

ADDRESS TO THE NATION

by

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT

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Fellow citizens,

I have received your directive, and I pray to Almighty God that I will perform the task which you have entrusted to me in a manner satisfactory to our people and nation, and compatible with the ideal laid down by the memorable leader and for which he gave everything, from life to death.

I consider the results of the popular plebiscite on the Presidency of the Republic as a trust and a responsibility. In my turn, I promise you to devote to it everything, without hesitation or reserve; everything in my capacity and power. I am fully confident, since I believe in God and the people, that you will all be with me along the road which extends towards the horizon of our cherished hope.

I have told you before, and you will know, that the trust and responsibility are enormous. You know that the road before us is long and arduous. I have told you before, and you know, that our aspirations are broad and expansive, and the task of fulfilling them is beyond the power of any one person. The realisation of all this is beyond the ability of any human being, and to reach what we aspire to as measured by the values and dreams of our times requires that an entire nation marches along the road with faith in itself and in its objective, believing in development and progress, believing in the inevitability of the victory of life, standing for all its beliefs and championing them.

On recalling what we have faced and suffered during the past weeks, I am reassured of my faith in this immortal nation.

It was the will of God Almighty — and there can be no objection to His will or wisdom — to test our steadfastness, with what we cherished most and with the dearest thing we possessed at one of the most difficult periods and under the most critical circumstances. Had our determination wavered, we could have been pardoned, and had we been

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moved by the shock, the cruel blow would have been our excuse. But our people were great, indeed very great. They bore their grief with nobility and pride and they crossed the bridge from a state in which we were with our glorious leader to a stage where we are without him, continuing on the same road, towards the same purpose, unimpeded by any obstacle, unbending in the face of any power, fully aware that in this they will not only confirm the continuity of their principles, but will at the same time affirm the necessity of their victory against all powers of oppression and aggression.

Fellow-citizens,

I must tell you frankly that I am proud of the result of the popular plebiscite : more than six million citizens said « Yes » to my nomination, while more than seven hundred thousand said « No ». I honestly consider it a healthy phenomenon though I would like to add my personal belief that those who said « No » did not say it in opposition to the Revolution or the continuation of the road we have followed; they said it as a reservation they had in connection with the candidate for the Presidency of the Republic.

However, I tell you quite openly that this did not cause me any annoyance and I did not consider it a reason for regret. I considered it a healthy phenomenon. For, these people must not give their full trust to any individual after Gamal Abdel Nasser, because Gamal Abdel Nasser's voice was the loudest in warning against the dependence of the nation on any individual. I promise you that I shall stand for everyone; for those who said « Yes » and those who said « No ». The homeland is for all and the responsible person in it is entrusted with every individual in it without exception.

I was honoured by the « Yes » vote given by more than six million persons. I considered this as the expression of good faith beforehand, which I cherish and pray to God to give me the ability to be worthy of it.

I was also honoured by the « No » vote given by more than seven hundred thousand people. I did not consider this as a rejection, but a postponed judgement, and I pray to God to give me the ability to carry the trust to its proper destination, and that in the end the postponed judgement will be acceptance

and satisfaction on the part of the people and God.

Fellow-citizens,

Let us now devote ourselves to our continual march. There is a great task which we have to accomplish well. There is a battle awaiting us, and we, people and army, must give it all the energy and sacrifices which it imposes upon us. There is an Arab nation struggling along the road, and we shall be the best fellows-in-arms in this struggle. There is a whole world of friends and foes; and we shall be the most faithful to the friend and the most honourable fighters against the enemy.

There is an edifice which we shall continue to build, as we shall continue to catch up with progress. There are humanitarian causes which we shall protect and support; and there are lofty banners flying over our heads, and by the will of God, our effort will honour our principles and impart dignity to our banners.

God bless you.