



YEMEN TIMES

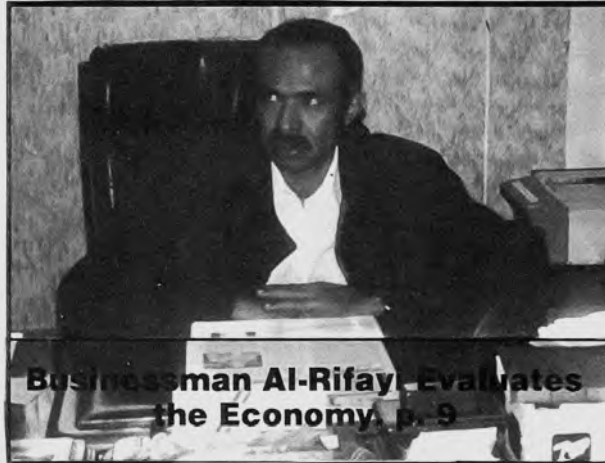


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 11-17 DECEMBER 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 41

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AMBASSADOR
YAHIA RABAH
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OUR VIEWPOINT



ECONOMOCRACY

We in Yemen are gradually putting in place the foundations for democracy. Yet, we only see the political aspects of this process - such as pluralism, freedom of the press, and human rights. The economic or development aspects of the process are forgotten or attended to only in passing. Most parties have concrete political proposals, but lack a clear economic development platform.

We need to combine economic development and democracy as the basis for our new system. Unifying the two aspects of the system (economocracy) can lead to a balanced progress. After all there is little meaning in political development if a major portion of the population is hungry. In the same way, people cannot live by bread (economic prosperity) alone. Democratic values and practices are necessary to life.

Therefore, stressing just one aspect of the process, as is the case in today's Yemen, will not achieve the full life we aspire. That is why I am surprised that our political parties have not initiated a crusade in favor of the forty percent of the Yemenis who already live below the poverty line. These include the street-children, the returnees, the unemployed, the ostracized members of society (whether for social, medical or other reasons), the handicapped, etc.

At a time when political parties seek to expand their base of members and sympathizers, it would be politically fortuitous to tap this segment of society.

Help them, and they will help you!

The Publisher

Interior Minister: Our forces have apprehended 83.3% of cases.

Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar Al-Qamish, Minister of Interior and Security, told the Yemen Times that the country's new (unified) passports are already available for distribution to the citizens. "Before December is out, people will have received their new passports," he said.



The Minister also disclosed that the new citizenship identity cards are being completed and that they will be available by late March, 1992.

At another level, the Minister disclosed that of 6236 crimes reported during the first half of 1991, police forces have been able to track and apprehend the offenders of 5197 cases, all of whom have been transferred to the judicial authorities.

Read details on p. 6

EC Makes History at MAASTRICHT

Arguably the most ambitious project in Europe's evolution reaches a crossroads next week in the old Dutch city of Maastricht.

Evidently, the European Community summit on political and monetary union will not produce an instant united states of Europe. But what the EC is doing is so crucial that the long-term stakes are inevitably high.

The 12 heads of state and government are trying to bridge huge differences. Britain, perhaps the most sovereignty-conscious of the 12 states, might condemn itself to future isolation if it splits courses with the Continent.

But the summit does seem to have struck a deal, which could set the 34-year-old community on course to become one day the European union, with a single currency run by an EC central bank, one voice in foreign affairs and one army.

Unlike the sprawling empires Napoleon and Hitler set out to build, this union would rest on the willingness of democratic nations and peoples to give up sovereignty in a broad range of fields for the sake of common strength.

It would embrace at least nine different languages and many cultures. It would bring together not pioneers in an unknown continent, but people long prone to wage murderous wars against each other.

The Maastricht summit of Monday and Tuesday did move towards the EC vision, or at least clearly chart the way forward, and politicians are already predicting that EC unity and wealth will beckon a dozen or more other European states to join in.

It would then wield enormous economic and political power, vying with the lure of a barrier-free single market after 1992 no longer enough to ensure unity.

"If we don't go forward, we will slide back," says Belgium's ambassador to the EC, Philippe de Schoutheete.

In this worst-case scenario, the community would slowly wilt. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who champions a united states of Europe, said last month that failure at Maastricht would set the EC back by a generation.

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LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS,

UNESCO CONFERENCE NEW ON SANAA

To mark the 10th anniversary of the launching of the UNESCO Project to Safeguard the Old City of Sanaa, 'the International Symposium on the Integrated Urban Policy for the Conservation of the Old City of Sanaa' will be held in Sanaa during 14-19 December, 1991. Giancarlo Barbato, an Italian architect who is assisting in the organization of the symposium arrived here yesterday, Tuesday, December 10th. Sixteen senior experts on old Sanaa from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, the USA, Pakistan, Egypt, and Jordan are flying into Sanaa next week. UNESCO's Mounir Bouchnaki is expected to brief the symposium on what has been done during the first decade of the project. It is sad that only two main achievements stand out for the last decade (the samsarah and the pavement of the roads) while seven projects are still on the shelves. These include repairs of the palaces, the walls, the samsaraks, etc. During the symposium, Italian artist Paula Crociani will organize an exhibition of pictures of Sanaa, while another Italian, Laureano, will officially present the Bir Al-Azab Restoration Project.

NEW GERMAN AID TO YEMEN

The Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Germany signed two agreements according to which a new German aid of DM50 million has been granted. The financial and technical aid package will finance numerous projects in transportation, secondary cities, Sanaa and Aden airports development, electric maintenance and expansion, and telecommunication networks. These agreements come following a visit by a German mission to Yemen. The team leader of the mission, Dr. Winfried Fuchs, reaffirmed continued German support for the Republic of Yemen. It will be noted that Yemen and Germany enjoy a very close level of understanding and cooperation.

VICE PRESIDENT AL-BEEDH IN DAKAR

Mr. Ali Salem Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council, left Sanaa on Sunday December 8th, at the head of a Yemeni delegation to the Dakar Sixth Islamic Summit. It is hoped that the Dakar summit will expedite the healing process of the inter-Arab rifts that resulted from the Gulf crisis.

FRENCH MOVIES ON YEMENI TV

Starting from this week, Yemeni Television Channel 2 will air a French movie (subtitled in Arabic) every Saturday at 10:00pm. This is part of the collaboration that had started earlier this year. Yemen Times learnt that additional programs, specially documentaries and French language programs, will be aired starting from January 1992.

UNICEF FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

UNICEF and Yemeni-officials starting meetings yesterday (Tuesday, December 9th) in Sanaa to discuss the new plans for the years 1993-7. UNICEF has allocated US\$25 million to finance projects related to children in Yemen in those years. UNICEF's previous programs have made a real dent in the dismal conditions of Yemeni children.

PERSONAL VIEW

POPULATION POLICIES



Awes Sheikh M. Abdullahi Teacher

I would like to comment on the studies of the Central Statistical Organization which were published, in summary form, on October 16, 1991 in the Yemen Times, issue no. 33, entitled, "Statistics for 1990 Bode Omens for Economy". Yemen is among the developing countries whose birth rate is very high. It is indicated that about 52.5% of the population now are children aged under 14 years. That shows clearly that after a few years, school capacity must be doubled or tripled. There are many reasons which there is a high population growth in Yemen, but the major one is due to illiteracy, specially in the countryside. As the report says, at least 78.6% of the population live in rural areas. Some people believe in having many babies as an insurance against old age and so that if a few die, there will still be others who will live on. Of course, in the meanwhile, the children will die for the lack of good care. There is the other fallacy of many children as security against their old age. But there is an inconsistency in this logic. Having too many children means there will be a problem in giving them proper education, which in turn leads to these children's inability to earn well and therefore to support their parents. In such cases, children are the real losers and not the parents. It is fortunate that the Government of Yemen is looking into this matter openly and directly, to make people understand the disadvantages of having too many children. From my view point, a better education on birth control throughout the country is the only solution now.

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Ambassador Yahia Rabah:

"We can't trust American impartiality!"

The Intifadha (Uprising) of the Palestinian people has just turned five years old on Monday, December 9th. If the Intifadha were in the West, Hollywood would have inundated the world with movies about the courage of unarmed civilians against the oppression of a ruthless army.

The Palestinian people will celebrate their national day in about two weeks - on January 1st. If the Palestinians had been a non-Arab, non-Muslim people, their sufferings would have heralded the front-pages of all newspapers and magazines forever.

Yemen Times went to H.E. Mr. Yahia Rabah, the Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa, to get his evaluation of this struggle. The main question we put was whether the world civilization has evolved to the extent that peoples - whatever their color or religion or socio-culture, can expect a certain modicum of justice and fair treatment. Or is the whole thing a fallacy that presents the Crusades in a new cloak?

Mr. Rabah was born in a small village half-way between Ghaza and Yaffa. He was expelled from Palestine during the Israeli on-slaught in 1948. We found Mr. Rabah a very cultured man in spite of his basketball physique. He is a man who reads a few hundred pages every day. He is a man who knows about Yemen and the region more than a lot of people we have met.

Excerpts of the interview follow:

Q: Where do we stand today on the Palestinian problem - modern history's longest standing problem?

A: Over the last few days, we have witnessed the petty squabbling over meaningless points. The Israeli side seems very eager to complicate matters by insisting on this or that issue. To me this reflects a dangerous development. It shows the Israeli side is unable to rise-up to the occasion and beyond the petty matters. It also proves the Americans are unable or unwilling to put the necessary pressure on them to sort of grow-up. In ad-



dition, there are numerous incidents that bode omens to the peace process. The Israeli have embarked on a relentless and ruthless bombardment of the Palestinian and Lebanese villages and camps in south Lebanon. The Israeli have masterminded the looting of the court in Jerusalem and confiscated all the deeds and documents. The Israeli are pushing hard on building colonies or settlements. The Israelis are more ruthless than ever in their treatment of the civilian Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Israeli are up-grading their nuclear and chemical war machines at a time when the world is disarming Iraq of the same arms. Israel has refused to come to the negotiation table on December 4th as arranged by the USA and the USSR. All these developments bode omens of bad times to come, and I think we are sliding towards a dangerous path.

Q: Are you confident of the impartiality of the US administration. I mean is the US a neutral arbiter to the conflict?

A: Of course not. I think the US can never be neutral or impartial on this issue. What we hope to achieve is make it less biased by proving to it and the world that the Israel it is supporting really has an ugly face. As a Palestinian, I don't ever think of the US as an impartial or neutral party. The Arabs, including the Palestinians, who went to Washington did so because they want to show the world they want peace. It is not the Arabs who refuse peace. We are serious about peace.

Q: Assuming the peace talks don't proceed well. What is the alternative?

