

S P E E C H

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

during his visit to Yugoslavia

April 8, 1976

Dear friend, President Josip Broz Tito :

Mrs. Tito :

Friends :

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the kind words President Tito addressed to me, and to the Egyptian people, as well as for the authentic feelings manifested in the overwhelming reception accorded to us, and which also express the depth of relations between our two countries and peoples, perfectly concomitant with the feelings of love, fraternity and loyalty our people in Egypt harbour for Yugoslavia.

Any visitor to your generous country can sense a feeling that he can barely sense in any other place because in this country there is a great command which inspired millions in various parts of the world and which reinforced their faith in the triumph of the will of man over powers of suppression and aggression. It is the country whose people believed in their command, and principles, and who sacrificed and still sacrifice for the cause of liberation, progress and peace.

When one looks around this country, one will come across

live evidences relating marvellous epics of heroism and sacrifice in search of sublime principles and for the sake of the dignity of the homeland, of its sons and the liberation of its land.

It is because of this that we hold you and your friendly country in high esteem, out of our belief that real friendship once based on principles, mutual respect and common interest, it becomes the strongest link binding our two peoples in a world torn by conflicts, exploitation and selfishness. The radiation of this close and firm relation extends to different parts of the world, establishing a perfect pattern of cooperation and interaction among nations and peoples wherein the non-aligned countries assume a leading position offering other countries a correct model and a good example to follow, and spreading principles that would guarantee a better future for humanity.

When the entire world saw Yugoslavia under your wise leadership persistently and determinedly rejecting the aggression launched against the Arab Nation in 1967 whilst steadfastly leading the Third World march against attempts aimed at subjugating and humiliating its people as well as at exploiting its wealth, and when once more the world saw Yugoslavia siding with the Arab nation in its glorious battle in October 1973 against aggression and for the restoration of the right, the world understood the meaning of this very clearly.

Peace-loving peoples are capable — through their union and solidarity — of protecting their interests and preserving their rights, as they can also uphold their countries against aggression.

We all know you, the friend that every Arab heart cherishes, what you have done for the heroic people of Palestine, as well as what Yugoslavia did in its endeavour to exhort all to recognise their rights, to stand by their legitimate struggle at a time when others were outbidding and reserved.

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My friend

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Such a great attitude required an outstanding leader like you and a people who recorded the most glorious epics of human struggle. It was not strange then that you would alert the world to the fact that the cause of the Palestinian people is the root of the conflict and the axis around which it revolves, and that these glorious people must take part in the efforts exerted for a just and lasting peace, represented as they are in the Palestine Liberation Organisation whose right to self-expression without anyone's guardianship over the Palestinians, their aspiration and hopes, is indisputable.

We do not accept any diversion around the PLO's rights or any undermining of its legitimacy.

My friend,

The world is now passing through a stage wherein powers are rearranged, and priorities and choices are envisaged. For the world is witnessing the results of the deep, radical changes to which it had been subjected since the end of World War II, as well as the effects which accompanied the receding of colonialism and imperialism from various regions. It is more than ever necessary at this critical interval to strengthen the non-aligned movement and to consolidate its efforts. You have played a most prominent role in the birth and development of this movement for it is a force capable of guiding the movement of international society and establishing world relations on firm bases where conflict can be replaced by cooperation; where we can have integration in lieu of dissension and exploitation. Consequently, we look, within the forthcoming few months, to our united movement with an eye full of concern and hope, as we are further striving to realise the greatest amount of consultation and co-ordination with the leaders of the non-aligned countries. It gives me pleasure that I had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Bandaranaike,

the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, who is a welcome member in our ranks, and where our next conference will be held.

We cannot close our eyes to the past from which many peoples still suffer. Racial discrimination and imperialistic interferences have never come to an end in the glorious African continent which unjustly suffered from the horrors of settler colonialism and exploitation throughout long centuries.

The Palestinian people too are brutally subjected to the most savage repression for no reason except that they practise their natural right to resist occupation and reject abuses to their sanctities. Nothing appeases their pain except their belief that millions of free men and women, everywhere are their backers who side with their cause and support their struggle. I would like, whilst I am in your generous country to extend a greeting to our valiant masses in Jerusalem, Nablus, Gaza, Hebron, Ramallah as well as the various cities of the Western bank, their brothers in Galilee, and the rest of the regions where occupation authorities are practising all kinds of terrorism and suppression. May this be a lesson to those who erroneously thought that the Palestinian people's identity had been obliterated or that the torch of their spirit of struggle had died out.

My friends,

Allow me to call upon you to stand up in honour of our dear friend President Tito, the glorious people of Yugoslavia and the eternal friendship of the two Yugoslavian and Egyptian peoples.

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