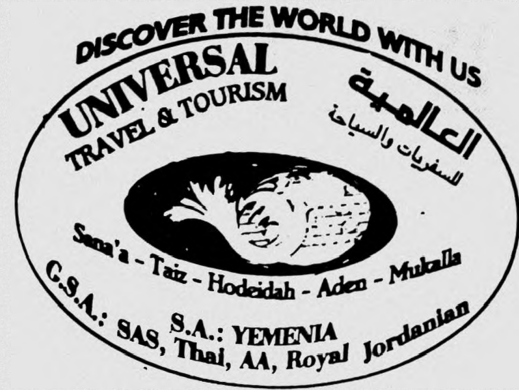




YEMEN TIMES

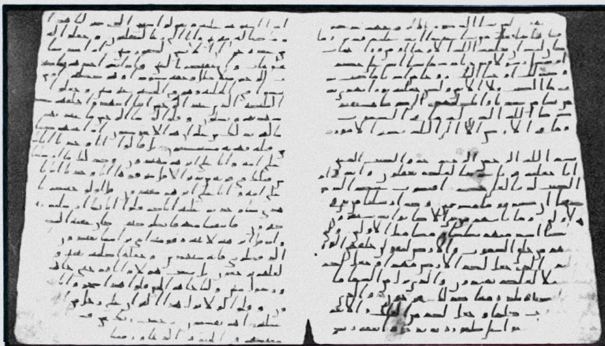
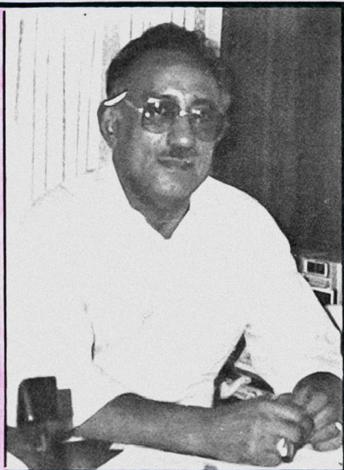


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 14 - 20 AUGUST 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 24

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OUR VIEWPOINT

IT IS BETTER THAN HE SAYS.

Over the last few weeks, people have been talking about the two articles in the Le Monde (9+10/7/1991) written by Jean Gueyras following his visit here during the first anniversary of the unification of Yemen. The pessimistic report, in my opinion, is due to two factors. First, the visit came at a time when the local complications due to the return of the Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf state were at their climax. Second, most foreign visitors get their information from rumors and word of mouth, which is often incorrect and tends to be dramatic. Thus, Mr. Gueyras, learned and knowledgeable as he may be, has fallen victim to those two factors in arriving at his bleak conclusions.

No one can say Yemen has no problems, and some are pretty serious. But, there is more optimism and hope in Yemen than in any of the neighboring countries. Actually, the psychological thermometer is far more healthy in Yemen today than it is in France itself, which suffers from some incurable difficulties. We in Yemen are slowly working to help alleviate our problems, and they are getting less and less serious with time. As a matter of fact, it is accepted by all observers that Yemen has come out of the most difficult times. Some circles had expected the country to fall in disarray due to the dramatic cut-off of foreign aid and the return of some one million Yemenis. We have withstood those difficulties, and we have come out of the crisis stage. We are now in upward turn on the curve of growth, however slow that may be.

I hope foreign journalists are more objective and more accurate when they write about any country or incident. I have read the Le Monde pieces three times. Most of what Mr. Gueyras wrote is conjectural and some of it is plain nonsense.

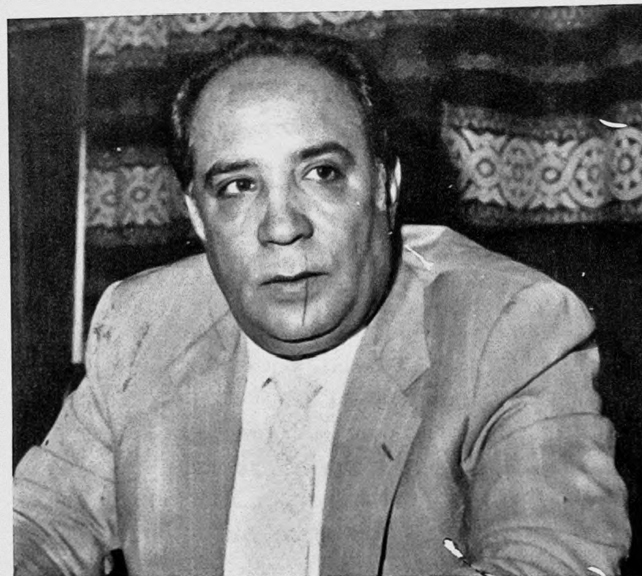
The Publisher

Al-Attas:

"Scientific Research Is Vital for the Progress and Survival of Yemen."

Prime Minister Abubakar Haider Al-Attas inaugurated this morning at the Center for Educational Research, the country's first seminar on the Role of Scientific Research in the Development of the country. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Prime Minister stressed the urgent need for scientific research, which he described as "vital for the progress and the very survival of the country". He indicated that Yemen already has many professionals and institutions which could successfully carry out useful research. Dr. Mohammed Lutf Al-Iryani, Deputy Minister of Higher Education of Research, explained that the seminar has five panels each of which is concerned with a different field of research. During the three-day meetings (12-14/8/1991), the seminar will cover several sectors including agriculture, health, education, and social studies, in addition to the hard sciences.

It is worth mentioning that the main research activities in Yemen today fall under the umbrella of the Yemeni Center for Research and Studies in Sanaa, the Central Board for Scientific Research in Aden, the Center for Educational Research, and the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority. Sanaa University, Aden University, and the various government ministries and agencies have their own research units. The total government allocation today for research is still a meager 0.25% of the total government expenditures. Moreover, the private sector has virtually no research activities within its



current programs, and none in envisaged in the future. As a result, this seminar aims to come out with specific recommendations that will create a strong data base supported by continued research. One of the main issues facing these efforts is to convince a hard pressed government to allocate more funds for projects whose returns are in the long term. The support of the Prime Minister is already a major accomplishment in this regard.



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NEW
INTERNATIONAL
ASSISTANCE
TO YEMEN

The well informed official "26 September" weekly, attributed to official sources in the Ministry of Telecommunications, Aden branch, that Japanese and French companies will execute vital projects concentrated on the replacement of the old telephone exchanges in Aden, introduction of the most sophisticated facsimile units to exchange information through cables operating on optical fibres. In addition, the project will modernize and expand the telephone network in all the Southern governments. At another level, the US government agreed to grant Yemen US \$3.4m. to support three development projects. The money will go to assist in educational development support projects, child survival projects, and for technical services and feasibility studies.

MOTHER
THERESA IN
YEMEN

Mother Theresa, the famous voluntary missionary over many countries in the world for which work she was awarded the Nobel prize, arrived in Yemen on Sunday, August 11th. She is here to sign an agreement with the Ministry of Health to establish the 4th house of the Missionaries of Charities (Jami'yat Al-Ihsan) in Aden. It is known that the Missionaries of Charities already have three houses - one in each of Sanaa, Hodeidah, and Taiz, in Yemen. During her three-day stay in Yemen, Mother Theresa, accompanied by several of the sisters, visited Aden, and met with various government and voluntary organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM
AT SANAA UNIVERSITY

On the 10th of August, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas instructed the Minister of Finance to add YR.5 million to the allocations of Sanaa University for the current fiscal year. This money is earmarked for the establishment of the Department of Journalism at the Faculty of Arts starting in September 1991.

MINERAL OPEN HOUSEPRESENTATION
AT SHERATON SANAA DURING 21-26/8/1991

Mr. Ali Jabr Alawi, Deputy Minister and Chairman of the Mineral Exploration Board, disclosed to the Yemen Times that the Mineral Open House Presentation will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa during 21-26/8/1991. He also stated that a ministerial decree has been issued by Minister Bin Hussainoon establishing a committee to prepare for this event. Vice Chairman of the Mineral Exploration Board, Mr. Othman Ahmed Noman, added that three sub-committees or working groups have also been created. The technical subcommittee is responsible for arranging the presentations and programs, the information subcommittee prepares the documents and minutes, and the logistics subcommittee is responsible for administrative matters. Mr. Othman also added that there will be an exhibition of the rocks and mineral ores of Yemen. The Open House Presentation aims to raise interest among investors in the mineral sector's potentials.

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR IN SANAA

Mr. Paul Coverdell, Director of the US Peace Corps, arrived in Sanaa on Monday morning, August 12th, on a one-day official visit to Yemen. Mr. Coverdell, who is accompanied by Ms. Josephine Olsen, the Peace Corps Global Chief of Staff, saw several Yemeni officials. The purpose of the visit was to resume the activities of the Peace Corps in Yemen. These were interrupted, along with other US aid programs, by a unilateral decision from the American Administration. When the Peace Corps offered to resume its services, the Yemeni side did not see why this particular aspect of US aid, although voluntary, should be resumed in isolation of the other aid programs. Thus, it was a non-starter or re-starter, until now that is.

