



YEMEN TIMES

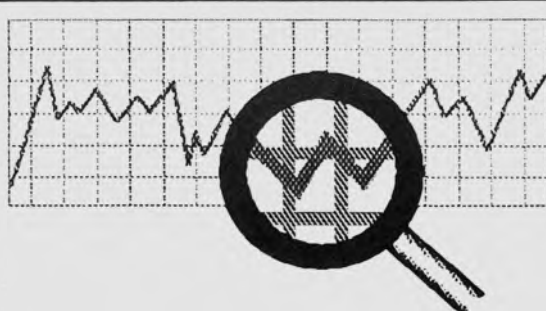


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 4/10 DECEMBER 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 40

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OUR VIEWPOINT



THE RULER'S PURSE & THE STATE TREASURY

Europe finally achieved a real division between the ruler's purse and the state's treasury during the middle ages. Later on, strict rules have been developed to determine how state funds are to be "given away".

We in Yemen are still struggling to draw this dividing line between the personal resources of our rulers and the public funds. Up to date, our rulers use public funds for their "needs" as well as for the "needs" of others. The President in particular, and other senior officials in general, have been using public funds to win favors and supporters.

Thus the President's largesse is so widespread that he is often referred to as very generous. Generous, that is, with state funds. Our rulers give away routinely large bundles of government cash, big chunks of government land, government-paid for cars, and government paid-for ultra deluxe furniture, etc.

Of course, I can understand that our leaders need to buy the cooperation and support of some key elements in society, although I don't agree with this approach to become a government policy. If you buy someone's allegiance, remember there can always come into play a higher bidder for that same allegiance. In any case, there must be rules for the business.

What happens today in Yemen is that parasitic elements who have access to the guys in power are able to benefit from this largesse. Of the top of my head, I can name immediately ministers, officers, politicians and senior tribal leaders who have been repeated beneficiaries.

One of the virtues of democracy is to bring a certain degree of accountability to the system. This is a good place to start. Could our leaders lay down the rules for giving away government money?

The Publisher

Yemen Invited to ME Peace Talks

The USA and the USSR, the organizers of the Middle East process, have each extended an invitation to the Republic of Yemen to attend the multi-party peace talks. The Presidential Council reviewed the two invitations and decided to revert the matter to the Government which in turn asked for a decision from the House of Representatives.

It is understood that the Republic of Yemen is not a direct party to the talks which are taking place between Israel and the five relevant Arab nations - Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian people. Yet, Yemen is one of the support countries which has a certain degree of influence and credibility within the Arab fold, and which has its independent decision-making mechanism in regional and international issues.

In addition, Yemen enjoys special ties with Jordan and the PLO, and has close relations with the other countries. Thus its good offices could come in handy during the negotiations and talks.

HM King Hussein:

JORDAN HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF IRAQ'S MILITARY PLANS IN KUWAIT

Neither I personally nor any of the Jordanian officials were aware of President Saddam Hussein's intention to invade Kuwait. So declared King Hussein of Jordan in an interview with the Middle East TV Program broadcast from London. The King stressed that Jordan had always insisted on the need to resolve inter-Arab disputes and differences through peaceful negotiations. He indicated that many of these sensitivities will only be resolved through face-to-face contact. As the longest reigning ruler in the Arab World, the King indicated that he values his credibility in relations with the others. Hopefully such face to face contact with the Gulf leaders will take place during the upcoming Islamic summit to be held in Dakar, the Senegalese capital.

"I feel great respect for my brother King Fahd of Saudi Arabia," the Jordanian monarch continued. "Our differences is like a transient cloud which should pass away as soon as all parties realize the truth of our positions and feelings," King Hussein indicated.



Regarding the Middle East process, the King reiterated the Jordanian position which is in congruence with the Arab stand. Asked about the Israeli refusal to attend the Washington meetings starting on Wednesday, 4th December, the King confirmed that the Jordanian team will go there according to schedule. He insisted that Jerusalem was an important part of the peace process and said that the holy city is important to all Muslims.

Finally regarding the internal issues, the King reaffirmed commitment to the democratic process, which he said was the safety valve against any form of extremism.

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PERSONAL VIEW**THE CASE FOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH****AMEEN NOUISSER**
Ministry of Agriculture

I do not know how we expect the Republic of Yemen to achieve any meaningful progress if scientific research continues to be neglected. I understand research to be the basic element and the first priority for any development process.

We have established many organizations that could serve as the site for research in Yemen, but nothing of the sort is going on over there. Examples include Sanaa and Aden universities, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Yemeni Center for Research and Studies, and the many institutes and research centers in the governorates.

The main problem these organizations face is financial. The allocations to them is prioritized on the basis of operations and activities that have immediate return. Thus, they will be given money that will simply allow them to continue their daily routine functions, but not the research activities are "postponed".

If we look at the international examples, most countries allocate more resources than Yemen.

In most countries, the allocation is 1 - 1.5% of GDP, and in some cases, it is 4%.

According to estimates of experts, the rate of return on research usually ranges between 16-20%. In our case in Yemen, some limited research will allow a far superior use of resources. In other words, the rate of return must be a lot higher than the international average.

It is not only the government that is responsible for research, private companies and enterprises must also engage in this field. Research is a definite source of profits, in the longer run.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS,**DECEMBER 9th:
HANDICAPPED DAY**

The Yemeni Handicapped Association is planning an eventful day for the 12th of December, which has been designated by the Yemeni Government as the National Handicapped Day. According to Mr. Othman Asselwi, Chairman of the Association, the event is used to shed light at the plight of the handicapped members of society. The association is planning for a number of speeches to be held at the National Cultural Center in Sanaa, in addition to an exhibition of products made by handicapped persons. Yemen Times learnt that Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council will inaugurate the-events.

YEMEN CZECH HEALTH TALKS

The Vice Minister of Health of Czechoslovakia and the accompanying finished a several-day visit of Yemen. During the visit, the two sides discussed cooperation in the fields of training and health resort development. The visiting team has made a tour of the potential spa and health resorts in the country such as Hadhramaut, Hodeidah, Shabwah and other governorates.

**THANK YOU
SHERATON!**

The Secretariat of the Syndicate of the Yemeni Journalists wishes to present its gratitude and thanks to the Sheraton management and staff for their utmost cooperation during the IOJ meetings. Our thanks specially go to Mr. Nasser Al-Materi, Executive Assistant Manager, and Mr. Sherif Hanafi, Front Office Manager.

Our guests were extremely pleased with the service and care they were given, which has made our business much easier.

for the Secretariat
Ashraf

**SURVEY OF ADEN
AS FREE ZONE**

U.S. specialists proceed on a four-million-dollar survey of Aden as part of a drive to turn Yemen's economic capital into a free zone.

Free Zones Authority official Ahmad Abdallah Al-Qadi said the year-long social and economic survey would include roads, power plants, water and sewage systems, telecommunications, air and sea ports and the ageing oil refinery.

Many of the services have not been modernized since British rule ended a quarter of a century ago.

The survey is being carried out by the US firm United Engineers and Contractors, a subsidiary of the Denver-based Raytheon Company, Qadi said. Local engineers had been assigned to work with the US team.

The survey would help assess improvements needed for attracting local, Arab, and foreign capital within a drive to turn Aden into a viable free zone.

He also said the free zones authority had prepared a draft bill covering Aden's future administration. The bill, provides for exemptions from taxes and fees and offers equal opportunities to local and foreign investors. Processes for approval of the bill by the government by June are underway.

CONDOLENCES:

The editorial board and staff of Yemen Times convey their deep sympathies and condolences to Airforce Colonel Qassim Abdul-Salam Shaibani on the death of his wife. May God have mercy on her soul.

تعزية

تعزي أسرة صحيفة «يمن تايمز»
العقيد الطيار قاسم عبدالسلام
الشيواني لوفاة زوجته تغمدها
الله بواسع رحمته وإنا لله وإنا
إليه راجعون.

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Dr. Farag Bin Ghanem:

"We had a wrong concept of development !"

Dr. Farag Bin Ghanem, a native of Ghail Bawazeer, Hadhramaut, is an old hand in development. He started his career by joining the Ministry of Finance in 1964. In 1970 he moved on to the Ministry of Planning and Development and by 1979, he was already the Minister in what was then the PDRY. Upon the unification of Yemen, he became the country's Planning and Development Minister. In 1989/90, he was Yemen's representative to the United Nations stationed in Geneva. He taught several courses at Aden University. Dr. Bin Ghanem has a Ph.D. in Economics from Poland.

The Yemen Times went to speak to him about the country's economy, and the planning for development. Excerpts of the interview follow:

Q: How do you evaluate the development experiment of Yemen?

A: It is a well-known fact that the two former Yemens had pursued different courses in the development process. Unfortunately, neither part really understood what development meant, and thus neither part achieved any real success. Of course, some limited human and physical infrastructure was put in place. Yet, from a comprehensive point of view, we can boast of very little.

Our concept of development was consumption-oriented. We thought development meant providing everything to the people with little cost to them. Development really means a lot of sacrifices, if at least in the initial stages.

It was hoped that with the momentum of the unification, the new Yemen will by-pass the short-comings of the previous two systems and install a new spirit and understanding of the development process. It is unfortunate that we could not create this reality, although it is gradually beginning to dawn on us.

Q: In light of what you just said, how do you assess our economic conditions today?

A: The unification of the two economies and experiences has brought our shortcomings into focus. Add to that the economic



consequences of the Gulf War, you will reach a conclusion that our economy is staggering under an enormous burden. The dislocations and distortions are visible, major inefficiencies plague our operations, lop-sided priorities, and above all, the low productivity of our manpower are all different aspects of the problem.

In my personal opinion, it is not a question of just resources, but a question of better management. I think that with existing resources, much more could be done if only we work at reorganizing our system. The problem we face is of a medium term nature. In the longer run, the prospects look much brighter.

Q: You are planning for this longer term. What exactly are you doing?

A: We have been meeting regularly in preparation for the Round-table discussion scheduled for April-May next year with our major donors. We have seventeen committees and dozens more sub-committees working on data collection as a first step towards analysis. We are interested in the data, of course, but the main thrust is towards policy analysis.

