

A Joint Seminar on the Developments in Cuba and their Effects on Relations with Egypt and the World

On November 27th 2016, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations hosted a joint seminar in collaboration with the Cuban Egyptian Friendship Association titled "Developments in Cuba and their Effects on relations with Egypt and the World." Several Central and South American Ambassadors participated including: the Ambassador of Cuba to Egypt Laureano Rodriguez Castro, as well as the Ambassadors of Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela, Argentina, Guatemala, and Bolivia, in addition to the Chairman of Egyptian Cuban Friendship Association and member of the Council Kamal Gab-Allah and Ambassadors: Nehad Askalani, Abd al Fattah Ezz El Din and Ibrahim Khairat.

The Director of the Council Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad inaugurated the Seminar, and Ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee of the Council for American Affairs moderated the works of the Seminar.

At the outset, a minute of silence took place to honor the late leader Fidel Castro who died just one day before the inauguration of the Seminar. Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad welcomed the participants of the Seminar, emphasizing the importance of the Seminar and pointing at the great interest everyone is showing to get oriented with developments taking place in Cuba in general and in the domain of Cuba relations with the world and with Egypt which particularly goes back to 1958.

Ambassador Askalani talked about his memories in Cuba as the first Egyptian Ambassador in Havana. In his speech, the Cuban Ambassador elaborated on the political and economic reforms Cuba is undertaking as well as the principles upon which Cuban Foreign policy is based, namely the respect of International Law, rights of people for self-determination, rejection to all forms of terrorism and extremism, reinforcement of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the basis of reciprocity and mutual interest, emphasizing that altogether constitute the master framework for the strong relations that bind Cuba with the Caribbean and Latin American countries.

On Cuban Foreign relations, Mrs. Udith Camps Director of the section of relations with Africa and the Middle East at the Cuban Institute of "Friendship with the People" asserted that Cuba has strong relations based on friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the people struggling for freedom and independence. She added that Cuban American relations could witness positive changes providing that the United States lifts the economic and commercial embargo imposed on the Cuban people, and withdraws from the Eastern territories—in reference to the naval base in Guantanamo.



On his part, expert Ahmad Sayed Ahmad outlined that Cuba has entered a new phase with the assumption of Raoul Castro to the Presidency in 2008 crowned by the international overture on Cuba after the visit of the American President Obama to Havana during the end of March in 2015. This was followed by various reciprocal bilateral visits on the level of high officials with foreign powers; a new setting that Arab states should seize to reinforce cooperation and coordination with Cuba in the International arena, with the United Nations being at the top, in different issues most importantly, the Palestinian conflict.

Ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna highlighted the importance of the ties that join both Egypt and Cuba, especially those related to the common principles and profound belief in people's right for independence, freedom and self-determination. He noted that Cuban American relations could lose some of its warmth with Trumps' win of the American Presidency, however, economic interests are capable of changing the circumstances.

The following are some of the conclusions and results of the visit:

1. It was obvious through all meetings the great enthusiasm of the Chinese side to develop and consolidate relations with Egypt, a desire clearly built upon directions from the political leadership. Various interventions of the Chinese side have clearly reflected the great interest in working with Egypt as a strategic partner in the region and the desire for a strategic partnership in the coming future, especially in issues of military cooperation, security, and fighting terrorism in particular.

The Chinese side also expressed in this regard their great satisfaction with what they qualified as the qualitative move in relations with Egypt, since President Abdel Fattah El Sisi has assumed office. This was confirmed in the visit of the Chinese President to Egypt in January 2016 and the announcement during the visit of investments and loans worth about 15 billion dollars. In addition to the increase of the Chinese investments in the economic area situated in the north-west area of the Gulf of Suez. The Chinese side expressed in this regard their great appreciation for their relations with Egypt and their hope to execute the projects recently agreed upon by both sides. They have also approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese banks to review the conditions of credit facilities presented to Egypt.

2. The message of the Chinese side was that the special relations between the two Presidents clearly appears in the great attention China accords to help Egypt overcome the difficult period it presently faces. In this regard, the Chinese side showed a clear interest in enlarging the scope of cooperation to incorporate new spheres of cooperation that include the consolidation of cooperation in both military and security domains including fighting terrorism and cyber security.

The Chinese side, including the Director of the relevant Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, all confirmed the great attention they accord to His Excellency President of Egypt's acceptance of the invitation presented to participate in the Summit of the China Belt and Road Initiative taking place next May. In this regard it was emphasized that the invitations were extended only to 20 Presidents and heads of Governments of the 60 countries participating in the project, and that His Excellency the President was the first to whom the invitation have been extended. The delegation had asserted that the project represents a converging point for the national security of both countries and that the stability of Egypt is of high importance to this project.

Discussion of Issues regarding Bilateral Relations and the International Situation during ECFAs' visit to China



Responding to the visit of the delegation from the China Institute for Contemporary International Relations to the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs in Cairo in 2015 and in March 2016, a delegation of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs paid a visit to China during the period of 18-19 October 2016.

The delegation was composed of: Ambassador Hesham Al Zemeti, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Ambassador Ali Al Hefni, Ambassador Ahmad Rezk, Dr. Hazem Atteyat-Allah.

In addition to the round table discussion with the delegation from CICIR, which is ranked as the first research and Think Tank Institute for the Chinese Government (the Ministry of International Security and Foreign Affairs and the Communist Party), the delegation also carried out discussion and consultation sessions with the following Chinese Institutes and Centers:

- The Institute of West Asia, Africa and the Middle East Studies at the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences (CASS)
- The China People Institute for International Affairs (CPIFA)
- The China Center for Contemporary International Studies (CCCWS), a Think Tank for the Chinese Communist Party, and affiliated to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Party.
- The Chinese Association for Friendship with all countries of the world (CAF)

The delegation has also met with the Deputy Director for West Asia and Africa at the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

China noticed that the western media is promoting a negative image about Egypt

During the visit of ECFA to the CICIR, the Chinese side pointed out that they notice the negative image about Egypt in the Chinese media and they referred this to the effects of the western media on the Chinese one and they advised the Egyptian delegation by the importance of changing this image, which has a great impact both on the Chinese investment corporates and on the Chinese Citizens who are willing to visit the Egyptian monuments.

