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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

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DOCUMENTS
OF THE
GENERAL UNION OF THE WOMEN
OF YEMEN

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THE FIRST GENERAL CONGRESS
OF THE YEMENI WOMAN
HELD IN SAIUN, FIFTH GOVERNORATE,
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
IN THE PERIOD 15 - 16 JULY, 1974



FOREWORD

This booklet placed before you by the General Union of the Women of Yemen is considered an original reference on the struggle of the Yemeni Woman since the very beginning of the growth and formation of the Women's movement in our country.

This booklet is distinguished by containing in between its covers the following documents:—

- (1) A Study of the status of the Yemeni Woman.
- (2) The Programme of the General Union of the Women of Yemen.
- (3) The Fundamental Order of the General Union of the Women of Yemen.

These three documents which are of considerable importance were forwarded as proposed schemes to the First Congress of the Yemeni Woman convened at Seiyun in the Fifth Governorate during the period from 15 to 16 July, 1974.

After elaborate democratic discussions of these documents by members of the Congress, the aforesaid three documents were adopted and have become a guide of work to direct and lead the activity of the General Union of the Women of Yemen.

The resolutions passed in the Congress and included as a document within this book are considered the source of activity of the General Union of the Women of Yemen during the period stretching from the First Congress to the Second Congress of the Union.

The Study of the status of the Yemeni Woman aims at the theoretical and real definition of the nature of hardships and problems which have been endured by the Yemeni Woman during the presence of the British colonial occupation and the feudal-sultanatic and reactionary-stooge rule. The study deals with the role of the Yemeni Woman after national salvation and declaration of national sovereignty in the battle of development and construction which is existing at present in our country for creating whatever new and progressive in *Independent Yemen - the New Yemen*.

If we were to consider the Fundamental Order of the Union as the Constitution which governs and directs the Women's Movement in Democratic Yemen; similarly, the Programme of the General Union of the Women of Yemen is considered the minimum-limit scheme of the struggle of the Woman for the defence of the Yemeni Revolution and for effective participation in executing the economic and social development plans.

The Woman in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, especially after the Corrective Movement of 22nd June, 1969, has achieved equal rights with Man in work and production and has shouldered revolutionary duties. In the course of the daily struggle, the Yemeni Woman should have a dialectic combination between her struggle aiming at attaining her rights and her struggling responsibilities for revolutionary advancement in performing her duties *as a New Revolutionary Human Being*.

The General Union of The Women of Yemen.

TEXT OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY COMRADE SALEM ROBAYA ALI AT THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE YEMENI WOMAN IN SEIYUN/FIFTH GOVERNORATE

Comrade Members of the Congress,

Comrade Observers,

Dear Guests from brotherly and friendly countries,

Comrade Attendants :

I wish to convey the greetings of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau of the Political Organization, the National Front, hoping for the Congress of the Yemeni Women every success in its work. The Political Organization, the National Front, pays great attention to the cause of the Yemeni Woman and to the importance of her positive and effective participation in the political and social life in our country. This cannot be realized except by obstinate class struggle not only by the Yemeni Woman, but by all masses of the people of interest in progress and development in our country.

Comrades :

The Yemeni Woman lived in the shade of colonialistic and reactionary rule in Yemen under extreme types of humiliation, degradation, oppression and exploitation.

The Yemeni Woman as well was deprived of her right to work and this means that the Yemeni Woman was deprived of her right to earn her living freely and honourably.

The Yemeni Woman was and is still deprived of her right of equality with man. Not only that, but she was also despised and considered a worthless thing. This social intercourse was not the end of the matter but what is most striking is that the Yemeni Woman is treated by grievous beating and painful words in the case of any occurrence of the simplest family differences. It is no wonder if we say that the father, the brother and the husband are the legitimate floggers and perhaps

two of the three agree to execute together the punishment of flogging.

As for exploiting and oppressing the woman in the house, this has become an indisputable matter which cannot be argued and when you attempt to discuss it, you simply discuss the possibility of sunrise from the direction of sunset. As regards woman's work, her participation in production and the nature of relationship with the employer whether it be in the public or the private sector, the Yemeni Woman is still treated within the principle of : "A male shall have the share of two females" whatever the outcome equals that of man or perhaps her production is superior to that of man. If the woman working in town does not feel this relationship due to the existence of conditions of the civil service, the woman up-country particularly that who works in the rural economy suffers the bitterness of both the behaviour of discrimination and inequality between woman and man in acquiring her wages for the power of her work. With regard to the relations of marriage, the personal, social and spiritual issue, the Yemeni Woman was and is still living in isolation from determining this important fate which touches her life, stability and happiness. Still in various places, some reactionary families are exercising the operation of isolating the woman from the effective contribution in the question of the future of her marriage life. We cannot only say that the Woman is the last person to know who will be her husband, but also we can confirm that the woman at certain places in the republic is sold like a sheep with the differences of putting the white turban of the KADI on both hands, a censer of incense and recital of the first sura (of Koran); as such what is the result;

The result is suicide or divorce or a very bad marriage life in the house in consequence of dissatisfaction with this imposed marriage.

These are some of the tragedies of woman. Hence, the question arises as to how the Yemeni Woman treated these diseases. The Yemeni Woman who lived as divested from all her legitimate weapons which can be used by her for defending herself against all despotic styles, could not find a way out but to resort to use the negative struggle for facing these hardships in the absence of an instrument to assemble around it and with the existence of laws and customs of feudalism and colonialism. The Yemeni Woman resorted to negative defence represented

by suicide and disobedience i.e. to part from marriage obedience. This creates a stumbling marriage life or the entry into an adventure betaking to death in case of disappointment - it is the adventure of "The Deserter" i.e. her flight with whom she loves to a place unknown to her relatives and with unknown interests. This is but the use of solutions full of misery, pains and distress. But, comrades, since the victory of the socialist revolution and the downfall of a fortress of feudalism and monopoly by virtue of the victory of the glorious October Revolution in Russia in 1917 whereby liberation struggle emerged in various parts of the World, thus, exploding class proletariat conflicts which were among the fundamental and important means of refuting and fighting social, class and racial oppression and realized equality of class concept but not only for realizing justice for the oppressed people in the community but also the equality of woman with man in rights and duties has been realized.

Comrades and All Attendant - Comrades :

With the people's uprising which lasted for one century and a quarter of a century and crowned by people's war expressed by our masses on the glorious 14th Day of October, 1963 from the peaks of Radfan Mountains and which covered four years of historic war of heroism of our people with a great fierce battle of people's struggle, our people will boast of it for generations to come after having thrown out and for ever colonialist and feudalist rule throughout a period of 129 years. At this long stage of the history of our people's struggle, the Yemeni Woman took part with splendid enthusiasm and sacrificed with spirit and blood alongside her brotherman. Several women of Yemen have fallen down for the sake of freedom and national independence. The air raids of the enemy upcountry and his machine guns in towns never distinguished between woman and man and between the child and the elderly. The woman was grieved not only for the martyrdom of her son the child or of her young son - the light of her life, but also she was injured by bullets of the enemy and fragments of his guns. The Woman upcountry and in towns carried out the distribution of leaflets, the storage of weapons and the transportation of military supplies to the fighters; she also acted as an honest messenger and offered food. Strictly speaking, the Yemeni Woman opened her arms and embraced the revolution and its men without hesitation until

our people wrested independence on the 30th of November, 1967.

Comrades :

The struggle of the Yemeni Woman in our country after wresting of independence is being transformed into another direction. Some sort of satisfaction is as such prevailing within the ranks of men and women. But it can be said truthfully that the woman in our country had her share of satisfaction and needs for more attention than it is the case with man. This is not a degradation of the role of the woman and even not an exaggeration of the role of man. I cannot mention the story of those who as asked for the reply to the matter pertaining to the fate of their personal life if their ages reached twenty-six years and the revolution continued for four years or more. This matter arose in 1966. We cannot mention the story of the wavelike marriages and the search for the solution of this matter by all forms of mediations and various means; but even some of them were recruited to solve the personal matter of their comrades and have not cared to look at the great dangers faced by the revolution on the eve of independence because the matter outweighed the national matters and the endangered destiny of the revolution.

Comrades :

Whatever remarks we have stated do not mean that we are looking for a mass organization for nuns. That is why we do not intend to set up a new church in our country. We are satisfied with the existing 360 mosques of Terim. We realize human relations and we have to organize them and make solutions for old traditions and despotic styles of social relations. This comes within the deeds of the General Union of the Women of Yemen in particular and the Yemeni Woman in general. We have to confirm that the solution of old relations in this concern cannot be effected by personal action and individual solutions. Each personal and individual solution will be limited or surrounded by dangers. An associate of such a solution will live nearer to subjection to old customs and traditions away from the new understanding of the new human relations in our country. We do not want the woman to be under despotism in the manner of military readiness for the battle in response to the personal desire of

man. But, we want the woman to link this relation with the principle of her connection with the new understanding of human relations and also its adherence to the cause of the struggle for the preservation of national independence, national policy and the protection of the fundamentals of the national policy and to sacrifice for it.

Comrades :

By all that has been stated we mean to make use of our experiment and we are pushed by our strong eagerness to strive shoulder to shoulder for the sake of building a human struggling experiment in our country making advantage of the various human experiments for constructing a concrete edifice of the structure of the Yemeni family which depends on the woman as a foundation of this habit. I hope that the foundation be a solid one so as to embark on it the pillars of the bright future free from each and every element of despotism, oppression and exploitation of human being by a human being.

