

Mr. Speaker,

President of the State of Israel,

President of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Worthy and learned men, members of the Knesset,

We send our greetings to the President and to all people of Islam in your country and wherever they may be, on this occasion of the feast of sacrifice, Eid El-Adha.

This feast reminds us also of the story of Isaac and Abraham. This was the experiment and the test the Creator put to our forefather, Abraham — our common father, Abraham — to test his faith, and Abraham did meet the challenge. But when we speak from a moral point of view and the advancement of mankind, this was a taboo of bringing sacrifices of human beings, of men.

Our two peoples in their tradition, in their olden tradition, knew and taught and preached this law of humanity and we are still discussing sacrifices to their idols, we — both peoples — did not.

The Jewish people, the people of Islam and the Arab people contributed to the progress of mankind. We continue to do so, to the civilization of mankind, up to this very day.

I greet and welcome the President of Egypt on the occasion of his visit to our country and his participation at this Knesset session. The time of the flight from Cairo to Jerusalem is short, but the distance between Cairo and Jerusalem was, until last night, almost indefinite.

But President Sadat crossed the distance courageously. We, the Jews, know how to appreciate such courage, and we shall know how to appreciate it when we see it in our distinguished guest, because with courage we are here and this is how we continue to exist and we shall continue to exist.

Mr. Speaker,

This small people, the residue of the Jewish people, who came back to our historic homeland, always wanted peace, and when the dawn of our freedom arose on the 14th of May, 1948, on the 4th of Iyar, Taf-Shin-Het, the declaration of independence on the Charter of our National Independence, David Ben-Gurion said, « We ask for your hand in peace and to all our neighbouring countries, at all people in those countries, we call upon them to cooperate to help each other with the Jewish people independent in its own country.

