



The American-Egyptian relations in the light of President El-Sisi's visit to Washington

Regarding Regarding the council's interest of the Egyptian American relations development under President Trump, the council organized a symposium about this topic on Wednesday the 12th of April 2017, after President El-Sisi's visit to Washington, with participate Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chair of the council, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of the council and number of Ambassadors and experts , the meeting that was moderated by Ambassador Hussein Hassouna the Coordinator of Permanent Committee of American Affairs at the Council.

Ambassador Abdel-Raouf El-Reedy, the honorary president of the council, stressed on the importance of visit represents a paradigm shift in the relations between the two countries, especially after a period of cold relations between them, noting that the relations between the two countries are merely a reflection of the convergence of the two president's views on several issues. He also confirmed the importance of the President's visit to the congress to view the process of American policy-making.

Each one of the participants presented his perspective from an analytical point of view. These participants were including Ambassadors Rakha Hassan, Mohamed Anis Salem, Reda Shehata, Hajar El-Islamboly, Dr. El-Sayed Amin Shalaby and Dr. Mohamed Kamal.

Their remarks enriched the dialogue in this important seminar and broadened its horizons. The Symposium was concluded with the affirmation by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran and Ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna of the role played by the council in the continued follow-up on these important events.

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The Door which has yet to be opened to the Middle East Peace Process.

The views of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs were varied, under the title "The New American Administration and the Middle East Peace Process." The views ranged between a lack of optimism and the monitoring of some positive indicators with some cautious. However, we cannot ignore the fact that regional factors have slowed down or hindered the movement of a just solution to the Palestinian question.

Of course, there is a consistent American position in its bias towards Israel, whether under the pressure of the American Jewish forces, which has the systematic influence and perseverance, as well as the calculations of the American strategy in the region, which always make its policy biased, but we cannot lose sight of the role of supporting factors on the side Arab conflict, which also fed Israeli arrogance, hardening and extremism.

One of these factors is the Palestinian-Palestinian division and the image of the Palestinian side to the world, as if there is a real dispute over the national issue, something that the world has not witnessed in its history in the case of any national liberation issue. Any differences are deferred until after the liberation phase.

The absence of an Arab national security strategy. Recognizing that there is a divergence of views among Arab countries and some of them about the accepted concept of national security, the Palestinian issue could have been removed from this impasse and a minimal strategy of unified positions on the Palestinian issue.

The diversity of views at the Council's symposium on the new US administration and the Middle East peace process was not only useful in broadening the horizons of the symposium, but also served to sharpen opinions to reflect on a sophisticated approach to the Palestinian issue at a time when the impasse on settlement The political has become ambivalent, though not quite open.

Editor

Round Table discussion about «After Trump's visit to the region»



An extended discussion between numbers of experts and academics to analyze the results of Trump's visit to the Region, 7th of June 2017

On 7 June 2017, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs held round table discussion to analyze the results of Trump's visit to the region. In the frame of his first presidential tour of the region, which included the visit of Saudi Arabia, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, as well as holding bilateral meetings with a number of leaders on the sidelines of the Riyadh summit and the subsequent Islamic-American summit followed by the announcement of the establishment of the Center for combating extremist thought in Riyadh. In addition the summit included sign a number of military and investment deals worth about 300 billion dollars.

The meeting was attended by a number of members from the Council of experts, academics and specialists in the American and Arab affairs.

It was emphasized by the audience on that by drawing on an objective view of Trump's visit to the region, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Trump's desire to improve his relations with Islamic countries and to correct what he launched during his election campaign against Islam and Muslims. The main aim of the campaign is to invite the Gulf Countries to pay the United States for protecting Gulf security, regarding to thinking of Businessman. It is the mappers in the military and investment deals signed between the two sides.
- On the other hand, Trump wanted to offer

diplomatic satisfaction to the Gulf States by recognizing Iran as the biggest supporter and sponsor of terrorism in the region. The visit also resulted in the emergence of Saudi Arabia as a weighty country and the implicit recognition of its role in the region.

