[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.
President Ford, I know that you and I recognize that stagnation and stalemate in the Middle East would have been potentially disastrous, and your leadership in working with Secretary Kissinger and with the Israelis, all of us are most grateful for.

And as we continue to work together, personally, as well as government-to-government—

President Sadat. Hello? President Ford is speaking?

President Ford. Yes. I can hear you, Mr. President. I hope you can hear me, Mr. President.

President Sadat. President Ford, hello.

President Ford. I don't hear too well, Mr. President.

President Sadat. President Ford speaking?

President Ford. Yes, this is President Ford.

President Sadat. Go ahead, please.

President Ford. The connection, unfortunately, is not too good for me to hear your comments, Mr. President.

Let me say, if I might, despite the difficulties, that Mrs. Ford and I hope that Mrs. Sadat and you and your children will visit the United States sometime this fall.

Secretary Kissinger has told me of the very warm hospitality that you have extended to him and Mrs. Kissinger, and we look forward to reciprocating when they come to the United States in the fall of 1975.

I regret that I can't hear. The connection is very bad. I hope that you can hear me and my comments from the United States.

Mr. President, I understand that Secretary Kissinger is coming to Alexandria to personally deliver the document for your initialing, and I have asked Henry to extend to you on that occasion the gratitude and appreciation of the American people for your patience, your leadership, and your understanding of the need and necessity for a forward step, and important step in the ultimate aim of total peace in the Middle East.

President Sadat. Hello?

President Ford. Hello, Mr. President.

President Sadat. Hello, Mr. President.

President Ford. I can hear you better now, sir.

President Sadat. Mr. President, I hope you and your family are well.

President Ford. I am feeling very well, Mr. President, and I hope you are, too.

President Sadat. I want to thank you for your personal message. [inaudible]

President Ford. Mr. President, I couldn't hear every word distinctly, but I got
the thrust of your kind comments and your encouraging words, and I can assure you that we will work with Egypt, not only in seeing that the agreement is implemented with the spirit as well as the letter, that we will continue to develop the good relations between Egypt and the United States, working to make sure that we expand trade, tourism, and our help to the maximum degree possible and that this is the way that the United States can continue to play a constructive role in the most important area—the Middle East.

And you have my personal assurance, and I am sure the Congress will cooperate, because it is recognized in the United States that the Middle East is indeed a vitally important area of the world and that our participation in a constructive way is an important element in the tremendous success that has been achieved in the negotiations between your country and Israel. I wish to thank you very, very much.

I said a few moments ago, Mrs. Ford and I look forward to having Mrs. Sadat, your family, and yourself here in the United States early this fall.

President Sadat. Mr. President, I am looking forward to this visit with you and Mrs. Ford and your family. [inaudible] I also assure you we accept this agreement as a further step towards a successful and peaceful conclusion. I consider it a turning point in the history of the country.

I again thank you, but it is essential, Mr. President, that we must keep the momentum of the peace process going and continue it.

President Ford. I can assure you, Mr. President, we are going to keep the momentum going in the peace process. We will not tolerate stagnation or stalemate. The momentum is on the way for a peaceful solution on a permanent and equitable basis, and you have my pledge that we will make sure that that momentum keeps going.

President Sadat. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Ford. I look forward to seeing you after that wonderful visit we had in Salzburg, and give my very best to Mrs. Sadat, if you will, please.

President Sadat. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Ford. Thank you, sir.

President Sadat. I should like to add another point, Mr. President.

President Ford. Yes.

President Sadat. I think I would like to emphasize the importance of [inaudible].

President Ford. I, unfortunately, could not hear as well as I would like the last comments you made. The connection from here is not, apparently, as good as I hope you have there, but—
President Sadat. I hear you quite well.

President Ford. The efforts of Secretary Kissinger and myself, we feel, were completely worth what we have done, but our efforts could not have been successful without the leadership and the statesmanship by you and the equally fine actions by the Israeli Government and Prime Minister Rabin.

But as you said a moment ago, President Sadat, the momentum is moving in the right direction, and you have my personal assurance that we will continue that movement, because it is vital not only in the Middle East but elsewhere for the benefit of all peoples.

President Sadat. Thank you, Mr. President, very much.

President Ford. We will see you soon, I hope.

President Sadat. We are looking forward to coming, with pleasure, and convey my good wishes to your family.

President Ford. Thank you, and the best to yours, sir.

President Sadat. Thank you very much.

President Ford. Have a good day, and Henry will be there shortly, I understand.

President Sadat. I am waiting for him.

Note: The telephone conversations began at 12 noon. President Ford spoke from Aspen Lodge at Camp David, Md. Separate calls were placed to Secretary Kissinger and Prime Minister Rabin in Jerusalem, Israel, and President Sadat in Alexandria, Egypt.