

Mar. 27

Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1979

Egypt-U.S. Business Council

Remarks at a Dinner Honoring President Sadat. March 27, 1979

Prime Minister Khalil, Chairman Con-sidine, President Leshner, distinguished friends from the United States of America and the Arab Republic of Egypt:

I never thought I would speak to an American audience to introduce a foreign head of state and feel at least as much at home with the visitors as I do with my own people. But I've spent much more time recently with President Sadat and his Cabinet than I have with my own Cabinet. And I feel like I'm coming home when I sit next to my good friend.

[Laughter]

My role is to introduce him. But I would like to say a few words at the beginning.

About a year ago, my wife and I and Amy got up early one Saturday morning to come to the museum of art to see a remarkable exhibit of King Tutankhamen, a very tiny portion of the ancient treasures of Egypt. We arrived early before the museum opened, and when we arrived the sidewalks for several blocks were covered with blankets and pallets and sleeping Americans who had spent all night waiting to get in to see the beauty of ancient Egypt.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw these treasures. I had never been to Egypt. And now I've come to realize that this is indeed just a tiny portion of the tangible demonstration of the craftsmanship, the sensitivity, the idealism, the competence, the dedication, the intelligence, the inspiration of the people of that great and ancient land.

Recently, I had a chance to visit the Pyramids and the Sphinx, to see a superb

we can expect similar accomplishments in the future. Or, are we in danger of running out of new ideas? The forecast today—and as far ahead as we can imagine—is the same as stated thirty years ago by Vannevar Bush: science is “the endless frontier.” The opportunities inherent in today's scientific research are limitless in all fields—from new understanding of the evolution of the universe to the insights revealed by the genetic code. Indeed, we are in the midst of a remarkable era of explosive growth in knowledge and its use by society, unparalleled in any period of history.

It is not possible to predict the political or technological directions in the century ahead. I am certain, however, that strong support for science and technology by the Nation is one of the most important ways to prepare for the future.

Building on the strengths of our American system, I have developed policies that should serve as guidelines for Federal programs for science and technology for the years ahead. In this task, I have given attention to the balance of our Federal effort, directing it toward many issues that will in my judgment be the critical issues for the remainder of this century.

I seek to ensure that technology is used wisely for the benefit of all. With the support of our government and our people, and the skills from the scientific and technological community, science and technology can help us chart the way to a more meaningful and productive future for all mankind.

JIMMY CARTER

The White House,
March 27, 1979.

of Ramses in the heart of the great
of Cairo.

I was blessed to ride with President
Sadat on a train, in an open railcar built
1870, across the Nile Delta from Cairo
Alexandria. I saw there people who
are industrious. I grew up on a farm
where there were no machines—and still,
in many parts of Egypt, with the ex-
tremely rich land, four crops per year,
beautifully irrigated, superb variety of
produce of that country, people hard
work, still using in some instances ox-
camels, water buffalo, their hands, as
well as the most modern tools of agri-
culture.

Forty million people, only recently an
independent nation after almost 2,000
years of foreign domination, a country
ready to expand rapidly economically;
and now, because of the leadership of an
inspired man, those 40 million people
changing their whole attitude and com-
mitment from war to peace.

I'm proud to have been part of it. But
I thought, as I made my brief trip
through that country, was how rich an op-
portunity existed there for the realization
of the hopes and ambitions of many of my
fellow Americans.

As you know, my background is as an
engineer and a businessman. And I could
think of the immediate prospects for dras-
tic and prosperous change when the Suez
Canal is now opened to Israeli ships. In 2
months, we expect the borders to be open
to unrestricted travel between Egypt and
Israel, an end to the crippling and con-
staining embargo. Government-to-gov-
ernment interrelationships have already
been established at almost every Cabinet
level between the United States and
Egypt.

But the most important interrelation-
ship has not yet been adequately explored.
I believe that the peace just confirmed
will last, not because Carter, Sadat, Be-
gin can be in office many more months or
years, but because once those borders are
open and thousands of students, tourists,
mothers, fathers, tradesmen, merchants,
scholars, archaeologists move back and
forth across those borders, the benefits of
peace will be so obvious and so tangible
and so precious that a change in the lead-
ership of those two countries in the future
cannot possibly have a deleterious effect.

I want to see very rapidly the relation-
ship between our country and Egypt
change in the same way. Ours is a system
of free enterprise, where our Government
plays a minimal role compared to the
thrust of our dynamic economic system,
where the major progress and the quality
of life of our people has been attributable
to people, leaders like yourselves. And I
sincerely hope that this dream that I have
of Egypt and you joining together to real-
ize a great, mutual advantage will be rap-
idly realized.

Today I had a private luncheon with
Prime Minister Khalil, also an engineer,
a businessman, a volunteer in government
who was sought by President Sadat, a man
who is Prime Minister, who manages the
day-by-day affairs of the Government, a
man of unimpeachable integrity, of quiet
competence, who will in the future play
an expanded role in guaranteeing that the
routine and almost inevitable bureau-
cratic obstacles will be rapidly removed,
a man who's approachable by those who
see an opportunity to invest in Egypt for
the benefit of the people whom he serves.

