



# YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 18 - 24 DECEMBER 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 42

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## OUR VIEWPOINT



### ELECTIONS DISINFORMATION

Several senior officials have hinted that the parliamentary elections scheduled to take place before 22nd November 1992, could be postponed. Others have insisted it will happen on time, or so they 'hoped'. Many party newspapers have explained the factors that will lead to the postponement or otherwise. In my opinion, there is a disinformation campaign going on to throw competitors off track. Disinformation regarding the timing of elections is one of the oldest tricks on the books. The ruling party (parties) often confuse the rival parties on the exact dates of the elections. The motive is clear - they don't want them to prepare, and they would like to surprise them as much as possible. This is probably one of the reasons in Yemen today.

But there could be a more compelling reason. The leadership definitely wants to minimize the meddling of our neighbors in this process - either through attempts to block it or to influence the outcome. It is a fact that neighborly meddling did take place in the referendum on the constitution, to no avail, of course.

In my opinion, the re-structuring of the major parties will be completed in the spring - maybe around May 1992. Meanwhile, the elections law, which governs the procedures and other details, will have been enacted. Even if it were not, it takes around six weeks to do so, if the PGC and YSP are in agreement, which will definitely be the case then.

In June, 1992, the Presidential Council, which is composed of only PGC and YSP members, will announce the election dates. In my opinion, the dates will be during August 1992. Are the other parties, specially the Islah, going to fall for the oldest trick? Time will tell.

The Publisher

### Say, "Hello!" with UNICEF Greeting Cards

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The Yemen Times, on its voluntary request basis, has been authorized to promote & sell UNICEF cards. When our representative approaches you with the cards and the UNICEF price list, please react positively.

More on children on p. 9

### PARTIES SAY "NO" TO YEMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE TALKS

The USA and the USSR had invited Yemen to participate in the Arab(Palestinian)-Israeli peace talks. The Presidential Council asked the government to give its position on the invitation. The government, while tacitly agreeing, pushed the matter on to the House of Representative with an implied request to nod (yes).

In the meanwhile, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas called the opposition political parties to a meeting last week to discuss the matter. After a thorough review of the matter in a first meeting, another meeting was convened, of course over a qat chew, on Monday December 16th, 1991.

What the boss of the government did not consider was that the opposition parties would be holding many meetings to which the government was not invited, although representatives of the two ruling parties did attend. When the Monday meeting arrived, nine of the opposition parties presented a signed letter expressing objection to the participation in the peace talks. The signatories (Al-Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi Annaseri, Hizb Al-Baath Al-Arabi Al-Ishtiraki, Attajammu Al-Yamani Lil-Islah, Hizb Al-Haq, Al-Mu'tamar Al-Sha'abi Al-Aam, Al-Hizb Annaseri Addimoqrati, Hizb Al-Minbar Al-Yamani, Harakat Attawheed Wal-Amal Al-Islami, Attanzeem Assibtemberi Addimoqrati) indicated that Yemen's participation will be marginal and will have no effect on the progress of the talks. In essence it will be like window dressing. Yet, Yemen, if it sits in the peace talks, will have to live by any outcome of the negotiations, they indicated.

The group also refused the government's logic that Yemen's participation in the peace talks will help reduce its new isolation, which is one of the results of the Gulf War. "Putting forth this logic by the government by itself shows how much the outside (enemy) forces have succeeded in structuring our thought patterns," the letter said. Finally, the letter stated that the transitional government, by definition, is merely asked to run the affairs of the country until this period is over, and as such has no legal power to involve the country in any long term processes.

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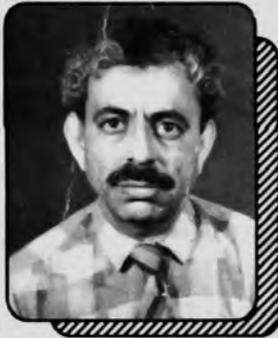
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PERSONAL VIEW

FRANKLY SPEAKING....  
 TIDES OF CHANGE



Hassan Al-Haify,  
 Ministry of Electricity & Water

While the world recently, underwent several dramatic changes, politically, geographically and socially, Yemen also saw subject significant changes, that to a certain degree, were in keeping with the evolution of the New World Order. What came out of the changes, for the Yemeni people, were a new order of circumstances, many of which, have yet to take on foreseeable trends. But on the whole, such changes are very healthy, reflecting a capability of the Yemeni people to react with good sense, in due time, and with a respectable degree of national awareness of international developments.

The most significant changes, and perhaps the pivots to all the other new conditions, which befell the country, can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The attainment of national unity, through peaceful negotiations, and the termination of all the paradoxes that accompanied national fragmentation, through the establishment of a united Republic of Yemen.
- 2) The introduction of limited democratic freedom, which has a good chance of leading to greater popular participation in the political decision making process as political awareness grows and spreads among the people.

It is worth pointing out that as far as Yemenis are concerned, these achievements are only natural realizations of situations that have very deep historical roots.

As far as the unification of what used to be the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR or North Yemen) and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY or South Yemen), or merger to be more accurate, there is not one Yemen who in his right mind, regards the existence of more than one Yemen, as a sound reflection of national interest. In fact, the political and commercial machines of both countries, prior to unity, contained several elements which originally came from the other side of the "border", and certainly enjoyed strong influence in these machines.

Continues on page 14

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS,

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE  
 COMMANDERS OF ARMED FORCES

President Ali Abdullah Sale and Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh, attended the inauguration session of the annual round of talks of the commanders of the Yemeni armed, naval, and air forces which took place on Sunday December 15th. In a speech on the occasion, President Saleh stated that it was normal for the country to face certain difficulties because of the unification process, which were exacerbated by the repercussions of the Gulf Crisis. He also said that whatever distortions some people propagate, nobody can turn the clock of time backwards. In a statement on the occasion, Defence Minister Lt-Brigadier Haithem Qassim Taher confirmed the loyalty of the armed forces to the country's leadership. He also pointed to the tremendous efforts exerted in the maximum training and preparedness of Yemen's military.

ADEN UNIVERSITY HOSTS  
 ARCHITECTURE CONFERENCE

The University of Aden is playing host to an important international conference on the architecture of Yemen. The Conference, in which scholars and engineers from several countries in the region and internationally participate, was inaugurated by Dr. Al-Amoodi, President of the University. Among the local participants are the experts in the field from Aden University.

SEMINAR IN ADEN  
 ON JUVENILE CRIMES

Headed by Dr. Hassan Qassim Khan, the Supreme Preparatory Committee for the Seminar on Juvenile Crimes continues to hold many preparations for the seminar. Dr. Khan stated that several technical papers by specialists who will discuss the phenomenon of juvenile crimes, the motivations, and the solutions proposed. Yemen has witnessed lately a rise in crimes committed by minors. It will be noted that the seminar will take place in Aden during 24-26 December under the patronage of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 DISCUSSES COMMERCE LAW

On Saturday December 14th, the House of Representatives started the fourth round of sessions of its second year. The House meets to finish off the items that were raised in the previous session. The House will first discuss the government's Reform Plan, and then proceed to discuss the decree passed by the Presidential Council regulating the country's international commerce. The House is expected to pass both of them.

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES  
 PROJECTS IN THE OLD SANAA

Within the program of the restoration and conservation of the Old City of Sanaa, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas inaugurated several projects in the old city. These include improvements in the pavements, schools, a park, and repairs of several monuments and buildings such as the Grand Mosque. The Prime Minister also laid down the foundation stones for a clinic, new road pavements, and several other services.

GENERAL MANAGER OF ARAB  
 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
 ORGANIZATION IN SANAA

Dr. Hassan Fahmy Guma'ah, General Manager of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), arrived here on Monday December 16th. Dr. Guma'ah is carrying an invitation from Professor Ahmed Ali Qunaif, Sudanese Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Livestock, to Yemen to participate in the 21st ministerial meeting of the organization which will take place during 7-9/1/1992 in Khartoum. During his three-day visit, Dr. Guma'ah will review with the Yemeni officials the projects being implemented with the assistance of the organization, the financial difficulties of the AOAD itself, and the election of its new General Manager. Dr. Guma'ah is running for re-election. Yemen Times learnt that the Agriculture Vice Minister, Dr. Ahmed Ali Muqbil, will head Yemen's delegation to the meetings.

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Dr. Mario Livadiotti:

## "I love Yemen and I am proud of having served in Yemen."

Dr. Mario Livadiotti, a native of Italy, was contracted by Prince Al-Qassim Bin Yahia Hameed Deen, Minister of Health and the Imam's brother, to come to serve in Yemen. He was stationed at the Al-Mutawakkili Hospital, today the Al-Jumhoory Hospital. At the encouragement of another physician, Dr. Livadiotti (or Dr. Mario as he was better known), arrived in Yemen in 1961. He served here for ten years. Thirty years after his encounter with Yemen, here are his reflections.

**Q: How and why did you come to Yemen?**

A: Before I came here I had served in Palestinian camps in what was then part of Jordan (today the occupied West Bank) for five years. Then I spent another five years in Libya. I had been familiar with the Arab region, and I was able to speak Arabic. So, when another Italian physician proposed to me to Sana'a, I accepted.

**Q: Could you describe your first encounter and your early impressions?**

A: I came through Aden, which was a nice and busy city. Then we drove on a big lorry (truck) from Aden to Taiz. It took us a full day as the road was really no road. As we arrived I was shocked. We arrived at night, and the city gate of Taiz had been closed. We talked to the askari (soldier) for over an hour to convince him to open the gates for us to enter. As I showed my foreign face, and my family, he finally let us in. Then we spent one full week to obtain the Imam's personal permission to leave Taiz for Sana'a. As a "guest" of the royal family, we were to be flown into Sana'a. The Imam allows the guests and prominent Yemenis to use his planes. Every day for over a week, we went to the "airport", and they would tell us, we have no word (permission) from the palace. Finally, on the eighth day, we were told, the Imam has given his okay.

**Q: How would you compare Aden and Taiz?**

A: Aden in those days was well organised. It was a

get what you wanted. The British organised it such that life would be easy and comfortable. But Taiz was really just a large village.

**Q: And what had happened in Sana'a?**

A: We were received very generously and treated very nicely. We lived in a nice house near Al-Bowniyah. But modern facilities were limited.

**Q: Was it hard adjusting yourself, given your experiences in the Palestinian refugee camps and Libya?**

A: My family and I are, of course, used to the Arab setting. But really, Yemen was worse than even the refugee camps. Most services were not available, and you had to do everything yourself. But our morals were high, and I was interested in what I was doing. So life was okay and even enjoyable.

**Q: How old were you at that time?**

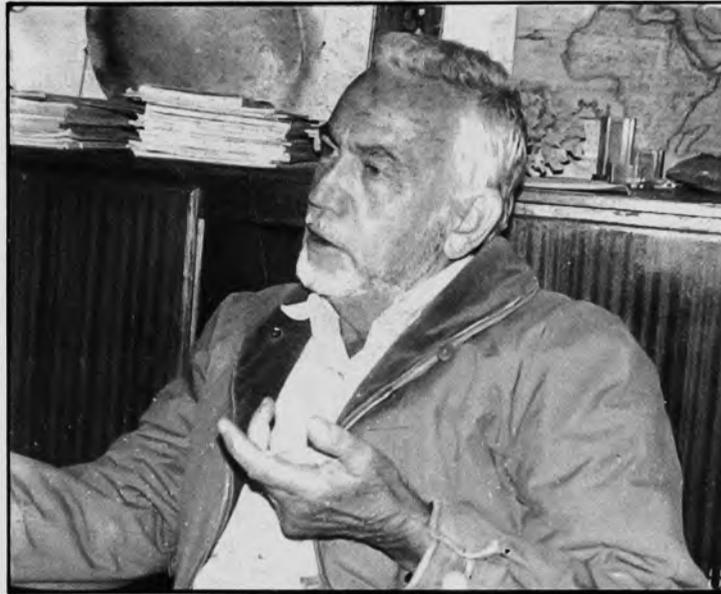
A: At that time I was 35 years old. My sons, Marco (who now works for UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism) was about four, and the younger son was about two.

**Q: How many foreigners were in Sana'a when you arrived?**

A: The number was very small. There were four Italians, one Czechoslovak, two Chinese, and two Russians. I think about nine or ten in all. In addition, there were eight or nine Egyptians. I am not exactly sure, but that was the international community of Sana'a at that time.

**Q: Could you describe one day in your life at that time?**

A: I used to wake up about 6:30 or 7:00am. After an



hour of getting ready at home - breakfast and all, I would be ready to leave home for work. I would walk, or go by bicycle, or by horse, which I was given by the Prince. As I arrive at the hospital, the guard would blow the trumpet to announce the arrival of the doctor and the beginning of the work-day. Around noon time, I would go back home. Afternoons were mainly for house-calls (on patients) or to play cards. Late afternoon, I take a stroll in the alleys of the city. At six in the evening, everybody had to be off the streets. From that time on the 'askaris' patrol the streets. For us foreigners, the laws were a little bit more flexible. We could be on the streets all the way until eight o'clock if we needed.

**Q: How many doctors were there?**

A: Five foreign doctors. There were some Yemeni male nurses.

