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SALEH: Multiparty System Is A Great Gain and Should Be Maintained

OURVIEWPOINT



Reports on adolescent misconduct, misdemeanor, and other forms of non-conformity - including lawlessness, are filed on a steady flow in almost a daily basis. In over 70% of the cases, the teenagers involved come from well-to-do families. The affluent families of the country, it seems, have been busy in successful pursuits, and in the process, they forgot their responsibilities in raising their children properly. In many cases, parents perceive their duties in their sons' and daughters' up-bringing in purely material terms - as long as they provide them with their "needs" and shower them with money, that should be enough. It looks like that they have missed teaching and educating their children in self-discipline, respect for the law and the rights of others, and a positive attitude to hard work. Even the basic feeling of self-esteem is absent, and its place is masked by a thin-layer of arrogance. Thus spoiled brats have grown to become uncontrollable adolescents.

Manifestations of this problem abound, but let me give two examples of recurrent cases. 1) There have been many reports of spanking in our schools - I mean pupils and students spanking their teachers, something unheard of in other countries. Our preliminary investigations indicate that such situations are nicely fizzled out by a cordial resolution. The teacher, usually a foreigner, is invited to meet the "important" parent of the student, a nice financial gift (bribe?) is prepared, and everything is back to normal. Even better, now the kid, under the guidance of the new friend of the family, is assured a smooth promotion in his school years. 2) On the streets, one meets every day children driving big cars. Usually such cars belong to the government, the military, or the police. The kid driver is often running around aimlessly thus posing a grave danger to an already hazardous business in Yemeni cities - driving. Again here, the policeman directing traffic stays out of the kid drivers' way, irrespective of the traffic violations.

The problems of dealing with uncontrollable teenagers is creating a big headache to the officials of the various institutions, and casts a shadow of doubt on their credibility, decency and proper functioning.

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In a major policy statement commenting on the political evolution of Yemen, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said, "Yemeni Unity has been achieved through peaceful and democratic means. There had been no victor or loser. Neither side imposed his will, personal ideas or ideologies. We achieved Yemeni Unity on the principles of the holy Quran and Sunnah, and the principles of the 26th of September and 14th of October Revolutions."

The statement was delivered by President Saleh during his meeting with the executives in the judicial and security departments, heads of the local Councils of Co-operative Development, the local leadership of the popular general congress and other political organizations in Al-Mahweet governorate.

President Saleh urged all parties to work hard, because the Yemeni revolution and unity are the targets of the enemies. "Conspiracies continue against the Arab homeland, of which we are part. the enemies will continue to look for ways to break up national unity in order to impose their influence over Yemeni

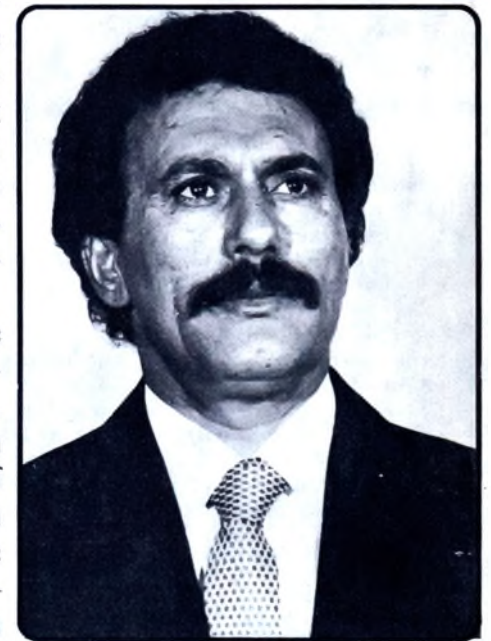
Unity." he said.

President Saleh has affirmed that the multiparty system is considered a great asset to Yemen's Unity and revolution, thus we should not be improperly exploited. "When the doors of democracy are open, but it is misused, it can cause reactions leading to a system of dictatorship."

Referring to the Constitution, President Saleh said, "the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen has been approved by the peoples' representatives, it is not a heavenly constitution and can be changed from time to time." Therefore, I see no justification for the campaign against the constitution. I seize the opportunity to say that it had been drafted in accordance with the unity agreement which ended the division of Yemeni soil on the 22nd of May. We shall work in accordance with provision (9) of the agreement which calls for the rule of law based on the constitution. "During the transition period, and after that, it is the people who will

decide the policies and systems of the country."

In a major field visits, the President continued his trek to Hodeidah where he held many meetings with senior political offi-



cials and military officers. In an address to the military camp in Bajil, the President re-affirmed the positive and dynamic role played by the armed and security forces. He said that the military establishment has always been the safety valve for the country. He also indicated that those who try to destabilize the country will be stopped. We hope that we all will jointly build our democratic and united Yemen, he said.

##

HIZB RABITAT ABNA' AL-YEMEN

The Hizb Rabitat Abna'a Al-Yemen or the Yemen People's League Party (YPLP) is the oldest party in Yemen. It was established in 1948, and officially announced in 1951. Although the center of gravity for the members and leadership of the party continues to be in the southern provinces of Yemen, it has steadily made significant inroads into the northern provinces.

This is specially true after its headquarters were moved to Sanaa.

The leadership of the party is as follows:

1. Party Chairman: Abdul-Rahman Ali Al-Jafri
2. Secretary-General: Mohamed Moh'd Abu-Bakar Bin Fareed
3. Asst Sec Gen for Apparatus: Mahdi Othman Al-Masfari
4. Asst Sec Gen for Information: Abdul-Latif Kutbi Omar
5. Asst Sec Gen for Organisation: Abdullah Abdu-Rabbo Mujalba'
6. Assistant Secretary General: Ahmed Abdullah Al-Yafe'e

The party stresses the caliber of its membership. Total present membership is 9500 persons, primarily from the southern and eastern provinces. There are serious attempts presently to expand the party's membership base in the northern provinces. To reach out to its members and sympathizers, the party uses different forms of communication; but notably:

- a. The weekly lectures. In two afternoons, the party uses the qat sessions to give lectures and invite speakers.
- b. The party newspaper - Al-Haq
- c. Personal contact

This party's general objectives include the following:

- To disseminate the democratic spirit based on the teachings of Islam.
- To build a system of social justice and equal opportunities for all, and to provide basic services to all
- To provide the necessary conditions for a strong and true merger and national unity.

- To achieve Yemeni unity, which itself is the entrance to the union of the Arabian Peninsula, and general Arab unity.

- To respect international relations and charters.

In the immediate future, and within the relevant local scene, the party calls for the re-drafting of the constitution to reflect, more accurately, the principles and beliefs of the people.

This party was one of the main parties that fought for independence in the southern part of the country. It has sacrificed for achieving this goal, and its record is well known. Financial support is obtained from many sympathizers, although the party is increasingly depending on its membership fees and contribution. Finally, the party is willing to enter into coalition arrangements with other parties provided there is agreement on the basic approach and principles.

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LOCAL ECONOMIC BRIEFS

YEMENIA Chairman Mr. Mohammed Al-Haimi told YEMEN TIMES that the General Assembly meetings will probably be held next week. Based on a telephone message from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi representatives confirmed their arrival to Sanaa next week. A major item on the agenda is the merger of YEMENIA and ALYEMDA, and the share ownerships of the Yemeni and Saudi sides.



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فندق عدن موڤنپيڪ الاختيار الاول في عدن العاصمة الاقتصادية والتجارية في الجمهورية اليمنية يشرفه ان يقدم لكم البرنامج السياحي المحلي بالاسعار المناسبة لغاية ه ابريل ١٩٩١م.
للشخص الواحد - نصف التسمية ٢١ دينار (٤٦ ريال)
للشخص الواحد - تسمية كاملة ٢٥ دينار (٦٥٠ ريال)
للزوج - تسمية كاملة ٤٠ دينار (١٠٤٠ ريال)
التسمية اعلاه تحتوي على الاتي:

- الاقامة
- فطور/ وجبة غداء/ وجبة مساء (تسمية كاملة)
- فطور/ غداء او مساء (نصف تسمية)
- برافيه موڤنپيڪ الخاص في المطعم الرئيسي في طابق الميزان
- استخدام حمام السباحة مع ملابس التمس الارضي.
- البرنامج العائلي:
- الاطفال من سن الثانية عشرة ويستكون في نفس الغرفة مجاناً شريطة ان لا يزيد عددهم عن اثنين
- المواصلات من وإلى المطار

الشروط

- هذه التسمية الخاصة صالحة ل:
- (١) اكثر من خمسة اشخاص وثلاث ليالي
- (٢) لا يوجد خدمات الغرف فيها
- (٣) الاشياء الاخرى دفعها نقداً
- (٤) تخفيض في الوجبات الغذائية (٥٠٪) للاطفال ما فوق سن السادسة ومجاناً ما تحت الخامسة.
- (٥) يتبع نظام المحجزات
- (٦) - جميع الوجبات تقدم في المطعم فقط
- ب- اي طلبية الي الغرفة تحتسب بتسمية قائمة الطعام الرسمية.
- للمحجزات اتصلوا بالوكيل الخاص بكم ان:
- (٣٢٩١٨/٣٢٩١٣/١٢٩٤١/٣٢٩١١/٣٢٠٧٠)
- خود مكسر - ص. ب ٦١١١ - تليفون: ٣٢٠٧٠ - فاكس: ٣٢٩٤٧ -
- تلکس: ٣٢٩١١ عدن - الجمهورية اليمنية

Continuation from page 1

OUR VIEWPOINT

Why isn't somebody doing something about this? But these are the kids of the most influential persons in the society. Most of the parents are either high-ranking government officials, or senior military/police officers. Nobody wants to mess up with that kind of brass. Even then, for the sake of producing a better generation, we should draw the line, and start taking tough disciplinary actions against violations by teenagers. If a kid breaks any serious school laws, they should be suspended from the school and refused admission to any other school for one year, and provided a proof of change of conduct is presented to the school before he/she is readmitted to the same or any other school. If an adolescent drives a government-owned car, then the traffic department should make sure the car is not returned to the same official/officer except after at least one year. Or simply it could be given to another official/officer - many would jump on the opportunity. It is high time to discipline our youngsters to obey and respect the law.

