

Two Conspiracies

Al-Gumhuriya, 23 November 1956

One of them grows only ever more firmly settled in people's own hearts, only ever more widespread across the countries of the earth, only ever more deeply embedded in the conscience of every different class of people, however distant, however divergent — not a single moment, minute, or hour passes, by night or by day, without the world's own belief in it growing, its own conviction in it deepening, and its own indignation against its own authors intensifying. The other, no sooner had those who invented it, and attempted to deceive people with it, even begun speaking of it, than it was met with laughter from those inclined to laugh, mockery from those inclined to mock, and outright rejection from those who genuinely grasp the true nature of things, and understand the life of peoples, and whatever effects that same life produces, in both word and deed alike.

The first, then, is the one no person doubts any longer: the one hatched by the British and French, together with their own pawn, Israel, to catch the Egyptian army between two fires, trap it between the millstone's own two halves, attack it from front and rear at once, and cut it off from the Egyptian people it passes through — in order to dictate, afterward, this same people's own affairs, and its own system of government. No one doubts this same conspiracy, no one disputes it was plotted by night, or by day, or by night and day together, nor that those who plotted it, perfected its own planning, and set about its own execution, felt no shame whatsoever, in their own hearts, in their own conscience, in the very depths of their own souls, nor anything resembling shame — their own hearts, their own conscience, their own souls having already grown frozen, and hardened, no longer capable of feeling shame, no longer knowing embarrassment, no longer troubled by any sin, however hideous, however abominable. Nor did they content themselves with merely plotting this same conspiracy, and setting about its execution — they added to it the deception of their own American allies, and their own European friends. Nor did they content themselves, even then, with mere deception, and delusion — they added to these a further sin: theft, and embezzlement. They stole weapons from that same alliance they themselves belonged to — the Atlantic Alliance — stole these same weapons, gifting some of them to Israel, and putting the rest to use in carrying out that same conspiracy of theirs. They betrayed the

trust of their own allies and friends, on the one hand, and betrayed their own declaration, made jointly with the Americans years before, in which they pledged to preserve peace in this same part of the Arab East; and betrayed the pledge they had bound themselves to before Egypt herself, when they agreed with her on evacuating the Suez Canal.

They committed a genuine crime, then, in the very aim of this same conspiracy, through the treachery they perpetrated, one that destroyed peace itself; and committed a genuine crime, too, in its own methods, through the theft they perpetrated against their own allies and friends — proving to friends and enemies alike that they honour neither pledge, nor covenant, nor keep faith, nor fulfil any promise they have made, nor make good on any oath they have sworn, but sell, instead, their own hearts and their own conscience, break their own covenants and their own word, squander their own trust and whatever has been entrusted to them, and cast aside truth, decency, justice, and every value of civilization itself, all in pursuit of whatever they imagine might bring them advantage, or extend their own dominion. None of this is disputed by anyone; none of it is doubted by the statesmen of East and West alike. Nor did they content themselves with all of this — they went on to conceal their own sins, entangling themselves in lies up to their very ears, claiming, at one point, that they flew to Israel's own defence, upon learning Egypt intended to attack her, and upon learning all the Arab states were conspiring against her — saying this openly, without any reservation, without any shame whatsoever, even though the entire world knows Israel herself attacked Jordan, with Jordan doing nothing more than repelling that same aggression; that neither Egypt's own army, nor Syria's, ever moved to attack Israel, to punish or discipline her; and that the Arabs, rather, took their own path to the Security Council and the United Nations body instead, precisely so as never to be accused of aggression, or even of attempting aggression.

This same lie deceived no one, though — so they invented another, one that had scarcely begun circulating before the world greeted it with laughter, and ridicule: this being the second conspiracy I alluded to at the very start of this piece. They claimed, this time, to have discovered Egypt was conspiring, together with Soviet Russia, against the entire free world — sacrificing, they said, their own money, and their own men, and Egyptian money, and Egyptian blood too, to foil this same conspiracy, thwart this same scheme, protect the Arab East from the onslaught of Russian domination, and shield the rest of the world entirely from this

same great evil, one on the very verge of befalling it, that would have placed Soviet Russia in control of the eastern Mediterranean, dominating the Suez Canal, controlling its own traffic, posing the gravest possible threat to Western Europe. This same British lie, which the French seized upon with genuine delight, genuine jubilation, proved patently absurd, manifestly false — everything about it, every single sign, pointed toward exactly that same absurdity, that same falsehood.

Before anything else: when this same sinful aggression was poured down upon Egypt, the very first thing she did was appeal to the United Nations body, calling upon the entire civilized world to defend peace, and assist her in repelling this same aggression — she never addressed this same appeal to one nation over another, nor to one people over another, but directed it, rather, to civilized nations across every country of the earth.

A second sign of this same absurdity, this same falsehood, is that the Soviet Union itself, when it warned the sinful aggressors, simultaneously notified the United States of America, openly inviting her to join in restraining that same aggression — then did nothing more than this whatsoever, sending Egypt neither troops, nor weapons, nor volunteers. A third sign of this same lie's own absurdity, and falsehood, is that the British ministers themselves proved unable to defend this same lie before the British House of Commons, when members of Parliament pressed them on it — faltering, stumbling, stammering instead, their own spokesman admitting, in genuine collapse, that reports of any conspiracy between Egypt and Russia had never actually been substantiated.

And what wonder is there, then, that all these many sins, and these crushing lies, should weigh so heavily upon the British Prime Minister that his own strength collapses, his own nerves give way, his own doctors order him to rest, and he flees, with whatever strength remains to him, to some place genuinely far from Britain, to recover some part of his own strength, and steady his own nerves somewhat? And what wonder is there, then, that he should withdraw from the affairs of government, whether temporarily, or permanently, and take refuge in some remote place, resting there from all these same sins, and all these same lies, which have never once availed him, nor his own associates, in anything whatsoever?

Two conspiracies, then, whose own stories have been broadcast across every country of the earth. The first — the conspiracy of Britain

and France, and their own pawn, Israel — the world has believed entirely, hastening to support Egypt, exactly as the United Nations body has resolved, and through this same comprehensive support reaching her from every direction, even from within England and France themselves.

As for the second conspiracy the English claimed — it had scarcely been announced before the entire world dismissed it as false, before the English ministers themselves dismissed it as false. English newspapers said: drop this absurdity, and tell us instead about your own conspiracy with France and Israel against Egypt. Members of Parliament demanded, and continue demanding, a genuine investigation, to establish the British-French-Israeli conspiracy, and punish whichever English ministers took part in it. Their own Prime Minister was struck down, ill, or feigning illness, and exiled himself from his own homeland, for a term that may prove short, or may prove long. And the Egyptian President stood, declaring openly, in genuine, powerful strength, that Egypt neither toys, nor wishes to toy, with her own independence; that she has no wish to become any state's own pawn, Eastern or Western; no wish to follow this bloc, or that; wanting nothing, rather, but that her own independence remain genuinely open, genuinely sound, submitting to no power, East or West. And how very different, indeed, a Prime Minister who sins, conspires, commits aggression, and lies, only to have all of it turn against him, collapsing entirely, proves from a President who tells the truth, stands firm, and proceeds along a straight path, in defence of right, justice, and his own homeland's own independence. And God has spoken true:

*"Say: Truth has come, and falsehood has vanished;
truly falsehood was ever bound to vanish."*