

178 **Remarks on Signing the "Principles of Relations and Cooperation Between Egypt and the United States."**

*June 14, 1974*

*Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen:*

Mr. President, I first want to endorse very enthusiastically your very generous compliment to our Secretary of State for the role he has played, along with members of the U.S. team, in working out the various problems to which you have referred.

And on my part, may I pay my respects

to Foreign Secretary Fahmy<sup>1</sup> for the role that he has played, and members of your team, in working out many of the details and also many of the hard, substantive issues that have confronted us.

We are both fortunate, I believe, in the

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<sup>1</sup> Ismail Fahmy was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

support that we have had, and the talks that have gone forward have been ones that have laid the foundation for not only a continuation of a direct contact between you, President Sadat, and me, through channels that we have established but also direct contacts at the foreign minister level and at all levels of government to put meaning and also substance into the papers that we sign, the speeches that we may make, the declarations that may be forthcoming.

Also, on this occasion, before leaving Cairo, could I express again our grateful appreciation on behalf of not only Mrs. Nixon and myself but all of ours who are in the American party, for the overwhelming hospitality that you have extended to us on this visit. We are most grateful, grateful for that hospitality, and we shall always remember it. And we look forward to the opportunity later this year to have Mrs. Sadat, who stands so strongly and loyally and effectively by your side, as well as you, Mr. President, visit the United States again and get to know our country and our people better, not only at the official level but, as I have had the opportunity, across the Nation among all people from all walks of life.

We have today signed a statement which has as its title, "Principles of Relations and Cooperation Between Egypt and the United States."

I think, Mr. President, as I sign this statement, as you must think, of the many statements and treaties and executive agreements and others that I have signed since I have been in this office. Some have meant a great deal more than others, but there is one important rule which governs statements or agreements or treaties or whatever documents are signed by heads

of government, and that is this: that the statement, the treaty, the agreement, is only as good as the will and the determination of the parties concerned to keep that agreement.

Now, what we have established in this visit, brief though it is: first, that that will and determination to keep the agreement and not to be satisfied just with it, but to build on it. We have certainly established that that will and determination exists between the two heads of state and heads of government, President Sadat and myself. We have established that it also exists at official levels in other areas of government.

But I think, also, we have something else which is worthy of note. As we saw in the 3 days that we have been in your country, these "Principles of Relations and Cooperation Between Egypt and the United States" have the support of the Egyptian people. We sensed that as we saw your people in such great numbers, and I can assure you, Mr. President, they also have the support of the American people.

And so, not only officially, not only at the head of state and head of government level but also among our people, there is support for this document that we have signed and support not only for the specific agreements, declarations that are contained therein but support for the spirit which we have discussed, in which we will go on from this agreement to others in the future that will build on them.

For example, in our discussions we have explored ways and means that in the future we could build on the understandings set forth in this agreement. It is also very significant to note that the relations and principles described herein are relations and cooperation which are dedicated

to the works of peace, and we believe that this is again something which has the support of your people and of the American people, based on what we have seen in our visit here.

You have referred, Mr. President, to the fact that while we have made very significant progress by reason of the negotiations that have taken place today in removing roadblocks which have existed toward a final, equitable, permanent peace agreement, that there is still a long road to travel. We recognize that, as you recognize it, and we look forward to attempting to work with you, with other governments involved in attempting to find solutions to these problems, because we believe that in the final analysis, it is the permanent peace settlement which is in the interest of every government in the area and every nation in the area. And it is not our intention, as you have indicated it is not your intention, that what we have done to date is final. It is a beginning, a very good beginning, and it has been followed up very substantially by this bilateral understanding which we have signed today. But there is more to be done on both fronts, and we look forward to working with you in accomplishing those goals.

And finally, Mr. President, I would not want this moment to pass without reflecting on those few minutes that we had, through your courtesy, standing by the Pyramids, thinking back over the thousands of years of history which your people have known and history which is the common heritage of the civilization of our world today.

We think of the great things that your people have done in the past, but as we stood there, I thought also of the even

greater things that you, your government—now that we move into an era of peace, now that we will have cooperation with the U.S. and with other governments as well, I am sure, in accomplishing peaceful goals, we think that Egypt now is at the beginning—it is almost trite to say it—not only of a new era but the beginning of what can be the greatest progress this nation has known for many generations and even centuries.