NEW LABOR LAW TO EASE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

The return of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from the Gulf states has created strains in the Yemeni economy. As a result the government has been studying all possibilities to alleviate this problem. YEMEN TIMES decided to go and speak with H.E. Mr. Abdul-Rahman Salem Dhai-ban, Minister of Labor and Professional Training.

Q. Could you summarise the priorities of your ministry given the present conditions?

A. As far as our priorities in the area of labor are concerned, we are following up the issuance of the labor law. We have already submitted labor law to the Council of Deputies and it is expected to be discussed shortly. We feel that when the law is passed, it will overcome a number of shortcomings that are in the existing two laws (of the Northern and Southern regions). Once the law is passed, it will help us work out a number of other regulations to be based on this law. Our ministry is a new ministry as far as vocational training is concerned. We are also in the process of intensifying our inspection of firms to see to what extent these firms adhere to the requirements of the law, be it in terms of employing foreigners or in terms of industrial safety or any other areas. In the past, I feel such inspections were not effective and one of our main jobs during 1991 is the inspection process. There is also the important issue of finding job opportunities for returnees. Of the one million who returned, the active force in the market seeking jobs is more than 600,000. Our ministry's officials are doing their best to find opportunities for those who have approached us in this respect. About 3-4 months back, a meeting was held with the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussed the matter with them. We urged them to play an important role in absorbing as many returnees as possible as it is a social and economic problem. The results of the meeting were very encouraging though of course. I cannot say we will

find jobs for all those returnees, but we are doing our best. It is a national problem and cannot be solved by one ministry alone.

As far as vocational training is concerned, we are in the process of establishing a new bureau called the "Central Bureau for Vocational Training." This bu-

Also for this purpose, we had a meeting with a World Bank team which visited Yemen and discussed the idea of developing these centres and have submitted a proposal in this respect. Also a team from the International Labor Organization visited Yemen on our request to assess the extent of

existing firms to absorb them as the total number of returnees is more than those employed in the private sector. The process of absorption at the moment is very very slow. We felt that if the new law is passed, which provides more incentives, it will give rise to more chances.

We are doing our best to overcome the problem partly through replacement of some of the foreigners. Again, I would like to stress that we cannot rely much on this as the number of foreign workers who are officially registered in the country is about 50,000; and this includes all types of categories; specialised, skilled and unskilled.

We continue to need foreigners for specialised and skilled categories. The process of replacement will concentrate only on unskilled labor. We are also trying to convince, both foreign and national firms to train Yemeni nationals in place of foreigners and we are insisting that this be a precondition for licensing any foreigner who is employed in a

firm. Again this is a very slow process and you see 50,000 is very very, very far from 600,000.

Q. In this case, I believe unemployment would rise and I wonder what would be the future of these large number of returnees? Is there any assistance provided by, say, the Ministry of Security and Social Welfare?

A. Of course, sorting out this problem as a whole is not the concern of one ministry. It is a national concern and involves all ministries. Returnees should be guided towards other economic activities specially agriculture and fisheries, because these two sectors are capable of absorbing a good number of returnees. The cabinet, to my knowledge, decided to encourage those returnees who are willing to work in these two sectors. The cabinet has instructed the concerned banks to provide them with credit

and financial facilities in order to help them start their own businesses.

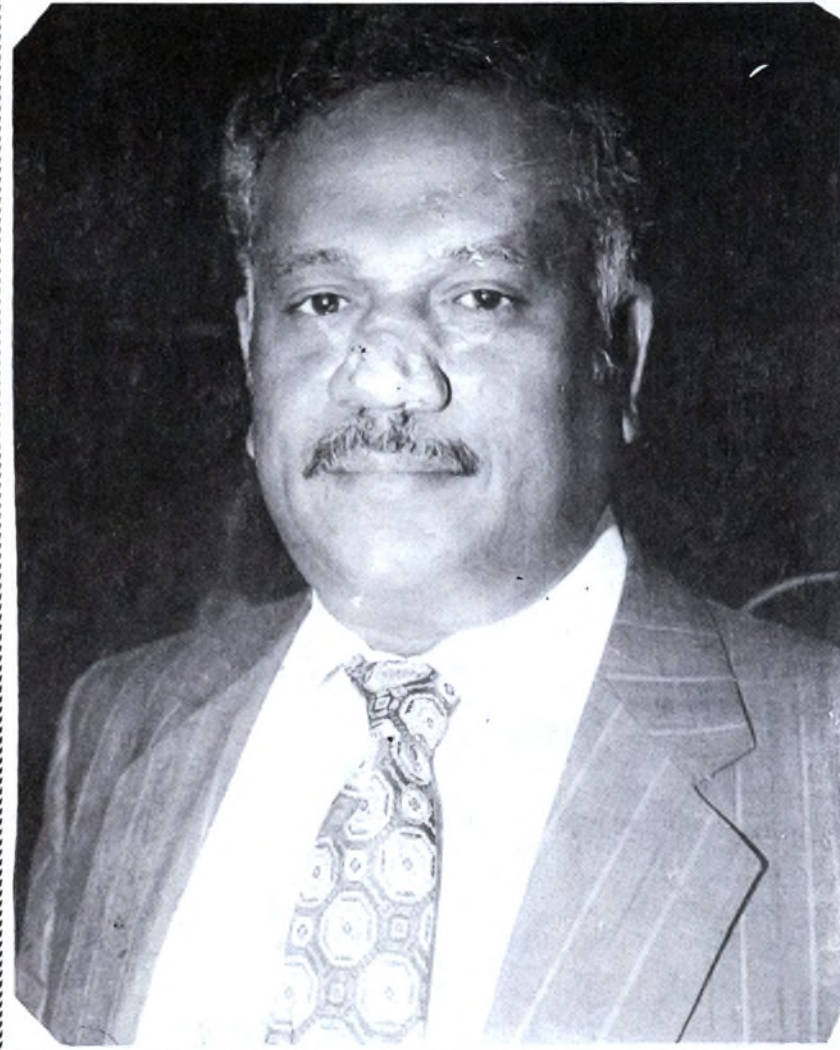
Q. Is there any coordination between your Ministry and the Ministry of Economy for future joint efforts to define the exact investments and plans required for training Yemenis to replace foreigners in the higher positions?

A. Frankly speaking, there is no such coordination. I would say, when we receive requests for recruiting foreigners for a new project, we try to discuss with the investors the possibility of employing Yemenis and I would like to say that they are very much interested in recruiting locals. Some of them are reluctant due to the limited experience of the Yemenis.

We also insist that it is the responsibility of such firms to train Yemenis for eventual replacement of foreigners and this is specified as an additional paragraph in their contracts. In future, when the new law is passed, there is an idea that all activities requiring permission for a new investor will be dealt with within one agency where all concerned ministries will be represented. This will also facilitate things for the investor as it will save him time, effort and money.

Q. There was a statement in a local newspaper about replacing foreigners by Yemenis. They quoted about 100,000 foreigners would be replaced? Is this true?

A. I would like to say that the number of foreigners officially registered in the country does not exceed 50,000. There is the desire to replace foreigners, but I would like to stress that we are in the process of gradually replacing only unskilled laborers. As far as specialised and skilled labor is concerned, they might continue for some more time. Unless we have Yemenis who can actually replace them, we cannot just tell the foreigners to go. Even those unskilled laborers will stay till their contracts expire. The report in the newspaper stating that Yemen will deport foreigners is not true. We are not deporting anybody but we feel that we have a major unemployment problem, especially after the return of so many Yemenis recently. We feel it is our duty to give them a chance to work and we should gradually replace some foreigners with the returnees.



reau will be solely responsible for supervising all national activities in vocational training. This means that it will be responsible for all centres in terms of their activities, syllabus, training needs and so on. The draft regulation and chart for the bureau is ready and is due to be submitted to the cabinet soon. We are planning to do a national survey of existing vocational training centres. The purpose is to assess the existing situation of the centres and find out in what way we could improve them in terms of training, additional equipments or in terms of improving the syllabus and in terms of adding new training branches to meet the requirements of the labour market.

Q. Have you looked for foreign assistance for your plans?

A. Yes, we approached the Ministry of Planning and Development and a number of international institutions.

the problem posed by the returnees. We discussed the ways and means of assistance required in the area of vocational training. This is because although the returnees have experience, they do not have the required credentials. So we have arranged for them to be tested in our existing institutions to providethem a degree matching the level of their experience. A number of them are actually unskilled and thus have approached us to be trained at these centres. There is some pressure on us in this respect and this is one area in which we seek ILO support. In principle, they have agreed to do so.

