TASKS OF THE STAGE; OR A COMPREHENSIVE CIVILISATIONAL STRATEGY.

The stage which we begin in 1974 and after the great October War is a stage of progress and construction, the building of Egypt’s own strength and the realisation of the progressive advancement for the majority of its people.

The October War taught us that our own strength was instrumental in activating the entire situation. It changed the real image imposed upon us and rendered possible what was impossible in past days.

Our own strength shall remain the solid base for our free movement, for our Arab, African and international role. I do not mean by our own strength the mere material appearances such as military readiness or economic structure; I mean in a comprehensive way the civilisational strength of the society as a whole. The strong society is that capable of liberating itself from poverty and illiteracy and from exploitation and domination, the society which the citizens will feel happy to be affiliated to, and in which they do not feel afraid to live in the open, breathing the breath of freedom.

The October battle unified the ranks of the people in an unprecedented manner. We must utilise this comprehensive mobilisation of all national forces — however different their intellectual main-springs and social positions may be — to wage a decisive war against the remnants of backwardness and to start, as speedily as possible, the new stage forwards.

The construction battle is not less arduous or intricate than the Canal-crossing battle. Like the latter, it needs adequate planning coupled with arduous work and the spirit of sacrifice and offerings.

Our people have shown — during the October War — within the sight and hearing of the entire world, that they have the heroic capacity to support difficult days and to face decisive fate-determining moments with great valour. In the battle of progress and construction we must all now give proof of this other form of heroism — that of difficult, daily endeavour and patient determination in order to create a society of sufficiency and justice.

I consider that the task before us now is that of drawing up a comprehensive civilisational stra-
teggy for the forward-movement of our society. A comprehensive civilisational strategy to build up the new state and the modern society, covering every aspect of our life — beginning with the values available to the new citizen, concerning his social relations and the standard of his material prosperity, up to the modern framework of the state in which he lives and the institutions through which his activities are channelled while providing the solid base for the political, economic and military power of this state.

The time allotted to us is short and the year 2000 is only a quarter of a century away. Imperialism with its old forms has withdrawn; doctrinal rigidity has been removed while human progress is moving ahead with unprecedented speed. The real danger thus becomes that a nation should stumble while surging out of the circle of backwardness or that unequal civilisational relations should arise in the world with the result that the strong should become stronger and the weak, weaker.

The task of drawing up a comprehensive civilisational strategy and its implementation might appear extremely intricate and complicated. Yet it is not impossible if we all dedicate ourselves to it. Our country has piled up a priceless wealth of experience, capacities, expertise and abilities. If we are able to mobilise everyone and everything we have for this task and if we take the right direction, I feel sure that we will be able to accomplish it.

The reply to the difficulty of the task is that we all should work in unison brought about through agreement on the supreme ideals, adherence to the institutions we set up and the responsible democratic dialogue to arrive at the best and speediest methods.

Within the context of the comprehensive civilisational strategy, I wish to concentrate here on certain factors and the most salient tasks in the new stage.

1 — Economic Development:

I said a few days before the October War, on the commemoration day of Gamal Abdel Nasser — and I had already given the battle orders and the military machinery had started to move — that the task which immediately follows the battle in so far as significance is concerned would be economic development. This is because development to us is a matter of living this last quarter of the 20th century or of being dragged by the shackles of
backwardness. Our success in the battle of development would determine all our local and international positions.

The cause of development today gains a more significant position due to the battle against aggression. The Egyptian economy has been burdened, since 1967, with more than L.E. 5,000 million in direct military expenditure, besides a similar amount from losses and chances of profit which were lost because of the aggression.

This means that the Egyptian people have been burdened with more than L.E. 10,000 million to repel the aggression in addition to the lives of our men which are priceless. The Egyptian people have not paid all that amount in their defence only but in defence of the entire Arab nation which was threatened by the Zionist invasion. I can even say that our struggle was for the sake of mankind which wants to live in peace based on justice, to put an end to the policy of expansion and annexation and to assert the right of peoples to self-determination. For this reason, we believe that the support we enjoyed during the battle will continue and gain further momentum as a mainstay in the stage of construction and reconstruction.

