

never go

conference,
ria, unity,
we may be
ory we be-

S P E E C H

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

on the occasion of Africa's Day at Ras El Teen Palace

May 25, 1976

It gives me pleasure to welcome you in your country and to thank you for affording me this opportunity to meet with you so that, together, we may celebrate one of the dearest occasions to our hearts, for there is nothing dearer than to demonstrate our feeling of loyalty to the mother continent, which offered to humanity its most ancient civilisations and its greatest martyrs. It will always remain, with the help of God, and the will of its loyal sons, the land of freedom, progress and peace, as it will also remain, by virtue of its masses vigilance, a worthy guardian of this great human heritage; as well as a leader along the road of sacrifice, until the day when the sun of freedom will shine on every corner of earth, and when principles of justice, fraternity and solidarity will prevail among nations and peoples, so that no scream of hunger, injustice or suppression will ever again be heard. As we celebrate the thirteenth anniversary of the signing of Organisation of African Unity, we recall the past with pride and dignity, and we look forward to the future with confidence and pride. It was only in the near past that the powers of imperialism and exploitation dominated most parts of the continent, robbed them of their wealth, controlled their peoples' destiny, and treated the true owners of the land as though they were strangers in their own countries.

These powers falsely imagined that they could maintain such an unjust situation for ever.

But our conscious masses destroyed their designs and myths, and, with their pure blood wrote a magnificent epic in the noble history of human struggle. The African peoples did not hesitate to wage a series of battles against the powers of imperialism and its yoke; this only added to their solidarity and determination to defend their right, and to confront the challenges of time. The presence of the representatives of the African Liberation Organisations among us today embodies noble meanings, for it reminds us of the long path we crossed together along the road of freedom and independence.

It is enough to mention the fact that 16 African countries joined the Organisation since its establishment and that the last two years alone witnessed the independence of Guinea Bissao, Cap Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Mozambique, Comorro Islands and Angola.

It will be a pleasure to have among us, at our coming Conference, the State of Seychelles as a member; we also look forward to the independence of Djibouti in the near future. Yet, we cannot disregard a painful fact, namely that cherished parts of our continent still suffer from occupation, settler's colonialism and racism. That is why we can never tolerate the continuing aggressions against the brotherly people of Zimbabwe. We must also say to the imperialist minority that to yield to the rule of the majority is a historic inevitability to which they had better submit, or else they will have to face the African peoples combined. This is the fact of the racial minority which denies our masses in South Africa and Zambia their inalienable rights for we know that we have one struggle and one cause. Consequently, we can never feel secure

or free w
the horro

How
ness of t
the histor
ing the Is
ends of th
mination :

We sh
land is lik
freedom, p
the heart
ranks, and
and the v
the Heads
establishm
clashes an

I hav
satisfactio
all the Af
then the b
and Egypt
which goe

I hope
tion, as w
Heads of y
by our sid
restoration

or free while even a small region of our good land still suffers the horrors of occupation, domination and expansion.

How wonderful it was to see the valiant African peoples' awareness of this fact, and their realization of the similarity between the history of racial minority in South Africa and Zionism dominating the Israeli entity, to see them feel the danger threatening both ends of the continent, and the way they confronted it with determination and solidarity.

We shall not let down our arms until every inch of our good land is liberated, and not before Africa becomes the bastion of freedom, progress and peace. I direct an appeal from the mind and the heart to the liberation movements in Zimbabwe to unite their ranks, and to put an end to rupture and division. I join my voice and the voice of Egypt to all the efforts exerted by our brothers, the Heads of Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana for the establishment of the majority's rule, and to put an end to all clashes and divisions in the African National Council.

I have one more word to say to you, friends, it is with great satisfaction that I follow up your activities and efforts in serving all the African causes, as well as your continuous action to strengthen the brotherly ties and fateful relations between your countries and Egypt which takes pride in your feelings towards it; a feeling which goes beyond any description.

I hope you will convey my best wishes and sincerest appreciation, as well as those of the Egyptian people to my brothers, the Heads of your countries for their great stand, based on principles, by our side in our march for the liberation of our land and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.