



YEMEN TIMES

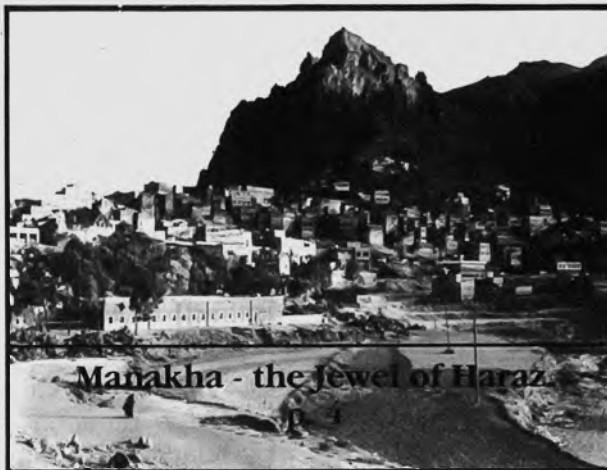


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 16 - 22 OCTOBER 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 37

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TV DIRECTOR
ALI AL-MUBANNIN
TALKS OF
PROSPECTS
FOR NEW TV
PROGRAMS.
p. 3



- Urbanization Planning. pp. 9 + 13
- Press Law. pp. 5 + 8
- TMK for Desertification. p. 6
- The French Pages. 10 + 11

OUR VIEWPOINT



LOPSIDED PRIORITIES

Last week I was in Hodeidah. My mission took me to the harbor and to the fishing quarters. I talked at length with the fishermen. Is business good? Yes, it is for those who have fishing boats. A small boat is called Hoory and the larger one is Sunbook. According to the fishermen, there is plenty of fish and other aquatic products for which enjoys a strong demand locally and abroad. My immediate reaction was, "Why don't you go for it?"

Little did I know that these guys do not have the money to get a hoory. The hull of a hoory costs about YR.70-80,000 while the motor would cost almost the same amount. So, each fisherman, to get him going, would need an advance of roughly YR.150,000, just over US\$14,000 at the official rate, or some US\$6000 at the market rate.

I immediately did some calculations. The cost of a palatial residence of a senior government or military official in Sanaa is roughly YR.15 million, which is financed through un-earned income. This would buy about one hundred hoorys. That translates into a job for one hundred fishermen and their families.

With a daily catch of at least 50 kilograms per fisherman, that means an extra catch of 5000 kilograms per day. At the local market price (YR.50 per kg.), that will fetch a quarter of a million rials per day, or some YR.75 million per year (only 300 days of fishing). The final point is that, the rate of return on the YR.15 million investment, in the very first year, is 500%. Of course, we will have to account for wages, fuel and other expenditures. But it still is a very viable investment.

From the country's overall point of view, the number of families that will find jobs, the increase in GDP, and the potential for exports, are enormous. Think about it!

The Publisher

YEMEN APPROVES THE NEW INVESTMENT LAW



The House of Representatives approved on Monday, November 11th the investment law of the Republic of Yemen. The law is expected to wide-open the door for new local, Arab and foreign investments. The government is already haggling over who will chair the new investment board. Several candidates of well used-up personalities who have proven their failures are already competing for the job. Let us hope the country's leadership sees light and chooses the people who are right for the job, not simply because they come from their party.

HASSLING OVER THE 1992 BUDGET

The Government continues to put the final touches on the budget proposal for 1992. According to informed sources, the total expenditure for 1992 is approximated at YR.49 billion whereas total revenue is estimated at YR.42 billion. This leaves a YR.7-8 billion deficit, which is roughly half of the projected deficit for 1991. At the same time, the 1992 will be a second step better than the 1991 budget in that it plans to double allocations for new gov-

ernment projects. However, the 1992 is expected to shoulder most of the foreign debt repayment that was postponed from the 1991 budget.

Final agreement has not yet been achieved, and therefore, the numbers could still change. The various ministers and interest groups continue to plead and/or hassle the Prime Minister's office for larger allocations. The budget is expected to take final shape next week.

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LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS,

**COST OF MEDICINE
ROSE 100% LAST WEEK**

Following the inspection visit of Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas to the Drug Factory in Sanaa, the price of medicine was doubled in all drug stores and pharmacies. According to inside sources, the Prime Minister has authorized the doubling of the price in view of the hardships faced by the drug company, which regularly reports high profits, including last year. This issue was one of the bones of contention with the Minister of Health who has tendered his resignation, and is presently staying at home.

**Dr. Makki Urges
the International Community
to Help Yemeni Returnees:**

Dr. Hassan Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister, urged the world community to shoulder its responsibility towards the Yemenis displaced by the Gulf War. Speaking to Channel Four of the BBC, Dr. Makki stressed the fact that Yemen and Yemenis have been unjustly treated during and after the war. "We were against the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, and we were against the coalition forces in rushing in with the war," he said. "Today, because of our position, we face an undeclared economic boycott," he added. He also mentioned that conditions in the camps that harbor returnees were becoming very severe. "These people have been living off their savings. Now that these savings are almost finished, their conditions are getting worse, and their attitude will be more aggressive and violent," he said. The Yemeni government is trying to stretch its meager resources to cover the needs of these returnees whose living conditions continue to deteriorate. A World Bank US\$60 million project is presently underway to expand the service facilities of the country, and to create new jobs.

PERSONAL VIEW

**MUSLIMS' DUTY TO
BUILD THE EARTH**



**Dr. Abdulghani Qassim
Member of Parliament**

The past continues to haunt relations between the Islamic nation and the Western civilization based on certain positions by the West which are hard to accept. These include:

- a) The West refuses to deal with religion. This is problematic for religious societies or communities in which religion plays an important, as is the case with us today!
- b) The West looks at other civilizations as competitors, thus it seeks to destroy them, or at best absorb them.
- c) A hostile attitude which is based on historic events and factors.
- d) The West should accept the fact that the center of civilization shifts from one part of the world to another. Therefore, it is only natural that countries that were unimportant become important, and vice versa.

If these four points are corrected in the Western psyche and mentality, then it becomes compatible with the Islamic approach to life and events. Unless people live within certain parameters, human beings could become destructive to nature and themselves. Islam seeks to provide these parameters in a way conducive to self-accomplishment of human beings and the construction of mother earth. It is a clear order to man from God, according to Islamic belief, that our main duty is to construct and build this earth so that it may bear fruit to satisfy all of us.

It is the duty of the Muslim peoples not to succumb to the current difficulties and to rise up to their duties in Islam. We should not be mere dependents, but we should interact positively with all other peoples and civilizations.

**PRIMARY COURT PASSES
AL-JAKI DEATH SENTENCE**

The Primary Court in Sanaa, presided by Judge Hamood Al-Hitar passed a death sentence on Major Ahmed Al-Jaki, the man who killed a traffic policeman for standing up to him when he broke the law. The major, who is related to the President, was the source of a major political and legal debate over the last few days. The court decision may be appealed within the legal period of one month.

TRUCK SMASHES SCHOOL NEAR THE SHERATON

On Wednesday November 6th, a big lorry (the kind that transports rocks, gravel, etc) came rolling down on the Ring Road from the Sheraton area towards the city. The driver lost control over the truck due to the hydraulic brake failure, and the truck smashed into the Omar Al-Mukhtar school. Four boys and one girl died. This is the third accident that the school is exposed to due to its location at the intersection of two main highways. The Yemen Times camera-man was present on the spot, and took the following pictures to show the severe damage done to the truck and the school.



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TV Director Ali Al-Mubannin:

"If the Two Channels Put Their Capabilities Together Harmoniously, Much Can Be Done!"

The setting is being prepared for major works in television in Yemen. Given the drain that TV programs put on the government budget on the one hand, and on the balance of payments on the other hand, and because of the importance of TV programs in the evolution of the Yemeni people the government is increasingly placing emphasis on local programs. One of the key individuals involved in the evolution of Yemeni television is Ali Bin Ali Al-Mubannin. Mr. Al-Mubannin was the fifth earliest employee of Channel One (Sanaa) TV, and thus he lived through the establishment period. During 1979/80, he went to the University of Syracuse, New York, in the United States for specialized studies in directing TV programs. Today, he is one of the pioneering persons in Yemeni television programs. Excerpts of the Yemen Times interview follow:

Q: How did you first get interested in directing TV programs?

A: Very early in my life, I was interested in directing plays on stage. I remember as a teacher in the southern governorates, I was in charge of directing the school's plays and other similar activities.

When I moved on to Sanaa, the Channel One Television Station was being established. I contributed in my own little way to those early beginnings.

I suppose it is partly due to my interest, and partly due to a stroke of luck that I ended up as a director of TV programs.

Q: What are the major works you have directed so far?

A: You would kindly appreciate the difficulties under which a Yemeni director works. We are not exactly flooded with texts that lend themselves to nice programs. Most of whatever we do is the result of personal efforts and initiative. Having said that, My real beginnings as a director go back to 1981.

I would like to divide my works into three categories. First, there are the late night shows. These are long movie type things. Refer, if you please, as



examples to Al-Wajh Al-Musta'ar (The Fake Face), Dafatir Iblees (The Devil's Records), and Asrar Al-Majaneen (The Secrets of the Lunatics).

The second group of works are the political satires in particular, and programs oriented towards politics in general. The most famous pieces here are the programs I co-directed with Ahmed Al-Mahbashi in the mid-1970s. These were a weekly encounter between a senior government official and the citizenry. I remember one episode with the Minister of Interior in which heated debates had lead to many complications. The program was soon discontinued.

The third kind of major work I directed was the serialized historic events. The most famous of these was the Nujoom Al-Hurriyah (The Stars of Liberty) series. This was a popular series and it helped our people understand and appreciate our struggle and history.

Q: May I interrupt here. Many people believe that you have changed historical facts which lead to the belittling of certain individuals such as Al-Ustaz Ahmed Mohammed Numan. What is your response to that?

A: I have heard that comment from other people, including historians and individuals who had participated in our country's struggle. You see, when you develop a story for television, even a historic story, you have to choose one key personality around whom you build the events. It so happens we chose Mohammed Mahmood Azzubairi. This does not, in any way,

belittle anybody. I hate to be drawn in into sectarian arguments which are fruitless. I hope people will appreciate the demands on the director of any TV program to produce a meaningful work, and yet, retain a certain minimum of accuracy. Zubairi, Numan and others were exceptional men who sacrificed for their country, and they did not capitalize on their sacrifices.

Q: What are the works you are busy with at the moment?

A: I have strongly contributed to the recently finished comedy called Dih-bash. Through comedy I think we can tackle many of society's difficulties. This is a corollary to the social story of "Sa'adiyah" which discusses the problems of women in Yemeni society.

However, my attention is now focussed on children's cartoons. I think this is an important and growing component of future programs and it represents a lucrative market.

There is, of course, the continued interest in social stories. We definitely will also interact with the economic and political progress of the country.

Q: What are the problems that you face as a director of TV programs?

A: Usually, if the executive in charge of a TV station either does not understand (appreciate) the work, or he is unwilling, for whatever reason, to support the crew or the cast, then you end up in lots of difficulties. This situation is the source of a real headache for us in Yemen today. Due to lack of clarity in the relation-

ship among the individuals involved in producing a film, there is a high level of rivalry and unnecessary competition. There is also the lack of respect for lines of responsibilities and duties. We have many irregularities practised by the administration which also compounds an already difficult situation.

However, I am rather confident and hopeful regarding the possibilities and what could be done.

Q: That brings us nicely to our last question. How do you see the evolution of TV programs in Yemen's future?

A: A lot depends on who is in charge. I think, as I said earlier, much could be done. We have a country that is rich in culture and history. This easily lends itself to historic programs. We have a young country looking straight into the future. This lends itself nicely to program in technology and science. We have a society undergoing major transformations in politics, social values, and economic progress. This immediately allows themes in these fields. What I am saying is that the material base for our programs are there. We are very lacking in script writers, or people who can transform those themes into sentences and phrases.

It depends on the organizational structure of the two channels in Yemen. If we put our capabilities together in a harmonious and cooperative way, we can expect a good future.

