

YEMEN  TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

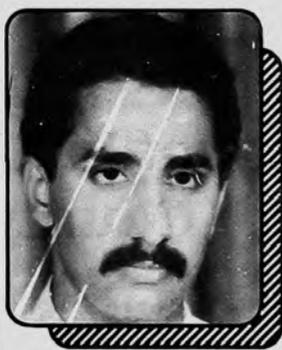
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PERSONAL VIEW**FREE ZONES
INEFFICIENCIES**

ABDUL-HAKEEM AL-KHAMIRI
International bank of Yemen

The most ambitious economic project of Yemen after unification is the transformation of Aden into a free zone. I am compelled to write this piece because of a specific incident.

A (South) Korean entrepreneur, in response to the announcement of the free zone, arrived in Yemen and was interested in investing in Aden. He is a major share-holder in construction companies and chemical plants. He wants to build a plant, but he was short of everything. Then, he began to wonder about a few things. All the paper-work, including the Free Zones Authority is in Sanaa. How will he manage his plant from Sanaa. Then he wondered more after talking to Dr. Baharoon and Mr. Abdul-Qawi Rashad, both board members of the Free Zones Authority. Neither man had any program or plan for the zone. They were both very ill-informed, yet they pretended to know-it-all.

I decided to take him to more people, and I wish I hadn't. It all ended in a big failure, and I was personally embarrassed.

I later learnt that many other companies have returned to their countries empty-handed. Now, of course, the Free Zones Authority has contracted a European (British) company to study how to go about its business. Actually, we only need persons in positions of authority who are interested in their work. It is not a matter of knowing what to do, it is a matter of being interested in what it is we are doing.

I don't understand why our leaders can't choose people who will get the job done, rather than people who will sell us a lot of talk.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS,**IOJ Meeting in Sanaa**

The Council of the International Organization of Journalists will hold its meetings in Sheraton Sanaa during 24-30 November, 1991. The delegates of 110 countries attending the council will discuss the future plans of the organization in international circumstances that are changing rapidly. Mr. Abdulaziz Muqbil, Chairman of the Information Committee of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, which is coordinating and hosting the meetings, told the Yemen Times that the Republic of Yemen was chosen in the last Congress of the IOJ to the post of Vice Chairman. He also said that this is the first time that the IOJ holds a high-level meetings in an Arab country. Mr. Muqbil disclosed that the present time represents a turning point in the 45-year old organization in light of the dramatic changes taking place in the world. "The thrust of the meetings will be to exert efforts to promote democracy, human rights, peaceful resolutions of problems, and international co-existence among nations at a time when selfish interests have become the driving force behind the policies of the big countries," he said.

Regarding the role of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Mr. Muqbil disclosed that full-fledged arrangements have been completed including a full set of documents regarding the evolution of press law and freedom in Yemen, a guide to the press, and, of course, social, tourist and cultural programs.

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
CONTACTS
DIPLOMATIC CORPS**

Members of the foreign diplomatic community in Aden told the Yemen Times that they were surprised to receive a memo from the Ministry of Interior informing them that their leases, once expired at the end of this year, will not be renewed. Although most consulates in Aden already knew that the real estate they were occupying will be reverted to the owners within the current efforts at restoring formerly confiscated property, they were surprised that they should be contacted by the Ministry of Interior. The natural channels, of course, go through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But then again, the Ministry of Interior may have compelling reasons for its direct contact.

**PRESIDENT SALEH RECEIVES
SANAA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS'
SYNDICATE**

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, received on Monday, November 18th, the Sanaa University Teachers Syndicate. The President assured the group of his continued support for the teachers and interest in the university. He also asked the university to contribute by providing the technical and theoretical base for the government efforts. The university teaching staff assured him of their cooperation.

**Continued from p. 1:
Minister Mohsin ...**

With respect to the relationship between the governor and the various local officials, the Minister said that the laws regulate such relations. In any case, locally-elected officials may complain against the governor and may seek his removal, if need be.

Regarding the cooperative movement, which is a spontaneous self-help popular associations, the minister described this experience as something "We are proud of." Therefore, the less the government is involved with it, the more it will be able to function properly, although the government may called up to co-finance or to help in directing local efforts. "My hope is that in such efforts, people will forget their political affiliations, and work together for the betterment of their conditions." In the past, our cooperatives have built over 38,000 kilometers of secondary roads, hundreds of schools and clinics, many water and other projects. But as government officials intervened, the local initiative was sapped. Most of government allocations for local cooperatives were spent by the officials themselves in per diems and festivities welcoming this or that official. "I think the government's final take-over of local cooperatives was a major miscalculation and an unfortunate development. its main aim was to contain local initiative and to make people toe the central line."

"We are now assigned the task of dividing the country along administrative lines. This is in preparation for the coming parliamentary elections. Our plans are to get on with this job as fast as possible so as full preparations for the elections will be under-way. Our plan is now under consideration with the Presidential Council, which will then pass it on to the Council of Ministers, and finally to the House of Representatives for enactment."

With respect to the efforts at returning the real estate confiscated under the PDRY, the Minister indicated that the committee works on many solutions such as:

- Return of the land to the original owner and compensating the current user;
- Agreement between the two parties,
- Joint work between them;
- Compensation.

"We are looking for permanent solutions, and these are hard to come by," the minister said. "We are asking the old folks to guide us in matters regarding ownership."

With respect to the internal re-structuring of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Minister explained that certain re-arrangements were underway.

The final note related to relations between the YSP and its partner in power, the People's General Congress. Minister Mohsin said that there are certain elements who are not interested in the safety, security and stability of the country. "We in the YSP feel sometimes that we are targetted, and that some people want to create animosity between the YSP and others. We will not let it pass easily once we are able to pin down the parties involved."

Mutahhar Taqi:

"It is a learning process for all of us."

Yemen is hosting the Conference of the Council of the International Organization of Journalists during the period 25 - 30 November, 1991. Part of the reason Yemen was chosen as the site for this meeting is the improvements in freedom of the press achieved in this country during the recent past. To cover both developments, Yemen Times interviewed Mutahhar Taqi, Deputy Minister of Information. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: What is your assessment of the tremendous growth in the media and the freedom under which they operate?

A: The improvement in this sector is revolutionary. At the official (government) media level, the improvements in content as well as number of publications is visible. Local contribution to our TV and radio programs have increased, and the quality of the programs themselves have improved. The same is true of the written media. All this was achieved even at a time when resources are limited. I attribute this to individual initiative on the part of the people who work in this sector. In general I feel that the government media has kept pace with the overall political progress of Yemen.

But the real growth was in the private and party media, which is in the form of newspapers and magazines. The constitution has given any Yemeni the right to self-expression, and many individuals and groups have availed themselves of this right. I have heard many people, specially visitors, who express amazement at the large number of newspapers and magazines (there are over a hundred today), as well as the large number of political parties in Yemen. I think this is a natural development, and I believe, with time, only the best and strongest will remain in the market. The others will go under.

Q: Let me raise the issue of your differences with the press. You have filed many law-suits with the courts. What seems to be the trouble?

A: Let me answer this question at two levels. The first is the official level. It is my job to uphold the press and



publications law. It is my job to see to it that no one transgresses the legal limits of the law. I believe that democracy entails also full responsibility. We enjoy democracy and freedom, and this puts responsibility on us in our actions and behavior. Democracy cannot become synonymous with chaos, or destructive behavior. I am not an enemy of the media. It is simply my job to see to it that they operate within the law, specially since the courts finally determine whether there has been a violation or not, and if there is a violation what is the penalty. I want to tell you that we have filed suits against private newspapers as well as newspapers that belong to political parties including the ruling parties—the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. I hope the media understands that we are just trying to uphold the law. That is all.

Let me state here that we are all learning. The Ministry of Information, the media, and everybody - it is a learning process for all of us. We feel our space and we want to establish the rules and the limits.

The second level of my response has to do with my feelings as a citizen. I feel many newspapers, out of their drive to carve out a larger market share, print sensational stories, many of which may not be accurate. But in the process, they do

a lot of damage to the country as a whole, but specially to the well-being of our people. The Yemeni citizen already has many anxieties and worries. Why do we need to alarm him/her even further, as if tomorrow is doomsday for Yemen. I ask myself: "Whom does such behavior serve?"

Q: But could you not talk to these papers and try to sort out the problems amicably instead of filing so many law-suits?

A: Of course we are interested in amicable solutions. But some of the problems are just too serious and they are premeditated. So we revert to the courts. In fact, some people suggested that we employ a full time lawyer to pursue such violations. We are not interested in this course of action. We are interested in a good cooperation the basic line of which are two criteria:

a) That the papers operate within the law;
b) That the papers care about the national interest. I hope, in any case, the media understands that we are not happy to squabble with them, we are just doing our job. Let me give you an example. Today, there are countries that are financing a smear campaign against Yemen. They do not need to do any work. They only have to quote some of our own papers and say, "Hey look! This is what their own papers say!"

Q: How do you see the future of Yemen's media?

A: I am not very optimistic on this count. You see, the world media is based on high levels of technology and know-how. Our media has not been able to catch up in this regard. Let me give you an example. We receive today five international TV transmissions. Very shortly our people will receive them too. How can we compete under such circumstances? We barely are able to understand one level of technology, when all of a sudden it is already obsolete, and something far more advanced is in the market. They say, technology has made the world one small village. I tell you, tomorrow they will say the world has become a small room. From that room you will reach out as far as you want.

Q: Could you shed light on the coming council of the International Organization of Journalists?

A: We have invited the International Organization of Journalists to hold its council here in Sanaa. They have kindly agreed, partly because of the great progress we have made in freedom of the press. Over 115 nations will be represented, and this is the first time this organization holds its council in an Arab country. The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate is in charge of the arrangements and coordination. I think this is a major event, and it will help all these high-level professionals understand Yemen better and appreciate its policies more fully.

Q: Is this part of a new drive to improve Yemen's image abroad?

A: We have neglected our foreign-oriented media in the past, and for good reason. We had to concentrate on the internal front. We think now we can devote more attention to our external image. Maybe the Yemen Times can help in this regard. We are studying all possibilities, in light of our limited resources.

Q: You are one of the senior members of the People's General Congress. How did you first get involved?

A: I was one of the first

batch of people who joined the PGC in 1982. With time I rose through the ranks until today I am a member of the Permanent Committee. Earlier this year, there were elections for the post of Chairman of the Sanaa Branch of the PGC. I was elected.

Q: The PGC is presently undergoing major changes. Could you shed light on this matter?

A: Yes, the Fifth Conference, in which all representative members from through-out the country will participate, will discuss a restructuring of the PGC. This is not new, and most people already know about it. Unlike many other parties, the PGC actually operates in the open with all its cards on the table. From the very beginning, the PGC was born in a healthy and clean way through the efforts of all Yemenis, whatever their political inclinations. It was a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas.

Q: What percentage of the residents of Sanaa do you think are PGC members?

A: I don't have the exact number. But I can tell you this. We started the Sanaa branch administrative apparatus with four zones. We were over-loaded due to the rising number of members, so we moved to a nine-zone administrative structure for Sanaa city. I think we are, by far, the largest party in Sanaa.

Q: We hear of many inter-party rivalries that lead to illegal actions and smear campaigns?

A: First of all, many parties are represented in the House of Representatives and in senior government positions. So it is not just the two ruling parties, as it were. Second, I would like to repeat that this is a learning process for all of us, so I hope we will make the best of it. Third, we in the PGC embrace all others with open arms in our desire for cooperation and coordination.

Q: Any Last words?

A: I hope that we all will strive to protect and nurture the unity, democracy and freedom that we have achieved at great cost.

THE COLUMBUS ORIGINAL MAP - IN TURKISH?

Piri Reis, the chief commander of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean in the last quarter of the 15th century, was also an oceanographer of considerable reknown. His book BAHRIYE is one of the most important works of his times in its field, for it not only explains the cities and places on the Mediterranean coasts with texts and drawings, but also provides important information about navigation.

His masterpiece is the map known as "PIRI REIS MAP" which he drew in color with great care on gazelle skin in 1513 in Gelibolu.

Piri Reis' making use of Columbus' map can be explained as follows:

In one of the Spanish ships which was captured by Turkish sailors in the west of the Mediterranean Sea in 1501 was found some goods brought from America. As known, Columbus returned from his third voyage in 1500. Among those goods it is believed was located his map. Since Columbus' map has not been found yet, Piri Reis' map becomes an important source for Columbus' map.