A: The alternative is within the Arabs themselves. Some Arabs think of the Palestinian problem as something distinct from them. Israel's ambitions do not cover just Palestine, but a lot more. Let me give you an example. If, as many Zionist organizations plan, some three million more Jews emigrate to Israel, you think they will stay put. They will have to expand, if at least to look for water and space to live on. So, all the Arabs are party to this struggle in a direct way. The Arabs must treat the Palestinian issue as a litmus test for their relations with others. In addition, we must immediately work to bridge the inter-Arab differences out of the needs for survival. As you can see, no Arab country can independently address even its own affairs by itself. A pan-Arab approach is not a luxury, it is a must for our survival.

I think if the Israelis block any real progress to peace and if the Americans can't deliver, the Arab frustrations may engulf the region with a wave of violence. Also American credibility in managing the new world order will be seriously damaged.

Q: President Arafat has just finished a tour of the region. What was the purpose and what were the results?

A: President Yasser Arafat visited several countries including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the Arab Maghreb countries, Yemen and the Sudan. He also met with Lebanese President Hraoui during their visit to Paris.

The purpose of the visits has been to help the wounds heal fast enough to allow the Arab countries a chance to interact positively and forcefully with the changing events.

Q: Jordan and Palestine are closely intertwined. How do you see cooperation and coordination?

A: I think that the two sides are today closer to each other more than at any time. I would like to use this opportunity to express appreciation for the clarity of vision and wisdom of the Jordanian leadership. Let me emphasize here that Jordan has its identity separate from Palestine. There is no sincerity or truth in the proposition that Israelis put forth when they point to Jordan as an alternative home to the Palestinians. Jordan is the home of Jordanians, and we as Palestinians are placing our rightful claim to Palestine. Our talks in Washington are closely coordinated with all the Arab countries, but specially Jordan.

Our basic approach is to seek the implementation of: a) an immediate and total termination of establishing new colonies (settlements), b) the presence of an international force to replace the Israeli military presence that will allow the people of the West Bank and Ghaza to determine their future in a referendum at the end of the transition period, c) an implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Q: How do you evaluate the Egyptian attitude towards the Palestinian issue?

A: In Egypt there are two major trends or schools of thought vis-a-vis the Pales-

tinian issue. The first one regards Palestine as the front-line of Egyptian security against Israel. This was basically the approach during the pan-Arabist days under Nasser. In this case, the Palestinian issue is a vital aspect of Egyptian policies. Then there is the second approach which considers inter-action with the Palestinian issue as something Egypt does out of assistance to an Arab neighbor with no bearing on its own security.

Today, Egypt vacillates between those two trends, neither of which has overwhelming command of the situation.

Q: How about Yemeni-Palestinian relations?

A: I think Yemen has a special place in the hearts of Palestinians. I will explain at two levels:

a) At the general level, Yemen is the only Arab country which has not used the Palestinian issue to bargain with. Whatever Yemen gave to the Palestinians, it was not done through bilateral or multilateral bargains or barter arrangements.

b) The Yemeni people have participated in the armed struggle. You will note that Yemeni volunteers have died in many of the exceptional operations against the Israeli enemy.

c) In our daily lives here in Yemen, Palestinians are awarded all the rights that Yemenis enjoy at all levels specially at the social and economic lives.

It is no secret that Yemeni-Palestinian mixed marriages have become a frequent phenomenon today.

Q: How do you see the role of Europe.

A: I think Europe is struggling with its own birth. I hope they succeed in evolving a united Europe. Europeans are more aware of our region, and they pursue a more balanced approach to our region. Yet, recent history (Yugoslavia) has shown Europe is not yet ready to play a unified role that is independent of the USA.

Q: Any last words:

A: I would like to emphasize that the Palestinian issue is not simply the concern of Palestinians, although we are the most affected. It is the concern of all Arabs and Muslims.

ADEN- A City Regains Its Place

It is seldom in history to find an ancient town whose name continues to shine for about three thousand years. Aden, which has been given various names and titles is one such place. It is chronicled in the old manuscripts, it has a biblical reference, and it was an important transit point for the ancient caravans. The so called Tanks of Aden are amongst the very oldest sights in the country. These huge cisterns are high on the slopes of Jabal Sham-san, with a panoramic view over crater, the old town of Aden. The cisterns, probably built by the Himyarites in the 1st century AD, are capable of storing 45 million liters of water in total. Historians give the year 427 BC as the time of the construction. It is clear that



any project of this magnitude must have taken a long time and a great skill and a lot of money to build. This by itself is testimony to the advanced level of life that must have existed so long ago.



Key to Aden's entrance-Crater

Even in recent history, the British called it the Crown Colony. The shining star of Arabia, has been the natural seaport for Yemen through-out its ancient, medieval and modern civilizations.

Historians, travellers, and foreign missions through the ages have recognized Aden's paramount importance for trade and transshipment as well as its military advantages. Aden's unique location commands the southern entrance of the Bab El-manden strait, and it commands the hinterland, as well, since the mountains run right into the sea.

The people of Aden are a charming mix of Arab, African and Indian stock. Therefore tolerance of differences has been a characteristic of the Adeni resident who has a very cosmopolitan attitude and approach to many things. Aden city is built on a site of an old volcanic activity, which has left huge craters. The deep port is another

natural advantage which enables the handling of even the largest vessels. A few kilometers in the hinterland, beautiful and rich agricultural backgrounds provide the breathing space required for a large city, as well as the rural resources and manpower needed for development.

Continues on page 5



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Continued from p. 4

ADEN - A City Regains Its Place

Thus it is no wonder that the site has been inhabited since long ago, having served as the the port of the ancient Kingdom of Awsan between the 5th and 7th centuries BC.

In more recent times, the city has been the center of commercial and industrial activities. The huge oil refinery was the reason many vessels bunkered at Aden. Today, Aden is the home of some 400,000 persons, and the number is expected to reach 600,000 before the end of this century.

the city.

Topurism is also expected to flourish due to the ancient sites and socio-cultural heritage. Besides this there are other historical buildings such as the Al-Aidarus mosque which was originally built in the 14th century AD. It was rebuilt after its complete destruction in 1859. Another building is the The Aden Minaret, although the 8th century mosque it belonged to is long gone, this minaret in Crater area still stands.



The Government of the Republic of Yemen has named Aden as the commercial and economic capital of the Republic, and it has chosen the city to be the site of the country's free zone area. Both decisions are expected to bring a lot of business to

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MINISTER AL-QAMISH DISCUSSES EFFORTS OF HIS MINISTRY

The Republic of Yemen is slowly feeling comfortable with the systems brought about by the unification of the country. One major source of contention and difficulties has been in the security sector of the country. The old forces have been struggling to remain in power, and the new politically-oriented structures have added a new dimension to the division of power. Moreover, the increased poverty of the country, partly due to the return of almost one million Yemenis, many of whom are jobless, added to the strain on the security system of the country.

To speak about these and the progress achieved recently in the services of this ministry, Yemen Times went to speak to the Minister of Interior and General Security, Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar Al-Qamish, a close confidant of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Q: Whatever happened to the civil registration project that was initiated some time ago?

A: We have been working on the civil registration project through-out 1991. I am happy to tell you that all arrangements are finally completed. The Supreme Committee established by the government for this purpose has done its work, albeit at a slower pace than I would like, but it is now almost over. We expect to start giving out the new citizenship identity cards in March/April 1992.

Our problem is that citizens do not apply to get their cards unless they need them for some other purpose. We are planning to make acquisition of the ID an essential prerequisite for the right to vote in the elections of members of House of Representatives.

Q: How about the new passports?

A: These are ready and I have samples of them right here. In two weeks, you can go and get your new passport. We plan to withdraw the old passports gradually, and hopefully by the end of 1992, all passports will have been issued by the Republic of Yemen and its embassies abroad.



Q: Unification of the security apparatus. How far has that come?

A: We were preoccupied with this matter, but today we have completed 85% of the task. We have diffused all points of contention and everything is settled. We have unified the ranks, the titles, the bureaucracy, the structures, the organizations, and the administrative apparatus.

Of course, you know that I have been personally involved in the unification talks. Therefore, I was in the spirit and action of the unification process. The Ministry of Interior and General Security has thus become one of the first ministries to embark on the unification of the structures.

Q: May we open the file of prisoners and prison conditions. What is new in light of our declared adherence of human rights and reforms in prisons?

A: The Republic of Yemen has made tremendous improvements in this regard. Let me pin this down:

a) The parties that are able to send someone to prison in Yemen today are limited to those stipulated by the constitution. These are limited to the courts, the prosecution office and temporary imprisonment by order of the Ministry of Interior.

b) The treatment of prisoners is governed by a new set of rules which protect the dignity and human-ness of the prisoners.

c) Reform packages have been introduced in some prisons, although at a small scale. This allows prisoners to acquire new skills and to produce goods and earn income while they are in prison.

d) We allow local and international persons and groups to visit the prisons and to

investigate the conditions of prisons and prisoners.

f) Recently, new services have been introduced such as health care, recreation, and better food and lodging, etc.

So you see, the human rights picture has seen great improvements.

Q: But wait a minute. There are private prisons, and there are tribal leaders, like Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, who can send citizens to prisons.

A: Yes, of course there are limited exceptions. These are due to the transitional nature of our current life. You will please realize the background against which we work. Sometimes, there are tribal conflicts which require special solutions and which can be handled only through tribal lines.

Our job is to find a solution, and not to insist on our solutions. So certain tribal leaders, in close coordination with us, are able to send tribesmen to prison pending the resolution of a problem. Sometimes, locking up one or a few tribesmen could help in resolving a big problem between two or more tribes. We have to be realistic about the possibilities of getting the job done.

Q: How fast can you implement the new reforms in prison conditions?

A: This is purely a financial matter. If we have the allocations, we can do so immediately. We know it is not right to lump together different kinds of criminals (murderers with drug traffickers, with thieves, and with lunatic people, etc.). But we don't have the resources. With more money, we can also improve food and lodging.

Q: Do you feel you receive the resources you need for doing your job?

A: No, and I hope the government gives more priority to our needs. You see, it is impossible to achieve socio-economic progress if you don't have security and stability. I realize there is a strong pressure from all ministries to obtain more allocations, but we should prioritize our expenditures. I think security and stability should be given an extra priority.

Q: Combating crimes is a big portion of your job. Statistics show you have done quite a good job. Now you have additional problems regarding politically-motivated crimes. What has been the record on this?

A: Statistics show that the total number of crimes reported in the Republic during the first half of 1991 was 6236 cases. Of these, we have tracked down the offenders (criminals) of 5197 cases, which gives us a comfortable achievement of 83.3%. The rest of the cases have been either suspended or filed against unknown criminals.

Most of the crimes are committed without the influence of politics. Of course there are cases of politically-motivated crimes. We try to bring the criminal to justice whatever the motives. Our job is to apprehend the criminal, collect evidence and pass the whole thing to the prosecution office and from there to the courts.

By reading some of the private and party newspapers, you could get a feeling there are too many crimes. This is not right. We simply air our problems more freely and often in a sensational way.

Q: There were reports that you captured shipments of arms being smuggled into Yemen. Could you shed more light on this?

