

[In the following transcript of President Ford's telephone conversation with President Sadat, President Sadat's remarks are incomplete because of a poor telephone connection with Egypt.]

PRESIDENT FORD. President Sadat?

PRESIDENT SADAT. Hello. This is President Sadat.

PRESIDENT FORD. How are you this morning?

President Sadat, I wanted to call you and congratulate you on the great role that you played in the negotiations that have culminated in this agreement.

PRESIDENT SADAT. Hello? [Inaudible]

PRESIDENT FORD. Unfortunately, I don't hear you too well, Mr. President. I hope that my conversation is coming through more clearly.

Let me express most emphatically on behalf of my Government the appreciation for your statesmanship, despite adversity and some criticism, the spirit with which you have approached the need for an agreement.

I am most grateful for the leadership that you have given, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in—

PRESIDENT SADAT. Hello?

PRESIDENT FORD. Hello. Can you hear me, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT SADAT. No, I can't hear you very well.

