

SFChronicle
Cairo Crowds Greet Nixon
(-- Better Relations Planned

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Blunt Talk

Of Palestine Problem

Cairo

President Nixon, buoyed by a tumultuous and joyful welcome from enormous crowds here yesterday, pledged to work with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to cement a new relationship between the two nations.

Both presidents promised that in their conferences they were putting behind them an era of misunderstanding and hostility and laying a foundation for peace and economic progress in the Middle East.

The huge crowds that lined the more than seven miles of the route from the airport to Kubbah Palace, where Mr. Nixon and his wife are staying, seemed to sense the dramatic change in America's relation with the Arab world which the visit symbolizes.

Security almost broke down at times as the crowds surged toward the open car in which the two presidents stood for the 45-minute drive. But there were no hostile demonstrations, and the crowd was in a holiday mood. Placards proclaimed both presidents as great men dedicated to peace and progress.

The President flew here from Salzburg, Austria, for the first stop on a five-nation Middle East tour which includes four Arab states and Israel. He is the first president since Franklin D. Roosevelt to visit Egypt and the first president ever to undertake a tour of the region.

President Sadat greeted the President and Mrs. Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the airport where a brief formal reception was held. Then the two presidents drove through packed streets and friendly crowds to the palace, where they exchanged

speeches of greeting. Later they held a business meeting and last night the Sadats

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gave an official dinner on the spacious grounds of the palace.

In his dinner toast, Sadat spoke more bluntly of the difficulties of solving the Palestinian problem.

"Let me be candid with you lest in the future there would be a misunderstanding or false reading of the turn of events in our region," the Egyptian president said.

A solution to the Palestine problem is "indispensable" he said. This does not mean, he added, "that this would lead to the liquidation of Israel."

Mr. Nixon replied that he would be less than candid if he did not acknowledge that "I did not come here with readymade solutions to these complex problems."

A settlement will require "dedicated diplomacy," Mr. Nixon said. He promised that the U.S. will play a positive role.

In his earlier welcoming speech, Sadat said that the visit at this juncture when the Middle East is "geared towards a peaceful, honorable and just settlement" is of "major significance."

It will be remembered, he said, as "a milestone in the shaping and evolution of American - Egyptian relations" and will compensate for the long years of strain and lack of understanding.

"I am fully aware," the Egyptian leader said to his guest, "that you share with me the belief that this is a unique moment and a major turning point which should not be lost but rather grasped with vigilance, persistence and dedication

to build a durable and honorable peace."

Sadat stressed both the sense of accomplishment from the American peace effort and the fact that much

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remains to be done before a permanent peace is achieved.

Referring to the Egyptian and Syrian disengagement agreements with Israel, which Kissinger negotiated, the Egyptian president said: "Despite the fact that this is but one step, it is, however, a right one and in the right direction and without it no progress could have been achieved in the long road to peace."

Earlier, he defined "the challenge" to the U.S. as being "whether to substitute this precarious situation of cease-fire by a just and durable peace so that our area would be ushered into an era of normalcy."

President Nixon declared that he was "enormously moved" by the Cairo reception. Although he called this period "one of those great turning points," he, too, stressed that much remains to be done to achieve "the goal of peace."

Economic progress and progress toward peace go together, and neither is possible without the other, he said. However, he made no immediate promises of new American aid to Egypt.

Paying a special tribute to Sadat, the President said that without his courage, wisdom and statesmanship "we would not have made the progress toward peace that we have made, and the world owes him a great debt for what he has done."

The public reception was easily the largest outpouring of expression in Egypt since the funeral of Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1970, officials here said. It was also the most significant welcome for a foreign leader since Nikita Khrushchev visited Egypt in 1964 for the dedication of the Aswan High Dam, they said.

Washington Post



UPI Telephoto

Secretary of State Kissinger seemed to be explaining the movements to President Nixon as belly dancer Souhair Zaki put on her act last night. President Sadat was on the other side of Mr. Nixon.



UPI Telephoto

Cheering Egyptians greeted Presidents Nixon and Sadat as the motorcade headed toward Kubbah Palace