**Q: What nationalities were the foreign doctors?**

A: There were two Italians, one Egyptian, one Russian and one Czechoslovak.

**Q: What were the main diseases?**

A: Many respiratory dis-

eases, and many intestinal problems. I vividly remember the overwhelming cases of anemia.

**Q: What about medicine. Was it available?**

A: We had some supplies of medicine, but, of course, not enough. There is perhaps more medicine in the smallest pharmacy in Sana'a today than in the whole country at the time.

**Q: You were an eyewitness to the September 26th Revolution. Could you tell us about it?**

A: During the night of the revolution I was playing cards in the house of the Italian radio mechanic. Suddenly the electricity went off and on three times. We were told later it was a signal. Then, we heard shooting and loud sounds. Somebody called us by telephone and told us to stay indoors and not to go out because there were some problems.

I spent the whole night in that house. Early in the morning, I bicycled quietly to see my family and they were okay.

**Q: How did the people behave regarding the Revolution?**

A: I think the majority of the people supported the Revolution. Life was really hard, and I think change was inevitable.

**Q: Did you feel the Revolution was made in Yemen or was it foreign instigated?**

A: I think the Revolution was a Yemeni thing. Of course, later, foreign support was obtained. But, the idea and the initial implementation was; of course, Yemeni. This was clear again during the Siege of Sana'a in 1968. If it were

not Yemeni, it would not have survived.

**Q: What can you tell us about the siege of Sana'a?**

A: I think I was the only non-Arab foreigner left in Sana'a. Everybody thought it was all over. But the people who fought for the Revolution simply saw no alternative -- to succeed or to die, and they succeeded. I think that in defending Sana'a, the Revolutionaries showed the highest levels of selflessness and sacrifice. It was an imbalanced war, yet what was thought to be the weak side won.

**Q: What do you feel today about Yemen?**

A: I loved Yemen and I love Yemen today. But I feel a bit sorry for Sana'a, which has not been properly preserved. The evolution could have been a bit more controlled and guided. Yet, this is something that happens in all societies.

**Q: Is there anything you find striking today?**

A: Yes, the dramatic level of addiction to qat. Qat was present also thirty years ago. But it was neither in this volume or frequency of use. Today, this habit has become a danger.

**Q: What would you advise the Yemenis today?**

A: My message is to preserve their identity as much as possible. Yemen has very good advantages in agriculture, industry, crafts, oil, tourism, and above all a large population that is willing to do hard work. In tourism, many people will come from Europe to see and enjoy the architecture and civilizational heritage of Yemen. It is worth preserving.

**Q: Any last message?**

A: I am proud of what Yemen has achieved. It has achieved unity peacefully. This is very civilized. It has a democratic system. This is again very civilized. I am sure Yemen's future will continue to improve. Yemen holds hope for the region, specially, if there is economic prosperity to go along with the political achievements. The discovery of oil makes this possibility stronger. I hope to come back in ten years, and be even more proud of Yemen and my association with it.



# YEMEN'S RED CRESCENT LIGHTS THE DARKNESS

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) was established in 1970. Since then, it has come a long way in performing many duties for society. Today, it stands out as one of the important aspects of the modern and civilized face of Yemen. To shed more light on this organisation, the Yemen Times spoke to H.E. Mr. Yahia H. Al-Arashi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the YRCS. Excerpts of the interview:



**Q: Could you please define the objectives of the YRCS?**

**A:** Of course our objectives are not very different from those of any Red Cross or Red Crescent society. Since our establishment in 1970, we have been trying hard to alleviate suffering and minimize the hardships faced by individuals and groups in society. We provide medical emergency services; we go to natural disaster areas (like the recent earthquake in Udain region) and offer medicine, food, and shelter; we try to accommodate the needs of refugees (like from Somalia and Ethiopia), or Yemeni returnees.

In addition, we try to create awareness, specially among women and young children regarding such concepts as hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, etc. This aims to improve their living conditions and to help them escape diseases.

We also have a charity system according to which we target needy families and try to give them support. For example, we provide to them clothings, blankets, etc. I can summarize our objective by saying that we would like assist all persons in Yemen to lead a decent life by meeting their minimum needs.

**Q: How do you cover your expenses?**

**A:** First, let me indicate that we do most of our work on a voluntary basis, thus our costs are very low. But, whatever money we spend, we raise through direct and indirect contributions, as well as through assistance from the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and through the support of fellow Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Since we have no direct budgetary support from the government, we plan to

start mobilizing more resources through bazaars, exhibitions and other similar activities.

On this occasion, may I express my personal gratitude, and that of our society, for the Marshalls. The British Ambassador, but even more, his wife, Mrs. Mark Marshall, have been very helpful and their assistance will continue to be invaluable to us.

I also seize the occasion of the holiday season to express best wishes for all, and to urge the various companies and individuals to consider making contributions. Their donation goes to a good cause and it is money well spent.

**Q: What have been your major contributions to society recently?**

**A:** It is very hard to talk about ourselves or work. But consider the following:  
1- Tents, clothings, blankets, etc. worth about YR.5 million were donated to the returnees.

2- We have a team of volunteers working to help the people who suffered in the Udain earthquake.

3- The on-going support to needy families.

4- The general awareness program through our newspaper, Al-Eethar.

5- Blood contributions to needy patients.

6- Volunteer services especially for women & children.

**Q: What are your plans for the future?**

**A:** We have just prepared our five-year plan (1992-6) which was presented to the XXVIth International Conference held in Budapest during 29/11 - 8/12/1991. The plan calls for the construction of several blood banks in the country. The Taiz blood bank is ready and awaits the necessary equipments to start its functions. I like to indicate that the League and several national societies have agreed to help us in this.

**Q: How responsive has the community been?**

**A:** The Yemeni people have exhibited strong signs of cooperation and voluntary work. Our cooperative movement testifies to that. But we need to sharpen our feelings of support for those less fortunate than us. We also would like to see more societies and associations oriented towards the social or public good established in Yemen. We support the growth of various voluntary organisations.

Continues on page 5




## The Property Centre

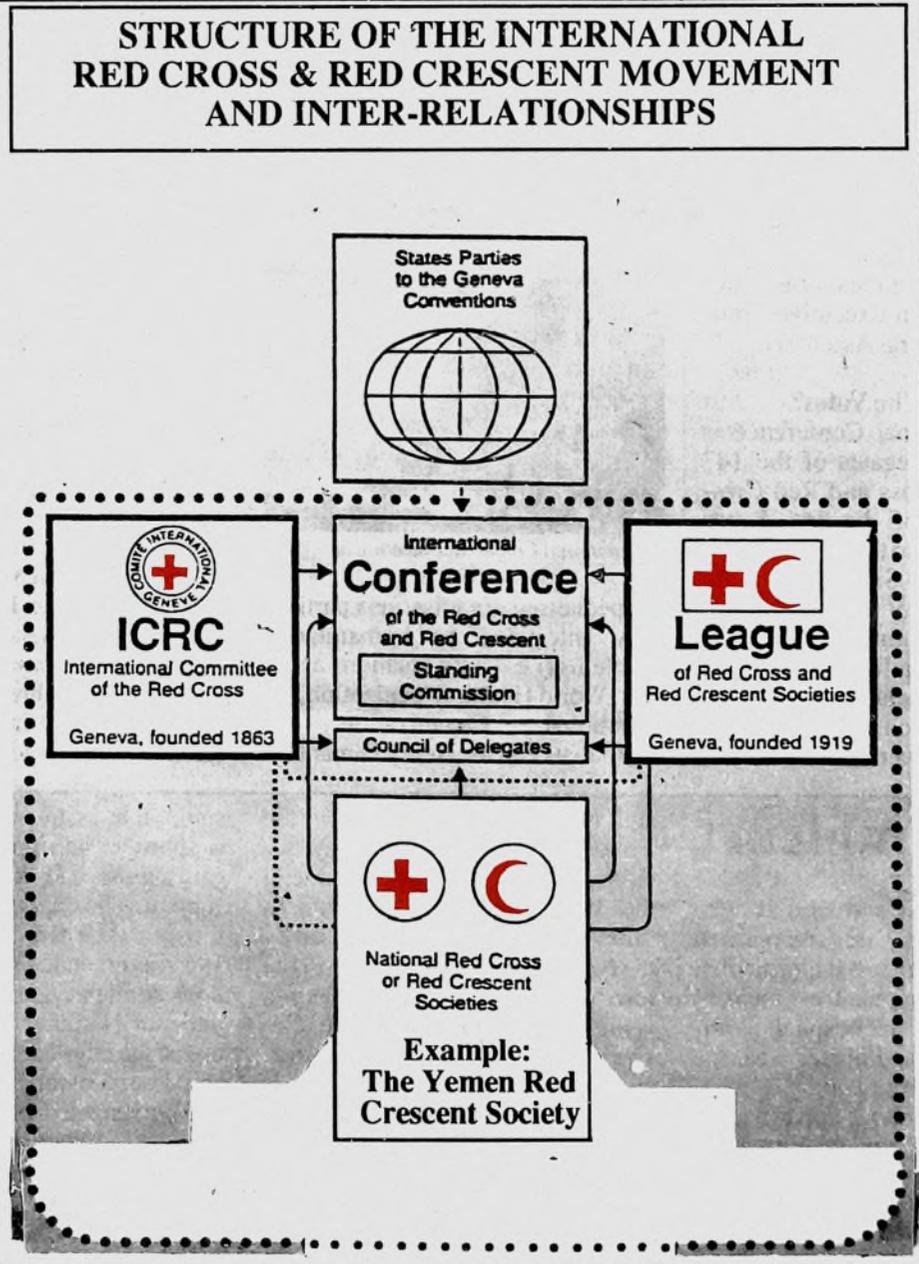
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**The Standing Commission:** Established in 1928, its role is to prepare for, and promote harmony in, the International Conferences. It is comprised of nine members: two from the ICRC, two from the League, and the other five elected to serve in a personal capacity. The Commission elects its own chairman and meets twice a year.

**The Council of Delegates:** Called the "Assembly" of the Red Cross and Red Crescent family, its members are representatives of the ICRC, the League and all the recognised national societies. It meets once every two years, and it is called upon to give an opinion on doctrinal points. It also oversees the distribution of certain funds to the national societies.

**The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** A private, non-political, independent institution. The ICRC founded in 1863, acts as a neutral intermediary in humanitarian matters in international conflicts, civil wars and internal disturbances. It provides protection and assistance to both military and civilian victims; to prisoners of war and civilian detainees, to the war wounded and to civilian populations in occupied or enemy territories. It also visits political detainees.

**The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:** This is the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Its objective is to prevent and alleviate human suffering through the national societies, by organising and coordinating relief for victims of natural disasters and refugees outside the areas of conflict, and often launches worldwide appeals for aid.



Continued from page 4:

## The Yemen Red Crescent & the ICRC

At the same time, I would like to see the international community in Yemen lead the way in such voluntary efforts. We are already enlisting the support of the diplomatic community, through the kind efforts of the Vice Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. the Ambassador of Morocco. But there are many trading agencies, oil companies, industrial firms, and many other similar organizations which have the resources, and I think the desire to help in our efforts.

Yemen's association with the League as well as the ICRC dates back to several years. Over the last several years, at the request of the Yemeni government, the ICRC has been sending delegations to help the government improve the conditions of prisons and prisoners. Through frequent visits, the ICRC has focussed attention of the inmates and their conditions. Last month, the ICRC had sent a follow-up delegation, and they are in Sanaa once again. According to **Arnold Leuthold, ICRC's Regional Delegate for the Arabian Peninsula**, the ICRC is in Yemen carrying out its "studies" at the re-

quest of the Yemeni government. "Over the last eight years, we have witnessed tremendous improvements in the prison conditions," he said. He added, "We as a private organization do not provide any funding or financial support, we simply check the status of victims of wars, civil unrest, political prisoners, etc." In other words, the Yemeni government's continued association with the ICRC does not yield direct aid or other form of support. It is based on the interest of the state to improve this sector. Leuthold added that the Yemeni authorities attend very closely to our proposals and are quite receptive and cooperative. "There is no prison that we have wanted to visit, which we were not allowed to visit,

and sometimes without prior arrangements," Leuthold indicated.

The engagement of ICRC in numerous visitations to Yemeni prisons gives Yemen a lot of credibility

in its efforts to move towards a humane and more civilized system. "Yemen's system is as transparent as in any country observing human rights and as far as our work needs go," the ICRC

delegate confirmed. Commenting on the degree of cooperation the ICRC got from Saudi and Kuwaiti authorities in the recent Gulf War, Leuthold expressed his pleasant surprise at their attitude and willingness to allow his team do its job in a very free atmosphere.



## WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE ETHIOPIAN NAVAL REFUGEES?

On the 25th and 26th of May, 1991, part of the Ethiopian naval fleet -- eleven vessels, crossed into Yemen's territorial waters coming from Assab.

that they have been fighting, under orders from the former (Mengistu) regime, the people who are presently in power. So they fear penal actions against them.