Q. What are the chances of absorbing 600,000 new workers given the current economic conditions?

A. Frankly speaking, it is very difficult to say, as the problem is very big. The economic conditions in the country need more effort. We cannot rely on only ex-

THE HEART'S DIRECTION

The American men and women detailed to fight in the Gulf war were provided with a hastily compiled booklet of instructions, "The do's and don'ts of Arab life". The military administration had been obliged not to neglect the human aspect of the desert.

How would Saudi men and women respond to the onslaught of American military personnel, particularly to tough women soldiers driving juggernauts or laboring in the heat of the midday sun? The media assured the American public that the encounter could have unforeseen consequences. Saudi women, who do not even have the right to drive, would be empowered by the sight of -and doubtless

would wish to emulate - their Western sisters. When news of Saudi women's emergency access to employment was released and when fifty unveiled women staged a demonstration by driving family cars through the streets of Riyadh in November 1990 -the American media crowed: "Even if nothing else was won in this war, a trail had been blazed for the emancipation of those silent, secluded and shrouded women."

The stereotypical American image of Muslim women - anonymous black shapes gliding along high walls' sensuous odalisques reclining against the harem's soft pillows - was shaped not in America but in Europe. It was a crass image that differentiated women from men chiefly in relationship to lust.

Such images seem to portray all that is incomprehensible about the Muslim world - these women are silent, secluded, entirely segregated. In the American imagination, the harem far from being a historical institution, where veiled wives eked out a miserable existence under the harsh rule of a domestic despot, is a living and exotic fantasy made reality. Unfortunately, such a stereotype is reinforced by a superficial glance at the societies of the Arabian Peninsula, where the bedouin burqa (the black face covering with apertures for the eyes) and the batula (the beaklike mask made of polished indigo-impregnated cloth that resembles leather, or even metal) further enhance the

alien image of Muslim women.

Since 1979, journalists, travelers, and scholars have expediently turned their attention to the silent half of the Islamic world. Books and articles abound which include discussions of Hawwa's (Eve's) changing



and gradually distorted role in Islamic discourse (i. e., from an equal partner in a shared sinful act to the Judeo-Christian symbol); profiles of prominent women writers, mystics, and fighters who have filled the pages of Islamic history; analyses and chronological elaborations of feminist movements in Turkey, Egypt, and former South Yemen; and, finally lightly veiled diatribes directed at capitalist, patriarchal Middle Eastern societies.

In 1988, a Saudi woman anthropologist, Soraya Altorki, edited a volume of essays by and about Arab women anthropologists, in which she writes, "My investigation has shown Saudi Arabian women to be far from the passive and oppressed group that has been suggested by conventional discussions."

Such statements challenge basic Western assumptions. The temptation is to dismiss them. How could those "anonymous black bundles" (this is a quotation from a filmstrip accompanying a textbook titled "Women and Islam") who inhabit a tentatively tamed desert as the chattel of a bourgeois patriarchy possibly be regarded as exemplars of a movement whose manifestations are only beginning to be felt in the liberal West?

Many Western scholars have asserted that a feminist consciousness is generally a product of education and years of gestation. As early as the nineteenth century, Arab intellectuals - women and men - were de-

bating the silence and marginalization of half of their population and took steps to remedy this situation. The most important reform was the introduction of schools for girls. Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and North Africa had, by the middle of this century, a well-established educational system for girls. In Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the Gulf states, women first received primary education less than thirty years ago. Today, however, girls are offered a full range of primary, secondary, and university education.

Images, as always, have distorted reality. Arab women have not been collectively banished behind screens and veils. Some choose segregation even at a time when veiling is not mandatory.

Although the countries of the Arabian Peninsula never discarded the veil, other Muslim countries, such as Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan did. At some point, usually around the time of independence, the veil became a bone of contention, and it was officially rejected. However, during the past decade, some sectors of the female population have been freely re-veiling. Pro-feminists and liberal males are baffled by the decision of educated women to go back to the veil.

Does this new veil symbolize class and status? Or does it represent religious and political affiliation? Or does it, perhaps, have something to do with the current awakening of feminist consciousness in parts of the Islamic world - the realization that women, whatever their apparent gains in the workplace, have not yet approached equality, and that to truly succeed, their sexuality must be neutralized symbolically?

This new political veil, akin to a nun's habit, does not hark back to some previous traditional modest dress. It is called the ziyy islami, to be distinguished from the hijab, which is the umbrella term used for the veil whatever the local cul-

tural variations may be. The women wearing the ziyy islami have made a political decision; they have proclaimed a new identity within a religious framework.

The question now might be, which of these veils are the Arab women wearing? Or are these veils, the traditional/social and the political/feminist, not necessarily mutually exclusive in the peninsula?

Veiling is a Judeo-Perso-Byzantine accretion which had by the second century of the Muslim era come to be regarded by many as an orthodox Islamic practice. Legal jurists refer to proof incontrovertible for the veiling and seclusion of women. In fact, veiling was favored by men because it guaranteed possession and prestige while claiming to be the ultimate mark of respect for something that had to be protected. Protection, however, has several possible meanings: It may connote concern for the woman's safety or it may indicate anxiety about the woman's sexuality - in which case it is the men who are being protected. In either case, of primary concern is the safeguarding of honor, the man's honor.

It was only at the beginning of this century that women intellectuals (such as the Lebanese Nazira Zayn al-Din and the Egyp-

raised, many Egyptian women were ready to follow suit. In the 1930s both Iranian and Turkish authorities declared the wearing of the veil illegal. Some older women, however, decided that staying at home for the rest of their lives was preferable to appearing "naked" in the streets.

The women fighters in the Algerian Revolution (1954 - 1962) finally discarded their veils and cut their hair to take part more fully in their nation's struggle. They doffed their veil, which had symbolized their distinctness from the infidel French and which they had used early in the revolution to conceal arms. However, many resumed it after the revolution. They did so because their husbands and fathers needed tangible proof that they had regained control and that virility and honor had been safeguarded. It was felt that the French had encouraged the Algerian women to dress immodestly and to flaunt their independence of Islamically sanctioned norms of behavior.

Islamic fundamentalism, though posing a threat to female visibility, may also provide a vehicle for implementing justice. The women who seem to be under pressure to disappear into the sanctity of the home are using religiosity and its trappings to gain access to the public sphere. Carefully, and often heavily veiling themselves, some women venture out of their anonymity and into the centers of education and religion. Most important of all in sharia-minded Muslim countries are the teachings of the Koran (as a legal as well as religious document), so that women may learn for themselves what their sacred rights are, and may learn for themselves what their sacred rights are, and may therefore know what to demand without transgressing canon.

In this light the Arab (Muslim) female movements hardly need the expertise of the Western female movements. Although contact between the two groups could be useful, Western women should know the limitations of their experience to their Arab sisters.

Abridged and condensed from an article by the same title in The World & I, March 1991.



tian Huda Sharawi) interpreted the veil and seclusion as blatant sources of oppression. In 1923 Huda Sharawi, director of the newly formed Egyptian Feminist Union, upon her return from the International Women's Conference in Rome, emerged from the train in Cairo with her veil

THE NEW YEMENI CONSTITUTION: PART III

YEMEN TIMES continues publishing the text of the new Yemeni constitution, which has yet to be approved in a national referendum. This is an unofficial translation sponsored by Yemen Times. The following is a third piece in a weekly series.

PART III: The Organization of the State Authority
Chapter 1 - The Council of Deputies:

Article (40):

The Council of Deputies (Parliament) is the legislative body of the state. It is responsible for promulgating laws, defining general state policy and the socio-economic development plans, and approving the government budgets and final accounts. It also supervises and guides the activities of the executive body of the state, as stipulated in the constitution.

Article (41):

The members of the Council of Deputies are elected in a secret ballot directly by the people. The country is divided into districts according to population densities in an equal manner with a variation of not more than 5% plus or minus. Each district elects one person.

Article (42):

The right to vote is guaranteed to all citizens.
A. To vote, the following conditions must be met by the voter:
i- must be Yemeni citizen,
ii- must be at least eighteen years of age.
B. To be a candidate for the Council of Deputies, the following conditions must be met by the candidate:
i- must be Yemeni citizen,
ii- must be at least twenty five years of age,
iii- must be literate,
iv- must be of good conduct.

Article (43):

The term of the Council of Deputies is four years starting from the date of its first session. The speaker calls for new elections at least sixty days before the expiry date of the existing council.

If for extraordinary circumstances elections cannot be held, the existing council continues to function until such circumstances are overcome and elections are held.

Article (44):

The premises of the Council of Deputies is located in Sanaa. The by-laws determine the conditions under which the Council may hold meetings outside the capital city.

Article (45):

By decree, the Council of Deputies issues its by-laws, stipulating the committees, their prerogatives, and the procedures. The by-laws may not contradict any item in the constitution.

Article (46):

Cases of contested election results of members are looked into by the Council of Deputies itself. Within sixty days of filing a complaint, the Council looks into such cases according to predetermined steps and procedures set by the Council. In such cases, a membership cannot be dropped except by two-thirds of the votes.

Article (47):

The Council of Deputies itself is responsible for security issues in its premises, and for which purpose it creates a special guard force commanded by the speaker. No other force may enter the premises or take positions near the entrances of the Council premises unless requested by the speaker.

