YEMEN TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 29 -5 JUNE 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 14

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OUR VIEWPOINT

ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD

On June 1st, Yemen will celebrate the International Day of the Child. Compared to the conditions under which we grew up, Yemeni children today most definitely have it their way. Yes, from where I started, I can see that things have changed to the better in a substantial way for Yemeni children. Of course, things could improve even more, and they should. But the record of the last two decades, or even of the last few years speaks for itself. In 1987, Yemen was at the bottom of the heap of nations. Infant mortalities were among the highest in the world, vaccination covered only a small proportion of the children, the percent of school-going to school-age children was low, urban facilities (day-care centers, parks, playgrounds, etc.) were limited, children's literature and media programs were almost non-existent.

Yes, we have come a long way since then. Infant mortality rates for 0-5 years children, although still high, have come down to 19% (from 30% three years ago); we have achieved the 80% UN-demanded vaccination rate; school-going children average more than 65% of the school-age population (although the percentage is much lower for girls); and facilities for children are increasingly available. One month ago (on May 1st, 1991) we have officially deposited at the UN Secretary General's office Yemen's ratification instruments of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This makes Yemen the fourth country in the Middle East (after Djibouti, Egypt, and the Sudan) to have done so. In April this year also, we have established the Supreme Council for Children as a body that will attend to the needs of children in Yemen.

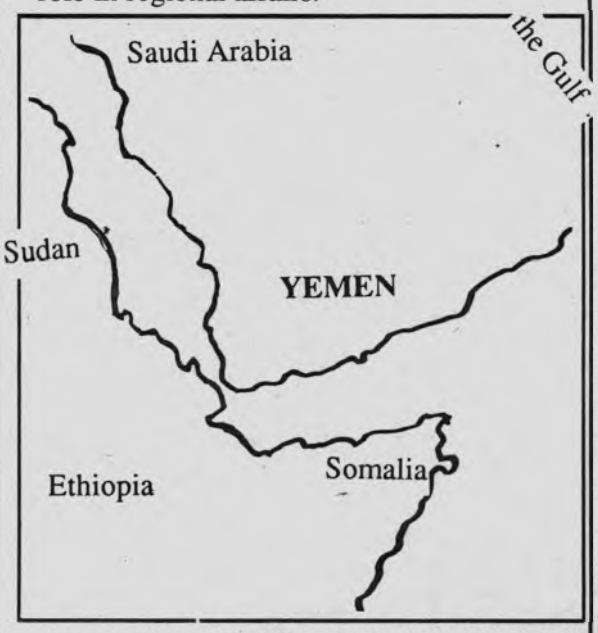
Yes we have come a long way, and there is international recognition of all these efforts. The UN's General Assembly is going to watch, in September, a film on Yemen's achievements. It will then award Yemen a prize in recognition of these achievements. The Minister of Health will probably fly to New York for this purpose.

Yes we have come a long way, but there is yet a lot of work to be done. Stewart McNab, UNICEF Representative in Sanaa says, "All of us should join hands to achieve even more accomplishments." We hail those hands which reach out to help the Yemeni and all children of the world. To the children, we say, "Happy Day of the Child!"

The Publisher

YEMEN DESCRIBED AS ISLAND OF DEMOCRACY AND TRANQUILITY

The impressions of most delegates who came to Sanaa to participate in the celebrations of the first anniversary of the unification of Yemen were extraordinary. Most individuals who visited Yemen for the first time were pleasantly surprised. "I never thought this place was this developed," exclaimed the Turkish minister who headed his country's delegation. The French Minister of State had a similar remark. At another level, the Jordanian Political Advisor to King Hussain insisted that Yemen is destined to play a major role in regional affairs.



At another level, it is clearly visible that Yemen has become an island of democracy and tranquility in a sea of turmoil ruled by dictatorships. As the Korean delegate pointed out, "You are uniting when many things around you are falling apart." Trouble exists in Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Sudan - all three countries facing Yemen from across the Red Sea. The countries adjacent to us on the Arabian Peninsula, are ruled by individual persons or families. In most cases there is no heir apparent to power, and even if one is designated, it is not done through the consent and approval of the people.

Right Wing Parties in Disarray

The results of the referendum on the constitution dealt a severe blow to the political right in Yemen. Several political parties, instigated by the fundamentalist and right wing groups, boycotted the referendum and continued to oppose the constitution in its present form. When the results came in, they showed 98.3% of the people voted "YES", which according to one senior government official, reflected the real dwarf size of the right. According to a disenchanted right winger, "We went against what the people want!" The coalition of right wing groups (under the banner of the Islamic Reform Congregation, commonly known as the "Islah") is on very shaky ground. Already two groups have disassociated themselves from the Islah. The younger group of secessionists state that they are disillusioned with the hypocrisy and rhetoric style of the elders of the party, and thus have formed their own party known as the Nahdha party. According to a senior party member, the more dramatic split is yet to come, and it is going to involve the top echelons of the Islah. According to inside information, the rift among the leaders of the Islah is growing regarding the way major issues are handled. To make things worse, the rival parties (specially the left), have used every opportunity to describe the "Islah" positions on many Yemeni issues as unpatriotic, and hinted at possibilities that the Islah may have inappropriate relations with neighboring countries (read Saudi Arabia).

RETAIL PRICE PER COPY = 10 Y.R.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (INCLUDES POSTAGE/DELIVERY AND HANDLING): YEMEN = US$80, MIDDLE EAST = US$150, ELSEWHERE = US$ 250.

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
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Accountant: Abdul-Rahman Ahmed Naji

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P. O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.
Telephones : 236434/35
Advertising to be agreed upon with management.

PERSONAL VIEW

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

FATMA S. RAWAH,
WRITER OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

We know that it is very important to care for our children's education, and we know that it depends on the children themselves whether they are interested or not. Parents can force their children to go to school, but if a child's mind is out of the line of education, then school attendance will simply become a duty that needs to be fullfilled. This situation is the cause of the lack of concentration in class.

There are many ways to practise concentration, and to help the child's mind remain in focus without using force. One successful way is to help the child acquire the habit of reading. It is very difficult to acquire this habit at a later stage in life, but it is easy during childhood. The trick is how do we motivate our children to acquire this reading habit. First, we have to determine the things in which the children are interested. Then we provide reading material in those areas. One key component in all of this is to activate the children's imagination. Children generally like "the dream world".

Once a child can concentrate (for a reasonable span of time), it becomes easy for the child to form a reading habit. He/she will start by reading the books of his/her interest, then it becomes easy to concentrate on other books as well.

I went to speak to Nagiba Haddad, who is in charge of children's literature at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. I asked "Why are story books for children important?" She gave me a full answer. Basically, she thinks children's stories are the first step in a life revolving around books. She prefers fairy tales as the starting point. She also thinks that books, even oriented towards the youngest children, should have a message; they should be educational.

To conclude, I must stress the importance of children's books. They help shape the lives of our children. On the "International Day of the Child", I call upon the relevant authorities in Yemen to attend to this need by filling the vacuum that exists in this field.

FRENCH SPONSORED COFFEE EXPO

The Franco-Yemeni Agriculture Bureau and the French Cultural Center in Sanaa have jointly organized an Exposition under the theme of "The Journey of the Yemeni Mokha Coffee". The exposition which is taking place at the location of the French Cultural Center extends from 25/5 until 5/6/1991. Pictures and paintings tell the story of Yemen's major export commodity from the Middle Ages all the way until the beginnings of the 20th century.

In an interview with YEMEN TIMES, Mr. Denis Toupin, Secretary-General of the French Cultural Center, explained that the Mokha coffee is not only an export commodity, but it is part of the Yemeni psyche and culture. In response to a question as to what could be done to increase and improve coffee production in Yemen, Mr. Toupin stated that the French and Yemeni sides are working to help the Yemeni farmer. "One thing that could be done immediately is to train Yemeni farmers to dry the product well before they sell it," he said.

ECONOMIC REFORM BLUEPRINTS

The government is presently toying with several incomplete packages as part of a comprehensive economic reform. The bits and pieces of the packages that have been leaked to YEMEN TIMES leave much to be desired. The blueprints are nothing more than very broad objectives and guidelines. One of the more detailed programs, however, pertains to reform in government expenditure patterns. The Ministry of Finance is attempting to decentralize the authority to dispense of expenditures while retaining sufficient control over the finances of the government. It also attempts to control government revenues. Other blueprints deal with trade, education, health, and industry.

TELAL WINS FOOTBALL TROPHY

As predicted by YEMEN TIMES, the Al-Telal Club of Aden ran away with the championship trophy of the 1991 national football league. The boys widely outplayed the competing Al-Mina team in most of the contest. Before asserting its command over the field, the Telal had a few uneasy moments early in the game. But thanks to the leadership and tactics of Abubakar Al-Mas, the captain, and Sharaf Mahfoudh who scored two goals, the Telal soon gained full control. By the end the game, the 3-1 score was well earned. The fans, several hundreds of whom came all the way from Aden, filled the air with roaring excitement. In the final count, Telal occupied first place, Al-Mina second place and Al-Ahli Sanaa 3rd place.

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Japanese Ambassador Masaaki Noguchi to YEMEN TIMES:

"YEMEN CAN PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT REGIONAL ROLE"

Yemen and Japan have enjoyed a steady level of cooperation for quite a few years. Japan's annual grant aid (technical assistance program) is in the neighborhood of US$25 million. In addition, Japanese loans vary from year to year. The improvement in these relations is due to the efforts of government officials and businessmen on both sides. One such official is Mr. Masaaki Noguchi, Japan's first ambassador in Sanaa. Mr. Noguchi is a dynamic young diplomat who has commanded the respect of his peers and the Yemeni government. On the occasion of the completion of his term, YEMEN TIMES went to speak with him. Following are excerpts of the interview.