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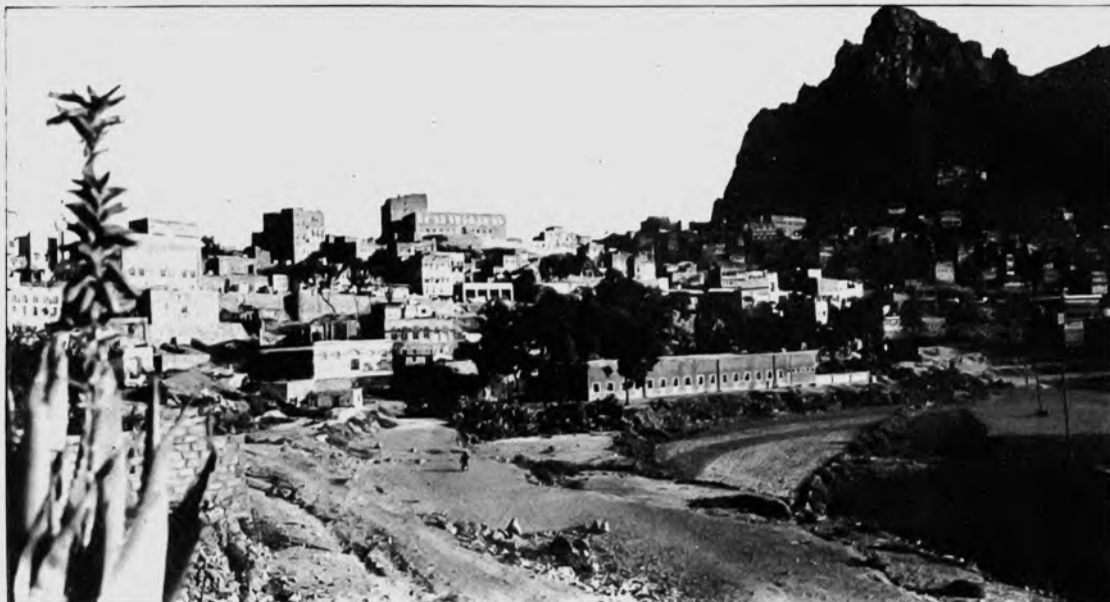
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MANAKHAH - THE JEWEL OF HARAZ

In the Haraz mountains 90 kilometers to the west of Sana'a stands Manakha, a proud mountain town at an altitude of 2200 meters above sea level. The center of an intensely cultivated terraced countryside, benefiting from ample monsoon rains gathered by the western mountains, Manakha is an important market town

to the slopes of the Tihama approaching the city of Hodeidah. "This vast land mass should have been a governorate by its own right" according to Abdul-Latif Abdullah, a shop keeper in Manakhah. The town has a strategic location which was well exploited by the Ottoman forces in Yemen. From here it was possible to pro-



for villagers from the surrounding mountain slopes. The 15,000 residents of Manakhah and the 50,000 people who come shopping in the Sunday weekly market, make-up one of the largest rural markets of Yemen. The catchment area that Manakhah encompasses a good part of the Haraz district, which itself extends from Kawkaban and Thula near Sanaa,

protect their supply lines from al-Hudayda in the Tihama to Sana'a. The Turks installed their cannons in the mountains and effectively blocked the lower roads. The area produces ample supplies of the famous Haraz coffee, the grains, and livestock. Although the rains this year were late and irregular, the agricultural products displayed on the Sunday market were



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still plentiful. For the western backpackers, Manakha is an excellent base for trekking. The nearby villages with their beautifully decorated houses are usually recommended; al-Khutayb, the place of pilgrimage for members of the small Ismaili sect, lies less than

10 km from Manakha. The highest peak of the Haraz region, the almost three-km-high Jabal Shibam, stands to the south of Manakha, while Hajar village commands the summit of the western mountain. Small villages and hamlets lie scattered everywhere between the terraces ex-

tending across the steepest slopes. Many visitors have suggested that nowhere in Yemen can the majestic spirit of the mountains and mountaineers be felt as intensely as in Manakha. Manakha has today all the services and facilities of a modern town, which it is fast becoming.

What's the latest ???
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PRESS AND PUBLICATION LAW; part I

Yemen Times provides its readers with an unofficial translation of the Press Law. This is part one.

CHAPTER ONE: DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

SECTION A:

Article (1):

This law shall be called the Press and Publications Law.

Article (2):

For the purposes of the application of this law, the words set out below shall bear the meanings appearing in front of them where the context does not require a different interpretation:

JOURNALISM: The profession of seeking facts, information and news, collecting them and writing or translating articles, columns, investigations and analyses and preparing programs and commentaries, the drawing of cartoons, photography, press publication and the review and writing of headlines via the written, audio and visual media.

NEWSPAPER: Any journal or magazine which

appears regularly under a single name at specified intervals for the purpose of public circulation.

JOURNALIST: A person who practises the profession of journalism, written, audio or visual or at a Yemeni news agency or a foreign news agency operating in Yemen as his principal means of livelihood.

NEWS AGENCY: An institution of the press which monitors and seeks news, prepares news reports, produces written and sound investigations and analyses and distributes them by various means.

PRINTING PRESS: Any machine or group of machines or equipment intended for the printing or recording of words, drawings or pictures for publication or circulation. This does not include equipment for photography, normal typewriters or the machinery used for the duplication of document and papers.

PUBLISHING HOUSE: The party that prepares and puts together printed material for printing, publication and sale.

PUBLISHER: Any individual or company who publishes any printed material on which his name must be recorded.

DISTRIBUTOR: Any in-

dividual or company that takes it as his profession to trade in the sale and distribution of newspapers and printed material and to offer it for circulation.

PRINTED MATERIAL: All writings, drawings, sound and visual tape recordings, pieces of music and photographs when carried by modern scientific or technical means or otherwise transmitted and suitable for circulation.

PUBLIC CIRCULATION: The offer of newspapers, magazines and printed material for sale or distribution or its display on shop-fronts or any other activity which in any way places it before the public.

BOOKSHOP: Premises intended for the display and sale of printed material.

NATIONAL LIBRARY: Premises for the storage of historical books and manuscripts. It also acts as the repository for printed material whether regularly or irregularly issued.

DEPOSITION: Preservation and recording of printed material at repository.

SECTION B:

Article (3):

Freedom of knowledge, thought, the press, expression, communication and

access to information are rights of citizens which guarantee that he/she can express their thoughts verbally, in writing, or in pictorial or drawing form or by any other means of expression. They are guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution and by the provisions of this law.

Article (4):

The press shall be independent and shall have full freedom to practise its vocation. It shall serve society, form public opinion and express its different orientations within the context of the Islamic creed, the basic principles of the constitution of society and state, the goals of the Yemeni revolution and the consolidation of national unity. No obstacles may be placed in the way of its activities except in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article (5):

The press is free in what it prints, and in gathering news and information from their sources. It shall be accountable before the law for what it prints.

Article (6):

The law assures the protection of journalists and authors and provides the legal

guarantees necessary for them to practise their profession and their right to free expression, and guarantees immunity from interference with their activities so long as they do not contravene its provisions.

CHAPTER TWO: TERMS OF WORK, DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF YEMENI AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

SECTION A:

Terms of Working in Journalism

Article (7):

Any person working as a journalist shall:-

- be of a Yemeni national.
- be at least 21 years old.
- enjoy full rights.
- not have been found guilty by a court of an offence against honor and trust unless his reputation has been restored in accordance with the law.
- be the holder of a qualification from a college or institute, or has experience in journalism of not less than three years.
- work effectively and continuously in journalism.

Article 8

Continues on page 8

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A		Palestine 217306/348	
Afghanistan	217691	Poland	248362
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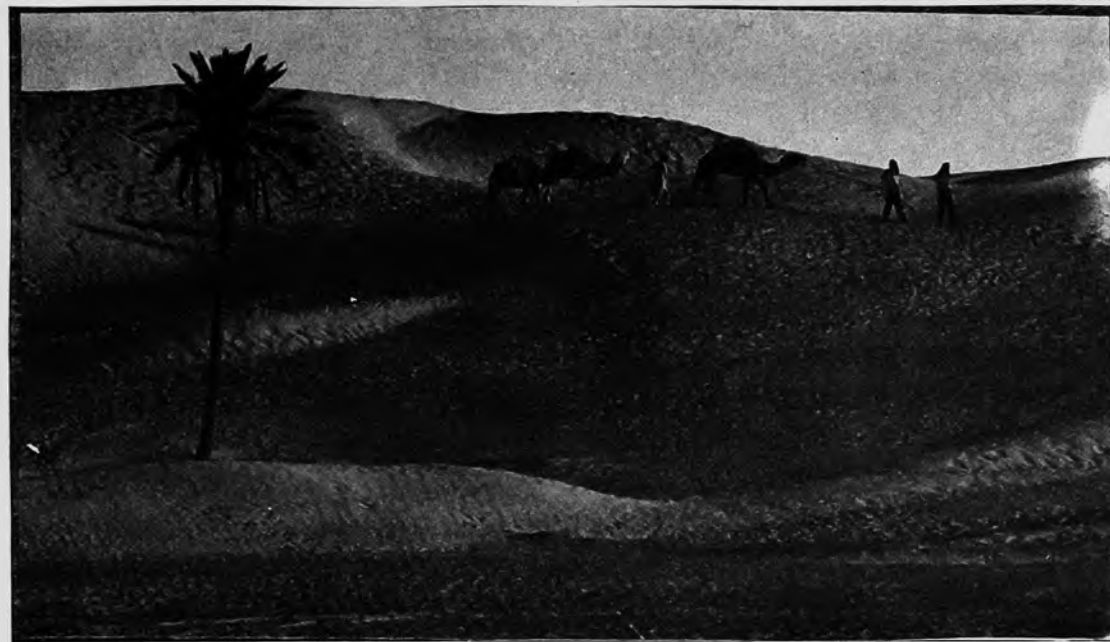
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TMK - Is It an Answer to DESERTIFICATION?

The Problem:

The expansion of desert area in the world, which progresses at the rate of 60,000 square kilometres per year, causes serious ecological damage. This process, known as desertification, has been accelerated by excessive human exploitation of forests and the overgrazing of sheep and goats. The soil, stripped of vegetation which is the only source of organic ma-

terial for the soil, can no longer support the organisms that keep the soil healthy. The soil structure changes, and wind and rain sweep away the fine particles essential to fertile soil. What is left?... desert! Replenishing lost organic matter and fine particulars may revive the soil and reverse the desertification process. Artificial materials applied to the soil, however, must be free of environmentally harmful substances that might contaminate underground water, currently the main source of water for inhabitants.



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Introducing TMK:

To counter this process, the National Chemical Laboratory for Industry (NCLI) of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has recently developed a solid composite material referred to as TMK, which enables drought-resistant trees to flourish at the desert's advancing front. Research into improving desert soil has focused in particular on TMK's main components, montmorillonite and hydrophilic polymers such as humus and polysaccharide. Montmorillonite is a clay mineral formed by volcanic metamorphosis of ancient

sedimentary rocks. Its alternating silica and alumina layers act as sponge, expanding to soak up water. Humus, present in soil, is a biochemical product of dead plants and is abundant in peat. Polysaccharide is composed of long chain molecules which can be extracted from among other materials, arum roots and kelp. Both polymers contain large amounts of hydrophilic chemical groups

Making ground:

TMK has been most effective when applied around the roots of young trees to be planted for afforestation. TMK effectively absorbs water provided by irrigation or rainfall, and supplies water to the root when the soil is dry. Although TMK assists in afforestation, TMK must be applied to adaptable vegetation able to flourish in the dry climate. Acacia tortilis consumes little water during its growth to maturity, making it most suited for arid desert conditions. Furthermore, its roots tend to aggregate soil particles and its dead leaves supply the soil with organic materials.

Research Oasis:

Since 1988, scientist from Japan and Egypt have been cooperating in the Green Earth Project, which includes development of various synthetic polymers that facilitate water retention in desert soil. Polyacrylic acid, synthesized for sanitary purposes, is a typical example. The polymer is an electrically charged gel that absorbs water by osmosis. A single gram of

polymer material can absorb up to 600 g of pure water or 50 g of saline much more than TMK. TMK, however, consists of inexpensive clay and natural polymers and is harmless to the environment. Moreover, upon decomposition, TMK provides the soil with fine particles and hydrophilic polymers which facilitate the soil's water retention properties. Japan's NCLI is currently collaborating with India's Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) to determine a practical application of TMK in desert areas. CAZRI was established in 1952 at the fringe of the Rajasthan Desert as a desert afforestation research station. Recently, CAZRI made substantial advances in desert control and afforestation methods. The results of CAZRI's TMK research alone will, for instance, determine TMK's practical use. Further research conducted by NCLI aims at increasing TMK's potential for afforestation efforts. Current ideas include combining TMK with nutrients, and synthesizing a more porous TMK substance to further enhance TMK's water retention capacity and ability to improve soil structure.

DON'T SWAT THOSE INSECTS- EAT THEM !

Fancy a nice bowl of giant water bugs? Or what about some nutritious silkworm larvae? A French scientist is trying to open diners' eyes to the delights - and protein value - of insects and bugs which he believes could be one answer to the world's food problems.

Insects, long regarded as a phobic menace to be swatted away, are taking on a new character as an untapped source of protein and a possible remedy to the world's food problems.

"We eat frog legs and snails - the question is why do we not eat insects. It is just as acceptable to eat a cricket as a prawn," says Bruno Comby, a French scientist turned author whose book 'Delicious' Insect' is causing waves in France's culinary circles.

Comby argues that insects are not only a source of protein but are tasty too. He has been an enthusiastic insect-eater since he found a caterpillar in his salad, and introduces tips on how to catch insects, and away from pollutants.

He also advises how to eat them, raw or cooked, and offers tips on some recipes which could tickle your taste buds, including cricket crepes, locust paella and flamed bananas with mixed insects.

