

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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## OUR VIEWPOINT



### DISCIPLINE NEEDED!

Most of the people I have come across speak of the need to discipline the government bureaucracy. These people include laymen and educated citizens, foreign diplomats in Sanaa, businessmen, and even government officials. The extreme carelessness and intolerable inefficiency of the government administrative apparatus costs the government as well as society considerable amounts. Instead of improving, the government machinery is actually deteriorating. One aspect of this deterioration is the almost total lack of accountability. Stories of waste and embezzlement with supporting documentation have become ordinary matter. Why the silence, nobody understands. Nobody is even attempting to do anything about this situation. But recently, the situation seems to have gone out of hand. In almost all government organisations, administrative discipline is very lacking. In some cases, the inefficiency and corruption has reached intolerable levels.

Where does this lead us to? Most formerly North Yemenis had believed that our Southern brothers will bring with them, as a minimum, their discipline and organizational qualities. Over the last ten months, we have seen neither probably because they have been overwhelmed by the sheer numbers, or probably it is easier to fit in and adapt than to fight an existing situation. Whatever the causes, it is crucial to openly discuss this matter, and seek appropriate remedies. The first step in this direction is to force government employees to, at least, remain at their desks during office hours, and not to drift away and wander around. This can be achieved only if the top officials arrive on time, and remain at their work desk during office hours. Is this too much to ask from this government?

The Publisher

## ECONOMIC BOOM IN ADEN



Since Aden was declared the economic and commercial capital of the Republic, and since it was declared as a free economic zone, the city has witnessed a rising level of activity. According to the Ministry of Trade and Supply, Aden Branch, already many applications for establishing projects in the city have been approved. It was reported that seventy two tourist-related facilities, sixty eight workshops and small-scale crafts and businesses, and almost fifty major industrial projects have been sanctioned. Foundation stones for many of these will be laid down on the occasion of the first anniversary of the country's unity on May 22, 1991. It is further expected that once the appropriate legislation for the free zone is promulgated, the boom which is presently a trickle, will definitely turn into a flood. An important prerequisite for the continued growth is a sound administrative and financial system.

## KUWAITIS RETURN TO KUWAIT

The State of Kuwait is gradually resuming its functions as a sovereign state with territorial integrity. One of the steps in this direction is the return of Kuwaiti nationals to their country. Mr. Mohammed Al-Khaled As-Sabaah, Deputy Minister of Interior and the Chairman of the Committee Supervising the Return of Kuwaitis Residing Temporarily Abroad, declared that the controlled and regulated return of Kuwaitis to the country will start after the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. He stated that about ten thousand Kuwaitis will flow in on a daily basis, for a final total of roughly 350,000 persons. He also indicated that a new system of immigration will be implemented beginning with the return of the Kuwaiti nationals. The new system will also determine and specify the residence conditions and laws for foreigners. On this occasion, YEMEN TIMES bids Kuwait welcome back to the fold of sovereign nations, and hopes for renewed cooperation between the two fraternal countries - Yemen and Kuwait.



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# THE CLP: TORCHBEARER OF THE FREE YEMENI MOVEMENT

The Hizb Al-Ahrar Ad-Dastouri (The Constitutional Liberals Party - CLP), although established only in 1990, is actually the torchbearer of a much older Free Yemenis Movement that was established in 1944. The party revolves around an elite Hugarriah family that spearheaded the resistance against Imamic rule in the former North Yemen and British Yemen in the former South Yemen.

It professes liberal thoughts and a very tolerant philosophy thus generating a strong urban following. The party leadership is composed of the following: Secretary-General: Abdul-Rahman Ahmed Noman, Assistant Seretary-General: Adam Abbas Aal Yaseen, Party Secretary: Jameel Al-Junaid, Representative in Taiz: A/ Kareem Ahmed A/Rahman Representative in Ibb: A/Aziz Ameen Noman, Representative in Hodeida Yusuf Abdul-Wadood, Representative in Hashed: Lutf Muslim Al-Hamdi, Representative in Reda'a: Nizar Ali Al-Ahmadi, Representative in Aden: Abdo Hassan Khaishan.

The CLP was one a few Yemeni parties that condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and called for the immediate Iraqi withdrawal peacefully, or by force (meaning regional force). Nontheless, it was also against the coming of "alien" forces to the region.

At the domestic level, this party is one of the vocal supporters of the Constitution, and calls on its nine thousand members or so to vote "Yes" on Referendum day. It has issued many posters and flyers towards this end. The basic thrust for this party is socio-economic development along liberal lines. Its programs include:

- 1) Truth is always a relative matter, thus, no monopoly of truth exists,
- 2) To guarantee and safeguard a plural political system, and to adopt peaceful dialogue is a means of progress and socio-political change.
- 3) Constructive criticism as a tool for interaction.
- 4) To guarantee the full independence of the media.
- 5) To give priority for investment in manpower and

human resources.

- 6) To support the economic sector to achieve food security, to promote handicrafts, and other local productive sectors, by providing credit facilities and extension services in agriculture and fisheries, and to support the growth of private, mixed, public, and cooperative ownership.
- 7) To support higher studies so that they play a meaningful role in mobilizing intellectual growth.
- 8) To give due respect and support for scientific research and the agencies responsible for it.
- 9) To universalize positive political values and creeds.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC BRIEFS

The Supreme Council for Economic, Oil, and Investment Affairs, chaired by Mr. Haider AbuBakar Al-Attas, held an important meeting last Monday, April 1st. In this meeting, the Council three vital issues:

1) The National Bank of Yemen:

The Council evaluated the financial and administrative capabilities of the bank, which is headquartered in Aden. It then discussed the possibilities of expanding the bank's operations to cover the northern provinces. It is expected that this bank will play a major role in the banking services available to Yemenis in the future.

2) Prices and Supply of Commodities:

The Council then listened to a report presented by the Minister of Supply and Trade regarding the price index and the availability of basic goods in the Yemeni markets. The Council stressed the need to control the price hikes presently haunting the consumers, and urged the Ministry to take all the necessary steps to ensure the continuous and adequate flow of goods to the market.

3) Self-sufficiency in Oil/Gas Products:

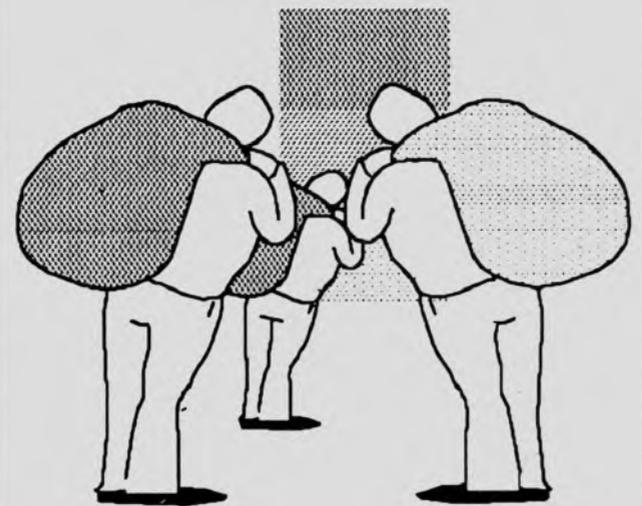
Finally the Council reviewed a report presented by the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources regarding the Ministry's efforts to expand oil and gas output to meet local demand. The Council authorized the Ministry to take the necessary steps in executing its plans.

## WE MUST SEEK COMPENSATION FOR IMMIGRANTS' WEALTH LEFT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Over the last few months, over a million Yemenis have returned from the Gulf, notably from Saudi Arabia. These are people who have lived in the Gulf for many years, in some cases several decades, and who were forced to flee either due to the war (e.g., Kuwait), or due to changes in the laws of residence (e.g., Saudi Arabia). The way the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia decided to push out the Yemenis is neither legal nor morally supportable. Over a million Yemenis were forced to flee Saudi Arabia and leave behind most of their wealth. **Any country can suddenly change its laws of residence, and thus render a targeted group of people illegal resident over-night.**

To shed light on the legal aspects of this problem, YEMEN TIMES went to speak to several specialists and officials. Several specialists in international law from Sanaa University (Dr. Abdul-Wahid Zindani, Dr. Hassan Bazara'a, and Dr. Mukrid Al-Awadhee) were contacted. They all concluded that the Saudi decision does not conform to international law, and that the Yemenis can, if they wish, start legal proceedings to collect proper compensation. On this same issue, Yemen Times interviewed H.E. Mr. Saleh Munassar Assaily, Minister of Immigrants' Affairs. About the size of the losses in property and other assets, estimated by some sources at US\$7.9 billion, the minister indicated that their estimates yield much higher figures. He said that the amount mentioned probably covers only the liquid assets. He also pointed to the human suffering and re-adjustment problems, which cannot be quantified in money terms.