Q. With the coming of the new world order, how do you see Japan's role internationally?

A. Japan continues to pursue a peaceful co-existence among nations. We pursue cooperation with all parties. Within the industrialized countries, we play a major role based on our responsibilities and duties to the world as a whole. With respect to the developing countries, Japan has become the world's largest aid donor. Within our region, we play a visible harmonizing role. In short, we follow a policy of peaceful cooperation with all.

Q. Are there any new developments on the issue of the four islands presently under USSR rule?

A. Since the end of the War, our relations with the Soviet Union have always been strained, partly due to this issue. Our intentions have always been to normalize and strengthen the relations between our two countries. In 1950, the Russians signed a joint declaration under which they were prepared to give us back two of the four islands. Subsequently they changed their mind because of the cold war situation. These days there are some indications that the Russians are serious in discussing this and other issues with a view to improving the relations and hopefully relations will be normalized. President Gorbachev's visit to Tokyo was a significant step, and we hope we can normalize relations in the near future.

Q. How are relations with North Korea. Is normalization coming there too?

A. There is a slight difference between normalizing relations with the USSR as compared to that of North Korea. With the Soviet Union, we always have had diplomatic relations, but with North Korea, there were no diplomatic relations. We have initiated discussions with them only last year. It looks that the talks are going ahead and maybe we can look forward to a better future there too.

Q. Yemeni-Japanese relations were on hold during the Gulf crisis. Now that the crisis is over, how do you view the prospects for our relationship?

A. Japan's relations with Yemen and all other Gulf countries were dull because of the crisis. This situation has nothing to do with Yemen's stand on the Gulf. With already heavy investments on Japan's part in some of these countries, it was anxious to see things calm down. At the same time, Japan was not keen to start any new projects due to the situation.

Q. Most Japanese nationals residing in the region were called home during the crisis. Have the Japanese personnel who were in Yemen returned and have the companies resumed their operations in Yemen?

A. Yes, all of them are back in Yemen.

Q. As far as bilateral cooperation with Yemen is concerned, are there plans to increase aid?

A. Japan's relations with Yemen have been very good and the potential for more economic cooperation is great. We have been extending economic aid which is gradually increasing. Hopefully in the future, it will be increased even further. To accomplish this objective, however, various obstacles, one of which is adminstrative difficulties in Yemen, should be overcome first. One more factor in this process is also more awareness in Japan

about Yemen. Your paper, the YEMEN TIMES, could play some role in this regard. Please remember that in Japan, Yemen was a relatively unknown country until its paricipation in the expo last year. The wide TV/media coverage about Yemen's stand on the Gulf crisis has also brought Yemen into focus, although not in a very favorable manner.

Q. What could be done in this regard?

A. Now that the Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association has been formed, it will help in promoting the exchange of views and personnel. More academic, cultural and commercial exchange could help our relationships. Official support from the two governments could also help in accelerating cooperation.

Q. What are the possibilities for Japanese participation in the Aden Free Zone?

A. Many Japanese companies are studying these possibilities. A Japanese television crew is in Yemen preparing a reportage on Yemen, and part of it is, of course, on the Aden Free Zone. Aden is a well known city and in Japan whenever we speak of Yemen, Aden immediately comes to mind due to our traditional ties in shipping and trade. It is hoped that Japan will make useful investments in the Free Trade Zone. But before this can be done, it is very important to have the basic legal and infrastructural facilities in place.

Q. What are the current Yemeni projects executed with Japanese aid?

A. We extend technical cooperation as well grant aid in many sectors, but especially in agriculture. The execution of our projects because of the crisis were delayed, and now they have been resumed. I want to confirm here, that there was never any policy on the part of the Japanese government to stop aid to Yemen due to the crisis.

Q. What is the progress of the Cement factory at Almafraq? Are there plans for expansion?

A. Despite the crisis, this project is on track and we hope it will be completed within the time limit. Yemeni officials are contemplating whether to increase the capacity of the Amran and/or Almafraq cement factories or to build new plants in the Southern Governorates. Talks on this are still on a very preliminary stage.

Q. Are there any plans to extend new assistance to the Southern Governorates?

A. The Yemeni government has approached us to extend new assistance to the Southern Governorates. We have not received any specific request on any project. After all, it all depends on the feasibility of the project to which Japanese aid is requested.

Q. The Japanese government has been extending assistance to the educational sector. Could you give details on this?

A. The Japanese government has been forthcoming in extending assistance in many fields. In education, we have provided some equipments as well as scholarships. The scholarships however, were on a very small scale partly due to lack of interest among Yemenis. The Japanese Government would be very happy to see them expanded in the future.

There are also some academic exchanges between the universities in the two countries; but this, again,, is still in its initial stages and only in a small scale. We hope to expand it further in the near future.

Q. The Ministry of Oil is opening tenders for drilling in new blocks in the Southern Governorates. Are any Japanese companies taking part?

A. Yes, one Japanese company with Dutch cooperation is involved in concession block (S1)..Shortly, they will be here for exploration. In addition, some other Japanese companies are interested in other blocks. If the Yemeni government approves, it will lead to stronger cooperation between our two countries.

Q. What is the size of the Japanese community in Yemen?

A. At the moment there are about seventy Japanese nationals. If more economic and commcercial ties develop, the number, of course, will increase.

Q. How do you view Japanese-Yemeni relations in the near future?

A. As the oil exploration prospects are good, and once Japanese oil companies get involved, it can make a radical improvement. I hope the Japanese companies will play a similar role to the one played by Hunt in the relations between USA and Yemen. Our relations are gradually growing. In trade, Japan exports a lot of goods to Yemen's neighbours from where they are re-exported to Yemen. Therefore, we know our volume of trade is much larger than the statistics of direct trade say.

Q. How can the Yemeni side smoothen the process of closer cooperation?

A. Japan is a democratic country and views of politicians and public opinion matter a lot. Also if the trade improves it could make the situation easier.

Q. Any comments on the first anniversary of the unification of Yemen?

A. The relationship between Yemen and Japan is close and I am certain it will grow further. We think that united Yemen can play a very important role in the development and stability of the region.

JUNE 1: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE CHILD

The world celebrates, on June 1 of every year, the day of the child. YEMEN TIMES found this a good opportunity to shed light on the conditions of children in Yemen. To do this, our team went to speak to Dr Yahya Al Babili, Secretary General of the Yemen Family Care Association, Dr Ahmed Makki, Secretary General of the Pediatrics Society, Ms Nageeba Mahmood Haddad, Director of the General Department for Children's Education and Culture at the Ministry of Culture, Ms Marianne Schmucher of the German Volunteer Service who is a midwife at the Dhebeen Health Center, and Mr Abdul Rahman Mutahar, the famous song and story writer in the Ministry of Information, and last, but not least, Mr. Stewart McNab, UNICEF Representative in Sanaa. Thefollowing is a summary of our findings.

1. Health Issues

Marianne Schmucher says many health problems could be avoided by a little more care and attention. More stress should be put on family planning. What could be done? First the supply of medicine could be improved as health centers run out of basic drugs all the time. Second, the Ministry of Health could choose administrators who are more reliable. For example, our mudeer (Director) is rarely at the health center. Dr Ishaq says most of the diseases which affect children are due to bad hygiene and sanitation. Thus the most prevalent diseases are gastro intestinal Dr Yahya Al Babili agrees. He adds, we don't have any sever malnutrition among Yemeni children, although pockets of tertiary malnutrition exist in certain regions and among the poor. McNab concurs, although he is worried of the 100,000 children who die annually. Half of those deaths are avoidable with simple actions.

2. Educational Issues

The country has no law making even primary education compulsory. In many parts of the country, educational services are inadequate. Overcrowded classes, lack of books, inappropriate school buildings, unqualified teachers, etc. are all recurrent phenomena. In the cities, working mothers face a difficult choice - either quit working (if at least temporarily) or place the child at risk due to inappropriate baby sitting. Boys continue to outnumber girls by three to one, as the scarce slots in classes are given to them.

3. General Care

Facilities badly needed such as parks and playing grounds, educational media programs, children entertainment, etc. are not available. Usually limited resources are cited when such shortcomings are listed. Maybe mismanagement and wrong priorities are more to blame.

4. What can be done?

"The children are our hope, and the way we raise them will determine our future," says Najeeba Haddad, herself a writer and editor of the new "Wadhah" children's magazine. No one single party is responsible for looking after children. So, I hereby ask the Supreme Committee for Children to take immediate action in coordinating matters that will help our children, she continues. According to Abdul Rahman Mutahar (known in Yemen as Baba Abdul Rahman Mutahar), "Somehow the children of Yemen are the forgotten segment of society. When different groups compete for resource allocations, nobody is there to demand the children's share."

