JONJT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

The SPEAKER of the House presided.

The Doorkeeper, Hon. James T. Molloy, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to conduct the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt into the Chamber the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. O'Neil; the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Rhodes; the gentleman from California, Mr. McMillan; the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mikulski; the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Morgan; and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Broomfield.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to accompany the President into the Chamber the senator from Mississippi, Mr. Eastland; the senator from Montana, Mr. Mansfield; the senator from West Virginia, Mr. Robert C. Byrd; the senator from Utah, Mr. Moss; the senator from Alabama, Mr. Sparkman; the senator from North Dakota, Mr. Young; the senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. Hutt Scott; the senator from Texas, Mr. Tower; the senator from Vermont, Mr. Stafford; and the senator from New Jersey, Mr. Case.

The Doorkeeper announced the Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés d'Affaires of foreign governments.

The Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés d'Affaires of foreign governments entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them.

The Doorkeeper announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 12 o'clock P.M., the Doorkeeper announced the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency, Mohammed Anwar El-Sadat.

President Sadat, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, was seated at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rise.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege, and I deem it a high honor and personal pleasure, to present to you His Excellency, Anwar El-Sadat, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

[Applause, the Members rise.]

President SADAT. Mr. Vice President.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Members of Congress, I would like, first, to thank you for extending this invitation to me, thus affording me a unique opportunity to meet with you all in a pleasant continu-
businessmen, technicians and academicians.

Perhaps it has been established now, beyond doubt, that we are not ready to compromise our independence or mortgage our will to any power under any circumstances. Our relations with a given nation are not conditioned nor determined by the desire of that power to maintain with other countries. We should always bear in mind that Egypt is the oldest nation-state that has enjoyed an uninterrupted existence within the same boundaries for over 7,000 years. You certainly can appreciate the impact and reflection of this present social and political behavior among nations today.

We are doing all we can in order to develop our country socially and economically in every possible field. We are embarking on an ambitious but essential plan for overall development and socio-economic transformation. We are trying to secure a job for every man and woman, a hospital room for every sick person, a seat in the classroom for every child. We are trying to make life easier for toiling farmers and workers. We are determined to achieve all that, while striving, at the same time, to catch up with the latest advances in the world. We must earmark more funds for investment, simultaneously with the reimbursement of our accumulated debts. We are committed to improve the quality of life in Egypt. Throughout this process, we rely first and foremost on our own people, our own resources and, above all, on the can-do spirit of the Egyptian people. We are prepared to give any unconditional help from friendly nations in whatever form. We thank those who are willing to help (and may I identify you with all gratitude in this respect) and we understand the position of those who are not, for one reason or another.

Perhaps you are aware of the fact that we share the little we have with other nations. Egyptian aid is given without hesitation to sister African and Asian countries hit by disasters. We are building roads, schools, hospitals in remote places, in the belief that whatever is good for these people is good for the Egyptian people.

Our engineers, doctors, teachers, and technicians are contributing to the improvement of life in almost every State in the region. Some have questioned the setting of our priorities and the wisdom of choosing certain projects in such a manner. But we think that human rights are indivisible and that every nation should share in the cost and fruit alike.

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, many of your friends around the world expect American policy to be based on justice and fairness, supporting the oppressed and the oppressed. It is important that the United States apply the same standards in dealing with other peoples as those you strove for when you launched your revolution. The United States has to be counted among the supporters of any revolution that advances the freedom and dignity of man. Conversely, is there any logical reason why the United States should treat the Palestinian problem differently? You are well aware that the Palestinians have suffered occasionally from excesses, lack of discipline and abuse. They feel, not without justification to be sure, that the Palestinian people have long been neglected by the international community. It was only a few years ago that their legitimate struggle caught the imagination, and hence gained the sympathy, of the world. Nations began, after being aware of the plight of the Palestinians, to recognize their right to self-determination and statehood. Even when nations had their reservations as to certain aspects of the Palestinian resistance, that did not hinder them from lending it their understanding and support. Of almost all the nations that remain in the same situation, one of the grave dissenter in the long over due trend of establishing contacts with the Palestinians, Contacts bring understanding. Understanding helps develop solutions.

In this connection I must say, with all fairness, that I have seen certain encouraging signs in the past few weeks with some American politicians, both individually and in committees and subcommittees, demonstrating a keen interest in the cause of the Palestinians and putting an end to their preconceived and negative views. I am confident that the American public and the American people are not going to be satisfied with a mere token of interest.

