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OUR VIEWPOINT



PROTECT CONSUMERS

Consumer protection is probably the farthest thing from what the various political parties are interested in. The programs of the political parties are full of demands and promises regarding many political issues. Yet, the most pressing issues to the ordinary citizen are things related to his/her every day life - notably those related to consumer protection.

Many of the producers (specially those industries that import semi-finished products for packing in Yemen) cheat on many things. One of the things they cheat in is the volume of the product being packed. Go buy a gallon of paint, a can of cooking oil, a packet of detergent soap, or a cylinder of gas etc., and you will see what I mean. On the cover, it says that net/gross weight is so and so. Reach out for the nearest scale and you will see that is not true.

In the Ministry of Economy (maybe also in the Ministry of Industry), there is a general department for standards, weights, and measurements of (الادارة العامة للمواصفات والمقاييس والاوزان) products, which is supposed to check and control what kind of product is being packed, what volume, etc. Well like everybody else, the functioning of this department leaves much to be desired. The hope was that the political parties will pick up this matter and make it a campaign issue. But it has not happened. I hope that they will see that matters that affect the citizens' daily lives have more appeal than issues of general concern, important as they may be. In the meanwhile, the Council of Deputies will hopefully act on this problem, and will demand that government organisations that do not perform their duties must be held accountable. Similarly, any company that cheats on its products must be brought to court and held accountable for its deceitful actions.

The Publisher

YEMEN URGES TO RESTORE ORDER TO ARAB HOUSE



The Republic of Yemen has called on the Arab countries to by-pass the Gulf crisis and search for ways to remove the causes of their differences. It is imperative to restore Arab solidarity and cooperation. This statement was issued following a major-policy meeting of the Presidential Council chaired by General Ali Abdullah Saleh and attended by all the members. Relations among Arabs must be based on self-confidence, mutual respect, and non-interference in the affairs of others, the statement said. "The Republic of Yemen is able and willing to contribute to clearing up the air, and regaining a minimum of Arab interaction," the statement explained. The meeting was also attended by the Speaker of the Council of Deputies, Dr. Yasseen Saeed Nu'man, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas, Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Information Minister Dr. Mohamed Jarhoom, Mr. Ismail Al-Wazeer, Minister of State for Legal Affairs, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Junaid, Governor of the Yemeni Central Bank.

YEMENI JEWS PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL LIFE

Yemeni Jews are exercising their political rights within the political system of the Republic of Yemen. *YEMEN TIMES* has learnt that a number of Yemeni Jews residing in the Raidah area, north of Sanaa, the Capital, have joined the membership of several political parties. In a letter on this issue, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Ahmed Nu'man, Secretary-General of the Constitutional Liberals Party (CLP) confirmed that about fifty Yemeni Jews have joined the CLP. It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni Constitution guarantees the right to full participation in the political system to all citizens irrespective of their sex, religion, or racial origins. At another level, female participation in Yemen's political life has grown dramatically over the recent past. It will be noted that there are several female members in the Yemeni Council of Deputies (Parliament), People's General Congress, Yemeni Socialist Party, CLP, and other parties.



THE BEST CHOICE

THE PEOPLE'S GENERAL CONGRESS: FORERUNNER OF YEMENI DEMOCRACY

The People's General Congress (PGC) is probably the country's largest, and definitely, the most influential political organisation. It is at the helm of power today, and is expected to continue for some time in the future. The PGC was created in 1982 as an umbrella organisation which brought the various factions of the country to the meeting table. The idea was to create a minimum level of inter-faction dialogue to avoid violence and physical strife. Thus, it embodied all the political thoughts existing in the country. Its leadership is composed of the following:

Party Secretary-General: General Ali Abdullah Saleh,
Party Secretary: Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Asbahi.

The party apparatus includes the General Committee, the Permanent Committee, the Executive Committee, the Parliamentary Board, the Ministerial Board, and the Specialized Committees.

Within two months, the structure of the party will change to conform with its new role as a political party rather than an umbrella forum for all political thoughts in the country.

The PGC started off with

1000 members, then it grew to 24,000 members. Today, rough estimates put the number of PGC members at around half a million. This number is expected to fall to around three hundred thousand as members of different political inclination drift away to other parties. Even then, the PGC remains the party with the largest following in the country. Its members are distributed all over the country. It is gaining members steadily in the countryside, specially in the southern provinces.

The PGC reaches out to its members and sympathizers through a number of instruments.

First, there is the PGC newspapers, Al-Mithaq, which is a weekly paper. Then there is the Al-Mithaq Institute which was established on 7/2/1987. The institute is expected to serve as breeding ground for party ideologists. It carries out training of party cadres, explains the PGC objectives and positions, and sponsors seminars and conferences on the PGC literature. The lecturers are party members from the university as well as from the party leadership. Mr. Abdul-Sattar Al-Shameeri, Director of the Institute, explains that over the last three years, they have held ten medium-term regular

training programs attended by over 1500 participants. Once the forthcoming changes take place, Mr. Shameeri continues, the rules for admission and participation in our programs will have to change. The selection of lecturers will also be more refined. Other instruments for reaching out to the general public are the local, regional and national level meetings and conferences, and the continuous efforts of the PGC secretariat to mobilize support and membership. The objectives of the PGC are numerous, and they are stated in the lethora of literature, specially the National Charter. The most immediate objective is to create a broad front of all the parties and political organisation to take major decisions regarding the restructuring of political in the country. Talks are presently underway between the leaderships of the PGC and the Yemeni Socialist Party to evolve such a broad front. Basically, the PGC seeks to avoid bloodshed and internal violence. It accepts that there are differences in perceptions and approaches, and that such differences are to be worked out in competition of the minds and not bullets.

LOCAL ECONOMIC BRIEFS

■ BEER FACTORY TO PRODUCE ONLY SOFT DRINKS

The 26th September weekly stated that the government is seriously considering to convert the Aden "beer factory" into a factory producing soft drinks. The economic viability of the conversion process has already been determined, the paper said.

■ PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR THE MILITARY

For the first time in the history of Yemen, military personnel will have to use public transportation. The Ministry of Defense issued its orders to this effect. The orders require all members of the armed and security forces to abide by these new standing orders. A statement released by the Defense Ministry and published in the 26th September weekly, said that the initiative was taken to rationalize military transport expenditures in an attempt to cut down the heavy costs in areas of fuel consumption and break down of vehicles as a result of extensive disorganised use.

The Ministry of Defense has already set up a plan to provide collective means of transportation for all members of the military forces serving in Sana'a, and all other major cities in the Republic.

■ CABINET WARNS AGAINST INTERVENTION IN LAND DISPUTES

The Council of Ministers passed a number of resolutions aimed at correcting the grievances pertaining to land ownership in the eastern and southern governorates which resulted from the implementation of law number 27 of 1970..

The Council of Ministers emphasized on the principle of consent between the beneficiaries and owners and warned those elements attempting to stop implementation of the new measures. The council authorised a committee headed by the Prime Minister to oversee the implementation of the above resolutions.

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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 ٥ ابريل ١٩٩١م.
للشخص الواحد - نصف التسمية ٢١ دينار (٥٤٦ ريال)
للشخص الواحد - تسمية كاملة ٢٥ دينار (٦٥٠ ريال)
المزدوج - تسمية كاملة ٤٠ دينار (١٠٤٠ ريال)

التسمية اعلاه تحتوي على الآتي:

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

الشروط

- ١- هذه التسمية الخاصة صالحة ل:
- ٢- اكثر من خمسة اشخاص وثلاث ليالي
- ٣- لا يوجد خدمات الغرف فيها
- ٤- الاضياء الاخرى دفعها نقداً
- ٥- تخفيض في الوجبات اللذائية (٥٠٪) للاطفال ما فوق سن السادسة ومجاناً ما تحت الخامسة.
- ٦- يتبع نظام المحجزات
- ٧- جميع الوجبات تقدم في المطعم فقط
- ٨- ب- اي طلبية الى الغرفة تحتسب بتسمية قائمة الطعام الرسمية.
- (٣٢٩١٨/٣٢٩١٣/٣٢٩١١/٣٢٩١١/٣٢٠٧٠)
- خود مكسر - ص. ب ٦١١١ - تليفون: ٣٢٠٧٠ - فاكس: ٣٢٩١٧ - فاكس: ٣٢٩١٩ - عدن - الجمهورية اليمنية

PEOPLE'S GENERAL CONGRESS

COMFORTABLE WITH ACHIEVEMENT RECORD

The People's General Congress is the country's most powerful party, if at least, because it is headed by the President of the Republic.

