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Interview: Dr. Rushdi Said

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# Egypt's Development Under Nasser: Lessons for Today

*Dr. Rushdi Said, geologist, has had long experience in the post-World War II economic development of Egypt. Among his many achievements are the founding of the Egyptian Geological Survey, and a definitive book on the history of the Nile River (The River Nile—Geology, Hydrology and Utilization, Pergamon Press, 1993). He was interviewed June 27, 2003, by Marcia Merry Baker.*

**EIR:** You have had extensive experience in the implementation of economic infrastructure programs during a great period of development in Egypt; and you also, literally, wrote the book on the Nile. So let's begin first with your experience during the time period of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. What you were doing then? What was the outlook?

**Said:** Let me begin by saying that my experience with Nasser, and in the field of politics on the whole in Egypt—because I also worked with President Sadat—

**EIR:** What years were you in politics?

**Said:** I was in politics, I was involved *deeply* in politics, shall we say, between 1961 and 1976. So that covers the period of the better years of Nasser. Even though there was the debacle of the '67 War. But that was an interesting period too, even though Egypt lost the war and was really defeated. However, it had recovered greatly from that war, and I have a feeling that this is one of the best periods of Egypt too.

Let me tell you, before we start our discussion, that I have written this experience, my experiences, in an autobiography that I have published in 2000, on the occasion of my 80th birthday; and it will be published in English this year by the American University Press in Cairo. By the end of the year. In fact, it has a sub-title. It's called, *Life's a Journey*, and the sub-title is: "Ventures in Politics in Egypt." Because I feel that this is the period when I was most active. This is when I have made most of my contributions, which most people remember me by.

**EIR:** You were active in the field of natural resources?

**Said:** Yes, I was heading the mining organization in Egypt.

**EIR:** What did that involve?

**Said:** Well, we were responsible for all the mines of Egypt.

We had about eight companies, active. And also, we had a research institution, called the Geological Survey. It was an enormous institution, too, with about 3,000 employees and workers, of which, about 800 were scientists. So you can imagine what a big organization it was.

So we had these two aspects of it. The economic aspect—we were supervising the running of eight mining companies. And also had this big research institution called the Geological Survey, which had the responsibility of surveying the mineral resources of the country, and preparing the maps, and it gave me a chance to see all parts of Egypt.

As you know, Egypt is a desert country. The only inhabitable part of it is around the Nile Valley. It is a strip of land that represents only 5% of the surface area of Egypt. So that 95% of the surface area of Egypt was not known, shall we say. And I think, during the 10 years I worked there, we have made quite a bit of advancement in understanding the history of that area and the best utilization of it.

And we have discovered also many mineral resources, because I came to head the mining organization after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War; that war in which Egypt lost the battle. It was really a setback. I don't call it a defeat; I call it a setback. Because the Egyptians never recognized that defeat. It's almost like Dunkirk in England. They were beaten, but they never recognized it. They never said that they had been beaten, you know. So it was really a setback until they gathered their forces and came back.