- Regarding the Palestinian issue, it was emphasized that Trump's position was more ambiguous. During the visit, he did not discuss the settlement of the issue or the two-state solution, unlike most previous administrations.

- The importance of formulating a flexible and balanced Egyptian strategic vision that shows how to deal with the current crises and with the concerns of the Gulf countries on the one hand and the relationship with Iran on the other hand.

A diversity of views reflected in the seminar about the new US administration and the Middle East peace process



Seminar at the ECFA's Headquarter to discuss the Future of the Peace Process and the NEW US Administration, 30th of April, 2017

In an extended seminar held in the council's headquarter on April the 30th, 2017, different points of views were expressed regarding the new US administration and the Middle East peace process. Members of the council, academics and Arab ambassadors, including Palestinian politicians, were presenting.

The symposium was lengthy and was divided into two sessions: the first was entitled "The United States and the peace process", the second was entitled "The Arab initiative to advance the peace process in the light of regional and international developments".

The Ambassador Dr. Barakat el-Fara, the former Ambassador of Palestine to Egypt and its permanent representative in the Arab League, and the Ambassador Hazem Abou Shanab, member of the revolutionary council of Fatah, represented the Palestinian side.

The participants then presented their views on this issue, including General Ibrahim Al-Duwairi, Head of the Israeli Studies Unit in the Council. After that, the first session of the meeting began with Ambassador Sayed Abu Zeid, who discussed the developments in the US role in

the Middle East peace process.

The session included the interventions from Ambassador Dr. Barakat El-Fara and Ambassador Hazem Abou Shanab followed by discussions in which Ambassador Rakha Hassan, Ambassador Jihan Allam, Ambassador Mohamed El-Shazly, Ambassador Badr-el-din Zayed, Ambassador Ihab Wahba and took part Dr. Ahmed Abu Doma.

At the closing session, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad pointed out that Trump is trying to outline a specific vision through the meetings he holds and that the National Security Adviser and the secretary of defense emphasize on the fact that the continuing state of chaos in the region is due to the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict, even some Israeli rightists find that Trump has violated their expectations.

Round Table at the ECFA Headquarter about «Fifty Years of the 1967 War ... Lessons Learned»

On June 5, 2017, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs held a round table discussion about "Fifty Years of the 1967 War ... Lessons and Experiences Learned", with the aim of highlighting the internal and external causes and lessons learned. The challenges ahead, in the presence of Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chair of the Council, and Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of the Council, Dr. Ahmed Yousef Ahmed, Professor of Political Science at Cairo University, and Major General / Talaat Mousa, the strategic and military expert, along with a number of council members from ambassadors, experts and academics.



Meeting between numbers of academics and experts to discuss the Lessons Learned after 50 Years of 1967 War, 5th of June, 2017

The participants reached a number of substantive points as follows:

- The 1967 war is actually rooted to the 56th war, which is rooted to the nationalization of the Suez Canal.
- The failure of the governance model, relying on the criterion of loyalty rather than the criterion of competence in the selection of commanders of the armed forces, as well as a conflict of decision-making which was leading to failure to develop a clear strategic vision, not to mention the lack of readiness of leaders at the time to lead the field of operations.

On the regional level, despite Egypt's success in restoring the land and maintaining peace, all the territories occupied in 1967 have not been restored, as has the state of weakness, Arab division, the decline of Arab nationalism and the collapse of the nation state, and the emer-

gence of new patterns of leadership of the regional system.

- The absence of accurate reading of changes in the global system, and rejection of any new ideas, including a new system for the Middle East without studying the elements and strengths, and loss of maneuverability.

Lessons learned

- Adopting new principles during war operations based mainly on adopting offensive, surprise and deception approaches, as well as organizing elements and members of the armed forces, defining their tasks, developing strategic plans and coordinating the decision-making process.