Commander Mekonnen and Lt-Commander Abay

By the 5th of June, some 900 men from the Ethiopian navy were temporarily settled in a camp at Nagd Qussaim, about 20 kms. south of Taiz city. They have applied for political assylum, and asked to be treated as war refugees. Yemen's government treats them as such, but has not officially declared that status. Already two Ethiopian delegates (one from EPRDF, the currently ruling party, and one from the Ministry of Defence) have visited the camp. The "refugees" are worried about their safety and that of their families back at home, specially in light of the fact

Some 90 persons have risked everything and decided to go back. They are still in Mokha as arrangements are not completed by Ethiopia. In the meanwhile, the world, including the Red Cross, are oblivious to the needs of the people in the camp. "The Yemeni government is providing us with shelter, food and limited pocket money -- about YR.500 per person/month," according to the Camp Commander Lt-Colonel Mathew Mekonnen. The Ethiopian embassy here has not done anything yet, for these men. **What will happen to these people? This is upto the conscience of the world?**

# DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

<b>SANA'A</b>		Palestine	217306/348
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	247755/56	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
China	275337/40/41	Somalia	208864
Cuba	217304	Sudan	265231/2
Czechoslovakia	247946	Syria	247750
Djibouti	265469	Tunisia	240458/9
Egypt	275948/9	Turkey	241395
Ethiopia	208833	U.A.E	248777/78
France	275995	U.K.	215630/33
Germany	216756/757	U.S.A.	238842/52
Hungary	216679	U.S.S.R	78272/203142
India	241980	Vietnam	216998
Iran	206945/948		
Iraq	216681/790	<b>ADEN</b>	
Italy	73409/78849	Czechoslovakia	32101
Japan	207356/208753	China	32604/30
Jordan	216701	France	32129/090
Korea (Dem)	232340	Germany	32162/011
Korea(Rep)	245959/60	India	53000
Kuwait	216317/319	Iran	31893/361
Lebanon	203959	Italy	31848
Libya	208815/6	Japan	32081/33282
Mauritania	216770	Palestine	32717/340
Morocco	247964	Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
Netherlands	215626/7/8	Somalia	41421/101
Oman	208933/4	U.K.	32711/12/13
Pakistan	248813/14	U.S. S.R.	32729/32625

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Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272435
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# INVESTING IN THE PAST FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE: THE RESTORATION OF OLD SANAA

## RESTORATION EFFORTS

Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas inaugurated on Saturday December 14th the round-table talks of the specialists who had arrived to evaluate the progress achieved in the restoration efforts of Sanaa Al-Qadeemah (Old Sanaa). In addition, the specialists are also discussing the philosophic underpinnings of the restorations process, as well as the logistic and financial implications. Already, certain controversies have arisen. Some of the scholars have called for an independent administrative apparatus for the Old City. Explaining this point, Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Haddad, Chairman of the Preservation of Old Cities in Yemen, said that the needs of the Old City are really different from those of the new city. In essence, we have two cities that are unique from each other. "Therefore, it would be wise to administer the Old City independently, perhaps through the Supreme Council chaired by the Prime Minister," he said.



mense wealth of surviving buildings in Sana'a has made it possible to establish the main outline of building development for at least the last 300 years, and in the case of mosques, for well over a thousand years. It has proved possi-

ble, subsequently, to link this in its essentials with detailed accounts of the physical character of the city in the tenth century A.D. (third century A.H) and with what little can be gleaned of pre-Islamic Sana'a, so that the basic continuity of architectural design can be asserted with some confidence for a period dating back to the beginning of Islam. If we add to that the evidence of the tower palace of Ghumdan and a few other fragments, the history can be traced to several centuries earlier than the time of Christ.

## THE TOWER HOUSE

Tower palaces and tower houses are the most characteristic feature of Yemeni architecture. Those of Sana'a reach up to nine storeys high, yet face on to narrow streets. They were built of squared black volcanic stone on baked brick above that. Windows are outlined in white gypsum and have fan lights of alabaster or colored glass held in gypsum tracery. In side, the houses have large entrance halls, frequently two storeys high, surrounded by store-rooms and mills for grain and salt, and rooms in which sheep, goats and other animals are kept. In each house, a wide internal door opens into the staircase, which winds around a central pier and is

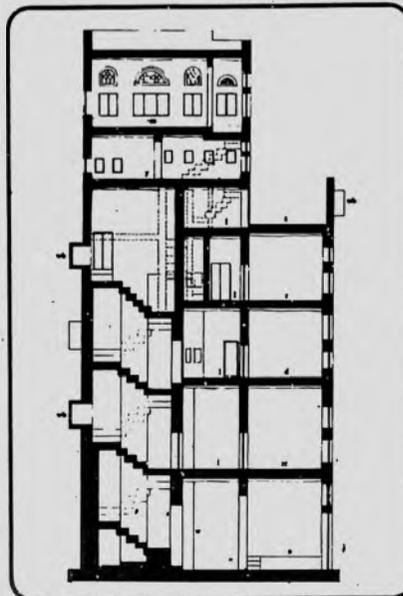
enclosed throughout its height in walls. This is one of the reasons for the strength of Yemeni buildings, for the staircase acts as a kind of massive hollow column.

A carved door opens from the staircase at each upper level to give access to a generous lobby, around which the rooms are grouped, usually one main room, a store and a bathroom.

The level of the family living room is reached first. This room is also used for men transacting business, at which times women retreat to high rooms. On the next level is the diwan, a kind of large parlour kept locked except when the family gathers for feasts, weddings and funerals. This room is also the place where child-birth takes place, on an elaborately arranged and decorated raised couch. Above the diwan are smaller, semi-private rooms and the kitchen.

At the highest level of the house is the afternoon reception room, the mafraj, generally used only by men. There an assembly of relatives and friends smoke the traditional water pipes (mada'ah) and chew qat, while engaged in endless conversation. The mafraj is built at a great height above the ground, it has large windows on three sides providing magnificent views, which are at their best as conversation flags when the sun sets in the late afternoons.

One of the remarkable things about the old houses, noted by al-Hamdani in the ninth century, is the cleanliness and freedom from smells of the bathrooms which contain the lavatories. This is achieved by the use of a 'long drop', a ma-

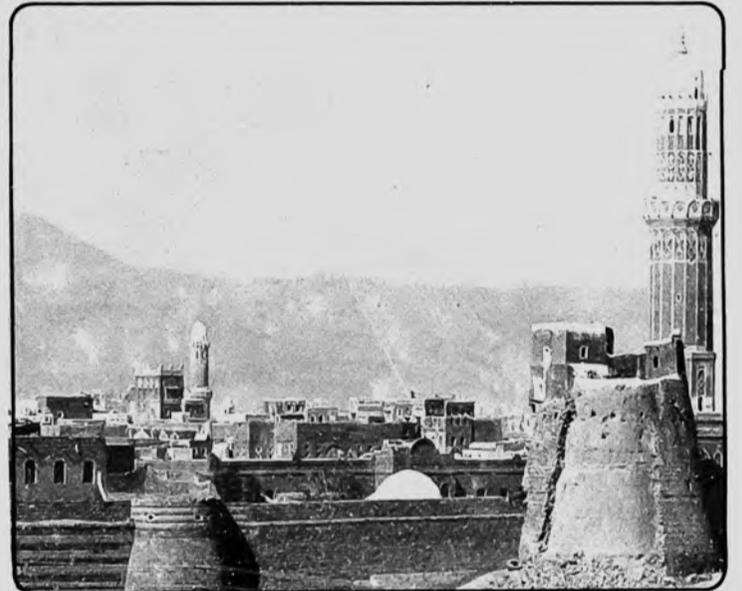


sonry shaft conveying the waste into a closed room at the lowest level, where it quickly dries in the mountain air and becomes odorless. Later the dried soil is shovelled away and burnt as fuel in the public baths of each quarter, the ash serving to fertilize the market gardens around which the houses are grouped. Thus an ecological cycle exists that is remarkable for its simplicity, hygiene and economy.

## EARLY HISTORY

In the fifth century A.H. (eleventh century A.D), the traveller al-Razi wrote a detailed description of Sana'a which shows that in some ways it does not seem to have changed very much

early Islamic times, is the foundation of the martyrism of a Christian cathedral, which, according to mediaeval writers, was the largest Christian building built south of the Mediterranean. It finally fell apart about a hundred years after the advent of Islam. A good deal of the material from it was re-used to build the Friday Mosque, Al-Jami' Al-Kabeer. The houses around it are also old; they often have door heads at street level, and one has to go down a flight of steps to reach the entrance. The original house level can frequently be as much as six or seven feet below street level, so this is clearly a very old part of the town.



- one can actually walk through the town using that guidebook still. But the similarity is less true with time; changes are increasingly apparent in the Old City, though these are still not enough to spoil the overall impression of fantasy and ambiance the Oil City produces.

At its eastern end, in the foothills, there is a high fortification that is arguably the oldest part of the town. The name "San'a" is generally thought by pre-Islamic linguists to mean 'fortified place', and the fort has an ancient doorway with a bent entrance; it is quite possible that the original town was there. Aside from this ancient site the whole town was largely contained within the later city walls until about two decades ago.

In the middle of the eastern end of the walled city which was known as 'the Persian quarter' in

## THE CENTRAL SUQ

To the west of these houses is the market. Markets in most of the Yemeni small towns are outside the town gate; that forms another piece of evidence that the oldest part of the town was to the east. But, expansion was so rapid after the coming of Islam that the market was swallowed up within the area of the city. The market of Sana'a is a single-storey area, and it retains its ancient character because this is still a largely conservative society. While there is a very western new Sana'a these days in which the people adopted a somewhat western style of life - there is a huge hinterland of tribesmen and of conservative people who are relatively more comfortable in the Old City.

Continues on page 8

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

**FREEZING IN THE COLD!**

This month, December, is the peak of the winter season. The real ice cold weather has increased day by day, month after month. In the mornings, you pull the thick covers over your head and wish you didn't have to wake up early. You dress up, wear thick jerseys, socks, gloves and rush to work. Do you see the children in the streets sleeping on the cold stiff pavements with nothing to cover them? Do you see the old disabled men and women (the lucky ones with a light rug to cover their freezing bones)? This sight is becoming too common in Sanaa, and we notice it with pity but do nothing about it. The government should build shelters for these people, however modest it could be. The kids should be put in an orphanage or juvenile centers, and the old should be in some old-age homes. Let us raise our voices on this issue and see that something is done!

by: **AIDA MOHSEN,**  
P.O.Box 19385,  
Sanaa

**VIOLATION OF TRAFFIC LAWS**

by: **Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri,**  
English Department  
Sanaa University.



While stopping at traffic signals, one cannot help but notice the many violations of traffic rules by drivers. This makes me lose my temper, even if I were in a good mood before that. I am not a quick-tempered person, but the carelessness and neglect of the rights of others by many drivers annoys me immensely. One aspect of the carelessness is the urge of some drivers to over-take other cars, at whatever risk. Another aspect is that some drivers read newspapers or chit-chat with the fellow next to them even while the car is moving. It is very easy to detect a driver whose attention is divided by many things, thus he is not fully aware of the road and traffic conditions. A third aspect of bad driving is the noise pollution accompanying driving in Yemen. As soon as the green light are on, you will hear many cars blast your ears with their loud horns. Patience is not one of the virtues of Yemeni drivers. A fourth aspect is sudden change of lanes. Yemeni drivers keep changing lanes depending on which lane they think is moving faster. Thus, we have in Yemen the phenomenon of bi-directional driving - forward and sideways. A fifth aspect of bad driving is the overbearing and pushy attitude of the driver in the car behind you. It would appear he wants to fly, or at least get off the road and make way for his car. Some drivers are so edgy, they can't bring the car to a stand-still. It is advisable to get away from such drivers - they easily violate the law, they could yell at you, and they could well ignore the traffic lights and even the traffic police. This behavior is considered egotistic driven by a high doze of ignorance. Basic courtesies, such as courtesy to pedestrians and fellow drivers are almost non-existent. I must conclude by saying that Yemeni female drivers are far more considerate and law-abiding in their driving. Whatever the case, I don't want to own a car insurance company in Yemen!

by: **Mansour Ali Al-Maznai,**  
English Department,  
Sanaa University.



**SWEET SMILE**

She is dead, but still alive,  
In the darkness, she was my light,  
She was everything in my life.  
Her memory warms my day and night.  
Everything around became alive,  
When she smiled.  
But the smile on her lips is no more,  
Yet I still live by her memories.  
She cared about others, even things,  
But for herself she cared not.  
She was the one who watered my heart,  
Which now is like a sleepy rose.  
She'll stay in my heart,  
We feel each other all the time.  
Her smiles bring warmth to my life,  
But, each other, we will never meet again.

**SIMPLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE FROM A READER**

by: **Omar S. Alawi,**  
P. O. Box 8248,  
Sanaa.

The Yemen Times appreciate very much the effort that went into preparing the crossword puzzle sent to us by Omar S. Alawi. May we explain first that we do not prepare our crossword puzzles, therefore we have no control over their level of complication. We get the whole entertainment page (page 12) as a ready a package from a company specializing in these services. We reproduce below for the crosswords puzzle you sent to us. **Answers on page 14**

1		2	3	4		5		6
		7				8	9	
10	11					12		
13						14		
			15					
16		17				18	19	20
21				22				
23				24				
		25						

**ACROSS:**

1. Wise expenditure of money.
7. Persons or objects in a straight line.
8. Raw earth from which metal is extracted.
10. Any small hard particle.
12. The mass of eggs laid by a fish.
13. Slippery ribbon-like fish.
14. A small room as in a monastery.
15. Estimated Time of Arrival (abbrev.)
16. Title of unmarried woman.
18. past tense of bleed
21. Everything.
22. Furry.
23. The fifth sign of the Zodiac.
24. The lowest integer.
25. Part of the sewing machine operated by the foot.