The burden of the military expenditure has adversely affected the level of development in Egypt which dropped from 6.7 per cent during the period from 1956 to 1965 to less than 5 per cent annually. The most damaging factors that hit the Egyptian economy in that period were lack of replacement and renewal processes in the essential utilities, as well as production and services units. This imposes on our economy a heavy burden for the coming stage in these spheres alone. As for the rehabilitation of the areas directly affected by the aggression, those would entail, according to preliminary calculations, more than L.E. 3,000 million. There is nothing new in all this as all the states which fought similar wars to protect their future against aggression know full well that the post-war period imposes efforts and sacrifices no less than those claimed by the war itself. While confronting our daily problems of life we have to always remember this fact and to realise that prosperity shall need more arduous and longer work.

The basic way to confront this state of affairs is the rapid rise in the development rates; the accomplishments realised in one year will enhance our capabilities in the next year. Hence the target to raise the development rates higher than the 1965
level is the prime and vital target in the stage of progress and construction.

For the realisation of this target, we need to push ahead the wheel of work at full capacity with all available production motive powers and elements in various spheres.

We have the three national economy sectors, the public sector, the private sector and the co-operative sector. With the outward-looking economic policy there would be wider vistas for Arab and foreign investments. All these activities should fall within the framework of the plan that draws up the strategic targets to bring about a radical change in the country's image and lays down the detailed plans to ensure the realisation of these targets.

As regards the public sector, I have said before that, as a leader of our national economy, it was the effective instrument of development. Thanks to the public sector, an immense increase was realised in production and major projects were carried out. The revenues of the public sector were used in financing development. It was the public sector that enabled the country to hold out economically after the aggression.

Undoubtedly, the public sector experiment was marked by some drawbacks. Bureaucracy reigned in some of its positions and the public sector endured the burden of annexing utilities which should not have been annexed to it and which its agencies had not the power to manage because these utilities were either scattered or were small in size or should better have been left to the private sector.

These utilities were not of such economic importance as would be compatible with the public sector mission.

Some of the decisions to annex these utilities to the public sector were motivated by a penalising trend which distorted the image of the public sector that has nothing to do with penalty.

The public sector had to absorb and shoulder many aspects connected with other national problems. The public sector paid the price of the adopted policy of full employment and stabilisation of prices so that commodities would be within reach of the people.

I would like to affirm that in the final analysis the public sector experiment is entirely positive. Occasional shortcomings or deviations in performance should not distort the true picture of the public sector's achievements and the efficiency of the public sector's personnel shaped by experience into
hundreds of thousands of directors, experts, technicians and workers, who are now considered a national wealth of which the country is proud and an immense resource for the construction of its future.

We want further reorientation for the public sector, increasing progress and more opportunities to rid itself of obstructions and procedures which reduce its efficiency. This is a basic task that we should undertake without delay.

The role of the public sector in the coming stage is of great importance. In the light of the outward-looking policy and the encouragement of the private sector as well as Arab and foreign investment, the public sector will remain the primary instrument of carrying out any development plan and will undertake the basic projects that none other will embark upon.

For it is only the public sector that can be directly committed by the plan. Planning for the other sectors has a different meaning and is carried out by indirect methods such as taxes, credit, prices, incentives and exemptions.

The public sector will also remain the basic instrument of expressing the national will in shaping our national economy.

It is the main guarantee that important economic decisions will remain Egyptian decisions interpreting Egypt’s economic independence within the framework of current laws that provide security to all other sectors without resort to the policy of exceptional or extraordinary measures, that we have decided to set aside.