On the same issue, Yemen Times went to speak to H.E. Mr. Husain Al-Hubaishi, a prominent jurist and the former Head of the Legal Office of the State in Yemen. On this matter he said, "As per international law, when there is a clash of influence affecting a host country from foreign residents staying there, the country has the right to ask them to leave, but not in the manner adopted by Saudi Arabia." He added that a person cannot be asked to leave by infringing on his rights as a human being. The host country should give reasons for its action, and the residents should be allowed enough time to clear all their business dealings and also be given sufficient time to collect their normal belongings before leaving the country. The French government, for example, offered compensation for the Moroccans, Tunisians and Algerians in order to leave France. The same was true of the Turks living in Germany. There is no precedent to what Saudi Arabia did to the Yemenis, who had served it for so long. The Republic of Yemen did not react foolishly or violently to these propagations. It continues to adopt peaceful means to resolve the issue. The first steps are to open negotiations and mediation. If these efforts do not bear fruit, then we must seek judicial intervention. When all means are exhausted we could go to the International Court of Justice. I hope such a situation will not arise as it involves two neighbouring Arab countries that are bound together by so many bonds. Furthermore, they need each other.



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# EFFORTS TO REMEDY HOUSING SHORTAGES

Like many other countries, Yemen today faces the problem of acute shortage of housing in the major cities and the absence of proper urban planning. To shed more light on these and other issues, YEMEN TIMES went to speak with H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Sulman, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning who kindly took the time to answer our questions and discuss his ministry's efforts to alleviate the present housing shortage in the major cities particularly those in Sana'a and Aden.

## Private Initiative the Key Factor:

Regarding the approach itself, the Minister mentioned that we will not do as we did in Aden, where the government used to provide the flats for its citizens on turnkey basis. Our present strategy is to provide the people with the sites at nominal cost and encourage them to build their own houses. The government, of course, would have developed those sites by providing the essential services. Although cost of such services, sometimes reaches 40% of the total investment, the state has to honor its obligations towards its citizens. In a number of cities such as Sana'a, Aden and Hodeidah, and governorates such as Hadhramaut and Mahara, emigrants have returned in large numbers and thus the demand for housing are in big numbers, we started to concentrate our activities in this direction. So we are motivating the private sector to cooperate with us by executing housing complexes in all those cities and regions.

## Housing Transferred-Government Officials

Regarding the housing conditions of the large numbers of government employees, the Minister mentioned that this issue has become the Ministry's top priority. "To implement our plans effectively, we started to solve the problems of the civil servants, who have been transferred from one city to another in order to give them the necessary state of stability for all officials and make them feel that they are working in their own homeland. We don't want government employees to feel they are in transient circumstances."

Asked about the potential role of the popular organisations such as the coopera-

tive movements in the country, the minister mentioned that he had held a number of meetings with the existing cooperatives and housing associations in the capital, Sana'a, and other places. "Regretfully many of them are hollow organisations, with no actual substance, they exist only in paper, and I regret to see such a situation," he said. A few of those associations, however, have proven abilities and real structures, and they would play a definite role in our plans.

## Sanaa- First Priority

"We are now busy planning for Sana'a city. The growth of the city superceded the

mental danger if not remedied right now. We send

alarm signals and stress the magnitude of the problem and its pressing nature to all those who consider this issue of secondary nature. "I emphasize that environmental life inside Sana'a is deteriorating very fast and should be attended forthwith." In Sanaa, problems related to ownership and adherence to the law are probably the most frustrating part of urban planning.

## Housing Projects in Hodeidah



planning process. We are facing problems of citizens who construct their houses prior to municipal planning." Attempts are being made to accelerate our planning strategy, a big number of engineers are presently engaged in this purpose. We are working on providing the essential services to all parts of Sanaa city, whatever the cost may be. "We are working in close cooperation with the other ministries in order not to keep Sana'a deprived of essential services." The Minister continued, "Unless serious planning and proper execution is achieved today, in ten years from now, it would be impossible to deal with the problems of Sana'a, specially in water supply. This situation will in the very near future, constitute a serious environ-

In Hodeidah governorate, we have a plan drawn up for until the year 2000 to absorb the areas built at random around Hodeidah. The obstacles facing us are primarily financial; i.e., costs. All around the city, satellite of poor squatter settlements have been built, and it is important to revamp the whole system, and incorporate as much as possible of those structures. Another problem in Hodeidah is the drainage system, the city being at sea level. In any case, we are now planning to construct 32,000 residential units to solve the problems in the areas in the neighbourhood of Hodeidah. In addition, this project should provide new outlets for the idle work force in the city.

## Residential Complex in Aden

In Aden, we have another plan. It aims to encourage

and prepare the necessary designs and we did, then

**Salman: "SANA'A IS GOING TO FACE A SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE."**

private investment to solve the housing problems as fast as possible. Given the fact that Aden has been approved as an economic and commercial capital and a free zone, we expect an economic boom, part of which will definitely be in the area of housing and services. Several investment projects have already been studied, and some have been approved by the High Council for Economic Plan and we are in the process of handing over the sites to the private sector. We envisage private investment projects to construct over 15,000 residential units in one shot, besides the construction of commercial centers and tourist facilities including first, second and third class hotels. For those investments, we will allow all investors to import cement and iron/steel requirements free from customs duty. In addition, all the required equipments will be exempted from any taxes until the projects are completed and will have the right to keep them as long as they have contracts to execute.

## Rural to Urban Migration:

Replying to a question on the continued movement of citizens from the rural areas to the major cities, and if there are plans for the development of secondary cities to help absorb some of the flow, the minister said, "We are in planning to execute twelve satellite towns around Sanaa, during the years upto to 2000." The target of the new plan is to convert the small towns into cities. But these plans depend for their execution on the participation of the private sector. Our role is to assist in providing the required atmosphere for private sector investments.

## Libyan-Financed Complex:

When asked about the construction of 360 residential units in Sana'a offered as a gift by the Libyan government and how it would be distributed, the minister said that the Libyans promised to execute the project with a view to encourage the spirit of unity among the Yemenis. The Libyan offer is already outstanding for some time. They asked to go ahead

they asked to prepare the sites which we did, and now they asked to prepare the tender documents which we also did. So we expect the bids will be opened by the Libyan Embassy on 22nd of May this year. The execution of the project will be completed in about two years hence, so there are plans as yet regarding how the units will be distributed.

## Compensations in Aden

Referring to the solutions reached regarding the compensation of personal residences previously nationalized in the former South Yemen, the minister said, "Since I took office, several meetings were held with the Aden Chamber of Commerce, former owners, the citizens who presently occupy nationalized houses, and leaders of the YSP and GPC and have reached a wide range of good results serving stability in the southern governorates based on adequate compensation to the former owners.

For example, all commercial stores will be given back to the owners, but the tenants will continue to use these stores for a period of 4-5 years paying the present rent. Thereafter, an agreement between the owners and the tenants would regulate their relationship. Ownership of all stores presently run by the owners will be restored to them immediately. All those shops and commercial stores which are either partially or wholly demolished or owned presently by the state will be given back to the original owners.

The nationalized commercial flats in the Ma'alla buildings are still being reviewed by the committee presided by Dr Hassan Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister. They will be tackled along with other nationalized properties such as factories, pharmacies, etc. As regards personal residences either nationalized or taken by mistake, wherever possible, they will be given back their original homes. If such an action becomes impossible, then the owners will be compensated by offering them two plots of land, double the size of their previous land always not far away from their original land. This will enable them to sell one of the plots and use the proceeds to build their own houses on the other plot.

# FOUAD AL-FUTAIH: AN ARTIST COMES OF AGE!

Yemeni artists have grown over the years and have taken their proper place in society. Although we cannot as yet, speak of a well-defined School of Fine Arts, Yemeni paintings and drawings have become respectable, in volume and caliber. To investigate this matter, YEMEN TIMES interviewed Mr. Fouad Al-Futaih, one of our better artists.

