacon light to the states which were still
suffering from the effects of colonialism and exploitation. What strengthened the radiation of that beacon light was the fact that the circumstances accompanying the appearance of that positive political phenomenon were indeed critical. A cold war was then raging between states in possession of weapons of mass destruction, a fact which made it possible for the states of the Third World to play a fundamental role and to carry a lofty message.

Now that what is called «detente» has replaced discord, threat, and the resort to means of violence, exploitation and pressure, and despite the great difference between the two epochs, the non-alignment movement has been able — after having fulfilled its first mission during the cold war honorably and sincerely — to adapt itself to the new world changes and to play a new fundamental role based on the movement's basic principles. These remain, in my judgment, the true safeguard of peoples' independence and the freedom of small states which aspire to breathe the fresh air of liberty, to gain control over their natural resources and to advance on the road of progress, away from spheres of influence. Once this is achieved, they can contribute to the international arena in a significant, valuable, meaningful and effective manner.

Suffice it here to compare, without going into detail, the number of states which initiated this movement in the fifties, with the number of states of the non-alignment movement nowadays.

It may be enough to illustrate the weight and the positive role of this movement to point out the fact that one of the first pronouncements of a newly-independent state is to declare its adherence to the non-aligned group and its belief in the movement's principles.
Mr. President,

I hope I have not spoken too long about the international situation. Yet the United Nations in our view is a mirror which reflects the outside world. Hence, it should be an effective means of expressing the will and the desires of the different peoples. You have achieved much which is a credit and an honour to humanity since the establishment of our Organization by adapting the United Nations Charter and its principles, through the various declarations and resolutions which you have adopted, most important among which are:

— The Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

— The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

— The Declaration of Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States.

— The Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

— The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

— The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Economic Rights and Duties of States.

This, however, does not mean that the majority of the peoples of the world have attained a decent living standard. On the contrary, we find that many peoples still have standards unworthy of human dignity.

31
Your responsibility, therefore, is enormous for guaranteeing a constructive interaction and understanding among the have and the have-not states, between industrialized states and those producing raw-materials, with a view to achieving progress on the basis of equality and justice, thus providing the international order with the foundations of a healthy existence.

In this way, conflagration here or there might be avoided with all their attendant effects whose dimensions and whose repercussions on world security and destiny cannot be predicted.

On this occasion, Mr. President, I am reminded of the dialogue begun during the last two special sessions of the General Assembly dealing with the problem of raw materials and development, and with development and international economic cooperation.

This induces me to believe that there is movement on the right track, even though we may still be very far from reaching an equitable agreement on those complicated and complex matters. I am convinced, however, that the basic solution must reside in our belief, one and all, that extremism and confrontation will not lead to any solutions and that the key to cooperation towards progress and positive action for the good of all humanity, lies in following common sense and moderation and in trying to understand the others’ point of view.

We in Egypt are ready, even committed to participate in this great effort which requires the closest cooperation among all of us, if we are to understand the problems and to diagnose the malady so that together we can agree on the right remedy, before it is too late and before the malady becomes incurable. In our above-mentioned commitment I trust that the great majority of the people of the world will support us in our efforts and by steps.

Mr. President,

We in Egypt must study the scene. Detente and exchange envisaged for all peoples, the peaceful coexistence and the search for a new order, the search for growth in all fields, the search for justice, peace and security, and the search for a world for all, for the good of all humanity.

We in Egypt account the importance of the future and the significance of a world for all, a world for all peoples, a world where there will be no more domination by one people over another, where there will be no more campforming of nations and the search for a new order of things, in which the idea of equality and justice will be respected, and not violated.

We in Egypt believe that the search for justice and peace begins with an awareness of the facts and the truth, that we must study the scene. Detente and exchange envisaged for all peoples, the peaceful coexistence and the search for a new order, the search for growth in all fields, the search for justice, peace and security, and the search for a world for all, for the good of all humanity.

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iority of the states of the world share our belief in the inevitability of reaching equitable and peaceful solutions quickly with the understanding that these solutions will be applied gradually and by steps.

Mr. President,

We in Egypt, like other states, consequently realize that we must study deeply the current changes in the international scene. Detente whether strategic or tactical is an in international event of the utmost importance. It may prove to be infinitely dangerous if it overshadows its declared objective, which we hope to be the essential and real objective behind this new change in international relations.