Did Piri Reis really get Columbus' map and make use of it while drawing his?

Professor Kahle, a German Orientalist who had made long and detailed research on this question, proved that everything written by Piri Reis was completely correct. Kahle made his work public with the papers he presented at the Congress of Orientalists. Later he gave considerable information about the Piri Reis map named as "The Lost 1489's map, A World Map in Turkish dated 1513."

Despite the fact that the discovery of the New World toward the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century was not directly related to the benefits of the Ottoman Empire, Turkish scholars followed this discovery very closely, and showed an extraordinary talent in geography and mapping. This is very important evidence demonstrating the level of civilization of Turks.

The part of the map that we have today which was found by Halil Erdem, Director of National Museums, while Topkapi Palace was being turned into a museum for ancient works is unfortunately only a piece of the whole map. If the other pieces had not been cut off and lost, we would now have a perfect map in Turkish drawn in 1513 showing the Old and the New Worlds together. Columbus returned from his last voyage in 1504 and the known Piri Reis Map of 1513 is considered one of the first maps showing the whole known world just after the new discoveries.

The part that has remained is a piece of the world map. When examined carefully it would be observed that the notes at the edges of the eastern part were cut off. It is believed that the whole map showed the known



THE "PIRI REIS MAP" -
A MAP BEYOND ITS TIME

parts of the world at that time, that is the discovered parts of America, Asia and Europe. Piri Reis, in the notes he put down beside the map, had explained in detail the maps he has seen and examined while preparing his. In the section depicting the coasts of the Antilles, he said that he had examined Christopher Columbus' map showing those coasts and islands. He further drew on the memoirs of Spanish sailor who had gone to America three times with Columbus, maps prepared by four Portu-

guese sailors, maps drawn in the times of Alexander the Great, and the maps prepared by Muslim scholars.

In accordance with the customs of international mapping of the time, cities and castles were shown with red lines, deserted places with black lines, debris and stony places with black dots, shoals and sandy places with red dots and hidden rocks with crosses. A significant point about the map is the names given to the places on the western coasts of Africa. These are purely Turkish names like Ba-

badagi, Akburun, Kizilburun and Guzel Korfez. Another significant feature of the map is that it is not a copy but an original compiled from the information gathered from different maps and other sources. Maybe it is fitting that the world should have an original map, if not the Columbus itself, to commemorate the upcoming 500th anniversary of the discovery of the New World.

From *IMAGE Of Turkiye*, Issue No. 43, 1991.

PRESS AND PUBLICATION LAW; part II

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

CHAPTER THREE CONDITIONS OF WORK FOR ARAB AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

Article (27):

A Journalist may be accredited as correspondent of one or more of the mass media owned by Arab or foreign Governments or organizations, and accordingly he is granted a card as an accredited correspondent.

Article (28):

The Ministry of Information shall accredit, for a period of one year and renewable thereafter, Arab and foreign journalists as correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers, news agencies and radio and television stations so that they are able to carry out their journalistic work within the country. This privilege shall be rendered on a reciprocal basis. It is upto the Ministry to refuse or cancel accreditations.

Article (29):

Arab and foreign journalists

and correspondents of the media accredited in the Republic of Yemen shall enjoy the following rights:

- right of residence for self and family,
- right to a visa for self and family,
- the opening of an office with the permission of the Ministry of Information,
- trips to obtain information throughout the country, the Ministry being kept informed of such plans in advance,
- the privileges and facilities stipulated in the by-laws.

Article (30):

a) A journalist or a correspondent of newspapers or other media working in Yemen shall respect and adhere to the laws and regulations in force and shall also respect the sovereignty and independence of the country, the creed, religious law and the ethics and customs of the Yemeni people. He/She shall not engage in any activity detrimental to the security of the country.

b) All journalists mentioned in (a) shall gather information and news through legal channels.

Article (31):

The Ministry of information has the right to grant

the accreditation card to a journalist or to cancel, withdraw or refuse to renew it or to cancel a licence without giving justifications. Such a step shall result in the loss of the right of residence in the country unless there is another reason for staying in the country and which does not contradict the provisions of this law.

Article (32):

The Ministry of Information shall issue a schedule setting out the conditions under which Arab and foreign journalists may work in Yemeni written, audio or visual media and news agencies.

CHAPTER THREE: ORGANIZATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Part One:

Issue and Ownership of Newspapers and Magazines

Article (33):

The right to issue and to own newspapers and magazines is guaranteed by the Constitution for citizens, licensed political parties,

companies, popular associations and organizations, ministries and Government corporations in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article (34):

Any person who wants to issue a newspaper or magazines shall apply to the Ministry of Information giving the following data:

- Full name and address ,
- Full name, title, address and qualifications of the responsible editor in chief, editors and publishers, if applicable.
- The name of the printing press where the paper will be printed if the publisher does not own his/her own printing press.
- The name of the newspaper or magazine, the language in which it is to be issued, its frequency of issue, its nature and its title. A newspaper or magazine shall not bear the same or a similar name to that of an already existing newspaper or magazine.
- The emblem of the newspaper or magazine whether it is written or drawn or both. It shall not be a copy of the emblem of an already existing newspaper or magazine.
- A statement of the capital of the newspaper or

magazine and the name of its banker/s in accordance with the by-laws mentioned in paragraph (f) of Article 46 of this law.

Article (35):

The decision of the Minister of Information to license the establishment of a newspaper or magazine shall contain the following information:

- The name of the newspaper or magazine.
- Its address.
- Its own printing press if applicable in accordance with the provisions of this law.
- Its nature, whether political, economic, social, cultural, artistic, etc.
- Regularity of issue.
- Responsible editor in chief.

Article (36):

a) The Minister of Information shall grant licence to establish a newspaper or magazine to those who have met the conditions.

b) For those refused licence, they may petition to the courts within thirty days of the refusal date or within the lapse of thirty days of application with no answer received.

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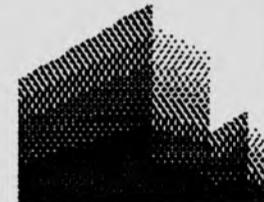
EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A		Palestine	217306/348
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	247755/56	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
China	275337/40/41	Somalia	208864
Cuba	217304	Sudan	265231/2
Czechoslovakia	247946	Syria	247750
Djibouti	265469	Tunisia	240458/9
Egypt	275948/9	Turkey	241395
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France	275995	U.K.	215630/33
Germany	216756/757	U.S.A.	238842/52
Hungary	216679	U.S.S.R	78272/203142
India	241980	Vietnam	216998
Iran	206945/948		
Iraq	216681/790	ADEN	
Italy	73409/78849	Czechoslovakia	32101
Japan	207356/208753	China	32604/30
Jordan	216701	France	32129/090
Korea (Dem)	232340	Germany	32162/011
Korea(Rep)	245959/60	India	53000
Kuwait	216317/319	Iran	31893/361
Lebanon	203959	Italy	31848
Libya	208815/6	Japan	32081/33282
Mauritania	216770	Palestine	32717/340
Morocco	247964	Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
Netherlands	215626/7/8	Somalia	41421/101
Oman	208933/4	U.K.	32711/12/13
Pakistan	248813/14	U.S. S.R.	32729/32625



AIRLINES

Aeroflot	74930
Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda	240896
British Airways	272247
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272435
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airways	240091/240909
KLM78093/76968/270879	
Kuwait Airways	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583/667/678
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/275028
Sabena	205865
Saudia	240958/9/60
Sudan Airways	272503/4/5
Syrian Arab	272543
Yemenia	
Hadda Office	204538/550
Zubeiry Office	260834/5
Abdul Moghni	274803/4
Shoab Office	250833
Head Office	232381-9
Airport	250868/831
Reservations	250800/1



HOTELS

Sana'a (02)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372
Hadda	215214/5
Aden (0911)	
Movenpick	32947/32070
Gold Mohur	324171
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
Mareb	210350
Marib (063)	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459

COURIERS:

Aramex	208887
DHL	275355
Life Express	207885
Skypack	77310



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Telephone Enquiries	118
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Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
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YBRD	271623/4
Banque Indosuez	272801/3
Arab Bank	2409211-29
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
United Bank Ltd	272424

Government Offices:

Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Inter-city Bus Co	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Tourism Ministry	271970/2

GORBY'S DILEMMA: EITHER WAY HE LOSES !

BACKGROUND

The deterioration of Soviet economic performance that began in the late 1970s has continued to this day. At times, energetic efforts appeared to be able to shake the stagnating productive sectors out of their lethargy, but success was short-lived. The chronic nature of the economic deterioration pointed to the true underlying causes - the Soviet system itself. All political and economic activity has been controlled by a narrowly constituted Communist party leadership through vast, vertically organized hierarchies of the party 'nomenklatura' and civil bureaucracy. As the various "fix-it" decrees failed, the system itself began to be questioned.

According to the Sovietologist Richard Ericson, "The deterioration undercuts the legitimacy of the whole political and economic system in which the leadership arrogates to itself ultimate wisdom and absolute responsibility for the nature and direction of development of the polity."

And Ericson drives home the logical conclusion: "The task of how to reverse the slowdown without abandoning the essential nature, characteristics, and objectives of the Soviet system... may not be possible." Unfortunately for Gorbachev, he believed that conclusion to the letter, and started chopping off parts of the old system without replacing with anything. The end-result of this policy is a big vacuum, which is now haunting the Soviet people and leadership.

The Structure of the System

Overall control is exercised by the Communist party, from the Politburo to KGB units to individual enterprises. The executive apparatus is headed by the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, which supervises twenty state committees (such as Gosplan, the powerful central planning agency) and commissions dealing with specific sectors. Fifty ministries are divided administratively by region or category. Some of these have counterparts in the fifteen republics.

The nature of Soviet eco-

conomic distortions has been known for some time, but their extent has been grossly underestimated.

The planning process deals with 24 million products and involves 46,000 industrial enterprises, 23,000 state farms, 27,000 collective farms, 18,500 inter-farm and agroindustrial enterprises, 47,000 construction organizations, and one million wholesale and retail units. The planners control everything from inputs to prices. The main strength of the system is its ability to achieve centrally defined quantitative priorities by massive mobilization of resources. The system was capable of building a heavy industrial base from scratch, collectivizing agriculture, and rebuilding industries in the wake of the devastations of World War II. While the USSR's military might was being sustained and remained unquestioned, other goals such as raising living standards, were neglected.

The list of the weaknesses of the system is far more extensive than its strength. It begins with the burdens imposed by military and other top priorities. The military alone gets 15-17 percent of GNP. The harm to the economy is far greater, though, because the military receives the best quality inputs, labor, and services. To insulate it from the vagaries of a heavily bureaucratized system, military-related production received extra allocations of raw materials, energy, spare parts, etc.

The civilian economy could ill afford such deprivation. As the economy matured, the planners' task became ever more complicated, leading to growing inefficiencies. In the interest of control, choices were made at a level superior to those who are directly affected. Enterprises have no legal alternatives to existing economic relationships (with their suppliers, for example,) no flexible response capability (for lack of unused capacity), and no access to information to make



proper management decisions. Increasingly, they became dysfunctional, particularly as orders from above were revised and re-revised under the stress of the deteriorating economy. When Gorbachev gave partial autonomy of decision making to enterprises their dysfunctional behavior was only made worse. Lacking full authority to manage, managers use the new liberalizations to make their captivity within the system more livable. To obtain incentive awards, they tend to inflate results by expanding the production of allegedly new, higher-priced goods of better quality, often by changing the label or color. Anticipating continued breakdowns of the materials allocation system, they amass more inventory than ever. Because partial changes are alien to its logic, the system rejects them. The fundamentals (property rights, price policy) are not changing. Instead, a steady stream of new minireforms replaces those that failed.

The Numbers Game

Over the years, as the planners handed down unreasonable quantitative orders, managers and bureaucrats learned to reciprocate in kind. They sent back an undertow of distorted reports that enabled everyone to keep up the pretense that all was well. The reality behind this Potemkin village can be described as significant price inflation, particularly in machine building and construction, one-sided errors in aggregation, the inclusion of useless production and waste in net output figures,

and outright fabrication, all driven by the strong incentives throughout the economic system to exaggerate output and performance.