**Q:** Could you give us a brief artistic background of yourself?

**A:** I studied in Germany where I finished my B.A. in Fine Arts in 1976. Then for two years I was enrolled in higher studies, but did not finish. I came back in 1979 and I joined the Ministry of Information and Culture where I remained until 1986. Since then I have been active at a personal level as well as the fine arts sector level. I have done roughly three hundred paintings and drawings, some of which were acclaimed regionally and internationally.

**Q:** Did you participate in any local, regional and international exhibitions?

**A:** Yes, I did. My work was part of many exhibitions in Germany Britain, France, the USA, Egypt, etc. We have established in Sanaa an exhibition gallery called Gallery 1 two years ago. Several exhibitions for me and other artists were on display in Gallery 1.

**Q:** When is the next exhibition?

**A:** In two months time, we plan an exhibition for a new Yemeni artist. Actually, this exhibition had been planned for September 1990. It was postponed due to the Gulf War.

**Q:** What is the story on the Art Gallery to be established in the Old City of Sanaa?

**A:** Through German aid, one of the

old Yemeni houses is being converted into an art center and gallery. The Bureau for the Preservation of Old Sanaa has helped greatly in the arrangements. It is my belief that this will be a good step for artists and fine arts in Yemen. This is a multiple-storey building. The ground floor will be the printing press, the upper levels will be for exhibitions and presentations, as well as office space. I am expected to manage the center.

**Q:** What are the stages of development in the artistic works of Fouad Al-Futaih?

**A:** As all other artists, I went through different stages. The most intensive one was during my years of study in Germany. I produced at the time some of my most important pieces of paintings and drawings, some of which were purchased and placed in museums in Europe, Asia, and some Arab countries. Upon my return to Yemen, I produced works that show some confusion. There was considerable pressure, and the demands of re-adapting were great. Later on however, I reached a new phase of more stability and conformity. It is a known fact, of course, that the artist reacts to and interacts with their (new) environments.

**Q:** What are your major works?

**A:** I have done quite a few pieces that I think are important. Of course the major works are paintings, but I have done many other things such as insignia, medals, postage stamps, etc. for which I received many awards and prizes. I was awarded the Alexandria Museum Award, the UN International Day for Disarmament Award, the Second (place) Award in Germany.

Above all, of course, in 1989, the Yemeni President awarded me the First Class in Fine Arts in Yemen.

**Q:** There are expatriate artists in

Yemen. What are their contributions to fine arts in Yemen?

**A:** Expatriate artists are two kinds. First, there are those who work and live in Yemen. They are artists by hobby, and they could be as good as the professionals. Then there are professional artists who visit Yemen for the sole purpose of producing paintings and drawings based on their observation

We plan to shed light on the cultural differences through Yolana's eyes as she and her husband lived in Germany and Yemen and they know both the cultures very well. I want the German people to understand about life in Yemen and it is easier for people who know both the cultures to explain and compare

**Q:** Since this is your first visit to Sa-



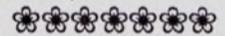
and experience. Both groups of expatriates have contributed richly to the wealth of fine arts in Yemen.

**Q:** A German lady making a film documentary on Fouad Al-Futaih was in Sanaa. YEMEN TIMES interviewed her as well.

**A:** My name is Martina Fluke. My partner Mr. Hoffman, and I own a company that plans to do a film on Fouad Al-Futaih and to air on German television. We are especially interested in his role in modern Yemeni fine art. We are also interested in the fact that he is a Yemeni married to a German wife.

naa, what is your impression?

**A:** I have so many impressions. I love the old city of Sanaa. It is now Ramadhan and during my visit to the old city in the mornings, it has a deserted look, that is sad, but it helped me to have a closer look at the ancient architecture. In the evening, everything appeared to be full of life. I also saw things which one rarely gets to see in Germany. For example the iron smith shaping iron by hand. It is a sight from our history.



## مشاتل الوادي الأخضر

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# THE NEW YEMENI CONSTITUTION:

## Continuation of PART III

**YEMEN TIMES** continues to provide its readers with translations of the constitution. This translation is not officially approved. The constitution itself is subject to final approval by the people in an upcoming referendum. This is the sixth segment of the constitution:

### Chapter 3: The Council of Ministers:

#### **Article (102):**

The Council of Ministers is the government of the Republic of Yemen, and it is the highest executive and administrative body of the state. All state organizations, agencies, corporations, etc., without exception, are under the directives of the Council.

#### **Article (103):**

The Government is composed of the Prime Minister, his deputies, and the ministers, who together make up the Council of Ministers. The law defines the responsibilities and organization of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister, his deputies and the ministers, and their ministries.

#### **Article (104):**

In consultation with the Presidential Council, the Prime Minister chooses the members of his cabinet, and seeks the confidence of the Council of Deputies on the basis of a program he submits for this purpose.

#### **Article (105):**

The Prime Minister and the ministers are collectively responsible for the works of the government in front of the Presidential Council and the Council of Deputies

#### **Article (106):**

Before the Prime Minister and the ministers can assume their responsibilities, they have to take the constitutional oath in front of the Chairman of the Presidential Council.

#### **Article (107):**

The law stipulates the salaries of the Prime Minister,

his deputies, the ministers, and their deputies.

#### **Article (108):**

During their term in office, the Prime Minister and the ministers are forbidden from engaging in any other public office, or in any private commercial, financial, or industrial activities, even if indirectly. They may not participate in any commitments the government or any of its corporations undertake, and they may not combine between the posts of minister and the chairmanship of the board of any company. During their term, they may not purchase/sell/barter any government property, even if through an open bid.

#### **Article (109):**

The Council of Ministers is responsible for the execution of the overall state policies in the political, economic, social, cultural, and defence fields, according to the laws and regulations. Its specific duties include:

a) In conjunction with the Presidential Council, to participate in preparing the broad lines of internal and external policies.

b) To prepare the project of the national economic plan, the annual budget, to organize and execute the above, and to prepare the government final accounts.

c) To prepare the drafts of the laws and regulations for presentation to the Council of Deputies or the Presidential Council according to the responsibilities of each.

d) To approve agreements and accords before presenting them to the Council of Deputies or the Presidential Council according to the responsibilities of each.

e) To take the necessary measures to preserve the internal and external security of the state, and to protect the rights of citizens.

f) To guide, coordinate and review the activities of the ministries, the administrative apparatus, the corporations and boards, and the public and mixed sectors according to the law.

g) To appoint/dismiss senior government officials,

and to delineate and execute the policies that aim to develop the technical manpower in the government bureaucracy, and to train/qualify personnel according to the need of the country within the framework of the economic plan.

h) To follow up the execution of the laws, and to protect the state funds.

i) To supervise the organization and administration of the monetary, credit and insurance systems.

j) To contract in/out loans within the overall policies of the state, and within the limits of the constitution.

#### **Article (110):**

The Prime Minister manages the Council of Ministers and heads its meetings. He represents the Council, and is responsible for the supervision and execution of the Council's decisions and the overall state policies in a unified and coordinated manner. He may demand from any members of the Council, reports on any matter pertaining to their ministries and the duties assigned to them, and they must abide by such demands.

#### **Article (111):**

The Presidential Council may decide to suspend the Prime Minister, any of his deputies, or the ministers and place them under investigation because of the crimes/offences committed by them while performing their duties. The Council of Deputies, based on a two-thirds vote, may also propose to the Presidential Council to take such measures against the Council of Ministers. Any official under investigation or whose term in office is terminated, may also be taken to court for the crime and offences committed while in office. The law stipulates the court procedures, guarantees, and punishments in such cases. These measures also apply to the deputy ministers.

#### **Article (112):**

If the Council of Ministers resigns, or is dismissed, or the confidence is withdrawn, it remains as a caretaker government responsi-

ble for ordinary administration until a new government is formed. A caretaker government may not make new appointments or may not dismiss officials.

#### **Article (113):**

If the Prime Minister finds that it has become impossible for him to cooperate with a member of the Council of Ministers, he may present the matter to the Presidential Council to decide the most appropriate course of action.

#### **Article (114):**

If the Prime Minister is unable to perform his duties, or if the Council of Deputies withdraws confidence from the government, then the Prime Minister has to tender his cabinet's resignation to the Chairman of the Presidential Council.

#### **Article (115):**

If the majority of the Members of the Council of Ministers turn-in their resignations, then the Prime Minister has to tender the resignation of the cabinet.

