



YEMEN TIMES

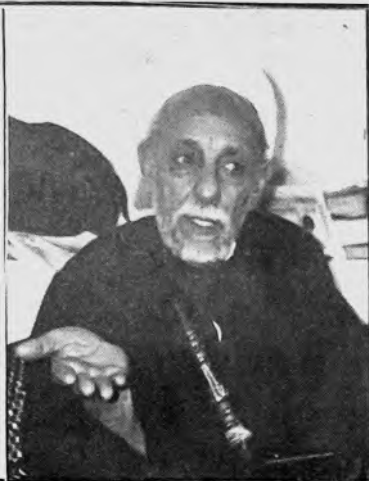


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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OUR VIEWPOINT



In Search of a Future

rch that started on the morning of May 1990, continues unabated. A group of equals, businessmen, journalists, unionists, politicians have put their efforts together to chart a course for Yemen's future.

Over the last several months, many meetings have taken place in which people exchanged their thoughts regarding the country's future. Many were troubled faces which tried to find answers regarding the path and goals of the revolution. Where are we going, and how are we going to get there?

From one political parties, fourteen unions, professional associations, and dozens of prominent public figures decided on May 1992, to create a 45-person preparatory committee. The task was clearly defined: to draft a code of conduct to complement the mechanisms that regulate inter-party relations as well as relations between the those in power and the governed.

To draft the details of the steps and procedures that are required to ensure that the parliamentary elections are clean, sensitive, and transparent.

Suddenly this became a serious effort to give the country a good chance of successfully putting it on the right path. Yet, some of the men in power, notably the PGC leadership, are unhappy with this voluntary and thankless task.

They see in it a threat to their ability to do "things the way they please." When, this country and its future belong to all of us - and we all insist on participating in it to the right course. The days of monopoly and oligopoly are gone.

The Publisher

Middle East Watch to President Saleh: "Please do right with the Rajih case!"

Middle East Watch has written to President Ali Abdullah Saleh "to request respectfully your attention to the case of Mansur Muhammed Ahmed Rajih, a political activist sentenced to death for murder in a 1984 trial in the former Yemen Arab Republic that may not have met international standards of fairness." Middle East Watch, a non-governmental human rights monitoring organization based in New York, stated that it believes that the "execution of Mansur Rajih would be both wrong and cruel." The two-page letter of June 24th, 1992, was conveyed to President Saleh through the Yemeni Ambassador in Washington. It was copied for the Committee for Rights and Liberties in the Yemeni Parliament. The case was also brought to the attention of the international community, especially those quarters concerned with human rights.

Mr. Rajih was arrested on July 8th, 1983, eight days after his release from prison where he spent six months without charge or trial. This time the notorious national security concocted a murder charge, which was upheld by the then-subservient judicial system. Today the death sentence passed by the pre-unity "courts" is pending ratification with the Presidential Council.

Amnesty International issued a similar appeal to the new government in May 1992, asking it to "quash his sentence and release him immediately."

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Tragedy in Aden Gulf

Waves of Somali civilians are literally riding the tides as they try to get out of the ruins of what once was Somalia. Hence the boat people scenario all over again. But the tragedy occurred last week when the Gobwein vessel brought in 600 Somali refugees. The Yemeni authorities, overwhelmed by the number of refugees, and running short of resources, delayed clearing the entry of the vessel. "As Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani told the BBC, "We are a poor country."

When the vessel finally entered Little Aden's harbor, there were 60 dead on board. Before the week was over, some 200 had died. Dehydration, hunger, and the unbearable health conditions are responsible.

Aden city is already filled with Somali refugees. Some sources put the number of Somali refugees in Yemen today at almost 100,000 persons. The world community remain oblivious to this tragedy, and aid to the refugees is only beginning to flow in.

European countries such as the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy are already helping. The HCR office in Yemen is trying to build a refugee camp off the Madinat Shaab coast at a cost of almost one million US dollars. So far, it has been able to raise less than 30% of this amount.

Thus far, some five thousand refugees have been gathered in this half-fenced camp. The problem is further complicated by in-fighting among the refugees who have brought their differences to Yemen.