**DOWN:**

1. Keen-ness.
2. By mouth.
3. Unmusical souds.
4. Possess.
5. Ancient.
6. Perceive by touch.
9. Cylinder for spreading in over type in printing.
11. Defame.
14. A small house for swimmers at the beach or pool.
16. Barley, etc. which has been partially germinated.
17. Slit cut out for reception of coins in a gaming machine, etc.
19. Cheated.
20. Artificial embankment to prevent inundation.
22. A digging tool.




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البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير  
للخدمة الممتازة ،  
والثقة والأمان

## DUTCH ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED AS EFFECTIVE AND GENEROUS

The Republic of Yemen and the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands concluded one more successful round of talks last week. Last week's session was specially important as it represented the year-end review of cooperation between the two friendly countries. The Dutch side in the talks was headed by Wim G. Wessels, Director for Development Cooperation for North Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Yemeni side was headed by Dr. Mutahhar Al-Saeedi, Vice Minister of Planning and Development.

According to Wessels, the Netherlands continues to support the development process of Yemen and its political and socio-economic transformation. In a statement to the Yemen



Times, he said, "We value highly the courage and far-sightedness of the transformations." In a similar way, Dr. Al-Saeedi expressed Yemen's appreciation for the generous assistance that has effectively participated in the development of the country.

The agreement between the two sides covered two kinds of projects - on-going projects and future projects.

The on-going projects received a new commitment of 50 million guilders to support the following projects:

1. The Rada'a Water and Sanitation Project,
2. The Potato Seed project and Veterinary Services in Dhamar,
3. Primary Health Care in the Rada'a-Dhamar axis,
4. Technical support for the Central Statistical Organization,
5. The Master Plan for Assessment of Water Resources,
6. Technical Support for Sanaa University,
7. Support for Small Scale Industries Project,
8. The Rada'a Integrated Rural Development including road construction, agricultural extension services, and infrastructure.
9. Support for "Women in Development" projects including the Yemeni Women

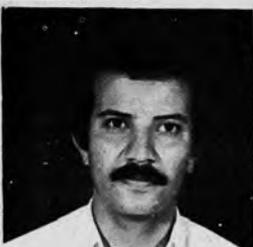
Associations in Taiz, Hodeidah and Dhamar.

10. Support for Technical training programs.

Agreement has also been reached regarding the projects the Netherlands will finance and co-finance in the future. These include:

1. Support for Yemen's commodity needs in feedstocks, basic commodities, and electric cables,
2. To finance the technical and economic study for building a harbor at Socotra, which has been given a high priority,
3. Support for the Land and Water Conservation project which is co-financed with the World Bank,
4. Technical Support for the National Water and Sewerage Authority and financing of its Hodeidah network,
5. Financing Garbage Disposal in Aden,
6. Financing the Green Belt project in Aden,
7. Financing Spare Part needs of the Machinery in Garbage Disposal in the Republic,
8. Support for the Naval Training Center in Aden,
9. Support for women's activities, centers for the handicapped and reform centers.

The Government of the Netherlands has also provided an immediate grant of 15 million guilders to finance medicine, fertilizers, pesticides, and machines and tools for the vocational centers in many governorates.



In a statement to Yemen Times, Hisham Sharaf Abdullah, General Director of Bilateral Cooperation with Industrial

Countries at the Ministry of Planning and Development described the talks as extremely successful. "We felt the Dutch side reacted very positively to all the needs we raised," he said. "In my years of negotiations, I have never felt so good about any other team with whom Yemen negotiated as I did with the Dutch team," he concluded.

Continued from page 6

## INVESTING IN THE PAST FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE: THE RESTORATION OF OLD SANAA

The government is in favor of trying to preserve the market as it is and to conserve its way of life.

Open caravanserais still exist right in the middle of the town, further evidence that the suq was outside the town at one stage. But there are also covered caravanseerais all around the edge of the suq. Several are very complicated buildings in which there are two camel stables for the loading and storing of goods, one double-level and one triple-level. Above them, on the roof, there used to be what were essentially hotel complexes, rooms around the courtyard in which the caravan owner and his staff could stay. They were obviously fairly comfortable establishments. There was a pool on the roof in one of the courtyards and very commodious bathrooms, equipped with hot water.

### THE MOSQUES

The Great Mosque was built after the suq was already in place, during the lifetime of Muhammad, according to early historians. According to them, Muhammad's instructions were that the mosque should be built in the garden of the Persian governors, with the position of its west side determined by a large stone in the governor's garden. The stone is still there, although by now it is more than a meter below ground level. Part of the original garden also remains. The Great Mosque is built in a very ancient style of stepped stonework. It has a treasury in the central courtyard, as had most early mosques and this may originally have had a fountain or ablution pool underneath it. There are over a hundred other smaller mosques in the town.

### THE CAMPAIGN AND PLAN OF ACTION

1. The most severe and urgent problem in preserving the Old city of Sanaa is water in the ground which caused cracking and rapid collapse. The primary cause proved to be leaking water pipes. This fact necessitated a review of the whole system of water distribution, with the aim of thorough testing of every part of the system immediately and re-



placing defective pipes wherever necessary. At the same time, plans for a sewerage system were implemented.

2. The living conditions on the streets were generally felt to be appalling. Garbage and rotting litter, sometimes mixed with animal and human excrement, combined to produce the most unhygienic and unpleasant atmosphere. Not merely was this a potential hazard for the sudden spread of epidemics, but it had a major effect on the inhabitants, persuading many to abandon the Old City completely for the sake of their children's health, while many of those remaining were discouraged by the environment from repairing and doing repair work to maintain the appearance of their houses. The government began a new system of street cleaning. Improvement of street cleaning and litter removal is still being implemented.

3. In wet weather the streets were often impassable because of mud and flowing water, conditions that were exacerbated by vehicular traffic. Paving of the streets with small stone paving blocks was undertaken as a matter of high priority, together with storm water drainage. At the same time, the jointing of the water and sewerage pipes was checked, and improved manholes introduced.

4. Congestion of parked vehicles makes passage by pedestrians and motorcars nearly impossible in many areas. This is cited as one of the main reasons for the abandonment of the Old City by the old families. Vehicles, circulation and parking, and their effect on the Old City, are being carefully studied in the context of the expanded city of Sana'a as a whole.

5. Socio-economic studies

are to be undertaken. It is hoped that the next step will be the preparation of detailed strategic research that will enable the pattern of relationship between the original walled city and the much larger city that now surrounds it to be established. This would pave the way for a plan of action that will ensure continuing life and prosperity within the walls.

6. The preservation of the physical context and the monuments of the old mediaeval city is planned. The goals are to convey its unique character along with its sense of age and history and to ensure the preservation and protection of the way of life of the mediaeval city as much as possible for those who desire it. Underlying these aims, however, is a recognition of the importance of carrying the burden of history without stifling urban life so that the population is encouraged to change and upgrade its way of life while still retaining the best of the past.

The Yemeni people are resigned to losing a part of their heritage with time, but steps are being taken to ensure that some strict and selective control continues to be exercised at top government levels. For all people who prize the achievements of humanity, it is a matter of urgent and valuable need to safeguard a part of the human heritage.

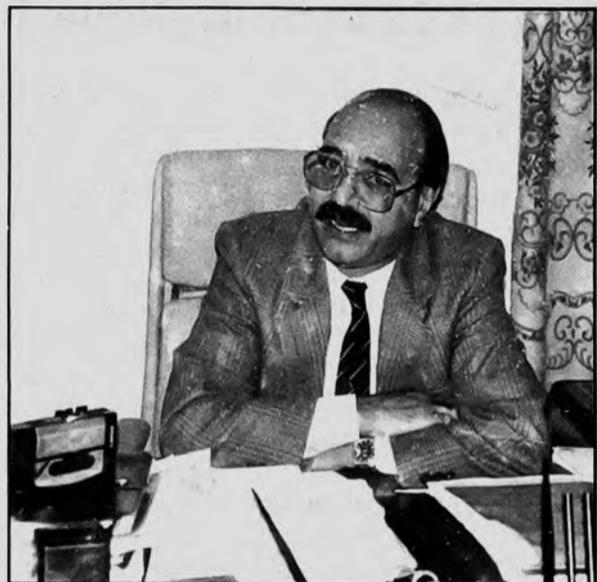
It is in this light that the meeting of the experts in Sanaa today gains an extra importance. Since the launching of the Preservation efforts ten years ago, when Sanaa was declared a world heritage city, some work has been done, although much more could have been done. Yet, what awaits to be done is enormous, and the goodwill and active participation of all will be needed.

## COAC Promotes Respect for the law

The Central Organization for Audit and Control (COAC) is the government's watchdog against misuse of authority, squandering of public funds, malpractice, and outright inefficiencies. It is directly under the patronage of the Presidential Council and has the power to probe and investigate any ministry, public or mixed organization, and even cooperatives and municipal councils. "We have the jurisdiction to look into the affairs of any party that receives government funds, or which depends of a government action for its income," said Mr. Ahmed Al-Iryani, the Chairman of the COAC.

In an exclusive statement to the Yemen Times, Mr. Al-Iryani stressed that the level of corruption is not as bad as it is reported in the newspapers.

"Given political angling in the country at this moment, the press reports are more like sensational stories which do not stand up even



under limited investigations," he added. I am not saying there are no cases of corruption, but I only stress they are not anywhere close to the magnitude reported in the papers, he explained.

Probed by the Yemen Times regarding the difficulties he faces in doing his job, he indicated that over 50% of his staff are students. "This immediately tells you a lot about their level of education, and it tells you about their divided attention and time," he said. "Is interference from higher authorities a problem in investigating senior officials?" Not according to Mr. Al-Iryani who smiled back. "That would be a serious breach of our independence and credibility," he indicated.

Any other problems? Yes, there is a major problem. Among 110 cases investigated and proven to incorporate serious violations, the prosecution office has merely processed 32 cases. "We try hard to pin down the facts, and refer a complete file to the General Prosecution. But there, things get bogged down and nothing is done. This is partly because they have so much work to do, and this kind of violation does not command the priority it deserves," according to the Chairman of the COAC.

That is why he is pushing for the establishment of a unit, within the General Prosecutor's Office, that will specialize in violations covering public resources.

Asked about the image problem the COAC in dealing with other government organizations, Mr. Al-Iryani pointed to two main reasons.

First, when the COAC was established in Sanaa in 1974, it was used as a political weapon. In a sense it was used to purge people selectively. Opponents were very harshly treated.

Second, due to ignorance of the real objectives of the COAC, people worry about its intervention. "We are not out to get anybody. Our job is to help the various bodies abide by the laws, that is all," exclaimed Al-Iryani.

The COAC does regular checking on the procedural and substantive aspects of financial management and administrative decisions. It also does unscheduled visits, although these are not frequent. "We barely can keep up with the scheduled visits, let alone additional ones," said the COAC boss. "Proper management of our resources and energies including good management of our time, plus respect for the law and abiding by it, are the only path to progress and modernization," he concluded.

## Buy a Card, and Help Save a Child!

Every day, in the Third World, some 8,000 children die from preventable diseases like whooping cough, measles and tetanus. Another 7,000 die of dehydration caused by diarrhoea. Some 6,000 more die from pneumonia, which can be treated by low-cost antibiotics. In all, 40,000 children under age five die every day in the Third World, largely from preventable causes, often for lack of affordable, low-cost health care, a regular supply of nutritious food, or clean water.

UNICEF is working to save the lives of many of these children. You can help by simply buying UNICEF cards. You can support these efforts, which add meaning to us as fellow human beings.

The Holiday Season is a time for reflection -- a time to put accomplishments in perspective and establish goals for the future, whether at the personal or institutional levels.

For UNICEF, the United Nations' Children's Fund, this means a hard look at the situation of children in the world today. The sad truth is that life continues to be a desperate struggle for millions of children.

Some 177 million children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, of whom over twenty million suffer from the severe form which is fatal if untreated. Nearly 500 million children have no access to clean water. Over 300,000 children go blind each year for lack of Vitamin A. Yet every one of these conditions can be improved or prevented. UNICEF has the knowledge and the low-cost technologies, and is working in 128 developing countries to provide basic health care, better nutrition, safe water, and education to those who it most. You can help expand these programs by buying UNICEF cards.

This holiday season, you can save the lives of some children or improve them by buying UNICEF cards. It is a good feeling to be able to share.

**The Yemen Times representative will pass by to offer these cards. Please buy some.**

**Or call UNICEF, Sanaa at 231-256/7/8.**

United Nations  
Development Programme  
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World Development  
التنمية العالمية

### UNDP VACANCY NOTICE

The office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNFPA) wishes to announce One New Post for January 1992 for National Programme Officer in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Applicants should be Yemeni nationals.