The public sector — especially in developing countries — also provides the private sector and foreign investments with essential services that they cannot do without. Investments are not guided towards countries which lack the necessary components of an investment environment; they proceed to those countries where this environment is available and constituted of sufficient production frameworks, vital utilities, a reasonable standard of industrialisation, local technical expertise and skilled manpower. The public sector in Egypt has played a vital role in creating and providing these factors on a level not available in many other developing countries.

The public sector is a well-known phenomenon in all countries. In our country it is our strong mainstay on which we depend for an outward-looking economy, without complexes and in full and free action.
Every serious endeavour for development must exploit all the natural and human Egyptian resources, by utilising every individual creative initiative, employing all the capacities able to give, guiding consumption through creating production spheres in which savings can be directed and by encouraging further savings. In these fields the private and co-operative sectors can play an effective role.

The Revolution documents and charters are clear in that they do not provide for total nationalisation, nor do they confine activity to the public sector. They adopt the principle of the people’s control over the basic means of production, to ensure that these means are used in the interest of development for the sake of sufficiency and justice.

The private sector has an important role in development, and we should admit that we have not always met its requirements nor created conditions to promote its productive activity.

The successive contradictory decisions and acts have neutralised the private sector as a productive agency, led it into parasitic investments and induced its owners to adopt patterns of extravagant consumption when they did not find a way of investing in stable production.

It is time for these conditions to disappear altogether and for the private sector to find real stability and encouragement towards maximum production to meet the needs of the society.

The co-operative sector in agriculture and crafts is also in need of a strong drive so as to keep pace with the sought rates of development.

We are fully aware that the burden of progress and construction falls principally on the shoulders of the Egyptian people. Whatever local resources we can mobilise, we still have a great need for foreign resources. The conditions of today’s world make it possible for us to obtain these resources in a way to strengthen our economy and speed up development. Hence the call for an outward-looking economic policy, a call based on an assessment of the Egyptian economy’s requirements on the one hand, and the available opportunities for foreign financing on the other.

In this connection, I would like to speak, first, of Arab funds.

The Arab oil exporting countries have large amounts of surplus funds which will increase as a
result of the rise in oil prices following the October War.

The owners of these surplus funds wish to invest parts thereof in Egypt or in joint projects in Egypt and in other Arab countries. In so doing, they are motivated by noble national feelings and a sound economic attitude in view of the monetary and investment instability in many parts of the world.

We welcome and encourage this trend partly because we are in need of such investments and because we believe that they will find here a safe and stable climate and partly because we believe that the inter-relation of economic interests consolidates the organic ties between the Arab countries and, consequently, strengthens their national identity, as well as their political and economic weight in the world. Proceeding from such an objective stand, we open the doors for the investment of Arab capital and also for joint Arab projects.

We hope that Arab economic co-operation will enter a new, active and powerful stage capable of achieving higher development rates in all the Arab countries; a stage that would make of the Arabs an ever-growing power in the world economy as the material basis of their political power.

Therefore, we provide the Arab investors with all the legislative guarantees and, more important, we offer them the absorbent power of the Egyptian economy under a state of political and social stability and a steadily increasing economic development.

As to foreign capital, I have no better reply to the sceptics other than this statement from the Charter:

The people's sovereignty over their territory and their restoration of their control over their destiny enable them to set the limits through which they can allow foreign capital to act in their own country; and, our people are led by their discerning judgement to consider it the duty of more advanced countries to extend foreign aid to those still struggling to catch up.

The Charter has made it clear that we accept unconditional aid and loans, as well as direct investment in such fields of modern development as require world expertise. This is precisely the line we have adopted.

Our attitude towards foreign capital is determined by the reality of our economic and political
independence, and by the ability of our free national will to shape the future of the country.

We welcome foreign investment because of the much needed advanced technological knowledge it will bring with it. The conditions in the world today caused by the reshaping of international relations, the emergence of several world powers and because of the status acquired by Egypt and the Arabs since the October War, all these factors provide us with the opportunity to benefit from foreign investments — and our national responsibility does not permit us to miss such an opportunity. We are competent to judge where our interest lies, and we should not be saddled with a fear-complex about our future safety.

