



INSIDE

**Dr. Iryani
Reflects on the
First Year of
the Republic of
Yemen**
p. 16



**Al-Khader Talks About Business
Prospects in Aden.** p. 7

- **Dr. Yusuf Moh'd
Abdullah Reveals
Symbolism in Our
Culture.** p. 4
- **Dr. Al-Maqaleh
Examines New
Literary Trends.**
p. 10
- **Choudhary Lists
Seven Conditions
for Development.**
p. 15

صحيفة «ين تايمز» تتقدم باحر التهامي القلبية للشعب اليمني ولقيادته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى لقيام الجمهورية اليمنية

OUR VIEWPOINT

YEMEN LIVES A NEW AGE!

It was exactly one year ago that the Republic of Yemen was born as a result of a merger between the formerly North and South Yemen. Throughout this first year, efforts to consolidate the unity continued unabated. The process is not yet complete. Many organizations continue to negotiate merger plans and steps, certain elements of the army have yet to be fully unified, pockets of holdovers remain within the bureaucracy, and total harmonization of the two former administrative structures is not yet final. Be that as it may, the new state is a reality with which everybody has to reckon. There is one government, there is one leadership, and increasingly, there is one system. Even the currency is becoming unified as the Riyal is gaining in acceptance and circulation on a de facto basis. The Republic of Yemen has become a real and lasting entity. The sooner everybody accepts this reality and works with it, the easier and safer life will be for all.

The Republic of Yemen has an area of 536,000 square kms, a population of 14.6 million, and a Gross Domestic Product of almost ten billion US dollars. The Republic of Yemen is the Arabian Peninsula's only democracy, works on a multiparty political system, enjoys a free press, and follows a market-oriented economic policy.

Some people may still wishfully wait for things to go wrong and the republic to fall apart. Of course, some things could go wrong, as in all other countries. But the republic will not fall apart. It is a pity that those people could not yet come to grips with the new realities. The new Yemen is not the Yemen of the 1960s or the 1970s, or even of the 1980s. It is a confident country which has taken its decisions in its hands and decided to chart out its course towards a brighter future. There is no returning to the past and its weaknesses.

The Publisher

Noman : " The Parliament Is Gradually Using Its Powers."

YEMEN TIMES interviewed the Speaker of the Council of Deputies, Dr Yasseen Saeed Noman. Before the interview, Dr. Noman expressed his appreciation of and support for the YEMEN TIMES. "It has become Yemen's window to the rest of the world," he said. He added, "I am happy to see this objective, long needed, met successfully by the YEMEN TIMES." Following are excerpts of the interview.



Q. How do you assess the first year of the unity ?

A. There has been a deep and general feeling of delight and ecstasy among all Yemenis on the accomplishment of this great target. The tasks of building the institutions of this new state took up most of our time and there is much more to be completed. The Council of Deputies has shouldered much responsibilities in studying, discussing and approving over twenty five laws, and many agreements and legislations. The unity of Yemen has brought with it many accomplishments. The unification by itself is, of course, a major accomplishment. Other achievements include the freedom of the press, the multiparty system, the democratic atmosphere and the peaceful interaction among the Yemeni people in handling the issues.

Continued on page 3.

It is "YES!"

The results are in, and it is "YES!". The Yemeni people have voted "Yes" to the constitution. According to the final results, the number of persons who registered to vote were 1,890,646 and the number of persons who actually made it to the polls and voted was 1,364,788 of which about 8.2% are females. Of these, a total of 1,341,247 persons voted "yes". Thus 98.3% of the total voters gave a positive vote. The number of persons who voted "No!" was 20,409 or about 1.5%. A total of 3,132 votes were discarded due to faults in the way the answer was given. Thus, the Constitution has become a legally binding document.

At another level, the Yemeni people are celebrating the first anniversary of the Republic of Yemen. Popular folk groups, and organized bands are swarming the streets and squares of the major towns singing and dancing in glorify of the new Republic. Over forty friendly countries have sent delegates to participate in the celebrations of Yemen on the occasion. The birth of the Republic of Yemen has triggered a sense of euphoria, confidence and enthusiasm in Yemen. This atmosphere is helping build the new nation.



YEMEN TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

An Independent Political Weekly
Published by Yemen Times
Publisher : Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Editorial & Management Staff:
Chairman and CEO: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Editor-in-Chief : Abdul-Rahman Al-Haideri
Sports page: Gilbert SJ Maano
Typesetting: Yahia Yusuf Hudeidi
Photography: Faisal Al-Qirby
Accountant: Abdul-Rahman Ahmed Naji
Editorial & Management Address:
P. O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.
Telephones : 236434/35

Advertising to be agreed upon with management.

PERSONAL VIEW

ADEN MUST PREPARE TO WELCOME TOURISTS



AWADH MOHAMMED SALEH
GENERAL MANAGER
ADEN MOVENPICK HOTEL

Aden has been chosen as the economic and commercial capital of Yemen; it is also chosen as the site of the free zone. Therefore, it is only natural that it should be the destination of many businessmen, officials and entrepreneurs. At the same time, the rich cultural and historical wealth of the neighboring areas attract floods of tourists to Aden. So we should ask ourselves, is Aden ready to welcome all these visitors?

The Aden Movenpick hotel is running at almost full capacity. With renovations and some investments, some fifty more rooms could be added, but that is the limit. By the end of 1991, there will be a visible shortage of hotel facilities in the city. Thus, it is necessary to think about increasing hotel capacities immediately. Building new hotels will take time, at least two years. The best solution at this stage is to up-grade the existing facilities. The Gold Mohur, Ambassador, and 26th September hotels could be upgraded to three and four-star hotels with limited new investments; the chalets and resorts can also be upgraded rather rapidly. At the same time, serious steps must be taken to build new hotels immediately.

Other services oriented towards tourists are also needed urgently. Tourist guides, decent transportation, maps of touristic sites, picture postcards, etc., are very much needed. The government could help by starting cleaning the shores and some of the roads, by establishing tourist police, and by asking tourists for feedback at exit points before their departure. The private sector could invest in tourist dhows and boats carrying people between Aden and Mukalla, or Aden and Mokha. Investments in accommodations and rest-houses along the way to Hadhramaut are also a good investment. Travel and tourist agencies will do well to open up offices in the major tourist sites.

The future of tourism and business in Aden is very promising, but we have to prepare for it.

■ Iryani Optimistic on Inter-Arab Relations

On his return from Cairo after participating in the 59th session of the Arab League, Dr Abdul Karim Al Iryani, Foreign Minister, said that the current session has been of historic significance and has deep implications for the future of the Arab League and the return of inter-Arab solidarity and confidence. Dr Iryani said that the members unanimously elected Dr Ismail Abdul Majeed as Secretary General of the Arab League. After being elected, Dr Abdul Majeed delivered a speech in which he expressed optimism on the restoration of inter-Arab relations to their (pre Gulf crisis) levels. Dr Iryani affirmed that the present session of the Arab League has been a watershed in the history of the Arab League as well as inter-Arab relations. The meeting is undoubtedly the first step towards healing wounds and achieving a unified position on regional and international issues.

