

true for if "democratic centralism" is to work at all the leading organs of the Movement have to be elected. The National Congress of 1964 addressed itself to this question upon the insistence of the South Arabian delegates who felt the need for the democratization of the organization more than any other branch because certain elements in the "center" were blocking their revolutionary designs for the future. The Congress, after appraising the issue at hand, accepted in principle the need to revise the organizational principles of the Movement to meet the ever-growing demands for the democratization of the party machine. Furthermore, the National Congress recommended that all Regional Commands prepare detailed studies for the democratization of the party machines in their Regions. Since then the issue became the talk of the party organs and members in every Region, but no effective steps were taken under the old center.⁴⁰ It was only after the disintegration of the National Leadership in 1968 that the Regions, now reformed under different names and novel structures, based their organizational principles on genuine party democracy. More about the offsprings of the ANM is mentioned elsewhere in this dissertation.

⁴⁰ Statement by Muhsin Ibrahim, personal interview, November 16, 1968.