I think that the approach and direction of our policies are more important than the details of our projects when we prepare our plans. We will discuss these policies with our donors, who are mainly the World Bank, other international and regional organizations, and the Western governments.

Q: The recent World Bank report has been really hard on the Yemeni government's performance.

How do you relate to that?

A: You are right, but the World Bank report was based on our performance during 1990. This year is, by many yardsticks, an exceptional year on which you cannot judge our performance. We had the unification of the country. The Gulf Crisis has sent home about a million Yemenis, most of our foreign assistance fell to very low proportions, etc. I think that our performance will have to improve. And to make sure our performance improves, the Council of Ministers has just approved a package of reform and efficiency enhancement programs. The package calls for a major reduction in the paper-work, a simplification of procedures, and modernization of the tools. You will realize that the bureaucrats themselves are lethargic in executing the paperwork which were cumbersome, in any case. So we are working to make our performance better.

Q: Many donors complain against the low level of implementation of projects. We are not able to even withdraw the funds?

A: Of course, in the past we had many complications. Simple things used to hold up the whole project. In one case, a project was held up for years just because somebody could not agree on the plot where it was to be built. In other instances, other pretexts were responsible. Again I come back to the human element in the development process. No viable development can take place unless the human element is fully developed. The individual has to evolve in a way that will allow more

responsible participation and self-accomplishment.

Q: If we go back to the question of policy and system. Given that two different systems have merged, do you all see eye to eye regarding the orientation and approach?

A: Of course there are still differences, but I can assure you a major convergence has taken place. We all move towards a clear policy based on the market. We cannot, of course, leave everything up to the vagaries of the market mechanism. We have to accept state presence in some sectors, specially those that require a massive capital investment and/or and those services that have very low returns. Even in such cases, however, we have to differentiate between the need to have these services available to the public, and the fact that the services could be provided through the market system. One more point of differentiation is between the ownership of a project and its ability to function along market lines. In the final analysis, we are working hard to remove any hurdles facing the market system in order to maximize its efficiency and minimize the losses.

But this approach should take the wider and more comprehensive outlook in our decisions. In addition, we have to consistently watch for Pareto optimality and to seek to enhance the total welfare of society. This means a certain minimum of social justice for all in the community.

Q: Let us take this deep philosophic discussion of economics one step higher. The subordination of economic decisions to non-

economic considerations is a recurrent phenomenon in developing countries. How deep does this issue run in Yemen?

A: This has been the cause of many frustrations for me before unification, and it is still. There is no doubt that there are many non-economic variables that inter-play, but frequently, they have dominated the scene too much. That is why we seek to re-establish the boundaries and to re-structure our decision making process. In democratic societies, the accountability issue takes care of such balances between various considerations. We seek to instill this concept in our country today. In the past non-economic considerations were used as a mechanism to block and coerce all logic in decision-making. Today, we can demand more clear-cut justifications. I hope we will proceed even further on this plane.

Q: What kind of corrective measures are needed to put our economy back on the right track?

A: There are many points that could be raised here. But the most general issue has to do with policy matters. At a more direct level, I endorse something the Yemen Times has repeatedly tackled - 'We have to break the alliance between the executive government authorities and the market agents'. (This is something the Yemen Times refers to as gofferchants meaning government officials who are merchants). Misuse of government position and government funds is a major headache which we must fight.

Q: What next after the recent population conference? How about water issues in the development of Yemen?

A: I think you just touched the major determinants of Yemen's future development. I think those two parameters - a slower population growth rate, and more efficient use of water will be the most important factors contributing to socio-economic development in Yemen. Unless we are able to achieve important break-throughs on both counts, our development process is jeopardized.

Continues on page 8

I.O.J. DELEGATES SPEAK TO THE YEMEN TIMES

Alexandre Karrer,
Greece



I am very happy that the IOJ is holding its meetings in Sanaa. I was actually born in Egypt which I left as a small boy. Therefore, I have a certain nostalgia and feeling for Arab countries. Our meetings are very successful.

Gabriel Williams,
Liberia



We have discussed a lot of problems affecting journalists around the world - We met your president it was a good opportunity for us to ask him a lot of questions about politics in Yemen. I appreciate your country, but I only wish you would allow women to participate in society's activities.

Eliseo Piedra,
Uruguay



There are no specific fights among delegations but the problem is that we come from different backgrounds and so we have different visions and views. I expected 2 things from this conference - strong relations among journalists, and to identify and define the actions and plans for the next year - both were achieved here.

Maria Luisa,
Honduras



It was very important for the IOJ to have this meeting as we discussed all the problems journalists face. It was also nice of your president to meet us. He answered many questions openly and friendly- about Yemen's situation and the future plans. He pointed to something which I liked- Yemeni women do play important roles in the activities of the country. I personally enjoyed your country very much, specially the culture and costumes which are very different from ours.

Holger Wenk,
Germany



The conference stressed the further democratization of the IOJ. I hope we will be successful in this as it is the only way to save the IOJ. This is my first time to be in an Arab country. I have discovered arrangements and implementation is according to plan. I am very interested in the unification experience of Yemen in order to compare it to our (German) case.

Seh-Yong Lee,
South Korea



I can say that the IOJ was-reborn in Sanaa. I think the Yemeni side played a good role in this evolution. I am happy the conference is held here in Sana'a to show support for what is going on in Yemen. There is genuine democracy after the unification of North and South Yemen. I hope my country (Korea) will learn from this lesson.

Abdel Rahman Fadlalla,
Sudan

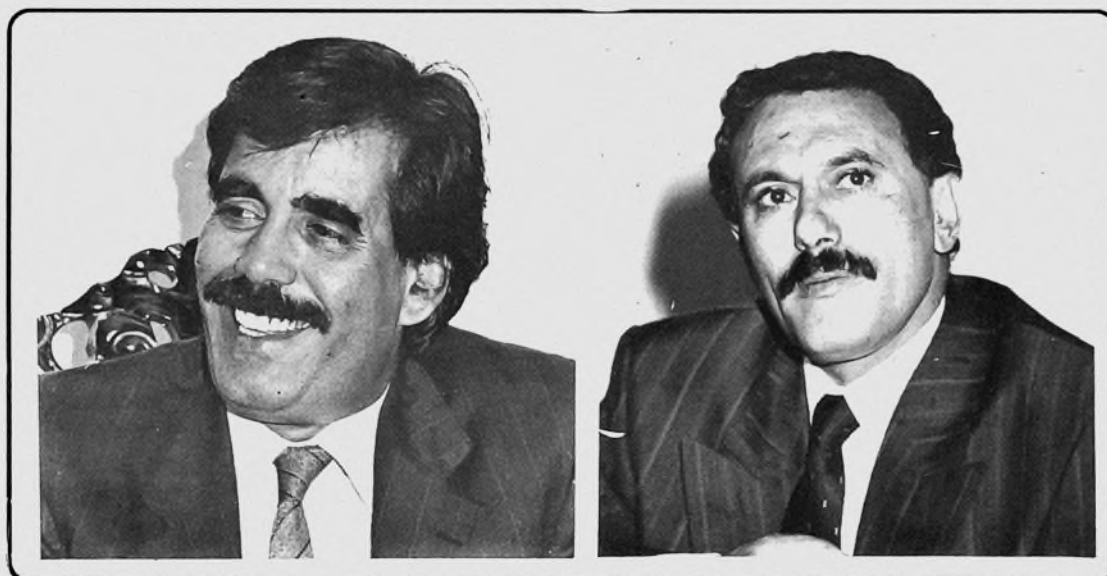


I am proud that Yemen has successfully hosted this big conference. I can tell you what has been achieved in Sanaa in remarkable. We at the Arab level have also achieved the recognition of the Arab region as an independent region like the regions by continents.

Continues on p. 7

YEMENIA

Yemen Airways congratulates the Yemeni people, Presidential Council and the government on the anniversary of the signing of the Unification Agreement on the 30th November



الخطوط الجوية اليمنية

تتقدم بأطيب وأجمل التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة ذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة في (٣٠) نوفمبر .

PRESS AND PUBLICATION LAW; part IV

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

Part Two: Publishing Houses

Article (87):

A person wishing to establish a publishing house shall apply to the appropriate department in the Ministry of Culture.

The application shall contain the information below:

- The name, address and date of birth of the owner of publishing house.
- His address,
- The name and location of the printing house,
- Its nature,
- The name, address, title and date of birth of the responsible director,
- The name of the printing press which prints publications for the publishing house if it does not possess its own printing press.
- If the publishing house is a share-holding company, the names with the name and address of each board member, consultative bodies, and the capital of the company. A copy of the article of association of the company and of its constitution shall be deposited.

Article (88):

i) The owner of a publishing house shall be:

- a person who has not been found guilty of a criminal offence concerned with the profession unless his/her reputation has been restored according the law
- if the publishing house is an establishment or share-holding company, the shares must carry the names of the owners.

ii) The director of a publishing house shall fulfill the conditions laid down in Article 77 of this law.

Article (89):

Every publishing house shall have an advisory board composed of persons with ability, knowledge and background in the area of its activities.

Article (90):

The publisher's name and address should appear on the first or last page of all printed material issued by the publishing house.

Part Three: Artistic Composition

Article (91):

No one shall exercise the profession of export, import, renting, sale, reproduction, showing or distri-

bution of artistic compositions such as cinema films, video cassettes or any other artistic composition work without a licence from the Ministry of Culture.

Article (92):

Any composition may be exhibited in public provided that it does not contain forbidden material and is circulated in accordance with the law.

Article (93):

The provisions of this law do not apply to exhibitions by political parties, popular organisations, ministries or other government authorities in the course of their duties nor do they apply to films shown by diplomatic and consular missions on their premises and to their own members.

Article (94):

Any person may produce, direct, participate in, or assist in producing theatrical, cinematic, televisual, song or musical work or any similar work, provided that it does not contravene the provisions of this law.