Moreover, the outward-looking policy we have proclaimed is an opening up on the whole world, both east and west, because we are fully aware that versatile and varied international economic relations constitute the material basis for the freedom of our political movement.

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Needless to say that Egypt's future depends on industrialisation. The possibilities of a horizontal agricultural expansion are limited by the available water resources and the exorbitant cost of land reclamation in certain areas. Our main hope for providing our increasing millions of people with food lies in Egypt's ability to export enough of its industrial products in return for the needed food supplies.

The broad industrial base we have established with so much effort and which has enriched our experience in the course of our national struggle in recent years, makes us hopeful of a fresh break-through towards rapid and intensive industrialisation.

The outward-looking economic policy will supply us with the most modern technological means to speed up this break-through and promote exports by raising their standards.

The policy of establishing free-trade zones will not only introduce new industries, contribute to manpower employment, and provide us with world storing and distribution centres on account of our outstanding geographical position, it will also serve to speed up the industrialisation policy as well as develop and modernise our local industries.

By industry and all it provides in the way of machinery and fertilisers and all the agricultural
products it utilises, we can radically develop Egyptian agriculture and increase its yield to an extent parallel to that of industrial growth, so that the Egyptian economic structure may remain intact and to reduce our dependence on agricultural imports.

All of this can be achieved only by a sufficient supply of energy, which is the mainstay of progress. We are, in fact, doing our best to prospect for oil, and there are still great potentials in this respect. It is also necessary to ensure a continually increasing electric power supply to be used on the largest possible scale so as to keep oil for petro-chemical industries and for export.

It is also necessary to develop tourism in Egypt through a revolutionary drive. Our tourism potential is excellent and we can cater to the different kinds of tourism, historical, religious, recreational and medical all the year round. Geographically, we are situated at the centre of the world and at the meeting-place of its routes.

The development of tourism does not imply merely the building of new hotels. It calls for an overall development of the civilisational environment tourists come in contact with and the kind of treatment and facilities they expect to have. It requires a greater variety of touristic sites to suit different standards and tastes and they must be readily accessible by means of efficient transport. We should also make it possible for tourists to contact the rest of the world speedily during their stay.

2 — Social Development:

The Egyptian citizen is, in the final analysis, the main guarantee for the achievement of all of these ambitious goals. Man makes development, and his happiness is its ultimate end. Money without competent men is no more than paper stacked in safes. Machinery, however modern, is useless without human skill, and the most fertile soil remains barren unless ploughed by human labour.

God's most important gift to Egypt is its people and our chief national wealth is our manpower. Like all resources, it has to be developed. The development of manpower means first and foremost increasing its capacity to give and to work by providing food, clothing, health services and housing and improving its human potential through culture, education and training.

The Egyptian worker has proved no less capable of assimilating modern technology than the Egyptian soldier. Egyptian experts have demon-
strated both at home and abroad that they are of the highest calibre, by any standard. Our country is neither lacking in educated young people nor in technical and administrative expertise. Still, the tasks lying ahead call for more.

Social development must, for this reason, be accorded its due share of attention in our comprehensive civilisational strategy which cannot be a purely economic one; it should be social at the same time. I would even say that economic development cannot proceed soundly forth unless accompanied by a social development at compatible rates. I would like to point out in this context that it is impossible to follow a comprehensive industrialisation policy for long without providing the necessary numbers of skilled workers, technicians and administrators at the different levels.

It is our duty towards the Egyptian citizen, who is our principal asset, and by whom and for whom we work, to prevent his falling prey to illiteracy, disease or backwardness. We should offer him the full chance to develop so that he may give of his best to his country. All the experiments in the field of development go to prove that sheer material progress, though important, is insufficient by itself to improve man's condition or to effect any real change in his life, and that it is essential, therefore, to pay attention to the other aspects that contribute to his formation.