I want to see you and me and other
Americans help to build an even greater
Egypt.

What are their needs?—the same as ours a few years ago: more food, more food production, homes, roads, seaport facilities, airport facilities, telecommunications, power, water—the things that American genius and American business is so easily able to provide on a profitable basis.

I and all the members of my Cabinet, Secretary of Commerce Kreps here in front of me, will be eager to cooperate with you. The good will of the people of the United States now reaches out to encompass the people of Egypt in the most heartfelt, sincere, and intense way. And I want to be sure that that good will is exemplified in tangible benefits for the quality of life of the people of Egypt, whom I also have come to love.

It's a time for us to explore those new horizons. I wanted to come tonight to add my personal voice in this effort to realize the enormous, mutual benefits that can come from this new and increased interest and investment in a great and a rich and a growing and expanding, a dynamic land.

And now it is my good duty to introduce a man who has come to love me and whom I have come to love as a brother. I have the greatest possible personal affection and admiration for him. He's a man of unmatched political courage.

It certainly has required no courage on my part to participate as a mediator between Israel and Egypt, but President Sadat on a daily basis has shown not only great political courage but physical courage as well.

He's a man of great intelligence, instantly able to comprehend the most complicated diplomatic nuances and bring order out of them when that would serve his own people. He's a man who's sensi-

tive about the needs of those whom he serves. He's a man whose word is his bond. I have never once had him tell me that this is the position of Egypt and then subsequently, under the most intense pressure and when the temptations must have been real and genuine and strong, had him deviate one iota from what he pledged to do. And I would almost stake my own reputation in guaranteeing you that that would be the attitude of himself and Prime Minister Khalil as they work with you in the future.

He's a man who's convinced that the future will bring great spiritual, moral, political, and economic riches to his own people, and he's willing to give his life for those goals. He's a man worthy of admiration by all who know him and who know of him.

And now, I would like to introduce to you a friend of mine, a man whom I introduced almost a year ago and would like to introduce now as the world's foremost peacemaker, President Anwar al-Sadat.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:21 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Frank W. Considine is chairman of the Egypt-U.S. Business Council, the unit of the Chamber of Commerce which hosted the dinner for President Sadat, and Dr. Richard L. Leshner is president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Following the remarks of President Carter and President Sadat, a panel discussion was held. Participants in the panel included President Sadat, Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly Ali al-Sayed, Minister of Planning Abdel-Meguid, Minister of Finance Ali Loutfi, Mr. Considine, and Dr. Leshner.

On the same day, the White House announced that Vice President Walter F. Mondale would attend a luncheon hosted by the Israel-U.S. Business Council in honor of Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the Plaza Hotel in New York City on March 28.

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- (3) strengthening the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission;
- (4) replacing the Civil Service Commission with the Office of Personnel Management and the independent Merit Systems Protection Board;
- (5) establishing the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- (6) carrying out the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA);
- (7) establishing the Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System;
- (8) establishing the International Development Cooperation Agency; and
- (9) reorganizing our international trade functions under the new Office of the United States Trade Representative.

A 10th reorganization plan would improve the effectiveness of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That plan, which was developed as a result of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island, is now under consideration by the Congress.

Again, I commend the Congress for its responsive action in passing this legislation.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 6585 is Public Law 96-230, approved April 8.

**Visit of President
Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt**

Toasts at the Dinner Honoring the Egyptian President. April 8, 1980

PRESIDENT CARTER. First of all, let me welcome everyone here.

In our great country we have a lot to be thankful for. I won't take my entire time to describe the blessings that we have in the United States, but one of the blessings that we have tonight is to have two very close friends to come and visit us, along with their family and their official family, from Egypt. Sometimes when people walk in a home, there's an instant feeling of warmth and friendship and common purpose and even a degree of love. And that's the way we feel when the Sadats come to visit us at the White House.

That's not the only thing I'm thankful for. Every day when the election progresses through its long and tortuous route, I'm thankful that one man is not running against me in the United States. [Laughter] How would you like to run against Anwar Sadat—[laughter]—for President of the United States? I would guess that he's possibly the most popular man not only in our country but in most parts of the world, because he has demonstrated in his own life, in a unique and exemplary way, statesmanship, understanding of others in a strong and compassionate and self-confident manner, and the epitome of political courage.

When he decided in his own fashion to make an historic trip to Jerusalem, it transformed the attitude of the world. There was a shock that went through society in almost every nation on Earth and a thrill that one person could change instantly a discouraging and even debilitating deadlock, which had given four wars in 30 years.

It's hard to think back now on those troubled times, because so much has changed in the last 30 months—a time when Israel was hated and despised by almost all Arab governments, when no Arab leader had the temerity to even meet with or talk to or recognize diplomatically or