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S P E E C H

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

**at the banquet given in his honour
by Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito**

February 15, 1971

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the people and leaders of the United Arab Republic to receive you with the same love and cordiality as we have always done along the past years. Whether your meetings with our late leader were in Yugoslavia or here in the United Arab Republic, I can say that every meeting between you represented an outstanding landmark in the history of our countries' development, the history of the movement of world development, the current of international liberation and the coalition of the third world countries. In spite of the grievous loss of our late leader Gamal Abdel Nasser at this critical juncture, our people took a glorious stand by insisting on going forward along the

path of their leader and mentor Abdel Nasser. These people whom you know and who know you went out on June 9 and 10, 1967 to reject defeat and rally around and adhere to the leadership of Gamal Abdel Nasser. These same people also went out *en masse* to bid farewell to Abdel Nasser to his last abode and to affirm that they will continue the march on the path and principles of the leader.

Dear Friend,

We have been unable to realise, during the past period, all we had aspired to because of the conspiracies and wars waged against us by the forces of domination and Zionism. But inspite of all these battles which continued over 19 years, our people were able to realise outstanding achievements. They eliminated feudalism and the domination of foreign capital and monopolies and saved the national economy to ensure that its returns go to the whole people.

In 1961, they were able to start the socialist transformation and to build the High Dam which, as you know, constituted a multi-sided battle. This was a struggle for freedom

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and independence as it was a struggle for the establishment of prosperity.

In spite of the fierce battles, we were able to start the construction of the Iron and Steel Complex which is regarded as a new high dam costing as much as L.E. 400 million of which L.E. 70 million have been expended until now. I say that in spite of the ferocity of these battles and the ferocity of our enemies whom we confront we are determined to carry our arms with one hand and to build with the other.

Mr. President,

I ask you to convey to the friendly peoples of Yugoslavia our admiration and appreciation of the firm stand taken up by Yugoslavia on our side under your wise and enlightened leadership. We do not have the least doubt regarding this brotherly support.

I also wish that you will kindly convey to the peoples of Yugoslavia our firm determination not to relinquish any of our rights whatever may be the power of our enemies and their manoeuvres; for our people are fully prepared to pay the price of their independ-

ence and dignity in the battle of liberation with blood and souls if need be. We will be patient but our patience will not be without limits.

The slogan we raise is that we prefer to die as martyrs on our feet while fighting in defence of our soil and right than to live submissive on our knees.

I greet you, dear friend, wishing you good health and long age and wishing prosperity for Arab-Yugoslav friendship.