■ New Communications Services to Mark Unity Day

"To mark Unity Day, a number of telecommunication services will be inaugurated, said Mr Mohamed Al Arashi, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Telecommunications. The services include the new international telephone lounge in the building of the ministry in Tahrir Square. The capacity of this exchange is 8000 lines. Another section of the lounge will house a computer center and a rural communication station. Other new services include two new telephone exchanges in Taiz and Dhamar, a new electronic exchange in Al Beidha, 200km south east of Sana'a.

Simultaneously, foundation stones will be laid for a central telephone exchange (4500 lines) in Aden, and for a communications building in Socotra island. Expansion of rural telephone services will be provided in Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Lahaj, Hadhramaut and Shabwah governorates.

■ DEVELOPMENT ISSUES DISCUSSED WORLD BANK

Abdulla Saeed Abdan, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Development (Aden Branch), met with a World Bank mission to review several development issues in particular those relating to road construction and maintenance. Both parties reviewed the execution of the fourth and fifth World Bank financing packages for road projects in the southern and eastern governorates.

مجموعة شركات عذبان

تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته
وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

ADHBAN GROUP COMPANIES
CONGRATULATE THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND
LEADERSHIP ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN



THE ADHBAN COMPANIES:
WORKING FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF YEMEN



Continuation of Interview with the Speaker of Parliament: "PARLIAMENT IS GRADUALLY EXERCISING ITS POWERS"

During this first year, the Gulf crisis overwhelmed us and left a serious impact on the domestic economic situation. Even under such conditions, much has been achieved in the first year of the Republic of Yemen.

Q. One of the priorities of the current parliament has been to establish basic guidelines to organize the conduct of its members. Could you comment?

A. The by-laws of the Council organize such matters. But it is difficult to regulate the social life of the members outside the Council. Moreover, the Council has not received any major complaints regarding the conduct of the representatives of the people.

Q. The Yemeni society sees the Council of Deputies as the safety valve in protecting its infant democracy. What are the difficulties you faced in exercising your legal powers?

A. The people themselves ought to get used to parliamentary life. They should exercise all their powers through their deputies freely. Since the first day, the present council has demonstrated its drive to shoulder its duties as detailed in the constitution. Of course, the Council faced several difficulties, some of which were due to non-existence of appropriate parliamentary traditions although there were two parliaments before unity. Other difficulties were due to the slow pace of setting up specialized committees in the council itself. Finally certain governmental agencies did not understand accurately the functions of parliament. Therefore, it was unavoidable that clashes arise between the parliament and government on several issues such as high costs of living. The government refused to intervene leaving the market to toy with prices according to supply and demand. The Council of Deputies was of the opinion that the government should intervene to stop the price increases of the basic commodities. You see we were dealing with a distorted market, not a free market.



Q. How is it that the government decides not to heed the parliament's requests?

A. The parliament raised several issues with the government, in particular with the minister of oil and mineral resources and the minister of trade and supply. We stressed time and again that the cost of living has become unbearable. The last such occasion was in a meeting with the First Deputy Prime Minister. But the government continues to insist on handling matters in its own way. We now understand that the government has an economic reform package. Such a program was proposed by the parliament about seven months ago and was again demanded during our recent debates. I hope the government will realize that working together with everybody else is more productive than going about things its own way.

Q. It is reported that many members do not come to the parliamentary sessions. What is the system adopted in such matters?

A. The members can be divided into three categories. The first category comprises of those who are known for their punctuality and adherence to the rules. The second category comprises of those people who never attend the meetings. These are mostly government ministers who "can't come because they perform other (executive) duties", but we feel that they can. The third category is the one who could be described as in between. Despite this situation, quorum exists in all sessions thus enabling us to discuss and pass legislations.

Q. What are the major issues in your present agenda?

A. The law regulating political parties is in its final form. We have a number of economic agreements. There is a report filed on conditions in prisons, and another report about supply of commodities.

Q. The Council approved the 1991 government budget despite serious reservations. What were the deals?

A. We still have serious reservations on the budget, which is, according to the government itself, going to run a YR.16 billion deficit. We wish we had a real alternative at the time, but we did not. I think that our contribution and interaction will be more visible in the next budget. We hope that the government will look into the possibility of using the zero-base budgeting system. It may be more appropriate. It could enlist the support and help of experts, and not simply rely on its own personnel.


Q. Yemen and the Yemeni people have

been punished for the country's position on the Gulf crisis. How do you evaluate Yemen's handling of the crisis and the regional and international response to it?

A. I feel that we were misunderstood and mis-treated. We suffered very much at a time when we needed breathing space to enable us to finish building the unified Yemen. However, we coped with the problems successfully. This may be a blessing in disguise as we have now attended to agriculture as never before in the recent past. We have also learnt of the major significance of the media to us. We need to have our views presented to the outside world in a clear direct, and strong way.


Q. Some of the loans that were given to former North and South Yemen are becoming due shortly. Do you envisage any problems in this quarter? How far have we come in a new development plan?

A. The amounts becoming due for payment in this and next years are not exceptionally large. Even then, however, the debt burden is going to be a real headache. We are urging the government to work out a comprehensive plan to tackle this issue. We also expect our lenders to be understanding of our circumstances. Given our cordial relations, I don't foresee big problems in re-scheduling. Along the same lines, we also expect the government to initiate a master development plan for the country. This will help us judge all matters from a macro approach rather than a micro approach. All in all, I think our economic problems are manageable. The future prospects look promising, specially if we make the right decisions.




يوناييتد بنك ليمنيد
يتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني
قيادته وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

UNITED BANK LTD.
**CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI
PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY**



Pakistani President
Ghulam Ishaq-Khan



Yemeni President
Ali Abdullah Saleh

**TO BANK WITH CONFIDENCE AND TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT UNITED BANK LIMITED IN YEMEN AND
WORLDWIDE, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:**

General Manager's Office,
Abdul Mughni Street, Sanaa,
Telephone: 272424-247822
Fax: 274168, Tlx: 2228 PAKBNK YE

Branches:
1) Sanaa Branch,
Abdul Mughni Street;
2) Hodeidah Branch,
Al-Ikhwah Hotel Bldg.

SYMBOLISM IN YEMENI CULTURE

By Dr Yusuf Mohamed Abdulla, Vice President, The Organization for Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums

A symbol means literally, something that stands for or represents another thing; especially, an object used to represent something abstract. The dove is a symbol of peace, the lion is the symbol of courage, etc. In poetry symbols don't necessarily represent agreed upon things or ideas. Many of them may, in fact, be incoherent or even quite vague. Snow is a symbol of purity, but it is also a symbol of oblivion. The white tulip is a symbol of purity too but it may symbolize many other abstracts. Cultural symbols, however are different as they are generally agreed upon symbols and depict an ideal pattern or a "kulturgeist" of the people in a certain social context. They might be subjective and biased, but they are comprehensive and appealing. They are not like brand names of products which may achieve much fame but with little substance. For example, if Japan is mentioned, one may think at once of the brands like Toyota or Sony. But these brands are surely not the national symbols of Japan, neither Mercedes or Fiat are the national symbols of Germany or Italy. They do remind us of these countries but they don't represent the identity of the nations and they are not usually considered by those nations as national symbols which speak of their character and their true ethos. The English people would prefer to identify themselves with Shakespeare than with Big Ben and the French with Charlemagne rather than Champagne and the Yemenis with Qahtan rather than with Qat.