This in itself is a contribution to development, no less important than buying machinery and setting up factories. We have only to consider the individual's productivity — which is one of the items of world competition — and its dependence on the degree of his social awareness, his technical expertise and adaptability to the requirements of the new society, to appreciate the paramount importance of social development.

I am interested in the first place in asserting that the time has come to begin seriously this difficult task we have postponed for so long, namely, the task of revolutionising the systems and concepts of general education and culture of all sorts and standards from the eradication of illiteracy to general technical and university education, to scientific and technological research.

I do not intend to give here a detailed description of this cause which should be the subject of a complete national study. I only wish to record a few basic observations connected with the concepts of this highly important topic.

The most important addition to the logic of education and research in the world is the elimina-
In this way, education and general culture have acquired two parallel targets:

First: To create the enlightened, educated individual, more understanding of, and in harmony with, his society and age, further able to absorb and enjoy the fruits of human knowledge and more understanding of the general causes of his country, his surroundings and his environment.

Second: To provide him with precise and advanced skills, to enable him to carry out the role compatible with such skills in the various work and production centres of his country.

There are various requirements for the achievement of this target, among which:

To avoid one rigid form of education, instead it should be diversified as much as possible to respond to the need for various expertise, specialisation and skills required in development in order to promote it all along a broad front.

To link certain types and stages of education to the environment, rural or urban, field or factory. Only in this way can we avoid the problem of the return to illiteracy once the student is separated from the school and goes back to his environment. We would also avoid the other face of the same problem, namely the immigration of the educated individual from the environment, thus constantly impoverishing this environment by depriving it of the advantages resultant upon the spread of education therein.

To form closer bonds among the different universities and institutes and the work positions connected to them through specialisation such as establishments, production or trade companies, etc. in a world where knowledge plays a growing role in promoting the production capacity.

To eliminate the theory of the social difference between one form of education and another — in this way we can meet the need of the country for skills and expertise and raise the value of work or labour as the primary social value. We can also get rid of this overwhelming disease whereby many consider education as the instrument for acquiring
a special social privilege, while the principal target for some educated people has become office-jobs irrespective of their value in the movement of society.

The second addition to the logic of education and research in the world is what has come to be known as the theory of continuous education.

In this age, in which scientific, technical and technological progress proceed at an astonishing speed; in this world where often the machine becomes old and obsolete as soon as it has been manufactured because something more modern has appeared — in this age, it has become imperative for active and productive elements to be in a state of constant education and continued acquiring of knowledge. Otherwise, the educated person will find himself backward compared to the new, whatever the degree of experience and culture he has acquired during his studies.

Here too, there are various requirements for the achievement of this target, among which:

To benefit from the wealth of information in the world and make it constantly available to all those desirous thereof through modernising public libraries as well as the libraries of universities, institutes, research and reading centres, to facilitate the import of modern books, magazines and periodicals while giving them the suitable priority.

To organise seminars and constant training programmes at all the levels — managers to acquire new methods of business management, to the teachers themselves to prepare them for participation in developing curriculae and teaching methods, up to continuous vocational training in various fields of labour to raise the production efficiency.

To utilise general cultural means in order to present free educational programmes in the different branches.

In all these fields we should utilise all the means of modern science to collect, store and distribute information, and to raise the standard of knowledge given to the student in the schools, universities and institutes.

Primarily, attention should be accorded to advanced scientific and technological research centres.

We have said — more than once — that we must enter the age of science and technology. Our Armed Forces have proved that they are able to do so and at a very high level indeed. Let their achievements in this connection be an example for all other fields. Though we are living in a period
where we depend basically on imported science and technology, it is our duty to see to it that we do not continue to live dependent on the production of others in this field. Egypt has a considerable number of scientific researchers and scientific research centres — in this context we enjoy an excellent position among the developing nations.