Article (95):

The Minister of Culture shall issue the by-laws and regulations setting out con-

ditions for and information to be included in applications for licences provided for in this part of the law.

Part Four : Legal Repository

Article (96):

a) All printed material shall carry on the first or last page reference to the number of their deposit at the National Library,

b) Printed materials, newspapers magazines, books, literary and artistic works of all kinds shall be deposited at the repository.

Article (97):

When a newspaper, its annexes or its associated prints, a magazine or printed material is issued, five copies shall be deposited with the appropriate departments of the Ministries of Information and Culture or their branches in the governorates in which the publication is issued, and five copies with the National Library in the capital or in the governorate. A receipt shall be given for these deposits.

Article (98):

If a reprint of printed material is carried out without alteration, five copies shall

be deposited with the appropriate departments of the Ministries of Information and Culture or with the governorate within whose region the issue takes place, and two copies with the National Library.

Article (99):

Five copies of any printed material published by any Yemeni author or translator outside the country shall be deposited with appropriate department of the Ministry of Culture.

Article (100):

Importers of printed material shall deposit two copies of each publication imported with the Ministry of Culture before circulation. If the number of copies imported is limited, only one copy may be deposited

Article (101):

Any printed material may not be circulated unless it is registered and deposited according to the law.

Article (102):

The provisions of Articles 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, do not apply to printed material of commercial nature.

Continues on page 13

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A			
Afghanistan	217691	Palestine	217306/348
Algeria	247755/56	Qatar	217488
Bulgaria	217244	Romania	215579
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Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
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Tourism Ministry	271970/2

DEAD WHILE STILL LIVING: THE STORY OF YEMENI LEPERS

BACKGROUND:

They are shunned. They are ostracized. They are deprived of their property. They are deprived of any affection or contact. Their children leave them. The wife leaves. The whole village or tribe comes out to chase them out before they can "contaminate" any other person.

It is as sad a story as anybody can come across. It is based on a lot of confused religious beliefs and a lot of ignorance. In Yemen, as was the case in most of the developed world a century or even less ago.

Leprosy is defined as a chronic infectious disease caused by a bacterium that attacks the skin, flesh and nerves. The disease starts as a whitish spot or scab usually on the upper chest. No hair grows on this numb spot. In over ten years, the deformities start appearing in the body parts, specially the fingers and toes, start wasting away. According to Dr. Yasseen Abdul-Aleem, the country's only specialist in leprosy, over 95% of the people are actually immune to this disease. That is why he brings his children to play with the children of lepers in Madinat Al-Noor (The City of Light) in the southern outskirts of Taiz. The bacterium, known as Mycobacterium leprae, is weak and only 5% of the people are susceptible to it. "Most people think that they will get the disease by simply touching the leper, or even the things he/she has touched," added Dr. Aleem.

RELIGIOUS MISCONCEPTIONS

In a similar way, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamly, in charge of the TV program "Health and Society", expressed the need to educate the public. "We have just prepared five one-hour episodes on this disease in an attempt to correct many of the misconceptions," he said. Most Yemenis repeat a phrase attributed to the Prophet Muhammad which supposedly orders people to flee from lepers as they would flee from a loose lion. This kind of background has caused tremen-

dous agony and suffering to the lepers. The social stigma to which lepers are exposed cause unbearable pain. This makes lepers hide their problem, until it develops and reaches advanced levels and in which the leper's problems are exposed. An additional problem is that lepers communicate the disease during this hidden stage of the problem. Both society and the leper would be far better off if the disease is openly tackled at an early stage. But the ostracization that result from the social stigma forces lepers to try to lead a normal life among relatives for as long as possible.

COLLECTION POINTS:

In Yemen today, there are two locations to which lepers can go. They can go the City of Light in Taiz where Dr. Aleem and his crew provide medical care, and help the lepers lead as much a natural life as possible. This place has become the mecca of lepers who seek refuge from the oppression of society, and where they can get some medical care, and a certain decent social life. The other place is Mahjar Al-Judham at Gaidoon in Wadi Dow'an in Hadhramaut. This is more like a quarantine established by Sultan Saleh Al-Qu'aiti some fifty years back. Even with the tremendous progress in treating leprosy and in understanding it better, the place remains a dismal site which reflects the carelessness and neglect of the authorities.

PROFILES:

The Yemen Times crew went out to hunt for cases of lepers and report their stories. We have five stories:

1. Awadh Al-Aameri from Tareem, Hadhramaut:

"I was only twelve when my village people said I was a leper and they chased me out of my village. I was abandoned by all, except my mother who came here (Mahjar Al-Judham) to live with me. They took my land, my property, and everything. I cannot marry, I cannot even leave this place without a permit, and for not longer than three days." The sad part of the story is that Awadh is, after

all not a leper. He suffers from a problem of the nerves which has deformed some of his fingers. He and his mother have been living with the lepers for over forty years, and they have not been infected.

2. Amat from Shiharah, Hajjah:

Amat comes from a small village a short distance from Shiharah. Two years after her marriage, her body parts began to waste away. Her husband, took all her property, divorced her, and kicked her out of the house and the village. She was pregnant. She wandered around until she and her little boy settled in Madinat Al-Noor.

Her little boy is today a twenty-five old healthy man. He is married to a woman who also has leprosy. His wife and he have lovely boys - both healthy. The family lives together. They are happy together. "Do you want to go back to Hajjah to claim what is rightfully yours?" His answer - "No. My home is Taiz and I don't want anything to do with Hajjah."

3. Jum'an from Mukalla:

I come from Aaraf near Shihre. I badly miss my brother and sister. I want to visit them, but they would not open their home to me. They tell not to come and see them because I will bring disaster to them. I don't want to do that. Jum'an's parts have fallen off. He is very sick, and these are probably his last months. His only wish is to die among family, but they won't take him. The other lepers tell him, "Look we are your family. We are your kind. We will take care of you."

He has been in the Mahjar Al-Judham for almost 30 years. Why have you not married? "I got married but my wife ran away when she found out I was a leper"

4. Abdo from Hujarriah, Taiz:

"About fifteen years when my sons found out I was a leper, they brought me to Madinat Al-Noor and left me here." They returned to the village, told the people I died a natural death, distributed the inheritance

among themselves. They even mourned me. Ten years later, I decided to go visit my children. Everybody ran away from me, even my children. I knew I was literally dead. So here I am back in Madinat Al-Noor where I am waiting from death to come. You will be surprised, but I really want death to come to me as soon as possible."

5. Saleh Haradheh from Khanfar, Abyan:

"I was a farmer and a family man. Then this curse comes and took away everything. My land is no longer mine. My wife left me, and even my children told me to stay put right here - Mahjar Al-Judham. So here I am waiting from whatever to happen - preferably my death."

CONCLUSION:

The story of lepers in Yemen is a sad one. We all could help by correcting some of the misconceptions. We also could help by chipping in to improve their lot rather than leave them to their destiny. Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamly (Sanaa telephone 215655) and Dr. Yasseen Abdul-Aleem (Taiz telephone 222066/7) could use all the assistance they can get. What we consider as peanuts could help improve the quality of the lives of so many people whom we call lepers. The government could do quite a bit as well. It could build another Madinat Al-Noor and it must definitely get rid of Mahjar Al-Judham. Finally, the media can play an important role. It is such a worthy cause!

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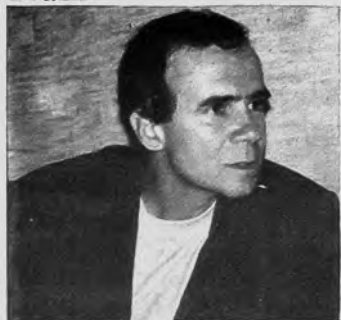
letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to

Continued from p. 5

I.O.J. Delegates...**Alberto Sanchez,
El-Salvador**

This is a historic meeting for the IOJ because we are able to overcome an internal crisis due to major changes in many countries. The most important achievement in this meeting is the democratization of the organization, and the new openness policies. Financial reports, actions and plans are all discussed in the open in front of all delegates.

I find your country's climate very pleasant and the people very hospitable. I hear there are many interesting sites to visit. Unfortunately, I did not have the time to nose around.

**Luiz Carlos Bernardes,
Brazil**

It is a good demonstration of IOJ diversity to hold one of the conferences in an Arab country.

I can say that Yemen demonstrates to the world, in general, and the Arab countries, in particular, that the path of democracy works. I am happy that Yemen respects the freedom of the press.

**Efrain Ruiz Caro,
Peru**

It is the first time for me to visit Yemen, but my sympathies for this country have grown day by day.

I was able to have a panorama scene of the country from the plane. I have seen impressive works on the land such as terraces on very high mountains. This demonstrates the capacity of the Yemeni people for work.

Another favorable impression is that this country, unlike others, preserves its cultural traditions in its own way, loves its music, which means it stays liberated from cultural colonization which victimized most Third World countries.

**Santosh Kumar,
India**

I have heard so much of Yemen, and I came here with a lot of preconceived ideas. The generalizations one makes regarding the Arab group blur the special attributes of countries within the Arab World. I think Yemen has been special in more than one way. Today, Yemen still occupies a special place in view of the democratic nature of the system, the multi-party politics, and the high level of tolerance for dissenting view points.

I hope my country (India) and Yemen will continue to chart a closer course of cooperation and collaboration.

The meetings of Sanaa have yielded spectacular results. We all came here expecting trouble. Trouble we did find, but we were able to overcome them.

Editor's note:

The Yemen Times is appreciative of the high regard the delegates have held our paper. We regret we could not meet with all the delegates.

**THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
IS THE GRAVE OF CONSPIRATORS.**

**By: Yacin Mohamed Abdella,
Ministry of Local Administration**

Whoever plans to intercept the natural course of events in the newly born Republic of Yemen, for whatever reason, should read history to realize the destiny of such action.

There is no way anybody or any party can reverse the course of history. In addition, it is no secret that all phenomena in Yemeni society have undergone drastic transformations in line with the course of history. The interaction of the various factors resulted in the birth of an entity destined to play a major role in the region.