The Yemeni people, however, identify themselves with many cultural symbols, because they value highly the depth of the cultural heritage from which these symbols evolved, and which they reflect. The cultural heritage of a nation, plays, after all, a great role in shaping our present identity.. Continuity of the culture and traditions is a major factor in national unity

and cohesion. A promising future is inspired by the glorious past and a happy modern

Yemen does not negate Arabia Felix. Besides, cultural and historical comparisons and juxtapositions help strengthen and consolidate modern achievements. Democracy, for example, is one of the great achievements of mankind and it became an established fact today. But democracy is not merely a mode but it is a practice of human rights and a way of life. It is, therefore, not a commodity imported from the West or the East, but an evolved state of traditional experience, sprouted and cherished by our people through the course of history. When the Yemenis adopted the principle of democracy, they were in fact embracing something rooted in their past. Although this concept flourished in the present day at other parts of our globe, it is also part of our tradition. It is true that the modern Yemenis adopted democracy much later than other (Western) nations, but the fact remains that this newcomer is no stranger to them. Let me use another concept as an example. Unity to the Yemenis is not a 'realpolitik' of the day and a motto invented by the politicians to solve some chronic problems. No, it is the ultimate goal of historical configuration in time and place to realize oneself as a Yemen. Once more, it was not something which is dictated by the 'spirit of the age' alone. No, it was always there, travelling insistently, in time and place, and one day it revealed itself abundantly. That is why cultural symbols in Yemen are at the same time national symbols. To illustrate this view, I would like to dwell on some of the cultural symbols to the people of Yemen. I would hasten here to mention that some of these symbols became, although on a minor scale, Arab symbols too.

First and foremost, there is the symbol embodied in



the name Yemen - the symbol of the homeland. The name of the country means literally "south", i.e., the land which lies in the south of Arabia. South is also the right hand, which symbolizes the good one to the Arabs (the left hand being a bad omen). In the Quran, Yemen is named the good land (Al Ard Attayyba). This connotation is not far from the one embodied in the classical name Arabia Felix, the happy Arabia.

Another symbol is "SABA": the common origin which was born out of the unification of the two main tribes, Himyar and Qahtan. It is the name of the genealogical grand father and the name of the largest and most dominant kingdom in the history of Yemen. Mareb was the capital of the Sabaeen Kingdom and the Queen of Sheba, the famous queen of the Bible and the Quran, was the Sabaeen queen of the 10th century B.C.

Yet another symbol is HIMYAR: the symbol of state and power. It is the name of a tribe which lived originally in Wadi Bana and in the second century B.C. became an im-

portant power in the southern gates of the Red Sea until the coming of Christ. During this period, it gradually inherited Saba and other kingdoms in Yemen. It was the last kingdom in the ancient history and the best remembered by the narrators in the saga of Yemen. The history of Himyar and its royalties offered the basis of the famous epical history recorded in the first centuries after Islam. Zafar was the capital and it was only second to Mareb in fame in ancient chronicles.

THE DAM: AL ARIM - symbol of ancient Yemeni civilization. It is the name of the main dam which was constructed before the first millenium B.C in the valley of Mareb and continued to harness (divert or store) water (55,000,000 liters) to the fields near Mareb, at least for 1500 years. without stop. It was there, always to reflect the human response to the challenge of nature in aridity and scarcity (water and soil). Its collapse in the 6th

century A.D marks also the end of the ancient civilization.

AL MUSNAD: symbol of culture and creativity. It is the name of the ancient alphabet writing in Yemen. It goes back at least to the 10th century B.C and records downwards thousands of epigraphical texts which narrate deeds, thoughts and wisdom of the past. The script is alphabetical, highly developed and characterised with 29 consonants which comprise almost all the semitic letters. Some scholars believe that Al Musnad may be the world's oldest script. (alphabets represent sounds, not pictures or cuneiforms) in the ancient east. The list of Yemeni symbols is still long, e.g., Sana'a, Frankincense, Ibex, Ghumdan, Ad, Aden, Ahqaf, Oryx, The Great Mosque in Sana'a, Bilqis, Sayyida (Arwa), Coffee, 26th September, 14th October and 22nd May - all symbols created by a dynamic population and a thriving culture.



فندق عدن موڤنپيڪ

يتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني قيادة

وحكومة بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

ADEN MOVENPICK HOTEL
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE
AND LEADERSHIP ON THE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION



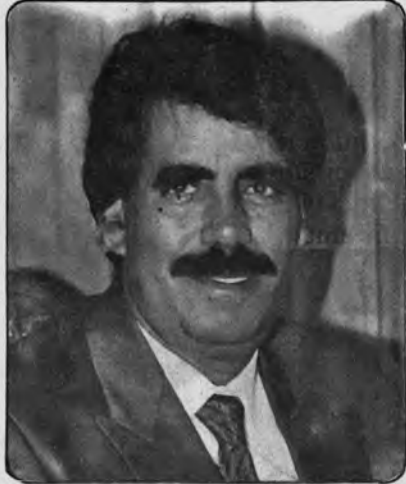
ADEN MOVENPICK HOTEL
YOUR BEST CHOICE IN ADEN
FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT US AT:

Telephones: 32070, 32911, 32941, 32913, 32928
 Facsimile: 32947
 Telex: 2319

بنك اندوسويس

يتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني قيادة وحكومة بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

BANQUE INDOSUEZ ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION, BANQUE INDOSUEZ CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE, LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT AND WISHES PROSPERITY TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.



COME TO BANQUE INDOSUEZ FOR THE RELIABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND EXPERIENCE YOU LOOK FOR IN YOUR BANKER!

BANQUE INDOSUEZ IS OPERATING REPUBLIC OF YEMEN:

SANA'A
AL KASR AL GAMHOURI
STREET - P. O. BOX 651
TEL. 272801/2/3
TLX 2412/2413/3136
FAX 274-161

HODEIDAH
AL KATEEB STREET
C/O INDOSUEZ SANAA
TEL. 217105/6
TLX 5550
FAX 211-531

TAIZ
AL MUGAMMA STREET
C/O INDOSUEZ SANAA
TEL. 210568/210570
TLX 8824
FAX 212-336

الغرفة التجارية والصناعية في عدن

تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة

الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY- ADEN
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION



إحدى مؤسسات التنمية في الجمهورية اليمنية

ONE OF THE PILLARS OF DEVELOPMENT

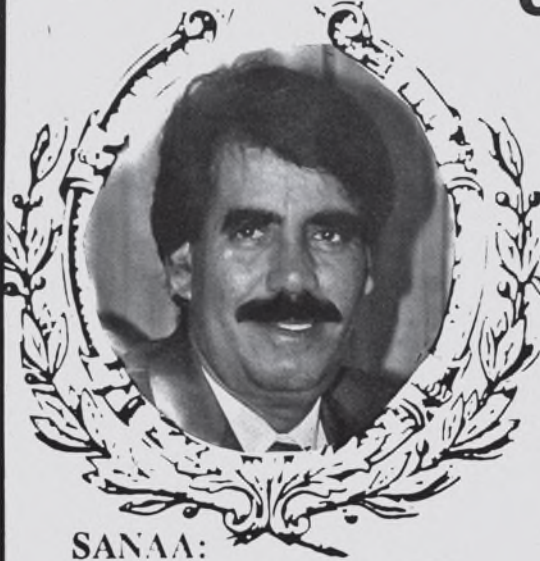
P.O.BOX 473 (101)
Crater - Aden Governorate
Republic of Yemen
Tel 51104, 55660
Telex 2233 Ghurfa
Fax 55446