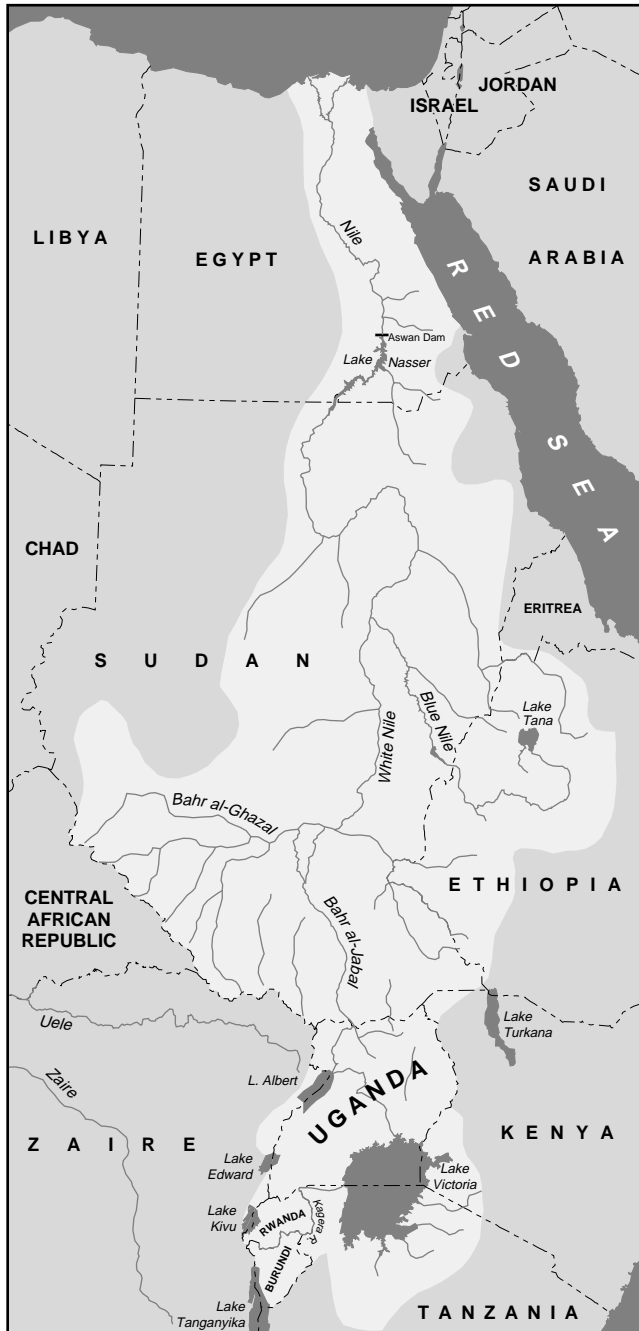
Anyhow, whatever that is, Egypt was defeated, and we lost Sinai. Sinai is a rich part of Egypt in mineral resources. It had *most* of the mines. So we lost that part of Egypt. We lost many mines, you know, that were supplying raw materials to many industries in Egypt.

And so, one of the tasks that was ahead of me when I came in, because I came to head that organization immediately after that war—it was early in 1968, six months after the end of the war—many industries were stopping. They had been through the emptying of their raw materials and so on, and they came to me begging for help. So we found replacements, and opened new mines, replacing all this.

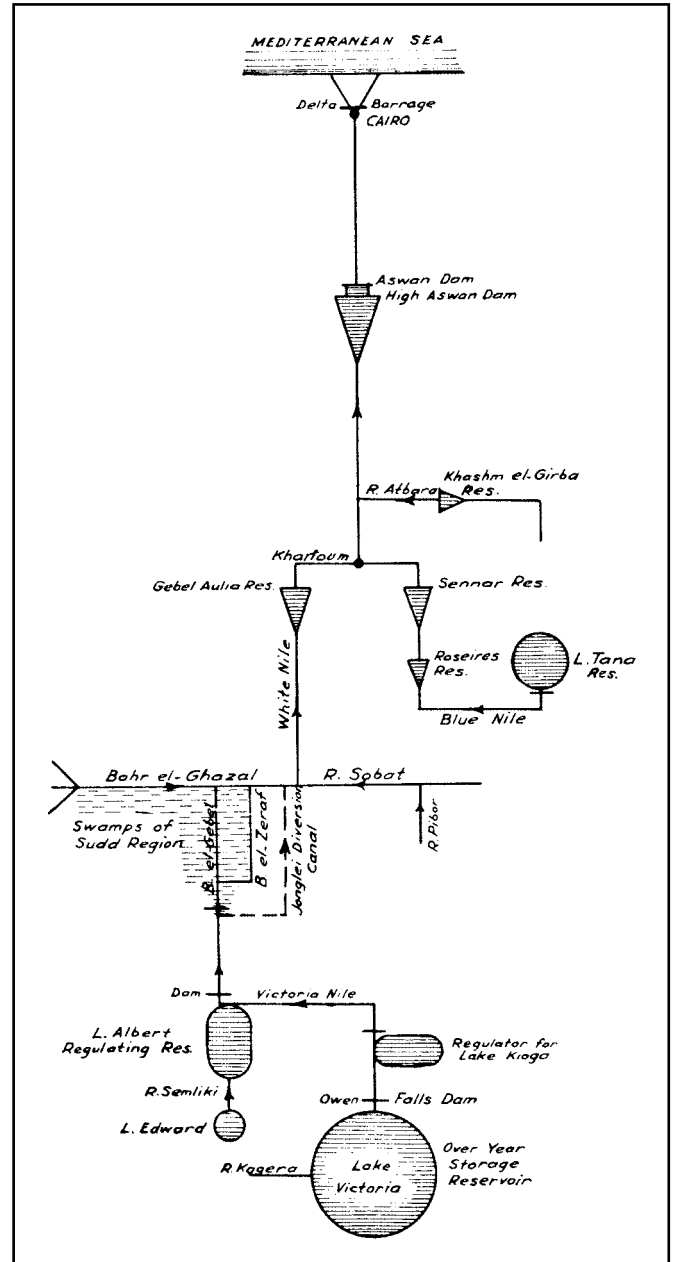
**EIR:** So it all had to do with geologic history and analysis?