Therefore, I urge you, in the most emphatic term, to lend the Palestinian people your understanding and support. Help them to overcome despair and frustration. The continuation of neglect and despair is but an invitation to violence, negative, hostile trends. With your understanding and support, moderation would reign and reason would prevail. Above all, a sympathetic stand on the part of the United States towards the aspirations of the Palestinians and their right to establish their own nation shall contribute greatly to a solution of the problem. I trust that what I have been reiterating for years has become crystal clear today; namely, that the Palestinian question is the heart and core of the entire dispute. Once solved, all outstanding issues can be solved, thus reaching the hope of many of us who are striving to make peace a living reality.

You know that we Arabs have no problem whatsoever coexisting with others of different ethnic or religious backgrounds. Our history is a testimony to the fact that we have never harbored any ill-feeling towards any other nation. We have known doctrines of racial or religious discrimination as did other nations. The teachings of Islam and the tenets of our culture make it incumbent upon us to respect all peoples and deal with them as equals. As for us, we believe that Islam is a complete code of human behavior. The concept of human submission to the Divine will come since the inception of mankind. We are commanded in our Holy Book to say that "we believe in God, and in the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismael, Ismael, Jacob, and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that to all prophets from their Lord. We make no difference between one another and another and we bow to God in Islam."

To us peace is not only a cherished ideal, but also an imperative commandment to which we are committed. One way of expressing our reverence to the prophets of God is to pray to God to bestow peace on their souls. Is it any wonder that the Arab nations should be dedicated to the cause of peace, a cause that is both in the faith and profoundly intertwined with the fabric of our daily life? Recent events have proven, beyond any doubt, that our desire to establish peace is our paramount consideration and overriding concern. We took the steps we did in the belief that we are paving the road to peace, even if this entails taking some shorter steps. I remind you that a very important factor that is involved in the solution of this problem is the constructive and more impartial role we expect the United States to play.

Enough has been mentioned about American commitments to this party or that. But the real commitment that is expected is the commitment of one to peace and justice. We are not asking the country to abandon anyone or turn friends into enemies. We simply expect the United States not to condone expansion or tolerate aggression. We often hear about the binding force of commitment, as if we were speaking of a contract one and another. However, the only guarantee for a commitment to hold is that it be based on principles, not expedience and on objectively ascertainable criteria. We expect the United States to cooperate with us in our drive to set in motion the process of an overall settlement that tackles all aspects of the Middle East conflict. We expect it to refrain from supporting the arms race in the area, for this would certainly lead to the renewal of armed conflict.

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, ever since I knew President Ford, first through correspondence and then after meeting him in person, I have been a man of vision, deep understanding and compassion. He has been a man of integrity who always kept his word. He is given to candor and honesty. In short, he is the kind of statesman to like and trust. His commitment to peace is paramount and genuine.

In the past ten days, I have had the opportunity to visit many parts of your great country. I was struck by the warmth, the hospitality and the genuineness of the American people's desire for peace and progress, not only for themselves, but for the entire world. Truly, you and we have much in common and much to gain. I am encouraged that we can continue to work together to achieve the great objectives we have set for ourselves. I take this opportunity to convey to the American people, through their representatives, my thanks and my best wishes for happiness and prosperity.

I am mindful of the fact that I paid this visit on the eve of the Bicentennial anniversary of the American revolution. On behalf of the people and government of Egypt, I extend to every American our warm congratulations on this great occasion in your history. Out of the throngs of revolution... out of the fight against oppression and injustice... out of a firm conviction in the rights of man, you have
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CREATED A YOUTHFUL COUNTRY THAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE SUPER POWER OF TODAY AND A COUNTRY CAPABLE OF ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN PROGRESS.

AGAIN, MAY I THANK YOU FOR AVAILING ME OF THIS OPPORTUNITY. AS YOU SEE, I HAVE spoken to you in all sincerity in the belief that we should never miss any opportunity of building bridges of real friendship and genuine understanding between nations ... until the day comes when they beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Thank you.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m., His Excellency, Mohammed Anwar El-Sadat, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Doorkeeper, Hon. James T. Molloy, escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order: The members of the President's Cabinet, the Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargé d'Affaires of foreign governments.