Comrades :

Our common struggle for building the Yemen does not originate from keeping our society living in the darkness of ignorance, political and alphabetical illiteracy. Also, we cannot build our country by submission to reliance, laziness and escaping from work and production. The freedom of the woman does not lie in the fact of taking off the "veil" and unveiledness as has happened in certain governorates where it caused a lot of errors which obliged the Organization to make great efforts for dealing with such errors. This understanding of the freedom of woman is a wrong and killing one since it enables the reactionaries, the imperialists and their agents to employ new weapons against the revolution. The freedom of the woman lies in the fact that we are to prepare her fully in the sphere of knowledge and education and to inculcate in her mind new traditions that lie in the secret of her love of work and production and to consider work a holy thing which should be respected and adhered to. When the Yemeni Woman has occupied her position in locations of work and production and established herself efficiently there, then, it can be said that the Yemeni Woman has overstepped the stages of retreat backward . . . the stages of class oppression and despotism whereby she had made firm strides for the sake of her real freedom.

Comrades :

The common struggle against ignorance and for the sake of love of work is inevitable.

Long live the struggle of the Yemeni Woman.

Long live the General Union of the Women of Yemen.

Long live the Political Organization, the National Front.

Study on Conditions of Yemeni Women

Preamble :

To the extent that the toiling classes are able to destroy the exploiting class systems and construct the new society upon the ruins of the old ones, to that extent are women able to acquire a degree of liberation which is day by day consolidated through the destruction of the old production relations and the totality of ideological remnants that are reflected by them. This means that the liberation of women ought not to be gauged by the degree to which they are able to go out unveiled or their ability to acquire the opportunities for education. The liberation of women is very inseparably linked to the struggles of the toiling classes for the construction of the new society wherein women are accorded the opportunity to enlist in productive work and thereby attain their economic independence.

The main reason for women in exploiting societies remaining subject to oppression and subjugation - and in particular toiling women (the workers and poor peasants) suffering dual oppression : that of the classes owning the means of production and that of husbands at home - is that such women are unable to free themselves from dependence upon husbands or fathers for subsistence. Thus, women enlisting in productive work and becoming self-sustaining is a condition for their liberation from slavery to men. The expression goes, "Women are still in a miserable condition undertaking the burdens of the home. To completely free them and make them genuinely equal with men, the economy should be a collective one and women should contribute to joint productive work. Then only will women's conditions be equal with that of men".

Thus, in socialist countries where the proletariat has destroyed private ownership forms and transformed them into collective and co-operative ownership, women have been able to play their role as effective members of society. They have not only achieved their economic independence but have also

gained essential facilities for their condition as mothers (nurseries, kinder-gartens, free education, free medical care, etc.). This contrasts with the condition of women in capitalist countries where working women bear a dual burden by enlisting in hired labour to assist husbands in maintaining the family and fulfilling their household tasks as wives and mothers. Working women in capitalist countries have added a further burden to that of strenuous household work by enlisting in hired labour. However, the capitalist states care for nothing except sucking the sweat and effort of the toilers.

In developing countries, the liberation of women must be dependent upon the extent to which they are capable of achieving further cohesion with the struggles of the working class and all toilers for accomplishing the national democratic transformations with a socialist perspective.

Yemeni women's struggle for their complete liberation must be linked to the struggle of the working class, the poor peasants and all toilers under the leadership of the National Front Political Organization, consolidation of the new State and co-operative ownership forms and persistent struggle for the stamping out of the remnants of the priestly feudal, bourgeois and colonialist ideologies.

Yemeni Women's Status Under the Feudal and Colonialist System

The feudal and colonialist system that existed until the 30th. November, 1967 was throughout its existence based upon the further exploitation of the efforts of the Yemeni toilers and the practising of the most varied and most oppressive of means to obtain a surplus of production from the workers, poor peasants and all toilers in our country. To retain the status quo, the system imposed a state of ignorance and misguidance of the masses by disseminating the priestly, feudal, bourgeois and colonial ideologies. This prevalent condition meant that the masses of workers, poor peasants and all toilers were employed as a tool to satisfy the greed of colonialism and feudalism. Under such conditions Yemeni women and in particular the toilers among them did not only suffer from the oppression and subjugation of colonialism and feudalism alone but - owing to the preponderance of the metaphysical feudal ideology - had also to suffer from

subjugation to the fathers, brothers and husbands. As a result, their life was full of meekness and submission and was to be evidenced in the following :

Economically :

The primary condition for the liberation of women is their economic independence. In accordance with this, women's submission to men continues to exist so long as women are unable to proceed to the sphere of productive work. Under the colonial and feudal system, Yemeni women - and in spite of the majority of them in the countryside participating with men in work beyond the limits of household chores had to continue to retain a social outlook that kept them lower than men. Women were described as weak in physical constitution and intellectual perception, which necessitated their remaining at home to undertake the chores for which they were apt. Even then women in the Yemeni countryside were required to participate with men in agricultural work and animal husbandry. Some even had to undertake back-breaking work such as wood-cutting and water collection. Some rural areas were famous for the fact that women maintained the family. It is they who undertook all agricultural work with primitive methods, while men either remained at home or emigrated (a feature of the western district of the Third governorate and the Sixth governorate). We also find women participating with men in crafts industries. In the towns, women, in addition to undertaking some crafts works at home, have during the past few years begun to take up work as teachers, nurses, secretaries and broadcasters while the toilers among them have had to work as cleaners. In the countryside, we find women working in the homes of large land-owners and feudalists.

All of these works in farming, animal husbandry, wood-cutting and water gathering and crafts industries were undertaken by women beside their undertaking the main household chores such as cooking, sweeping and rearing children. The working women in the towns or the countryside had - by going out to work - added a new burden to the strenuous burdens of the home. The expression goes, " You know that even if there be complete equality, women would remain on a lower status than men as they bear all household chores. Household chores undertaken by women are in most cases considered to be the least productive, the most oppressive and the most difficult.

Such miserable work does not contain anything that assists in the development of women's awareness and culture. In spite of that, the social view of women continues to be based upon the outlook that they are an inferior element and should remain under the complete and absolute authority of men".

Women and toiling women in particular have dually suffered from oppression because they are workers and peasants whose production surplus is absorbed and because they are women upon whom their fathers and husbands can practise oppression by virtue of their absolute authority over them.

Socially :

As a result of the preponderance of the feudal, bourgeois and colonial cultures as a natural product of the production relations of the feudal and colonial system, women for a long time suffered indignities upon their dignity as human beings. The feudal ideology viewed women as inferior beings. As a result the totality of demeaning expressions used as regards women became a normal and customary thing. Similarly the totality of social customs and mores were devoted to maintain the domination of men over women. The veil, marriage customs and the expressions used synonymously with the word women were altogether expressive of this reactionary view of women.

Yemeni woman under the feudal and colonial system was not only captive of these reactionary views and outlooks alone, but was also deprived of the right to defend themselves and remove the demeaning attitude carried by men towards them.

Consequential to the reactionary view to women, they were considered weak in intellectual perception in addition to their weak physical constitution as evidenced from such pronouncements as "Women are mentally and spiritually inferior" and "The minds of women are in their knees". In conformity with this view men considered any man who consulted his wife on any matter a woman himself because "Whosoever listens to women is of them". Under the feudal and colonial system many expressions that depicted women's weakness and demeaned their worth as human beings became rampant (e.g. using the expression 'May Allah honour you' immediately after the word woman). Yemeni women under this system also suffered the nightmare of remaining-and in the

towns in particular - within four walls throughout their lives. They used to be restricted to the home from youth and moved only from the homes of their fathers to those of their husbands. Should they go out they had to be accompanied by their husbands or fathers or under the veil. The priestly feudalism did not only impose upon women the veil in some parts of the country but went further in these areas to have the wife of a brother veiled from her brother-in-law even though they may all live in the same house. Feudalism considered women to be a source of pleasure for men only and that women's emotions dominate their thoughts. Therefore, they should be imprisoned in the house and safeguarded when out of it. The popular saying was 'The chaste woman does not frequently leave her husband's house'. The daughters of the feudalists and the bourgeoisie had an even greater share of the veil. Thus the daughters of the 'Sayyids' were more unfortunate in that they had to spend a greater time of idleness imprisoned in their homes. To depict women as prone to pleasure and thereby justify their imprisonment and veiling did not only make women feel the bitterness of their lives alone, but also led to women being more firmly attached to men as by having her imprisoned in the house men made women dependent upon them for the household expenses and for meeting their personal requirements as wives, all of which further consolidated the domination of men over women.

As a result of the feudal social outlook as regards women, these were deprived even of their simplest rights as human beings. In most parts of the country women were deprived of the right to select whomsoever they considered a suitable partner for married life. Women used to be driven to the houses of their husbands without ever having expressed their own opinion. What used to be considered important was that the father or the brother of the prospective bride be satisfied with the proposer. Even more important was that the dowry paid should be large enough or that the future husband should be their friend or relation. As women never consulted as regard their marriage it follows that the age for marriage would be determined by the father or brother. Consequently, early age marriages became widespread in the country. As far the men were concerned a girl of 12 or 13 years was suited for marriage and would be driven to her husband's house. It also follows that the proper age for marriage and the domination of men would lead to a man of 40 years asking for the hand of a 15 years old

girl. This disparity in age of the two partners in marriage was a customary thing in our country. Yet the burden resulting from this used to fall heavily upon the shoulders of women alone. In some areas of the countryside there spread the phenomena of the right of a cousin to the hand of his niece over all others no matter what the type of relationship may be between the two.