In this context, the Egyptian delegation gives a great attention to the impact of the negative advertising campaign that the western media trigger on Egypt, explaining that since the 30th of June 2016, the western media hasn't published any positive line about Egypt and there is an emphasis on distortion on what's been going on in Egypt. This negative image is reflected on the business community that holds a cautious attitude towards the investment in Egypt and on the touristic companies which always market Egypt as an unsafe place to visit.

The Political Counselor of the American Embassy in Cairo: “a Consensus between the Republicans and the Democrats on the Particularity of Relations with Egypt ”

On October 26th 2016, President of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran, and Director of the political Department at the Council Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad received Mr. Eric V. Gaudiosi Counsellor of the American Embassy in Cairo, in a closed meeting.

Several issues were discussed during the meeting, most importantly: developments in the Egyptian American relations, and Cairo relations with Moscow in the light of Egyptian Russian military maneuvers which recently took place.

Ambassador Ezzat outlined that recent visits by multiple Congressmen to Cairo reflect the positive developments in Egypt's relations with the United States. The Counsellor commented by noting that the importance of relations with Egypt is an issue of a bipartisan consensus of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

His Excellency Ambassador President of the Council inquired about the reasons behind the warning call issued by the American, British and Canadian Embassies for their citizens in Egypt not to go to public places on October 9th 2016 , and if there were credible information justifying that step, especially that nothing happened that day.

The Counsellor clarified their position stressing they have to abide by caution in such circumstances. He moved to bring up the issue of the draft Law for Civil Society Organizations, signaling that the draft contains many articles that contradict with American Laws, and prevents the United States -as a foreign donor- from recruiting or mobilizing national labor for projects it finances, a matter that will negatively affect relations between the two countries in case the present draft Law is adopted. Ambassador Zahran responded by saying that the Egyptian Government refuses any foreign interference in Egyptian internal affairs, accordingly it has all the right in imposing criteria and conditions to ensure the prevention of such interference in case it contradicts with Egyptian Laws. He added that the Embassy should convey its vision to the relevant Ministries, at the top of them the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Visit of a Delegation from the Center for Strategic Studies in Azerbaijan to ECFA

Following a request from the Center for Strategic Studies in the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish channels of cooperation with the Egyptian Council, including arranging joint activities, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs received a delegation from the Center consisting of: Mrs. Gulshan Pashyeva Deputy Director of the Center, Dr. Kamal Kasimov, researcher at the Center, in addition to Mr. Emil Rahim, Counselor of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Cairo.

Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad welcomed the Azeri delegation stressing on the profound relations that both countries and people share, pointing at the visit effectuated by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi to Azerbaijan to celebrate the 50th Anniversary

of establishing diplomatic relations between Egypt and Azerbaijan. He equally confirmed the great importance of the South Caucasus region to Egypt and Azerbaijan in particular, with whom Egypt has strong economic relations in both the commerce and energy domains.

Dr. Gulshan expressed her gratitude to Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad and the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs for arranging this meeting stressing that she was keen to visit the Council to learn from the experience it gained. She added that she visited several countries in the region namely Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Jordan and Morocco. She emphasized the special importance of Egypt as a key player in regional and global issues, which is why they seek a close cooperation with the Egyptian Council .The two sides agreed that the Egyptian Council would submit to the Azerbaijani side a draft Memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two sides for study and possible signing in the future.

A Workshop on the Egyptian-Israeli Relations: the Present and the Future

On the 23rd of October 2016, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs organized a workshop titled "The Egyptian Israeli Relations: The present and the Future" in which the President and the Director of the Council participated as well as specialized expert members of the Council and several academics.



Discussions included the following topics:-

"A reading in the Egyptian Israeli Treaty", Speaker :General Mohamed Ibrahim Al Doueri, Member of the Council.

"Challenges that confronted the Treaty and how they were Dealt with "speaker Mr. Sobhi Assila, Chief Editor of "Mokhtarat Israeleya" Magazine.

"The dilemma of normalization of the Egyptian Israeli Relations".. speaker Dr. Gamal Yousef, Member of the Council

"The Present Situation of the Bilateral Relations" speaker Dr. Heba Gamal Al Din, Professor of Political Science at Cairo University.

"The Future of Relations of the two countries" speaker Ambassador Ihab Wahba, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee of the Council on Arabic Affairs.

The Workshop concluded several recommendations among which the following:-

1. The necessity of amending some of the articles of the Treaty, especially those regarding the security arrangements Annex, from a legal perspective.
2. The necessity of maintaining the Egyptian Israeli Treaty especially that it is in the interest of both countries.
3. The importance of adopting a common comprehensive Arab vision regarding dealing with Israel, especially in view of present developments.
4. The importance of following up the activities of Israeli Think Tanks, their publications, recommendations and the extent of their relevancy to Egyptian interest.
5. The revision of the Quiz Agreement in the light of the efforts to enlarge its scope- and increasing the Egyptian component while downsizing the present Israeli component which amounts to 10%.
6. The Arab approach towards Israel should put into consideration Palestinian rights and interests, and invest these relations for the service of Palestinians through the establishment of the independent state of Palestine with full sovereignty with East Jerusalem as its Capital.

The meeting of the ordinary General Assembly



The general assembly of the Council met on Monday evening dated 3 December 2016 in the Diplomatic Club in El- Tahrir led by Ambassador Dr.Mounir Zahran, the Chairman of the Council. The number of the attendees was (46) member representing more than (10%+ 1) from the total members of the Council, who are allowed to attend. Therefore, the meeting held legally.

Upon the request of the Chairman, Amb. Dr. Ezzat Saad presented the annual report of the Council from December 2015 to December 2016, which was previously sent to the members of the general assembly.