It is also the largest in terms of followers and members. Finally it is one of two partners in the coalition government presently ruling the country. This is going through considerable changes these days. To be on top of what is going on, "YEMEN TIMES" interviewed Dr Ahmed Mohamed Al Asbahi, the PGC Secretary.

⇒ **Q. Could you shed light on how and why the PGC started?**

A. First, let me give a brief historic background. The PGC was formed in the early 1980s. On 24/8/1982. While the First People's General Congress was in session, there was a spontaneous demand that the conference take a permanent nature (to meet regularly) and a secretariat to be formed. Thus, the PGC was created as a cover/umbrella forum to allow all Yemenis of various inclinations and philosophies to participate. It allowed Yemenis to talk out their differences, rather than fight them out. As we say, the PGC was a mechanism through which our thoughts rather than guns competed. Therefore, the members of the PGC (which were at the beginning 1000, grew to 24,000, then there were several hundred thousands), belong to different political persuasions - from the far left to the far right.

⇒ **Q. Could you describe the changes the PGC is going through?**

A. Today, we have been instrumental in bringing about the democracy and

political competition among various parties. So, the PGC agreed to let go of

A. We proceed with utmost confidence. We do not worry about the consequences

ballot box, parliamentary life to the country (Majlis ash Shura), it sponsored elections of the cooperative and municipal councils.

2) We called for a broad based development plan. This was well achieved. Oil was developed, exploited and exported, agriculture was improved by the construction of dams and better extension services. Today, we are self sufficient in fruits and vegetables and we export them. Industrial production increased. Education became more and more available. At one stage, we built schools at the rate of one and a half schools a day.

3. We have more credible and independent foreign policy. No body can accuse us of taking foreign policy orders from any quarter. The country decides its foreign policy based on our Islamic values, Arab association and Third World affiliation.

4. One of our main objectives was to achieve unity in Yemen. We have unified Yemen, although, as you can see, the PGC had to give up quite a few of its authorities and power. We thought for the sake of Yemen's unity, anything may be sacrificed. We also achieved national unity. When the PGC was formed, the country was plagued with differences and factions. The gun was the main way to settle those differences. Then the PGC absorbed all

groups and gave them the chance to air their viewpoints and ideas. So you see, we lived up to our ideals and principles.

⇒ **Q. Be that as it may, the feeling at the street level is that your ideals are one thing, and what you practise is rather different. How do you justify?**

A. I don't need to justify. You see there is always a gap between the ideals of any system or party and its day to day applications. The gap can be large or small. As the gap is narrowed, the system or party gains in credibility and influence. We have worked to make the gap as small as possible in spite of the local, regional and international circumstances. I am not saying we have closed the gap, but we are closer to our ideals than anybody else around.

⇒ **Q. Because of the moderate PGC positions, people see it as the moderator or arbiter of power between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Islamic Bloc. Is there a chance you will change partners in the coming elections?**

A. I can't comment on the future. We are working rather well with the YSP, and their positions are getting closer to ours everyday. We have a coordination committee at the top level. We also have an open dialogue with the Islamic Bloc as well as all other parties. We will simply wait and see how things develop in the next elections. One final comment, the People's General Congress has embraced democracy, and there is no turning back. It is a sure winner..



its complete control of the system, and to compete with an equal footing with all the other parties. As a result we are restructuring the PGC. We are now preparing for the Fifth People's General Congress, (it will be held most probably after Ramadhan). We have completed our new bye laws, the new program of political action, and we have set up units at the grass root levels. The permanent and general committees are now studying these documents and steps for approval as a final step before they are presented to the up coming congress for approval. The administrative structure of the PGC will also change to transform it from an umbrella organization, to a party. But the charter and the beliefs of the PGC will not change, at least not the essential aspects.

⇒ **Q. Are you worried you will lose substantial segments of your followers in the process?**

of democracy. Of course we will lose some of our members to other parties, but we will also win new members. The number of daily applications to the PGC is enormous. Besides, those persons who will leave us, are those who never really committed to us. Their departure will allow to create a more homogenous group, thus we will get more done. I assure you, we will witness tremendous growth.

⇒ **Q. The PGC is about ten years old. What have you achieved?**

A. We think that we have put ourselves to the test, and we passed. We put forth several objectives, and we achieved many of them.

⇒ **Q. Could you be more specific?**

A. Yes. Let me list them. 1. We called for democracy. We have prepared the ground work for a real and effective democracy. The PGC restored, through the

SECURITY OFFICER SHOOTS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT:

Al Mustaqbal newspaper published the sordid details of how a greedy security officer shot and killed a Sana'a University student. The case is one of many examples of the absence of the rule of the law, *YEMEN TIMES*, presents its readers with the translation of the story.

A. Background

Due to the lawlessness prevalent in the Taiz area, where the security/military officers transgress, it has become customary for business enterprises and landlords to give a chunk of their property as a

"levy for their protection". (protection of the rest of their property) to a senior officer. So Mr Taher Saif Qasim gave a piece of land (25 qasabas) as a levy to the Director General of Security in Taiz Province, Colonel Ahmed Al Halali, the highest ranking security officer in all of Taiz. The purpose was to protect the rest of the land. But colonel Al Halali sold the land to another officer called Dirhem Yahya, who started encroaching on the rest of the land. On several occasions, he was stopped through the kind intervention of colonel Al Halali.

B. The murder

In the last attempts, officer Dirhem Yahya was determined to seize the whole land. He started building on it. On 22nd February, Mr Taher Saif Qassem, along with his son Mahfooz (student at Sana'a University's College of Engineering who was vacationing during the break between the two terms) went to stop the construction. but the security officer took out his pistol and shot several bullets at them. A few hit the university student. He was rushed to the hospital but died on 27th February, 1991 after continued bleeding.

C. Where is the justice?

The family of the murdered student went to see all relevant officials to arrest the murderer but to no avail. He is still loose in town. The Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and Security Affairs, the Governor of Taiz, the Director General of Security in Taiz, etc., issued instructions to arrest the murderer but nobody is interested in carrying out the orders. The Criminal Investigation Department in Taiz is unable to do anything. As the days pass, the officer and his colleagues hope the

citizens will forget the incident. After all, it is not the first case !!

D. The Credibility:

In many parts of the country, the rule of law does not apply. Powerful individuals and groups can do what they want. This breeds a feeling of helplessness among citizens and can lead to discontent and possibly turmoil. Building a modern state requires giving priority to justice and the rule of law. Without justice and rule of law, other accomplishments have little meaning.

From *Al Mustaqbal*, Vol.1 No 36, (20/3/91), p.2



ALL ROUND HISTORIC BAGHDAD THE BOMBS ARE FALLING NOW



This poem was written by the American Robert Canton of Los Angeles, California. In his letter, he stated that he wrote the poem in "cold fury" on the night of the US attack on Iraq. He said that millions and millions of Americans did not support the bombing, and are outraged by Bush's policies.

All round historic Baghdad
The bombs are falling now
And every decent person
Has made a solemn vow.

When the mighty force was ready
To embark on all-out war
And undertake such bombings
As have never been seen before

Bush in the oval office
Have the go ahead
And in historic Baghdad
destruction's now widespread

What decided him to slaughter?
Whate urged this man to kill?
What childhood compensation?
What twisted act of will?

Within the halls of Congress
Did men and women speak,
Debating the grave issue
Week after shameful week,

And many of them wondered
If our nation's cause was just,
But all supposed the problem
The gravest ever discussed.

Soon as the weeks were over
They proudly passed the bill
Full support to the President,
To voice the nation's will.

And the carnage that they've sanctioned
They know is low and base
And thus to the world are showing
America's true face.

The head of the coalition,
Defender of the right,
To whom the United Nations
Has given the green light,

Bush --whom all once deemed
wimpy --
Showed a bold new attitude:
"For the sake of the New World
Order
Iraq must be subdued!

"Saddam has missed the message,
Though I sent a signal clear
Contempt for the coalition
Is going to cost him dear.

"Though not the world's police-
man,
This wrong we'll remedy;
We'll kick his ass, this tyrant,

Who threatens Araby,

"Who's nothing but a madman,
A Hitler, killer, thug,
And the U.S. will not falter
Until his grave his dug.

We'll bomb him to the stone age,
We'll not put down the sword
Until the Emir and his family
Are to the throne restored.

But since not one decent person
Would fight this war of theirs,
Would die in Kuwait's kingdom
To prop up billionaires

The reasons for the battle
Kept going round and round,
Jobs, and the Free World's values
Were the latest ones they found.