Article (48):

The Council of Deputies approves all international political and economic agreements and treaties, specially those pertaining to defence, alliances, reconciliations, peace, border modifications, or financial obligations on the state, or any other issues that require a law to take effect.

Article (49):

The final accounts (balance sheets) of the state must be presented by the govern-

ment to the Council of Deputies within nine months of the conclusion of the fiscal year. The Council then carries out chapter by chapter discussions and approval. The Council also receives an annual report from the agency in charge of audit and control of government finance. The Council may also ask for any additional reports from such an agency.

Article (50):

The proposal of the government annual budget must be presented to the Council of Deputies at least two months before the first day of the relevant fiscal year. Although the Council discusses and approves the budget proposal on a chapter-by-chapter basis, it may not amend the budget except in agreement with the government. If the budget is not approved in time for the new fiscal year, the government shall apply the preceding year's budget on a monthly basis. No revenue may be attached to any expenditure in the budget.

Article (51):

The implementation of transfer of funds from one allocation (chapter) to another, expenditures not stipulated in the budget and additional revenues are all subject to authorization by the Council of Deputies.

Article (52):

The budget law determines the levels of expenditures and revenues of the general (government) corporations and boards. All their budgets and final accounts are subject to the same regulations as the government budget.

Article (53):

The President of the Presidential Council calls the Council of Deputies to its first session within two weeks of the declaration of the election results. If such a call has not come forth, the Council of Deputies holds its first session automatically on the first working day after two weeks of the declaration of the election results.

Article (54):

In its first session, the Council of Deputies elects from among its members the speaker and three members, who together form the Council's leadership. The first session (election session) is to be chaired by the oldest member of the Council. The by-laws determine the election procedures and other details.

Article (55):

The Council of Deputies' meetings are legal only if attended by more than half its members, excluding vacant seats. Decisions are taken by a simple majority, unless the issue being voted upon requires a special majority. If the votes on an issue are equally split, then decision is postponed until the next meeting of the Council, when a re-voting is carried out.

Article (56):

The meetings of the Council of Deputies are open. The Council may, however, hold meeting behind closed doors at the request of the speaker, the Presidential Council, or twenty of its members. The Council decides whether an issue is to be discussed in an open or closed meeting.

Article (57):

The Council of Deputies meets regularly on the day specified by its by-laws. The Council may not adjourn its meetings sessions without having decided (approved) the government budget.

Article (58):

A member of the Council of Deputies represents the whole country, and should look after the general (national) interest. His/her services are not tied or conditional (to a segment of the population).

Article (59):

Every member of the Council of Deputies has to take the constitutional oath in front of the Council before he/she can exercise his/her responsibilities.

Article (60):

All members of the Council of Deputies receive adequate remuneration. Members of the Council of Deputies who are also members of the cabinet, are however, exempt from such remuneration.

Article (61):

If a member's seat becomes vacant before the expiry of the term by a period of one year or more, a substitute is elected within sixty days for the balance of the term.

Article (62):

Members of the Council of Deputies may not interfere in the affairs of the executive and judicial bodies.

Article (63):

Members of the Council of Deputies are not liable for their actions in their line of work in the council, and may not be penalized for voting or discussing according to his/her beliefs. However, this is not applicable to any personal insults or similar utterances by the member.

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GHAZI ALWAN ■ AN ENTREPRENEUR ■ PAR EXCELLENCE

YEMEN TIMES continues its interviews and meetings with prominent businessmen in the Yemeni community. In this issue, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Abdul-Rahman Al-Haideri went to speak with Mr. Ghazi Abdulaziz Alwan, Chairman of Bilquis Poultry, and a number of affiliated companies and subsidiaries. Mr. Alwan was educated in Aden and in Damascus where he obtained his Law Degree. He settled in Dubai where

were located in Sanaa and thus failed because of the lower oxygen supply levels due to the high altitudes. We started with the production of one million chicks a year, today we produce twenty five million chicks on a land area of 6000 square meters. In partnership with the Yemen Investment Company and an investor from Sanaa, we also built another hatchery in the same area with a capacity of twenty million chicks a year. This was our

mand. Then we have the units producing corrugated sheets, fiberglass water tanks, etc., all of which are located in the Taiz Industrial Estate. The last project we have successfully completed is Mashtal Al-Wadi Al-Akhdhar (Green Valley Nurseries). The project is located five kilometers south of Sanaa on the Khowlan road. The project aims to cover the country's needs of seedlings. Our Wadi Al-Akhdhar nursery is a model project in all respects, as testified by the experts of the Agriculture

Ministry USAID, and others. As a result, the President of Yemen gave us an award in recognition of the success.

the necessary services, such as a mosque, a school, a market, a bakery, and commercial complex. We now await the completion of formalities at the cabinet level, and at the level of the Supreme Committee for Economic Affairs and Investment. We hope we will get the green light soon to start implementation.

Q. Did you not worry about nationalization, given the past experience and given that the old laws are in force?

A. It has been noticed by now, or in fact before over a year, that the ruling party of the then South Yemen had changed its philosophy and attitude to a more realistic one. In fact, such change was noticed in the Document for the Trends towards Economic and Social Reforms. I don't think history will repeat itself, not in our part of the world.

Q. Is this a joint venture project, locally or internationally?

A. It is a purely Yemeni project, but financing could come as a joint venture among various investors. The capital structure of the project is under study.

Q. What is the size we are talking about?

A. We are talking about one thousand apartments and two hundred villas, plus various other buildings for services and utilities.

Q. You think the demand for this exists?

A. The number of apartments demanded by the public, according to the housing department statistics, is 32,000 apartments. No problem on that count.

Q. Who will fix the rent?

A. You know this is a dead issue. We now have a market-based economic system. Moreover, the project itself (or any villa or apartment) is offered for sale for anyone who wants to buy.

Q. Let us go to the second project you have in mind?

A. This is the fisheries project. The Yemen Fisheries Project was a public shares company that almost materialized before the unity of the country. The project

was approved by the Cabinet, and preparations were under-way to issue a republican decree to establish the company. Then came the unity. For a while everybody was occupied with it, and we can understand such priorities. Then the project was transferred to the Ministry of Fisheries. It is with regret that I inform that uptodate, we have not achieved any progress on this count, despite the importance of the project and its positive returns to the balance of payments of the country.

Q. Most of your projects are oriented towards real socio-economic development. Could you evaluate the contribution your projects make to the foreign exchange inflows and to national income?

A. Together with other poultry companies, we have replaced the importation of about ninety million chicks, each chick costs US\$0.25, that is a saving of over US\$22 million each year. That estimate is for what was North Yemen. For the combined Yemen, savings on this alone could reach US\$30 million. We have substituted for imports in household utensils and other goods for an annual value of US\$6-7 million. The Nursery saved about US\$1.8 million in foreign imports of seedlings. If you add up the other smaller projects, you get a total of US\$50 million which our projects save in import substitution. As to national income, we need to make detailed calculations. As an indicator, however, the poultries employ about 340 persons, the industrial projects employ 218 persons, and the nursery employs forty two persons.



he practised as a lawyer for ten years. He then moved back to Yemen where he started his own business. He is a recipient of several distinguished awards from the President of Yemen and international organization in recognition of his efforts and contributions to socio-economic development in Yemen.

Q. Could you shed light on the beginnings of your companies?

A. The basic and first company was of course Bilquis Lildawajin (Bilquis Poultry) which started nine years ago. This project succeeded because of the hatchery which was located at Al-Barah, about halfway between Taiz and Mokha. All previous hatcheries

main line, but then we developed into other businesses. In addition to the hatchery business, a broiler raising farm was set up to produce one million broilers a year. Two years later, a feed mill was installed. Both the farm and the feed mill are in the Janad area, to the north of Taiz. Our major venture into industry was with The Bilquis Industrial Development Company. We had hoped this company would produce the country's needs of household utensils and other goods. But the country's circumstances at the time, which led to severe limitations on licences for projects, forced us to be contented with the existing size. We could have supplied all the domestic de-

plants for 70,000 apple trees, and 40,000 for peaches, pears, plums and pomegranades. This is a total of 110,000 plants. In addition, we produce indoor plants, flowers and roses such as Gladiolis, Gypsophilia, Carnation, etc. You can judge from the type of products that our nursery is the first of its kind in Yemen. All these used to be imported, but today, we produce them locally.

Q. What projects are you now entertaining for investment?

A. I would like to limit my discussions on two projects on which decisions will be taken rather soon. First we have a residential complex in Aden. We have the preliminary approval of the Minister of Housing and

Urban Planning, who encouraged us very much to go ahead with such a project due to its very high social and economic value. The designs and drawings are made to make this a pioneer project and an excellent model for civilized township. It will contain all



Q. @ @ @ @

MAREB INSURANCE COMPANY CALLS FOR NEW LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE INSURANCE SECTOR

The insurance business is one of the key components of a modern economy. YEMEN TIMES decided to shed light on this sector by speaking to the largest and oldest insurance firm in the country. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Abdul-Rahman Al-Haideri interviewed Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Abdo, Chairman, and Aqeel Al-Saqqaf, General Manager, both of Mareb Yemen Insurance Company.