ص.ب. رقم ٤٧٣ (١٠١)
كريتر - محافظة عدن
الجمهورية اليمنية
تلفون ٥٥٦٦٠/٥١١٠
تلكس عدن - ٢٢٣٣ غرفة
فاكس ٥٥٤٤٦

بنك اليمن الدولي

يتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني قيادته
وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

**THE INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE UNITY ANNIVERSARY**



SANAA:
106 ZUBEIRY STREET,
TEL. 272920- 4 lines,
TLX: 2523, 2540, Fax: 274127

BAB AL-YEMEN
134 TAIZ ROAD,
TEL. 244477- 3 lines,
FAX: 263174



بنك اليمن الدولي ش.م.ي.
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN Y.S.B

FOR ALL YOUR DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL BANKING SERVICES
YOU CAN DEPEND ON US



HODEIDA:
58 MEENA STREET,
TEL. 218461- 3 lines
TLX: 5655,
FAX: 211733

شركة بلقيس للدواجن المحدودة
تتقدم بأطيب التهاني الى الشعب اليمني وقيادته الحكيمه
بمناسبة الذكرى الأولى للوحدة اليمنية



BILQUIS POULTRY CO. LTD.
*congratulates the Yemeni people,
and leadership on the anniversary
of the REPUBLIC*

p. o. Box 6858 - Taiz A. R. Phone 218000/2/3/4 - Telex 8860 - Fax 218001

الشركة الرائدة في مجال الدواجن في الجمهورية اليمنية

Mr. Al-Khader: "ADEN IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO BE YEMEN'S ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL CENTER."

Economic activity in Aden is progressing at a high level, and businessmen are gearing up to play a major role in the transformation of the city. One of the major actors in this process is the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden. To highlight the economic transformation of Aden, in light of the decision to convert Aden as the economic and commercial capital of Yemen and in light of the decision to transform Aden into a free zone, YEMEN TIMES went to speak with Mr. Abdullah Salem Al-Khader, Chairman and General Manager of the chamber. Following are excerpts of the interview:

Q. You are an old timer in the chamber of commerce and industry of Aden. Could you give us some details on your background in this regard?

A. I have been in charge of the chamber of commerce and industry since 1975, so I know the place inside out. We have developed the role and status of the chamber of commerce locally, regionally and internationally. I have personally served as chairman of the Federation of Asian Chambers of Commerce. I now serve as Vice President of the International Chamber of Commerce. I also sit in the boards of the Arab-Dutch, Arab-Greek, etc. The Aden Chamber of Commerce is represented with the Arab, Islamic, and other chambers of commerce.

Q. How capable is Aden to serve as the nation's economic and commercial capital, and a free economic zone?

A. Aden has many qualifications needed to serve those roles. First, its strategic location is a basic requirement for this purpose. It is a deep-water harbor with the necessary natural facilities. You will recall that in the early 1960s, it was the second busiest seaport in the

world, only after New York. Then there is the technical and managerial personnel which is available in Aden. Maybe it needs some polishing up, but it is there. There is also the legal and administrative framework, both of which have been initiated as part of the unification process. The government has committed to make the necessary investments in physical as well as social infrastructure.

I think that these and other qualifications make Aden a viable center of economic and commercial activity.

Q. What is the role of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this process?

A. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been the leading party in marketing Aden as a viable place for investments.

We have promoted many projects among Yemeni investors whether in Yemen or outside. We are also pushing joint ventures with foreign investors, and finally, we have started approaching foreigners to consider investing in Aden. So, our role is to make sure everybody knows of the opportunities available in Aden, and to help the government in creating the necessary climate for economic and commercial activities in Aden.

Q. What investments have been processed as a result of these efforts?

A. We have over two hundred projects which are expected to start immediately. These include about fifty housing projects, some of which are comprehensive multi-storey housing complexes with all the facilities and amenities. Then there are thirty nine tourist-related projects such as hotels, chalets, resorts, etc. Also included in this category is a tourist village along the coast some fifteen kilometers from Aden. There are also sixty industrial and manufacturing projects which are to be located in the Buraiqa Industrial Zone. Efforts are also under way to finalize many other projects in similar sectors. In most cases, the

capital is Yemeni, although most of it is immigrant Yemeni capital.

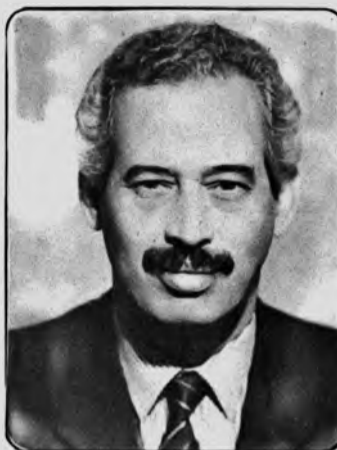
Q. In your opinion, how ready is the free zone area to accommodate these projects?

A. Of course, major investments are required immediately. First and foremost, telecommunication systems have to be installed and improved. The harbor facilities have to be completed, specially the cranes, ro-ro facilities, storage capacities, etc. The government had taken the decision to immediately install these and other equipments, and the sooner they are here, the more able we will be to attract investments.

Q. What level of coordination exists between yourselves and the free zones authority?

A. Of course there is the daily contact we have, specially with the chairman of the authority. Although communication channels have not been institutionalized, as yet, we do have a sufficient level of coordination. We expect our relationship to take a major turn to the better as the authority begins to take on its responsibilities.

Q. How about your coordinatio




n with the other chambers of commerce and industry in Yemen, and the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yemen?

A. Of course, we have contact, however, minimal. We believe that our broad and extensive network of contact with regional and international chambers of commerce and industry could be handy and useful to the Aden as the economic and commercial capital of the country, and in line with the decentralization efforts of the government, we have proposed that the headquarters of the Union of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry be located in

Aden. As yet, there has been no positive response on this point.

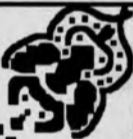
Q. Any economic/commercial surprises on the first anniversary of the unity of Yemen?

A. I think several new projects will be inaugurated on this occasion. We will also use this occasion to push forward on the job that needs to be done urgently in Aden. I have a message that I would also like to put across through your esteemed paper. Economic interests are the over-riding factor in the policies and orientations of all governments today. Politics and other activities serve this end. I hope that this attitude will become the focal point of our system in Yemen. It is already evident that economic prosperity will lead to more political stability, and will allow the culture to flourish, and all other endeavors to succeed.