The nature of these distortions has been grossly underestimated by such authorities as the CIA, on whose estimates U.S. policy was based, and even by the Soviet leaders themselves. With the coming of 'glasnost', some courageous Soviet economists started to debunk the puffed-up statistics. Foremost among them is G. I. Khanin.

In the 1980's, the numbers game finally collapsed, reduced to an object of public ridicule not only by keen-minded statisticians, but also under the weight of undeniable microeconomic evidence. All the shocks administered by 'perestroika' notwithstanding, capital productivity continued to fall and unfinished construction to grow, even in the face of diminished investment. Useless output continued to fall and unfinished construction to grow, even in the face of diminished investment. Useless output continued to pile up inventories at rates exceeding the growth of production. Waste in intermediate product and materials use, waste and inefficiency in agriculture, and quality and assortment problems became increasingly obvious.

The Future Is Uncertain

To succeed, Soviet economic reform must become much more radical, abandoning all central planning and price controls. Such changes will be difficult to

implement because they attack the very nature and legitimacy of the political system. Furthermore, their fruit will take time to mature while the chaos brought about by the uprooting of the traditional system would be immediate. Some analysts fear the alternative, as one put it: "There is one potential alternative that may be turned to more in frustration than in hope: a thorough re-Stalinization of the economic system. This need not involve mass terror, though it would clearly require a reversal of the policy of increasing glasnost, and of the political reforms."

At the same time, foreign help assumes a critical role in the reform scenario. The kind of help that Gorbachev secured from West German Chancellor Kohl may be just the 'deus ex machina' he needs to keep political pressures at bay while he tinkers with further reforms. Either way, the Soviet economy is in for great difficulties at least for the remainder of this century.

How successful the coming reforms will be is related to the political competition between Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev. As president of the vast Russian Republic, Yeltsin seems willing to contemplate the uprooting of the political fundamentals of the Soviet system (central control) as his recent reform packages indicated. This enabled him to propose his "500 days" plan truly radical economic reforms including decontrol of prices. Hard-pressed by the progressive collapse of the economy, Gorbachev seems to be leaning in favor of drastic reforms, but has not quite committed himself. The future of the Soviet union may well depend on the outcome of the reform planning undertaken jointly by Yeltsin's and Gorbachev's economists in early 1992.

Yet the political fall-out and the rapid disintegration of the USSR may not allow Mr. Gorbachev the time he needs to pull it together, as he says. In the final analysis, the juggling act may be a bit more than what he had bargained for. Either way, he is probably destined to come out empty-handed!

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

Continued from p. 5:

The Press and Publications Law, part II:

The licence of a newspaper or magazine shall be considered void in the following circumstances:-

a) Any change in the information presented to the Ministry upon application for licence unless the Ministry of Information is informed of the change within 10 days.

b) For daily newspapers if they fail to appear regularly over a period of three months, and for weekly magazines for six months and for quarterlies for a year.

c) If the newspaper or magazine is not issued during the six months following the issuance of its licence.

d) If the owner asks for the cancellation of the licence.

e) If the company licenced to issue the newspaper is dissolved.

f) After the death of the owner, if the heirs are unable to issue the newspaper regularly over a period of one year from the date of the death.

Article (38):

Two or more newspapers may be merged, in which case the individual licences are cancelled and applications shall be made for the issue of a licence to the new single newspaper.

Article (39):

a) A person licensed to issue a newspaper or magazine or his representative shall inform the Ministry of Information in writing of any change in the information contained in the licence application at least one week before it becomes effective or if the change was unexpected, within a week of its occurrence.

b) If the change involves the appointment of a new editor in chief, the legal requirements for such post must be observed. The appointment shall be announced in the newspaper or magazine. If the change involves the owner, name or emblem of the newspaper, then the change must be made public in another newspaper or magazine.

Article (40):

The conditions of Articles 34 and 35 for establishing newspapers and magazines do not apply to political parties, popular organizations, ministries or other government authorities.

Article (41):

Political parties, popular organisations, ministries and other government authorities shall notify the Ministry of Information of the names of the responsible editor in chief and team of editors and shall give notice to the Ministry of any change within ten days of its occurring. The bodies referred to in this Article shall register their newspapers, magazines and special publications with the Ministry of Information.

Article (42):

The editor in chief shall bear full responsibility for everything published in the newspapers of political parties, popular organisations in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article (43):

Every newspaper and magazine shall have an editor in chief who shall be directly responsible for everything published in it and shall exercise effective control over all its contents. It shall also have a number of editors responsible to him who exercise an effective control over the various sections. The publisher of a newspaper may be the editor in chief or a responsible editor if he/she fulfills the conditions set out in this law.

Article (44):

A newspaper or magazine shall carry the names of the editor in chief, the publisher, if any, and the printing press on each copy. It shall also carry the date of issue, the rate of subscription, the price per copy and the frequency of issue.

Article (45):

Annexes may be published by newspapers and magazines provided they carry the same name as the original publication, the first page of which must point to the annexes.

Article (46):

The owner of a newspaper or magazines must:

a) be a Yemeni citizen,
B) enjoy full civil rights,
c) not have been found guilty by a court of law of any offence against honor or integrity unless he/she has been rehabilitated according to the law,

d) if the publisher is shareholding company, all its equity must be owned by Yemenis,

e) provide capital to the newspaper or magazine on the scale specified in the regulations issued by the Ministry of Information. Newspapers of political parties, popular organizations, ministries and other Government authorities are exempt from this provision.

Article (47):

a) With the written consent of the Minister or Information, the owner of a newspaper may divest him/herself of ownership to another citizen who meets the conditions stipulated in the law

b) The person divesting him/herself of ownership shall apply to the Minister of Information giving the information and documents necessary to prove that the new owner will fulfill the conditions laid down in this law.

Article (48):

A newspaper may publish an article under a pen name provided that the real name of the writer is known to the newspaper.

Article (49):

A newspaper may obtain information, data and statistics from their sources and has the right to publish them or not.

Article (50):

The editor in chief shall accept material for publication submitted by the public. He may refuse to publish any such material if it contravenes with the

provisions of this law. Writers from among the public whose articles have been refused by the newspaper may appeal to the Minister of Information.

**Part Two:
Financial Regulation
of Newspapers and
Magazines:****Article (51):**

Newspapers and magazines are strictly forbidden to accept donations or gifts of any sort from non-Yemeni bodies whatever the purpose of such donations or gifts.

Article (52):

It is forbidden to advertise for subscriptions of any item leading to fines, fees, or compensation due from the owners or employees of newspapers.

Article (53):

Owners of newspapers and magazines shall keep standard accounts based on commercial principles and shall select chartered accountants to supervise the accounts and audit their annual budget.

Article (54):

The Ministry of Information shall have the right to look into the financial documents, accounts, budgets and vouchers to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the law. The Ministry's employees in charge of such responsibility, shall preserve the confidentiality of the newspaper's accounts except in case of violations of the law.

Continues NEXT WEEK

ARAB UNITY!

In a few weeks, we will bid the year 1991 "Good bye". What have we achieved during this year. A quick look will show that we as Arabs have lost plenty in this year. Actually, we have been on a losing spree over the last forty years.

The conditions of Arabs, who own the factors necessary to create an important and strong nation, continue to deteriorate. The main reason for our degradation is our leaders. Our leaders have placed their private interests above the interests of the people. Thus, our leaders have been pulling the masses in the path of surrender. Every year brings more humiliation and disaster. For how long will this continue? Because, once the people rise, the first to feel the brunt are today's leaders.

As far as I am concerned, the only solution is through Arab unity, without which we can aspire to achieve nothing. But Arab unity is confronted by the trivial differences among Arab leaders, mainly because the rulers worry about their seats of power and thrones. Actually, these powers are only a facade as our rulers have no real power since they are puppets. So, what difference should it make to them.

Of course, our enemies do not want us to unite and they work very hard to keep us divided. Their main tools for dividing us are the rulers. Yet, the Arab people cry for a meaning in their lives, which cannot be achieved without unity.

Take as an example our inability to handle the State of Israel which every day grabs more Arab land and kills Palestinian children and women. Why are we so helpless? Because we are divided and we work against each other!

Your Majesties, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, or whatever we call our rulers, when will you realize that without Arab unity, we will be unable to achieve even the most modest accomplishment. This is our only path for salvation!

by:
Mahdi Mohsin Aina',
News Reporter,
Prime Minister's Office

AVAILABLE NOW

The Yemen Times has now available the full texts of the following laws in English:

- The Constitution = YR.100
- The Political Parties Law = YR.80
- The Press & Publication Law = YR.80
- The Mining Law = YR.80

Yemen Times will hand deliver your orders in Sanaa. For orders from out of Sanaa, the cost of mail will be added.

Please place your order by fax: 236434, or call us at 236435, or write to P.O.Box 2579, Sanaa, Republic of Yemen.

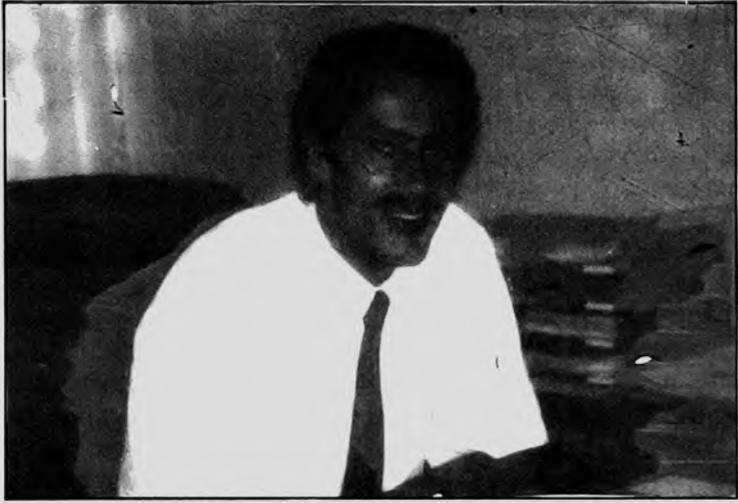
Quantities are limited!

Aden Hotel Manager: "BUSINESS IS LUCRATIVE!"

Mr. Andreas Messmer, General Manager of the Aden Movenpick Hotel, is a happy man. In a statement to the Yemen Times, he expressed full satisfaction with the growth in business. "The hotel is full all the time," he said. In September, the occupancy rate was 98% and in October it was 99%. "We plan to keep it that way for the foreseeable future," he told the Yemen Times. Our clientele is mainly oil-related, and the boom in this sector, means more business for us, he said. "We will strive to provide them with top quality service," he promised. Asked about any difficulties, he mentioned that paperwork regarding the hotel's special

needs such as certain high-quality products for our guests to a long time to process. "I hope the people in charge of import licences, the customs officials, the Aden governor's office, and other relevant people will appreciate our situation and will assist us in providing the service that our guests deserve," he pleaded. Other difficulties such as communication systems are already on their way to resolution.

As far as manpower training is concerned, Mr. Messmer disclosed that the Movenpick group has plans to train Yemenis in the many hotels that they manage world-wide. We have plans starting from 1992, he confirmed.



ALYEMDA PLANS ABORTED

Mr. Saeed Naji Sinan, Vice General Manager of Technical Affairs, Acting General Manager of ALYEMDA, told the Yemen Times that the airline's expansion and aircraft replacement plans (1991-2000) have been aborted due to the merger with YEMENIA (Yemen's other national carrier). He said, "The first phase of the plan had called for the replacement of the old Boeing 707 planes with the new medium-range Airbus 310 planes. The second phase of the plan had anticipated the introduction of the longer-range Airbus 340 planes in our fleet."

Mr. Sinan further explained that ALYEMDA had signed a memorandum of understanding on May 19, 1990 with the manufacturers on this matter. "We even reached financing agreement on good terms with Banque Indosuez," he added. "All these arrangements were based on the approval of the Council of Ministers before unity of the country," he stated. The ALYEMDA official is dismayed at the merger efforts. "We are a successful company making healthy profits. Why we need to merge with anybody," he concluded.



Taher Rajab:

The new banking law has many strong points.

The managers of the commercial banks are not too happy with their level of contact and cooperation with the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY), according to Mr. Taher Rajab, Chairman of the Commercial Banks' Association of Yemen and Acting Chairman of the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development (YBRD). "We used to meet quite regularly with the CBY to exchange views on the developments in this sector. But for over one and a half years, we were not invited to meet with the CBY," he said.