Q. Could you trace back to say, twenty years, the insurance business in Yemen?

A. Twenty years ago, the insurance business in what was North Yemen was very limited. Whatever insurance service was available was rendered by local agents of foreign insurance companies. Then in 1974, the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development, sponsored and spearheaded the establishment of the country's first insurance firm - Mareb Yemen Insurance Company. With time, other insurance companies were established. Today, there are six Yemeni insurance companies operating at a national level.

Q. What classes of insurance services are available, and what is the present size of the business?

A. All classes of insurance services and coverages are available. The most important kinds of insurance services include:

- 1- Marine insurance
- 2- Motor (Car) insurance
- 3- Fire insurance and Machinery Break-down
- 4- Workmen's Compensation insurance
- 5- Contractors All Risk insurance
- 6- Life Assurance

As to the volume of this business, the gross premium income for 1990 was YR.220 million in the northern provinces. This amount is, of course, small in comparison to the population size and economic activity. But you will have to remember that insurance is in its infancy in Yemen, and that there are no laws making any form of insurance compulsory.

Q. Do you see the need for legislative action in this field?

A. I think that some laws are required to regulate as well as to promote the insurance business in Yemen. First, we need to unify the insurance laws in what was

formerly North and South Yemen. For example, none of the insurance companies from the northern provinces can do business in the southern provinces because the old laws are still in force, over there. Second, we need laws to stop insuring with foreign companies (abroad). Yemeni assets

get the proper legislation, the faster the sector will grow.

Q. How do you see the insurance business evolving over the next few years?

A. Like all other sectors, the fate of the insurance sector is tied in with the fortunes of the rest of the economy. We have high

the important role it plays in saving foreign exchange and thus assisting in the balance of payments, in employment creation, and above all, in providing funds for investments.

Q. Is there any plan to start some levels of re-insurance in Yemen?

A. We do not think the time has come to get into the re-insurance business. Yemen is not a major commercial center. Even if the local insurance companies were compelled to give a share to a local re-insurance company, that would not be enough to justify the existence of a re-insurance company. In addition, the insurance business in general, and the re-insurance part of it in particular, depends on the element of confidence and trust in the economy. Of course the legal and administrative systems also play a major role. In light of the above, we think it is not time yet for starting a re-insurance company in Yemen, but we strongly urge all parties to assist in the consolidation of the Yemeni insurance business.

Q. What role does Mareb Yemen Insurance Company play in all of this?

A. As you know, Mareb Yemen Insurance Company is the country's first and largest company. Its paid-up capital is YR.20 million, four times the minimum required by law. We have pioneered the introduction of several insurance services into the country, and continue to spearhead reforms of the legislative and administrative structures of the country in this field. Our company controls more than half the total market share in the northern provinces. In addition to our branches in the major cities of the northern provinces, we have applied to open a branch in Aden. But objections from the insurance company head-quartered in Aden have rendered our efforts, and the efforts of other Yemeni insurance companies to open branches in Aden, fruitless, so far. We hope that the Ministry of Industry will attend to this matter as soon as possible. At the regional and international levels, Mareb Yemen Insurance Company is a member of several specialized associations and federations through which we continuously try to update our practices and services.



and imports should be insured by Yemeni companies. Third, we need a law making motor (car) insurance compulsory. For the last ten years we have called for such a law, but to no avail. We hope the Council of Deputies will attend to this matter as soon as possible. The sooner we

hopes that the larger economic base, due to the union of the two parts of Yemen. Even then, if this sector is not nurtured through proper legislation and protection, it will continue to be small and marginal. All countries in the world provide this sector with the utmost care due to



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PERSONAL VIEW

A MESSAGE TO THE WESTERN MIND



Dr. Abdul Ghani Qassim,
Member of Parliament and
Professor at Sanaa University

Many factors are responsible for distorting the image of Islam in the mind of the Western person. In my opinion, the two most pertinent factors are: 1) the non-adherence of Muslims to the ideals of Islamic teaching, and 2) the ethnocentric view of the West which limits "human civilization" to Euro-America. I would like here to describe the essential interests which govern man's life according to Islam.

1) At the level of Religion: Man's interests at this level serve as a framework to regulate human life vis-avis the Creator and the universe. It is in light of this that man cannot negate God's existence.

Within this sphere, two sets of laws exist - the permanent basic general rules, and changing recurrent details.

2) At the level of Life: Life- whatever form or shape it takes, is sacred and should not be abused. It is in light of this that the death-sentence is decreed to punish those who willfully take another human's life. Islam so reveres human life that if a group kill one person willfully, they are all liable to be sentenced to death.

3) At the level of the Mind: Islam urges us to lead a logical life based on reason and an extensive use of the mind. It is in light of this that Islam bans the consumption of anything that influences the mind (such as alcohol, drugs, etc.), and interrupts its proper functioning.

The resources and systems in the world are supposed to provide fertile areas for the mind of man to work.

4) At the level of Sex: Islam puts much value in correct sexual enjoyment. It does not frown at physical enjoyment, as long as it is done with a legally-wedded partner. At another level, Islam did sanction polygamy, but did not advise. In fact, polygamy is supposed to be a solution to difficulties in marriage. Within the Muslim world today, about 1.5% of the male Muslims are polygamous. In comparison, about two thirds of Western men, monogamous as they legally are, have multiple mistresses at any one time in addition to their wives. It is clear that there is more commitment towards a wife, and a wife's status, second or third, is far better than the status of the second or third mistress.

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REVIEW OF THE YEMENI PRESS

Al-Thawra "Editorial"

Fighting in the Gulf ended with the Iraqi acceptance of the Security Council resolutions and the cease fire took effect on Thursday February 28 at 8 a.m Sana'a time. Arab and world public opinion received the news with great relief. The international family as a whole achieved a great victory as a result of the cessation of combat operations. In the fighting for forty days, thousands of lives were sacrificed in addition to the severe losses in resources and equipment which were suffered by the allied parties and not by Iraq alone. We repeat, after all those losses and devastation which the area suffered and the resulting pain and grief in the hearts of the whole world, the language of wisdom and logic must overcome the language of war and destruction. Peace and security, not only in the Gulf area, but in the whole Middle East area must be achieved since this area constitutes the core of international conflict. If fighting had ceased, the war has not yet come to an end. We keep hearing increasing talk about new security arrangements. However, the most important and most serious issue in the area will continue to be the rejection of the Zionist entity of all the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Security Council and the non recognition of the legitimate and just rights of the people of Palestine. The people of Palestine have suffered severe material and human losses. They continue to pay high costs for the sake of their just cause and lawful right to establish their independent state on their homeland. So, who will pay compensations to the people of Palestine for their suffering during the past forty years as a result of inhuman and bloody practices of the occupation forces against the unarmed people of Palestine? What is required now is an early call to the convening of an international peace conference which was stressed by the Security Council, American President George Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev in the Helsinki meeting. In that meeting they discussed ways of finding a peaceful settlement to the

Arab-Israeli conflict and the complete implementation of all Security Council resolutions including its resolutions on the Palestinian issue.

The great powers must fully realize that this issue cannot continue without resolution. If those powers do not endeavour to achieve this, the issue will continue to be a constant source of tension and explosion. The new world order, of which the American President is dreaming will remain unenforceable. American supremacy cannot be achieved in a system in which the strong have supremacy over the weak. If the forces of the coalition countries do not move from the Gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula to Palestine to force Israel to implement all the resolutions of the Security Council, there will be no peace or stability neither in the area nor in the world.

26 SEPTEMBER "POLITICAL EDITORIAL"

Yes to the Constitution.. Yes to safeguarding Yemeni Unity against all enemies and conspirators. All sectors of society are preparing for the referendum on the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen. This will consolidate the democratic unity according to the foundations set out in the legal procedures and constitutional by-laws regulating the process of the referendum.

This national democratic operation in its entirety constitutes a continuation of the major national efforts which produced our greatest and most noble of objectives - the declaration of Unity on 22nd May, 1990. Our great people which, through struggle and sacrifice, achieved this strategic goal, prepares today to consolidate its foundations through the referendum. By saying "Yes" to the Constitution, the people emphasize their determination to forge ahead on the road of unity.

Our people face difficulties created by the historical enemies for the purpose of disturbing the national unity, but all such efforts are doomed to fail in front of the sweeping tide of unity.

The democratic option which we are pursuing does not mean deviation from responsi-

ble democracy; we reject bargaining on the issues of fate and principle of our people and their revolution.

Any one who claims that they have reservations on the text of the constitution, should, know that such text has not come from heaven. It is man-made through special efforts which have been exerted to draw up its provisions and its terms, carefully selected by the Joint Constitutional Committee on the basis of our beliefs, traditions and heritage. Since, in spite of everything, a democratic course has been chosen as a way of our life in our Yemeni homeland, noted for its past glories and democratic traditions, it will remain our firm irrevocable choice.

Our people believe in unity as a concept and as their destiny, they will no doubt come out victorious because they said yes to unity and will say yes to the constitution. The rush to the many stations for registration of names, which is noted in all parts of the Republic is proof of the national interest and keenness to make a success of the referendum.

This is a natural reflection of the will for unity expressed by all the Yemeni masses whose different sectors and factions all meet within the broad national front of our Yemeni people for unity, progress and democracy.

They are capable of facing the conspirators of the enemies of unity and countering their allegations by further cohesion and by standing in one single rank. This will eliminate any opportunity for those who try to disrupt the national unity and create doubt in the issues related to the fate of our people.