**Said:** Exactly. I knew geology. I was professor at the univer-

## The Nile River System



## Major Nile River Features and Projects



In Egypt, only 5% of the land area is inhabited, concentrated along the Nile River. Though 6 million years old in Egypt, the Nile only became a great river, connected to its extensive African upwaters, some 800,000 years ago, when Ethiopian rivers broke through into it; its connection to the African Great Lakes water systems came still later.

sity before I came in to head that organization.

**EIR:** You studied where?

**Said:** I studied in Cairo, in Switzerland, and the United States. So I was here [United States] immediately after World

War II. I had my PhD at Harvard University in 1950. In other words, this is almost 53 years ago that I got my doctorate degree.

Anyhow, when I came to Egypt from the United States in 1951, I taught at the university—I was a professor at the



*Egypt's nationalist President (1956-70) Gamal Abdel Nasser. Dr. Rushdi Said was a minister and active political figure in "the better years of Nasser" in the 1960s, and afterwards. When the minerals-rich Sinai was lost in 1967, Dr. Said, founder of the nation's Geological Survey, led the effort to find and develop new mines nationwide.*

University of Cairo. And then President Nasser appointed me as the head of the mining organization in February 1968. And I stayed there for 10 years, until 1978.

During these 10 years, we had been able to discover mineral deposits that replaced what we lost in Sinai. Because you remember, that Sinai was an interesting experience for us too, because the United Nations, at the end of the War—we could not extract from the United Nations at that time, a resolution to bring Israel back to its borders, as we had done in the 1956 war.

You know there was a 1956 war in which Israel came in and occupied Sinai. The United Nations reacted to that occupation by ordering Israel to go back to the international borders.

In 1967, we failed to do that. The United Nations did not do that. They just left the Israelis as they are. So that made us feel that the occupation will be longer, and we will be losing Sinai for many years, and consequently we concentrated our efforts to have replacement of these mines inside Egypt proper. And we did find this.

So even though I came during a period of recession, shall we say, in Egypt, in which all its resources were made use of

in the war effort; however, Egypt continued in its developmental policies.

**EIR:** So that was the policy outlook. And in this, did you collaborate, did President Nasser collaborate with Prime Minister Nehru and others? Were you personally involved in this with other nations?

**Said:** That's another aspect of my life. Because at that time, I was also appointed as a Member of Parliament in Egypt. So I became a Member of Parliament in 1964. And I continued to be a Member for three Parliaments, until 1976. For 12 years, I had been a Member of Parliament.

And also in 1964, I came on the Secretariat of the political party that Nasser was making at that time. And this made me very close to Nasser, because he used to attend all the meetings of the Secretariat. That continued for about two years, '64-'65. Every week I met with him, *tête-à-tête*. And that was a great time for me, because I was closer to a man for whom I had great respect. He was a very humble man.

**EIR:** Was he personally interested in your geology?

**Said:** *Very much so.* He appreciated greatly the efforts we had made after the Sinai occupation—the efforts we had made to replace the mines that we lost. He really appreciated that. And this is why—you know, I developed a rapport with him, and he developed a rapport with me too.

**EIR:** What vision did you have for what could and should have been done for Palestinian economic development then?

**Said:** We had a view to develop Egypt first, and the Arab world, of course, by using its resources, and to depend on ourselves too. Of course, you know, most people think that Nasser was too "nationalistic" to open up to other civilizations or other peoples, which is not true. The only thing is, that we respected our sovereignty, and we had some, shall we say, pride in our country and our history. So we were treating these people as on par. We were equal. We were equal when we were treating these people.

**EIR:** So development policy would be in the mutual interest?

**Said:** Yes. Development policy. So we had quite a number of foreign investments in Egypt, especially—for example, we had American investments of oil. Oil companies were American, mainly.