Amb. Abdel Raouf El Reedy commented on the annual report, praising the efforts of the Chairman and the Director of the Council. He proceeded saying that the coming period of the Egyptian foreign policy is very crucial, especially in context of the hard and complex circumstances addressing/facing the Middle East and the world in general, which imposes great challenges and specific functions on the Council.

The Arab Group Discusses the Crisis of the Arab Order

On October 23rd, the Arab Group of the Council held a meeting at the Council Headquarters presided by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran and attended by Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Ambassador Ihab Wahba head of the Arab Group as well as some members of the Group.

Several important topics that could be treated in the coming period by the Group were surveyed. In this regard, it was decided that the group would hold at least one meeting on a monthly basis. Additionally, the possibility of holding workshops was examined. These workshops would include both members and several specialists relevant to the topics of discussion. Furthermore, the possibility of forming sub-groups of action affiliated to the Arab Group on a geographical or substantive basis was also discussed.

The Rapporteur of the Group presented a quick survey of both the actual crisis of the Arab Order and of the situation in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, as well as the role Egypt can play to deal with these crises and find convenient solutions.

Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Executive Director of the Council, pointed out that the present Board of the Council has accorded great attention to the issue of reinvigorating the permanent committees of the Council. He added that every Rapporteur of a Group can encourage its members to prepare and present relevant papers, research and studies to be published, as long as they are of appropriate standards, among the other Council papers or on the Council Website.

The President of the Council praised the activities of the Arab Group and its constant response to all assignments given by the Council. He expressed his wish for a further increase of activities in the coming period, with more attendance of its members especially in the light of problems and challenges that confront the Arab World and their reflection on Egyptian policies and initiatives.

In fact it comes right to my mind the imprints Egypt has had as a founding member of this International Organization through the participation of the late Abdel Hamid Badawi Pacha in drafting the Charter of the United Nations in the city of San Francisco in the United States. The first proposed name for the Organization was “the Organization of the United States,” as it is an Organization assembling Governments of member states not Nations, however to avoid any confusion with the name of the United States of America it was conclusively given its actual name as “the Organization of the United Nations” even though it doesn’t assemble Nations. Although the core principles constituting the pillars of the United Nation cannot go unnoticed by any scholar, especially those configured in the goals and principles of the Organization in the first article of the Charter, and in particular the seven goals stipulated in the second article, it is noted with regret that after 70 years of the creation of the Organization, the principles of the Charter still have not throughout years been respected even in the provisions of the fifth and seventh chapter neither in the practices of some member states nor in the Security Council.

I cannot forget to praise some distinguished Egyptian names who made significant contributions in the service of humanity and prosperity of mankind and the fulfillment of his rights and commitments. I point out here in particular to the late Dr. Mahmoud Azmi Pacha who participated in drafting the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” in 1948, and the late Dr. Boutros Ghali the 6th Secretary General of the United Nations who left humanity the “Peace Agenda” of 1992, and many other initiatives, and in particular world conferences throughout the 1990s starting the ‘Earth Summit’ in Rio in 1992.

Considering the fact that the United Nations is one of the consequences and results of the Second World War and the victory of the Allied Powers, what could have happened to the world had the Axis Powers achieved victory; with the probability of the creation of a different Organization other than the United Nations with a probable name of the non-United Nations.

If Chapter 5 of the Charter of Membership and Decision Making at the Security Council reflects the balance of power right after the Second World War, that balance throughout and after 70 years of the creation of the Organization, has changed. Isn’t it time now to adjust this imbalance resulting from the application of the Charter provision with all the defects it contains?

Since the 2005 world summit which was held at the 60th session of the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/1 which produced the transformation of Human Right committee into Human Rights Council reporting directly to the General Assembly (not to the ECOSOC) which alone can elect its members who were sized down to 47 instead of 53, and the creation of the Peace Building Committee (one of Dr. Boutros Ghali proposals in the “Agenda For Peace” in 1992); why then were the other recommendations of Resolution 60/1 neglected? I point here at amendment or annulation of chapters 11,12,13 on “Non self-governing territories”, “International Trusteeship System” and “the Trusteeship Council” which all have no meaning after the elimination of colonialism.

What about the Assistance for development and the commitment of donor countries with a 0.7% of their GNP for the financing of this assistance (ODA)?

Where are regarding the report of the Secretary General Kofi Anan at the 59th session of the General Assembly (included in the World Summit Agenda at the 60th session) about the amendment of provisions of the Charter regarding measures to be taken by the Security Council against any enemy state as stipulated in Article 53 paragraph 1 and 2 and Article 107 of the Charter, noting that enemy states are now members of the European Union and NATO like Germany and Italy not to mention Japan.

What about the impossibility of amending the charter in the considering the actual drafting of both articles 108 and 109, which require a two third majority vote in favor, including all Security Council permanent members?

A Meeting with Dr. Yasin Al Ayouti discussing Congress's adoption of "Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" (JASTA)

On Wednesday December 14th, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs received member of the Council Professor Dr. Yasin Al Ayouti, Law Professor and Counselor of International Law, in a meeting to shed a light on the legal dimensions of the provisions of "Justice against sponsors of Terrorism Act" (briefly known as JASTA), and observation on both Arab and American positions after passing the act. The meeting was attended by President of the Council Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran, Honorary President of the Council Abd Al Raouf Al Ridi, member of the Council Ambassador Mohamed Shaker, and Director of the Council Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, and several other members of the Council.

Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran began the lecture by welcoming Dr. Yasin Al Ayouti making note of his achievements in the field of International Law, his large network of relations with American civil society associations, his contribution- through his legal expertise in legal affairs in establishing the foundations of the UN Institute for training & research, in addition to the principal role he played in the defense of families of Egyptians victims of the doomed Egyptian plane in 1999.

He noted that the lecture comes in the agenda of the Councils' legal experts' recent examination of the issue, and the flagrant violation of the Law for the principle of state sovereignty, as well as the future consequences of the Law under the new American Administration.