Therefore, we took the initiative and met on our own (on Saturday November 16th) to discuss matters of importance to our banks and to the economy as a whole, he added.

Commenting on the new banking law, Mr. Rajab explained that the draft of the bill had been circulated to the banks for their feedback. "Some of our ideas were incorporated in the law, others were not," he indicated.

This law makes many real improvements on the previous system. It raises the level of advance facility to clients (used to be 10%, now it is 15% of capital per client), it stabilizes percentages of deferred profits until provisions are double the paid-up capital, and it legalizes the Association of Commercial Banks in Yemen. Above all, the new law establishes the Reconciliation and Arbitration Center, which has court-powers. "In the past, the differences between banks and customers were referred to the courts, and due process of law takes a very long time. Now, this center, which has powers equal to that of a court law, will be able to decide on differences in a very short time," Mr. Rajab explained. The CBY and the Ministry of Justice are presently discussing the by-laws and details for establishing the center.

Regarding the overall conditions of the banking sector in Yemen, the Chairman of the Banks' Association, said that the banks reflect the weaknesses as well as strengths of the economy. "At the moment, things are pretty



down," he said. In terms of specific issues concerning the commercial banks, he indicated that the banks are presently working on three topics.

First, we are discussing the need for a code of conduct in inter-bank cooperation. The commercial banks feel they need a set of rules to govern their relations and cooperation. This has to do with many things including customer relations and marketing policies as well as exchange of information. "We have to be able to trust one another," Mr. Rajab explained. This matter has been reverted to the Manager of the International Bank of Yemen to work out a preliminary draft.

Second, according to CBY instructions, we require our clients to deposit, in foreign exchange, 100% of the L/C value before we open it. Most importers buy their foreign exchange requirements from the local market and deposit the same with their banker in cash. Today, the bank is stuck with this money. The CBY refuses to take any cash foreign exchange, and it refuses to allow the bankers to repatriate any foreign exchange to their foreign accounts. So, what will the banks do with this pile of foreign cash. "We have agreed to write a letter to the CBY to investigate the wisdom of its position and how to reconcile it with our needs".

Third, there is a new CBY practice. When a bank draws on its account with the CBY in favor of a client, instead of paying, the CBY issues another check drawn on another bank. This doubles the work in money collection. Asked what he thought the top priority of the CBY should be in helping the banks, Mr. Rajab said that the CBY should boost con-

fidence between the banks here and their correspondent banks. "The first step in this regard should be to help clear up the nearly half a billion in foreign commitments (of which 60% is YBRD related). The CBY is more able to handle this problem more than the banks, especially since the L/Cs were originally underwritten by the CBY. "Maybe it could even be taken over as part of the national debt owed to foreign parties. In any case, a step in this direction would free the commercial banks from a major burden. It would allow them, specially the YBRD to achieve new vigor in their activities."

Asked about what he thought of the way the CBY handled the BCCI-Yemen situation, Mr. Rajab said, "In my opinion, the CBY did a good job in this case. I would like to also point to the positive role played by the Yemen Times in this matter. Through the fact that you were able to obtain accurate and detailed information, and print a few articles analyzing the standing of the BCCI-Yemen, you were able to create a certain degree of confidence in the bank."

He added that when the BCCI-Yemen paid out the first instalment of deposits, people became quite sure their money was safe, irrespective of the international BCCI situation. "I hope additional steps are taken immediately to help this bank, because delays will only add difficulties," he indicated.

With respect to YBRD plans, the Acting Chairman pointed out that the bank, in spite of its difficulties, is trying to branch out to cover the major cities in the southern and eastern governorates. "We already have a branch in Aden, and we hope to open more as they become viable," he went on to say. He also indicated that the bank is going to introduce new services and facilities for its customers. "As the leading and largest bank, we must break new grounds in this sector," Taher Rajab said. "Given the oil prospects, economic conditions should improve, and with them, banking will flourish."

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY!

BY YEMEN TIMES
STAFF WRITERS:

Background:

Some of them had lived in Saudi Arabia for forty or even fifty years. Their children, and their grandchildren were born in Saudi Arabia. All of a sudden, one day they woke up and they were told they had one month to leave the country. What happened, how did it happen, why did it happen? They asked questions to which they could find no answers. The Saudi regime simply showed its ugly face, and mercilessly pushed out one million Yemenis who had been part and parcel of Saudi society.

"I had to leave behind all my belongings - the furniture, the fixed assets, and especially the house," one returnee told the Yemen Times. But the best description came from one educated returnee who is looking for work in Sanaa. "Have you seen that Clint Eastwood movie - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," he asked. Puzzled, we answered, "Yes, what about it?" The answer was very convincing. "We the returnees are the good, the Yemeni officials are the bad, and the Saudi authorities are the ugly," he explained.

The Good:

Almost a million Yemenis have lost their livelihood. Many of them are still unemployed, and some, as many as 100,000 are in shift-camps in the Tihama. They are the victims of political quarrels. Upto date, they are eating away on their savings. What will happen when these savings disappear? Nobody can tell and everybody is calling the problem a time-bomb. We feel time is running out.

The housing conditions are appalling, the health conditions are critical, and there are no real services - in education or water, or drainage, or electricity, etc. The perplexing thing is that mosques and religious institutes, however humble, are built in these camps. That is probably not the service these people most need at this moment. These people need attention immediately. They also need jobs immediately. The frustrations and helplessness has lead many to embark on crimes.

These are decent people victimized by heartless political decisions.

The Bad:

The Yemeni authorities are oblivious to the tragedies of these people. Most of them are comfortable in their villas and palaces and exhibit

extreme indifference to the suffering of the returnees. Most officials are busy making money, even in illegal ways.

In some cases, what the returnees in the camps need is very simple. Electric polls have been erected, and all they need are wires to connect to the homes of these people (please refer to the picture). A small clinic is built in the Salakhanah camp, but the doctor does not come. All that is needed is to make the doctor come, specially in light of the many diseases that plague the camps. Water pipes pass close-by the camps, all that is needed are a few pipes to bring the water to the camp, and the people will then come and get it. These and other simple things are urgently needed; yet, our officials can't care any less.

The Ugly:

The Saudi authorities were angry at the Yemeni position in the Gulf crisis, and they took out their vengeance on the people. Yet, the Saudis only needed a pretext to do what they did to the poor workers.

The Yemeni position on the Gulf crisis was clear. Yemen was the first country to denounce the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It issued a strongly-worded communique on this matter. Yet, when the American-led coalition forces moved into the region in preparation for a military solution, Yemen objected. Yemen's position was that the countries of the region should be given the opportunity to resolve this problem peacefully.

No matter how this position is to be explained, the Saudis made their move and jeopardized one million lives. The international humanitarian organizations objected, and complained against the Saudi steps, but no one heeded their calls.

What Now?

The Yemeni government remains in logger-heads with the Saudi authorities. According to the Yemeni side, they flush the record at you. A Foreign Ministry source described it like this:

"Look, we have constantly supported resolution of problems peacefully. You



cannot name one instance in which Yemen went for a military solution. Look at Lebanon in which we worked for a peaceful resolution of the problem. Look at Afghanistan. We denounced the Soviet steps and continue to call for a peaceful resolution. Look at our efforts in Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Even more, Yemen supported the peaceful negotiations

in Madrid. To us it is really simple. We push negotiated and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Gulf Crisis fell within the same category. We objected to Iraqi annexation of Kuwait and we told Taha Yassin Ramadhan on the 3rd of August during his visit to Sanaa that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait immediately. Refer to the record and you will find it."

Aden MÖVENPICK HOTEL

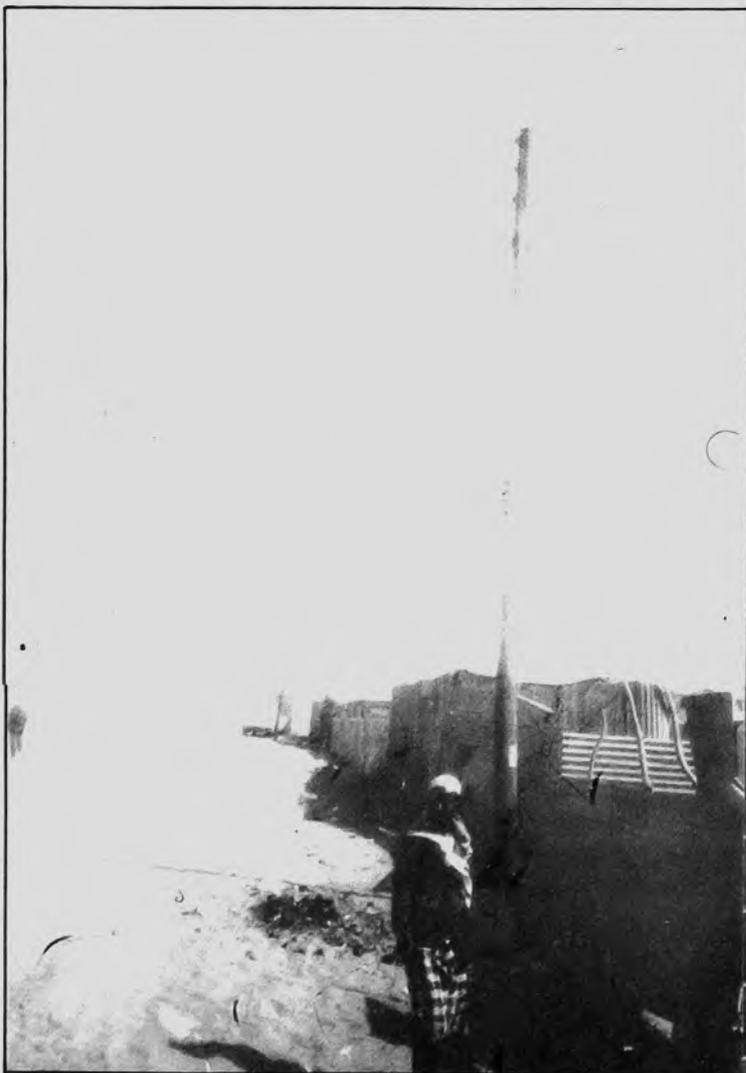


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- Try our mouth-watering dishes at the Reedan Movenpick Restaurant.

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A WORLD OF ITS OWN!



TEMPS DU YEMEN

LA SEMAINE

Conseil des ministres
Réuni sous la présidence de Haïdar Abou Bakr al-Attas, le conseil des ministres a arrêté les résolutions suivantes :

- Fixation des prix des produits alimentaires de première nécessité ainsi que des prix des médicaments;
- Intervention de la Banque centrale dans le financement des importations des produits alimentaires et médicaux;
- Contrôle de la distribution de ces produits dans l'ensemble de la République;
- Réduction des dépenses gouvernementales par la diminution du nombre de ses représentants du corps diplomatique, la suppression d'un certain nombre d'ambassades et de leurs annexes à l'étranger ainsi que le nombre de missions à l'étranger;
- Adoption des mesures nécessaires afin de faire fructifier les investissements de créer ainsi de nouveaux emplois.

Augmentation de 25% des salaires des fonctionnaires de l'administration et mise en place, en leur faveur d'une couverture sociale à partir de 1992.

Samedi rouge
Le tribunal pénal de Sana'a a émis hier une sentence de mort

L'enquête a démontré, d'après l'autopsie de la victime, l'homicide volontaire. Les deux accusés ont fait appel. Cet événement avait suscité de graves troubles à Sana'a que la presse d'opposition, évoque désormais par le nom de "samedi rouge".

Médias

Lors d'une rencontre avec les responsables des médias officiels yéménites, le premier ministre, Haïdar Abou Bakr al-Attas a sollicité leur adhésion à la politique gouvernementale ainsi qu'à sa défense. Le premier ministre a exprimé son intention de réunir périodiquement les représentants des médias afin de les tenir informés de la position gouvernementale sur diverses questions ainsi que d'échanger les points de vues, en signalant qu'ils leur incombent d'être positivement critiques dans le but de corriger tout abus ou dépassement du pouvoir.

Ouverture de la faculté de l'Information à l'université de Sana'a, en présence de Mme Raoufa Hassan, directrice du département, de Abdel Aziz al-Maqaleh, Recteur de l'université et du vice-recteur, Abou Bakr al-Qirbi, et du corps enseignant.