That is your goal. You have spoken feelingly to me about that goal as we have seen your people—so many of them—the farmers, the workers, the teachers, the professional people, and the others, whether in the countryside, in Cairo, or in Alexandria.

It is a great goal, and you can be sure, Mr. President, that we in America share that goal with you. And as far as the principles stated in the papers that we have just signed are concerned, you can be sure we do not consider this just another piece of paper. It has the backing of our Government officially, it has my personal backing, and it also has the heartfelt support, I am sure, of the American people.

**NOTE:** The President spoke at approximately 12:45 p.m. in the Palace Theater of Abdin Palace in Cairo, in response to remarks by President Sadat.

President Sadat spoke in Arabic. His remarks were translated by an interpreter as follows:

*Great guest of Egypt, the President, Richard Nixon, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:*

I am indeed happy to be able to speak to you once again at the end of this visit which we all share the view that it is a visit which is both historic and of paramount importance because of the significance that it bears in steering American-Egyptian relations once again towards the path of friendship and cooperation

of the drastic steps which it is taking now in order to try and bring a settlement to a painful situation that has existed for over a quarter of a century in the Middle East.

Your visit, Mr. President, has actually come in the wake of concentrated efforts that have been exerted and which were crowned by the disengagement agreements that were signed on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts.

And you personally, Mr. President, have had great efforts which we are indeed thankful for. And at the same time, your Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, who knows no rest at all and no respite in his efforts, he also has a role that will always remain known and recognized.

And once again, I find that I have to formulate the situation as we conceive it before you. And this position, we feel, has three main factors: We find that the disengagement agreement, although it has contributed immensely in breeding the right climate, we believe that it still remains to be a military issue that had only to do with the implementation of the Security Council resolutions dealing with the cease-fire.

We find that the disengagement agreements have actually opened the door before an issue that needs a lot of efforts, and we believe that we cannot possibly belittle the dimensions of those great efforts.

And this, in fact, is the only alternative against the painful recurrence of war.

The second factor is that we have to admit that the crux of the whole problem in the Middle East are the legitimate rights of the Palestine people, and unless this is implemented, we feel that the prospects of peace in the Middle East will be dwindling.

The third factor is that from the bottom of our hearts, we do welcome the change that has occurred in the American position, and we actually welcome and feel satisfied with this new spirit and this positive policy.

We all, and I personally, have been very frank from the very beginning, and I have actually submitted and expressed initiatives to our victorious troops on the front and to

the whole world and with full determination to pursue that policy.

But I feel that these efforts cannot possibly implement everything on their own, but I feel that in order to implement this drive of ours, all the parties have to admit that the 6th of October has brought a change, and it has dissipated forever the fantasy that there could be anything that can be achieved by the force of arms or to try and impose a certain will.

And it is upon such conviction by all the parties of such principles that peace can possibly be established. And it is indeed with satisfaction that I have to say that all the bilateral talks that have taken place between President Nixon and myself, or whether President Nixon and United States Secretary Dr. Kissinger and myself, and Minister Ismail Fahmy, that is on the official plane, or whether the meetings that have taken place unofficially during that visit, I believe that this all enhances our feeling that a great deal is being done for the establishment of peace.

We shall do our very best actually to pursue this line of conduct so that the cooperation between our two countries should be based on mutual respect and for a broader sphere of cooperation.

Allow me that personally I would say that this visit has been an excellent opportunity for me and for Mrs. Sadat to get to welcome a great statesman and the head of a very great state, President Nixon and Mrs. Nixon, and a tribute to a great lady that stands by her husband in the assumption of a great role.

In the name of the people of Egypt, I would like to express once again our happiness that we have been able to welcome President Nixon and Mrs. Nixon and were to welcome him on that visit, a visit which we feel has been of paramount importance and most fruitful, and we do hope that the practical effect of that visit would appear in the very near future. Thank you.

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Earlier the same day, President and Mrs. Nixon, accompanied by President and Mrs. Sadat, had visited the Pyramids.