

YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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OURVIEWPOINT



Introducing the YEMEN TIMES

THIS IS The first issue of the Yemen Times. Therefore, it is with pleasure that I use this editorial to introduce it to the reader.

The YEMEN TIMES is an independent weekly paper not attached to any political party or thought. As such, its stand vis-avis the various local, regional, and international issues is determined on the basis of an objective assessment of the merits and demerits involved. The paper aims to reach out to a large base of readers, specially amongst the intellectual classes, the decision makers, the business sector, and the international community.

Nevertheless, the paper covers with interest and commitment two categories of activities, which are:

1. Economic/Business Activities:

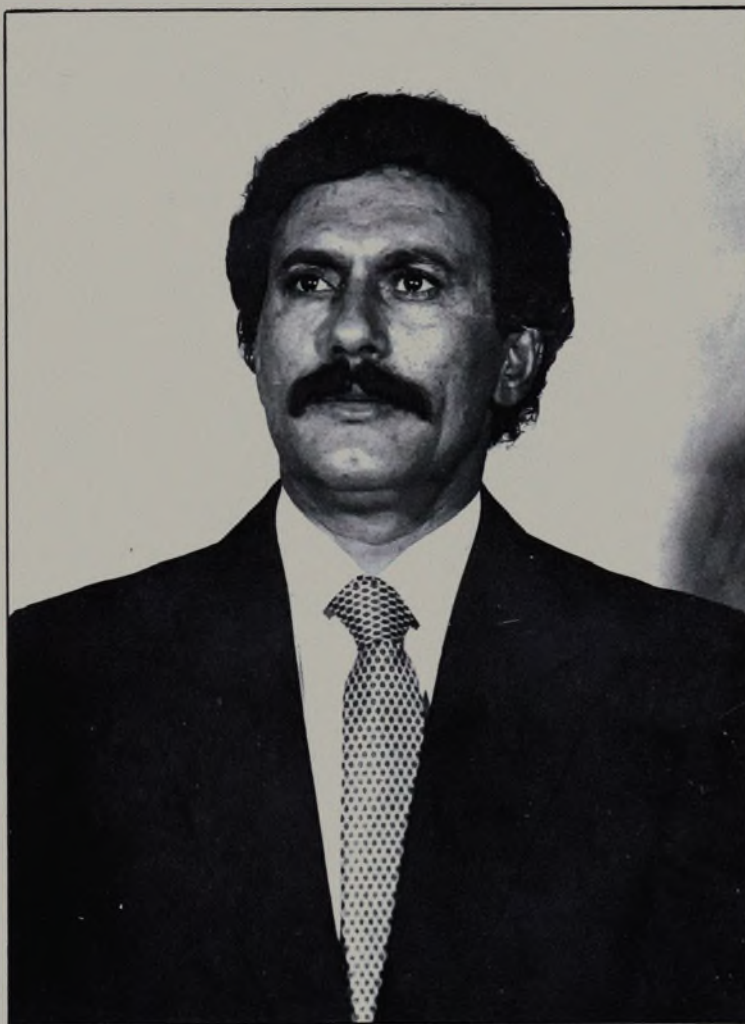
YEMEN TIMES will provide a detailed coverage of economic and business activities in Yemen, and a synopsis of important regional and international issues in this sector. Major emphasis will be placed on trade, investments, economic laws, tenders, and market-watch aspects in price levels, consumption, interest rates, exchange rates, etc. In general, government and private-sector efforts in the country's socio-economic development process will be extensively covered.

2. Democracy and Human Rights:

YEMEN TIMES believes that the prosperity and strength of nations, if at least in the long run, will depend on democratic values and the observation of human rights. In the absence of those two basic elements in society, it is doubtful that much can be achieved. Therefore, the paper will closely follow those two issues as reflected in Yemeni life. Much has been achieved in both counts in the recent past, and much more remains to be achieved.

The paper will heavily depend on primary sources of information; i.e., interviews, polls, field surveys, and contributions and feed-back from our readers. Yet the paper will also provide information from secondary sources, specially through the weekly summary round-up of the local press. All in all, YEMEN TIMES hopes to be informative and analytic in nature. All members of the paper promise to make a sincere effort to serve our readership, and all of us will appreciate an active participation and feed-back. Till next Wednesday, take care!

PRESIDENT SALEH: YEMEN IS UNITED IN ITS STAND !



President Ali Abdullah Saleh confirmed that Yemen and the Arab Nation will strive for an independent Arab resolution for the Gulf crisis. He reaffirmed opposition to the imperialist-zionist offensive which aims to keep the Arab homeland under its custody. President Saleh made this statement during an inter-

view with the Egyptian weekly "Alyasar" magazine.

"The Arab nation will never forsake its independence whatever the situation," the Yemeni President was quoted as saying. We believe that the Arab people stand firmly with Iraq in its historic struggle against the Western onslaught, he said. Referring

to the economic blockade of Iraq, the Yemeni President said it was invalid and that it is a ploy to exercise pressure on Iraq.

Within Yemen, the President said that the crisis increased cohesion among Yemenis and deepened unity. "Despite the negative economic impact, and the smear campaign orchestrated against the country, we in Yemen stand steadfast to our position." We will not be drawn into the media thrashing, he said. Commenting on the last Arab summit held in Cairo, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said that he did not wish to see the first Arab summit fail following the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. With regard to the Yemeni-Egyptian relations, he confirmed those relations were deeply rooted and strong enough to withstand any events. He pointed to the effective Egyptian contribution to the September and October revolutions in Yemen. "No one can change or affect the solid relations between the two peoples, not even differences among their rulers and regimes," he said.

Finally, he said that Yemen's constitution is based on Islamic values, which it cannot violate.

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ATTAGAMMU' ALWAHDAMI ALYAMANI WANTS A SHORTER TRANSITION PERIOD!

Yemen Times has sponsored a field survey covering the political parties in Yemen. The objective of the survey is to gather pertinent data and provide our readers with an informed documentation of the various positions and principles of the parties. Each week, the paper will provide an analysis of one party on which data has become available. We do not intend to provide biased commentary, we only wish to provide information based on what has been made available to us by the parties themselves. This week we start with the Attagammu' Alwahdawi Alyamani.

1. ATTAGAMMU' ALWAHDAMI ALYAMANI

Roughly translated, Attagammu' Alwahdawi Alyamani stands for the Gathering of United Yemenis, which is a left-of-center political party established in 1990. Initially headquartered in Aden, the party has just moved its head office to Sanaa with numerous branches in the various cities. The party appeals primarily to the intellectuals, government employees, and workers. Its leadership is as follows:

Party Chairman - Mohammed Abdo Noman
Vice Chairman - Khalil Fadhle Mansoor
Party Secretary - Omar Al-Gawi
Organization Director - Nasser Assaeed Abdullah
Over the last few months, the party has intensified its

membership drive. It has just distributed over 10,000 membership applications, with favorable results notably in Ibb, Amran, and Zabid. The party is planning a new membership drive in the major cities. The most important means for the party to reach out is the personal contact which its members use. Additional means include the distribution of flyers (circulars), lectures, meetings, and of course, the party newspaper, Attagammu', of which 12,000 copies are printed weekly.

The Attagammu' is fiercely nationalistic, and almost xenophobic. Its basic creed puts emphasis on democratic practices, human rights, and constitutional legality, all of which it aims to incorporate in the political life of Yemen. In the immediate future, the party intends to achieve the following goals:

1. To hold the referendum on the constitution immediately without any further delay or amendments.
2. To shorten the transition period to a maximum of six months following the referendum. At the moment, the transition period is expected to end on 22/5/1992.
3. To promulgate the laws governing political parties and activities.
4. To seek the immediate unification of the laws in what was formerly North and South Yemen. The party demands the dissolution of any manifestations

of the independence of either part of Yemen from the other.

5. To control the use of treasury resources by the ruling parties.

In the longer run, the party's objectives include:

1. To create an economic system in which the public sector plays a visible role. The party also believes that the state (government) must "control" or "guide" economic activities. This does not negate the role of the private sector, but it is kept under check.

2. To create a political system which sanctifies human rights and individual freedom. The party has proposed an inter-party alliance and cooperation code of honor to govern political activities. In terms of relations with the state, the party seeks to make government activities open to all, and make officials accountable to the public.

3. To create a social system in which no group of people are left out or find themselves unable to meet their basic needs.

This party's literature and documents indicate its anxiety, apprehension, and deep worry of any "reactionary" steps to take the country back to former conditions. It has been able to effectively use this mechanism in mobilizing its members and supporters.

See you next week with another party.

LOCAL ECONOMIC BRIEFS:

Permanent Yemeni-Soviet Committee Established:

At the end of a Soviet delegation's visit to Sana'a this week, Yemen and the Soviet Union signed two agreements and a protocol. The first agreement calls for the establishment of the permanent Yemeni/Soviet Joint Committee for economic, education, technical and trade cooperation; The second covers the organization of trade exchange, economic and technical cooperation. The protocol calls for the establishment of a Soviet trade representation in Sana'a and a branch in Aden. The agreements were signed by Dr. Mutahar Al-Saidi, Vice Minister of Planning on the Yemeni side and by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations on the Soviet side. In various meetings with Yemeni officials, the Soviet Deputy Minister discussed the exchange of Yemeni/Soviet products and the means to increase Yemeni exports to the Soviet Union. The Soviet official and eng Mohammed Al-Gunaid, Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, also exchanged views on issues of joint cooperation, in particular, those relating to financial and banking matters.