Before this it was aggression
The theft of desert lands
Then, later, the dangerous weapons
He might have in his hands

Whatever the reasons given
George Bush embarked war
A fight to guard our freedom
A fight to underscore

Our continual commitment
To oil for our cars
And the billions we receive for
Supporting the Sabahs.

And so the order's given
Ther'll be no breathing space

Aircraft arise aloft from
Base after desert base.

B-52 formations
Vibrate an eerie drone
A finger hits a button
A dozen streets are blown.

The pilots give their thumbs up
Duty proudly done
All round historic Baghdad
The smoke blocks out the suns.

Iraqis reel and stagger
Midst venerable debris
Twenty million persons
Exposed to savagery.

A woman gazes skyward
With a weak and bitter wail
Expectant eyes on the flickers
That falling missiles trail

The fire's all round her
She seeks for breath - her last
And in the night there flashes
The Tomahawk's hot blast.

More missiles cruise from ship-
decks
More airplanes fill the skies
And Bush in the oval office
Repeats the basic lies.

These smart bombs, jets and lazars
In skillfulness surpass
Anything we've ever fashioned
To kick an enemy's ass.

Cont'd p.9

مشاتل الوادي الأخضر



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THE NEW YEMENI CONSTITUTION:

Continuation of PART III

Part III: Chapter 2: The Presidential Council

Article (82):

The Republic's leadership is a Presidential Council composed of five members elected by the Council of Deputies.

Article (83):

A minimum of 25% of the members of the Council of Deputies is required to nominate a member to the Presidential Council, and a nominee becomes Presidential Council member if voted for by two-thirds of the members. If unsuccessful in the first round, the nominee becomes member if voted for by a simple majority of the Council of Deputies in subsequent rounds. The votes are in secret ballots, and the Council determines the procedures and other details for nominations and elections by issuing by-laws for this purpose.

Article (84):

The newly elected Presidential Council, elects its chairman from among its members for the full constitutional period.

Article (85):

To qualify for members in the Presidential Council, the following conditions are required:

- A) To be at least 35 years old;
- B) To be born of Yemeni parents
- C) To enjoy full political and civil rights
- D) Not to be married to a foreign wife.

Article (86):

The chairman and members of the Presidential Council must take the constitutional oath in front of the Council of Deputies before they start their duties.

Article (87):

The term of the Presidential Council is five years from the date of the constitutional oath.

Article (88):

If the term of the Council of Deputies expires in the same month as the expiry date of the Presidential

Council, then the Presidential Council's term is prolonged until parliamentary elections are held. Within sixty days of the first meeting of the new Council of Deputies, the new Presidential Council is elected.

Article (89):

Within ninety days, and a minimum of one week before the expiry date of the term of the Presidential Council, procedures must be initiated to elect the new council. If such elections cannot take place for any reason, the old council continues its functions for a maximum of ninety days based on an authorization from the Council of Deputies. The prolongation of the term for more than ninety days can take place only if the country is at war, or if it suffers from a natural catastrophe, or other dire conditions under which electing the Presidential Council becomes impossible.

Article (90):

The chairman and members of the Presidential Council present their resignation (with the justifications) to the Council of Deputies which accepts it by a majority vote. If the resignation is not accepted, the Presidential Council may re-submit another resignation within three months, and this time the Council of Deputies has to accept it.

Article (91):

If the posts of chairman and members of the Presidential Council become vacant, the leadership of the Council of Deputies takes over their tasks. In case the Council of Deputies is in recess, then the government temporarily takes over. The new Presidential Council must be elected within (60) days of the first meeting of the new Deputies Council.

Article (92):

The law determines the salaries and allocations of the chairman and members of the Presidential Council, and they are not entitled to other remuneration/salary.

Article (93):

The chairman and members

of the Presidential Council may not, directly or indirectly, engage in any private business of any kind and they are not allowed to buy/sell/exchange or lease/rent government property, not even through an open auction.

Article (94):

The functions of the Presidential Council include:

1. To represent the Republic internally and externally
2. To call the voters, in the specified time, to elect the Council of Deputies.
3. To call for national referendums
4. To name the person who will form the government, and to issue a republican decree with the names of the cabinet members
5. To define the general policy of the state jointly with the government, and to oversee its implementation as stipulated in the constitution.
6. To call the cabinet to a joint meeting with the Presidential Council, as the need arises.
7. To form the National Defence Council according to the law
8. To issue the laws approved by the Council of Deputies and the Presidential Council, and to issue the regulations for their implementations
9. To appoint and dismiss senior government officials and military/police officers according to the law
10. To establish military ranks according to the law
11. To award badges/medals stipulated by law, or to permit wearing badges awarded by other countries.
12. To issue approval attestations to the agreements and pacts approved by the Council of Deputies.
13. To issue approval attestation of agreements that don't require the approval of the Council of Deputies if approved by the Cabinet.
14. To establish diplomatic representation abroad and to appoint/recall ambassadors according to the law.
15. To accredit foreign diplomatic representatives in Yemen.
16. To grant political asylum.

17. To announce emergency situations and general mobilization according to the law.

18. Any other responsibilities stipulated by the constitution.

Article (95):

If while the Council of Deputies is in recess or it were defunct, urgent decisions are required, then the Presidential Council can issue decrees which have the force of law, provided such decrees do not contradict the constitution or the budgetary estimates. Such decisions have to be presented, in any case, to the first meeting of the Council of Deputies. If they are not presented, the Council of Deputies may itself look into them. If the Council of Deputies does not approve of the decisions, they become null and void, and the Council of Deputies determines how the matter is to be cleared altogether.

Article (96):

The Presidential Council, on the basis of the proposal by the relevant minister and the approval of the Council of Ministers, issues decrees regulating and organizing the general administration and departments, provided such steps do not contradict any current laws. The Presidential Council may authorize another party to issue such decrees and regulations.

Article (97):

The Presidential Council declares the state of emergency by a republican decree according to the law. It is imperative to call the Council of Deputies to session within one week and to present to it the declaration of emergency. If the Council of Deputies is defunct, then the old Council of Deputies is called to session. If the Council of Deputies is not called to session, or the declaration of emergency has not been presented to it, the state of emergency is cancelled according to the constitution. In all cases, a state of emergency is declared only in circumstances of war, internal turmoil,

and natural disaster, and its duration must be specified, and may not be prolonged except with the approval of the Council of Deputies.

Article (98)

The Chairman of the Presidential Council is responsible for managing the affairs of the Council, and signs all its decisions.

Article (99):

The Chairman of the Presidential Council represents the Republic in its foreign relations.

Article (100):

The Chairman of the Presidential Council has the right to demand reports from the Prime Minister concerning the accomplishment of the duties assigned to the Council of Ministers.

Article (101):

An accusation of the Chairman and members of the Presidential Council with grand treason, or violation of the constitution, or any other action concerning the independence and sovereignty of the country requires the petitioning of half of the members of the Council of Deputies. The decision on this matter requires a two-thirds vote, and the law stipulates the procedures for their trial. If the accusation covers all members of the Presidential Council, then the leadership of the Council of Deputies takes over the duties of the Presidential Council temporarily and until the decision of the court. The Council of Deputies decision must be taken in the first regular round of sessions once this constitution takes effect. If the court decision finds any member of the Presidential Council guilty, then he relinquishes his post, and is subject to all other penalties.

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AMBASSADOR KUMAR SEES MUCH POTENTIAL FOR INDO-YEMENI COOPERATION

Yemen and India have enjoyed cordial and mutually beneficial relations since time immemorial. Yemenis have lived in India, and so have Indians in Yemen. Today, both countries enjoy a stable and growing levels of cooperation. Given such background, YEMEN TIMES went to interview H.E. Mr. Santosh Kumar, Ambassador of India to Yemen.

Q. You have been to Aden to survey the market. What are the possibilities of India's participation or contribution to the Aden Free Trade Zone?

A. Aden has had a very close link with India since time immemorial. Even in modern times, there has been a lot of interaction in trade and otherwise. I have been to Aden several times, partly because of the unification as there were lot of things to tie up and also to study the trade prospects. We plan to play an important role in helping Aden to become a successful free trade zone. There are many business families in India with representatives in Aden. We can also attract a number of big Indian businessmen in third countries like Hongkong to invest here. An important factor which needs to be urgently clarified is the details regarding the laws, incentives and guarantees for any business over there.