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Recommends areas for population assistance on the basis of continuous review and analysis of demographic and socio-economic data and national population policies;
- Promotes and develops new and continuing population programmes and projects in consultation with the Government and the UNFPA office in coordination with U.N. specialized agencies, NGOs and bilateral donors;
- Undertakes initial substantive and financial appraisal of all project requests, carries out administrative processing of government requests for assistance. Drafts and prepares project progress reports;
- Assists in project identification and formulation of population programmes and projects. Prepares project terms of reference for project expert and consultants as required for the implementation of the Country Programme;
- Prepares background materials and position papers on population and development related topics as deemed necessary.
- Monitors project/programme activities by reviewing a variety of records, including progress reports, project inputs, budget and financial expenditures;
- Maintains, processes and analyzes information on a wide range of subject-matters relevant to the fund and the national population policies of the Republic of Yemen;

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

- Post Graduate University degree from a recognized university in Health, Population, Management, Demography, Statistics or Social Sciences and relevant demonstrated professional experience;
- Approximately three years of progressively responsible experience with demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the field of development and particularly experience in population activities;
- Initiative and sound judgement, ability to organize work and demonstrated ability to work in harmony with people of different national backgrounds. Strong interest in development work. Good understanding of the working of the Government and exposure to international development problems;
- Fluent in both English and Arabic;
- Good drafting skills in English a prerequisite;

#### REMUNERATION:

Salaries of the United Nations system are amongst the best in Yemen. Take home pay equivalent to Y. RIALS 300,000 per year. Other benefits are additional.

#### CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION:

Applications available in Personnel Section of UNDP. All applications shall be acknowledged. Closing date 8th January 1992.



# TEMPS DU YEMEN

*De retour d'une mission dans le sud du Yémen et à Socotra*

## Trois Français pionniers de la recherche sur les langues sudarabiques modernes

Lors d'une conférence organisée au Centre Yéménite d'Etudes et de Recherches, trois chercheurs français en linguistique ont rendu compte d'un mois de travaux dans la Tihama au nord, l'Hadramaout, le Mahra au sud et dans l'île de Socotra.

Cette mission, inaugurée en 1982 par des accords entre les universités d'Aden et de Paris-Sorbonne, est la seule et la première depuis le début du siècle à travailler sur ces langues orales du sudarabique moderne. Objectif: les inscrire dans le patrimoine linguistique arabe et mondial, avant qu'elles ne disparaissent.

En entendant Antoine Lonnet, Marie-Claude Simeone Senelle et Martine Vanhove prononcer certains mots en mehri ou en soqotri, les étudiants et les professeurs du Centre Yéménite d'Etudes et de Recherches ne peuvent s'empêcher de sourire: ils ne comprennent rien à cette langue, parlée par des gens qui habitent le même pays qu'eux et issue de la même famille, la langue sémitique. La prononciation, très particulière, le vocabulaire, tout leur paraît étranger...

Le sudarabique moderne trouve ses racines dans le sémitique qui a également donné naissance à de nombreuses langues mortes au nord de la péninsule (araméen,

phénicien, hébreu, etc.) et, au sud, à l'arabe et ses centaines de dialectes, au sudarabique ancien (sabéen, niméen, qatabanite, hadramaoutique, etc.) ainsi qu'aux langues sémitiques d'Ethiopie.

Au Yémen, trois des six langues sudarabiques modernes recensées sont encore parlées: le mehri dans le gouvernorat de Mahra, le soqotri sur l'île de Socotra et le hobyot, une langue dont seuls quelques experts avaient évoqué l'existence au début du siècle, et découverte par la mission française dans les montagnes au dessus de Hawf et à Jadib.

L'objectif de ces recherches et études sur le terrain est de sauver, en les transcrivant, des langues purement orales. Pour Antoine Lonnet, il sera trop tard quand la télévision et l'école obligatoire auront touché toutes ces régions.

Les travaux des trois chercheurs consistent donc à questionner sans relâche, enregistrer les gens pendant des heures, et travailler ensuite avec des "informateurs", de mêmes origines mais formés préalablement (parfois à l'aide de bourses en France).

Marie-Claude Simeone Senelle se dit émerveillée par la patience infinie de ces gens qui sont étonnés et fiers de voir que l'on puisse s'intéresser à leur langue, quand leurs voisins d'autres régions du Yémen ne les comprennent même pas.

La diversité des dialectes est telle, qu'à quelques kilomètres de distance, les termes et la prononciation sont totalement différents. Dans l'hadramaout, par exemple, on parle une centaine de dialectes. Et ce qui est valable pour le sudarabique moderne l'est aussi pour l'arabe. Antoine Lonnet évoque, à ce propos, une anecdote vécue au cours d'une mission, exploratoire celle-ci, effectuée en novembre dernier dans la Tihama: à une demi-heure de distance à pieds, les habitants de deux villages ont des termes différents pour désigner les membres du corps! Cette disparité des dialectes, concevable entre celui du Bagdadi et celui du tunisien, devient ici étonnante. Ces découvertes d'Antoine et Marie-Claude dans la Tihama ne peuvent que les inciter à de nouvelles recherches dans cette région.

Pour le sudarabique moderne, l'intérêt est manifeste: les dialectes ont conservé la prononciation originelle du sémitique depuis des milliers d'années et leur étude pourrait permettre de combler les "trous" dans l'arbre généalogique des peuples de la péninsule arabique dont la langue était issue du sémitique, à travers les siècles.

### EN BREF

**393 cas de choléra à Aden.** Dans une déclaration officielle, le ministre de la santé a reconnu 393 cas de diarrhées à Aden, qui correspondraient à la définition internationale du choléra.

**L'incendie du commissariat du Crater à Aden serait un acte criminel, selon le quotidien El Tjammu.** Selon l'organe du PRUY, parti d'opposition, des quantités de fausses devises anisi que deux bombes incendiaires auraient été trouvées sur les lieux. Le propriétaire de ces faux billets serait, selon le quotidien, un membre des forces de défense et de sécurité.

**Inauguration d'un centre ophtalmologique à Sanaa.** Un éminent chirurgien saoudien, le Dr Aquef al-Maghrbi, de Jeddah, a inauguré dimanche un nouveau centre ophtalmologique à l'hôpital Al-Thawra de Sanaa.

*La crise du Golfe et le processus de paix au Proche-Orient*

## Le Yémen cherche à rompre son isolement diplomatique

Le discours du vice-président Salem al-Beid à propos de la crise du Golfe à la sixième conférence islamique de Dakar, la semaine dernière et la position du gouvernement face aux partis à propos de l'invitation du Yémen à participer à la troisième phase du processus de paix au Proche-Orient, démontrent la volonté de sortir le pays de l'isolement diplomatique dans le monde arabe.

"Il ne faut pas oublier une seconde la souffrance du peuple irakien frère", déclarait la semaine dernière le vice-président al-Beid à Dakar, en réclamant une levée de l'embargo sur l'Irak décrété par l'ONU. Pour autant, il a affirmé le "soulagement du Yémen de voir le Koweït libre"!

La République, qui essaie de faire oublier sa position pro-irakienne pendant la guerre du Golfe ne se renie donc pas totalement. Mais tout comme l'OLP et, à un degré moindre, la Jordanie (qui ont aussi soutenu Saddam Hussein), le Yémen faisait figure de repoussoir à Dakar. Aussi, M.al Beid

a-t-il prôné une nouvelle solidarité entre les pays arabes en faisant table rase du passé et fondée sur l'unité de l'Islam.

De même, les hésitations qui se font jour au sein même de la coalition au pouvoir sur la réponse à donner à l'invitation soviéto-américaine à la troisième phase du processus de paix au Proche-Orient est évocatrice: le gouvernement a accepté tacitement, arguant du fait qu'une telle participation à Moscou en janvier permettrait de rompre l'isolement du pays. Mais il laisse le soin au parlement d'entériner sa décision. Alors que le parti du président Saleh, le CPG, se prononce pour, que le second parti de la coalition, le PSY, dit non à la participation, neuf partis d'opposition ont refusé la logique du premier ministre (rompre l'isolement). Pour eux, le Yémen ne pèserait en rien sur le processus.

### INFOS PRATIQUES

#### CINE-CLUB

Le ciné-club du Centre culturel français de Sanaa vous propose:

#### L'affiche rouge

de Franck Cassenti (1976), avec Pierre Clémenti, Laszlo Szabo et Pierre Ibáñez.

Le 21 février 1944 au matin, dans la France occupée, un peloton d'exécution du Mont Valérien va fusiller les hommes du "groupe Manouchian"...

-Séances mercredi 18 et samedi 21 décembre à 19h30.

#### Gribouille

de Marc Allégret (1937), avec Raimu et Michelle Morgan

Camille Morestan, banquier parisien, vient d'être désigné juré pour un procès en cour d'assises...

-Séances lundi 23 et mercredi 25, à 19h30.

#### TELE

La deuxième chaîne, ADEN-TV, diffuse chaque samedi à 22h30 jusqu'à la fin du mois de décembre, une série de documentaires historiques intitulés *Les grandes batailles du passé*. Au programme:

-Samedi 21 décembre:

*La bataille de Grunwald-Tannberg*

-Samedi 28 décembre:

*La bataille de Québec*

#### ECOLE FRANCAISE

Dans le cadre de sa préparation de l'année scolaire 1992-93, l'école française de Sanaa saurait gré aux parents intéressés par une inscription de leurs enfants - quelle que soit leur nationalité - de se faire connaître par lettre à:

M. le président  
du comité de gestion  
P.O.BOX 2650 - SANAA

### "Il faut secourir les habitants de Socotra"

De leur mission prévue pour 15 jours sur l'île de Socotra, Marie-Claude Simeone Senelle et Antoine Lonnet n'ont failli revenir qu'au bout de deux mois. La tempête qui a ravagé cette île, d'ordinaire coupée du monde parce que très difficilement accessible par la mer, est "une véritable catastrophe", clament en coeur les deux chercheurs français manifestement très inquiets pour les habitants de l'île. Considérablement amaigris après n'avoir mangé pendant

plusieurs jours que du pain et quelques biscuits, ils veulent absolument attirer l'attention internationale sur "les risques d'épidémies et de famine qui guette les habitants de l'île. Il y a plusieurs milliers de sans-abri, décrite-vent-ils, des troupeaux entiers ont été emportés, des cultures détruites, la pêche réduite à néant par d'immenses coulées de boue dans la mer. Rien n'a été fait, personne ne s'intéresse à eux... Il faut secourir les habitants de Socotra!"

*Le symposium de l'UNESCO sur la préservation de la vieille ville*

# Sanaa a besoin de l'argent de l'étranger et de la volonté de ses habitants

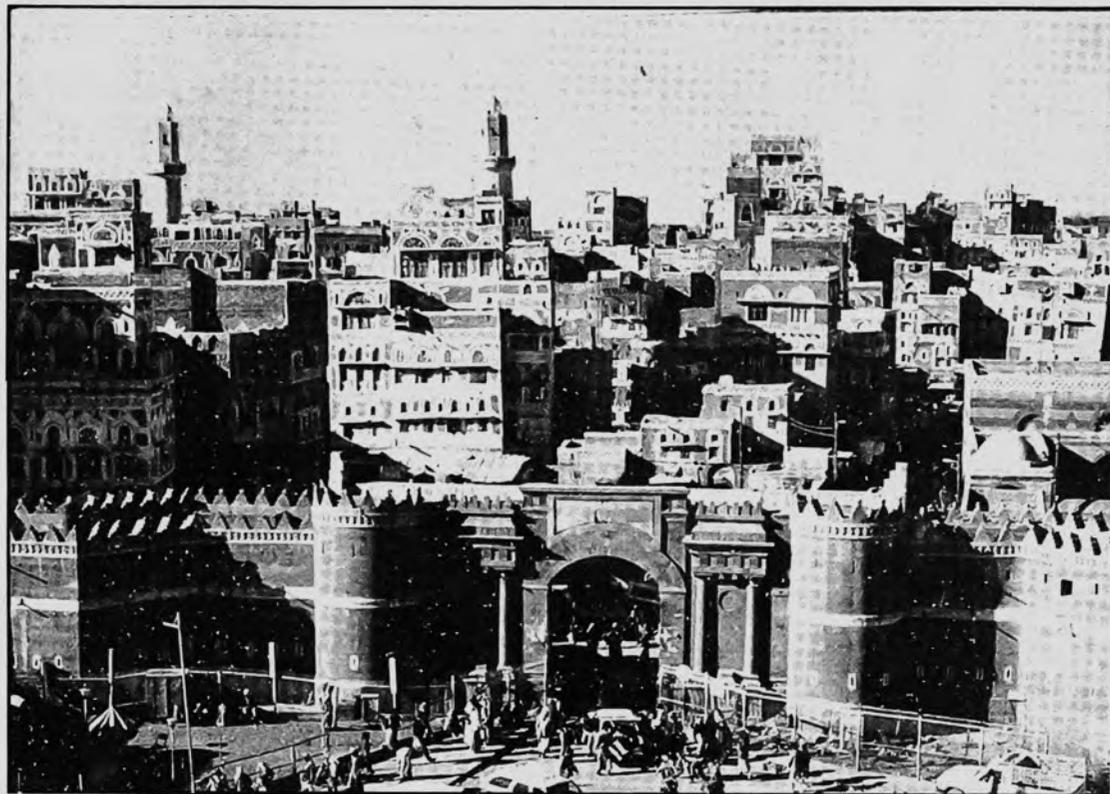
Du 15 au 19 décembre, l'UNESCO organise, à l'hôtel Sheraton de Sanaa, un symposium dans le cadre de la campagne nationale et internationale de sauvegarde de la vieille ville de Sanaa. Cette conférence met en présence des architectes, urbanistes et autres spécialistes de renommée internationale. Elle a pour but de dresser un bilan des restaurations et des travaux d'infrastructures effectués depuis 1983, ainsi que de prospecter, dans des domaines aussi divers que l'urbanisme, l'architecture, l'ethnographie, la sociologie, l'économie, l'histoire et le droit, pour définir la politique qui conviendrait pour améliorer la vie quotidienne et le confort des habitants tout en préservant la beauté ancienne de la "perle de l'Arabie".

