



YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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OUR VIEWPOINT



YEMEN & SAUDI ARABIA: THE ODD COUPLE

Relations between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reached their lowest levels these days. Saudi Arabia has vowed to change the regime and to punish Yemen for its position on the Gulf crisis. Actually, the Gulf business has come as a handy pretext for something Saudi Arabia wanted to do all along. It is no secret that Saudi Arabia had unsuccessfully tried to hinder Hunt Oil from proceeding with oil explorations in Yemen. It is no secret that the Saudis have tried to block Yemeni reunification. It is further no secret that Saudi Arabia would prefer a system in Yemen more in line with its own. All this is based on a Saudi paranoia and fear which presents Yemen as a latent enemy.

Today Saudi Arabia wants to try to punish Yemen and force a change in leadership. Yemenis will not accept or tolerate this. Even those Yemenis who do not agree with the regime, will not stand for Saudi Arabia to choose our leaders for us. Saudi Arabia has tried in the 1960s, and is trying now to buy a few Yemenis to implement its schemes; I am afraid it is going to be disappointed.

In the final analysis, the sooner Saudi Arabia accepts Yemen as an equal neighbor in a mutually beneficial relationship, the easier it will be to evolve a cordial, or at least a correct, partnership. There is nothing we would want more than a good relationship with Saudi Arabia - but not at any cost. Saudi Arabia has to realize that Yemen's fortunes will continue to improve, while the Saudi stature, regionally and internationally, is bound to be brought down to size. In other words, time is on Yemen's side, specially if we continue to hold on to our more civilized and democratic system particularly the way we treat our people (specially the women). It would be a dream come true if our Saudi brothers can see light and accept us as we are, not as they want us to be! We could put our hands together for the benefit of all.

The Publisher

SPECIFIC PLANS FOR ACTION AS PART OF AN OVERALL POPULATION STRATEGY

The First National Population Policy Conference finished its meetings on the 29th in a session chaired by Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas. The conference concluded with an elaborate proposal for action plans for the future. At the outset, the concluding remarks state: "Yemen faces a number of serious population problems, including unbalanced rapid population growth compared to the relatively slow economic growth; problems of geographic distribution and rapid urban development; negative effects of high fertility on women's health due to frequent and closely spaced pregnancies; unacceptable rates of illiteracy, especially among women; high unemployment; and high dependency ratios. In order to deal with these problems, a National Population Strategy was drafted in 1990, and endorsed by the government in 1991. Success of the National Population Strategy shall primarily depend on appropriate policy development and implementation planning which requires accurate and reliable information, as well as comprehensive understanding of the national demographic, health and socio-economic situation."

Therefore, the conference has specified numerous objectives as follows:

1. In Maternal Health, the objective of the Safe Motherhood Strategy is to reduce the maternal mortality rate by fifty percent by the year 2000.
2. In Child Health, the overall policy of the Yemeni Child Survival Strategy is:
 - i) to reduce the infant mortality rate from 130 per thousand live births to 60 by the year 2000.

- ii) to reduce the mortality rate of children between 1-4 years by 50% during the same period.

- iii) to reduce by fifty percent, compared with the 1990 levels, the deaths of children due to diarrhoea.

- iv) to reduce by half severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five years old.

- v) to reduce by 33% the percent of deaths of children under five due to acute respiratory infections.

3. In Family Planning, the National Family Planning Strategy calls for:

- i) raising contraceptive prevalence to thirty five percent among women in reproductive ages, and expanding family planning services to men.

- ii) making family planning a free choice for couples, a basic human right, as well as a factor for social change. This also includes the right to treatment for infertility.

4. In General Primary Health Care, the objective is to increase the coverage of primary health services to reach 90% of the population by the year 2000.

5. In Education and Illiteracy Eradication, the objectives include:

- i) to reduce illiteracy in adults in such a way that the female illiteracy drops to less than 50%, and the male to less than 30% by the year 2000.

- ii) to provide primary education for 85% of all school-age children by the year 2000, paying due consideration to the present discrepancies between male-female and urban-rural enrolment.

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PERSONAL VIEW

COLLECTIVE DREAMS & POLITICAL REALITIES



YACIN MOHAMMED ABDULLAH
Department of Public Relations
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All Nations as well as ours have got the right to aspire for all positive progress and growth for the betterment of our lives. Obviously, these changes can not occur in whole-sale, but they have to be gradual in history. Understandably, change is dictated by objective factors. As such, the happening of these changes corresponds with the ripening of the conditions and factors responsible for them. These objective factors are independent in nature being beyond direct human control. At the same time, they are the result of perpetual dynamic inter-actions of the production relations. Consequently, the appearance of concrete changes depends on the degree of development attained by the relations of production. In relation to this factor, we can boldly say that we as Yemenis are economically posted in the lower rudimentary stage of development. Both the southern and northern regions of Yemen suffer from lack of economic advancement. On May 22, 1990, even with the glorious unification of Yemen, the economic base of the new republic was weak. As such, all the other aspects of life reflected this weakness. Finally, with the realization of this situation, what is to be expected must fall within the realm of the possible and not the impossible. What are the lessons to be learnt from this. The first and foremost lesson is to be realistic about our demands of the system. Hence, we will be dreamers engulfed in the ocean of fantasy if we seek the impossible. We must be realistic and objective in our views and in the way we handle matters, and sensible and logical in our ambitions. Grave errors are being committed by placing strange demands and changes from the newly born republic.

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LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS,

PRESIDENT SALEH SAYS
YEMEN WLCOMES THE
PEACE CONFERENCE

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, expressed Yemen's positive attitude and support for the the peace conference on the Middle East starting in madrid today, October 30th. In an interview with the BBC, the President re-iterated Yemen's position which basically calls for a just and fair resolution of the problem including the restoration of the legitimate Palestinian rights. The President also downplayed the internal political problems of Yemen. With respect to the transitional period, he confirmed that there was no intention to prolong it.

PIANO CONCERT AT THE
SHERATON

Banque Indosuez (Sanaa) in co-operation with the Culture Services of the French Embassy in Yemen, is organizing a piano concert which will take place on the 11th November 1991 at 8.00 p.m. at Sheraton-Sanaa Hotel. A French virtuoso, Mrs. Christine Nouvel, prize-winner of the Conservatoire National de Musique in Paris accompaniment teacher, ex-student of Maestro Vlado Perl Muter, will render works from Brahms, Schubert, Satie, Ravel, and Debussy. Banque Indosuez is happy to actively participate in the cultural enrichment of life in Sanaa.

SALEH RECEIVES AN
INVITATION TO THE
COMING ISLAMIC SUMMIT

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a letter of invitation to attend and participate in the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Dakar, the capital of the Senegal. The invitation was hand-delivered by Dr. Hamed Al-Ghamed, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference Organization, who was received by Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, the Foreign Minister. It is worth noting that the Islamic summit will be held during early December.

POPULATION POLICY
CONFERENCE WRAPS UP
ITS SESSIONS

The First National Population Policy Conference finished its meetings on Tuesday, October 29th, following three days of deliberations. The conference, in which seventeen papers were delivered, addressed the population growth of Yemen and the required services thereof. The conference made many proposals and recommendations regarding priorities for investments and socio-cultural strategies.

PROGRAM OF FRENCH
MINISTERS' VISIT FINALIZED

The program for the two-day visit of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Roland Dumas, was finalized. Upon his arrival today, he immediately met with the Yemeni Foreign Minister, the President, and the Prime Minister. His program includes a visit to Hadhramaut, and the participation of the inauguration of the Arthur Rimbaud house in Aden and leaves from there. Culture Minister Jack Lang will return to Sanaa where he will stay on for an two additional days during which he will meet with officials from the Culture and Tourism Ministry as well as many intellectuals. Accompanying the Ministers is a large crowd of poets and journalists.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREES

The Presidential Council, at the end of its meeting on Monday, issued several decrees. The first decree appointed Dr. Shaye' Mohsen Muhammad as Yemen's plenipotentiary ambassador to the United Kingdom, the second decree appointed Mr. Salim Abdo Sheikh Faris as a non-resident ambassador of Yemen to Norway. A third decree established the Bureau for Caring for the Families of Martyrs and Heroes of the Liberation War. A fourth decree appointed Mr. Ali Qassim Al-Muayyad as chairman of the Bureau. Mr. Saif Munassar Muhammad was appointed as the Vice Chairman. A fifth decree appointed Engineer Ahmed Husain Al-Aini as general manager of the General Electricity Corporation. Finally, a sixth decree appointed Mr. Abdul-Rahman Ali Shukri as Deputy Housing Minister in Aden

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Ambassador Belger:**"I see Great Potential for Turkish-Yemeni Relations"**

The Republic of Turkey celebrated its national day on the 29th of October. Given the steadily growing relationship between Yemen and Turkey, Yemen Times went to talk to H.E. Mr. Nazim Belger, the Turkish Ambassador in Sanaa. Mr. Belger, a soft-spoken intellectual, has already made in-roads into the Yemeni society through a growing number of friends. We are impressed by his zeal and drive to help in the consolidation of the relations between the two countries. Following are excerpts of the interview:

Q: Modern secular Turkey was created out of the Ottoman caliphate. What brought about such a shift and how did it happen?

A: The Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Attaturk after the first 20th century national liberation war.

The Ottoman Empire was a mixture or combination of many Muslims - Arab, Turks, plus some Christian Europeans. Nationalism slowly crept in and claimed one society after another. By the end of the 19th century, it was impossible to keep such a disparate group of people together. Of course, the already weakened empire made a wrong political-military choice in WWI when it sided with the German-lead axis. So, vast chunks of the empire were parcelled off, and the Turks held on to their core home, Anatolia or Asia Minor or modern Turkey.

When the modern republic was born in 1923, it was recognised by eleven leading countries in the Treaty of Lausanne. The republic immediately looked towards Europe and the West for its evolution and growth and broke off with the past, and started building a new nation from scratch.

Today, modern Turkey is a bridge between the West and the Orient. It is physically a bridge linking Asia to Europe, it is culturally a bridge bringing Oriental and Western thoughts, feelings and philosophies, and it is a bridge politically as it plays a major role in the positive interaction between these important parts of the world. Until 1945, our republic had a mono-party political system. Our association with NATO opened

the way for a multi-party political system along Western lines. By 1950, we had installed a multi-party system. Since then, and over the last forty one years, we have been enjoying a multi-party democracy.

Q: On the 20th, you had general elections. Could you discuss the outcome?

A: In the general elections of the 20th of October 1991, some 30 million voters (out of a population of 60 million) participated. The whole thing went very smoothly. Even before the actual elections, the campaigns went on peacefully with no incidents at all. There was total freedom of expression and 450 deputies were elected to the Grand National Assembly. Of course, you have heard the results. 178 members from the True Path Party, 115 members from the Motherland Party, 88 members from the Social Democrats, 62 members from the Islamic Nationalist Bloc, and 7 from the Democratic Left.

Q: In April this year, you had a major relaxation of the rules. Things formerly taboo are now tolerated. Could you elaborate?

A: On April 12th, 1991, a new law was passed by the National Assembly in which three articles in our Penal Code were changed. Now, people are free to raise issues relating to Kurds, communist thoughts, and Islamic fundamentalism, all of which were not possible in the past. Our society can now digest these as long as they remain aloof from violence. Our people have grown in their confidence of themselves and the system, and they can now handle these things. But, I will stress that violence and terrorism will not be tolerated. Our ideas can fight, but we need not fight in the physical sense.

Q: You said the scope for expression in any languages is now guaranteed, is there any newspaper in



Kurdish language today ?