Under the feudal and colonial system, the priestly feudals were not content with the spread of such marriage phenomena with the inherent injustice to women. They went further to classify the people into group and strata. Thus, a man from the lower social scale could not marry a girl of a higher social class, while a higher class man could marry whomsoever he pleased. As a result there appeared the phenomena of the daughters of the 'sayyids' pinning away in their homes. The Sayyid, in believing that he is of the Hashemite dynasty and therefore those who are not of the same dynasty do not have the right to marry his daughters, made his daughters grow older in age living in their father's homes awaiting a husband. Some died spinsters while others degenerated morally.

In some areas of the country there appeared some customs and traditions which were inhuman to say the least. These required a widow to remain unmarried for the rest of her life, no matter what her age or love and respect for such a husband be. At the same time the high cost of marriage then was among the factors that prevented many young men and women getting married and drive many young men to emigration to earn the high dowry and then return to get married.

Beside all of these phenomena (marrying the woman without her consent, the right of a cousin to marry his niece, the marriage of the daughters of sayyids to the sons of sayyids only) and all of the inherent oppression in such customs and traditions, the authority of men within married life constituted a heavy burden upon women. Thus, in addition to the bitterness perpetrated by the feudal and colonial system in making women marry without their consent and undertaking the burden of household chores and probably work outside the home also and by deeprooting the authority of men, women were constantly confronting the danger of the husband brandishing the weapon of divorce or a second marriage or desertion as the men had all the right to demean the women.

As a result of all of these phenomena produced by the feudal social outlook as regards women, a state of constant worry was lived by women and sometimes aggravated by the weak awareness of the nature of the fetters placed upon them under the feudal system to the extent that such women would fall prey to quacks, without realizing that once again they had fallen into the hands of feudalism's flunkeys and were liable to lose even more for a fancied relief from that state of tension and worry.

Women in our country at that time did not realize that the only way to throw off the shackles imposed upon them was through the destruction and downfall of the feudal and colonial system in the country and the establishment of a national democratic system upon its ruins.

Culturally :

So that it may prolong its existence and perpetuate the absorption of our country's resources and further the exploitation of our people, the feudal and colonial system pursued a policy of rendering our masses ignorant. If the masses of our people have suffered from this policy, then women have faced an even worse condition in that they were unable to receive education and knowledge. Men could join the kuttabs and other religious schools and through such primitive educational institutions at least eradicate their illiteracy. The matter was not so as regards women. Owing to the feudal attitude that considered women as mentally and spiritually inferior and the belief that once they had some education they would commence corresponding with lovers and other such reactionary attitudes adopted to combat women's education, the doors to education were firmly closed and this very naturally led to the spread of illiteracy among women. And even though the feudal and colonial system did open a number of schools for boys and girls to satisfy its need for cadres and safeguards its interests, any comparison between intakes for boys and girls will show that girls education was very much less than that of boys.

The closing of schools before Yemeni women as one of the ways of pursuing the policy of rendering our people ignorant, prevented women from developing their political awareness and comprehending the nature of the feudal and colonial system which decreased the possibilities of women's

participation in its destruction. Even then the development of the nationalist movement and the intensification of the suppressive measures adopted by the feudal and colonial system against our people, made women come out to the arena of political work and to struggle beside all the toiling masses of our people for the sake of destroying colonialism and feudalism and creating the new society.

Yemeni women and their role in the struggle for destruction of the feudal and colonial system

In spite of the fact that British colonialism and feudalism attempted throughout their presence to keep women imprisoned within four walls and close schools before the vast majority of women, all of these measures and feudal customs and mores were unable to prevent the entry of women into the arena of political activity and their growing role in the struggle of the popular masses and the development of the Yemeni nationalist movement.

Throughout the various struggle stages lived by the masses of our people for the destruction of the feudal and colonial system, women participated in this struggle. With the development of the nationalist movement and its reaching the midst of women, the participation of women was thereby further increased.

Since 1958 the Yemeni women's movement began to struggle in a comparatively developed manner. With the growth and development of the nationalist movement during this period and the development of the struggle of women against British colonialism and the feudalists allied to it allowed - for the sake of containing women's struggle - the establishment of a women's union for the first time in the history of the country. Consequently, the Aden Women's Society was established for women in the town and sought for the frustration of women's struggle. The Society's leadership was composed of women from bourgeois families in Aden town and were linked to the reformist parties. It adopted the style of submitting memoranda for the reform and allowing women to engage in political activity within the limits of demanding reforms alone. All of this naturally led to the freezing of women's energies and their not being exploited for supporting the struggle for the destruction of the feudal and colonial system. With the growth of political

awareness among the ranks of women in Aden town, the failure of the Aden Women's Society became apparent. Women waged a struggle for the downfall of this society and achieved their aim only to fall once again under the leadership of the Arab Women's Association which was no different in composition from the Aden Women's Society.

The nature of feudal and colonial system became apparent to Yemeni women through their cohesion with the struggle of the masses of the people. Under the leadership of the Yemeni nationalist movement the struggle of the masses of women developed to become yet one more stream of the struggles of the people. Women led violent demonstrations in 1959 to protest the barbaric methods of the colonialist authority in suppressing the popular masses, which led colonialism to employ more oppressive methods against women. Even then women did not stop. They stood against the attempts to eradicate the national character by imposing colonial syllabi in the areas schools. The girl students striked and came out in demonstrations protesting against the colonial syllabi. The fact that girl students withstood colonial oppression and insisted upon their demands led to the boys' schools coming out in solidarity with the demands of the girl students. All of this compelled the colonial authorities to have the then Minister of Education convene a meeting with the girl students and their guardians and submit to their demands. The struggle of the women's movement against the colonial authority and its lackeys escalated at a time when the leadership of the Arab Women's Association - by the very nature of their composition - remained satisfied with demands for reforms and alignment with bourgeois political parties. This Association was unable to contain the struggles of the women's movement aligned to the struggles of the popular masses under the leadership of the progressive nationalist movement nor was it able to channel this struggle to the service of the interests and trends of the reformist bourgeois political parties.

The decisive transformation witnessed by our country in 1963 when the people under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation adopted the course of armed struggle to destroy the feudal and colonial system not only enabled the Yemeni women to discover the reactionary nature of the Arab Women's Association leadership which took the side of the bourgeois political parties in combating the course

of armed struggle, but also led them through the struggle to effectively participate in the armed struggle. At the same time they were able to wage the struggle for bringing about the downfall of the reactionary leadership of the Arab Women's Association and establish a new women's organisation that would organize the struggles of Yemeni women in the new stage of popular masses' struggle. Following the victory of the revolution on 30th. November, 1967, the General Union of Yemeni Women was established to end all of the negative aspects of the Arab Women's Association and to meet the needs of the new stage of the popular masses' struggle.

Although the General Union of Yemeni Women at that time was established only to organize the struggles of women in the towns, yet outstanding role was played by women in both rural and urban areas. Women participated in the struggle by demonstrations and strikes organized against the colonial authority and its feudal allies. Women also hid commandoes, transported weapons and supplies, watched enemy movements and provided information about them to the revolutionaries. Women also participated in some military operations in the countryside and effectively contributed in the liberation of some areas of the countryside under the leadership of National Front. They also undertook defense of the liberated areas and kept track of the enemies. They also offered their lives in sacrifice for the victory of the revolution.

The downfall of the feudal and colonial system and the attainment of independence by the country in 1967 was the first phase of the strenuous struggle for the destruction of the exploiting production relations and the building of the new society. Yemeni women, through their participation in the struggle, realized that their liberation from the feudal social fetters depend upon the downfall of this system and the combating of its ideology and the construction of a national democratic system that would open the broad vistas of development and complete liberation from bondage to men before Yemeni women.

The Yemeni Women's Movement After Independence

With the downfall of the feudal and colonial system and the attainment of political independence by the country, a new stage of national struggle by our people's masses for the total

obliteration of the material and spiritual presence of colonialism, feudalism and compradore commenced. From the first days of independence it became apparent to the popular masses that national independence could not attain its progressive essence unless it be a path for the destruction of exploiting production relations in the town and the countryside and combating of the feudal, bourgeoisie and colonial ideologies. However, the existence of some rightist elements within the National Front Political Organisation and their alliance with the rightist groupings in the military and administrative establishments inherited from colonialism constituted a barrier placed before achievement of our people's aspirations. Thus even though the Fourth General Congress of the National Front Political Organisation convened in March, 1968 did resolve the differences within the National Front Organisation in favour of the trends of the progressive wing representing the aspirations of the people, yet the rightist elements did not surrender. They began grouping and employed the army and security forces and carried out the 20th March, 1968 rightist movement to destroy the progressive wing in the National Front Political Organisation and nullify the resolutions of the Fourth General Congress.

The masses of our people who had taken up arms to destroy colonialism and feudalism found themselves after independence and in particular after the 20th March movement face to face with a situation that required of them fresh struggles to achieve their aspirations in social progress. Thus the masses of our people and among them the Yemeni women's movement struggled at the side of the progressive wing of the National Front to bring about the downfall of the rightist authority. In most areas of the Republic women contributed to this struggle and supported the positions of the progressive wing and thereby confronted various types of oppression and suppression unleashed by the rightist authority. Yemeni women stood by the side of the progressive wing in the 14th May movement and opposed the laws and measures adopted by the authority with a view to lulling the masses. All of this moved the rightist authority to detain and pursue the leadership of the women's movement in the towns and the countryside and invalidate women's union activities. Yemeni women through their contribution to the struggle at the side of the progressive wing of the National Front Political Organisation have proved that women in our country possess tremendous potentials. They have also proved their ability to be cognizant of the existing condi-

ions - which contradicts the claims of the reactionaries that women are intellectually inferior. Yemeni women through their comprehension of the nature of the rightist authority also realized that under such an authority it would be impossible for them to achieve their aspirations and liberate themselves from the social fetters from which they suffered. They also realized that their liberation would not be complete without the total destruction of the material and spiritual existence of colonialism, feudalism and the compradour, and that this would not be achieved under a rightist authority that considers independence to be the mere expulsion of the British.

