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the sadat lectures

words and images on peace 1997–2008

Edited by Shibley Telhami

with contributions by

Jehan Sadat, Ezer Weizman, Jimmy Carter, Henry Kissinger, George Mitchell,
Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan, Mary Robinson, James Baker,
Mohamed ElBaradei, Aaron David Miller



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Jehan Sadat vii

INTRODUCTION

A Decade of Perspectives on Peace, by Shibley Telhami 1

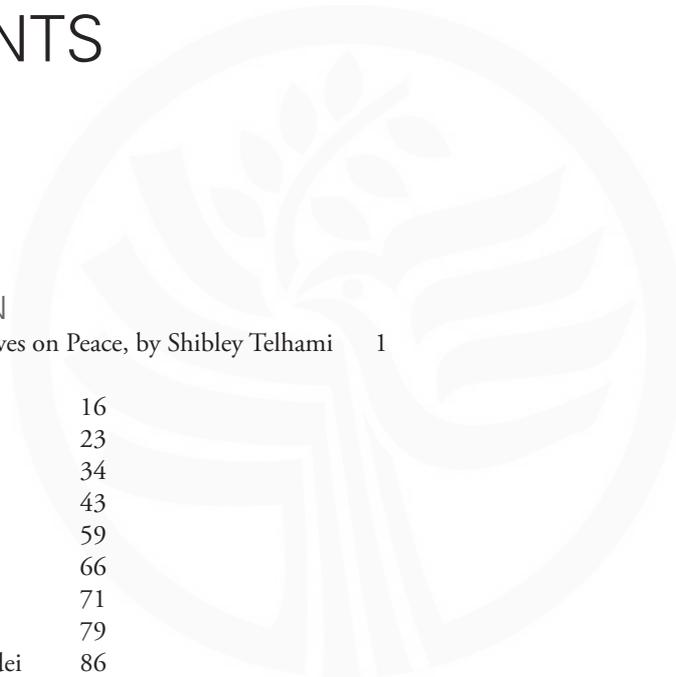
1. Ezer Weizman 16
2. Jimmy Carter 23
3. Henry Kissinger 34
4. George Mitchell 43
5. Nelson Mandela 59
6. Kofi Annan 66
7. Mary Robinson 71
8. James Baker III 79
9. Mohamed ElBaradei 86

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

America and Arab-Israeli Peace, 1997–2009, by Aaron David Miller 95

CONTRIBUTORS 107

SADAT ART FOR PEACE center insert



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FOREWORD

JEHAN SADAT

The Sadat Lecture for Peace at the University of Maryland has provided a fitting tribute to the legacy of my late husband, President Anwar Sadat. Some of the lecturers were leaders I had known when I was first lady of Egypt. Jimmy Carter and Henry Kissinger were two men who had become close to President Sadat and who continued to be close family friends. Ezer Weizman, for whom President Sadat had much affection, never failed to call me on the date of Sadat's assassination every year until he passed away. But all lecturers were distinguished world leaders I personally admired, including those I met for the first time while introducing them on the stage.

Not surprisingly, even fittingly, the lectures often focused on the theme of international leadership. This, of course, was in large part inspired by Sadat's legacy but also by the lives of the Sadat lecturers, who were all acknowledged leaders who received many distinctions, including the Nobel Prize for Peace that several shared with Anwar Sadat. I have spoken and written much about Sadat's leadership qualities that I witnessed closely, but some of the traits that stand out are a deep faith that provid-

ed inner drive and a sense of destiny that prepared him to pay any price to do right.

The lectures span a decade of tumultuous change in the Middle East and in the relationship between the Middle East and the rest of the world. They mark important interpretations of events by some of the most accomplished and thoughtful practitioners of international relations: from Nelson Mandela's reflections on history and on the 9/11 tragedy, to Kofi Annan's articulation of the international role in pushing for Middle East peace, to Mary Robinson's discussion of human rights and racism, to George Mitchell's comparison of mediation in Ireland with mediation in the Middle East, to James Baker's articulation of the American role, to Mohamed ElBaradei's focus on human insecurity. Weizman, Carter, and Kissinger added richness with their own personal accounts of the Sadat years.

It has also been a true pleasure for me to be part of the Sadat Art for Peace Competition that accompanies the Sadat Lecture and that is generously supported by my friend Suzanne Cohen. This program has been truly inspiring. In cooperation with the outstanding Art Department at the University of

Maryland, the Sadat Chair for Peace and Development conducts a competition for the best sculpture and best flat art on the theme of peace. The sculpture is presented to the Sadat Lecturer, and the flat art is presented during the lecture and used for the cover of our lecture publication. Written reflections of the artists on the theme of their work also accompany the art. The works have been outstanding. One case was particularly memorable. A South African artist studying at the University of Maryland had produced the winning sculpture to present to Mandela. It was a superb piece that used some of the rocks from the South African prison where Mandela had served many difficult years. The accompanying reflections were so powerful that Mandela was visibly moved. When we suggested that we ship the sculpture to him in South Africa, he insisted that he carry it with him back home.

The Sadat Lectures are only part of the activities of the Sadat Chair for Peace and Development under the leadership of Professor Shibley Telhami, who has become a close friend. The University of Maryland has been particularly supportive, but I would like to thank a few special individuals who have been part of the effort of establishing the Sadat

Chair and the Sadat Lectures. Chancellor William Kirwan, who was president when the chair was established, was an enthusiastic supporter from the beginning. President Mote, who arrived at Maryland in 1998, early enough to host the Carter lecture, has been actively encouraging and supportive. Irwin Goldstein, former dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, was always there when needed. His successor, Edward Montgomery, continued the tradition. Jonathan Wilkenfeld, former chair of the Department of Government and Politics that houses the Sadat Chair, and his successor, Mark Lichbach, have provided much support. Sapienza Barone of the Office of the University President was always indispensable in planning and carrying out the lecture with the able help of the Office of Special Events. I would also like to applaud the efforts of the Art Department in helping put together the Sadat Art for Peace Competition with encouragement from the dean of arts and humanities, James Harris.

What follows is a treat for all those interested in the theme of international peace, particularly in the Middle East, and certainly for those interested in Anwar Sadat and the legacy he left behind.

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