A: Personally, I am not aware of such a development, although it is likely. Yet, there are many music tapes and books in Kurdish which you can buy in the market. By the way, the 22 Kurdish members of the new parliament have been discussing whether to take the Constitutional Oath in Turkish or Kurdish. So there is a transformation process going on, and it is all creating a more tolerant and democratic society.

Q: So Turkey is making its transformation towards a more advanced democracy. Let me ask you about two things. First, human rights. AMNESTY has consistently named Turkey as a violator of human rights. What is your government doing to improve the record on that?

A: First of all, let me indicate that AMNESTY has accused such countries as the USA, the UK, and nine other Western countries of human rights violations. This does not make them any less democratic. Let me add that Turkey's record in human rights has also improved dramatically. Finally, I hope you will realize that Turkey is situated in a very tense area, and we have been the target of many terrorist activities. Of course, none of this should lead to human rights violations, but I am happy the record is getting cleaner, and AMNESTY's report itself has said so.

Q: The Second part of that question relates to the Kurds. Don't you think it is time they were

recognized as a different entity within Turkey.

A: Allow me to start from the beginning. When Turkey was created, it was created as a unitary republic, not as a federation between different parts. Then, it is really hard to say who is a Kurd and who is a Turk. If we accept that there are some eight-to-ten million Kurds, half of them already live in the large cities, and they have melted nicely with everybody else. Although the Turks came from Central Asia, and they moved into Anatolia, there were people living there. So, a Turk is really a person who has patriotic feelings for Turkey and carries its passport. It is no longer a race or an ethnic group in the strict sense. It is in this light that the Kurds are Turkish citizens. In any case, if there are groups that feel they have certain special traits, then within the Turkish society they are free to show them. After all, you are talking of a sixty million population. The Turkish society has matured so much that this issue no more creates sensitivities as it used to.

Q: Allow me to move on to regional issues. First, relations with Yemen. How does your excellency see the evolution of cooperation and relations between our two countries?

A: I think our relations are historical, although not all the time sweet. We have songs in Turkey of our men (soldiers) who came to Yemen and never returned during the Ottoman days. I feel so much can be done in economic cooperation. Let me say that Turkey's small-

scale industries have become a model. We have offered, to share our experience in this field, and the Yemeni side responded favorably. I think a Turkish delegation will come to study the Yemeni potential and what Turkey can do. Then, there is the Turkish scholarship program. We have been offering seven scholarships annually, but the Yemeni side has not been able to exploit these to the fullest. We have asked Ankara to increase the number of scholarships. There is also the possibility of cooperation in the medical field. We are planning to receive a medical team that will spend one week in Sanaa to provide free medical service and care. Finally, of course there is trade and investment. I am here to try to promote cooperation in all those and other fields. I shall call on the various Yemeni officials to help me in this. One major source of help is for YEMENIA to resume its flights to Turkey. These were interrupted due to the Gulf crisis. By the way, since April, this embassy has issued over a thousand visas for Yemenis to visit Turkey. So the airline service is viable. I use this opportunity to call on YEMENIA to resume flights.

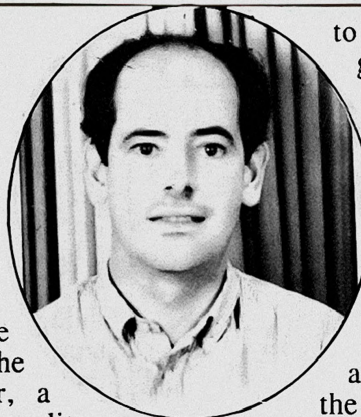
Q: Turkish relations with its Arab neighbors are complicated. How do you see these evolve?

A: Of course as you said these are complicated. With our Arab neighbors, it is a matter of trust. I wish we could work on that a little bit more on both sides. For example, in the Gulf crisis, not one Turkish soldier participated or fired a shot against Iraq. With both Iraq and Syria, we have problems of understanding concerning the waters of Euphrates and Tigris. We have our own plans, of course, but we always take into account the needs of our neighbors. If you remember, there was a severe drought in 1988, and we opened up the reservoirs of our dams to maintain a steady supply of water to them. The Kurdish terrorist problem complicates our relations, but we hope that once Iraq is able to control its northern provinces better, this problem will disappear.

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A DUTCH ENCOUNTER WITH SOCOTRA

by:
J.G.SCHOUTEN
Counsellor,
Embassy of the
Netherlands,
Sanaa.



On Wednesday the 18th and Thursday the 19th of September, a wish of mine became reality - a visit to the mysterious island of Socotra! During a qat session some weeks before, a high level civil servant from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning asked me if I would be interested in a visit to Socotra. I did not hesitate for a moment and said, "Yes, any time." I was also asked to bring along some friends who were interested in Socotra. Our group was finally composed of an Italian, an American, an Englishman and myself. Having lived in Yemen for three years (and enjoying all three of them) I knew I should not press for an exact date or a detailed program. I knew that once a decision is made, a program would be prepared.

Finally on September 15th, I had a talk with the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, who informed me that we would leave for Al Mahara and Socotra the next morning. He was as good as his word and the final confirmation came at 10.30 the same night. We would leave the next morning for Al Ghaidha, the capital of al Mahara and after a visit to Al Mahara governorate, we would fly on via Mukallah to Socotra. During our flight

to Al Ghaidha, we began to realise how big Yemen has become, our diplomatic duties take us often to Hodeidah, Aden, Taiz, Sadah, etc., but we have hardly realized that Yemen has become such a big country, after unification. At the airport of Al Ghaidha, we were met by, among others the deputy governor of Al Mahara. We spent one night in the government's guest-house. The next day we visited some villages along Al Mahara's beautiful coast. We spoke to villagers and heard about the problems they face in everyday life. The most pressing problem seemed to be clean drinking water in sufficient quantities. Another important problem was waste-disposal and the lack of health facilities. In Neshtoon, we visited the coldstore facilities, constructed with Danish assistance. Once well developed, fishery could be an important source of income for the people of Al Mahara. The coast of Al Mahara is very pretty, the beaches are completely unspoiled, very clean and covered with white sand. Close to the border with Oman the mountains descend into the sea, with beautiful small bays in between.

After spending one night in Mukalla our plane took off for Socotra which lies close to the north-eastern tip of the horn of Africa and almost 1200 kilometers south of Aden. The flight from Mukalla took us one hour and twenty minutes in an Antonov-24 aeroplane.

The island has a length of 125 kilometers and is almost 25 kilometers wide. It has a coastal plane, not unlike the Tihama and in the middle mountains, rise reaching 1500 meters. The island has no port facilities whatsoever and can only be reached by air transport during six months of the year. During the other six months, the winds are too strong to permit an aeroplane to safely land on the island's only airstrip.

The island's population is around 20,000, of which 6,000 live in the island's capital Hadibo. Most of the inhabitants are nomads, herding meagre flocks of sheep and

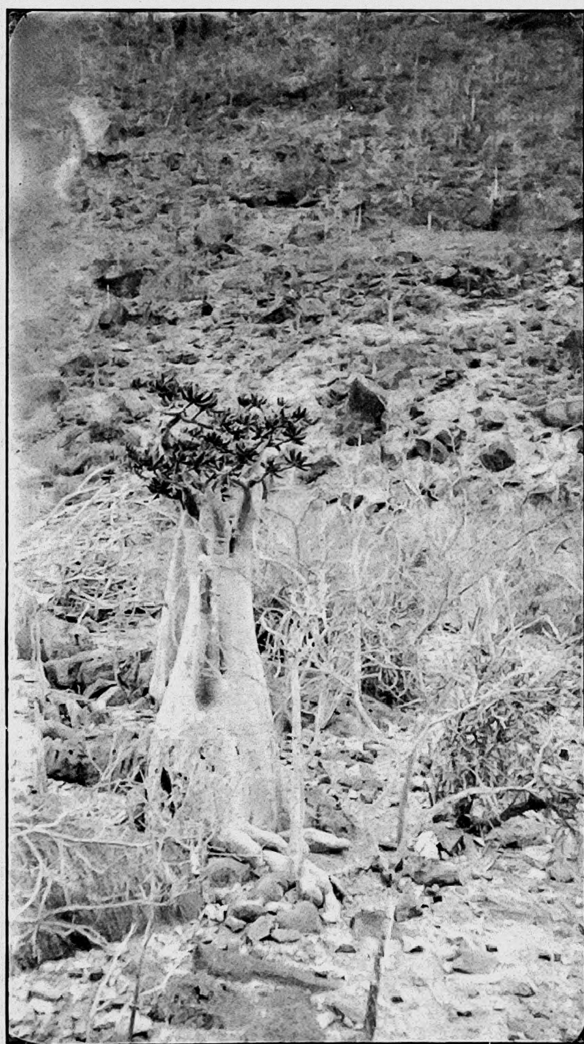
goats. The welcome we got was overwhelming, all the island's important people were at the airstrip to receive us. After a quick drive along part of the coast, which reminded our Italian friend of some parts of the Mediterranean coast, we entered the capital. The houses we saw seemed very small, consisting of one room only, and built of heavy stones. We had a tasty lunch of goat and fish in the police post, where we discussed the program of our stay. After a long discussion the decision

was taken to cross the island and spend the night on the other side of island, camping on the beach. Our trip lasted three hours. We stopped many times to photograph the strange trees we saw everywhere, the gumtrees, the umbrella-trees, which provide shade for their own roots, and of course the waterbottle trees, that were very tall. The island must be beautiful after the first rains have fallen and the waterbottle trees bloom with their pink flowers. We saw very few people and almost no wildlife during our trip.

lack of medical facilities being one of them. Another problem is the lack of port facilities. Water also seemed scarce, despite the six months of annual rainfall.

Socotra offers many possibilities for assistance by foreign donors. We felt it would be a good idea if the whole island could be declared a "National Park", in order to protect the nature of the island, which is unique in the world.

Our night on the beach was spent in peace and quiet, disturbed only by hundreds of crabs, who clearly resented our intrusion. The next day the trip



The people who accompanied us answered our many questions and we got the impression that the beauty of the island's nature hardly compensated for the hardships the inhabitants have to suffer. The

was made back to Hadibo and on the plane back to Sana'a.

This may be a good place to thank everybody who made our trip possible, an adventure none of us is likely to forget soon.

ENACTMENT OF THE LAW GOVERNING POLITICAL PARTIES IN YEMEN

On the 16th of October, President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed law number 66 for 1991 governing political parties in Yemen. The Yemen Times publishes, in this and the subsequent edition, an unofficial translation of the text of the law:

Chapter One: Names and Definitions:

Article (1):

This law is called "The Law for Parties and Political Organizations".

Article (2):

The words and expressions used hereunder are defined as follows:

- **Republic** = Republic of Yemen

- **Constitution** = The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen

- **Party or Political Organization** = Any group of Yemenis, organized according to common principles and objectives according to constitutional legitimacy, who exercise political and democratic activities with the aim of achieving the transfer of power or sharing thereof using peaceful means.

- **Committee** = The Committee for Parties and Political

Organizations established as per this law.

Chapter Two: Foundations, Aims, and General Principles:

Article (3)

According to article (39) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, general liberties including political pluralism and party system based on constitutional legitimacy are considered a right and a pillar of the pillars of the political and social system of the Republic of Yemen which may not be cancelled, limited or re-trained, and no measure may be taken to hinder the freedom of citizens to exercise this right. At the same time, no party or political organization may mis-use this right in contradiction with the national interests in preserving sovereignty, security, stability, and national cohesion.