Comby is not the first to advocate an insect diet. The ancient Romans and Greeks ate them both as staples and as delicacies.

As far back as 1885, 'Why Not Eat Insects?' by Vincent Holt appeared on British bookstands. It remained a somewhat obscure work but has enjoyed a recent reprint.

Despite such precedents, the habit has not caught on. In London, for example, the only evidence of an insect dietary bent are chocolate ants and baby bees in syrup found in exclusive stores.

According to Professor Lawrence Mound, an expert in tropical entomology at the University of Cardiff, the West is out of step in the insect-eating stakes compared with the rest of the world.

"There certainly is an aversion in the West to what is an accepted tradition worldwide. In places such as Tanzania, for instance, there is huge market for dried caterpillars," he said. In Yemen, the people eat locusts with considerable delight. In Zaire, 4,800 tons of insects are sold every year for food, representing 10 percent of all the protein produced in the country. Silkworm pupae are considered a delicacy in Taiwan while in Thailand the giant water bug is commonly featured on restaurant menus.

In Central America, Mexico City is considered "Insect City" by many experts because of the diversity of insect eaten there - believed to include many of the known 200 edible types. A survey in the 1970s found that 93 percent of the 12,000 Mexicans questioned thought insects to be the food of the future.

Certainly they are an alternative and rich source of protein. Chicken, for example, is 23 per cent protein while termites are 46 per cent and locusts up to 75 per cent. Despite scientific and anecdotal evidence, Comby's central assertion that insects are the answer to the world's food problems is treated with some scepticism.

Dr. Dick Vane-Wright, head of entomology at the Natural History Museum in London - which is believed to have the largest collection of insects in the world - says insect production would not be commercially viable.

"Given there is the market for insects is small, this makes them difficult to collect en masse and difficult to process. For instance, the wings and legs of grasshoppers are not acceptable to many palates and need to be removed. Some insects such as locusts offer themselves in superabundance. But the problem is one of unpredictability. It would be necessary to develop advanced techniques if the viability of insects being eaten by city dwellers was to become a reality," he explained.

One scheme in the United States, the Foods Insects Research and Development Project at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, is trying to address this problem by developing techniques for the mass production of insects for animal feed.

Insect larvae has been used to produce a chicken feed, following an example in India where an estimated 20,000 tons of 'bombyx mori' pupae is produced each year as a by-product of the silk industry.

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letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to

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YEMEN & OMAN

3 maternity centers, 96 preventive health centers, and five mobile rural health centers, with a total of 3360 beds in the country. Again according to 1991 statistics, 919 medical doctors, 27 pharmacies, and 3274 nurses were serving the population. Today, over 90% of the population is covered by the government's health services. There are hospitals in all major population centers, and more are to be constructed under the current five-year plan.

But the most glaring achievement of the Sultanate of Oman is really in the political domain. There are two aspects to this.

At the internal level, Oman enjoys peace and stability which have led to significant prosperity. Probably the only major thing lacking is a certain degree of pluralism and democratic participation by the people.

Yet, the Omani system has a democratic structure of its own. The Sultan has regular consultations with the tribal leaders and society's elites, and he journeys frequently into the rural areas to meet the people. In addition, the Sultanate may soon witness major political reform in the form of an elected consultative council which will help run the country. The other side to this political achievement is the independent political position of the Sultanate, even in the face of near-total consensus. For example, when the Arab countries decided to break relations with Egypt following the Camp David accords, the Sultanate stood out. It refused to sever relations with Egypt. Time proved the Sultan of Oman to have been right. Today, as the Gulf states are pursuing a punitive policy vis-a-vis Yemen and Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman again broke the GCC consensus and continues to maintain exceptional relations with both - Jordan and Yemen.

As regards bilateral relations between Yemen and the Sultanate, Information Minister Al-Rawwas, who has visited Yemen twice during the last month, described them as "special". Even during the heat of the Gulf anger at Yemen, the Sultanate's cool-headed policy has carried the day. Yemen Times contacted the Omani Ambassador in Sanaa, H.E. Mr. Awad Bin-Mahfooz Ba Katheer, who usually shies away from the media. He said that both leaderships and governments are keenly interested in further development of the bilateral relations. "We have ambitions that will bring the countries closer under the wise guidance of HM Sultan Qaboos and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

**PIANO CONCERT
IN SANAA**

The piano concert organized by Banque Indosuez (Yemen), in cooperation with the French Cultural Center, was a success. The show which was attended by many music lovers from different nationalities, gave a live entertainment of good piano music that exceeded expectations.

Christine Nouvel, an artist of international fame, gave a recital which was by no means an easy one as far as its composition was concerned.

The first part, the J.S. Bach partita no.1 in seven movements gave evidence to the technical expertise and the impressive musical talents of the artist.

Klavierstück no. 1 from Schubert, brilliantly rendered, was too short an entertainment for such an attentive public.

The Brahms three intermezzi allowed the artist to show her talent and command of the instrument.

The second part of the concert was devoted to the great French composers.

Of course Debussy "Claire de Lune" was much more open to the public than the works of Faure, Satie and Ravel.

A very warm public got as a final, an interpretation of a Prokofiev's Prelude which was, we must admit, a too short ecstasy.

Yemen Times congratulates Banque Indosuez (Yemen) and the French Cultural Center for their civilized initiative

**CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE**

Children are the largest segment of Yemeni society. Yet, the attention they get is minimal. The hope of Yemen and our future performance and standing in the world community will depend on how much attention we give to our children.

In my opinion, the printed literature, the TV programs and the radio material are neither upto the standard nor in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of our children. In fact, some of these very products have failed to continue because they do not receive the support they deserve. The Al-Hudhud magazine of Sanaa produced by Baba Abdul-Rahman Mutahhar has stopped, and the Nashwan children's magazine from Aden has also stopped.

So much money is spent on trivial things that it is really sad that children's books and magazines cannot be financed. We face enormous difficulties in producing the exceptional children's magazine Usama. Neither the government, nor the enlightened private sector comes to the rescue to our kind of work. Also children's movies could be produced. But it all requires specialized expertise and lots of money. Do we have the right priorities for them?

by:
Haitham A. Al-Ashqar,
Usama Magazine

BEAUTY IN JIBLA

Queen Arwa's Palace is somewhere there,
A splendid queen - prosperous and fair.
Jibla city was the seat of her might,
Where high mountains encircle the site.
Jibla beautifully tucked in the heights with ease,
On the slopes receiving a refreshing breeze.
Deep valleys - lush and evergreen,
Bring fragrant air - sweet and clean.
In Jibla the Queen ruled and died,
For freedom and progress she tried.
People prospered and justice prevailed.
That was the reign of the wisest maid,
Yet, in Jibla my heart longs for another maid.
I've left my love without farewell,
In Jibla I also left my heart to dwell.
Among the shepherds and peasants there,
For her love, I travel here and there.
She's is my deer and yet my hunter,
Her charm and beauty I could not counter.
Oh God bless Thee the little angel,
For she is my lovely gazelle.

By:
Sara Al Hubaishi.
Sana'a

WOMEN ARE THE KEY TO LIFE

Undoubtedly, it is to be noted that without women there could be no life. This fundamental fact should be well observed. Nobody should contemptuously ignore women and belittle the fact that the cradle of civilization lies in the laps of mothers.

Although men and women together share responsibility for child-care, the mother's share is often more important because children spend most of the time with the mother. We all remember that special moments with our mothers, we see them lull babies, and employ their motherhood intuition and feeling to raise a new generation. A child's personality and future behavior are carved out under the loving care of the mother.

Many mothers face major difficulties of different kinds in taking care of their children, but they never surrender or give up. In fact many of them accept the sufferings and a life of great misery for the sake of children and family.

In order to overcome all these problems, and allow women to improve their lives, they need good and understanding husbands, fathers and sons.

With all these facts, I have always been surprised how we in the Middle East allow ourselves to belittle women. How is it that our women get such a bad deal, when we have Islamic teachings which forcefully ask us to take great care of our women - to love them, care for their, and nurture them? Why is that we cannot apply the teachings of Islam in this case?

Women can play an important role in public life, not only in the privacy of the family. As it was in the days of the Prophet Muhammad, may God's mercy and peace be upon him, women can do so many things. Why is it that some of us would like to paralyze half of our society? In my opinion, women can do just about anything a man can do. Of course, given the need to divide responsibilities, we need to assign tasks to men which they are best able to do, and to women, which they are best able to do. This should not be taken to mean, however, that we will take away the rights of women.

With all these facts in mind, I think women are the real key to human life!

By:
Mohamed Ali Shidle ("Afgoie"),
Teacher,
Salah Alldin Institute,
P.O. Box 6404,
Taiz.

لنقل أثاث منازلكم ...
مكاتبكم ، إتصلوا بنا
نقوم بفتح .. تغليف .. نقل
وتركيب الأثاث كاملاً
وبأيدٍ ماهرة ومتخصصه
يمباك للشحن
هاتف: ٢٠٨٨٩٨/٩٧

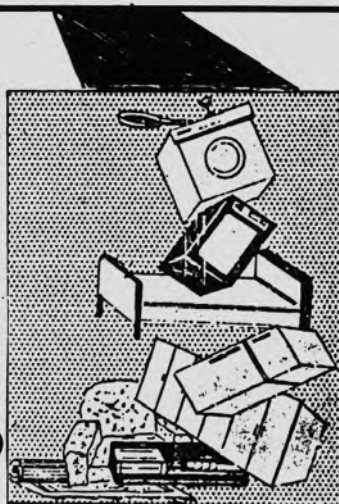
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PRESS AND PUBLICATION LAW:**Article (8):**

In addition to fulfilling the conditions set out in article (7), a chief editor shall:-

- a) not work for the state or for a foreign employer.
- b) be at least 25 years old.
- c) have perfect knowledge of the language in which the newspaper is published.
- d) be knowledgeable and with experience of no less than five years for holders of specialized qualifications (journalism), and eight years for others.
- e) devote full time to work.

Article (9):

A journalist may lose his professional status as a journalist if he:-

- a) ceases to fulfill any one of the conditions set out in article (7) of this law.
- b) is dismissed in accordance with the law for an offence which brings the profession into disrepute.
- c) leaves the profession voluntarily to take up work elsewhere.

Article (10):

The Ministry of Information shall issue Press Facility Cards. In addition to the conditions set out in article (7) of this law, the card recipient shall:

- a) have a degree from a college of journalism or information or higher institute of journalism or information and not less than one year's experience in journalism, or
- b) have a degree from a college or institute and not less than two years experience in journalism, or
- c) have the general secondary school certificate or its equivalent and at least five years experience in journalism, or
- d) have sufficient experience in journalism of at least ten years, or
- e) the design of the card, the information on it and the procedures of issue, renewal, withdrawal and cancellation shall be laid down in a by-law to be issued by the Ministry of information.

Article (11):

Holders of Press Cards shall enjoy all the facilities and privileges provided by the authorities to journalists in accordance with a decision of the Cabinet.

Article (12):

Subject to the provisions of article (10) of this law, applications for the issue of a Press Facilities Card shall

be made to the Ministry of Information supported by the necessary documents. If a reasoned refusal is given or no answer has been received within thirty days the applicant has the right to appeal to the courts within thirty days of receipt of the refusal or of the passage of thirty days since the application date.

**SECTION B:
RIGHTS AND DUTIES
OF JOURNALISTS****Article (13):**

A journalist may not be interrogated on opinions which he has expressed or on the correct information he/she prints, and that may not be used to inflict harm on him/her provided it is not contrary to any law.

Article (14):

A journalist has the right to obtain information, news, data and statistics from their sources and to publish or not publish them. He has the right to preserve the confidentiality of his sources of information, and in accordance with the provisions of this law he may not be forced to disclose them.

Article (15):

A journalist has the right not to prepare or to write press material which is in conflict with his/her beliefs or views or offends his/her conscience as a journalist. He/She has the right to comment as he sees fit within the provisions and principles of the Constitution in order to explain his opinions and express his point of view regardless of differences of opinion or intellectual judgement.

Article (16):

A journalist has the right to have access to official reports, facts, information and data. The authorities possessing such items have to make it possible for the journalist to have access to and to profit from them.

Article (17):

a) A journalist shall have the rights to be correspondent for one or more Yemeni or foreign press bodies provided that he/she obtains a licence from the Ministry of Information renewable every two years.

b) A journalist has the right to cover any local, Arab or international event regardless of the nature of relations which link the state with the place of the event.

Article (18):

A journalist shall not be dismissed or transferred to any other work outside journalism, and may not be suspended from working, or prevented from writing or be held to account except as provided for in the law and its executive regulations.

Article (19):

A journalist may protect his/her rights through his/her union framework and by the legal means provided for and guaranteed in this law and the Constitution or he/she may have direct recourse to the courts insofar as that is consistent with the by laws.

Article (20):

In what he/she publishes, a journalist shall respect the principle and aims of the Yemeni revolution and the provisions of the Constitution and shall not contravene this law.