Dr. Yasin emphasized the importance of the issue especially that the Law represents another revolution inside the United States, as it revolves around the United States first and last, and that sovereignty obstructs American Justice. He , then addressed the issue through six main elements: Summary of the Law, the Preamble, annulations of sovereignty principle, elements of the Law, American and Arab position towards JASTA, and finally his perception and judgement on the Law as a legal adviser.

At the end of the lecture the floor was open for comments and questions, to which Dr. Yasin gave his answers.

Participation of the Council in the Joint Seminar titled "Egypt and the United Nations...a Year of Contribution"

Part of the agenda of celebration of the "United Nations Day," the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Faculty of Economics & Political Sciences in Cairo University organized a joint Seminar on the 4th and 5th of December 2016 titled "Egypt and the United Nations...a Year of Contribution".

Several members of the Council participated in the seminar : -

-Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Shaker was the Chair of the first session titled "Egypt's Contribution in the United Nations activities in the field of International Peace and Security -Disarmament & Peacekeeping. Along with Professor Dr. Mohamed Salman Tayea as the commentator.

-Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran, was the Chair of the third session titled "Egypt's contribution in United Nations activities in the field of Development, Specialized Agencies activities, Economic groupings, and the UN program budget".

-Ambassador Dr. Anis Salem was the Chair of the sixth session titled "Egypt contribution in UN activities in Cultural, Social and Humanitarian fields as well as Human Rights and Anti-Human Trafficking. Along with Professor Dr. Mostapha Kamel Al Sayed as the commentator.

-Ambassador Dr. Mostapha Al Feki was the Chair as well as the Commentator of the seventh session titled "The Role of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies and Faculty of Economics & Political Sciences in building the expertise of Egyptian Diplomats regarding multilateral issues". It is to be noted that the President of the Council Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran gave at the opening of the Seminar a speech in which he said: -

The U.S law "JASTA" is discussed in a Round table in the Council

On 3 October 2016, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) has held a round table to discuss the legal and political implications of the U.S. Law (Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act) "JASTA" which was vetoed by President Obama on 23rd September 2016. However the United States Congress has over-ruled the veto on 28 September 2016, with an overwhelming majority. As a result of this, JASTA entered into force in the territory of the United States and beyond.



In this Context, the Conference emphasized that this law leads to various legal implications and in particular to the following:

1 - JASTA violates the principles and the goals of the UN Charter and the Public International Law with regard to the sovereign immunity of States and the sovereign equality of all members States of the United Nations that was mentioned in article 2 of the Charter.

2 - The national laws of each country are enforceable only within the relevant State borders. Such laws are not applicable or enforceable beyond the national borders of each State.

3 - It violates the widely accepted legal principle of the non- retro - activity of national laws, with regard to acts committed before the date of issuing such laws, taking into consideration that this rule is widely accepted in conformity with The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of year 1969.

4 - It raises the responsibility of the States regarding acts committed by its nationals of natural persons residing abroad, whether the residence is permanent or temporary in case they receive instructions from their governments(such as from intelligence) to commit such illegal acts on the territories of other States.

5 - It raises legal problems regarding the legal personalities as the activities of the companies that are carried out abroad and the transnational corporations (TNCs), who have deeper influence than that of some States.

6 - Although JASTA does not specifically mention the government of Saudi Arabia, in relation to the 11 September 2001, it will be used to put the responsibility of such incident on the Saudi Arabia government with regard to acts committed by its nationals, since 15 Saudi nationals have been accused in relation to the September 11 attacks, taking into consideration the lack of evidence of such suspect. This may lead to the possibility of issuing verdicts and / or sanctions on the assets of the Saudi Arabian government in the United States.

7 - Regarding the Egyptian commitment to the goals and principles of the International law since long time ago, as an important legal prerequisite in ensuring international peace and security and since Egypt was one of the founders of the United Nations, ECFA underscores the importance of Egypts' solidarity with Saudi Arabia and other States in rejecting JASTA based on the considerations mentioned above:

8 - The Conference ended up with some recommendations as the following:

- a) - Rejecting JASTA and showing solidarity with Saudi Arabia based on the legal considerations mentioned above.
- b) - Raising the issue in the United Nations General Assembly, in coordination with other States, in order to be considered in the Second Committee of Economic Affairs and the Sixth Committee of Legal Affairs, to stress on issuing a resolution by the General Assembly condemning the JASTA law. This initiative requires an active diplomatic campaign with the States of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM), G77, China and other friendly Countries.
- c) - In case of divergence of the member states views (as it is expected that the U.S government will organize a counter campaign) , we have to ask the General Assembly to adopt a resolution seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- d) - Raising the issue in the Human Rights Council in Geneva, to adopt a resolution to condemn (JASTA) for the same reasons mentioned above and requesting the U.S. to eliminate it.
- e) - It is advisable that national parliaments should not adopt similar laws as JASTA – as this development, will render all legal arguments against JASTA.

The Dimensions of the Accord between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund

On October 22nd, Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran gave a lecture at the Onroil Club in Maadi titled "Egypt and the International Monetary Fund." The lecture dealt with eight main topics: introduction and background of the topic; date of the establishment of the Fund; its role, competence, goals, financial resources, its decision making mechanism, and the Fund consultations with Egypt.

At the beginning of the lecture Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran explained that the International Monetary Fund is a United Nations Specialized Agency established as one of the results of the Bretton Woods Conference along with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in accordance with an international agreement signed in 1945 by 44 countries, Egypt included, seeking the stabilization of the world economy and exchange rates. The Fund Headquarters is in Washington DC., the present number of Fund members is 189 state members.

Ambassador Zahran then moved to talk about the consultations Egypt has carried with the Fund which resulted in the signing of an accord of

principle on granting Egypt a total sum of 12 billion dollars over the period of 3 years, based on the economic reforms Egypt has undertaken which guarantee redemption in due time. He confirmed that the executive council approval to grant the loan to Egypt is expected after the green light of the American Ministry of Treasury was given to the Council; putting into consideration that the American Executive Director possess 16.54% of a total of 85% member votes needed to adopt the decision of granting the loan to Egypt.