Article (4):

This law aims to define the principles and procedures in the establishment and activities of parties and political organizations.

Article (5):

All Yemenis are entitled to form parties and political

organizations, and they have the right to a voluntary affiliation to any party or political organization according to constitutional legitimacy and the principles of this law.

Article (6):

The party or political organization exercises its activities in peaceful and democratic means in order to execute clearly defined and declared programs in the political, economic, social and cultural affairs of the Republic, through the participation in the political and democratic life to ensure the peaceful transfer of power or sharing thereof through free and honest general elections.

Article (7):

The parties and political organizations contribute in achieving political, social, economic, and cultural progress, and to consolidate national unity through democratic practices in accordance with the constitution and given that the parties are national, popular, and democratic political organizations which work to organize the citizens and to represent them politically.

Article (8):

For the establishment or the

continuation of the activities of any party or political organization, the following have to be observed:

First: That its principles, objectives, programs, and means do not contradict:

a) Islamic precepts.

b) The sovereignty, integrity, and unity of the nation and people.

c) The Republican system, and the aims and principles of the September and October Revolutions, and the Republic's constitution.

d) The national cohesion of the Yemeni society.

e) The basic freedoms and duties, and the international declaration of human rights.

f) The Yemeni society's affiliation to the Arab and Muslim nations.

Second: That upon application for the establishment of a party or political organization, the programs and policies on which it depends to achieve its objectives in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, do not replicate those of other (existing) parties and political organizations.

Third: That the applying party or political organization has an internal system of regulations, by-laws, and political program approved

by its members.

Fourth: That the party or political organization is not based on regional, tribal, sectarian, class, professional, or any other forms of discrimination among citizens on the basis of their sex, racial origin, or color.

Fifth: That the party may not be based on concepts contrary to Islamic law, and may not be based on activities on excommunication of other parties or members of society, or to proclaim to be singularly representing the true Islam, or patriotism, or nationalism, or the Revolution.

Sixth: The parties or political organizations are not allowed to:

i- to establish military or para-military forces or to help in establishing them.

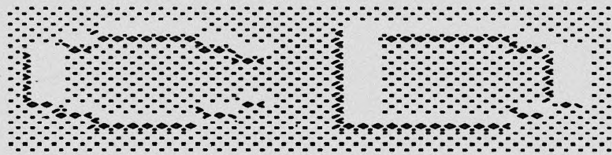
ii- to use violence in any form, or threats or instigations thereof.

iii- to include in their literature or programs anything that instigates violence or the establishment of military or para-military structures, openly or in secret.

Seventh: The party or political organization may not be a subsidiary of a political system in a foreign country. Yemeni parties,

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EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

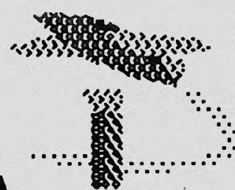
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Alitalia	273655
Alyemda	240896
British Airways	272247
Egypt Air	275061
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Iraqi Airways	240091/240909
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Kuwait Airways	272503/4
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Hadda	215214/5

Aden (0911)

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Gold Mohur	324171

Hodeidah (03)

Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852

Taiz (04)

Mareb	210350
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Marib (063)

Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
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Sadah (051)

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KING HUSSEIN'S LETTER TO SADDAM: WISDOM LOST ON A DICTATOR

On the 22nd of September, 1990, King Hussein of Jordan sent the following letter to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Quote:

Your Excellency, our brother, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, may God protect you.

I have just returned from the Rabat meeting to which His Majesty King Hassan II invited me, as he also invited His Excellency President Chadli BenJedid. The subject of the meeting was the Gulf Crisis which has become the crisis of the Arab nation since its beginning on August 2 when Iraq's troops occupied Kuwait. With this event started a dangerous slide towards the unknown, increasing in intensity with every day and hour as we see that what our nation accomplished through its struggle since the beginning of this century is threatened with extinction or destruction. This is happening after the end of the cold war period and at a time when the world is witnessing the birth of a new

The dangers that these developments present do not elude you. Whatever our reservations about the way the Arab order functioned until 2 August 1990 they do not justify sacrificing the achievements of our nation. **In particular they do not justify sacrificing the great achievements of Iraq under your leadership which have become the source of Arab pride.**

This is not only my opinion but that of His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli BenJedid and certainly the view of the Arab masses. This is why we feel genuine anxiety for Iraq and its leadership, and feel the necessity for protecting and preserving them. It is our right to express our opinion of what is going on because a disaster - if it should befall Iraq, God forbid - will affect us all.

Based on this understanding and assessment which I share with His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli BenJedid, and our true concern for the preservation of

this is my worst fear) is lost and the situation deteriorates into a destructive military confrontation which will bring disaster not only to Iraq, but also to the entire Arab nation.

Certain Your Excellency knows that we are committed to the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, not only because this is an internationally accepted principle, but also because of the Israel occupation of Arab territories. Failure to apply this principle - especially in our area - will constitute a dangerous precedent of which Israel will take advantage, with all that implies in terms of threats to the security and existence of Jordan and to our national security in general. As you know there is an Arab consensus on adherence to this principle making the acquisition of territory by force unacceptable, especially if it should lead to the elimination of a state which is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations.

It surely cannot elude Your Excellency that this situation (the occupation of Kuwait) is the first of

its kind in the context of the new circumstances prevailing in the world. This is impossible for anyone to accept, and to be silent about it would be a precedent that might en-

there is an Arab consensus on adherence to this principle making the acquisition of territory by force unacceptable, especially if it should lead to the elimination of a state which is a member of the Arab League and the UN.

of Iraq from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

It is important that your Excellency should know that the majority of the Arab peoples rightfully fear for Iraq with its scientific, human, military and material capabilities. This fear for Iraq has reached a point where **many believe that a trap has been set for Iraq, a trap in which it fell, creating the opportunity awaited by the enemies of the nation to strike and destroy Iraq** under the guise of helping Kuwait, and in the name of international legitimacy. In fact they are trying to eliminate Iraq, and destroy the hopes of our Arab nation for what it represents, and destroy our nation's confidence in itself.

I personally realised this from the beginning, and based on this knowledge I made strenuous efforts within my capacity to reach an Arab solution in order to thwart the designs against Iraq and the Arab nation. Obstacles were put and are still being put in my way.

Matters have deteriorated at a rapid pace and the area has reached the threshold of explosion. In reality, I do not see that there is much time ahead of us to

have accompanied the crisis. Iraq will have succeeded in preserving the achievements of its people and nation; it will have solved its problem with Iran; it will have successfully drawn attention to the gap between the wealthy Arabs and the poor ones, and established this issue as a national one in the consciousness of the Arab peoples, and gained support and understanding for this even in the international area; it will have attained its legitimate demands which were a source of contention with Kuwait; it will have succeeded in embarrassing the world which has neglected the Palestine issue, and forcing it to fulfill its responsibility to implement international resolutions as it did in Kuwait; and Iraq will have destroyed for our enemies the opportunity of exploiting divisions within the Arab nations.

We are now on the threshold of a new Arab era in which things will never be as they were before if we reach a peaceful solution within an Arab framework. **Will you help us all in protecting these achievements?** I believe it is within our capacity to protect them, and to build on them if we should achieve this peaceful resolution, acceptable to all concerned Arab parties; a resolution in which is respected the will of the Kuwaitis so that they freely decide what they want; a resolution which confirms our and Iraq's consistency in confirming the principle of the inadmissibility of using Arab force against Arabs, and that every Arab state, however small in size, is equal to even the largest Arab state in its rights; a resolution which shows that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was only an act of self-defence, not an expansionist action, or an intention to impose hegemony; a resolution which rectifies what happened, contains the crisis, paves the way for its resolution, and restores confidence between the brotherly Arab regimes.

Continues on page 14

many believe that a trap has been set for Iraq, a trap in which it fell, creating the opportunity awaited by the enemies of the nation to strike and destroy Iraq

era and when the international game is being governed by laws and rules different from those we have been familiar with so far.

With the beginning of a period of hope and promise came the Gulf Crisis which revolves around oil, which all nations need and which constitutes, more than at any previous time, the most important base of a new era in which nations aspire to live in a world where peace and cooperation prevail.

Our Arab area has become of the utmost importance for this world, not only because of its location and size and the volume of its market, but also for its vast oil reserves which are estimated to represent two thirds of the world's oil reserves or more.

The large industrial powers saw in the Gulf Crisis a golden opportunity to reorganize the area according to designs in harmony with their ambitions and interests, at the expense of the aspirations and interests of the Arab peoples, and to put in place a new international order.

Iraq and what it represents - I have been asked by President BenJedid and His Majesty King Hassan to pose the following question to Your Excellency as a start of a sincere, collective Arab effort in the hope of a quick response. What are the specific, reasonable and acceptable demands of Iraq from Kuwait as far as its borders with Kuwait and its need for access to the deep waters of the Gulf are concerned; or with respect to the debts and financial compensation for the Rumleleh oil, or other demands if they should exist?

In other words : what are the Iraqi demands in their final reasonable and realistic form from the State of Kuwait which may gain the acceptance of the Arab leaders with whom I met before my last visit to you, so that, along with His Majesty King Hassan II and President BenJedid, we will try to persuade the concerned party and other Arab leaders, and arrive at an Arab solution of the problem before it is too late and before the opportunity (and

The people of Jordan, along with your brethren in Yemen, have suffered harm, no less in magnitude and intensity than what has befallen beloved Iraq. Will you not respond positively and do what is in your interest and for your good as it is in the interest and for the benefit of Iraq and its people?

courage others in other regions in the world to follow. **This, in turn, will lead to the eruption of conflicts and instability in many regions, at a time when the world is moving towards resolving not exploding conflicts. This explains the wide agreement and support of the international community for the stand of the United States which we know had hidden objectives, other than its stated goal of achieving the withdrawal**

avoid disaster.

The war, if it should start, will be won in the end by one party or another, but the real losers will be us, the Arabs... we who believe in the right of our nation to life whether we are in Iraq or in any other part of our wide Arab homeland.

If, however, with the help of God, the war is successfully avoided, and we are able to reach an Arab solution, then Iraq will have achieved much despite the pain and the losses which

letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to**Supporting
Women's Lib:**

To the social editor:

I would like to tell you that I deeply welcome your topics which arise from your deep soul and mind. Your last topic "Men and Women - side by side" dated 2 - 8th October. I hold a B.A. in sociology, and I enjoy reading more about social problems in Yemen.

I would like to raise a new topic- Does the new constitution of Yemen provide for the needs of women? I think that if Yemeni women in the past lived under conditions in which some of their rights were blocked, we must not allow such conditions to continue. The government must act in this case. Many countries worlds have stopped women from exercising their rights under various pretexts. What I am trying to do is to compare Yemen and with other countries and see that we do not fall in the same trap. In your article you also mentioned that Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) allowed women to join the army. This is good for every body in Yemen to know. You need to extract as much support as possible for your cause. But the question remains - who is going to give you full support!!!! Because, most of the Yemeni men still believe in stone-age ideas in matters pertaining to male-female.

But some of us 'young-men' support and defend the women in their quest to exercise their rights and in their desire to cooperate with men for the sake of our future and to create a prosperous Yemen.

I thin that if Yemeni women believe they can be able to join security forces and military service, they are most welcome. They need the support of all of us, and they can count on me for one.

Othman Saleh Othman.
P. O. Box 5373,
Taiz.