Source : Al-Thawra

Campagne de presse

La presse gouvernementale yéménite s'est lancée depuis le 11 novembre dans une violente campagne destinée à répliquer aux attaques de la presse saoudienne contre le Yémen. Afin de donner davantage de crédibilité aux critiques formulées contre le régime saoudien les informations sont fréquemment puisées dans des organes de presse étrangers.

Al-Thawra consacre ainsi son éditorial du 12 novembre aux relations saoudo-yéménites, rapportant les déclarations du président Saleh aux journalistes français (A2) et britanniques (BBC), les qualifiant de fraternelles et de bon voisinage, ainsi que la disposition du Yémen à discuter avec l'Arabie Saoudite de la question de frontières. Toutefois, poursuit l'éditorial et malgré la coexistence des deux peuples à travers l'histoire, une haine sous-jacente visant à nuire aux deux peuples, fait planer sans cesse, la menace de l'expulsion des émigrés yéménites sur le sol saoudien, mise à exécution l'an dernier.

D'après la revue d'opposants saoudiens "Al-Jazira al-Arabia" et le rapport de l'organisation mondiale des droits de l'homme les persécutions se pour-

suivent contre les résidents yéménites en Arabie Saoudite.

Citant le correspondant du "New York Times" à Zahran en Arabie saoudite, reportage diffusé lundi sur les ondes de la "Voix de l'Amérique", Al-Thawra du 13 novembre indique que des mesures seraient prises pour contrer le premier anniversaire de la manifestation des femmes "au volant". D'après la correspondante Judith Miller du même organe, de nombreuses "illuminées" (esprits libres) souffrent du manque de liberté d'expression et attendent en vain d'obtenir l'autorisation de former leurs syndicats et unions.

L'accusation facile de mécréant suivi d'une sanction bien connue (la pendaison) est d'une pratique courante et dissuasive.

Les rumeurs de corruption répandues pendant la crise du Golfe ne figurent pas dans la presse saoudienne qui se contente de rendre publique les scandales des autres pays. Le royaume saoudien a annoncé il y a quelques mois qu'il apportait une aide urgente à l'Union soviétique et à certains pays de l'Europe de l'Est, ainsi que des prêts estimés à des milliards.

Il est à se demander ou se trouvent les priorités dans ce domaine. Les richesses sont à partager et c'est au peuple de décider comment.

Rappelant au royaume saoudien le principe de non-ingérence dans les affaires intérieures l'éditorial du 14

poursuit les attaques des jours précédents :

- Le principe de la réciprocité étant le code de la politique extérieures du Yémen; cette contre-critique constitue une réponse aux attaques dans la presse à la solde du régime saoudien.

- Les revenus des puits de pétrole n'arrêteront pas la marche de la démocratie au Yémen.

- La lutte entre deux générations saoudiennes, sous ce titre le Herald Tribune a publié un article du correspondant du NYT dans lequel il est fait mention de la controverse entre deux générations saoudiennes sur le statut à accorder aux femmes. La famille Saoud essaye en vain de satisfaire les wahabbites sur le plan intérieur et les libéraux sur le plan extérieur.

Faute de pouvoir s'exprimer librement la presse saoudienne en est réduite à des campagnes ridicules et exagérées.

ENTRETIEN AVEC **M. FRANCK MERMIER**
DIRECTEUR DU CENTRE FRANCAIS D'ETUDES YEMENITES

Vous avez pris vos fonctions de directeur du CFEY il y a quelques semaines-Pourriez-vous expliquer la fonction d'un tel centre et son origine ?

FM : Le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites a été créé en 1982, il est rattaché au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à la sous-direction des sciences sociales et humaines. Il a pour fonction principale d'être l'intermédiaire entre la recherche française au Yémen et les autorités yéménites représentées par les institutions de recherche locales. Parmi ses autres fonctions il y a également le développement de la recherche française au Yémen dans les domaines de l'archéologie pré-islamique et islamique ainsi que dans les domaines des sciences sociales représentées actuellement par l'anthropologie, le droit, la linguistique, l'histoire, la géographie, l'urbanisme, l'architecture et la muséologie.

Quels services apportez-vous aux chercheurs qui viennent au Yémen ?

FM : Le service principal, de par la fonction d'intermédiaire entre la partie yéménite et la partie française qu'exerce le Centre, est de faciliter le séjour des chercheurs français au Yémen en leur fournissant des autorisations de recherche. Le centre est l'interlocuteur privilégié des autorités yéménites et leur soumet les programmes de recherche français. Parmi les autres fonctions, l'hébergement est important puisqu'il permet aux chercheurs de passage d'avoir immédiatement accès aux autres services du Centre : documentation (bibliothèque) ordinateur, photocopieuse. *Quels sont les points*

forts de la recherche française au Yémen ?

FM : Il en existe plusieurs, dans le domaine des sciences sociales on peut dire que les études urbaines sont en pointe puisque plusieurs équipes de recherche se sont intéressées à l'étude de la vieille ville et des nouveaux quartiers de Sana'a. On trouve également un programme de recherche sur les mutations du système juridique au Yémen ainsi que d'autres portant sur la linguistique, notamment l'étude des langues sud-arabiques modernes ou des dialectes arabes du Yémen.

Après les sciences sociales l'autre pôle majeur est l'archéologie, les travaux portent sur la préhistoire et pourraient donner dans les années futures des résultats très importants, pour l'archéologie pré-islamique plusieurs missions françaises travaillent depuis longtemps au Yémen dans les régions du Sud comme du Nord. En collaboration avec les autorités yéménites elles font de la prospection, des fouilles ainsi que des travaux épigraphiques. Pour la période islamique des chercheurs français

ont étudié des bâtiments remarquables à Rada', Zafar Dhi Bin et Al-Asnaf. *Quels sont les domaines inexplorés jusqu'à maintenant pour les sciences sociales ?*

FM : Plusieurs domaines restent inexplorés ou très peu représentés, on peut mentionner la géographie, l'histoire, la science politique et la démographie. Une des fonctions de notre Centre sera de développer ces champs de recherche soit en les intégrant dans les programmes existants soit en favorisant la création de nouveaux programmes.

Existent-ils des priorités pour le CFEY ?

FM : La priorité est la création d'une série de

publications propres au CFEY ou seraient publiés les travaux marquant de la recherche française au Yémen, éventuellement en français et en arabe afin de favoriser une plus large diffusion auprès du public et des chercheurs yéménites. D'autre part nous avons aussi un projet important qui pourra servir de lien entre les chercheurs français et les chercheurs yéménites ou étrangers, le CFEY doit en effet, lancer un bulletin qui pourrait être annuel dans un premier temps et permettrait de faire connaître les publications yéménites récentes et également les programmes de recherche et les activités du CFEY.

Dans quelle mesure la présence d'un centre de recherche étranger est-elle profitable pour le pays d'accueil ?

FM : La présence d'un centre de recherche étranger peut-être très bénéficiaire pour le pays d'accueil par le fait qu'elle permet à ce pays, à ses chercheurs, de connaître les développements récents de la recherche dans le pays. Ces Centres peuvent notamment être des lieux de rencontre et d'échange scientifique et donnent l'occasion aux chercheurs étrangers de présenter leurs méthodes d'analyse appliquées au terrain yéménite. D'autre part ces centres de recherche étrangers peuvent favoriser la diffusion des travaux effectués par les chercheurs yéménites en direction de leurs collègues étrangers. Ainsi la fonction principale de tels centres est d'instaurer un courant d'échange entre les chercheurs et faire que les théories, les techniques les méthodes d'enquête et d'analyse qui sont expérimentées dans plu-

sieurs pays soient un objet de débat entre chercheurs d'origines différents.

Par le passé certains chercheurs étrangers ont eu des difficultés à travailler au Yémen. Pouvez-vous les expliquer et comment comptez-vous éviter cela à l'avenir ?

FM : Il est vrai que par le passé, avant la réalisation de l'unité, certains chercheurs étrangers ont pu rencontrer des difficultés pour effectuer leurs travaux. Elles ont souvent surgi du fait que ces chercheurs ont choisi des terrains de recherche situés dans des régions isolées qui ne permettaient pas, en fait, leur circulation. Aujourd'hui les problèmes semblent se régler après l'unité. UN des moyens d'éviter ce type d'obstacle est de renforcer la coopération avec les institutions yéménites et de promouvoir des recherches communes entre les parties françaises et yéménites. *Votre doctorat portait sur le souk de Sana'a et l'organisation municipale. Avez-vous d'autres projets ?*

FM : Un des projets que j'ai est l'édition de cette thèse en un ouvrage qui synthétiserait les différents travaux que j'ai poursuivis durant mon enquête de terrain et après la soutenance de ma thèse. Un second projet est d'étendre cette recherche, qui portait sur la vieille ville, aux nouveaux quartiers de Sana'a et de ce fait je participe à un programme de recherche interdisciplinaire portant sur l'expansion urbaine à Sana'a.

La bibliothèque du CFEY est ouverte aux personnes intéressées, pour tous renseignements téléphoner au 77523

**CINEMA AU
CCF DE
SANAA**

-Hardi Pardalian, samedi 23 à 19h 30
 -Les Cavaliers de l'Orage, lundi 25 et mercredi 27 à 19h 30
 -Les Disparus de St Agil, samedi 30 à 19h 30
 Et toujours les expositions : "Ecrivains français au Yémen", "gravures rupestres yéménites", "peintures récentes de Fouad Al-Foutaih".

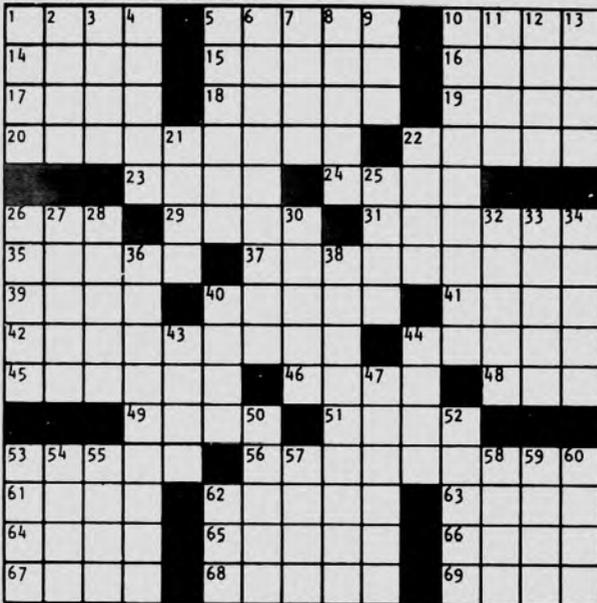
**UNION DES
FRANCAIS DE
L'ETRANGER**

La section locale de l'UFE a invité Mme Marie-Antoinette Isnard, déléguée au Conseil Supérieur des Français de l'Etranger à rendre visite à la communauté française de Sanaa. Ce sera l'occasion de promouvoir l'image du Yémen en France et, plus spécialement de créer de nouveaux courants d'affaires et de confirmer ceux qui existent déjà. En raison de ses responsabilités Madame Isnard, qui a des liens étroits avec les milieux d'affaire sera à même de transmettre des messages aux secteurs économiques concernés. Elle se tiendra à la disposition de tous les Français à l'ambassade de France le 25 novembre de 9 à 12 heures.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Puts away secretly | DOWN | 38 Play of sorts |
| 1 Succulent plant | 41 Smoothing device | 1 Fast horse | 40 Give employment to |
| 5 Atomize | 42 Trenchantly witty | 2 Not on tape | 43 Depend |
| 10 Enjoy a book | 44 Use money | 3 Molding | 44 Half: pref. |
| 14 Latvian port | 45 Inferior racehorse | 4 Planet | 47 Fresh like the spring |
| 15 Destroy by degrees | 46 Strong feeling | 5 Safe | 50 Scarlett or John |
| 16 Unctuous | 48 Authors' works: abbr. | 6 Practical | 52 Overcharge |
| 17 Prove to be true | 49 Butterine | 7 Ms. Barrett | 53 Metal refuse |
| 18 Church council regulation | 51 Opponents of R's. | 8 Worship | 54 Fountain order |
| 19 Prod | 53 Frightening | 9 Strong desire | 55 Pinnacle |
| 20 Certain sweetener | 56 Tropical cyclone | 10 Two-way excursion | 57 Atop |
| 22 Work on dough | 61 Places | 11 Ireland | 58 He had an Irish Rose |
| 23 Injure | 62 Ito's land | 12 Tiny plant | 59 Verne captain |
| 24 Mild oath | 63 Biblical brother | 13 Tinted | 60 Great spirit |
| 26 Exist | 64 — mater | 22 "Citizen —" | 62 Fighter's punch |
| 29 Mineral bed | 65 Redolence | 25 Spaces | |
| 31 Patriotic song | 66 Peruvian city | 26 With great surprise | |
| 35 Donates | 67 Scottish | 27 Adversary | |
| 37 Mild | 68 Highlander | 28 A Peron | |
| 39 Urgently eager | 69 Laborer | 30 Item for bravery | |
| | | 32 Seraglio | |
| | | 33 Short jackets | |
| | | 34 Repairs | |
| | | 36 Newspaper article | |

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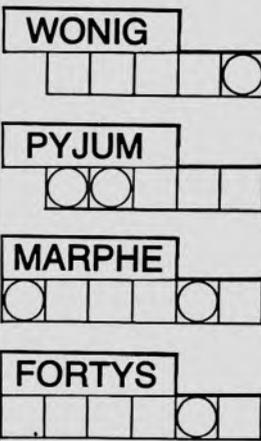
MAGICWORD

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.

