

Visit of President Sadat of Egypt

Remarks on the Departure of the Egyptian President. February 8, 1978

PRESIDENT CARTER. It has been a great personal pleasure for me and Rosalynn to have President Sadat and his beautiful wife, Jihan, and all their fine family with us in our country for the last few days.

My talks with President Sadat for many hours has given me a clear concept of his own concerns at this important moment in the peace process. We both share a determination to reach peace in the Middle East. And we've agreed to work closely and personally together to realize this goal.

I explained to President Sadat and he well understands the deep commitment of the United States to the security of Israel. And he shares this commitment that Israel will be secure. We also discussed at length the need to continue the negotiating process, even with temporary disappointments and delays, to achieve a just and a lasting and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In helping the parties to find solutions to the problems that separate them, the United States will be guided by the need to base a settlement on the full implemen-

tation of the principles of United Nations Resolution 242 on all the fronts. We also believe that a just solution to the Palestinian question is essential.

President Sadat and I have agreed to stay in close contact with one another in the weeks ahead, as we continue the search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. As we continue down that path, we recognize that the way is difficult. But we take inspiration from a vision of what can be, of the goal that we both seek, and we understand clearly the importance of the stakes that we see involved in this search for peace.

If we can succeed in this endeavor, there will be a peace for an area that has long known only war or the threat of war; prosperity for a people whose wealth has been too long allocated to weapons; water and fertilizer and hard, productive labor in lands and fields that have been made barren by war or the threat of war, by man and by nature; a new life for children whose future can be dominated by hope and life, rather than by conflict and fear of death.

This is a vision that we share. There is no nobler calling on this Earth than the seeking for peace. For it is that reason which caused the Bible to say that peacemakers shall be called the sons of God.

I'm honored to be with the world's foremost peacemaker, President Sadat, and to share with him a partnership in this worthy endeavor.

President Sadat, Jihan, and your family, you have been welcomed here by me and all the people of our country. We admire you deeply, and we know that with your help and with your persistent cooperation, you, we, the Israelis, and others in the Middle East can find what we all search for so deeply, and that is permanent peace in that troubled part of the world.

