

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 14, 1977

Dear Mr. President:

I have asked Secretary Vance to bring you my warm personal greetings and to express to you, on my behalf and on behalf of the American people, the deep admiration and respect we hold for the courageous and farsighted vision you have brought to the search for peace in the Middle East.

I count heavily on your advice as we begin to find ways to make significant progress this year toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This is why I considered it important that you be the first head of state in the Arab world with whom Secretary Vance will meet. I look forward to hearing his report of his talks with you.

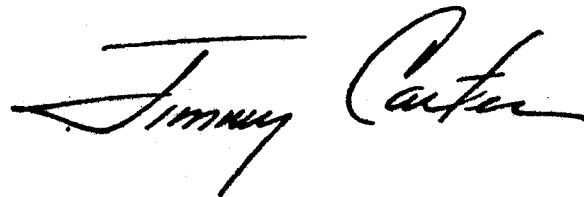
Secretary Vance's visit will be the first step in what I am confident will be a searching and intimate dialogue. I look forward to meeting with you personally at the earliest opportunity. I have asked Secretary Vance to discuss when and how our first meeting might be arranged. In view of the importance of Egypt in our common pursuit of peace, I want to take your own preference into account when working out dates with other leaders with whom I meet.

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The growing friendship and cooperation between Egypt and the United States have already brought us some steps along the path to peace. I am eager to join personally with you in finding ways to move ahead in the months to come.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

His Excellency
Anwar al-Sadat
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Cairo