We in Egypt are for detente and welcome it if it takes into account the interests of small states and their national destinies and the aspirations of their peoples. Detente cannot be what it means unless it is an interaction, from the bottom to the top. In our opinion it cannot be an imposition from the top down. If detente were to be a slogan for peace and stability between the two super-powers alone, by way of agreements in the fields of thermonuclear weapons and the safeguards thereof, or through cooperation in the fields of technology, commerce, etc., in complete isolation from the rest of the peoples of the world, then it would be a futile change without any good or value which should be opposed by other medium and small states. On the other hand if detente was a profound strategic change envisaging the establishment of a just and real peace for all peoples, then we would welcome it cooperate and deal with it. Therefore the areas of decision-making should not be left to the super-powers alone; the same could be said of the field of the exchange of experiences, technology and mutual benefits; these should all be at the disposal of all states of the world.
Without this profound understanding of international detente, its advantages as well as its pitfalls, detente cannot be an answer to the desires of the peoples of the world to renounce war and to enshrine peace and it cannot realize their desire to reach a standard of civilization which satisfies human dignity, by means of the exchange of information and technology on the widest scale possible, without discrimination or monopoly. If, on the other hand, detente was limited to the two super powers, the inevitable result would be the widening of the gap between these two states on the one hand, and the rest of the world and its peoples on the other. It would render more difficult the understanding and interaction necessary among the states of the world. Herein lies the real danger, the wider the gap, the more difficult it will be to lay the foundation of just bases ensuring equality among states big and small, and the more backwardness will become prevalent; and the more progress and prosperity will become the prize of only a limited number of states. The result of this will inevitably be a conflagration, a holocaust.

Needless to say that at this critical phase of international relations, and in the near future, the seeds of war lie in the enormously wide disparity between standards of living due to the monopoly and maldistribution of wealth, and in the refusal of peoples henceforth to be driven, rather than participate effectively in the great march of humanity towards a better living.

Mr. President,

Permit me, from the above understanding and for want of a better way, to summarize to you and to the whole world, Egypt’s policy and the political line which we have adopted. This I had already done before Egypt’s People’s Assembly on October 18, 1975 when I said and I quote:
"We support every just cause and every national liberation movement, because we ourselves have a cause and are asking for justice. We believe in the United Nations Charter and ask others to respect the United Nations and to implement its Charter regarding the various political and economic issues facing our world today."

As to the super-power and other influential and responsible states, and as to international groupings of which we are not members such as the European Economic Community, our hands are extended to them all. We have no conditions for cooperating with them except that they understand our situation and respect our national will.

There is also, no doubt, the factor of how much or how far any of those parties may be willing to cooperate with us in solving our problems, foremost amongst which is the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and the rights of the Palestinian people in particular. We also see in this a yardstick of their friendship and understanding and for the establishment of mutual interests. For our cause is a just one and we are asking only for our right.

As for the situation in the Arab world and its complex problems, the bases of our policy — here again—are clear and continuous. They are not the result of emotional study of the various circumstances of the Egyptian people as well as the Arab nation, of our national struggle and the present-day world realities. Our first objective which influences all our Arab or international actions is the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people so that they can exercise their responsibility and their right to self-determination. In this respect we do not hold any part of Arab territory to be less dear to us than occupied Egyptian
Brothers and colleagues,

You will remember that last March 1975 Egypt reacted positively to the United States efforts towards reaching a second disengagement agreement, which would strengthen the ceasefire and lessen the risks of a conflagration in the region. Those efforts were, however, thwarted because of Israel’s intransigence and its inability to accept the challenges of peace.

Notwithstanding this, Egypt did not lose its enthusiasm for peace nor its belief in it. For us, peace is a strategic objective; a genuine commitment. Therefore, I subsequently took the decision to reopen the Suez Canal as an expression of our peaceful intentions, and of our keenness to facilitate international trade and commerce, and to alleviate the difficulties of many friends. We also proceeded to reconstruct a major part of the Suez Canal cities, destroyed by the Israeli aggression, and to repatriate to these reconstructed areas the inhabitants who had left them out of fear for their security.

Mr. President, dear brothers,

Closely related to the above, I find no hesitation or embarrassment - as a matter of fact we in Egypt and in the Arab world are committed to tell you frankly and realistically that present-day circumstances in our region provide a unique opportunity for peace which has never presented itself since the beginning of this Middle East conflict. Therefore, it is your duty, even your...
primary responsibility, not to miss this opportunity — through the United Nations and the different forums related to it such as the Geneva conference — with a view to pushing matters towards a peaceful settlement and capitalizing upon what I have already called a march towards a just peace. Otherwise there will be no alternative for safeguarding our sacred rights either in relation to liberation of the occupied territories or in relation to regaining the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state — no alternative but the resort to the other means approved by the Charter of the United Nations itself.