Industrial Oil Project Approved

The High Council for Economic, Oil and Investment Affairs, presided over by Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakar Al-Attas, has approved the commodity and foreign currency budgets for 1991. The Council has instructed the ministers concerned and the governor of Central Bank to make arrangements to ensure the availability of basic commodities to the public on a continuous basis. The Council then approved a project for the production of industrial oil and authorized the relevant authorities to finalize the studies for the execution of this project.

The Council also discussed a memo regarding the construction of oil tanks and authorized the concerned agency to study the establishment of this project. The Council finally discussed a report presented by the Minister of Fisheries regarding the steps needed to support fish exports. The necessary measures were also taken to encourage investments in this sector.

YR. 90 m Allocated for Agricultural Projects

Abdul Wali Abdul Rahim, Acting Planning Manager of the Ministry of Agriculture (Aden branch) said that investments in 22 Agricultural projects have been included in the current budget. Eighty percent of the proposed investments will concentrate on irrigation schemes within the rural integrated development projects. These projects include the development of Wadi Hajr, Hadhramaut and Beihan; drilling of water wells; land cultivation; maintenance of water installations; construction of modern irrigation system covering an area of 1,200 hectares in Abyan governorate - 100 kms. east of Aden, preparation of studies and designs for Al-Douaa Dam in Abyan and a comprehensive study for water and soil resources covering the southern governorates.

Abdul Rahim said "Crop and farm projects include the support of agricultural research, potato development project, construction of the central laboratory for agricultural organic chemistry and completion of the farmers residential units. Animal production projects cover completion of animal pens in Hadhramaut Governorate. Development of animal meat projects are proposed to produce 1000 tons of poultry meat. The proposed total investment for these projects is estimated at YR. 90,293,000 which will be financed by the government.

Dutch Aid:

The Dutch Government agreed to provide Yemen a grant of DF 24 million to support the administration agreement for the rural development project in Radaa and Al-Beidha. It is worth mentioning that the Government of The Netherlands enjoys a very friendly relations with the Republic of Yemen.

Shibam City Preservation:

YR 10.5 million has been allocated for the preservation of the historic city of Shibam in Hadhramaut Governorate. This amount will be spent on preservation efforts of the old buildings and some old streets in the city. The multi-storey buildings in Shibam, built several centuries ago, constitute one of the achievements of the Yemeni civilization.

TENDER NOTICE

The Civil Aviation and MET Authority invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the OVERLAY OF THE EXISTING RUNWAY AND WIDENING THE TAXIWAY SHOULDERS at Sanaa International Airport. Interested eligible bidders may obtain the tender documents from the Projects Department at Civil Authority headquarters at the following address:

Project Department,
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
P. o. Box 1042
Zubairi Street - Sana'a
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TELEX 2334
FAX 274126
Tel 272619 - 18

Cost of the tender documents is a non-refundable YR 5,000. Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes valid for 90 days from opening date. A Bank guarantee/Bond or Endorsed cheque equivalent to 2% of the total bid value valid for 90 days should be furnished along with the offer.

Closing and opening date of the bids will be Tuesday 30-4-1991 at 10 am at the above address.

To catch up on the rapid developments in the region, Yemen Times Chairman and Publisher Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Chief Editor Abdul-Rahman Al-Haidari had the following dialogue with Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen. Dr. Al-Iryani is, of course, one of the prominent Arab and Islamic political figures.

Q. What are your comments on the Soviet initiative and Yemen's stand on it?

A. First of all Yemen's stand vis-avis any peace initiative that has honest and true intentions of bringing peace to the region has always been positive. We have even at certain stages developed our own initiatives which we thought were acceptable to the allied leadership, but did not materialize. We believe that the Russian proposal was first of all legally correct because there was a legal argument about its adherence to the U.N. resolutions. In legal terms it is absolutely correct because the U.N. resolutions require Iraq to withdraw immediately. The word immediately does not mean 12 hours of ultimatum as the United States is interpreting it on its own. Secondly the Russian proposal fulfills completely all the requirements and the declared objective of the allies. Yet surprisingly and amazingly, the U.S. and its allies decided to reject this initiative. I think it is not only Yemen's view, but it is a general consensus in the Arab countries (whether at the officially declared level or at the officially subdued expression). The true Western objectives behind the entire mobilization that started immediately after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait will become very well known and obvious. Yemen has constantly alerted our brothers in the Arab countries and even some of the allied leaders of the ulterior motives to destroy Iraq and to subjugate the Iraqi people to the policy of submission. If something happens in the next few hours in the direction of the Russian proposal or initiative, then it does not really mean that there were no ulterior motives. It would mean that this ulterior motive has gone as far as possible without being revealed. If the ground war

starts tonight in disregard to the Russian initiative, then it would simply mean more revelation of the ulterior motives. As far as Yemen's stand vis-avis the Soviet initiative, we have been supportive. We were asked officially by the Soviet Union to alert our representative at the U.N. to cooperate with them during the expected meeting of the Security Council. All the representatives remained around U.N. headquarters until 0100hrs New York time on 22/02/1991, but no meeting was called.

Q. Given Yemen's position vis-avis the Gulf situation, there has been a smear campaign against it. In the foreign media, they usually associate Yemen with Cuba with the aim of classifying Yemen as a country from which threats can be expected. Can you comment!!!

A. First of all the smear campaign has been quite evident and wherever we had an opportunity to clarify, we have done so. It is a deliberate attempt, sponsored by Saudi Arabia and supported by the Americans and their allies. I think the British press particularly and one French newspaper (Liberation) have been essentially the mouthpiece of Saudi Arabia. The Economist, in its foreign report section (privately circulated) published an article that has fabricated a report about Yemen. We discovered that the freedom of press in these countries was so well manipulated - very much like newspapers in the third world countries. This smear campaign has been deliberate, perhaps hateful. This is because of the fully independent Yemeni position. The talk of Cuba and Yemen is a fact drawn from the Security Council. Our cooperation with Cuba has nothing to do whatsoever with Cuba's policy towards the United States or the European countries. It is a matter of conversion rather than cooperation. No doubt, we have good relations with Cuba. They have an embassy in Yemen and likewise, we have our embassy in Cuba. When we cooperate with them, we do it with full honesty, and we believe that they cooperate with us

in full honesty based on the true desire to establish peace in the region according to the U.N. Security Council resolutions. So the smear campaign is not surprising and I think it is Saudi instigated, Saudi paid for and American/European supported.

Q. Due to Yemen's independent position and its refusal to toe the line, some of the foreign assistance that used to come to Yemen has dried up. There has been a campaign to reduce if not cancel some of the current foreign assistance. Would you like to shed some light on this?

A. First of all, I would like to say that Yemen's dependence on foreign assistance was significant in Yemen's development in the past. The present crisis regardless of whether Yemen has toed the line or not, has taught us that we will have to depend more on ourselves than we ever had. Of course, we do not reject any foreign assistance, provided it has no conditions attached. Now the present availability of funds for helping countries which suffered during the crisis due to their adherence to the UN resolutions, is clearly delivered to countries which have toed the line. Because we did not toe the line, we are not on the pay list. Secondly, the bilateral assistance from the U.S. which was cancelled is a symbolization of their dislike of Yemen's stand. You know U.S. \$22 million is not going to break the back of Yemen. We took it that way and told them "You dislike what we are doing, this is the only thing you can do and we are happy that you have done it". Another sort of assistance is from the Gulf states. Unfortunately for them, they are already borrowing so we do not expect much from them in the near future. The third source is from the international agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations Organizations, etc. and our re-



lationship with them is very normal. Support is continuing and to a great extent, they are less coerced by individual countries. So we expect their assistance to continue. Bilateral sources have been influenced by the political position taken by Yemen but its significance is not really that great, except in the case of Gulf states which were major contributors. Initially they stopped aid to punish us. I remember telling the Kuwaiti Ambassador when he came to cancel all support to Sana'a University and Kuwait Hospital, we fully understand your new needs. Thank goodness, we did not live too long to hear the Kuwaiti Ambassador declare in the U.S.A. that US\$ 13.25 billion is only a small contribution to the great endeavour taken by the U.S. on behalf of Kuwait.

Q. Coming back to local issues, what's happening in Somalia? Is it true that many Yemenis have been killed and that a number of them have fled to Mombasa (Kenya)?

A. First of all no cases of deaths of Yemenis have been reported unless they have occurred in remote areas. Of course there is a civil war and everything is possible. At the first opportunity, our embassy and the leaders of the Yemeni community were able to arrange for Yemenis to go to

Kenya from where a special flight either today (23/02/91) or tomorrow will fly them to Yemen. Everything possible was done to help the Yemeni community and to bring them safely to Yemen. Some preferred to stay in Kenya as they wished to eventually return to Somalia as the situation stabilises.

Q. What is the number of Yemeni immigrants in Somalia?

A. It is not very accurately known because many of them were born in Somalia and they do not go to the Embassy to establish their nationality. Large numbers of Yemenis live in rural areas which were not seriously affected by the civil war. I estimate no more than 200 Yemenis from Mogadisho left the country.

Q. The Deputy Minister for Immigrants Affairs said that there may be trouble for Yemenis living in Southeast Asia and that the Prime Ministry had asked the Ministry to investigate this? Do you have any information on the subject?

A. I have not heard of this. We have only received communication from Malaysia that because of the present crisis, those Yemenis who wish to travel to Malaysia (this applies to other countries as well) must have a visa before arrival. Before the crisis, visas were available upon arrival in Malaysia. It is a very normal action and nothing that could endanger the lives of livelihood of Yemenis living there.

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WHAT IS YOUR COUNTRY'S NAME?

On June 19, 1989, Burma changed its name to Myanmar. The military government explained that it wasn't fair to name the whole place Burma, since the name Burma referred to only one of many ethnic groups in the country. Hence the change. So the country is named after none of them - Myanmar translates roughly into "fast and strong" - and the capital, Rangoon, has become Yangon, supposedly a more accurate rendition of a native pronunciation.