#### **Article (116):**

Each minister is responsible for the supervision and direction of his ministry and its branches throughout the republic. He is also responsible for the execution of the government's overall policies in his ministry. The law stipulates the

laws and regulations that may be issued by the Minister for such purposes.

### Chapter IV: Appartus of Local Authority:

#### **Article (117):**

The territory of the Republic of Yemen is divided into administrative units, each of which is considered a legal entity. The law determines the number of such units, their divisions, and determines the responsibilities of the persons in charge of the units. Such units and local councils are part and parcel of the state authority. The Governors are responsible towards the Council of Ministers whose decisions are binding to them in all cases.

#### **Article (118):**

Administrative units have elected local councils. The law stipulates the authorities and responsibilities of the local councils. The law further stipulates the procedures for electing local councils, their systems and functions, financial resources, and their roles in preparing and executing the development plans.

#### **Article (119):**

The law defines the methods of control over the work of the local councils.

## YEMENI CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS IN NORWAY

The Ministry of Culture is busy these days preparing for the Children's Drawing Competition planned to be held during the latter part of Ramadhan. Sources at the Ministry of Culture told Yemen Times that a number of officials and artists will evaluate 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 in current 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.

# AMERICAN ATROCITIES AGAINST OTHERS; THE CASE OF THE JAPANESE

**YEMEN TIMES** was invited by a number of scholars and officials to attend a very hypothetical discussion. Was worthwhile for humanity to discover the New World? Some sort of cost-benefit analysis of the U.S.A. is involved. This piece is the second article which gives a summary of part of the discussions.

The first American pressure on Japan came with "Commodore" Mathew Perry. Perry calling himself an "admiral" - actually even his commodore title itself is honorary, anchored in the Japanese Uraga harbor on July 8, 1853. He refused taking orders from



he Japanese authorities, and gave out quite a few of his own. In February 1854, he returned to besiege Edo Bay (modern Tokyo). By March 31, 1854, after humiliating the Tokugawa Shogun (ruler) and the Japanese elders, Perry extracted a treaty which forced Ja-

pan to give concessions (economic, political and military), which jeopardized its sovereignty.

The major American atrocities against Japan took place during World War II. Starting on March 9, 1945, American warplanes using napalm fire bombs and other low level incendiary bombs, destroyed almost half of Tokyo. In the first two days, over 150,000 Tokyo residents were killed and nearly a quarter of a million were rendered homeless. Other Japanese cities Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka, Toyana, Yokohama, etc., faced the same fate. As a senior military commander at the time stated, "We are going to bomb

fine impartiality. Incendiary attacks burned out the cities one after another.

Civilians were blown up or burned to death in the saturation raids. No more eloquent testimony to the ravages of war upon the innocent exists than the piles of corpses near Yurakcho Station in downtown Tokyo. Or the photographs of the charred corpses of a mother holding a child, the woman's face burned into a scorched blob of flesh, eyes and nose mangled together. The massive Tokyo raid on March 10, 1945, was intended to burn out the Shitama-chi district by setting a ring of fires. Trapped inside a wall of flames, more than 80,000 persons were burned to death in one night.

Bombs dropped from 25,000 feet did not distinguish between soldier and civilian. The August 7, 1945, attack on the Toyokawa Naval Arsenal was a hideous example of total war. Labor service workers and student workers were employed at the arsenal under military supervision. Between 2000 and 3000 civilians were killed in the air raid. Among the dead were women's volunteer corps members, female students, and more than 50 elementary school students. An eyewitness described the carnage:

"An arm lay on the ground. There was a skull split in half. A headless torso. A girl's head hung from a tree by the road, the hair caught in the branches. A young worker with no legs, face burned black, crawled around on her hands." Several hundred young women and girls were blown to bits, burned and mutilated.

Given the vengeance of the American war machine, the balance of power was already decided, and the war had been won.

It was a matter of time before it was all over. But the Americans decided not to "waste" any more time and to win the war at the lowest cost to them and at any price to the other side. The war tactics took an insidious twist. President Truman decided to use



**THE BOMB**, the Atomic Bomb. On August 6, 1945, the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, at the southern tip of Japan's largest island - Honshu. The combined heat and blast pulverized everything in the vicinity; generated spontaneous fires to long distances away; produced winds that fanned the flames in Hiroshima's craterlike configuration so powerfully that they burnt almost 20 square kilometers completely out. The immediate death toll was a staggering 150,000 and another 180,000 suffered severe burns and radiation, and a further 170,000 badly injured. The final death toll of Hiroshima exceeded 250,000 Japanese children, women and men. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The immediate casualty was almost 85,000 dead and about 70,000 injured and burnt. According to military and political sources, neither bomb was necessary to win the war; specially not the second bomb. Yet, the American decision killed 658,595 Japanese civilians and injured nearly half a million more. Those who did not die, developed permanent diseases from poisoning and burns and lived partial lives with cancer and respiratory prob-

lems.

At another level, American citizens of Japanese origin were condemned to communal prison - reservations. They were treated as traitors. Their lives were interrupted, and immobilized, they were humiliated and reduced to deprivation. All in all, hundred of thousands, maybe millions, were dragged from their homes and put in collective camps. The scar on their lives from this process was permanent. Even once the war was over, and after a lot of criticism of this policy, there were decisions to provide compensations.

On February 27, 1963, the Tokyo District Court ruled that the use of weapons like the atomic bomb in indiscriminate attacks on the undefended cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was "an illegal act (even) under then current international law". There are limits to the weaponry and tactics that may be used in wartime. Weapons like the atomic bomb, which entail mass murder and inflict unnecessary suffering on large numbers of noncombatants, violate international law. From a moral perspective, the use of such weapons is an atrocity.



## WHAT IS WITH THE RIAL?

This week there was a run on the Yemeni Rial. What happened? Sanaa was filled with gossip and rumors explaining what happened. The basic outcome was that the US Dollar fetched 27 Yemeni Rials at one stage, more than twice the official Central Bank of Yemen rate.

One story has it that this was a Saudi plot. It was reported that Saudi Arabia shipped back car-loads of Yemeni Rials and Dinars which flooded the market. They were offered at YR.26 or YD.1 per US Dollar. Of course, the money changers added their fee - one Rial on every dollar. Thus we got the YR.27 per dollar.

Rumors further indicate that some senior people in society are implicated and involved.

The official reaction, as would be expected, was in the only way the government functions - lock up everybody involved. Actually, not quite everybody - they left out the fat cats.

The problem of the Yemeni Rial is not related to the exchange rate - that is simply the result. The problem is with our monetary and

fiscal policies. The growing and persistent government deficit has been covered by printing more and more paper. This year alone, the docile Central Bank is expected to print almost YR.15 billion. So who is to blame - the Saudis, the money changers, the citizens, the fat cats the expatriates, or those guys who keep on printing more paper?

Resolving this issue requires a sincere approach based on a deep soul-searching process and a strong resolve - all of which the government is lacking. Easy solutions and looking for escape goats will not give us the answers. Can we ask the government to boldly seek remedies in the right places, and stop throwing its problems on others. The first step towards the needed remedy is for the government to start living with its own means.

Its resources are actually more than sufficient to meet its needs if they were properly utilized.

The second step to pursue an independent monetary policy. Those two steps are bound to lead to the correct solution.

## Business Tips from the Top

Work-out routines to keep your company fit.

Robert Townsend is best known as the management wizard who turned the floundering Avis car-rental corporation into the world's most famous number two. He first outlined the essentials for creating a well-managed company in his best-seller, *Up the Organization*. "There have been a lot of books written about management but few as pithily put as Townsend's," says professor Andrew Thomson, Dean of the Open Business School in Milton Keynes. "Most of his comments have to do with people, not finance or technology. Getting the people right is the key to success and he proves it." Here are Townsend's main pointers.

### Give yourself a ring.

When you're on holiday, pretend you're a customer. Phone your organization and ask for help. You'll run into some real horror shows. Then try calling your own office and see what indignities you've built into your defences.

### Decisions.

There are two kinds: those that are expensive to change and those that are not. A decision on the site of your new factory shouldn't be made hastily or without input from operating people and specialists. The uncomplicated decision - such as when to open the cafeteria or what brand of pencil to buy - should be made fast. No point in taking three weeks to make a decision that can be made in three seconds - and corrected inexpensively later if wrong.

### Organization charts.

Draw them in pencil. Never print and circulate. Good organizations are living bodies that develop muscles to meet challenges. Charts demoralize. Nobody thinks of himself as below others. If you have to circulate something, use a loose-leaf organization table instead of a diagram. Put names and functions in alphabetical order.