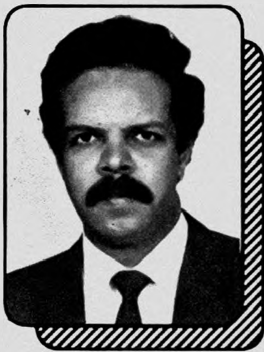
PAKISTANI MINISTER IN SANAA

The second round of talks between Yemen and Pakistan, carried out around the Joint Economic Committee, will start in Sanaa on the 17th of August. The Pakistani side is to be headed by Planning Minister Mr. Chaudhry Hamid Chattha, while the Yemeni side is to be headed by Finance Minister Alawi Salami. The talks intend to consolidate the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in trade and joint investments.

AGRICULTURAL COOPS MEET

The agricultural cooperative boards of Yemen started their meetings yesterday, Tuesday, August 13th. Yemen Times learnt that 176 cooperative boards from all over the country are attending the meeting during which a federation will be created to serve as the anchor point for coordination and cooperation among these boards. Outside observers from various Arab countries have been invited to attend.

PERSONAL VIEW

THE CULTURAL DEPTH
OF LIVING BY THE LAW

**Dr. Magdi Aklan,
Dean, Faculty of Law
Sanaa University**

Laws are basically a collection of do's and don'ts. They are regulations that define, organize, and govern relations among individuals and firms, and between individuals and firms and the state. But laws do not exist in a vacuum. The degree to which people respect the law and adhere to it reflects their cultural depth. The more cultured a society is, the more law abiding its citizens are. The culture of a nation is also indicative of whether people abide to the law out of self-conviction and respect, or whether out of fear of the penalties applicable in case the law is broken. Again, the more refined the socio-culture, the higher the level of respect to the law. It is with this background that the lawyers speak of the legal culture in any society.

To enable the growth of an appropriate legal culture, two important factors are necessary. First, the laws must be practical. By practical we mean they must make sense and they must, in general, follow the same direction as the people's overall interests. They must also be easy to adhere to and easy to enforce. Second, law enforcement must be seen as fair and objective. If the law is applied differently using various yardsticks, it loses its moral force upon application and enforcement.

We in Yemen have to learn to live by the law. Breaking the law is very easy in our country because we have not yet evolved the legal culture. That is why if the traffic policeman is not at the intersection, as few as five or six cars can create a jam by getting into each other's way. We still need to see the stick to abide by the law. The judicial community and the lawyers groups have a duty to help increase the level of awareness on this point. After all, it is impossible to create a modern state if the citizenry are not law-abiding.

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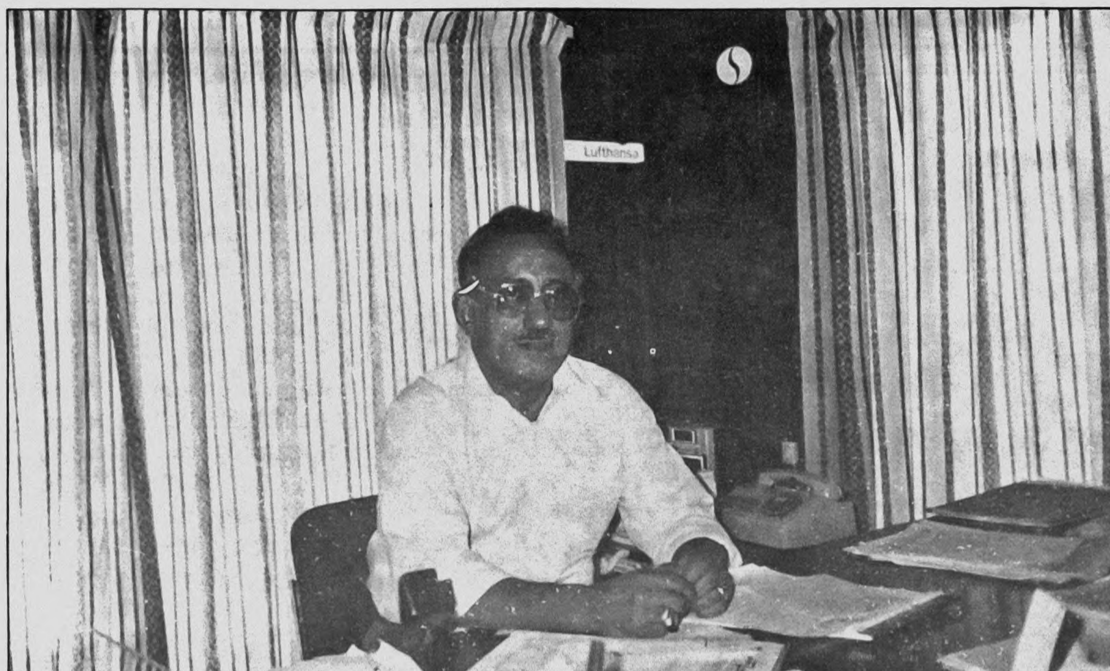
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Abdo Khalil Suleiman:

"WITH SOME WORK, ADEN CAN REGAIN ITS OLD POSITION"

Abdo Khalil Sulaiman, Chairman of the Saba Shipping and Stevedoring Company, is an old hand in the business. He has been a founder and developer of several shipping companies, the last being his own. He rose through the ranks of workers. Actually, he was the foreman of the deck crews in Aden. Today, he is one of the pioneers whose contribution will be important in this sector. To shed more light on this, Yemen Times went to speak with him. The following are excerpts of the interview:



Q: Could you describe the beginnings of your company?

A: Our present company, Saba Shipping and Stevedoring Company, came following long years of hardships. Late in 1967, and at the request of the Thabet Brothers, I moved from Aden to Hodeidah where I was responsible for the establishment of the Hodeidah Shipping Company. For seven years, I helped build that company with the understanding that I was a partner. That did not happen. Then I joined the Middle East Shipping Company for five years. By 1983, I was ready to establish my own company, which I did under the name the Saba Shipping Corporation. We faced serious objections from the established companies out of their fear of competition. But we prevailed, and we continue to thrive. Today, our company is one of the larger ones in the country. We cover some 30% of the total market in the country.

Q: What is the size of the market today?

A: We have come a long way. Two decades ago, the average market size was about 300 tons per month brought by one ship. Today, the monthly tonnage is about 1000 tons brought by several dozens vessels. There are, of course, eight private major shipping companies in addition to the government company in the formerly South Yemen.

Q: How does your company fare in the market?

A: We are one of the larger companies as we cover some 20-30% of the mar-

ket or some 220 tons per month. We employ (45) persons in our Hodeidah office. We have a branch in Sanaa and a representative in Mokha. We aspire to open a major branch in Aden.

Q: Speaking of Aden, how come the companies have not yet established any business over there?

A: We are all interested but there seem to exist administrative and bureaucratic problems. In January 1991, President Ali Abdullah Saleh called to a meeting for all the shipping companies in Aden in which he urged us to restore Aden to its former grandeur and activity. He instructed the Minister of Transportation to license any company that applied to open business in Aden. Since then, we have had many meetings with the Minister, but to no avail. Apparently, the government shipping company in Aden which enjoys a monopoly, is unwilling to allow competition. That company's inefficiencies could easily be exposed if there were competition. That company's unloading charges are US\$6-7 per ton whereas our charges are around US\$3 per ton. Still, it shows losses, we continue to make profits.

Q: You could arrive at market-sharing agreements according to which some business will remain within its domain?

A: Yes, such arrangements are possible. For example, all oil shipments and other government business could be left to the gov-

ernment company. We will handle the private business. In addition, other arrangements are also feasible. A possibility is the establishment of a joint company for unloading purposes.

Q: How are the prospects for Mukalla harbor?

A: Of course, the harbor needs some investments. I think it will be an important outlet for most of the oil and mineral related business in Hadhramaut and the adjacent areas.

Q: How about the storage capacity of our ports?

A: I think we have enough storage capacities in the main ports like Hodeidah and Aden; although, in the Aden port, the cranes and other machines to shift and move the goods are not yet in place. We may still need additional capacities depending on the level of economic activities.

Q: Yemen is trying hard to enable Aden regain its

past position in world shipping. How feasible is this goal?

A: I can tell you that companies all over the world are interested, but they need to see that our policies have changed and they are looking for something tangible to prove it. Until today, the standing orders and the by-laws have not been enacted although the Free Zones Authority has been enacted. That is one thing. Another thing is that we really have to allow a wholesale replacement of the existing mentality and management. Let me give you an example. A large ship arrived in Hodeidah in January 1991 to unload some 5000 tons of construction iron rods. It did its unloading of 4500 tons at Hodeidah harbor very quickly and moved on to Aden where it had to unload 500 tons. It remained out of harbor for ten days before it could unload. During this time, nobody cared to contact the captain or to explain what was going on or to apologize for

the delay. Time is important, and we should take into account when we deal in the business world.

Q: What do you think the role of shipping agents is in marketing Aden as a viable point of transit and trans-shipment?

A: We have already made contacts with several international lines. We have distributed circulars (flyers) to many shipping agents and companies. We find they are interested. But, we need to start a process of confidence building. You see, trust and confidence mean a lot in our business. People have to trust our abilities and have confidence that we will come through with our end of the work in business arrangements. Our officials must be able to see clearly through the maze of bureaucracy and to take the logical decisions promptly, and must have the authority to see those decisions through by proper implementation.

Q: How do you see the future of the shipping business in Yemen?

A: I think we can all look forward to a more lucrative and active business. But to maximize on this, we have to constantly try to keep up with developments in this business and continue to provide our services efficiently. Yemen's future looks brighter because of our unification, on the one hand, and because of the major developments in the oil and gas sectors. However, good management will continue to be a critical factor in the prosperity of the country.



