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S P E E C H

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

at a Press Conference held by the Egyptian

Journalists in Vienna

April 12th, 1976

The President said,

« My trip to Europe achieved all I have wished for in the political, economic and military fields. Its results exceeded my expectations. In the political field, the trip achieved a complete understanding of the Arab cause with all its stages, especially the Palestinian cause. This is because we speak the language of the age.

« The support I found exceeded my expectations. I felt the appreciation of European leaders for our situation, and for Egypt's leading role and position in the Arab world.

« In Germany, Italy and Austria, I found, for the first time, a full support for the idea of Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories and for granting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people ».

The President said, « My method of action is either resorting to a heated military battle, or to a no less heated political one. I shall not permit any freezing of the situation nor a state of no

war and no peace. Following the heated October War, I began a diplomatic battle which is equally hot ».

The President added, « I travelled to Europe, and the Soviets thought that the decision of abrogating the treaty was arranged immediately before the trip. In fact, I had no intention of abrogating the treaty, and when some countries of the Eastern Block did not respond to some of our demands, I found excuses for them since they were taking orders. At that time, I did not think of resorting to China. On July 23rd, the Soviet Union was expecting us to abrogate the treaty, and this rumour worried them.

« What vexed me was that they imposed a blockade on us, and if that was expected from the Eastern Bloc, it was not at all expected from India. India has a « Mig 21 » factory which has functioned for the past ten years. . India refused our request and contacted the Soviet Union. .

« Four months later they said that the Soviet Union refused. I considered that as a warning because India is a non-aligned country ».

The President related the story of the year of decisions, « when the Soviet aeroplanes used to land in the airport west of Cairo on their way to India, Hosny Mubarak was the commander of the Airforce, and we had limited amounts of weapons. In October 1971, Brezhnev said that no war was going to break out. In December 1971, the war started between India and Pakistan. I decided to travel to the Soviet Union so we might issue a joint statement that covers the situation, but they gave me an appointment on the first and second of February. At that time, Hosny Mubarak was the Commander of the Airforce, he came to me and said let us take possession of these planes. I refused and said that both India and the Soviet Union are friends, and the matter

was over. Pakistan had the right to be angry with us after India's refusal to give us anything four months after our request.

« They said that the Egyptian Minister of Trade is travelling to Moscow on April 25th, but up till now no agreement was signed, nor even prepared. After that affair with India, I was determined to take a decision which was the abrogation of the treaty, and the country missed nothing. Unfortunately we were facing such circumstances which necessitated that decision, and I had to deal with Europe economically. It is unacceptable that the Soviet Union should try to impose pressure upon us everywhere, even with the non-aligned countries' ».

President Sadat talked about the economic results of his trip to Europe, he said, « In the economic field, Germany gave us 300 million Marks, in addition to 250 million Marks given previously.

« Italy apologized that its economic state would not permit more than 40 million dollars offered at once. Moreover, the Italian politicians and economists were very willing to supply Egyptian economy with all its technical and technological needs.

« In Austria we decided to establish an Austrian-Arab Company. Its capital is 100 million dollars 50% of which is offered by Austria. Such a company with a socialist non-aligned country like Austria, will be flexible in the field of cooperation and will act as a window on East and West.

« Austria did achieve prosperity for the people, and this is the basic aim we hope for every Egyptian. This will be realized by activating the private sector and giving a push to the public sector to become capable of competing with the private one.

« We have begun cooperation on a narrow scale with Austria by importing Austrian cows. An Austrian cow yields thousand

litres of milk a year. Through this small project consisting of 40 cows, we could give every child in Ismailia a free glass of milk daily, in addition to the school of agriculture in Ismailia. We can take what we want for the sake of reconstruction. They have the greatest experts in tunnels and they will execute the Kantara Tunnel ».

The President concluded his talk with the Egyptian journalists by speaking about internal development, he said « The main concern now is to establish a complete and sound democracy in Egypt, along with limitless freedom for every Egyptian citizen ».

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