SPEECH
delivered by
PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT
at the dinner hosted by Houston Chamber of Commerce
and Arab-American Chamber of Commerce
Houston, Texas, October 31, 1975

Vice President Rockefeller,
Governor Connally,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mrs. Sadat and I bring you greetings from 38 million Egyptians and when we go home next week, we will take warm impressions of your country. No place could have been more fitting for the coronation of our visit than Texas. The moment we landed here and met with you, we fully realized why Texas is regarded as a unique and magnificent place. Not only is it the land of abundance and richness of nature, but most importantly, it is the land of human excellence. The great expanse of plantations and prairie together with the industrial and business boom, are paralleled if not overshadowed, by the warmth, genuine compassion and generosity of the people, individually and collectively. It is a sure lesson of history that no civilization can endure without a great people to sustain it. You have every reason to feel proud of your state and yourselves.

I understand that Houston is one of the fastest growing cities in America. This is well earned and well deserved. And
it is gratifying to know that the present boom is not losing sight of the fact that technological and scientific progress is not easier and happier. I personally come from a farming area which is considered the heart of the country. Its people are Godfearing, law-abiding, and hard-working. Thus, I know what it means to belong to a great place... like yours.

I am particularly delighted to notice the existence of a successful and thriving Arab community in your midst. As you know, the Arabs have contributed immensely in the past to the evolution of western civilization. Let no one believe that this contribution belongs to past history. Today our nation stands as capable of giving as ever. History teaches us that cultures undergo constant transformation, but never disappear. It is an inner stream that runs into the collective conscience of the people.

Dear friends,

We are interested in establishing more contact with you. We like to know you more and we like you to understand us better. There exists unlimited opportunities for Texan investment in Egypt. We are building a structure that guarantees a fair share for each partner. We are creating the atmosphere that is necessary for establishing a just and healthy relationship. I know that you highly value your independence. Hence, you can appreciate our determination to safeguard our independence and maintain the freedom of our will in all domains... politically, economically, culturally, and ideologically.

We have issued the legislation that was needed for stimulating foreign investment and free zones. Foreign investors are now immune to nationalization, sequestration, expropriation and

seizure. We think on mutual recognition... and I am sure you will do the same.

We have pioneered agricultural factories and I am sure you will promote this as we have done every step to support the Arab community in this country.

We have built a society on mutual coexistence, and I am sure you will continue to maintain the peace and prosperity of our society.

We are committed to promoting economic and cultural exchanges, and I am sure you will support this initiative as we have done. We hope that we can establish a lasting friendship.

Dear friends,

As I have already said, we have paved the way for a fruitful relationship between our nations, that will benefit both our nations. We hope that this relationship will continue to flourish and bring about prosperity for both our nations.

In conclusion, we have established a strong foundation for a lasting friendship. We hope that this friendship will continue to grow and flourish for the benefit of both our nations.

May I express my deepest gratitude for your interest and support. I look forward to a future of prosperity and mutual benefit for both our nations.

With warmest regards,
seizure. We guarantee the free repatriation of profit and capital. We think that we can conduct this partnership in complete harmony. We intend to make it a cooperative relationship based on mutuality and common interest. We believe that we have done everything to avoid disputes. But if disputes should arise, we have accepted to settle them through the World Bank.

We are interested in your technology and know-how. You have pioneered in such fields as petrochemicals, shipping and agricultural industries. I just visited the Johnson Space Center and I am moved by the excellence of technological advancement and managerial skills. I would like to tell you that we share your hope that the fruits of the space program be reaped by all nations.

Dear friends,

As I stated before, we took some important steps on the long road to peace, with the assistance of President Ford. I am glad to say that, since we first met in Salzburg, and again in Washington I found that we both agree with unshaken determination, that we have to pursue the peace process with vigour, so that tranquility would reign in the area and peace would prevail.

In conclusion, I see from the contacts I held since this visit began that my expectations were correct. There are tremendous opportunities for cooperation between our two peoples and countries. There is ample opportunity for investment and joint-ventures from which both peoples profit.

May I offer this toast for our good friend Nelson Rockefeller, for each and everyone of you and for a lasting Arab-American friendship.