Article (21):

A journalist shall respect the honor of the profession and the conventions of journalism. A threat of any kind to citizens conveyed through the press shall be considered a breach of the conventions.

Article (22):

A journalist shall respect the dignity and reputation of individuals and families and the privacy of life in the stories that he/she publishes in the public interest

Article (23):

The journalist shall seek information and facts from their reliable sources and to transmit them faithfully and accurately, and quickly without withholding them.

Article (24):

The journalist may not publish unreliable or wrong information or distort the facts or to relate information to persons or parties without confirmation thereof or without their consent.

Article (25):

The journalist commits not to use his/her profession to seek illegal personal gains, and may not blackmail individuals or companies in order to gain financial benefit to him/her or to others.

Article (26):

The journalist may not accept subsidies, donations or other gifts illegally directly or indirectly.

Continues NEXT WEEK!**YEMEN AND OMAN:
A VITAL PARTNERSHIP**

The Sultanate of Oman this week celebrates on the 18th of November the 21st anniversary of its national day. On this occasion, the Yemen Times sheds light on the Sultanate's economic and social achievements and plans.

The Fourth Five Year Plan (1991 - 1995) has targetted a GDP annual growth rate of 6.3 percent, a rate well in excess of Oman's annual population growth rate estimated at 3.5%. During this plan period, Oman plans to achieve new thresholds, specially in its manpower development through the Omanization drive.

The Sultanate of Oman's budgetary evolution is another landmark. The 1991 budget, for example, envisages considerable growth in revenues, a moderate expansion in expenditure, and a significant improvement in the fiscal balance. Part of the anticipated revenue over the plan period is expected to come from oil. Current oil production is between 650,000 and 700,000 b/d which can be maintained for the next twenty years according to the proven reserves. Total proven reserves as of 1990 stood at 4.3 billion barrels. Yet, the main stay of the people and the economy is agriculture. Before the discovery of oil the Sultanate of Oman had an almost totally agricultural-based economy. It produces many varieties of vegetables and fruits the most important of which are dates. Date production in Oman, renowned for their quality, average a yearly production of 154,000 tons. About 50% of the 50,000 hectares of land under cultivation in Oman is allocated to the cultivation of the date palm, of which there are 200 varieties, 20 of which are commercially viable. At present there is estimated seven million date palm trees in Oman and are expected to increase to 10 million by the end of 1995.

The total area of land suitable for farming is about 100,000 hectares, of which about 55,000 hectares are under cultivation at present. According to government statistics, the area under cultivation increased at an average rate of 7.2% per annum during the plan period 1984-89. However,

land expansion is not the main aim of the current development plan. Its aims are rather the improvement of productivity by a program of support and technical advice through the 2,500 extension farms in the country.

Another important sector in the Omani economy is fishing. The total quantity of fish and aquatic products has risen rapidly over the past few years. In 1985, 95,000 metric tons were landed, and by 1988 this had risen to 166,100 tons. However, in 1989 the total catch suffered a decline and only 117,536 tons were landed. This was largely due to a reduced number of trawlers operating off the coasts, and the migratory variations of large and small pelagic fish, which affect the catch of local fishermen, who accounted for 90% of the total catch in 1988. In 1989, 28,275 tons of fish were exported.

The Sultan of Oman, H.M. Sultan Qaboos places a visible emphasis on education. In 1990 there were 800 Government schools in the Sultanate, including institutes and intermediate teachers' training colleges. The General Education Schools total 309 schools for boys, 287 schools for girls, and 183 mixed (co-ed) schools, all of which are at primary and secondary levels.

In the academic year 1990/91 total enrolment in the three levels is 351,217 students of whom 163,342 are girls and 187,875 boys. The number of schools in the Southern Region, where, two decades ago, there was only one, has now grown to 120, offering education to 31,410 students of both sexes.

The University comprises six colleges or faculties: Education and Islamic Studies, Arts, Science, Agriculture, Engineering, and Medicine. The students are approximately equal in numbers between the sexes. It is anticipated that the University will ultimately accept about 3,000 students in the various faculties and specializations

Another sector in which Oman has achieved remarkable success is health. In 1990 there were 47 hospitals, 88 health centres,

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NO CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM : AN UPDATE ON THE GERMAN-YEMENI URBAN PLANNING

By: Peter Reinders

"Well, well, seven of my Yemeni colleagues in the Secondary Cities Department still are on their old jobs, but the four Germans from the DED and one from the GTZ are new." That was my first reaction when I returned to work in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in Sana'a where I'd spent six and a half years as an urban planning assistant. In between I'd been in Scotland, studying urban planning. Now I was back, full of ideas and new theories about urban planning theories we should immediately get going on the practical side of the project. It had been a long time since any urban expansion plan had reached approval stage. Now was the time for self-sufficiency and professionalism.

As soon as I arrived, the idea was to start work again on the 8-year-old city plan for Amran (about 50 km. north of Sana'a). Amran is in the midst of an utterly uncontrolled building boom. Schemes for the definition of neighborhood boundaries and the inner-city road network have been totally ignored, making non-sense of the original plan for Amran, authorized as long ago as 2/8/1982. The effects, both immediate and for the future, are chaotic traffic and environmental problems.

Because of this intervening development, the old city-plan should have been declared invalid and annulled by the Ministry. To ensure Amran a viable and co-ordinated urban plan, a new design was called for, and because of the urgency of the problem this new design was to be made immediately. As the preparations for this new Amran design were under way, the ministry received from highest governmental levels orders to begin work immediately on plans for a new provincial capital in Hazm Al Jawf. (It's not only in Yemen that priorities are ultimately controlled by higher political considerations!). At that very moment, the German embassy ordered the GTZ to prepare a display on medium-sized city projects for an exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. After many hours of overtime work, ten charts were prepared, demonstrating various aspects of the German-Yemen projects, and were then exhibited in the Sheraton Hotel during 20-25/5/1989.

After the exhibition, we devoted our full attention again to planning the provincial capital Al Hazm in the northeastern desert region of Jawf. In several site visits - two with the provincial governor - we got our first glimpse of the projected scope of this "blueprint" city.

The Master Plan (scale 1:5000) for Hazm Al Jawf was completed early in 1990. Six months later, this was followed the Detailed Plan (scale 1:2000) for the first phase, in which the overall conception of the city was developed to the stage of "Report of Principles," together with sample drawings. After much more effort the final presentation/discussion at last took place in July, 1991. Experience tells me that it will be another year before these plans are approved by the Ministry, so that the implementation can begin. Unfortunately, I shall no longer be in Yemen to witness this.

In accordance with the principles of development policies, those of us on the German side of the project made every effort to work as a team with our Yemeni counterparts. It may be true that this phase of the project was "problem-free", but it was obvious that apart from passive participation, hardly any independent initiative or desire for autonomy was achieved by our Yemeni colleagues. Support from outside will continue to be a necessity, since independent Yemeni efforts remains inadequate. Active cooperation could only be induced when counterparts were assigned specific tasks with a well-defined technical solution.

Although it is many years now since my first collaboration on this same Yemeni project, I have seen no change at all in the attitudes and work habits of my Yemeni colleagues. This struck me particularly when I saw colleagues I'd known since 1983/84 still sitting in the same chairs. Between the older colleagues I've known for some time and the newer ones, there even seems to be a kind of mutually agreed tolerance of laziness...! In my opinion, attitudes and work habits of this kind can only be corrected by both professional competence and leadership qualities.

Since June 1985 the Yemeni-German project for secondary city planning has been supported by the GTZ. Over the past few years GTZ consultants have produced about twenty studies, mostly in the areas of physical planning, technical infrastructure, water supply and sewage, and of socio-economic matters. There are now a number of instruction manuals with design standards for improved planning techniques and procedures. One of these manuals describes very thoroughly the way in which final reports on urban land-use plans are to be structured and written. But despite these supportive "pragmatically oriented" studies, planning directives, workshops and seminars on goal-oriented project planning, no comprehensive city plan has yet been developed to which the Ministry could point with pride, and which could then serve as a model for future urban design.



Already in my report to the 1986 DED/Sana'a annual meeting, I cast doubt on the wisdom of the thesis that development policies could be based solely on planning directives. A project can only be brought to successful completion if both technical competence and a readiness for teamwork are present. In the absence of either of these, planning directives are almost useless. Moreover, the only way to develop any feeling

of independent effort and responsibility is by confronting actual problems which need to be solved and by facing reality outside the ministries. An example will make the point clear: At the end of January 1990, all foreign employees in the project (except for those on local contracts) received individual questionnaires from the Yemeni government: "Do you think the national counterparts will be able to replace you?" To this question I responded "Yes and No!" On the one hand, of course, every person can be replaced. But then again a draughtsman or an urban planner depends not only on solid knowledge of his field but on other qualities, such as patience, the ability to make decisions, experience, an aesthetic sense, enthusiasm, commitment, and a capacity for teamwork. In Yemen, I have not met many people with these qualities. Of course this statement cannot be taken as representative of the experience of the entire team - in so interdisciplinary a field as urban planning - but

my answer raises a problem common to all development aid: does it really help? Does it lead eventually to a country being truly independent according to its own definition of its needs? Or does nothing change when the experts and aid-workers pack their bags?

In the area of urban planning, the answer is clear: we have not succeeded to any meaningful extent in improving the attitudes or qualifications of our Yemeni partners. One's final impression is that Yemenis depend completely on the planning and practical skills of their foreign counterparts. Leaving the work to a few foreigners is a great sign of trust, but it doesn't provide any learning experience for the third-world "partners".

The habit of leaving foreign experts do the work is symptomatic of the dilemma of Yemen. It is necessary, therefore, when planning future professional education - including the administrative side - to develop an emphasis on practicality and on dealing with reality. In the absence of the necessary secondary qualifications, professional training alone is very

inadequate. Employees already in the workplace must be given supplementary hands-on practical training, outside the auspices of the Ministry. The seven Yemeni colleagues I mentioned at the outset, for example, could, without losing status be sent to provincial or district towns, either to apply or to teach others the skills they have acquired; in which case, they themselves would be learning to apply their knowledge in practice. Since 1983 more or less the same people have been working and learning in the project. They have no chances of promotion in the Ministry and have no way of furthering themselves professionally. The Ministry is unfortunately the only educational institution in the land devoted to "practice-oriented" urban planning, and has for years been held back by an out-of-date staff. The danger is that Yemenis, for reasons either of comfort or career, will stick to their old ways and continue to leave any real work to their foreign advisors. To avoid that, former counterparts should be placed on site in secondary cities in specialized programs to build an experienced personnel on the local level - the very level at which adequate qualifications are lacking and there is hardly any continuity of personnel. To build up such programs systematically, foreign aid workers could be particularly useful.

The Ministry of Planning and Development has made a request to the DED concerning collaboration in a provincial urban planning team. This request fits in very well with DED's policy of cooperation, since the Ministry already has at its disposal most of the necessary personnel, who have furthermore no experience whatsoever outside the Ministry. The DED should therefore give its most careful attention to this request.

It is important to consider certain tendencies within the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning which clash with the policy governing DED aid - and up till now GTZ policy as well. Recently, the Ministry requested UNDP assistance for major cities in Yemen. Since that organization refused, aid is now being hoped for from the GTZ. The whole idea of the development program for secondary cities, however, is precisely to discourage migration to major cities. To this end, the project has been working on improving the infrastructure of smaller cities, strengthening local ministry offices, and developing a secondary-city economy. Instead of reducing the overwhelming secondary city planning project to a few crucial areas, at a time, too when the manageability of the entire project is in question, we are now facing the possible addition of a new and totally different task. It remains to be seen whether a request will also be made for the participation of aid personnel from the German Volunteer Service.

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TEMPS DU YEMEN

LA CONFERENCE DE PAIX DANS LA PRESSE YEMENITE

L'ouverture de la conférence de paix au Proche-orient dans la capitale espagnole a bénéficié d'une couverture majeure dans les médias yéménites. Toutes tendances confondues les journaux accordent la première place à cette rencontre et multiplient les éditoriaux, caricatures et articles de fond sur le sujet. Le quotidien officieux Al-Thawra, plus fort tirage du pays y a consacré tous ses éditoriaux durant la tenue des séances. Sans surprise les droits des Palestiniens à une patrie sont inlassablement rappelés, en application des résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, alors qu'en parallèle parallèle est fustigée l'intransigeance d'Israël et son refus d'adhérer à une paix véritable en échangeant les territoires occupés contre des accords de paix avec les pays arabes.

Dans trois interviews accordées au cours de la quinzaine passée le chef de l'état a exprimé le soutien du Yémen à la conférence de paix qui doit aboutir à une paix " juste pour l'ensemble des pays de la région ". Deux de ces entretiens ont été recueillis pour la BBC et le troisième par l'hebdomadaire palestinien publié à Londres Al-Qods " Jérusalem ".