**EIR:** I know Detroit Edison sent over a man named Walker Cisler at that time, who had table-top demonstrations of what a nuclear power generator would look like. He was working with electrical engineers in Egypt at the time of which you speak.

**Said:** Yes. Well, there were many plans for developing resources in Egypt, involving many countries too, not only the United States—including the Soviet Union. You know, we had great contact with the Soviet Union.



*Construction of the High Aswan Dam near completion in 1968. Dr. Said convinced Nasser on a four-year (1958-62) project of mapping, geological surveying, and preservation of important sites in the area of Nubia that was to be flooded, which Dr. Said carried out, part of his decades of study of the Nile River.*

**EIR:** Did your geologic work involve you in the Aswan Dam?

**Said:** No. I was involved with the Aswan Dam when I was a professor at the university. I did a very interesting thing, because the Aswan Dam was to drown the lands of Nubia. I went to Nasser and told him that these lands are going to disappear. Let's at least make a map of them, and record what they have. And so he agreed with that, and I was involved with this part of the project.

It was very interesting. I spent about four years doing these maps, and I had big teams.

**EIR:** What years was that?

**Said:** Between '58 and '62.

**EIR:** When did you get your lifelong involvement in the River Nile—its history and all?

**Said:** At that very time. I started in Nubia, really. This is where I started my interest in the River Nile, and in the geologic history of Egypt, and the past 2 million years. Because the River Nile is a relatively modern phenomenon.

**EIR:** You mean thousands of years?

**Said:** No, no. Millions of years, but in geological history that is very modern. Six million years. The River Nile—the Egyptian River Nile, is 6 million years old. That's all. For you it's very old, but for a geologist, it's very young. It is a young

feature in Egypt, in this sense. You know the history of Egypt is very, very long. In the billions of years.

**EIR:** And a unique history in recent times, of these Nileometers [measurers of the Nile flood]?

**Said:** No, no. Nileometers is a very recent phenomenon. This is when man was living in Egypt, and discovering agriculture and so on.

No, we are talking about the history of the Nile before agriculture came in, before the dynastic periods, before the pharaohs.

So anyhow, we worked out the history of the River Nile, and we found out a fascinating history of the River Nile. It makes a good part of my book on the Nile, because, as I told you, it's 6 million years old, and it was in the form of a big canyon, as awe-inspiring as the Colorado. In fact, it's even deeper and longer than the Colorado Canyon.

It started this way, 6 million years ago, then silted up, little by little, over 5 million years, until it took up more or less the same shape as today.

Also, what is interesting: We found out that the connection to Africa—the connection of this Egyptian Nile to Africa—came very late: only about 800,000 years ago. Very late, geologically. For 5 million years it was standing alone in Egypt, and then only 800,000 years ago, we had this connection, and the connection came first, from the Ethiopian land. The connection from the Lake Plateau came even later

than that.

And when the connection happened from Ethiopia, there was an enormous river in Egypt. There was such an enormous quantity of water that came to Egypt.

**EIR:** That was sudden?

**Said:** Sudden. It just made an enormous river with an enormous delta, a delta that goes up to Crete in the Mediterranean. It was an enormous river, really. And then, only about 50-60,000 years ago, it started to take, more or less, the shape that you see today.

So, it's an interesting story of the history of the Nile, that we worked out really, starting from Nubia. And it was very difficult. But, ultimately, the solution came, when the oil companies started drilling for oil.

**EIR:** So you got geological information.

**Said:** We got geological information about the deposits of the Nile, how old it is. So we found out, we determined, that it is about 6 million years—the oldest Nile deposit was about 6 million years ago.

Anyhow, we have a complete record also with these cores that the oil companies did. And it so happened that I was consulting with many oil companies, and I had all this data. And this is where I made my biggest contribution too. Which is completing what we had done in Nubia. In Nubia only the latest part of the Nile's history is there. So we have done this. But to complete the picture, we got it from the Delta bore holes.

**EIR:** From what is now offshore?

**Said:** Well, also, and on the Delta proper.

**EIR:** This is fascinating. Did you ever get involved with colleagues elsewhere, on the Indus River or other places? Or were you busy enough in Egypt?