السَّفَارِي
EL SOFFARY

RETAIL PRICE PER COPY = 10 Y.R.

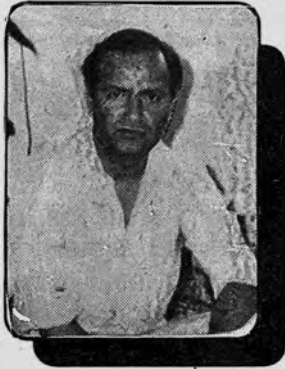
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YEMEN  TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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PERSONAL VIEW

NO FOR
ASSASSINATIONSAmeen Nouisser
Yemen Times Economic Editor

No doubt that the last several months of the transitional period is proof that something is cooking against this country's unity and democracy. Every citizen has been astonished upon hearing the day-to-day news carried by the mass media which discloses the ugly sounds of assassinations of people of political opinions.

Most of the assassinations have been against the Yemen Socialist Party, one of the two ruling parties in Yemen, in an attempt to rouse the Y.S.P. to use violence. Y.S.P. has been wise enough not to allow these savage inhumanitarian actions against them to bring them to retaliation. Everybody knows the fact that when guns speak the minds stop thinking.

It is well known that people behind these kinds of uncivilized and irresponsible works don't want any peace or progress for the unified new country. Therefore they resort to such means to create a situation of instability. Why? Obviously, the people behind these dirty actions must have lost the advantages associated with authority and power to which they were previously accustomed, because of the new national environment that Yemen enjoys today.

Assassinations are another testimony that the people who encourage such works are the biggest losers, even in the short run. They think that they can stop the progress, development and democracy that Yemenis have struggled to achieve.

I think assassinations are worthless, uncivilized and sick behaviours to which every one should stand tall and say "NO". Everybody should be aware of internal and foreign conspiracies that aim to destroy the unified democratic Yemen. Saying "no" to assassinations means saying "yes" to the Republic of Yemen, its land, its people, and its future.

The millions of people who love this country do not want to see it become another Somalia or Algeria.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL

President Weizsacker Concludes
5-Day Visit to Yemen

German President Richard von Weizsacker and the accompanying delegation conclude at noon, today, Wednesday, a five-day visit which started at 2:30pm, Saturday, June 26th, 1992.

During the visit, the President toured projects financed by German aid, in addition to several historic and touristic sites, including Aden, Hadhramaut, and Kawkaban.

The two countries agreed to increase their level of cooperation. It is believed that the visit will help consolidate the already strong relations between Yemen and Germany.

The Representative of the
International Tourism
Organization

Mr. Omer Abdul-Ghaffar, representative of the International Tourism Organization, is visiting the Republic of Yemen. The official has offered to cooperate with Yemen in exploiting the tourism potential of the country.

Fideral President of Ger-
many paid a visit to the
Refugees camp in Aden

During his visit to Aden governrate Dr. Rchard von Weizsacker, together with his company paid a visit to the Somali refugee camps in Al-Hisswah region in Aden. He listened to the explanations of the efforts that being made by the Yemen government and other humanitarian associations. Dr. Richard donated US \$70thousand from his perssonal account to help improving refugees' conditions. He also appreciated the ef-

forts of the Yemen Government in helping the refugees and said, "helping refugees is an International responsibilities."

Condolence to the
Algerian government

General Ali Abdallah Saleh Chairman of the Presidential Council, sent a cable of condolence to the members of the state high council of Algeria on the assassination of the President Mohammed Bo-Diaff. In the cable he also condemned that criminal act.

While elected as Y.N. C.
C. official speaker, flew to
Geneva

In response to an invitation by his excellence Prime Minister Hider Abubakar Al attas. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-saqqaf, Yemen Times Chief Editor Flew on July 29th to Geneva to join the Yemen deligation in the round table meeting. Yemen times knew that Dr. Saqqaf will present some of the aspects concerning the Yemen economy. The round table meeting is sponsored by the United Nations. At another level, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf last week was overwhelmingly elected by all Yemeni Political Parties as an official speaker for the Yemen National Conference Committee.

Yemen Parliament is discussing
the low of education

The House of the Representatives headed by Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman started this week the discussion about the new law for education.