البنك الصناعي اليمني



يتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني
وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية



THE INDUSTRIAL BANK OF YEMEN CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY



**WE PROVIDE INVESTORS AND
INDUSTRIALISTS WITH THE FULL
RANGE OF THEIR FINANCING NEEDS.**

AMBASSADOR ABU TALIB: "YEMEN AND JORDAN ENJOY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP"

On the occasion of the national day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and due to the special relationship between the Republic of Yemen and Jordan, YEMEN TIMES decided to acquaint its readers with this country. Jordan is situated in the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa and for eight milleniums has been a center of civilization. Its great wealth of history and culture can be seen all over the country and Jordan is considered as an immense open museum. New archaeological sites are regularly discovered and in the Jordan rift valley, near the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, the visitor can see some of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in history. Among the most famous and important sites, Petra and Jerash testify to the ancient splendour, while Amman, the capital is a busy, commercial, economic and cultural center.



But Jordan, while solidly rooted in the past is facing the future of rapid progress and development, ably guided over the last four decades, by His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal, direct descendent of Prophet Mohamed and last in the Hashemite line. Under his guidance, enormous progress has been attained in the field of education, health, and welfare. Jordan has a total area of 89,555 square kms, Is-

lam is the religion of the majority and Arabic is its official language. Its population is about 3,500,000 and this figure has increased after the Gulf war. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a unitary state, governed by a parliamentary system and a constitutional hereditary monarchy. Jordan has suffered repeatedly from the conflict and upheaval besetting the Middle East since World War One. In spite of this,

the country has ably utilized the human and natural resources in implementing its economic and social development programs. Today, Jordan witnesses significant progress in socio-economic development. Sharpened by events and a variety of challenges, the Jordanian experience has enriched the development climate in the region. Its citizens have always been at the heart of the development process and they have demonstrated an outstanding ability to surmount obstacles and transcend difficulties. Relations between the Jordan and most nations are very strong and cordial. It has played a harmonizing role in many forums, and its leadership's skills in international affairs have come in handy in resolving

many disputes and differences. Within the Arab family, Jordan has a special place as a point of congruence of Arab trends. As far as relations with the Republic of Yemen, H.E. Jordanian Ambassador in Sanaa Fakhry Abu Talib told the Yemen Times that among Jordan's relations with the fraternal countries, relations with Yemen have a special place. The love, respect, and admiration shared between the peoples and leaders of the two countries continue to grow. We seek to strengthen these relations even further through economic, cultural, political, and social cooperation in all fields.

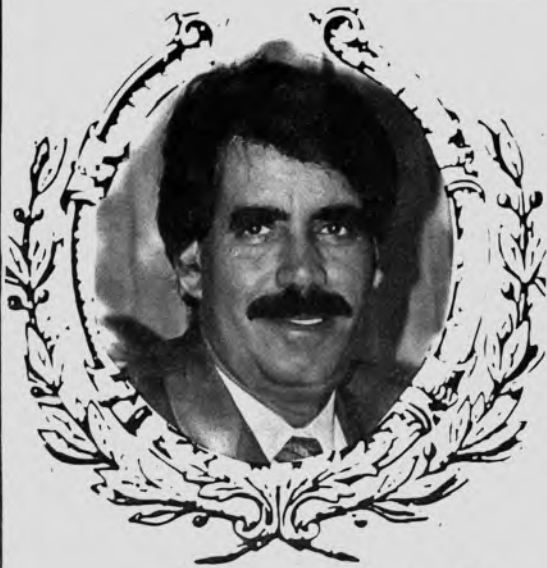


الشركة الوطنية للتبغ والكبريت

تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة

الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

**THE NATIONAL TOBACCO AND MATCHES COMPANY
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION**



إحدى مؤسسات التنمية في الجمهورية اليمنية

WE ARE ONE OF THE PILLARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN



CANADA DRY WORLDWIDE

The NATIONAL BEVERAGE Co. LTD.

CANADA DRY_SANA A

YEMEN UNITED BEVERAGE Co.

CANADA DRY_HODEIDAH

NATIONAL BOTTLING ORGANISATION

CANADA DRY_ADEN

wishes to greet the PRESIDENT of
the Republic of Yemen and all the
Region CABINET and the People
of Yemen for the

FIRST ANNUAL UNIFICATION

LITERATURE REFLECTING NEW YEMENI TIMES

BY DR ABDULAZIZ AL-MAQALEH,
President,
Sanaa University



A. BACKGROUND:

Due to the Imamic and colonial past, the march of times have left Yemen behind for centuries. Today, the country is trying to catch up with the rest of the world as quickly as possible. Two major events helped speed up the "catching-up" process. The 26th September, 1962 Revolution (strengthened by the October 14th Revolution), and the May 22nd, 1990 Unification Agreement. Yemeni literature has always reflected the conditions of society, on the one hand, and the aspirations and hopes of the people, on the other hand. Therefore, the literature of the Imamic and colonial eras is sterile and sad reflecting those dark times. The poems, the novels, and the short sto-

ries were all tragic and melancholous. The only voice breaking the death atmosphere were the vibrant cries of Mohammed Mahmood Al-Zubairy. His forceful poems described the hardships and misery of the times, and urged the people to rise up and revolt against the rulers.

B. THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA:

From the very beginning, the Revolution was menaced by the backlash of the

forces of evil. Thus, it was unable to achieve its maximum potential, whether in the 'formerly North or South Yemen. To add to the difficulties, each part of Yemen charted an independent course thus creating two different entities. This new wound in the Yemeni soul and body, created an additional burden and crisis to all segments of society, but notably to the literary circles. Therefore, the new conditions, although much better than Imamic and co-

litical times, were still not conducive to the full blossoming of the literary genius of the people. The past continued to haunt the present, and the literature reflected the fears and anxieties, and warned against the "reproduction of the darkness of the buried regimes". The most notable literary figure of this figure was, by far, Mohammed Abdul-Wali. Poets like Abdul-Wadood Saif, Abdul-Kareem Al-Razihi, Abdul-Latif Rabbie', Najeeb Moqbil, etc. produced beautiful poems in this line. Novelists and short story writers such as Zaid Mutee' Dammaj, Ahmed Mahfoodh Omer, Maifa' Abdul-Rahman, Abdul-Fattah Abdul-Wali, and Husain Basaddeeq, also fall in this category.

C. THE NEW AGE:

The unification of Yemen has ushered in a new age, one that carries a lot of hopes and promises. The literature produced nowa-

days has already started interacting with this new reality. As well, a new generation of literary men and women are gradually taking over the stage. A new breed of poets, novelists, and story writers - full of vibrance and hope, have started commanding the scene. The new products reflect the new mood. It contains less pains and sufferings, it has more confidence and vigor. It looks less into the past, it looks more to the future. The styles, the pictures, the language - everything used in the recent poems, novels, and short stories is quite different when compared to the previous works. Of course, history and the significant historical events continue to represent an important subject for the new literary works. Yet, the thrust is not to dwell on details as a matter of historical record, but as a substance to a new story and theme. Welcome to the new literary age.

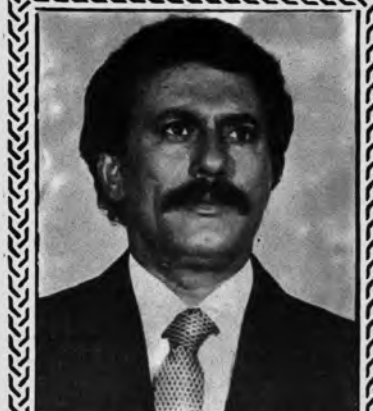
.....