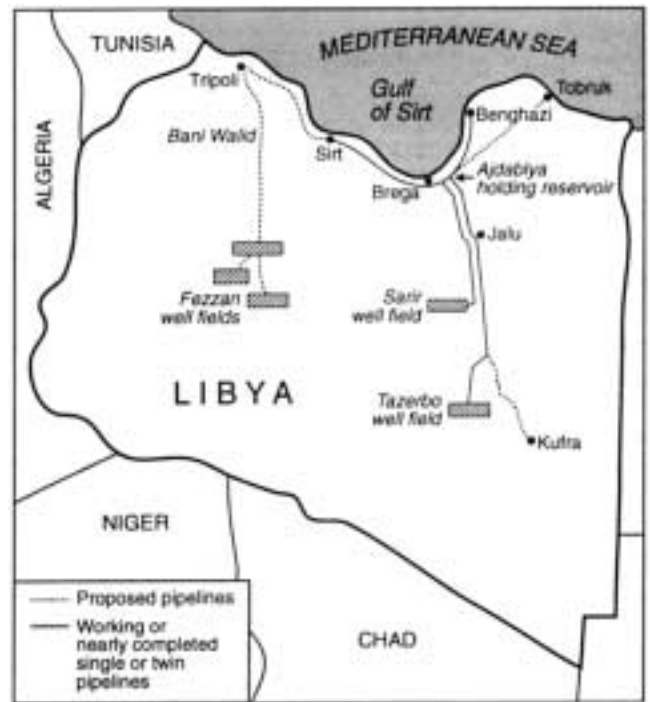
**Said:** No, we were busy enough in Egypt, really. However, I had great activity in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, when I was a Member of Parliament. I was representing Egypt on the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

**EIR:** What parliaments did that involve?

**Said:** That's all the parliaments in the world. But at that time, you know, the Third World countries had a great say in world affairs: the Non-Aligned Movement.

**EIR:** Now, again, there is a reassertion in recent months. You had a chance, a couple of years ago, to hear Lyndon LaRouche's wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, review the progress on the world "Land-Bridge" approach to reconstruction. And in the ensuing months, many non-aligned nations have forged ahead with new commitments for projects—Malaysia, India, China, and Russia. For example, there is motion on the

## Design of Libya's 'Great Man-Made River'



*A map of Libya's "Great Man-Made River" which began to flow with subterranean "fossil water" in late 1991. Dr. Said, who worked on this project, points out that the sources under the desert will not recharge (though some scholars believe limited recharging is occurring). "So the solution is to use that limited fossil water into a more useful thing—into manufacturing."*

great Mekong River collaboration. What do you think of this momentum, and of Mr. LaRouche's efforts—which you have had a chance to look at?

**Said:** Well, I think he's on the right track, regarding the future of the non-aligned nations. Because what's happening today is a very sad situation, in having this superpower doing everything, without consulting with anybody, including its own allies. It's a sad situation.

And also, what is even more sad, is what came today in the newspapers that Mr. Bush gets his orders from God himself! He said that God has inspired him to go into Afghanistan; and that He inspired him also to go into Iraq, and now He is inspiring him to solve the problem of Palestine.

It's a totally different world than the one that I knew before.

**EIR:** Well, I think that natural law and God's universe might re-assert itself. But I think that some other people are speaking to President Bush! We have been identifying people—like Dick Cheney, or Mr. Wolfowitz, or Mr. Rumsfeld—in other words, a grouping that has a continuity for decades that was

opposed to national-interest development, and foreign policy based on that. So, I think there is reason for hopefulness, that we can break through today.

Did you participate in the past in some of the Non-Aligned Movement conferences directly?

**Said:** Yes. That was long ago, you know.

**EIR:** The one in Colombo, in Sri Lanka [in 1976]?

**Said:** I was at the one in Colombo in particular. At that time, you know, there was some weight for these countries. And they were working on developmental plans. Now everybody is talking about globalization and opening up for trade, and if you do that, then there will be no chance for the weak, to have a place in this global economy.

**EIR:** Right; well the last 30 years of propaganda asserted that free trade was going to be good for everybody, although the record shows how terrible it has been. Look at North America, and the North American Free Trade Pact.

**Said:** South America.

**EIR:** Yes. Of course, there was this push that this [free trade/globalization] was what had to go on in Egypt and the Middle East, the so-called “Open Door” policy, or privatization. But you were on a development policy-industrialization committee, were you not?

**Said:** Yes. I was.

**EIR:** It would be the opposite approach.

**Said:** Opposite approach—exactly!

**EIR:** When was that?

**Said:** It was in the '60s, mainly. The greatest push in industrialization. We had a Five Year Plan in 1960 through '65. That's when Egypt really started to industrialize. It started to go out of the medieval times.