I consider expenditure on technological and scientific research as investment in heavy industry, because not only does it help development in the near future, it also guarantees its continuation and rising rates in the long run. But like any investment it must be guided and by this we mean first, co-ordination of and linking the different scientific research centres in their use of the means of research made available by our potentialities; and second, tying their activities to the requirements of the society to acquire from these requirements their subject matter and so that the society may benefit from the returns.

On the other hand, scientific and technological research should adapt important technology to the Egyptian reality, and find real solutions to our problems just as our Armed Forces did in adapting and developing arms and in creating methods of confronting the battle, with special characteristics. Our ambition should be, after, to enter the field of scientific and technological research as partners, to give and to take, so that we may not live like parasites on those who create or submit to the conditions they impose.

In addition to our own Egyptian efforts in this field, my hope is to see common Arab endeavours being carried out, able to give our progress in this sphere a strong forward drive.

The world has lived for a number of centuries during which the Arabs were the fount of knowledge and science, while Europe copied them. The books of Arab writers and inventors were translated into Latin and taught at European universities until the seventeenth century. Arab man is then capable of genuine production, once provided with the suitable circumstances.

In the final analysis, all this aims at promoting the capacities of the Egyptian man; a social, cultural and scientific development to raise his value and that of all the labour he can present to his country.

On the other hand, the social development policy should aim at affording maximum employment opportunities. Labour is the source of honest livelihood which maintains man's dignity and affords
him a decent living. Training should be the means of raising the efficiency of the worker, enabling him to acquire new skills, move from one profession to another and, consequently, to increase his income.

The State should organise the conditions of work abroad for that surplus manpower — in the short run — so that the dignity of the citizens may be upheld and the value of their work preserved.

Health care and the availability of reasonable dwellings at rents corresponding to the standard of income are two of the basic responsibilities of the State. In this connection, we have to co-ordinate and develop medical treatment systems so that the maximum benefit is achieved in the form of actual services to be rendered to citizens. This is in addition to giving full attention to preventive services.

While encouraging investment in the field of housing in general, the State has to give priority to low-cost dwellings in urban and rural areas.

When I speak of the Egyptian man in the field of social development I mean the entire society: men and women. Women constitute one half of the society and to deny women the opportunity to participate in our comprehensive strategy for progress is to deprive the society of the capabilities of one half of its members. Education, labour and just human treatment are compatible with the tolerant Shari'a (Islamic Law).

Article XI of the Constitution stipulates that:

The State ensures a co-ordination between the duties of women towards their families and their work in society. It also ensures equality between men and women in the political, social, cultural and economic aspects of life without violating the provisions of Islamic Law.

The Egyptian man or citizen who is the target of this social development is today and tomorrow, Egypt's youths. Care and upbringing of youths to assume their responsibilities and effectively share in building up the society, are vital to this decisive stage. The future we are trying today to build is essentially for them and, therefore, they should not remain stranger to it.

3 — New Map for Egypt:

After all these thousands of years and in view of the rapid increase in the population and the new life sought by them, the life of the Egyptian people cannot remain confined to the Delta and the narrow valley of the Nile. Moreover, they cannot
continue to occupy with their population and constructions no more than nearly 3 per cent of the total area of their country.

This is incompatible with the people's national security. In olden times, the vast deserts were perhaps looked upon as natural protection for the people of Egypt but they are no longer so in today's world with its modern weapons. On the contrary, they have come to constitute strategic vacuums which ought not to be neglected. Meanwhile, this concept is compatible with the high rates of population increase.

The valley is already too narrow to hold its occupants who amount to 35 millions. We cannot wait until the population grows to 40 or 50 millions before we begin to act. Finally this is a situation which is incompatible with the ideal policy of exploiting the available natural wealth, the opening up of new scopes for economic and social development, and finding new patterns for a better and wider life for the citizens in new and more diversified environments.

The problem is not merely the concentration of the population and of most of the economic and social activities in the old valley. There is also the problem of the tremendous concentration in the capital, whose population has reached one fifth of the population of the entire country. Judged by any international scale, it is a very high ratio. Moreover, it is a steadily increasing ratio unless checked as of now by suitable measures.

