

S P E E C H

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

at the lunch banquet given in his honour

by

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

Bonn, March 30, 1976

Dear Chancellor Schmidt,

Dear Friends,

I thank you very much for your kind words, which convey the warmth of the relation between our countries and peoples.

I am pleased to meet you and to have the chance of discussing with friends, affairs of common interests and mutual benefit.

Close relations linked our peoples throughout centuries. History made of the German-Arab friendship an established tradition. Our cultural heritage indicates that the Germans were among the first to express a great and a sincere interest in Arab culture and in Islam. Also, our ancestors, who were devoted to science and knowledge, found it completely logical to establish the closest relations and contacts with you. These relations were good and rewarding.

At present we are linked by mutual interests and similar responsibilities. In the first place, there is our desire to preserve peace

and stability in the world, and we have a particular interest in peace and security in our areas.

As you know, Egypt has a special role in the Middle East borne of its historic responsibility, strategic position, capacity of production and cultural radiation in the area. Another thing is that we fully realize the responsibilities your country assumes in Europe. Such responsibilities emerge from your capacities as a creative human power and a great economic power, possessing magnificent capacities of production and technological superiority, in addition to your vital role in working to achieve the European unity and security.

Such responsibilities make it incumbent upon our countries to consolidate and develop the Arab-European cooperation for the welfare of our groups and the prosperity of the world.

We fully realize the facts of our contemporary world and the changes which affect it. Our political line is to establish good relations with all the countries who have the same wish. We welcome any international cooperation or relation among countries, regardless of their particular political or social systems. What matters with us is that this should be achieved in the framework of international legitimacy, and with full respect for the will of the nations and their legitimate rights in having sovereignty over their lands and resources.

As for us, peace is our strategic target to which we are devoted and committed. I am sure, you will agree with me that justice is the support of peace. Without justice and equity, peace would be just a baseless meaningless illusion which crumbles when faced by any test or challenge.

The world has witnessed the events following the October 1973 war, which were a natural outcome for the state of no war — no

peace in the
these events
set up new fa
world. They
of security, s
established th
rights of the
for the first t

We welco
our available
establishing o
short, the wel
ment of peace
progress toward
Peace is still f
for a determin
dition that Isr
tories and tha
people be fully

Dear friends,

As you kno
blem of refuge
sue with all the
having an inde
expressing their
sation. This or
countries and i
observer in the

I sincerely
copy its rightfu

interest in
Middle East
capacity of
ing is that
nes in Eu-
as a crea-
ing magni-
eriority, in
European

peace in the area. It is necessary to know the exact dimensions of these events because they have destroyed wrong conceptions and set up new facts and developments on the level of the area and the world. They have also demolished for good the false theories of security, superiority and undisguised expansion; they definitely established the necessity of an urgent recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people. Thus, the path to peace is opened for the first time in the history of this conflict.

We welcome this development because we wish to devote all our available resources for the reconstruction of our cities, for establishing our basic structures and for reviving our economy. In short, the welfare of our people corresponds to a speedy establishment of peace. During the past two years, there has been some progress towards peace. However, there is still much to be realized. Peace is still far away, and we believe that there is no substitute for a determined advance towards an over-all settlement, on condition that Israeli forces withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and that the legitimate national rights for the Palestinian people be fully restored.

Dear friends,

As you know, the Palestinian people's cause is no longer a problem of refugees ... no, I repeat that it is obviously a political issue with all the connections of the world. It is the case of a nation having an independent national identity and a political leadership expressing their free will, that is the Palestine Liberation Organisation. This organisation has attained recognition in all Arab countries and in most of the world, it enjoys the position of an observer in the United Nations.

I sincerely believe it is high time for this Organisation to occupy its rightful place in all international organisations, and for its

voice to reach all peace-loving countries. For despite the principles of the United Nations Charter, and despite the International Declaration for the Rights of Man, the Palestinian people are still up to this very day exposed to unequalled suffering and attacks.

Recent events indicate that the situation is explosive and that the tension will last.

Mr. Chancellor,

Luckily, the international community is beginning to admit the dangers of this situation. I think that we both agree that it is impossible to eliminate the injuries of the past by committing new ones.

Otherwise, the future of humanity will be an endless chain of pain and suffering. We think that the peoples of our area have the right to ask other countries to cooperate in establishing the formula for an over-all settlement for this conflict, a settlement based on safeguarding international borders and putting an end to expansion and aggression.

The European countries, with the Federal Republic of Germany in the forefront, have a serious responsibility towards the world peace.

Therefore, we expect them to share effectively and positively in searching for peace. We particularly welcome their role in providing any necessary guarantees within the framework of the final settlement.