This has already caused big trouble for non-Burmese - particularly students of world geography - because Myanmar is much harder to pronounce and spell than Burma. Also, the nameplates of every country in the UN General Assembly between b-u and m-o have had to be moved down one space. Before, Burma separated Burkino Faso from Burundi. Now Myanmar separates Mozambique from Nepal - as if the Indian Ocean and the Himalayas weren't good enough.

What justifies all this trouble? Government spokesmen in Yangon claimed that the people were already using the new names, so the change was just a formality. But if that were all there was to it, why wait forty years? No, when a government decides to change the name of the country it governs, this invariably coincides with a period of social turbulence and is often part of an effort to distance a regime from the turpitude, disgraces, or sins of the past.

So, the Burma - Myanmar business is but an example of a larger phenomenon - the political uses of language.

The invention and the changing of names for countries has been going on for a long time. Some countries seem to have found changing their name so amusing that they have done it more than once. In 1939, Siam became Thailand. In 1945, Thailand became Siam. Then in 1948, Siam became Thailand again. Why? As always, the reasons were political.

As one might expect, the decolonialization period of the late 1950s and 1960s produced the most new names, as former colonies chose new symbols for national independence.

Independence leaders generally argued for a new name whenever the old one was derived from a foreign language or selected by foreigners. Better a name from the language and history of one's own nation than a symbol of colonialism.

Thus, the formerly British Gold Coast became Ghana (1957), originally an independent kingdom that existed between the fourth and thirteenth centuries. Choosing that name symbolized political continuity and represented a savvy use of the mythic past for the sake of the future.

Similarly, Nyasaland became Malawi in 1964; Malawi derives from the Maravi empire of ancient times,

twisted European attempt at a native name to a more accurate one. Thus, Basutoland became Lesotho. Some believe that the Englishman who put a B where an L should have been had drunk a few too many gin and tonics that day.

Others argue that people from Lesotho have a strange propensity to lisp on first syllables. The mystery has never been solved.

A less extreme case includes the Bechuanaland Protectorate which, upon independence, became Botswana. An even more subtle example concerns a respelling from the French Tchad to the unFrench Chad. As every English speaker knows, French people always put extra letters in

ly, by picking a name that began with Z instead of C, it conveniently put Zairian delegates at the UN General Assembly hall much closer to the men's room.

Ceylon was abandoned for Sri Lanka in 1972 because of intense internal pressure brought by Sinhalese nationalists on the prime minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

In her effort to appease this appeal to chauvinism - which, along with Tamil terrorism, has since contributed mightily to the collapse of civil order in the country - the prime minister ditched Ceylon for Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka means "honored" or "sacred land" in archaic Sinhalese and was a name supposedly given

early 1980s gave names to "homelands" that were supposedly independent nations: Vanda, Transkei, Ciskei, and Bophuthatswana. This ploy went down rather poorly in most world capitals; apartheid, by any other name, is still apartheid.

In recent months, East European countries (Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania) have dropped the "People's" from the "People's Republic" of such-and-such, a symbolic understatement considering the drama of the changes that have taken place. The German Democratic Republic went even further; beyond dropping its name, it dropped the whole darned thing.

On 22/5/1990 the two parts of Yemen (the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) was reunited. The new name is the Republic of Yemen - plain and simple.

When a government decides to change the name of the country it governs, this invariably coincides with a period of social turbulence and is often part of an effort to distance a regime from the turpitude, disgraces, or sins of the past.

which stretched from the Congo basin to the Indian Ocean.

Northern Rhodesia named as it was after Cecil Rhodes, the colonizer of Africa, definitely had to go. It became Zambia in 1964, a name derived from the Zambezi River, one of the longest and mightiest in the world.

There were cases, too, when the old name had to go, but no culturally resonant substitute was available. The Dutch Indies became Indonesia in 1950; British Guiana became Guyana in 1966, and the old British Federation of Malaya became Malaysia in 1963. These new names are all neologisms without special etymological or legendary historical significance.

Even stranger, in 1960, there came into being the Central African Republic, a territory carved from the former French Sudan, which had been called Ubangi-Shari after the two major rivers that run through the country. Ubangi-Shari may have been too exotic, so something new had to be found. But really, couldn't anyone do better than the hopelessly generic Central African Republic? The CAR changed its name, too, in 1976, to the Central African Empire under that infamous madman, "Emperor" Bokassa. The name was changed back after Bokassa was deposed.

Sometimes, the old colonial names did not so much change as get corrected from a

their words because, well.. because that's what French people do. In any event, this change has caused problems for French speakers because Chad pronounced in French sounds like Shad. (Odd name for a landlocked country.)

Sometimes there was considerable delay between national independence and the adoption of a new name. Thus, the Congo became Zaire (1971), Ceylon became Sri Lanka (1972), Dahomey became Benin (1975), Upper Volta became Burkino Faso (1984), all these changes coming many years after independence. As in earlier cases, all of the original names were either given or chosen by Europeans. The new names are more "native". As always, the reason for a delayed change was not simple absentmindedness, plausible as that may seem in some cases, but rather the political atmospherics attending a regime transition or some other threat to the status quo.

The politics behind name changes are quite many. Zaire, for example, was coined when Mobutu Sese Seko left Congo for Zaire in 1971 as part of an "authentication" campaign. Possibly, too, Mobutu hoped to throw his creditors off the track. Another possible reason was that the huge former Belgian Congo was forever getting confused with the dinky former French Congo. Final-

ly, the country by an ancient king.

Burkina Faso means "land of upright men" in More'. As was the case in Benin, Burkina Faso came into being after a leftist coup.

Clearly, Upper Volta was a name stigmatized by the colonial past.

New names have also resulted from political amalgamations as well as divisions. What do you get when you combine the old Italian colonies of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, and the French-controlled enclave of Fezzan? You get Libya, in 1951. The union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964 created the compound name of Tanzania. The unification of a number of small Arab sheikdoms in eastern Arabia in 1971 (the former Trucial States) gave rise to the United Arab Emirates.

The United Arab Republic was a name invented in 1958 for the union of Egypt and Syria, which lasted only until 1961. Despite the union's failure, Egypt kept the name for itself alone until 1971, when the Arab Republic of Egypt was coined.

Some name changes don't stick. As noted above, Cambodia was changed to Khmer and then to Kampuchea, but is again okay for foreigners to use the name Cambodia.

The South African government in the late 1970s and

As to the future, there are a number of candidates for name changes. One is the West African country of Sierra Leone, which in Portuguese means "mountain of the lion." Another is Albania, which calls itself Shqipërisë in its own language, meaning "land of eagles". If the government in Tirana ever insists on a change to Shqipërisë, one thing is certain: It will have a melancholy effect on world geography students and UN floor workers.

Another possibility is South Africa, which, if the African National Congress has its way, would be called Azania.

Yet another candidate for change is Egypt, a name derived from the Greek Aigýptos. In Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, the country is known as Misr, which probably means "border province". With the economic woes that Egypt has today, officially renaming the country with a name that sounds like misery might have important fund-raising potential.

This article is partially based on Adam Garfinkle's piece: "What's in a Name", *The World and I*, February 1991, pp. 577-587.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF YEMEN

The unity government of the Republic of Yemen has just completed drafting the constitution which will be put to a national referendum on the 5th of March. Already the supervising committee has established 276 zones incorporating 803 polling stations. Citizens have the option to either approve or disapprove of the constitution. Yemen Times hereby provides an unofficial translation of the constitution. Starting with this issue, and in the next three consecutive issues, Yemen Times will publish the full text.

Quote

Part One: The Foundations of the State:

A. The Political Foundations:

Article (1):

The Republic of Yemen is an independent sovereign state with territorial integrity, no part of which may be divided or relinquished. The people of Yemen are part of the Arab Nation and the Islamic World.

Article (2):

Islam is the religion of the state, and Arabic is its official language.

Article (3):

Islamic Sharia (Law) is the main source of legislation.

Article (4):

The people of Yemen are the source of legitimacy (power), which they exercise directly through referendums and elections, or indirectly through the legislative, executive, and judiciary authorities, as well as through municipal (local) councils.

Article (5):

The Republic of Yemen confirms it will adhere to and implement the UN Charter, the International Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the Arab League, and the tenets of the uni-

versally recognized international law.

B. The Economic Foundations:

Article (6):

The national economy is founded on the following principles:

i- Islamic social justice in production and social relations,

ii- A viable public sector capable of owning the basic production means.

iii- The preservation of the private sector, which may not be infringed upon except for the common interest, and in which case just compensation must be awarded.

iv- To guide all the relations and capacities to guarantee the construction of a national economy which is viable, and free from dependency, and to be capable of achieving socialist relations based on the Islamic and Arab heritage and circumstances of the Yemeni people.

Article (7):

All natural resources and sources of energy, whether above ground, underground, or in the territorial waters or the continental shelf or the economic zone are owned by the government, and it will ensure exploitation of such resources for the common good.

Article (8):

The state's economic policy is based on scientific planning which leads to the establishment of a viable public sector to exploit the natural and public resources. The policy should also lead to the development of the capabilities of and the opportunities for the public, private, and mixed sectors in all socio-economic fields within the framework of the government development plan and in line with the common good.

Article (9):

The state directs the

foreign trade, with the aim of raising its efficiency to serve the national economy. The state also oversees the internal trade with the aim of consumer protection and ensuring adequate supply of basic commodities.

Article (10):

The law regulates the official currency, the financial and banking systems, and determines the standards, measurements and weights.

Article (11):

Taxation and user fee policies are based on the general public interest and in order to achieve social justice among the citizens.