5. June 1 in Yemen

What is in store for June 1? According to Ms Najeeba Haddad, several agencies are preparing special programs for this occasion. These include:

A. The first Children's Film Festival which will go on for two weeks starting June 1.

B. The play Hajar (Stone) written by Nahlah Abdulla Abdo. The play is about Palestinian Children.

C. Exhibition of drawings and paintings of children by children.

D. A special children's show and festival

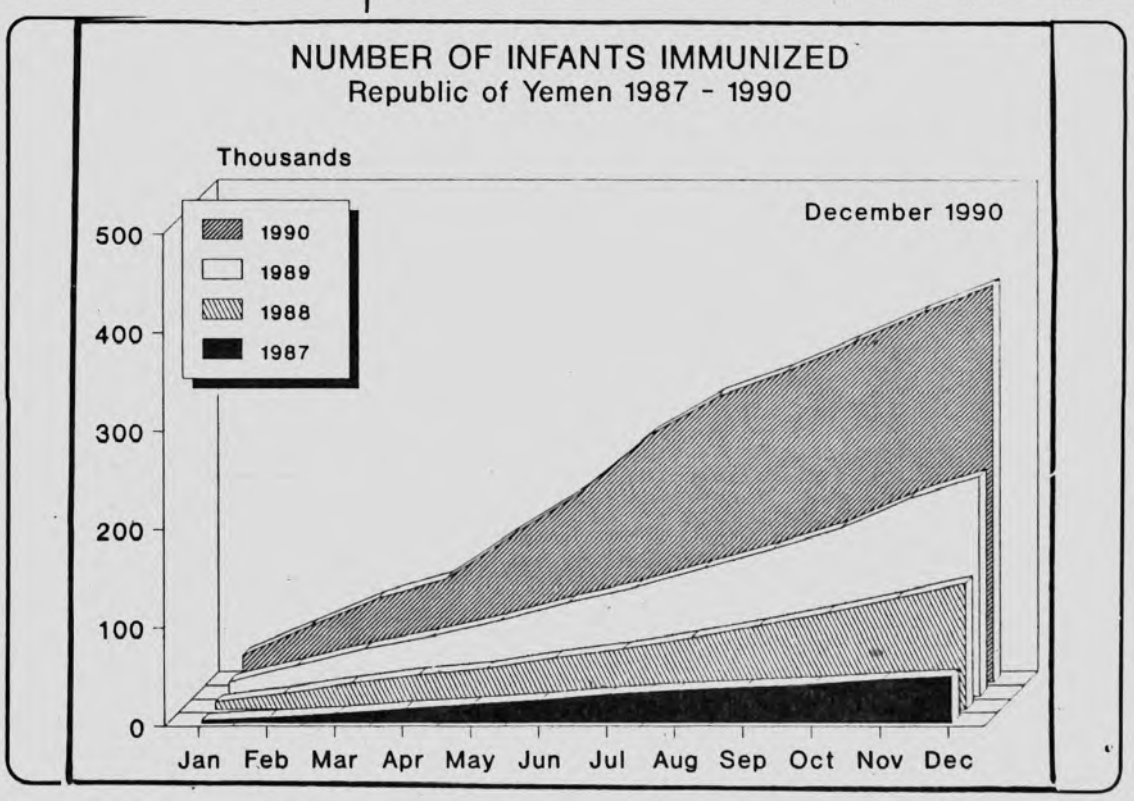
6. Summary

The condition of Yemeni children has improved dramatically over the last three decades. These improvements are substantial, by any standard. Yet, more could be done. It is no secret that most of the volunteer international help to Yemen was instrumental in this regard. The Swedish, Irish, British, Italian, French, German, and Dutch assistance has made and continues to make a real difference in the lives of our children. As Marianne Schmucher says, "The little I do makes a difference in the lives of the children." Yemen Times salutes the children on their day.

CHILD SURVIVAL IN YEMEN

by: UNICEF, Sanaa

"The situation of children in Yemen has significantly improved during the last ten years," states the UNICEF Representative in Sana'a, Stewart Mcnab. During this period there has been a marked reduction in the child mortality rate - the key indicator of social progress. The improvement in child health has been brought about by the expansion of health services, increased access to clean drinking water, better nutrition and increased awareness about child care. According to UNICEF, almost 30 percent of children born in Yemen in 1960 would not have survived to reach the age of five years whereas the figure, today, has been reduced to 19 percent. Although still very high, this figure is a definite indication of the overall improvement in the situation of Yemeni children. Recent advances in child survival have occured as a result of the lowest immunization coverage rates in the world -- barely 10,000 infants per year were fully immunized. By end of 1990, 80 percent of Yemen's infants, almost 400,000 per year, were protected against the six child killer diseases -- measles, tuberculosis, pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, polio and tetanus The success of the program reflects a remarkable public health effort and, if sustained, should result in the saving of almost 20,000 children per year. The Government's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, earlier this year, is potentially a major advance for child survival, development and protection in Yemen. The Convention provides the legal framework for accelerating services for children and should form the basis of national child-related development goals for the 1990s. The preparation of specific national goals for children was one of the main topics included in the Declaration issued at the recent World Summit for Children. The Summit, which was attended by 71 world leaders, stressed the need to halve global child deaths by the year 2000. UNICEF believes that this goal can easily be achieved in Yemen through the adoption of a national Child Survival Strategy. Each year in Yemen almost 100,000 young children die from malnutrition combined with a handful of diseases. According to UNICEF, many could be saved through three simple child-care measures. Most of these can be carried out by the parents themselves, particularly mothers. Breastfeeding for two years is probably the best protection a mother can give her child. Secondly, every infant should receive a full course of immunizations before the first birthday. Thirdly, parents should be made aware of the basic actions to take when their child suffers from diarrhoea and respiratory infections. If all parents knew of these three child care interventions and learned to apply them, a large proportion of child deaths could be averted.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

On the occasion of the International Day of the Child, YEMEN TIMES publishes below the preamble of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20th November, 1989.

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to the present Convention.

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Bearing in mind that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Recognizing that the United Nations has, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.

Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

Bearing in mind that the need to extend particular care to the child has been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights , in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the statutes and relevant instruments of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children.

Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

Recalling the provisions of the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules); and the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict.

Recognizing that, in all countries in the world, there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions, and that such children need special consideration.

Taking due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child.

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, in particular in the developing countries.

ADOPTED THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD

DEPARTING DIPLOMATS

In the coming few weeks, several diplomats of key countries are leaving Yemen. Due to the termination of their terms of service in Sanaa, a few ambassadors are leaving Yemen. Some have already left. Sanaa will bid farewell to the ambassadors of the USA (United States of America), the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Japan. Some more ambassadors who could be leaving, again due to the completion of their terms are the ambassadors of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar. The Saudi Ambassador, has been the longest residing diplomat in Sanaa, and as such, he was the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Sanaa. The Moroccon Ambassador will now take over as dean.

According to these diplomats, they have enjoyed living and working in Yemen, and they will carry home memories they will cherish for a long time. On our part, we also will miss these individuals, and we will continue to remember their efforts in building Yemen's relations with their countries.

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A

Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	247755/56
Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/40/41
Cuba	217304
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Djibouti	265469
Egypt	275948/9
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AIRLINES

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WHEN THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT IS UNABLE TO ENFORCE THE LAW

Special to the YEMEN TIMES

The government has shown time and again that it is unable or unwilling to simply enforce the law. The main reason is corruption and inefficiency. As a result, many citizens have decided to take the law in their hands, and often avenge themselves directly. The government then complains of the lawlessness of some citizens, although, partly the government itself is to blame for not enforcing the law and settle disputes on the basis of the law. Over the month of May alone, there have been reports of six vendetta cases, the most violent one being in Taiz in which six innocent by-standers were killed. To shed more light on this issue, YEMEN TIMES collected the complete file on one case and report on government shortcomings lead to more complications.

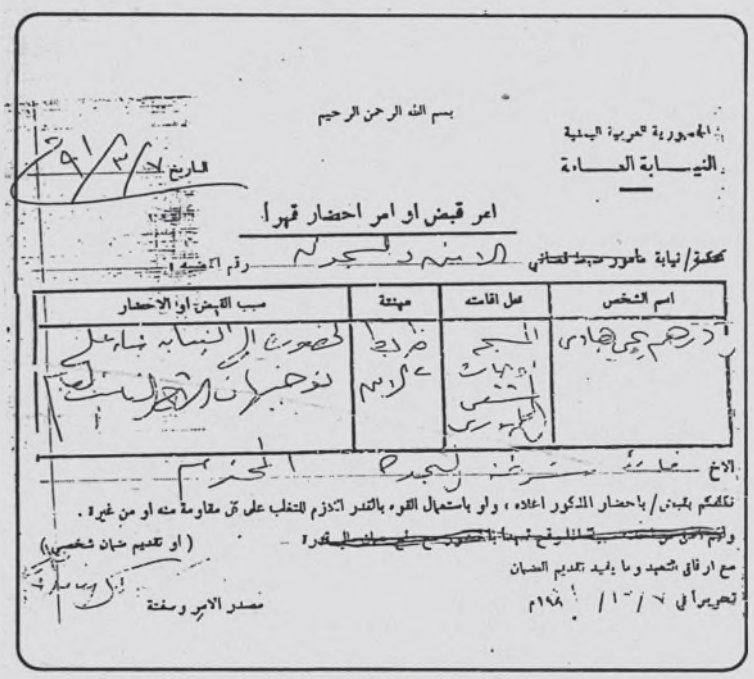
There was a dispute over land ownership in Taiz between Major Dirhem Yahia Abu Fara, Commander of the Hagda Police Station and Taher Said Al-Mikhlafi. The major could not force his way due to resistence from the other party, so on February 22nd, 1991, he and several of his soldiers simply went to the site of the land, pulled out their gun-power and shot at the other side. They killed a university student, Mahfoodh Taher Saif Al-Mikhlafi, and injured others. The Al-Mikhlafi family has been for four months trying to bring Major Dirhem to court, but to no avail. According to one of the brothers, "We simply want the law to take its course. But it seems nobody can enforce the law."

