
NOTES AND COMMUNICATIONS

THE PATH OF LIBYAN DEVELOPMENT*

His Excellency Husain Mazigh

[*Editor's Note.* On the occasion of the fourteenth anniversary of the Independence of Libya, His Excellency the Prime Minister, Mr. Husain Mazigh, made an important speech outlining social and economic policy in general. He analyzed some special concepts of social justice and indicated the direction of economic expansion and national welfare towards which the nation is working. We give the text of the speech below as a definition of policy to be pursued and as a guide for the orientation of those studying the national situation.]

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

My Countrymen :

We celebrate today an immortal national occasion that has recorded itself in contemporary history as the keenest of our memories in sense and meaning. It is the most beautiful of all in splendour and brilliance and it speaks to the hearts of generations to come with its living examples of faithful heroism. It raises before their eyes a vivid picture of the meaning of the will to struggle and a determination that knew neither slackening nor fatigue. It persisted in its firm resolve, unshakeable fortitude and tireless vigilance until it had freed the nation from the usurping imperialist, won the victor's crown with the greatest of triumphs, and gave back to a faithful and loyal people their place in the sun. History has opened a new page for us to record our march along the path of national awakening.

* English version from the original Arabic by J. Weaver, Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Libya.

From the bottom of our hearts, overflowing with love and appreciation, and in this very square which has witnessed some of our fiercest battles, we offer, all of us, to His Majesty The King, our tribute of loyalty and devotion, remembering with reverence and esteem his immortal exploits and his wise leadership which on this same day ended the darkness of oppression and laid the first foundations of freedom and our way of life.

The flag of tyranny was struck down and the banner of right exalted. Now it waves on high, protected by our lives. We clasp hands beneath it, and around it stand united those determined to cut our way through to prosperity, progress and happiness.

We offer a greeting of loyalty to His Highness the Crown Prince, who honours this great national occasion in his capacity as the representative of the Supreme Commander of our armed forces.

My fellow countrymen :

The significance of this immortal occasion must live on in our hearts as a vital trust, handed to our sons and our grandsons by their fathers and their grandfathers. To keep watch over it is to keep watch over our own identity and our own way of life. For this is no occasion to be celebrated and then allowed to pass away. It is the source on which we draw to strengthen our firmness of purpose in heart and mind. It offers us a mode of comparison between the days of the past and the achievements of the present.

In the book of History, the page of Yesterday, with its grim pictures of tyranny, oppression and terror, lies facing the page of Today, adorned with the pictures of freedom and independence, prosperity and abundance. The battle of Yesterday, into which our people plunged with obstinate determination for the protection of their national identity and the defence of their lives, is kindled anew in the battle of Today into which we all, every one of us, are plunged for the establishment and reconstruction of our faith in our way of life.

Our grandfathers paid the price of the defence of our homeland and bore the burden of their generation by fighting and falling in the field of bravery : they did their duty as true heroes should. Now we in our turn must take up the burden of our own generation. It is to reconstruct our future so that our fathers and grandfathers are content with the outcome of the sacrifices they made and their souls are at rest. Their message for us shall still continue to shine in our hearts, pouring out rays of guidance along the path we are to follow.

My fellow Countrymen :

We know in our inner hearts that independence is but the first step in our long march. It is the guide to a noble destination where our people will be set free from the fetters of poverty, ignorance and disease. Your government has already pledged itself to this policy and is working for the conservation of the national wealth, its development and the increase of treasury revenues to meet the demands of our continually extending projects for reconstruction. The government will make every effort to strengthen the supports of an all-embracing national resurgence. It lays down in its appraisals that the turn of the wheel of progress shall mean the development and expansion of all those sectors which can contribute towards the well-being and stability of those Libyans who suffered and sacrificed greatly, and knew deprivation in all its forms and have earned the right to enjoy the benevolence of their country.

We are guided in our labours by the conviction that every citizen is entitled to a share in the opportunities for progress, prosperity and stability. We will work in all sincerity to set up a society in which the principles of social justice flourish on a firm foundation of the modern application of the principles of Islam. Our policy springs from our awareness of the needs of our countrymen and from our sincere desire to overcome the severe conditions in which our country languished through long years of being kept back and deprived.