A: Yes, we have captured arms being smuggled into Yemen, specially in the eastern governorates (Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara). We are fighting a major battle against people who smuggle arms, narcotics and other drugs, and goods into Yemen.

The problem is so serious that the government has dedicated many of its sessions to this matter. Now a decision has been taken to establish a specialised Anti-Smuggling Squad. This will be responsible for patrolling our long sea and land borders.

Q: How do you feel about the democratic practices of Yemen, specially in doing your job?

A: As a Yemeni citizen, I am very happy with dramatic improvement in the quality of life in Yemen. I am happy and supportive. It does not infringe on my job. We simply have to observe the rules and laws and everything will be fine. Democracy is a valuable aspect of our evolution and adds a lot of meaning to our lives.

Q: Do you have plans to improve the image of the security people?

A: Well, certain practices in the past have given security forces a bad name. Now we have many programs that bring citizens into closer inter-play with the security forces. We have the Friends of Traffic program which brings student volunteers to help traffic policemen. We have the Friends of the Police which brings volunteers in various residential quarters to help fight crimes.

This coming week we have the "Week of the Police" activities which is supposed to coincide with the International Day of the Police (18th December).

We constantly try to raise the level of awareness and courteousness among police officers.

Q: Any last message?

A: Democracy is important but I hope people exercise their rights with responsibility and conscienceness.

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

DRY FARMING: The Regional Experiences and Lessons for Yemen

By: Ameen Nouisser,
MA in Ag-Economics
Ministry of Agriculture

The scarcity of water is an inescapable reality of agriculture in much of West Asia and North Africa. Yet every year billions of cubic meters of water go unused, vanishing into thin air through evaporation, run off and seepage.

This situation may soon change, thanks to exciting new research that scientists and agricultural engineers are developing innovative techniques which maximize the use of limited rainfall to produce impressive crops of cereals, fruits and forage. These techniques are based upon 'water harvesting' which essentially involves collecting rainfall from a large area and using it to cultivate crops in a smaller area.

For thousands of years, many farmers in the Middle East depended upon a wide range of water harvesting methods. One of the oldest and most fascinating is the ancient system of 'qanats', dating back to the 5th Century BC. 'Qanats' - man-made underground channels extending from the side of a hill or mountains to a cultivated area - convey run-off water by gravity from steep, uncultivable areas to be used downstream. At occasional intervals along the qanat, wells are dug to bring the water to the surface. These channels can be as much as 40 kilometers long, totalling at one time more than 160,000 kilometers in Iran alone.

The advantages of this system are many. The qanats, being dug so deep, reduce evaporation, unlike conventional open channels. There are, however, disadvantages to the qanat system. Qanats are costly to construct, require constant maintenance, and call for a high level of social organization and cooperation. In addition, qanat construction is a very dangerous affair, with workers dying in frequent cave-ins or from lack of oxygen.

The qanat system began to decline shortly after the in-



roduction of mechanical pumps around the middle of the century. Well-

to-do farmers were unable to maintain the system. Despite this, even today some towns in Iran depend upon qanats for their water supply. In the early 1970s 20,000 qanats were reportedly still in use.

A similar system providing water to a large area west of the Nile was in operation in Egypt in around 500 BC. Qanats have been found in Central and South America, North Africa and as far away as the Gobi Desert, where one qanat was dug to an awesome depth of some 1,500 meters.

The traditional methods of water harvesting may provide the theoretical basis for the development of efficient, highly productive and sustainable farming systems in areas once thought to have little productive capacity. An excellent example of the potential of such systems is the EEC-funded University of Jordan water harvesting research project near Muwaqar, about 30 kilometers southeast of Amman, Jordan.

The Muwaqar Project covers a 200-hectare site with three reservoirs catching run-off water in the wadis. While annual rainfall in the area is low - about 150 millimeters per year - the water collected in the reservoirs is used to irrigate cereals, fruit trees and forage crops. The three reservoirs, with a total capacity of around 85,000 cubic meters, were formed behind small dams. These dams were designed with local materials and resources in mind. According to water harvesting specialist Dr. Theib Oweis, who recently left the University of Jordan to join the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), a 30,000 cubic meter dam costs between \$2160 -2880, a reasonable sum if pooled by a group of farmers and possibly with

some government help.

Even in years of low rainfall it takes only a few days of rain for the dams to fill up to the top. Rainfall at Muwaqar during the 1990-91 season was lower than average - around 70 millimeters. Despite this, water was available for irrigation by November 1990 and even in late June 1991. Despite the intense summer heat, all three reservoirs were still full. In fact, it takes very little rain to fill them up - as little as 5 millimeters, according to Jordan University's Esmat Karadsheh, who has been working in the Muwaqar Project. Karadsheh, who has been working in the Muwaqar Project, Karadsheh, says that fruit and olive trees are the most appropriate form of agriculture in the area. Research continues to determine the optimal use of this precious water.

The Muwaqar Project uses the water harvesting concept on a small as well as a large scale. In one experiment, plots ranging between 25 and 75 square meters are either covered with plastic sheeting or the soil is compacted and modeled at an angle toward a fruit tree in an uncovered corner. When rain falls, the water that would fall on these relatively larger plots is channeled into smaller areas around fruit trees in simple trenches designed to catch runoff.

Dr. Oweis notes that the quality of the water at Muwaqar is surprisingly good, with an electrical conductivity (a measure of total salts in the water) level of 0.3.

This compares quite favorably with the drinking water in Amman, which is between 0.5 and 0.6. The only drawback is the high level of sediment in the run-off water, which is always muddy. The sediment can clog sprinklers and drip irrigation systems, but efficient filters can alleviate this problem.

ICARDA is currently working on the development of water harvesting technology with scientists from the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) in Balochistan, Pakistan. Balochistan is one of the driest

areas of the country, with extensive tracts of "khushkaba," or dry lands. Where possible Balochistani farmers have traditionally diverted streams and built bunds, or small embankments, as means water collection. These practices are largely restricted to areas adjacent to such sources. With funding from the US Agency for International Development, since 1985 ICARDA and AZRI scientists have been studying the benefits of creating catchment areas at the top of gently sloping fields, the ratio of catchment areas to cropped area ranges from 1:1 to 2:1. The scientists hope that through natural seepage the water in these catchments will provide a steady source of moisture for crops cultivated at the lower ends.

Continues on p. 13

SPORTS IN YEMEN

By: Omer A. Kullaiby,
Sana'a.

It is a great thing for those of us who like sports to see our country develop in sports, specially since we are far back, and we lack the right facilities though we have good coaches as well as good players of basketball, football, volleyball, table tennis, etc.

I am a basket-ball player myself, and to say the truth, we don't have a good play ground in the whole of Yemen. Fans of sports concentrate on football only and completely forget about other sports. You can even detect this from TV programs which air only football matches. That makes us lose hope of advancing in our position in the other games. What is needed most is the morale support and fan encouragement to be given to all sportsmen and women.

Another thing we need is good leadership in sports and good coaches.



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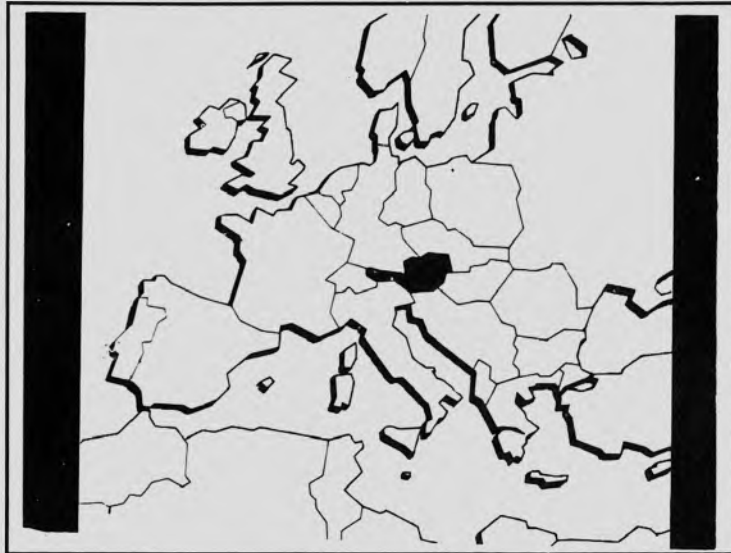
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البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير
للخدمة الممتازة،
والثقة والأمان

AUSTRIA PROBES THE YEMENI MARKET

The Austrian Trade Mission has just concluded an exhibition of Austrian products at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The four-day exhibition (5-8/12/1991), included the products of nineteen companies which offered a wide range of products. Under the theme "Austria's Economy - A Trustworthy partner", and "Made in Austria Stands for Quality" the exhibition attracted a large crowd of potential customers and importers. The Austrian Magazine for Economy and Culture - *Marhaba*, in its issue 6/91 summarized the Austrian Trade Mission's efforts in one sentence: "Austria continues its selective efforts to win Arab markets". On this occasion, the Austrian non-resident



of the Middle East Desk at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber Department for Foreign Trade and the Organizer of the Gulf Trade Mission, told the Yemen Times's Economic Editor that his country

Embassy in Riyadh, expressed optimism about the potential for commercial cooperation. He indicated that for every one US\$ of Austrian exports to Yemen, Austria imports ten US\$ from Yemen. Explaining this point further, Mr. Rattinger said, "We normally supply Yemen with chemicals, paper material, packing materials, and other industrial items. In addition, Austria exports certain consumer goods like shoes, clothes, and so on. Yemen has become an important supplier of crude oil to Austria. Over the last nine months, from January 1991 to September 1991, we have bought oil for the value of US\$ 90 million," he pointed out. Explaining the cordial understanding between businessmen from both countries, he indicated that there had been no major prob-

lems in dealings.

"We are quite sure the current situation (of economic hardships) will change pretty soon, and the business chances with Austria will be increased in the future," he said.

"Yemen after the unification became even more important. We see a great economic future because you have a large population, significant natural resources which still have to be developed, and you are an important oil supplier of Austria. Yemen's oil is very light and it is the only kind we use in our refinery," he concluded.

Speaking about preliminary impressions, Ambassador Calligaris praised the country's genuine democracy and multi-party political system. "I am personally very pleased with this development," he said. Finally, he expressed great

fascination with

Yemen's civilizational heritage, specially the architecture and socio-culture. The

Austrian interest in promoting closer relations at both economic and political levels are also shared

by the Yemeni side.

Dr. Saeed Sharaf Muqbil, Yemen's Ambassador in Vienna, pledged to support the drive towards cooperation. "I am firmly determined to support the participants of the Trade Mission in every conceivable way," he wrote to *Marhaba*.



Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Marius Calligaris, said that his country was interested in consolidating cooperation with Yemen. "I have come to Yemen to explain to the officials here the Austrian desire to strengthen ties," he said. He has seen officials in the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Supply and Trade, and many other organizations. "We are also interested in lending a helping hand, specially since we realize these are hard ties for Yemen," he went on to say. Although Austria does not have a resident ambassador as yet, it will be noted that it has named the well-known Yemeni businessman, Mr. Abdul-Galeel Radman, as its honorary ambassador in Yemen. The Yemeni authorities have blessed the choice, and copies of the letters of credential have been delivered to the Foreign Ministry. With respect to the exhibition, Peter Rattinger, Head

hopes to consolidate its trade relations with Yemen. "Austria used to sell products valued at more than US\$60 million per year to Yemen. Total sales today are around US\$15 million. We hope to go back to the old levels and even surpass them," he added.

Along the same lines, Oskar Smrzka, Commercial Counsellor for the Republic of Yemen at the Austrian



Editor's note:

More information could be obtained from:

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1st PRIVATE AGRI EXHIBITION

On the 5th of December, 1991, the first Yemeni PRIVATE Exhibition for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing was inaugurated in Sanaa. The Al-Maktari Commercial Center has organized the nine-day exhibition (lasts upto Friday December 13th) with the objective of promoting Yemeni agricultural exports. Abdulaziz Al-Maqtari, owner/manager, speaking to Yemen Times's French pages editors, stressed that the exhibition represents a "considerable step towards the promotion of Yemeni agricultural, fish, and food products on the foreign markets". He said that the intention was to make the exhibition an annual event. "We seek new markets and we seek to consolidate old markets," he added.

Mr. Al-Maqtari estimates the number of visitors to the exhibition at about two thousand persons per day.

The exhibition has four main products sections which are:

- The vegetables section,
- The Animal products,
- The Agro-industries,
- The Processed food.

Over twenty companies and organizations have manned different stands exhibiting their products. The exhibition is held under the patronage and support of the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources, Industry, and Fisheries. Active encouragement is provided by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, and the UN's FAO.



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Abdul-Karim Al-Rifayi:

"Yemen Can Achieve Economic Take-Off Early in the 21 Century!"

Abdul-Karim Al-Rifayi, born in Assairah at the outskirts of Turba in Taiz governorates, is one of the aggressive entrepreneurs of Yemen. Coming from a business family, he has joined the business class early in life - some three decades ago. Starting from the gold business, he moved on to diversify into other businesses. Today, he owns the controlling shares of half a dozen companies that span a wide range of commodities and services. In addition, he acts on behalf of many foreign companies. The Yemen Times went to speak to him about his businesses and about the prospects for the Yemeni economy.

Q: How would you describe your line of business?

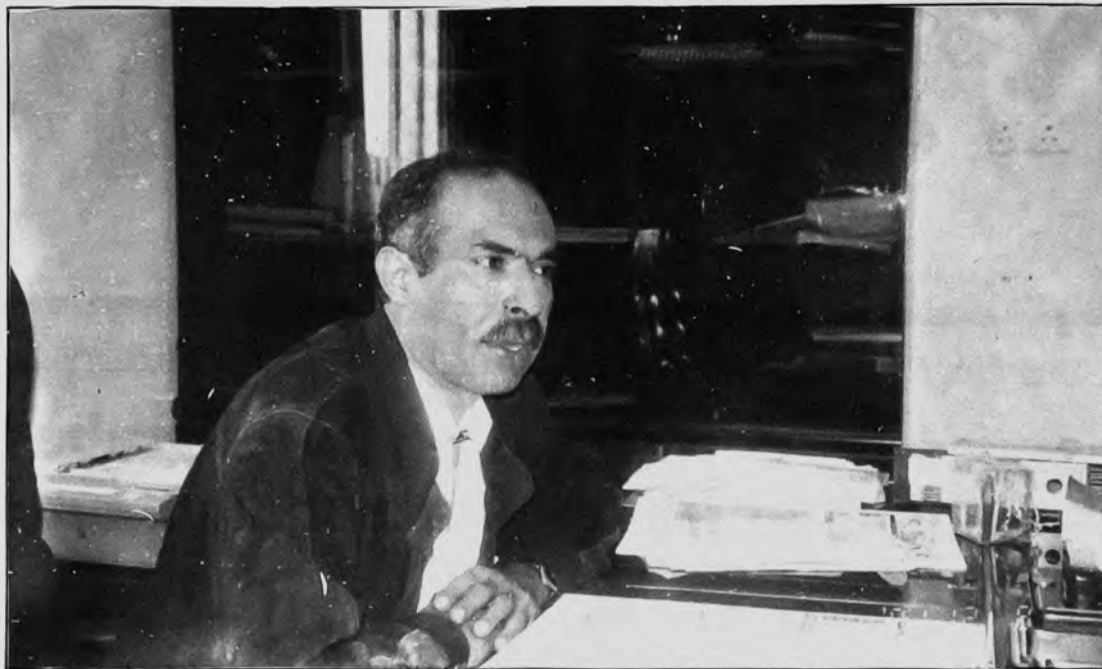
A: Of course, I have major stakes in the gold business, which is my original line of business. Over the last several years, I have diversified to cover such fields as tourism, recreation, transportation, industrial activities, etc. I have recently established a company for investments. I always look for new opportunities to expand both vertically and horizontally.

Q: How do you evaluate the current economic situation of Yemen?

A: I don't think any shrewd business person will judge Yemen by its current situation, which is not so good. This country's hopes are constantly raised by the tangible results in the oil and mineral sectors, in the improvements in agriculture, fisheries and industry, and in the potential for tourism. I think we all share in the responsibilities to change the current conditions and to create the factors that will bring about a new economy.

Q: But there are real problems.

A: Yes, there are obstacles of various natures and at different levels. I think the main obstacle is really the lack of application of the law. Applying the law, even a bad law, is better than the near lawlessness or vacuum in which we find ourselves today. This situation is not conducive to business activities, let alone new investments.



Q: What do you expect the government to do in this regard?

A: I expect the government to create the conditions conducive to private initiative. Let the businessmen and investors lead the way to economic prosperity. Don't give government officials so much control over the affairs of private business because that will only make room for corruption. It is necessary to up-hold the law, specially the investment law, that is all. But to intervene in every little thing is neither useful nor practical.

Q: Could you be more specific?

A: Yes. I mean, a major portion of our expenditures are really bribes paid out to government bureaucrats. That is why, in part, we have high prices in Yemen. What do you do when an official does not sign a piece of paper which has nothing wrong with it unless you pay him a respectable sum of money. I think some of the paper-work is created deliberately for this purpose. I am happy to read in the Yemen Times (last issue) that the government will reduce the paperwork. In fact, some officials bargain about the size of the bribe, while others have some front-men who do the dirty work for them. I think that if we are serious about economic development and about encouraging private investments, we should fight this phenomenon.

Q: Let us talk about the gold market?

A: It is a very lucrative market and it has grown tremendously over the last few years. I cannot hazard a

guess about the size of this market, but it is really substantial. Every housewife has a set of gold ornaments, and every new bride is decorated with it. Let me mention here that the government could earn at least one billion Yemeni Rials every year if it legalized trade in gold and brought it out in the open. Now, it is presumably illegal to trade in gold, yet it is all over town and it is flourishing. If the government had the sense to legalize trade in gold, it could collect a small fee on its trade which will add at least 3-5% to its revenues.

It could also improve this market and "guide" its evolution and development. I don't understand why they don't see this because it would help the merchants, the state, and the citizens!

Q: How does the gold business relate to the fluctuations in the price of gold?

A: In theory, of course, they go in opposite directions. But gold in Yemen, like any other commodity, is affected by the swings in the price of the US dollar. The dramatic rise in the price of the US dollar vis-a-vis the Yemeni Riyals this year has been due to the coming into the market of a number of the government, the public, mixed, and cooperative sectors organizations as buyers. In addition, the banks refuse to accept any risk which they transfer on to their customers.

I think we should float the riyal and let the market mechanism determine its price. This way, at least, we know the factors affecting the price of the riyal.

Q: What are your new projects?

A: We have a number of new investments lined-up, some alone, others with foreign partners. We are looking at several tourism-related projects. We also have a couple of industrial projects in the free zone in Aden.

Q: What do you think is the role of the native capitalist class in the development process?

A: I think we have a duty to help develop our country and we are interested in doing this. But some officials project themselves as very patriotic and the business community as less patriotic. It is my firm belief that it is the business community, alongwith the skilled and semi-skilled labor force of Yemen, who will build this country. We only ask to be given the opportunity to go about it.

Q: Any last message?

A: I feel optimistic about our future, specially since we live in an atmosphere of democracy which means more accountability. The unification of the country has also increased business opportunities. With the right approach, Yemen's economic take off can happen early in the next century.

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TEMPS DU YEMEN

Le sixième sommet de l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique

L'absence de certains dirigeants arabes fragilise le consensus entre les états musulmans à Dakar

Le sixième sommet de l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique, qui réunit 46 pays musulmans, a été ouverte lundi 9 décembre à Dakar, pour la première fois dans un pays d'Afrique noire.

Les 22 résolutions ont été adoptées mais on ne connaîtra leur contenu exact qu'après l'accord définitif des participants sur leur rédaction. Car certaines d'entre elles ont fait l'objet de vifs débats, notamment au sujet d'une nouvelle condamnation de l'Irak pour violation des résolutions de l'ONU ainsi que la participation aux conférences régionales de la paix au Proche-Orient.

Ce sommet reste toutefois très symbolique en raison de l'absence des principaux souverains et chefs d'Etat des pays arabes. Premier du genre depuis la guerre du Golfe, ce sommet semble en déranger plus d'un...

La République du Yémen est représentée à Dakar par le vice-président, M. Salem Al-Beid.

Dès l'ouverture du sommet, le ton était donné et laissait craindre le pire: l'allocution du président sortant de l'Organisation, l'émir Jaber du Koweït n'a été qu'une violente dénonciation de l'invasion de son pays par l'Irak. Saddam Hussein viole, selon lui, l'unité islamique en s'attaquant à des pays frères, Iran puis Koweït.

L'une des résolutions, présentée par le Koweït, prévoit d'ailleurs une nouvelle condamnation du régime de Saddam Hussein, qui a boycotté la Conférence. accusé de ne pas respecter les résolutions de l'ONU. Les réunions préparatoires du sommet avait laissé présager une négociation difficile sur le contenu final du texte de la condamnation: les délégués africains jugeaient inutile une telle mesure, plaidant pour un renforcement de la communauté islamique internationale, tandis que certains délégués arabes soutenaient ardemment cette condamnation. Nul doute, dans ces conditions, que le texte final de la résolution sera le produit d'un consensus artificiel et sans grande portée effective.

Autre sujet de discorde: le processus de paix au Proche-Orient inauguré à Madrid et qui se poursuit actuellement à Washington. L'Irak a affirmé d'emblée son opposition à toute tentative de paix, estimant que les négociations

en cours ne tenaient pas compte des droits des Palestiniens. Les désaccords entre les pays arabes laissent aussi présager d'un texte final relativement neutre.

