

S P E E C H

delivered by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

at the Administrative Leaders Conference

June 17, 1976

On the occasion of the holding of your conference, it gives me pleasure to greet this outstanding gathering, sons of our native land, professors of science, pioneers of thought, and leaders in the different fields of national action, men who were prompt to conclude yearly meetings, over a number of years, to study and discuss the problems of their nation.

I would have been pleased to be with you all the way through, but I'll be away from home to visit some of the sister and friendly nations to emphasise the Arab right, and to cooperate for the mutual interests in order to achieve progress and prosperity. I have no more to say than to pay tribute to your efforts and endeavours from which our present hopes and aspirations for the future, emanate.

Your conference takes place at a time when we are faced with accumulations stemming from political, economic, military and social challenges to which we were exposed during the past years. This is not a call to account, but it is a motive for work ; it is a call that imposes upon us a powerful move forward to set our complete development plans to cover the period up to the year 2000, for attaining a new map for Egypt, according to the October Paper which the

Egyptian people acknowledged as a guide for their actions and a road to progress.

It is natural for you, as you meet, to discuss and study the subject of our own potentialities in the face of all these challenges of the coming stage of action, we have to form a general picture of the facts of our daily life so that you may find the appropriate method that can realise the aim of this meeting. To my opinion — our production rate — has not yet reached the true size of our capacities. Again, the consumption rate is, by far, more than the production rate ; the import rate is more than the export rate. Above all, we are well aware of the future risks with regard to the perpetual increase of the population ; and its impact on production and domestic services.

Also, the national circumstances impose upon us the need to preserve our military capabilities and our national security to fulfil the liberation of the land and regain the Arab right ; so as to be in conjunction with the requisites of rehabilitation, investment, production and consumption, and in the light of solid realities based on strong organic links between the military capacity and the political, economic and social capacities. And whatever realisations we accomplish, help to add assets to the other fields. They all amass to pour into the power of the final proceeds of our nation.

I would now like to draw your attention to some of the main principles which, in my opinion, define the framework of our action.

One : Any plan or policy should adhere to the aims of socialism, so that the largest number of people would benefit from its results. Moreover, it should maintain a just distribution of this result according to the various groups and regions.

Two : The public sector will always remain the backbone of our economy — this is not from the standpoint of the mere adherence

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to our socialist system, but it stems from experience and the fact of the realisations of the public sector, since it has been established amidst many challenges and obstacles. We expect the public sector to assume a bigger role now after achieving its freedom from restraints and obstacles.

Three : We should take into consideration the necessity of realising harmony between investments and savings, between consumption and production, between import and export, while achieving just distribution of duties among civilians ; again there should be harmony between the present generation with all its burdens, and the coming generations with all their aspirations, in the light of rates of development and of population growth.

Four : To cope with the problems encountered in the application, together with the phenomenon of negligence, deviation, corruption and exploitation ; to maintain a policy based on fact and justice in meting out reward and punishment, and to put an end to the environment and atmosphere that allow the growth of such phenomena.

Five : Development is a national aim, the responsibility of which lies upon all the executive, legislative, political and popular bodies of the State ; again, there should be full national mobilisation of workers everywhere.

Six : Strengthening the position of proper democracy and the open society, since it is the means to mobilise all capacities possible to achieve the national aims, with the necessity to inform the people of all details, for this forms moral dimension based upon the confidence of the people in their leaders.

It is the right of Egypt, after bearing the principal burden in the series of wars over more than 1/4 of a century to expect Arab support, particularly when the October War achieved the greatness

of the Arab economic capacity and the international Arab reserves. The potentialities of Egypt are the principal key and the basic axis on which our action in the coming stage should rely. This action is a rational investment of our human and material capacities, a rationalisation of our natural resources, and making the best use of available capacities; thus preventing them from being wasted, we must be able to deal with the various internal and external factors, and to grasp the variables that surround us.

Our nation has riches of national wealth which can enable us to achieve leaps of progress towards the road of our goals and aspirations ; if we adhere to a full planning of this national wealth and to make the best of it. Egypt is rich with its sons and experts in all specialised fields, and all fields of national action. It possesses enormous resources of electric and petroleum power, of mineral resources both available and expected. It also holds extensive possibilities for tourism, besides its geographical situation and the available agricultural and industrial resources of development, but above all and most important of all, the Egyptian man himself, heir to an ancient civilisation and bearer of honourable values ; he who was capable of realising, throughout his long history, many miracles in various fields.

The masses of October 6, who achieved victory by crossing the Suez Canal are able, by God's will, to achieve the economic crossing that can bring full development which would lead us to the standard of living we desire.

We place great hopes in your conference, and expect you to reach recommendations and resolutions that would allow the fulfilment of our intrinsic powers to face the responsibilities and challenges that lie ahead of us.

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