The major is well protected against the law. First, he works for the army/security forces, and this gives him a certain degree of immunity against the law. Second, Major Dirhem is one of the leading members of the People's General Congress party in the region, and this gives some favors with the authorities. (Although Mr. Ali Moqbil Ghuthaim, Vice Chairman of the Parliament, and himself a senior member of the PGC tried unsuccessfully, to dis-associate the party from this man). Finally, Major Dirhem belongs to the Hashed tribal structure, and this gives him considerable support. Be that as it may, the government should be able to enforce the law against any person, otherwise, it loses credibility and the citizens could not be blamed if they try to avenge themselves directly.

The strange part to this story is that the government actually failed to bring this man to justice. On 14/2/1991, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas (letter number 1) ordered the Minister of Interior to bring this major to justice. But there was no action. On 7/3/1991, the General Prosecutor's office gave orders to arrest this man (letter number 2). No one could do it. On 13/3/1991 (letter number 3), Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman, Speaker of the Parliament, instructed the Minister of Interior to uphold the law and bring the offender to justice. No answer! The Minister of Interior himself ordered the government of Taiz to arrest the killer and refer the case to the relevant court (letter number 4). Still no action. The killer is free and continues to go about his business running his police station in Taiz. According to the relatives of the murdered person, the Governor of Taiz and the General Manager of Security Affairs in Taiz are either unable or unwilling to enforce the law. In either case, something is wrong and something grave is about to happen. The family of the murdered person are now seeking ways to rectify things their own way and by themselves. Is this what the government wants - for people to take the law into their own hands?

We asked several political commentators, jurists, and professors of law at the university, "Why does this happen?" There is consensus. The people are gradually losing confidence in the impartiality and capability of the government machinery to enforce the law. The reason - corrupt officials!

We are trying to tell the world that we a democracy. The thing most of us don't realize is that "the rule of law is a necessary condition not only for our democracy, but for the survival of the system itself". Therefore, it is important that the government enforces the law through-out the country irrespective of the parties involved. The most hideous cause of rebellions and anti-government movements is the "feeling that one is cheated on his/her rights and he/she can't do anything about this through the regular channels". So people start taking things into their own hands. We should stop them, but we should also bring the wrong-doers to justice through the proper legal channels. There is no time to lose!



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الجمهورية العربية اليمنية
النيـــابة العـــامة

التاريخ ١٩٩١/٢/١٦

امر قبض او امر احضار قهراً

تحقق/ نيابة مأمور حبط الخلاقي رقم القضية ٢٩ لسنة ١٩٩١

اسم الشخص	محل اقامته	مهنته	سبب القبض او الاحضار
ذرحم يحيى هادي	الحجر	ضابط	حضور النيابة بشأن

الاخ ... المحترم

نأمركم بالقبض/ باحضار المذكور اعلاه، ولو باستعمال القوه بالقدر اللازم للتغلب على كل مقاومة منه او من غيره.

(او تقديم ضمان شخصي)

مع ارفاق التعهد وما يفيد تقديم الضمان

تحريراً في ٧ / ١٠ / ١٩٩١م

مصدر الامر وصفته

الجمهورية اليمنية
مجلس النواب
الرئيس

الرقم ٢٩ / ٢٨ /
التاريخ ١٤١١/٨/٢٧
الموافق ١٩٩١/٣/١٢

الاخ/ وزير الداخلية والامن المحترم

بعد التحية،

تقدم الينا المواطن طاهر سيف قاسم الخلاقي بشكوى حول مقتل ولده، (مرفق لكم نص الشكوى) وتم الاطلاع على الاوامر النيابية التي صدرت الى أجهزة الامن لالقاء القبض على الجاني والتحقيق معه واحالته الى النيابة ذات الاختصاص المكاني، وتفيد الشكوى أن اجهزة الامن بتعزلم تنفذ الامر ولم تلق القبض على الجاني.

وعليه يرجى اتخاذ الاجراءات اللازمة حماية للامن وحتى لاتفاقم المشكلة بين الاطراف.

مع تحياتـــــا.

د. ياسين سعيد نعمان
رئيس مجلس النواب

مرفق،

الجمهورية اليمنية
مجلس الوزراء
الرئيس

الرقم ٥٨ / ٢٥
التاريخ
الموافق ١٤١٠/٧/١٤
المرفقات

الاخ وزير الداخلية والأمن المحترم

بعد التحية:

عطفاً على مراجعة الاخ / طاهر سيف المخلافي والمتضمن مقتل محفوظ طاهر سيف المخلافي في مدينة تعز وان الجاني لازال طليقاً رغم تعليمات وزارة الداخلية والأمن والنيابة العامة المرفق صور منها.

عليكم ضبط الفريم واتخاذ الاجراءات القانونية بحقه.

مع تحياتنا ...

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الداخلية
مكتب الوزير

الرقم ٥٩٦
التاريخ ١٩٩١/٢/٢٠
الملف
المرفقات
الموضوع

الاخ / محافظ لواء تعز — المحترم
الاخ / مدير امن اللواء
بعد التحيه:-

مرفقا بهذا صوره للمذكره الوارده الينا من الاخ / رئيس مجلس النواب برقم (٢٥٥/٢٨/٢/٢٥٨) وتاريخ ١٤١٠/٨/٢٧هـ الموافق ١٩٩١/٣/١٣م حول مقتل ولد المواطن / طاهر سيف قاسم الخلاقي. حيث يشكو المواطن المذكور ان اجهزه الامن في تعز لم تلقي القبض على الجاني كما ترون مرفقا بهذا صوره للمذكره الوارده الينا من الاخ / رئيس الوزراء رقم (٢٨/١٠٥/ت/٦٦) وتاريخ ١٩٩١/٣/١٤م بخصوص هذا الموضوع..

يتم القبض على الجاني والتحقيق واحاله الى الجهات المختصه بالاهتمام

وشكرا ...

YBRD's Leadership Role in Yemeni Banking

Ahmed Mohamed Ali, General Manager, YBRD.

1. History

Banking in Yemen is of recent origins. The first bank, Banque Indochine, began operations in the early 1960s in Hodeidah. It lasted for about six months. Then the National Commercial Bank started limited operations in Hodeidah, Sana'a and Taiz. With the coming of the 26th September Revolution, this bank was terminated. On 28th October, 1962, scarcely a month after the Revolution, the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development (YBRD) was established. This was the first Yemeni Bank, and it was to carry out the functions of a commercial bank, a development bank, and a central bank at the same time, for almost a full decade. In 1969, the National Bank of Yemen was established in Aden and the other cities in the southern provinces.

2. The Banking Structure

The banking system has the structure indicated in the table by Prof Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf. Most of these banks seek at the moment:

a. To expand their branches to cover all the Republic.

b. To increase capital

c. To diversify their finance clientele and base.

Among the banks, the YBRD continues to play an exceptional role as it commands more than half the market. In specific terms, the YBRD provides 80% of total credit provided by the banking system. It dispenses with 63% of the total deposit with banks. To continue its leadership role, the YBRD is presently executing a comprehensive overhaul and re-structuring of its system. It is assisted in this by Touche Ross Consultants.

3. Needed Action

There are several steps badly needed to improve the efficiency of the banks. These include:

a. To raise the paid-up capital of the banks to meet more adequate capital/assets ratios so as to increase the banks' ability to borrow.

b. To create new savings instruments within the deposit structure of banks.

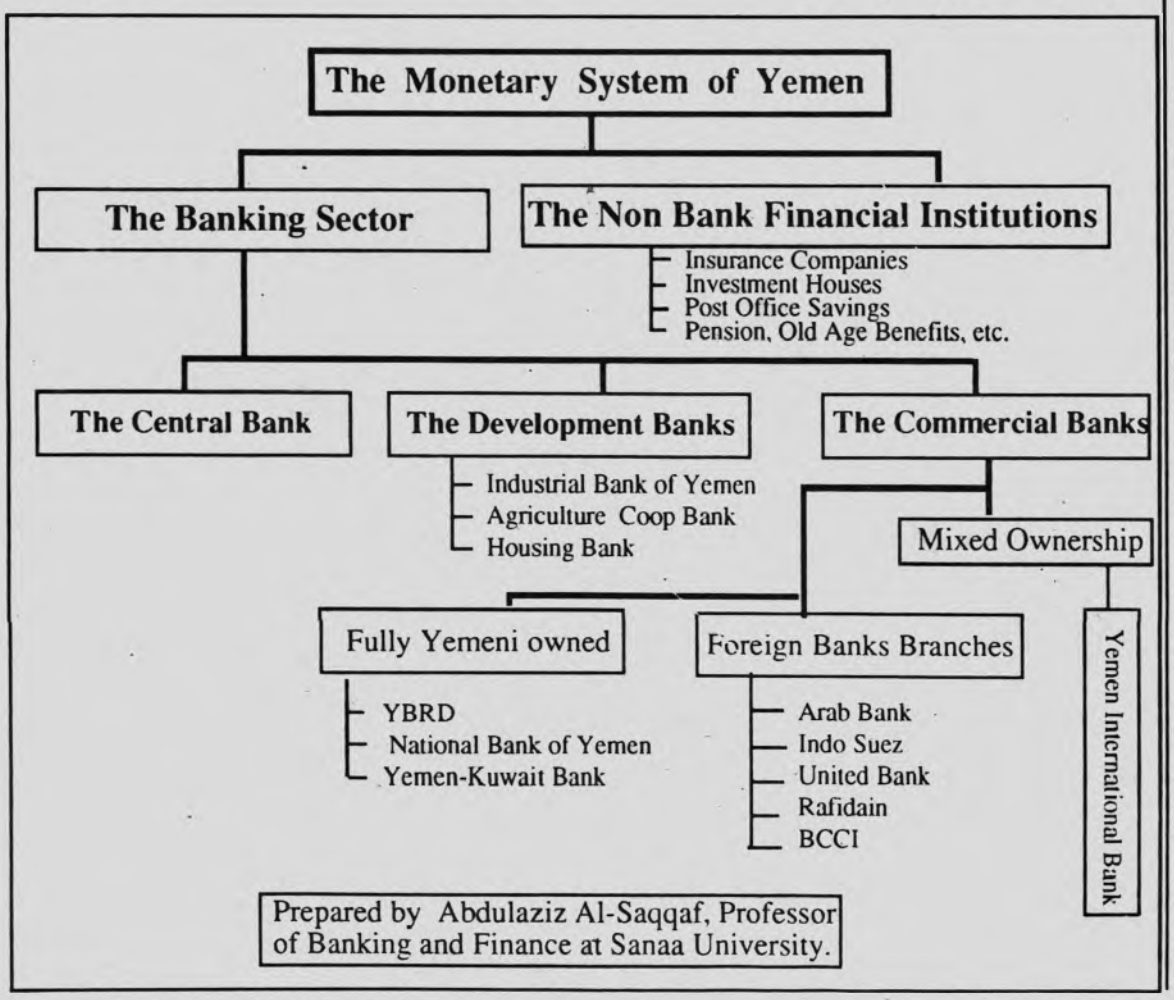
c. To finance more investments. At the moment, the combined credit to industry, agriculture and housing averages 15%-25%, while the dominant portion of the credit goes to trade financing.

