Transcript for Interview with Bruce Rutherford

**Interviewer:** To what extent were the Accords a success or a failure?

**Bruce Rutherford:** The fundamental objective of the accords was to end the state of war between Egypt and Israel. They have been remarkably successful in this regard. Egypt and Israel have remained at peace. When they had a substantial point of disagreement with regard to Taba (a small bit of land at the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba) they resolved it through arbitration, rather than through armed conflict.  However, many of the people involved in the Camp David Accords hoped that they would be the starting point for a broader regional peace between Israel and all of the countries of the Arab world. This broader peace has not been achieved.

**Interviewer:** Was Sadat's failure to deal with the Jerusalem & Palestine issues a central factor leading to his assassination?

**Rutherford:** It was certainly a contributing factor. The people who assassinated Sadat objected to the entire peace process as well as to Sadat’s efforts to open Egypt to the Western world.

**Interviewer:** Would you consider this agreement to be a turning point in history?

**Rutherford:** I have reservations about calling it a turning point for two reasons. Firstly, as mentioned above, it did not lead to the broader regional peace that many had hoped. Secondly, the Camp David Accords did not lead to a deeply rooted peace between the Egyptian and Israeli peoples. The two countries have not engaged in war against one another, which is certainly an important and significant accomplishment. However, Egyptians and Israelis still regard one another with great suspicion and have not engaged in the broader economic and cultural cooperation that is needed for a deeply-rooted peace between the two countries.