En outre, l'absence de grands dirigeants du monde arabe, concernés au premier plan par les problèmes que l'on vient d'évoquer, contribue à donner à ce sommet une valeur toute symbolique. Sur 46 délégations, 20 seulement étaient dirigées par le plus haut représentant de l'Etat concerné, souverain ou président. Le roi Fadh d'Arabie Saoudite s'est fait excuser "pour raisons de santé justifiées et vérifiables" et était représenté à Dakar par le prince héritier Abdallah. Pas de raisons officielles en revanche pour le roi Hassan II du Maroc, les présidents syrien Hafez El Assad, Libyen Mouammar Kadhafi, égyptien Hosni Moubarak, tunisien Ben Ali et yéménite Ali Abdullah Saleh...

Des rumeurs laissaient entendre que certains "grands" du monde arabe étaient gênés par les projets de résolutions évoqués précédemment. On évoque aussi dans les milieux diplomatiques la présence dérangeante du roi Hussein de Jordanie et celle du président de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat, considérés par certains pays comme favorable à Saddam Hussein... On murmure même que

l'avion du leader palestinien n'aurait pas été autorisé à survoler certains pays arabes.

En dehors de ces querelles, la Conférence de Dakar a été le théâtre d'un événement important, peut-être le signe d'une évolution significative dans les rapports de forces au Moyen-Orient, en tout cas la preuve de la montée en puissance de l'Irak sur la scène internationale. En effet, la présence du Président Rafsandjani est symbolique. L'Irak avait boycotté les trois derniers sommets, organisés dans une période d'alignement sur Bagdad d'un grand nombre de pays arabes. De plus, la république islamique n'a jamais été représentée à son plus haut niveau dans l'Organisation

depuis la révolution de 1979. Ce retour en force des Iraniens est à opposer à la faible participation des dirigeants des pays du Golfe et des leaders arabes déjà évoquée. La présence de M. Rafsandjani les aurait-elle gênés aussi?

En dehors des 22 résolutions politiques adoptées par les pays participants, il faut remarquer la volonté affichée d'une plus grande solidarité économique entre les pays musulmans et notamment des pays du Golfe vers les pays les plus pauvres d'Afrique. Ainsi, plusieurs résolutions économiques et financières portant sur la dette extérieure des pays les moins avancés, sur la région du Sahel et sur le soutien de la Banque Islamique de Développement (dont les

moyens ont été accrus) ont été adoptées.

Ainsi, malgré l'"esprit du consensus" qui a régné sur le sommet selon la propre formule de son président en exercice, M. Abdou Diouf, les divergences entre dirigeants arabes sont apparues dès avant son ouverture, par les défections successives des uns et des autres... Mais ces querelles jettent le voile sur deux éléments d'évolution importante au sein de cette instance inter-islamique: outre le retour en son sein de l'Irak, une belle percée de l'Afrique noire dont l'un des pays, le Sénégal, a organisé pour la première fois ce type de rencontre et qui a réussi à faire imposer une volonté de solidarité avec ses représentants les plus pauvres.

L'actualité yéménite en bref

Politique étrangère.- Le conseil des ministres réuni en session extraordinaire, mardi 4 décembre, a approuvé la participation du Yémen aux négociations régionales dans le cadre du processus de paix au Proche-Orient. Les ministres ont cependant demandé au conseil présidentiel de saisir le Parlement de cette question.

Démenti officiel sur la présence du terroriste international Carlos.- Le ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique a publié la semaine dernière un démenti aux rumeurs faisant état de la présence au Yémen du terroriste international Carlos, rendu responsable de nombreux attentats dans le monde entier. Le quotidien français *Libération* avait révélé, il y a deux semaines, que Carlos avait été expulsé de

Libye et s'était réfugié au Yémen.

Assassinat de deux membres du Parti socialiste yéménite.- Le deuxième secrétaire du PSY du gouvernorat d'Ibb gouvernorat d'Ibb, M. Nou'man Qassem et un passager de sa voiture ont été tués lors d'un attentat, lundi 2 décembre. Les coups de feu mortels seraient partis d'une voiture blanche, selon les témoins.

Au Conseil des ministres tenu jeudi 5 décembre, une SARL de pêche a été créée afin de contribuer au développement du secteur halieutique.

Les ministres ont également débattu des moyens de lutte contre les maladies contagieuses et les diarrhées, sous l'égide du ministère de la santé et grâce à l'assistance des organisations internationales.

Première exposition sur l'agriculture, la pêche et l'industrie agro-alimentaire à Sanaa

Le progrès agricole en vitrine

Des veaux et des poulets en batterie, des moto-pompes de fabrication locale, des maquettes d'usines et de barrages hydrauliques, des céréales, fruits et légumes en culture intensive à la récolte traditionnelle du fameux miel Hadrami de Wadi Dohan, ou du café de Bani Mattar, en passant par l'exhibition de "monstruosités" génétiques comme des chevreaux bicéphales ou des veaux siamois en bocal, la première foire-exposition sur l'agriculture, la pêche et l'industrie agro-alimentaire yéménites, pour le moins éclectique, balance entre le comice agricole et le salon des techniques de pointe.

Dans tous les cas l'exposition Agrifex 91, ouverte à Sanaa jeudi 5 décembre pour une durée de neuf jours, est une première dans la nouvelle république, peu rompue à ces méthodes de commercialisation et de relations publiques que sont les "vitrines" des salons et autres foires-expositions.

Les salons: un nouveau créneau

Une société de services de Sanaa dont ce n'était pas la spécialité en dix ans d'existence, semble s'être résolument lancée sur ce nouveau créneau: après une exposition industrielle jordano-yéménite en mai dernier, elle a assuré l'organisation de cette exposition agricole, sous le patronage du ministère de l'Agriculture et avec le soutien des ministères de l'Industrie et de la pêche. En mai prochain, son propriétaire prévoit la tenue d'un salon sur la santé - médicaments et équipements hospitaliers - dans les locaux de l'université de Sanaa, parrainé par le ministère de la Santé.

Pour les participants à Agrifex 91, l'objectif est double: se faire connaître du public yéménite - y compris des plus jeunes qui viennent en visite scolaire - et des professionnels étrangers susceptibles d'acheter les produits locaux et favoriser ainsi les exportations, selon les propres termes de l'organisateur, qui estime à 2.000 le nombre de visi-



teurs quotidiens, sans disposer de méthode vraiment fiable de comptage...

L'exposition agricole de Sanaa peut remplir son rôle de "vitrine" pour les Yéménites mais elle peut difficilement doper les exportations agricole d'un pays qui importe 50% de sa nourriture et qui ne vend à l'étranger que de rares produits (fruits de mer, peaux et café dans des quantités marginales...). Car, si perfectionnées que soient les techniques d'élevage et de cultures intensives exposées ici par des entreprises privées, les services sanitaires ou de recherche agronomique et les organismes d'approvisionnement militaires, qui a permis un essor indéniable de la production, les consommateurs yéménites en absorbent la quasi-totalité.

La visite de cette exposition conduit à un autre con-

stat: la grande majorité des stands sont ornés d'affiches à en-têtes de sociétés étrangères, qu'il s'agisse de simples consultants ou de fournisseurs d'usines clé-en-mains, parmi lesquels on note une forte présence néerlandaise, ou bien d'organisations internationales d'aide au développement.

Anti-stress pour les poulets

En parcourant les stands cependant, on peut mesurer l'ampleur de certaines réussites de l'agriculture et de la pêche yéménites. Ainsi, comme dans de nombreux pays de la région, l'élevage en batterie a permis de réduire à moins de 10% la dépendance extérieure en poulets et oeufs: dans une usine proche de Dhamar, 8.000

volailles sont livrées prêts à consommer chaque jour et un élevage des environs de Sanaa affiche 57 millions d'oeufs en production annuelle. Cette réussite repose sur l'utilisation des techniques d'élevage les plus avancées comme en témoignent les dizaines de flacons de tranquillisants, anti-stress et autres vitamines qui tapissent les fonds des stands...

Dans un autre registre, la production locale d'équipements agricoles est également mise en avant: moto-pompes hydrauliques, petites moissonneuses mais aussi des barques de pêche en fibre de verre fabriquées à Taëz.

"Soldats-paysans" dans le nord

Enfin, avec force photos, maquettes et étals de fruits et légumes variés, de gigantesques fermes de polyculture présentent leurs réalisations dans des régions où l'autorité de l'Etat reste incertaine. Sur les photos, on aperçoit des "paysans-soldats", le casque sur la tête et une pioche à la main. Commentaire d'un colonel responsable de ce programme de mise en valeur de certaines terres du nord: *"Là où l'Etat ne peut s'imposer par la force, il s'implante par l'agriculture"...*

Le hall d'exposition d'Agrifex 91 se trouve entre les rues n° 13 et Zubeiri, à proximité de Yemen International Telecommunications.



Télévision en français

La chaîne d'Aden commencera à diffuser des films français sous-titrés en arabe à partir de cette semaine et ceci tous les samedis à 22 heures.

D'autres programmes en langue française seront proposés aux téléspectateurs dans la nouvelle grille de programme mise en place au mois de janvier.

Conférences

Langues sud-arabiques: A leur retour d'une nouvelle mission sur l'île de Soqatra et dans les régions d'Aden et de la Tihama les membres de la mission d'enquête linguistique au Yémen donneront une conférence au Centre Yéménite d'Etudes et de Recherche le dimanche 15 décembre à 10 heures.

Les trois membres s'exprimeront en français mais une traduction consécutive en arabe sera proposée. La conférence portera sur les langues sud-arabiques parlées à Soqatra et dans le Mahra et qui constituent de véritables langues à la différence des nombreux dialectes arabes. Renseignements: 77523

Médecine:

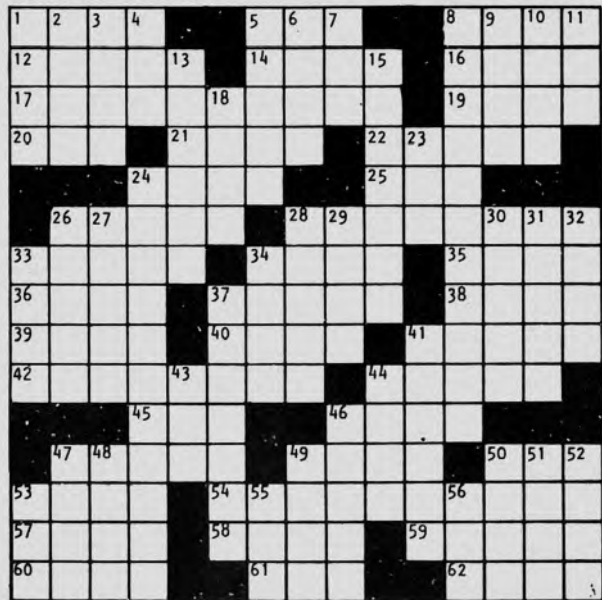
Le Professeur T.S. Vinh, médecin des Hôpitaux de Paris prononcera deux conférences, en anglais, le lundi 16 décembre à 11 heures à l'hôpital Al-Thawra et le même jour à 19 h30 au Syndicat des médecins près de l'hôtel Hadda.