### Mistakes.

Admit your own, and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Never castigate. Babies learn to walk by falling down. If you beat a baby every time he/she falls, he or she'll never care much for walking.

### Delegation.

Many pay lip-service to the principle, but few delegate authority in important matters. All they delegate are menial tasks. A real leader does as much dogsbody work for his people as he can: he can do it, or see a way to do without it, ten times as fast. And he delegates as many important matters as he can because that creates a climate in which people grow.

### Objectives.

One of the important functions of a leader is to make the organization concentrate on its objectives. It isn't easy to concentrate. I used to keep a sign opposite my desk where I couldn't miss it if I was on the phone: "Is what I'm doing or about to do getting us closer to our objective?" That sign saved me from a lot of useless trips, lunch dates, conferences, junkets and meetings.

### Promises.

Keep them. The world is divided into two classes of people: the few who make good their promises and the many who don't. Get in column A and stay there.

### Hiring.

Get to know all the candidates as well as you can. Take your time; listen to their life stories. If they all look good and you have trouble making a final selection, here is an idea that may help: hire the one you would rather work for.

### Firing.

This is always unpleasant, but it has to be done occasionally. If someone isn't producing after a year, admit that you were wrong. Keeping that employee is unfair to others who must make up for his failure. And it's unfair to him. He might do well in another company or industry.

### Keep in touch.

One manufacturing company has a busy reception area, with pick-up, delivery and sales to walk-in customers. To make sure the bosses never forget how to look a customer in the eye, each executive must spend two hours a month on the reception desk, even the president.

### Leadership.

How do you spot a leader? They come in all ages, shapes, sizes and conditions. Some are poor administrators, some are not overly bright. One clue: since most people per se are mediocre, the true leader can be recognized because his people consistently turn in superior performances.

### Growth.

This is a by-product of the pursuit of excellence and not itself a worthy goal. If employees and customers know that your goal is excellence, then you've done your job.

L e t

everybody enjoy being part of the best even if it's not the biggest.

### Reorganizing.

Should be undergone about as often as major surgery. And should be as well planned and as swiftly executed.

### Thanks.

A really neglected form of compensation.

From Robert Townsend: *Up the Organization*, (Revised edition, 1984)

# كمارات

السيجارة الأكثر مبيعاً في اليمن



افخر تبغ طازج يمكن شراؤه

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## PERSONAL VIEW

### DIALOGUE ON THE CONSTITUTION



**HUSAIN ALI AL-HUBAISHI**  
Member of Parliament and Jurist;  
Former Minister of State for Legal Affairs,  
North Yemen's Lead Negotiator and  
Signatory to the Constitution

Yemen today witnesses a serious debate on the constitution. If we analyze the parties to the current "dialogue", we can identify three sides. One side is made up of the conservatives (the Islamic Bloc), the second side is represented by the radicals (Left), and the third group are the moderates (Liberals). The conservatives demand to amend the constitution or to postpone the plebiscite. In my opinion, the only competent authority to amend the constitution is the future parliament, so immediate amendment is out for legal reasons. Postponing the plebiscite would as well be unconstitutional because it has endorsed by the two parliaments and it was one of the conditions of unity.

Even while drafting the constitution, there were three sides. As an example, the conservatives had wanted the constitution to state that the "Sharia" is the sole source of legislation in Yemen. The radicals had proposed that the "Sharia" be one of many sources of legislation. We the moderates reached a compromise which states that the "Sharia" is the main source of legislation.

Actually, there is a misunderstanding of what actually the "Sharia" stands for. If it means the Quran and the Prophet's sayings and deeds, then there is no disagreement, because to us Muslims, they come from God. But if the Sharia includes "human efforts" such as *ijtihad* and *qiyas*, then these may change from time to time, because they are man-made.

It is true that the constitution represents a compromise, though not on the fundamental points. At the time of drafting the constitution (1971-82), there were two delegations, one each from former North and South Yemen. The delegation which I headed consisted of representatives from many factions including religious clergymen and learned theologians who would never have agreed to the constitution if it embodied anti-Islamic tenets. Some people ask me what would happen if a high percentage of Yemenis boycott the referendum. The answer is simple. The results would be as if the majority said "No" to the constitution. So the status quo will remain in force, and a new group will be asked to redraft the constitution.

## REVIEW OF THE YEMENI PRESS

**AL-AYYAM,**  
27/3/1991

### "Chemical and Nuclear Waste Dumped in Yemen"

Al-Ayyam sources learnt that the Government of the USA sent a letter through its ambassador in Sanaa informing the Yemeni Government that the vessel carrying nuclear waste and other poisonous material has left the USA and is on its way to Yemen. Definite proof was gathered indicating that storage places were built in Yemen to serve as a dump depot for such material which are dubbed locally as "insecticide and chemical material". It was further learnt that some of the nuclear waste is of German origin. The German Government has already promised to help the Yemeni government in disposing of this material. The waste was imported by merchants in collaboration with certain officials in government.

It is worth mentioning that around September, 1990, large quantities of fish were found dead around the Yemeni and Djibouti coastal areas, probably due to the contamination of the sea by dumping some of this same nuclear and chemical waste.

**ATTAGAMMU'**  
1 April, 1991

### "No to the Leadership"

Only recently, we have been receiving "clergymen" and their circulars and flyers coming from Tayef (in Saudi Arabia) preaching religious politics. The earlier efforts had attempted to abort the republic, later efforts aimed at hindering the unity, and now we have concerted efforts against the constitution. These efforts which use religion to reach their political goals have taken many shapes and faces. The new waves and campaigns against the constitution have been met with a resolute and strong opposition from the people and the government. The call to fight the constitution is an old one dating back to the days of the Imam, although today, the campaign has taken a new twist - by accusing it of being anti-Islamic.

The strange development in all of this is that as such campaigns are isolated and almost defeated, the political leadership gives them support and new ammunition. Sometimes it is by making new committee made up of so-called religious theologians, and sometimes it is by receiving memorandums from political parties which have yet to accept the fact that individuals can enjoy personal liberty. The political leadership has no right to accept an issue not under its domain. Issuing a statement by the government regarding the constitution, or taking any steps in this regard. The final step against the political legitimacy of the system is going to be manifested by the return of the nationalist forces to real opposition. Things are getting clearer regarding the cozy rapprochement between the opposition right, and the ruling group, and we are not at all surprised. But we only demand that the Presidential Council is not going to become an outlet for illegitimate and undemocratic demands.

**26th September**  
28 March, 1991

### "Escalating Prices"

One whole year has passed since I wrote an article in this paper warning against the hysterical increase of prices. I thought the authorities would seriously look into this phenomenon which threatens the livelihood of the citizens. It seems, however that the authorities are oblivious and do not hear or see anything, and do not care whether the citizen is affected or not by the insane rise in prices. I repeat once again today that prices have multiplied many times. There is no reaction to such increase from the government even with the direct effect on employees with fixed incomes. This has been overlooked by the authorities although all the officials are aware of this grave phenomenon, yet they are not taking any action. In view of this situation, attention should be focussed on this phenomenon by all of us immediately. It must be tackled in a responsible way before we lose control over it. Attention must be drawn to the consequences which will arise if prices

continue to rise in the same rate. We specially draw attention to the following:

1. Floating the currency and weakening it to such an extent that it has become insufficient to meet the essential requirements for family expenses and thus placing economic pressure.
2. Creation of economic problems and conditions of continued crisis intended to deal a blow to the economy of the country from within.
3. To corner the employees and to push them to commit economic crimes such as embezzlement, bribery, administrative negligence and carelessness and other acts of sabotage which are detrimental to public interest.
4. Creation of public discontent as a result of the insane escalation of prices without any hope of remedy from the authorities.

These four factors and others constitute, in my opinion, the most important reason which should motivate the authorities concerned to focus attention on rising prices and the high cost of living. These conditions through which the country is passing, particularly after being targeted from within and without make us all attend to this matter. After our unity our state has become stronger and the internal front became more cohesive as proved by the test we have just passed after the Gulf crisis has come to an end. But another stage, to bring down Yemen's people and regime, may have started. Under cover of increased prices which rose without any restraint, we are facing a new challenge. The insane price increase and the rising cost of foreign currencies, which exceeded 100% over the last year alone made of the citizen an easy prey of the greedy merchants and brokers and created a state of public discontent. The burden has become unbearable and intolerable. Are the authorities concerned doing something about this. We are facing an organized economic war which goes on in connected links, leading to the loss of confidence of the people in the authority and regime. We are drawing attention to the gravity of the situation which is deteriorating more everyday.