d. To remove the credit ceilings, specially in investment financing.

e. To sponsor feasibility studies before embarking on projects.

f. To sponsor more training programs for banking personnel.

In the final analysis, although the Yemeni monetary and banking systems witnessed some set-backs, the fact that they could withstand the difficulties is by itself testimony to their sound foundations. In my professional opinion, I think that the banking system of the Republic of Yemen will witness continued growth and stability. However, we have to pay attention closely to the needs of this sector in the evolution of the Yemeni economy. We at the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development will continue to provide the necessary leadership service for the growth of banking and the economy.



IN SEARCH OF YEMENI FEMALE EXPERTISE

The contribution of Yemeni women to the national economy is changing as the society moves from a traditional economy to a modern one. Today, the contribution of women is not as much as it could be. This is due to the lack of appropriate qualification, and due to a very low participation ratio in economic activities. Two female researchers think there is a third reason - inavailability of data on female expertise and the openings available to them. Sumaya Ali Raja and Margret Verwijk are, therefore, currently working on a three month project sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy. This project attempts to document the credentials of Yemeni career women. YEMEN TIMES talked to these researchers. Excerpts of their interview follows:

Sumaya Ali Raja Margaret Verwijik

Q. Could you describe your project?

A. Through interviews, we are developing a data bank that will serve as resource book on female experts in the country. The idea is that these Yemeni women could be called upon to take part in development projects. We are interviewing women with expertise in all fields such as agriculture, health, adminstration, education, water, research, communication, media, translation, engineering, computers, automation, environment, sanitation, industry, private business, etc. In the last three weeks alone, sixty women living in Sana'a have filled up the forms. The forms intend to supply us with their educational and professional background. We plan to visit Ibb, Taiz, Aden, and Hodeidah for this purpose. Eventually, we hope to document 2000 female experts in Yemen.

Q. How difficult is it to involve Yemeni women in work for development projects?

A. Of course, there continues to exist a rather negative social attitude towards women undertaking paid employment. Many factors discourage the rise of the career woman; these are related to class, marital status, fertility patterns, household structure, etc. Yet, Yemeni women are increasingly joining the urban labor force. Through my (Margaret Verwijk) personal experience working with both Yemeni male and female experts in the fields of media, communication and social research found that educated Yemeni women often complain that foreign agencies tend to employ only foreign females, such as British, Dutch, Egyptian and Sudanese, instead of using the locally available expertise. These Yemeni women are convinced that they could do much of the work assigned presently to their foreign counterparts. They should, for are they not the ones who have knowledge of the language, the customs and habits of their country? In addition, given the overwhelming response to our documentation project, I think Yemeni women are ready to play a more active role in their country's development. Interest, support and enthusiasm of qualified Yemeni women with regard to their country's development is overwhelming. If qualified women take part in the different projects, they will not only improve the quality of developmental efforts, but they can also define their specific needs more accurately. It is particularly important to refer to their views while identifying and planning development projects. In this way, Yemeni women could substantially influence the nature of the projects being implemented and the course of development.

Q. The number of qualified women is growing every year. Will there be a follow-up or incremental system in your data bank?

A. Certainly. We are fully involved in the establishment of the data bank and the preparation and publication of the resource book. The Royal Netherlands Embassy intends to keep the information up-dated. We will not only revise the data yearly, but also add new profiles to the computerized inventory.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

ACROSS
1 Ashen
5 Flower part
10 Narrow opening
14 Refrigerator
15 Mideast capital
16 — down (raze)
17 English author
20 Norton or Berry
21 Washington's bills
22 Wipe out
23 Appearance
24 Equine
26 Exhibit halls
29 Hide
30 Crawly creature
33 Military division
34 Kentucky college
35 Pair
36 English author
40 Contend
41 Virginia's — Caverns
42 Encourage
43 Always, to poets
44 Worship object
45 Creators
47 Uniform
48 Sheep shelter
49 Thing found
52 Classify
53 Health resort
56 English author
60 State firmly
61 Zodiac sign
62 Communication
63 Torn place
64 Goes swiftly
65 Western redskins

DOWN
1 Digging tool
2 Yearn
3 Incline
4 Blunder
5 Oatmeal breads
6 Consumed
7 Excavations
8 Exist
9 Tennis stroke
10 Narrative
11 Singer Horne
12 Stable fare,
13 Corner
18 Meat cut
19 Income source
23 Night flyer
24 Singer Como
25 Butterine
26 Smoothly polite
27 — Oakley
28 Capacity unit
29 Flower part
30 Mexican abode
31 Terrific!
32 Auden and Donne
34 English poet
37 Author Goldsmith
38 Bare
39 Body of water
45 Bog
46 Aleutian island
47 Court celebrity
48 Sky traveler
49 Mighty monarch
50 Be footloose
51 Portent
52 Ado
53 Photo
54 Party snack
55 Iowa college town
57 Grieving
58 Period
59 African antelope

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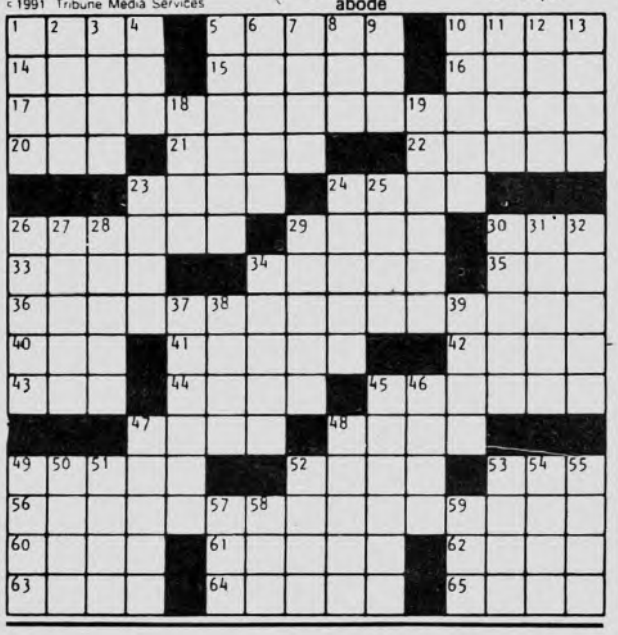


MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

THE BUCKEYE STATE (Sol.: 9 letters)
A-Akron, Amish; **C**-Cardinal, Children's Zoo, Coal, Columbus; **D**-Dayton; **E**-Euclid; **F**-Fairs, Farms, Fertile, Forests; **G**-Gateway state, Glass, Grow; **H**-Home; **I**-Industry; **K**-Kent; **L**-Lake Erie, Lake Hope, Lima, Live, Lorain; **M**-Museums; **O**-Oberlin College; **O**-Ohio; **P**-Parma, Plants, Proud, Pottery; **R**-Reds, Rubber; **S**-Schools, Sports; **T**-Toledo; **V**-Villages, Visit; **W**-Warren, Wineries, Wool, Work.

c 1991 Tribune Media Services

V I L L A G E S W F F N A R M
W O R G E E T H A A L P E E U
T I S I V P A O R I K R G B S
Y E E D I O T M R R R O E B E
R S P S L H S E E S O U L U U
T T O S N E Y K N Z W D L R M
S S T A O K A E S C H O O L S
U E T L T A W N H S O L C A L
D R E G Y L E T S T D O N K V
N O R K A R T W I N E R I E S
I F Y O D P A R M A L A L E P
E U C L I D G R A L O I R R O
E L I T R E F E M P T N E I R
O H I O C A R D I N A L B E T
C O L U M B U S L O O W O C S

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYMUS

NILAF

BRILEM

ENBATE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "□□□□ □□□□□"

Words of Wisdom

Even the smallest sparrow may be provided for in this world, but nobody tosses food into its nest.

* * *

People who act first and think later may spend their lives in regret.

* * *

The trick to a long life is to live it slowly.

* * *

A wise head makes for a still tongue.

* * *

Those who have little and want less are far richer than those who have much and want more.

* * *

Bad politicians are elected by good citizens who fail to vote.