Les hebdomadaires exprimant le point de vue des islamistes, Al-Oumma " la nation ", Al-Sahwa " le réveil " et Al-Islah " la réforme ", sont unanimes dans leur con-

damnation de la conférence de la capitulation. Ils accusent les régimes arabes de " vendre la Palestine et de cautionner l'occupation de Jérusalem par Israël. En application des consignes élaborés lors d'une conférence tenue à Téhéran il y a deux semaines ces journaux appelaient les " croyants de la nation de Mohamed le Prophète " à manifester leur rejet de la " conspiration américano-sioniste par leur adhésion à la résolution islamique pour la libération de Jérusalem ".

Entre le soutien officiel et le rejet islamiste les organes des deux partis au pouvoir, Al-Mithaq " le pacte " pour le Congrès Général Populaire du Président Saleh et Al-Thawri " le révolutionnaire " pour le Parti Socialiste Yéménite, expriment un malaise face à ce qui est perçu comme une " capitulation " arabe et surtout un vif pessimisme quant aux résultats espérés pour aboutir à une paix véritable en Palestine.

Le journal en arabe de la télévision yéménite a mis la conférence de la paix en tête de ses sujets de politique étrangère, parallèlement à des images commentées de la répression israélienne dans les territoires occupés et au Liban-sud. L'état d'Israël reste présenté comme l'ennemi sioniste et le Premier ministre Y. Shamir est qualifié de terroriste.

DECOUVERTES

PAR JACK LANG

A son retour du Yémen le Ministre de la Culture et de la Communication a bien voulu livrer au Temps du Yémen ses impressions de voyage.

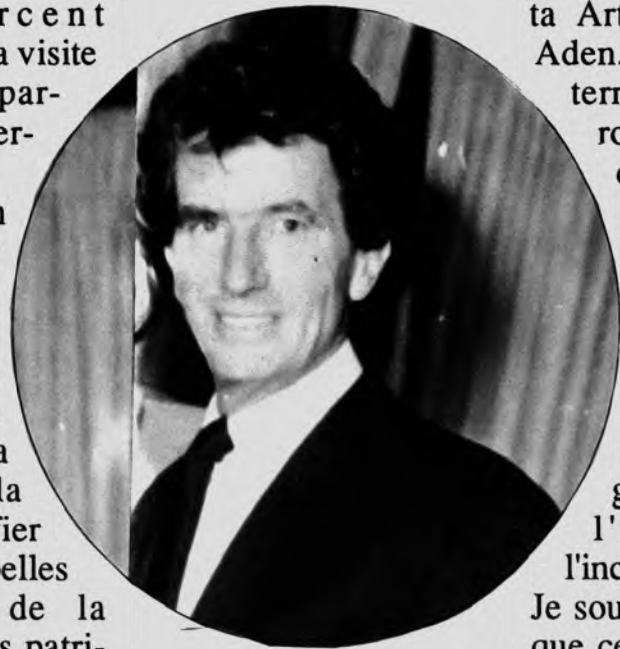
Il y a des découvertes qui engendrent la surprise, qui appellent l'étonnement. Il y en a certaines qui provoquent l'enchantement. Il y en a d'autres enfin qui forcent l'admiration. Ma visite au Yémen appartient à cette dernière catégorie. Mon admiration est totale pour le génie de ce peuple qui s'est investi, sans limite, dans le travail de la terre et de la pierre pour édifier l'une des plus belles architectures de la planète, l'un des patrimoines monumentaux les plus extraordinaires qu'il m'ait été donné de voir.

Ma visite est encore trop proche, trop récente pour que mes impressions et mes découvertes soient déjà des souvenirs. Je suis encore dans l'Hadramaout, à Saiun, Tarim et Chibam, admirant ses immeubles de plus de sept étages construits en terre. Je parcours encore les rues de la vieille ville de Sanaa qui par sa cohérence, son unité, et son exceptionnelle beauté rappelle Venise. Je gravis encore les ruelles qui me conduisent face au palais de

la reine Arwa à Jibla. La culture du Yémen ne s'arrête pas, bien sûr, à son architecture. Il faut parler de sa géographie et de la majesté

cette visite, qui, d'ailleurs, est plus qu'une visite mais bien une rencontre, sans parler de l'émotion que j'ai ressentie en entrant dans la maison où habitait Arthur Rimbaud à Aden. Du haut de la terrasse, j'ai pu retrouver les visions qui furent les siennes, imaginer combien son esprit devant l'océan pouvait continuer à être éternellement appelé par le grand large, l'ailleurs et l'inconnu.

Je souhaite ardemment que cette maison devienne un lieu original et ambitieux de la rencontre de la culture yéménite et française grâce notamment à la poésie. Je veux enfin terminer ce court propos en remerciant, très sincèrement, les autorités yéménites et au-delà l'ensemble des citoyens de ce pays pour leur sens inégalé de l'hospitalité et l'exceptionnelle générosité de leur accueil. La grande réussite de cette rencontre est un gage pour nous tous, de la durée, de la richesse et du dynamisme des liens et de la coopération culturelle qui unissent désormais la France et le Yémen.



ISLAM ET OCCIDENT : CONVERGENCES

"Il faut proclamer très fermement la nécessaire complémentarité de tous les pays riverains de la Méditerranée. Cette mer qui fut notre mère commune dans le passé doit le redevenir dans l'avenir".

Ainsi s'exprime André Miquel, historien et grand spécialiste de l'Islam, à propos des rapports entre les pays d'Europe et les pays musulmans.

A cette proclamation le passé répond comme un écho : "les sciences classiques développées au Moyen-Age sont - en effet - le produit de la Méditerranée, foyer d'échanges de toutes les civilisations de l'ancien monde". Dans ce monde Orient et Occident collaboraient étroitement et les grandes innovations étaient notamment le fait d'une civilisation

particulièrement brillante : la civilisation arabo-musulmane.

Ce sont, on le sait, les savants de l'Islam qui firent connaître au monde l'algèbre, la trigonométrie, les procédés modernes de numération avec, en particulier, la généralisation du zéro. Ce sont eux aussi qui mesurèrent, pour la première fois, le méridien terrestre et découvrirent aussi de nouveaux astres dans le ciel.

Cette civilisation hautement développée est fondée sur une langue, l'arabe classique - la langue des poètes - d'un très haut niveau de culture mais aussi : "un

vecteur particulièrement flexible et approprié pour l'expression des concepts scientifiques" note un historien des sciences.

L'héritage de la civilisation arabo-musulmane classique consiste ainsi en connaissances médicales (observation clinique, anatomie, et même chirurgie), chimiques (pharmacopée), botaniques, optiques...

Quant à la philosophie elle est admirablement maîtrisée par les plus grands penseurs arabes, Avicenne, Averroès qui, de plus, grâce aux multiples traductions en arabe, peuvent transmettre l'oeuvre des Anciens : Aristote pour la philosophie, Euclide pour la géométrie, Galien pour la médecine, et tant d'autres... C'est dire la richesse de cette civilisation dont on peut se demander si, sans elle, l'Occident aurait pu connaître la Renaissance.

En France, les intellectuels arabisants prennent la parole pour mettre en évidence toute l'importance de l'apport de la civilisation arabo-musulmane qui s'est épanouie en Andalousie aux XI^e et XII^e siècles.

Cet âge d'or fait aujourd'hui l'objet de publications sans cesse plus nombreuses comme si les soucis de la science rejoignaient les efforts des politiques dans la recherche de nouvelles convergences entre les civilisations.

BREVES

Oman : Le Ministre des Affaires étrangères yéménite s'est rendu en Oman porteur d'une lettre du chef de l'Etat pour le Sultan Qabous. Cette visite prend place dans un contexte de réchauffement des relations entre le Sultanat et le Yémen unifié. La conséquence majeure en est la signature proche d'un accord de reconnaissance de la frontière mutuelle, à cette occasion le Sultan Qabous pourrait effectuer une visite au Yémen.

Aden : Par suite d'incertitudes sur le nouveau régime douanier du port une cinquantaine de navires qui devaient décharger à Aden ont été détourné sur Hodeida.

Exil : De son exil damascène l'ancien dirigeant sud-yéménite Ali Nasser Mohamed continue de suivre l'actualité du pays où il est interdit de séjour depuis

l'unification. Dans ses mémoires auxquelles il travaille il reviendra certainement sur les événements de janvier 1986 à Aden à la suite desquelles il perdit le pouvoir et dut se réfugier au Nord.

Ali Nasser Mohamed déclare qu'il joue actuellement un rôle d'intermédiaire auprès des pays du Golfe en faveur du Yémen.

Juifs : D'après la revue libanaise "Al-Kifah Al-Arabi", le gouvernement de Sanaa subirait de fortes pressions pour signer un contrat autorisant l'émigration en Israël des juifs yéménites, à l'instar de ce qui s'est fait pour les juifs éthiopiens, les Falashas.

YVES MONTAND 1921-1991

Issu d'une famille pauvre d'immigrés toscans, le jeune Ivo Livi, connaît une jeunesse difficile à Marseille où il est arrivé à l'âge de trois ans. A onze ans, il part travailler dans une fabrique de pâtes, avant de devenir garçon-coiffeur, métallo et docker.

En 1938, il débute dans la chanson en donnant des "récitals pour des copains dans des garages".

En 1944, il monte à Paris et c'est le triomphe. Il rencontre Edith Piaf qui va véritablement le lancer. Jacques Prévert, Joseph Kosma lui écrivent des chansons, "Les feuilles mortes" deviennent un succès mondial.

Quelques années plus tard il s'impose au cinéma avec "Le salaire de la peur" d'Henri-Georges Clouzot.

En 1951 il épouse Simone Signoret qui restera sa compagne pendant 35 ans.

C'est l'époque où Montand communiste de coeur signe l'appel de Stockholm et milite au Mouvement de la Paix, proche du Parti Communiste Français. Les époux Montand se joignent à l'appel en faveur des époux Rosenberg. Mais quinze ans plus tard Montand dénoncera le système communiste, tout en défendant les droits de l'homme, que ce soit au Chili, en Afrique du Sud ou dans les pays de l'Est.

Il avait rencontré Nikita Krouchtchev en 1956 au cours d'une tournée en URSS après l'intervention soviétique à Budapest avant de rompre définitivement avec le communisme et de devenir, ces dernières années, un chantre du libéralisme économique.

En parallèle à sa carrière de chanteur Yves Montand a joué dans une cinquantaine de films parmi lesquels : "Z", "L'Aveu", "Manon des sources", et "Jean de Florette".

Il laisse derrière lui une jeune veuve, Carole, qui lui avait donné un petit Valentin dont il était très fier.

جميع افراد بيت السلفي في صنعاء ومناخه

يباركون للشاب عبد السلام حسن السلفي

بمناسبة الخطوبة

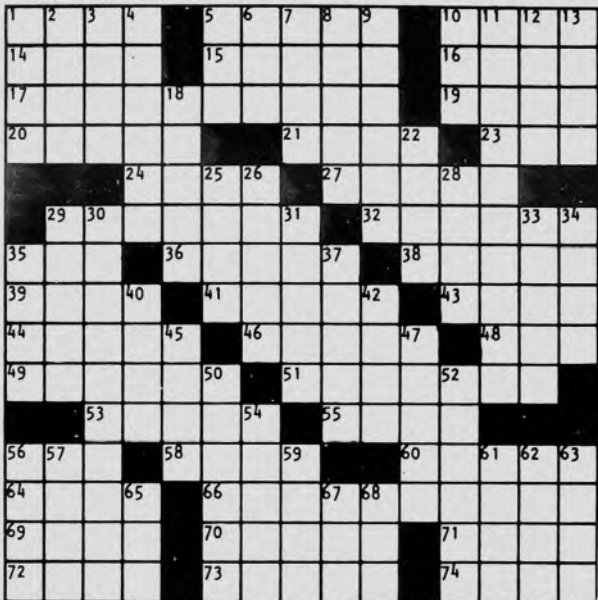
المهنؤون : خالد السلفي ، عادل السلفي،

عبد الإله السلفي ، حاشد وبكيل الباشا.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Train track | section, | 33 Watched |
| 1 Crucifix | 44 Mountain | for short | secretly |
| 5 Wrongly | 45 nymph | 2 Rowing | 34 Story |
| 10 Small piece | 46 Rebuke | implements | 35 Globule |
| of land | 48 Golf | 3 Buckeye | 37 Lacking |
| 14 Hawaii | 49 gadget | state | funds |
| island | 49 Hooded | 4 Two-family | 40 Personal |
| 15 West Point | jackets | house | benefit |
| student | 51 Thronged | 5 Expert | 42 Lily plant |
| 16 Remain | 53 Stones | 6 Chart | 45 Valley |
| 17 Baseball | 55 Kind of | 7 Inactive | 47 Cuts short |
| feat | school, | 8 Closures | 50 Constraining |
| 19 Aromatic | familiarly | 9 Fashions | force |
| spice | 56 Coal dis- | 10 Doctrine | 52 Aspects |
| 20 "— Mio" | tillate | 11 Same-man- | 54 Threescore |
| 21 Building | 58 Goddess of | ager boxer | 56 Tense |
| wings | discord | 12 Shoestring | 57 Measure |
| 23 Ground for | 60 Letter on | 13 Watched | of land |
| plants | a key | sharply | 59 Extend |
| 24 Newts | 64 Sour | 18 Boxing | across |
| 27 Calyx leaf | 66 Facial look | blows | 61 Tablet |
| 29 Woven cloth | 69 Bear con- | 22 Gaiter | 62 Model's |
| 32 Most secure | stellation | 25 Josip Broz | stance |
| 35 Clamor | 70 Wood dye | 26 Run-down | 63 Again |
| 36 Makes | 71 Otherwise | neighbor- | 65 Water |
| groggy | 72 Abound | hoods | barrier |
| 38 City in | 73 Church | 28 At a great | 67 — de Jan- |
| Florida | council | distance | eiro |
| 39 Squealers | 74 Murdered | 29 Coronet | 68 Terminate |
| 41 City on the | Missouri | 30 Business | |
| | | 31 Make into | |
| | | law | |
- DOWN**
1 Newspaper

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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.