This position, which further deepens the concentration in Cairo, has doubled the problem of daily life in it in such a way, that sedative remedies will never do should the state of affairs continue in this direction.

We are about to renew the capital so that it may be worthy of its international status by fitting it up with the necessary utilities and modern means of communication as well as facilities for work and economic and touristic movement. The capital is also to be made a centre for the activities of many regional and international organisations. All these measures would add fresh numbers to the population of Cairo in addition to many others visiting it and benefiting from its utilities.

Moreover, such tremendous concentration in the capital made it an irresistible centre of attraction absorbing from all parts of the country a good deal of their potentialities, specialisations and manpower. The gap gets wider between Cairo and all the other parts of the country, thus impeding equal
development and progress in the different parts of
the country.

The provinces, which are still the main source
of our national wealth and also the source of man-
power, should not be left to suffer from the effects
of what they constantly lose to the capital, for the
simple reason that capitals have by nature a stron-
ger voice and are nearer to the eyes and ears of
the rulers.

I have earlier stressed the necessity of recon-
structing the Egyptian village. Meanwhile, we
have already started a plan for the electrification
of the entire Egyptian countryside. After October
6 and with all the vistas that have been opened be-
fore us and after deciding to set up and execute a
comprehensive civilizational strategy, I believe, it is
time to comprise all this within the framework of
a comprehensive project for drawing up a new map
for Egypt.

This cannot be achieved by setting up scattered
projects here and there. It can be done by creat-
ing areas for population concentration and new eco-
nomic activities, enjoying all the potentials of ur-
ban attraction thus appealing to large population
groups which can set up an active, settled, pro-
ductive life enjoying all services and so that they

may be able to equal the pulling power of the ca-
pital, by being not less attractive and conductive to
life, labour and enjoyment.

The Suez Canal area, which has a unique world
situation, should not stop as was the case along the
western bank of the Canal. The reconstruction of
this area should be extended to the heart of Sinai.
Within one comprehensive plan, this area should be
changed into an industrial, agricultural, tourist area
with free trade zones as well as university faculties
specialising in subjects commensurate with the re-
quirements of the area.

With its unique situation, the area is capable of
attracting various kinds of investments. Its com-
prehensive plan should be realised along modern
regional planning systems, thus making of it a land
for new life, a pioneer model for the Egypt we want
before the end of the century.

With the same logic, and taking the circum-
cstances of each area into consideration, reconstruc-
tion areas should be extended westward along the
Mediterranean coast, eastward along the Red Sea
coast, and southward around Lake Nasser.

The possibilities for mining, industries, fish-
eries and tourism are largely available in these
areas. They only need to be taken into considera-
tion in our far reaching plans and need a pioneer spirit to be applied in dealing with the new areas.

Not a single new city has been established in Egypt since the opening of the Suez Canal and the construction of its three cities, that is more than one hundred years ago. It has become important for Egypt to carry out new projects for the establishment of new cities, a number of harbours and towns attached to them along our long maritime coast lines. This is unavoidable and is necessary in order to take advantage of our outlets along two of the most important seas of the world. Both are rich in trade, transport and tourist movements. The aim is also to realise a real and integrated Egyptian existence in all parts of the country.

This new map which is required is not only a geographical and demographical map; it is also basically an economic one. A steady life can only be extended to areas where there would be opportunities for work and livelihood. The situation in the new areas is thus linked with economic and social development plans.

Furthermore, this should serve as a gateway to an administrative revolution which has become a necessity.

This trend should be accompanied by a studied and decisive movement towards re-distribution of authority in all sectors throughout the country, for authority should not be restricted to Cairo.