اسرة البنك العربي شرم ع - اليمن بكافة فروعها
تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته
وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

THE ARAB BANK PLC - YEMEN AND BRANCHES
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION



البنك العربي للحدود



THE ARAB BANK PROVIDES YOU WITH THE FULL RANGE OF BANKING SERVICES PROMPTLY. CALL ON US FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS AT:

Sanaa

P.O. Box : 1301 & 475
Telephones: 240921/8
Facsimile: 263187
Telex: Arbank YE 2239, 2641

Taiz

5234
231523/4, 222652
212347
8911, 8977

Hodeidah

3812
239166/7
211557
5123, 5690



SPORTS



As-Salwi, "A FOOTBALL COACH'S CAREER HAS TOO MANY UP AND DOWNS."

So the Al-Ahli of Sanaa secured only third place in the current football championship. Its fans expected a bit more than that. "You know what my frustrations are?" asks Moqbil As-Salwi, the team's coach. "I am deeply frustrated because we could have done much better. We could have snatched the trophy," he continues. Al-Ahli's defeat at the hands of Al-Mina team three weeks ago had been a major disappointment to him.

"I have to fight against so many odds, the least of which is the attitude of the players themselves. They are neglectful during training and they exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior during the games," said As-Salwi. He goes on, "I have to fight their urge to curse the referees."

"This club has lost something," says one old club member who used to see the club lead all others in the championships. What was lost? According to Moqbil, the team lost its soul. "The players are high-strung and spoiled. They have become immature and hard to coach. They would not follow in-

structions," he explained. The 41-year old As-Salwi is a football veteran who has coached teams for the last sixteen years. During this time, he led his teams to many championships, and numerous finals. He started off in 1975 by coaching Al-Majd. He then moved to Al-

Ahli-Taiz, and a year later he was in Hodeidah coaching the Al-Ahli-Hodeidah, with which he stayed for eight years. During this time, he led the team to two championships, and two second places. In 1987, he was offered to come to coach Al-Ahli-Sanaa. He took the job and started pushing the team. A year later (1988), Al-Ahli-Sanaa won the national championship with a clean record. This was a major accomplishment. ASKED about his favorite non-Ahli players, he mentioned the goal-keeper of Sam'oun team in Hadhramaut, Sharaf Mahfoodh and Omar Al-Barak of At-Telal team, Khaled Afara of Al-



Wahda-Aden, and Saleh Ra-bea of Sha'ab-Mukalla.

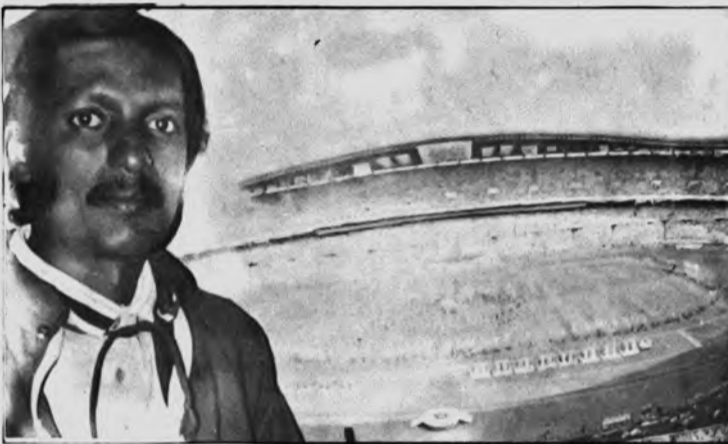
Among the teams, he prefers the Sha'ab-Aden which, he says, "has a team spirit".

As-Salwi is a well-travelled man. His longing for football has taken him to Ethiopia (1960s), Italy (1974), Germany (1975), Brazil (1984), and Canada (1989). All his trips involve football, but more importantly, they involve coaching seminars.

Mr. Moqbil As-Salwi is respected by everybody for his eye for spotting talent, and for

his ability to build team chemistry. His continuous smile contrasts sharply with his decisiveness in coaching his team. He also has a keen sense of direction and potential. Asked much earlier about the prospects for the 1991 championship, he forecasted that the Telal team will take the championship.

What bothers him most? "I hate moody players," he says. "They are very undependable. As a result, if the team does badly, nobody cares whose fault it is. The coach get hung." This is probably a risk that comes with the job! Good luck next time Moqbil.



FOOTBALL FINALS:

The semi-finals were played between Al-Ahli Sanaa and Shurtah-Aden in Aden on the 18th. This was the second match between the two teams. Al-Ahli had earlier defeated Shurta 3-0, and this the re-match. The game ended with 1-1 score. As a result, the Al-Ahli secured 3rd place in the competition, while Shurta settled for 4th place. On the 23rd, the Telal and Al-Mina, both of Aden, will play the final game in the tournament. The match will take place in Sanaa's Al-Thawra Stadium.

HAND GLIDING

Mohammed Al-Maqaleh will hand glide at 4:00 pm on Thursday May 23rd. He will take off from the peak of Mt. Nuqum to the east of Sanaa, and will attempt landing at the Salaam Park near the Sheraton hotel. Al-Maqaleh has been jumping off cliffs and mountains regularly. Get your camera and go to watch him. YEMEN TIMES wishes -him a safe landing.

شركة مارب اليمنية للتأمين

تتقدم باطيب التهانى والتبريكات للشعب اليمني

وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية

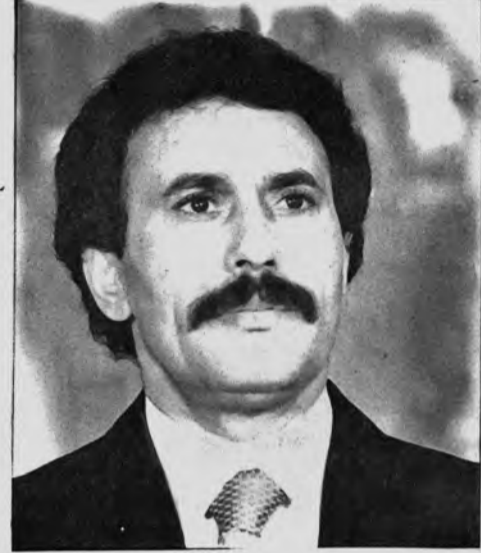
MAREB YEMEN INSURANCE COMPANY
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION



WE PROVIDE THE FULL RANGE OF INSURANCE SERVICES.
FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND, COME TO YEMEN'S
LARGEST AND OLDEST INSURANCE COMPANY

أسرة البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير
تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته
بمناسبة الذكرى الأولى للوحدة اليمنية

THE YEMEN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP ON THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY



THE YEMEN BANK IS THE ONLY BANK WITH BRANCHES
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY DEDICATED TO YOUR SERVICE.
COME TO THE BANK THAT HAS BEEN PART AND PARCEL
OF THE REPUBLIC SINCE IT WAS BORN!



الشركة اليمنية للاتصالات الدولية
تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى الشعب اليمني
وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الأولى للوحدة اليمنية

YEMEN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO.
CONGRATUALTES THE YEMENI PEOPLE,
LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT ON THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION



WE BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER!