Therefore, I find it my duty to speak to you frankly, and in the same spirit which you found in me when I took the decisions for peace. As you are aware, I took a historic decision to begin the battle on the 6th of October 1973. It was not a decision to wage war for the sake of war, but the objective was to blaze the trail towards peace anew, so that the world should be made aware that the Arab nation could never accept an occupation or even accept the whittling away of the Palestinian people’s rights or their deprivation of these rights. It was imperative, therefore, to take this historic decision so that events should resume their normal course and the wheel should begin to turn towards peace. You know very well that for seven long years Egypt had resorted to the General Assembly and to the Security Council and had undertaken intensive direct diplomatic contacts and won many resolutions in complete support of the Arab rights. All this, however, still lacked the spark which your resolutions needed in order to enter into the implementation stage. Nevertheless, I would like to reiterate our full commitment to proceed according to the provisions of the Charter, after consultations with you and with your support towards a just and lasting peace, when I advocate the foregoing and invite you to
understand this reality, I need not repeat that the latest move in the Middle East is only limited in scope and effect. It is not an intrinsic solution; it was never intended to be. It is merely a move envisaging the establishment of a proper climate for making progress and for the complete and fundamental review of the problem either with regard to the recuperation of the occupied territories or with regard to regaining the Palestinians’ rights. With this understanding, I hope you will remember this frank discussion with you today and that what is requested of you, you who represent the international community in the full sense of the word, is that you should not miss the opportunity without assiduously and seriously trying to reach a comprehensive and just solution of all these problems. Thus, you can put on record that after 28 years of United Nations continuous preoccupation with the Palestinian people’s problem, the United Nations was able to apply the principles and provisions of the Charter in relation to the rights of the peoples to self-determination, as well as the respect for the independence and territorial integrity of member states and the inviolability of their territories; and that it was possible to repel the aggressor and deter aggression; as well as to re-establish the constructive authority for the United Nations; to implement the law, the Charter which you have accepted as a beacon light for international relations.

Consequently, I have no doubt that you agree with me that there will be no peace in the region without a political settlement of the Palestine problem. It is inconceivable, nay utterly unacceptable, that the Palestinian people should remain homeless and dispersed. They must regain their entity and establish their independent state so that this ancient people could contribute constructively to the development and the progress of our international community.

Mr. President,

All this reinforces my statement, while our Armenian became the large man-made military called for the campaign moment for peace. However, if our peace was then be imperative, and to the territories and to the Charter of the United Nations, the principle and provisions of the Charter in relation to the rights of the peoples to self-determination, as well as the respect for the independence and territorial integrity of member states and the inviolability of their territories; and that it was possible to repel the aggressor and deter aggression; as well as to re-establish the constructive authority for the United Nations; to implement the law, the Charter which you have accepted as a beacon light for international relations.

I believe you will agree with me that Egypt was at the Peace Conference before the complete safeguard the region.

Now that disengagement and Syrian front Egyptian front, disengagement or any moment for peace, and still present also on the foregoing, I believe imperative that the participation of the Palestinian question.

Subsequently, General and the two
Mr. President,

All this reminds me anew, as I am drawing near the end of my statement, that on the 16th of October (1973) and even while our Armed Forces had the upperhand — after having overcome the largest natural barrier and destroyed the strongest man-made military fortifications such as the Bar-Lev line — I called for the convening of a peace conference. I had never at any moment forgotten the cause of peace. This is my nature. However, if our people and the Arab nation were to find that this peace was being misinterpreted as capitulation, it would then be imperative to perform our sacred duty to liberate our territories and to restore our just rights by the means stipulated in your Charter, especially Article 51.

I believe you were not surprised therefore, when you found that Egypt was one of the first parties to welcome the Geneva Peace Conference. Egypt participated in that conference even before the completion of its preparations in such a way as to safeguard the realization of its objectives.

Now that disengagement has been realized on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, and there is a second disengagement on the Egyptian front, looking toward being followed up by another disengagement on the Syrian front — and we would have preferred, and still prefer that there should have been a disengagement also on the Palestinian front; in the light of all the foregoing, I believe that it is high time and even imperative that the Geneva Conference should resume its meetings with the participation of all the parties concerned with the Palestinian question.