This newly-born entity is the "The Republic of Yemen". The coming of the Republic on the scene is something that the neighbors neither welcomed nor are able to comprehend. They continue to treat the unified Yemen the same way they treated the old two Yemens. Of course, they are in for a surprise. The new Yemen, which has more than double the populations of all the other Peninsula countries combined, and which has a land area larger than Iraq, and which is making significant discoveries of oil and minerals on a frequent basis, is not going to be another nobody in the region. The new Yemen is pioneering a new relationship between the rulers and the people, it is experimenting a new set of values such as tolerance, democracy, and above all a multi-party political system, etc. We cannot sanctify our rulers, however noble they are, let alone if they aren't. That is why the enemies of Yemeni unity get more and more aggravated and fierce.

The Yemeni people today are very different from the past - the level of self-confidence, the feeling of being destined to bring change to this archaic place, and the deep commitment for the new values have all made us new people. We have a sense of direction, a sense of duty, and a message. Still, we draw from our past a certain national consciousness and numerous national achievements. Today the Yemenis are in a better condition than any time in the past.



We Yemenis are willing to sacrifice a lot to safeguard these achievements which are acquired after a long struggle and suffering. Democracy has made us strong from within and we are able to stand up against tremendous odds. All democratic countries in the world welcomed us in joining their club. Yet, some hold-overs from the past, instead of joining us, are trying to hold us back. Well they can't. All decent nations have valued this new-born

entity and praised its democracy. The autocratic rich regimes in the region feel that the coming of democracy is a crime, and they blame Yemen for bringing it. The out-dated monarchies are conspiring against our democracy - but they are bound to lose.

All free and democratic peoples of the world are our allies. They will definitely support us in our noble humanitarian task. History has witnessed the victory of the Yemeni people against one enemy after another. The new enemies want to interfere in our domestic affairs, as in the recent past. But today, Yemen is strong and better organized in the material and moral sense. Under the banners of democracy and unification, we feel strong enough to face anything. So these conspirators should be ware as to how much harm they put on Yemen.

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للخدمة الممتازة،
والثقة والأمان**

Continued from p. 3

Farag Bin Ghanem:

"We had a wrong concept..."**Q: In your approach to development in the future, what is the balance you seek to employ between the productive and service sectors?****A:** It is my feeling that the productive sector has been relatively neglected in both the former north and south Yemens. We plan to correct this pattern. So, we are placing extra emphasis on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, construction and industry. But the emphasis will take the form of more concentration leading to higher productivity. This means more intensive use of existing resources such as the land area under cultivation through the maximization of the crucial inputs of factors of production particularly water.

I would like to mention that next year, an international conference on water use will be convened. We are now participating in many regional seminars which will lead to the conference.

Q: The Government investments and debt repayments for 1991 and 1992. How do they look?**A:** In 1991, investments were

minimal, and debt repayment was not made, except in some cases. Our plans for 1992 look much better. That is why total expenditures are not as much as anticipated.

Our total external debt is about US\$7.7 billion. Thus debt repayment claims a rising volume of our resources.

In any case, we anticipate a more aggressive development plan for the coming years. As I indicated, we have many sectoral and regional projects which are under study and which will be part of our discussions in the Round Table scheduled for April-May.

Q: Looking a few years ahead, how do you see the Yemeni economy?**A:** I am an optimist as far as the future goes, especially in light of the revelations in the oil and mining sector as well as the traditional sectors. Even with the existing resources, I feel that with better planning and management, the economy can flourish. But we need candid evaluations of our decisions which must be subjected to basic economic considerations.**GATT NEGOTIATIONS MAKE HEADWAY**

Senior negotiators in stalled talks on liberalizing world trade began to converge on Geneva late last month, summoned by the head of the GATT to try to speed up a deal on cutting farm support.

The two main protagonists in GATT's Uruguay Round of trade talks, the European Community (EC) and the United States, have in the past few weeks got down to serious negotiations on the farm issue after five years at loggerheads.

Diplomats said Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), intended to build on their significant progress and draw in other parties.

"He was able to narrow the difference between the community and the Americans, and to bring all the other groups on board," said one senior negotiator.

"The best thing to do was to get the chief negotiators back into town this." Parallel to the multi-lateral talks, the EC and U.S. negotiators will continue to try to close the gap in bilateral meetings in Geneva.

Guy Legras, the EC's Director-General of agriculture, met with Julius Katz, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative for agriculture, and Richard Crowder, agriculture Undersecretary.

The farm issue is only one of seven negotiating areas in the Uruguay Round, which is seeking to liberalize trade as a means of boosting commerce, economic growth and jobs.

But it has been by far the most contentious, with the EC resisting the deep cuts sought by the United States and farm-exporting nations from Argentina to Australia which argue that farm support robs them of their rightful markets.

The talks got their biggest boost in recent months from a meeting in The Hague on November 9 between U.S. President George Bush, European President Jacques Delors and Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.

Subsequent U.S.-EC talks have clarified and developed some of the positions taken in The Hague.

The other partners in the 108 nations Uruguay Round have been generally hearted by the trans-Atlantic rapprochement.

"Before, it was the dialogue of the deaf," one diplomat said. "But we do not want to be handed a 'fait accompli'."

Dunkel scheduled a meeting between key players including Australia, Canada, Japan, the EC and the United States.

Continues on p. 15

ADEN MOVENPICK HOTEL

congratulates the Yemeni people, leadership and government on the second anniversary of the signing of the Unification Agreement, and on the departure of the British Colonial forces from Yemen.

**فندق عدن موڤنپيڪ**

يتقدم بأطيب التهاني للشعب اليمني وقيادته بحكومته مناسبة الذكرى الأولى للتوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة (٣٠) نوفمبر

JAPAN AS A MODEL FOR THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT

by: Professor
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf *
Japanologist,
Sanaa University.

BACKGROUND:

In their relentless efforts at modernization and development, the Third World countries have invariably looked at the classical models of Europe. More recently, they studied the American, Soviet and the Chinese experiences. Now more and more attention is being diverted towards the Japanese model. The question is: "How relevant is the Japanese experience to the LDC development efforts?" In answering this question, the author has spent a long time, including three months in Japan devoted totally to the study of the Japanese transformation. Of special interest are the conditions that prevailed in Japan before its economic take-off, and whether LDC conditions are similar to them. Even more important, however, is whether the policies pursued by Japan at the time could be effective and/or practical today given the vastly changed world milieu. Over and above those points, it is relevant to ask whether the final end-result of those policies is something contemporary LDCs would like to emulate. It is the opinion of this author that, as a minimum, the Japanese development experience has many important lessons to give to LDCs thereby making it a model directly relevant to the development of the Third World. There are many reasons why I think the Japanese model has to attract the attention of the Third World scholars and policy-makers. The two most visible ones are that it is a success story, and that the detailed data are available. Moreover, the following reasons make it more relevant than the classical British or any other model.

VERY SHORT LEAD TIME:

The Japanese development process started with the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1868. Within a very short time, the country attained first class status

among the leading nations of the world. The high speed of the Japanese transformation from a threatened and backward society to a powerful world nation contrasts markedly with the slow European evolutionary process which took some two to four centuries. Japan went through the process in about half a century.

Therefore, the Japanese experience, in shortening the timespan required for crossing from backwardness to advanced status, provides a more attractive alternative to the time-pressed Third World governments than the time-consuming European model. It is true, there are other societies, such as the Soviet and the Chinese centrally-planned economies, which have achieved spectacular results in a short time as well. But neither the exceptionally high price paid by those societies to achieve the transformation, which they themselves have regretted recently, nor the final product of those transformations would make their experiences more attractive. Actually, both those examples are today dismantling what has been termed as "achievements". As such, the Japanese experience does command a unique relevance to the drive of Third World countries towards modernization. This is specially important since it happened so far away from the traditional (Euro-American) centers of civilization.

MODERNIZATION WITH MINIMUM WESTERNIZATION

The clamour over how to modernize with a minimum risk to indigenous culture and social values has become a center-piece in Third World strategies for development. The need for preserving one's identity against the on-slaught of "Westernization" has become an emotional issue in most LDCs. The reaffirmation of traditional local values (e.g., the fundamentalist Islamic movements) all stress this factor. Again in this respect, the Japanese experience as the one non-Western/non-Christian advanced country

provides an example. It is recognized that Japan succeeded in modernizing without being excessively Westernized.

Japan did become Westernized to a certain extent. The point is taken, however, that Westernization was used as a tool to compliment, rather than replace the indigenous culture which has continued to flourish. It is this ability to achieve a working combination between the local and foreign inputs that happens to be the focal point in developing nations' interest in the Japanese experience. These countries have been subjected to a whole sale transplantation of Euro-American culture and technology. No wonder, therefore, they show a rising interest in what had happened in Japan, and why and how it happened.

GOVERNMENT- PROPELLED MARKET-BASED DEVELOPMENT:

Most Third World countries have decided to follow a strategy that combines aspects of the market and centrally-planned systems. In this respect, it is neither the autonomous evolution of the market system a la classic capitalism, nor the forced push by government bureaucrats and "planners" in the socialist countries that could serve as an appropriate prototype. Here again, the combination of fervent and vibrant private sector aided and guided by the supportive and protective hand of the state, a la Japan, provides a good example. It should be noted from the start that in the Japanese model, the role of the state is often determined by how much push the economy needs. The more precarious the situation, the larger the burdens on the states, and the more stable the conditions, the lesser role the government played. In the early years of the Meiji period, the role of the state was definitely very crucial. Perhaps the most significant contribution of the Japanese State was the encouragement and even the subsidization of the leading sectors of industry by the socialization of risk

and the provision of captive markets. The Japanese Government had pilot plants (often quite large) set up, frequently by using the latest foreign methods. In the decade after 1868, the State built and operated such diverse enterprises as coal, copper and gold mines; iron foundries; shipyards; machine shops, model factories in cement, paper, glass, sulphuric acid, cotton spinning, and many others. When and if these could make the transition to profitable operation in Japan's labor-intensive, capital-scarce economy at the time, the Government made a practice of selling them to the Japanese zaibatsu (financial family-based conglomerates).