The referendum will further enhance the struggles of our Yemeni people and their victories. The approval of the constitution and its adoption by the free will of the people will demonstrate the determination of the people to pursue unity, progress and democracy.

Participation in the referendum is the duty and responsibility of every honourable citizen keen on Yemeni unity as a great national achievement. Saying yes to the constitution means yes to safeguarding the unity against all enemies, conspiracies and challenges.

THE FINE ART OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I was 26 years old, battling bad health and depression. I needed help and found it at the local library-of all places, in a book of speeches by Winston Churchill. "We shall not flag or fail. We shall fight in France, we shall fight in the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air".

I could almost imagine myself in England that bleak day in June 1940, following Britain's defeat at the battle of Dunkirk, when that great resonant voice-measured, pausing, powerful-addressed the House of Commons. Churchill's words lifted me as they had millions of his countrymen.

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be; we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills." I could see the great bulldog face and fiery eyes.

"We shall never surrender!" All it took was this man's expression of faith in the individual's power to meet a challenge and rise above it-and I was fortified. Churchill knew his countrymen had it in them. And I knew the same power lay within me.

Someone once said to me, "Be kind. Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." There are people everywhere in need of a good word, an uplifting compliment to fire their hopes and dreams."

Let me offer you four ways to give true words of encouragement:

Be sincere and simple. Mark Twain remarked that he could live for two months on one good compliment. How true! Haven't we all repeated someone's admiring words over and over in our minds, without losing the boost they give?

There is more to a compliment than flattery, however. An insincere compliment sweetens the tongue, but sours the stomach. And the flowery phrase is usually unnecessary. The simplest compliment can be the most profound.

I work in a company where my boss doesn't say a lot about how well we're doing. But I still have a memo I wrote that involved ideas on how to build better customer relations. Why does that one stick in my mind over the hundreds I've written? Two little words Mr. Kuwada scrawled at the top: "Good idea!"

Even a little nod of acknowledgement, given deftly at the right moment, can stir a soul. John Wooden, the great U.C.L.A. basketball coach, told his players that when they scored, they were to smile, wink or nod to the player who had passed them the ball. A team member asked, "What if he's not looking?" "I guarantee he'll look," Wooden replied.

Be sensitive to time and place. In the words of the Biblical proverb of Solomon, "Like apples of gold in setting of silver is a word spoken in the right circumstances."

During one of the last major offensives of World War II, Dwight Eisenhower was walking near the Rhine and came upon a GI who seemed depressed.

"How are you feeling, son?" he asked. "General," the young man replied, "I'm awful nervous." "Well, Eisenhower said, "you and I are a good pair then, because I'm nervous too. Maybe if we just walk along together, we'll be good for each other."

No sermon. No special advice. But what words of encouragement!

Vince Lombardi, the legendary Green Bay Packers football coach, was a feared disciplinarian. But he never leveled a man without also seeking to launch him. One day he chewed out a player who'd missed several blocking assignments.

After practice, Lombardi stalked into the locker room. The player was sitting at his locker, head down, dejected. Lombardi mussed his hair, patted him on the shoulder and said, "One of these days, you're going to be the best guard in NFL."

That guard was Jerry Kramer, and he says he carried that positive image of himself for the rest of his career. "Lombardi's encouragement had a tremendous impact on my whole life," he says. Kramer went on to become a Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame and a member of the NFL's All-50-Year Team.

Recall personal examples of struggle. It's human nature to believe that successful people have never made mistakes. But it's not so. Someone facing difficulty needs to be reminded of the challenges and failures that

Woe Be To The Arabs!



Mohammed A. Zabarah

At the turn of this decade, the Arab world was undergoing changes far more productive and reassuring than in the last forty years. There were extraordinary cooperation in the economic and political fields in the Arab world that were seen as harbingers of better things to come. The Arab and Maghreb Cooperation Councils had just recently been created, on the heels of the Gulf Cooperation Council, issuing forth yet a new chapter in inter-Arab solidarity. These events were viewed as further evidence of a new and positive attempts by the Arabs to form a political entity encompassing all 22 Arab states.

The above events were further augmented by the unity of the two Yemens which was forged on the May 22, 1990. The sheer speed by which the Yemeni Unity was accomplished was, to say the least, remarkable. The fact that two desperate states that were construed as incompatible politically and economically have united, and that their unity has endured in the face of so many obstacles, speaks well for the determination of the Yemeni people in firmly wanting to preserve their union. Compounded

haunt us all.

I decided to go to a certain seminary because of a teacher there named Howard Hendricks. His personality, candor, wit and confidence shone through in everything he said. He proved to be the greatest teacher I've ever had.

After a while, though, I grew discouraged, thinking that I could never live up to what he had accomplished. One day, Hendricks seemed to spot my mood and perhaps the whole class's mood.

Continued on p. 10

with this event, we were witnessing the moral outrage of the world at what the children of Palestine. Israel was being hard pressed to justify its barbaric cruelties being inflicted on Palestinian Arab children armed only with stones on their hands. Indeed the Arab world was being seen by many as more cohesive than ever before and rapidly changing for the better.

Unfortunately, the events of the past six months have brought all that to an abrupt end. The Arab world had split into two, and, according to some, into three camps, unwilling to come to grips with the new realities the defeat of Iraq has ushered in. We can't as Arabs, regard the defeat of Iraq as a slight on Iraq alone, but as a wound on all Arabs. That wound will take time to heal. However, it is encombeus on our political leaders, our intellectuals, and our men of letters to re-evaluate and assess our state of affairs, and draw-up a comprehensive strategy whose objectives are:

1. To help the Iraqi and Kuwaiti societies in the reconstruction of their respective states.
2. To comprehend the new regional framework that will evolve as the "new world order". We can take advantage of the "new world order" by utilizing our immense resources in helping each other overcome our greatest disadvantage vis-a-vis the west-underdevelopment. This will, in turn enhance our peoples' awareness of their place in the community of nations.
3. To continue to insist that

our Palestinian brethren be given a homeland while demanding that the rule of international law be applied in the same manner as it was enforced against Iraq.

4. To strive to regulate the ready aspect of some of our institutions that thrive on corruption, neglect of duty and mismanagement by creating a new "civic culture" that will augment the value that the well-being of the whole far outweighs the well-being of the one.

5. To create an organization that will act as a crisis prevention body, whose sole objective will be to identify and eliminate any and all impending problems between two or more Arab states. Such a body will and should be composed of individuals who have dedicated their lives to the welfare and prosperity of the Arab people. This body of eminent personalities will act as a moral force on all Arab states to submit to the rule of law in their internal and external behaviours.

If the Arab world does not move quickly in adopting and implementing such objectives, or similar like aims, than we can be justified in feeling discontented over our future. The panacea is at our disposal. We alone can cure the ills and affections that torment the Arab people. If we are unable to accomplish this responsibility, than we can say, with sadness: "Woe Be To The Arabs."

Dr. Zabarah is associate professor of political science, Sanaa University. He is a well-published scholar locally and internationally.

Continuation from p. 8.

PERSONAL VIEW

5) At the level of Wealth: Wealth is a blessing, and Islam urges all of us to strive to earn it. There are, however, certain norms to economic activity which aim to balance the interests of the individual with the interests of the group; and the interests of the present with the interests of the future, and the interests of the soul with the interests of the body. Most of these principles exist in the Western civilization, which itself drew immensely from the Arab/Islamic civili-

zation. Yet, it would sad if the great achievements of the West cannot be supplemented and complemented with basic human needs. Such needs encompass issues like racism which is quickly exposed with a small scratch on the surface.

The West also suffers from the high levels of insecurity and anxiety of its citizens. This is partly due to the ruthless exploitation of one group of people to another deprived group.

SANAA UNIVERSITY OVERCOMES SOME OF ITS MAJOR PROBLEMS

Sanaa University is probably the country's largest single organisation in the country, with almost forty thousand students. It is definitely the largest educational and cultural institution. It is also the main source of educated manpower. Yet, Sanaa Univer-

of them have not fulfilled other requirements like the military service.

Regarding the conditions of the university after the termination of Kuwaiti assistance, Dr. Al-Maqaleh said, "Operations in the university are running smoothly, since the government was able to fill in the financing gap that resulted from the Kuwaiti decision." Dr. Al-Maqaleh disclosed that the Yemeni government had thought five years ago about writing a thank-you letter to the Government of Kuwait and proposing to terminate the assistance to Sanaa University. For

some time now, the university has been reducing its dependence on foreign assistance; thus when this aid was cut-off, the impact was minimal. "We proceed with our plans to meet the demand for university education in the country. This year, for example, we opened two new colleges - the College of Education in Dhamar, and the College of Science in Taiz," the President of Sanaa University said.

With reference to the grievance of the lecturers, specially the newly appointed ones, Dr. Al-Maqaleh stated that the Minister of Finance has wrongly rejected the remuneration (cadre) system approved by the committee

that was set up for this purpose. The Ministry of finance was itself a member of this committee, along with others like the ministries of civil service, legal affairs, and of course, the university. Yet, the ministry of finance refused to comply with the recommendations and thus it created a bad situation.