Subsequently, I hereby officially request both the Secretary General and the two super-powers (the Soviet Union and the Uni-
ted States as co-chairmen of the conference) to begin immediately their consultations with all the interested parties — including the Palestine Liberation Organization — so that the Geneva Conference could be resumed in the very near future and that its meeting should continue uninterruptedly to deal with the whole problem in all its aspects in order to reach a just and lasting peace.

As you know, I would have addressed my request directly to the Secretary General and the two super-powers but I address my request officially from this rostrum, because I am fully convinced that there is no separation between Geneva and the United Nations but that, rather, there is a close organic link between the two. For, beside the fact that this Organization has been and is still dealing with the Palestine question, for 28 years, any outcome of the Geneva Conference will be the result of our efforts, either in the General Assembly or in the Security Council. Furthermore, you will have to approve and guarantee it according to the provisions of the Charter.

The United Nations, therefore, is the source and the origin. Hence it is inevitable that we should resort to you if the Geneva Conference should fail or meet with difficulties.

Therefore, you should closely follow the proceedings at Geneva, and the Security Council and the General Assembly should shoulder their responsibilities either in relation to the momentum towards peace or regarding the clear expression of your commitment to the Charter and its provisions. Other expressions of your responsibility are the constant participation of the United Nations through the Secretary General or his representatives or through the United Nations forces or through international guarantees of the peaceful settlement. All the foregoing is indivisible; it emanates from you and reverts to you.

In connection with the 30th session of the General Assembly, my request is addressed to the United Nations as the guardian of the Charter because of its oneness of responsibility as arbiter between the Palestinian claim for peace and the Middle East peace conference. Therefore, you should closely follow the proceedings at Geneva, and the Security Council and the General Assembly should shoulder their responsibilities either in relation to the momentum towards peace or regarding the clear expression of your commitment to the Charter and its provisions. Other expressions of your responsibility are the constant participation of the United Nations through the Secretary General or his representatives or through the United Nations forces or through international guarantees of the peaceful settlement. All the foregoing is indivisible; it emanates from you and reverts to you.
begin immediately. The Geneva Conference is the most effective step by which we can deal with the question of Palestinian self-determination that the United Nations can undertake. As long as the Geneva Conference last year, you the United Nations, on behalf of the Palestinian people, have a legitimate claim to self-determination. The Geneva Conference is the most effective step by which we can deal with the question of Palestinian self-determination.

In connection with the aforementioned official request to convene the Geneva Conference, I invite the General Assembly in this 30th session to take an effective step on the road towards a just peace by adopting a resolution on the necessity of the representation of the Palestine Liberation Organization — the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — at the Geneva Peace Conference on an equal footing with the other parties participating in it. Accordingly, I have instructed the Egyptian delegation to present a direct resolution along these lines in cooperation with all states where our view that the key to the solution of the Middle East problem lies in a just solution of the Palestinian question. It is inconceivable that the Geneva Conference will succeed or make representatives of the Palestinian people already recognized as such by the Arab nation at the highest level. I consider this to be in conformity with and a logical consequence of your Resolution 3237 which you adopted on 22nd November last year in the sessions and work of the General Assembly as an observer.

Mr. President,

When Egypt and the whole Arab nation appeal to the international community represented by the United Nations to make the year 1976 the year of the Palestinian people, they do so out of a deep rooted conviction not only of the justice of the cause of that people but also out of the belief in the United Nations as the custodian of international legitimacy and the guardian of the rights of the peoples. You are aware that our nation because of its heritage and civilization fully believes in the oneness of the march of humanity, and in the universality of the Palestinian people to be the cause of every free people seeking peace and calling for justice and accepting the rule of law as arbiter between good and evil, right and wrong. We do so in
the same spirit which has inspired us to adopt the causes of all oppressed peoples striving for liberation and salvation.

I would like to seize the opportunity to express our full confidence in Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as well as our appreciation for his excellent performance, and our sincere support of his incessant efforts for the cause of world peace and the prosperity of the international community. Finally, I would like to pay a necessary tribute to the United Nations Emergency and Observer Forces. You are well aware that the personnel of these forces perform their duties in a gallant and worthy spirit, under circumstances often not without many hardships. To them and to their states go all our appreciation and thanks.

Mr. President and friends,

The world awaits a lot of you at this historic, important juncture. The peoples have rising expectations of peace and prosperity, at a time when the most severe challenges are multiplying and when problems are growing in complexity in an unprecedented manner. I am confident that with our sincere and unswerving belief in a better future for humanity and our common goals, together we shall pass the test of peace and progress, thus paving the way towards a brighter era where future generations can enjoy happiness, security and hope.