Article (12):

The imposition, amendment, and cancellation of taxes can only be done by law. No one is to be partially or fully exempted from taxes except as stipulated in the law.

Article (13):

The state encourages cooperation and saving among its citizens. As such it encourages efforts at establishing cooperatives and it supports their activities.

Article (14):

The law specifies the main procedures in the collection and expenditure of public funds.

Article (15):

The executive authority may not enter into loan agreements or guarantees or any steps that involve expenditures from the treasury presently or in the future except after the approval of the Council of Deputies.

Article (16):

The law stipulates the scales for salaries, wages, compensations, subsidies and remunerations payable from the government treasury.

Article (17):

Agreements according to which natural resources and public areas and goods are exploited on the basis of

a law promulgated for such purpose. Such law will specify the privileges, including free real estate and other assets, awarded by the state. The law also regulates the same privileges to local parties.

C. The Social and Cultural Foundations:

Article (18):

The state guarantees the right to scientific research and achievements in the fields of Literature, Arts, Culture, in line with the spirit and objectives of the constitution. The state will also provide the means for such achievements. Further, the state will provide support and encouragement for progress in the sciences and arts, and also protection for such achievements.

Article (19):

Through the promulgation of laws, the state guarantees equal opportunities for all citizens in the fields of Political, Economic, Social and Cultural activities.

Article (20):

The public office represents a duty and an honor to those occupying it for the purpose of serving the the general interest and the public. The state will issue laws to govern the duties and privileges of the government official (employee).

Article (21):

Citizens have a right to work, which in itself is a necessity for the progress of society. Every citizen has a right to choose the appropriate work for him/herself within the law. No citizen may be compelled to do any work except within the law, and in which case it is to serve the common good and must be compensated justly.

D. The Defense Foundation:

Article (22):

The state is responsible for establishing the armed forces and any other forces. Such forces are owned by all the people and their tasks are to protect the Republic and safeguarding its territory and security. No group or party may establish military or para-military forces. The law stipulates the conditions for military service, promotion, and reprimand.

Article (23):

General mobilization is decreed by law, and is announced by the chairman of the Presidential Council after the approval of the Council of Deputies.

Article (24):

The National Defense Council, headed by the chairman of the Presidential Council, is to be established to attend to matters pertaining to the means of safeguarding the Republic and its security. The law establishing the Council will define membership duties and other responsibilities.

Article (25):

The police force is a civilian authority responsible for the preservation of law, order, security and general conduct. The law regulates its activities under the direction of the judicial authorities from which it receives its orders and instructions. The police force will also implement all the laws and regulations as stipulated by law.



The Government Budget for

A. Objectives for 1991

The Council of Deputies has just approved the budget for fiscal year 1991 which is Yemen's first full year budget since its unity on the 22nd of May 1990. It envisages total expenditures at YR. 51 billion while revenues are estimated at YR. 35 billion; thereby yielding a budgetary deficit of YR. 16 billion. The deficit represents about 12% of GDP.

In a major effort at fiscal policy formulation, the government outlined twelve objectives behind the budget at hand. These are:

1. To mobilize domestic resources and achieve a higher level of financial self-sufficiency. The obvious aspect of this effort is the rising contribution of oil revenue to the treasury, specially due to new participation agreements with several oil companies.
2. To achieve maximum cost effectiveness while rationalizing expenditures. Visible policy decisions in this regard include lowering the number of personnel in diplomatic missions abroad, replacement of high-paid foreigners with locals, and stringent measures against government consumption.
3. To reduce the budgetary deficit. The government contends that its role as the spearhead of development compels it to entertain a high level of expenditures. Unfortunately the bulk of the deficit will be borrowed from the Central Bank.
4. To unify salary/payroll brackets. This budget aims to equalize the salaries of public and mixed sector employees with those of government employees. This is probably the most controversial objective of the budget.
5. To consolidate the country's defensive capabilities. Thus the budget allocates YR. 12.7 billion for defence-related expenditures.
6. To strengthen internal security and stability. A 21% increase over the 1990 allocations for this sector reflects the rising interest in combating potential foreign infiltration.
7. To honor foreign payments' commitments. During 1991, the government will pay to external creditors YR. 2.4 billion in interest payments and YR. 3.7 billion in principal repayments.
8. To provide the necessary funds for education. The student population in 1990/1991 is expected to reach three million pupils and students taught by nearly 80,000 teachers in almost 15,000 schools. The government aims to replace as many of the foreign teachers as possible by inducing high school and university graduates to serve as teachers.
9. To support improvements in health services. At present, health services in Yemen are provided by 74 hospitals (8397 beds) and 96 health centers (1961 beds). Working in those hospitals and centers are 2122 Yemeni doctors and 779 non-Yemeni doctors assisted by 6211 nurses and a similar number of technicians. Thus, total allocations received a 26% boost; i.e., from YR. 1610 million in 1990 to YR. 2035 million in 1991.
10. To expand economic and social services. The government intends to reach out with its services to the remote areas of the republic. In addition, the government aims to assist the less fortunate groups in society through various welfare and self-help programs.
11. To expand the production base of the society by investing in new projects. During 1991, total government and affiliated organizations' investments is almost YR. 11 b.
12. To support the non-government economic entities. The government is determined to provide all support to the private, public and mixed sectors.

B. The Budget for 1991

Total government expenditures are estimated at YR. 51 billion, whereas total revenues are expected to reach YR. 36 billion, thus yielding a deficit of nearly YR. 16 billion. The following tables provide a breakdown for those estimates.

1. Expenditures in billion YR.

Category of Expenditures	1991	Change from 1990
1. Salaries, wages and other remuneration	26.1	+ 23.3 %
2. Purchases of goods and services	4.9	+ 15.4 %
3. Recurrent transfers (e.g., interest on debt)	9.3	+ 45.9 %
Unclassified expenditures	0.1	+ 6.9 %
Total recurrent budget	40.3	+ 26.7 %
4. New investments/Project expansions	7.0	+ 4.0 %
5. Capital transfers (Debt repayments)	3.6	(-) 52.9 %
Total capital budget	10.6	(-) 26.2 %
Grand Total	51.0	+ 10.2 %

2. Revenues in billion YR.

Sources of Revenue	1991	Change from 1990
1. Taxes, Customs, Zakat revenue	19.1	+ 27.8 %
2. User fees, revenue from gov't services	8.8	+ 19.1 %
3. Revenue from gov't investment, property, etc	7.8	+ 19.4 %
4. Sales of gov't assets and natural resources	7.3	+ 109.9 %
5. Proceeds from loans (borrowing) and grants	0.9	(-) 98.1 %
Grand Total	35.3	+ 15.7 %
Total Deficit	15.7	(-) 0.5 %

The above tables give the budget for the government apparatus. Below, we find the budget for the affiliated organizations.

C. The Public and Mixed Sectors budget

As a result of the union, the size of the public and mixed sectors has grown visibly. In the following analysis some duplications will be noted, and the government is involved in certain very private activities. During 1991, studies as to how to correct those two issues will be needed. Today, there are ninety one (91) companies and corporations classified as production-oriented public sector; forty (40) companies, corporations and boards classified as service-oriented public sector; and seventeen (17) mixed ownership (government/private) companies. Their total budget for 1991 is as follows:

Public / Mixed Sector Expenditures for 1991

Allocations	In million YR
1. Payroll (Salaries, Wages, etc.)	5,925.25
2. Cost of inputs (e.g. raw materials, etc.)	27,092.28
3. Current transfers, reserves, etc.	5,754.29
4. Investments in new projects, expansions	5,367.45
5. Capital transfers (debt repayment, etc.)	3,320.37
Total	YR 54,317.82

Below, we provide a detailed list of the proposed expenditures;

A. Production-Oriented Public Sector Companies	Recurrent Expenditures	Capital Expenditures
1. Central Bank of Yemen	1,210.61	107.00
2. National Bank of Yemen	385.98	51.95
3. Agricultural Cooperative Bank	236.18	378.79
4. The Yemeni Insurance & Re-Insurance Co.	43.04	22.55
5. The Gen. Corp for Foreign Trade and Grains	1,688.54	37.85
6. The Foreign Trade Co.	15.38	1.03
7. The Internal Trade Co.	2,592.18	77.12
8. Nasr Free Trade Co.	160.83	4.50
9. 14th October Corp for Imports	75.61	1.98
10. The Gen Corp for Trade in Construction Material	324.63	20.13
11. The National Drug Co.	144.47	2.26
12. The Gen Corp for Cloth and Electrical Appliances	419.59	8.49
13. The Gen Corp for Fruits and Vegetables	383.94	30.34
14. The Gen Corp for Meat Marketing	362.04	17.49
15. The Date Packing Plant	15.30	1.27
16. The Gov't Employee Consumer Association	889.64	25.26
17. The Gen Corp for Telecommunications	556.33	757.30
18. The Gen Corp for Digging / Ditch Building	40.50	5.32
19. The Gen Corp for Water and Drainage	218.08	646.43
20. The Aden Water Board	169.49	38.06
21. The Gen Electricity Corp	1,109.17	1,048.45
22. The Gen Board for Electric Power	815.75	219.31
23. The Gen Board for Land Transportation	441.54	130.33
24. The Gen Corp for Cement Production & Marketing	642.44	1,038.93
25. The Gen Carpentry Corp	29.85	1.61
26. The Gen Weaving and Spinning Corp	163.25	32.83
27. The Gen Corp for Weaving Industries	68.35	3.29
28. The Martyrs Garments Factory	21.15	0.89
29. The Leather Shoes Factory	22.85	1.03
30. The National Tannery	8.84	0.46
31. The National Gas Factory	7.98	2.04
32. The Gen Corp for Flour and Milling	18.31	3.44
33. The Biscuit and Confectionary Factory	54.26	12.22
34. The Gen Corp for Mineral Water	95.79	5.69
35. The Gen Corp for Dairy Products	52.19	7.26
36. The People's Automatic Bakery	18.34	7.93
37. The Tomato Paste Factory	52.79	2.42
38. The Gen Salt Corp	36.98	4.86
39. The National Corp / Sabra	198.71	7.96
40. The Corp for Coastal Fishing	92.91	7.47
41. The Yemeni Fishing Corp	79.56	4.56
42. Fish Canning Factory at Shgra	51.40	4.63
43. Fish Canning Factory at Mukalla	59.80	2.84
44. Thawra Iron Products Factory	81.61	8.32
45. The Local Construction corp at Aden	52.93	2.30
46. The Local Construction Corp at Lahj	83.69	1.72
47. The Local Construction Corp at Abyan	66.86	12.47
48. The Local Construction Corp at Shabwa	43.60	2.78
49. The Local Construction Corp at Hadhramout	51.06	12.62
50. The Local Construction Corp at Al-Mahra	20.44	1.63
51. The Gen Corp for Quarrying	41.54	11.16
52. The Gen Corp for Road Construction	147.72	22.59
53. The Gen Corp for Construction and Fitting	272.79	14.51
54. The The Chalk and Gypsum Factory	2.18	1.18
55. The Gen Poultry Corp	147.72	22.59
56. The Agricultural Tools Production Factory	20.10	1.03