MORE THAN WORDS (Sol.: 10 letters)
 A-Action, Assist, Award; B-Beam; C-Care, Contribute; D-Devote, Donate, Donor; E-Embrace, Emotion; F-Faith, Favor, Feeling, Flowers; G-Genial, Gift, Give, Grant, Grin; H-Help, Hold, Hope, Humane; K-Kind, Kiss; L-Laugh, Lean on, Lend a hand, Look, Love; N-Notion; R-Radiate, Reach out; S-Sense, Show, Smile, Soul, Surprise, Sympathize; T-Touch, Trust; V-Vision; W-Warmth, Wave

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



WHAT IT MIGHT BE FOR THE PITCHER TURNED CROOK.

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

Print answer here:

WORDS OF WISDOM

Words may be the most powerful weapon in the world. Parades are contagious. ***

The past is our best guide to the future, so try to remember your mistakes and successes. Try not to meddle with things you couldn't change, no matter how hard you tried. ***

In matters of love, letting your emotions rule can either be the best or worst thing you can do. Some people are in love with the idea of being in love. ***

And it's darn hard to figure out which is the right move. A person with true character knows that victory is never absolute and isn't always necessary. ***

NREZIHTAPMYS WHR
 OATESIRPRUSOCOS
 NDUFEELINGHUNEE
 AIBETELIMSOOIVN
 EAITSLSGIFTDCRIS
 LTRAUURUERAGGE
 EETNRCDOMWARMTH
 NMNOTNHBSKWEVOL
 AOODICRHTIAFPFA
 MTCKAASSISTLHAU
 UIOECHOLDSEAOVG
 HORETNARGHABPOH
 LNNOITONFLOWERS
 VISIONHLDGENIAL
 EVAWNTETOVEDBEM

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIXTEEN
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Astronomers say that on Pluto, the sun would appear no brighter than Venus does in the Earth's sky in the evening. That really explains why it's so cold on that tiny, faraway planet. ***

Nadine Gordimer this year became the first woman in 25 years to win the Nobel Prize for literature. The last female winner was Nelly Sachs. ***

give away gifts to his buddies. The cost can be enormous, so some golfers are now buying insurance policies that pay thousands of dollars if they make a hole-in-one. It's one of the few insurance policies that people can't wait to collect on! ***

The Last Post in Falls Village, Conn., is a feline retirement village for nearly 350 cats. ***

In Japan, a golfer who scores a hole-in-one is required by custom to throw lavish parties and

Doris Day's original name was Doris von Kappelhoff. ***

SLAPSTIX
 THE EARTH IS A
 BIG BULGE REVOLVING
 ON ITS TAXES

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THE FAR SIDE

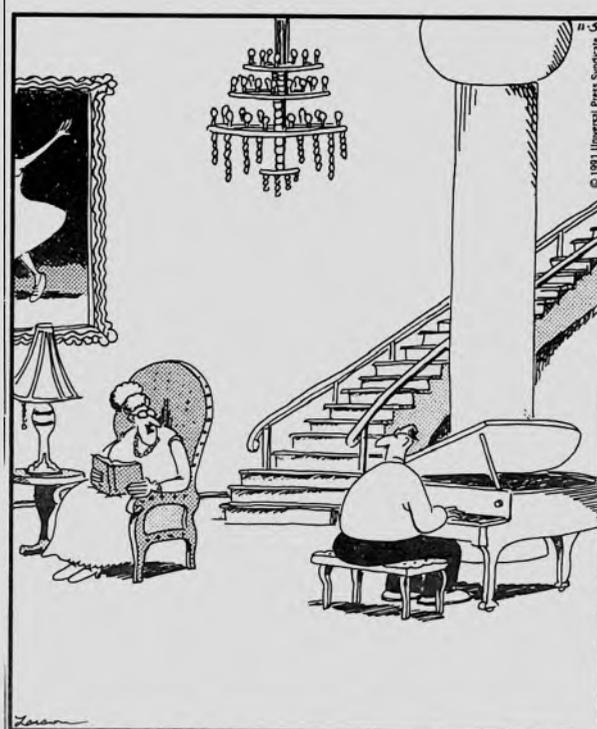
By GARY LARSON



By blending in with the ostrich's eggs, Hare Krishnas are subsequently raised by the adult birds.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Why don't you play some blues, Andrew?"

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Sun favoring Uranus helps clear the confusing areas in your personal life.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Progressive career and financial developments this week. A low-keyed approach is best.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Numerous breakthroughs in understanding. Educational pursuits are favored.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) You can get through heavy emotional scenes without nary a scratch.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Excellent partnership possibilities. Equality is a must. Stay financially conservative.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Developments take place that make your ideal home life possible. Relationship harmony, Monday.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your words go right to the mark, but focus on others' positive qualities. Business success.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Domestic growth and happiness. Successful educational pursuits. Avoid being naive.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Knowledge is power, and the more of it the better. Make firm decisions.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Profitable quiet times. Love with a colleague may develop. Guard secrets and information.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Influential social ties continue to aid you early in the week. Seek peace, not conflict.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) An extra sparkle is in your eyes. Love with Libra or Leo. Greater public acceptance.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Your idealism empowers you to succeed this week. Personal artistic triumphs.

If You Were Born This Week

Your personal life is super-energized right now, making for temperamental displays, or a dynamic time for new projects. Keep impulsive expenditures in line in December. Expand communication skills in January. Possible travel related to business. Surprise letters and visits.

SILVER JEWELRY - A VISITOR'S DELIGHT

Only one generation ago, silver-smiths working in tiny shops in Souq Al-Milh in Sanaa, Souq Al-Shanini in Taiz, and many cities and towns of the country, were a common sight. But slowly, as tribal women of Yemen no longer sought the more traditional types of jewelry, preferring instead to buy the glittering gold that increasingly filled every window in the gold shops, these smiths have all but disappeared. In Sanaa, about a dozen or so silver-wear shops display silver jewelry in traditional designs. There are many others, however, who do produce the traditional silver jewelry in the countryside. Yet, most of the products on sale today are not of recent vintage. According to one of the shop-keepers in Souq Al-Milh, "Most of the supply comes from rural women who transform their jewelry from silver to gold."

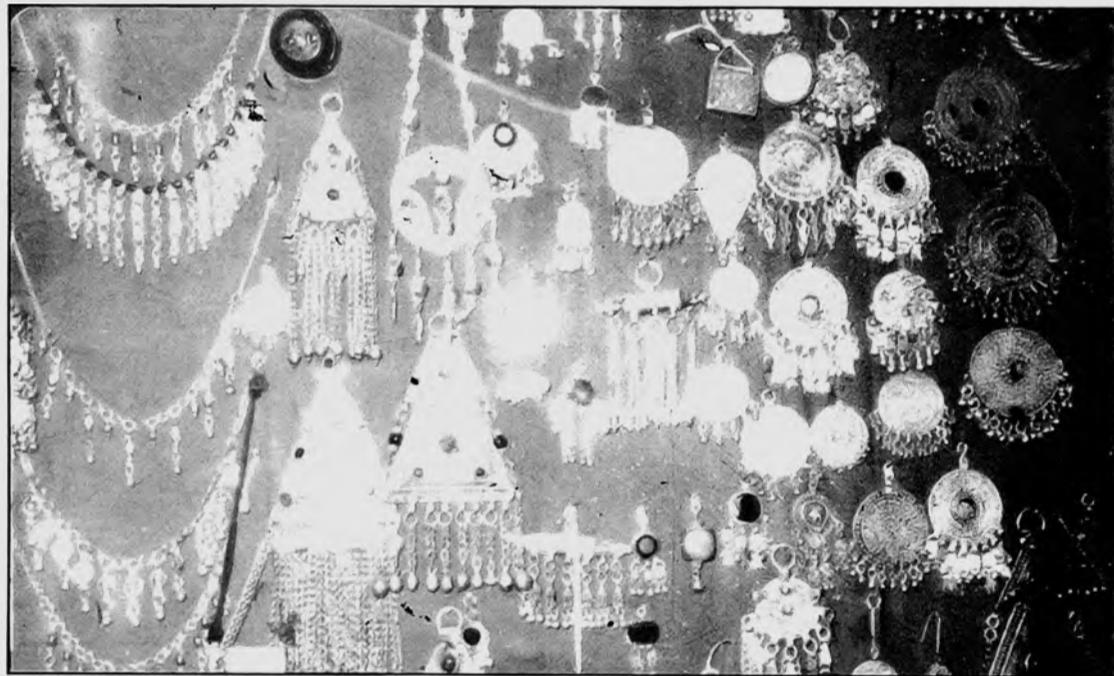
Most often, the stones, particularly the blue beads, are said to protect the bride from the "evil eye". Some stones were worn to make a woman's husband love her, others to stimulate the production of milk during breast feeding, and some more for healing purposes. Perhaps the most commonly worn pieces of jewelry were the bracelets known in Souq Al Milh as "shumailah" or "khilkhal" in Taiz, and "shawaliyah" in Aden, several of which would be worn at the same time on both hands. There are different size and shape bracelets most of which are slipped on around the narrowest part of the wrist and are decorated with bands of metal and precious stones.

But the most famous of Yemeni silverwear are really the necklaces known as a'qd. These are two types. The traditional band-like necklace that is worn tight on the neck as a

gree, niello (silver decorated with black enamel) and incised work. Hanging from them, on tiny silver strands are crescents, coins and other charms.

The earrings, called "akhras" or "wazagh", come in many varieties and sizes. Some are tightly snugged on the ear-lobe. Others are suspended with long chains decorated with charms and semi-precious stones.

One more thing to look for are rings. The very thick, wide and heavy rings, inset with a single semi-precious stone and decorated with filigree and incised work, were more often worn by men than women. But today, you will hardly see a man wearing a ring, unless of course, it is a wedding ring, which is in gold. Female silver rings come in breath-taking shapes and designs. Yet, any one of them would cost less than US\$10.



Silver jewelry has formed an integral part of the feminine costume in Yemen for centuries. Worn everyday by rich and poor, old and young, city and village women alike, the jewelry was much more than a means of adornment. It represented a woman's social and economic status. A portion of the dowry is paid in jewelry for the bride to keep or dispose of at her own discretion. Of course, today, the jewelry is in gold rather than silver. The jewelry, as in the past, is entirely the property of the bride. The different stones, predominantly turquoise, ag'ate, coral and amber beads, also carry special significance because they are amulets.

choker is known as lazim. The second kind is the type that is suspended on the chest. This second type comes in many varieties of designs and sizes. These silver necklaces adorn women and give them spectacular beauty and charm. Among the most traditional necklaces are the ones that carry cubes of precious stone such as amber, aqeeq, etc. One of the most popular pieces suspended from silver chains of necklaces are triangular, rectangular or cylindrical sealed cases or amulet into which verses of the Quran are inserted. These are known as the "khatma". These small cases are often elaborately decorated with semi precious stone, fili-

One more piece of silver-wear is the "ma'asab" which is a band worn over the forehead. Most of these have suspensions of light chains and they come in various width.