This arrangement provides a working model for LDC development. The state is more able to take risks and sustain losses in the early years of investments. It speeds up the transformation of the economy if it played the lead role in establishing the larger projects. In the contemporary economic jargon, such a government role in leading economic activity within a market system is often called "nurture-capitalism". In the Japanese model, we clearly see the government's role in "nurturing" the economy early in its development phase - a role which led a prominent Japanese scholar, Horie Yasuzo, to state that "Japanese capitalism was bred and brought up by the government". This aspect again can serve as a reasonable guide to Third World governments' policies. We have, however, to distinguish between providing the early push to the growth of viable enterprises and between the eternal support needed by floundering projects.

SMALL AND RESOURCE-POOR:

Like many contemporary developing countries, Meiji Japan's growth was based on a small, resource-poor nation. In addition, it faced major topographic and terrain difficulties such as fragmented islands at a time when transportation, communication and organizational tools were not well developed, high mountains which are permanently covered with snow, volcanoes,

recurrent earth-quakes, etc. This contrasts markedly with the experience of other advanced nations. Even the small European nations had the resources of vast empires at their disposal. Therefore, the Japanese experience is more relevant to LDCs, most of which are poor, with the exception of the few larger ones such as Brazil, Nigeria, India, etc. When Japan embarked on its economic development in the 1870s, its per capita GDP was low. In 1878, for example, per capita GDP was 18.7 yen and total GDP was 627 million yen. The poverty and backwardness of the Japanese society at the time is documented by many studies. Quoting W.E. Griffis, E. Sydeney Crowcour mentions the "utter poverty and wretchedness of the people and the country of Japan", and goes on to describe the "contemptible houses, and the tumble-down look of the city". Therefore, the development of Japan, about a century ago, has humble beginnings that clearly echo conditions in contemporary LDCs.

CONCLUSION:

There are many more reasons why scholars and practitioners should look towards Japan. One additional and important reason is that the countries that imitated Japan have done well, which is more than can be said about those countries which imitated Europe. The Little Dragons (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore) have done well. Of course, those countries may share some characteristics which are found in Japan, but, is it not worth studying this model in our development efforts. I call for introducing the Japanese achievements in our schools, universities, and planning rooms. **There is so much we can learn from Japan!**

* Author of Meiji Japan's Experience as a Model for Third World Development. (Tokyo: V.R.F. Series No. 153, I.D.E.: December 1988), and Founding Member of the Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association, Sanaa.

TEMPS DU YEMEN

LA SEMAINE

Catastrophes :

La région de Udayn et Hazm-Al-Udayn, dans le gouvernorat d'Ibb, continue d'être affectée par des secousses telluriques. Dans ces deux districts 70% des maisons ne sont plus habitables et les dernières secousses ont semé la panique parmi les habitants qui désertent leur logement. Les partis et syndicats ont ouvert des comptes en appelant leurs adhérents à manifester leur solidarité avec les victimes.

De nombreux pays envoient au Yémen des messages de sympathie alors que les éléments naturels s'acharnent sur le pays. A Socotra, en effet, des pluies torrentielles ont provoqué des dégâts majeurs. Un comité permanent sera chargé de réagir aux catastrophes naturelles et d'organiser les secours, une somme de 10 millions de rials y a été affecté.

Enfin, le gouvernement a décidé de prélever un jour de salaire des fonctionnaires, des employés du secteur public et mixte et des membres des forces armées.

Réforme :

Les membres du Parlement ont fixé au premier trimestre le délai maximal pour arrêter la version finale d'un Pacte National qui sera issu de discussions ouvertes à tous les partis et formations politiques.

Le Parlement s'est également saisi des résultats des travaux sur le projet de programme de construction nationale et de réforme politique, économique, financière et administrative dont la discussion a commencé le 5 octobre.

Une loi sur l'impôt sur la production, la consommation et les services a été adoptée.

Architectes :

Le président Saleh a assisté à la cérémonie de remise du diplôme de la première promotion d'étudiants à sortir de la faculté d'architecture, en présence du recteur et du vice-recteur de l'université.

Le président a exprimé sa joie d'être présent à cette occasion parmi les représentants du Yémen de demain, il a signalé tous les espoirs qu'il place dans la nouvelle génération en qualifiant de véritable armée au service du développement les étudiants qui sont passés de 2000 en 1978 à 55.000 aujourd'hui.

Il a enfin inauguré la troisième exposition architecturale et admiré la continuité dans l'art architectural d'hier et d'aujourd'hui.

BICC :

Les négociations se poursuivent entre la Banque Centrale yéménite et le comité des déposants de la Banque Internationale de Commerce et de Crédit afin de trouver une formule qui empêcherait la liquidation de cette dernière par la création d'une Banque Yéménite pour le Commerce d'un capital de 300 millions de rials.

Les déposants spoliés de la BICC recevraient 75% des parts, le reste servant de dépôt initial pour la nouvelle banque.

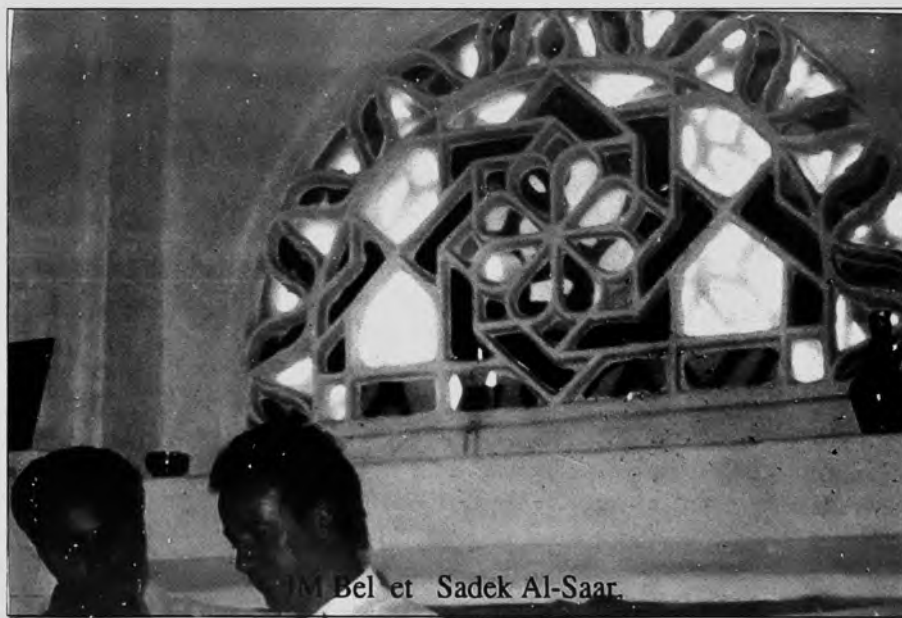
Fusion :

La fusion des entreprises de transport routier du Nord et du Sud est annoncée pour bientôt. Les gouvernorats du Sud comptent 6 entreprises, 200 bus et 3800 employés tandis que les gouvernorats du Nord comptent une seule entreprise, 70 bus et 300 employés.

LES VITRAUX ET L'ARCHITECTURE YEMENITE A CHARTRES

L'antique cité de Chartres à quelques dizaines de kilomètres au sud-ouest de Paris est célèbre pour sa cathédrale ornée de superbes vitraux. Le Centre International du Vitrail rend hommage à cet art en ouvrant ses locaux pour des expositions.

insertion dans le décor de la maison traditionnelle. Le parcours s'achève par des indications sur la mise en valeur de l'espace social par le décor, le vitrail et l'architecture. La générosité de plusieurs sponsors français et yéménites a permis à JM Bel de transporter du Yémen à Chartres



JM Bel et Sadek Al-Saar

Depuis octobre une exposition conçue par José-Marie Bel permet aux habitants de Chartres et aux nombreux touristes qui visitent la ville de découvrir l'art du vitrail yéménite dans le cadre d'une exposition mettant en valeur l'intégration des vitraux dans l'architecture yéménite.

Visiteur régulier du Yémen José-Marie Bel était déjà l'auteur d'un ouvrage consacré au pays et à son architecture exceptionnelle. Avec l'exposition de Chartres il poursuit l'action entreprise en 1989 lorsqu'il avait créé, en collaboration avec des verriers de Sanaa, une série de vitraux consacrée aux révolutions françaises et yéménites.

Organisée en cinq sections, rappel des cinq piliers de l'Islam (pratiques obligatoires du croyant), l'exposition permet au visiteur de découvrir l'histoire, les motifs et les techniques du vitrail puis son

des plaques d'albâtre, des vitraux anciens et modernes, un mobilier complet de mafraj, les boiseries d'une maison de Sanaa du XVIII^e siècle promise à la démolition et de nombreux objets de la vie quotidienne.

Des panneaux explicatifs rédigés par M. Bel ainsi que divers spécialistes reconnus (P. Bonenfant, F. Mermier, J. Lambert, S. Naïm-Sanbar), apportent les analyses et détails propres à satisfaire les plus exigeants.

Les maquettes, aquarelles, photographies et montages audiovisuels réalisés pour l'exposition donnent finalement aux visiteurs une présentation aussi riche d'enseignements que de plaisirs esthétiques.

Inaugurée en présence du ministre de la Culture yéménite, M. Hassan Al-Lawzi, de l'ambassadeur du Yémen en France, M. Ali Muthanna Hasson et de nombreuses autres personnalités l'exposition attire de nombreux visiteurs; elle fermera ses portes en avril 1992.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES JOURNALISTES: CONFIRMATION DU RENOUVEAU APRES LA FIN DES TRAVAUX DE LA REUNION DE SANAA

Réunis à Sanaa à l'invitation du Syndicat des Journalistes Yéménites les membres du Conseil de

dirigeants ont du abandonner leur fonction. La disparition des régimes en place en Europe de

du Conseil ont décidé d'ajouter un centre à Sanaa qui assurera la formation des journalistes des pays arabes.

