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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

Letter dated 30 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement delivered by Mr. Ali Nasser Muhammad, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, to the youth of Yemen on the occasion of International Youth Year.

I request that you circulate this text as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item relating to International Youth Year.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh AL-ASHTAL
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People's
Democratic Republic of Yemen to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Speech by the President of the People's Democratic Republic
of Yemen on the occasion of International Youth Year

With regard to work and production facilities and service institutions, with regard to seats of learning and scientific attainment and with regard to positions of honour and the defence of the country, I wish, first of all, to convey to you the greetings of the Central Committee of our Yemen Socialist Party and the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and my personal wishes for you for greater achievements in your International Youth Year, 1985.

I have pleasure in addressing to you this message as you are at the peak of your initiatives and your activities and are preparing, with lofty enthusiasm and aspirations to implement the plans and programmes which have been drawn up by the National Preparatory Committee for the observance of International Youth Year, in accordance with the noble concepts of the motto: "Participation, Development, Peace".

I wish also to draw attention here to the significance and importance of the convening of the Twelfth International Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, the capital of the friendly Soviet Union, this summer, as the most effective force for the youth of the world in its International Year for the purpose of solidarity against imperialism and for peace and friendship. It will, in our estimation, make a major contribution to the realization of the motto of International Youth Year. The convening of the festival will coincide with the human and progressive observances on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the great victory over German fascism and Japanese militarism. It will be convened in the country whose people bore the greatest burden and played a decisive role in the achievement of this mighty victory in the life of mankind.

We enthusiastically hail the convening of the Moscow festival and are confident that the youth of our country will proceed to Moscow full of resolve and confidence in the ability of the current youth generation in our land to create a new world free from the spectre of war and the hazards of nuclear conflagration.

The People's Yemen Democratic Republic has supported the resolution of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 34/151, adopted in 1979, proclaiming the year 1985 International Youth Year and has devoted its efforts in this area to ensuring the success of the national and international preparations through its membership in the Committee on preparations for International Youth Year. Democratic Yemen was one of the first countries to constitute its national preparatory committee for International Youth Year and has taken many measures designed to support youth activities in International Youth Year.

That reflects clearly the desire of our country to achieve for youth and students in Democratic Yemen and in other countries of the world their fundamental rights recognized in the preamble, including their right to work, education and rest, and to spend their leisure time in useful ways and the right to a happy

life remote from exploitation, oppression and war. Our country affirms that the rights of youth are most closely related to the legitimate rights of the peoples to self-determination, national independence and social progress and that they stand in a close and indissoluble relation to the struggle for peace and the guaranteeing of a peaceful and happy generation of youth. Our country's struggle for peace is a national struggle and a struggle for the interests of the Arab peoples and their future generations. It is a part of the struggle of the peoples of the world to ward off the danger of destructive nuclear war.

Our national democratic system for the youth generation in Democratic Yemen guarantees all its rights, and these are established in the legislation in force in the country, including the Youth Act adopted on 6 October 1980. This act is regarded as unique in its kind as a take-off point. The national Constitution and the legislation provide for the rights of youth to work, education, rest and social insurance and also give the right to youth leaderships to put forward proposals and develop the exercise of popular authority through the election of their representatives to organs of authority, including the Supreme People's Council and local people's councils.

Our country has realized great development and major achievements in the economic, social and cultural fields during the relatively brief period since national independence was attained on 30 November 1967, and it continues to drive out from our country, British colonialism, which lasted 129 years. Since we achieved this, as an inspiring example to many States in the region, and these achievements exerted a considerable effect on the life of youth and opened up to it bright and prosperous horizons for the future, the youth generation in our country does not suffer from unemployment at all; nor does it suffer from any discrimination or exploitation of any kind. Furthermore, the youth community in Democratic Yemen is free from all kinds of crime and drug-taking such as is the case in the capitalist countries and some of the developing countries.

The most important achievements realized for youth are the guaranteeing of the right of children to education at the various levels, inasmuch as our country has realized great achievements, of which it is proud, and more than 400,000 students and pupils are enrolled at the various educational levels and at the University of Aden and the universities of fraternal and friendly countries, whereas the number of pupils in the year of national independence, 1967, did not exceed 53,708 in the colonial schools of Aden and ignorance, backwardness and illiteracy prevailed in the various governorates and the rural areas of the country generally, as a result of colonial policy.