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57. The Asha'at Plantation of Aden	3.61	0.14
58. The 22nd June Plantation at Lahj	3.54	0.19
59. The Seeding Plantation at Lahj	6.96	1.98
60. The 14th October Plantation at Lahj	4.63	1.63
61. The Salaam Plantation at Lahj	2.58	1.25
62. The Husaini Plantation at Lahj	7.94	0.15
63. The Al-Imad Plantation at Lahj	6.25	0.18
64. The Sixth Conference Plantation at Lahj	2.54	0.16
65. The Fourth Conference Plantation at Lahj	6.54	0.28
66. The 7th October Plantation at Abyan	16.35	0.55
67. The Dairy Farm at Abyan	7.42	0.52
68. The Lenin Plantation at Abyan	11.23	0.23
69. The Amqooz Plantation at Abyan	2.44	-
70. The Dion Plantation at Abyan	10.19	0.55
71. The Tarriyah Plantation at Abyan	3.56	0.18
72. The 27th August Plantation at Abyan	3.89	0.18
73. The Tamauni Plantation at Shabwah	1.62	0.08
74. The Naqab Al-Hajr Plantation at Shabwah	1.19	0.63
75. The Bahran Plantation at Hadramaut	6.44	0.41
76. The Boor Plantation at Hadramaut	4.07	0.45
77. The Ba-Alal Plantation at Hadramaut	4.15	0.49
78. The Ju'aimah Plantation at Hadramaut	4.54	0.26
79. The Dairy Farm at Al-Kowd	7.65	0.44
80. The Dairy Farm at Al-Janad	5.60	-
81. The Moodiyah Plantation at Abyan	3.57	-
82. The Al-Ja'adi Plantation	8.21	-
83. The Al-Wahood Plantation	1.65	-
84. The Usailan Plantation	1.68	-
85. The Lasaleeb Plantation	1.91	0.30
86. The Maifa' Hajar Plantation	1.52	-
87. The Ghail Benyassin Plantation	0.90	-
88. The Dairy Farm at Al-Feyoosh	9.84	-
89. The Dairy Farm at Ja'oolah	10.44	-
90. The Gen Corp for Oil & Mineral Resources	14,920.09	712.14
91. The Yemeni Co. for Oil Investments	11.46	-

TOTAL 30,202.52 5,695.57

II. Service Oriented Public Sector Companies

Name of Corporation / Board	Recurrent Expenditures	Capital Expenditures
1. The National Corp for Fish Marketing	218.11	28.5
2. The Gen Corp for Fishery	11.56	46.8
3. The Yemeni Co. for Naval Repairs / Maintenance	41.32	8.4
4. Yemen Shipping Lines Co.	36.78	2.9
5. Yemen National Hull Co.	53.65	6.1
6. National Naval Co.	24.30	5.1
7. The General Board for Harbor	651.61	323.5
8. The General Board for Naval Affairs	11.56	1.2
9. The Civil Aviation Meteorological Board	175.70	75.0
10. Machinery Leasing Station at Radfan	4.64	0.6
11. Machinery Leasing Station at Je'ar	12.31	0.7
12. Machinery Leasing Station at Nisab	6.24	0.8
13. Machinery Leasing Station at Dhale'	6.34	0.8
14. Machinery Leasing Station at Lowder	6.17	0.5
15. Machinery Leasing Station at Seyoun	30.65	2.2
16. Machinery Leasing Station at Baihan	6.10	0.9
17. Machinery Leasing Station at Moudiyah	4.97	0.5
18. Machinery Leasing Station at Sabis	8.8	0.1
19. Machinery Leasing Station at Maifa'ah	3.02	-
20. Machinery Leasing Station at Mafa' Hajar	0.18	-
21. Machinery Leasing Station at Al-Ghaidah	3.09	0.1
22. Machinery Leasing Station at Labo'os	3.56	0.4
23. The Gen Board for Tihama's Dev.	13.83	246.6
24. The Gen Board for The Eastern Region's Dev.	6.65	107.1
25. The Gen Board for Agricultural Development	21.00	124.5
26. The Gen Board for Agricultural Reseach	103.2	54.3
27. The Board for Development of the Abyan Delta	49.4	3.1
28. The Board for Development of the Tulan Delta	25.5	0.9
29. The Gen Corp for Agricultural Services	183.0	6.9
30. The Gen Corp for Industrial Estates	2.0	0.5
31. The Gen Corp for Radios and Television	304.6	75.5
32. The Jumhurria Press Corp	15.3	8.2
33. Saba News Agency	44.9	10.0
34. The Gen Corp for Cinemas and Theatre	36.5	6.5
35. Dar Al-Jadeed Press at Abyan	7.1	0.3
36. The Al-Thawra Hospital Gen Board	192.0	23.0

37. The Gen Board for Road Construction	468.4	139.2
38. The General Post Office Board	85.8	47.7
39. The 14th October Press Corp	107.9	12.3
40. The Al-Thawra Press Corp	49.6	7.2

TOTAL 2862.6 m 1378.9 m

III. The Mixed Sector

Name of Company	Recurrent Expenditures	Capital Expenditures
1. Yemen Bank for Reconstruction & Dev.	658.2	581.5
2. The Industrial Bank Of Yemen	30.0	91.0
3. The Agricultural Cooperative Bank	12.2	46.4
4. The Yemen Drug Co.	755.7	282.3
5. Yemen Tobacco and Matches National Co.	1,461.6	309.4
6. Yemen Airlines Co.	1,658.6	131.8
7. Yemen Co. for Investment and Finance	17.8	73.9
8. Marib Poultry Co.	188.9	17.4
9. National Construction Co.	1.7	0.09
10. National Cofor paint and Emulsion	46.6	25.7
11. National Co. for Sponge Production	52.1	2.7
12. National Co for Batteries	25.3	0.6
13. The National Corp for Rubber Shoes and Sandals	28.9	4.0
14. The National Aluminum Co.	38.6	7.4
15. The National Cigarette Co.	554.4	16.9
16. The National Co. for Perfumes	30.3	2.5
17. the Yemeni / Soviet Joint Co.	145.7	19.7

TOTAL YR. 5,706.7 m 1,613.3 m

D. Our Comments

The above detailed description of the budget indicates that government expenditures have become a real burden on the economy because the resultant deficit is the main factor behind the dramatic growth in money supply. The government should cut back on expenditures. The Minister of Finance stated that the budget was as lean as it could be. Well, he is under a great deal of pressure from his peers and superiors to keep certain expenditures, but we are not. So we give below some suggestions as to how some more fat can be trimmed away.

1. Expenditures on Salaries and Wages:

Total government payments in the form of salaries, wages and other remunerations amount to YR. 26 billion. An additional ten billion is paid out in the public and mixed sectors. It is a well-known fact that 15% to 20% of the names on the payroll sheets are fictitious. Since the salaries and wages are signed for by the cashier of each agency, he simply passes out the salaries of those who come to claim the money. The balance is pocketed by him and some of the superiors. If payment to each beneficiary is made out through the banking system, the government is expected to save some five billion riyals. A full pledged plan for this proposal is prepared by this author and available upon request.

2. Transportation Costs:

Government officials freely use government vehicles. The cost of fuel and repairs to the government is YR. 300 million for 1991. Furthermore, the government has allocated about YR. 154 million for the purchase of new cars during 1991. Is this wise for a government burdened with a colossal debt and a massive deficit?

3. Electricity Costs:

Many nights I have passed by government buildings and the lights were on. Do you think somebody was working in the middle of the night? I rather think some careless employees have left the lights on. The result is that the electricity bill for the government for 1991 is expected to reach YR. 161 million!

4. Telephone Costs:

If you visit government officals, you will notice they have several telephone sets. At least one of them is ringing at any one time. The result is a telephone bill of YR. 80 million this year.

5. Travel Expenses:

Government officials travel a lot. I don't know how much is achieved in those travels, but I know the cost of such travels during 1991 will be YR 220 million, a good part of which is in hard currency. Does Yemen need this at this time?

6. Reception Expenses:

The government has allocated YR.179 million to cover the partying and reception bills. Of course, Yemenis are hospitable and generous, but they are more so when the government foots the bill.