La première conférence présentera les résultats d'une étude sur le traitement des fractures de la jambe et la seconde portera sur les tumeurs osseuses.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 39 Against: pref. | 2 River in Spain | 32 One who inspects |
| 1 Tableland | 40 Advertising light | 3 Observed | 33 Crustacean |
| 5 Sprite | 41 Houston football player | 4 Ridiculous one | 34 Leg joint |
| 8 Young whale | 42 Meat and vegetable dish | 5 Obliterate | 37 Certain time period |
| 12 Overweight | 44 Metal waste | 6 Similar | 41 Colorful bird |
| 14 Wild disorder | 45 Miner's find | 7 Enemy | 43 Theater sign |
| 16 Margarine | 46 Invent | 8 Device | 44 Entrance |
| 17 Tailor | 47 Severity | 9 Toward shelter | 46 Nestling's sound |
| 19 Close | 49 Beat it! | 10 TV's Norman | 47 Puerto — |
| 20 Long, long time | 50 Elec. unit | 11 In favor of | 48 Japanese box |
| 21 Crate | 53 Carry a tune | 13 Leave illegally | 49 WW II town |
| 22 Say | 54 Intruder | 15 Brass instrument | 50 Armadillo |
| 24 Reduce | 57 Field unit | 18 Trading center | 51 Allot |
| 25 Mal de — | 58 Masculine | 23 — Aviv | 52 Ship's stem |
| 26 Walked stealthily | 59 Muse of poetry | 24 Quibbling lawyer | 53 Snead or Levene |
| 28 Show of appreciation | 60 Secure | 26 TV camera boom | 55 — King Cole |
| 33 Mediterranean island | 61 Do better than | 27 French income | 56 Celestial sphere |
| 34 Swiss abstract painter | 62 Make beer | 28 Permit | |
| 35 Implore | | 29 Hammer head | |
| 36 Scold vehemently | | 30 Soviet mountains | |
| 37 Bay | DOWN | 31 Store events | |
| 38 Legend | 1 Method | | |

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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.

HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS (Sol.: 9 letters)

B-Bells, Busy; C-Chanukah, Christmas, Church; D-December, Decorate; E-Egg nog, Epiphany, Evergreen, End of the year; G-Goodwill, Greeting cards; H-Hectic, Holly, Home, Hope; L-Lights; M-Marzipan; N-Noel; P-Party, Plans, Prepared; R-Ribbon, Rush; S-Shopping, Snow, Spend, Spirit, Star; T-Tinsel, Toast, Traditional, Truffles; W-Winter, Wrap, Wreath

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

MILIT
 THICH
 NETTAX
 ABLEED



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

Print answer here: _____

WORDS OF WISDOM

- If you can smile when you're feeling your worst, then you've mastered the art of self-control. ***
- Feeling guilty seldom accomplishes anything. ***
- Sometimes good intentions lead to bad results. ***
- Brave souls stare down their fears quietly without drawing attention to themselves. ***
- Honesty works for everyone. ***
- Wisdom is knowing when to sit down and shut up. ***
- The older we get, the more fearful we become. ***
- A word of cheer can shoot an arrow of hope into someone's heart. ***

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SDRACGNI TEERGTS
 NAPI ZRAMFTWI TIE
 EI ETAROCEDI BSRL
 EGEYL LOHGRNBAIF
 RNPLHUARGPTOOPF
 GI IESKHI NAENTSU
 RPPOUEOSORRDHLR
 EPHNRKMTGWNCEGT
 VOADECEMBERSNOW
 EHNRA TSAPUNEPOH
 CSYPLANS HISAADB
 WREATHECTI CYRWE
 RAEYEHTFODNETIL
 CTRADITIONALYLL
 PREPAREDSTHGI LS

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIXTEEN
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Nearly one of every 10 U.S. residents relies on food stamps to help put food on the table. ever, with 23 hours a week. Women watch the most, 32 hours. ***

Two 11-year-old girls recently drove 10 hours from West Virginia to Kentucky on their own. They made it safely, even stopping for gas along the way. Their reason? They wanted to see a newborn niece. ***

In rural Russia, there's a Halloween-like festival held at Christmas in which singers wish good health and fortune to neighbors who respond with hospitality to their singing and wish a painful death to those who don't. ***

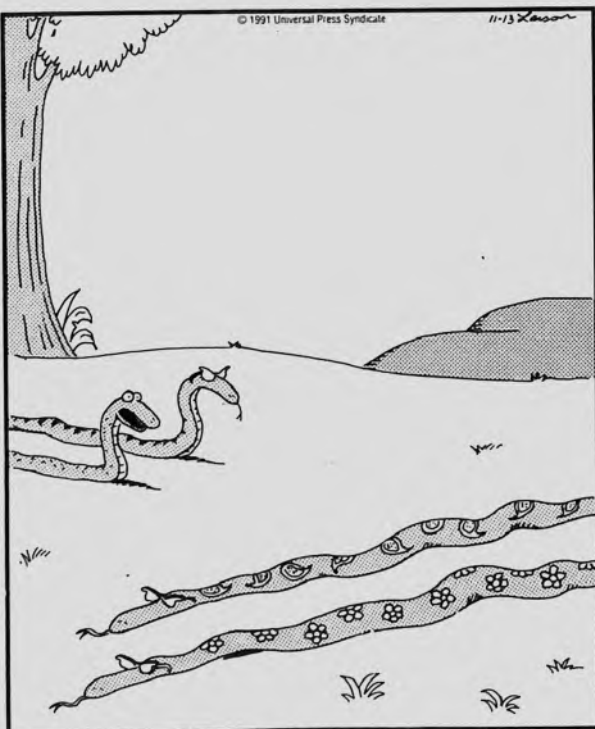
A new survey found that the average U.S. resident spends almost 30 hours a week in front of the television. Teen-agers watch the least TV, how-

A parachutist literally dropped in on Elizabeth Taylor's last wedding with a video camera in his helmet. The pictures, however, didn't come out. ***

SLAPSTIX
PEOPLE WHO GO HANG GLIDING FEEL SOAR ALL OVER
 ©1991, Tribune Media Services

THE FAR SIDE

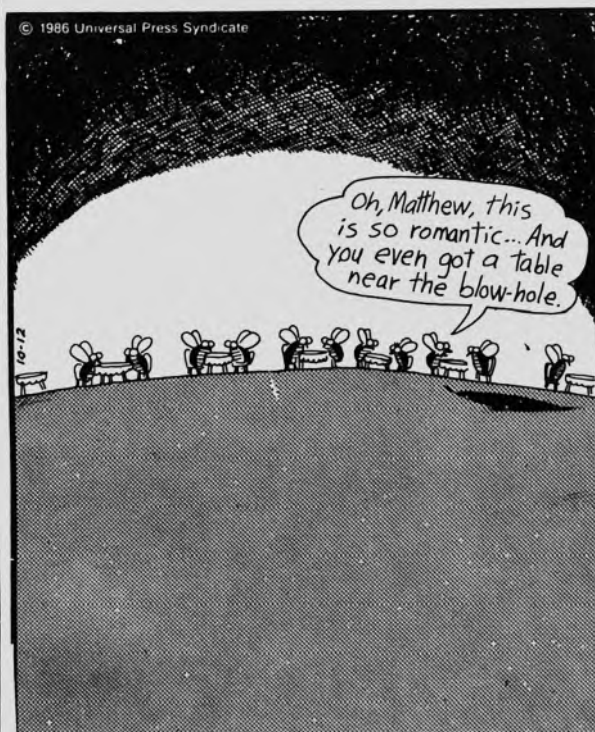
By GARY LARSON



"Oh my God! ... '60s skins are back!"

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Evening on a beached whale

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

- Weekly Tip:** Relax and tap into some Sagittarian optimism, and it will all work out in the end.
 - Aries (March 21-April 19)** Love on Sunday. Monday, best day for making sensible holiday budget.
 - Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Get details of everyone's itinerary. Partner starts in heck of a moon Monday.
 - Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Romance and entertainment. Back to work in earnest Monday. Co-worker helps carry the load.
 - Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Get in touch with distant family. They're feeling sorry for themselves. Romance and young people dominate.
 - Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Take the high ground in a tiff with a cousin or sibling.
 - Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Giving in to the political situation at work is unnecessary. You weather uncertain times.
 - Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** You're trying to figure out how to have cake and eat it, too. Good luck.
 - Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** You'd rather be alone, with a book or your diary. Spending resolutions. You're tempted, but don't.
 - Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** With all this energy, you've nowhere to go? Clean the house, write letters or send cards.
 - Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Take and get it done right. Co-worker relationships and old friends have good advice.
 - Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Long distance calls ... and your in-laws have big plans for you. Get the boss' help.
 - Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Mate gets after you about finances. Innovative problem-solving.
- If You Were Born This Week**
 You've got plenty of responsibility as year comes to close, and reputation as one who gets the job right is growing. Back to school in March. Fall in love in May. Apply yourself this summer to staying in the vanguard of new developments in your field. ***

BRAZIL'S KING OF CARNIVAL RULES WITH IMAGINATION

"Intellectuals like the poor adore opulence." So once said Joaozinho Trinta, an idol in Rio's shantytowns whose name has become a legend in Brazil's wild, opulent two-day carnival extravaganza. Intellectuals have called him a genius, King Hassan II of Morocco has approached him to organize New Year's Eve celebrations in Rabat and he has even been approached to design an international carnival show for Disney World in the US.

In Brazil, Trinta is to carnival what Pele was to soccer and Carmen Miranda to samba. Unlike any other celebrity, Trinta has largely achieved his fame through his yearly carnival performance as the leader of the Beija Flor samba school. Brazilians usually celebrate singer, soccer players, TV celebrities and car racers. That would seem to exclude Trinta from being legend material, but because carnival is one of the three biggest national passions, along with samba and soccer, he has become an idol who can keep five million viewers seated overnight in front of TV sets to watch the performance of Beija Flor.

Last year, Beija Flor failed to win the award for best performance among the 16 largest samba schools in competition. In contrast to the usual recriminations and protest that follow these contests, there were no complaints when Trinta admitted his defeat.

Despite his defeat, Trinta made his mark on the parade. Through an unorthodox mix of Lewis Carroll and typical Brazilian irony, Trinta concocted a performance called "Alice in a Brazilian Wonderland" that satirized life in a country which government officials depict as the eighth-largest economy while a huge portion of the population lives in almost Bangladesh-like conditions. Performed by 1,800 dancers, the samba school's show was a luxurious, million-dollar extravaganza featuring computerized lighting and sound, whimsical parade cars erotic costumes.

The Rio carnival's number-one-show-man is perhaps the most Brazilian of all Brazilian contemporary idols. Born to a poor, working-class family in the northern state of Maranhao, one of the most im-

poverished regions of the country, he had to overcome great odds to achieve success. Local teenagers often have no alternative but to become migrant rural laborers or wildcat gold seekers in the rivers of the Amazons.