DRUGS IN YEMEN

YES VIRGINIA. WE DO IT HERE TOO!



BACKGROUND:

"We are keeping an open eye. Although still small today, this problem is growing rapidly," he told the Yemen Times. Major Yahia Rajih Al-Jayifi, Director of Narcotics Control Squad in the General Department of Criminal Investigations, is visibly concerned. He is worried about the number of drug shipments seized over the last two years.

Two weeks back, the Narcotics Control people, the Sanaa judiciary, and the public prosecution office destroyed six kilograms of heroin and burnt 393 trees of hasheesh plants (trees). Is there a drug problem in Yemen? Not yet! But, the indications are that it is fast becoming a problem. It is therefore, necessary to give it all attention.

LOCAL STUFF

Where does it come from? The home grown stuff is in two varieties. First there is khishkhash, or poppies which is a shrub about a meter high. It carries a ball which has a lot of seeds,

which many children innocently chew. It is not intoxicating and it hardly has any effect. The Yemen Times reporting team tried the seeds but there was no effect. The poppies are grown in the Ibb-Taiz area, and is openly sold in the local markets. The bundle (about five to six sticks) are

of the plant that does the work once gathered and refined. That needs some tools and some technology, both of which are not available to the local farmers on whose land the shrub freely grows. The second variety is more dangerous. It is the hasheesh which has gained some ground in the areas of



Testing the stuff just brought in by the agent

sold for ten riyals. We later learnt from the Narcotics officers that it is not the seeds in the ball that give the effect. It is the syrup from the stem and flowers

Haimatain, and in the border region between Sanaa and Dhamar governorates. In the past, these were grown in private gardens, today they occupy larger farms. The 393 plants destroyed by the Narcotics Control Department were rooted out of the Jahran area. In this case, the interested parties gather the tender stems and flowers (leaves) of the plant. It is used by the locals in very rudimentary form. They simply grind the leaves and tender stems and fill up cigarette sticks out of them. In some small and isolated parts of the country, some of this is added to the local

food recipe. How and where does qat fit into all of this? Of course, from a chemical component point of view, qat is not technically a drug.

It is a stimulant. So it does not fall within the same category. The absolving of qat does not stop there. We are told that had it not been for qat, a lot more Yemenis would have been hooked on the hard drugs. The logic is that qat keeps Yemenis away from the other stuff. "Are you sure?" we asked. We got back a stiff frown.

IMPORTED STUFF

However, there is something serious that comes into the country - heroin, angel dust, and LSD. Who consumes it? And where does it come from? Officials claim that it is the foreigners in the country that consume the stuff. When you push them on this point, they add, and well, also maybe the Yemeni immigrants.

It is a well-known fact many of the countries in the region are plagued with this problem. The Gulf countries and Egypt are examples frequently noted in the press. Have the Yemenis taken on to this? Yes, and the number is increasing at an alarming rate. Where does it come from? It comes in through the seaports through Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia. It comes in through the airports from India and other countries. The last shipment seized at Sanaa International Airport came on board a flight originating in Bombay. Officials think Yemen may also serve as an illegal transit point for some of the stuff which continue its voyage to the neighboring states.

THE SQUAD

The Narcotics Control Squad works in a fairly standard way. When we visited them, an under-cover agent had just brought in some of the goodies he purchased. The squad team immediately set up shop near the location of the seller, while another team started testing the stuff. We waited for the verdict. "Yes, it is." The next step is to impound the whole quantity and place

the trafficker under arrest. The evidence is presented to the general prosecutor's office, who in turn passes on the accused party with the evidence to the courts. "We are constantly frustrated when the courts release the criminals over a technicality, or when they pass out very light sentences because the evidence is not totally conclusive. Some countries have passed the death sentence in this regard," said an upset Major Al-Jayifi. There is also the problem of the legal framework. The laws governing this aspect of life have not

Col. Abdul-Rahman Al-Barawi



yet been enacted. The House of Representatives has not yet come to the law on narcotics, Yemen Times learnt. The Narcotics Control Squad is undermanned, under-financed, and under-qualified. It is trying to cope with a difficult situation without adequate resources or tools. On our second visit, we needed to call someone. "Could we use your phone?" "Sure if you can get the line." The Department has no direct line. Through the switchboard it has to compete with half a dozen criminal investigation bureaus. Did we call? We gave up after several attempts and half an hour of trying. They cannot coordinate with any other agency in town or in other cities. Colonel Abdul Rahman Ali Al-Barawi, Vice Director General of the Criminal Investigation Department says, "This department is one of our high priorities - meaning promises of more funds. An immediate action in this regard will be to upgrade the squad into a general department with offices throughout Yemen. Some international assistance in this situation could also come in handy!"

Major Yahia Al-Jayifi



Koreans and Indians Celebrate Their National Days

On August 8th, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution recommending the admission of the two Koreas (North and South) to the United Nations. It is expected that the membership formalities of the Koreas will be completed at the beginning of the 46th General Assembly of the UN.

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea issued a press release in which he promised his country intends to "contribute towards the United Nations' lofty ideals of international peace and security as well as human development and prosperity".

Experts believe that the UN might serve as a forum for meetings, exchange of view points, and cooperation between the two Koreas in their drive towards eventual unity. It is worth mentioning that both Yemens and both Germanys were independently members of the UN before they achieved their unities and merged their membership.

At another level, the Republic of Korea celebrated its national on August 15th. ROK Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Chi Ho Lew, held a reception on this occasion, to which many diplomats, government officials, and friends were invited.

At the same time, the Embassy of the Republic of India celebrated its independence day on the 15th of August. Ambassador Santosh Kumar and the Embassy personnel alongwith many of the Indian community and friends from the Yemeni and international community celebrated this occasion.

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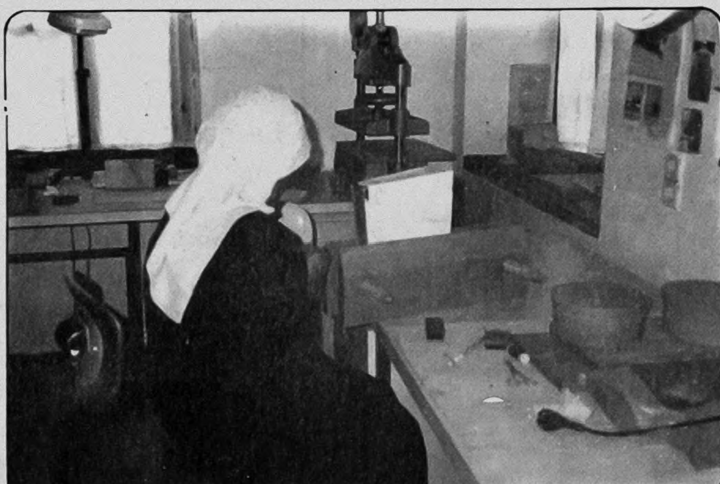
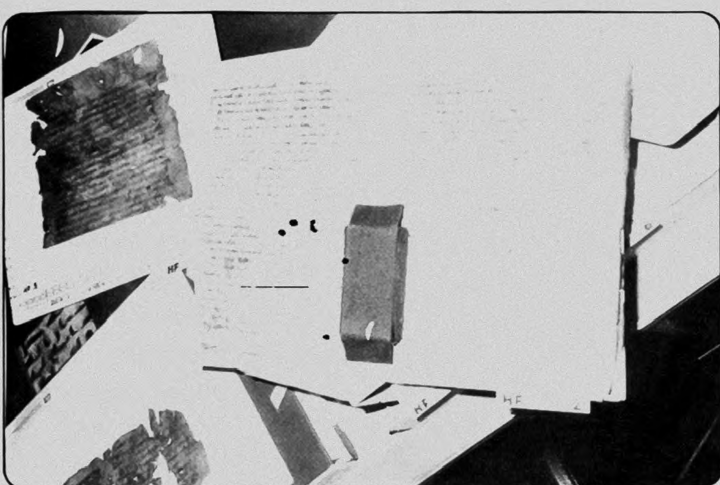
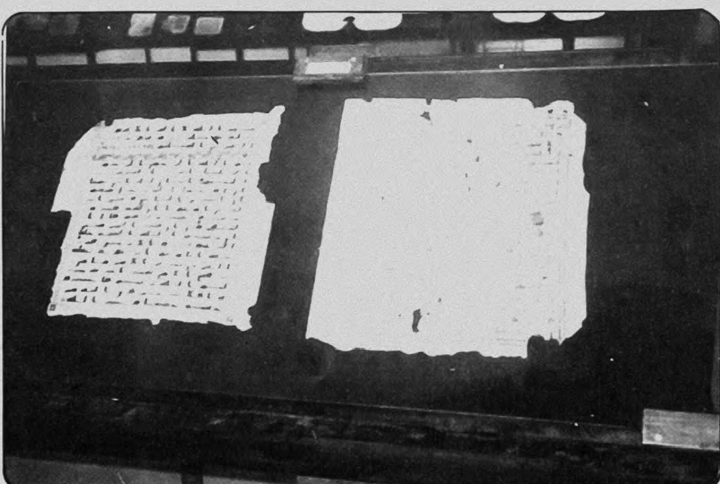
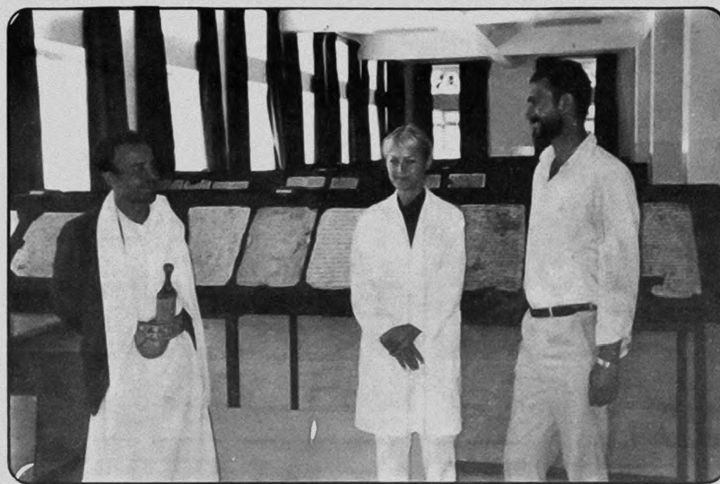
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AN ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY OF GREAT TREASURES IN THE SANAA GRAND MOSQUE



