

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



الرئيس

The President

November 10, 2002

Dear Congressman Waxman,

I received with appreciation your letter dated November 4, 2002 regarding the television series "Horseman without a Horse". It is in the spirit of the special relationship between our two countries that I always welcome communications from members of Congress as part of an open and constructive dialogue designed to promote further understanding and cooperation.

In recent days, a campaign has been organized to express concern regarding the aforementioned television series being broadcast on Egyptian and Arab television stations. Allegations have been made that the series was based on the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", that the Egyptian government backed its contents, and that the program is further evidence of anti-Semitic tendencies in the Egyptian and Arab media and press. These judgments were made even before the show was broadcast and thus without even being seen.

Let me set the record straight. The series was produced by a television station which is at least 80%-owned by the private sector. It tells a fictional story of an Egyptian who struggles against the British occupation of Egypt at the end of the 19th century through the early 20th century. While the series does refer very briefly to the protocols, within the context of that historical time period, it is in no way based on the "Protocols of Elders of Zion" and does not try to prove or disprove them. Furthermore, when the series mentions the Protocols, it includes the Jewish perspective stating that they were a fabrication. It is also noteworthy to mention that the series is stressing all along

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that people of the book (Muslims, Christians and Jews) should live together in peace.

I would like, dear friend, to assure you that the Egyptian people, as a Semitic people also, is totally against anti-Semitic tendencies. Thus, the Egyptian Government, and particularly the Egyptian television, cannot allow broadcasting any materials that carry these awful tendencies, even if it is recorded in our Free Zone for production and distribution by other independent producers such as in this particular series. In doing so, the Egyptian government is first and foremost protecting the values that constitute the basis of our people's strong belief in peace, understanding, tolerance and dialogue between all religions, societies and civilizations

While there may be infrequent differences in views between our countries, the Egyptian - American strategic relationship is based on numerous shared interests and common goals. Egypt was the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, and our peace treaty remains the cornerstone of the peace process. Egypt's leadership and support have been and will continue to be essential to further progress in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and to broader peace in the region. Our commitment to peace and tolerance in the region is unmatched and is constantly reaffirmed in both statements and deeds.

It is disappointing to us that these facts go ignored. Accusations made before the program is even viewed and requests to prevent the broadcast of the program, appear to be counter to both American and Egyptian values which emphasize the importance of freedom of expression, even when objectionable viewpoints are expressed. It is further disappointing that when some individuals in the United States and Israel make despicable, intolerant characterization of Islam and

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the prophet Mohammed, they usually go unchallenged by the United States Congress or Administration.

We have to strive together, with Israel, for peace and stability in our region. We should not deviate from that course under any circumstances. We should not deviate also from our democratic principles of freedom of expression if this expression does not infringe on other's faith or beliefs. Therefore, I believe that you should hold your judgment of this series till you have a chance to see it, and I am confident that you will find nothing against neither Judaism nor the state of Israel.

I believe that with this sincere dialogue and positive spirit prevailing among us we can make a huge difference that would lead to better understanding of our real intentions based on true evaluations not on mere accusations.

With my highest considerations.

Sincerely,

*Mohammed Hosny Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt*

*H.E. Mr. Henry A. Waxman
Member of the United States Congress*