It is well known that the pre-unification governments used to have their own educational laws. The new law will explain the Yemen educational philosophy.

مع تحيات المؤتمر الشعبي العام - فرع جامعة صنعاء



Sana'a University Branch

Ask for your copy
of the papers
presented in the
Symposium on:
"Election Systems
and the Future of
Democracy in the
Republic of
Yemen", 16 to 17
February, 1992.

Ask for it in any
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and the other major
cities.

Full Arabic texts
and English sum-
maries.

With greetings
from the
People's General
Congress (PGC)
Sanaa University
Branch

Dr. Ahmed Sharafuddin
Dr. Ahmed Alkibsi
Ms. Ilham Mani
Dr. Jaafar Qassim
Advisor Hossein Alhobaishi
Justice Hamoud Alhitar
Dr. Rashad Al - Alimi

Dr. Salim Bokair
Dr. Saleh Somaye
Mr. Abdullah Ghanim
Dr. Abdulwahab Rawih
Mr. Abdulwahab Alanisi
Dr. Abdou El - Sharif
Mr. Faris Assagaf

Ahmed Mohamed Bin Ali Shami:

"I seriously doubt the political leadership's integrity in holding free elections."

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Bin Ali Shami is one of the most respected clergymen of Yemen. He is also one of the country's poorer religious leaders. He had served as a judge for the better of forty years in various parts of the country. The highest posts he has occupied include member of the Supreme Court, Chairman of the Court of Cassation, and Governor of Ibb Governorate. He is, at the present time, the Secretary-General of Al-Haq political party. Yemen Times spoke to him about his readings of the current political conditions, and the prospects for the near future.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Why did you establish the Al-Haq party?

A: Through-out the years we have witnessed the misuse of religion by people who are vain and who seek political influence. I am talking of countries which declare themselves to be champions and guardians of Islam (read Saudi Arabia). I am also talking

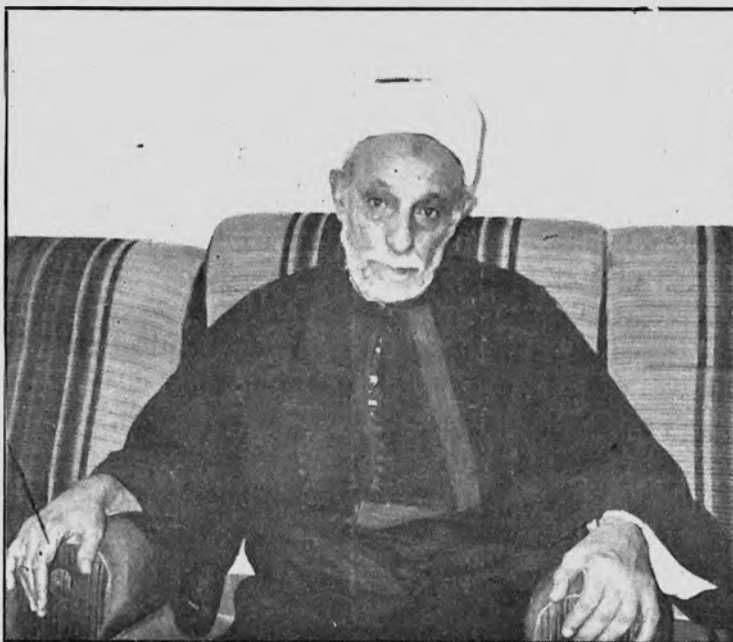
sectors which have embraced the Wahhabi line of thought (read the Yemeni Congregation for Reform better known as Islah). But the most important tool is the Maahid Al-Ilmiyyah (religious school system) which are pseudo religious schools. These are sort of schools in which the new pro-Islah (and pro-Saudi) cadres are groomed. I can share with you some of their texts which are used against the very government of Yemen.

Q: Could you give an example?

A: Yes, for example, when this country was preparing for the referendum on the constitution, they taught the students that the constitution was against Islam. I have an exact quote which you can look at. They also enforce their political line of reasoning on all the employees, teachers, and students in this "religious school system".

It is unfortunate that the government, at least in part, pays for these "schools".

