

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969049

By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

LIAL USE

OF STATE

COPYFLS-PDR

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 16, 1973

SUBJECT: YAR/PDRY; Yemen and the October War
1973-12-16, liyan, Yemenis in US

PARTICIPANTS: Ali Saleh Sa'id, President, American and Yemen Benevolent Society
 Stephen W. Buck, Country Officer for Yemen

DISTRIBUTION: NEA/ARP
 INR, ~~SWB~~ **yo**

Amembassy SANAA

(18) I called Mr. Sa'id to convey Ambassador Crawford's regrets at not being able to address the Society. In the course of conversation Sa'id said that both YAR Foreign Minister Nu'man, PDRY Foreign Minister Muti' and their respective ambassadors to the U.N. had visited Detroit/Dearborn Sept. 28-29. Both ministers addressed a gathering of approximately 600 Yemenis. The South Yemenis had planted hostile questions but Foreign Minister Nu'man fielded them well and impressed the audience much more than Muti'. PDRY supporters also distributed leaflets against the YAR and hung pictures in the hall depicting executions and hand cuttings in the YAR. However, these were torn down. At one point the PDRY Permrep to the UN, Abdullah al-Ashtal, became so incensed at a YAR supporter from Dearborn that he challenged him to a fight. The two were separated, amidst taunts that al-Ashtal was not behaving as a diplomat. Sa'id complained that Muti' had had a number of secret meetings with PDRY sympathizers and appeared to be trying to open a branch of the Union of Yemeni workers in Dearborn. Sa'id offered to provide examples of PDRY propaganda when received.

(3) Sa'id said that despite YAR/PDRY divisions, the Yemeni community in Detroit/Dearborn was united on the question of the present war and had organized a demonstration October 14 supporting the Arab side. About 900 Arabs, predominantly Yemeni, participated. Sa'id said that to date the Yemenis in Detroit/Dearborn, through demonstrations, meetings, and radio appeals had collected \$45,700 in cash and \$40,000 in pledges to buy medicines for Arab wounded. He said most of this money would be donated to the Holy Land Foundation for transmittal to the Middle East.

(Drafting Officer)
 NEA/ARP: SWBuck:bg
 FORM DS-154 10/17/73
 2-65

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

POL S YEMEN-YEMEN XR POL 27 ARAB-ISR

19 OCT 1973