Trinta, however, wanted to be a professional dancer. In the early 1950s, he boarded a boat and sailed for Rio where he auditioned for Brazil's leading ballet dance group. His application was rejected because, being a diminutive five feet tall, he was not considered suitable for the job.

To survive, in his own words, he "fell back into reality" and began to design decorations for carnival ballrooms in hotels and social clubs around Rio. Trinta first started working with Samba schools in 1968. By 1976, he had moved to Nilopolis, a town just north of Rio, and became the carnival master for Beija Flor, then an unknown samba school. He worked for Abrahao Diniz, one of Rio's most powerful godfathers. So, he decided to present a show praising the Brazilian military dictatorship and commissioned Trinta to organize a luxurious parade saluting the so-called Brazilian miracle with the theme "Wonder Years."

The parade was a success due to its sumptuous characters and creativity, but the intelligentsia reacted angrily. Intellectuals and opposition militants accused Trinta of political manipulation and using glitzy techniques to mislead the poor people of Rio's shantytowns. During the sour exchange of accusations, Trinta made his now-famous statement about 'favela' (shantytown) dwellers and intellectuals ("intellectuals like poverty—the poor adore opulence"). His controversial words propelled the one-time frustrated professional dancer from anonymity in 1976 to the most well-known personality in the Brazilian carnival today. Fifteen carnivals later, the left surrendered itself to the exuberant charm and creativity of this carnival wizard. The reconciliation started in 1989 when Trinta shocked carnival lovers with a parade in which luxury gave way to poverty.

Continued from p. 7

DRY FARMING: The Regional Experiences and Lessons for Yemen

Results to date have been very encouraging. Because a smaller area was cultivated, albeit more intensively, production costs were significantly reduced. The plots irrigated by catchment water were smaller, required less seed and labor, but produced more. In every trial, overall production costs were cut by between 21 and 34 per cent, and yields per hectare often doubled.

ICARDA has also conducted water harvesting research along the arid northwestern coast of Egypt around the town of Mersa Matruh, where annual rainfall is about 140 millimeters. ICARDA scientists believe that Roman engineers once devised advanced water harvesting technologies for this area, making it the so-called "bread basket" of the Empire. Today the land barely supports a population of 100,000, and suffers from the all-too-frequent effects of overgrazing: bare and powdery soil highly vulnerable to wind and water erosion.

During an extensive evaluation of rain-fed zones around Mersa Matruh researchers from ICARDA and the Egyptian Soil and Water Research Institute found that various means of water harvesting are still used in this area. Along the coastal strip, which extends about 10 kilometers inland, farmers and nomads draw water from naturally occurring subterranean passages. The water from this source is mostly used for livestock and the cultivation of

fruits trees. Further inland, in the so-called barley strip, many bedouins have built cisterns and dikes in wadis are becoming increasingly common, and the water is being used to irrigate fruit trees. Further inland still is the range land, where annual rainfall rarely exceeds a scant 50 millimeters.

The beauty of water harvesting is its simplicity. As Dr. Oweis says, "On land receiving 150 millimeters of rainfall, hardly any crop can be produced. But if half the land is used to water the other half, then you double the water in one half to 300 millimeters, enough for barley or maybe wheat. If you take water from two-third of land and use it for the other third you can get 450 millimeters." The range of water harvesting systems available, both modern and conventional, promises to significantly increase agricultural productivity in many areas, and to make farming possible where it was previously believed to be impossible.

Vast areas of North Africa and West Asia receive less than 200 millimeters of rainfall per year, and thus are either completely unproductive or are being used to support livestock. Says ICARDA's Dr. Oweis: "Without water harvesting, no benefit is received from these rains. But if you develop only one-fourth of these lands, you have the potential of changing the face of agriculture in the region."

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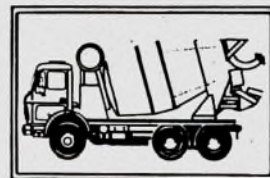
Telex: 2489 mugahdye

C.R.: 6497

P. O. Box 1293,

Sanaa,

Republic of Yemen



تلفون: ٢٠٧٥٣١/٢ (٢) ٩٦٧

تلكس: ٢٤٨٩

سجل تجاري: ٦٤٩٧

ص ب رقم ١٢٩٣

صنعا،

الجمهورية اليمنية

Arab Israeli Talks Back on Track

The second round of bilateral talks between the Arab countries and Israel started in Washington, DC, yesterday, December 10th. The talks should have started one week earlier (on the 4th), but the Israeli side, in a visible desire not to comply with American arrangements, proposed to start the talks on the 9th. The Arab side, on its side decided not to meet on the 9th which coincides with the anniversary of the launching of the Intifadha. The White House spokesman pointed to the American desire now that the talks are underway, that they should involve substantive matters rather than procedural issues to which the Israeli wish to limit it. In the meanwhile, Israel is trying to find ways to shift the location of the talks, if at least the next round of negotiations. It is an amazing twist in events that it is the Arab side that is insisting on US patronage while the Israelis try to avoid it.

6th ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONVENES

Twenty heads of states and governments and other senior officials - representing a total of forty six Muslim countries have homed in on Dakar, the Senegalese capital, for the Sixth Islamic Summit, which started at noon local time on Monday December 9th. The forty sixth country, which joined only a couple of weeks back is the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is one of the republics which broke away from the USSR. The current Islamic Summit has several pre-cooked resolutions, one of which will condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Islamic summits have been, in the past, very ineffective in achieving anything tangible. The hope is that this summit will expedite the reconciliation process that has been timidly started by some countries.

LIBYA WINCES UNDER WESTERN ACCUSATIONS

The controversy over the Libyan role in blowing up the Pan Am airlines over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 continues to exacerbate relations between Libya on the one hand, and the USA, and Britain on the other. That incident alone left 270 persons dead. In a separate incident, France accuses Libyan involvement in the blowing-up of a UTA plane in Chad while transporting 135 French troops back home. Libya is trying hard to diffuse the issues, and has put the two persons accused of planting the bomb (Mr. Abdul-Basit Ali Mohammed Al-Mijrahi and Mr. Al-Ameen Khalifah Faheemah) on trial in Libya. It has also invited the participation of international judges to attend the trials. Libya has asked for the intervention on this matter by Arab as well as other countries that are friendly to the West.

FRANCE PROTESTS TO LEBANON ON DISSIDENTS

France and Lebanon were at odds through-out the last two weeks regarding a list of Hrawi foes residing in France that was leaked to the Lebanese embassy and from there to Beirut. A Paris district sergeant, whose name has not been released, admitted passing a list of 85 Lebanese dissidents to a security agent, "who was a friend" at the Lebanese Embassy in Paris. Jean-Jack Queyranne, a spokesman for the ruling Socialist Party said that the sergeant has been suspended from duty, and that the relevant authorities are looking into the proper disciplinary measures. In the meanwhile, France has protested to the Lebanese government and asked for assurances that the persons on the list will not be subjected to any penal action. The people on the list, 67 Lebanese, 12 French, and 6 North Africans, were detained ofr ID checks following the 21st October demonstrations against Mr. Hrawi during his Paris visit.

INDOSUEZ - YEMEN INVITES A DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN

Banque Indosuez - Yemen, in cooperation with the French Embassy, has invited Mr. T.S.Vinh, MD PhD, a distinguished professor of medicine and a surgeon in Paris. Dr. Vinh will lecture on Monday December 16th, at 11:00am, at Al-Thawrah Hospital, on "Inter tibio-fibular autogenous bone grafting in the infectious and non-union complications about leg fractures. A review of 112 cases in Cochin Hospital". He will also give another lecture entitled "Our Experience in the Management of Reconstructive Procedures for Bone Malignant Tumors" on the same day at 7:30pm at the Yemeni Doctors' Syndicate, near Hadah Hotel. The medical profession, as well as students and the interested public, are invited to the lectures and the question and answer sessions that will follow.

THE MOHAMMED ABDO RABBO GROUP

The Red Sea Flour Mill Company CONGRATULATES THE PEOPLE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE UNIFICATION AGREEMENT



مجموعة شركات محمد عبدربه شركة مطاحن البحر الأحمر

تتقدم بأطيب التهاني للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة
الذكرى الأولى للتوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة (٣٠) نوفمبر

DUTCH TOLERANCE: A MUCH NEEDED VIRTUE IN THE NEW EUROPE

The Netherlands had fought an 80-year War of Independence (from 1568 to 1648) to free itself not only from the dominance of one religion, but freedom of conscience for all, in general. This country had freely admitted successive waves of refugees fleeing religious persecution from nearby Europe as well as from far-away lands.

Religion was and would remain a trully dominant part of peoples' lives. And to understand the history and the way Dutch society developed, this is where we have to begin, because the 80-year struggle laid the basic for socio-culture, economic and political life up to the present day.

The 17th century, known as the Golden Age, is usually associated with the acquisition of fabulous wealth that would make the Netherlands one of the richest countries in the world. It was also a period in which people of many faiths, especially Protestants and Jews found a way to live with each other.

When the Netherlands became a monarchy in the early 19th century, the borders were final and firmly established. That was in 1839, and it consisted of three very distinct religious regions. In the north and north-east, liberal protestantism was the norm. Orthodox calvinism held sway in the central region earning that particular area the dubious title of bible belt. And to the south, below the great rivers, the Rhine and the Meuse, were the Catholics. The religious divisions of the country into three separate regions would lead to a phenomenon that is so essentially Dutch that other languages do not even have words to express it.

The greatest change in the Netherlands' religions profile is the arrival of a fourth major faith- Islam.

With an estimated 500,000 members, the Muslim community is the fourth largest religious group in the Netherlands comprised primarily of immigrants. "The majority of Muslim immigrant workers here are working-class people." Says Achmed El Helou, chairman of the Dutch Muslim Information Centre and the Imam of the Mosque in Zoetermeer near The Hague. "They are rarely well-educated and it is hard for them to formulate or even talk about their beliefs in coherent ways. Yet, my experience is that in the work place there is a great willingness to accommodate our religious practices and even a respect for the sincerity of our religious practices," El Helou added.

The Imam went to Holland at a time when Dutch people were going through great changes, especially in religious terms. "The whole way of living is now different, and lifestyle seems to have become the new religion, with the shopping mall as its temple. It is difficult for Muslims to understand. But I think the Dutch also have difficulty understanding us." However, inspite of the difficulties arising from the co-existence of two very different cultures, the Imam is optimistic for the future.

Religious tolerance is still an active, integral part of Dutch society, and perhaps even more so now denominational differences no longer play a determining role in every-day life. Democracy is too well-rooted there.

The new right-wing anti-immigrants wave that currently plagues Europe can a lot of the Dutch history of tolerance. The world needs more enlightened and tolerant people - like the Dutch, rather than the ethnocentric feelings that dominate some countries today.

Unesco says 100m children have no access to schooling

More than 100 million children across the world still have no access to schooling, Unesco Director-General Federico Mayor said last week during his visit to Manila.

Mayor said the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Culture Organization (UNESCO) was battling to make basic education a major issue on global and national agendas.