(Editor's note: In an earlier



schools in which about a quarter million students are enrolled, in which 9000 teachers are employed. In addition, 42,000 children are enrolled in Quranic recital centers.)

Q: What do you think is the purpose of all of this?

A: The purpose is clear. It is to continue Saudi hegemony over Yemen. In a more direct way, this is one way to ensure a "flexible" Yemeni position vis-a-vis our border conflict with

They also spread doubt and mistrust among Yemenis to weaken this country.

Q: Let us move on to other issues. What do you think of the coming parliamentary elections?

A: I have serious doubts regarding the possibility of holding elections at all, let alone honestly and freely. I can mention some reasons why:

1. I have doubts regarding the political leadership's integrity in holding free elections. They want to

tions when everyday there are killings and murders in our streets.

3. There is a high level of illiteracy and ignorance among the people, thus they do not know their rights or how to exercise them.

4. The practice of buying people's allegiances by the leadership using public funds. Given those and other factors, I have serious doubts regarding the honesty and fairness of the coming elections.

Q: Preparations are underway to hold a national conference that will bring the various political parties, unions and associations together to agree on elections procedures and rules that will regulate relations among them. Are you participating in this?

A: Of course, our party participates in preparing for this conference. We are represented by the Assistant Secretary-General, Dr. Ahmed Sharafuddin. I think this conference is useful as it will give us one more chance to sit down and

PLAN OF ACTION AGREED BUT WHO PAYS? PLAN OF ACTION AGREED BUT WHO PAYS?

What did the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development achieve?

- A treaty on climate change

This recognises the threat of rapid change in climate and rising sea levels due to increasing emissions of "greenhouse gases" from industry, transport, home heating, agriculture, and forest burning. Most of the emissions come from developed countries. It says all nations that ratify the treaty should submit reports setting out what they are doing to ascertain emission levels.

There is a call for developed nations to stabilize their emissions of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by the year 2000, but this is not legally binding. There is also a proposal for developed countries to help check emissions using funds from the World Bank's £800m Global Environ-

omic growth. The principles were heavily compromised during negotiations, and their name changed from the Earth Charter to the Rio Declaration.

Principle Three comes nearest to endorsing the idea of sustainable development - that in meeting today's needs, nations should not so degrade the environment and squander natural resources as to compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Elsewhere, developed countries acknowledge they are to blame for the bulk of global pollution to date and so have a greater responsibility "in the international pursuit of sustainable development." There is a veiled reference to "over-consumption" of resources in the rich North and over-populated poor South: "States should reduce and eliminate un-

to a vague "wish list." Nothing explicit is said on the population explosion in the South or about over-consumption in the North. Agenda 21 has 40 chapters which cover topics including sewage, ocean, atmosphere, biodiversity, farming, desertification, deforestation, radioactive and toxic wastes, and biotechnology.

- A sustainable development commission

The summit has called for the commission: it is up to the UN General Assembly, to decide when and how to set it up. The commission would have some 50 members from countries on all the continents. Its task would be to examine progress made on implementing Agenda 21, how much aid is being given, and how it is being spent.

It would have a permanent secretariat and meet for a few weeks each year.

- Third World Aid

The Earth Summit's secretariat has estimated that it would cost £350bn a year to implement Agenda 21. It suggested that £70bn a year should come as aid from developed to developing countries, but this would include the £30bn a year of aid already being donated.

The group of 77 developing countries had hoped developing nations would go some way towards meeting the extra £40bn a year. In the event they got pledges of new money from Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, and smaller nations amounting to less than £1bn a year. The UN target: that developed coun-

tries should give 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product in aid "as soon as possible" - was restated.

- Forest principles

The negotiations on principles for the conservation and rational exploitation of forests were among the hardest at the summit, and produced a feeble document.

The developed countries had wanted these non-binding principles to pave the way for a binding forest treaty, but did not achieve that. Developing countries, led by India and Malaysia, would not accept anything suggesting interference in the way they ran their forest. The outcome is a text saying little more than that forests are important and should be managed sustainably.