**STRUGGLE FOR
LEADERSHIP IN
SOMALIA**

Many more leaders in the Third world continue to exercise their oligarchic power which is directly based on the motto of

"Let's dominate the broad masses and drip their blood!" This endless inhuman action has of late precipitated an outrageous civil war in many parts of the developing countries.

As a matter of fact, one can not yet find in any part of Africa, an honest and active vanguard who makes great efforts for the interests of his people and country. In many cases, new leaderships give empty promises to carry out their duty in an orderly manner, and yet, the tailor-made constitutions are not enforced.

Isn't this a crime against humanity?

Many countries in Africa attained independence in 1960. Over thirty years, there has been no progress, there has been lots of holocaust and genocide! The main reason is mismanagement illegal self-enrichment, both of which have thenorm of African leaders. As a result, instead of progress in every field of life, there is always political turmoil.

As an example, let me use Somalia. We are all aware of the endless civil war in Somalia where many innocent people died. All this is being brought about by some myopic men who think of of self-aggrandizement and tribal loyalties.

Generally speaking, the struggle for leadership in Somalia continues, and may have become worse. The poor peasants are held in ransom. The old men and women are slaughtered brutally and the chastity of young girls is violated and their reputation have been seriously damaged. The dignity of the Somali nation has been lost. There is no help we can look for. No one could save our nation except the Almighty.

In all events, we are on the threshold of a new era. The broad masses are in plight.

With respect to the Djibouti pact, it is not fully put into effect in Somalia because of continued dissension between the newly-elected interim president, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who is quite optimistic and the chairman of the United Somali Congress, who wants to mop up the ramnants of the Siad Barre's armed.

Homicide has become a normal part of the map of Somalia. Men have become miserable. They are fed up with what takes place every day. It seems as if some

persons have made dripping the blood of others their career.

Over and above, the ousted Siad Barre, is still alive in his native village in Garbaharey where he watches and waits for the opportunity to return to power.

On the other hand, where is the Arab League? It observes closely the bloodshed in Somalia, putting their fingers over their lips as if this matter does not concern anybody. It is not only a matter of Arabs, but it is also a matter of the Muslim world.

As long as Somalia belongs to the Arab League, isn't it incumbent on its members to play an active role in helping Somalia regain its peace and maintain sovereignty over its land? It is quite certain that the Arab League is able to take positive steps and carry out this action in a practical manner, isn't it? It is my belief that if the Arab League makes an effort to assist the Somali people, nothing could go wrong. The Arab League must carry out its obligation to reconcile the Somali tribes who have been in disarray due to the lack of a good leadership.

by:
Mohamed Ali Shidle
"Afgoie"
Teacher,
P.O. Box 6404,
Taiz.

**NEED FOR
PLANNING**

Planning is an essential part of human life. Just as the state plans its activities, planning at the individual level is also important for achieving positive results. Planning is a trait of human nature besides being a necessary first step in all bussinesses to secure best results. The more planning there is in a is system, the more accurate and efficient it is, and the better its results will be.

States have felt the need for planning at national levels and therefore designated special agencies or ministries to carry out the task of making plans and determining methods that ensure better performance and productivity at every level.

Planning at the individual level acquires great significance when there are various and alternate activities and responsibilities. Good planning saves time, effort

and money in addition to increasing productivity and efficiency. The individual who plans accurately and in advance, is able to define what he/she wants, and the way to go about achieving them. In the same way, forecasting and working according to prepared plans has become an importan component if a civilized way of life.

A person has to stop from time to time, and think about him/herself, in order to evaluate and plan and to re-evaluate and replan, to ask many questions - what, why, where, how and when. A person has to know his/her obligations towards others and society and before all that towards the Creator. A person plans for all that in order to be able to achieve perfect perfomance, in order to maximize, and in order to reach the desired goals at the right time.

Planning for expenditure is well appreciated already, only the most reckless would ignore such a necessity. So it is needless to stress its importance not only to the individual but to the whole society as well. Owing to this fact the need to rationalize spending becomes very important. There may be some people who have the necessary knowledge and skill to plan for themselves; but there are many of us who lack the qualities and so they are in dire need of someone to advise them and plan for them honestly.

When planning for a future action or certain behavior, it is important to study the alternatives. Obviously any planning must have controls that measure progress and monitor deviations. Also commitments and desired objectives provide standards and criteria by which we judge our progress and results. All these have to be within the bounds set by religion, the law, and the socio-cultural norms.

In Yemen, mosat of us tend to neglect to plan for our daily activities and often decide on actions off-hand without proper planning. Thus, we are unable to reach our objectives and goals. Remember the golden rule of planning: First consult, then select, and then decide.

By: **Ismail Ali Al Ghabri**
Sanaa University.

SOMALI CIVIL WAR

When Siad Barre, the former President of Somalia, was overthrown by the United Somali Congress (U.S.C.), he fled to his hometown in search of a peaceful haven. His tribe and the 10,000 or so loyalist troops vowed to defend him if newly victorious forces came to get him.

Unfortunately, instead of routing Siad Barre, the USC got bogged down in a bitter power-struggle coupied by a massive torture campaign against the fair-skinned Darood clan. These people were impverished, their young were abducted, their women raped, and their property looted. The Darood clan claims its ancestors came from the Arabian Peninsula. Similar action was also taken against the Pakistani, Indian, and Yemeni communities in Mogadishu, the capital. It is unfortunate that the new ruling elites watched on as these atrocities were committed. The militants among the USC have taken this opportunity to enrich themselves by occupying the residences of the people who fled, and by looting their wealth.

While the USC was busy with its savage campaign, the opposing tribes, under the banner of the Somali Patriotic Movement, built its army in the south, and slowly regained control over a major portion of the country. When the USC woke up from their drunken madness, the SPM was already about 50 kilometers from the capital city. Thus, the USC called for a truce and a dialogue, which culminated in the Djibouti talks.

I am very disturbed about the future of my country as those two opposing factions stand face to face and ready to go to war. The situation is very precarious and new fighting could explode rapidly in a wide scale. Therefore, I appeal to the United Nations, to the Organization of African Unity, and to the Arab League, to intervene and do something tangible to save the Somali people from this on-going plight. It is also important for AMNESTY International to investigate human rights violations in Somalia.

By **Sheikh Nour Qassim,**
Hodeidah.

BCCI: An Update

At the wake of the worldwide collapse of BCCI, the Yemeni operations were frozen and the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) took over management of the bank. On the 2nd of September, 1991, the BCCI -- Yemen operations opened up after fifty seven days of closure. Since then, and over the last two months, the BCCI -- Yemen has been paying its depositors who came to the bank in search of their money. The daily average has been about forty customers. The CBY had placed a 40% ceiling on Yemeni Riyals accounts, and a 25% ceiling on US Dollar and other foreign currency accounts. Upto date, the bank has paid out 32% of the Riyal deposits, and 18% of the foreign currency accounts. "This reflects the confidence people still have in the bank," says Mr. Mahdi Naqvi, the general manager until the CBY took over the bank's management. According to Nasser Mabhkout, the CBY's assigned general manager, depositors will be able to withdraw a second installment (possibly again on a ceiling of 40% on Riyal accounts and a 25% on foreign currency accounts) around the middle of November. In the meanwhile, although the employees continue to collect their salaries, the 31 Yemeni employees have filed a suit with the courts in order to safeguard their benefits and other dues. According to Abdullah Mohammed Jameel, the bank's union boss, the CBY has agreed to block YR.27 million of the bank's assets to meet those benefits. The benefits of the non-Yemeni employees, fifteen of them, are bound to claim a far larger sum. Where is the bank headed? Given the attitude of the head office of the bank, the Yemen network is going to face major problems unless immediate action is taken to shore it up. It would be a pity to liquidate the bank, as re-structuring is possible. One way to achieve that would be to allow Yemenis to invest in the bank, and there are quite a few contenders. The problem is the 5% ceiling per investor suggested by the CBY, according to Mr. Naqvi. He thinks if the CBY agrees to a 15-20% ceiling per investor, a new injection of US\$12-15 million could do the job.

Continued from page 2: PERSONAL VIEWPOINT

While these same changes were not demanded from the era before unification. We have to be more objective in dealing with national issues during the process of our growth and transformation. We must have sufficient knowledge of our past and presence, and the capacity of the system to undergo and sustain change. At the same times, our power of evaluation and analysis should be based on unbiased data. These data should be free of personal grudges and social barriers and free from hallucination and unrealistic idealism. Change in the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of life is not of a rapid nature. Change, if it does not conform with the normal pace, will have catastrophic results. It is more destructive than being constructive. As such our aspirations should have sufficient respect for historical incidents. Human beings, unfortunately, do not possess magic wands for achieving our every ambitions. At the same time, we are not to take this motto as an excuse for intentionally making errors or succumb to lethargic policies. We are solidly to stick to "Democracy" as the only means for resolving all types of problems. The nation-wide slogan for expressing agitation is nothing else but legal peaceful media and that is to be the common denominator for all our actions. In this case, democracy with all its implications is to be accepted as a whole. The democracy which we have strived for through-out our life span, is the natural fruit of our efforts and sacrifices. This democracy with its wide-scope focuses on unlimited range of rights. My conclusions about the basic pillars of a democratic system include:

1. Democracy allows all individuals the right to speak, criticize and disagree with each other.
2. It allows plurality of ideas and ideologies, and stands firmly for the principles of tolerance.
3. It is wedded to the methods of persuasion and peace - both in the internal and external spheres.
4. It is clearly opposed to coercive methods, even for the "social good". A government cannot be called democratic,

if it uses illegitimate coercion in the name of social welfare.

5. It upholds the dignity of the human person and gives various kinds of rights to the individual.
6. It is built on the foundation of liberty and equality.
7. It is a form of a government in which sovereignty is vested in the people.
8. In actual practice, democracy means the rule by the majority with full safeguards for the rights of racial, linguistics, religious, cultural and other minorities.
9. It is government by the representatives of the people, and these are elected by adults, who are free to vote as they please without being coerced by any one voting is not open but secret.
10. A democratic government functions strictly according to the principles of a constitution (whether written or unwritten) which had been accepted by the people.
11. A democratic government gives adequate opportunities to all, and makes every one feel that his/her existence is recognized and full justice is being done to him.
12. It is government aiming at the welfare of all.
13. Democracy provides for a peaceful change in government according to constitutional principles, and it is against any change by violent or revolutionary means.
14. Democracy have various aspects political, social and economic, politically it is people's government. Socially it stands for away of life. Economically it stands for social welfare and freedom from exploitation.

Democratic theory is based on the following presumptions:

1. The individual is rational. Every person has the capacity to think about the problems of the community and is capable of taking their own decisions.
2. People commit mistakes.
3. Society is democratic, and indivious social distinctions of high and low are absent. Social relations are democratized.
4. There is no conflict between the individual good and the good of the community.
5. The use of physical force or violence in solving problems is entirely ruled out.

A realistic outlook for life and its components leads to logical practices for the attainment of our ambitions. The proper, conscious application of rules and regulations is assential.

Continued from p. 5: Law Governing Political Parties ...

may, however, establish bilateral ties - on an equal footing - with any non-Yemeni party or political organization, in a manner that is not contrary to the supreme national interest, the constitution and the laws in force.

Eighth: The party or political organization must declare openly its principles, objectives, methods, political structure and form, and leadership.

Ninth: The party must stand on a national base and may not limit membership to any geographic region.

