

Interview with YSP General Secretary

«Our Socialist Orientation Emerged Victorious»

INTERVIEW WITH ALI SALEM AL BEED, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE YEMENI SOCIALIST PARTY(YSP)

Democratic Yemen faced painful events on January 13th, causing sorrow to all progressive Arabs. All forces opposed to the revolution started a campaign against Democratic Yemen, questioning the possibility of success for Marxist-Leninist theory in any part of the Arab world. What is your view about this campaign?

This campaign by forces opposed to our revolution is not new. We have constantly experienced it, but this time it is particularly intense and hateful. In our view, this is because the forces waging this campaign were behind the events of January 13th. They counted on succeeding in striking our party and revolutionary experiment, and returning our country to neo-colonial domination. However, our party, with the support of the masses of our people, was able to contain these events and foil this conspiracy and its figures. The socialist orientation, the theory of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism emerged victorious. Consequently, these forces were filled with hatred and anger towards our party and revolution. They could only try to cover up their defeat by absurd lies and false analysis about our socialist orientation, claiming that it is not applicable in our country, or in other newly liberated countries.

Concerning overcoming the effects of the conspiracy: Our party, mass and governmental activities were geared towards healing the wounds, consolidating the national unity of our people and rebuilding what was destroyed by the conspirators. The decision to grant a general amnesty showed the democratic nature of our progressive system, as did the party leadership's concern for reeducating those who had been misled. The general amnesty has been extended until the end of 1986. It has facilitated the release of 3,000 persons involved in the events of January 13th. Others have returned to the republic. All of them have a secure, stable life with their families, and conduct their work and daily life in total freedom.

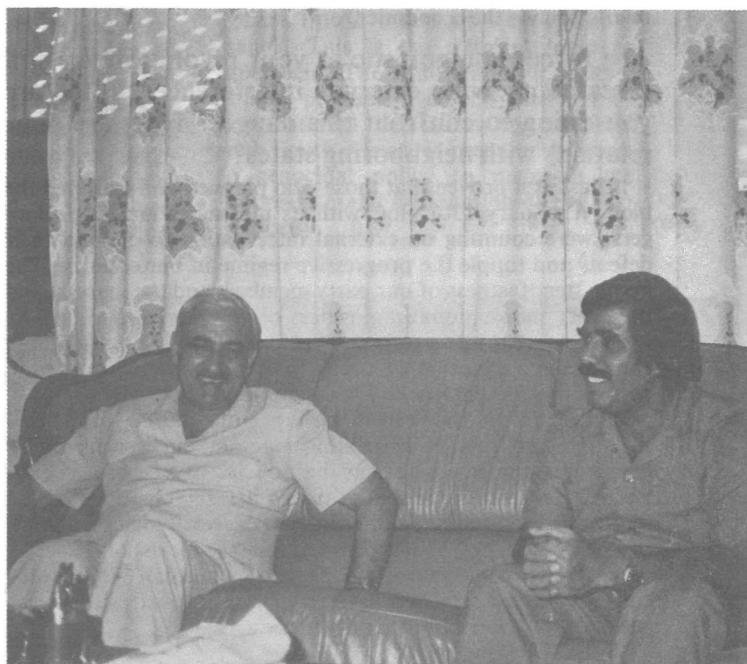
What are your priorities for development on the party and state level?

After the events of January 13th, we face great, new, complicated tasks because of the destructive effects of the conspiracy on the life of the party, state and society. The leadership of our party put a lot of emphasis on the tasks of rebuilding the party, mass organizations and governmental apparatus that were negatively affected by the conspiracy. This rebuilding will be carried out in a manner that consolidates the leadership role of the party in the society.

We have big accomplishments so far. We restored the electoral process of the party organizations in Aden, Ibyen and Shabwa, where the conspirators, Ali Nasser Mohammed and his clique, had suspended the electoral process, the internal regulations and the directives of the Central Committee in May 1985. They did so because of the clear loss suffered by elements supporting the conspirators at that time. Now we are ready to

resume these processes by convening conferences of sections and districts. We have already completed the electoral process for all base organizations of the party.

We also made big accomplishments in rebuilding the mass organizations. We have convened the general congresses of the Women's Union, the Popular Defense Committees and the Union of Fattah's Yemeni Socialist Youth (named after Abdul Fattah Ismail, a founder of the Yemeni Socialist Party, who was murdered by the conspirators in the events of January 13th). We are preparing for the congresses of the other mass organizations in the coming period.



Comrades George Habash and Ali Salem Al Beed

We also had great success in the sphere of rebuilding the state and government institutions and the local government apparatus. There are now preparations for the election of the Supreme People's Council and local people's councils, that will start in October.

These activities are taking place along with mass and party preparation for a party conference. This conference will evaluate the development of the revolutionary process in our country in the light of the document being prepared, to be presented to the Central Committee and submitted to discussion and approval at the conference.

Imperialist and reactionary forces are attempting to undermine Democratic Yemen from within by creating financial problems. How will you face this?

The economic front remains paramount in the plans of the forces antagonistic to our revolution. These plans aim at toppling our progressive regime from within, after the failure of ➤