

President Anwar El Sadat met this morning with the members of the A.S.U. Parliamentary Body.

The meeting was attended by the Vice Presidents, Speaker of the People's Assembly, the Prime Minister, first Secretary of the A.S.U. Central Committee, the Cabinet Ministers and the governors. Also present were the Presidential Advisers and members of the A.S.U. General Secretariat.

In both his opening address and his answers to questions the President dealt with the military and international situation as well as the procedures the Parliamentary Body should follow and its ideal system.

The President began with a review of the political and military situation, stressing the United States' escalation of military aid to Israel.

He referred to the November, 1971, agreement to manufacture sophisticated US arms in Israel. He said the United States had also supplied Israel with large gun boats to protect its approaches and that these arms were displayed at the last military parade in Israel.

President Sadat said the wide news-coverage of this aid and its display in Israel's military parades was for an obvious reason : to shake our self-confidence, in our ability to achieve the legitimate indisputable, and inalienable objectives, namely to liberate the usurped land and restore our legitimate right.»

The President said all such attempts were doomed to failure, for Egypt refused to surrender on June 9 and 10 1967, and continues to do so. The attempts by Israel and its supporters to intimidate us and cast doubt on or shake our people's strength and steadfastness shall not undermine the people's strong will.

President Sadat then referred to the campaigns of doubt launched by imperialist circles against our people and home-front since we exposed the American attitude to world public opinion last October. This campaign reached its climax last January.

The President said he expected that escalation of the campaign would continue in preparation for the May meeting between U.S. President Richard Nixon and the Soviet leaders.

The President also reminded the legislative authority of its responsibilities to confront the cam-

paigns of doubt which attempted to affect the elections of the People's Assembly and the A.S.U. which were the best elections the country had seen.

The formula of the alliance upon which the Socialist Union is based, is the one we adhere to and the one stipulated in both our Charter and Constitution. The President added that whoever deviates from the formula will be deviating from our national unity. He said that no organisations outside the framework of the Socialist Union will be permitted.

President Sadat said Israel was nurturing the campaigns of doubt and imagined that it could undermine the steadfastness of Egypt's home-front. He recalled that in May, 1971 Egypt had announced its determination to build up a modern state based on science and faith while making preparations for the battle. We should not stop the build-up for a single moment even while at war, he said.

The President reaffirmed that since the July 1952 Revolution, we have liberated our will, and rejected all spheres of influence. Our relation with the Soviet Union is that of friends. We should be on the alert against American attempts to isolate us from our principal friend who has supported us politically, economically and militarily.

We have chosen the hard way out of our accord, in response to our national needs and to serve our free and independent people. We have been following this difficult path since the inception of the July 23rd 1952 Revolution. Despite all the difficulties we have suffered, we will not deviate from path, said the President.

In the second part of the meeting President Sadat discussed the method of action of the People's Assembly as a legislative authority.

The Assembly, he said, has two main tasks; control and legislation. Through his experience as Speaker of the National Assembly in 1964, President Sadat reviewed the nature of Egypt's regime based on the alliance of the people's working forces and its impact on the serious and objective manner of the Assembly's exercise of its responsibilities.

It this context the President referred to the experiments of certain Western countries. In the United States, a presidential electoral campaign costs millions of dollars annually, he said, pointing out that the financial contributions made to the political parties during these campaigns affected the policies of the parties concerned when they came into power. This applies to Zionist funds for US

electoral campaigns. American parties care only for their selfish interests and seek to secure power even at the expense of the public interest.

The President said Egypt was familiar with that state of affairs prior to the July 23, 1952 Revolution, and gave the electrification of the Aswan dam, which was due to be carried out in 1930 as an example. Political parties fought over the project and it was carried out only when the Revolution came into being. Had the plan been carried out in 1930 it would have cost L.E. 7 million but in view of the delay and outbiddings, it cost L.E. 27 million by the time it was executed in 1960. The country lost a further L.E. 50 in benefits which could have accrued from the dam during those years.

Continuing with his conception of the Assembly's mode of action, President Anwar el Sadat said the Assembly's statutes worked out in 1966 while he was Speaker were in response to the exigencies of achieving true democracy, and designed to enable the Assembly to exercise its role of control and legislation in cooperation with the government and the Socialist Union.

Therefore, he said, particular attention should be paid to Committee work so that matters could be studied both carefully and objectively. Ample

information about the subjects under study should also be available, which requires that the Committee chairmen should devote themselves fully to their responsibilities.

The Committees, the President added, should hold meetings for investigation at which State officials and the citizens concerned should take part, so that all points of view may be represented at such meetings.

The President also gave his conception of expanding the democratic basis in the Assembly through the Permanent Committee provided for in the Assembly's statutes laid down in 1966, which comprise the chairmen of committees and of regional groupings.

The base of the Assembly's Bureau will thereby also be extended; it is this base which prepares the Assembly's plan of work, and prepares the questions to be referred to the Assembly so that only those items which have been thoroughly studied, may be presented at the general meetings.

The President pointed out that true democracy in our regime requires that there should be no contradiction between the Assembly and the Socialist Union or between the latter and the government. Hence the Statutes provided that the First

Secretary of the ASU Central Committee and the Prime Minister attend the Permanent Committee's meetings.

The President dealt with the procedure which would help underline the views expressed in the Assembly debates.

He recalled having suggested, while he was Speaker of the Assembly, that committee reports should embody the views of supporters and opposers alike and that the latter should have the right to defend their views at the Assembly meetings.

The President said the Assembly could follow that system and lay for itself parliamentary traditions in lieu of those prevailing prior to the July Revolution, for the Egyptian experiment is a pioneer in relation to other Arab experiments.

President Sadat hailed the stand of the previous National Assembly on May 14 saying that day should rightly be called National Assembly Day. He asked Assembly members to base their studies on relevant information and to call on the government to provide all such particulars as would enable the committee to carry out full and objective studies.

The government, he said, will no doubt respond to such requests but if there should be slackness,

he would intervene in his capacity as judge between the authorities.

President Sadat, concluding, said : « We should realise that we are living one of the most dangerous battles of our life at the time when we continue the efforts of building and developing our country in every field. It is this to which first priority should be given by the Assembly which should exercise its full authority of control and legislation with due regard to the priorities of the military battles. The Assembly should also work out sound parliamentary traditions in the light of the alliance of the people's working forces.»