THE BEGINNING:
The 1971 rains in Sanaa brought down a lot of houses, including the western wall of the Grand Mosque in Old Sanaa. Immediately, repair efforts were undertaken to restore the mosque and preserve this 1300 year-old building. In the process, a major discovery was made. Between the roof and the ceiling was a 70-cms high space. In it, the repair people found stacks of old manuscripts. Thus, over 15,000 manuscripts fragments on parchment and as many more on paper were discovered. Why were these fragments kept away in that place - Nobody knows? But since the Quranic texts were considered sacred, and the books were not in use-able condition any more, it is believed that they were stacked away in the mosque.

For seven years, the parchments were left neglected in bags that were stored in the basement of the National Museum. In 1978, several parties got together to do something about these old papers and skin pieces. According to Mr. Mohammed Husain Sudmi, Deputy of the General Organisation of Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums, many persons were instrumental in mobilizing international interest in a risque operation. The notable persons among these were Qadhi Ismail Al-Aqwa', the Antiquities chairman erstwhile, and Mr. Ahmed Kaid Barakat, Yemen's ambassador in Bonn at the time. The German Foreign Ministry and the Yemeni government signed an agreement in 1980 to sponsor the restoration, documentation, and catalogization of the parchments. Thus started a ten-year German sponsorship of this project.

THE PARCHMENTS:
Of the total lot discovered, about 12,000 parchments have been repaired and classified. These span about a three-hundred year period beginning with the Hijazi manuscripts which date back to the first hundred years of Islam (7th-8th centuries). Quite a few of the pieces date back to the Umayyad times. It is also clear that some of the parchments were not made in Yemen as the influences of Damascus and Baghdad are readily visible. Specialists think that about a third of the parchments are not Yemeni, and they may have been obtained through a system of exchange and gifts. Almost all of the manuscripts contain verses from the Quran, thus they are called Masahif Sanaa. Some of the scripts are simple and straightforward, others are highly complex and have a lot of colorful decoration. The parchments vary in size between the pocket-size Quran (the smallest are 4x5 cms), whereas others are very large going upto 47 x 50 cms.

NON-QURANIC PARCHMENTS
Some of the texts are not Quranic verses. They are letters, ownership deeds, and pages from books on various themes such as hadeeth (the Prophet's sayings), science, medicine, etc. In addition, there are a few fragments in Hebrew which are mainly translations and explanations of the Torah. The total number of non-Quranic text parchments is very small, maybe some 150 pieces.

By: Ursula Dreibholz*

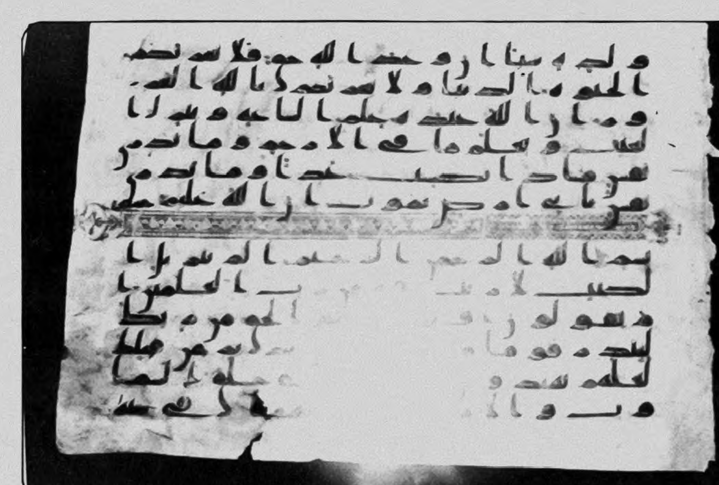
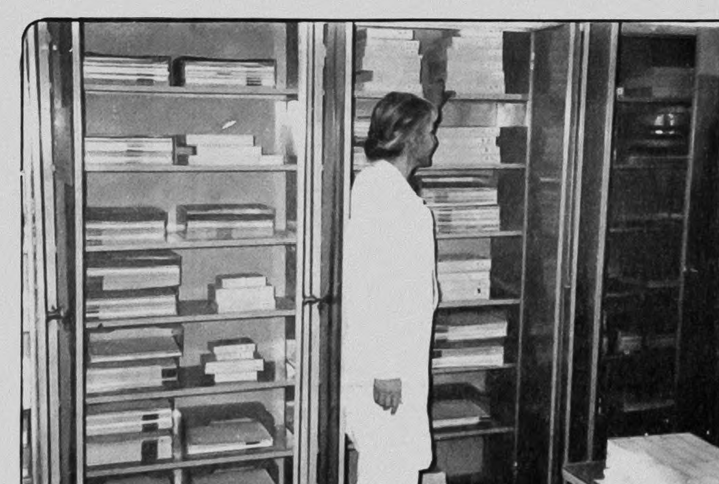
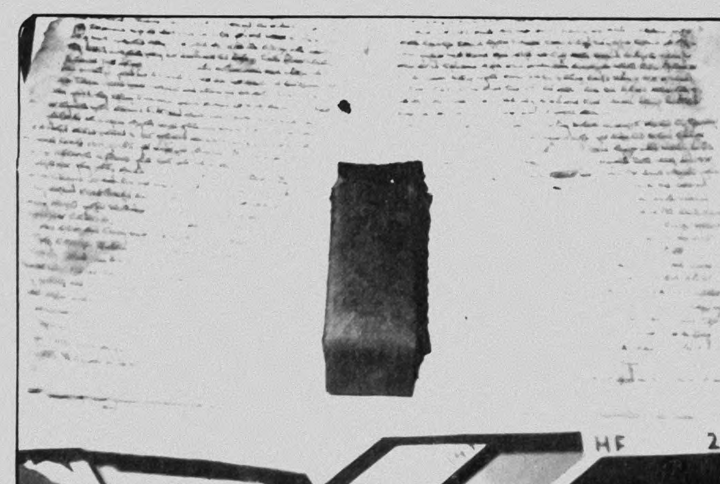
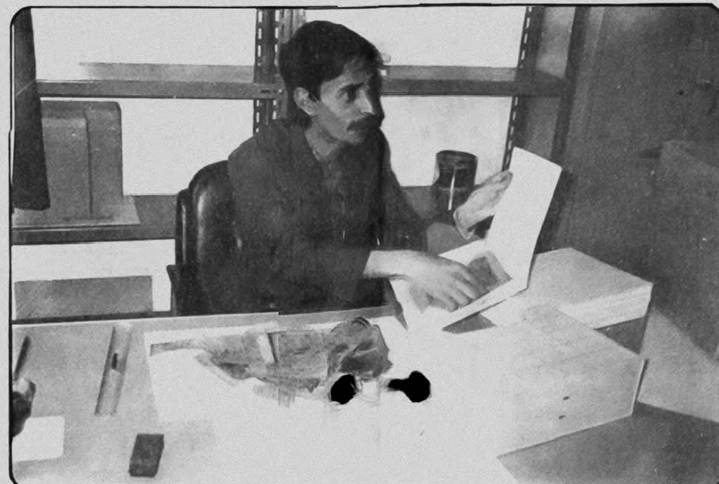
It has to be said that the find of the old manuscripts in the Grand Mosque was the discovery of a veritable treasure! Relatively few volumes and pages of these early manuscripts are still existing in libraries and museums in the whole world. Therefore, these parchments, though only representing fragments of former volumes, have great significance for the scholarly research into the development of the Arabic script (diacritical marks - tanqit, vocalization marks - like fatha, fathatein, etc., and other pronunciation signs - like hamza, madda, etc.), into the emergence of structural features in the copying of the Quran (introduction of the names of the Suras, marks at the ends of the Ayat, Juz, Hizb, etc.), and into the forms of decoration to embellish the beautiful calligraphy. The Dar Al-Makhtootat includes today a restoration lab, a room for photography and microfilming, and a photo-lab. Training Yemeni experts continues in full force. Among successful trainees are Abdul-Wahid Mohammed al-Shami, who now heads the conservation and photography section, and who spent almost 3 years in Germany to learn bookbinding and restoration from scratch, and Nasser Muqbil al-Ansi who is just now completing a year in Germany to extend his knowledge in photographic techniques. Other local experts include Abdul-Malik Al-Maqhafi, the Acting Director-General of the Dar Al-Makhtootat, Mohammed Al-Asbahi, Yahia Al-Khazzan, and many others. Today, there are a number of female volunteers from the Yemeni secondary schools. So far all the attention has been directed towards the manuscripts on parchment since they are the older and more important ones, stemming mainly from the first