VETERAN'S DAY (Sol.: 6 letters)
A-Acknowledge, Armed Forces, Army; B-Brave; C-Corporal, Courage; D-Distinction, Doughboy, Duty; E-Esteem; F-Fanfare, Flag; H-Holiday, Honor; L-Liberty; M-Major, Marine, Military; N-Navy; O-Observe, Officer, Old Glory; P-Peace, Pilot, Private, Proud; R-Respect; S-Sailor, Salute, Sergeant, Soldier, Strong; T-Thanks, Tough; U-United; W-Warfare, Welcome home

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

NAWTY
□ ○ □ □ □ □

FINKE
□ □ □ □ □ □

MEEGRE
□ □ □ □ □ □

BINBBO
□ □ □ □ □ □



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

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □

WORDS OF WISDOM

Sometimes a gentle touch can speak louder than words. ***

It's impossible to justify hideous actions, no matter whatever good may eventually come from them. ***

The beauty of a tree sprouting leaves for the first time each spring is a miracle that takes a whole year to forget. ***

Why is it that our parents are easy to live with after we stop living with them? ***

Try to take pleasure in the simple joys that cross your path each day. ***

It's hard to find happiness when you take yourself too seriously. ***

The first cool day of fall puts everybody in a better mood. ***

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIXTEEN GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Insurance experts say the chances of twins both living to be 100 years old are 1 in 50 million. ***

In 1920, a major-league baseball player died after being hit by a pitch. Ray Chapman's death is the only fatality ever to occur on the field in major-league baseball. ***

In 1946, a woman in Brazil gave birth to decaplets — 10 babies at once. ***

Before he became a political leader, Adolf Hitler was an artist. A few of his paintings still survive today. ***

The artist Christo delayed the debut of an outdoor exhibit because of rain. He said the water would have ruined the artistic integrity of his latest creation — a collection of 3,000-plus umbrellas. ***

Some scientists believe that at least 90 percent of the universe consists of hydrogen. ***

President Thomas Jefferson paid just \$15 million for the Louisiana Purchase, and with one stroke of his pen doubled the size of the nation. ***

THIS WEEK'S

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Be willing to blaze your own trail. Cut through the red tape and be innovative.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Excellent gains through the public and partnerships. Conservative methods have value.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Better health and work conditions. Get in a groove, and stay there. Windfall profits likely.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Investments and joint financial matters look promising. Companions can be lucky for you.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Supporting others all the way can bring untold rewards. Property could sell if you decide to move.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) On-the-job advancement early in the week. Major financial opportunity.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Better finances, especially with regard to property, long-term investments.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) More focus on domestic issues. A possible home loan is forthcoming. A secret benefactor.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Privacy is important. Influential friends can increase your prestige.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Friends may be of material assistance. You have sound ideas. Large-scale recognition possible.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) An excellent start for you this week. Favorable travel conditions. Education is helpful.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your quiet dedication and devotion will be appreciated. Business expansion for some.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Long-term relationships can be deeply satisfying. Service activities are favored.

If You Were Born This Week

Deep personal transformations and changes of attitudes this month. Important financial developments on Dec. 18 keep you busy. Surprising developments with relatives in January, as you are direct and outspoken.

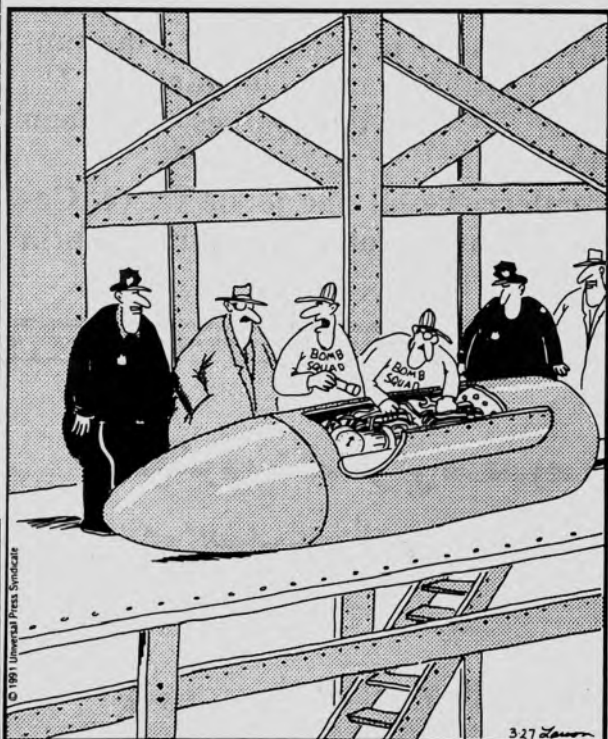
SLAPSTIX

YESTERDAY IS ONLY THE TOMORROW THAT GOT AWAY

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THE FAR SIDE

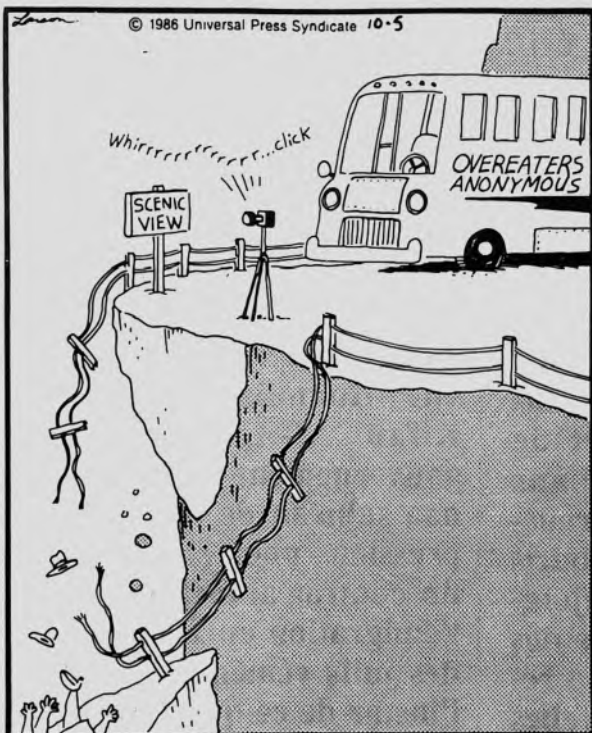
By GARY LARSON



"Well, it's a delicate situation, sir. ... Sophisticated firing system, hair-trigger mechanisms, and Bob's wife just left him last night, so you know his mind's not into this."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Group photo disasters

**CONTINUATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES -
THEIR ORIGINS AND FUNCTIONS.**

By: Yacin Mohamed Abdella
Ministry of Local Government

This article is the final part of a series on this theme:

A. Kinds of Political Parties:

1. Conservative.

This type of party desires to conserve the status quo and existing institutions. It is therefore averse to changes.

2. Liberal.

Liberal parties desire to reform the existing institutions, and welcome gradual changes.

3. Reactionary.

This party wants to revive old institutions and methods that is, it wants to go back to history.

4. Radical.

Radical parties desire sweeping changes to transform all existing institutions and norms.

5. Rightist and Leftist Parties.

This is another way of classifying political parties. Parties which work for radical changes, and for the introduction of radical legislation are called leftists, and those which desire to move forward slowly and cautiously are regarded as rightists.

B. Functions of Political Parties.

1. Brokers of ideas.

It has been stated that the primary task of political parties is to organize the chaotic public will. They are brokers of ideas and constantly work at clarifying, systematizing and expounding the party's doctrine. They're representatives of social interest groups, bridging the distance between the individual and the community, at large. Political parties channelize the ideas of the various individuals and groups, and make them effective by giving them proper shape and direction, without which, the opinion or will of the individual would not count. Members belonging to the same political parties espouse the cause of various groups with which they are linked.

2. Explaining its standards and policies.

No party worth the name can function without a philosophical base. A political party must explain clearly its stand, policies, principles and approach to the burning problems of the country. It presents issues, and fixes value objectives of the people. A political party may not agree with the policies of the government and it may criticise them with in and outside the legislature. Then it owes a duty to the public to explain why the government is wrong and suggest reasonable alternatives. It should make its stand clear as regards nationalisation of industries, increase of tariffs, prohibition, foreign policy and other issues.

3. Enlightening and educating the public.

Another important function of a well-organised political party is to enlighten and educate the public. Though, the primary aim of a party is to seize power, it tries to educate the public by furnishing it with facts, figures and comments on various matters. A far sighted party makes a constructive approach and clearly tells the electorate about its attitude towards the various problems confronting the country. This will indirectly educate the people and enable them to develop a particular type of opinion.

To enlighten and educate the public, a party needs a well-knit organization, which can enable it to fulfil its obligations to its members in particular and to the people in general. The party needs good leaders and enthusiastic and energetic field workers, who are capable of establishing contact with the mass and of awakening and activating them. A party can have a mass following when large sections of the population are convinced about its real interest in promoting their well-fare and up-holding the cause of democratic principles. If the party's policies are noble, enlightening and educative, people will realise that in their own interest they should join it.

4. Making efforts to capture power.

The ultimate aim of a political party is to capture power by peaceful and constitutional means. The principles and programs a political party places before the people cannot be implemented, unless it is able to form a government. The primary functions of political party in a democracy such as ours is to control and direct the struggle for power. From this function all others derive naturally.

**NEW VOLUNTARY
ORGANIZATIONS
IN YEMEN**

Three new associations and voluntary organizations are currently evolving and being established in Yemen. The first of these is the Yemeni Dutch Friendship Association which is oriented towards consolidating the already strong relationship between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The second association is the Qat Control Association. This association, to which membership is conditional on the fact that a person does not chew qat (on a regular basis?), aims to shed light on the dangers of the prevalence of qat. The dangers cover many sectors, but notably, the economic, social, health, etc., fields. The third association evolving in Yemen is the Association of Yemeni Graduates of US Universities. This association intends to create a new forum for Yemeni alumni, and to strengthen educational and academic cooperation. It also intends to maintain contact between the alumni and their alma mater.

It will be noted that the spirit of democracy and freedom that prevails in Yemen has allowed the establishment of associations and voluntary professional as well as political organizations in Yemen.

VILLA FOR RENT

Large 8 rooms, two storey Villa, three main bathrooms (one ensuite), guests toilet, internal garden, large compound area for external garden.

Superb location in quiet secluded area and yet bordering the Zubairi Road close to all amenities in Sanaa, with telephone fully operative for immediate occupation, suitable for staff of foreign embassy or company.

Please telephone 207497 (Sanaa) at any time.

Continued from p. 6

INSECTS...

Much of it is fed to hens. More recently, the Wisconsin scientists have been examining methods of "harvesting" insects such as grasshoppers in bulk for human consumption. "If we are to succeed, it's not only a matter of devising a technique of mass production for human consumption but also changing people's perceptions of insects - and making them acceptable to eat," said project leader Dr. Gene DeFoliart. "It's a long haul. It seems and this is verified by food psychologists - that Western people eat what they grow up with and are very resilient to change." In his pursuit of adapting eating habits, four years ago DeFoliart set up the thrice-yearly 'Food Insects Newsletter'. DeFoliart's second project, when he retires later this year, will be to take a roadshow to schools around the United States under the theme, "Insects as Food in Different Cultures". The aim will be "to root out dietary preconceptions in 14 to 16 year-olds".

"The point is not to stuff insects down their throats but to introduce the subject in the sense that they should accept other people's cultures and diets as a first step," he said.

Back in France, however, DeFoliart's enthusiasm would be dampened by the lack of people sampling insect-eating. Patricia Crocus, whose Paris pet shop is cited in Comby's book because it specializes in selling and breeding insects, seemed astonished that anyone should buy them for their own consumption.

"Most of the people who buy crickets want them for their birds or other pets," said Crocus. "If anyone has been buying them for their own personal use, they haven't told me about it."