* * *

Anxiety is interest paid on trouble before it's due.

* * *

Facts that are not forthrightly faced have a sneaky habit of creeping up and stabbing us in the back.

Would You Believe.....

The toothbrush is believed to have been invented in China in the late 15th century.

* * *

Diamonds are destructible. They will turn into graphite at temperatures of 1,400 to 1,600 degrees.

* * *

In espionage terms, The Firm is a reference to the British Secret Service, whereas The Company is a reference to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

* * *

The famous Burma-Shave signs that used to entertain motorists on America's roads were invented by Allan Odell, the son of the company's founder.

* * *

There should be at least 10 percent more brown M&M's than red, yellow, green, orange or tan M&M's in any one package of the candies. That's according to standards devised by the candy company.

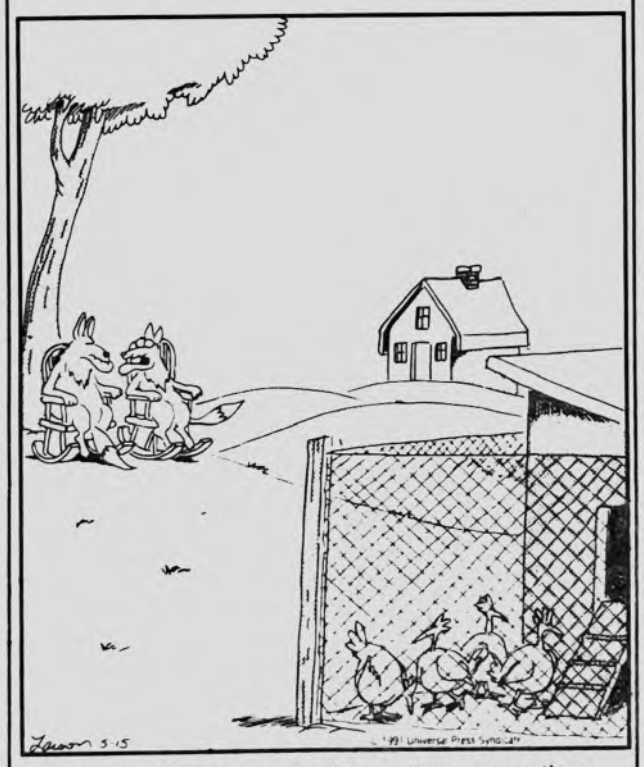
* * *

Director Cecil B. De Mille was once the father-in-law of actor Anthony Quinn.

ALL ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE TWELVE.

GOOD LUCK!!

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



"Look at us, Hank. ... I tell you, there was a time when we did more than just *watch* the henhouse."

"Look at that, Charlie—what a sorry state today's society is in! Thirty years ago the wages of sin was *death—now* look what the wages of sin is!"

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: A time for pondering the deeper issues of life. Being in love can be heavenly.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Keep secrets to keep the peace. Financial magic this week.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Experiences have a way of bringing personal transformation. Increased powers of expression.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Secret romance is likely. Financial opportunities open, but you have to push yourself.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Greater popularity and success in love, as difficult relationships smooth out.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Solid footing at home stabilizes the rest of your life. A change in travel plans.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Intense communications bring an equally strong reaction from others.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Handle money well and you could set yourself up for a long time. Romance with Taurus.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) You are at your best. More confidence and charisma. Love affairs have a special magic.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Prepare yourself inwardly. Have an ace up your sleeve. Peak experiences this week.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Influential group connections help surmount emotional and material hurdles.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Focus on making your way in the world. Financial needs come into sharp focus.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Your beliefs are a source of strength. More sparks in your love life. Children can be a handful.

If You Were Born This Week

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTERS TO THE

To: Dr. Manfred E. Matzdorf
Advisory Service to the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Your letter dated 12th May, 1991 regarding your concern for environment protection. It has been reproduced below for the benefit of our readers.

"The Constitution should provide for protection of Yemen's natural resources from overexploitation and pollution for the sake of ensuring a healthy life of the present human population and, even more so, of future generations. The Constitution as the main framework for the legislation should acknowledge the importance of unpolluted water and air, of a wise management of water resources, soils, of Yemen's fauna and flora etc., for a sustainable human and socio economic development. In most Western countries where the effects of industrial development, population growth and consumerism are much more pronounced, the right for a healthy environment has been included in respective constitutions. This forms the basis for subsequent legislation and implementation of policies which aim at halting the trend of overexploitation and pollution of natural resources (which for a long time seemed unavoidably linked to the attainment of higher living standards) and even the improvement of environmental conditions in spite of continued economic growth. It is unfortunate that natural resources are considered 'free' or 'public goods' which are not sufficiently taken care of by private interest and so far also not by inadequate public institutions. Secondly, the timelag between human intervention in the environment and their visible negative or positive effects are in most cases of a very long-term nature. Therefore, corrective action is usually too little and taken too late. In this context, it is laudable that the Environmental Protection Council is organizing a seminar in June 1991 on the status of the Yemeni environment and related problems as well a course on "Environmental Impact Assessment" in Sana'a. This should raise awareness of the public administration and the public at large about the issues at stake and action to be taken."

To: Nabil Mohammed Khowlani,
Azal School, Hadda Br., Sanaa.

Thank you for your interest in the YEMEN TIMES. We will continue to provide information on sports in every issue of our paper.
We hope you will enjoy reading the paper. In this issue, we provide more information on tennis players.
We are happy with your efforts to learn English. Any effort you put into learning English is well worth it.
Unfortunately, we cannot link you up with others. This is not something this paper does, and we hope that you can get in touch with them on your own. Hopefully, they will also contact you through your above address.

/ ⇨/ ⇨/ ⇨/ ⇨

To: Budoor Abdullah Al-Mawiri, Teacher,
Khowlah Girls' School, Sanaa.

Many thanks for your letter. We hereby reproduce your message on Islamic teachings regarding family life:
"Islam has stressed the importance of family life as the basis for establishing a viable society. The continuation of family directly depends on the bahviour of the husband (father) and wife (mother). Islam calls upon both to nurture the love and care they have for each other, even under conditions of hardships. In case of family differences or disputes, Islam has put forth many solutions that take the interests of the children and family at heart. The parents are supposed to behave in a way that the present role models for their children. If the family is built on sound foundations, then a viable society could also be built."

★+★+★+★+

To: The Yemeni Family Association, Sanaa.

Thank you for the leaflets, posters, calenders and other information. Due to the importance of the information you provided, we hereby reproduce the statistics on the break-down of the Yemeni population by age-group. From the table, it will be readily visible that the infants and toddlers make-up more than one-fifth of the total poplation. Moreover, more than half of the population is under 14 years of age.

Population Distribution	
Age Group	**Population%**
0-4 years	21.81%
5-9 years	17.65%
10-14 years	12.87%
15-19 years	9.26%
20-24 years	6.62%
25-29 years	5.71%
30-34 years	5.07%
35-39 years	4.44%
40-44 years	3.63%
45-49 years	3.01%
50 and more	9.94%
TOTAL	100%

SPECIAL LETTER

This week, YEMEN TIMES received a letter from Suha Ali Abdullah Al-Mawiri, whose picture appears below, is a fifth grader at Arwa Girls' School.

"I understand that I now can express my viewpoints. Children today have more rights. I am very happy with the Constitution which has given me all these privileges and rights. In the name of all children, I say "Yes" to the constitution."

LONG LIVE THE UNION!

It is so great,
The union to create
Why being separated
We're all kindered
North and South
Discrimination without.
Long live the union!

Thanks to the leaders
For the bright ideas
You sat and thought
Bravely for the link you fought
To make a wonderful creation
Full of sensation.
Long live the union!

We're all the same
Why bring shame
Let's be brave
Disgust deep in grave
Enemies will leave alone
Our country for that reason.
Long live the union!

One and one is two
Not anymore few
Together our thoughts
Will form no faults
We will help each other
And support one another.
Long live the union!

It is a peaceful association
With kindness relation
To our Allah, we pray
His blessings to spray
The union to be strong
As the decision was never wrong.
Long live the union!

Congratulations to all the people
To accept and make the union simple
It is a good example
In the world as a sample
Other countries to follow
Understanding and peace to allow.
Long live the union!

by: FATMA S. RAWAH

Parmar:

"TOURISM IS PICKING UP SLOWLY!"

.Mr. J. S. Parmar, the General Manager of the Sanaa Sheraton, has been in the hotel business since 1966 when he joined the Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi. At the Delhi Oberoi he served in many capacities, the last of which was Assistant General Manager. In 1978, he left Delhi to work as Resident Manager in Sri Lanka for four years. Since then he served as General Manager of five-star hotels in New Delhi, Baghdad, Cairo, and finally in Sanaa. In 1989, he joined the Sheraton group and took his first assignment as General Manager of the Sana'a Sheraton..

Q. How is business at the Sana'a Sheraton?

A. All the efforts of the Sheraton general managers (current and previous) plus those of Yemenia and the travel agencies in projecting Yemen as a viable tourist destination paid off. Tourism was picking up, that is, until the Gulf War came along. As soon as the war started, everything stopped. There was no business and we were hit very badly. Today the situation is improving gradually but it is not coming back with the same force as it was before the Gullf war. The rebuilding process is a very slow one.

Q. How are your bookings (reservations) coming??

A. We are getting a steady flow of bookings. Already, as compared to August, our occupancy rates have increased by 200% to 300%. May, June and July are not tourist months. We expect to get back to about 50-60% of last year by the end of the year.

Q. Are there concerted efforts on the part of the hotels, airlines and travel agencies, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to promote tourism?

