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Yemen: The "State of South Arabia" Declaration

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News Context: In January 2026, the **Southern Transitional Council (STC)**, a powerful separatist group in Yemen, published a constitutional declaration for the “**State of South Arabia**.”

- **Historical Echo:** The name refers to the borders of the former **South Yemen** (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen), which was independent from 1967 until unification in 1990.
- **The Plan:** The STC head, Aidarous al-Zubaidi, stated the constitution would be in effect for **two years**, leading to a referendum on self-determination.
- **Geopolitical Impact:** This threatens the fragile unity of the **Presidential Leadership Council (PLC)** and complicates the peace process with the Houthi rebels in the North. It also affects the security of the **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**, a critical global maritime choke point.

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