Continued from page 9:

**URBAN
PLANNING...**

It is far from easy to find solutions for a country like Yemen, especially when one has a wealth of ideas, large and small, which must be tested with one's counterpart before he leaves the safety of the Ministry for a provincial planning bureau. He then faces a further problem, which is not spoken of nearly enough in discussions of foreign aid. Yemenis are slowly becoming adequately qualified to oversee local planning projects, but once left on their own, they develop a whole range of fears. The sensation of being in "unknown territory" comes not so much from the physical fact of being separated from the Ministry; it comes much more from the psychological fact of assuming independent responsibility. The Yemenis' self-esteem does not allow the possibility that he could perhaps make mistakes. The result is a psychological block which hampers both decision-making and the execution of projects. Physically they are present, but they are totally ineffectual.

Because of these fears, the Yemeni counterpart expects his foreign colleague to make all planning decisions on his own. The expert, who is quite properly called an "advisor," also becomes the "doer". The result is that the foreigner also takes responsibility for all consequences; the "Nasranis" are then simply "mush tamam".

But of course the learning that comes from errors and mistaken planning, the overview of the complex inter-relationships which affect the making of a decision, and the capacity to make such decisions, independently are all elements of the greatest importance - they are the secondary qualities I described earlier, which can only be acquired in the contest of independent responsibility. Thus the circle is completed: it is the foreigners who plan and the foreigners who implement. The Yemenization of the project lies in the distant future....

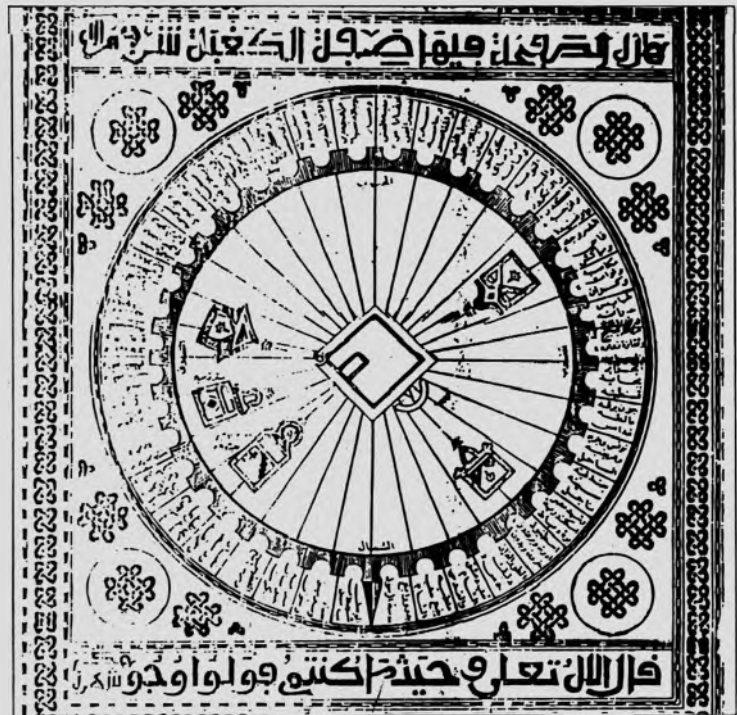
MORE DISCOVERIES ON OMAN'S IBN MAJID

A newly-discovered manuscript authored by the great Omani navigator of the 16th century Ahmed bin Majid throws more light on his contribution in the fields of navigation and cartography.

The Minister of National Heritage and Culture in Oman, Sayyid Faisal bin Ali al Said, described the manuscript find as unique among any his Ministry has owned.

The manuscript includes two rare poems which historians thought were lost along with a number of other writings, the Minister told the press. The first of the two poems is entitled 'Al Khail' and the other is a collection of five verses and with no title.

The poems are actually scientific in nature in that they provide detailed information on geography. The additional five poems in the manuscript fall within the same category. The first of these poems dwells on the origin of the science of navigation. The second poem describes the Gulf of Aden route between southern Yemen and Somalia while the third poem traces positions and distances of stars. The fourth poem gives a good description of the "guiding" stars for navigators, while the fifth one has 58 verses from his 'Al Hadya' poem describing the important ports of western India along with their geographic locations. Sayid Faisal said the manuscript also contained three notebooks on navigation rules and on the nature of the sun and stars, time and space and the direction of holy-Mecca.



THE picture shows a method devised by Ibn Majid to indicate the direction of Mecca.

One notebook talks of what effects the moon and stars have on life and natural phenomena.

Ibn Majid had mastered the art of measuring the sun's distance from different parts of the earth at different times during the year. An instrument had existed for measuring these, but Ibn Majid improved on it and called it 'Al Kamal'.

There are portions discussing the period when Arab navigators began depending on the sun rather than on star constellations such as the bear. Ibn Majid put into practice what was earlier experimental and thereby proved some theories.

Commending his work, Sayid Faisal said he was the first person to modernise the compass.

A French writer, Simonne Zalri, has described Ibn Majid as one of the first writers who were well versed in navigation in modern times in an article she wrote in the April 1991 issue of 'Talas magazine'. Its title was "Ibn Majid, the Star Scientist."

One of the interesting insights from the Omani researcher was that the southern hemisphere had a land area almost equal to that of the northern.

It will be noted that the southern portion of the Arabian Peninsula, specially at the hands of Yemeni and Omani explorers and scientists, played a major role in linking the the south Asian and Far Eastern lands and cultures at first to those of East Africa, and later to those of Europe. Their contributions to progress and science have been repeatedly noted in the history books.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST

The human rights records in the Middle East continues to be dismal. In spite of major break-throughs in certain countries, such as Yemen and Jordan, much of the Arab Middle East continues to exhibit signs of sickness in terms of observing human rights.

In Egypt, the emergency laws which were declared in October 1981 are still in force. According to an AMNESTY International report, political prisoners continue to suffer from torture and inappropriate trials. The 13-page report released in October 1991 traces and documents the sad record of the Egyptian government in this field. Again, in spite of the fact that Egypt had signed, in 1986, the anti-torture agreement during questioning, torture practices persist. AMNESTY gathered data on the inhuman methods employed during interrogation. The report makes very sad reading.

Another report, a 75-page analysis on Libya entitled AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S Prisoner Concerns in the Light of Recent Legal Reforms gives a vivid description of the methods employed by Libyan security. In a speech on March 9th, 1988, Libyan Leader Muammar Qaddafi ordered the release of 400 prisoners. He stated that many Libyans have been unjustly imprisoned or sentenced to death.

Yet, the legal and administrative reforms implemented since then leave much to be desired, and do not conform to international standards. Today, there are at least 467 political prisoners on whom there are complete records.

In Mauritania, human right conditions continue to deteriorate. Due to the internal difficulties and regional strife, the law is often bypassed by the security. In Syria, the iron-fist policy of the government has led to the death of many citizens. In some cases, Jews were shot or arrested while trying to flee the country.

In the Gulf, reforms that had been promised during the Gulf Crisis are virtually abandoned. No real efforts at observing human rights are in sight, and the West, which props these systems, is very happy as long as its economic interests are safe.

70 Million TURKS IN 2000

At the turn of the century, Turkey will be a country with a population of 70 million, more than half of whom will be children and young people.

The latest census has shown that Turkey is rapidly being urbanised. By the year 1995, Istanbul will be the country's most populous province with a population of nine million and the number of cities with a population of over one million will rise to 18. According to a report of the SPO Social Planning Department, in 1990, the rural population accounted for 40.99% of the total population, while the percentage of the urban population rose to 59.01%.

The 1990 census has shown that nearly one-fourth of the country's population lives in the Marmara region which is also the region with the highest concentration of urban population and the highest population growth rate: 3.61%.

Southeast Anatolia has the country's second-highest growth rate with 3.42%. Despite this fact, southeast Anatolia is the country's least populated region, accounting for only 9.13% of the national population. The SPO has calculated that in the period 2000-2005, the birth rate will decline from 2.21% to 1.77%.

Turkey's population is expected to be 57,705,000 by the end of the current year, 69,544,000 in 2000 and 75,990,000 in 2005.

At the turn of the century, 51.70% (more than 36 million) of the country's population will be in the 0-24 age group. The overall population, which is expected to reach approximately 70 million by then, will consist of a roughly equal number of males and females.

The 1990 census results indicate that by the year 1995 the number of Turkish provinces with a population of over one million will be eighteen.

Turkey is one of the three most populous countries in the Middle East. The countries with the highest populations in the region are Turkey, Iran, and Egypt.

PROXY WAR IN KASHMIR?

Pakistan was accused at an international conference on Kashmir in London of waging a low cost proxy war against India by sending armed infiltrators into the valley where separatist elements are engaged in guerrilla activities.

The two-day conference, convened by 'Jammu and Kashmir National Front International' a pro-Bharatiya Janata Party outfit of Kashmir, in association with the Kashmiri Pandits Association (U.K.) and American Kashmiri Association (USA), warned Islamabad against the ramifications of its dangerous game plan in India's northernmost state.

Indian High Commissioner L.M. Singhvi, who inaugurated the conference, voiced serious concern over what he called the "campaign of disinformation and intrigue against India on the Kashmir issue being systematically conducted all over the world."

He warned the key players of the game of India baiting, particularly the fundamentalists, secessionists and power seekers and power brokers' against this dangerous conspiracy.

Dr. Singhvi pointed out that the Kashmir issue was not a problem of Hindu-Muslim divide and, therefore, should not be allowed to be made a religious issue. The High Commissioner also defended India's record of human rights in this region.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP Vice-President Sikander Bakht said the present state of affairs in Kashmir was the direct result of the policy of 'drift and the lack of political will to govern' on the part of successive Indian Governments in the last 40 years.

He criticised the government for allowing the 'frivolous' issue of self-determination in Kashmir to be dragged on for the last 44 years although the whole world has realised the developments subsequent to the ceasefire in Kashmir in 1948.

Referring to the western media's perception of the Kashmir issue, Bakht said unfortunately the international community has been oblivious of the fact that India is a secular country where the people of all religions strongly believed in the Indian ethos of tolerance - Sarav Dharma Sambhav'.

REFUGEES WARY OF RETURNING TO CAMBODIA

Relief workers say refugees on the Thai-Cambodian border are still wary of returning home despite last week's signing of a peace accord to formally end nearly 13 years of civil war. Meanwhile, the office of the UN High Commissioner for refugees disclosed that the repatriation of about 350,000 Cambodians from camps inside Thailand would begin after the removal of land mines.

"Once those mines are cleared, we're ready to go," said spokeswoman Sylvana Foa in Geneva. She gave no timetable for their return, but said several countries have expressed interest in helping with the repatriation process.

Some Cambodians are skeptical that the accord signed in Paris would hold. They fear continued fighting between the Vietnamese-backed government and three guerrilla groups (the Communist Khmer Rouge and two non-communist groups supported by the United States). Scattered clashes persisted along the border several days last week, although border sources said the fighting subsided later.

The Paris accord calls for the United Nations to supervise Cambodian combatants. The UN is also to be heavily involved in running the country before national elections are to be held in about 18 months.

There have been other fears as well, particularly about a future role for the Khmer Rouge guerilla group in Cambodia. The group, which killed more than one million Cambodians during its 1975-1978 rule, recently forced refugees in camps it controlled to return to Cambodia against their will.

Meanwhile, at the Site 2 border refugee camp, many people were joyous over the peace accord signed by the Phnom Penh government and the three guerilla groups that have opposed it during nearly 13 years of warfare.

Banners in English and Khmer were strung along the main roads of Site 2, which holds nearly 200,000 displaced Cambodians. The sprawling camp is near the key Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, 145 miles east of Bangkok. Even then, however, the civilian population is wary of the intentions of the politicians.

NO BAIL FOR COUP LEADERS

A top Soviet law official last month ruled out bail for leaders of August 19th hardline coup, saying there were too many people at liberty interested in sealing their lips forever.

Deputy chief prosecutor Yevgeny Lisov said much remained unclear about the eight-man 'Emergency Committee', which overthrew president Mikhail Gorbachev for three days. But about appeals by lawyers that seven remaining members of the committee - Interior Minister Boris Pugo committed suicide to avoid arrest - be released on bail, he replied:

"In certain circles, these people are still very influential and once free they could in one way or another impede investigations. Secondly, although this is not my argument, one cannot discount the possibility of suicides. Thirdly, there are enough people at liberty who have an interest in making sure that the accused remain silent for ever," he told the 'Pravda' newspaper weekend edition. He did not elaborate.

Lisov said investigations so far confirmed that President Gorbachev was completely cut off during the coup. "The president had neither a satellite, nor any other link." He said contrary to videotaped statements by some members of the Emergency Committee leaked to German magazines, the coup appeared to have been prepared well in advance.

"It's clear the coup was no spontaneous affair. Documents were drawn up in advance and in great detail. They had given the committee a different name at first - it was to be the provisional committee for the Government of the USSR.

"A special stamp had been prepared and several copies were found in the dark recesses of the Presidential apparatus," he said, referring to the office of Gorbachev's chief of staff, who supported the putsch.