Although these forehead bands are not practical any more, many foreign women delight their guests by wearing them for special events.

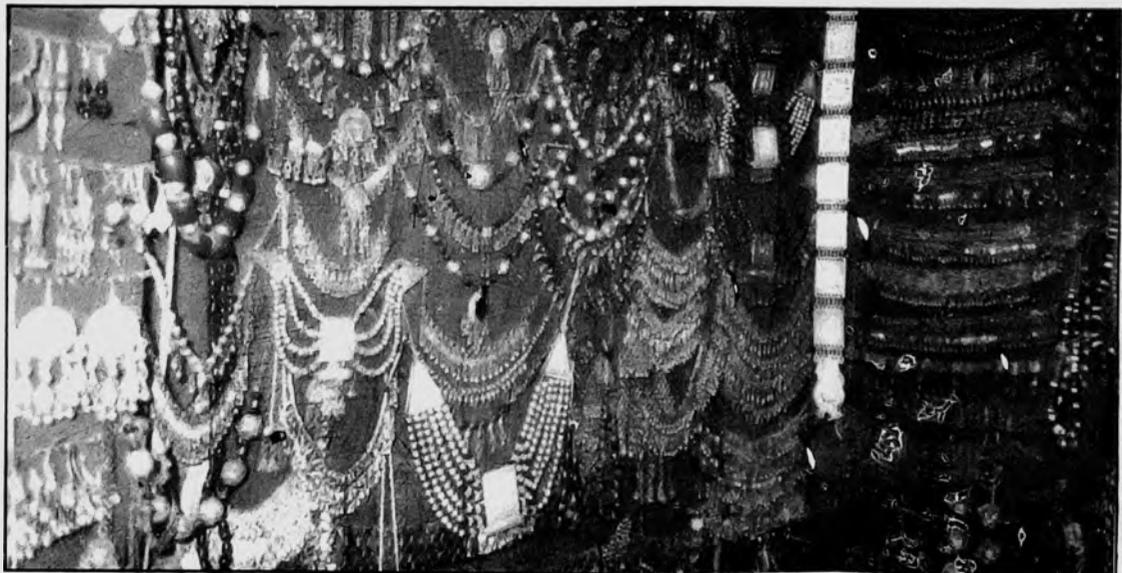
One final piece is the silver belt or "hizam". This is an elaborate piece which is quite heavy. But for the beautifully built woman with a good figure, it is a fantastic opportunity to show off.

All these designs were very popular among Yemeni women during the first half of this century and probably during the preceding centuries, too. As most of the jewelry in a particular area was produced by the same crafts-men, most of the women would have similar pieces of jewelry, the only appreciable difference being in value. Traditional designs have been influenced over the years by

jewelry from other countries and particularly by foreign silversmiths from the northern Arabs in Syria, Jordan, and the Hejaz as well as from overseas such as India and further.

In the past, the main source of silver was from coins such as the Maria Theresa and Turkish coins, to which copper was added to give the jewelry a sheen. Today's silversmiths use European and Indian silver mixed with a small proportion of brass to make it more malleable.

This craft is definitely headed towards extinction, and the supply continues to dwindle. Yet, for the visitor, it is an opportunity of a lifetime - to buy part of Yemen's heritage for a few dollars, and to carry home a souvenir which will no longer be available in the market in the near future.



MADRID - A THRESHOLD IN MIDDLE EAST HISTORY. BUT WHAT NEXT ?

They have met before - Israelis and Palestinians. But often there was a rifle, a roadblock or a detention order between them. In Spain, they met as equals. It was a major legal achievement for the Palestinians and an important psychological break-through for the Israelis. And the result was surprising. They told jokes. They talked about their families. They drank coffee and ate cake during the break. Both invoked God's will: The Arabs said "Inshallah", the Israelis "Im Yertzeh Hashem".

It wasn't all sweetness and light. The Palestinians demanded that Israel stop building settlements in the occupied West Bank. The Israelis demanded that the Palestinians cease their violent four-year-old uprising.

They couldn't agree on a site for future talks. But they did agree to talk again - soon.

"It's gotten off to a better start than I would have expected," said U.S. Secretary of States James A. Baker III, the key architect of the talks.

The goal is to allow the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli rule to run their own lives - to elect leaders with genuine powers, freely administer their city halls - if at least during the interim period. At the end, however, they are to create their independent state, if they so choose. For the moment, the talks are the interim period. During the third year of this period, talks would begin to negotiate the permanent fate of the territory.

The arrangement, while not ideal, suits both sides for the time being. It reflects the broad changes in the regional balance of power: The decline of the Soviet Union, which was the Arabs' main backer, the resulting growth in U.S. influence and American willingness to twist the arm of its spoiled ally in the region - Israel.

Although the self-rule proposal doesn't go all the way to specifically promise the Palestinians the independent land they want, it does envisage an end the interference of the Israeli military in their daily lives and holds out the hope of a permanent solution to this 43-year problem.

Israel hopes that agreement with the Palestinians will snuff out the uprising, which has been tying up large numbers of security forces and distracting resources from the country's top priority - the absorption of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

Israel needs U.S.-backed loan guarantees to build housing for the Soviet immigrants, and the negotiations with the Palestinians will likely enhance its prospects. It also opens the possibility of meaningful existence in the Middle East itself.

Relations between Israel and Washington have become increasingly strained in recent months, as the US leadership went out of its way to prove it can become the "impartial" arbiter it claims to be in this conflict. Recently, President Bush prevented congressional consideration of Israel's \$10 billion loan guarantee request until January, 1992.

Whatever their motives, when the chiefs of Israel and the Palestinian delegations emerged from five hours of talks one Sunday in Madrid, they opened a new chapter in their relationship.

Israel is still the occupier. And it still has designs on the same land where the Palestinians want to erect their state. "We feel all of our history seeping through that ground," said Israel's chief spokesman at the talks, Benjamin Netanyahu. "That land is an inseparable part of our identity." Responded his Palestinian counterpart, Hanan Ashrawi: "Bluntly it's outright theft of our land and resources." Beyond the rhetoric, some significant decisions were made.

Israel agreed to negotiate from now on separately with the Palestinians - something it refused to do in the Madrid peace conference.

It had insisted that the Palestinians come to Madrid under the umbrella of a Jordanian delegation so as not to provide legitimacy for an independent Palestinian entity.

Now the Israelis and Palestinians will be together without Jordanian involvement - likely in two or three weeks, Ashrawi said after Sunday's talks. Many hurdles still stand in the way, but a beginning has been made towards Palestinian statehood.

OMAN CHOOSES THE PATH OF DEMOCRACY

The Sultanate of Oman celebrated its national day on October 18th. The celebration this year was specially significant as the Sultanate declared its intention to become the only GCC state with an elected parliament. This step comes as the keen-minded Sultan Qaboos one more time, gauges the international world opinion which no longer tolerates violations of human rights and lack of democracy and freedom.

Yemen marked its enthusiasm to the birth of a second democracy in the Arabian by sending out Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council, to participate in the national day festivities. Yemen and Oman enjoy exceptionally warm relations.

Let us hope the other GCC countries see light and embark on efforts to democratize their archaic systems.

NEGOTIATE THE AFGHAN KNOT !

The Cold War is over, and many regional problems are being tackled earnestly with the aim of resolving them through negotiations and diplomatic efforts. Why has the Afghan knot been side-stepped in this regard?

The Afghan issue cannot be resolved by military force, even if the USSR withdraws all support from the Kabul government. Even if a military solution were feasible, its costs would be so high that it cannot be taken as the right course of action.

Many countries can play a positive role in the resolution of the Afghan problem specially some of the neighbors. Yet, it is really upto the Afghans themselves to find a solution to their knot.

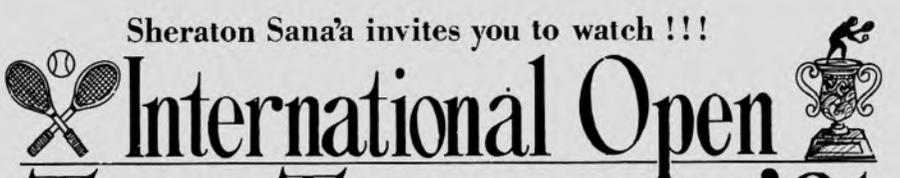
A beginning has been made in the recent talks between the Mujahideen coalition and the USSR leadership. But it would be one step better if the Afghans talk to each other.

ZAID BIN SHAKIR FORMS GOV'T.

H.E. Shareef Zaid Bin Shakir has been chosen to form the new Jordanian government, in replacement of the government headed by Mr. Taher Al-Masri. Mr. Shakir, who is a relative of His Majesty King Hussein, enjoys considerable prestige and reputation for his clean and effective record in the past. Informed sources indicate that the new government will include many personalities from outside the parliament, although these would need to have connections within the parliament to allow the government perform properly.

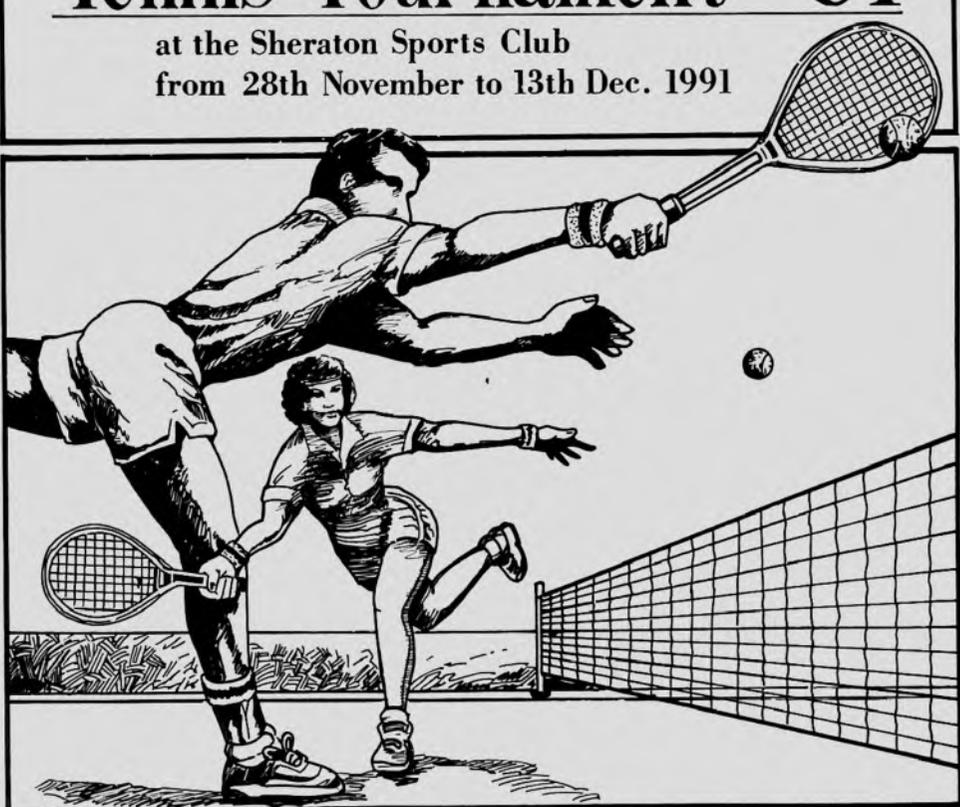
In the meanwhile, many political blocs in parliament have expressed willingness to participate in the new government and to support it. The only major exception is the Islamic Bloc which makes its participation in any government conditional on its renouncing the Middle East peace process currently organized by the USA.

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Awards ceremony will be held at AL-KAWKABAN Ballroom on Friday 13th December 1991, 7:00 P.M. onwards.

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GERMANY'S REUNIFICATION PROBLEMS

A little more than a year since German reunification, the country's economy still faces major uncertainties.

While the upswing in the western part of the country is still continuing, albeit at a slower rate, after 8 years, the economy in the former East Germany still remains in a deep depression. But there are increasing signs that at least some sectors of industry there have hit bottom and that recovery could get underway in 1992.

The gross national product in the "old States" - meaning the former West Germany and West Berlin - rose by 4.5% in the first half of 1991. In the second quarter, the rise was 4.8%, at the same time that investments were 8.8% higher. No weakening of growth rate in western Germany is expected for the second half of 1991.