**Muhammed Khamis**  
Al-Aulaqi

**Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters**

As a service to the expatriate community as well as interested segments of the Yemeni society, YEMEN TIMES will publish from time to time articles and letters introducing schools, clubs, and other facilities available in Yemen. We start with the Indian School in Sanaa.

### The Indian School

by: Allan Benjamin

**The Indian Embassy School in Sana'a. is run by the Indian Embassy, since it is oriented primarily towards Indian children in Sana'a. The Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen is the Chairman and Chief Patron of the School. His wife is the President of the Executive Committee. Presently, the school has classes from Kindergarten to the Seventh Standard (grade) and plans to open higher classes each year till the school is upgraded to the secondary level. Thus Standard (Grade) VIII will be introduced during the academic year starting in JULY 1991. At the moment, application is on file for affiliation to the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi.**

**The medium of instruction is English, and the curriculum includes the regular subjects such as Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and modern languages. Curricular Activities include Education, Art and Craft, and Socially Useful Productive Work. Co-curricular Activities include Physical Education, Sports, Table Tennis, Football, Cricket, Kho Kho, Batminton and Volley Ball. Extra Curricular Activities include Singing, Dancing, Dramatics, Computer Science, Hikes, Excursions, Gardening, etc.**

**The school has the typical facilities like an auditorium, library, a Science laboratory, computers, and a small cafeteria. Educational aids such as video and audio facilities are also available. The academic staff are all graduates or post graduates in their subjects and over 70% of the staff have a teaching degree in addition to their qualifications. The school curriculum followed is prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, India.**

**The aim of the school is to remain reasonably exclusive, while admitting a few English speaking students from other nationalities. The overall objective is to maintain a high standard of academics, giving students a liberal education.**



## **THE INFLUENCE OF THE WEST ON YEMENI CULTURE**

by: Gilbert Maano

Just when the weather turns hot, the air dust is active, and the desert is expanding its sand dunes, the Ramadhan season arrives in Yemen. It begins in the middle of March with families especially children eager to wait for this holy month. Then during the end of Ramadhan, people shop for new clothes and make merry. Their hearts warm up in the hot summer. They find compassion for strangers and they remember there are miracles. Some of them stayed home focussing on their own families and towns. Others went to discover far away places and rituals. Yemeni traditions during Ramadhan remained visible despite the Western cultural influences in the country. Islam is one of the world's greatest religions. As a non Muslim, I mean, it brought relief and peace of mind to millions of people including the Yemenis. It has given them dignity and meaning to drab impoverished lives. It taught them to live in brotherhood and live side by side in reasonable tolerance.. But Islam, like other religions has also known periods when it inspired in some of its followers a mood of hatred and violence. This hatred is directed to us at non Muslims. Foreigners like us share with the Yemenis some basic cultural, moral, social and political beliefs and aspirations; yet, there is still an imposing foreign influence - cultural, economic, diplomatic and others..

After the discovery of oil in the country, and after tourist boom, and as the good news about the beauty of Yemen spread, developments brought many Western values to the country. An increasing number of Yemenis went to the West and East, first as students, then as businessmen or visitors and eventually as immigrants. The cinema and television as well as Western and Japanese products reached the remotest parts of the country, winning new customers and perhaps more importantly creating new tastes and ways of life. At first, the people's response to the Western civilization was one of admiration and emulation. This desire arose from a keen and growing awareness of the weakness and backwardness of the Islamic world as compared with the advanced West.. Yemeni writers observed and described the wealth and power of the West, its science and technology, its industries and its forms of government. Several generations of reformers and modernizers tried to adapt these in the hope that they would be able to achieve equality. In part this mood is surely due to a feeling of humiliation - a growing awareness among the heirs of an old, proud and long dominant civilisation. They feel they have been overtaken, even overwhelmed by those whom they regarded as their inferiors. In time the numbers of the reformers increased, but they remained isolated from masses - differing from them in their way

of dressing and of life. Inevitably they were seen as agents and collaborators. The backlash was very enormous.

It is hardly surprising that people were willing to listen to voices telling them that the old culture was best and that their only salvation was to throw aside the pagan innovations of the reformers and return to the true path that God has prescribed for his people. The war against modernity is for the most part neither conscious nor explicit and is directed against the whole process of change that has taken place in the Islamic World in the past century or more. Islamic fundamentalism has given an aim and a form to the otherwise aimless and formless resentment and anger of the Muslim masses at the forces that have devalued their traditional values and loyalties and, to an increasing extent, to even their livelihood..

To outsiders, especially Westerners and Europeans, Yemen was still associated with the past: antiques, cultures and historical place. They look upon it as nothing but a small country in the Arab World emerging out of sand. Yet Yemenis are to blame for their over eagerness to catch up with the West. Old mud brick houses were replaced by new ones with modern architecture. Even the wall surrounding the old city of Sana'a was destructed, except the gates. Modernization and expansion occurred at the expense of tradition and heritage. All this change took place rapidly. While some other Arab countries started to be invaded by Western cultures, Yemen still resisted the influence of Western civilization. But change seems inevitable. The discovery of oil and the historical unity brought fast urban renewal. The old traditional customs were demolished and replaced by modern ones. The advent of such trends threatened the traditional Yemeni way of life. The wheel of time has turned in Yemen..



# THE THRONE OF QUEEN BILQIS

Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Vice President, for Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums.

In the southern part of Marib Oasis lie two famous historical monuments. One may see them from afar, characterised by their majestic and gigantic pillars which rise in a colossal manner above two archaeological tells. Both monuments are attributed to the Queen of Saba (Sheba): Bilqis. The first is called "Mahram Bilqis" and the second is called "Throne of Bilqis". The notion that Bilqis or the Queen of Saba lived in Mareb became an established fact through both the Bible and the Quran. The argument which is commonly heard among both laymen and scholars, denying the authenticity of the name and existence of the Queen, because of the lack of archaeological evidence, does not have any logical proof, except the mere "logic of negation". One thing is sure- the story of the Queen existed for the last three thousand years unceasingly. It is true that an archaeological evidence is still lacking, but the anti argument lacks much more. Besides, no one argues the fact that Marib was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Saba and that the kingdom did establish one of the most prosperous civilizations in the ancient Near East. However, the claim that the two or even more monuments in Mareb belong to the Queen of Saba as it is commonly maintained, is rather legendary than being a historical fact.

In both sites there have been archaeological excavations and it was found out that both were the relics of the Sabaean temples which might have been used through the first millennium.

The word "Mahram" means in fact, temple, but the temple was not the house of Bilqis. It was the house of the God (Elmaqah) the moon God of the Sabaeans and the real name of the temple was (Awwam) which means the asylum or the shelter.

The German Archaeological Institute in Sana'a, in three consequent seasons, carried out recently a scientific dig in the site called "the throne of Bilqis" and the findings proved undoubtedly that it was also a temple with the name Br'an) which was built to worship the Sabaean Moon God "El Maqah" and other Sabaean Gods. The excavation in Bar'an Temple (the

throne of Bilqis) did not only expose to the world of archaeology one of the most interesting sites in the Archaeology of Yemen but it also inaugurates the first systematic archaeological



work in Yemen. In 1989, the German Archaeological Institute launched the first campaign in the process of digging up the past at the site of "the throne of Bilqis". By the beginning of this year, three campaigns have already been completed. The director of the excavating expedition estimates that there are still three more seasons to accomplish the excavation of the whole site. In the progress report of the third season, the director, Professor J. Schmidt, summarised the main results as follows:

As in the previous season works have been concentrated on the western half of the temple complex yielding a major breakthrough of our understanding of both the original architectural layout and the occupational patterns. Three major components of the temple complex can be distinguished:

1. The temple standing on a platform
2. A deeper frontal courtyard.
3. The external mud brick enclosure plus the later annexes.