Article (9):

The internal regulations, standing orders, and political programs of the party or political organization must include the foundations governing all its political, organizational, financial and administrative affairs which may not contradict the provisions of this law. In particular, they must include:

a) the full name of the party or political organization which may not replicate any other existing party or political organization.

b) the address of the head office of the party or political organization, and the branches, if any. All offices and branches must be located within the Republic of Yemen, and they may not be located in mosques, industrial or service work places, educational, military, judicial sites or any other locations of general service. The headquarter of the party must be in Sanaa.

c) The principles and objectives of the party or political organization and the means and programs it will employ to achieve them.

d) The membership conditions, the procedures for application, admission, withdrawal and expulsion.

Conditions thereof must not be tailored with the intent of discrimination on the basis of sex, color, racial origin, language, profession, or social status.

e) The procedures for establishing of units within the party, and the rising within the ranks of the party, and the duties and political and financial responsibilities of the party cadres, posts and units, and the way of executing activities thereof. All procedures and steps within the party must allow for the execution of democrat-

ic rights of all members.

f) The financial structure of the party specifying its resources, the bank/s with which the party deals, and the procedures governing withdrawal of funds; besides information regarding book-keeping systems, auditing standards and the procedures for budget preparation and approval.

g) the laws and procedures governing the party's merger with another party, its annulment, and how its assets are to be disposed of.

Article (10):

To be a member of a party or political organization, the following conditions must apply:

a) Must be a Yemeni national. If he/she is a naturalized Yemeni, then the time requirement stipulated in the nationality law must apply.

b) Must be at least 18 years old.

c) Must be able to enjoy full political rights. Such rights can only be violated by a court decision.

d) Must not belong to the judiciary, police or military forces, or assigned to the diplomatic corps outside Yemen.

Article (11):

With due observance to items (c, d) of Article (10), the following conditions must apply for any person who will participate in establishing a party or political organization:

a) Must be born of a Yemeni father.

b) Must be at least 24 years of age.

c) A court decision against him/her must have not been issued depriving him/her of political activity or convicting him of a crime which reduces his/her integrity or decency, unless he/she is rehabilitated.

Article (12):

The president of the party or political organization represents the party in front of the judicial system or any other party. The president of the party may, according to the regulations of the party, authorize any of the party's leadership to represent it in such forums.

Next week, the Yemen Times will publish the second and final part of the law governing political parties in Yemen.

THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET

Budgetary decisions are most critical in Yemen, or anywhere else, for that matter. The coming few weeks will witness more intensive efforts in finalizing the 1992 budget. Lobbying by interest groups and ministries has already reached high levels. This article provides an overall picture of the way the government budget is evolving in the Republic of Yemen.

A: 1990 Budget:

The Ministry of Finance has just released the actual figures for the 1990 budget which is embodied in a four-volume document entitled "The Final Accounts for the 1990 Budget". If you need a copy ask for it at the General Directorate of Final Accounts at the Ministry of Finance. The document shows that government expenditures for 1990 totalled YR.35,967 million, while revenues totalled YR.26,011.6 million thus yielding a deficit of YR.9,955.4 million. The breakdown is given in tables (1) and (2) below:

Table (1): 1990 Expenditures in million YR:

Item of Expenditure	Allocation	Actual
1. Payroll expenditures	17,088.0	19,598.1
2. Purchase of Goods and Services	3,718.6	2,984.0
3. Transfer Payments/Subsidies	3,409.7	5,230.0
Non-Categorized Expenditures	70.0	65.2
4. Debt Repayment/Gov't Shares...	5,790.0	3,890.0
5. Government Projects/Investments	7,573.2	4,199.7
TOTAL	37,649.3	35,967.0

Table (1): 1990 Revenues in million YR:

Source of Revenue	Allocation	Actual
1. Taxes, Duties, Zakat	13,739.9	13,733.0
2. User Charges, Fees, etc.	842.8	500.7
3. Revenue from Gov't Assets	6,329.3	5,173.7
4. Sale of Gov't Property (incl. oil)	3,175.5	4,533.3
5. Revenue from Loans/Foreign Aid	4,085.5	2,070.8
TOTAL	28,173.0	26,011.6

From the above figures, we can see that the project deficit was YR.9,476.3 million, whereas the actual deficit was YR.9,955.4 million. What this says is that the government must be congratulated on a very exact preparation of the budget estimates. The budget for 1990, is actually the sum of two independently prepared budgets in the former north and south Yemen. Therefore, it was not the country's first unified budget.

B: 1991 Budget:

According to Mr. Abdul-Rahman Ali, Assistant

Deputy Minister of Finance for Final Accounts, the implementation of the 1991 budget is running very smoothly and well within appropriations. In a sense he is right. Total government expenditures over the first nine months (January through September 1991) was YR.29.51b. which is far less than 75% of the total appropriations for the year, which is YR.51 billion. The real savings have come, unfortunately, from the capital expenditure allocations. Out of a total allocation of YR.10.6 billion, a meager YR.3.5 billion (roughly one third) has been spent over the past period. The major savings on the recurrent budget have come from two sources. First, almost all debt servicing in foreign currency (payable out of chapter three of the budget), has not been paid, primarily due to the foreign exchange shortage. Therefore, this is actually deferred payment rather than a saving. However, a major saving did take place

dered a committee formed by the minister to go around and make the payments. The savings were enormous. The average monthly recurrent expenditures of the military during January through June 1991 was

YR.1,241.3 million. After the clean-up job, the average monthly recurrent expenditures during July through September, 1991 is YR.689.3 million - a difference of over YR. 552 million every month. Once the Brigadier finishes with the cleaning job of the hardware and vehicles, additional savings are bound to be achieved. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Alawi Salami has openly expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Defense Minister and called on the Interior Minister to follow suit.

Many ministers point to the entrenched corruption and powerful interest groups in their ministries as an excuse for accepting the prevailing conditions. Our belief is that if one person (the Defense Minister, in this case) can clean up the military, it would be possible for others to clean up any ministry. What is required is a strong dedication and a smaller appetite for amassing wealth illegally on the part of the chief executives of the ministries.

As a result of these efforts, total government expenditures in 1991 are expected to be around YR. 42 billion, a savings of YR. 10 billion. At the same time government revenues are being collected more efficiently. Not only are dues

Finance Minister Alawi Salami



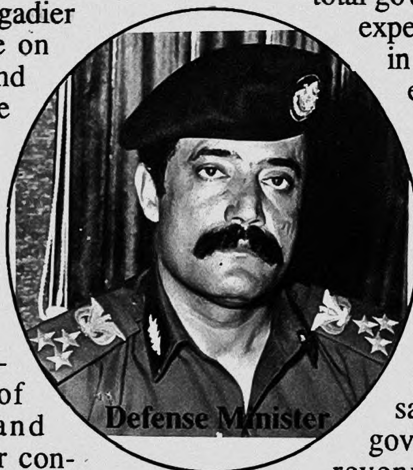
Development and Planning, will alone, take control over the capital expenditures. It is already the end of October, and neither the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform nor the Ministry of Development and Planning have any concrete ideas over their responsibilities in the budget. The Ministry of Development and Planning has actually officially written to the Ministry of Finance stating so.

The "new" ideas which the Prime Minister ordered the Ministry of Finance to follow is not, in reality, a new idea. It is an old idea which had been discarded by the former Yemen Arab Republic after so many years of experience with it. Who is responsible for this delay?

At another level, the financial guidelines call for at least a YR.2.5 billion reduction in total expenditures, and they call for a "substantial" increase in the allocation for new projects and investments. This can only be achieved by imposing major reductions in payroll expenditures, which already claim more than half of the budget. Defense expenditures will also have to come down.

Two military men have come to the rescue. First, Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh has paved the way for forcing old government bureaucrats to retirement. I hope this also includes the senior officials and ministers, some of whom are well over age. Mr. Mohammed Yahia Assayyahi, Deputy Finance Minister for Budgetary Affairs, is very happy with the President's drive, and he expects a savings of almost YR.10 billion (20% of payroll allocations) on this count alone. Then the Brigadier is planning another clean up around the end of the year, which again will yield more savings.

All in all, the budgetary figure for expenditures estimated for 1992 is around YR.45 billion. Total revenues are expected to exceed YR.40 billion. Do we have a balanced budget? Keep your fingers crossed and pray nobody orders a new supply of "Laila Alawi" Mitsubishi and other ultra-modern, but expensive cars.



Defense Minister

TEMPS DU YEMEN

Une Première

Les premières pages en français du Yémen Times, le "Temps du Yémen" illustrent les progrès accomplis dans les relations entre la France et le Yémen. Dans le domaine politique, la visite du ministre d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères témoigne de l'accord des deux gouvernements sur les grands problèmes de la région. Paris comme Sana'a s'accordent sur la nécessité de trouver la solution du conflit

israëlo-arabe dans le cadre des résolutions 242 et 338 de l'ONU. Dans le domaine économique, la France compte parmi les partenaires majeurs. Elle est l'un des premiers clients pour le pétrole et les produits de la pêche. Elle est aussi un fournisseur important puisque que le Yémen lui achète des produits alimentaires et des équipements, tels des centraux téléphoniques et des véhicules, autobus et automobiles.

Les responsables français et yéménites recherchent d'autre part le moyen de dépasser le stade des échanges commerciaux pour bâtir des entreprises communes. Déjà deux groupes, Elf et Total, participent aux recherches pétrolières, plusieurs sociétés s'intéressent à la pêche et à la conserverie. La Banque Indosuez, présente dans plusieurs villes, et forte de sa position internationale, prête son concours efficace

aux initiatives des hommes d'affaires yéménites et français.

L'excellente coopération entre P.T.C. et C.I.T. Alcatel a permis au pays de disposer du réseau téléphonique le plus performant de la région et de former un groupe de techniciens qualifiés.

Mais les relations ne se limitent pas à la politique et à l'économie. Les deux pays, qui se connaissent peu

il y a encore quelques années, ont multiplié leurs échanges culturels.

La France admire en ce moment une exposition des vitraux traditionnels du Yémen, les touristes français commencent à retrouver le chemin des montagnes et des villes

historiques. 76 boursiers complètent leur formation dans les universités et les écoles françaises. Leur nombre doit augmenter dans les années qui viennent.

Les accords signés, ou prêts de l'être, portant sur l'enseignement du français, la diffusion des programmes de Canal France International, sur la chaîne d'Aden, sans oublier la parution des pages en français du "Temps du Yémen" doivent faciliter la compréhension entre les citoyens du Yémen uni et les Français, désireux de travailler ensemble.

Jean-François NODINOT
Ambassadeur de France



LA SEMAINE

POLITIQUE INTERIEURE

Le Conseil des ministres a tenu le 23 octobre sa réunion hebdomadaire présidée par le Premier ministre Haidar Abou Bakr al-Attas.

Le Conseil a approuvé l'accord de coproduction entre le ministère du Pétrole et des Ressources minérales et des sociétés norvégienne, britannique et néerlandaise, dans la région de Hawarim.

Le Conseil a également approuvé le protocole d'accord économique, culturel et technique de la commission mixte franco-yéménite conclu à Paris entre le 25 et le 27 septembre. Il prévoit un don français de 80 millions de Francs pour développer les télécommunications.

Enfin, le Ministre de l'Intérieur a présenté un rapport concernant les troubles survenus samedi 19 octobre et l'accident qui a coûté la vie à un agent de la circulation. Les membres du Conseil ont souligné l'importance qu'ils attachent à la bonne marche de l'enquête judiciaire en cours.

DEMOGRAPHIE

Du 26 au 29 octobre, se tient à Sana'a la première Conférence na-

tionale sur la politique démographique. Cet événement reflète l'attachement croissant qu'accorde le Yémen à cette question. Un document en 17 points approuvé par le Conseil des ministres en septembre dernier sera au centre des débats.