But efforts to educate more children in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa were being undermined by crushing external debt, domestic unrest and deep-rooted poverty, Mayor said.

Illiteracy rates in several of the poorest Third World countries remained above 50%.

Mayor said education was under challenge for many reasons.

"For many countries in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia, for example, crushing external debt, internal strife, and absolute poverty conspire to make literacy and EFA (education for all) goals an ever-receding target," he declared.

"Even if they spend proportionately more of their budgets on education than other countries and receive larger amounts of external assistance, both quality and participation rates seems to be eroding," Mayor added, without identifying specific countries.

He said in richer industrialised nations, the problems were different but equally serious.

"In the countries of the North there is a sometimes reluctant acknowledgement that universal primary schooling can conceal potentially explosive problems beneath the surface."

These included declining levels of quality and achievement, even compared to countries spending only a fraction of what they spend on schooling, a growing rejection by the young of irrelevant programs of study, and persistent neglect of special groups not catered for by standard schooling systems.

Mayor said that in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe there was "a frightening realisation that difficult educational reform must accompany with equal vigour and speed the global transformation of their societies."

Enrolment in the world's primary schools had risen 38% to 597 million in 1988 from 433 million in 1970, while the numbers of pre-schools had doubled in the same period.

"However, there are still well over 100 million children with no access to schooling," Mayor stated.

The majority of the countries that lack educational facilities are in the Third World, which suffers from the highest ratio in this regard. Within the Third World, the least developed countries, of which Yemen is one, suffer from the highest ratio of educational deprivation. In the Republic of Yemen, over one million children are still out of schools, while another half a million go to schools that have inadequate facilities. In some cases, children study under trees of in in simple shacks. Books, teachers, and such vital needs are not available. Yemen has pledged to raise the number of children who have access to schools to 80% by the year 2000.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE USSR

The leaders of the newly-established republics of Russia, Byelorussia, and the Ukraine signed a treaty that has created a new axis within the region of eastern Europe. This step carries a death blow to the USSR or whatever is left of it.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin said that President Mikhail Gorbachev should stop trying to save the USSR or even to attempt to form a new confederation. Instead, he called on all to work towards a "commonwealth".

Speaking to the Byelorussian parliament in Minsk, Mr. Yeltsin made clear he saw no future in President Gorbachev's faltering attempts to negotiate a new treaty for a union of sovereign states. "The participants are becoming fewer and fewer. If it continues like this, there will be nobody around the table at all," he said. Yeltsin added that the remaining republics still had common interests and indicated that "This is a sufficient basis for a commonwealth of states".

Yeltsin said that Russia had its own plans, part of which was the tripartite agreement signed earlier this week. The agreement was concluded in talks to which President Gorbachev has not been invited.

In the meanwhile, the world is steadily recognizing one state after another of the former Soviet republics. It is expected that the USSR will be formally dissolved at the end of this evolution - a process that could take place as soon as within 1992.

Even today, the position of Mr. Gorbachev is very precarious. The once all powerful post of President of the USSR has become an empty shell. President Gorbachev finds increasingly he has no real job. Within 1992, the question of President Gorbachev being president of what will definitely be an interesting political satire.

The rest of the world remains anxious about the future of the USSR. More accurately, the world is anxious of the military arsenal that used to belong to the USSR. The question is "Who will control those arms, and whether the world will have to deal with half a dozen countries which have nuclear capabilities?"

The Republic of Russia is trying very hard to become the legal heir of the military arsenal of the USSR. Although this has not been openly contested yet, it will definitely not pass without quite a bit of give and take with the other republics.

Another source of headache to the rest of the world is the loans owed by the USSR. Who will pay the more than US\$70 billion owed by the USSR?

One final issue in the disintegration of the USSR is the border question between the various republics, specially in light of the large minorities that live in almost every one of them. Within the Sovietization scheme of the USSR, large groups of peoples were moved from one republic to another. Already, this issue is putting a serious strain on relations among the republics, and on relations with their neighbors.

In the final analysis, the West in particular, and the rest of the world, in general, is going through a lot of soul-searching regarding the implications of the disintegration of the USSR. In the meanwhile, the Soviet military, although paralyzed by the failed coup in August, is expected to actively intervene in the way events are unfolding. 1992 will provide the answers to most of these questions.

UNIFEM'S drive to Help Yemeni Women

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was established in 1976 as a voluntary fund to assist in the UN Decade for Women. The fund's name changed to UNIFEM in 1985. Its main activity is to provide direct financial and technical support to low-income women in developing countries, in an attempt to raise their living standards. It also funds activities that bring women into main-stream development.

After the Gulf War, UNIFEM decided to formulate a recovery program for the women of three countries Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen. A one-million US dollar, to be expanded to US\$3 million next year, was made available to help initiate the project.

A UNIFEM delegation was on a fact-finding mission in Yemen. According to Irene Santiago, Chief of the Asia/Pacific Section of UNIFEM and the head of the delegation, "We are in searching for programs which are oriented towards women in general, and those who have returned from the Gulf in particular." The team has already been in Lebanon and Jordan and Yemen is their last stop. Ms Santiago added that the group will go back to report on their field visits and complete

the paperwork to initiate the assistance programs. Ms Rebecca P. Smith from Manila, Philippines who is a UNIFEM consultant, pointed out that the thrust of the of their efforts is "to give Yemeni women a chance as bread-earners".



"We would like to nurture any women in the community and provide them with the skill that would allow them to take care of themselves," she said. "There is an immediate need to look into programs or projects in order to promote women as partners in development and that we would like to look into their contribution in more than just the traditional way."

Another UNIFEM consultant, Ms Zina Mounla, from New York, indicated that the team is fully conscious of the socio-cultural

platform on which they work. "But, we are interested in bringing about certain changes that will help improve the lot of Yemeni women. And please recall that change is easier to achieve during moments of 'crisis' as is the case today

in this region," she said. She also explained that the program envisages the establishment of a revolving fund that will provide seed capital on a soft loan basis to female entrepreneurs. "Apart from providing capital, there will be a training program that will enable women to acquire marketable skills," said Z. Mounla. Ms. Irene Santiago explained further that the objective is to fight the phenomenon of "stranded women in society". The drive is to help women become independent earners of income and contributors to the modern sectors of the economy. "We will train women in such skills as marketing, information, technologies, book keeping, and other skills," she went on to say.



Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid, Program Manager of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and also an old collaborator with the UNIFEM, indicated that the program will require the support of the various government agencies and sectors of the economy. "The effort is basically to come up with a program that will address the needs of women for income. We

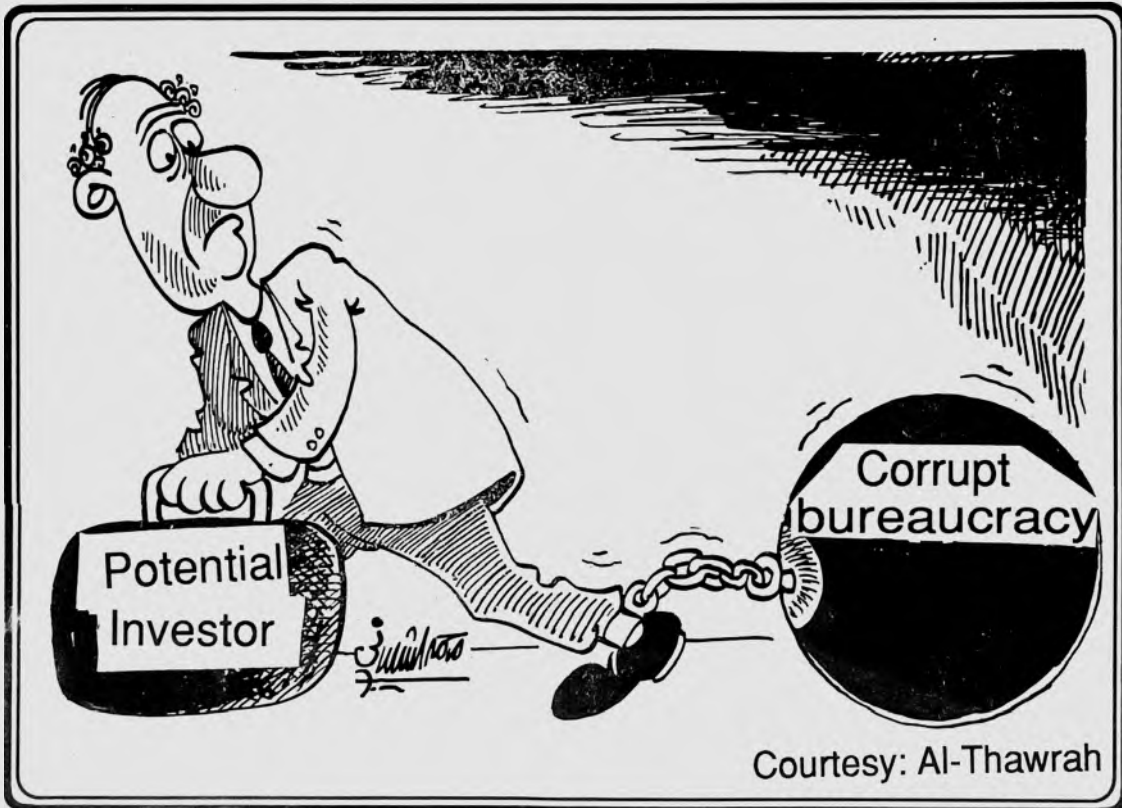
"What UNIFEM is trying to do which is new, not only in terms of Yemeni women, but also Arab women, is to address the issue of female helplessness in economic life openly and try to rectify it by working with a number of local and international organizations," Dr. Thoraya pointed out. She also insisted "UNIFEM is trying to help women become producers of marketable goods and services.



want to know the situation in Yemen and to identify female partners that will be able to benefit from the program," she added. The group has made contact with the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Social Affairs, the Yemeni Women Union, as well as several individuals dedicated to the welfare of women in Yemen. The mission's contact point in Yemen is, of course the UNDP office whose representative, Sima Kanaan, attended our talks.

This means enabling them to own shops, start enterprises, participate in projects, etc. The idea is to overcome the dependency phenomenon in which women have to be 'given' or supported," she said. "UNIFEM targets different groups of women on the basis of need," pointed out Santiago. Need here is identified as the level of impact UNIFEM funds have on women's lives.

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ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

MAGIC WORD
FRUITCAKE
JUMBLES

CROSSWORDS

LIMIT HITCH EXTANT BEADLE
Where they make bread in some cities—
THE MINT

MESA	ELF	CALF
OBESSE	RIOT	OLEO
DRESSMAKER	NEAR	
EON	CASE	UTTER
	PAR	MER
CREPT	APPI	AUSE
CRETE	KLEE	PRAY
RANT	INLET	TALE
ANTI	NEON	OILER
BEEFSTE	W DROSS	
	ORE	COIN
RTGOR	SHOO	AMP
SING	INTERLOPER	
ACRE	MALE	FRATO
MOOR	TOP	BREW