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Synopsis

A number of different documents are thrown together, covering 1) the Patani United Liberation Organization's fight for independence from Thailand; 2) the predicament faced by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia, and proposals by the new leadership on how to fix their problems; 3) a report analyzing the war in Somalia since the fall of Ziad Barre in 1991; 4) regulations for Ansa'ar Allah Base, and an associated security committee; and 5) a report from Yemeni border officials on a secret training mission.

Key Themes

The document consists of several collections of documents that cover different topics. They are not in order, but are arranged thematically here.

Patani United Liberation Organization (PULO)

Patani is completely different from the rest of Thailand in terms of race, language, religion and education. Its main industry is rubber production, but it is also self-sufficient in rice.

Later in the document, the PULO media unit releases a report from a Thai newspaper (13 August 1995) which claims that the Thai government discovered unexploded bombs planted by PULO. Further, the Thai military would like to classify PULO as a terrorist group, and claims that the leader of PULO, Kabir Abdul Rahman, is sick, a charge PULO disputes.

In the next section, the PULO media office in Sudan writes to the people of Sudan on the occasion of PULO's 28th anniversary. In 1993 and 1994, PULO representatives met with the Thai government, and demanded a treaty between PULO and Thailand, as well as self-determination for Patani. PULO's overall goal is an independent democratic state in Patani based on Islamic 'instructions'. The Thai Prime Minister, Banhan Salafa Aaja, rejected these demands. As a result, PULO continues to fight, and asks for the support of all freedom-loving peoples, especially Islamic nations.

Next, the PULO media unit announces that Kabir Abdul Rahman has visited the International Islamic World Organization for Human Rights and discussed the plight of the people of Patani.

In the final section of the document, Abdul Kadir Rahman writes to Abu Obaida and tries to arrange a meeting with him.

Presidential address, Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia

The President of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia gives a speech in he notes that the Front was established in 1969, but earlier fought slavery in 1964-1965 in Bali, Harar, and 'Arsa provinces. The Front has faced many obstacles, including the confiscation of all their weapons coming across the Red Sea, and the martyrdom of many fighters. Nevertheless, the Oromiyan people's faith has not been shaken in the face of many crimes, resulting in hope to other oppressed peoples and fear to colonizers.

The Front welcomed the fall of the Aldirgh government in Ethiopia, attended the reconciliation conference in 1991, and participated in the security and governance preparations for the transitional government. Problems arose in the implementation – the different fronts in Oromia began fighting each other over which one was the legitimate representative of the Oromiyian people. The Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front for Ethiopian Peoples (RDFEP) began fighting, due to language problems and other misunderstandings, and tensions remain high. The proposed solution is peaceful negotiation and patience, yet while the RDFEP asked for negotiations, the Front's [previous?] leader refused, leading to war. As a result, all gains of the previous years were lost. The previous leader made decisions for his personal benefit, to the detriment of the Front. The new leadership has no objection to staying within Ethiopia provided the rights of the Oromiyian people are respected. The leadership further pledges not to engage in conflict due to religious differences, not to favor any particular area, and not to let the gains from jihad be lost.

Organizational Predicament of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia

The author describes how the Front came to be in its current predicament. The original leadership became rigid, and did not heed the opinions of others. Decisions were random and harmful to the Front as a whole, the Oromiyian people saw their dreams dashed, and the strength of the Front actually decreased. The author proposes a general representative conference to outline a political program, create a vision for the Front, and generally reform the organization.

The political program should include measures to encourage multi-party democratic practices, non-discrimination on the basis of religion or nationality, and self-determination by referendum for the Oromiyian people. The economic program would encourage light industry, improve transportation and utility infrastructure, husband natural resources, and modernize agriculture. The educational program would make most education free, establish new schools and scholarships, and encourage the use of the Oromiyian language. The social program's goals are to provide health care for Oromiyans, improve public health and nutrition, and end antiquated marriage and work practices. The national defense program would enlist all males ages 18 to 30 into the regional army. In terms of foreign policy, the Front supports peaceful resolutions to problems, welcomes helpful organizations, and encourages other peoples' self-determination.

How did the new events start in Somalia?

The author describes how Ziad Barre instigated a conflict within Mogadishu that quickly spiraled out of control. The USC was successful in driving Ziad Barre from power, but could not keep control itself, and the uprising turned into a war between the rival tribes Hawi and Darood. The author concludes that this was Ziad Barre's intention all along, since he could use the violence 1) instigate a tribal war where he would come out ahead, and 2) inflict suffering on Somalia such that people will long for the days of Ziad Barre. The author argues that Ziad Barre largely succeeded.

Although the combatants might at times divide themselves into Hawi and Darood, the groups within the tribes often fight each other, and the identities themselves are but covers for hatred, prejudice, and ambition, all of which have led them away from Islam. These divisions are new and complicated – previously Somalia had been one nation, one people, one language, and one religion. The author goes into depth as to the various combatants within the Hawi and Darood parties, and explains their complexity. He decries the chaos and violence of present-day Somalia, and finds the hidden hand of Western powers, particularly the United States (whose diplomats were trained in Italy regarding Somali tribes), in the violence. The only solution is a strong Islamic central state with shari'a.

Ansa'ar Allah Base

This document lays out some of the duties involved in running this training camp and the organization in general. The security committee is responsible for the physical security of the camp, and of the personnel training within the camp, as well the mental 'security' of trainees and other personnel. This particular protection can be accomplished through the interception of hostile media, lectures, and training sessions. The security committee also engages in counterintelligence work within the organization, collects intelligence, conducts police investigations, coordinates with Islamic intelligence services (this is shelved for the present time), and takes part in covert action. The chairman of the security committee should have been a member of the organization for five years, of sound religion, and have sufficient military and security experience.

Yemen Democratic People's Republic Ministry of State Security

A 1985 letter to high-level officials in the Yemen Democratic People's Republic from Yemeni border security officials clarifies some points about a top secret training mission. The training mission involves a number of different aspects, including anti-personnel training, and anti-'military machineries' training. There was a problem with leaks from within the mission, and as a result, those in charge have taken steps to train participants on the importance of security. The group cooperated with Khubra during the training, and took a number of lectures. Unfortunately, many of the recruits had never used the weapons before, and their literacy and educational levels were extremely low. Finances were also so tight that they were forced to take out personal loans to cover costs. The authors propose that a secret training area for application and weapons training be designated, and groups trained in 1986 (the next year). They also propose to assign the leaker somewhere out of the country so as not to cause problems. Finally, they suggest storing the weapons in a secure area, and raising the salaries of the workers.