The struggle of Yemeni women against the rightist authority constituted one of the streams of our peoples' struggles and which were crowned by the 22nd June, 1969 Corrective Move carried out by the progressive wing of the National Front. The termination of the rightist rule opened up before our people spheres of struggle for fulfilling the tasks of the national democratic revolution.

Conditions of Yemeni Women after the 22nd. June Corrective Move

The Corrective Move of 22nd. June, 1969 was a qualitative transformation in the course of the revolution in that the class and ideological identity of the revolution was determined. The path to be pursued by the revolution for effecting national democratic transformations in various spheres of the country's life became clear. With the identity of the revolution being vividly clarified as a national democratic revolution with class forces made up of workers, poor peasants and all toilers it became clear that it aims at ending the material and spiritual existence of the old class forces. It also became clear that the time had come to commence struggle for liberation of women from all relations, mores and traditions that hinder development, so that they may be practically enabled to positively participate in the building of the new society. Unless the old social view that women were mentally and spiritually inferior and of a weak physical constitution, women would not be able to give the revolution all of the tremendous potentials that are inherent in them. The fact that women are not liberated and do not contribute to the construction of the new society negatively affects the country's social development. It is therefore incumbent upon women to join the general revolutionary course of

the masses of the people for achieving the tasks of the revolution. According to the category, "The development of any people should be gauged by the degree of development achieved by women".

However it should be noted that the destruction of the material foundations of feudalism and compradour and even though the supra-structure (customs, traditions, legal positions, etc.), are reflected by the sub-structure (production relations), it is possible at the same time and at the same speed to end the remnants of the feudal ideology. Thus, it should be realized that liberating women from all of the old social fetters under which they suffered for long centuries is not a simple matter. To the extent that the socio-economic structure of society and the extent to which women participate in the social production process, to that extent are they able to end their submission to men on the material level. However, this will not mean that they are then completely liberated from the old social attitudes towards them. Thus, the persistent struggle - side by side with the destruction of the material foundations of feudalism and compradour - against the feudal, bourgeois and colonial ideologies and the deep rooting of the revolution's ideology in the minds of the masses, will in their totality constitute the path leading to the liberation of women.

The participation of the Yemeni Women's Movement in effecting the current national democratic transformation (the nationalisation of the monopolist companies and economies pinnacles, implementation of the Agrarian Reform Law through participation in peasant uprisings, implementation of the Triennial Development Plan, the Constitution and its guarantees for women's rights, etc.) has made women acquire the factors of their liberation. On the ruins of the old economic establishment new economic sectors have been established. Yemeni women have found a path to end their economic dependence upon men. They now work in co-operatives, state farms and the new economic establishments. The State, through the Constitution, has guaranteed and opened up wide possibilities for education. Women have also begun to participate in the highest legislative body of the country. Moreover, the Family Law has been promulgated to end all of the old family relationships and guarantee the rights of women as wives and mothers. This Law is considered to be an important and revolutionary gain for Yemeni women. Within

the framework of the struggle to liberate women, several congresses on the liberation of women were convened in the governorates where the feudal ideas and traditions concerning women were firmly refuted.

The national and democratic achievements accomplished through the struggle of the masses of our people under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation have led to the weakening of old customs, traditions and mores towards the final elimination of the remnants of the feudal ideology and particularly those that touch upon the issue of women. In the course of the struggle for accomplishment of the tasks of the national democratic revolution, the role of women therein has been consolidated more and more. Since 22nd. June Corrective Move there have been changes in the positive participations of women. These changes can be evidenced in the following :

On the Political and Mass Planes :

Although Yemeni women have struggled at the side of the masses of our people for the destruction of the feudal and colonial system and then struggled against the rightist authority, yet their participation in the elimination of the material foundations of feudalism and compradore have also been great. Women in the countryside have participated at the side of the poor peasants to end the old feudal relations in production by enlisting in peasant uprisings. Women have also contributed to the formation of agriculture co-operatives.

Women's role in the mass organisations - the General Confederation of Workers, the Democratic Yemeni Youth Union, the General National Union of Yemeni Students - continues to increase. Their participation in the People's Defence Committees as well as their participation in the General Union of Yemeni Women continues to increase. There are still some negative aspects which must be overcome so that these do not hinder the organisation of women's potentials and mobilize these in the course of the struggle for fulfilling the tasks of the revolution.

The participation of Yemeni women in the struggle of the masses and in their union organisations constitutes a path that leads to their liberation as well as adding a new potential to the already tremendous potentials of the revolution.

On the Economic Plane :

Yemeni women by participating in the elimination of the old exploiting relations in the countryside and the towns have in fact opened up a path for their own enlistment in the new economic forms. Women work side by side with men in the co-operatives and state farms. Similarly, their participation in the struggle for implementation of the Triennial Plan has opened up for them work opportunities at the new industrial establishments. In like manner the ranks of female workers and those employed in teaching, nursing and secretariat work have very much expanded.

Women's participation with men in productive work will undoubtedly consolidate their liberation from the social fetters from which they suffered for so long. Figures can be cited to show the volume of women's participation in the country's economic process.

List of Statistics for the Year 1974

| Economic Activities | Males | Females | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1. Agriculture, hunting, forests and fishing. | 121726 | 48879 | 170605 |
| 2. Mining and quarrying. | 2093 | — | 2093 |
| 3. Industries. | 12825 | 2005 | 14830 |
| 4. Electricity, water and gas. | 2917 | 33 | 2950 |
| 5. Construction and building. | 15734 | — | 15734 |
| 6. Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels. | 25973 | 223 | 26196 |
| 7. Transport, store and communications. | 13592 | 66 | 13658 |
| 8. Transfer services, insurance, real properties and services, rendered to works sector. | 453 | 41 | 494 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 9. Society services, personal and social services. | 76932 | 4786 | 81718 |
| 10. Undefined and unclassified activities. | 13576 | 5454 | 19030 |
| Individuals with no activities. | 307964 | 555811 | 863775 |
| Individuals under seven years of age. | 214328 | 207801 | 422129 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 808113 | 825099 | 1633212 |

On the Cultural Plane:

Yemeni women who for long centuries suffered from illiteracy and the violent combating of the feudalists to their gaining education, have now been able to gain educational opportunities. With the expansion of the educational network throughout the country, a similar expansion has taken place as regards girls' education. During the past few years there has been tremendous vertical and horizontal expansion in education in our country. Educational statistics verify the development that has taken place in the sphere of girls' education. Our country has also witnessed co-education at the lower and higher stages of education. This experiment is in need of care, development and study as it contributes to a great degree in creating new generations free of old complexes and consolidates women's liberation. Similarly, the illiterate Yemeni woman has been able to liberate herself from the fetters of illiteracy at the illiteracy eradication centres which have been expanded. During the past five years several hundreds of women have been liberated from illiteracy.

Development of girls' education and the combating of illiteracy among women will necessarily lead to enabling women to develop their political and ideological awareness. This will lead to a development of their capabilities and contribution to the revolutionary process taking place in our country.

Besides expansion of girls' education and combating of illiteracy women also participate in cultural activities such as music, drama, etc.

** During the past four years 44548 women were enlisted in classes of illiteracy eradication. This number is equivalent to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the enlisted number in all classes of illiteracy eradication.

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers (Kindergartens)

| Years | Students | | | Teachers | Schools |
|-------|----------|---------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Coed. | | |
| 69—70 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 70—71 | — | — | 991 | 28 | 8 |
| 71—72 | 675 | 402 | — | 22 | 5 |
| 72—73 | 298 | 510 | — | 26 | 7 |
| 73—74 | 601 | 494 | — | 31 | 6 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers for the Primary Stage

| Years | Students | | Teachers | Schools |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Males | Females | | |
| 69—70 | 83700 | 21008 | 3491 | 651 |
| 70—71 | 107925 | 26594 | 4316 | 872 |
| 71—72 | 11665 | 20927 | 4755 | 609 |
| 72—73 | 124367 | 34454 | 5410 | 956 |
| 73—74 | 137577 | 47167 | 6355 | 1026 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers for the Preparatory Stage:

| Years | Students | | Teachers | Schools |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Males | Females | | |
| 69—70 | 8258 | 1990 | — | 67 |
| 70—71 | 10944 | 2664 | 630 | 68 |
| 71—72 | 12701 | 3004 | 723 | 66 |
| 72—73 | 15981 | 1426 | 891 | 77 |
| 73—74 | 18537 | 4703 | 999 | 105 |

Teachers for the year 69-70 are included in the number of the secondary school teachers.