"le fait d'être journaliste ne doit plus être considéré comme impliquant l'appartenance à des services

breux pays le statut de journaliste est accordé par décision administrative hors de tout contrôle par les membres de la profession.

d'espionnage", cette vérité simple ne l'est pas dans de nombreux pays, y compris pour les journalistes locaux dont les possibilités d'enquête sont étroites.

Si la question de la carte internationale reste en suspens l'une des résolutions finales du Conseil rappelle l'importance cruciale de la protection des journalistes, de leurs droits à l'étranger comme dans leur pays.

C'est pour éviter une telle confusion que l'OIJ réclame la création d'une carte internationale de journaliste, ce en quoi elle accompagne les efforts de l'UNESCO. A l'époque où M. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow dirigeait cette organisation il était question de mettre en place un Nouvel Ordre Mondial de L'Information et de la Communication (NOMIC) pour réduire la domination des médias occidentaux sur les flux internationaux

Plus de 200 membres de la profession ont perdu la vie au cours des deux dernières années et la résolution appelle à une mobilisation internationale ainsi qu'au renforcement des actions coordonnées avec la FIJ, les Nations-Unies, le CICR et les organisations internationales de juristes.



Gérard Gatnot, Secrétaire Général de l'OIJ

L'Organisation Internationale des Journalistes ont confirmé leur volonté de servir et de développer les droits des journalistes, en conformité avec la nouvelle direction adoptée lors du congrès tenu à Hararé, Zimbabwe, en janvier dernier.

Il est a, en effet, permis de constater que plusieurs d'entre eux se préoccupaient moins du sort des journalistes que des consignes des services de police politique auxquels ils appartenaient. Ayant fait table rase de ces résidus de la guerre froide les participants à la réunion du Conseil à Sanaa ont redoublé d'efforts pour mieux remplir les objectifs de l'Organisation.

La direction de ce centre a été confié à M. Mahboub Ali, responsable des relations extérieures du Syndicat des Journalistes Yéménites.

Le choix de Sanaa rend ainsi hommage aux conditions de liberté et de pluralisme dans lesquelles travaillent la presse yéménite depuis l'unification du pays. Outre la formation professionnelle les centres doivent également apporter une formation à l'action syndicale, entraînement à la négociation avec les employeurs, préparation d'une convention collective et initiation aux techniques d'organisation.

Aux activités de formation qui permettent de fructueux échanges entre participants de pays différents s'ajoute un engagement continu de l'OIJ en faveur d'une amélioration des droits des journalistes. Comme l'observe M. Gatnot

Créée en 1945 l'OIJ rassemble 106 organisations professionnelles de 94 pays soit 260.000 journalistes, son siège est situé à Prague, un rappel du passé récent ou l'Organisation passait pour la fédération liée aux pays de l'est alors que la Fédération Internationale des Journalistes, siège à Bruxelles, se voulait l'organisation du "monde libre".

Depuis le congrès de Hararé cette distinction ne vaut plus guère, à l'exception de M. Gérard Gatnot, Secrétaire Général de l'OIJ et issu des rangs du Syndicat National des Journalistes-CGT(France), l'ensemble des anciens

Cela concerne en premier lieu la formation professionnelle des journalistes. A cet effet l'OIJ apporte son concours aux pays ne disposant pas de structures de formation propre, des centres à vocation régionale dépendant de l'OIJ accueillent ainsi les personnes à former.

Aux centres existant déjà à Prague, Budapest, Abuja (Nigeria), Pyonyang (Corée du Nord) et La Havane les participants à la réunion

VISITE DE M.A. ISNARD AU YEMEN

A l'invitation de la section locale de l'Union des Français de l'Etranger (UFE), Madame Marie-Antoinette Isnard, membre du Conseil Supérieur des Français de l'Etranger a rendu visite à la communauté française du Yémen du 23 au 30 novembre.

Reçue en audience par l'Ambassadeur de France elle a consacré une matinée à rencontrer les résidents français à Sanaa. Lors de ses visites à Taiz et Hodeidah elle a pu rencontrer également ses compatriotes et s'informer sur la situation du pays et l'état des relations économiques franco-yéménites.

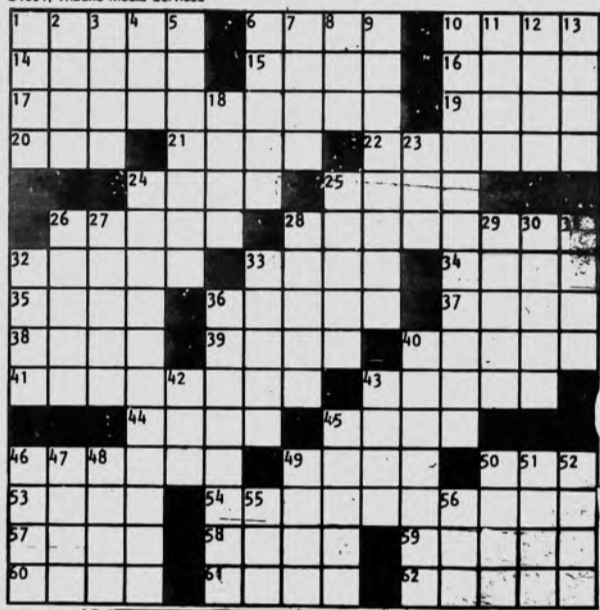
d'information. La création d'une carte internationale constituait l'une des mesures de ce vaste projet passé à la trappe en même temps que M. M'Bow. Au cours de rencontres au sujet de cette carte une vive opposition avait été manifesté par les patrons de presse des Etats-Unis qui contestaient l'utilité même d'une telle carte.

Aujourd'hui encore M. Gatnot, qui participa aux discussions d'alors, reconnaît que la création de la carte ne résoudrait pas le problème que constitue la désignation de l'autorité de délivrance. Dans de nom-

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Sufficiently poetic | 4 Quiet mouse | 38 "It — to know..." |
| 1 Violin, for short | 39 British composer | 5 Holds back | 40 — Kettle |
| 6 Romantic isle | 40 Mediterranean island | 6 Ms. Ross | 42 Fish eggs |
| 10 Peruvian | 41 Did again | 7 Exchange premium | 43 Family group |
| 14 Abode | 43 Walking aids | 8 On the — (fleeing) | 45 "The rocker's red —" |
| 15 Mild oath | 44 Pigeon — | 9 Paragon | 46 Serve as an omen |
| 16 Tide | 45 Happy | 10 "— Out the Other" (Sam Levenson book) | 47 Wild ox |
| 17 In single file | 46 Uses a tub | 11 Roman tyrant | 48 Hardy girl |
| 19 Heraldry term | 49 Blue-print | 12 Phone | 49 Kind of moss |
| 20 — Plains | 50 Roam | 13 Imitated | 50 Insect |
| 21 Too | 53 Rara avis | 18 Friend | 51 Can. prov. |
| 22 Palmer of golf | 54 Exclusive measure | 23 Hit and — | 52 Fabric colorer |
| 24 Oleaginous | 57 Medicine | 24 Counting words | 55 Opposite of gross |
| 25 Pivot | 58 At hand | 25 Gape at | 56 Table scrap |
| 26 Wary | 59 Gabble | 26 Old hag | |
| 28 Time way back | 60 Relax | 27 Let | |
| 32 City on the Rhone | 61 Feminine suffix | 28 Use money | |
| 33 Spread-hand measure | 62 Rose petal essence | 29 Theater or church area | |
| 34 Disorder | DOWN | 30 Patsies | |
| 35 Shed feathers | 1 Like tame horses | 31 Volcano | |
| 36 "Over —" | 2 Sound | 32 US: abbr. | |
| 37 — example | 3 Has regrets | 33 Tear to bits | |

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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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING (Sol.: 8 letters)
 A-Appetite; B-Banquet, Bless, Bread; C-Cake, Care, Carve, Cook, Corn, Cranberry; D-Dinner, Dish; E-Event; F-Family, Food, Fork; G-Gather, Give, Greet, Guests; I-Indians, Invite; L-Love, Lucky; M-Massachusetts, Meal; O-Oven; P-Peace, Plymouth Rock, Potatoes, Puritans, R-Relax; S-Salad, Sauce, Serve, Share, Spread; T-Taste, Thursday, Together, Turkey; V-Vegetables, Visit

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

REEMY
 LURBY
 YAPNOC
 TOMMAR

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

Print answer here: A



WORDS OF WISDOM

Your intelligence is your first line of defense against impatience. * * *

The greatest art usually is an expression of personal pain. * * *

There are two basic kinds of people in the world: Those who give a darn and those who don't. * * *

A tree reaches for the sun as a child looks up to his parents. Both simply

are trying to grow as straight and sturdy as they can. * * *

Don't run away from your biggest fears. Confront them and cut them down to size. * * *

Having a child changes everything, but even turned upside down, your world eventually becomes a much more fulfilling existence.

PISEOTATOPLD OOF
 PSNAIDNITASTEDF
 URELAXGPEACESAA
 RYCEEI MUHETPEM
 IEARTVVCSVTHLRI
 TKKAI EEI OELUYPL
 ARECTNDLSOGRMSY
 NUDAERBUSIKSORR
 STARPOHCENTDUER
 TELVPCCKLVEATHE
 S UAEAVEYBI EYHTB
 EQSSERVERTRI REN
 UNSNAKROFEGMOGA
 GATHERENNI DSCOR
 MBSELBATEGEVKTC

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIXTEEN GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

In the ninth century, there was a Holy Roman emperor by the extremely colorful name of Guido of Spoleto. * * *

In India, a condemned man was granted mercy after his hangman fainted on the job. It was to be the hangman's first execution. * * *

Car wrecks kill nearly 50,000 people each year in the United States. * * *

You have to be at least 18 years old to buy a condom in Ireland.

In January 1956, 38 inches of rain fell on Hawaii in the course of just 24 hours. * * *

A recent record for an ovarian cyst belonged to a woman in California. Doctors at Stanford University removed a 303-pound cyst from the 34-year-old patient. * * *

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SLAPSTIX
 THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO TODAY ON A SHOESTRING IS TRIP
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON

© 1986 Universal Press Syndicate



"I don't mean to exacerbate this situation, Roger, but I think I'm quite close to bursting into maniacal laughter and imagining your nose is really a German sausage."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Oh, crybaby! You want the last soda? Well, let me GET IT READY FOR YOU!"