Yemen Times then spoke with Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Vice President (Rector) of Sanaa University, and given below are excerpts of the interview:

Q. Could you describe the present grievances of the teachers?

A. Certainly, there is a lot of resentment on the part of the Yemeni teachers who have serious grievances because cadre and salary problems are not solved. It is unfortunate that it has taken such a long time in spite of many committees that have been established by the Cabinet to look into these affairs. There was a misunderstanding about the position of our faculty. We have always maintained that the conditions for the faculty members should be different because they represent a special category of highly qualified staff who receive lower salaries than their counterparts who come from other parts of the Arab world and elsewhere.

Q. What happened with the Ministry of Finance?

A. I think the problem is now resolved and the Ministry of Finance agreed to treat the members of the faculty in the fashion recommended by the sub committee formed by the cabinet.

Q. What is the financial position of the University after Kuwaiti aid has been cut off?

A. In general, I think there is very little effect on the University after the funds were stopped. Initially we were worried, but fortunately we found out that most of the expatriate faculty members accepted the new employment conditions offered by the Yemeni Government although it represented a twenty percent reduction in their salaries. There are some shortages faced by certain departments but this cannot be attributed to the interruption of aid but because they represent very specialised areas and we have difficulties in recruiting the right staff. The Yemeni Government has also covered a part of what used to be paid by Kuwait for the purchase of certain items for the university. On the whole, I think the interruption of Kuwaiti aid has not affected us except

not. I am sure Yemen and Kuwait will always have a special relationship irrespective of whether there is aid or not.

Q. What about the absorption of students who have returned from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf?

A. This was a problem we faced at the beginning of this academic year. There were about 2000 students who returned, some of them were in their final year while others had completed their first year or so. We had a major problem trying to accommodate them in the various faculties at the right level so that these students would not be affected. The second problem was that some students approached us after we had closed admissions and we had to prolong it to accommodate them. About seventy to eighty percent of the students were accommodated and some had to be refused admission either because



sity has its problems, some of which are big. YEMEN TIMES went to speak to the administration of the university to feel out the hopes and worries of this institution.

In an interview with Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, President of Sanaa University, he indicated that the university has taken major steps to absorb the sons and daughters of the returnees in the various colleges. Seats were made available to all of them, specially in the second, third, and fourth years. "We faced several critical problems in evaluating their applications, because in many cases they did not have the full set of documents," he said. Some



in the sense that this fund has been a very strong factor in maintaining a very close and special relationship between Yemen and Kuwait. There may be some people who may interpret this as a break in the sling which I hope it does

they approached us after November, when admissions were closed or because they lacked the required specialisation for admission to engineering, electronics etc.

Continuation from p. 6

THE FINE ART OF ENCOURAGEMENT

He stopped everything in the middle of a lecture and began to talk heart to heart. He quietly spoke of his failures and how he was tempted several times to give up teaching. He had us laughing one moment and feeling sad and sympathetic the next. I realized he was man of clay-just like the rest of us. "Life isn't a hun-

dred-yard dash," he said to us. "it's a marathon, and those who win are often just plodders like you and me."

Take time. Any old word of encouragement won't do. The easy, unthinking compliments - "hey, you're looking good" or "I like your style" - have no power to move, even when

they are genuinely meant. Real encouragement is like a well-wrought letter. In fact, it might even be a letter.

Walt Whitman struggled for years to get anyone interested in his poetry. He was discouraged. Then he received a note. "Dear sir," it began. "I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of 'Leaves

of Grass'. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I greet you at the beginning of a great career." It was signed by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Those words weren't off the cuff. Emerson labored over them to get them right. Not only did he want to encourage Whitman: he wanted to do it memorably.

Encouragement is simple. Just a word, an anecdote, a compliment, a little pep talk, a visit. Take a look around. Pick someone out. Then give him the best you've got. Today.

(Abridged from Readers Digest - December 1989 pp 141-143)

SPORTS

AL-AZANI - YEMEN'S PIONEER IN WRESTLING

It seems somewhat absurd to say that 1991 has turned out to be the year of Abdalla Hussein Al-Azani. This is a young man who had already won six medals in the different international competitions and brought honours to his country numerous times before. He is ranked number one in 48 kgs. by the Yemeni Wrestling Federation both in Greco-Roman and Freestyle wrestling. Yet 1991 will give another honour to Al-Azani since he has been holding the record of undefeated wrestler

checked my weaknesses and errors. The work out has paid off and the shy student at Ibn Majid School in Sana'a is the first to notice the results. Before last year, he had never expected to get off his career-long reach-level period. But now he says, "But last year I thought, Well its possible". And this year I've been surprised. I guess the training just paid off." He is now on a mission to give another glory to his career and country. "I think this year will be wonderful."

Al Azani was their choice to carry the flag of the country.

The smallest contingents in the games, Abdalla finished fifth and this marked the beginning of new contact. His name already began appearing in the daily newspapers locally and in Egypt. His club, Al-Wahda - Sanaa, recognized his effort and gave him a merit of recognition. In the same year 1988, with high hopes, The Ministry of Sports and Youth Development and the Yemen Wrestling Federation decided to send Abdalla Hussein Al-Azani to the Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

After long preparations, the day came and he was in Seoul for his first bout. A very big controversy arose when he drew with a wrestler from Israel, he refused to play in his elimination round. He got confused whether to go ahead with the fight or just leave the opponent and sacrifice his high hope, medal and honour. He consulted the Federation and followed their advice. He refused to play against his Israeli opponent and with a big disappointment came back to Yemen with teary eyes. He cursed his drawing luck, and felt that heaven and earth were conspiring against him. To him it was the end of his career. His efforts went to nothing, but for his countrymen he is a hero. He waited for a year to get another chance. In early 1989, a notice came indicating that the Asian Wrestling Championship will be held in Japan in June 1989. The Federation contacted him and again he started to train seriously. Al-Azani is blessed with two great assets in addition to his own physical talents - technical knowledge and the ability to keep focus. He provided Al Azani with a training partner nearly as good as himself till he regained his lost confidence. "I know everyone will be expecting a lot of me," he assessed. "I will go there and try my best, then we will see what happens?" The Azani family is always there to provide support, especially the father. He is always beside him to give moral support. Most family members are always present to cheer him when he wins and to console him when he loses. In the Asian Wrestling Competition (June 1989), he finished 6th. When he came back to his country, he doubled his effort to get full confidence and again he brought with him

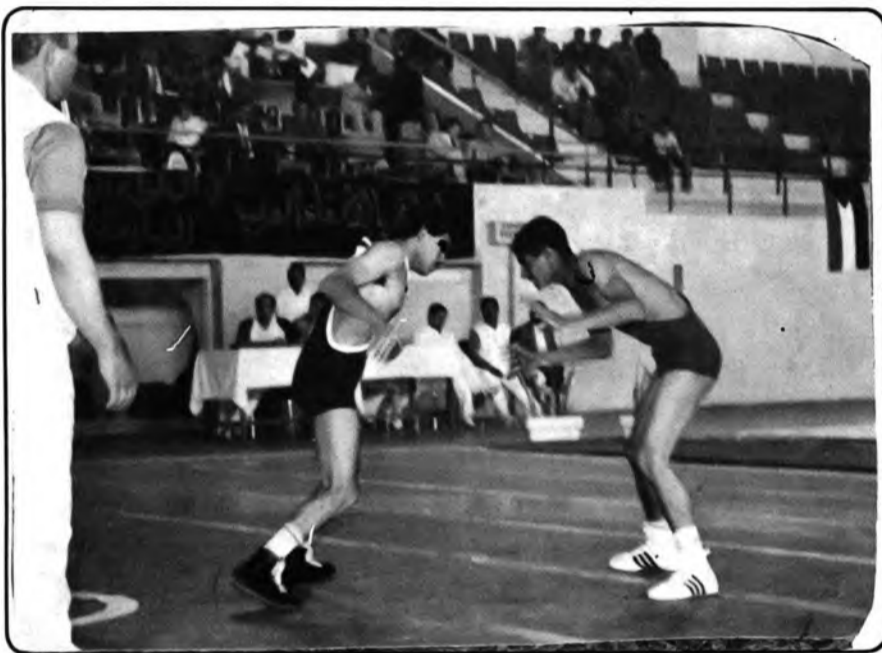
two bronze medals from Morocco. He outpointed the veteran wrestlers of Morocco and Tunisia in the Freestyle 48 kgs. category and the Iraqi and Algerian wrestlers in Greco-Roman style. In the semi-finals, he was beaten by a very powerful Syrian in the Greco-Roman and by a well trained Iraqi in the Freestyle.

Last September 1990, in the East Asian Games in Peking, China, he was part of the Yemeni contingent. But lack of proper preparation, training and acclimatization affected his performance. "At the Arab Cups and local tournaments, I just want to get a medal under my belt. In the big international competitions, I want to avoid any injury." Al Azani does reveal that he was an athletic late-bloomer. He discusses his worries at the Ministry of Sports. The emergence of Abdalla in the history of Yemeni wrestling prepared the way for other athletes whose ambition and opportunities are not yet exploited. He led and created a sport that was unknown to Yemeni players. Abdalla provided this Sport in Yemen with hope. Now, the number of young wrestler hopefuls is increasing as they try to break into the local scene and follow Al Azani's footsteps.

Still hungry for medal and victory, our young wrestler was still frustrated with what happened in Seoul. "After that controversy I couldn't sleep for two nights" says Abdalla.