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers for the
Secondary Stage

| Years | Students | | Teachers | Schools |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Males | Females | | |
| 69—70 | 1464 | 594 | 681 | 16 |
| 70—71 | 2344 | 679 | 139 | 13 |
| 71—72 | 2890 | 737 | 223 | 15 |
| 72—73 | 4207 | 965 | 310 | 19 |
| 73—74 | 5509 | 1424 | 370 | 19 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers at
Teachers Colleges

| Year: | Students: | | Teachers | | Schools | |
|-------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| 67—70 | 117 | 68 | 27 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 70—71 | 168 | 90 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 71—72 | 311 | 94 | 27 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 72—73 | 287 | 90 | 28 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 73—74 | 287 | 130 | 25 | 10 | 2 | 2 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers at the
Technical Institute

| Years | Students | | Teachers | | Schools Coed. |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|------------------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | |
| 69—70 | 283 | 30 | 27 | 1 | 1 |
| 70—71 | 145 | 30 | 29 | 1 | 1 |
| 71—72 | 194 | 47 | 28 | 1 | 1 |
| 72—73 | 116 | 81 | 33 | 2 | 1 |
| 73—74 | 336 | 163 | 41 | 5 | 1 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers at the
Higher Education College

| Years | Students | | Teachers | | Schools Coed |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | |
| 70—71 | 78 | 32 | 11 | 2 | 1 |
| 71—72 | 148 | 45 | 38 | 4 | 1 |
| 72—73 | 216 | 44 | 40 | 3 | 1 |
| 73—74 | 237 | 62 | 44 | 3 | 1 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers at
Nasser College of Agriculture

| Years | Students | | Teachers | | Schools Coed |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | |
| 70—71 | 100 | — | 16 | — | 1 |
| 71—72 | 163 | — | 20 | — | 1 |
| 72—73 | 179 | 2 | 21 | 1 | 1 |
| 73—74 | 172 | 11 | 18 | 2 | 1 |

Number of Schools, Students and Teachers at
Economic and Administration College

| Years | Students | | Teachers | | Schools Coed |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | |
| 73—74 | 24 | 13 | 8 | — | 1 |

On the Military Plane :

The role played by women in defending the national democratic achievements is an outstanding one. A mere comparison with that woman who remained imprisoned in

the homes of fathers and husbands before independence and the Yemeni woman at this time shows to what extent women have developed in our country. The participation of women in the militia and enlistment in the ranks of the People's Police exposes the falsehood of the claims of the reactionaries that women are fit only for household work. In fact by enlisting in such military establishments women have exhibited the very great potentials they possess.

Vistas of Yemeni Women's Future Struggles

It is well-known that the aforementioned gains achieved by women are but the beginning of the thousand mile trek which women must accomplish. As stated previously the issue of the liberation of women did not come except through the demolition of women's economic dependence upon men and liberation from the burdens of the old reactionary ideas concerning women. This in itself requires the effecting of great transformations in the economic and cultural fabric of society which would lead to guaranteeing women's participation in the political, economic and cultural life of society. It can be stated that such an issue is intrinsically linked to the process of society's development. There can be no guaranteeing women's participation in economic spheres unless the State's economic plans aiming at broadening the branches of the national economy are implemented with a view to meeting the material and spiritual needs of the masses of the people in the cultural and social spheres.

Thus, the process of women's liberation requires struggle for achieving the various tasks that are set forth by the programme of the stage of the national democratic revolution on the basis that this will inevitably lead to the effecting of progressive changes in the conditions of women and enable them to take their lively positions in society. That is why the programme of the national democratic revolution prescribed as follows :—

“The radical change in the nature of the backward life of Yemeni women and equating them with men and moving them to take their natural position in public, political and social life as well as their participation in the production process and the support for and promotion of the General Union of Yemeni Women and the Yemeni Women's movement in the region

and the activities included in programmes and plans aiming at the development of Yemeni women and the Yemeni family is a primary task”.

This will add a new active force to the ranks of the revolution which will contribute with great potential in the service of the revolution and its development. Therefore the tasks that must be shouldered in the sphere of lifting women and liberating them can be summarized in the following :—

1. A need to widely open the door before women's participation in the production process on the basis that their participation in the production process means their liberation materially on the one hand and ensuring their contribution to the fulfillment of the tasks of the national democratic revolution on the other hand .

2. The possibility of ensuring an effective role for women in the process of economic construction requires that they be developed in the spheres of awareness and culture. In this lies the importance of concern for the development of the educational syllabi and consolidation of the course of educational condition for women on the one hand and the need to be concerned with the escalation of the current campaign against illiteracy on the other hand and proceeding towards ridding the women's movement from the ghost of illiteracy and achieving political literacy .

3. In spite of the transformation taking place in society yet there still are many views, conceptions and beliefs of a reactionary nature as regards women and which play in the midst of society. This explains for us the comparative exploitation degree enjoyed by the suprastructure and their remaining at a certain stage not parallel with the development movement in the substructure. Therefore, it is necessary to escalate the widespread ideological struggle on the basis of scientific socialism and directed against the feudal and bourgeois ideas pertaining to women in our country. This requires that information media be devoted and employed to render this task apart from escalating the role of intellectual seminars amidst women and according the women the opportunity to politically qualify themselves through party courses at home and abroad and in all manners possible raise the political and ideological awareness of women.

4. Act to lighten the burdens of household chores falling upon working women by devoting attention to the establishment of creches, kinder-gratens, etc.

5. Need to accord clear concern for the general Union of Yemeni Women, discover its negative aspects and make it a cohesive organisation playing its effective role in the sphere of organizing women's movement and nurturing their talents and directing them to the course of the revolutionary struggle of the toilers of our country.

6. Promote and encourage the phenomena of women's participation in mass organisations with a view to unleashing their potentials in mass activity in a manner that leads to consolidation of the effect of their role in the country's public life.

7. Consolidate women's participation in taking an effective role in artistic and theatrical activity as this side has an effective influence upon the conditions of women and the possibility of developing their talent in this sphere.

8. Serious struggle for the creation of a new family relationship and implementation of the contents of the Family Law with a view to being rid of the former reactionary customs and traditions not only in the sphere of the family but in the whole of the social condition .

The achievement of all of these tasks requires firm and persistent struggle by the masses of the people and at their head Yemeni women. In the final analysis, the achievement of these tasks means the liberation of women from the bondage of old reactionary relations and guaranteeing their effective participation in achieving the long - term strategic aims of the Yemeni revolution.

Programme of the General Union of Yemeni Women

Preamble :

Yemeni women have suffered from oppression, enslavement and class subjugation at the hands of colonial, feudal and priestly forces in much greater fold than men have during the era of Anglo-sultanic domination. They were deprived of all of their just human rights by virtue of the exploiting nature of the sultanic-colonial system and its backward attitude towards women. However, Yemeni women have contributed to the Yemeni nationalist movement since its inception, even though such contribution may have been minute. Owing to the failure of the classic struggle forms adopted by the nationalist movement and its traditional political parties against the colonial-sultanic presence in our country, the unleashing of the armed revolution on 14th. October, 1963 under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation represented the highest struggle form for wresting complete national and political independence of the country on the path to destroying the totality of inherited old relations and establishment of new revolutionary relations upon their ruins. This is what accorded women the opportunity to let loose their political and class hatred of their exploiters and made ever-increasing their role represented by their enlistment at the side of men in the armed revolution until complete political independence was achieved on 30th. November, 1967 .

The role of women continued to be inconsistent with the nature of the conflicts and revolutionary stands. Even then the reactionary rightist authority hampered the development of women's movement and their struggle methods. However, the 22nd. June, 1969 Move taken by the progressive wing of the National Front Political Organisation and which re-gave the October 14th. Revolution its genuine features came about to accord the widest opportunities before the masses of women to effectively participate in the various economic, political, social and cultural spheres of life in equality with their comrades the men and build the new Yemeni society.

The establishment of the General Union of Yemeni Women as a mass organisation was to organize the Yemeni women masses and link them to the issues of the revolution and programme their struggles. However, the negative aspects that accompanied the construction and direction of the Union's activities and the absence of the dialectic relationship between its leadership and ranks helped to render the Union unable to overcome its ailments and comprehend the role of women in the stage of the national democratic revolution as well as creating a nucleus of an organized Yemeni women's movement. This was particularly true as all of the efforts exerted in the past within the framework of the Union's activities were dominated by the characteristic of individual initiatives and action without any programme or internal regulations.

In the face of such a situation, it was imperative that this programme be formulated in the form of broad outlines upon which the Union would depend in its struggles to move to effective participation in the revolutionary process going on in our country through their contribution to the construction of the new Yemeni society devoid of all of the old relations.

General Aims of the Union

1. The General Union of Yemeni Women being a mass organisation adheres to the documents of the National Front Political Organisation and resolutions of the Fifth General Congress and considers them to be its theoretical guide in its struggles among the ranks of women for contribution to achieving the tasks of the national democratic revolution stage.

2. The General Union of Yemeni Women struggles for the eradication of illiteracy rampant among the ranks of women, the building of women politically and ideologically and linking them to the revolution's growing class forces.

3. The General Union of Yemeni Women struggles for the maintenance and safeguarding of the freedom of Yemeni women and defend their legitimate right to struggle against class oppression and subjugation and to obtain their full right in the Yemeni society in equality and on par with men.

4. The Union struggles along the side of the other struggle forms to accord Yemeni women the opportunity to enlist in and contribute to the leadership echelons of the Unions.

5. The Union acts for consolidating its relations with the other mass organisations and at their head the organisation of the working class - the General Confederation of Republic Workers - in a manner beneficial to the women's and mass movement as a whole.

6. The Union struggles for implementation of the laws and resolutions of the State and contribution in the implementation of programmes of economic and social plans, beginning with the contributions to the implementation of the Quinquennial Plan.

7. The Union struggles at the side of the workers and poor peasants and the groups allied to them for participation in the construction of the new Yemeni society.

8. The Union struggles at the side of the Yemeni masses for defence of the 14th. October revolution and the gains of our masses.

9. The Union struggles for the just cause of Arab and world women and their right to be rid of colonialist and zionist domination and all forms of oppression and racial subjugation.