Last January, our country celebrated the great success of the comprehensive national campaign to eradicate illiteracy, and in only six months 157,086 men and women were liberated from illiteracy, a success rate of 96.5 per cent of the group taking the liberation from illiteracy examinations, which totalled 163,819 of those studying under the struggle against illiteracy.

I would like now to express great appreciation for the role of the Yemen Socialist Youth Federation in organizing and mobilizing the capacities of youth and the active participation of youth in the process of economic, social and cultural construction in past years, for its enthusiastic involvement in voluntary

initiatives, productive summer camps for youth, the renovation of schools, the formation of voluntary work teams and many major projects of the national economy throughout the governates of the republic and for its role in educating youth in a revolutionary fashion in the context of scientific, socialist concepts, proletarian internationalism and solidarity and friendship with the peoples struggling for liberation, democracy, peace and social progress.

At the Arab and the international levels, the youth of Democratic Yemen takes an active part in the struggle of the Arab and the international youth movements and in the struggle of the youth and the peoples of the world for peace, détente, disarmament, the prevention of a new world war and joins its voice to the anti-war movement, as a broad mass force uniting millions of persons from the various social categories and religious, political and intellectual creeds.

In this context, let me not omit to draw attention to the great dangers which threaten peace in the world, particularly the Middle East region, because of the continuous escalation of the aggressive adventurism of the Zionist entity, with direct support from the United States of America, an entity which is killing innocent citizens in southern Lebanon and elsewhere in the occupied Arab territories and which is threatening Syria, as it now endeavours to impose the Camp David accords and their complementary capitulationist schemes, with the goal of the elimination of the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and its deprivation of its legitimate right of return and to self-determination and to establish its independent State on its national territory, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative. This situation constitutes the basic obstacle to the achievement of the aspirations of Palestinian youth in particular, and Arab youth generally, especially its right to live in peace, security and stability.

The preparations and activities under way for International Youth Year in Democratic Yemen must be dedicated to the service of the just causes and fundamental rights of the youth generation, solidarity against imperialism and war, and the triumph of the causes of the struggle for peace and the social progress of the peoples of the world.

On this occasion, I address myself to the youth of our country, which is continuing to carry out its dedicated activities for International Youth Year, expressing my confidence that they will consolidate their active role in the construction of the new society and the new and prosperous life of our people and that they will continue the struggle in a lofty nationalist spirit, with a view to the achievement of Yemen unity on sound and democratic bases and through the broad mass preparations for the future of the Third General Congress of our Yemen Socialist Party, to be convened next October, as an outstanding event in the history of our revolution and our people. Accordingly, I place before you the major and vital task, namely, work to achieve high goals in the realization of Yemen's fifth general plan for economic and social development, increased production, improvement of the quality of production, awareness with regard to work, public ownership and the preservation and development thereof, the reduction of unnecessary expenditures, the reduction of disbursements, constant vigilance vis-à-vis imperialist conspiracies and imperialist plots against our people and its independence and national sovereignty, readiness to defend the revolution, the

nation, the progressive achievements of our people, and concern with sound scientific attainment and useful social activity.

We, for our part, will continue to provide every form of support to the Yemen Socialist Youth Federation and to the initiatives of youth, so as to ensure the enhancement of its role and its status in society, as an active reserve and support for the Yemen Socialist Party and in order to attain the successful discharge of the tasks of the national democratic revolution, with its socialist perspectives.

With a view to increased work and production for increased education and creativity, for greater solidarity against imperialism and feelings of abundant friendship directed towards the struggling youth and peoples of the world; with a view to the creative realization of the lofty goals of International Youth Year, under the motto: "Participation, Development, Peace"; with a view to a better future for the generation of youth, we are confident that youth throughout the world will make their important contribution to the struggle to protect our fine planet from dreadful nuclear destruction and maintain world peace, as a most vital mission in the service of mankind at the current time.

(Signed) Ali Nasser MUHAMMAD
General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Yemen Socialist Party,
Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme
People's Council
