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S P E E C H

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

at the banquet given in honour
of the Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito

February 14, 1971

Dear Friend, President Josip Broz Tito,

On such occasions, friends usually talk of their plans and problems, of their hopes and trials.

As a matter of fact, there is nothing in our friendship with you personally or in Yugoslav-Arab friendship that urges us today to do so, for the close friendship between us renders this unnecessary and enables us to concentrate our efforts on joint thinking and joint **action**.

You may see as I do that I begin with the trials and problems and give them priority over our plans and hopes.

As for trials, we know that you have suf-

ferred with us and lived them as we did. It is the first time we meet, and the first time you are in our country in the absence of the great friend you have known, and with whom you have shared a new conception of the world; a world of non-aligned countries. This new world has emerged at a crucial period in contemporary history, to face the danger of a world divided into hostile blocs and to ward off the dangers of the cold war threatening them, and seeking peace, progress as well as political and social freedom for all nations and peoples, and for the realisation of the United Nations Charter in letter and spirit.

You were a friend, a companion and partner of Gamal Abdel Nasser in a significant historical struggle which has proved to be triumphant in spite of the price exacted from fighters for freedom and progress in terms of effort, courage, blood and life.

The anti-freedom and anti-progress forces fought a desperate and fierce battle against development itself. With the inevitability of the ultimate victory of progress, the forces of freedom and progress paid a heavy price for defending their principles and their advancement.

In fact, this was the struggle which our President, leader and mentor Gamal Abdel Nasser, who was your friend, companion and partner, fought and martyred himself under its banners.

That was our deep grief as it was yours, grief that has been shared by the whole world. But history tells us that heroes' deeds will never be forgotten. The value of the great contribution of heroes to humanity lies in the fact that what they do can survive them.

Hence, at the moment of our deep grief, we did not lose hope. What we were concerned about was the fact that the principles and values laid down by Gamal Abdel Nasser on the Arab land, spreading to other parts of the world, however remote they are, have turned into a tidal wave beyond control.

This is about trials. As for problems, you, our friend, have been with us all along the road.

Right from the beginning of the present Middle East crisis, we remember with pride your positive participation in the socialist group of countries and parties, who have been on our side.

Nor will we forget, as Abdel Nasser said more than once, your visit to us in August, 1967 and the difficult circumstances which surrounded it.

Also we cannot forget the efforts you constantly made until Yugoslavia embarked on its wide-scale political move during recent weeks to explain our stand, and to defend our right in all world capitals.

You, friend, are the first to know that we seek peace, but we do not seek peace at any price. For, to seek peace at any price is another form of surrender to the **fait accompli**. Our outlook on peace is genuine.

1. We want peace based on justice and we believe faithfully that there is no peace without justice as a basis.
2. We believe that peace cannot be imposed. And when others speak of imposing peace, this really means that they speak of war. For peace emerges from hearts, not from the barrels of guns.
3. When we talk of peace, we do in fact talk of peace as it should be.

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maintenance of strategic positions, nor is it a loss of legitimate rights, national and international. Peace loses its spirit and meaning in this way.

From this point, friend, and from this outlook of peace, we have defined our ideas of a solution to the Middle East crisis in two points :

- The first is the necessity to withdraw fully from all the territories occupied by the Israeli aggressors supported by the forces of world imperialism, after June 5, 1967, and
- The second is the necessity to safeguard the legitimate and natural rights of the Palestine people, not only on a humane basis, but also on political and national bases before anything else, and also not with a view to a solution of the problem of the Palestinian refugees but to a solution of the problem of the Palestinian homeland.

Our acceptance of the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967 and our cooperation by every means with the U.N. Secretary General for the implementation of

this Resolution was but a result of this concept. Furthermore, we co-operated with all those who tried to handle the problem even though we doubted the sincerity of their intentions. But we did not want anyone to find fault with us and we did not want to miss any opportunity because we realised that the dangerous consequences of the Middle East crisis could extend beyond the borders of the area. Moreover, we presented initiatives to prove our good intentions and waited for others to prove their good intentions. Our record is crystal clear before the international community, while that of others is black.

In all our actions and in all the decisions we have taken, we have feared only one thing :

That our enemies and their friends should erroneously believe that we fear armed confrontation if this proves to be necessary, or that we will hesitate to resort to that confrontation if it proves to be the last resort.

To all of them I say in your presence, do not miscalculate, for we are able to fight the battle, and we accept all its costs and sacrifices, and are confident that historic development will move in favour of all that we de-

fend out of our faith in it. We believe we are not alone in the battle, for what we face here on the Arab land is part and parcel of a general planning by the forces, hostile to freedom and progress, and which feel their ambitions are being besieged by history and development.

Large parts of the world live in circumstances similar to those in which we live, with some difference of ways and means. The imperialist raids on Africa including the one to which Guinea has recently been subjected, are part of this same planning.

Dear Friend,

We have the same plans and hopes, that is, what our peoples and all peoples seek is, in brief, human dignity and national independence.

In the midst of deep harm around us and in the midst of the wild battles we are waging, I would like to point to two important features in our struggle :

- The first is that the Aswan High Dam with all its meaning of action and accomplishment to the Egyptian man has been completed.

— The second is that the Tripoli Charter came as a nucleus and symbol of the hope of our nation for Arab unity as an expression of its existence and a sign of its strength and its possible effect as regards its future and its international and human role.

Dear Friend,

I welcome you with us here as a friend, companion and partner in plans and problems, in hopes and aspirations, taking great pride in you as one of the age's heroes and cherishing, at the same time, the Arab-Yugoslav friendship.

Friends and Guests,

I ask you to stand with me to greet Josip Broz Tito, his wife and the distinguished delegation accompanying him on his visit to our country.

I ask you to stand with me in appreciation of all that Tito stands for. I ask you to stand with me to salute Arab-Yugoslav friendship.