CRYSTAL DETERGENT

تتقدم صحيفة «يمن تايمز» بالتعازي لأسرة
فقيه الوطن المناضل
عبد الرحمن عبد الله علي الحكيمي
الذي قضى معظم حياته مناضلاً متعقباً أثر والده
شهيد اليمن الأول ورائد حركتها الوطني الشهيد
الشيخ/ عبد الله علي الحكيمي. حيث كان فقيه
اليمن عبد الرحمن قد وافته المنية على أثر مرض
عضال ألم به تغمده الله في واسع جنانه وأهم أهله
وذويه الصبر والسلوان.

الأسفون:

د/ عبد العزيز السقاف

أمين محمد نويصر

عبد الله سلام الحكيمي

توفيق عبد الرحيم مطهر

علي محمد عبد الله مغلس

قاسم عبد السلام الشيباني

Continued from p. 3

Ahmed Shami:

"I doubt integrity in elections.."

Q: How are the relations between the clergy and the political authorities?

A: These relations are probably at their lowest level in a long time. The authorities seek the cooperation of those clergymen who will bless the whimsical decisions of the politicians, and not the ones with integrity and honesty. For example, why don't they allow the clergy to use the mass media in guiding the people in the way that will protect the long-term interests of the nation? When was the last time you saw a real dialogue among the clergy on any serious matter on television, for example. The religious leaders could wake up the politicians when they are buried in their confusion and mistakes, as is the case of Yemen today.

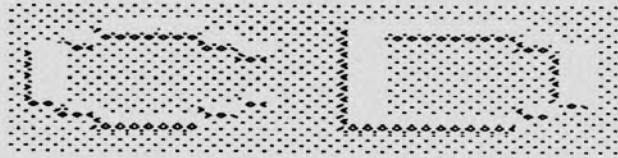
Q: What is your advice to the politicians?

A: My advice is really more to the intellectual leaders of this country. I mean the religious leaders, the university professors, and the cultured and read people. The country is at crossroads, and the degree of our commitment to democracy and genuine dialogue among the various factions in society will determine the future of this country.

I urge these groups to bring their efforts together, and work for the creation of a genuine democracy. Fear of those in power is the major threat to this endeavor. But given the responsibility and what could be done to put the country on the right course, we have to fight this fear and get rid of it. That fear may be the cause of our own failure, in which case the country may be doomed to continue in the old ways.

Please remember that those who work for high ideals and with superior morals and values will overcome, but they may have to make short-term sacrifices.

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY



EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A			
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	209688/89	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Russian F.R	78272/203142
China	275337/40/41	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
Cuba	217304	Somalia	208864
Czechoslovakia	247946	Sudan	265231/2
Djibouti	265469	Syria	247750
Egypt	275948/9	Tunisia	240458/9
Ethiopia	208833	Turkey	241395
France	275995	U.A.E	248777/78
Germany	216756/757	U.K.	215630/33
Hungary	216679	U.S.A.	238842/52
India	241980	Vietnam	216998
Iran	206945/948	Danish Trade Office	248138
Iraq	216681/790	Greek Hon Consulate	272218
Italy	73409/78849	Swedish Consulate	207595
Japan	207356/208753	ADEN	
Jordan	216701	Czechoslovakia	32101
Korea (Dem)	232340	China	32604/30
Korea(Rep)	245959/60	Ethiopia (Commercial)	31335
Kuwait	216317/319	France	32129/090
Lebanon	203959	Germany	32162/011
Libya	208815/6	India	33131
Mauritania	216770	Iran	31893/361
Morocco	247964	Italy	31848
Netherlands	215626/7/8	Japan	32081/33282
Oman	208933/4	Palestine	32717/340
Pakistan	248813/14	Russian F.R.	32729/32625
Palestine	217306/348	Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
Poland	248362	Somalia	41421/101
		U.K.	32711/12/13



AIRLINES

Aeroflot	74930
Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	31339
Alyemda (Sanaa)	203637
British Airways	272247
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272435
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airways	240091/240909
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Kuwait Airways	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583/667/678
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/275028
Sabena	205865
Saudia	240958/9/60
Sudan Airways	272503/4/5
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel	275028/30
Yemenia	
Abdul Moghni	274803/4
Hadda Office	204538/550
Shoab Office	250833
Zubeiry Office	260834/5
Head Office	232381-9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831