10. The Union looks forward to being cognizant of the experience of women's movements and their struggles throughout the world and the contributions of women's organizations to resolve the issue of women in the progressive Arab countries and the socialist countries and in particular to benefitting from the experience of such organisations and that by establishing the closest relations and links with them.

The Cultural and Ideological Aspect

The issue of the political, ideological and technological building and uplift of women to link them with the escalating struggles of the class forces of revolution and dissemination of the new culture (scientific socialism) among the women and achieving their complete liberation from illiteracy now rampant among their ranks is a necessary issue. This requires the exerting of efforts and broad interest more than any other time through :—

1. Generalisation of the opening of illiteracy eradication classes to combat ignorance now prevailing among Yemeni women.

2. Convening of seminars and cultural lectures for women in a periodical manner taking into account :—

- (a) Explanation of the documents of the National Front Political Organisation, the resolutions of the Fifth General Congress, the Internal Regulations, the programme of the stage of the national democratic revolution and the political report.
- (b) Explanation of the history of women's political and union movement and the struggle role played by Yemeni women during the development of the Yemeni nationalist movement.
- (c) Making Yemeni women cognizant of the Yemeni revolution's developments and the Arab revolutionary movement in particular and the world revolutionary movement in general.

3. Act to accord women the opportunity to enroll at Party courses at home and abroad.

5. Act for the establishment of a central library of the Union and branch libraries in all governorates of the Republic so that these contain scientific socialism reference works and other useful books, magazines and periodicals which are in harmony with the stage of the national democratic revolution.

6. Act for the production of a weekly radio and television programme supervised over by the Union which should be in harmony with the trend of the revolution and the programmes of the National Front Political Organisation so as to enable the masses of women to comprehend the literature of the revolution and the Organisation and understand the tasks assigned to them in the stage of the national democratic revolution.

7. Co-education is an excellent social phenomena and one of the fundamental issues of the revolutionary process going on in our country. The Union, therefore, should persistently struggle for the success of this experience and have it generalised in all the governorates.

8. Support and consolidate the contributions of women in the literary, fine arts and sports spheres.

The Social Aspect

The very nature of the social difficulties that confront women in our country by virtue of the backward nature of the inherited social relations requires of the Union to exert great efforts in contributing to the resolving of such old relations and the establishment of new ones through the following :—

1. Effective Union participation in implementation of the Family Law side by side with the competent bodies in the Organisation and the State.

2. Contribute together with the State in action for the establishment of creches and kinder-gartens and child welfare.

3. Organize expanded meetings with women in both the rural and urban areas and discuss social questions with them with a view to reaching suitable solutions for such issues.

4. Accord great concern on the part of the Union for the organisation of the family and its sound building and act for its development and political and social education and upbringing.

5. Provide all facilities and support in accordance with the resources of the Union for the development of technical and crafts talents and act for their organisation and development.

6. Organize educational courses for mothers to teach them the correct scientific approach to child rearing from the physical and mental aspects.

7. Move women to participation in shouldering of struggle responsibilities within the framework of various struggle forms and in particular the Organisation of People's Defence Committees.

8. Act to celebrate Women's Day and International Children's Day.

The Productive Aspect

The participation of women in the production process and the building of the national economy is considered to be among the essence of the tasks assigned to the sector of women during the stage of the national democratic revolution. Their enlistment in the production process frees them from submi-

ssion to men which submission had been imposed upon them throughout the past eras. Therefore, the General Union of Yemeni Women considers that it must play its effective role in moving women and encouraging them to enlist in the various work spheres so as to free themselves comprehensively - through their economic liberation - and that through :-

1. Effective contribution to the preparation of suitable conditions for enlistment of women in the various productive and services sectors and the new economic forms.

2. Show concern for the qualification of women cadres technically and administratively in the spheres of industry, administration, secretariat duties and various other professions.

3. Practical contribution to the implementation of all resolutions, laws and plans of the revolutionary authority in the economic and social spheres and particularly the Quinquennial Plan through the participation of women at production sites, services and mass initiatives.

4. Leadership echelons of the Union should proceed to production sites to promote women's effectiveness in the production sphere in a manner that develops their struggle methods in the revolutionary process.

5. Undertake productive projects such as haberdashery, embroidery and other crafts projects.

The Military Aspect

As the military aspect is of great importance in exhibiting the role of women in the issue of their participation at the side of their men comrades in the process of defending the revolution and its gains and which have been attained by the revolution, the working masses and the toilers of our country through their long struggles under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation, the Union shall seriously act to mingle amongst the ranks of women and organize and train them militarily so as to participate in military establishments and in particular the people's militia. In this manner will women be enabled to make an effective contribution to the revolutionary process and defend the revolution and the revolutionary gains of the toiling masses.

Administrative and Financial Aspect

Organisation of the Union's administrative and financial work is among the important issues will assist the Union in creating and organizing various activities in the various cultural, political and social spheres. Therefore, it is necessary that the issue of the Union's financial and administrative work be enforced as that will also help in achieving the aim for which the Union struggles and among these are :-

1. Organisation of the Union's secretariat affairs and those of the secretariats of the various branches in the governorates and the formulation of plans therefore.

2. Organisation of the Union's financial resources and organize dispensation thereof under administrative regulations that achieve this aspect.

3. Prepare an annual budget for the Union and its branches taking into account the density of activities at governorate branches as these are of support conditions of women.

4. Consolidate the relationship between the headquarters and the branches on the basis of a centralized organisational structure of the Union.

5. Prepare records of members' names and their numbers in each centre, district and governorate.

6. Be aware of the percentage of educated members and illiterate ones who would be enlisted in illiteracy eradication classes.

This programme is considered to be the least measure for action. The issue of its implementation requires the waging of a long and strenuous struggle and the mobilization of our resources and potentials if we wish to create an organized and developed women's movement and include women in the revolutionary process going on in our country under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation for the sake of accomplishing the tasks of the stage of the national democratic revolution.

FUNDAMENTAL REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL UNION OF YEMENI WOMEN

Adopted At The First General Congress Held On The 15th
Of July 1974

PART I : *Name and Site.*

1. The General Union of Yemeni Women is a democratic mass organisation acting in accordance with the guidance of the National Front Political Organisation and its directives. It includes and represents Yemeni women at home and abroad and is made up of the totality of branches in the Republic's governorates. It undertakes its activities in accordance with the principles of democratic centralism which requires submission of the minority to the majority and the submission of the lower echelons to the leadership echelons.

2. The First Governorate shall be the headquarters of the Union.

PART II : *Aims of the Union*

3. The General Union of Yemeni Women is considered to be a voluntary Yemeni women's organisation and it, therefore, struggles for raising the Yemeni women's political, social and cultural standards and defends their interests linked to the aims of the national democratic revolution through :—

- (a) Action with the forces of the class alliance for consolidation of the national democratic authority through which the role of women in society is consolidated and increased.
- (3) Concern for the family, its cohesion and awareness by tackling its issues and being concerned with Mothers' Day, Children's Day, Women's International Day.
- (c) Concern for eradication of illiteracy among women, care for creches and kinder-gartens and contribution together with the State in implementation of the laws, resolutions and projects that enable

women to be emancipated, reject old colonial and feudal customs and traditions and struggle with various methods for raising women's standard and their progress.

- (d) Contribution with the masses in implementation of economic plans and programmes and defence of the revolution and its present and future achievements.
- (e) Strengthening of relations with other mass organisations and joint struggle with the General Confederation of Republic Workers, the General National Union of Yemeni Students, the Democratic Yemeni Youth Union, the People's Defence Committees and all other organisations with an interest in this stage.
- (f) Contribute with Arab women for consolidation of the role of Arab women in their countries and jointly struggle for political and economic emancipation and social progress.
- (g) Support liberation movements opposed to colonialism and reaction and establish the strongest of relations with the progressive women's unions and associations in the world and in particular with the International Democratic Women's Union and serve all other aims governed by the programme of the national democratic revolution.

PART III : *Membership*

4. Every Yemeni citizen of 16 years of age can freely become a member of the Union provided she adheres to its programmes, fundamental regulations and through the Union acts for the interests of women and the Yemeni revolution.

5. Conditions of membership shall be :—

- (a) Regular payment of monthly subscription of 100 fils for the employed and 50 fils for the unemployed and payment of membership of 100 fils and possession of the Union membership card.
- (b) Effective participation in Union activities through work in the Union's various bodies.

- (c) Concern for the Union's reputation and properties and propagation of its policies and aims.
- (d) Undertaking of duties assigned in the best manner.
- (e) Criticism and submission of proposals that improve the Union's conditions.

6. The rights of members are :—

- (a) Election and nomination to the Union's leading bodies and direction of the Union's affairs in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism.
- (b) Attendance at congress and public meetings of the Union.
- (c) Adherence by the Union to sponsor members' causes and defend them.
- (d) Represent the Union at any meeting or conference whenever deputed.
- (e) Contribute to the various activities of the Union.

PART IV : *Union's Leading Bodies*

7. The Congress is the highest body of the Union and is convened once every five years. The Executive Committee undertakes preparations for convening of the Congress which shall include representatives of governorates in addition to the Central Council and the Executive Committee.

8. Attendance ratios at Congresses shall be :—

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| From 1 to 100 members: | 8 delegates |
| From 100 to 500 members: | 15 delegates |
| 500 members and above: | 25 delegates |

9. The Congress shall undertake the following tasks :—

- (a) Discuss and approve the Union's general policy for the forthcoming period.
- (b) Discuss the reports submitted by the previous bodies and account them for it.
- (c) Approve any amendment to the fundamental regulations.