مجموعة محمد سيف ثابت

تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني
قيادته وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة

THE MOHAMMED SAIF THABET GROUP

CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC



مجموعة محمد سيف ثابت
M.S. THABET GROUP



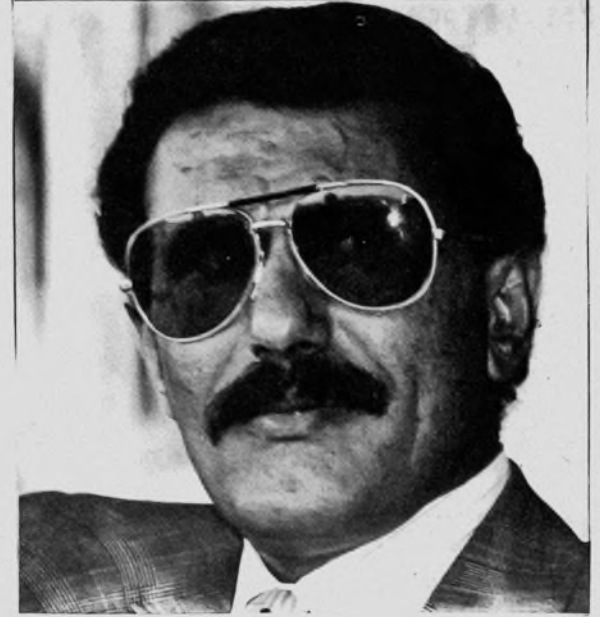
WE ARE ONE OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF
YEMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

P> O> Box 32,
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen
Telephones: 241149/50/065
Tlx: 2221, Fax: 263037

ص.ب. ٣٢
صنعا - الجمهورية اليمنية
تلفون: ٢٤١.٦٥/٢٤١١٤٩
تلکس: ٢٢٢١، فاكس: ٢٦٣.٣٧

الشركة اليمنية للنفط

تتقدم باطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني قيادته وحكومته
بمناسبة الذكرى الاولى للوحدة اليمنية



THE YEMEN OIL COMPANY
CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION.

فندق شيراتون - صنعاء

يتقدم بأجمل وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات الى الشعب اليمني وقيادته

وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الأولى للوحدة اليمنية

SHERATON HOTEL - SANAA

**CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE, LEADERS & GOVERNMENT
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION**



فندق شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a
HOTEL



p. o. Box 2467, Sana'a R. of Y.

Tel: 237500/8

Tlx: 2222, 2644

Fax: 251521

ص. ب.: ٢٤٦٧

تلفون: ٢٣٧٥٠٠/٨

تلکس: ٢٢٢٢، ٢٦٤٤

فاکس ٢٥١٥٢١

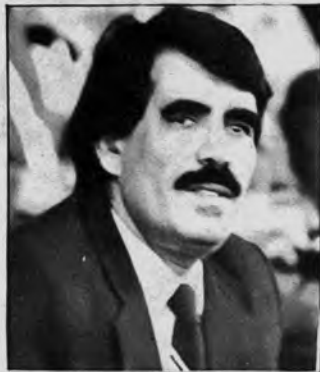
فندق تاج سبأ

يتقدم بأجمل وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات الى الشعب اليمني وقيادته

وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى الأولى للوحدة اليمنية

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL - SANAA

**CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PEOPLE, LEADERS & GOVERNMENT
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION**



فندق تاج سبأ
 TAJ SHEBA HOTEL
SANA'A - YEMEN



COME STAY WITH US AND WE WILL ATTEND TO ALL YOUR NEEDS

P.O. Box 773
Ali Abdul Moghni Street
Sana'a.

Tel 272372-8
Teléx 2551/2561
Fax 274129

ص. ب. ٧٧٣
شارع علي عبد المغني
صنعاء

تلفون: ٢٧٢٣٧٢/٨
تلکس: ٢٥٥١/٢٥٦١
فاکس: ٢٧٤١٢٩

SEVEN ESSENTIALS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

T.H. CHOUDHARY

Man cannot live by bread alone but without bread he cannot live at all. For us in the newly liberated countries, economic growth and wealth can give meaning to our rich cultural and philosophical heritage. Contact with the West has shown us how the application of science and technology can enable us to fully exploit our resources for the benefit and intellectual evolution of all our people. In my view, the development process requires the fulfillment of the following essential conditions.

1. LITERACY

Illiteracy and ignorance are impediments in the way of progress. Universal literacy and higher education, especially in the hard sciences such as technology and the social sciences like economics, history and ethics are in greatest need. It is only knowledge and contemporary information gathered from all over the world that will enable our men and women to dream, invent and engineer the growth. We must admire the great achievements of communist countries in this regard for they gave highest priority to education and achieved near full literacy in the shortest time. Of essential importance is women's education. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. It is the mother who has the highest opportunity to rear, form and inspire a child. We can't afford to keep her illiterate, ignorant, and ill informed.

2. POPULATION CONTROL

Family planning is important. Countries like India have achieved great increase in grain production and other goods and services. But most of the grains are wiped out by increase in population. The per capita availability of food, cloth, housing, edible oil, electricity, paper, are not much increasing because of population growth. Health care is decreasing infant mortality and increasing life longevity. So people are in-

creasing faster than education and economy; forests are being cut down, the earth's resources are not being renewed by nature as fast as they are depleted. It is significant

that in the west, population is not growing by excess of births over death, but if at all, by immigration only whereas in much of Asia and Africa and Latin America which are poor, population is growing disastrously. No more than one or two children should be the norm so that a healthy mother can look after them well and they could be educated highly. If people are literate, the birth rate goes down. For example in India with a literacy of 52%, population growth is 2.1% but in its one state, Kerala (30% Muslims, 30% Christians, 40% Hindus) where literacy is 90%, population growth is only 1%.

3. SAVINGS HABIT

People must learn to save. Without capital, nothing can be built. And capital comes from savings, the excess of earning over expenditure. Japan and China save 20 to 25% of a family's income and the savings go to build houses, buy health care, invest in companies to earn dividends. Unfortunately some developing countries have governments which are profligate spenders and as they don't have enough revenue, borrow from within and abroad and subject the country to economic ruin. Many countries in Africa and Latin America and some in Asia are chronically ill. How can a person or country in deep debt live with dignity and freedom? So we must learn from childhood to live within our means, to avoid debt and to save. Governments must be disciplined not to print paper money, not to increase taxes and bureaucracy and deprive the people and country ultimately, of their independence.



4. ROLE MODEL

A society and country that does not glorify and respect and honor its achievers cannot inspire many to create wealth. If we

run down the rich, the successful businessman and entrepreneur, can poor people, haters and demagogues serve as role models? There is no wealthy country where the successful are not household words-builders of rail roads, steel mills, chemical industries, banks, mines and so on. Unfortunately in some poor countries, running down the rich, hunting and hating the successful businessmen has become a fashion.

5. ETHICAL AND MORAL VALUES

A nation must foster ethical and moral and humanistic values. There should be reverence for life, tolerance towards people of other faiths, beliefs and views. Hatred based on race, religion, country and conviction saps a person's psychic and mental energy, intellect and understanding. Understanding of different cultures and cooperation with other nations and people must be encouraged. Our planet earth is becoming a global village thanks to modern communications, science, trade and environmental fragility. Intellectuals leaders and teachers should not have closed minds, national irredentism, racial or linguistic jingoism and religious intolerance.