- The importance of the steadfastness of the Egyptian people, which was a major starting point in the reconstruction, and the need to rely on them in the face of current challenges.

Round Table Discussion about «Cutting Diplomatic Relations with Qatar: Implications and Future Prospects»

Tuesday 20 June 2017 With the participation of a number of members from the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs on Round Table Discussion about "Cutting Diplomatic Relations with Qatar: Implications and Future Prospects", the Council hosted Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Morsi, Last Egyptian Ambassador in Qatar, to clarify from his experience, the dimensions of Issue, which was headed by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the council.



Part of Discussion between numbers of ECFA's Members to analyze the results after Cutting Diplomatic Relations with Qatar, 20th of June 2017

At the beginning, Ambassador Morsi talked about several points :

- Qatar has a special strategy, which its elements had appeared after Sheikh Hamd coup in 1990s on his father. This Strategy based on build relations with majority powers ,hosting extremism Islamic groups and their consultants from different places depending on its huge Financial resources , as well as, it's closed relation with Iran. Qatari foreign policy is characterized by contradiction due to its desire to hold communication channels with several parties which have different interests.
- In addition, Qatar has created crises in Arab states by intervention in internal affairs through

its agents, e.g. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, trough played on sectarian tensions, chaos, and changing of regimes.

In this context, which clarified the problem with Qatar is at a standstill, The participations as follows:

- Ambassador Salah Heleima pointed to the utilization of Qatar's huge capabilities and investments in European states and the United States to affect on decision-making processes in these states.
- Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Badr Al-Dein spoke about Qatar's adoption of an aggressive policy towards Egypt and Saudi , especially after the two countries status during



ECFA's Members In the round table about Cutting relations with Qatar, 20th of June 2017

Sheikh Hamd' coup over his father in the 90s. He also mentioned to the Turkish-Qatari alliance is supporting Qatari policy and its relations with Muslims Brotherhood and other extremist groups in Libya threatening Egyptian national security.

- Dr. Atef Al-Ghamry told of an incident that took place in the early 90s during his working as areporter in Al-Ahram , that confirmed the relations between Doha regime and Israel and Israel role in this coup. In addition, he confirmed the Qatari role is the agent of US policy in the region and the U. S. would not abandon its agent.

- Ambassador Marwan Badr assured the Qatari's relationship with Iran is very strong and that there is a conflict among the Gulf States.

- Ambassador Osama Tawfik said that , during Sheikh Hamd's accession to power in the 90s, with conditional American approval to open the door to Israel to enter the Gulf Region from Qatar gate by opening an Israeli office for commercial representation in Doha, Sheikh Hamd accepted that.

- Ambassador Ihab Wahba confirmed the multi dimensions for the current situation, rejecting Egypt involvement in this crisis in particular Qatar will continued in its policies and practices.

He also clarified there are great contradictions inside the American political institutions and its relation with President Trump.

- Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad assured the previous participations led us to believe that Egypt's policies towards the Gulf States and Qatar inparticular , represents a challenge especially that Qatar has been able to establish a huge economic basis and its investment in many major states . , so the last measure didn't have a major effect on it.

- Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran asked about the Qatari position in the Palestinian crisis, and its true role in reconciliation, especially after Qatar's announcement that Hamas is the legitimate representative for the Palestinian people.



Egypt's role in the China-Arab-African Cooperation Initiative

In an affirmation of the delegation of the African Studies Unit of the Chinese Center for Contemporary International Studies (CICIR), in order to take advantage of Egypt's privileged status as the core of China-Arab-African cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, a fruitful exchange of views with a group of Egyptian Council members during a working dinner in honor of the delegation on 13 May 2017 took place. Among the topics discussed were ways to face the challenges facing China's investment in Egypt and China-Africa cooperation in peace and security.

The discussions took place in the presence of Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of the Council, Ambassador Hisham Al-Zimaity, Sec-

retary-General, Ambassador Ali Al-Hefni, the Coordinator of the permanent Committee for Asian Affairs at the Council, Ambassador Ahmed Hajjaj, Member of the Council and a number of representatives from the General Authority for Investment. The Chinese delegation included Li Wentao, former director of the Institute, and researchers Mr. Wang Lei and Ms. Sun Hong.

