

organizations and entered the new front whose backbone was the ANM. Later, the Revolutionary Vanguard, the Secret Organization of South Yemen Liberals, and the Mahrah Youth joined the Front.³² In the U.A.R. the ANM hardcore nucleus was put at the disposal of Nasser and the Arab Socialist Union as a sign of faith in Nasser's leadership.³³

Throughout 1964 and 1965, the ANM was in close contact with Nasser and the process of uniting the Nasserite groups at the regional level seemed to be working fairly well. As a matter of fact, the Ibrahim Group took the initiative at the National Congress of 1965 to propose the merger of the ANM into Nasserism at the national level. The Ibrahim group carried the majority of the Congress members with them and thus embarked on an ambitious program whose objective was the creation of a new Arab socialist movement based on a working-class structure, a clear socialist ideology and a unified organization. Nasser was approached with this idea by Muhsin Ibrahim himself who was overwhelmed to see the President ready and willing to start on this common venture. However, this happy pursuit did not last very long for though Nasser was receptive to the idea from the very beginning, Zakariya Muhyi al-Din, his right-hand man, and other members of his entourage were not so sympathetic.³⁴ Besides, it was

³² Maktab al-amanah al-'amah [The General Secretariat Office], Tagrir 'an al-jinub al-'arabi, [Report on South Arabia], pp. 1-2.

³³ Ibrahim, loc. cit.

³⁴ Ibid.