Q. What are the areas in which India can invest?

A. Before any investment is made, it is imperative to know what is the market. For Aden, the first inland is Yemen itself and it would be advantageous to locate processing or assembly lines in the free trade zone. For example, India is interested in exporting its commercial vehicles, specially the four wheel drives. India has started producing some very good four wheel drives and other commercial vehicles. If there is a large market, manufacturers can think of assembly operations which would be economical. Similarly, India also exports a lot of intermediate pharmaceuticals. Again, if the market is big, it would be economical to have the formulations done in Aden.

Q. Could you shed some light on the present Yemeni-

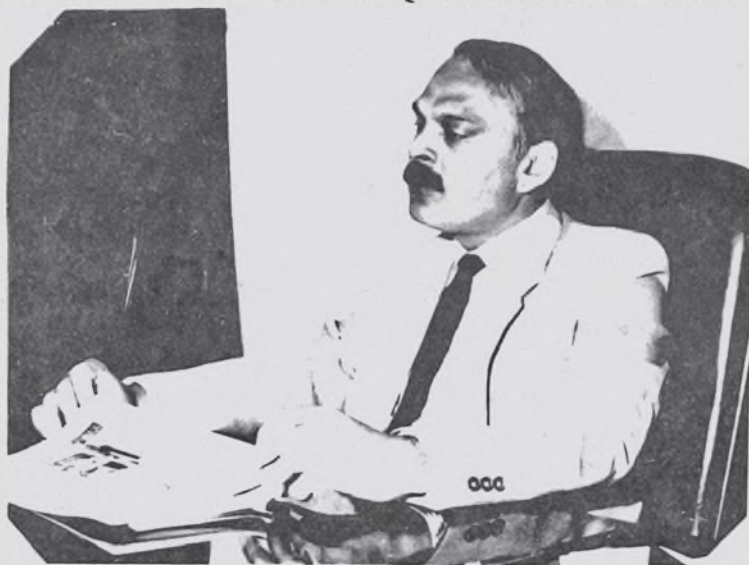
Indian relationship?

A. The first thing that I must say is that in the two years that I have been here, I found a genuine feeling of simplicity and understanding between the Yemenis and the Indians. There is interaction between the Yemenis and the Indians at many levels. I think this is because of the historical background. We are familiar and comfortable with each other and not on the formal level as one would be when one meets a person from a totally different country. If you look at the present relations, politically our relations are very good because I think there are very many common areas between us. Firstly, both our countries are non aligned; secondly, we are trying to modernise our societies; and thirdly both countries have democratic basis for their political system. At the moment, both countries share membership in the United Nations Security Council. Based on these commonalities, when we come to particular issues; we find that we have much room for cooperation. For example, the Gulf crisis. I think both countries felt that there should be a peaceful solution. Both our countries felt Kuwait's independence and sovereignty should be restored in a way which does not damage the fabric of the region.

Q. Judging by the way things have evolved in the Gulf, there have been reports that punitive actions will be taken against those countries that have not totally supported the US-led war in the Gulf. Given your country's independent position, could you shed light on the reports that some of the Indians who were working in the area may not be allowed to come back?

A. I can only tell you what I have read in the Indian newspapers. As far as India is concerned, we have had interaction with all parties involved in the dispute during the crisis as well as afterwards. Immediately after the crisis broke out, the then Foreign Minister of India visited Iraq, Kuwait's Minister, as well as ministers from Iraq and Jordan, visited India. What I could gather is that as far as re-

construction of Kuwait is concerned, we have been requested to play a role and there have been no negative inputs so far. Kuwait plans to reduce the percentage of foreigners with a view to be more self reliant and in



the process there will be a cut in the number of Indians and other nationals going back. We have to absorb the adverse effects.

Q. How do you see the progress of the joint committee between Yemen and India?

A. Right now, we have two joint committees - one each for the former Yemen Arab Republic and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen. I held some preliminary discussions with the authorities here regarding the unification of all the structures. It is not difficult to unify both committees as they are compatible and the main elements are more or less common. The main areas are trade and technical cooperation. There are also provisions for cultural exchange. The last few events held in Aden were on the historical links between the two countries and this is one area which is still unexplored. I think a lot of research can be done. A cultural festival is being proposed to be held in Yemen with the plan to hold it in several cities..

Q. What is the size of the Commercial trade between Yemen and India and the activities of the Indian manpower in Yemen?

A. Trade right now is about 30 million US dollars worth of exports from India to Yemen per year. There is very little flow in the opposite direction. In the future, I think the potential is much more in both directions especially in light of

the bright prospects for Yemen in the area of oil. We can have cooperation, and we have to find new ways and means to promote business.

Q. What is the size of the In-

dian committee in Yemen?

A. According to our estimate, it is around 6000 persons. The largest group is in the medical profession (doctors, nurses) and there are some Indian companies such as TCIL, NBCC, CES etc., executing several projects and employing a sizeable number of Indians.

Q. Are there many Indian teachers in Yemen. I think the potential for Indian teachers, specially in English, is large. Have you investigated this prospect, say, for the next school year?

A. We would definitely be of assistance if there is a requirement. I know that in the university, some action has been taken along these lines. We have a very good organisation which deals with all matters pertaining to educational cooperation at all levels. It is not just recruitment of teachers, they are

also specialists in building up institutions, advising on the curriculum, etc. We would be interested to know if the Ministry of Education has the need, and whether we can assist in its plans.

Q. I know that the Indian community has been facing some problems regarding the schooling for their children in Sanaa. Has anything been done in this regard?

A. Yes, we had some problems regarding schooling for the children of the Indian community. Already progress has been made to upgrade the standard of the school and a team from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is due to visit Yemen shortly to inspect the school and grant it accreditation. Once the accreditation is achieved, the school's degree will be recognised all over the world.

Q. How about the Indian Club in Sanaa?

A. Both the school and the club are run by the embassy, in the sense that we control the financial side and we keep an overall eye on activities. It has been the endeavour of the embassy to give as much initiative and autonomy within those parameters. The school has a professional principal who came from India and has been running our school in a very professional manner. The club offers the Indian community facilities in sports and cultural activities. Last November, a concert on Indian classical music was held to which many of the Diplomatic Corps, prominent Yemenis and other foreigners were invited.



undp



The UNDP office in Sana'a wishes to announce its need for local consultants in the following fields:-

- Economics
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- Environment

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Candidates are requested to submit their curriculum vitae personally to UNDP office or to have them mailed through P. O. Box 551, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen not later than Wednesday 10 April 1991.

THE SWISS FINANCIAL MARKET CAPITALIZED ON ITS BANK SECRECY LAWS

The beginnings of the Swiss financial centre can be traced back to the 16th century. In those days, the leading operations of the well to do cities were usually connected with the payment of Swiss mercenaries. During the Thirty Years' War, there were also occasional loans to South German borrowers, sometimes from private sectors. As prosperity increased in the 18th and early 19th centuries, the cities started investing their growing capital surpluses in government securities on the London and Amsterdam financial markets.

The first registered private banks of Swiss origin were founded in Geneva and Paris at the end of the 17th century. Not until the early

19th century were the first private banks founded in Zurich and Basle. The beginnings of today's major banks came even later, in the second half of the last century, after the Swiss federal constitution of 1848 had laid the groundwork for nationwide economic expansion and industrialization.

The swift development of the Swiss financial centre in the postwar years, and especially since 1960, must be viewed in relation to the country's unique political and geographic position as well as events on the domestic and world economic fronts.

Switzerland's political and economic stability has a long tradition behind it and provides a sound founda-

tion for confidence and trust, and as such is an important location advantage for a financial centre. This stability rests on the political system of referendum democracy and the participation of all the major parties in government. These institutions have provided the framework for evolutionary political change within the liberal constitution for well over a century. And the position of neutrality in foreign affairs, which is supported by an overwhelming majority of the population, has kept Switzerland from being drawn into armed conflicts.

Not surprisingly, one of the products of this political situation is the firmly conservative stand taken

by economic policy makers. Swiss economic policy is characterized by consensus-oriented, pragmatic action. The basic conservative attitude is also reflected in the government's consistent adherence to the objective of a balanced budget. The success of this policy can be seen in the low level of total public debt at all levels of government in comparison with other countries.