- Quantitativement, il importe de trouver l'équilibre entre le développement de la population et celui de l'économie.

- Qualitativement, la recherche d'une amélioration des conditions sociales et économiques de cette population.

- Adopter des mesures de protection nécessaires pour faire face aux différents problèmes de l'environnement.

Un Conseil national de la population, présidé par le Premier ministre, est chargé de la mise en oeuvre de cette nouvelle politique.

CULTURE

Le Ministre de la Culture et du Tourisme, Hassan Ahmed al-Lawzi, a inauguré à Chartres l'exposition sur l'art du vitrail au Yémen, ainsi que celle de l'Unesco sur les villes de Sana'a et Chibam.

L'agence de presse yéménite Saba a reçu ses premières dépêches par satellite de l'Agence France Presse.

Source : Al-Thawra

DEUX MINISTRES FRANCAIS AU YEMEN

Monsieur Roland Dumas, Ministre d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères, et Monsieur Jack Lang, Ministre de la Culture et de la Communication, porte-parole du gouvernement, effectueront une visite officielle au Yémen à partir du jeudi 31 octobre.

Prévue de longue date, cette visite est la première du chef de la diplomatie française depuis 1981. Elle coïncide avec l'ouverture à Madrid des travaux de la Conférence de la paix sur le Proche-Orient.

Egalement attachés à l'application des résolutions des Nations Unies sur le conflit israélo-arabe, les représentants de la France et du Yémen devraient être amenés à échanger leurs points de vue sur ces premières négociations.

Après la réunion de la première Commission

mixte franco-yéménite à Paris des 25 et 26 septembre derniers, la coopération entre la France et la Yémen unifié a pris un nouveau tournant. Les entretiens à haut niveau qui auront lieu pourraient fournir l'occasion de la signature d'un accord de coopération culturelle et technique entre les deux pays, qui entretiennent des liens privilégiés.

Dès sa réalisation, la France s'est félicitée de l'unification yéménite qui s'est déroulée pacifiquement et a permis au pays d'entamer un processus de démocratisation exemplaire dans la région.

Au cours de leur visite, les ministres rencontreront le Président du Conseil Présidentiel, Ali Abdallah Saleh, le Premier ministre, Haïdar Aboubakr El-Attas, et leurs homologues respectifs.

EVENEMENTS CULTURELS

Cent ans après la mort du poète français Arthur Rimbaud, qui séjourna à Aden de façon intermittente entre 1880 et 1891, la visite des deux ministres français sera l'occasion de marquer, par plusieurs manifestations culturelles, la qualité des relations entre les peuples français et yéménite.

Le Centre culturel français de Sana'a sera le cadre de trois expositions. L'art des premiers Yéménites sera illustré par des photographies de gravures rupestres, découvertes à Sa'dah et Wadi Dhar par une équipe de chercheurs franco-yéménite.

L'artiste yéménite Fouad al-Foutaih exposera des oeuvres récentes, et un montage de textes littéraires illustrés de photographies permettra au public de découvrir les impressions du Yémen d'écrivains français.

Parallèlement, un spectacle dédié à Arthur Rimbaud aura lieu à l'Hôtel Sheraton, jeudi 31 octobre à 20 heures 30.



Le même Arthur Rimbaud sera au centre de manifestations à Aden, cette ville où il vécut et travailla comme employé d'une maison de négoce, avant de s'établir en Ethiopie. Identifiée en mars 1990 lors d'un colloque consacré au poète, comme lieu de son premier séjour à Aden, une maison du quartier de

Crater sera officiellement inaugurée et baptisée "Maison Rimbaud", le 1er novembre. A l'avenir, cette Maison Rimbaud est appelée à accueillir un espace culturel et poétique franco-yéménite.

Une première exposition intitulée "La malle de Rimbaud" illustrera la vie errante de "l'homme aux semelles de vent". Au cours de la même manifestation, les ministres accueilleront une caravane de poètes français et arabes, arrivés au Yémen sur les traces de Rimbaud, en passant par Chypre et l'Egypte. Samedi 2 novembre, les voyageurs de la Caravane, rejoints par des poètes yéménites, participeront à une matinée poétique dans la nouvelle Maison Rimbaud, en présence des deux ministres de la Culture.

ARTHUR RIMBAUD

- 1854 : naissance à Charleville, dans le Nord-Est de la France.

- 1869 : poèmes en français et en latin.

- 1872-1875 : voyages en Europe, dont certains avec Verlaine. Au cours de cette période, il compose l'essentiel de son oeuvre poétique.

- 1876 : engagement dans l'armée des Indes néerlandaises, avec laquelle il part à Java et Batavia, avant de désertir et de revenir en Europe.

- 1878 : séjour à Chypre, comme contre-maître dans une carrière.

- 1880 : départ pour l'Orient. Il devient négociant entre Aden et l'Ethiopie. Ses voyages à travers l'Abyssinie nourrissent ses *Correspondances*.

- 1891 : malade, il part pour Marseille où il expire le 10 novembre.

Principaux recueils de poèmes :

Les Illuminations et *Une saison en enfer*.



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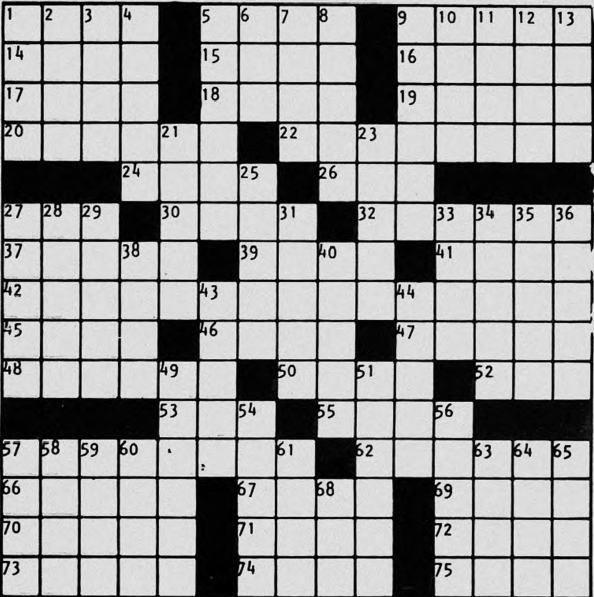
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Tel: 237500/8 Lines, Tlx: 2222 or 2644 SHSAN,
Telefax: 251521

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- ACROSS**
- 1 RBI, e.g.
 - 5 Lohengrin's wife
 - 9 Theater worker
 - 14 "Damn Yankees" girl
 - 15 Units of measure
 - 16 Factory
 - 17 Part of MA
 - 18 — for (empathize)
 - 19 Unravel
 - 20 Horseracing figure
 - 22 Youthful messengers
 - 24 Jets
 - 26 Drunkard
 - 27 Hammar-skjold
 - 30 Rents
 - 32 Completely consumes
 - 37 Assent
 - 39 Mime
 - 41 Weathercock
 - 42 Full and detailed data
- DOWN**
- 1 Thick strip
 - 2 Matador's foe
 - 3 Choir member
 - 4 Chores
 - 5 Worn-out
 - 6 Actor
 - 7 Marvin
 - 8 Book of maps
 - 9 Overturns
 - 10 Slovenly person
 - 11 Celestial ring
 - 12 Be jealous of
 - 13 1 and 66
 - 21 Cay, e.g.
 - 23 Squash or pumpkin
 - 25 Gaze
 - 27 Capital of Bangladesh
 - 28 Turkish bigwigs
 - 29 Concede
 - 31 Tiffs
 - 33 Knieval
 - 34 Ornamental stones
 - 35 Racecar driver Al
 - 36 Earl and duke
 - 38 Sword
 - 40 Follow
 - 43 Barnaby Jones
 - 44 Italian composer
 - 49 Zoo beasts, for short
 - 51 Penetrates
 - 54 Shore bird
 - 56 Divest
 - 57 Dark beer
 - 58 Arab port
 - 59 Monster
 - 60 Cabbage
 - 61 A few
 - 63 Knowledge
 - 64 Abba of Israel
 - 65 Legal paper
 - 68 Fabrication

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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 1927 YANKEES (Sol.: 12 letters)
 B-Bambino, Baseball, Batters, Best, Bunt; C-Champs, Club, Combs; D-Defense, Diamond, Doubles, Durst; F-Fast, First; G-Gehrig, Grabowski, Great; H-Hits, Homers, Hoyt, Huggins; L-Lazzeri, League leaders; M-Mighty, Miller, Moore, Murderer's row; N-New York; P-Pitch, Popular, Power; Q-Quick; R-Ruth; S-Shocker, Speed, Strength; T-Team, Throw; U-Unreal; W-Winners

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

ICCUB
 □ ○ □ □ □ □

SOMYS
 □ ○ □ □ □ □

VERHIT
 □ ○ □ □ □ □

FLACIE
 □ ○ □ □ □ □

Answer: □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □



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

WORDS OF WISDOM

- The first cool breeze of autumn is as welcome as a letter from a long-lost friend. ***
- Try to remember that no person is complete. Each of us changes with the passing of every day, so the work of becoming human never ends. ***
- A cat is like a college roommate — you get along better if both of you have outside interests. ***
- Sometimes it's a lot harder to be patient than to act. ***
- The absolute worst physical pain you can inflict upon yourself doesn't even come close to the pain you feel from a broken heart. ***
- Turn loose that which you love, and it will come back to you. ***

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

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIXTEEN
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

- The city of Rush Springs, Okla., only recently repealed a 17-year ban on dancing. How did the residents celebrate? With a dance, of course. ***
- For 76 years, until its demise in 1986, the St. Petersburg Evening Independent gave away its newspaper whenever the sun failed to shine in that Florida city. The editors seldom had to give the paper away, though. They don't call it the Sunshine State for nothing. ***
- A new federal study found that 8 percent of high school students said they had attempted to commit suicide in the past year. Twenty-seven percent had "thought seriously" about killing themselves. ***
- The Census Bureau reports that on average, full-time employed black people earn 79 percent of what whites do — \$19,066 compared with \$24,161 a year. ***

SLAPSTIX

IT'S JUST AS EASY TO GET DRUNK ON WATER AS IT IS ON LAND

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THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON

"Sure. The place you're lookin' for is straight over them hills — course, that's as the crow flies, not as the chicken walks. Ha ha ha ha."

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON

The nightly crisis of Todd's stomach vs. Todd's imagination

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Mercury favoring Jupiter can be healing to the mind, and great for travel.

- Aries (March 21-April 19)** Success in sales and communications. Superiors may try your patience.
- Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Excellent progress in legal matters, international relations, publishing.
- Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Career-related activities show amazing developments this week.
- Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Increased public visibility this week. Investment success, a possible promotion.
- Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Successful trips this week, perhaps an unplanned jaunt or two.
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Superior overall progress this week. Strong for breakthroughs at work.
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Defer to partners. Education advances you. Conservative financial methods are suggested.
- Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** Energy reserves are released in torrents this week. Gain through influential connections.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Luck through partners and dealing with the public. More privacy is necessary.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** You could get accepted by an influential group this week. Social travel, Saturday.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Better job prospects this week, if you're looking. Determination pays dividends.
- Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** You'll be happier this week if you stay busy. Independent projects succeed.

If You Were Born This Week

November shows intense emotional and financial involvements; your daring pays off. December shows significant changes around travel or domestic arrangements. February is fine for furthering long-term obligations and for handling investments.

CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING TUNES YEMEN'S MADDAHEEN CLASS!

Traditional musicians in Yemen known as "Maddaheen" are trying to break with their old-style and image and win a wider recognition of both their music and their profession. But this modernization drive is proving difficult in a highly class-conscious society.

A new generation of traditional musicians are struggling to shake off the shackles of the past and win a new acceptance of their music and profession. They want to be modern-day entertainers, playing their traditional music but earning a full-time living from it instead of being dependent on private engagements for which they may be paid in kind. They also want to get over the social stigma associated with a highly stratified class structure of the past.

"Only at the Ministry of Culture can a musician earn a regular livelihood through the artistic groups and orchestras it sponsors," said a young man who boasts a high school diploma and has travelled extensively within Yemen and abroad.

At home, however, traditional maddaheen (the word means a person who showers praise on others) are largely ignored by the ministry and the commercial music industry and so remain marginal to the music world of Yemen. A Sanaa University Professor worries that the whole class of "maddaheen" and their cult will disappear within a few years. Without an organised market and official sponsorship, young maddaheen are obliged to either fall back into their traditional caste role or seek another profession. Much of their traditional market, such as weddings and social gatherings are now taken over by the more modern singers.

Maddaheen still exclusively control certain markets. For example, they are called upon to perform at certain set occasions such as the visit of distinguished guests to the tribe, as well as in rural marriages. They don't have a fixed fee, and their remuneration varies from occasion to occasion and from host to host. In yester-years, maddaheen were usually attached to important tribal personalities; their role was to sing

the praises of their benefactor's family and tribe.

The maddaheen had a socio-cultural monopoly in the days before the radio, TV and other media because they were the unique creators and purveyors of messages and images in rural and nomadic Yemen. Most of them recite songs, the words of which come from ancient poetry. In some cases, they create their own poems as the situation requires, specially in cases of victories in wars or the return of pilgrims from the haj or similar instances.

Instrumentally, traditional maddaheen use only their voice and have no instruments. That is how the maddaheen got another title - dowshan, which roughly translated means loud-mouth. The maddah (singular for maddaheen) may, however, have one or two instruments such as the hand-drum and the "mizmar" (possibly the fore-runner of the modern flute).

In many ways, the maddah is like a jester in the medieval courts of Europe, and they are the successors of the cheap poets in the caliphates' palaces who would incarnate and parody the grandeur of the caliph or ruler and his achievements. Although, mainly a male profession, there is a female composition to this profession.

The Yemeni society categorizes the maddaheen at the lowest stratum of social class in along the same category as the barbers, butchers and akhdam. Part of the reason for this low status is that maddaheen are perceived as parasites selling their services to the highest bidder. As a result, the maddah is both feared and despised. If crossed, his verses could be a potent social weapon of derision to be used long after the maddah is gone.

With the changes rippling through Yemeni society over the past thirty years, maddaheen have had to adapt to new times.

Instead of being attached to powerful tribal figures in the countryside, they mostly live today in the urban centers, where senior government officials, army officers, businessmen and civil servants are their principal clients.

Although payment in kind

is gone, young are standing up against tradition and seeking a wider acceptance in society.

Many Yemenis favor the conservation of this ancient art form, and insist on the need to protect it.

Traditionally, maddaheen verses are not written down. Cultural experts reckon that a national conservatory would help maintain these traditions by transcribing songs and working out new methods to use the old ways. They also hope that such a conservatory would help end the stigma of being a maddah. The maddah stigma actually encompasses even the modern singing profession. As a result, today, there are young people from regular families who want to make music but they are prevented from being musicians by their families because of the profession's dishonourable reputation.

By and large, the traditional orations of social valor and praise for family lines of the maddaheen class are replaced by a new repertory of modern songs on love. Yet, the maddaheen version is also prolonged by what is known as the "Shi'ir Asha'bi" (or popular poetry) which is used to praise the political leaders. For a sum, these "poets" would compose a long piece of poetry in adulation of a person or the system, in return for a nice remuneration. Even refined poets were trapped in this context.

The young musicians are facing stiff opposition from the older maddaheen whose monopoly of the savoirfaire and even livelihood is being put into question. To add to the problem, the young maddaheen, or people born into that class, do not want to continue the traditions of the fathers. They would rather forget the whole thing, and start a new profession. In most cases, the children of maddaheen even change their villages and places of living, in an intentional effort to uproot themselves, and start all over again. The massive rural-to-urban migration has been a great help in achieving this end. To the children of maddaheen, the efforts of the intellectuals and intelligentsia to preserve the old stuff is a pain in the neck. They would rather everybody forgot about it.

Continued from p.3

Ambassador Belger:

"I see great potential ..."

By the way, during the Gulf war, Turkey was the first country to declare its respect and full commitment to the territorial integrity of Iraq. We have declared that Turkey will pursue and destroy any terrorist attacks on its people, even if they cross into Iraq. We are not interested in violating any country's sovereignty, but we cannot remain idle in the face of terrorism.

Q: Let us move on to the Cypriot problem.

A: Cyprus, as you know, is an island 30 miles from the Turkish coast and about 500 miles from Greece. On the island live two different nations- Greeks and Turks. Around the end of 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, it became a British colony and remained so until 1960 when a new republic was born.

This state was a partnership according to its Constitution until 1963, when the Greeks abolished by force all the rights of the Turkish community and sought full control of the island. This policy of force resulted in a lot of bloodshed. As a guarantor of the partnership arrangement, Turkey intervened to protect the rights of the Turkish community. We are interested in a just and peaceful solution, but we are not prepared to see the Turkish community delegated the role of a "protected minority" as the Greek side is proposing. We welcome the continued efforts of the UN Secretary-General, and we are now studying the recent proposals, which we think

have some positive points.

Q. I would like you to please shed some light on the internal agricultural and industrial development of Turkey

A: Thank you for this question. Eighty percent of the total exports of Turkey are industrial products and this is planned to rise to 93% by 1995. During 1990, we have produced 1.5 million TV sets and have sold some of them in the European market. We have produced about 200,000 cars which are not enough even for the local markets. Industrial output is rising rapidly. In agriculture, Turkey is one of a few countries that can feed themselves, and we have a surplus food balance. The USSR was becoming a major trading partner for Turkey. They give us natural gas and petroleum, we sell industrial and agricultural products in return. Turkey has provided the USSR a substantial credit line on which USSR withdrawals have reached 1.3 billion dollars.

Tourism is another strong sector in Turkey. During 1990, six million tourists generated income of 3.3 billion US dollars for the country.

Q: Any final comments?

A: I am very hopeful about the future of Turkey, and I am confident regarding the growth of mutual cooperation between our countries and peoples. By the way the Republic of Yemen has made a good beginning in its efforts at democracy and development.



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11th DUBAI EXPO

Gitex 1991, the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition has just started this week, with more than 300 companies being represented at 150 stands at this, the most popular exhibition for the industry in the region. The increase in business activity throughout the Middle East, specially in the re-construction efforts, are strongly reflected by the increase in participation at this year's expo, the eleventh time that it has been staged. More than 50 companies have made their debut at GITEK 1991, with participants from 19 countries, displaying everything from the information technology industry.

"What is very interesting," says Sandra Royan, from the organiser's Trade Center Management Company, "is the number of participating companies that are exhibiting at GITEK for the first time. 1991 is definite the largest exhibition that we have staged, in terms of floor space, with this year totalling 4,800 square meters, last year measured 2,900 sq.m. GITEK 1991 also seems set to be one of the most spectacular events, in terms of launches and displays. Many companies are introducing new products and technology at the exhibitions. One of the highlights is the Echostar Satellite TV demonstration. This is an event that we are very excited about, as Echostar of Holland and Farid Al Gurg General Trading Establishment in Dubai are working together for a satellite TV demonstration halls, to bring programs from Arabsat, CNN, Indian TV, Saudi TV, MTV, Star TV and Egyptian TV to television sets located throughout the exhibition halls."

Another highlight of the expo is the strong emphasis on Arabisation of the industry. Many companies are displaying the latest in Arabic software and hardware systems.

This is also the first time that a German Government sponsored group has participated in the event, with more than 50 German companies displaying the latest in German products technology. Other government sponsored groups include Hong Kong and Egypt. The exhibition itself has gone hitech this year with the Information Stand, previously manually operated, now available to visitors at the touch of a button.

Continued from page 1:

SPECIFIC PLANS FOR ACTION ...

iii) to expand preparatory and secondary education with a special attention to technical education.

iv) to improve the quality of education at all levels.

6. In the Labor Force, the objective is to find the balance between population growth rates and the labor force requirements in order to meet the needs of national development.

7. In the field of Women and Development, the objectives include: i) to increase enrolment of girls in schools to correct the existing discrepancy between male and female enrolment.

ii) to improve opportunities to involve women in the development programs.

iii) to increase job opportunities and ensure women's rights to training.

iv) to improve working conditions for women, especially those who have recently delivered, are pregnant, divorced or widowed.

8) In the phenomenon of Internal and External Migration, the objective is to link internal and external migration with the requirements of economy, ecology, and production.

9) In the drive towards Economic Growth, the National Population Strategy aims at:

i) developing economic resources.

ii) improving production in all economic sectors.

iii) improving the standard of living.

iv) increasing per capita income.

v) securing basic food requirements.

10. In the field of Water Resources, the objective is to provide adequate, safe, drinking water for eighty percent of the population by the year 2000. Water is one of the vital elements, essential for human survival and for preserving the environment. At present, Yemen is on the verge of an acute water shortage crisis.

11. In Urbanization, the aim is to reduce the present urban growth rates to reasonable levels.

12. Concerning the Environment, the objective is to preserve the environment by keeping its natural resources, particularly soil, vegetation and water, intact. Control environmental pollution.

The Proposed Action Plan provides detailed policies, programs and mechanisms for implementing and achieving those objectives. It also calls for the following institutional arrangements:

In a meeting chaired by the Minister of Social Security and Services, Mr. Ahmed Luqman, a fund-raising committee was formed to help assist in meeting the many needs of the physically-handicapped society in Yemen. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, and the Yemen Times had made earlier contacts for this same purpose. As a result,

1. To establish technical organs within the National Population Council and identify their responsibilities for planning, resource coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all population policies and programs.

2. To incorporate population variables in future development plans.

3. To design follow-up and evaluation of all comprehensive, sectoral & regional development program.

4. To upgrade technical skills of the national planners to incorporate population issues into planning.

5. To promote the national capabilities in the areas of field and operational research directly linked with population policies and programs.

6. To set central, sectoral and regional policies for research that serve as inputs to population policies and program planning.

7. To strengthen sectoral, statistical and information organization at central and local levels. To enhance coordination between these sectoral organizations in order to create a unified complementary statistical system.

8. To intensify efforts for collection, analysis and publication of results from censuses and surveys. These data should be used in planning population policies and programs. Priority should be given to the national census in 1994. To develop the civil registration system and vital statistics as a comprehensive activity throughout the country.

9. To develop and strengthen the scientific, technical, and vocational as well as administrative skills and knowledge at all levels in order to improve performance, productivity and efficiency in all planning facilities, organizations and institutions.

At the end of his follow-up of the conference deliberations, and after having discussed the policies and strategies with many delegates, the Yemen Times economic editor, Ameen Nouisser came-up with a strategy of his own. "Instead of going through all this hassle," he said, "the government should simply make sure that all Yemeni families have TV sets, and that TV programs air better programs for longer hours." That way, he thinks Yemen can control the population growth rates. It is an idea, and maybe the officials should study it.

there has been good response. Canadian Occidental already pledged US\$10,000; and Yemen Hunt Oil Company has pledged US\$5000. We are waiting for the pledge of British Petroleum, which has expressed interest in assisting. Many Yemeni companies in the private sector have also agreed to help. OUR THANKS GO TO ALL!