"Notre vie a changé, la rue est plus propre, il n'y a plus de poussière et c'est plus calme. On a de nouveau envie de vivre dans la vieille ville". Ces propos, tenus par un marchand de tissu de Sanaa à M.Mounir Bouchenaki, le représentant de l'UNESCO, sont un signe: les habitants de la vieille ville s'intéressent de plus en plus aux travaux de restauration de leurs quartiers. Les experts qui encadrent les chantiers sont unanimes: au lancement des premiers projets, les gens étaient indifférents, sceptiques, voire hostiles quand il s'agissait de toucher à leur propriété.

## Des rues pavées et nettoyées

Aujourd'hui, certains ont pris conscience de l'importance de ces restaurations, car elles sont accompagnées de travaux d'infrastructures préalables: les canalisations sont réparées pour éviter les fuites qui rendent le terrain meuble et menacent les bâtiments d'affaissement; le gouvernement a lancé une politique de nettoyage systématique des rues, même si les moyens techniques sont loin d'être satisfaisants; certaines voies ont été pavées pour remédier au problème de la boue en temps de pluie; des égouts ont été installés; enfin, la circulation va être améliorée par la construction progressive de parkings, selon le Docteur Abd al-Rahman al-Haddad, véritable maître d'oeuvre de la campagne de préservation de Sanaa au gouvernement, en tant que président de l'Organisation générale pour la protection des cités historiques du Yémen (GOPHCY).

Tous ces facteurs d'amélioration de la vie quotidienne, même s'ils ne sont réalisés que dans un nombre réduit de rues, con-



tribuent à un certain mouvement de retour des habitants dans la "vieille ville", observé depuis peu de temps. Car évidemment, il n'est pas question de demander aux gens de venir habiter dans une maison ancienne restaurée, dans les mêmes conditions de vie qu'il y a deux cents ans. M.Bouchenaki précise bien que l'objectif est d'allier confort, modernisme et beauté extérieure.

Mais ce travail de "restauration" est encore mal perçu par les habitants, de l'aveu même du Docteur al-Haddad: les gens se demandent encore à quoi bon s'intéresser à de vieux murs... Et ce manque de motivation chez la plupart des habitants est le premier des obstacles, selon le président du GOPHCY. Surtout quand il prend la forme de constructions "sauvages", ou de destructions, interdites par la loi.

Cinquante contraventions ont été relevées, dont trois seront très difficiles à réparer et coûteuses. "Il va falloir détruire ces constructions, soupire le Docteur al-Haddad, mais c'est une décision très grave car ces

gens ont dépensé de l'argent et il sera difficile de compenser le préjudice, l'Etat n'acceptant pas de rembourser puisqu'il s'agit d'une contravention à la loi". Décision d'autant plus grave que la faute revient à l'Etat lui-même et au GOPHCY, puisque les habitants ont agi sans visiblement connaître la loi, ni être informés sur la campagne de restauration. Sur ce point, le Docteur al-Haddad confesse ses erreurs: "Nous avons échoué dans une vraie campagne d'information, nous n'avons pas donné les conseils nécessaires pour faire prendre conscience aux gens de la richesse de leur patrimoine".

## Le manque cruel de financements

Second obstacle, de taille évoqué par tous les experts, le manque cruel de moyens financiers. Depuis le lancement de la campagne au début des années 80, en dehors des travaux d'infrastructures évoqués et financés pour l'essentiel par la République du Yé-

men, seulement trois projets de restauration d'édifices ont été menés à terme, financés par la Corée du Nord, la Norvège et les Pays-Bas. Huit projets sont actuellement en cours de réalisation (financés par le Yémen lui-même, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, la France, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, et la Suisse. Certains de ces travaux ont été retardés par manque d'argent. M.Giancarlo Barbato, architecte spécialisé dans la restauration de bâtiments, évoque l'exemple de son projet concernant le plus ancien caravansérail de Sanaa, al-Baw'ani (XIV<sup>ème</sup> siècle), qui n'a pas dépassé le stade de l'étude: "Je viens d'apprendre que le Japon a accepté d'apporter 500.000 dollars (environ 2,75 millions de francs). Or, le coût total des travaux est évalué à 3,5 millions de dollars (plus de 19 millions de francs)! Comment trouver le reste des fonds?" Si l'on considère que les choix de projets de l'UNESCO et du GOPHCY ne constituent qu'un élan à donner à une

Si l'UNESCO est un moyen de coopération internationale essentiel pour la sauvegarde de ce patrimoine historique, l'Organisation générale pour la protection des cités historiques du Yémen (GOPHCY), qui dépend du gouvernement, encadre l'essentiel des réalisations et démarque les différents Etats qui investissent dans des projets ponctuels. Malgré tous ces efforts conjoints, il reste beaucoup à faire pour que la vieille ville de Sanaa ne disparaisse pas au profit de sa "banlieue", plus moderne: ce qui a été réalisé jusqu'à aujourd'hui, n'est qu'une partie infime des travaux nécessaires et la motivation, encore limitée, des habitants eux-mêmes ne suffira pas si l'on ne trouve pas de nouveaux financements étrangers...

vaste restauration de la ville entière, une goutte d'eau dans l'océan, on mesure mieux l'étendue du problème financier d'une entreprise aussi gigantesque. De manière générale, c'est le GOPHCY du Docteur al-Haddad qui démarque les ambassades pour que des gouvernements étrangers financent les projets et quelques pays donateurs font passer leur aide par l'UNESCO (voir le tableau des chiffres ci-dessous). Jusqu'à présent, le Yémen a apporté 40% des fonds et peut difficilement mieux faire! Aussi, c'est un véritable cri d'alarme à destination de la communauté internationale que lance le Docteur al-Haddad: sans argent supplémentaire, la vieille ville de Sanaa mourra, malgré les efforts accomplis depuis dix ans...

## L'Italie, loin devant

Jusqu'ici, l'Italie vient largement en tête des pays "mécènes" pour la restauration de la vieille ville de Sanaa, à l'exception du Yémen lui-même, qui a apporté environ 10 millions de dollars. Voici quelques exemples de financement par pays, en millions de dollars:

<b>Italie</b> .....	7,6
<b>Allemagne</b> .....	3
<b>Pays-Bas</b> .....	2
<b>Suisse</b> .....	2
<b>France</b> .....	0,4*
<b>Norvège</b> .....	0,3

Les Etats-Unis, eux, ont apporté 4 millions de dollars mais sous forme d'un prêt à très long terme et à taux d'intérêt bas.

D'autre part, le Yémen a obtenu de l'ONU, par l'intermédiaire de la Banque mondiale, un prêt de 9,5 millions de dollars.

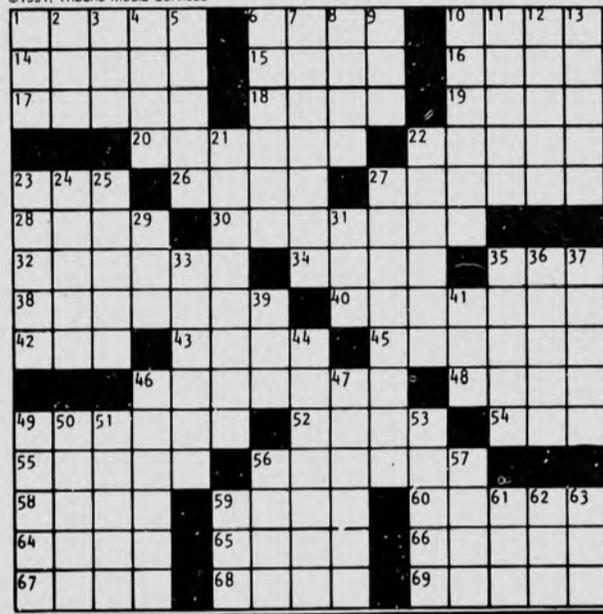
\*La France va également participer au financement d'un projet important de restauration dans la ville de Zabid, l'autre capitale du Yémen antique.

Sources: GOPHCY

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- |                          |                            |                              |                             |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>            | 38 Discernment             | <b>DOWN</b>                  | 31 Goddess: Lat.            |
| 1 Sticks in the mud      | 40 Talk to                 | 1 Assembled                  | 33 Wading birds             |
| 6 Polite term of address | 42 Labor letters           | 2 Amlin                      | 35 Organization             |
| 10 Canvass               | 43 Melee                   | 3 Inlet                      | 36 Accepted practice        |
| 14 Dingbat               | 45 — a pin                 | 4 To be: Fr.                 | 37 German industrial center |
| 15 River in Spain        | 46 Feathered               | 5 Pottery fragment           | 39 Weight                   |
| 16 Vicinity              | 48 Large                   | 6 Threat                     | 41 Cheer                    |
| 17 Flashy headdress      | 49 Tell                    | 7 Gave a hand to             | 44 Mexican dish             |
| 18 German denial         | 52 Congregate              | 8 Tucson's state: abbr.      | 46 Equivocate               |
| 19 Grassy areas          | 54 Mightier than the sword | 9 My: Fr.                    | 47 Artistry                 |
| 20 Artificial            | 55 Ellipses                | 10 Colorless                 | 49 Hogties                  |
| 22 Violent gust          | 56 Less trust-worthy       | 11 Nymph, in Greek mythology | 50 Slip by                  |
| 23 Baby's food shield    | 58 — and parcel            | 12 Certain contract          | 51 Ponderous                |
| 26 Pipe                  | 59 Wan                     | 13 Endures                   | 53 Passover event           |
| 27 Soars                 | 60 Pythias' friend         | 21 Source of light and heat  | 56 Recognition              |
| 28 Not care —            | 64 Barely defeat           | 22 Certain mineral           | 57 Pro —                    |
| 30 Gibed at              | 65 Church expression       | 23 Elemental                 | 59 Vessel                   |
| 32 Obis                  | 66 Musical piece           | 24 Isfahan man               | 61 Stein                    |
| 34 Acheson or Rusk       | 67 Crystal ball authority  | 25 Opera voice               | 62 Verse                    |
| 35 Take to court         | 68 Tree home               | 27 Cheer                     | 63 Sparks or Forem          |
|                          | 69 Stormed                 | 29 Greek letter              |                             |

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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.

AFTER THE RAIN (Sol.: 7 letters)

A-Airy, Alive; B-Balmy, Blue sky, Brighten; C-Calm, Clean, Clear; D-Damp, Dewy, Doused, Drain, Dry off, Dribble, Drip, Drops, Ducks; E-Evaporate; F-Fair, Flood, Flow, Fresh; G-Gush; H-Hush; M-Marsh, Mist, Moist, Muck, Muddy; N-Nature; P-Pool, Puddle, Pure; R-Renew, Rinse; S-Saturated, Serene, Shiny, Slow, Smile, Smog, Soak up, Sippy, Still, Stream, Sunny, Swampy; V-Vivid; W-Water, Windy

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ECSTMOI STFFOYRD  
 NLTSUNNYSERUTAN  
 EEI IDYSDTDANEIR  
 RALMDVPORELLLBI  
 ENLNYI OOE SIOIFN  
 SAI RYVRLAUVOMAS  
 CWMAEI DFMOEPSIE  
 LGADRDRIPDKOART  
 EORMUDEGRCPFPYA  
 AMSPPCAWUPWRUKR  
 RSHI NYKMYSOEKSO  
 ELBBI RDSPMHS AEP  
 NOHUSHWOLFLHOUA  
 EWDETARUTASASLV  
 WATERNETHGI RBBE

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIXTEEN  
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Doctors say there's no link between eating chocolate and having pimples. It's just one of those myths floating around. So enjoy, teen-agers.

Drinking milk actually irritates an ulcer, it doesn't help it.

Hawaii requires newcomers to place their dogs and cats in a 120-day quarantine if they're arriving from any place that has rabies cases. Officials say Hawaii is the only rabies-free state in the nation.

A new federal study found that more than half of the United States' teen-agers drink alcohol. More than a third said they'd had more than five drinks on at least one occasion.

Hikers in Austrian mountains recently found the body of a man who lived 4,000 years ago.

The rock group Duran Duran took its name from a character in the 1968 Jane Fonda film called "Barbarella."

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

HALOT  
 ATING  
 YERRAT  
 SHUBLE

WHAT ALL RULERS OUGHT TO BE.

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

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

WORDS OF WISDOM

Never be the first to adopt a new fashion nor the last to discard it.