A. We (the hotels) have

been able to push as much as we can. Yemenia is doing its best and the top two tour operators in Yemen (YATA and Universal) are quite busy in Europe trying to do their best in promoting tourism to Yemen. I am not cognizant of the efforts of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Q. What is the make-up of your guests?

A. It always changes. In the low season, 95% of our guests are businessmen or government guests, like it is in these days. In the peak tourist season, we have two distinct and almost equal groups, one which is tourism related and the other is business related..

Q. When do you expect to get back to the 1989 levels?

A. As I said, tourism is picking up. However, I suspect it will be at least the end of 1991 before we can get back to the 1989 levels.

Q. How do you evaluate the need for new hotels in Yemen?

A. It depends on how fast the infrastructure develops. For example, if you have five star hotels in Sana'a and Aden and if you don't have any lower class hotels in the smaller towns in-between, it will be a problem. When tourists come to Yemen, they spend some time in Sanaa and the other major cities, but they also go to other places and they need to spend a night there. It is important to have adequate four star hotels to accomodate them. The Ministry of Tourism should come up with a master plan for the development of tourism for the whole country, not just for certain cities.

Q. What do you think the government should do to promote tourism?

A. I hope the government puts up a hotel training institute so that we can get trained personnel. At present, we are hiring people and spending a lot of time, money and efforts to train them. In the meanwhile, restrictions on the hiring of expatriates could be eased. We at the Sheraton are trying our best to fill our vacancies with Yemenis as much as that is possible. Our budgeted strength is 282 but on actual payroll we have 240 staff, of which 160 are Yemenis. We are ready to cooperate with the government and other parties in promoting Yemeni tourism

CARAVANSERAIS: SYMBOLS OF YEMEN AS TRADE LINCHPIN

The remnants of dozens of caravanserais are a manifestation of Yemeni civilization. Through-out the Yemeni civilizations grave importance was attached to the maintenance of connection routes, linking Yemen to various parts of the world. To this end, places were established along the routes for resting. The Greek historian of the fifth century BC, Herodotus, wrote "There had been many stations which had been used by the caravans but these caravanserais have been ruined ever since." They had been built with mud bricks. Caravanserais served as places for the exchange of cultures and trade. The long distances between trade centers, the impact of the desert environment, threats of wars, and gangs of bandits and plunderers all necessitated the establishment of secure places for the resting of the caravans and passengers. Thus, since time immemorial, places were established to safeguard connection routes.

We can identify three types of caravanserais in Yemen. One with a large yard and a wide hall for sheltering livestock. This type of caravanserais was similarly built in all the Near East, and is therefore referred to as "Mediterranean caravanserais". The second type included rectangular halls around the central yard. The third type is the series of shop like chambers with storage facilities in the rear. There were also deluxe caravanserais built for the stay of official guests and courtsmen and were equipped with all kinds of facilities. Caravanserais were usually built by three groups. The first group were the rulers who built caravanserais merely for the use by themselves and their close associates. The second group was the private sector who built caravanserais for regular business purposes. The third and last group were benevolent people who would build caravanserais for the sake of the comfort of the passengers and would charge them no money as part of the "awqaf" system.

Caravanserais in the high mountains of Yemen used to be built in arduous defiles and were mostly regarded as shelters. They usually had small chambers which were a blessing for caravans on cold windy nights in the mountains.

Caravanserais in Yemen are not confined to mountainous areas or plains. While in mountains and plains they serve as a shelter for passengers and livestocks, in cities they rather served as a place for trade transactions. For city people the term "bazaar" and "caravanserais" had the same meaning. Perhaps it could be said that there were caravanserais in bazaars which were called arcades, like the ones in Sana'a (Souq al Milh) and in Taiz (Souq al Shanini). These places were the residence of merchants. The entrance gate of these caravanserais would be closed at sunset and special guards would patrol around it through the night. But caravanserais built outside the bazaars had a different architecture. They had high walls and a number of yards with many rooms and large halls equipped with required facilities. In cities where merchants would often travel, caravanserais used to be built in two-storeys, one for passengers and one for livestocks.

At present hotels have replaced caravanserais and asphalted roads, highways and high speed cars leave no need for caravanserais between cities. But, efforts of those who built such places should be honored by safeguarding those remnants of our heritage. A prosperous future can only be built by those who know their past well.

Boy/Girl Scouts Raise Funds for Charities

Yemen's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Associations have organized an exhibition of handicrafts produced by their members. The exhibition started on Thursday 23rd May in the building of the Sanaa Municipality in Tahreer Square as part of the celebration of the first anniversary of the unification of the country. Speaking to YEMEN TIMES, Mohammed Yahia Al-Badawai, supervisor of the exhibition, indicated that proceeds will go to charity organizations. It is worth mentioning that this is not the first such event sponsored by the Yemeni scouts.

SPORTS

PRINCE OF YEMENI TENNIS

Great tennis players have often come to lime light suddenly. We can now add the name of Hisham Al Arashi to the list of the best tennis stars in the country. Three years ago, no one was quite sure what to expect from Hisham when he competed in the Rothman's Tennis Championships held at the Sana'a Sheraton Hotel. Though he was unseeded, Rothman's competition

was his first ever competition and his debut appearance on court. His biggest test was in the semi finals against Nabil Al Judairy, his doubles partner and in the finals, he did not give any one a chance. He has tremendous power in his legs, says one of his fans. Hisham grew up in Sana'a and attended one of the most exclusive schools in the country. A son of a wealthy man Yahya Al Arashi, he wants to become a successful engineer. Judging from the result of his last competition, modern day tennis stars are not born but made. Tennis is a sport where the energy required is twice that much of a runner. It demands a lot of movement, split-second timing, and fine techniques. Every game is equivalent to seven days work. Tennis is peculiar as compared to other games as the prize money is very tempting. Without name and recognition, there is no guarantee that an aspiring tennis player will ever get a chance to play in international tournaments.

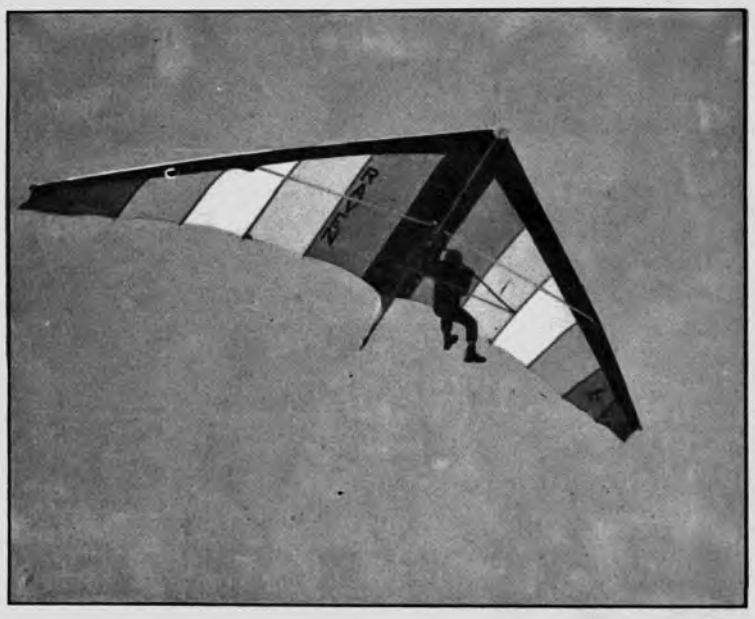
Most of Hisham's victories in the local competitions were on courts that no longer exist today, where stakes were low and participants were always more experienced and senior to him. Lack of competition and sponsorship does not deter Hisham from playing. "My day is not complete without holding my racket," says Hisham. He practises regularly for four hours a day, sometimes at the Sana'a Sheraton or sometimes at the Military Club. "I think I could have done a lot better, if I had a qualified coach to help me," he added. Hisham's talent became known to the general public during the championships held at the Sana'a Sheraton. He won the men's singles and doubles title against more experienced and senior players. In addition to the two trophies awarded to him, he won a special prize of two round trip airline tickets. At the young age of nineteen years, he has accomplished more than most of his contemporaries. He still hasn't reached his peak but anyone can predict that a bright future lays ahead of him. With enthusiastic support from his father and family members, he has become a successful tennis player. He is one of those rare young athletes who has the knack of being at the right place at the right time - on the court or off the court. When he is not in the court, Hisham devotes his time improving his English at YALI (Yemen American Language Institute) or watching his favorite tennis stars on TV. He admires the abilities of Steffi Graf and Boris Becker. "Hisham's is not a story book life," says his American teacher, "but has achieved success at everything that he has tried."

Visiting him is like spending the day with your family. With his intense gaze and forceful personality, he seems to occupy much of the space in a large room, not to mention a ear. When he enters into a conversation, he seems to want to squeeze every moment.of it. In the local tennis world, he is known for his strong forehand style that has taken him to the top. He is always attacking, often from directions that the opponents are not prepared for. He keeps increasing the pressure on his opponents till they faulter. Tennis players are often quite good at explaining their reasoning to one another, but by and large they have little appetite for translating technical ideas into generally accessible language. Hisham has been striving to turn tennis into a popular sport in the country and trying to capture the abstract essence of the game into simple language for a beginner to understand. The real art of tennis is to evaluate the factors, because they are so different. The quality of the game and timing must be controlled. "I take risks in my attacks, but they make me feel alive," says Hisham. Some backhands or forehands are so complex that you cannot calculate. You must use your power to reveal your insight. If tennis in this country is to achieve popularity, it is necessary that the fear and excitement felt by the players be conveyed to the audience. Tennis is a tough game which people don't know. The game cannot be played on an empty court. It needs people to watch and enjoy. Hisham started playing tennis from the age of fifteen and his ability was quite apparent. He spent most of his time playing with grown-ups and the only other player to attain recognition before him was Nabil Al Judairy. Characterizing the style of Hisham can be misleading. He often comes close to the net and is capable of brilliant attacks. One thing I noticed in him is his perfect sense of timing and his ability to feel his opponents. When he is in top form, he can dislodge any opponent with his powerful backhands. He has an internal urge to create wonders and win a game when he is down and under. He does this because he knows that he can make miracles even during the dying moments of the game. This is dangerous because miracles don't always happen.