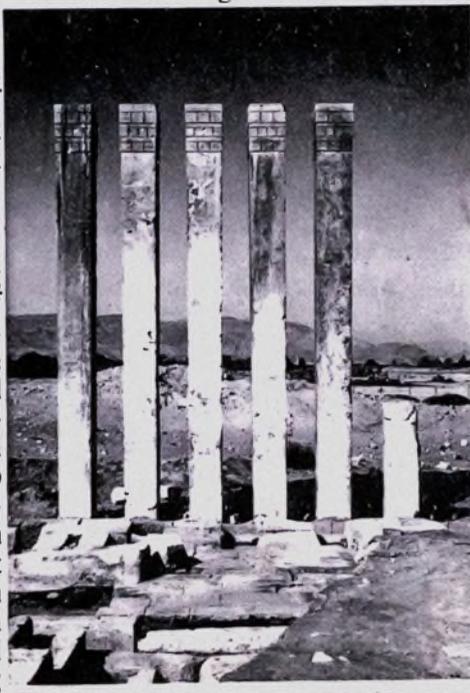
Its foundations (i.e., the platform of the temple) have not been reached yet but the general impression is that of a massive and strong sub-structure explaining well the stability of the remaining pylon pillars. The temple pylon and the adjacent courtyard are connected by a rather steep flight of stairs frontally projecting from the pillars. The most prominent feature in the courtyard is a cubic shaped well with ashlar facing

(i.e., the well is built internally with well-cut stones) and a monolithic limestone slab on top. Small artefacts were found in great number mainly coming from the courtyard and the area be-

tween the courtyard and the mud brick enclosure. They include large amounts of pottery, metal artefacts, altars, etc. Inscriptions and fragments of them were found in several places some of them still in the original position. The report does not include the details of the temple complex but it shows clearly that it was a huge temple which was rebuilt several times. The sum total of the various clues suggest that the temple was built in the first half of the first millennium, (before the 5th century BC).

One thing was missed in the report of the German archaeologists- namely reference to the fact that, the colossal monument in Mareb was undoubtedly not "the throne of Bilqis". Perhaps, they thought that it was not necessary. After all, they found nothing but a temple. In the heart of that complex they saw an altar and never a throne.

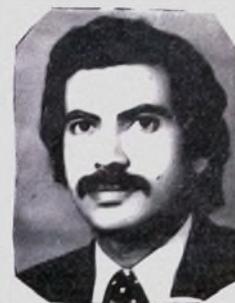
But who knows?. Bilqis was not only a queen, she was a good believer too!



TEMPLE OF AQMAQAH - BAR'AN 1

# THE MYTH OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Dr. Muhammed A. Qasim  
College of Education,  
Sanaa University



It is a well known fact that one of the aims of the educational system of any country is to produce a harmonious society. In order to reach this noble goal, children, from the very beginning of their school lives, are exposed, through the school of course, to similar subjects, similar teaching methods and a similar educational environment. It is hoped that all of these commonalities will create not only social harmony, but also social unity. Some educationists, however, do not accept this conclusion. They indicate that this approach only sounds logical, and even then only at the theoretical level; that is, similar educational inputs yield similar output. They maintain that this logic is applicable in only one case - when we deal with machines, and not human beings, and when we can control all the educational variables. It is quite evident that we deal here with a broad and sophisticated three-sided environment. Education starts from the level of planning and policies which are reflected in the educational system and curricula, to the implementing and executing agencies (the schools), and finally to the home environment. The three sided educational equation is quite difficult to be adequately control, and its future results are almost unpredictable. The above belief, therefore, is neither accurate in theory nor in practice.

Of course, we partially agree with such reservations. The educational system cannot produce total social harmony and tranquility. As a matter of fact, education almost always socializes people on the values and philosophies of those who control power in society. In addition, educational policy makers and curricula developers do not socially belong to the disadvantaged and poor classes, and they aspire to the culture of the upper strata of society. Therefore, their negligence of the disadvantaged groups and their aspiration to belong to the privileged class play a major role in formulating the educational philosophy and curricula. Such philosophy and curricula usually serve not all the people and the society at large, but the elites and their culture. This is the more reason to pay more attention to this

matter, and to reduce any additional disparities in society.

The school environment and teachers' attitudes stand play a major role in shaping our future generations. They, directly or indirectly, make young people imitate the elite culture and values. All of these handicap the ordinary people as well as the popular culture.

Despite the fact that the current Yemeni public educational system already recreates the elite social value system and serves the interests of those who control power in society, they are not satisfied enough. They need a system which will directly serve their interests. They, therefore, promote the private educational system. And they have succeeded in convincing the officials in charge of education of the necessity of such a system. They presented very weak justifications to achieve their goal, but it worked anyhow. They claimed that the government cannot do everything alone, and it is the citizens' duty to share the responsibility with the government and contribute to educational growth. The regret is that the officials welcomed this justification and granted them permission for starting private schools.

Unlike public education, private education clearly promotes social and economic injustice. First of all, the children enrolled in such a system usually come from wealthy families- merchants and top government officials. Second, the nature of its social environment and curricula enhance and strengthen social stratification.

Finally, private education produces people who often look down upon their society's culture, on the one hand, and they cherish the Western culture, on the other hand. In simple and plain language, private education, despite its alleged advantages, adopts and fosters society's dependence on the outside world. It also hinders society's orientation towards a democratic environment that rests on justice and social equality. It is time to reconsider our multi-educational system, and to open our eyes to the myth of the so called benefits of private schools.

# SPORTS

## WINDSURFING AT HODEIDAH BEACH

Over the past few years, Hodeidah witnessed the coming of a new kind of sport never seen before in Yemen. The sport was introduced by foreigners who were working in Hodeidah—mostly American Peace Corps volunteers, Filipino, British and Dutch experts in the various projects. This sport requires only a board and a sail. However, it was not seriously taken and only individually exercised till late last year when a windsurfers club was born in Hodeidah. Last week, the most awaited Invitational Windsurfing Exhibition match among the club members was held. Local spectators got a chance and were delighted

with the sudden emergence of Hercules "Boy" Reyes, an impressive late starter who started training a year ago. "I just watched their boarding techniques and I got it," he says referring to the well trained Americans. Boy Reyes is strong, determined and impressive. He has an arsenal of the sports techniques at his disposal that are the envy of every windsurfer. Since he started, Reyes repertoire includes the roll around, in which the surfer turns the sail against the wind while sailing in order to attain the maximum speed of 6 knots or 60 kilometers per hour. He had tried it many times during training and he could never succeed. Only

Bureau of Forest Development and Nenita Reyes - Manager of Loyola Life Plan in the Philippines. "This sport never came into my mind until I came to Hodeidah and watched them playing the game". He says with a broad smile. Today he is a powerful windsurfer. His skills also include suicidal routines in which he rockets out of the water and spins the sail completely around. He speaks softly and gently. Off the beach, Hercules "Boy" Reyes is mild mannered and amiable, the sort of guy a friend calls in the middle of the night with a plea to pick him up at a bus or taxi station. On the water, he is a hard-nosed and single-minded windsurfer. He shouts to a teammate "Beat the wind." The first time I saw him, I thought he was the meanest Filipino in Hodeidah. But now, I know better. Boy Reyes is hardworking and driven in whatever he does. He was a clever student in high school and the Marine Engineering College. "He wants to do everything just right," says one of his friends.

That desire is evident in the games. "The only way to learn windsurfing is to take it seriously and have enough patience," he says while sipping a cold drink. "There's one thing you can count on when you are doing the windsurfing. You won't hurt yourself," he says reassuringly. The sidelight of this year's exhibition is the absence of powerful and professional American windsurfers who used to practise with them. "If they were here, I expect a very stiff and hard competition." The group trains every Thursdays and Fridays for four hours to maintain their bodies finely tuned and to improve their skills. Sometimes they wouldn't be back home till 6:30 in the evening. Hard work pays off. Right now, Boy Reyes is the best windsurfer in Hodeidah. Keep in mind that he just started training a year ago and continues to improve. The only obstacle he has in his training is his working hours schedule. In his practice that afternoon,

on the beach, Boy Reyes stayed more than four hours under the heat of the sun without interruption.



His dedication to hard work is amazing. "Those guys are so talented, they might develop into the finest players of Hodeidah," says one spectator. For a small place like Hodeidah with a small population, the city has turned out a disproportionate share of the city's premier wind surfers.

Yemeni youngsters have shown increasing interest in this sport. Of course, they have more time for football, table tennis, volleyball or other tradition. But interest in surfing is already very evident. "Is there a possibility of opening a windsurfing sporting school for youngsters who want to learn the sport?" one young Yemeni asked me. I turned the question to one of the surfers. "It is very much possible to provide a high level of instruction for all age levels," he replied. Ironically there are two prerequisites

before the game can be popular here. First is specially designed windsurfers board (they are specially designed) have to be made available. Second more interest from the people will have to be mobilized.