- (d) Elect the Central Council, Control Committee and the Financial Inspection Committee. These bodies shall be responsible for the good administration of the Union's affairs and leading its various activities and ensuring that the resolutions of the Congress and programmes of the Union are carried out in the best manner.

- (e) Discuss the financial report for the previous period and approve the budget for the forthcoming period.

10. Governorate Committees attend the Congress upon invitation of the Executive Committee.

11. A Congress may be convened extra-ordinarily upon the invitation of the Central Council or a majority of Executive Committee members or the majority of branches, provided that an agenda shall be determined.

12. The Central Council is the highest authority between Congresses and is elected by the Congress from among its members and is composed of 35 members.

13. The Council shall meet once every four months and it may convene extra-ordinarily upon the invitation of a majority of its members or a majority of the Executive Committee members. Its meetings shall be lawful when two thirds of its members attend unless another date be set when the quorum shall be made up by any number of those present.

14. The following shall be the tasks of the Council :—

- (a) Observe implementation of Congress resolutions, consider those issues not dealt with by the Congress and control the Executive Committee and supervise over its affairs.
- (b) Suspend any leading body or echelon and it alone may adopt important resolutions pertaining to the Union's fate and relations.
- (c) Promulgate internal regulations for the headquarters and the branches.
- (d) Require leaderships to submit reports on their work and guide them may be necessary.

15. The Executive Committee is composed of seven members and two candidate members elected by the Council

from among its members for a term of five years. It shall undertake the day to day leadership of the Union and convene its meetings once every three months. It shall undertake the implementation of Congress and Central Council resolutions and it alone shall lead and guide the activities of the branches and observe the extent to which the duties assigned are carried out by its members.

16. The Executive Committee shall be considered responsible for the Union and its properties and shall prepare for meetings of the Central Council and the General Congress and supervise over branch congresses.

17. The Central Council shall distribute responsibilities among members of the Executive Committee as follows :—

a. Union President :

1. The Union President shall undertake administration and supervision over Union affairs and activities and shall represent the Union before the judiciary as well as undertake internal and external representation unless she deputy another to do so.

2. The Union President shall chair meetings of the Executive Committee and the Central Council and the bodies of the branches whenever she should attend such meetings.

3. The Union President shall, together with the Treasurer and Secretary-General, sign upon financial documents and submit reports thereupon and shall supervise over the implementation of the Executive Committee resolutions and shall together with the Secretary General sign minutes of meetings.

b. Deputy President for External Affairs:

She shall supervise over the department of external relations and act for the President in her absence. Among her tasks shall be the establishing of direct and indirect external contacts and strengthen the relations of the Union with progressive women's unions and propagate Union policy at the external level and study experiences of women's struggle in the world and participate in seminars and lectures that concern consolidation of women's struggles and their progress.

c. Deputy President for Domestic Affairs :

She shall supervise over the internal activities of the Union in the social, political, cultural and financial spheres.

She shall supervise over the activities of branches and be concerned with raising the standard of Union activity in centres, districts and governorates.

d. Secretary-General :

She shall be responsible for the Union premises and archives and maintenance of records, membership cards, correspondence and shall prepare for meetings of the Executive Committee and together with the President and Treasurer sign upon financial documents.:

e. Treasurer :

She shall be responsible for Union finances and the depositing thereof at one of the banks. She shall act to increase revenues through submission of some proposals and shall together with the President sign upon vouchers.

f. Information and Cultural Department Head :

She shall be responsible for the Information and Cultural Affairs Department and shall supervise over all information and cultural activities of the Union through magazines, lectures, seminars and through the various information media of the Republic and undertake publication of Union studies and documents.

g. Social Affairs Department Head :

She shall be responsible for the Social Affairs Department and shall organize concerts, outings and festivals as well as being cognizant of family issues and observe that laws pertaining to the family are applied and shall co-operate with the mass organisations of workers, youth, students and peoples' defence committees.

PART V : Branches

18. In each governorate of the Republic there shall be established a branch of the General Union of Yemeni Women and shall be under the supervision and guidance of the Executive Committee. Each branch shall undertake to implement the Union's policies and resolutions and decisions of the Union leadership echelons. Each Governorate shall have a Governorate Committee and each district a District Committee and each Centre a Centre Committee.

19. The branches shall convene their congresses in accordance with the following:—

- (i) Governorate Congress every three years under the supervision of the Executive Committee.
- (ii) District Congress every two years under the supervision of the Governorate Committee.
- (iii) Centre Congress every year under the supervision of the Governorate Committee.

These congresses shall consider the conditions of the Union and women in the Governorate and the consolidation of their roles. They shall elect leadership echelons whose number shall not be less than three and not more than seven. The Governorate Congress shall also be concerned with electing the Governorate Control Commission.

20. Branch congresses for election of delegates to the General Congress shall be convened once every five years in accordance with the ratios defined in this regulation.

PART VI : Union Finances

21. The Union finances shall be derived from the following sources :—

- (a) Membership dues.
- (b) Revenue of concerts organized by the Union.
- (c) Contribution received from bodies and individuals.
- (d) Aid received from home and abroad.
- (e) Any other sources.

PART VII : General Provisions.

22. Union shall exercise its activities in accordance with these regulations and any previous situation that is inconsistent with the provisions of this regulation shall be revoked. Properties of the previous Union shall devolve to the new bodies in accordance with measures defined for establishment of new branches.

23. It shall be within the right of the Central Council or the Executive Committee to take the appropriate disciplinary measures against any branch or member who does not adhere to the policies and programmes of the Union.

24. The Central Council shall issue the general structure, and the complementary and explanatory regulations to this regulation.

Final Statement of First General Congress of Yemeni Women Held During the Period 15-16 July, 1974

Dear Comrades,

The First General Congress of Yemeni Women was held in a democratic atmosphere at Seiyun, Fifth Governorate of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen during the period 15-16 July, 1974 under the slogan "Yemeni Women shall struggle against ignorance and for love of work", after a series of wide preparations unprecedented in the history of the Yemeni women movement.

The convening of the First General Congress of Yemeni Women under the national democratic transformations occurring in our country, the escalating zeal of the masses of Women for the defence of the national democratic achievements realized by the masses of our Yemeni people under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation - to the realization of which women have contributed, the atmosphere created by the subconferences of the National Front Political Organisation in the governorates of the Republic as part of the wide preparations for the Sixth General Congress, and the orientation of our masses to the implementation of the Quinquennial Development Plan adopted by the National Front Political Organisation Central Committee and the People's Supreme Assembly, has its profound significance in the life of our people. It is also regarded as an important historic event in the course of the Women's movement and their struggle for the complete conditions for their liberation.

Dear Comrades,

After the glorious 22nd. June, 1969 movement, our country witnessed great transformation represented by the nationalisation of foreign banks, companies and corporations and the implementation of the new Agrarian Reform Law through the initiatives of the masses and the peasants' uprisings. The Constitution was adopted, the People's Supreme Assembly constituted, the First General Congress convened, residential houses surplus to the need of the owners were nationalized,

the People's Militia was established and all conspiracies of the imperialist and reactionary enemies were successfully defeated and foiled.

All these struggles and achievements for the progress of our society will not be successful unless we are able to put the slogan of women's liberation into practice. That is so because the development and progress of a society can be gauged only by the liberty and progress of women therein.

The economic, social and cultural liberation of women should be linked with the struggles of the forces of revolution to construct the new life, to enlist for work in the new economic forms to terminate subservience to men, to strive for eradication of political and functional illiteracy to possess the weapon of modern science and comprehend the great ideas of scientific socialism, to defeat the feudalist, priestly and bourgeois culture, customs and traditions and embody the culture and customs of the workers, peasants and all toilers through diligent and zealous enlistment in the struggle forms such as organisations of workers, youth, students, People's Defence Committees, Workers' Control Commissions and the People's Militia.

Dear Comrades,

The First Congress of the Yemeni Women helds under the slogan "Yemeni Women shall struggle against ignorance and for love of work" has come to contribute to and execute the practical plans of the struggle for practical liberation of women through a scientific concept assimilating all the characteristics of a complex and intricate condition of women in our constantly developing Yemeni society for the sake of achieving a society devoid from exploitation of Man by Man.

The Congress represents a telling blow to imperialism and all reactionaries inside and outside the homeland as well as being a new gain of the workers, peasants and all toilers on the path of achieving the tasks of the national democratic revolution in our country.

This Congress is not the end of the line, rather it is a continuation of the previous struggles of women and a new beginning of more revolutionary action for the liberation of women. We confirm our adherence to act guided by the pro-

gramme of the national democratic revolution and the leadership and directives of the National Front Political Organisation and also by the documents adopted by the Congress i.e. the report, study, work programme, standing orders, resolutions and recommendations.

"Let Us Firmly and Consciously Struggle Against Ignorance and for Love of Work"

For this sake, the Congress has adopted the following resolutions and recommendations :-

On the Union Plane :

1. The Congress adopts the study and the report and considers both as among its important documents .
2. The Congress adopts the fundamental regulations of the General Union of Yemeni Women and affirms the necessity of all Union members adhering thereto.
3. The Congress confirms the necessity of developing the conditions of the General Union of Yemeni Women and its unification in order to play its role completely at this stage through :-
 - (a) Leadership of the General Union of Yemeni Women by the National Front Political Organisation, continuous guidance of members, formulation of work programmes and following up their execution and linking the women's movement with the general line of the revolution's course.
 - (b) Activating daily work at Union branches so that they become centres of attraction and gathering for women where they undertake various activities to acquire varied vocational skills, to develop arts, innovations, lectures, symposiums, sports, etc. and create firm relations between branch leaderships and Union members.
 - (c) Creation of firm relations between branches and the centre on the basis of the standing orders so as to embody the inter-action between the leadership and base echelones and consolidate the organisational unity of the General Union of Yemeni Women.