Humility is the basis of all virtue.

A government absent the best and brightest is a government of the least and dimwitted.

Passion stirs feelings and blinds sight.

Never underestimate the taste of the buying public.

A coward's chief weapon is slander.

Genius may begin a project, but only hard work gets the job finished.

Time can turn any ordinary sinner into a saint

Maturity is learning how to lose your innocence without losing your hope.

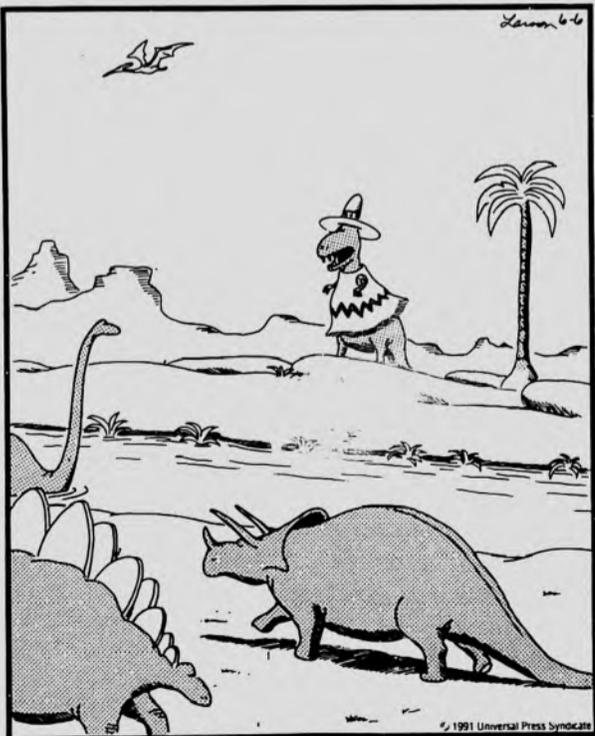
SLAPSTIX

AN EASY CHAIR IS USUALLY THE HARDEST TO FIND

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



However, there was no question that, on the south side of the river, the land was ruled by the awesome Tyrannosaurus Mex.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



THIS WEEK'S

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Apply what you already know rather than scattering yourself mentally. The gentle approach works well with loved ones.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** It's better to say less than you know, rather than more. A legal settlement may come this week.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Your loyalty to all and sundry is rewarded this week. Find friends you can let your hair down with.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Avoid promising more than you can deliver. Strong feelings of recognition with strangers.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Get to the root of any emotional undercurrents. Travel plans are likely — perhaps for sheer pleasure.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Plenty to talk over with partners. Good news likely.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Work and worry now seem to go together; avoid exaggerating problems.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Keep from being distracted from your goals. Job advancement is likely. Dress appropriately.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** Much new comes your way — perhaps hard to keep on top of. (It's worth it if you do.)

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You may have to spend money to make money. But make it you can.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Get yourself off to a terrific start. Monday brings a financial or personal matter.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** How you view the past has a major bearing on the future. Plant seeds for the future.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Wind down with friends and family. Do nothing too pressing.

**If You Were Born This Week**  
 This week is one of self-renewal. Review your life and priorities — then go into action. February helps tidy up financial areas. Be loving and giving and you will experience a return flow. Travel or expanded communications are favored in March and June.

## The Intellectual Contribution of Yemeni Jews to World Jewry

Whilst the chronicles that have been handed down to us are few in number, the intellectual legacy of the Yemeni Jews, represented by works dealing with philosophy, linguistics, medicine and various aspects of Jewish religious tradition, has been mainly preserved intact. Such manuscripts are considered important treasures by big libraries all over the world. **It is no exaggeration to say that Yemeni Jewry has contributed more to the intellectual heritage of posterity than any other Jewish community in either East or West.** The works left behind bear witness to Yemeni Jewish civilization in general; but beyond that, they demonstrate what occupied many Jewish minds on a daily basis, namely the study of the Torah. The vast majority of these literary documents is concerned with religious topics and covers all aspects of Jewish religion and tradition, including Mishnah and Talmud, Halakhah and slaughtering laws, religious precepts, Maimonides' works and his own commentaries on these works, prayers books, Kabbalah, and even so-called "question and answer books" presenting religious dogma in a simplified version that could be easily memorized. There are also numerous secular works, literature, poetry written in both Hebrew and Arabic, philosophical treatises, works dealing with ethics, astronomy and medicine. The intellectual and spiritual concerns as well as the history of Yemen's Jews can be reconstructed from the material kept in three big archives.

The first of these is the

**Geniza in Cairo**, whose thousands of documents, letters, bills of exchange, legal papers, frequently mention Jewish Yemenis. The documents found in this



amazing archive cover the whole of the Middle Ages and shed light on important aspects of a period in the history of Yemeni Jews about which, with the exception of Benjamin of Tudela's accounts and Maimonides' letters, nothing had been known before. The historically speaking, most important documents of the Cairo Geniza date from the 11th to the 13th century. From them we learn that the Jewish communities of leaders and dignitaries were known far beyond the boundaries of southern Arabian. Among other things, we are told that they lent Talmudic schools in Egypt and Babylon financial support, and that they traded and travelled over the Mediterranean, the Middle and the Far East. On these travels, which took them to nearly every corner of the globe, they acquired books and manuscripts of distinguished rabbis and Jewish thinkers, books which, through the generations,

were handed down to our century. They brought home works by "Rambam" (Rabbi Moses ben Maimon = Maimonides), Yehudah ha-Levi, Ibn Ezra (1055-

ca. 1135), Ibn Gabirol (1021-1056), Al-Fasi (1013-1113), as well as valuable old Torah manuscripts. **The second of these archives is that of Yehudah Levi Nahum.** This collection represents the amazing achievement of an individual enthusiast, and its contribution to our knowledge

of the period truly deserves to be called "the revelation of ancient Yemen treasures". Yehudah Levi Nahum began by restoring old bound manuscripts and discovered that, not infrequently, the book covers were made up of other works, or parts of other works, particularly of samples of the "question and answers" literature of the Yemen Jews, which had been glued together with a primitive flour-based glue and then used as book covers. This detection led to the discovery of several thousand documents dating from an epoch about which knowledge had, so far, been very scanty. These 14th to 18th century papers, too, display the rich intellectual heritage left to posterity by Yemen's Jews.

**Yet another archive is that of Rabbi Gamliel**, who was Imam Yahya's adviser and who assembled mainly 20th century documents of that ruler's period of government. Gamliel was answerable to the Imam for the collection of

the poll tax from the Jews. The documents in this archive, again several thousands in number, throw light on Jewish life in Sana'a, on the philosophical movements and the fight against the Kabbalah. These philosophical arguments were a source of discord within the community, and set the representatives of rivaling movements against one another. In addition to the material mentioned that is contained in these three archives, numerous historic data and illuminating details can be gleaned from letters, colophons, historic accounts of various kinds (e.g., histories of emigration), poems and other literary works. Chronicles proper, about 40 in number, start with the outgoing 18th century.

Extract from: "The Jews of Yemen" by Aviva Klein-Franke in Werner Daum (ed.): **YEMEN** (Innsbruck: Umschau-Verlag and Frankfurt: Pinguin-Verlag, 1987) pp.272/3

### BRITISH ORGANIZATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The British Organisation for Community Development is looking for a midwife or female nurse with experience in primary health care to work in Kussmah, Raymah region.

BOCD's rural health project in Kussmah was established two years ago in close co-operation with the Ministry of Health to improve mother and child health facilities in the area. The midwife/nurse would be based in the village of Kussmah, but is expected to travel to other villages in the district, sometimes on foot. She should be either a native speaker of Arabic or fluent Arabic speaker with a working knowledge of English and experience of PHC in remote rural areas.

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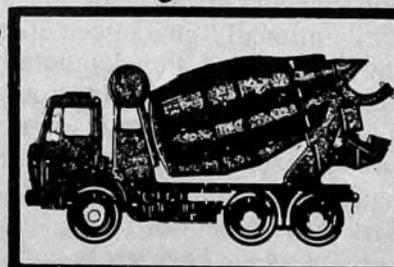
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الجمهورية اليمنية

Continued from p. 2

## TIDES OF CHANGE....

Thus the fragmentation of Yemen, thus was more a result of internally rooted factors, than as a result of respect for any national interest. Such fragmentation brought about a lot of misery, poverty, waste of resources and senseless bickering over matters, which were mostly contradictory to national interest and our heritage. That did not stop both leaderships from claiming to strive for achievement of the aspirations of all the Yemeni people, while in fact they served their interests and the designs of the external powers that thrived on the exploitation of Yemen and its people.

Needless to say, that such fragmentation was also the result of poor historical luck, as well as due to long periods of political instability and tribal disputes, that dominated the course of events in the country for several centuries.

Thus it is clearly possible to conclude that, for Yemen to be able to take its proper and deserved place among nations that contribute to the development of human civilizations, much had to change, starting with the system. Casting glittering political slogans were no longer sufficient to justify the existence of repressive political systems.

The political leadership of both YAR and PDRY, indeed showed great wisdom, on the 30th of November 1989, by deciding, once and for all, to end fragmentation and all the ills that accompanied it, and to fulfill what was in the heart of every Yemen-unity. But erasing the fictitious border between what was North and South Yemen meant sacrifices had to be made. One major sacrifice is the reduction of the powers and authority of the new combined leadership, which is less than the powers exercised once by either of them alone.

To give more strength to this important development, the leadership of the new Republic insisted on the introduction of important elements of democratic practice to accompany the unification of Yemen, which should eventually lead to full democracy, as realized by the developed societies. What is needed is to evolve the channels of political control and accountability.

Democracy, to Yemenis, is not a new phenomenon, but a historical fact confirmed by historical references, including the Holy Book (Quran), which is a strong base of argument for democracy in Yemen.. Even our tribal traditions have democratic practices such the "elders' council" and consultation with the tribes and their representatives. What has democracy, so far, lead to?

1) The emergence of more than 90 newspapers, and journals- whether independent or politically-oriented, representing all types and colors of thought.

2) A more outspoken parliament, whereby, as a result of the open, televised, debates of the Council of Representatives, government performance is held progressively and openly accountable through questioning, evaluation and, to a certain degree, redirection.

3) The different political inclinations have organized themselves into active political parties, most of which are still in the early stages of development, while some have already developed political grounds that might emerge as a serious contender for power or at least as a healthy and a balancing opposition to the ruling parties. The People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) - are both undergoing reform.

In response to the unfortunate economic difficulties which followed the Gulf Crisis, the government has seriously reacted to the outcries of the people specially against the bureaucracy and its corrupt image. However, one feels that, over time, the situation will have to improve, especially after the elections of the new members of parliament and the formation of a new government and leadership in accordance with the dictates of the Constitution.

Such improvement have their roots in the popular confirmation and defense of the unification of Yemen, the continued and responsible and practices of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and the democracy which is developing roots, and the near termination of irresponsible, and sometimes criminal behavior of government officials, some of whom have yet to understand that they cannot hold back the tides of change.

## Results of Sheraton Tennis Tournament

The Sheraton International Open Tennis Tournament 91 reached its climax and final point on Friday 13th. The results are as follows:

**Men Singles:****Winner:**

Bertrand Vilon,  
(from France).

**Runner-up:**

Basil Al-Komity,  
(from Yemen).

**Women Singles:****Winner:**

Maria Luz Donner Sauer,  
(from Germany).

**Runner-up:**

Andree Fitzgibbon,  
(France).

**Men Doubles:****Winners:**

Bertrand Vilon,  
Mansoor Al-Azy (Yemen)

**Runners-up:**

M.V. Reddy (India),  
Abdullah Kutf (Yemen).

**Women Doubles:****Winners:**

Andree Fitzgibbon,  
Nicole Coulet (France).

**Runners-up:**

Vivian Gry (USA),  
Pauline Wetten (USA).

**Mixed Doubles:****Winners:**

Bertrand Vilon,  
Nicole Coulet.

**Runners-up:**

M.V. Reddy,  
Andree Fitzgibbon.

According to the organizers, the participants, and the spectators, the tournament was a great success.



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## EGYPTIAN NAVAL DISASTER

The Egyptian vessel "Salem Express" went under some 17 kilometers off the coast of Safagah in the Red Sea with 654 passengers and the crew on board. The vessel which was carrying Egyptian workers from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was on its way to Suez when it hit one of the many islands close to the coast. Mr. Atef Sidqi, Egyptian prime minister, who flew to the site of the accident, indicated that 202 persons have been rescued. At the same, the bodies of 458 dead persons have been brought out. He expressed hope that some of the missing could also be rescued, although the chances grow more and more slim. Close to the site, a relief camp and a hospital have been immediately established. This incident has been described as one of the worst incidents in the modern history of naval transportation.

## CEASEFIRE IN DJIBOUTI CIVIL WAR

The Afar insurgency movement which belongs to the Salvation Front of Djibouti decided to terminate its armed struggle in the country. The Afar leaders told a press gathering that fighting will stop for five days starting from Sunday, 15th December.

The leaders of the Afar group have responded to a government appeal to stop the fighting and start talking about the future of the country. Djibouti is subjected today to a fierce competition for power by the two rival groups - the Somalis and the Afars.