GLIDING OVER NUQUM ON UNITY DAY

Wind gliding, as Mohammed Al-Maqaleh describes it, allows one to celebrate Unity Day in a unique way - to become a part of it and one with it. "Smoothly gliding at a leisurely speed allows for tremendous feeling and deep reflection," he says. It was his way of celebrating this magnificent event. "Besides," he say, "by gliding over the mountains one get acquainted with mountain tracks."

It was a hot Friday afternoon, and Al-Maqaleh is scheduled to fly off at 4:00 pm. As early as 3:00 pm, already a large crowd has started to gather in Al-Salam Park (the landing site) near the Sheraton Hotel. One old woman summarized the majority's uneasy feelings. "What a freak. First, he labors all the way until the top of the mountain, and then he lets himself fall off. What will people do next!" Mohammed is already on top of the mountain, he is studying the force and direction of the wind. He is preparing for take-off. At first glance, the mountain and the surroungs are quiet, the landscape appears empty of life. "Wind gliding is an embodiment of mankind's willingness to try the impossible," he says. "I feel like 'superman' flying over the boulders and tall trees," he added. Nothing



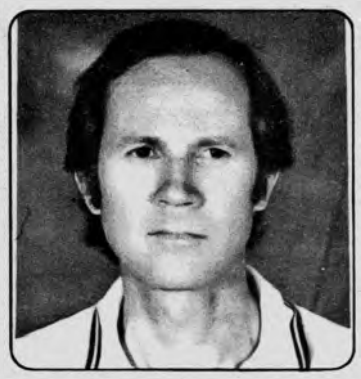
interferes with me as I pass by, and I enjoy the breeze as it hits my face. This is my only contact with the world for the next few minutes.

Over the years, wind gliding has not changed much. The basic requirements are the boots, helmet, body protector, and of course knowledge of what you are doing. One more thing - you need a hell lot of courage to let go from way up there. Mr. Maqaleh has been at it for four years now, and he hopes to continue. He still remembers his first jump. His tormentor David Van Hammen took him to Wadi Dhahr, and after considerable preparations, he told him to go. He did, and he has been going ever since. He has done this thing quite a few times, and each time, he conquers a new peak and a new rift. His last jump, before Nuqum, that is, was Jabal Abian last month. His highest jump was from Jabal Nabi Shu'aib. At 34 years, he hopes to go a few more years. In the meanwhile, he is looking for gutsy disciples. "Who knows? One of these days, gliding may become a popular sport in Yemen."

But it is 4:00 pm. There is a commotion in the streets, and the spectators are getting tense. There was a lull, as if the people were gauging the wind. The wind is too strong. Another forty five minutes passed. People were looking through binoculars. The wind was right, but now there is fog. A few more minutes passed. Then at 5:15 a huge eagle came down gliding. It was Mohammed Al-Maqaleh. He made a few turns manoeuvering as he came closer and closer to the landing site. Eight full minutes and there was a perfect landing. It is a tremendous sport, full of life and excitement, but a very dangerous one too.

Tinker, Tailor: A Word on Democracy

by: Eric Watkins:



The announcement of Yemen's unification just over a year ago will doubtless be recorded as a major turning point in the history of the Arabian Peninsula, not least because it has come as a turn towards democratic rule. In adopting this form of government, the people of Yemen are clearly breaking with ancient political traditions of their own and, outmoded as such traditions may be, their discarding may well invite a degree of uncertainty and even apprehension over the country's political future. But, if the words of an outside observer have any validity whatsoever, the political auguries are not altogether unpromising.

Successful democratic government rests on the understanding that political unity is achieved through the recognition and interchange of diverse political viewpoints. Such understanding can, of course, be the subject of abstruse political theorising. But it is no less accessible in ordinary layman's terms: "I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". Simple though they may be, those words embody the almost paradoxical essence of democracy: the preservation of plurality in unity and of unity in plurality.

Over the past year, we have witnessed a noteworthy efflorescence of the democratic spirit in Yemen. From the onset of unification, the transition government of General Ali Abdullah Saleh has insisted on the implementation of a multi-party political system. That insistence is well within the spirit fo democracy for it seeks to insure that all political perspectives are represented but that no single one of them will predominate over the others. Without doubt there have been pockets of resistence against that call to democracy. But most Yemenis have responded to it eagerly and, as a result, we have seen a proliferation of new political parties, political newspapers, and political debate.

Such a burgeoning of interest is both to be expected and encouraged at the outset of Yemen's democratisation. But if the country's political energies are not to be dissipated in a hodgepodge of splinter parties and a cacophone of voices, attention must soon turn to the idea of an organised -- and loyal -- opposition. If, as we have stated earlier, the essence of democracy consists in the recognition and respect for diverse political views, then the idea of a loyal opposition will hardly seem threatening or even alien. Indeed, as Benjamin Disraeli, a former British Prime Minister, once observed: "No Government can long be secure without a formidable opposition". And the explanation for this is straightforward. A formidable opposition keeps the government on its toes and -- ideally -- always acting in the best interests of the people who elect it.

Democracy does not come to anyone ready-made and fitting perfectly. It must be tinkered with and tailored to suit the particular needs of those who try it on. We in the West have been tinkering with our democracy for nearly 2,000 years and we are under no illusions about the imperfections of its fits. But, as Winston Churchill once noted, it is not such a bad form of government: "Democracy is the worst form of government except all other forms which have been tried from time to time". We of the Western democratic tradition naturally welcome Yemen's adoption of this "worst" from of government and look forward to the outcome of your own tinkering and tailoring.

Watkins is the only Western correspondent resident in Yemen and is accredited with the "Financial Times".

ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

MAGIC WORD

CLEVELAND

JUMBLES

MUSTY FINAL LIMBER BEATEN

What !! was, under the citrus tree—
"SUB-LIME"

CROSSWORDS

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The COMPUTER CORNER

by: Dr. Abdul-Raheem Assalwi

THE VIRUS - Part IV

SAFEGUARDING YOUR COMPUTER

Although it is probably impossible to completely isolate oneself from all risk (especially since so many creative individuals create the viruses), a number of practices can greatly reduce the risk of catching a computer virus. A microcomputer can be considered 'low risk' if the following conditions exist:

1. The unit is stand alone with no modem (especially for the downloading of executable files)).
2. The computer hardware and software is single user and not shared with a group of users.
3. You do not share files or programs with others.
4. You do not use unauthorized or pirated copies of commercial software packages.
5. And you avoid the use of free shareware. The greater number of the above risks that are regularly practiced will increase the possibility of importing a computer virus.

However, since many of the above practises cannot be avoided, especially with the importance of networking microcomputers and the widespread use of modems, a number of precautions can be taken to help avoid unnecessary difficulties.

- Regularly make back-up copies of all data files, especially on disks with no part of the operating system resident.
- Some of the contaminated disks can be recovered by replacing the operating system with an unaffected copy (assuming that the particular virus is one which affects the operating system).
-Reboot or turn-off the system between uses and use a clean copy of the operating system.
- Lock the microcomputer when away from the desk and log off any network connections when they are not required.
- Use only 'clean' commercially produced software that appears to be untampered (e.g still in shrink wrap).
- If public domain or 'borrowed' software is to be used let someone else be the guinea pig and test it first (somewhat like having a food taster in the days of Caesar), although this cannot be completely safe since some viruses don't appear until later.
- Avoid downloading executable files from the pub lic bulletin board systems. Even bulletin boards of good reputation may not always be free from problems.
- When possible use a write protect tab on floppy disks containing Command.Com.
- If a computer virus has been 'going around' an institution attempt to find out as much as possible about it to avoid contamination. If a vaccine software program exists to protect against a local epidemic it may be worth purchasing or obtaining a copy as extra precaution.

DOS COMMAND TIPS\
Restore - External DOS Commasnd

RESTORE restores one or more files that were backed up with the BACKUP command (see last week's issue of Yemen Times for a tip on the use of DOS Backup Command) from diskettes to a fixed disk.

FORMAT: RESTORE d1:[d2:][path][filename[.ext]][/S][/P]

REMARKS:

d1: - the drive that will contain the backup diskette(s).

d2: - the fixed disk drive to which files will be restored. If imitted, the default drive is assumed.

path - the directory path of the directory that will receive the restored files. If imitted, the current directory is assumed.

filename - the name of the file to be restored. Global characters (* and?) are allowed.

ext - the filename extension of the file to be restored. Global characters (* and ?) are allowed.

/S - specifies that files in the current directory and all other subdirectories beyond it are to be restored.

/P - prompts to ask if a file that has been changed sinee the last backup or if a file designated "read only" should be restored. You can then choose whether or not to restore the file. Read only is a file attribute that can be set by programs interfacing internally with DOS. The hidden DOS system files are read-only.

Only files that have been backed up with the BACKUP command may be restored.

Warning: When a file is restored to a directory that contains a file with the same name, the contents of the existing file are replaced by the restored file.