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KING HUSSEIN'S LETTER

This crisis has revealed many things, the bitterest of which was that my country and I became the victims of cheap intrigues carried out by our brothers. The heroes of these intrigues were some of our Arab brethren in whom and for whom we had confidence and respect, and with whom some from outside the area collaborated, which explains to us much of the hostility towards us. Those people spread rumours that the Jordanian, Iraqi, and Yemeni leaderships were conspiring against other Arab countries, their leadership and resources.

The people of Jordan, along with your brethren in Yemen, have suffered harm, no less in magnitude and intensity than what has befallen beloved Iraq. Will you not respond positively and do what is in your interest and for your good as it is in the interest and for the benefit of Iraq and its people whom you have united and led and who have readily made great sacrifices and offered their pure blood? This is what I hope from the bottom of my heart. I told you as we parted the last time I visited you: Please call me if you need me. I left Baghdad for Jordan anxious and saddened. I was hoping to continue my activities to prevent the deterioration which has been going on ever since. **Will you not respond to my call, and the call of every sincere Arab, before it is too late?** Can we not work together to regain the friends whom we have lost since the eruption of the crisis, and gain new friends? You have brothers who suffer more than your immediate suffering, through their fear for you, and their realisation of the perils that lie in wait for Iraq. Will you give us the opportunity to move and rectify the situation, to open channels of dialogue between you and your brothers in the Gulf who were shocked and alarmed by what happened, and so they fell, like Iraq, into the trap of a large and growing foreign military presence?

I address these questions to Your Excellency in written form, and I do not believe it eludes my brother the extent of the historic responsibility which your response entails. If you wish to give positive responses I will meet with you to take them directly. On the other hand if you wish to convey your response through an envoy I hope that this will be as soon as possible. If you see otherwise then there is "no power except by God". In that case I would see no need to come to you and to be forced, upon my return, to say that there is no hope in an Arab solution, which is what I have been persistently asked to say. This I have refused, as have my brothers whom I previously visited; I will not permit that such a statement should be a green light and a justification for the great offensive which is being carefully prepared; we will not be a cause for what I fear will be an extremely bitter end.

May God give you success and help, and may He inspire us all with wise decisions and actions and help us in our effort to attain His pleasure. Accept my sincere friendship and may God protect you.

The peace, mercy and blessing of God be upon you.

KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

**EAST AFRICAN
ECONOMIC UNITY**

Three former East African Community (EAC) partners - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania - are to work towards the revival of the defunct regional grouping, Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi said.

Speaking on his return from the recent Commonwealth summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, Moi said that while in Harare, he had discussed with presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda the need for a closer economic cooperation among the three former partners.

The three countries had cooperated closely following their independence from British colonial rule through the EAC. It is to be noted that the world trend is towards building regional blocks that encompass many nation-states. Smaller entities find it difficult to compete in today's world.

**WILL THE SOVIET
ECONOMIC TREATY WORK?**

Most Soviet republics have now promised to continue working together to rebuild the economy, but two questions remain on the minds even of the leaders who signed the economic accord: what does it mean, and will it work?

"The most important thing, implementation, still lies ahead of us," Russian President Boris Yeltsin cautioned following the ceremony at the Kremlin for the official signing of the agreement.

"We have seen many cases of accords being agreed and then not applied," the 60-year-old Russian leader recalled, urging his counterparts from seven other republics, along with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, not to get caught up in "euphoria" over the signing of the agreement.

The accord on a "single economic space" to replace

the former union, drafted in large part by radical economist Grigori Yavlinsky, was designed to prevent republics whose economies have been highly inter-dependent for most of this century from using their new sovereignty to break off all links between them. But it was also aimed, according to officials who took part in drafting it, at sending a clear signal to the rest of the world, notably western governments, that while the Soviet Union in effect has ceased to exist, its former constituent republics can still be relied on to borrow and repay money.

"The spirit of living together and emerging from this crisis together is strong," Gorbachev said after signing the agreement, predicting that the republics not taking part would join the economic union later..

**WHO Says AIDS Threatens the
Economies of the Third World**

The economic cost of Aids in developing countries is expected to soar in coming years, absorbing a growing share of national health budgets and eroding household incomes, two leading experts said recently.

Dr. Michael Merson, director of the World Health Organisation's global program on Aids, told a seminar in Bangkok, Thailand, that the UN agency had only recently begun to examine the potential economic impact of the disease.

Estimates are complicated by "opportunistic" infections such as tuberculosis which is increasing "dramatically" everywhere that the Aids causing virus takes hold "with clinical features not described in medical textbooks," he warned.

"Given the growing number of opportunistic infections," it is clear that developing countries will have increasingly great difficulty finding resources needed for the health care and social support of Aids patients," he added.

Merson, speaking to financial leaders gathered for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World bank, said Aids would claim up to half of the national health spending in Latin American and African countries if the needs of patients are to be fully met.

In Tanzania alone, the cost of caring for patients ranges from a few hundred dollars to a few hundred thousand dollars for each person afflicted with acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The African nation's annual budget for health care amounts to less than five dollars a person. But health care costs will be dwarfed by indirect costs, especially those associated with the loss of income and decrease in workforce productivity.

"The millions of young and middle-aged adult Aids deaths which are projected during the 1990's and beyond will no doubt result in a tremendous loss of potentially productive years to society," Merson said.

"In urban areas, one can expect a selectively great impact on the service and industrial sectors," he added. "In rural areas, the ag-

ricultural sector is most likely to be affected, especially where production is labor-intensive and based on smallholder plots. The composition of plots may even become modified as families give priority to subsistence needs over marketable crops."

Mechai Viravaidya, Minister of the Thai premier's office, warned that the Aids epidemic in his country would have an adverse impact on Thailand's rapidly-growing economy unless significant changes in behavior occurred.

The minister, known locally as "Mr. Condom" for his active campaign to curb the spread of the virus, said the cost of health care and the value of lost income in Thailand would amount to 8.7 billion US dollars over the next ten years.

The cost of caring for patients in Thailand, which has up to 400,000 cases making it the most affected country in Asia, is currently about \$1,000 a year compared with annual health spending of \$20 a person. Each death is meanwhile estimated to cost \$ 22,000 in foreign earnings. But Mechai warned that the epidemic in Thailand could have an even wider impact.

"A shortage of labor, both in quantity and quality, may occur with an increase in Aids illness and death," he warned. "A reduction in the supply and health of labor could increase both wage rates and production costs, making Thailand a less attractive place to invest." Mechai also warned that Thais could be prevented from working abroad, cutting off a valuable source of income.

World regions, known to be strict on anonymous sex and other sexual relations have been, by and large, spared the aids syndrome. On the other hand, regions lax on sexual relations have been victimized by the aids and other diseases. As such, religious circles, especially in Muslim and Christian countries, have used this occasion to point once again to the need for high morals and sexual fidelity as a strong precautionary measure against aids.

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**TAJ
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Dr. El-Mallakh:

"Yemen has come a long way!"

This week, Dr. Dorothea H. El-Mallakh visited Yemen, for the fifth time. She is a friend of Yemen. Her visit allowed many persons to reminisce about USA college days, specially in Colorado. On this occasion, Yemen Times had the following interview with her:



Q: Your friendship to this part of the world. How did it start?

A: I am an Arab by marriage. My late husband was an Egyptian, that explains my last name El-Mallakh. Of course, as a specialist in energy, the Middle East had to stand out in my interests. In the final analysis, I would like to think of myself as an embodiment of both the USA and the Arab Middle East.

Q: This is your fifth visit. Could you discuss the purpose and program of your visit?

A: Yes, this is my fifth visit to Yemen. This year I'm here to discuss the 19th International Energy Conference of the International Research Center for Energy and Economic Development. We will also have 13th International Area Conference and this will be held in April in Colorado. I usually come once a year to the Middle East, to arrange for participation in these meetings. I also have a number of things to discuss with Sanaa University, the Yemeni Economists Society, and a number other organizations, in addition to our former students, who occupy many positions in government.

Q: Do you carry any specific proposals for cooperation with the Yemeni side?

A: Well we have several specific areas that I think could be stressed and that I would like to talk to people about applied training. I think that as the country develops it needs more specialists in economics, petroleum, engineering, etc. But the more pressing needs will be for middle-management people. because it supports the entire structure of developing economy. We have proposals regarding training of middle-management personnel, and research and sabbatical facilities for the senior officials and teaching staff at the universities.

Q: What is your assessment regarding Yemeni progress in the field of oil.

A: Actually there are good things Yemen has in its oil sector. Firstly, Yemeni oil

happens to be of high quality which will give you an advantage. Secondly, your geographic location outside the Gulf area and beyond the Hormuz bottleneck is a major advantage, due to the recent history. The reliability and security of flow has a premium. Thirdly, I think Yemen has taken correct steps in inviting foreign participation. This will provide capital as well as marketing skills. Over and above everything, the Yemeni economy has many sectors which will lend themselves to growth. Of course, oil will be a leading sector, but there is agriculture and fishing, industry, tourism, and of course, labor. Unlike many of your oil neighbors, you have an abundant supply of labor. These factors give a good base for development.

Q: As you a specialist, how do you see global oil trends?

A SMILE FOR A DRINK

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A: Oil gives productive capacity world-wide, as it is closely tied to the world economy in general. Oil, therefore, will continue to occupy special importance. But other sources, specially gas, will also rise in importance. There are two reasons why gas is attractive. First, gas is terribly cheap. Secondly natural gas is very clean and thus attractive from an environmental point of view. But the problem of the natural gas is distribution.

Q: If we go back to Yemen's oil policies, how do you see it?

A: Yemen has developed its oil sector at probably the right time. In a slightly dampened world market, the perspective is very realistic. In addition, Yemen has taken a very positive approach. I think to involve foreign companies in your upstream activities can help you mobilize capital, number two they're (the international oil companies) marketing your oil. These are two very important aspects of your needs.

Q: As a person who had known Yemen rather well, how did the unification news strike you?

A: Well, we had all along knew there were committees discussing this and that aspect of unity. But when it did happen, it happened quickly. We were pleasantly surprised. I

must tell you that the USA was favorable to Yemeni unity, if at least it added to the stability of the country and the region. I think you took a very important step. In addition, the accompanying liberalization at the social, political, and economic levels will have far-reaching impacts. I know that the democracy you enjoy is exceptional in the Third World.

Q: Finally, whatever happened to the Ragaei Fund, in honor of such an honorable person who has given so much to this region and to USA-American understanding and cooperation?

A: Well, we have raised some funds for that, and what we have decided to do is to start a scholarship program, the agreement of which is being finalized. Priority in providing scholarship will go to Arab scholars, particularly from the poorer Arab countries. Then they are to be followed by other countries in Africa and Latin America. I hope that Yemeni students will be able to use these opportunities in the future.

Q: You first visited Yemen fifteen years ago (1977). How do you compare then and now?

A: In 1977, coming to Yemen was like visiting another world. Today, it is like visiting another part of the same world:

PEACE CONFERENCE

Walking into the Unknown and THE INEVITABLE

ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

MAGIC WORD

UNBELIEVABLE

JUMBLES

CUBIC MOSSY THRIVE FACILE
Provided the entertainment at the ghosts' annual shindig—SHEET MUSIC

CROSSWORDS

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