three centuries of Islam, though no written dates were actually found. Fragments from more than 1000 different volumes of the Quran have been distinguished until now, but none of these volumes are complete; most are represented just by a few pages, though some comprise a bigger bulk and still hold parts of the sewing. Most of the parchment fragments are written in Kufic script, though a considerable amount is written in the oldest form of the Arabic script - Hijazi. The fragments on paper seem to be written mainly in Naskhi, a later developed cursive form. All of the manuscripts are very dusty. Many show additional dirt, often incrustations, especially where heavy dust has mixed with water from the leaking roof. In some of the cases the writing is irreparably washed away, or the parchment has rotted beyond the point of possible reconsolidation. Water also causes the parchment to shrink or to disintegrate completely. A great percentage of the damage can be attributed to water. Some pages are caked together through dirt and moisture. There are occasional heavy accumulations of fly-spots. Many of the pages are torn, folded and creased. Losses due to insects and rodents are numerous. The aim of the conservation is pure consolidation of the present state. The manuscripts are only cleaned and flattened, nothing is added - neither on the script, nor on missing parts of the parchment. The method of treatment is extremely simple, though it does demand concentration, patience and sensitivity, since each individual parchment may respond to the treatment in a slightly different way. To soften the dry and rigid parchments they are first put into a hu-

midifying chamber, mostly only over night, after the loose dirt has been brushed off. There they absorb moisture and consequently can be unrolled, unfolded, and separated from each other. Dirt is cleaned off with a cotton ball moistened with a solution of water and alcohol, but this solution does not affect the ink or paint when applied carefully. It also softens incrustations and fly-spots sufficiently so that they can be easily removed with a scalpel. The trickiest operation is to stretch and flatten the parchment sufficiently to remove the boldest creases, stretch shrunken parts, and flatten curling edges. Preflating between waxpaper under light pressure is necessary before the parchments can be put in the press between blotting papers, where they may rest for several weeks. After this treatment the texts of the pages are determined, a task entirely executed by my Yemeni co-workers, who have developed admirable skills in finding the correct Suras and Ayat on the smallest fragments, especially when considering the difficulties in reading the script and working with concordances of the Quran in order to find a specific word in the text. The final step is to find where a particular page might belong to amongst the 1000 or so already existing signatures. Each leaf or group of leaves from a different volume of the Quran is allotted its own signature. The first criteria for the search are number of lines on a page and their length. These features are already present in the signatures themselves. Once a matching leaf or group thereof has been found, considerable time and patience has to be given towards the comparison of letters - like Alif, Lam-Alif, Waw, etc., final forms of Mim, Noon, Ya - vocalization marks and other

particularities of the script. Color and consistency of the parchment are also important features, and so are the holes left by the sewing threads, size of pages, worn edges, etc. Photographic documentation is also executed - color slides are taken before and after treatment of interesting pieces, black/white photographs are also taken. Sometimes photographs are taken through the microscope in order to highlight special topics of interest. When all the fragment are restored, microfilming them will become necessary in the future as well. Permanent storage of the restored, determined and filed leaves was one of my greatest concerns. I worked out a system in which single or few fragments are placed in flat folders between acid-free boards, well protected but easily accessible. Since the parchments are generally too weak to be re sewn in book-form (the text is incomplete, anyway), larger groups of leaves are wrapped in acid-free board in order to protect the edges, then are put between two rigid boards to keep them from warping. The whole package is then set into a drop-open box, made in the conservation lab. Maps and boxes are stored horizontally in the tradition of the Islamic book. I am convinced that, stored in this manner in the Dar al-Makhtootat, and other unforeseen catastrophes excluded, these invaluable Quran fragments will survive another 1000 years!

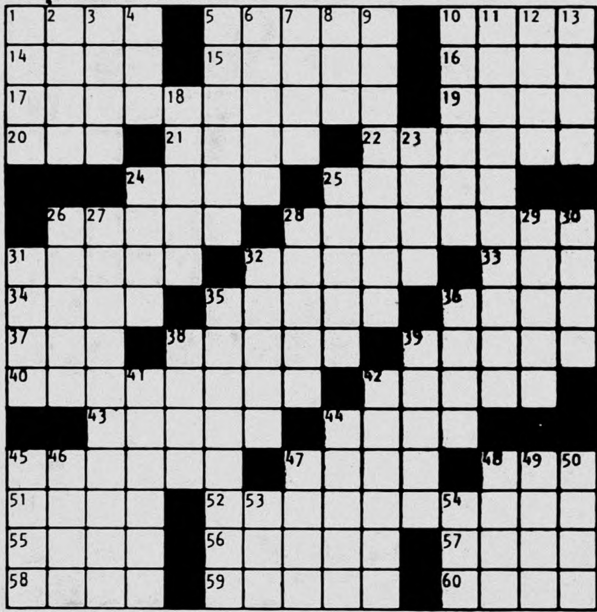
Ursula Dreibholz, a paper and book conservator, is an Austrian national who has been working in Yemen for over nine years. Previously, she worked in the USA for eight years and in Austria for five years in this same field.



★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 35 Vexed | 3 Slight and weak | 35 Counter argument |
| 1 Northern European | 36 After stove or steam | 4 Fastener | 36 Rose or Seeger |
| 5 Quagmire | 37 Lemon or Newhart | 5 Money in coin | 38 Social engagement |
| 10 Bjorn of tennis | 38 Hold back | 6 Biscuit | 39 Speed |
| 14 Chills and fever | 39 Macho guys | 7 Sour | 41 Jacket features |
| 15 Certain horse | 40 Outline of a study course | 8 Brooks or Ferrer | 42 Ring to prevent leaks |
| 16 Wild ox | 42 Irrigate | 9 Got ready | 44 Kuhn of baseball |
| 17 One behind the other | 43 Devour completely | 10 Like a wasteland | 45 Papal name |
| 19 Authentic | 44 Mean | 11 Singly | 46 Military school initials |
| 20 Plaything | 45 Doll on a string | 12 Highway | 47 Business abbr. |
| 21 Like a summer drink | 47 Price | 13 Windstorm | 48 Helper |
| 22 Ceremonial march | 48 Lincoln | 18 Word twisters | 49 Tolerate |
| 24 Place for hiding | 49 Dot of land | 23 Waterless | 50 Hence |
| 25 Mark of omission | 51 Bicycle | 24 Hits high | 53 Tiny |
| 26 Venerate | 52 Single | 25 Provide food and service | 54 Salamander |
| 28 Soak in a sour sauce | 55 High nest | 26 Pester | |
| 31 Upstarts | 57 Pennant | 27 Baseball feat | |
| 32 Glutted | 58 Utters | 28 Boys | |
| 33 Hebrew letter | 59 Shunned one | 29 Candle | |
| 34 Responsibility | 60 Beginner | 30 Tied | |
| | | 31 Cries convulsively | |
| | | 32 — and take notice | |

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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.

WHAT MAKES YOU SMILE? (Sol.: 8 letters)

A-Acceptance; B-Birthday; C-Cartoon, Cash, Children, Circus, Clown, Comedy, Comic; F-Father, Favor, Flattery, Flowers, Friends; G-Gift; H-Help, Home; J-Joke; K-Kids, Kiss; L-Love, Luck; M-Money, Mother, Music; N-Novelty; P-Party, Paycheck, People, Pizza, Prize, Puppies; R-Recognition, Riddle; S-Song, Success, Sunshine; T-Television; V-Vacation, Victory; W-Winning

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LGNOSAYRETTALFU
 SYYTELEVISIONCS
 EGTGAZZI PLEHWR
 INRLIYADHTRIBIE
 POAREFFRIENDSLW
 PIPSEVTEKNMHPDO
 UTVSSHOCIEKOJRL
 PII EUCTNDTEIHEF
 ANCCCI GASP NVSNC
 YGTCRSYTFEIEOSA
 COOUIUEPALHRCLR
 HCRSCMNEVDSKLHT
 EYDEMOCODNCOSO
 CREHTOMCRIUWAO
 KNOITACAVRSLNCN

ANSWERS ON PAGE TWELVE
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Most fish do not sleep, although there are times when they do slow their constant motion through the water. **Three** of Henry VIII's **six** wives were named Catherine. Two were named Anne and one was named Jane.

Nevada has at least three nicknames: Sagebrush State, Battle Born State and Silver State.

There's a reason a ship's bathroom is called a "head." Shipbuilders used to put the toilets in the forward part of the boat.

Gerald Ford was born Leslie Lynch King Jr. His parents got divorced when he was baby, and his mom married Gerald Ford Sr., who gave the future president his new name.

Colombia now is using "invisible judges" to try alleged drug dealers. The identities of the judges are kept secret because of the drug-related violence in that country.

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

CLAWR
 YOILD
 DACUDE
 SCULIE



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

Answer: FOR A

WORDS OF WISDOM

Some folks are better at finding their way in the dark if you don't light the way.

Death is the great equalizer of people, great and common.