The Chinese delegation stressed its keenness to promote and develop relations with Egypt in light of the strategic importance of the bilateral relations between the two countries and the necessity of benefiting from the potential of the two countries in order to promote joint action in order to achieve the promotion and upgrading of bilateral relations at all levels.

The vision of the Chinese special envoy to Syria for the crisis' solution



In the context of the attention given by the world and especially Egypt to the situation in Syria, to find a solution that would preserve the unity of the Syrian state and guarantee the security and integrity of its people, exchanges of view took place between the Chinese special envoy to Syria Mr. Xie Xiaoyan, the meeting took place on the 23rd of April 2017.

The Chinese envoy Mr. Xie Xiaoyan explained that the purpose of his mission as the Chinese special envoy for Syria is to discuss and consult on the Syrian crisis with the concerned regional and international parties in order to reach a solution that could be acceptable to all the conflicting Syrian parties.

Exchange of views with the delegation of the Chinese Foreign Policy Advisory Group



On 18 May 2017, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs received a delegation from the Foreign Policy Advisory Group of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which included Ambassador "Wuseke", member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Group, the former Chinese Special Envoy for Middle East Affairs, the former Chinese Ambassador to Egypt, Ambassador "Zhou Xiaobi.

A meeting with the delegation of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS)

On May 9th, 2017, a meeting was held at the Council's headquarter with the delegation of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS). The Egyptian delegation included Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of ECFA, Ambassador Hisham El-Zimaity, the Secretary General of the Council, Ambassador Ali El-Hefny, coordinator of the Permanent committee of the Asian affairs, Ambassador Ahmed Abdel-Aziz, assistant of Foreign Minister for East Asian affairs and Mr. Mostafa Ibrahim, representative of the Egyptian Businessmen association. From the Chinese side, the delegation included Mr. Ye Qing, Director of the Institute, and some of the experts and academics of the Institute such as Prof. Chen Youjun, Prof. Li Weijian, Prof. Jin Liangxiang and Ms. Xu Xiaolan.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on issues related to the belt and road initiative, developments in the region and Chinese diplomacy in the Middle East.

The Egyptian delegation confirmed on the fact that the meeting is an extension of the



Council's efforts to coordinate with their Chinese counterparts on the belt and road initiative, the most prominent of which was when a delegation of the China Center For Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) on 18th of March. The importance of the strengthening of the economic aspect between the two countries was emphasized in order to reflect the evolution of the political and historical ties between the two countries. But also, since Egypt was one of the first countries to sign the memorandum of cooperation under the initiative.



Moscow Sixth International Security Conference

The Moscow Sixth International Security Conference was held on 26-27 of April 2017, which organized annually by the Russian Defense Ministry to discuss regional and international security issues in various regions of the world, particularly those of Russian Federation is interest such as the Central Asia and the Middle East regions. The Conference was held in Moscow with the participation of representatives from more than 85 countries around the world, including Egypt, with official delegations and civil society organizations from these countries, including 20 defense ministers.

Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, who participated in the conference, said that the conference tackled the issues of: Global Security: Challenges in the 21st Century, European Security: Prospects and Trends, Security Risks and Balance of Interests in Asia and the Pacific. There have also been extensive discussions on the issues of: the Middle East ... the modern objectives of countering terrorism and extremism, the security of information space and freedom of access.

