

## Appendix 1: Chronology of Yemeni-Soviet relations 1920s–1980s

North Yemen	South Yemen
<p><b>1928</b> The Soviet-Yemeni Friendship and Trade Treaty is signed in Sana'a, establishing relations between the Mutawakkil Kingdom and the USSR.</p> <p><b>1939</b> The treaty is renewed.</p> <p><b>1956</b> <b>March:</b> The treaty is again renewed in Cairo.</p> <p><b>April:</b> Agreement for exchange of diplomatic delegations between the two countries. 'Abd al-Raḥmān Abū Ṭālib becomes the first minister authorized and non-resident in Yemen to Moscow.</p> <p><b>July:</b> The crown prince of Yemen Muḥammad al-Badr visits the Soviet Union and marks the beginning of the military cooperation between the two countries. An agreement for economic assistance is signed in Prague. According to the agreement the Soviet Union pledges to help Yemen with favourable credit terms for several economic projects.</p> <p><b>October:</b> Yemen receives Soviet weapons. Further shipments follow and military cooperation starts.</p> <p><b>1959</b> Wheat aid arrives from USSR for famine relief.</p> <p><b>1962</b> <b>January:</b> Opening of the Soviet Embassy in Sana'a.</p>	

**October:** The Soviet Union officially recognizes the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) established after the 26 September Revolution and overthrow of the Imamate. This is the first non-Arab country to recognize the YAR.

**November:** 'Alī Ṣayf al-Khawlānī is appointed first YAR ambassador to Moscow.

**December:** Agreements signed for economic projects and use of groundwater between the two countries.

### **1963**

The Soviet government sends its first ambassador to the YAR.

### **1964**

President 'Abd Allāh al-Sallāl visits Moscow and signs a treaty of friendship, and an economic and military agreement between the two countries.

### **1967**

**December:** The Soviet Union recognizes the independence of South Yemen from the British Empire. A Soviet mission arrives to set up a Soviet embassy.

### **1968**

**February:** Opening of diplomatic delegations in Aden and Moscow. The first permanent diplomatic staff arrives to the PRSY. A military delegation led by Minister of Defense 'Alī al-Bīḍ visits Moscow. No actual agreement was announced at the time.

**March:** The first Soviet military delegation comes to Aden to study the Republic's military requirements.

	<p><b>June:</b> First Soviet naval visit to Aden.</p> <p><b>July:</b> First arms consignment arrives in Aden from the USSR.</p> <p><b>August:</b> Technical and Military Assistance agreement is signed.</p> <p><b>November:</b> the first Soviet ambassador, Vladimir Startsev, arrives in Aden.</p> <p><b>1969</b></p> <p><b>January:</b> A major consignment of Soviet military equipment arrives in Aden.</p> <p><b>January-February:</b> President al-Sha'bī spends eleven days in the Soviet Union. An initial Economic and Technical Assistance Agreement is signed to help the PRSY create a modern fishing industry. This is the first top-level South Yemen visit to the USSR. The USSR agrees to train South Yemeni personnel in the USSR and South Yemen agrees to Soviet technical missions studying the waters around the PRSY. Al-Sha'bī's visit also leads to the signing of a Scientific and Educational Agreement. From this year onwards a strategic relationship is built with Russia although Russia contributed no more than a quarter of the PDRY's aid in the form of projects and not as budgetary support. Soviet interests were focused on the port of Aden; Aden's hinterland was largely left alone.</p> <p><b>1970</b></p> <p><b>July:</b> A National Front of South Yemen delegation visits the USSR to study training methods in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.</p>
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**1972**

Opening of a College of Socialist Sciences and a school for the Youth Union. Soviet instructors teach in South Yemen.

**1974**

The government bans all further emigration and undertakes a number of measures to encourage migrants abroad, officially estimated at around 300,000, to return and work at home. New and third Agreement on Technical and Economic Co-operation and program of cultural and scientific co-operation for 1974-75 is signed.

**1975**

Implementation of the secondary-school curriculum organized on a "scientific Socialist basis". It was completed in the 1983/84 school year.

There are 1,300 students at Aden University and 1,230 studying abroad. International aid increases to \$314 million by the end of the year. China is the largest donor, followed by the USSR, Libya, Kuwait, the World Bank, and Abu Dhabi.

**1978**

The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is established with the encouragement, if not insistence, of Moscow.

From November onwards Soviet aircraft flies reconnaissance and antisubmarine warfare missions to monitor Western naval operations in the region.

**1978-1980**

Pro-Moscow hardliner 'Abd al-Fattah Ismail governs South Yemen in this period after accessing power through a coup involving the ouster and execution of his predecessor, Sālim Rubay' 'Alī. 'Alī leaned toward China

<p><b>1980:</b> Russian military and technical aid is given to the Sana'a government through an arms supply agreement.</p>	<p>rather than toward the USSR. Direct Soviet and Cuban intervention help Ismail to overthrow Sālim Rubay' 'Alī leading to a more pro-Moscow regime.</p> <p>In 1978 Ismail signs a protocol with Moscow to help build the new vanguard party, and expanded Soviet access to facilities. Yemeni-Soviet ties become closer during this period.</p> <p><b>1979</b></p> <p>Moscow and Aden sign a protocol for wide ranging Soviet help with YSP activities.</p> <p><b>September:</b> Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin visits Aden, the first visit by a top-level civilian Soviet official. New agreements are concluded.</p> <p><b>November:</b> 20-year Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed between PDRY and URSS, German Democratic Republic, and Ethiopia. Ismail gains observer status for PDRY in COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance).</p> <p><b>1980</b></p> <p><b>February:</b> Ismail is ousted by 'Alī Nassir Muḥammad in a coup within the YSP. The program adopted by the YSP under Muḥammad's leadership stressed ideological continuity and his intention to preserve Aden's existing ties with Moscow.</p> <p><b>May:</b> President 'Alī Nāṣir Muḥammad visits Moscow. Two new agreements are signed: one to set up a Standing Commission on Economic and Technical Co-operation, the other on constructing the Hizwa thermal power station.</p>
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**1981**

**October:** President 'Alī Abd Allāh Ṣālīḥ pays an official visit to Moscow, the first by a YAR president since that of al-Sallāl in 1964.

**1984**

YAR president visits Moscow shortly after visit of PDRY president.

**1990**

Unification of YAR and PDRY

**1991**

The URSS is dissolved

**1982**

**September:** 'Alī Nāṣir Muḥammad visits the USSR. This visit involved one of the last public engagements of Soviet President Brezhnev.

**1984**

Aden supports Moscow's Middle East peace initiative and other regional Soviet proposals such as the "Indian Ocean peace zone" and the complete removal of the West's military presence in the Middle East.

**October:** 'Alī Nāṣir Muḥammad visits Moscow.

**1985**

After the devastating 1982 floods the Soviets agree to refinance South Yemen's payments and Moscow grants small amounts of aid such as the agreement of January 1985 to supply 47 tons of sugar to South Yemen, 37 tons as a loan and 10 tons for free.

**January:** the YSP fails to attend a major meeting of Middle East leftist parties held in Cyprus. This is indicative of the YSP's unsettled state at the time.

Soviets sign a new oil exploration agreement with Aden in January.

**1987**

**February:** 'Alī al-Bīḍ meets with Gorbachev in Moscow.

**1990**

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