

**S P E E C H**

by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

at the dinner banquet given in his honour in Teheran

June 16, 1976

Your Majesties the Shahanshah and Shahbanu,

Allow me to express our gratitude for the warm welcome and the fraternal reception shown us by yourselves and the brotherly people of Iran. We take this as greetings of affection and appreciation conveyed to the entire Egyptian people. I also wish to express my thanks and appreciation for the heartfelt and expressive words addressed to me and to our people whose affection and esteem for yourselves and the Irani people you must have felt.

As you said, we do consider ourselves in our home and among our people. The relations between our two nations, throughout history, have been of a unique nature, attested to by the immortal monuments in Techt Gamsheed and Luxor and the great affinity between our two civilisations, for long generations. This affinity has been further consolidated and crowned by the spread of the light of Islam in the two countries, as well as the substantial additions to Islamic thought and religious sciences by Iranian thinkers, foremost among whom are : El Bokhari, Ibn Sina El Razi, El Asfahani and Sibawe. They are all venerable ulemas highly revered by the Egyptian people who aquired knowledge and learning from them. Our ulemas translated their works and presented them to the outside

world, as specimens of high Islamic thought, an embodiment of the deep rooted unity between the various peoples of the Islamic nation and their great enriching contribution to human civilisation.

It is therefore not strange that the relations between our two countries should be an extension of the glorious past, as the scope of cooperation expands and increases every day. The two peoples have ascertained the benefit to be derived by them and all the peoples of the area from their constructive cooperation.

Shortly, they will be witnessing concrete and far reaching effects in the prosperity of our peoples who will mostly benefit from the close relations and strong ties between the two countries and peoples.

Ever since the conclusion of the Economic Cooperation Agreement between the two countries, in May 1974, the volume of exchange between them has increased and new horizons for cooperation have come into view. It is only fair to mention that Your Majesty is to be thanked for the promotion of relations between us, being persuaded, by your historic awareness and far-sightedness, that an encounter and a fusion between our two peoples are inevitable.

My dear friend, the Shahanshah, the Egyptian people share in the joy of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of your family's accession to the Throne of Iran. This is an occasion we greatly value as it embodies the great achievements for the Irani people since your great father assumed the responsibility of leading the country towards security, development and progress. You well know the love and appreciation our people entertained for him, while we cherish the fact that Egypt was very close to his heart, and that he was particularly concerned and interested in it, a policy you have followed after him.

Furthermore you make new additions to your father's accomplishments for the Irani people, every day. We have before us the

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revolution of the Shah and the people with all it has accomplished in the way of increasing the income of the toiling masses.

There is also the revolution you lead in the field of industrialisation, the generation of energy, introduction of modern technology into your country, passing social insurance laws and spreading education and health services throughout your realm. We are confident that this will contribute to the success of the ambitious development plans you lay and follow up, for the benefit of the successive generations of your glorious nation.

No doubt, your greatest achievement has been your success in rendering the independence of your country a genuine one, based on free will and the ability to practise politics, without foreign interference and the rejection of all forms of subservience and domination. We learned through bitter experience, throughout our history, that there is no alternative to preserving the free will and independent policy of the people, whatever the temptations and challenges.

The nations which attain their objectives in development, prosperity and social justice are the ones that can look after their own affairs and eliminate all forms of political, economic and intellectual domination.

Consequently, together, we call for a better economic system that will uproot the injustice imposed on the people of the Third World for long generations, and open the way to a balanced position that does not ignore their rights and interests, with regard to the industrialised nations that owe a great deal of their progress and prosperity to us.

Your Majesty, the Arab nation keeps record of the fact that you stood by it in its legitimate struggle to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and denounced the continued occupation of Arab territories. You supported the right of your Pales-

tinian brothers to practise their political rights as an ancient nation with an undeniable civilisation and political entity.

I wish to mention that Iran has voted in favour of eight U.N. General Assembly resolutions, at its thirtieth session, all of which aim at safeguarding the Palestinian people's rights and consolidating their international position. Furthermore, your stance towards the Jerusalem problem, of such vital importance to all Islamic nations, is a principal one compatible with our expectations and the spiritual ties that hold us together.

One of the aspects of our common interest in the security of the area and keeping the march of our people on the route to peace, was your initiative to establish a zone free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East, which initiative Egypt jointly sponsored and upheld. Our joy was great when all the countries of the area supported us, in fact the whole world did. Only Israel was an exception to this international unanimity; Israel whose international isolation increases everyday, following the exposure of its expansionist and aggressive intentions, as well as its plans, that are opposed to the movement of history and human rights.

Your interest in the safety of all the Arab peoples was also manifested in your attitude towards the regrettable incidents in Lebanon, incidents that have pained our hearts and have caused no end of suffering to the Lebanese and Palestinian people. This could have been avoided, had all the parties adopted our political line and responded to the initiative we took, from the beginning of the crisis, which policy was unanimously approved by the Arab League Foreign Ministers Council in the emergency meeting held in Cairo a few days ago.

This policy is based on putting a stop to foreign intervention and refraining from fanning the fires of dispute between the sons

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of one nation and the formation of a joint Arab symbolic security force to fill what was called « the security vacuum » in Lebanon.

You, no doubt, agree with me that the incidents in Lebanon, in fact the Lebanese disaster, provides a moral and objective lesson. It proves that the fates of nations cannot be determined by adventure or conspiracy, but by dint of responsible and purposeful work and contemplating the future with all the hopes and aspirations it holds for the peoples.

This is why we are driving forward at present and seeking to increase the chances for replacing accord instead of discord among the sons of the same nation. It is hoped that the joint Arab efforts that have been envisaged, after unilateral intervention proved futile shall bear fruit in the shortest possible time and succeed in healing the wounds of the past and putting an end to grief, rancour and suffering.

Dear Friends, allow me to invite you to stand up greeting to the Shahanshah and the Shahbanu and in greetings to all the Irani people and the undying brotherly relations between the Irani and Egyptian people.