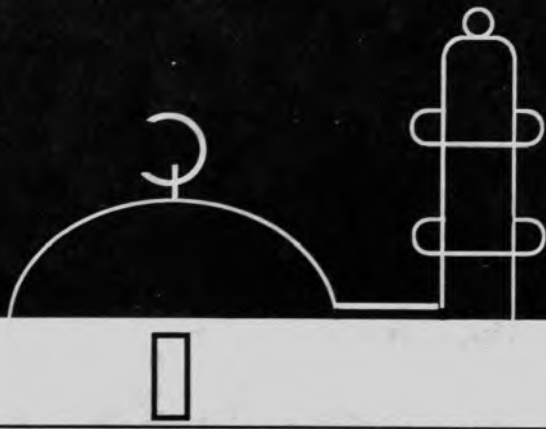
A truly international financial centre must ensure unrestricted capital transactions at all times. The free transfer of capital is a time honored tradition in Switzerland, whose small, open economy - in the middle of Europe and without any natural resources of its own - has always been

heavily dependent on relations with other countries. Foreign trade accounts for a correspondingly high proportion of GNP: over 30% a year, on average. The services sector with its main pillars of banking and insurance is gaining steadily in importance. So Switzerland depends in many respects on the free international movement of capital.

Major factors contributing greatly to Switzerland's success as a financial centre are the country's highly developed banking system and the institution of banking secrecy. The banks have an excellent reputation for service and are regarded as highly professional; reliability and discretion are appreciated in Switzerland and abroad.

RAMADHAN

IFTAR MEALS



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WATER SHORTAGE IN SANAA BASIN

The water situation in the Sanaa area is becoming critical, as reservoirs gathered over thousands of years are being depleted by careless and wasteful use. **YEMEN TIMES** spoke with one of the key specialists in this field, Dr. Mohammed Lutf Al-Iryani. Dr. Iryani is lecturer at Sanaa University, College of Engineering. He is also Deputy Minister of Higher Education for Research. Here are excerpts from the interview.

Q. Reports indicate there is a shortage of water in Sana'a. What steps are being taken to overcome this shortage and to meet the needs of the immediate future?

A. I think we are going to face an acute shortage of water both, in terms of quantity and quality. We need an indepth look at the situation in an effort to find alternative sources of supply of water to Sana'a. One of the alternatives considered is obtaining water from Al Kareth area. Other options would be to find water in the Mareb area. Going by the data of the Mareb region, there are deposits of big water systems in the form of huge reservoirs of water..

Q. So you are suggesting that Sana'a could get water from the Mareb or Al Khareth area. Don't you think that this could be very expensive?

A. Yes, it is going to be very expensive but I am talking from long term point of view. The present population in Sana'a is between 600,000 to 700,000. If you look at the quantities of water required for domestic use, as well as for agricultural and industrial sectors, there already is not enough water to meet these requirements. The best option

would be to obtain water from outside the Sana'a basin. It would be very interesting to study the seismic data of the Mareb area. My expectations are that we will discover sizeable water reservoirs there..

Q. Recently, I read reports that the Ministry of Agriculture plans to build dams outside Sana'a with a view to collect rain water and thus help in providing Sana'a with adequate water supply. Could you comment?

A. You are raising a point which is misleading. Previously dams were built in the Tihama area to better manage the water coming from the mountains. Building dams on the mountains could render most of the projects in Tihama area useless. The rate of evaporation is yet another factor which could have negative results. The evaporation rate is very high- almost 2 - 3 meters per annum..

Q. So you think getting water from outside Sana'a is the best option?

A. It would be over-optimistic to conclude that Sana'a has sufficient water to meet its local requirements. Sana'a is situated at a height of about 3000m above sea level in a semi arid area. The only solution would be to get water supply from outside. Pumping water to that height would be expensive but natural gas could be considered as one of the sources of fuel..

Q. Do you think other cities too are facing similar problems?

A. Taiz district is facing similar problems. I think that they are trying to get water from Al-Haima.

Continued on page 8

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PERSONAL VIEW

DIALOGUE ON THE CONSTITUTION



Abdulaziz Y. Al-Saqqaf,
Professor of Finance and Banking
Sanaa University

There has been considerable talk on the Constitution among Yemenis over the last few weeks, and for good reason - the Constitution is probably the single most important document in the socio-political fabric of the state. The differences among the various groups on the Constitution are many, but we can sum up the whole thing as follows:

The negotiations among the officials of the formerly North and South Yemen regarding the Constitution took place between 1971 and 1982. At the time, Socialist tendencies were still strong in South Yemen as well as in the rest of the world. Since then, many of the Socialist ideas have been discredited. As it happened, however, the South Yemeni delegates to the talks had insisted on several ideas which, they themselves do not strongly believe in today. So what do we do? If we open the door for revisions, we may open a Pandora's box. Thus the inclination is, in spite of almost everybody's reservations on one point or another, to accept the whole thing and seek amendments later (i.e., once a new parliament is in place). That is a good idea, but any amendment requires a 75% majority in parliament, which is quite hard to muster. So a big segment of society feels we will be stuck with a Constitution in which we have major reservations. Some circles believe it is imperative to placate at least the religious-based reservations. So, they suggest that the Presidential Council or the Council of Deputies - or both, to issue a memo stating that no laws can be promulgated which contradict the Islamic Sharia. Be that as it may, it seems the government is going ahead with the referendum on the Constitution without any serious consideration of revisions before-hand, although it has opened channels of communication with the parties that decided to say "No" to the Constitution. On the other hand, the pro-Constitution groups, notably those with South Yemeni origins and/or support, have hinted strongly that the referendum is a litmus test regarding the unity of Yemen itself. This, of course, is neither practical nor fair.

As a minimum, the reservations on the Constitution have given people the motive to read the document rather closely. It generated interest in it, and it provided the first example of democratic dialogue. At least in this respect, they have served the country and the new political atmosphere.

REVIEW OF THE YEMENI PRESS

ATTAS-HEEH

WHY WE HATE OUR RULERS?

The animosity between the people and rulers in our country is not an exception to the rule. It is part of a phenomenon that exists in developing and developed countries. In the West, for example, the individual is frustrated by the gap between the theoretical right to express his/her view point, and between the real possibility to change anything. Changes can only be achieved by wealth. As such, democracy is actually a mirage and a fallacy; and politics is a game of deceit played by corrupt officials, of a bourgeois class, and ideologues (whether capitalists or marxists) and the clergy.

Here at home, the picture is not very different. Our rulers are secluded from the people and they do not feel our problems and worries. The circumstances of the people get worse everyday, but the rulers get more and more affluent. Therefore, unless these rulers get out of their splendid palaces and come down to earth, unless the relations between the rulers and the people are corrected, nobody can tell what will happen and the way things will evolve.

AL-HAQ

STOP THIEF OR WHAT?

We live these days in strange circumstances. We hear and we see different kinds of crimes, notably theft. Houses are burgled, cars are stolen and even the mosques have not been spared. In many cases, people who go to mosques for prayers, come out to find their shoes have disappeared. So, they go home barefooted. The end result is that many persons now avoid going to mosques for prayers. The prevalence of such incidents has led some to think maybe the motive is not theft. Maybe some groups don't want people to go to mosques. If that is the case, then this tactic will not work. If some people think they will "forcefully" make people avoid mosques, they are wrong.

AL-HURRIYAH

STOP UNIVERSITY BRAIN DRAIN

Several Sanaa University lecturers and professors are seriously considering leaving the country to work abroad. The reason is the frustrations caused by many government authorities. Recently, sixty one members of the teaching staff of Sanaa University signed a petition to the Prime Minister demanding to improve their

financial conditions to meet the rising cost of living. The professors had held-up the first semester results in a pressure tactic to force the government, until then oblivious to their plights, to meet their needs urgently. This paper calls on the political leadership of the country to preserve the Yemeni scholars and avoid a potential brain drain. Our country is in need of them more than ever.

AL-YAMAN ASSAEED

THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

This is a message to the Minister of Information. Please note that the country lacks any tools to reach out to the outside world. We do not have a media oriented to the outside world. As a result, our image has suffered from a distortion campaign internationally. We spend hundreds of millions of Riyals on official media organisations whose efforts do not go beyond our cities. Even some of our regions are out of reach. We were hoping that the Ministry of Information would undertake an indepth and serious soul-searching analysis, regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of its media instruments. We call upon the minister to seek remedy to this discrepancy immediately.

Continued from p. 7 - Water Shortage . . .

They are also trying to tap deep reservoirs and have been successful to a certain extent.

Q. What about the southern governorates?

A. They are in a much better situation due to the fact that well drilling in these areas was prohibited. It would be wise to continue in this direction and not allow haphazard drilling of wells.

Q. We used to get a lot of rain a few years back. It looks like rainfall has gradually decreased over the years. Do you think this could be one the reasons for the present shortage?