"Some people would see me and feel so bad they wouldn't know what to say" he whispers. Being a seasoned player Abdalla has more in his mind than local pride. Ask him, casually what players in the world he admires, and he answers immediately and positively "The fine wrestling athletes are the Russians and Americans". Abdalla speaks thoughtfully and is a good student. His bedroom is not unlike that of any other teenager, except that the trophies, pictures and medals are kept inside a small pouch inside the box drawer. He talks with some seriousness about how much it moved him to see the national flag displayed in Seoul Korea. The players had their flags. They were singing songs. "It makes me overwhelmed with emotion" he says.

In wrestling one day you are in cloud seven, and the next day you are in the dumps. Azani won't second guess any other coach's style, even as he stands by his own. "It's like in golf" he says with a warm smile. Some guys hit fade, some guys hit hooks. But they're all aiming for the same spot. He dresses like an ordinary Yemeni athlete. Tactful and reserved, he seems every bit the principal's list student. He doesn't smoke nor drink. The thing that gets him is that some athletes don't take the game as seriously as he does.



in his category for the past 5 consecutive years. The difference began when he started training with different highly qualified coaches. What happened was not planned, and more than what Al Azani had hoped for. "The year passes by so quickly that I don't even notice how the training was going" the 22 year old Al Baidha born athlete explains. Through the end of 1990 he was still the darling of the local aficionados, and he still strives his best to improve his standing in international competitions. "There was a big disappointment when I started training with the different coaches" recalls Al Azani. There were times when they introduced a new technique that I'd never seen and done before. Then, suddenly they wanted me to perfect it at the shortest possible time. I'm used to train 3 hours daily every day except Friday and Thursday, but in one day they wanted to change me. When I started wrestling this year, I didn't know I was in the best shape. I defeated the well known Arab counterparts early last year in the international competitions and I said maybe it is possible to think of the gold medal this year because I'm training hard."

But, I have still to work on my starts and improve my techniques. I need more local and international exposures. To ensure that my coaches

If we follow his glowing career, Abdalla Hussein Al Azani started as a thin 15 year old boy who used to play football in the streets. A year later he started training to wrestle among his friends and brothers. He joined his club in 1983 in order to get good coaching. Three years later his chance came when the Federation sent him to Syria to participate in the Arab Wrestling Championship. His first appearance brought surprises when he won two bronze medals in the competition, one in Greco-Roman and the other in the Free-style wrestling. In the same year, after his successful campaign he was sent to Jordan to compete in the Inter-Arab Wrestling Cup. He won the King Hussein Cup for the 48 kgs. category as the best wrestler of the tournament. His first two fruitful debuts impressed the Yemen Wrestling Federation and in early 1987 they decided to join the International Amateur Wrestling Tournament in France, sending Al Azani as the lone Yemeni participant. Though he didn't win any medal, staying in the competition until the fourth round is already an achievement since he competed against well trained and well experienced wrestlers from around the world.

When the Ministry of Sports decided to participate for the first time in the Asian Games in New Delhi, India,

refused to play against his Israeli opponent and with a big disappointment came back to Yemen with teary eyes. He cursed his drawing luck, and felt that heaven and earth were conspiring against him. To him it was the end of his career. His efforts went to nothing, but for his countrymen he is a hero. He waited for a year to get another chance. In early 1989, a notice came indicating that the Asian Wrestling Championship will be held in Japan in June 1989. The Federation contacted him and again he started to train seriously. Al-Azani is blessed with two great assets in addition to his own physical talents - technical knowledge and the ability to keep focus. He provided Al Azani with a training partner nearly as good as himself till he regained his lost confidence. "I know everyone will be expecting a lot of me," he assessed. "I will go there and try my best, then we will see what happens?" The Azani family is always there to provide support, especially the father. He is always beside him to give moral support. Most family members are always present to cheer him when he wins and to console him when he loses. In the Asian Wrestling Competition (June 1989), he finished 6th. When he came back to his country, he doubled his effort to get full confidence and again he brought with him



ALBEEDH ADVISES DECENCY IN DEALINGS AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES

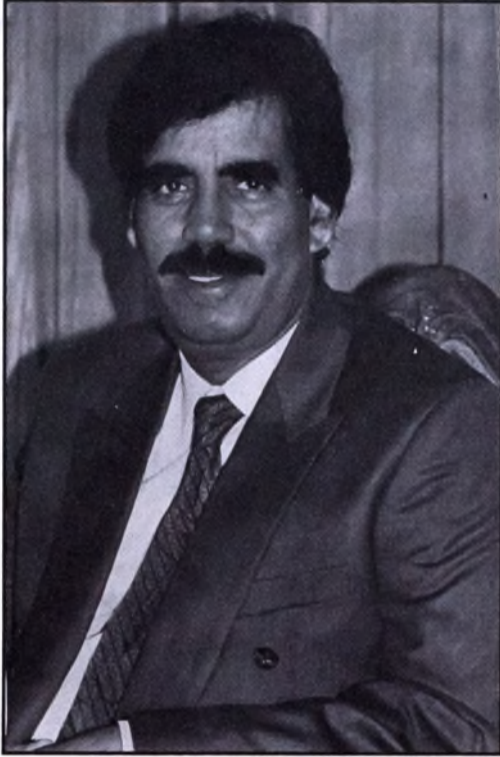
Al-Beedh Warns Hardliners of Disturbing Security

Vice President Ali Salem Al-Beedh has warned extremists and hardliners of the right and left against the exploitation of the people's religious feelings in order to serve political goals. Al-Beedh made this statement during his meeting at the Police College

(Academy) with the police and political security officers of the governorates.

Al-Beedh called upon all individuals in the Ministry of Interior to take firm measures in dealing with issues upsetting the security and stability in the country.

Referring to the current preparations for the Referendum on the Constitution, the Vice President emphasized the importance of maintaining smooth arrangements away from illegitimate influences. He urged security forces to exert their utmost to maintain the appropriate climate for the process of referendum according to sched-



ule.

Pointing out to Yemen's stand on the Gulf Crisis, Al-Beedh affirmed the necessity of speeding the pull out of all foreign forces from the region in the aftermath of the cessation of conflict. He urged the foreign powers to leave the issue of security arrangements in the region to its people and to refrain from interfering in its affairs. Al-Beedh called for solving all differences between the states in the region through peaceful means and to abide by the principle of peaceful dialogue.

In a later development,

Vice President Al-Beedh paid visits to the remote north-western and northern regions. He visited Hajjah and Sa'adah provinces where he inaugurated several projects, and laid the foundation stones for several others. In meetings with senior government officials, tribal sheikhs, and military officers, the Vice President re-iterated the importance of working in harmony for the common goals of Yemen. He was critical of any efforts to disrupt the smoothly going process of democratization, unity consolidation, and socio-economic development. At the same time, the Vice President urged the members of the People's General Congress and Yemen's Socialist Party to exhibit statesmanship in their dealings and even in their competitions. "Competition among political parties is a legitimate endeavor," he said, "But this should be governed by principles and decency."

Accompanying the Vice President on this tour were H.E. Mr. Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, Vice Prime Minister for Internal Affairs, Colonel Abdullah Al-Basheeri, Chief of the General Staff, and a number of senior officials and officers.

ATTAS PUSHES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Attas Emphasis Target for Food-Sufficiency

In a general address to farmers, Prime Minister Haider Abu Baker Al-Attas stressed the importance of increasing agricultural pro-

Prime Minister Attas confirmed a new Government support for all efforts intended to promote agriculture.

Attas also invited national capital to invest resources



duction in order to attain the target of self-sufficiency in the basic agricultural products, but mainly in grains. Attas insisted on setting up the policies, plans and programs directed towards the exploitation of all lands suitable for agriculture. He urged to expand the land area under cultivation particularly in the fertile valleys and plains. In addition, the introduction of modern agricultural technology will raise productivity. Prime Minister Attas's initial steps were directed towards irrigation, dam construction projects, agricultural research centers and extension services. Simultaneously,

in this sector and to effectively contribute to the economic and social development of the country.

Prime Minister Al-Attas made his address at Al-Aerrah farm to honor some of the "distinguished farmers" on the occasion of the tree planting season.

It is worth mentioning that the present government has made agriculture one of its main priorities, not only for the sake of achieving self-sufficiency in food, but also as a means to provide employment to the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis who returned from the Gulf.

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### 350,000 Newly Enrolled in Schools

The return of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from the Gulf has added to the burdens of the social services in Yemen. Estimates from the Ministry of Education indicate that the number of newly enrolled children in the schools has just touched the 350,000 mark. It is worth mentioning that although Yemen suffered greatly from the Gulf crisis, it has yet to receive any of the billions of dollars allocated in order to partially alleviate this burden. We are waiting to see if any aid at all finds its way to Sanaa, on the ground that Yemen suffered more than other countries.

### SOMALI REFUGEES ARRIVE IN ADEN

YEMEN TIMES learnt that 510 Somali refugees headed by Colonel Ali Haji arrived at Aden seaport last Friday, after they were refused admittance to Djibouti. The group had fled from Zaila', about 35 kms. south of Djibouti, where a bloody war is raging between forces loyal to the ousted Siad Berri and the Opposition forces. Our correspondent in Aden stated that 32 persons needed immediate hospitalization. The group includes seventy females and twenty children.

