

## S P E E C H

by

**PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT**

**to the workers at the Abou Rodeis oilfield**

June 5, 1976

President Mohamed Anwar El Sadat addressed a speech to the workers in the Abou Rodeis oilfield during his visit on June 5, 1976. Following is the text of the speech :

Brothers and sons,

It is one of the happiest moments of my life to meet you. When ? On the 5th of June. Where ? On the cherished land of Sinai.

I shall never forget what you have done. It is my duty to tell the people of your part in the battle. As we all know, the Armed Forces kindled the spark. But behind the Armed Forces there are heroes, and a heroic and self-sacrificing people.

On a certain day whilst preparing for the battle, I summoned the Petroleum Minister and told him that oil operations should go on until only half an hour before the beginning of the war. I told him that fire should not be extinguished in the Morgan field, so that the enemy would not take wind of what we are about. I told him this and left him to work out the plan.

The Petroleum Minister came to you, here, and no one sensed

anything. He laid the plan and returned to me. He told me that if fire was to be kept on till just half an hour before the battle, some of the workers in the oil operations might be exposed to danger. He asked my opinion and I replied : The life of a worker is the most precious thing in the world to me. I cannot afford to waste it. You are responsible. Fire must be kept burning till the last half hour and no worker is to be injured.

The Minister returned, the battle started and the fire was left burning till the last half hour. Now I come to meet you who performed this task, and were not exposed to any danger so that you could go on feeding the battle from the rear of the Armed Forces. This task you have carried out with the honesty and the fervour of true men. You helped to relieve the burdens of life. As the Petroleum Minister said, the Petroleum Budget which marked a deficit in 1974 and 1975, this year, 1976, marks a surplus. In 1980, we pray to God to realize our dreams which the Minister of Petroleum talked about. I know that his estimates were based on facts and not on hopes.

I take advantage of this opportunity to praise your position wherein half an hour before the battle you were exposed to danger, and yet you returned to your country, safe and sound, to participate in the reconstruction battle and the liberation battle on the soil of Sinai.

I am indeed happy to meet you, sons, happy that you performed your duty in the battle and returned safe to me and your country so that we could pursue the march, together. I am happy to meet you on the land of Sinai and bear greetings, from the whole of Egypt to our sons, kinsmen and tribes in Sinai.

I promise you on this day, June 5th, that has been transformed from a day of sorrow to a day of joy and celebrations, I pro-

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mise that Sinai shall become verdant and rich; once more it shall become the land of miracles and production for the benefit of its sons, so that prosperity shall prevail in its valley and its countryside.

May God grant you success and God's peace and mercy be upon you.