In a separate development, France, which has a defence agreement with Djibouti, has agreed to send forces to man the border between Djibouti and Ethiopia. Djibouti has claimed that the insurgents come from Ethiopia.

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### SUPERSONIC MILESTONE FOR CONCORDE ENGINES

Concorde's Anglo-French engines have now amassed more than 400,000 hours at supersonic speed.

Power for the world's fastest and most prestigious airliner is provided by four Olympus 593 turbo-jets, developed jointly by the British Rolls-Royce and the French SNECMA. Concorde's commercial operation with British Airways and Air France began in 1976.

In the 15 years since, a total of over 625,000 Olympus 593 hours have been logged, 400,000 at supersonic speeds - including 320,000 at Mach 2.

Today, British Airways and Air France operate 13 of the world's only supersonic airliners, flying scheduled routes out of London and Paris to destinations that include New York, Washington and Toronto. The longest regular single-haul journey is four hours - and nearly 4,200 miles - to Barbados. Concorde has so far landed at 320 airports worldwide.

Both operators say they expect Concorde to be flying well into the next century. Joint Rolls-Royce/SNECMA in-service support will continue from the Concorde Engineering Support Organisation.

The joint effort by the companies in overcoming the technical challenge of supersonic powerplants for civil airliners is set to be repeated following their joint signature of a technical collaborative agreement, looking at powerplants for future supersonic transports.

Recent additions to this study have been MTU Munich of Germany and Fiat Avio of Italy, with key targets being improvements in the areas of noise, fuel consumption, weight and emissions.

The main problems of noise pollution and massive intakes of energy have not made up for the decided time advantage due to the speed of the jet. In addition, the extra-long runway needed for take-off and landing have limited the Concorde's airport options.

Even then, however, the recent modifications and improvements in both counts - noise pollution and energy consumption, will give the aircraft additional benefits which airlines will definitely look for in modernizing their fleets for the future.

### 11 NATION PLAN TO HARNESS "GREENHOUSE" GASES

Eleven OECD countries have agreed to collaborate in research in technologies aimed at reducing the effect of what are known as "greenhouse" gas emissions from fossil fuels.

The agreement, formally signed at the Paris headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) late last month, is said to represent an important step forward because it will enable the eleven countries to avoid wasteful overlapping of their respective national research and development programs in this field. Instead, knowledge and resources will be pooled. The project will bring together the UK, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, USA, Japan, Canada, Finland, Spain and Italy - all members of the International Energy Agency.

Their first task will be to carry out a Sterling Pound 500,000 three-year program of work on the feasibility of removing and disposing of carbon dioxide produced in the course of power generation. The British Coal Corporation, well as being a signatory to the agreement, will also support the research.

The UK Department of Energy says the research and development priorities will be to evaluate the technologies used for abatement, control and disposal of "greenhouse" gases from fossil fuel use, focusing on coal, oil and natural gas-fired power generation systems. Experts involved will also seek to estimate the impact of implementing such technologies on the economy and energy markets.

British Energy Secretary, Mr. John Wakeham, commented: "Global warming, if it becomes significant, would have very severe consequences for the whole world. But it falls to the developed nations, who have the knowledge and expertise, to take the lead in finding ways to avoid this."

The world continues to witness increased controversy over environmental considerations vis-a-vis the tremendous costs demanded, specially in the industrialization of LDCs.

### COLUMBIA STRIKES NEW OIL WELLS

Colombia announced a new oil discovery late last month. The new oil find, known as Purificacion 1ST, is exciting as it represents one of the most important finds in the Guadalupe Formation of the Upper Magdalena Basin in almost two decades, according to Joe Darby, Managing Director of the Western Region of LASMO, which has the concession of the area.

Work on another wildcat well to test a larger structure identified on the Espinal Block will continue before appraisal and development drilling begins in Purificacion.

Subject to approval from Ecopetrol, Colombia's national oil company, first production from the new well is anticipated by early 1993. LASMO already produces 3,600 bpd from its Santiago field complex in Colombia.

The London-based LASMO also has oil concessions in the Republic of Yemen.

### Baker: "No More USSR."

James Baker, US Secretary of State, finally said it - "There is no more something called the USSR." The disintegration of the Soviet Union has reached such visible proportions that it is no longer possible to continue pretending that the USSR is still intact. The American official's statement, who is currently visiting the 'USSR', triggered unhappy responses from Mr. Gorbachev's government.

In the meanwhile, the Islamic republics of central Asia have sided with the Minsk trio - Russia, Byelorussia, and the Ukraine, in their drive to create a loose commonwealth instead of any other form of association within one country.

At another level, the Turkish ambassador in Sanaa have been overheard referring to the central Asiatic republics as the Turkish Azerbaijan Republic, the Turkish Kazakhstan Republic, the Turkish Uzbekistan Republic, etc. Maybe we will see the birth of a Turkish League soon.

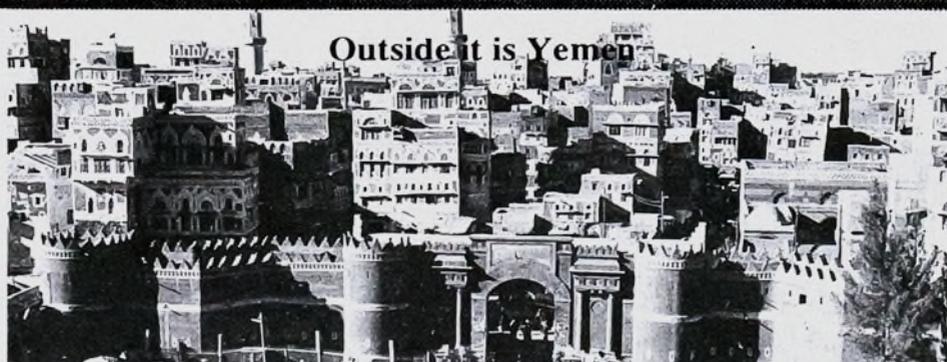
### UN Sends Observers to Yugoslavia

On Sunday December 15th, the Security Council of the United Nations decided to send observers to Yugoslavia as a first step towards sending a UN force to put an end to the warring factions. The SC decision also incorporates a call on the member states not to recognize the independence of any of the republic. This decision comes in direct contradiction of the overall world trend in recognizing the independence of secessionist ethnic groups.

Europe had tried in vain to diffuse the Yugoslavia time-bomb. The two largest states within the Yugoslav federation - Serbia and Croatia, have been at war for nearly 7 months.

At another development, the war witnessed a new twist as the death of several British mercenaries in the war was disclosed for the first time.

It is believed that mercenaries from several Western countries are fighting in the Croatian army.



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# A VISIONARY HELPS YEMENI VISION

Dr. Akef Al-Maghraby and his team (Please refer to box) have been arriving in Sanaa since Friday, December 14th. The purpose of the visit is to provide a free service to eye patients in Yemen.

"During our ten-day trip to Yemen, we hope to be able to examine some 600 cases and to perform between sixty-and-seventy complex operations," Akef told the Yemen Times.

The eye-doctor has always been keen to share his expertise and abilities with fellow human beings. He has been instrumental in establishing eye medical centers in numerous Arab countries, the last being in Yemen. In the inauguration ceremony of the Yemeni Eye Center, which took place on Sunday December 15th, Dr. Al-Maghraby promised to pick up the costs of training two Yemeni eye doctors (they are called ophthalmologists) for two years. In the meanwhile, on a rotation basis, Al-Maghraby is arranging for American eye-doctors to serve in Yemen. "According to the agreement with the Ministry of Health,



we will pick up the international transportation costs, the Ministry will foot the bill for the housing and other expenses, and the doctors will provide their time and expertise free of charge," he explained. Dr. Al-Maghraby, through the Saudi Eye Foundation which he founded and chairs, has financed all the equipments, almost 1000 tons, which have been flown into Sanaa and which have been installed at the Yemeni Eye Center. Al-Maghraby, who is a Saudi national of Egyptian origin, told the Yemen Times that trachoma prob-

lems make up over 50% of the cases in Yemen. Other problems include cataract, glaucoma, and squint. He also indicated that an overdose of certain medicines have led to visible eye complications among many patients. "Services for eye patients in Yemen are in their early stages," he went on to say.

"I am very disturbed by the operations performed on Yemeni patients recently," he complained. It will be noted that a Russian team has recently visited Yemen following a large media campaign and performed many operations. Payment was demanded in US dollars. "Many of these operations do not help the patients. I hate it when people's eye-sight becomes a lucrative source of profit for others," he mentioned. Speaking about new developments in ophthalmology, Dr. Al-Maghraby, who is also the Chairman of the Pan-Arab Council of Ophthalmology, said that the exeimer laser, which is a new tool in eye operations, is going to open totally new horizons for the profession.

The Saudi Eye Foundation hopes to make more and more people see light. Its



mission is to develop, encourage and funds for restoration of sight and eliminate potential cases of blindness that can be avoided. Dr. Al-Maghraby has served as the focal point for these efforts. In addition, he has become the link between the foundation's efforts and the pan-Arab and regional organizations in the Third World that seek to accomplish similar objectives. "I am pushing for more research and more training.

This is the only way we can bridge the gap of knowledge and technical expertise," he concluded. The Yemen Times would like to honor the efforts of Dr. Al-Maghraby and his colleagues. This helping hand and humanitarian gesture is very appreciated. It is specially appreciated coming from a Saudi national whose government's policy is at odds with Yemen. We hope that the politicians can learn from the technicians

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## THE TEAM OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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Akef Al-Maghraby	Saudi	Cataract and Refractive Surgery
Fathy El-Sayyad	Egyptian	Glaucoma and Cataract
George M. Cherfan	Lebanese	Vitreo-Retinal
Jamal Bliak	Lebanese	Pediatric Ophthalmology and Squint
Tarek Salah	Egyptian	Cataract and Refractive Surgery
Essam Al-Gayyar	Egyptian	Cataract
Louis Pizzarello	American	Anterior Segment
Alfred Sommer	American	Glaucoma
Wafik W. Nashed	Egyptian	Anaesthetist
Fadia Attiyah	Egyptian	Certified Orthoptist
Roxanne Molléda	Filipina	Operating Room Nurse
Vilma Agpoon	Filipina	Operating Room Nurse

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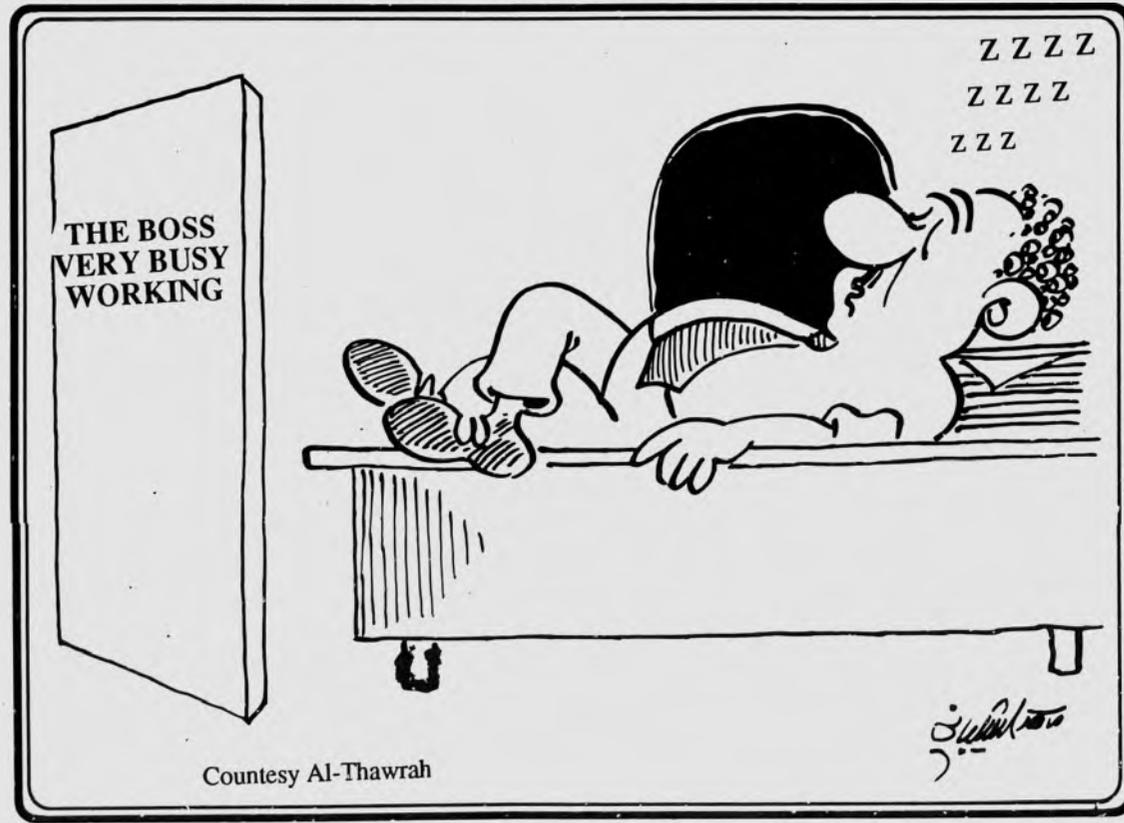
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S E E R N E S T R A I G E D
    
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