**EIR:** The new steel industry. And aluminum?

**Said:** The steel industry, and also many other industries too. I would say maybe a hundred industries came in, from aluminum, ferro, silicon, fertilizer industries. So, many industries, you know. Coke industry. Also an arsenal, in Alexandria. Many, many industries were developed at that time. Of course, now they are being privatized, and many of them are closed down. Take for example—I'll tell you a very good example of this—the agricultural industries. These started a little bit earlier, but, you know, they grew a great deal.

**EIR:** You mean food processing?

**Said:** Food-processing industries. Now they are starting to privatize them. So what happened is that a Saudi Arabian would come and would buy that company.

**EIR:** From the state?

**Said:** From Egypt. This particular case happened last year: a cannery, a very famous one, Quaha. It's a very big company, and it was well known all over the Middle East. And then it was privatized, bought by a Saudi company—not a company, a private person, who wanted to have that company stationed in Saudi Arabia itself. So he closed the one in Cairo, and now opened it in Saudi Arabia, and now Egypt imports its food from Saudi Arabia! So an agricultural land imports its food from a desert land area. This is how things are, you know.

**EIR:** I do think we are at the end phase of this globalization—what you are describing is a classic case of globalization, and it may be particular to the Mideast, but we have it all over the world. And we are at the end-phase of this being able to continue.

**Said:** I hope so. I really hope so, because this cannot last. You know we are living now on whatever the past days achieved. We are living also on the legacy of this past. If there is any social peace in a country like Egypt, it is because of the legacy of the past. What *remains* of that past.

For example, banks are not yet privatized. But once you privatize the banks, Egypt will be like Argentina or Brazil. Soaring inflation, corruption, and so on. But there is a great pressure on Egypt to privatize its banks, and if it does, that will be a disaster.

**EIR:** There have been some seminars at the University of Cairo, for the discussion of ideas as proposed by LaRouche, for emergency action of the type of a “New Bretton Woods,” to set aside the rotten old debts, that are unpayable, and pursue policies opposed to privatization, but to restore credit—low interest and long term, for rebuilding national-interest industries and infrastructure. You may have heard of Prof. Mohammed Selim or others in this discussion, in which LaRouche is getting a hearing in Cairo [see *EIR*, April 13, 2001; May 25, 2001].

**Said:** Yes, I know, not about this particularly. But I have heard about other activities in this vein. Unfortunately this is not the line of policy that is being taken by the Egyptian government. It is pursuing a policy that I think will be disastrous for Egypt. I keep telling them, be careful. Because if you dismantle all of what the '60s and '70s policies were, you will have a very hard time in Egypt. You know, they now want to end subsidies.

**EIR:** For food?

**Said:** Yes, for food. Cancel all privileges, you know, in cases of social security, free education, free health services, and so on. They want to terminate these programs. They have not yet done so.

They also want to raise the rental level. You know the rents are frozen in many old houses. They also want to unfreeze that. If they do, I think there will be a disaster in Egypt.

But, you see, I have a feeling, that at least in the case of Egypt, the leadership is reasonably conscious of these problems, although the pressures are *enormous* from the Americans on Egypt to privatize, and end all these social programs. It will be really, a disaster.

**EIR:** Well, you've been through fights in the past. You've been through fighting for policies on a national and international level. You've seen the United States turning itself into a bubble economy—now based on home mortgages, instead of on industry and agriculture. So you could look at this bubble economy as it breaks down, as an opportunity to go back to what used to work in the past. From that point

of view the lessons of your own experience, of designating which industries, and how to proceed and move on agriculture—

**Said:** You know you have to have an economy based on manufacturing! I don't understand this economy that is based on, as you say, a bubble economy, that is based on speculation and so on. Wall Street paper exchanging hands.

**EIR:** Some of the things Egypt has done, with your scientific experience, are of great general interest. There were the satellite overflights of Egypt by Farouk El Baz and others, which detected fossil water in the West Egypt Desert, and saw some

## What Sank Heraklion and East Canopus?

**EIR:** There was a controversy over ruins recently discovered, of sunken towns under the Mediterranean off the northern coast of Egypt. You pointed to this a couple of years ago. We hear that the dispute involved how these towns would have come to be submerged, and it involves knowing the history of the Nile.

