

S P E E C H

by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**  
to the Egyptian Community in Vienna

April 13, 1976

« I am delighted to see you, sons and daughters of Egypt. People miss you even though your absence from our country may only be for a brief period.

I hope you will return and lay the bases of the new society to which we are giving the final touches, both from the point of view of democracy, rights and obligations. We now have a state of institutions and sovereignty of the law, and wish to introduce to Egypt the latest in science and technology. In the meantime we preserve our heritage and land which absorbed all invaders, while the Egyptian people were never absorbed by them ».

Speaking of the position in Egypt, President Sadat said :

« We are at present going through a most glorious and splendid stage in our lives as we are re-constructing our economy by our free will and open debate. We formed a Higher Political Committee and all those who had views of their own participated in the discussions. The final conclusion was to form three platforms, the right, the centre and the left. The right called itself the liberal platform, the centre Egypt's Arab socialist forum and the left called itself the progressive forum.

« I believe there can be nothing more democratic than that in the world. The platforms presented their programmes, and will present their candidates. As you know, we will be having presidential elections in October and the People's Assembly elections in November.

« With regard to the economic side, I visited 6 Arab countries and we agreed to form an aid fund to balance Egypt's economy. We had accumulated problems brought forward from 1962, especially in services.

« Our Arab brothers did not hesitate to offer us helping hand.

« European countries were equally ready to help, but all we want of them is modern technology, the latest they have reached.

« We pick the best from what the world has to offer.

« Militarily, we are maintaining and enhancing the level of performance and potency of the Armed Forces. The decision for the diversification of the sources of arms is now bearing fruit.»

The President then spoke of his attempt to buy spare parts from India and the Soviet Union's refusal to allow it. He explained that this was the reason for the abrogation of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Treaty, the Soviets must accept us as we are. If they don't we shall not die, he said, « Thank God, we managed to settle the spare parts problem. But we had been managing that problem in the past. »

The President then spoke of the internal position, saying,

« All is quiet and normal in Egypt. Now, political decisions are adopted through the various institutions. The doors are open wide for democracy now. Twenty-seven years ago, I announced the inception of the revolution. now I hand it over to the people, with full democracy.

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« The old wounds have healed, God be praised, I have handed over the revolution to the people and have delivered the trust to its owners. What remains to be accomplished is to re-shape our society, upon modern technological bases and the values derived from our country and environment, foremost among which is faith, solidity and the genuineness of our people.

« It is true we have economic difficulties, just like any other country in the world, even the richest. But we are hopeful that in the coming years we shall set bases from which we can take-off to whatever horizons we choose.

« The July Revolution we started has fully completed the application of the six principles we set. Now that it has been delivered to the people, the Constitution is the arbiter defining rights and obligations. It is now the decisive factor in all things. The October Paper and other documents are only explanatory notes that may be observed or not ».

Speaking of the duties of the people he said,

« Who reconstructed Germany ? Was it the German Government alone or the people with the government ?

« We should renounce the old passivism and rid ourselves of all complexes. We should not require the Government to provide us with chicken and eggs. Furthermore, we should not call anyone who starts a chicken farm « Feudalist Bourgeois. » This helps in providing food for the people. We want the people to work at full capacity and force. We want each individual to work to improve his standard and attempt to own a villa, a car, a T.V. and all that his heart desires ».

Speaking about local government he said :

« At present there is true local government in each governorate and the governor is directly responsible for production. Gradually, authority will pass from Cairo to the governorates ».