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Creative solutions are easier to come by. End of week is exceptional for love.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Career affairs settle down. Success in legal matters. Romance, long-distance travel favored.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Conscientious attention to duty brings career recognition. Prosperous joint financial affairs.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Take advantage of extra training or schooling. Super productivity. Relationships have success.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Make sure you're letting your money work for you; know where every dollar is.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Your partner may really be depending on you. Greater social success.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Excellent productivity this week. You are the power behind the throne. More going your way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Long-term relationship possibilities. Gain through investments, the arts.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Domestic and property matters should stabilize. More public visibility.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Success from sales, writing, business travel, teaching. Personal advancement.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Finances should smooth out; double-check decisions with business partners.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Friends can be a source of wisdom, strength and comfort. Get more rest.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You get more done on your own, at work or at home. Avoid giving in to doubts.

If You Were Born This Week

December shows you going back and forth about personal matters; wait until you have sufficient information before making up your mind. January shows financial surprises and unexpected career gains. Avoid mental overload if possible in February. Business travel likely.

Continued from p. 5:

The Press and Publications Law, part IV:

CHAPTER FIVE: PROHIBITIONS APPLICABLE TO PUBLICATIONS AND PENAL PROVISIONS

Part One : Prohibitions on Publications

Article (103):

Persons employed in radio, television and written journalism and especially those employed in responsible positions in radio and television journalism, owners and editors in chief of newspapers, owners of printing presses and publishing houses and journalists, shall be bound to abstain from printing, publishing, circulating or broadcasting:

- a) Anything which prejudices the Islamic faith and its lofty principles or belittles religions or humanitarian creeds,
- b) In accordance with the law, any secret document or information which might jeopardize the supreme interests of the country or expose any of its security or defence secrets,
- c) Anything which might cause tribal, sectarian, racial, regional or ancestral discrimination, or which might spread a spirit of dissent and division among the people or call on them to apostasie,
- d) Anything which leads to the spread of ideas contrary to the principles of the Yemen Revolution, prejudicial to national unity or distorting the image of the Yemeni, Arab or Islamic heritage.
- e) Anything which undermines public moral or prejudices the dignity of individuals or the freedom of the individual by smears and defamation,
- f) Deliberations behind closed doors of the supreme bodies of the state,
- g) The details of cases during the stages of investigation and trial in ways which might prejudice the course of justice. During these stages, the criminal investigation departments, the police, the prosecution and the judiciary determine the items publication of which is forbidden,
- h) The intentional publication of false data or information with the aim of influencing the economic

trends and situation or of spreading chaos and confusion in the country,

- i) Incitement to use violence or terrorism,
- j) Advertisements containing texts or pictures which are inconsistent with Islamic values and public ethics, to defame or libel individuals, attack the rights of others or mislead the public,
- k) Advertisements for pharmaceutical preparations, beauty aids or food-stuffs without the permission of the body concerned.
- l) To criticise the person of the head of state, or to attribute to him declarations or pictures unless the declarations were made or the picture taken during a public speech. These provisions do not necessarily apply to constructive criticism.

Part two: Penal Provisions

Article (104):

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty under another law, any person who contravenes the provisions of this law shall be subject to a fine not exceeding ten thousand riyals or a period of imprisonment not exceeding one year.

Article (105):

The court may order the closure of a newspaper, printing press, publishing house or premises for the circulation of printed material, artistic compositions or similar products which have been opened without the proper licences provided for in this law.

Article (106):

The court may order the imposition of any of the following supplementary penalties:

- a) Prohibition of continued practice of the profession of journalism, circulation and printing of newspapers and printed materials or of the import, export, renting or sale of cinema films at the exhibiting of artistic compositions or any other of the professions covered by the provisions of this law for a period not exceeding one year.
- b) Confiscation.

Article (107):

A newspaper or printed material may, by the

ministrative action if it has been printed, issued or circulated in violation to the provisions of this law. The matter shall be brought before the courts to rule on whether the material seized should be confiscated. The person concerned has the right to appeal to the courts against the decision of seizure and to claim compensation.

Article (108):

The editor in chief shall be held fully responsible with respect of any branch of this law committed by a writer, artist, or any other author of other product of expression, unless it can be proven that publication took place without his/her knowledge.

Article (109):

The importer and distributor of any printed material, newspaper, magazine or artistic composition containing written pieces, symbols, photographs or other means of expression pub-

lished abroad which contravene this law shall be liable to the penalties set out in Article (104).

Article (110):

Any journalist or owner of a printing press or publishing house who is proven to have accepted money or gifts from abroad to create anxiety or disorder in the circles of public opinion shall be subject to the penalties set out in Article (104) of this law.

Article (111):

Owners of publications, printing presses, newspapers, publishing houses and distribution houses already in existence shall adjust their affairs in accordance with the provisions of this law within a period of three months from its issuance.

Article (112):

No newspaper, magazine, publication or similar material shall be confiscated except in accordance with this law.

Article (113):

The establishment of offices and agencies for press and information services and of exhibition halls, bureaux and offices for translation shall be subject to the provisions of this law and to its by-law and the regulations.

Article (114):

The Minister of Information shall issue such decisions, by-laws and instructions as are within his competence for the application of the provisions of this law.

Article (115):

For the purposes of this law, all other provisions which are in conflict with it are hereby repealed.

Article (116):

This law shall come into force from the date of its issue and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued on 23/12/1990.

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Oman Bets Consultative Council

Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of Oman issued last month five decrees which established the Consultative Council and defined its parameters, by-laws, and members. The first decree 94/91 established the Council and defined its basic duties and responsibilities. The second decree No. 95/91 named the persons representing each of the 59 zones of the country, while decree No. 96/91 named H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Qutbi as Chairman of the Council. Decree No. 97/91 was related to the by-laws and standing orders of the Council. The final decree No. 98/91 specified the financial remuneration of the Council chairman and members.

The Council which has a three-year term, does not have many of the powers that typically parliaments have in terms of relations with the executive branch of authority. The role of the Council is seen as supportive of the government in its endeavors towards development and social welfare. However, the Council does carry responsibility for legislation and review of overall progress in the country. Oman has thus become the second country in the Arabian Peninsula with a functioning parliament. The first country, of course, is the Republic of Yemen, which has a vocal and assertive legislative authority. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had promised, during the heat of the Gulf War to establish a parliament. The parliament is being vacated

KURDS RETREAT IN FACE OF IRAQI ADVANCES

The line of Kurdish resistance standing between Baghdad and Irbil has vanished. As this paper went to print, only a couple hundred of lightly armed Kurds stand in the face of the Saddam's big guns. Irbil, a city of almost 800,000 residents "is bound to fall back to Iraqi rule" according to a disgusted Peshmerga. Just two weeks back, thousands of Kurds were manning lines south of the city against the advancing 17,000 Iraqi troops massed along three highways leading into the city. "We have been cheated and used by the Western countries. Today, we are left on our own to fight an embittered enemy," added another Kurdish fighter. Even those Kurds who are in the area were in observation posts rather than entrenched in defensive positions.

Hopes of autonomy, let alone independence, for the Kurds are dwindling day by day as the central government of Baghdad regains its balance and force.

Guerillas from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) who had been manning most of the front-line positions, were replaced recently by fighters from other Kurdish groups. Rival Kurdish political parties blame one another for the confusion which has sabotaged the prospects for an autonomy agreement with Baghdad. The government in Baghdad continues to offer the Kurds some form of autonomous rule over regions inhabited by Kurds. The only condition is to sever ties to external parties and to agree to work together with Baghdad in rebuilding the country. But rivalry among the Kurdish groups, as well as continued association with foreign powers have hindered any meaningful progress in this regard.

In the meanwhile, Iraqi forces continue to fill-up

ASSAD: PRESIDENT ONE MORE TIME!

Syrian President Hafez Assad is on. Three weeks ago, the Syrian Parliament "voted" unanimously to appoint him for a fourth seven-year term. Demonstrations in support of Assad reached their climax late in November with the rally dubbed "The march of the One Million".

President Assad, 61, seized power in a coup on November 16th, 1970, and for the last twenty one years, he has been "voted" unanimously as President.

On Monday, December 2nd, the vote of the parliament was endorsed by a public referendum. Of course, Mr. Assad won again. According to the Syrian constitution, the parliament's vote must be endorsed in a public referendum.

Many bureaucrats and civil servants and students were brought out of their offices and schools to hail the President during the rally. The marchers carried banners, flags, flowers and posters of the President. Judging from the careful organization of the marches and the final rally, they definitely must have been planned well in advance.

Even private shops and enterprises were closed during the rally. Government newspapers, radio, and TV, in addition to deafening loudspeakers from on top of army lorries and trucks called on the people to "merge with the leader" and asked them "to be dissolved in the person of the chief".

President Assad has

THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT FLOATS TREASURY BILLS

Saudi Arabia offered treasury bills to banks in the country for the first time last month in a bid to finance its rising budgetary deficit, banking sources indicated.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), which is entrusted with the job, is offering 1.5 billion Saudi Riyals (about US\$500 million) in 4, 13 and 26-week bills in telexes to commercial banks.

Economists predict larger placements ahead as the government's budget shows persistent and growing deficits year after year. The US\$6.6 billion deficit projected for 1990 suddenly grew to US\$16 billion. A similar scenario is expected for 1991. Bankers estimate the return on the bills at 4.7889%, 4.9126%, and 4.9825% for the 4, 13, and 26-week bills respectively. Many of the banks have agreed to pick-up the bills, although the rates are at least two basis points below the bid side of the interbank deposit market rates.

Saudi Arabia has yet to develop financial markets for these and other instruments, partly due to religious objections by the clergy. Yet, these bills, for the first time in Saudi history, are negotiable. That means the banks can resell them to other buyers.

SAMA has also floated new bills on the 26th of November. These have a longer maturity (52 weeks = one year). SAMA also informed the banks that the offerings will continue on a regular basis. The amounts of the bills will vary depending on the government's financing requirements.