6. PEOPLES' ENTERPRISES

Government is good in growing talents in citizens through education, in building infrastructures like roads, electricity, irrigation, ports and harbors and in countries without wealth or enterprise, to undertake industrialisation, especially heavy and capital intensive in-

dustries. After a certain stage of development, when sufficient engineers, economists, managers, accountants have been produced, then the initiative and enterprise of individuals and non government organizations like people's companies should be allowed to carry forward the nation building, wealth creating activities to maximise productivity of labor and national resources. Free enterprise encouraged and guided and regulated by honest governments could after a certain period ensure the maximum social good and liberties to citizens.

7. PATRIOTISM

And finally, citizens must be brought up with patriotism which is love of one's people, and one's country. Love of motherland should not mean hatred or intolerance of other peoples' land. Leaders must be honest and must be seen to be sharing the labors privations and joys and cares of the people. Conspicuous consumption and high living amidst poor people undermines patriotism. The leading citizens, educationists, professors, intellectuals, the clergy and leaders of political parties have awesome and onerous responsibilities.

PROJECTS INAUGURATED ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the unification of Yemen, many projects are going to be inaugurated. At the same time, foundation stones for many other projects are laid down. This process falls within the framework of the festivities and celebrations of the country on this important occasion. The President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and other senior officials will personally attend these programs. In this light, a reliable source in the Ministry of Industry declared that a fluid battery factory, and the Al Sharq factory for marbles and tiles will be inaugurated in Taiz on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Republic of Yemen. Other new industrial projects on the list of inauguration include a salt refining factory in Hodeidah, a stone cutting workshop and a fibre glass workshop in Hadhramaut governorate and the Nakhlan Company for Poultry in Ibb governorate. Foundation stones will also be laid for an automatic bakery in Maalla, in Aden, a beverage plant for manufacturing plastic bags in Hadhramaut and the Al Gunaid Company for Paper Manufacturing in Taiz.



يتقدم جميع الأقارب والأصدقاء وكذلك الزملاء
في المؤسسة العامة للنفط والثروات المعدنية بأحر
التهانئ والتبريكات للزميلين المهندسين علي أحمد
مؤنس والآنسة بسمة أنور الشرماني بمناسبة عقد
قرانهما متمنين لهما حياة زوجية سعيدة
وبالرفاء والبنين إن شاء الله.

Dr. Iryani Reflects on the First Year of the Republic of Yemen

By Dr Abdul Karim Al Iryani, Foreign Minister.

I am pleased to put forth my ideas to the readers of Yemen Times one more time in the space of three months. I want to start by pointing to the fact that the YEMEN TIMES has been able to live up to the ambitions that we all have about the first Yemeni English newspaper. We wish the paper the best of luck.

The year ending on May 22nd 1991 has been a very eventful year in the history of Yemen and the region as a whole. The most important event, the unification of Yemen, is most important to us as Yemenis and to every Arab nationalist who wishes eventually to see a united Arab world. The declaration of the Republic of Yemen comes after a long and arduous struggle. May 22nd represents the climax of the struggle of the Yemeni people for unity, freedom, democracy and equality. From the moment of the declaration of the Republic of Yemen, every official was fully aware of the tremendous task that lies ahead, specially in the first year. Unifying the people was not a very difficult task (the people were always united). Unifying two countries for which history had charted two different courses for almost a century and a half starting from the date of the arrival of the British colonial forces to the region, is a difficult task and has in a way burdened the government, the institutions, the

policy makers. Therefore everyone was fully aware of the difficult task that faces the new republic, specially as it has chosen to consolidate the unity by democratic means. Dictatorial authority is very easy to impose but very difficult to maintain. On the other hand, authority linked to democracy is very difficult to manage but you guarantee with it, survival of the system, survival of the concept itself. Knowing the Herculean task facing the republic since that day, therefore one should appreciate how far we have come in removing the barriers, and reducing the burden that had been imposed on the socio economic and political structures of the two halves of the country. In addition to the colonial legacy, there were of course two modern courses of economic and socio political development started by both countries (the North since 1962, and the South since 1967). That also produced additional diversions in socio economic orientations.

To make things worse, only seventy days in the life of the new republic, the entire world faced the threat of war in the Gulf. We came face to face with a totally new reality of international diplomacy, dispute settlement, and inter-Arab relationships. We came face to face with the dynamic, yet hidden, links between economic and political interests of the superpowers. The occupation of Kuwait exposed certain aspects of superpower relations with Third World countries that were only alluded to in the past.

We found out that, eventually, superpowers had no hesitation in linking every aspect of international diplomacy into a single objective, which was to serve their national interests.

That event took place some 1000 kms away from here in a place which had very special relations with Yemen. I think that event and the way Yemen conducted itself has been in my opinion the strongest proof that Yemeni unity was based on truly solid foundations. If it weren't, an event like that could have really shattered our unity. Leaders of long established governments have had serious disputes about how to handle the crisis. I can't say we did not have our arguments regarding how to deal with the crisis, but definitely we were able to keep a coherent decision based on the following fundamental points:

1. That the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq was unacceptable and that the Iraqi forces must withdraw immediately.
2. That Iraq could be made to withdraw through mediation efforts (essentially within the Arab framework).

That was the basic first decision which lasted for three days. Frankly the events



then took a different course.

A decision was taken somewhere that there are reasons for involving superpowers in resolving this issue. Of course we do not dispute the

right of nations to enlist the help of any other nation, but definitely Yemen found it very difficult to be convinced that the Arabs failed to resolve the crisis thus justifying the need to resort to superpower diplomacy. I think along this line, Yemen's policy did not diverge an inch from the beginning to the end. The details that took place subsequently in conducting this policy, had their positive and negative aspects. Even with the presence of international forces, we never ceased to advocate our conviction that a peaceful solution could be reached. Of course it is too early to say what was Yemen's proof that a peaceful solution would have been possible, but time will surely tell. During the crisis that lasted from 22nd August to the 3rd of March, we were able to conduct our policies in a consistent way.

The unification of Yemen

has proved to every Arab citizen that there is only one single course of Arab Unity, which is through a negotiated democratic system. On the other hand, the Gulf event has proved that a special course should be adopted to accomplish cooperation among Arab countries. Cooperation that goes beyond what we have practised since 1945. We must cross transnational lines in certain aspects of our relationships. Yemen has created a model that does not necessarily have to be followed verbatim, but it has proved that two member states of the Arab League and the United Nations can be one, and that can be achieved by one single obligation which is democracy and constitutionality. There is nothing beyond this. We should admit the failure of Arab cooperation to protect state entities and identities of legality of the political system. The example of Kuwait has probably revealed the lack of clarity of what we want between us as Arabs. I hope the Arab world will learn a lesson from Yemen, not in the sense of copying our efforts in unity and democracy; but in agreeing that unless there is transnational interests between Arab countries, no cooperation can be achieved. To do this, Arab states have to relinquish certain aspects of their sovereignty in favor of a transnational arrangement giving us more security, more democracy and freedom, and more appropriate development.

