

[TRANSLATION – TRADUCTION]

JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO PARTS OF YEMEN AT THE BILATERAL SUMMIT HELD IN THE STATE OF KUWAIT

As guests of the sister State of Kuwait and in implementation of paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Council of the League of Arab States adopted at its extraordinary session held in the State of Kuwait from 4 to 6 March 1979, responding to the commendable Arab endeavours, maintaining the close ties of blood and kinship among brothers, and striving for the higher interests of the Yemeni people and the entire Arab nation,

The two Yemeni Presidents, Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Yemen Arab Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and Comrade Abdul Fattah Ismail, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, met in the city of Kuwait from 28 to 30 March 1979.

In the presence and under the auspices of His Excellency Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, and with his commendable, positive contribution and the contribution of the representatives of the Arab Follow-up Committee from the sister States, the two Presidents reviewed all the issues and problems set out for discussion at the meeting.

Putting behind the pain and suffering caused by the recent regrettable events between the two parts of the nation, and proceeding from a spirit of sincere brotherhood, broad aspirations and hopes and genuine interests of the entire Yemeni people,

Desiring to concretize the higher national, patriotic interest of the Yemeni people by solving the various problems that exist, eliminating them and resolving them comprehensively once and for all, putting an end finally to the spectre of war and its causes and eliminating the reasons and factors behind the lack of stability, peace and progress in Yemen and our region as a whole by achieving the cherished goal of the Yemeni people of Yemeni unity;

Committed to re-establishing historic Yemeni unity in response to the reality of the unity of the Yemeni people, land and destiny and failure of all attempts to foment division, partition and fragmentation;

In fulfilment of the sacrifices of our Yemeni people and the fruits of their struggle throughout history to achieve the noble goal of unity and because Yemeni unity is a major national imperative, particularly in the current Arab circumstances through which our national cause and the entire Arab nation are passing after the signing of the conspiratorial Camp David Accords and the capitulationist, unilateral peace; in support of the direction of national unity and so that Yemen, with its national and human capacities and strategic political, economic and military situation may participate in the battle for Arab destiny; in support of the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to recover its homeland and establish an independent, national State; in full and unshak-

able support for the sister Arab countries in liberating their occupied lands, dislodging the Zionist occupation and restoring their Arab national sovereignty;

Considering that Yemeni unity shall reinforce anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist Arab solidarity and strengthen the just Arab national struggle against the common enemy represented by the treacherous Zionist-American-imperialist alliance; giving concrete form to Yemen's call for the need to establish a single, progressive, Arab movement as the foundation for the achievement of full, progressive, Arab unity, which will strengthen the unity of the international struggle against imperialism, Zionism, fascism, racism and racial discrimination; and serving the goals of freedom and peace in the world,

In implementation and execution of the Cairo Agreement, the Tripoli Declaration and the recommendations of the Yemeni unification committees with a view to the establishment of a stable democratic, national, republican system in Yemen on the basis of the direct and free vote of all the Yemeni people, the drafting of a constitution that guarantees all personal and public political freedoms for the entire population and the various national, professional and trade-union institutions and organizations and the adoption of all means necessary to ensure the practical exercise of those freedoms,

The two Presidents have agreed upon the following:

1. The Constitutional Committee shall prepare the draft of the unified State within a period of four months.
2. Once the Constitutional Committee has concluded its work, the two Presidents shall meet to approve the final form of the draft of a permanent constitution, after which, having determined the final form in which the draft constitution shall be submitted to the People's Assemblies in the two parts of the nation, the two Presidents shall invite both People's Assemblies to convene within a period to be agreed by the Presidents to approve the constitution in draft form.
3. The Presidents of the two parts of the nation shall subsequently set up the ministerial committee responsible for supervision of the national referendum on the draft constitution and the election of a single legislative body for the new State; the committee shall complete its work within not more than six months after the date of its formation.
4. The two Presidents shall affirm their full commitment and adherence to the stipulations and provisions of the Cairo Agreement, the Tripoli Declaration and resolutions of the Council of the League of Arabic States, as well as their implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the unification committees.
5. The two Heads of State shall monitor the timely completion of the Constitutional Committee's work and the results of the work of the other committees through regular monthly meetings in Yemen.

Both Presidents express their profound appreciation and gratitude for the reception and generous hospitality they have received from the Emir, the Government and the people of Kuwait and declare that Yemeni unity shall be but one factor for stability, security and peace in the region. They support the unity, progress and prosperity of all peoples and the affirmation of peace in the world, reject interference by imperialism and Zionism in the internal affairs of peoples and condemns any kind of aggression and all forms of racism, and support the sovereignty of nations and the right of peoples to choose the system they wish to build.

ABDUL FATTAH ISMAIL

Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

Lieutenant-Colonel ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

President of the Yemen Arab Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

Kuwait, Friday, 2 Jumada I A.H, 1399 (30 March A.D. 1979)