A. I don't think so. Rains are cyclic. Some years they are good and some years they are poor. Overall the balance is maintained. One

of the main reasons for the water shortage is due to the water use habits. Till a few years ago, water was used very carefully. Now with the advent of modern technology, growth in population, expansion in the agricultural sector, etc, there has been a huge increase in water consumption..

Q. Such being the situation, what do you think will be the impact on agricultural growth and attainment of targets?

A. The problem lies in the management of water resources. Agriculture, industry and domestic users are all competing for the same water supply.. Relocation of industries could help. For example, there are 3 mineral water bottling plants in Sana'a alone supplying mineral water to the whole of Yemen. There are

around 500 wells to supply water to the crops grown in Sana'a. These crops could be grown in other parts of the countries and the water from these wells could be used for other purposes..

Q. Russian and Dutch aid was available for this sector. Have they advised on the ways and means of conserving water?

A. Yes, they have and I have seen several reports to that end, but nobody is doing anything about it..

Q. Why?

A. I suppose, we don't do anything unless there is a crisis. One reason I could think of is political reasons. Selecting the best management program for conserving water could affect interests of some parties and perhaps the political price is not right as yet.

YEMEN TIMES after one month

With this issue (the fifth issue), Yemen Times has crossed into its second month. During its first month, the paper has achieved so much in its positive interaction with its readers. Here are some examples:

1) The Government:

The Government of Yemen responded very positively to the paper. Many senior officials, including the leadership, have expressed appreciation and support for the paper. The Director-General of Information at the Prime Minister's Office sent a long letter praising the Yemen Times and its efforts and policies.

2) The Diplomatic Corps:

The reaction of the diplomatic corps in Sanaa was exceptionally favorable. We received written messages from the ambassadors of Jordan, Republic of Korea, and Tunisia. Six other ambassadors personally called in to say "Keep up the good work." Still others sent in documents, information, etc. as potential material for printing in the Yemen Times. These include the embassies of the USA, USSR, Korea, and Iran.

3) The Business Community:

We are specially gratified by the reaction of the business community - local and foreign. As an off-shoot to this sector, the tourist sector jumped on the opportunity for cooperation presented by the paper. YEMENIA adopted the paper for distribution to its passengers; Sheraton - Sanaa, and Movenpick - Aden have adopted the paper as their in-hotel newspaper to be distributed to their guests.

4) The Society at Large:

The society exhibited tremendous interest in the paper. We have already received several letters from ordinary citizens for our editorial page. At another level, YEMEN TIMES learnt that students of English are taking reading the paper as an exercise to improve their language.

All in all, it was a fantastic debut with good results. We have increased our sales by 40%, and we expect to double the sales before the third month is out. By the end of the year, we hope to sell more than 15,000 copies.

To achieve this goal, we need our readers' participation. We invite you to write, and we will make space available. We invite you to grow with us.

The Publisher

Continuation from p. 4

ALL ROUND HISTORIC BAGHDAD THE BOMBS ARE FALLING NOW

They're effecting such great wonders
We'd best produce some more
For we cannot grudge expenses
When it comes to tools of war.

The media twists over backward
To hide the ghastly dead
Nor scorns to echo fondly
Every lie that's said.

So that every act of murder
They're doing in our name
The anchor men and women
Drool over and acclaim

Delighting in each sortie
Quacking in jingo mood
An ignorant band of lackeys
Who spare no platitude.

There coverage of the battle
Is one big bugle peal
Stirring hearts so deftly
That patriotic zeal

Completely sweeps the people
Who have delusive flags
Hurrah the troops and meanwhile
Their country is in rags.

Defrauded by the hogwash
In which the lies are dressed
They clap their hands and root for
A triumph for the West

And their chests are full to bursting
As pride begins to bud
They whoop and wave Old Glory
Except it's smeared in blood.

And since they love not Arabs
And like cheap gasoline
They're solidly supporting
The mighty war machine.

Two others also cheer it
Whom history will discard,

Betrayers of their people.
Prime Minister Hassad

And pitiful Mubarak
Whose every word blasphemes
Their God, their land, their history
Whose ignominious regimes

Have taken Saudi dollars
To back the U.S. view
Who've stripped their lands of honor
They are finished, they are through.

Iraqis still survive this
This slaughter that we've done
With our aircraft and our missiles
And our guns surpassed by none.

And Bush lies will crumble
Despite the cheering crowds
The barking of a midget
Cannot harm the clouds

But people will remember
And justice comes in time
The low dishonest circle
Who've brought about this crime

Who've so debased America
So dragged it to the ground
That it's name is now repellent
Despised the world around

George Bush and his coalition
And the mighty war machine
We, and those world over
Won't fail to contravene.

For we've gained a little insight
We see things as they are
And there'll be no calls for mercy
When they're brought before the bar.

All round historic Baghdad
The bombs are falling now,
And every decent person
Has made a solemn vow.

RAMADHAN AND MUSLIMS

Muslims all over the world welcome this month - Ramadhan. This month is sacred to Muslims because it was during this month that angel Gabriel brought God's message to Prophet Muhammad. Thus it was the month during which the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Fasting during Ramadhan is compulsory to all adult Muslims (men and women, rich and poor), except the sick, of course. Thus eating, drinking, smoking and sexual intercourse are prohibited from day-break to dawn. Here, let us ask ourselves of the meaning of this exercise. The idea behind fasting is to teach us self-discipline and self-control. To give up the basic needs and comforts requires commitment and great effort. These efforts are supposed to make us morally stronger by tempering our passions and temper.

That is why the Prophet Muhammad stated clearly that "God has no need for our fasting if it is not coupled with good conduct and behavior towards others". Apart from the moral aspects, fasting has many other practical sides. For one thing, when the rich fast

and feel the pinch of hunger, they can sympathize more with the needs of the poor in society. Fasting also has benefits to the health. Medical studies indicate that fasting helps improve our digestive system, and body control. Fasting also allows us to break the monotony of routine life, and stop to ponder our lives proceed. But the most important benefit of all is that fasting makes us hardy and strong willed. If we are able to face the hardships of life, we learn the habit of giving up comforts.

Nasser Murshid M. Al-Rubayee, Dhamar

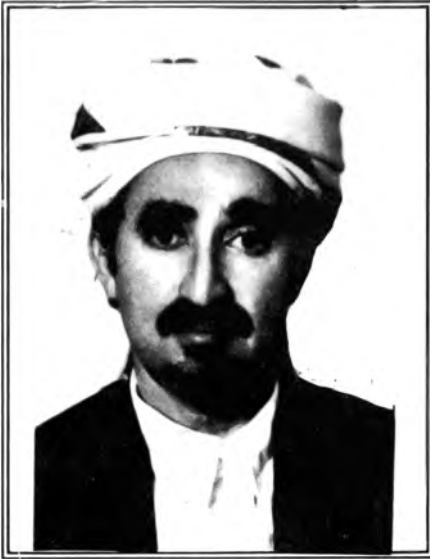
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SHEIKH AL-AHMAR: GOVERNMENT SQUEEZES CITIZENS IN NON-DEMOCRATIC WAYS

In a long interview published by Assahwa newspaper, H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husain Al-Ahmar, Member of the Consultative Council and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Yemeni Reformist Group (the Islamic Bloc), indicated that his worry of the official government efforts to influence the coming referendum on the Constitu-



tion. He said, "Not only is there a directed media campaign, but government officials, including the highest levels of leadership, have embarked on a drive to push the citizens to say 'Yes' to the Constitution." Sheikh Al-Ahmar described such tactics as undemocratic, hysteric, and terroristic. Asked about the insistence of the government to pass through this constitution, he said that there were items in the proposed constitution which are contrary to the Islamic Sharia. This constitution aims to legitimize on a de facto basis the suffering of our brothers in the southern provinces who were subjected to confiscation of their rights and properties. Referring to the role of the theologians and religious clergy, he said that they have done their duty by presenting a message to the officials calling for amendments in the proposed constitution. The Presidential Council then asked them to present a detailed commentary on the items under criticism, and they did. They also added comments from legalists and economists regarding additional items in the constitution. "I wonder why the leadership has not responded (positively) to the fatwa (explanation) of the theologians and clergy. Answering a question regarding the link between the voting on the constitution, and the unity of the country, he said that such a link is not realistic. The unity is a reality and we are all in support of it. Therefore, it is not right to accuse those who have reservation on the constitution that they

are against the union. This constitution is actually nothing more than a document worked out by the rulers of the formerly North and South Yemen, and the people had nothing to do with it.