To get out of a jam, the first thing you should do is tell the truth.

Revenge will always return on you.

Wisdom is often just knowing when to keep your mouth shut.

Sometimes you have to climb the mountain to get the full picture of the valley below.

Freedom and friendship have a lot in common. You often take them for granted, and you don't miss them until they're gone.

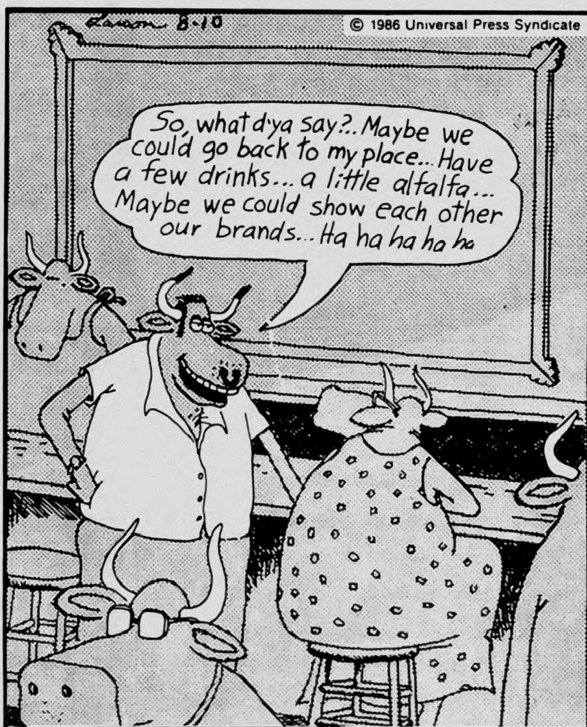
SLAPSTIX
NUMB IS A SENSATION YOU FEEL WHEN YOU DON'T
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THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



George Washington: general, president, visionary, break dancer.

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



Cattle hustler

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Rest and recharge yourself emotionally and physically.

Aries (March 21-April 19) You may need to be in five places at once. Friday night shows fun, romance and spending.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) More to juggle, but you are the whiz who can do it all. Entertain at home.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) You get off to a terrific start to a rather quiescent week. Better health and frame of mind.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Lots going through your mind; keep some of yourself in reserve. Renegotiate contracts.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Social connections count for much early in the week. Lots to laugh about.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Others are watching you, so do your best. Emotional rewards. Many changes of mind.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You may need to air your views to feel better. Make your home a safe haven.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Your curiosity about others proves interesting. You seem to be able to read people's minds.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Love can be a wonderful thing when you have mutual exchange with your beloved.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Following routines can be reassuring. Delegate duties when possible.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Being versatile serves you well. You need variety... and a change of scenery.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Interesting times near home base. Maintain close communications with all and sundry.

If You Were Born This Week

You should find yourself in a better place, emotionally and spiritually this month. Look for opportunities to live life according to your vision. Handling financial matters well in September is imperative. A bit of luck can take your economic situation to a higher level.

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

Let's Take to Reading

by: Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri, English Department, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University.



People spend long hours sitting in front of their television sets in their houses. It is as if their lives have become bleak. Television is more widespread in the West, but it does not devour people's time to the degree it does with us. The reason is the absence of other interests and hobbies in our lives. I advise the Yemeni youth to enhance their knowledge by reading books and newspapers. "We must instill love for reading in the minds of our children, along with love for work".

Some people no longer have any form of entertainment except spending their long boring leisure hours sitting in front of television sets. Men, women and children gather around TV and video sets for long hours as a daily ritual. Their lives have become empty. The evening family get-togethers of the past have ended, the search for food all day and all night no longer exists. Television has become the only binding element in our lives. We sit in front of it for long hours without getting bored. Is this normal? Are the people who spend their leisure hours in front of the television normal? Or is it only those whose lives are empty?

Television is found in every part of the world. Everyone follows its programs as we do because it is a beautiful window on the world, with its art, culture and history. It is one of the most profound inventions of the modern age. Yet, it is also the savage beast that kills all other pleasures and swallows all art and culture. Its influence is overwhelming yet temporary because activity is the basis of life and television relies on sedation. No matter what its power and influence, it is merely an apparatus that can be turned on and off. The problem is not the television set itself, but rather the way people live.

Television in advanced countries is more widespread, but it does not steal peoples' lives or devour their time to the degree that it does with us. This is because of their numerous pursuits and occupations. As for us, the reason that our time has been dominated by watching television is that we can't involve ourselves in other pursuits such as work, reading and exploring culture and knowledge to the degree that could reduce our dependence on television.

Television in Arab countries is the preoccupation of all because of the vacuum in our lives due the lack of other interests and hobbies. It is not a question of the existence of television itself, which, by the way, is vital and necessary for information, besides entertainment. The important thing is how much people benefit from its existence by raising their awareness, cultural level and their knowledge of life. There are some young people who forget that the individual is the one who determines his/her own future, and decides the path to take. These people must not despair or surrender their lives to sleep or laziness. We cannot wait for the fruits to ripen and fall from the trees and land in our mouths, without working, sweating or suffering.

I invite youths to apply themselves to serious work, and to benefit completely from the various types of knowledge that are presented on television programs today. It is also desirable that the youth read books and newspapers. We must work to instill into the minds of our children love for reading and working hard, because these are the means for us to reach our goals.

The mosque used to be the basic school in Islam, and the world's schools have borrowed a lot from it. Today the mosque could be supplemented by many new elements such as television, newspapers, radios and libraries, which contain many things of benefit to the individual and provide him with higher levels of knowledge and culture.

We should live or lives in a better way, if at least to give our children a good example. We should not spend all our free time watching television, but rather we must teach our children to read and read so as to acquire more and more knowledge for their benefit.

NUMAN IS WRONG

I would like to strongly refute the statements in the article which appeared in issue No. 23 of 7/8/1991. I think the Yemeni Government's position on the Gulf Crisis was well-balanced. I believe most African, Arab, and European countries have realized so, by now. Yemen has, from the outset, opposed strongly the use of force in resolving differences, and that meant our opposition to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Yemen's position was also that the Iraqi action could have been corrected regionally and peacefully without foreign interferences. However, efforts towards this end were strongly and intentionally undermined by the American-Zionist hegemony assisted by puppet Arab and European states. They were all lined up by the US administration. The continued appeal of Yemen not to resort to war was given a deaf ear. The USA orchestrated the UN Security Council to provide the legal framework for waging the American war.

One thing is certain. Mr. Numan should know that the West wanted to destroy Iraq given its military potential which posed a threat to their access to our cheap oil. All they needed was a pretext.

Ali Sharif, Sanaa

Our Country Needs Patriotism

The way I see it, is that most of us don't understand our duties. We former Southerners are not sure that the unification has broken the base of totalitarianism in Yemen, once and for all. We see many events taking place which are destructive to our economy such as hatred which is a burden to our society, but we can't do anything. We are lacking in patriotism. To catch up with the world, we need to be more patriotic. This will help solve some of the government's inefficiency and malpractice. We have to assist our government in every field.

Let me give an example. What I see in that company called The Public Land Transport Corporation leaves a lot to be desired. After travelling several times in these buses from Mukalla to Aden, I discovered the racket played by the organisation. The booking office always leaves behind about eight vacant seats for the driver to sell the next day, and without issuing tickets. They seriously swindle public funds. The government should intervene without delay. The police have to make surprise inspections every now and then. In fact the drivers of the buses accept bribes very openly as if there is no authority in the country. Obtaining money without issuing a receipt is a serious crime. Defrauding public funds is very common in our country together with corruption. When our big shots chew the stuff (qat), the only discussion they enjoy is how to swindle more public funds. Who can make me believe that their is no racket in our oil sector?

Corruption will drown our country, it is the first enemy of our future. It is also the greatest enemy of the system and regime headed by His Excellency, the President. It is the duty of the Commissioner of Police to check such malpractice. He has to be patriotic and do his job. If he forms an anti-corruption squad and trains them well, he will save a lot of government funds especially in our ports and oil wells. I am sure there is something cooking at the oil wells. It happened in Nigeria, why not here.

The unification brought us life and freedom. We ought to remember the government's mismanaged projects. I am always ashamed whenever I happen to pass by a national project which has not been completed. I believe beyond any doubt that the reason is that the funds allocated for such projects have been misused and "misplaced". Therefore, the projects are not completed.

by: Swaleh Salim Al-maery, Hodeidah

TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER FROM THE YEMENI PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED SOCIETY

Dear Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

We have received with due thanks and respect your gift of a large quantity of athletic T-shirts as your contribution to the sports activities of our the handicapped society. This proves your faith and efforts in creating a society in which the various groups and classes support one another. The Board of Directors is happy to grant you an honorary membership in the society. We hope this cooperation will be the beginning of more support and contributions from your side to the handicapped members of our society. Please accept our gratitude and respect for your goodness.

