

« Today war is no longer a battle between two sides using their armed forces, it is a comprehensive war in which every citizen in the country should participate and in which he has certain duties that must be performed ».

January 3, 1971

— « The overall war is not merely an army fighting another army, or a fighting front confronting another front... an overall war is a war everywhere. Weapons in this war are not limited to machine-guns, rifles, submarines and planes, they also include machines in the factories, ploughs in the fields, and extend to human behaviour itself and the feelings of each one in every house... It is the war of the entire nation... the war of the whole people. Danger is everywhere and each person is exposed to it.

The final decision remains in the hands of the people because the land, the freedom and the will-power are theirs and theirs too is the fight and, God willing, the victory ».

January 4, 1971

« The coming war will be a comprehensive war — a war which will not be limited to the front, but which will extend to every part of the country, to the villages, the fields, the factories, the streets, the cities and to the houses. We must mobilise ourselves, since the coming war is a comprehensive one. When I say that we came out strong let me add that the enemy is still strong too, and capable of inflicting losses. However, let me tell you that we will fight this war, whatever the cost, since we are fighting for our land, that is our dignity and honour. We know the value of dignity and honour and we can pay their price. Our enemy will have to pay the price of what we will do. There is no alternative to the coming battle and to paying the price it requires. »

January 4, 1971

The homefront

« They concentrate today on our homefront. What does our homefront imply? Our people as a whole form one solid and cohesive front. They want to shatter this cohesion because the only means through which Israel can realise its political objectives following the military victory it achieved in 1967 is by splitting the homefront.

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and 10 to reject the defeat. It was the people
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and restored our dignity. But there is no doubt
that each one of us was deeply hurt and wound-
ed inside. Our enemies began to launch their cam-
paigns, taking advantage of our pain in order to
dermine our homefront so that our Armed
forces would not be able to continue the battle and
consequently they would be able to realise all their
political objectives ».

January 12, 1971

— « Each one of us has to fight this war, thus
we have to protect the integrity of our
homefront, since it is one of our chief wea-
pons beside the up-to-date weapons which
our sons are provided with. We must be
one integrated front in every place — a so-
lid front knowing very well its aim in every
place, street, village and city ».

January 12, 1971

National unity

At this stage we need the people's latent
powers, abilities, potentialities and opinions with all

freedom in order to discuss the destiny of our homeland in one of the most difficult stages through which our people passed in their old and modern history.

We must preserve the safety of our national front. Our national unity was our decisive weapon in the face of every aggression launched against our country since the inception of our Revolution on July 23, 1952. When I talk about our homefront and its safety, I have to point out that a small minority had of late tried to impose its control and power over our political organisation and to cast doubt on every action while we are confronting a ferocious battle which needs cohesion and integration to uphold the principles we agreed upon, namely not to give up one inch of our land and not to give up the rights of the Palestinian people. They tried to sow the seeds of dissension among us and to divide the people into Nasserists and non-Nasserists, socialists and non-socialists. Under the pretext of socialism and Nasserism they went to extremes in suppressing the freedoms of the people and humiliating the citizens disregarding the destiny of our great country, the leading role and the heavy responsibility of Egypt with regard to the Arab nation in which Egypt represents the base and springboard ».

June 2, 1971

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« We must complete the dimensions of national unity which has enabled us to persevere in this terrible conflict until to-day, especially since the battle calls for it. The participation of all the people on all levels and throughout the nation with its different sects, categories and individuals in the formulation, the follow-up and the implementation of the serious decisions connected with the battle, is a sure guarantee of all the people's stand, shoulder to shoulder behind their courageous Armed Forces preparing to wage the battle of destiny. This is not far off.

Our efforts towards asserting this unity could also be an integral part of our military effort and of the efforts which we are exerting for the sake of our sons who are waging the military battle — the most honourable and most violent battle at one and the same time on our behalf and for future generations ».

May 1, 1971

The battle and construction

« We are living the most glorious period of our life. We are asserting our freedom and will as a people. We are preparing the permanent Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

We are laying down the foundations of the Union of the Arab Republics.

We are rebuilding our political organisation from the base to the apex.

All this and our political action is proceeding incessantly. We are advancing every day in our military build-up which is the basis of every building we set up and our deterrent weapon in the battle. Everything is moving in one line with a view to establishing a sound and strong structure capable of confronting the battle and achieving victory in the battles of liberation, freedom and construction. I say to you that we must turn any defeat or setback into a starting point for a far-reaching and deeper process of rectification in our march.

The June defeat was the starting point in building up our Armed Forces and new State so that we may live in the 20th Century with the constituents of a modern state, its traditions and faith, and against which nobody would dare launch any aggression in the future. The painful events which took place lately were also the starting point towards broader freedom for the masses of our people. Pain did not prompt me to take any police or exceptional measures, but I wanted these events to be an incentive for more tenacity and steadfastness on the road of the battle. The error was com-

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We will not go backwards since the July 23 Revolution is continuous, and we have to accomplish in days what we used to accomplish in months. »

June 3, 1971

« Construction did not preoccupy us, to the exclusion of the battle, nor did the battle preoccupy us to the exclusion of construction. As a matter of fact, the battle is for construction, just as construction is for the battle. If we let the occupied part of our land preoccupy us to the extent that we do not continue the progress we are building, we would be handing over to the enemy what he wants. Also, if we dedicate all our efforts to continue development and construction only, and forget about the occupied land we would be achieving, in one way or another, the enemy's objective.

We must forge ahead in both fields — this is the lesson taught us by Gamal Abdel Nasser when he expressed it in his well-known words : « A hand

for construction and a hand carrying arms and fighting ».

May 1, 1971

« We should use this battle as a starting point for building the new state.

The battle is not only a military battle; another aspect of the battle is the necessity to build the modern state. In my belief, in order to build our new state it should be based on two inseparable principles, science and faith. »

The enemy and the battle

« The enemy will not withdraw his hand unless we are in a position where we could cut this hand off wherever it is extended. No matter how strong or prepared we may be, we must realise that the enemy will succeed in some of the blows that he directs against us and will not hesitate to hit us. I tell you from now, that everything on our land shall be exposed to danger, this is our destiny which we must accept with the honour and dignity of the struggle.

It shall be a ferocious battle, though one of the noblest battles of life. It shall be a long and bitter battle, but this is the destiny of free men. We thank God that we have the upper hand; for we are driven to struggle by our confidence, hope

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and the sanctity of every grain of sand on our soil. On the other hand, our enemy is driven to the madness of aggression by his fear of defeat and despair ».

March 7, 1971

The weapon of faith and the battle

« We shall fight with the one weapon that can never be defeated — faith. Our faith in God, in our people and in the sanctity of every grain of sand in our country and our faith in the fact that we shall never surrender for it is more honourable for us to die fighting ».

January 4, 1971

« We know that we came out very badly from the June 1967 battle. But our people, thank God, never lost their faith they even rose on June 9 and 10 with more firmness, genuineness and faith.

These people who had nothing at that time but their faith rose and refused defeat. At the same time, America was carrying out its task at the U.N. because it had made a pledge to Israel, after the battle, to halt all attempts at a peaceful settlement and to hamper the efforts exerted by the world community so that no resolution can be reached. »

January 8, 1971