Symposium on the book of Dr. Marwan Kanafani



"On the Palestinians only .. The dialectic of success and failure"

The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs organized a lecture to discuss the book "On Palestinians only. The dialectic of success and failure" by Dr. Marwan Kanafani, political advisor to the late President Yasser Arafat on Monday 19th June. Mounir Zahran, Chair of the Council, Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, and a number of members attended this symposium. Dr. Kanafani explained that his book revolves around the Palestinians, their struggle, their suffering and sacrifices, and the differences of their leaders and parties, as well as their quarrels and divisions, those that left many painful effects on the generations of our generations to recover our stolen land and the future of their homeland. And that our people have spent thirteen years in the difference and the battles of Fatah and Hamas since the 2006 elections, to the military decision in the Gaza Strip for the remains of the Palestinian body. The writers criticize the factions and the political leaders for wasting progress on the just cause of the Palestinian people, their addiction to opinion, the desire to rule and not to recognize the other, to oppose accusations and sometimes to shoot.

Answers to the questions asked by London School of Economics students

On Wednesday 12th of April 2017, a delegation of 12 students from London School of Economics visited the Council in order to become familiar with the nature of the Council's work and ask some questions about it.

The delegation asked a number of questions about the Egyptian foreign policy and the nature and extent of the regional powers in the Middle East. Many questions were also raised concerning and the crises faced Egypt over the past period, including the crisis over the Tiran and Sanafir islands.

Ambassador Mounir Zahran made sure to give them detailed and clear answers .

Seminar about «Libyan Crisis Developments»

In a meeting held at the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, on 4th and 21st of June, 2017, to discuss the Libyan Crisis Developments, Ambassador Mohamed Abou-Bakr, the Egyptian ambassador in Libya, explained these developments, the economic side of the crisis and the roles of regional states.

He also spoke about the Qatari role in supporting extremist groups and their leaderships especially Abdel Hakim Belhag, as well as established companies for transport combatants and weapons, practice of suspicious operations and attempts to control the Libyan Oil Market by purchasing shares in it.

Egypt in the industrial and trade conference gathering the Belt and Road initiative members

To complement Egypt's accession to the convention, that involves the Belt and Road Initiative members, signed by President Abdel-Fatah El-Sisi and the Chinese president Xi Jinping to present the investment plans with the participating States, after the establishment of a supervisory committee, in order to reach the volume of the trade between its members is 2.5 trillion in 10 years, Ambassador Ezzat Saad,

Director of the Council, participated in the first round of the industrial and trade conference gathering the members of the Belt and Road initiative on the 1st and 2nd of April 2017.

This comes at a time when Beijing has formulated a new vision regarding the initiative. This vision included three links extending to Europe, Central Asia, Russia, Western Asia, the Gulf States and the Mediterranean .

Seminar about «Promoting Egyptian Soft Power»

On 14 May 2017, a seminar was held at the headquarter of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs on the "Promotion of Egyptian Soft Power", chaired by Ambassador Mounir Zahran, in the presence of a number of members of the Council of experts and academics, where the symposium included two axes, that were emphasized:

- The concept of soft power is a multidimensional concept but at the same time does not mix with the elements of the state and its institutions such as health and education.
- Soft power is gaining strength from the power of future influence on its value environment, with the importance of sending Egypt to its soft power and then moving forward for the future.
- The importance of analysis of the disappearance of Egyptian soft power in light of the escalation of regional and international players contribute to this extinction, and take advantage of global indices and standards, led by the index (Soft Power30).
- The need to prioritize and invest in the elements of soft power, which will generate revenues on Egypt at the lowest possible cost in a short period of time, and cooperate with state institutions to provide vision and advice and invite experts and specialists to conduct extensive discussions that enrich the vision to be formulated.



The nanotechnology: a vital necessity for Egypt

The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs hosted a meeting on Sunday, the 23rd of April 2017 with Dr. Taher Salah-el-Din, the nanotechnology professor and the director of Dr. Mustafa El-Sayed's center for nanotechnology researches.

Dr. Salah-el Din began by introducing his research paper which aimed to promote nanotechnology literacy, since it is a science to study and control an issue on an atomic and micro scale.

He also talked about implementing the roadmap to nanotechnology and its application in Egypt and the necessary foundations to build a nanotechnology-friendly base. These pillars include education based on science, the link between science and economy and commodities markets.