SIGNED: THE CHAIRMAN Othman M. Asselwi

YEMEN REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
YEMEN PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED SOCIETY

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية
جمعية ذوي الإحتياجات الجسدية

ص.ع. ١٨٦٦
صندوق بريد

Date: _____
NO: _____

التاريخ: ١٤/٨/١٩٩١
الرقم: ١٦

الاح الاستاذ / الدكتور - عبدالعزيز السقايف رئيس تحرير مجلة يمن تايمز المحترم

تحية طيبة ... وبعد

تلقينا ببإلغ الشكر والتقدير مساعدتكم القيمة والمتطه في توفير كميه كبيره من الفنايل الرياضيه ه كساهمه منكم في ابراز النشاط الرياضي ه وهذا وان دل على شيء فاننا يدل على ايمانكم الصادق وسعيكم الدؤب لنشر مبدأ التكافل الاجتماعي بين كافة فئه المجتمع ه و يسر الهئيه الاداره أن تمنحكم عضويه الشرف تقديرا لهذه البادره الطايبه التي ستكون بلا شك بدايه لنويد من البذل والعطاء والتعاون نحو المعاتين ه مرفقا بهذا أستماره عضويه الشرف وتقبلوا فائق التحيه والاحترام

رئيس الجمعيه
عثمان محمد عبدالله العلوي

Ambassador Arif:

YEMEN & PAKISTAN CAN LOOK FORWARD TO STRONGER TII

H. E. Faizar Rasul M. Arif is the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Yemen. He worked as lawyer and lecturer before joining the foreign office. As a career diplomat, Mr. Arif has seen service in the United Arab Emirates, Ghana, the Netherlands, and Iran, before being assigned to Yemen. On the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, falling on the 14th of August, the Yemen Times spoke with Mr. Arif about issues of mutual concern. Excerpts of the interview follow:

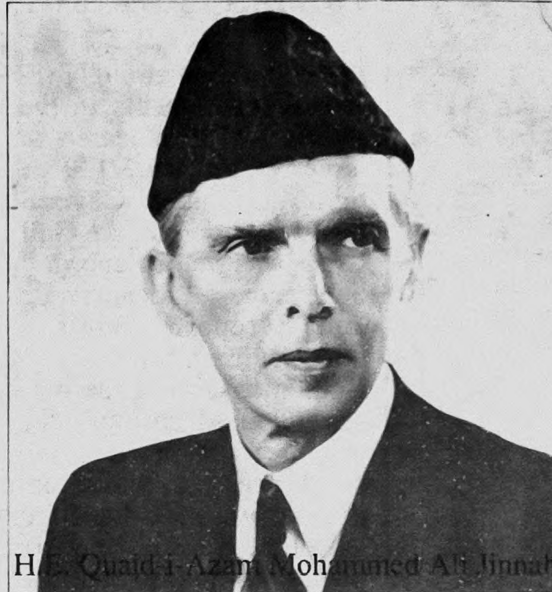
Q: Your Excellency is new here (Letters of Credentials were presented on 15/6/1991). How are adjusting?

A: I must confess that when my appointment to fraternal Yemen came, it was not only a source of professional delight, but also of personal joy for me. Throughout my overseas appointments, Yemenis were always among my closest friends. The spiritual affinities between our two peoples make our relationship special and unique and allow for a quick cultural and social adjustment. I feel very much at home, and I have adjusted nicely, partly due to the good support and cooperation I have received from the Yemeni officials and people.

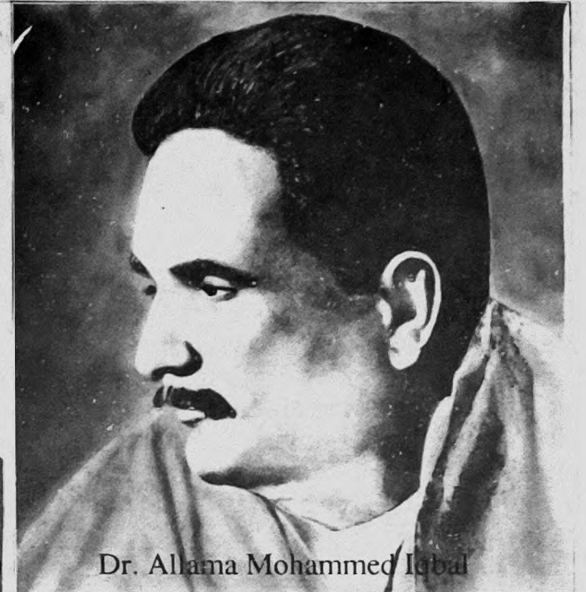
However, our bilateral relations have witnessed a dramatic boost during the historical visit of President Ali Abdulla Saleh to Pakistan in 1987 during which numerous agreements were signed. The major ones are the establishment of a joint economic committee (J.E.C.) at the ministerial level, a trade agreement which has already been ratified by the Republic of Yemen, and a cultural agreement which awaits ratification.

The framework of our cooperation was laid down in the first meeting of the J.E.C. held at Islamabad in 1988. According to those arrangements, trade relations are to be augmented. Pakistan is to export to Yemen products worth \$10 m. during the coming year. A Pakistani delegation of traders and manufactures was to visit Yemen. A high level Yemeni health delegation was to visit Pakistan to examine the possibilities of establishing institutes in Yemen in the field of pharmacy and nursing. Pakistan has also offered Yemen a US\$4 million in export credit which is to be used to import rice, cement, furniture, footwear, garments, etc. Negotiation is in process to finalize the agreement.

Since both Yemen and Pakistan remained preoccupied with other momen-



H. E. Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammed Ali Jinnah



Dr. Allama Mohammed Iqbal

headed by H.E. Chaudhry Hamid Nasir Chattha, the Federal Minister for Planning and Development. Let me add at this juncture that on both sides, there is a great will to expand and consolidate our economic as well as political cooperation.

Q: You have mentioned that Pakistan has seen two general elections in a short period of time. Is there any danger to Pakistan's democracy?

A: I would rather say that these two general elections testify to the strength of the political process in Pakistan. Since the sad accident of late President Ziaul Haq, all governments have come to power and left through constitutional democratic process. The present government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif enjoys the

home, and peace abroad". This philosophy is based on two pillars. The economic pillar depends on the liberalization of the economy has its foundation on self-reliance, liberalization of the economy, privatization, encouragement of the private sector and foreign investment. The second pillar - peace abroad, envisages serious efforts for peaceful resolution of all regional disputes and consolidation of relations with all friendly countries in general, and with fraternal Islamic countries in particular.

At the regional plane, there are three major issues that need to be resolved: Kashmir problem, the Afghanistan issue, and nuclear non-proliferation. With regard to Kashmir, we only want that the people of Kashmir enjoy inalienable right to self-determination according to the UN resolutions and charter. The Indian repression of Kashmiri Muslims is deplorable and need the attention of the world conscience. As regards Afghanistan, Pakistan is seriously working for a peaceful political settlement of the issue and has welcomed UN Secretary-General's five-point plan. Recent tripartite conference of Pakistan, Iran and Mujahideen (both Pakistan and Iran based) has further paved the way for a political settlement. As for the nuclear issue, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has made a historic proposal for a conference of USA, China, USSR, India, and Pakistan to settle this issue. He has also proposed balanced mutual reduction of armed forces commensurate with minimum security.

Q: Let us talk about the Pakistani community in Yemen. How large is it

and how is it doing?

A: The Pakistani community is 800 strong. It consists of teachers working in Yemeni schools on deputation from Pakistan Government as well as those working in the Pakistani-Yemeni school ran by the embassy, bankers working in UBL, IBY, and BCCI, and technicians and skilled workers with various companies. I am happy to tell you that they all enjoy living and working in Yemen.

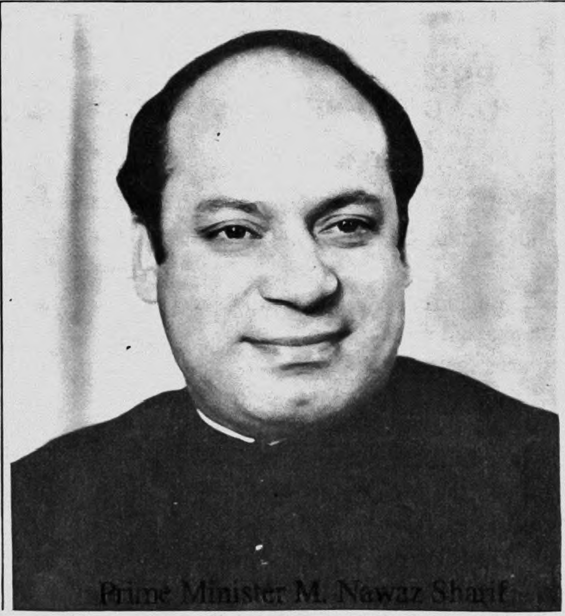
Q: There was a problem with the Pakistani School. Could you shed light on it?

A: I regard the Pakistan-Yemen school a non-commercial and non-profitable organization, a "monument of friendship between our two countries." The school has rendered Yeoman's service to the cause of education in Yemen. It has expanded from 70 students in 1985 to 700 in 1990, from nursery to grade 10, overwhelming majority of whom are Yemenis. In recognition of the school services, H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has very graciously donated a piece of land to the school. Nevertheless, the school is faced with serious problems, administrative and financial. While the school underwent rapid expansion over the past two-to-three years, necessary adjustments in the legal and administrative framework could not keep pace with it.

These related to work permit, taxes, social insurance, etc. But I must place on record the most sympathetic consideration, help, and guidance I have received in resolving these issues from the concerned ministers, authorities and parents. These related to work permit, taxes, social insurance, etc.