Ambassador Zahran Participated in the Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Joint Inspection Unit in Geneva

Upon an invitation from the "Joint Inspection Unit" on the United Nations' Programs, Funds and Specialized Agencies, Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran participated in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of its creation held in the Conferences Hall at the UN library in Geneva, due to the fact that he had been Head of the Unit in 2011 and 2012 during his service as one of its inspectors after being elected in the United Nations General Assembly session of 2006.

He outlined that the "Joint Inspection Unit" was first created on an experimental basis following a General Assembly Resolution in 1966 which was modified several times until its Statute was adopted in 1977 and then put into force in 1978, with the increase of the inspectors number from 8 to 11. Hence the real date for the Celebration of the "Joint Inspection Unit" 50th anniversary, according to its Statute, is the year 2028. He added that the "Joint Inspection Unit" is one of the United Nations' General Assembly Agencies and the other legislative agencies for Organizations and Specialized Agencies which amount to 28 Organizations participating in the Inspection Unit.

He outlined that the first recommendation of the Inspection Unit report he prepared in 2009 was to allocate a greater role to the General Assembly in the nomination process of the Secretary General of the United Nations, by assigning the GA to arrange meetings with all candidates before the matter goes to the Security Council. That was actually followed in the election process of the new Secretary General in 2016.

Defining Corruption and its ways of Combating

The Egyptian Council for Foreign affairs gives due care to the issue of corruption and its different ways of combating.

Dr. Mounir Zahran gave many lectures on this issue in order to analyze it and came up with different recommendations about it. The First lecture was in 18 September 2016 in front of the Egyptian Cultural Forum the second lecture was about defining National Strategy to combat corruption that was organized by the Central authority for organization and administration along with the National Center for Anti-Corruption in Cairo, While the Third lecture was on 14 November 2016 at the General Secretary of the league of Arab States.

The Mexican ambassador in his visit to the council discussing the future cooperation with the Mexican think tanks and research centers



Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, the director of the Council received Mr. Jose Octavio Tripp, the Mexican ambassador to Egypt along with Ricard Ballestao, the embassy consultant, who expressed that the main goal of this visit is to open communication channels with the Council and discuss the possibility of the mutual cooperation between the council and other counter Mexican think tanks and research centers referring to his intention to attend the Council's conference with the Egyptian – Cuban friendship association which will be held on **27th November 2016**.

The Chairman of the Council presented the activities of the Council, its organizational structure, its membership conditions, along with its internal and external partnerships, welcoming the communication with the embassy and the mutual cooperation with the Mexican think tanks and research centers.

In reference to the mentioned above, it is important to mention that the Mexican ambassador along with other ambassadors of Peru, Panama Chile, Venezuela and Ecuador has attended the conference held with the Egyptian- Cuban friendship association on "The developments of Cuba and its relations with Egypt and the world".

IN A MEETING WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN WORLD PEACE ORGANIZATION: PEACE IS BASED ON RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRIES.

On November **22nd 2016**, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, received a delegation from the HWPL Organization branch in GWANGJU. The discussion focused on the legal position of the Organization and the scope of possible cooperation between the two sides, especially in the area of Peace making. In the light of the existing regional conflicts which require intensification of efforts on both regional and international levels. Particularly, the mobilization of efforts of civil society organizations, considering the increase in level of tensions and terrorist attacks as well as immigrants and refugee problems in a total absence of concerted international efforts.

On the field of activities, Dr. Yoonsug outlined that the Organization holds four Conferences on a yearly basis. A Conference takes place during the period of **16-20 December 2016** in South Korea addressing political, religious and media fields as well as youth empowerment, and everything that can have an effect on peace-making. Another Conference takes place on March **14th - 2017** on Law and the Universal Declaration on Peace and Development.

On the regional level, preparations are ongoing to hold a Forum in Armenia –that convenes on a yearly basis- discussing four axis: the empowerment of women & youth and religious ideology and its influence on political changes, underlining that such conferences seek a common formula on peacemaking in the framework of International Law in the light of the existing variations in its forms and concepts, asserting that people of the world who believe in Peace should encourage their leaders to achieve peace and avoid violence and conflicts.

Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad explained that efforts should focus on setting a Universal vision that doesn't interfere with the internal affairs of countries and protect their national security, stressing that there exist countries, companies and organizations that depend on arms trafficking, and hence have interest in the continuation of armed conflicts. Ambassador Dr. Saad added that despite being in the 21st century we still live an Israeli colonization of the Palestinian land, and international coalitions, as well ,with different goals; a situation that makes the purpose of creating a world without wars or destruction a difficult matter, especially in the light of the existing arms race and the possession of the five permanent members of the Security Council weapons of mass destruction employed to reinforce each ones' power and supremacy over the other.

Amman Conference on security

Upon the invitation of the Arab Institute for Security Studies, some members from the Egyptian Council for foreign affairs participated in **16-17 November 2016** in Amman Conference on security; including Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Mohamed Shaker, Dr. Mahmoud Karem, Dr. Mohamed Anis Salem, Dr. Bahi El Din Abdul Hamid and Dr. Youssry Abou Shady as well as Dr. Mohammed Salamah, the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and member of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Pugwash. The Conference was organized by the Arab Institute for Security Studies and sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from Germany and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) from U.S.

Princess Sumaya, the daughter of Prince Al Hassan, Abdullah Gul, the Turkish Former President, Iyad Allawi, the Iraqi Vice President, and Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty organization, participated in the opening session of the Conference. Their words were characterized by generality as they expressed the role and the importance of mutual cooperation and coordination to prevent nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Zerbo highlighted the importance of accelerating the ratification on the Comprehensive Test ban Treaty by the rest of the Countries in order to start abiding by it after twenty years of its publishing since **1996**, according to UN security Council Resolution (**2310**).

