

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

OCTOBER 28, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSETEXT OF A TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE GIVEN AT THE RECIPROCAL DINNER
HOSTED BY PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT

ANDERSON HOUSE

Mr. President, Mrs. Sadat, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is difficult to match the eloquence of our distinguished host. Thank you, Mr. President, for your thoughtful and kind remarks. I deeply appreciate your warm hospitality this evening.

Mr. President, your historic visit to our country marks an important chapter in the relations between our two countries. Your presence in the United States gives the American people an opportunity to become better acquainted with you and your hopes and aspirations for the Egyptian people -- and for peace in the Middle East.

In turn, your stay in Washington and your visits to various cities in our country should reconfirm for you America's dedication to peace and to friendship for Egypt and all the Arab peoples.

We Americans do our best to live up to our cherished ideals. We seek to direct our energies toward fulfilling noble goals and objectives. At the same time, we pride ourselves on being a practical people, choosing our priorities and balancing our objectives and our resources.

You are highly respected in the United States, Mr. President, because you have demonstrated the ability to choose realistic goals and to strive for them with perseverance and commitment. Your policies on both the international and domestic fronts are succeeding because they represent the true interests of your people, because of your faith in a better future, and because of your own courage and dedication. In your endeavors, you can count on the support of the United States.

I have made clear on numerous occasions that the United States will not tolerate stagnation in the ongoing process of achieving a negotiated, just overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

I have instructed Secretary Kissinger to explore every possibility to assure the continued success of the diplomatic process. He is ready to work for further progress toward a just peace with his colleague, Foreign Minister Fahmi -- a seasoned diplomat whose tireless efforts, wisdom and ingenuity have already contributed so much. I am pleased that Minister Fahmi and Mrs. Fahmi are here accompanying President and Mrs. Sadat on this visit.

Both our nations are determined that an end must come to the turmoil and slaughter which for too long has sapped the energies and resources of all the peoples of the Middle East. My government is also fully aware of Egypt's economic needs in this momentous period. The close cooperation between our two governments now cuts across a broad spectrum of mutually beneficial activities. This will continue and grow.

As we prepare to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States, Mr. President, the continued close cooperation of the United States and Egypt will strengthen those forces in the world which share the goals of peace, justice, and progress to which both our countries are dedicated.

Permit me, ladies and gentlemen, to propose a toast to the good health and happiness of our distinguished host, President Sadat. Mr. President, we hope for your continued success in the years ahead.