HOTELS

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372
Aden (0911)	
Movenpick	32911
Gold Mohur	32471
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459

COURIERS:

Aramex	208887
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	207885
Skypack	77310



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumhury Hospital	202192/3
Athawrah Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Central Bank	274371/3
YBRD	271623/4
National Bank	53753
Banque Indosuez	272801/3
Arab Bank	2409211-29
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
United Bank Ltd	272424

Government Offices:

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

Insurance Companies:

United Insurance	272890/91
Y.I. & Re-Insurance	73311
Marib Insurance	206112/14

ASSASSINATION OF BO-DIAFF ALGERIA

On July 29 at 11:35 am sharp. Algeria was horrified by the assassination of its president. President Mohammed Bo-Diaff of Algeria was assassinated in Ennabah city, east of Algeria. The assassination happened while he was giving his speech on the occasion of the opening of the city cultural center of Annabah.

All indicators point out that Algerian Muslim Salvation Front (AMSF) was behind the assassination of the president. Algerian news agencies said the assassination occurred while president Bo-Diaff was speaking in front of the city principles. An explosion was heard in the back of the stage that attracted the attention of the audience and Bo-Diaff himself. Meanwhile another grenade exploded under the seat of the president. During those moments an armed man wearing a military uniform ap-

peared from the back of the President and started shooting at him. Chaos spread throughout the lecture hall. While the president's body was taken out of the hall, another round of shooting was heard, the killer, who is believed to be one of AMSF members, was arrested, according to the latest updates. The victims of the crime reached 51 people; six were killed and 45 injured. Algerian government accused AMSF of the event. If proved, the government will take tough measures to confront AMSF members. The high Algerian council announced a seven-days mourning period. Several well-known names, including the Algerian Minister of Defence Khalid Nazar, have been nominated to replace Bo-Diaff. Condemnations of the criminal act were announced in many countries. Algeria has never before experienced such a disaster.

SOMALIA A NATION IN THE GRIP OF WAR AND FAMINE

By: Liban. A. Ahmed.

Horrific scene

Somalia, a nation whose people boasted homogeneity in language and religion had split into tribal strongholds. Since the overthrow of the former president, by a coalition of opposition groups which ultimately scrambled for power, the country was bedeviled by the civil war trinity: famine, lawlessness and desolation. In the world media, Somalia is described as a nation ruled by a group of power-hungry warlords. These leaders care little about people's wellbeing - they only vie for the presidential power which has become Pandora's box. The melancholy situation in Somalia was manifest when viewers watched a news item on Friday 26/6/92 on Sana'a Television. Emaciated children and women, refugees from Somalia, were hoping to get relief supplies. Their hopes were dashed by hundreds of armed looters who stole food supplies just to turn around and sell them to the needy people at exorbitant prices. This is the horrific scene of Somalia today.

Sanguinary wars and boat people. Bloody wars have compelled Somalians to flee from their country to areas throughout the world. Many countries are

hosting thousands of Somali refugees, one of them is the Republic of Yemen. It hosts nearly 50,000 Somali refugees.

Many of them are languishing in make-shift camps, as relief supplies are not nearly sufficient to take care of the needs of such huge number.

Reports from these camps say that a cholera outbreak has killed many children. Authorities at the city of Aden disclose that they are running short of utensils, tents and other things necessary for the accommodation of many refugees.

Terrible ordeal

The Somali nation lies lustreless in a bottomless abyss, due to mounting war and anarchy. People however, have contradictory views over the cause of the war. Some are of the opinion that this terrible ordeal is a visitation of Allah for the people's transgressions. Another group maintains that Somalis are the unlucky heirs of a marauding legacy! It is fair, however, to note the Somali proverb "war and drought do not last long."

At the mercy of destitution and despondency, Somalis will never forget those who help them in their day of need. They uphold another ancient Somali proverb "he who forgets benevolent deeds done into him is not of noble born."