But everybody is hopeful. With the coming of more foreigners, and the return of some of the old friends, the game will be more popular as its activities become more frequent. Already, a few of the locals are learning the game. Together, the foreigners and locals will enjoy a thrilling and overwhelming sport. Spectators will reap some of the benefits by watching with amazement those water tricks. Already, a good part of town comes out to watch the competitions. You do not have to go to the Pacific to enjoy surfing any more.

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to see the surfers parading in colorful boards and sail. Headed by a Filipino team of Hercules Reyes and Noli Dizon from the Yemany Juice Factory and an Irish guy named Oliver Morgan from the AZTRACON company. They skills and speed of the movements astounded the Yemeni spectators who gasped, "They are running over water." The exhibition last week was organized by Hercules "Boy" Reyes, 30, from the Philippines who surprised the viewers with his powerful arms and techniques. Despite the absence of the well experienced American Peace Corps surfers, this exhibition went really well. Some of the spectators were surprised

lately did he succeed after he tried it over and over. There was no dishonor in that. The only surfers who did it successfully are the professionals who have been working on it for long time. Asked if warming up is necessary to condition the body, "Not necessarily" Boy Reyes replied. Wind direction and speed are the important factors in this game. With breathtaking wind and water techniques, his routines are extremely difficult. Hercules "Boy" Reyes, a technician at Yemany Juice Factory for three years comes from Tarlac - the province of President Corazon Aquino. One of six kids of Bartolome Reyes - Assistant Director of the



# PRESIDENT SALEH CALLS FOR RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL CONDUCT

On the 31st of March, and within the Ramadhan evening meetings attended by the Vice President, Members of the Presidential Council, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and representatives of the political parties, President Ali Abdulla Saleh said, "By the collaboration of all sincere hands in the Republic, we will build a New Yemen". Our people are the safety valve that guarantees and resists any steps to violate Yemeni unity. He added that hostile efforts will collide against the rocks of the principles of the September and October Revolutions and the national awareness of the people.

President Saleh stressed the importance of combatting all forms of financial and administrative misconduct such as bribery, favoritism and all negative behavior that hinders building the country.

The Presidential Council is in the process of promulgating forty eight laws that will accelerate dissolving the effects of separation by unifying our systems specially in the field of legislations and reinforcing the supremacy of the Yemeni state, President Saleh said.

Democracy under the umbrella of unity should be maintained and should not be irresponsibly exploited by any political force. We ought to make use of this democratic atmosphere and enrich it by responsible practices away from fanaticism, radicalism and abuse of each other. The concept of democracy is contrary to abuse of others. Of course this does not negate responsible criticism directed to tackle all political, economic and social ills. This is the right line which we all propogate and reinforce, President Saleh said. Referring to the multiparty system, President Saleh said, "It is a great credit. We should maintain this credit which allowed all of us to exercise political functions in an open manner and through legal democratic

platforms instead of underground." The president then pointed out that Yemen suffers from acute economic problems as a result of the international economic changes and conspiracies against Yemeni unity. After the failure of all these conspiracies, the economic front has emerged as a new arena as a conspiracy front.

There are also heavy economic burdens and the country has no exports except limited quantities of oil, which earn hard currency revenues to barely cover the cost of commodity needs. The government has embraced all the political apparatus of both parts of Yemen which has added further financial obligations. At present both the people and government are suffering from economic difficulties and all the political forces are supposed to be aware of it. Such a situation should always be explained to the Council of Deputies, President Saleh said.

President Saleh added that Yemen's stand towards the Gulf crisis has been balanced although it had been distorted and wrongly interpreted. Yemen has exerted all efforts to end this crisis by peaceful means within the Arab and Islamic framework and had no ill intentions against anyone. In view of its stand, Yemen shouldered considerable burdens, and was subjected to irresponsible acts and media campaigns but the Yemeni people proved their resolute nature in confronting all these challenges. President Saleh then affirmed that Yemen will never abandon its sovereign and independent decision-making rights. It will deal with all parties on the basis of mutual respect, non interference in others'

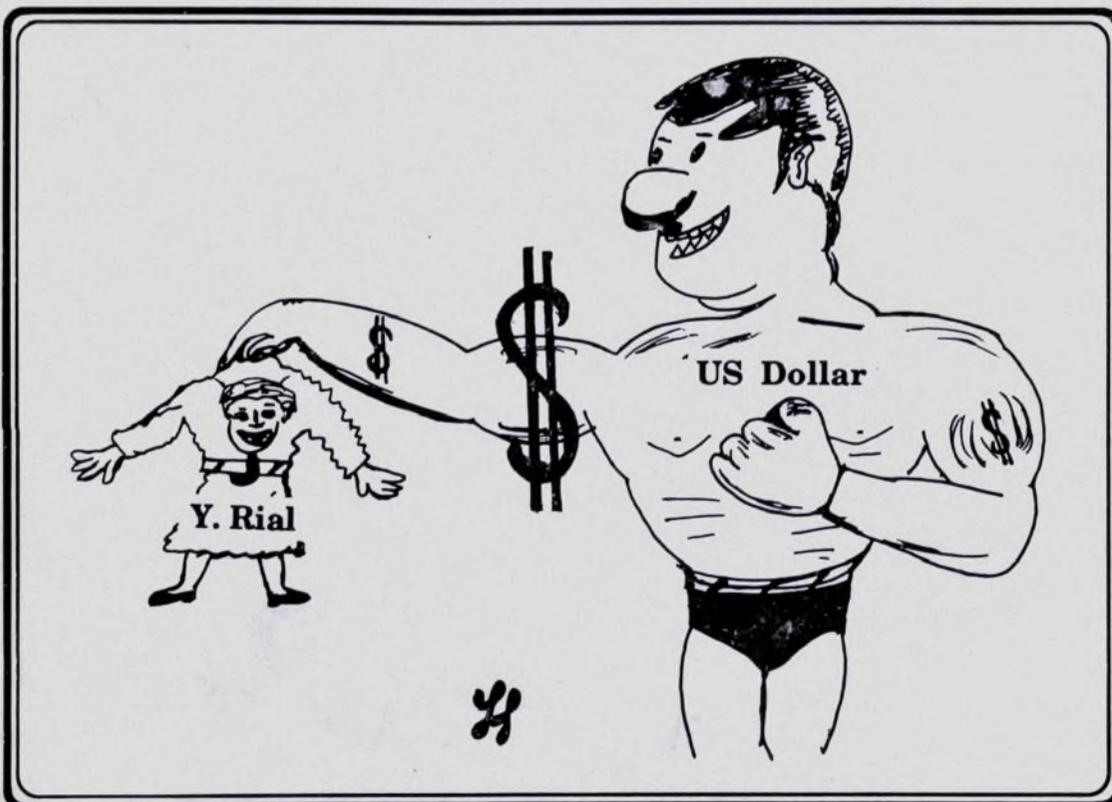


achieve national developments and to export our resources and mineral wealth for the progress and prosperity of our people, the President said.

The floor was then opened for comments from the participants whose remarks focussed on the necessity to rationalize expenditures, limiting luxury consumption, preserving public funds, taking practical and effective means to keep down high costs of living and prices, confrontation of all forms of the economic sabotage, protecting the national currency by accelerating the issue of the law to unify the currency, rationalize the import policy and set up economic policies that guarantee the development of the natural resources and economic production.

Concluding this Ramadhan session, Vice President Ali Saleem Al Beedh hailed the opinions and concepts demonstrated during this session and said, "We in the Presidential Council will take up all the positive remarks and make the best use of them. This democratic dialogue represents a practical image of our democratic heritage."

We have now thirty two political parties in our country. This is a positive phenomenon which should be accepted in a democratic spirit. It is natural and it emerged as a result of the long suppression of our people. The Yemeni people have suffered in the past from radicalism of the right and the left. We ought to reject both of them and never allow ourselves to be their victims again, Al Beedh said. The Vice President pointed out to the importance of the participation of all factions and parties for the establishment of the appropriate alliance for the general interest of Yemen. Referring to the referendum of the Constitution, Al Beedh said, this will lead the people to closer unity. "We have to be keen on unity, avoid captivation and bloodshed resulting from vengeance and exert our efforts to reinforce the supremacy of law and order," he said.



internal affairs, common interests and the development of relations and cooperation. We have to depend on ourselves for building our country, seek to mobilize all our efforts to