Cairo, as the capital, will naturally remain the headquarters for ministries, a large number of institutions and various activities. However, it should not be flooded with more than its requirements, so far as central planning, study and central guidance are concerned. We have to make of local government a real fact by transferring to old and new provinces all establishments that do not necessarily have to remain in Cairo. The current must be changed from a continuous absorption by Cairo of specialisations and leaderships from the provinces, into maintaining the presence of these specialists and leaderships near their original sites of work in the provinces. Without spreading out in this way, progress as well as urbanisation cannot reach all makers of life in our country.

In this respect, it may be suitable to study the problem of the present administrative divisions of the country, so that the number of the governorates would be defined, their borders re-mapped in a manner that would make of them larger demographical, administrative and economic units. Conse-
quentely, they would have more possibilities for realising integration, carrying out projects and taking advantage of the capacities that are available in various fields.

Meanwhile, a higher committee should devote its time for re-distribution of manpower among the different machinery of the State, so that certain departments would not complain of over-employment while in other departments people complain of delay in their work due to a shortage of employees.

4 — Planning:

The October War experience has proved that sound scientific planning is the basis of every successful action, and that the economic planning which has been in application during the past fourteen years helped us realise real gains and played a basic role in safeguarding economic steadfastness. The experience of all the developing peoples affirmed that development can not be realised automatically; it requires planning.

The effectiveness of planning as a scientific method of directing and guiding the national economy has been affirmed, and consequently has been adopted by capitalist countries.

There is no doubt that, if we really want our comprehensive urban strategy to be set up on studied bases that would link the goals to which I have referred, and that would make of our steps towards realising progress balanced steps, then we shall be in greater need of applying the principle of planning.

Development is not a haphazard action which takes place automatically. Development constitutes a scientific action based on forecasting changes expected to take place at particular times.

The whole world with its varied economic and social systems is concerned about a new world, the world of the future. It is trying to foresee the trends of development over the next quarter century, that is until the year 2000, and each nation is delineating its development according to long-term plans. Thus we find the nations of the whole world hastening to re-assess their future in the light of the daily flux of variables, such as the critical shortage of raw materials essential for industry, the increasing danger of the decline of available sources of food, the phenomena of inflation throughout the world and the new movement of capital from its traditional to other places. All these are matters causing the world to take stock anew of its preconceived ideas and expectations.
It is inconceivable that we should live in such a world thinking from one year to the next. It is imperative, as I have said previously, that we should have a bold vision of a comprehensive urban strategy, and that it should be based on a sound scientific plan.

For whereas our future movement will be more expansive in the various fields of progress and construction, and whereas we want to employ all possible thrusts and available financial and economic sources, all this will make us more in need of adopting the principle of planning in our lives. An outward-looking economy enhances the importance of planning, for the best means of attracting the investor is to present him with well-studied, interrelated projects, as the success of any one project depends, to a large degree, on the economic progress of the whole and a swift rate of development. Likewise the flow of capital in a country without the necessary planning for receiving it, can cause a disequilibrium in the national economy, and substantial side-effects such as inflation, or the appearance of bottlenecks here and there.

All this necessitates a change and a development in the philosophy of planning, planning machinery and planning responsibilities, to make such machinery more accurate, more flexible and more imaginative.

There is the planning for the public sector which is the spearhead in the battle for progress and reconstruction. There is also the planning that serves the private sector. This is usually realised through certain other incentives and circumstances which guide it voluntarily towards those areas where the general development is more in need of it.

As I have said, there is also the planning which serves foreign investment. Such planning necessitates advance preparation of studies and providing its requirements within the context of the national economy as a whole.

Planning is important to serve all sectors of the economy. It serves these sectors through preparation of studies, data-analysis, information and laying down plans for the supply of the necessary technical skills and foretelling the circumstances of various investments and their effect in general.

The specialised national councils which have been formed will play a vital role in this respect.
Hence, there should be a strong link between the higher planning authorities in the country.

I do not need to affirm that planning does not mean restrictions and administrative complications. Our principle stems from centralisation in planning and decentralisation in implementation. Once the general plan is defined, then all would move within its framework in freedom and flexibility.

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