4. The Congress affirms the necessity to work among the toiling masses of poor female workers and peasants and intensify political consciousness implanting for patriotic sense, to raise the political and class awareness within their ranks and attract them to active participation in economic, social and cultural life. This is besides very closely linking the struggles of Yemeni Women with the struggles of the toiling classes for the achievement of the tasks of the national democratic revolution stage and construction of the united democratic Yemen.

5. The Congress recommends the Executive Committee the need for formulation of detailed programmes by which the Union branch leaderships should abide as well as follow-up of precise implementation thereof. It confirms the need for accounting and preponderance of the principle of criticism and self-criticism to confront errors, consolidate spirit of discipline and perform tasks and assignments.

6. The Congress affirms the Union's participation in solving daily social problems that confront women and paying greater attention to improving the condition of poor families and raising their morale as well as gaining their confidence.

7. The Congress recommends the Union leaderships active participation in child welfare and provision of the best atmospheres for the children's mental and physical growth through co-ordination with State organs concerned with child welfare and other mass organisations.

8. The Congress recommends development and expansion of creches and kindergartens so as to perform their functions in the up-bringing and education of children.

9. The Congress recommends the Executive Committee of the General Union of Yemeni Women creation of firm relations with other mass organisations such as Confederation of Republic Workers, Workers Control Commissions, Democratic Yemeni Youth Union, General National Union of Yemeni Students and the People's Defence Committees for discussion of vital matters, mutual planning and execution of tasks.

10. The Congress confirms the necessity of implementing all that is contained in the programme of the national democratic revolution stage and the Constitution of the People's Democratic Yemen regarding equating women with men in

rights and duties. The Union shall take practical steps to safeguard this and unveil the forces that attempt to obstruct the provisions of the programme and the Constitution.

11. The Congress hails the comrades who enlisted in the People's Militia and recommends the regimentation of the toiling masses in the militia and extensive training of women in carrying arms so that they may play their role in defending the revolution.

12. The Congress hails the promulgation of the Family Law which has come to solve many problems confronting women, in particular relations between men and women and regulation of marriage and divorce. The Congress also recommends follow-up of the implementation of the law and firmly stands against any attempt at cunning contravention of the Law.

13. The Congress recommends the Executive Committee of the General Union of Yemeni Women expansion of the Union's foreign relations with Women's unions and associations in Arab and socialist countries, with the national liberation movement and progressive societies in capitalist countries so as to acquaint them with the struggles of Yemeni women and the revolutionary experiment in the Yemen.

On The Domestic Plane :

1. The Congress hails the struggles of our people under the leadership of the National Front Political Organisation and reaffirms the rally of women's masses around the National Front Political Organisation and adherence to its documents. It calls upon women in our country to implement the resolutions of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau in a creative manner.

2. As the Congress hails the convening of the organizational conference of the Governorates as part of the wide preparations for the Sixth General Congress, it calls upon women's masses to increase their struggle for the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the conferences of the governorates, so that this becomes the gift of the Yemeni women to the Sixth General Congress.

3. The Congress affirms its firm support for the measures adopted by the revolutionary government concerning nationalisation of economic pinnacles in the country and calls upon the masses of our people to protect this important gain and develop the public sector so that it becomes the leader and guide of other national economy sectors.

4. The Congress hails the struggles of the Yemeni working class, the poor peasants and fishermen and affirms its support for the uprisings of the workers, peasants and fishermen as a supreme mass effort to destroy the material existence of feudalism and the compradour.

5. The Congress praises the establishment of the new economic forms (i.e. State farms, co-operatives and light industries under public sector leadership) and calls upon our people's masses to support and consolidate the economic policy adopted by the National Front Political Organisation Central Committee which aims at generalising, establishing and expanding the public sector and encourage co-operative work by protection and development of these forms. The Congress also recommends the Executive Committee of the Union intensify work among the ranks of female agricultural workers and female co-operative peasants to raise their political standard for raising production rates.

6. The Congress praises the Housing Nationalisation Law considering it a vital accomplishment for our people's masses. It considers that women should play their role in protecting this law and unveiling those who cunningly contravene the law and opposes those who are careless in the maintenance of residential premises and those who evade payment of rents.

7. As the Congress hails the National Front Political Organisation and the revolutionary government for formulation of the Quinquennial Development Plan, it considers that our people's masses should intensify the struggle for its implementation and affirms that the masses of women should play their role in its implementation. The Congress also recommends the Executive Committee of the Union to formulate plans for voluntary work and calls upon women to join in such work for fulfilment of the plan.

8. The Congress praises Law No. 32 of 1973 pertaining to the comprehensive campaign for illiteracy eradication and recommends the Executive Committee organisation of women's contribution to its implementation.

9. The Congress warmly hails the heroic stands of the Armed Forces, the People's Police, the People's Forces and Militia in defending our people's sovereignty and protection of their gains. It calls upon Yemeni women to rise to the responsibility of joining the militia.

On the Arab Plane :

1. The Congress warmly hails the revolution of our Arab people in Oman and also hails the Omani women's struggle under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman for destroying the stooge Qaboos regime and strongly condemns the Iranian military intervention considering it a serious link in the chain aiming at the liquidation of the armed revolution in Oman. The Congress calls upon all national democratic forces in the Gulf and the Arab countries to confront the Iranian danger and also calls for the release of all political prisoners in Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

2. The Congress condemns the oppressive and suppressive methods adopted by the reactionary regime in the Arabian peninsula against our Arab people in the Peninsula and calls upon the national movement to intensify the struggle until freedom and sovereignty of the people in the area from the imperialist and reactionary presence is achieved.

3. The Congress highly hails the Palestinian Resistance Movement and its sacrifices for restoration of their legitimate rights. The Congress also confirms the need for unity of its section and calls upon them to be more vigilant towards attempts at their liquidation.

4. The Congress warmly hails the Arab masses struggle throughout the Arab homeland against imperialism, zionism and reactionary forces and calls upon the national democratic movements to co-ordinate their struggles.

On The International Plane :

1. The Congress warmly hails the struggle of the people in Cuba who construct socialism at a distance of 90 miles only

14. AISHA MOHSIN QASSEM
15. FATHIYA MOHAMED ABDULLA
16. UM-ALKHAIR QASSEM
17. NOWAIR HERMESH
18. NOOR MOHAMED AWDALLET
19. AISHA MUBARAK A'ATI
20. LAILAH ABUBAKER BASHOMAILA
21. NAIMA SAEED BA-AMER
22. FAIZA FARAG BAMATRAF
23. FATIMA SALEH ISMAIL
24. SALIHA ABDULLA NAGI
25. MULOOK AHMED BAKERKER
26. FATIMA SALEH
27. NOOR AHMED MAKSAM
28. AMINA MOHAMED SALEH
29. ALYA SALEH OMER
30. NOOR BA-ABBAD
31. ASIA IBRAHIM
32. SUAD SAEED
33. SUAD MOHSIN THABET
34. SABAH NASSER NAQHAN
35. HAILA MOHMTD ABUBAKER

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from the centre of imperialism, considering that an example of the people's capability to withstand imperialism and its challenges. The Congress also hails the struggles of other peoples in Latin America against the monopolies and dictator-regimes for the sake of progress and socialism.

2. The Congress warmly hails the struggle of the heroic people of Vietnam and strongly condemns attempts of American imperialism and the stooge Thieu regime to contravene the Paris agreement for peace and calls for the need to respect implementation of this agreement.

3. The Congress hails the national struggle waged by the people's of Cambodia, Laos, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands and other peoples aiming at liquidation of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination for the sake of national independence and social progress.

4. The Congress strongly condemns the barbaric methods adopted by the fascist regime in Chile against the heroic people of Chile and hails the struggles of the Chilean national and democratic movement. The Congress also condemns the violence and terrorism practised against the peoples of Latin America.

5. The Congress calls for the withdrawal of the imperialist American aggression forces from South Korea and supports the struggle of the Korean people and women for the sake of the country's independence and peaceful reunification.

Names of General Union of Yemeni Women Executive Committee

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. AISHA MOHSIN QASSEM | <i>President</i> |
| 2. FATIMA SAEED ALHAG | <i>Vice-President for Foreign Relations</i> |
| 3. UM-ALKHAIR QASSEM | <i>Vice-President for Internal Relations</i> |
| 4. FATHIYA MOHAMED ABDULLA | <i>Secretary-General</i> |
| 5. SABAH NASSER NAQHAN | <i>Head, Social Welfare Department</i> |
| 6. NOOR BA-ABBAD | <i>Head, Cultural and Information Affairs</i> |
| 7. NOOR ABDULLA MOHAMED | <i>Part-time member</i> |
| 8. SUAD SAEED THABET | <i>Candidate member - Treasurer</i> |
| 9. NADHRA NASSER | <i>Candidate member</i> |

Names of the Central Council of the General Union of Yemeni Women

1. NAEEMA SUWAID
2. ASSAYA AL-BAKHIT
3. MULKI ABDULLA HASSON
4. AMINA SALEH BA GABER
5. FATIMA YESLEM BIN DAHRI
6. FATIMA FARAG
7. SHAMMA' MOHAMED SAEED
8. NOOR ABDULLA MOHAMED
9. MARIAM MOHAMED ASSHARA
10. NADHRA NASSER
11. WAFI AHMED ALI
12. FATIMA SAEED AL-HAJ
13. FATIMA AHMED SALEH