From the above brief commentary, we see that much can be done to reduce government expenditures, and thus, the deficit. At another level, the government can do much to improve collection of amounts due to it. But that is another matter, and we will tackle it in another report.

by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Sanaa University

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PERSONAL VIEW

Qat - The Beginning and the End



**Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah,
Vice President,
The General Organisation for
Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums**

I have recently received a copy of the valuable book "Masalik al-Absar fi Mamalik al-Amsar" written by Ibn Fadhlallah

al-Omari in the fourteenth century. In the eighth chapter, the book describes how "qat" was transplanted from Ethiopia into Yemen. I quote (translation):

"Then there is Gan (sic, qat), a plant which people eat, specially the tender parts and the leaves. It increases the intelligence and makes people merry; but it reduces the desire for food, sleep, and sex. A large segment of the population, specially the theologians, scholars, craftsmen, and those who desire to stay awake at night, consume it, and they speak highly of it.

"When some Ethiopian Muslims travelled to Yemen and joined the services of the Yemeni King, Al-Mu'ayyad (whose reign was during 696-721 H., 1296-1322 A.D.), they transplanted the qat tree. It soon mushroomed in Yemen, as people started consuming it."

Another source, "Tareekh al-Habashah" also dating to the fourteenth century, indicated that qat was widely consumed, specially among Muslim Ethiopians. It mentions that the Ethiopian Muslim leader, Sabrideen, was fighting a war with the Christian leader, Amda Seyoon, in 1332. Sabrideen threatened to grow qat on the land of his defeated foe.

Much has been said and written about qat in Yemen. My extensive readings indicate that the above references are probably the earliest of qat in Yemen. Thus, it is safe to assume that qat was introduced into Yemen from Ethiopia in the fourteenth century.

My conclusion regarding this guest plant is that it has been with us for some seven hundred years. Don't you think it has over-stayed?

Al-Rai Al-Aam "Let Us Boycot American/ Western Goods"

How can we transform the general public anger (against the invading forces) into actions? How can we support the fraternal Iraqi people against the savage aggression of the new crusades? We can make a firm commitment to boycott the products of the USA and its allies. Other actions we can take include ending commercial, cultural and informational ties. We can go further by asking the anti-war Arab/ Islamic governments to break diplomatic ties with the aggressors.

We have to prove we are serious in our support for Iraq, and in our opposition to the aggressors. Verbal condemnations and press releases are not enough; real and daring actions are required. Our people have expressed themselves, and we now need to only harness their outrage and convert it into action. This is the duty of the popular movements, political parties, and other organizations outside of the government. We need to mobilize our people into action.

Some actions have already been taken. These include the volunteers who went to fight alongside their Iraqi brothers, the financial contributions, and the blood donations. But, we now need further action, and a higher commitment. It is time to organize to carry out a total economic boycott. Do the political parties see this as one of their objectives and compelling duties?

by: Mohammed Shu'aibi

Al-Gumhuriyyah "Taxes and Economic Development"

The government has tried to build a tax system with a large base in order to achieve the maximum financing potential for the development process. In the tax collection process, probably the most important factor is reliability and trust on both sides - the tax payer and the tax collector. It is in light of this that I call upon the tax authority to take the necessary steps to ensure that the system embodies the element of credibility.

There is no doubt that the authority will face considerable difficulties given our recent history with tax evasion. Yet, the development process cannot be realistically financed from other sources. Development must be financed primarily from taxes.

by: Abubakar al-Izzi

Sanaa "Foreign Workers and Unemployed Yemenis"

I do not understand how the officials tackle the unemployment problem? Given the return of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from the Gulf, we have heard our leadership give instructions to absorb them. Up to date, we have not seen any tangible re-

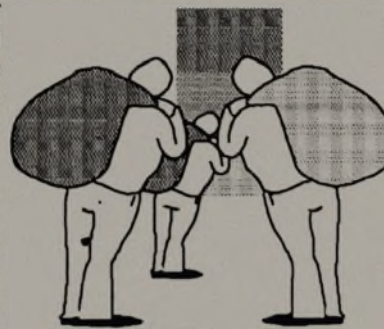
sults. On the contrary, the number of foreign workers in the country has increased markedly. Foreigners are employed in the government offices, in the public, mixed, and private sectors.

In the Ministry of Education alone there are some 30,000 to 40,000 teachers, despite the fact that tens of thousands of Yemeni graduates are looking for jobs. There is no doubt the country will continue to need foreign expatriates, specially in high-skill categories. But do we need unskilled and semi-skilled workers? If foreigners are employed in the private sector, we can apologetically say there may be various considerations, but what is the excuse for the employment of foreigners in the government?

The issue is clear, and it does not need any studying or probing

Yemenis should have priority in employment.

by: Mohamed Saleh As-Selahi



Al-Balaagh "I Demand"

No body can deny the great achievements of the past three decades, in past due to the tremendous efforts of our leaders and officials. But, we are an ambitious nation and I call upon the champion of Yemeni unity to provide the following:

1. A continued supply of strong electric current at a low cost.
2. Water supply to all homes all the time and at a low cost.
3. Work/employment to all citizens.
4. A high standard of living
5. Controlled rents and to regulate the tenant-landlord relationship.
6. Low-cost housing for the poor.
7. Free system of commerce in which any person can participate. Import licences and the limitations and constraints must be abolished. Any person interested must be able to obtain a commercial licence without conditions, because the law makes commercial activities a monopoly to a few.
8. To cancel all taxes and the government should be satisfied with the Zakat revenue.
9. To abrogate interest in the banking system. Financing must be based on the Islamic joint-venture (musharka) system.
10. To imprison any government employee who takes bribes. Such a measure must be applied to the top officials first.
11. To safeguard the dignity of the citizens in dealings with the government.
12. To ensure freedom of ex-

pression, work and thought. A free individual who will not bow in front of a military officer or a senior official.

Those are my demands which I hope will be implemented by me in my own time or the time of my own children or even grand children.

Abdul-Rahman Al-Garady

Al-Haq "To Stabilize Price Levels"

Economists called a continued rise in price levels "inflation". This phenomenon has many negative effects such as: mal-distribution of income (people with fixed incomes suffer), lower national income, higher cost of living, and lower level of savings and investments, etc. So, those responsible for economic policy must address this problem immediately before it gets more complicated. One major complication is the continued depreciation of the local currency.

Economists indicate inflation pressure can result from one of two sources as follows:

1. Demand-pull inflation which results from excessive demand for a limited supply.
2. Cost-push inflation which results from higher cost of imports, notably wages.

We in Yemen, however, have suffered from high inflation due to increased money supply. Therefore, we ask the banking sector, specially the Central Bank of Yemen whether they follow policies that will lead to price stability? This can be done by searching for new sources of financing and by expanding the industrial base of the country.

Mohammed Hayel Hasan,

Al-Ayyam "Waste in Government Expenditures"

The United Yemen faces a very difficult financial situation, specially due to the complications resulting from the Gulf war. In spite of these difficulties, Yemen continues to stand tall and preserves its dignity in its relations regionally and internationally. Yet, we see everyday symptoms of waste and misuse of public fund. Not a day passes by without carrying news of more conferences and seminars sponsored by the government in these dire times, we hear of delegations going here and there; and we hear of ceremonies and receptions in honor of this party or that. Most of these expenditures - at least in part - are in hard currency which is so scarce. Why does this happen? The officials who order these expenditures are probably the greatest beneficiaries. The day will come when each official will be asked to account for his wealth - How did he/she amass it?

by: Abdul-Rahman Sallam Al-Qirshy

Children of the Year 2000

In another nine years the world will enter a new millennium, A.D. 2000. It will be a smaller, more crowded, more competitive and more technologically advanced world than it is today.

The developing countries will be part of this new world; and the children of today will be the farmers, producers, builders and leaders of this new age. The future of these countries will depend on their decisions and contributions in all fields of life now.

Therefore if today's children are healthy, strong and well educated then the developing countries can face the future with confidence and optimism. But if our children continue to wage an unequal battle against disease, ignorance, malnutrition and fall victims to wars and conflicts, then the future is discouraging and depressing.

So we hope that our children will be provided for to prepare them for the year 2000 AD.

**Nagat Nouman El-Duais -
Teacher and Educator
Khowlah Bint Al-Azwar
School, Sana'a.**

THE WEST IS ENSLAVED BY ISRAEL

The Gulf War is fought by the West on behalf of the Jewish people, because they probably believe they are truly God's chosen people. Why don't the American and European governments and people ask themselves why Israel refuses to give the Palestinians their rights? I call on the West to stop this dirty war. Why risk killing all the people when the problem could be resolved peacefully. It is the Americans and Europeans who face death, not the Israelis. Till when will the Western governments close their eyes to the facts?

**Dr. Mohammed Mana'a
Al-Maidamah, Banque de
Suez et de l'Indochine,
Sanaa**

An Open Letter to:

**His Excellency the Honorable Charles Dunbar,
USA Ambassador in Sanaa.**

Dear Sir:

I am extremely saddened by the turn of events in the Gulf. It is with deep regret that I observe cherished American ideals being shattered on a daily basis by the actions of the American government. As one of the Yemenis who have been partially trained in the USA, I have always been reminded how strongly the American people uphold the principles of freedom of expression, human rights, democratic values, and other such ideals. Today, the American government does not seem to care enough about any of them.

Your Excellency may kindly bear with me as I put forth my viewpoint. But first, let me explain that I do not speak for the government of Yemen, although, I reckon, I speak for large segments of the Yemeni people.