**Said:** You know, this is an interesting thing. There is this town that was found submerged. It's named Herakleion. There are two towns—Herakleion and East Canopus, found to the east of Alexandria, on a place called Abu Qir Bay. They found a whole city, with temples and homes and monasteries and everything, and churches too. And so they found out that it just went under the sea.

Most people believe that it was done through an earthquake. That this happened, by an earthquake.

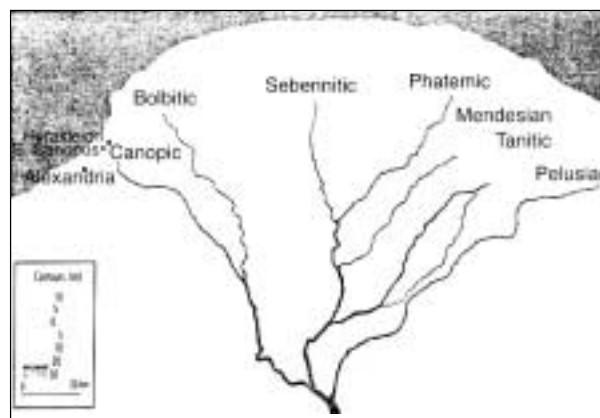
Now that they have done some submarine archeology, they found many artifacts. Among the artifacts they have found, were coins. So they found coins that were used—that were minted, at 750 A.D. So that means that the city was standing at that time. So that if it had gone under, it must have gone under around 800 A.D.—50 years after that. So now we knew that it had sunk under water at 800 A.D. At that time, we knew that *there were no earthquakes*. The big earthquake that ruined the pharaohs' big lighthouse—the famous lighthouse—was at 1103 A.D.

And so this has not—it could not have been done by an earthquake, because we have no record of an earthquake between 750 and 850 A.D.

So there was a gentleman called Stanley, who said, it was probably a flood of the Nile that came in and destroyed that city. A *big flood* that happened in the year 800.

I don't believe so. Because, even though Herakleion

### Ancient Nile



*The Nile Delta showing the river's ancient branches, after a drawing in Dr. Said's book on the Nile, with the sunken cities of Herakleion and Canopus on the dried-up Canopic branch.*

was built at the mouth of one of the Delta branches—but that branch had silted up two hundred years earlier. And when it was silted up, this is why they built Alexandria. You know, there was no water, so it was left behind for 200 years, to decay.

So my theory is that, the town was deserted, because it did not have any water. The Nile stopped coming to it.

**EIR:** So instead of being flooded, it just had to be abandoned?

**Said:** It had to be abandoned. In 200 years, it deteriorated, and fell down. Just by mere deterioration. This had happened many times in Egypt, you know. You just leave a place. Especially those that are on the sea front. You just leave it to decay. You don't repair it, you just leave it, until it decays and goes under. So this is my theory.



*Modern textile manufacture in Egypt; a power plant along the Nile. Dr. Said is convinced that Egypt should develop new water resources, but for industry and manufacturing; and that Sudan is the regional agricultural key in terms of using new water sources to expand both arable land and productivity. This requires the civil war in Sudan be ended, and the Sudd water resources be developed for southern Sudan.*

other things—speaking of agriculture, and geology relative to agriculture potential. If we could have the financial situation taken care of, and end the globalization, what would you like to see happening in Egypt?

**Said:** You know, I would use my resources in a different way. I would do it in manufacturing, not in agriculture. Because, you know, whatever you may say about the groundwater in Egypt and so on, it's very difficult to lift it up. It needs a lot of energy. And it would be very expensive.

**EIR:** Is it deep or difficult, or both?

**Said:** It's deep, and you need a lot of energy to lift it up out of the ground. So it will make agriculture very expensive. So the solution is to use that limited fossil water for a more useful thing—into manufacturing. Use it for manufacturing, for industry, rather than agriculture.

This is the difference that I had with Farouk El Baz, you know. He wanted to have these big agricultural projects. So I

told him, they are very expensive, and not viable. They are not viable. Because the water would be a very expensive commodity, if you just imagine that you will have a deep well of 600 meters below the surface of the Earth—2,000 feet, to lift it up.

