



THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, January 15, 2020

Your Excellency,

Today is a day to celebrate in the history of the relations between our two countries. As I write to you, natural gas has begun flowing from the Israeli Leviathan gas field to Egypt, linking our two countries and our two peoples. The flow of gas brings with it not only benefits to our economies, but also makes real the connection between Egypt and Israel after over 40 years of peaceful relations.

Mr. President, the State of Israel sees our relationship with the Arab Republic of Egypt as a strategic asset. It is a vital component of regional stability and an example of what is possible in future relations across the Middle East. Our political and security cooperation are already strong foundations that bring stability and security to both our peoples, and I believe that we can widen our cooperation to additional civilian fields.

The agreement on natural gas that we are celebrating today is just one example of the many ways we can work more closely together, bringing benefit to all. I hope that our respective private sectors and entrepreneurs, some of whom I welcomed to Beit HaNasi in Jerusalem last week, will see this as an opportunity to develop many more such projects.

By looking for ways to connect our peoples, we can ensure that the values of peace that our courageous leaders bequeathed us in the historic peace treaty become part of today's relations between the next generations of Israelis and Egyptians. Bringing the fruits of peace to our peoples would be the greatest tribute to their brave leadership and the best guarantee of a better, safer future for us all.

Mr. President, our region is undergoing a period of profound change. As leaders of our peoples with their interests at heart, I hope we can add our contribution to the important work begun by our predecessors in search of stability and peace. I would welcome the opportunity to meet you in person in the near future.

Please accept my warmest regards of friendship,

Best wishes

R. Rivlin

Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin

رؤبين ريبلين

His Excellency

Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

President of the Arab Republic of Egypt