Of the Emergency Committee, only former Defence Minister Dimitry Yazov has admitted guilt, describing himself as an 'old fool'. He is imprisoned along with ex-KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, former Vice-President Gennady Yanayev, Land Forces Chief General Valentin Varennikov and others.

All face charges of treason, which carries a maximum sentence of death.

NATO Drops Chemical Arms Strategy

NATO has dropped a long-standing strategy of using chemical weapons in war, NATO's new strategy, to be approved at a Rome Summit later this month, states that chemical weapons no longer have a role in defending the West and they will be eliminated.

Since 1967, NATO has made secret provisions for limited chemical weapons strikes if an enemy uses them first, despite the fact that their use is banned by a 1925 convention.

The U.S. had earlier this year wanted NATO to sanction the possession of chemical weapons by "individual allies", before President Bush announced a drive to eliminate them worldwide as part of post-Cold War disarmament.

"The new strategy ... has a couple of sentences which say the Alliance's strategy does not depend on chemical weapons and that its new policy is to get rid of them all," a senior Alliance official stated last month.

BLACKS FORM A 'JOINT FIST'

The African National Congress and the rival Pan Africanist Congress joined by 90 other groups opposed to apartheid formed "a fist" aiming to deal President F.W. De Klerk a knockout blow.

The ANC and PAC announced in a joint statement after three days of talks in the Indian Ocean port of Durban, they had formed a patriotic front to coordinate their approach and talks with De Klerk about a transition to democracy. The first step was an all-party congress to be convened by a neutral mediator as soon as possible in order to map out South Africa's route to a universal franchise.

A Government source said he welcomed the call for a congress of political parties to agree on a plan to chart the course to democracy through negotiations. He said the Government was ready to immediately.

It was the first time that the radical PAC, which split from the ANC in 1959, had agreed to any form of negotiation with De Klerk's white Government. Delegates said the two sides did not resolve their differences, but agreed to work together to oust De Klerk.

NUCLEAR ISSUE LOOMS OVER KOREAN RELATIONS

North and South Korea may have taken a small step towards one another by agreeing last month to draft a Non-Aggression Pact, but major unresolved issues still cloud reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula even by four decades of enmity.

Chief among these is the fear in Seoul, Washington, Tokyo and other world capitals that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons. Pyongyang denies this but has refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Whatever North Korea is doing at its Yongbyon nuclear plant north of Pyongyang, this issue must be resolved before North-South relations can substantially improve.

North Korea has virtually guaranteed this by linking inspection to the departure of all U.S. troops from the Peninsula - demands that bear directly on South Korean security and its relationship with the United States.

North and South Korea separated since 1945, also must resolve widely differing approaches to reconciliation and decades of hostility and suspicion to expand their limited agreement into a real accord.

"These people have been aiming at each other for years," a diplomat said. "Old habits will die hard and neither side really trusts the other at all."

Progress in inter-Korean talks has come incrementally, and not by break-throughs. Both countries, for example, began talking in 1984 about fielding a joint sports team.

Over years of talks, proceeding in fits and starts, they doggedly agreed issue-by-issue on a joint flag, its colors, selection arrangements, the team name and joint 'national anthem'. Finally, last year, North and South actually fielded joint soccer and table tennis teams at international events.

Few expect progress on the reconciliation accord to be different. "Progress between these two is always two steps forward, one step back," another diplomat said.

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Wong-Shik and his Northern counterpart Yon Hyong-Muk met recently in Pyongyang and agreed only on the title and format of the proposed agreement, leaving the details and substance to be worked out in meetings between lower level officials and specialists.

While South Korean officials publicly hailed the Premiers' agreement as a "breakthrough", the Assistant Foreign Minister, Mr. Chang Man-Soon stated to reporters, "In spite of such agreement on the form, we do not believe it would be easy to agree on what to put into the document. Whether the planned working level talks will produce any more agreement is a matter to be seen."

Chang and Yon sidestepped the nuclear issue in their talks and agreed it would not be discussed in working-level talks, but it looms as perhaps the main security issue for northeast Asia.

"The Non-Agression Pact is an inter-Korean issue and most people are willing to have Seoul and Pyongyang solve that among themselves," the diplomat said.

Whether North Korea is building a nuclear bomb is an international problem, and one which Seoul's allies would be unwilling to let it resolve alone with Pyongyang, he said. Tokyo and Washington underlined this in reactions to the Premier's agreement, emphasising the need for Pyongyang to submit its nuclear facilities to inspection.

Chang Man-Soon revealed that U.S. South Korean and Japanese diplomats are meeting in Seoul this week for this purpose. Diplomats said they would discuss the next move in their 'coercive diplomacy' to force North Korea to accept inspection. South Korean officials have hinted that U.S. President George Bush will discuss complete withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea in a Seoul visit, expected on December 1. As a matter of policy, Seoul refuses to link the U.S. nuclear presence with inspection of Pyongyang's program.

A public declaration, or at least an authoritative leak, that Washington is removing nuclear weapons, predicted in several U.S. newspapers, would boost Seoul further onto the moral high ground and raise coercive diplomacy a notch. There were speculations that Seoul will take up strong position at the United Nations to press North Korea to sign the nuclear safeguards accord and accept outside inspection of all nuclear-related facilities. Already, ROK Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Roe, pointed, in his October 22nd address at the UN, at North Korea as a nation which has yet to fulfill its obligations to the world in this regard.

ARABIA FELIX?

by: Michael Keating, British Journalist



Yemen inspires a baffling admixture of hope and foreboding in the first time visitor. Hope because Yemen is a young country, pioneering a democratic course in a region short of political freedom, with a willing population proudly aware of the country's glorious past and fully conscious of its future potential. Foreboding because of the herculean administrative, economic and social problems Yemen faces, not just those typical of many poor developing countries, but also the additional challenge of coping with the fall-out from the Gulf Crisis.

Of all the ways to achieving success, the present situation would seem to be a very poor point of departure.

The Gulf Crisis overshadows all discussion about the country's prospects. Was Yemen's political stance during the months after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait courageous or foolhardy? Was it the result of high principle and commitment to democratic expression or just an expensive miscalculation by Yemen's leaders? Such debate generates much heat and little light. But there is consensus, it would seem on at least a number of points. Firstly, that Yemen denounced Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait at a very early stage. Secondly

that western involvement in the crisis arising from the invasion was seen as equally threatening to the region as Saddam's action, if not more so. Thirdly, that it was a stroke of monumental bad luck that Yemen happened to be sitting on the United National Security Council at the time of the invasion. And fourthly, that the economic and social consequences of Yemen's posture during the crisis, morally justifiable or not, have been little short of catastrophic.

Just at the time that newly united Yemen might have been expected to receive increased international attention and support, the country has been cold shouldered by its most important trading partners and aid providers. The available figures make giddy reading. The population increased by 8% in the space of two months in 1990; the country lost up to \$2.3 billion in forgone revenues from remittances from workers in Saudi Arabia, foreign aid, and reduced taxes; assets worth two or three times that amount are said to have been left behind in Saudi Arabia by the returnees who were hurried out of

the country; and perhaps US\$ 1 billion in foreign exchange earnings were lost as Yemen resorted to domestic consumption of its export-destined high quality oil, the collapse of tourism, and the loss of markets for Yemeni agricultural products, notably in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia. To cap it all, donor countries are in no hurry to maintain previous levels, let alone step up, economic and humanitarian aid to the country.

The full social effects of this economic disaster have not yet revealed themselves. The grim squatter communities and shanty towns around Hodeidah and other parts of the Tihama are on a par with some of the worst in the world, whether in the Sub Continent, South Africa or South America. The lack of educational, medical, water, sanitation and other facilities provide ideal conditions for the spread of disease and dependency. And yet, hard as it is to imagine, the signs are that the worst is still to come. Many of the returnees, whether they be the majority that have gone back to their places of origin in the Yemeni countryside, or the large minority settled in camps in the Tihama, and their dependants are living off savings and the sale of assets they brought back with them from Saudi Arabia. Both will soon run out.

In an already contracting economy with high inflation, high unemployment and a high population



growth rate, the future is bleak indeed.

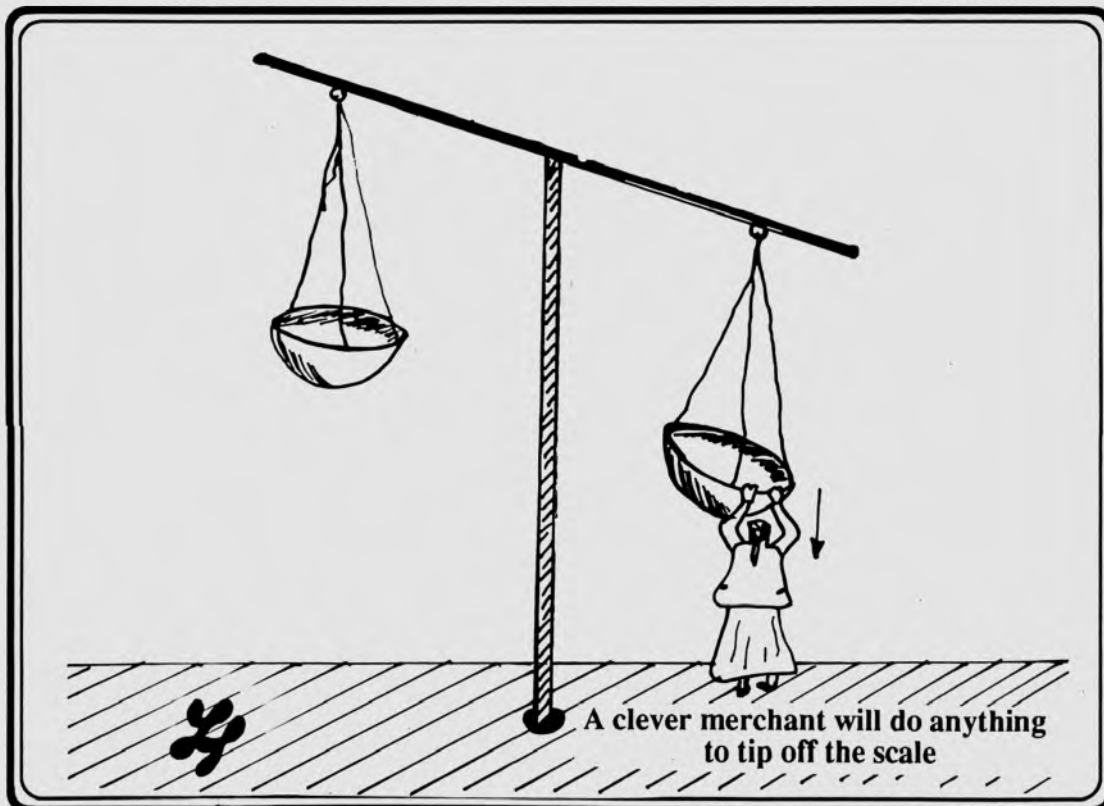
To compound matters, the world remains largely ignorant of this situation. Few in the West could point to Yemen on a map. Some senior Yemen politicians talk of a deliberate campaign by the western media to misrepresent Yemen. The truth is more banal. Yemen is unknown except perhaps to those who followed the diplomatic ins and outs of the Gulf Crisis. The exodus of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis last year from Saudi Arabia failed to capture the attention of the Western public. Moreover, many in Sana'a itself, Yemenis and foreigners alike, strike the visitor as being remarkably casual in their attitude towards the looming crisis. Perhaps they know something that the visitor doesn't; perhaps familiarity with the ways of Yemen dulls their sense of urgency; but then again, perhaps they simply have not woken up to what is coming.

It is all too easy to form half baked opinions in a flying visit. But it is difficult not to wonder, coming from Europe, at the attitude of major western donors towards Yemen. No doubt Yemen's cumbersome and inadequate administrative infrastructure makes the job of helping its people difficult and frustrating. But does this justify don-

ors' reticence in increasing aid and providing major economic incentives to the country? Is it true that some Arab and western donors are punishing Yemen for its role in the Gulf Crisis? If so, for how long will it continue to be penalized when the stakes - multi party democracy and a healthy economy and population - are so high? What is the value to the West of Yemen's experiment in the peaceful unification and democracy, especially when her neighbors are either in the throes of political chaos (as in the Horn of Africa) or simply suspicious, possibly hostile to Yemen's political venture due to their own archaic systems (as in the Arabian Gulf states).

Indeed, many wonder whether one of the lessons that historians will draw from the last 16 months is that political expression in the Middle East is distasteful, even contrary, to western interests, and that on the whole, manageable autocracies are more 'reliable'. And how bad does the humanitarian situation have to become before Islamic and western donors and their public mobilize international support.

The answers to some of these questions may emerge in the next year or two in Yemen. Watch this space.



ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

MAGIC WORD

PARADE

JUMBLES

TAWNY KNIFE EMERGE BOBBIN
How music may be played—and listened to—BY EAR

CROSSWORDS

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