The visit of the Indian ambassador

On **18 December 2016**, upon the request of the Indian ambassador Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Amb. Dr. Mounir Zahran, the Chairman of the board along with Amb. Ezzat Saad the Director of the Council received the Indian ambassador to Egypt and the vice head of the mission to organize the visit of the Councils members to India that will be held from **4 to 7 January 2017** in order to make several discussions with its counter Indian Council.

The meeting focused on the following:

■ The two days visit of the Council to India that will include a visit with the counter Indian Council along with another visit with the Indian foreign minister's vice for the economic relations.

■ The Indian ambassador pointed out at the two visits of the president Abd El Fattah El Sisi to India as the **1st** one was through his participation in the Indian/African summit on August **2016** while the **2nd** one was on the sidelines of the **G20** summit in China. He focused his speech on the bilateral relations between India and Egypt, referring that beside the security cooperation, there are five main aspects dominating the relations between the two countries, namely: economic and trade cooperation, the cooperation between the governments of Egypt and India, cooperation on education, technology and on the small and medium enterprises as well as the cooperation in the field of local governance.

■ The Indian ambassador Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya assures the willingness of India to fund the Egyptian projects, as the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Moody announced submitting soft loans worth **10** billion dollars to Africa, along with the current loan program during the Indian / African Summit.

■ On his part, Amb. Ezzat Saad said that the Council intends to meet the ORFs' officials and the members of ICWA Center. As part of the Council's visit to India, Amb. Mounir Zahran also indicated that the Council intends to propose signing MOU between the Egyptian Pugwash and its Indian counter in order to enhance cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to benefit from the Indian experience.

The Egyptian and Sudanese Councils for Foreign Affairs Discuss: Economic, Agricultural, and Industrial Integration between Egypt and Sudan



Responding to the visit of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs to Khartoum in February of 2016, the Sudanese Council for Foreign Affairs paid a visit to Cairo during the period 28-30 November 2016. The program of the visit included sessions of discussion with The Egyptian Council for Foreign affairs, The African Studies Unit at Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, and The Institute for Research and African Studies at Cairo University. The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs and the Sudanese Council for Foreign Affairs were received by His Excellency Sameh Shokri Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Helmi Al Namnam Minister of Culture, Secretary General of the League of Arab States Ahmad Abou Al Gheit; all in the presence of the Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo.

The visit was carried out in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality, frankness and transparency in dealing with the issues raised for discussion. On top of these issues were the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of the Egyptian-Sudanese bilateral relations. Additionally, the various aspects of cooperation which would enable both countries to effectively confront all present and future challenges.

The two Councils emphasized the importance of the role played by Civil Society Associations in finding solutions and common grounds in a way that reinforces the bounds of bilateral cooperation from one side, and cooperation with all Arab and African countries on the other side. Not only that but also encouraging common projects and conferences related to the domain of integration between the two countries in fields of agriculture, industry, small and medium projects and technology.

The two sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group composed of the both Councils whose mission is to search for and present a comprehensive vision for the purpose of selecting the best course for developing bilateral relations in all fields, as well as finding solutions and alternatives to obstacles or barriers to the growth of those relations- in a strategic framework- to the level they deserve. Participants in the discussions included expert members of the Council specialized in Arab and African affairs, among whom: Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran President of the Council, Ambassador Abdel Raouf Al Ridi Honorary President of the Council, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of the Council, as well as Ambassadors Mohamed Assem Ibrahim, Ihab Wahba, Hussein Al Kamel, Salah Halima, Marawan Badr, Mohamed Hegazi, and others.

The Working Group assignment is divided into two main tasks:

-Firstly: Reviewing the relevant circumstances of the obstacles that impede strengthening relations between the two countries, and presenting practical solutions capable of overcoming these obstacles.

-Secondly: Discussing ideas and visions-of a strategic nature-in various fields of cooperation, as well as building up a strong partnership between the two countries and bringing up ideas to push this partnership forward and ahead.

His Excellency Minister Sameh Shoukri agreed to put this Working Group as well as its recommendations under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides expressed their wish that the Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs would also welcome the conclusions of this proposed Working Group.

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN SINAI

On October 23rd 2016, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs issued a statement concerning recent Terrorist attacks in Sinai, which resulted in the assassination of Martyr Adel Ragaei, Brigadier - General and Commander of the Ninth Armed Division of the Armed Forces. The Statement read as follows:-

The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs has followed with extreme concern the recent terrorist acts which took place in Sinai and were bravely confronted by the Egyptian Armed Forces and Police, last of which claimed the life of Martyr Brigadier - General Adel Ragaei Commander of the Ninth Armed Division. These terrorist acts have put Egypt's security in danger, especially in the Sinai Peninsula, a fact reflected in the statements made by the Egyptian Military Spokesman condemning these attacks.

Therefore, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs condemns these terrorist incidents which target state institutions and sons of the Armed Forces and Police. It confirms its total rejection to all sorts of support to terrorist operations and organizations including the financial support and provision of safe havens to agitators and participants, and expresses its sincere condolences to the Armed Forces and Police, and to families of those who fell as martyrs in these regrettable terrorist incidents, affirming as well its confidence that these mean acts will not alienate sons of the nation from presenting sacrifices for the sake of stability, security and prosperity of the motherland.

The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs reaffirms its stand with the Egyptian Government in the war to eliminate terrorism which seeks the destruction of the pillars that hold democratic and constitutional systems, it reaffirms as well its full solidarity with the Government, Armed Forces and Police to confront terrorism in all sorts and forms.

The Participation of the Council in a Meeting with the Visiting Members of the European Parliament to Cairo

On November 23rd 2016, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of the Council participated in a meeting with members of the European Union Delegation visiting Egypt composed of: Mrs. Maria Gabriel, Vice President of European People's Party for Union For The Mediterranean, Mr. Elmar Brok Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee at the Parliament, Mr. Wim Van De Camp Coordinator of the People Party Group in the Parliament Committee on Transformations and Terrorism.