1. Freedom of Expression:

The right to have access to information as well as the right to express oneself are almost sanctified by the American people. Yet, the American government, under various pretexts, has decided to impede the free flow of information, not even to the American people. This emphasis on blocking free access to information makes many people believe that the USA government has a sinister goal in the gulf, and which it is trying to hide. Moreover, in several documented cases, the USA government has misinformed its own people. I have never imagined the U.S. government would behave towards the media in a way analogous to the ways of dictatorships; i.e., telling the media what to say/write. But there it is.

2. Human Rights:

The USA has always presented itself as a champion of human rights. It left no opportunity in the past but used it to speak for the helpless children, men and women who were victimized by the military. Today, the USA government has sanctioned the random bombing of a civilian population, thus killing roughly ten thousand persons, mostly civilians. How can this be acceptable? In addition, by dropping nearly one million tons of explosives on Iraq, the USA and its allies are responsible for the destruction of an important segment of the human heritage. The remains of the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia are at risk of total obliterations. Moreover, considerable damage could be done to the environment. Where are the human rights principles?

3. Democratic Systems:

Americans have always told us that they consider democratic systems as their natural allies. Yet today, the American government is antagonizing the only two infant democracies of the Arab East - Jordan and Yemen. It is natural for two countries to disagree, and it is also natural to accept that they can disagree and need not be enemies on account of that. It so happens that both Yemen and the USA agree on the necessity of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. They disagree on the means to achieve such an end. But the USA government has been a bully pushing around those countries that have not toed its line. In fact, both Jordan and Yemen are subjected to pressure with the aim of destabilizing their democratic systems. Why?

Your Excellency:

I am a Yemeni who is extremely disturbed by the efforts being exerted to make Yemen change its independent line. It is a fact, as you well know, that the Yemeni government's policies vis-a-vis the Gulf have the total support of the people, which is far less than can be said regarding some of America's Arab allies. It is not up to me to advise on the policies of other countries, but it concerns me and all Yemenis when your government is trying directly or indirectly to "subvert" the policies of Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen is a peaceful country interested in peaceful co-existence with everybody, specially its neighbors. As a Yemeni citizen, I have a strong interest in the continued stability, democracy, and socio-economic progress of my country. If you cannot help us in these endeavors, please leave us alone.

Thank you for your attention.

**Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Sanaa University.**



YEMEN- In The Mind of a Yemeni

Oh, Yemen, the land of my sires
I bow to thee, you kindle my fires
My blood that is red is what you have fed
It binds us two with a lovely thread
You are the heart of the world that throngs
Your fame rings with double gongs,
Beyond those days of incense trade
you had a tradition of first grade
I am proud to be born in this land
You are in everything simply grand
Mountains and valleys everywhere
Beautiful ornaments for you to wear
Terraced fields and evergreen trees
And a gentle and lovely red sea breeze
Fill our eyes and thrill our frame
"Green land of Arabia", that is your fame
You are higher in land and higher in mind
Higher and higher in everykind
In the hoary past of the 'Imami' days
Our people were tortured in many ways
After those days of the September Revolution
Oh, my country, we have tremendous evolution
Schools and colleges were dreams of past
But now, we have education up to date and vast
Beautiful and beautiful you ever grow
The world will oneday raise its brow
To see the marvels that we make
Every morning when we are awake
We see newer and newer light
Giving us promise of a future bright
We have now achieved unity
By the grace of Allah, the almighty
Praise be to allah, the most merciful
Let you my country, be ever wonderful !!!

by S. Ramasami, Indian National,
President, Tamil Association - Yemen
Works at the Yemen Telecommunication Corp.

The opinions and letters on this page do not necessarily reflect the position of Yemen Times. We invite our readers to write to us, and we commit to provide space for rebuttals and responses.

The Editor

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A large Yemeni manufacturing company requires the following personnes:

- Salesmen:** Candidates should:
 - be Yemeni national
 - possess vast experience in sales,
 - be fully conversant with Yemeni market,
 - hold a valid driving licence.
- Machine Operators:** Candidates should:
 - have basic qualifications from a technical insitute
 - be experienced in sophisticated production machinery
 - be a Yemeni national.

Only qualified personnel may apply with copies of the relevant documents to:

The Personnel Manager
P. O. Box 10855,
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

The Discovery of an 8000 Year Old Temple

By a Yemen Times Staff Writer

In 1980, the French archaeological team started digging at the area of Sawda', some one hundred kilometers east of Sanaa, the capital city. Soon, the team understood that it was on top of a very promising site. By 1990, it had made a full discovery of the Athtar Temple which was recognized as a milestone in documenting Yemen's ancient past. For ten years the resources and efforts of the French and Yemeni teams were pooled to achieve this success.

According to both parties, it was well worth it. Today, we have a complete re-construction of the temple.

Temple Athtar itself is rather modest in size - 15.5 m by 14.1 m.

The main entrance is a monumental gateway supported by two majestic pillars - 93 cms wide and 5 meters high. This gateway leads to an open air lobby by which is 13.65 meters long and 12.20 meters wide. At the interior end of the lobby is the altar. Lined-up on both sides of this magnificent hallway is a row of pillars - eight on each side separated by 1.30 meters. Each pillar is 3.45 meters high. The first four pillars on each side from the entrance are connected at the top by thick slabs. Around the altar, and in a semi-circle fashion, sitting blocks are scattered. The pillars, slabs, blocks, and even the walls and ceilings are beautifully decorated with delicate designs and shapes. The beauty of the decoration and shapes, and the fact that they are preserved after eight thousand years, is a delightful surprise.

The archaeological teams working in Yemen describe

the country as virgin, and state that much remains to be uncovered, specially in the areas known to have been the seats of Yemen's ancient civilizations.

Yemen presents both a unique opportunity and a real challenge for these scholars in their drive to document this part of the human heritage. Considerable efforts are being exerted by the Italian, Canadian, American, Dutch, Soviet,

and French teams, and with tremendous success. It is in light of this fact that the works of Jean-Francois Breton, Jean-Charles Arramond, and Gerard Robin, and many others, is much appreciated.

The aerial picture below shows the various parts of the temple.



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YEMEN WAS FIRST TO DOMESTICATE THE CAMEL

Special to the Yemen Times

The Camel (Gamal or Jamal in Arabic) is certainly a curious animal. Large and ungainly, long-necked, and thin-legged, it stands for its ancient habitat more than any other beast domesticated by man. The camel and the desert have become inseparable; thereby it deservedly earned the title of the "ship of the desert".

To most of the world, camels are a puzzle, and maybe even mysteriously dangerous. Yet, to the people most knowledgeable about camels, they are patient, loyal, and even friendly. Due to its stamina to endure extreme hardships, this sturdy animal has become man's most useful partner in the desert.

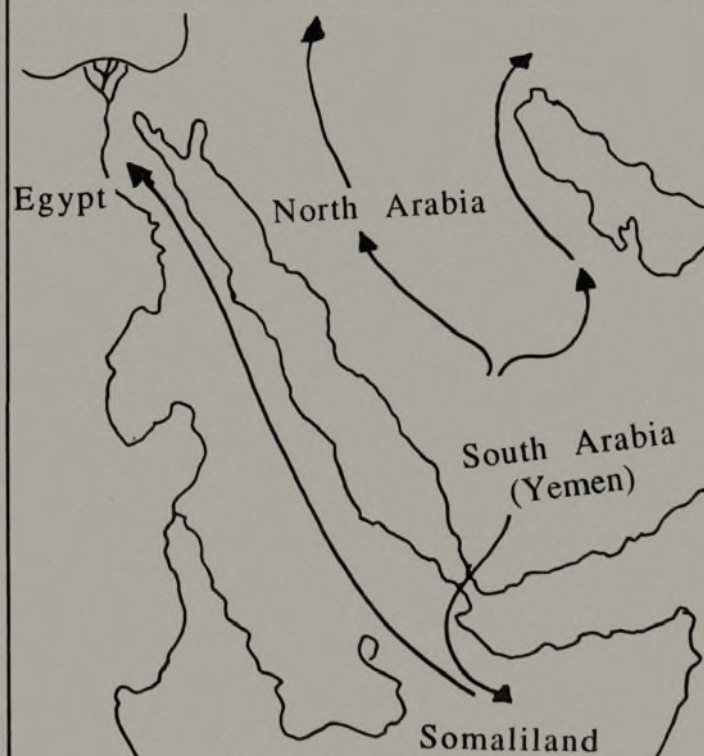
The camel, a member of the genus Camelus, consists today of only two living species - the Bactrianus (two-humped) and the Dromedary (single-humped) - notwithstanding near cousins such as the Llama. The camel derives its palaeontological ancestry from the North American Camelids. It has the ability to go without water for long periods, due to its biologically adaptive traits to conserve water through extremely specialized kidney functions. The camel has an internal thermostat which helps it control body temperatures and withstand drastic fluctuations in blood plasma levels that would be fatal to humans and other mammals.

Contrary to popular belief, the camel does not store water in its humps, nor in its stomach! The hump is almost entirely composed of fat which, in lean seasons, is converted into body energy.

Thus, the camel is well-equipped to live and serve humans in the most arid and inhospitable regions.

Archeological discoveries, specially fossil remains, attest to the existence of camels from the Middle Pleistocene down to the Early Postglacial (about 8000 - 9000 BC) periods. These early camels were wild, the domesticated variety appeared much later. Evidence shows that either the steppes or mountain regions of central Asia or the northern portions of the Indo-Iranian plateau served as the locus of early camel domestication, some 7000 years ago. That would mean that the Bactrian camel underwent domestication before the Dromedary. Scholars further agree that "Southern Arabia (Yemen) would seem the place where the Dromedary first underwent domestication". (Archeology, May/June 1983, Vol. 36, #3, p. 23). The early Yemeni civilizations were able to harness the capabilities of the camel, and use them to open up extraordinary possibilities in their lives and travels across the neighboring deserts. From Southern Arabia, the camel was introduced into Northern Arabia, and the fertile crescent to the north. To the south-east and across Bab el-Mandeb, it was shipped into Somaliland (the Horn of Africa), and into the Nubia and Upper Egypt. From there, it was diffused into all of North Africa.