It is expected that most of the Gulf-war related expenditures borne by Saudi Arabia will have been paid from the 1990 and 1991 budgets.

INDIAN REACTOR FOR IRAN

The US and India are at odds over India's intended sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran. US Undersecretary of State for International Security Affairs, Reginald Bartholomew, shuttled to New Delhi late last month in an attempt to persuade India against going ahead with the deal. In separate meetings with External Affairs Minister Madhav-sinh, Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, and Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey, the American official urged India either to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, or agree that South Asia be declared a nuclear free-zone. India resists both.

India defended its intention to sell the 10-megawatt reactor to Iran. A foreign ministry source in Delhi indicated that India is not a major exporter of nuclear technology and that his country had a "scrupulous" record in nuclear proliferation. To support the Indian position, Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who had visited India also late last month, affirmed that "the proposed sale was not the concern of his agency". He added that Iran had signed the NPT and that acquiring the new reactor would not lead to proliferation as long as the IAEA safeguards applied. Mr. Blix also refuted rumours that he had suggested that India, which first exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and which today has eight commercial reactors, should sign the NPT.

India objects to the NPT because it discriminates between the haves and have-nots of nuclear power and that history shows that the Western nations, specially the USA, is the largest exporters of nuclear technology, including one to Iran. India also objects to regional nuclear arrangements of any kind which exclude China.

The US remains hopeful regarding a possible compromise for the impasse. Local media indicated that India might not reject a five-nation (India, Pakistan, China, the USSR, and USA) meeting to discuss the matter. In the meanwhile, leaks from Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao say that he has put the matter on ice for the time being.

LA CICCIOLINA'S LAST YEAR IN PARLIAMENT

Porn queen gets votes.

Last year when Saddam Hussein was holding civilian hostages, a slew of diplomatic solutions were suggested by political leaders around the world. But no one was as creative as Ilona Staller, Italy's porn star and member of parliament who offered to sleep with Hussein in return for the hostages' freedom. Her approach to international politics remains as unconventional as her life. Though she became the honorable Staller four years ago as a Radical Party representative in parliament, she still performs at least 25 of her live strip-show "spectaculars" each month. According to Riccardo Schicchi, master-mind manager of her pornstar career, "she has always tried to expose certain truths to the world." Staller has been posing for photographers without a thread of clothing since she was a 13-years-old in Budapest. In her late 30s now, her girlish appeal remains: with creamy skin, a slathering of garish lipstick, which looks as if it were applied by a child playing dress up, she often wears lacy, bridal white, her shimmering blond head crowned by a wreath of wilted flowers.

Born to midwife and a government bureaucrat in Budapest, Staller's mother had hoped she would become a doctor, but her interests lay elsewhere. In her mid 20s, she moved to Rome where she modeled and had a radio call in sex show, earning her nickname La Cicciolina (pinchable, cuddly one). From this exposure, her career blossomed and she soon became one of Italy's premier porn stars. According to Schicchi, her shows are choreographed to "liberate" audiences by seducing them.

She was elected in June of 1987 from a Radical Party ballot which also listed a jailed terrorists suspect, a TV personality accused of drug dealing and several sports figures, musicians and comedians. Though few publicly admit to having voted

for the platinum blond, her election was no doubt the reaction of a cynical electorate which has seen 49 governments since World War II.

Known for unpredictable and often unprecedented politics, the Radical Party played a key role in legalizing abortion and divorce in Italy. Nonetheless, party leaders have been slightly taken aback by her election and grudgingly accept her presence. Since her election to the 5-year term, she has introduced "love parks" for teenagers; conjugal visits for prisoners; and has proposed that brothels be replaced with cozy houses where people can go to make love. She also supports Green Party environmental issues.

"Cicciolina is a dream of Italian society", said Italian film director Federico Fellini shortly after the her election. "I say 'dream' not in the sense of something profound that flowers involuntarily and with which one has come to terms."

And though a political career would seem to require a bit more reserve, Staller is known throughout Europe and the world for her frequent reversions at public occasions to her striptease artist, pornographic-movie actress persona. Her daffy antics have garnered international attention and endeared her to many voters, if not her party.

Recently, Staller has become engaged to American pop artist Jeff Koons, who claims to have seen her in a porn magazine while examining skin colors for one of his sculptures. The two are working on a film entitled 'Jeff and Ilona: Made in Heaven.' Her interest in international affairs took her to Hungary in 1989 to celebrate the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Before TV cameras and photographers, Staller hailes peace and released a dove, which immediately flew beneath the treads of a Soviet tank. Staller has also appeared on Afghanistani news program called "Interesting, Nice People You Would Like to Know."

CONTINUED FROM P. 8

GATT NEGOTIATIONS MAKE HEADWAY

Japan has put up strong resistance to opening its cherished rice market to foreign imports, but the assumption among Geneva diplomats is that Tokyo will have to fall into line if other parties find a solution on agriculture.

Among the key issues to be settled in an overall settlement is the percentage cut in export subsidies, important barriers and market access.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said the EC had proposed a 35% reduction over six years, which provided a good basis for negotiations but was an insufficient cut.

The United States is also pressing for a commitment to pursue reductions after the six years or whatever period is decided on.

Among other issues are whether the export subsidy cuts should apply only to the money spent or also, as Washington wants, to the volume of export subsidised.

ROMANIA ENSHRINES THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

Romania celebrated its national day on December 1st. On the occasion, the Romanian Charge d'Affair gave a reception attended by many members of the diplomatic community and senior persons in the Yemeni government and society.

On the occasion, the Charge d'Affair confirmed that his country adhered to the international guarantees and conventions that protect and preserve the rights of minorities. "Culture, religious and historical monuments of minorities are protected, and they

enjoy the same status of protection and preservation as the National patrimony," he said.

The government also observes the rights of the people to have unhindered access to socio-political and economic life, both directly and through freely elected representatives. He concluded that his government awards development its top priority. Discrimination based on race, ethnic or national origin as well as to urge any national racial or religious hatred are prohibited in our country," he concluded.

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

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Sunday	<u>The Car Park</u>
Monday	<u>Kebab's Around the World</u> (Five Countries Kebabs served together in a platter)
Tuesday	<u>From Our Nets and Creels</u> (Sea Food Platter with Accompaniments)
Wednesday	<u>Numerous Noodles</u> (A Small Buffet of various noodles & Italian Specialities)
Thursday	<u>Mexican Night</u> (Taco Bar and Mexican Specialities)
Friday	<u>B-B-Cue Luncheon</u> in the Pool Garden. Special Tandoori Dinner Menu in Tandoor Restaurant.



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مأرب للتأمين

SANAA is the launching ground for the new IOJ:

"I was very worried about coming to Sanaa for the IOJ Council meetings. But now, the IOJ has made a fresh start in Sanaa. We have a news lease on life," said

Armando Rollemberg, President of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ). Mr. Rollemberg,



who was speaking to the Yemen Times prior to his departure from Sanaa on Monday December 2nd, at the end of one week of tough talks in, disclosed that there was a serious rift among the IOJ delegates regarding the future orientation of the organization. "In the past, the IOJ pursued a course that was both radical and socialist due to the overbearing dominance of the Eastern Bloc countries. We have finally freed ourselves from such dominance, and Sanaa marks the watershed for our history," he added.

He indicated that the main goal of the organization today is to promote freedom of the press and to work for the protection and safety of journalists. "We have ongoing talks with the UN, the Red Cross, human rights organizations and other bodies to jointly work for the achievement of these goals," he pointed

out. He also said that talks were being initiated with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), a rival organization, to work for the safety and freedom of journalists.

The previously left-leaning IOJ and the right-leaning IFJ are today on a convergence course. The goals and methods are becoming very similar.

With respect to what has been achieved in Yemen, Mr. Rollemberg said that the beginnings were made in Harare, and we finished the re-orientation job here in Sanaa.

"I am very gratified for the hospitality and complete freedom we were afforded here in Sanaa. It is my belief that this country really enjoys a free press. I look forward to see the day when the radio and TV also enjoy similar freedom away from a one-sided dominance by the state," he said.

In light of the free conditions prevailing in Yemen, the IOJ decided to establish its Arab region's center here in Sanaa. "We were looking for the location that would satisfy most of the conditions for the center. Yemen satisfied most of these conditions. Let me point to the two crucial

ones - freedom of the press, and the fact that Yemen plays a bridging role among the Arab countries," he said.

Finally speaking about his impressions of Yemen, he said it was very different. "This is an old country with an ancient civilization. So you have many things in that respect. I saw many signs of poverty and underdevelopment. But I also saw many signs of construction and vigorous growth. With the new oil and mineral discoveries, I am sure the prospects will continue to improve," he concluded.

At another level, Yemen Times went to speak to Mr. Mahboob Ali, who is in charge of external relations at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, and Yemen's contact person with the IOJ. Mr. Mahboob Ali, more than any other person, was instrumental in bringing the IOJ meetings to Sanaa.

Why was meeting in Sanaa so important? "You will kindly realize that the IOJ includes among its members very important journalists and media professionals. Their coming to Yemen will give them first hand information about Yemen. This country's recent achievements - peaceful and negotiated unification, political pluralism, democracy, etc. - are not sufficiently known to the rest of the world. Hopefully they'll tell the story. This will also break the partial isolation in which Yemen found itself after

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the Gulf Crisis, and it will help restore the positive image of Yemen worldwide," he indicated.

"Another benefit from holding the meetings in Sanaa is that the Arab region's center of the IOJ, which I head, has not been located here," he added.

This center will initiate contact with the Arab organizations and syndicates of journalists in order to coordinate policies and approaches to the various regional issues.

With respect to the arrangements, Mr. Mahboob Ali indicated that the Yemeni syndicate took a big risk by inviting the IOJ to Yemen. First



we were dead worried due to the divisions among the IOJ delegates and we did not want Sanaa to be burial ground for the organization. Second, we

were worried about the Yemeni preparedness to handle this kind of large of overly sensitive crowd. I am happy we succeeded on both counts," he concluded.



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