The meeting took place in a lunch offered by Mr. Reinhold Brender, Chargee D'affaires of the European Union mission in Cairo in the honor of the visiting delegation (to which Ambassador Ezzat Saad was equally invited). The European Union Chargee D'Affaires explained that the purpose of this meeting is to give members of the European Parliament the chance to listen to the views of different representatives of various distinguished Organizations of the Civil Society, parties as well as activists and get acquainted with their perspective on the ongoing developments taking place in Egypt on the political, economic and social levels. He added that the visit comes in the framework of visits that members of the European Parliament, especially those responsible for the relations with Eastern Arab states, regularly effectuate on periodic basis to Egypt.

In his intervention, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat outlined that contrary to his predecessors President El Sisi preferred confronting the chronic economic problems that Egypt faces. Several economic measures were undertaken to that effect. Despite their high social toll, no reaction of violent nature has up till now been recorded. He added that Egypt faces a range of huge social and economic problems, including one of a long term nature namely that of the systematic birth rate increase, a fact that requires the support of our partners at the European Union for the reforms adopted by the Egyptian Government in a way that reinforces stability especially that Egypt is fighting at the same time a fierce battle against terrorism in a turbulent regional setting far to the west in Libya where chaos prevails all along with the burden of the increase of immigration to Egypt who already host around 6 million refugees.

Dr. Ezzat concluded that the Government seeks to secure a balance between economic as well as security pressure imposed by the present transitional phase from one side and the necessity of ensuring freedom and rights of the people and in particular social and economic rights which takes the utmost attention of the President.

It was apparent that the members of the European Parliament were sympathetic to the conditions in Egypt and understanding of the difficulties the Government faces, though they signaled that what circulating around Europe about the state of freedom of opinion and expression in Egypt is by large negative.

The Chargee D'Affaires of the European Union mission concluded by saying that while they appreciate the measures that the Egyptian Government undertook, they nevertheless note that the state of human rights is still negative in some aspects, though not as bad as some Egyptian speakers have portrayed.

It is important to mention that the European Union delegation has met President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shokri, the State Minister For Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Mrs. Nabila Makram, the Minister of International Cooperation Mrs. Sahar Nasr, the Minister of Social Solidarity Mrs. Ghada Wali, the Grand Imam Sheikh of Al Azhar Dr. Ahmed Al Tayeb, and his Holiness Pope Tawadros Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The fifth and final session was titled “*Alternative Movements facing the Egyptian Foreign Policy,*” organized by Dr. Mostafa El Feki. During this session, Dr. Mohamed Badr El Din Zayed presented his paper which focused on methods of encountering structural challenges as well as the challenges rising from regional and international transformations. Dr. Ali El Deen Helal commented on the issues raised throughout this session.

Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran concluded the conference through presenting all the recommendations that were made throughout the conference. He emphasized that the Egyptian Foreign Policy focuses on responding to worldwide transformations while preserving Egypt’s national sovereignty, security and interests. This in addition to attracting foreign investment and maintaining Egypt’s commitment to regional and international agreements. He also noted the need for the Council to organize future conferences regarding the African dimension of Egypt’s foreign policy, in the light of the increased international competition mainly lead by China, Japan, and India to benefit from the continent’s potential.



The statement of the Egyptian Council for foreign affairs on the terrorist attack of the Botroseya Church in El- Abasseya

On the ١١th of December ٢٠١٦, the Egyptian Council for foreign affairs issued a statement condemning the horrible terrorist attack that happened on some Citizens during their prayer on Sunday in the Botroseya Church in El- Abasseya, which resulted in ٢٥ martyrs and more than ٥٠ injured people. The Council expressed its deepest sorrow and grief to the Egyptian Citizens who suffered from this brutal attack, especially during prayers.

The Council continued in the statement that this brutal and terrorist incident of course is made by some enemies who are against Egypt and the Egyptians; Muslims and Christians. The Council shows full solidarity with the Victims' families of this cowardly aggression begging God to put patience and fortitude on the martyrs and their families.

The second session was titled ***“The Emerging Regional Roles”***, organized by General Mohsen ElNom’ani. During this session, three papers were discussed. The first presented by Dr. Neveen Mosaad regarding the Iranian Strategy towards the Arab region. The second presented by Dr. Mohamed Abdel Kader Khalil regarding the Turkish strategy. And the third presented by General Mohamed Ibrahim regarding the Israeli situation. The three papers were keen on presenting these strategies and their influence on Egyptian interest, and developing the Egyptian perspective of how to deal with them, in light of their increasing influence on the region. Dr. Amr El Shobaki commented on the topics raised throughout this session.



The third session was titled ***“Key International Roles”*** and was organized by Ambassador Mohamed Tawfik. Three papers were discussed in this session. The first presented by Dr. Mohamed Kamal, which focused on the American strategy towards the Arab region. The second paper was presented by Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad regarding the Russian strategy towards the Arab region. And the third paper was presented by Dr. Hesham Mourad regarding the European strategy in the region in light of the recent transformations. Dr. Gamal Abdel Gawad commented on the topics and issues raised throughout this session

Egyptian Foreign Policy facing Regional and International Transformations



The fourth session, which was headed by Dr. Ali El Deen Helal, titled ***“Challenges facing Egyptian Foreign Policy,”*** discussed two analytical papers. The first paper was presented by Dr. Iman Ragab regarding transformations during the aftermath of the 25th of January and 30th of June revolutions. The second paper was presented by Dr. Hassan AbouTaleb which analyzed the Egyptian motives and policy orientation towards major Arab crises. Ambassador Mohamed Hegazy commented on the topics and issues raised throughout the session.

Challenges facing the Arab Regional System

During the opening session, Secretary General of the League of Arab States Ahmad Abou Al Gheit presented a comprehensive survey of challenges and dangers that face the Arab Regional Order. Additionally, he presented recommendations regarding how to confront these challenges, apart from the need for a new System of Cooperation and Security in the Middle East.