The significance of independence, as we see it, is to ensure that each one of us has a share and a portion in it : it means having schools giving

out the light of knowledge, hospitals where care and treatment can be found, roads facilitating communications and the development of agriculture and manufactures, a social security system which offers protection against the fears of the future, and suitable housing for the happiness and content of our people. That is the meaning we give to "The wealth of the people belongs to the people" in our programme and in the projects we are carrying out or have scheduled for execution. The government has already made great headway towards these objectives. But our ambitions to reach these ideals and to see the radiant picture of the society we envisage, must not make us forget that such a transformation cannot be accomplished in one day and a house cannot be built except brick by brick and layer upon layer. Yet we need not doubt that the future will give us all the joy of contentment, the guiding light of knowledge, and protection for all. This is the reality of the great experiment which we have undertaken to establish the prosperity of the future and to build a just society. These are the aims the government has set itself in its development programme. What fills us with confidence in our future is that every year we shall win more victories to demonstrate the social meaning of this national festival now that the struggle in the battlefield has been won.

My beloved Countrymen :

The joy of celebrating this festival must, in the hearts of all of us, be associated with the heavy responsibilities imposed on us by the very nature of the phase through which we are passing. Independence is not a joy or a memory to be celebrated once a year but it is a perpetual driving force to ensure that men are free and independent individuals. That is a noble thought. Nobler still is it that a man should draw on his feeling of independence for the understanding of his responsibility and his dedication to his duty. The making of real men is the fundamental basis on which our life is founded. All the world knows the Libyan and his heroic struggle. We must now present to the world the new Libyan who is not made reckless by prosperity nor weakened by luxury. We want him to be a strong man who links the present with the

past with an understanding of the meaning of power, determination and persistence. Our country has become the object of attention and the eyes of the world are upon us because of our potentialities and the role we shall be expected to play. It needs the labour of us all, sincerity, dedication and self-denial, and the feeling that each single one of us should play his part in our dear country's drive for progress. We must all show our enthusiasm for this upward climb; each one of us must be jealous of his country's honour which is a part of our glorious historical heritage.

It is important that we should understand the part we have to play as a nation proud of its Arab character. We stand on the shore of a sea where civilization has flourished since time immemorial and we are working for the establishment of an enlightened and civilized society which will play an active part in the development of progress and peace. Our endeavours in education express our firm desire to see that our countrymen are given the necessary environment for the release of their potential ability for the benefit not only of our country but of all mankind.

We are gladdened and delighted by the fact that our youth, armed with the weapons of technology, are taking on the burden of this task, and have indeed undertaken more than their share. With their knowledge and eagerness they are working wholeheartedly for the future of the nation.

My fellow Countrymen :

The wise policy established by H.M. the King is based on moderation, co-operation, mutual understanding and a concern to provide the elements of security. This has won for us a sound reputation in the comity of nations and has a decided influence on the respect and estimation which Libya has won for itself.

The efforts we devote to internal construction have never, and will never present us from taking our true and honest share in the task to strengthen Arab solidarity. We believe in co-operation and co-ordination

for the benefit of all Arabs, and we stand shoulder to shoulder to face the challenge of Zionism and to win the liberation of beloved Palestine. We express the hope that the atmosphere of the Arab world will be such that we can work in harmony together in taking on the great responsibility of this fundamental problem in contemporary Arab life.

My fellow Countrymen :

As I review these representative units of our armed forces with their eager young members, I am happy to assure you of the desire of your government, under the inspiring guidance of H.M. King Idris I, to reinforce the army with the most up-to-date military equipment, and to strengthen the means of internal security with everything that may help to preserve the country's existence, safeguard its stability, protect its wealth and provide everyone with the chance to work and be productive in an atmosphere of security.

Lastly a tribute of respect and gratitude to all those who fought for the sake of this day, bravely and to the death. I pray God for His mercy and blessing on those who gave up their noble lives for the sake of this day. I offer our everlasting loyalty and ever-renewed sincerity to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, H.M. the King, whom God preserve and protect and increase in years, the fountain-head of his people, who support his throne and the noble Person with their lives.

“Work ye ; presently will God see your work, and His Apostle, and the faithful.”

May the peace and blessing of God be upon you all.