Today Yemen has a population of camels exceeding 150,000, and they are an integral part of the lives of the people, specially in the peripheral regions approaching the deserts.

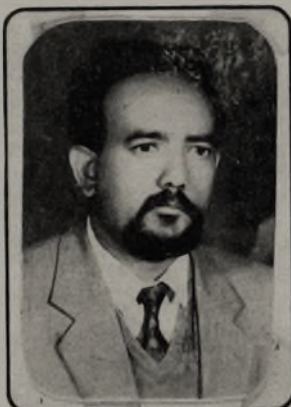


CALLS FOR OIL EXPLORATION BIDS

Tender documents for oil exploration in block (4), Shabwa Governorate, are to be released mid of March, 1991.

Engineer Askar Ali Hussein, Deputy Chairman of the General Corporation for Oil and Mineral Resources told Yemen Times that an invitation will be extended in two weeks time to all international oil companies involved in exploration and development of oil. Interested oil companies will be required to enter into contracts on the basis of "production sharing agreements" covering an area of about 4000 square kilometers. Engineer Askar added, "Block (4), recently relinquished by the Soviet Company, has already been developed by the Soviets during the eighties. About 70 oil wells were drilled producing about 10,000 bpd and which is being transported by land to the Aden Refinery. Production service facilities have been established and an oil pipe-line (207 kms long) has been constructed from Shabwa oil fields to the exporting seaport of Balhaf on the coast of the Arabian Sea.

The General Corporation for Oil and Mineral Resources has declared last month that "Block (4) is expected to produce crude oil at the rate of 35/40,000 bpd at the end of next May on the occasion of the declaration of Yemen Unity." It is worth mentioning that the Republic of Yemen is already producing and exporting roughly 200 bpd of crude oil, primarily from oil fields in the Marib area of what was formerly North Yemen. Experts indicate that Yemen's oil production capabilities are very large.



A NEW INCOME TAX LAW FOR YEMEN

The Tax Authority has just presented its proposals for major amendments in the income tax laws. Payroll taxes, taxes on profits from industrial and commercial activities and taxes on net earnings in the professions (accountants, lawyers, medical doctors, etc.) are specially affected. The proposals aim at three major objectives:

- 1) To simplify the tax laws.
- 2) To improve collection and thus total tax revenues.
- 3) To achieve a more just tax burden distribution.

The Council of Deputies is presently discussing the proposal, and is expected to reach its conclusion in two weeks. The discussions have already attracted the interest of the business community, and experts in the relevant fields.

Yemen Times will cover these events as they develop, and the full text of the new income tax law will be made available to our readers once approved by the Council of Deputies.

by Ahmed Saeed Addahi

The on-going preparations for the economic free zone at Aden, the economic capital of Yemen is a major step in the development process in general, and for commercial, industrial and social activities in particular. It is in light of the extreme importance of this project that I call upon the officials and experts to establish a serious and in-depth dialogue and study in this regard. We have to stop the rush-rush attitude that has dominated the preparations so far.

It is a well-known fact that the success of the free zone is not the result of decreeing a law; but it is the culmination of infrastructure, services, appropriate legislation, confidence in the system and the proper investment climate. We can learn from our very recent past as to the fate of decisions taken without adequate preparations. The enthusiastic spirit and the overwhelming feeling to rush forward will lead to backlashes and damage in excess of any loss due to a more time-consuming, yet better prepared program.

I call upon the relevant officials to consider a full-fledged study of the project in terms of infrastructure, financing options, the technical aspects, etc. Such a study would of course take into account the various resources at our disposal, our ambitions, and the limitations we face in our endeavors. The free zone is not simply a geographic space, it is a system. Some of our ministers do not realize this, but as an example may I draw their attention to the free zone project in neighboring Djibouti. Djibouti is finishing the study of a free zone area with a total investment of US\$12 billion to be executed during 1991-95. I hope this means something to us!

from The 26th September Newspaper, 21/2/1991.

COMICS

FRANK AND ERNEST



THE YEMENI PEOPLE RESPOND STRONGLY AGAINST THE ESCALATION OF WAR IN THE GULF

Prepared by: Dr. Mohammed Yahia Al-Aadhi, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, and Abdul-Rahman Al-Haider:

Thousands of Yemenis protested against the anti-Iraqi assault.

A mammoth demonstration estimated at 100,000 persons marched in the main streets of Sana'a last Sunday in protest against the ground offensive launched by the United States and its allies against Iraqi troops in Kuwait. Some car-

ried placards denouncing Arab countries taking part in the U.S. offensive against Iraq while others shouted in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Security forces began reinforcing their positions

around potentially targeted foreign embassies. They set up road blocks and check points at crossroads leading to the embassy district., located to south of Sana'a. Security forces used tear gas to disperse angry demonstrators as they approached the area, but no damages were inflicted on foreign embassies or the citizens..

Similar demonstrations took place in other major cities again expressing sympathy for Saddam's stand against the presence of foreign troops in the region. The Republic of Yemen has taken a very independent position regarding the Gulf crisis. While it insists on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, it has equally insisted on the with-

drawal of foreign forces from Arab soil. This position has put Yemen at odds with the Western world led by the United States of

policy, and have expressed anger at the foreign attempts to influence Yemen's position on the issue. From the very beginning of



ISRAEL'S ABUSE OF PALESTINIANS CONTINUES

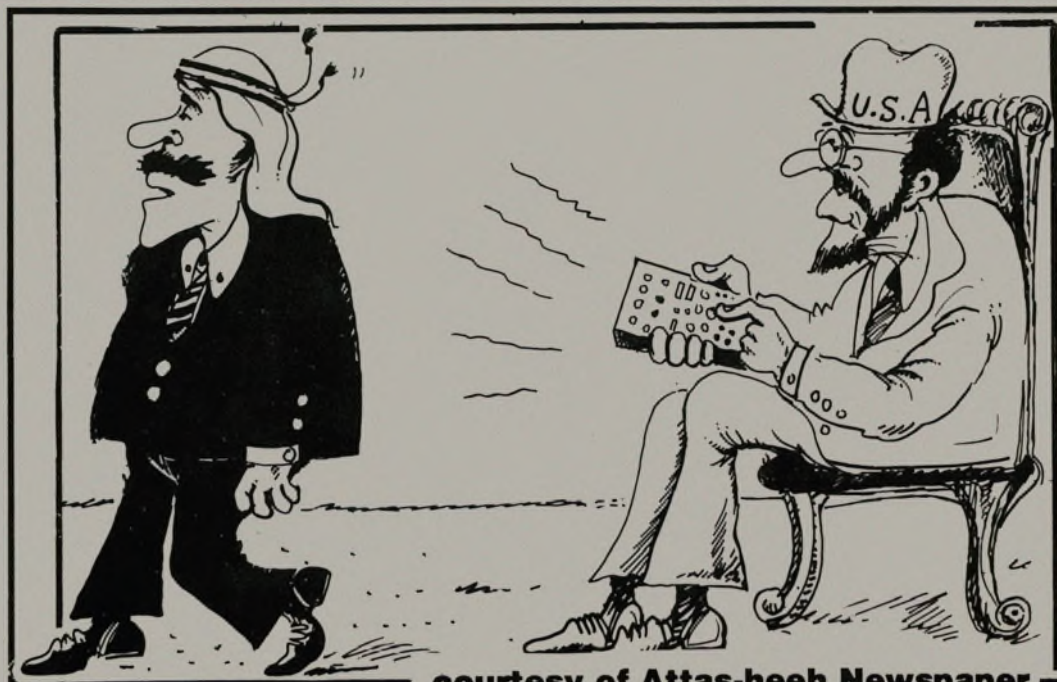
Israel has just created the world's largest prison. The government of Israel decreed that all Palestinians were under house arrest, and that major limitations were imposed on their movements. Any Palestinian who left his/her house was liable to be arrested as a minimum, and in some cases individuals were shot at. This situation has created major hardships to all families, specially with the depletion of food supplies. Many appeals to the world community at large, and the United Nations, in particular were to no avail. Similarly, the killing of several Palestinians by Israeli soldiers has become a daily routine to which the world community has turned a deaf ear. The Palestinian leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat has appealed to many leaders in the world, but none of them showed enough interest to alleviate the plight of the Palestinians. How can one explain the USA interest in international law in the Gulf to the Palestinian people?

ترحب جريدة «يمن تايمز» باشتراكات الافراد والشركات والمؤسسات بحسب الاسعار التالية:

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للافراد	٥٠٠ ريال
المؤسسات والهيئات	١٠٠٠ ريال
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courtesy of Attas-heeh Newspaper

TRAFFIC WEEK IN YEMEN

The Traffic Department organized last week "The Traffic Week" in a major effort to improve traffic circulation in all the Yemeni cities. The efforts included repainting of all street zones, issuing pedestrian regulations and rights, and the rules governing conduct on the road.

The Director General of the Traffic Authority visited several sites and supervised personally the progress of traffic. In a similar effort, the Director-General of the Sanaa Traffic Bureau gave an important lecture to the drivers of the military and police forces, known to be notorious breakers of the traffic laws.

It is worth mentioning that Yemen today has about half a million vehicles, and a road network extending 54000 kms. in length. About 15% of this mileage is asphalted road, while the remainder is gravel road. Car accidents in Yemen are frequent, leading to an estimated 64 deaths and almost 500 injuries per 10,000 cars. Therefore, the efforts of the Traffic Department are very timely and useful.