**EIR:** Is something like that involved in the West Egypt Desert?

**Said:** Yes. Between 400 and 600 meters.

**EIR:** Is that the case too, in the case of the Libyan water they are lifting up into their "New River"?

**Said:** This "New River" also is a joke. You know, I worked on that "River." And my suggestion was, rather than moving it to the north, just keep it there [in southern Libya]. And since you will have farmers from Egypt anyhow coming, bring them to the south. Because it's very expensive to transport that water.



**EIR:** Well, they built the pipeline.

**Said:** By building that pipeline, and transporting it, look at how much energy—to lift it up, and the investment, the capital investment is enormous.

**EIR:** Of course, if we could go back 40 years, and proceed with the nuclear-powered desalination, that would be the addition to the resource base.

**Said:** Yes, that's another thing. But you know, the groundwater should be used where it is, and in manufacturing industries. First of all, it's fossil water. Once you get it, you don't replace it.

**EIR:** How old geologically?

**Said:** You know, we have data that puts it back to the age of 35,000 years ago.

**EIR:** So not too old.

**Said:** No, not too old. Not too old, because there was a rainy period in Egypt at that time.

**EIR:** And the water went northward into the Mediterranean.

**Said:** North. How do you replace that water, by rain? And there is no rain now in this desert. In the Sahara, there is no rain. But there was rain at that time. A big rain, too.

**EIR:** Then you would go for industry for Egypt, and then maybe elsewhere, as in Sudan, have more agriculture?

**Said:** That's it. Sudan is another story. It has big land. It has lots of water. It has rainy areas and rivers. Not only the Nile, they have other rivers too.

**EIR:** So this would be the mutual interest of all of North Africa and the Middle East—division of labor based on resources?

**Said:** Now, if you can have—the best union you can have, is with the Sudan, of course. And that's why—you know, the history of Egypt was tied with the Sudan, all the time. The separation of the two countries is bad for the Sudan, and bad for Egypt.

**EIR:** Did you have personal experience with the Jonglei Canal Project in the Sudd, which got part way done? And then it was squashed by the globalizers.

**Said:** Well, it's not so much by the globalizers. It was the civil war. What do you think? I'd like to know. Because I have my own ideas about the Jonglei Canal.

**EIR:** I am interested in your ideas on the Canal. But on the encouragement of civil wars, there's plenty of international intelligence networks behind Mr. Garang and the rest. Whether it's Northern Ireland, or southern Sudan, look at who is promoting such strife. Especially when the area is so strategically located, with such a fabulous ancient resource as

the great Nile.

**Said:** This way, I do agree, of course; but what I see is that it is the civil war that did it. It is very foolish of the Sudanese to go ahead with the civil war.

**EIR:** It's easy to be isolated.

What do you think of the hydrology of making a clear channel in the Sudd?

**Said:** Why do it?

**EIR:** I am not an expert. Prevent evaporation, send more downstream, and develop the region too. You are the expert!

**Said:** Well, I tell you. You are doing it to get it to Egypt. To get the water to Egypt, and to northern Sudan. You are making the project—the Jonglei Canal, for the benefit of Egypt and northern Sudan. There is lots of water in southern Sudan, which is untapped and is lost. So you want to get part of that water for Egypt and for northern Sudan.

First of all, in Egypt, you don't have a place to store that water. With the Aswan High Dam, what you have now is a full-brim dam. Any additional water will go into the desert. That's what we experienced when the floods were high during the '90s.

**EIR:** So there is no other impoundment potential?

**Said:** No other impoundment potential in Egypt. And then, northern Sudan has more than its share in the wealth of the Sudan. This is why the international forces are playing all these games. It is an unfair division of the wealth. All the wealth—all the power, is in the north. No, you don't do the Jonglei Canal, you use that water *in* the south.

**EIR:** From a resource point of view, what are the features involved. How do you use it?

**Said:** You drain that area.

**EIR:** Designated channels?

**Said:** Yes. Designated channels. It's a big land, an enormous land.

**EIR:** For navigation, organized agriculture?

**Said:** Oh, it can be used enormously. This is a beautiful area to develop. But unfortunately it is now left for the tribal chiefs and the warlords. It's a sad situation.

**EIR:** So you mean an overall infrastructure improvement approach.

Have you heard some of the news of Italy coming forward in the European Union, to say, let's resume the rail transportation projects, and fund infrastructure? The nation of Italy has set up Infrastrutture Spa—Infrastructure, Inc., and Italy will head the European Union for six months.

**Said:** No, I did not hear this. But it would be good to see it materialize!