

President Anwar El Sadat held an meeting with members of the Central and the Cabinet as well as the Governor and Secretaries of the A.S.U. in the governorates and districts. The meeting was also attended by two Vice-Presidents, President Sadat's aide, Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Assembly.

The President began by explaining of the current stage. He stated that the front is the main target of the campaign launched by imperialism to disintegrate the President said that the United States especially since January 1, 1972 — has essentially a campaign of doubt regarding the Arab with particular emphasis on Egypt. President explained that this holds no surprises from the inception of the Revolution in 1952, been fighting a series of battles against imperialism. These began with the battle of and the evacuation of the foreign occupiers. It was repeated in 1956 with the tripartite

sion and reached its zenith with the Israeli aggression in 1967. However, this did not impede the continuity of the national action in the internal field nor did it hamper the considerable achievements to build the modern state in Egypt.

The President stressed the importance of full alertness regarding the campaigns of doubt to which some elements from both the right and the left respond. The first group hides behind the pretext of defending national independence against what they call Soviet influence, while the second alleges that we are hesitant to enter the battle although the Soviet Union has supplied us with all the requirements thereof. These allegations and pretexts are untrue and in resorting to them, the two groups only serve the campaign of doubt.

The starting point is the national cause around which we should all rally. Consequently all the attempts by those from the right or the left, who are removed from the reality of their homeland and battle, only serve this campaign of doubt.

Egypt's policy is clear. We shall preserve our system, our heritage and spiritual values. Our national will has been fully liberated. We have outgrown the stage of fear and sensitivity in dealing with the major powers. The Soviet Union, which is

our friend, assists us politically, militarily and economically. Meanwhile, we have taken the final decision concerning the battle, which will come and which we shall enter. But we shall not allow any emotional outburst or outbidding, whatever its source, to affect our determination and our move to liberate the land.

The President went on to say that since 1952 Egypt has founded its policy on one basic principle: amity with our friends and hostility towards our enemies. There is no change in this fundamental principle. It is unreasonable to compare the stand of the Soviet Union, our main friend, with that of the United States which provides our enemy with the arms that help it to continue occupying our land. Nor is there any ground for comparing our relations with the Soviet Union with the Israeli-American relationship. Israel, as proclaimed by its leaders, constitutes the first defence line for American interests in the region. This most certainly is not our role with regard to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union continued to support and assist us at the time when we declared that we shall preserve our social system, namely, the alliance of the people's working powers upon which the Arab Socialist Union was founded.

Referring to King Hussein's project, the Presi-

dent described it as an attempt to liquidate the Palestine cause. Our attitude towards the project is based upon this fact, and is not an emotional reaction. Egypt's attitude, the President further stressed, is also based on the principles we have already announced and to which we will always continue to adhere, namely, that we will not accept any solution that relinquishes Arab territory or affects the Palestinian people's rights.

The President then answered a number of questions put forth by the various governorates.

President Sadat observed that we are fully prepared for the battle since we expect an Israeli aggression at any time, under the pretext of preventive war. We are also determined to liberate our land at the time we choose.

The President answered a number of questions on the military situation. He paid tribute to the morale of our Armed Forces and their full readiness to defend the country and liberate the land. He said that the men and officers are fully prepared to repel any new aggression, and determined to liquidate the existing aggression. President Sadat pointed out that we cooperate with the Soviet Union as friends. In these dealings, and in our entire policy, we adhere to the principles of the Revolution, among

which that we do not give military bases in our country. The Soviet Union has not asked for military bases and has no military bases at present. But we provide the Soviet Union with all the facilities which serve our interests.

With regard to the military situation on the front, the President expressed his satisfaction with the state of affairs on the northern front in Syria and the southern front in Egypt even though King Hussein could be considered as having withdrawn from the eastern front.

The President stated that with this information he was giving a full picture of the military situation. Any military details would only serve the interests of the enemy.

Answering a question on the Palestinian resistance, the President said that its effort is an integral part of the effort exerted for liberation, and that its role shall continue in spite of King Hussein's endeavours to destroy it.

In answer to a question concerning Jarring's mission, the President pointed out that Israel impeded the progress of this mission completely. Regarding another question on rumours about a peaceful settlement throughout by Egypt, the President said that since last October he had stated that all solu-

tions which comply with the basic principles which Egypt cannot give up, were completely blocked by Israeli intransigence and the U.S. stance. Currently, Egypt has no peaceful settlement before it and that is the reason for the previous declaration that war was imposed on us.

The President also answered a number of questions about the Arab positions, which he said is now in one of its best stages. Numerous bilateral contacts created a rapprochement among many Arab countries, realising further consolidation of efforts exerted for the battle. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contribute, morally and materially, to the preparations for the battle. Iraq's stand has undergone a change. Recent contacts revealed our determination to wage the battle. A new page has begun with Iraq on the basis of its readiness to cooperate with us.

The President also referred to Dr. Murad Ghaleb's visit to Algeria. He stated that he shall visit both Algeria and Tunisia. The unified stand by all the Arab States in rejection of King Hussein's project was a manifestation of recent Arab rapprochement, said the President.

President Sadat also reviewed in detail the aspects of full cooperation among the Confederate

States, whose peoples constitute nearly 50% of the total population of the Arab nation.

Referring to the effects made by the Cabinet to prepare the home-front, the President said that the Cabinet had been exerting its utmost, that it should be given a chance, and that the Council of Ministers went to the people in the Governorates and strove to solve on the spot their problems.

Answering a question about errors and deviations in the Public Sector, the President said that while moved by our concern and determination to rectify such errors they should not be magnified. Neither should we forget that the Public Sector is now the pillar of our intrinsic economic power which supports our steadfastness and our ability to wage the battle.

The President paid tribute to the industrialisation movement throughout the country, despite the circumstances of the battle. He said these efforts are continually increasing. We are going ahead with the implementation of a developed industrialisation plan to build the future, and change the face of our society. Our enemies are trying to defeat these aims, he added.

The President also answered questions on foreign policy. He said China's attitude towards the

Arabs is one of full support. China, which is now a permanent member of the Security Council, is a friendly state, and we were among the first to establish normal relations with it. There are no restrictions on consolidating our relations with China, he added.

The President also paid tribute to the clear and frank attitude of France. Regarding West Germany, President Sadat said that officials there had recently made favourable statements.

Speaking on political organisations, President Sadat explained that the Arab Socialist Union is based on the formula of the alliance between the working powers of the people. This is the formula which we believe in and which we shall preserve, he said.

The President also explained that Egypt has remained steadfast and achieved progress during the last twenty years, due to the national unity of its people. We are now, more than ever, determined and resolved to maintain this unity. We reject any substitute for the formula of the unity of the people's working powers, he added.

The President further stressed that the Central Committee is the supreme collective leadership of

the political organisation, and the authority on which depend the working committees.

Concerning the National Congress, President Sadat said that its resolutions are the expression of the people's will which is the basis of government in this country.

At the end of the meeting, President Sadat declared that he would meet with press and information men, as well as writers and artists. He affirmed their role in the decisive stage through which the country is passing.