

DEMOCRATIC YEMEN

Dates of Elections: 28 to 30 October 1986

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in the Supreme People's Council in the first such poll since December 1978, and the second since independence in 1967.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Democratic (South) Yemen, the Supreme People's Council, consists of 111 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

Every citizen of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen at least 18 years of age has the right to vote. Deprived of this same privilege are persons who have lost their political and civil rights because they have been adjudged guilty of "deeds against the struggle of the working people". The right to vote is moreover suspended with regard to persons that a court has declared incapable of taking decisions, theimentally sick and those detained in prisons or investigation centres.

Electoral registers are compiled at the governorate and district levels and frequently revised. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors who have reached the age of 24 on polling day are eligible for Parliament. Furthermore, the Electoral Law stipulates that candidates must be chosen from among persons (a) with progressive stands in political and professional life prior to the revolution and since the establishment of the national democratic regime; (b) who lead exemplary personal lives; and (c) who can read and write. Since members of Parliament are not considered professional legislators, the question of incompatibility of office does not arise.

Candidates are nominated by the mass organizations which exist in the Republic. For election purposes, the country is divided into 97 election circles, the number of representatives allotted to each depending on its population. Each elector has as many votes as there are seats to be filled in his constituency. In each constituency, those candidates who have obtained the greatest number of votes are declared elected.

By-elections are held to fill Council seats which fall vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections for the Supreme People's Council had previously been held in December 1978, and were postponed from 1983 on.

In accordance with a Supreme People's Council resolution of 5 April 1986, the elections were organized by a Supreme Committee, which formed sub-committees in all six governorates under the chairmanship of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP - the country's sole political organization) Secretaries. The Supreme Committee prepared two election laws, examined lists of candidates, and outlined in broad terms the Party's programmes in economic and social spheres.

The election programmes were discussed at electors-candidates meetings held throughout the country. Altogether 181 candidates vied for the Council's 111 seats. The three-day poll was marked by high participation. Votes were sorted by the administrative councils of the 381 voting centres. The newly-elected Parliament - which comprised 71 YSP members and 40 independents - held its first session on 6 November, when the President of the Republic, Brother Haider Abubaker Al-Attas, was re-elected Chairman of its Presidium. The Council of Ministers has 18 members.

Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the Supreme People's Council*

Number of registered electors.	817,253	
Voters.	725,568	(88.78%)
,, ...• , ~		
<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>of Seats</u>
Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).	71	
Independents.	40	
	111	

2. Distribution of Members of the Supreme People's Council according to Sex

Men	100
Women.	11
	111