President Ghulam Ishaq Khan



Prime Minister M. Nawaz Sharif

Q. On that basis, how does Your Excellency assess the relationship between our two countries?

A: I would like to start by stating that our two countries are tied together in culture, civilization and religion. Relations between our countries have always been close and cordial.

tous events - unification of the Yemens, two general elections in Pakistan and the regional crisis - the decisions of the first session of the J.E.C. could not be implemented in full. But now we have the second meeting of the JEC starting on the 17th of August. The Pakistani delegation is

supported by more than two third members of the Parliament. It all speaks for the durability and the strength of the democratic institutions that have been put in place in Pakistan.

The policies of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government can be summed up in one phrase: "Progress at

"Mr. Tractor, Take My Home!"

By: Ameen Nouisser

As a neighbor of the American country singer, John Denver, I once got invited to one of his parties. Leading to his home in the countryside just outside the city of Boulder in Colorado was a bad, dirt road. We got there anyway. While Mr. Denver was entertaining us, suddenly there was a roaring sound outside. We looked out, there was a tractor paving the road. "Did you ask for this service?" we asked. He said "No, but I paid my taxes." Several years later, I was visiting some of the returnees from the Gulf Crisis. Their conditions are miserable. No water, no food, no clothing, no services, no nothing. While I was talking to them, suddenly there was a roaring sound outside. We looked out, there was a tractor demolishing the huts and tents of the returnees. The tractor man said he had instructions to demolish the "dwellings" because they were on government land.

All of a sudden, I linked the two incidents. In addition, I invented a new song. In line with John Denver's beautiful song "Country road take me home," my song reads "Mr. Tractor take my home!" I think the returnees enjoyed my song more than John Denver's song.

The question is, will the officials enjoy my song in the same way?

BRITAIN PUSHES FOR REGISTRY ON ARMS SALES

In a statement on August 6th, Ms. Lynda Chalker, MP and Minister for Overseas Development and Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, stated, "We are not trying to ban legitimate arms sales (worldwide) since countries must be able to defend themselves. A proper level of security in each region is a source of stability. But we need mechanisms which stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction and which prevent concentrations of arms." She indicated that progress has been made with the publication of guidelines by the twelve on non-proliferation and arms exports. The G7 Summit put arms control near the top of its agenda. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council are for the first time working together on the issue.

The EC Twelve have now agreed the elements of a resolution for the UN General Assembly on a UN register of arms transfers. We will together be seeking the widest possible number of co-sponsors for the resolution. We hope to see the

resolution adopted by consensus and to have a register in operation by early 1992.

Britain is now acting as co-ordinator for P5's work on arms transfers and non-proliferation. The P5 members account for some 85% of all arms exports in the world. The next meeting of senior officials will take place in London in October. The first priority of these meetings will be to develop mutually agreed guidelines on restraining conventional arms transfers, and channels for consultation and information exchange on supplies, specially to the Middle East.

"We want to bring greater openness to the murky area of arms sales," she said. If governments know that sales will be publicised they will feel greater pressure to act responsibly over what they sell and to whom. Moreover, if it becomes clear that particular countries are acquiring weapons which go beyond the legitimate requirements of self defence, then the alarm-bells will ring and action can be taken.

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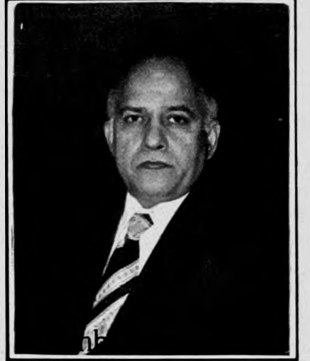
Cont'd from p. 10
PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR

But I must place on record the most sympathetic consideration, help, and guidance I have received in resolving these issues from the concerned ministers, authorities and parents.

Q: How do you see the outcome of the coming J.E.C. meetings, and what are the prospects?

A: I believe that there is a great potential for future collaboration between our two fraternal

countries. The forthcoming coming of the JEC could be a step forward in realizing that potential. Thus in my view, the prospects of cooperation between Pakistan and Yemen are bright. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my profound appreciation for the leadership and government of Yemen, and congratulate them on the unification of Yemen which is one of the major achievements of the Islamic World in the present time.



زواج سعيد

الأصدقاء والأحباء يتقدمون بأجمل وأطيب التهاني القلبية الى العريسين ويتمنون لهما حياة زوجية هنيئة وبالرفاء والبنين

(جمال عمر محمد عمر) و (لنا فضل لقمان)

Friends and relatives present their hearty congratulations to the newly wed couple
Jamal Omer Mohammed Omer
and Lana Fadhle Luqman.
Best Wishes of Happy days from all of us.

The British Organisation for Community Development (BOCD) is looking for a co-ordinator for its female literacy programme.

BOCD's work in female literacy takes place within the parameters set by the Yemeni government's national literacy plan, and consists of training cadres to become teachers of literacy.

BOCD is looking for a native Arabic speaker with experience in development work and a working knowledge of English who will be able to travel extensively within Yemen, often alone.

For information and application form, contact:
BOCD,
P. O. Box 1045, Sanaa,
Telephone: 203908.

Deadline for applications: 22 August.

كماران

السيجارة الأكثر مبيعاً في اليمن



أخير تبغ طازج يمكن شراؤه

THE YEMEN TIMES RESPONDS TO THE "LE MONDE"

On the 9th and 10th of July, the French newspaper Le Monde published two long articles on Yemen. The first article entitled "Yemen: A Fragile Unity" was subtitled "The End of Illusions". The author, Mr. Jean Gueyras wrote about what he calls the "salbiyate" or negative aspects of the unification of Yemen. But he talks mainly about the impact of the Gulf crisis on Yemen, and misspells and mistransliterates many of the names, including the name of Taha Yasseen Ramadhan. But the main thrust of the article is about the internal power struggle. As an example to this phenomenon, he refers to the differences over the constitution. He indicates that the leadership tried to appease the general public sentiment by issuing its communique on the constitution, which stated that the Sharia supercedes any constitutional article. Mr. Gueyras blames the leadership for responding to the general sentiment and for trying to reach solutions around which there is the largest consensus. He particularly states that President Ali Abdullah Saleh has become the power broker who tries to work with all parties, including

the two extremes - the Yemeni Socialist Party and the right-wing coalition of sheikhs and clergy. But isn't that exactly the workings of the game called politics. The main blunder of the writer, however, comes still later in the article. Mr. Gueyras talks of Yemeni unity as a confrontation between the northern and southern governorates. He does not understand that many of the tribes that presently live in the north are of southern origin, and vice-versa. The very title of one of his themes is "Twelve million against two million". He talks about the "suffering of the southerners (read Aden) because of higher prices. But the higher cost of living is a phenomenon that plagues the whole country, not just one portion of it. Mr. Gueyras talks of infighting among the officials at various levels. But this is a normal development due to the merger of the organs of government. All individuals are gradually defining the limits of their authority and jurisdiction. It is surprising that the above points lead a renowned and learned journalist to conclude that the unity is fragile. The Germans should be happy he is not evaluating the strength of their

union, because given their difficulties, he will probably come to more dramatic conclusions. In the second article, with the dramatic subtitle of "The South in a Perdition", the writer continues to weigh the gains and losses due to the unity using wrong yardsticks. He talks about the closure of the Beer factory, which he laments because it was a lucrative business. But to the Yemenis, certain moral values are more important than the financial gains from any business enterprise. Mr. Gueyras can propose to his country to start a drug (say, cocaine) plant which I am sure will be a very lucrative business. Of course we have a tense situation in which we try to chart a new course for ourselves. We are drawn, sometimes forcefully, this way or that. But we have a sense of where we are going, and what we want. Therefore, the moments of give-and-take are not the main highlights of where we are going. It is normal to have different groups pushing towards one or the other of their beliefs. This after all is the essence of democracy -- the competition of ideas and thoughts. What does it all mean? It

means that we have a lot of difficulties in Yemen. But it also means that we realize them and work towards resolving them. We are not the only country with difficulties. Probably, we have less difficulties than many of our neighbors, whose problems do not come out in the open because the systems does not allow them. Mr. Gueyras will kindly realize that one of the problems of democracies is that people have the right to air their differences and difficulties and thus they appear much larger than they really are. In non-democratic systems, you simply do not hear about them. They exist and they probably continue to brew and boil. You only know about them when they explode. In my opinion, Mr. Gueyras erred, and I think unintentionally. His sources of information were limited, his timing gave him a skewed and biased impression, and his conjectures, by and

large, were wrong. hope this response to his articles serves as the end of his illusions, rather than Yemeni illusions regarding unity. We Yemenis know our country and our conditions better than a visitor who comes in for a few days and then gives us his conclusions of what we are and what is going to happen to us. The Yemen Times is more in line with what is going on in Yemen than the "Le Monde". Over the last few years, Le Monde has lost some of its best writers, some of its most objective writers. In their place, it has taken on a crew which has lots of axes to grind. Neither this writer nor the Yemen Times are government owned, supported or controlled. We follow the ins and outs of this place more than the visitors. Maybe the "Le Monde" is used to flashy titles to compete for circulation. As an economist, I don't blame it for going for flashy stories to hold on to its market share





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ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

MAGIC WORD

LAUGHTER

JUMBLES

CRAWL DOILY ADDUCE SLUICE
 How those gangsters sometimes took their enemies—FOR A SLAY RIDE

CROSSWORDS

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