

Toast by the President  
in honor of  
Anwar al-Sadat, President of the  
Arab Republic of Egypt



Mr. President:

It has been a high privilege for me to have met you and to have had this opportunity to discuss our mutual concerns together. I might also add that I am glad to see Henry from time to time: I thought he had taken up residence in Cairo.

As you know, my country will celebrate its 200th anniversary next year. Americans are now taking a new and deeper look at our early beginnings, and at those leaders whose vision and determination brought my country into existence. Many were like you: men of simple but deep roots, of sincerity and conviction, statesmen who had a vision for the future and an abiding faith that, with persistence, that future would belong to them and to yet unborn generations of their countrymen. Like you, they had compassion for the common man, and an understanding



that the ultimate purpose of their nation's development would be the strengthening of fundamental social values and the improvement of human opportunity.

America's short history contrasts by comparison with the depth and breadth of your own country's past. The world will always be in debt to the contributions Egypt has made to the civilization of man. However, while our histories are different, I have found in our talks that we both share the same goal -- a peaceful and productive life for our fellow man. For that reason I am gratified that our two countries have successfully broadened their relationship across the range of human endeavor, through cooperation in many fields. I am also gratified that we have been able to understand the mutual need of our countries for cooperation toward peace and for joint efforts toward a just and permanent settlement in the Middle East.

The world of today demonstrates more than ever before the need for even deeper interdependence. Today's leaders must exhibit even more vision and understanding and cooperation than at any time in the past. The world is therefore in debt to Egypt for your statesmanship, your courage, and your dedication to the successful search for a durable solution to the Middle East conflict -- a search in which the United States is committed to do its part.

Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in a toast to the President of Egypt.