Subsequently, the Assistant to the Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Tarek Al Kouni gave a speech on behalf of Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukri – who was not able to attend due to urgent engagements- in which he emphasized the principle of noninterference in internal affairs of states and the respect of national sovereignty.



The Arab Situation and the new Patterns of the Global Powers are discussed in the five Sessions of the Conference



Extensive discussions through the five assigned sessions were carried out; the first session was titled ***“Arab Regional System Transformations”***, coordinated by Dr. Ahmed Youssef Ahmed. The session revolved around the discussion of two papers. The first regarding the present situation of the Arab nations and the patterns of the global powers written by Dr. Mo’ taz Salama. The second regarding the Arab League and the present challenges presented by Dr. Magdy Hamad, with Dr. Mohamed Saeed Edris commenting throughout the session.

The Council discussed various issues in its Meeting with H. E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Sameh Shoukry

On November 12th, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry received the Board members of the Egyptian Council For Foreign Affairs presided by Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran. The delegation of the Council included : Ambassador Abdel Raouf Al Ridi, Ambassador Dr. Mohamad Shaker, Ambassador Hesham Al Zemeti Secretary General of the Council, Ambassador Mona Omar, Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem and the Director of the Council Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad.

In the beginning, the President of the Council expressed his gratitude to Minister Sameh Shoukry for receiving the Council Board members. He then surveyed the activities of the Council in the current year, underlining that the Council highly depends on the Ministries' moral and financial support to carry his mission of serving the Egyptian Foreign Policy, confirming at the same time the Councils' insistence on maintaining total independence and refusal of any sort of foreign support.

The Egyptian Minister welcomed the Board members confirming the distinguished status and reputation the Council has earned in Egypt and abroad due to the high expertise of its members in the field of Diplomacy and also in other various international domains, stressing that all Departments of the Ministry as well as its leadership are ready to present full support for the Council's mission.

Ambassador El Reedy explains his idea of establishing "Aswan forum"

During the members of the Egyptian Council for foreign affairs visit to Mr. Sameh Shoukry, the minister of foreign affairs, Ambassador Abdel Raouf El Reedy suggested his idea of establishing "Aswan Forum", in order to provide a unique platform discussing the Egyptian /African relations.

The idea was praised by Minister Sameh Shoukry who pointed out that the Red Sea Conference, which the Council is preparing for in January 2017 is compatible with the Egyptian agenda of establishing a forum that will combine all the Red Sea Countries together under the goal of maintaining cooperation and discussing all the methods that will guarantee the minimum level of coincidence on the security of the region.



His Excellency the Minister suggested engaging the youth in the Councils' different activities in a way that benefits national interest. In this regard, Ambassador Dr. Monir Zahran outlined that interaction with the youth already exists, and that the Council participated in Training Programs for students of the Faculty of Economics & Political Sciences in Cairo University, and participates with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Institute for Diplomatic Studies in a Conference titled "Egypt and the United Nations..Year of Contribution" scheduled for the 4th and 5th of December 2016. Honorary President Abdel Raouf Al Ridi noted that the Council concluded a Cooperation Accord with the Public Library of Egypt, and that in this context a conference on the strategic importance of the Red Sea as well as opportunities for economic investments in the area is to be held next January 2017. The meeting with the Minister included discussions of several Foreign Policy issues, as well as Egyptian relations with several countries in the region, and the future of Egyptian American relations after Donald Trump's win of the Presidential election.

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Editorial

The Important Topics Discussed during the Annual Conference of the Council



On the 21st and 22nd of December 2016, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs held its annual conference, amid dynamic conditions in both the regional and international levels that posed challenges to Egyptian Foreign Policy as well as to the Arab Regional Order. This situation required an integrated and comprehensive vision for Egyptian and Arab positions. For that purpose, five sessions of profound discussions over a two day period were conducted, in which over twenty experts and specialists in relevant fields and topics participated. All discussions were carried under the title "The Annual Conference of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs...Egyptian Foreign Policy and Regional and International Changes".

During the opening session, Secretary General of the League of Arab States Ahmad Abou Al Gheit presented a comprehensive survey of challenges and dangers that face the Arab Regional Order, along with recommendations capable of providing required capabilities to confront these challenges, apart from the need for a new System of Cooperation and Security in the Middle East. Subsequently, the Assistant to the Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Tarek Al Kouni gave a speech on behalf of Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukri – who was not able to attend due to urgent engagements- in which he emphasized the principle of noninterference in internal affairs of states and the respect of National Sovereignty. Afterwards, extensive discussions through the five assigned sessions were carried out, dealing with issues related to the present status of the Arab situation, including non Arab regional sides, such as Iranian and Turkish strategies, as well as the role of Israel in the region, and main Super Powers policies in the area represented by the American strategy in the Arab Region as well as Russian and European strategies. In the following day, discussions focused on challenges and possible alternatives to Egyptian Foreign Policy after both the January and 30th of June Revolutions.

It was due to the general and integrated vision of the Conference topics, that correlation existed between all issues on the Agenda of the Annual Conference this year, which came in conformity with the traditional pattern every year, in particular that of selecting topics for the Conference that go in line with current issues on the national, regional and international levels.

The Editor



ECFA

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The Conference began with an opening speech given by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, the Chairman of the Council. In his speech, Dr. Zahran detailed the reasons behind the selection of the topics of the conference. He highlighted the challenges facing the Arab states in the light of the continued terrorist attacks, the demolition of the states' institutions, waste of resources, and impoverishment of their people. This therefore leads to the need of developing the Arab and Egyptian strategies in dealing with these issues, while maintaining national security and stability.

And at the end of the conference, during the closing session Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran presented the most important recommendations the Conference reached.

(Details on pages 4-5-6)

ECFA discussed various issues in its meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry.

The Participation of the ECFA in a meeting with the visiting members of the European Parliament to Cairo.

The statement of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs on the terrorist attack of the Botroseya Church in El - Abasseya.