Regarding those who support the constitution as it is, Sheikh Al-Ahmar said these fall in four categories: They are either members of the Yemeni Socialist party who see in an anti-Sharia constitution as a source of protection for them and their principles, or they are secularist elements in the society who want to see a clear-cut division between religion and the state, or they are government officials who seek to preserve their positions and privileges, or finally they may be common people who believe that anything that is done by the state is an achievement of the revolution.

The constitution was drafted in the 1970s when the Marxist philosophy and system were still strong. So it embodies items which aimed to appease such a philosophy and system. But Marxist thoughts have been discarded even in their countries of origin, so why are we insisting on articles that are drawn from a lost cause. Finally, when asked why worry so much when any needed amendments could be introduced by the new parliament after it is elected, Sheikh Al-Ahmar said this is another trick with which they fool people. The constitution stipulates that any amendment needs a three-fourths of the votes, which is a near-impossibility.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN YEMENI TRIBAL LAW

"Urf and adat" are often not distinguished by writers of Islamic law because many Muslim scholars do not attach much importance to a distinction which is virtually theoretical. The two terms are used interchangeably to denote customary norms. 'Ada' is the repetition of an action mostly on the same pattern, whereas 'Urf' is that which human nature accepts by reasoning, and like 'Ada' is acceptable to man's nature. 'Urf' is readily understood. 'Adah' likewise is consistent with human habit. Both are patterns of behavior according to which people's actions are governed. Arbitration is often based on 'Urf' and 'Adah'.

Many people resort to arbitration because of the rife corruption in the machinery of "Shari'a and law", otherwise called justice. But what is interesting is that what the Republic used to call in the early sixties al-taghut (the oppressive), is proving to be one of the modes of popular settlement.

Customary law (Urf) places importance on actual circumstances, and is to that extent far superior to modern laws, which are adhered to without questioning. Legislation is, after all, the domain of parliaments which rely on borrowing foreign legislation. It is here that Mu'tazilite'aql plays a useful and vital role in refining Yemeni customary laws. Thus an attack during a truce requires four times the compensation payable during a conflict. An attack from the back, treacherously, entitles the victim to an eleven fold indemnity. It is called the penalty of al-Muhad'ish.

Tribal law plays a significant role in keeping the peace as arbitration is invoked in criminal matters. A simple and not uncommon example is breach of the peace of the market place entailing hajr al Suq (one or two cows depending upon the breach). However three types of shame should be carefully noted:

1. The Black Shame

Homicide: is called the black shame, if it is a killing of a guest or a messenger of another tribe or a refugee or a protege. The

penalty is 5.5 diyyas (compensation for killing another person). Killing from the back or of an arbitrator is penalized by 11 diyyas plus al-Hashm, which consists of money or cattle to be estimated depending upon all the relevant circumstances.

2. The Red Shame

The red shame is a killing (e.g., by way of revenge), during a truce (sulh). It entails 4 diyyas and Hushum (cows). It is bloody and therefore red.

3. The White Shame

This is a killing during a dispute. Therefore it is white. It involves a diyya and hushum, but it is payable in three parts (not instalments). An instalment denotes laxity. Paying three times denotes the heavy burden on the impecunious killer, and is therefore more considerate of the feelings of the bereaved, the family of the victim.

Maiming

Arsh is accorded for causing any 'aha (physical damage) as per Islamic Law. Thus the Urf and Shari'a meet. AL Hashm is payable as a deterrent. This is consistent with Urf but also with deterrence as an instrument of al Siyasa al Shar'eeya.

Threatened Murder

If the threat is with a deadly weapon, such as fire arms, the diyya of al-Salama is payable. It is half the full diyya (i.e., the diyya of intentional or semi accidental killing). A full diyya since 1979 is 120,000 Riyals, and is 240,000 Riyals since December, 1986. Today it

stands at 360,000 Riyals.

Injuries

Shari'a rules regarding injuries are governed by the Arsh system. Financial compensation is measured by the degree of the injury and its seriousness and permanency. There is a graduation system with various ranks of arsh. blood.

The Red and White Shame, Maiming and Injury, all involve a measure of damage and assessment thereof. These matters are left to the taqdir (discretion) of the arbitrator.

Sexual Crimes

If the virginity of a woman is lost as result of intercourse, the offender is obliged to marry her and pay:

- a) a full dower, and
- b) another dower by way of punishment.

The offender performs "tahjir", or conciliation of the woman's relatives. He gives the father and each brother a hajar - a cow or goat, depending upon the locality. If the matter goes to adjudication..

Breach of Trust

This is of direct bearing, on the day-to-day life of society. Breach of trust is penalized by a four fold sum (in case finance is involved) and by ostracizing. The offender is not to be dealt with by the community betrayed by him, or by the community of whom a member was the victim of the deceit.

From Isam Ghanem's booklet "Arbitration", Merlin Books Ltd, 1988

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SPORTS



Volleyball Tournament

The Ramadhan Volleyball Tournament for 1991 started last Monday (March 18, 1991) at AL Wahda club in Sana'a. It was organised by the Wahda club coach Rami Al Absi in coordination with the officials of the Wahda Club. Six teams are vying for the top honors. The competition will last for two weeks and the first two teams who advance in each group will enter the finals. It will be a round robin series. The six teams are divided into two groups with their respective captain balls as follows:

GROUP A TEAMS CAPTAIN BALL

Al Salam Jamal Adimi
 Al Jalia Sudania Amer Al Tayibb
 30th November Foolath S.Al Badah



GROUP B TEAMS CAPTAIN BALL

26th September Sami Al Jahdary
 14th October Rami Al Abssi
 Al wahda Alyemenia Adel Al Ledany

Right after the tournament, the members of the club will participate in the Annual Ramadhan Competition sponsored by the Volleyball Federation of Yemen. This competition will be held at Abdulrahman Volleyball Court located at the back of the British Ambassador's residence.. The annual competition will last for about fifteen days. The leading clubs in Sana'a, most of them made up of the national athletes who participated in the Arab Cup, will pit talents against each other. These include, Al Wahda, Al Zohra, Al Shaab, Al Jalia Sudania and Al Yarmook. So the audience can be sure that this will be a very tight game.

FOOTBALL FINALS

After five months of stiff competition among the leading football clubs in the country (twenty two top clubs participated), only 16 clubs made it to the second round of the football finals. The sixteen clubs are grouped into four groups as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Al Mina	Al Shorta	Al Ahli Sana'a	Al Telal
Al Zohra	Al Yarmook	Al Wahda Aden	Al Hassaan
Shamsan	Sho'ola	Tadhamon	Shaab Hadhramaut
Sha'ab Ibb	Sha'ab Sana'a	Sammoun	Wahda Sana'a

Last week the Federation selected the finalist team in each group based on their goals. The four finalists are:

Group A	Al Mina with 42 goals
Group B	Al Shorta with 20 goals
Group C	Ahli San'a with 35 goals
Group D	Telal Aden with 34 goals

The finals will start on the 24th of April 1991, and will last for 15 days. After the finals, the Football Federation of Yemen together with the national coach will choose the players for the national team for 1991. This is the first competition held after the country's unity, and in which the leading clubs of Aden and Sana'a participated..

Individually an athlete named Moneif Shaief from Al Mina scored 16 goals thus making him the most rookie athlete of the tournament.

+ + + + +

THE NEW AGE OF GYMANSTICS

" Daring style and art joined together to produce the best of gymastics."

It may indeed be thousands of years ago since people balanced their bodies on the bars as historians suggest. Or it may be, as today's greatest gymnast professionals and coaches insist that the evolutionary art has only 100 years of history worth talking about. Gymnastics is the most recent game acclaimed in the history of sports. Yet it enhanced new forms of expressions that won the hearts of millions of people all over the world. Events such as the International Gymnastics Competitions and, regionally, the Arab Gymnastics Championship held every year are out for public view in concert-like commotion, as excited viewers thrill in response to the body movement and the breathtaking routines in the air. Gymnastics has always included a little of ballet and martial arts, but the international competitions changed the inherited patterns by adding the mental dimension to gymnastics.

Two years ago, Nashwan al Harazi won a bronze medal in the Arab Competition in Cairo, Egypt, gaining him a recognition not only as a champion but also as a gifted performer. Since then, gymnastics in Yemen moved to explore new heights of athleticism combined with the perfection of the routine, becoming more thrilling and beautiful every year. The gymnastic world in Yemen is headed by a young generation of stars. Consider the Harazi brothers headed by Nashwan himself, an eleven year old petit boy. A forceful energetic child who knows just when and how to place those routines in the air before a sighing audience; or his brothers, Husam, Hamdan and Ahmad all local champions whose routine practice includes the death defying leap in the floor exercises that no other athlete before had the courage to do. They introduced their new technique on how to execute the breathtaking acts. The gymnastic explosion is a heady and welcome change for athletes. The challenging routines are short in technical demands but offer a great reward to the new and up coming athletes. Without the necessary

hours to work on basics, to maintain physical fitness, a gymnast generally leaves his/her career as a less finely tuned athlete.

