

3/20/79

President Jimmy Carter
Draft Signing Statement

During the past 30 years Israel and Egypt have waged war. For the past 16 months these ~~same~~ two great nations have waged peace. Today we celebrate a victory -- not of a bloody military campaign, but of an inspiring peace campaign. Two leaders who will loom large in the history of nations -- Anwar al-Sadat and Menachem Begin -- have conducted this campaign with all the courage, tenacity, brilliance, and inspiration of any generals who ever led men and machines on to the field of battle.

At the end of this campaign the soil of the two lands is not drenched with young blood. The countryside of both lands are free from the litter and carnage of a wasteful war. Mothers in Egypt and Israel are not weeping today for their children fallen in senseless battle. The dedication and determination of these two world statesmen have borne fruit. Peace has come.

I honor these two leaders and their government officials who have hammered out this ~~document~~ ^{peace treaty which} we sign.
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But most of all I honor the people of these two lands

whose yearning for peace kept alive the negotiations which today culminate in this glorious event.

We have won, at least, the first step of peace -- a first step on a long and difficult road. We must not minimize the obstacles that lie ahead. Differences still separate the signatories to this treaty from each other and also from some of their neighbors who fear what they have done. To overcome those differences, to dispel those fears, we must rededicate ourselves to the goal of a broader peace ^{With justice for} ~~that is just to~~ all who have ^{lived in} ~~suffered~~ ^{a state of} ~~from decades of~~ conflict in the Middle East.

We have no illusions ^{we have} -- [^] hopes, dreams, prayers, yes -- but no illusions.

There now remains the rest of the Arab world whose support and cooperation in the peace process is needed and honestly sought. I am convinced that ~~the~~ Arab people ^{I am} ~~want and need~~ peace, but some leaders are not yet willing to honor these ^{needs and} ~~desires~~. We must now demonstrate the advantages of peace, and expand its benefits to encompass all those who have suffered in the Middle East.

Obviously time and understanding will be necessary for people, hitherto enemies, to become neighbors in the best sense of the word. Just because a paper is signed, all the problems will not automatically go away. Future days will require the best from us all to give reality to these lofty aspirations.

Let those who would shatter peace -- who would callously spill blood -- be ~~on notice~~ ^{aware that we} We three and all others who ~~will~~ ^{may} join us will vigorously wage peace.

So let history ~~take note~~ ^{record that} deep and ancient antagonism can be settled without bloodshed and staggering waste of precious lives, without rapacious destruction of the land.

It has been said: "Peace has one thing in common with its enemy, with the

Fiend it battles, with war --

Peace is active, not passive;

Peace is doing, not waiting;

Peace is aggressive -- attacking;

Peace plans its strategy and encircles the
enemy;

Peace marshals its forces and storms the
gates;

Peace gathers its weapons and pierces the
defense;

Peace, like war, is waged." *

It is true that we cannot enforce trust and cooperation
between nations, but we can use all our strength to see that
nations do not go to war.

Our religious doctrines give us hope.

In the Koran we read: "But if the enemy incline
towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and
trust in God: for He is the One that heareth and
knoweth all things." (S.viii.61)

The Prophet

Isaiah said: "Nations shall beat their swords
into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks:
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither
shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

reward

Let us now lay aside war. Let us now ~~seek a broader~~
hunger for a ~~and~~ comprehensive peace ~~for~~ all the children of Abraham
who ~~have suffered~~ in the Middle East. Let us now enjoy

the adventure of becoming fully human, neighbors, even brothers and sisters. We pray God that these dreams will come true.

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