While foreign demand has fallen off considerably in the course of the year and domestic demand has topped out, the high volume of orders on West German firms' books and the corporate investment plans will assure further economic growth.

In September, order book volumes in western Germany were sufficient to 3 full months' worth of production, compared to 3.1 months in June. Capacity utilisation was 87.2%, still very high although lower than the 89.9% level in September 1990.

Nearly 90% of west Germany companies therefore still view their current business situation as being "good or better", according to the most recent survey of several thousand companies by the German Council of Industry and Trade (DIHT).

However, 22% of the firms surveyed see a deterioration ahead. The machinery sector, traditionally the strongest export branch, is starting to suffer from declining orders.

At the same time, 27% of western German firms plan more investment for 1992 than they carried out this year, while 24% will be investing less, the DIHT survey found.

Production in western Germany is still humming along at a high level, even through a slowdown is clearly apparent.

In July and August output fell by 1% compared to the preceding month, while still being 3.1% higher than in July - August 1990. New orders however were only 1.1% higher.

All this contrasts strongly with development in eastern Germany, where the economy once again declined.

Last summer, industrial output was running 43% below that of the summer of 1990, and new industrial orders were 47% lower. The GNP in the former East Germany, according to a recent forecast by the five leading German

economic institutes, will drop 19.5% this year, nearly the same as the 1990 plunge of 20%.

As dramatic as these developments were, they were still not as bad as the 25% GNP plunge which some experts had been predicting for the former East Germany this year.

Moreover, there are signs of improvement. Demand and production in the five eastern German states have largely stabilised since mid-1991, while the construction trades and such services as banking, insurance, and gastronomy are recovering.

For 1992, experts foresee eastern Germany's economy expanding by 12%, even though, in view of the preceding slump, it will not add up to a real economic boom.

Nor will the expansion next year make any dent in the huge number of unemployed east Germans in view of the many unprofitable companies with their inflated payrolls.

In September there were 1.03 million jobless in eastern Germany, for a rate of 12%. By the end of 1991, the number of jobless is expected to reach 1.5 million. By comparison, in western Germany where the labor force is nearly four times as large, unemployment is steady at 1.6 million people, for a rate of 5.4%.

The east German economy at the moment is mainly running on the huge public sector and private investments being pumped into the infrastructure.

As a result, orders in the construction industry during the third quarter were nearly 80% higher than in the second quarter. More than one-third of the building firms in September planned to hire more people, compared to only 17% in August.

For 1992, the construction industry in eastern Germany expects a real increase in building investments of 10 to 15%.

Meanwhile privatisation of formerly state-owned East German firms is continuing. By the end of the year, the number of companies privatised will reach about 4,000, with the investment sum laid down by purchasers reaching 70 billion marks (\$42 billion).

In 1992, west German firms are planning to invest about 60 billion marks in the former east Germany, while those eastern Germany firms still remaining in the state's hands will receive investment money totalling 15 billion marks.

The problems associated with reunification have been more than anticipated. If Germany, with all its advanced manpower and economy, faces these unemployment and other difficulties, no wonder that poor Yemen, which also underwent a peaceful reunification, should have major difficulties in unemployment, inflation, and other problems.

EUROPEANS MOVE AHEAD WITH MONETARY INTEGRATION

Central bankers from the twelve European Community states met in Basel last weekend and approved the draft statutes for a proposed European Monetary Institute.

Under the EC's drive toward monetary union, the EMI would be operational in 1994 as part of a transition to a single EC currency and Central Bank. It will co-ordinate the monetary policies of the EC states, paving the way for a central bank that will run EC monetary policy.

The EMI is to be charged also with managing the European Currency Unit and promoting its use in the run-up to a single currency.

As currently planned, the EMI would disappear once all EC states have accepted a single currency and joined the central bank.

All EC members, except Britain which has consistently resisted European integration, have agreed to begin the transition to a single currency and central bank in January 1994. A central bank would not see the light of day until at least 1997.

Dividing EC members were provisions of how the EMI will be governed. Most favored a 12-member board, made up of central bank governors. But France and Italy preferred also a president and vice president to give the EMI's weight and independence. Notably Germany opposes this, arguing it would send confusing signals to markets and undermine the EMI's credibility by creating the notion it is autonomous from EC central bank.

EC countries compromised by creating an EMI chief-of-staff position. Also to be worked out are provisions for EC central banks to move toward fuller independence from their governments before an EC central bank is created.

Britain, for example, may have to rewrite the Bank of England's charter to grant it more latitude from government policies.

One official said the EMI statutes would contain a provision requiring governments to refrain from trying to exert authority over the EMI through their central banks.

How to exercise monetary authority when the EC states have fixed exchange rates but have not yet moved to a single currency was a major item discussed, an official said. The issue is complicated by provisions allowing some EC members to move to a single currency while others retain their national currencies for a little longer under temporary exemptions.

Also undecided is the issue of where to site the EMI. Luxembourg, London, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, among others, are vying to host the European Central Bank which will likely be based in the same city EMI is located.

The central bank governors must finish their drafting work before a December 9-10 EC summit in Maastricht, the Netherlands. At the summit, the EC leaders are to sign a monetary union treaty that is still being negotiated.

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IOJ OFFICIAL:

"We meet in Yemen to underline our appreciation for the major political improvements in this country."

The International Organization of Journalists is going to hold its Council meetings here in Sanaa during 25-30/11/1991, which will be preceded by a three-day meeting of the organization's executive committee. Shuttling back and forth into Sanaa was Mr. Mazen Hussein, the Deputy Secretary-General who was instrumental in finalizing arrangements for the Sanaa meetings.



The IOJ is an international body which was established in 1946 with the aim of promoting democracy, human rights, and above all the safety and protection of journalists in exercising their rights in freedom of expression. which seeks to Yemen Times interviewed him on IOJ and many other topics of interest. Exerpts of the interview:

Q: How and why did you choose Yemen for these meetings?

A: First of all, we got an invitation from the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. But this is usually a formality, because we usually receive more than one invitation. This time, for example, we had a European alternative for our meeting site. The main reason we came to Yemen is to show our appreciation for the recent developments in Yemen - peaceful and negotiated reunification, political pluralism, strong democratic orientation, respect for hu-

man rights, freedom of the press, etc. In my opinion, these are major breakthroughs, which we wanted to underline.

We have been preparing for this event for over six months. You will recall I first came here in June 1991 to study the situation and to consult the Yemeni officials. I met with many senior officials foremost among whom was President Ali Abdullah Saleh. I reported to the executive committee which took a unanimous decision to come to Yemen.

Q: Could you shed light on this meeting?

A: This is the meeting of the second highest-ranking body of the IOJ. About 120 delegates representing 110 countries are going to arrive here. In addition to national journalist syndicates, also coming are regional groupings of syndicates such as the Federation of Arab Journalists, the Federation of

Latin American Journalists, the Union of African Journalists, the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists, etc. We are expecting full attendance.

Q: What is on the agenda?

A: It is upto the executive committee to decide the agenda and the time-table. But I think that issues to be discussed will include a follow-up on the Harare Congress decisions, the action plan and budget for 1992, and the auditing commission's report. Foremost among the issues that concern us at this stage is the issue of safety and protection of journalists. During the last two years, for example, over 200 journalists have been killed while doing their job. I don't mean they are accidentally killed in wars, they are simply bumped off by parties interested in silencing them.

Q: What is envisaged in this regard?

A: We plan to take action

at several levels. We have discussed the matter with the UN Commission for Human Rights, whom we are urging to set up a post of Rapporteur dedicated simply to the issue of safety and protection of journalists. He would study this subject to the Commission. Then we have constant contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross. We also coordinate with organizations of other professions such as jurists, lawyers, etc. Over and above all that, we try to mobilize international opinion by creating a concerned public opinion. At our own level, we try to choose locations for our meetings based on our appreciation for major improvements (such as the case of Yemen now), or locations of major concern to us (such as our Bogota, Columbia meeting in September 1991).

Q: The IOJ is 45 years old. How do you see it evolving?

A: I think the 11th Congress at Harare, Zimbabwe was a milestone in the history of the organization. Prior to Harare, the IOJ was under the domination of the East European countries which used it as an instrument of their foreign policy. We can say Harare returned the organization to its members. For the first time, an organization of this size and importance

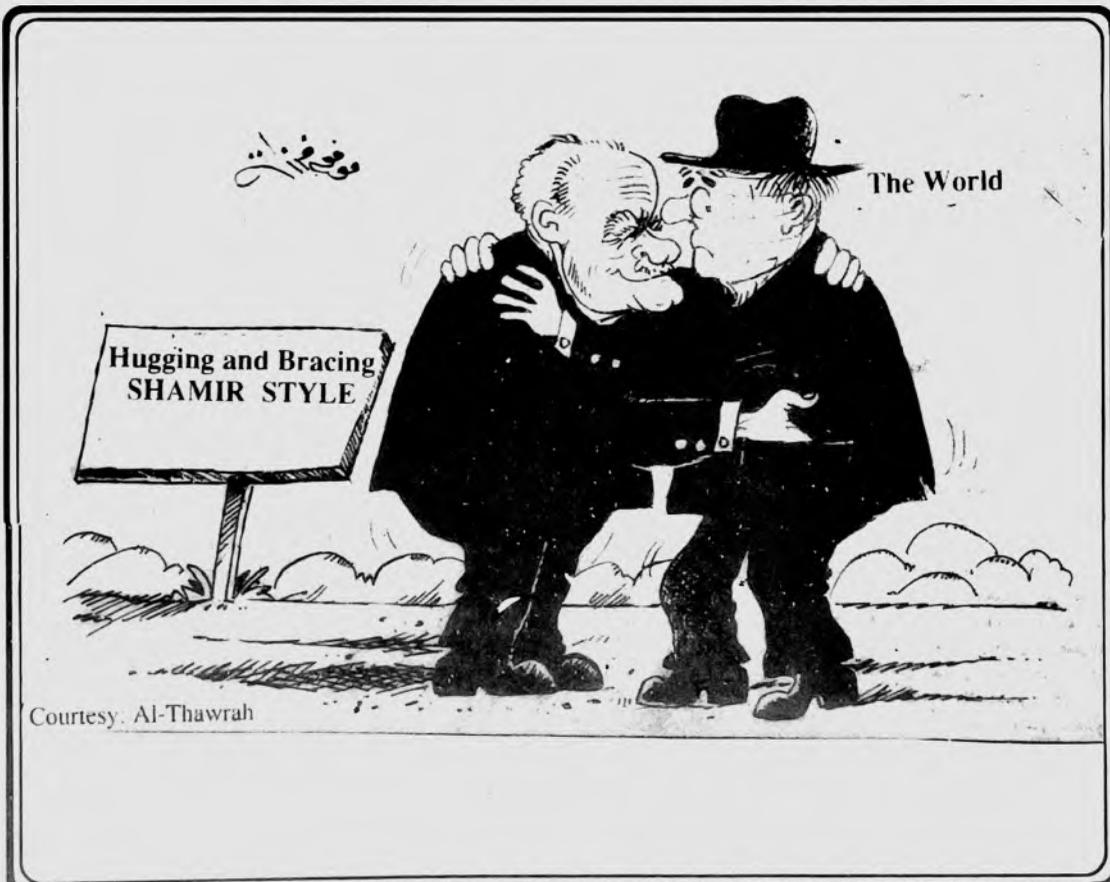
can freely choose its officials through secret ballots. It will also pursue its own policies and serve its members rather than serve the policies of certain nations. We have much work ahead of us, but we are going about it with confidence.

Q: How much preparation has been done on the Yemeni side?

A: We are extremely satisfied with the preparations on the Yemeni side. They have done everything possible to make our meetings successful, and our visit fruitful and enjoyable. The technical, procedural, and even political preparations are almost complete. In addition, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has arranged an impressive social and tourist program for those interested.

Q: What are your impressions of Yemen?

A: This is an exceptional country. There is a lot to be seen and to be learnt from here. I am sure many of the delegates will avail themselves the opportunity to learn more about this country - its culture, its history, its architecture, and even its politics. You will kindly realize that this is the first time ever that such a leading body of the IOJ meeting takes place in an Arab country. I am happy it is here in Yemen - a country which has a lot to offer.



ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

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