Young Nashwan Al Harazi and his brothers stand an excellent chance of winning the future competitions in floor exercises, bars and pommel horse - their specialties. "In gymnastics you should train while still young because the bones are still pliable. If you are a late starter your career will end in a year," say the Al Harazi brothers. Nashwan is one of the future's best gymnasts of the country, and has a title to prove it. His debut performance is a thrill for his parents who watch him train and perform here. They got too nervous watching Nashwan compete. The question is: How many nerve-racking meets lie ahead of him? Nashwan plans to stay in the sport as long as he can perform well, but it won't be easy. Historically, this sport is directed toward smaller, younger boys and it's hard for "older boys" to compete.. When Nashwan competed in the Arab Cup in Cairo two years ago, he was virtually an unknown Yemeni gymnast. Although he was overshadowed by some well trained and more experienced gymnasts, he managed to bring a bronze medal home. Nashwan is intelligent, prompt in action and backed with totally unusual raw power, an explosiveness that very much call to memory famous world performers. And he has the same body type short but excellent quality muscles. The six year long search for the best gymnast of the country shows how tough it is to hang in this game. Meanwhile Nashwan is thriving. One thing that should make him journey to the next international competition is the new program training which helps him stay longer hours in the Al Thawrah Gymnastic Stadium. How long Nashwan lasts in this sport may depend on what other athletes call "the changes". Physically, Nashwan might be able to weather the changes in the next ten years. He is petite, four feet, 45 pounds and has grown slightly since he started. He comes from diminutive family though his father is medium built in

shape and height. He has tiny hands, the size three feet. Nashwan isn't worried about his body lurching out of control. "It is mind over body which matters" he says with a smile. "I plan to grow a few inches only after I quit gymnastics" he continued. The departure of its most talented young people whether from diminution of their technical skills in gymnastic shows or because they yield to the lure of long delays "normal" life has traditionally robbed gymnastics of the very individuals who might have led it to new areas of development. Nashwan Al Harazi's (and his brothers) ambition give radiance to the future of other



gymnasts. He is the first one to make it to amateur gymnastics. "I knew I had to win a medal in order to show them and the whole country." His victory in the Arab Cup two years ago was the beginning of his struggle. He is the first gymnast of the country who could in fact develop greater technical achievement as well as a more ambitious expressiveness. He remembers entering his first competition as an unknown competitor. He just did a lot of basic things. He is very thankful to his coaches and friends who encouraged him during his competition. "When he first came to me I saw a small boy, shy and quiet. But in him I easily noticed the qualities that a gymnast can bring out", says his coach. At present he is training Nashwan in his weakest performance, the pommel horse. Finally, before we departed Nashwan told me that the only contribution he can give to gymnastics is to say that it is an alternative.

Iryani: Yemen Seeks to Heal Gulf Crisis Wounds

"The Gulf war has not yet ended as other undeclared objectives have not been realized by the coalition forces," Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Iryani said. In an interview with the weekly Al Wahda newspaper, Dr Iryani stated that the presence of foreign forces on Iraqi territory is part of the undeclared targets being executed in the region by the USA. Dr Iryani added, "Yemen has handled its policy on the Gulf crisis in an innocent, sincere and true manner and the outcome of the events substantiates Yemen's good intentions towards the Gulf."



Those states which misunderstood Yemen's stand have taken measures that caused damage to Yemen. They have to prove their good intentions, Dr Iryani said. The Foreign Minister asked for the reasons regarding the emphasis made by the "Damascus Declaration" to keep Egyptian and Syrian forces in the region in the aftermath of the war. "This possibility means pitching an Arab military alliance against an Arab state which itself is in a state of destruction. Under such circumstances, Yemen cannot become party to these arrangements." Referring to the future of the Arab Cooperation Council, Dr Iryani mentioned that its future is still shelved until the war ends and what has been said about it as an Arab Conspiracy Council is a mere media talk for consumption. In his response to the relations between Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other neighbours, Dr Iryani has clarified that the relations have suffered and that Yemen and its people have been offended. "There remains nothing except media campaigns which are symptoms of the failures." Yemen has no wish to offend others. Referring to the border demarcation with the neighbours, Dr Iryani said, Yemen welcomes any dialogue on this issue based on legal and historical facts.

Saleh Reviews Yemeni-Sudanese Cooperation

General Ali Abdulla Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, received a letter from his Sudanese counterpart, General Omar Al-Basheer. The letter is said to be concerned with the way things are evolving in the region, as well as with cooperation and coordination between the two countries. The letter was delivered by Mr. Abdullah Muhammad, Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information, who is presently visiting Sanaa. and who was received by President Saleh yesterday (Tuesday). The President sent back a reply letter.

Contract on Irrigation Projects

The Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Mr. Sadiq Ameen Abu Ra's, signed an agreement according to which the General Corporation for Trade and Projects will implement irrigation projects in the Wadi Raydan area in Al-Jawf province. The total value of the contract is YR. 17.9 million, and it is totally financed by the Yemeni Government. Upon completion, the project will help harness rain floods in the Hazm and Halaq regions, and will allow the reclamation and irrigation of 2300 hectares of new land. It is worth mentioning that the Government has given agricultural projects top priority in its investments.

YEMEN PROTESTS USA CONDITIONS AGAINST IRAQ

Mr. Abdullah Al-Ashtal, Yemeni Representative to the United Nations Security Council, described the conditions embodied in the US-British resolution proposal to put an end to the Gulf war as unheard of. In his comment to Saba, the Yemeni News Agency, by telephone yesterday (Tuesday), Mr. Al-Ashtal said that the Security Council is presently discussing the passage of a resolution to end the war. He stated that he had made the Yemeni point of view very clear as to the drastic conditions put forth by the USA delegate. He indicated that tying the lifting of the embargo on Iraq to various other issues is neither legal nor right. He said, "The conditions that precipitated the embargo are gone once Iraq withdrew from Kuwait, and once Kuwait regained its independence and sovereignty, and territorial integrity." Thus Yemen has called for the immediate and total lifting of the embargo that had been placed on Iraq. He also reaffirmed that the American demands are beyond what the UN resolutions call for or what regional security requires. The UN had never seen such demands in its past history, he said. Regarding the demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait, Mr. Al-Ashtal demanded that this be left for negotiations, as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 660. He added that it is not upto the Security Council to delineate borders or guarantee them, and that the responsibility for such matters rests with the International Court of Justice. Mr. Al-Ashtal insisted that the supervisory international force to be stationed between Iraq and Kuwait should be done on the basis of the approval of both countries and without infringing on their sovereignty. Finally, as regards the American demand to destroy Iraqi mass destruction weapons, the Yemeni delegate demanded that such a provision cover all countries in the region. It is worth mentioning that the Security Council will "decide" on its next resolution within the next few days. But it is already obvious that US arm twisting on the one hand, and promises of financial aid on the other hand, have given the American government almost a free hand in running the Security Council and extracting any resolution it favored, or defeating any resolution it disfavored.

YEMENI-SAUDI RELATIONS HEADED TOWARDS NORMALCY

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom granted YEMENIA, the country's flag carrier, permission to resume flights into Saudi Arabia. A YEMENIA source indicated that the airline will start operating nine flights per week into Jeddah, starting today, Wednesday March 27th. Furthermore, YEMENIA declared that it has been granted the right to fly over Saudi territory en route to other international destinations. In another development, the Saudi embassy in Sanaa has started granting Yemeni citizens Umra visas thus allowing many individuals to travel back to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and tie up loose ends from their former stay over there.

YEMENI CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS IN NORWAY.

The Ministry of Culture is busy these days preparing for the Children's Drawing Competition planned to be held during Ramadhan. Sources at the Ministry of Culture told Yemen Times that, a number of officials and artists will inspect the paintings entered in the contest and select the best ones. These would be displayed as Yemen's contribution to the International Competition for Children's Drawings organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Crescent Organisation and the International Red Cross, in Norway next April. The best paintings selected during the Norwegian show would be presented to the International Festival for Children's Painting which would be held in Spain during 1992.

RAMADAHAN KAREEM

