

ADDRESS

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

at the Memorial Popular Rally
in Commemoration of the 40th Day since
the Death of the Late President
Gamal Abdel Nasser
November 6, 1970

In the name of God,
Brother President Gaafar Numeiri,
Brother President Moammar El-Kazzafi,
Fellow-citizens,

This gathering has no parallel as an attestation to the importance of the role that has been played by Gamal Abdel Nasser, and which is still being played by his principles and goals which continue after him.

Through this very gathering, brothers, and though he is no longer among us and is now in the domain of the Lord, Gamal Abdel Nasser still gives proof to us and to the world

that he has caused the awakening of the whole nation, steered it along the general course of history and moved it, by virtue of the values and ideals which he inspired, towards goals and aspirations which were not there before.

The importance of this gathering — among other things — lies in the role played by Gamal Abdel Nasser rather than in words. We are fully agreed that no words can pay him the homage due to him or express his bounty. The mere fact of our meeting here, with what we all represent, and even with the intellectual and political differences and contradictions that might be found among us, is a great proof that Gamal Abdel Nasser caused the resurrection of a nation and was a maker of history.

His call for the Revolution on the morning of July 23, 1952 was the signal which awakened, encouraged and strengthened our nation and opened before it unlimited horizons as he rendered it deeply aware of its being, enhanced its staunch belief in its rights, and inspired it with a vast understanding of the social, economic, cultural and human Arab causes in general.

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In his company we were alerted; we found ourselves; we kept pace with his thought, hence we found out our role and followed his footsteps. We have achieved what no other nation could achieve with such speed, notwithstanding the obstacles or challenges which we are now facing.

No matter if we may have to pause in the face of this ordeal and no matter if a casual crisis in our long history may absorb our entire attention ; this ordeal will be over as other ordeals have been over and we will emerge victorious, with God's will and guidance, as we have done before.

Brethren,

Suffice it to examine the map of the Arab nation's territory before Gamal Abdel Nasser and now that Gamal Abdel Nasser has gone although he remains with us through his thought, the ideals of his struggle and his achievements.

Egypt, the Sudan and Libya were under British occupation while the entire North of Africa up to the Atlantic Coast was under French domination. However, some Arab states were not simply occupied but, as was the case

in Algeria, they formed an integral part of the imperialist states. Syria and Lebanon were under a banner which seemed independent, but foreign domination, in reality, ran deep to the very core.

Iraq and Kuwait were under British occupation; North Yemen was under a rule which was worse than imperialism, while South Yemen was one of the British Crown's belongings. Jordan was a protectorate, the Arab Gulf was isolated and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was a new oil-field, developing rapidly for the benefit of the exploiters.

The Palestinian people were refugees in camps, and Israel was a dagger stuck in our heart, as it is still now a dagger stuck into our heart.

But, before Gamal Abdel Nasser, we did not resist, we did not even suffer. The whole Arab nation was isolated from modern times and from development. Words like « industrialization », « planning » or « full electrification » were not mentioned on its lands. The social rights of the masses had no real meaning and the workers and peasants did not undertake the role of the majority. Instead, power was

all in the hands of the foreign minority together with a group of rulers, pashas and chiefs. The masses were squeezed dry through their exploitation, receiving only a portion of the wealth, while the rest found its way abroad constituting a continual drain on the national effort and national wealth.

This is how things were, but such things no longer exist now.

This is history's testimony to Gamal Abdel Nasser. He did not effect every transformation by his own hands, nor did he set off every revolution by his own efforts ; but — and this is his great historical role — he drew the attention of the masses of our nation to both the reality and the significance of their national existence, and opened their eyes to the facts and concepts of the modern age in which we live.

Thus, the people were moved and marched towards the struggle, winning some battles while having yet to win others.

Brethren,

Here, our very meeting in this place, the very goals around which we are rallied, all the discussions which take place among us,

and the role which we still have to play in this age — all these constitute the greatest testimony to the role of Gamal Abdel Nasser.

If there are any new ideas on our lands, it was he who has sown their seeds ; and if there were revolutions which erupted and won victory, it was he who inspired and protected them.

If there is a new generation of leaders who have come forward, he was their vivid model and example. Indeed, he was more than that. He was the one who opened the way. He was the shield and the sword at one and the same time.

It is of no import, brethren, that there should be differences among us about endeavours and methods. But, what is important is that the movement of great change has begun. Stagnation has disappeared from the life of our nation. Inertia has thawed; the shackles have fallen and the obstacles have tumbled down.

The positive struggle has started enfolding the possibility of being right or wrong, engulfing the ability of the mind or the acuteness of emotion and being enhanced by the visions of

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the future or smeared by the vestiges of the past.

This is the struggle of life whose factors, requirements and exigencies we cannot overlook, no matter how burdensome these may be while we are living this struggle, sustaining its details as it has its course.

But all this is trivial, for the important thing is that the struggle of life and for life has begun on our territory. In this respect, Gamal Abdel Nasser has played the role of the great leader in opening the channel of its course and in removing the obstacles so that they may not impede its current.

Brothers,

I do not want to speak of my brother, friend, teacher and my mentor, Gamal Abdel Nasser. The map of the Middle East and the changes that it underwent talk of him... our ties with the world and the age in which we live speak of him... the objectives of our struggle, the slogans of our struggle and the banners which we raise over the Arab procession in every country speak of him... Even more, our confrontation with the conditions

that faced us after his sudden departure speak of him.

One of his greatest achievements was that he did not only open the road, but he also drew up the course towards the objective... When God has chosen to recall him to His domain, we were not at a loss but our determination increased... He left no fear, but a double dose of will-power. There was no hesitation, but unrelenting determination to continue our march and drive. This is another testimony of the greatness of Gamal Abdel Nasser.

His presence was a source of inspiration to his nation, and even after his death he remains a source of inspiration to his nation... This is characteristic of the leaders of epochs of evolution. Throughout history, the principles laid down by great leaders were never lost after their passing away. Indeed, they gained greater strength. Their banners did not fall, but were raised even higher. The people did not disperse after them, but gathered even more closely with greater solidarity among them because their appreciation of the principle increases after the disappearance of the leader since his very presence asserted the principle during his life.

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Brethren,

I would not think of expressing my appreciation for your attendance of this gathering tonight and on this occasion for your share in Gamal Abdel Nasser is equal to ours and we do not claim that he belongs to us alone; for, by so doing, we would encroach upon his cherished memory.

In his dealings with his nation, Gamal Abdel Nasser did not recognise the boundaries drawn up by imperialism while perpetrating the crime of partition. In this connection, the peoples of the Arab nation have responded favourably to him.

These peoples did not look upon him as an Egyptian leader to whom they would look forward across the barbed wire along borders, but through his love and through a deep faith in his principles and through backing him, these peoples have knocked down all barriers and hurdles.

He had gone to the masses of the Arab nation wherever they lived and these masses have followed him wherever he fought.

Gamal Abdel Nasser has gone but his

principles will always survive, his banners will
always fly high, his struggles will never cease,
his nation will never give in and his victory,
with God's will, is certain and will be achieved.

May God's peace be upon you.

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