■■■■■■■■■■

أمونيا ، اركون ، هليوم ، هيدروجين ، او كسيد النتروز و مخاليط الغازات

- اسيتلين
- هواء مضغوط
- أمونيا
- اركون
- بوتان
- غاز وسائل ثاني اوكسيد الكربون
- نيتروجين
- نيتروجين - ١١ - فريون - ١٢ - فريون - ٢٢
- مخاليط الغازات
- هالون - ١٢١١ و هالون - ١٣٠١
- سائل النتروجين
- غاز النتروجين - بتقاوة عالية
- و بدرجة تجارية
- اوكسيد النتروز
- سائل الأوكسجين
- غاز الأوكسجين - للاستعمال الطبي
- والصناعي
- بروميان
- هليوم
- هيدروجين

حاجتكم من الغازات ذات النوعية الممتازة هو مفهومنا ومبدئنا وذلك لتستوفي المتطلبات الصناعية والتجارية. وهدفنا الاساسي هو استمرارية توفير الغازات الصناعية والطبيعية على نطاق الخليج لاعطائكم مزيد من الانتاج والخدمات التي تستحقونها بفعالية مؤثرة .

الرجاء الاتصال
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letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to the

A Flick from the Past

Our bodies stood apart,
but our souls were speaking
Our eyes were searching,
Still as we stood staring
I felt a cool breeze blowing
with my hair it was flirting
The sun was slowly sinking
into the bottom of the sea
I could read what was hidden
in the depth of his eyes
I saw expressions of apologies
written all over his face
I cannot recall for how long
we plunged in our deep thoughts
The past came rushing back
I can only feel the scars
Our train of thought was then
interrupted by a rude sound
It was all over once again,
As he failed to reach to my soul.

by: **Suzi A. Fakir,**
Crater, Aden

Corrupt Immigration Officers

During my recent visit to your country, I enjoyed reading your newspaper, issue no. 20, vol I, of May 13th, 1992, and I would like to comment on two articles:

1. Congratulations on your excellent editorial "A good hand, or else." This is journalism at its best - politically meaningful, yet amusing to read.

2. Dr. Ina Makki's letter to the editor, read "Tourism in Yemen":

I fully agree with Dr. Makki's comments. However, one point should be added: The inefficiency and/or corruption of some immigration officers must be eliminated. I arrived as a passenger on a German merchant vessel with a valid tourist visa and left the ship in Hodeida to visit Sanaa while the ship proceeded to Aden. When I tried to reboard the vessel in Aden, the immigration officer on duty (May 22nd, 19:00) tried to extort money from me. As I refused to pay, he confiscated my passport. The next day our local agent tried to retrieve it, but without success. A few hours later, 2 immigration officers arrived and suggested to the captain, that some money would solve the problem. He rightly refused to pay and they left without handing over the passport. Since my departure on that ship seemed to be in jeopardy I had to ask the German consul for intervention, which solved the problem immediately.

This may appear to be an isolated case, but members of the ship told me of similar experiences in the port of Aden last year. When they arrived five minutes after 11.00 pm from a shore leave, the immigration officer demanded 400 cigarettes as "penalty" for having exceeded the 11.00 pm deadline. When they refused, they were kept outside the port for hours until they "bought" their way in with a few dozens cans of beer.

I hope that by publishing this information, some officials may take corrective action.

By: **Joachim Patzer, Ph.D.**
Herzogstr. 61-63
D-6078 NEU-ISENBURG
Germany
cc: to Yemeni Embassy, Germany.

Raids on Mogadishu Mosques

During civil wars, it is normal for people to take refuge from the fighting in mosques, churches and temples. Everyone assumes that places of worship have a sanctity which will be observed, and therefore they will remain intact and the people in them will be safe. But in Mogadishu, where the brutal civil war continues to rage, even the mosques have been attacked.

A witness to one such assault tells of an incident when a large number of families took shelter in the Sheikh Sufi Mosque in Wardhigle Quarter. Militias of the United Somali Congress burst into the mosque and sexually assaulted the women inside. "Even women in their eighties were raped - not just the younger ones," says Amina Ahmed, who now resides in Yemen. People fleeing from the marauding clans also report that mosques have been looted of valuables and that militia men even used copies of the Holy Quran as step-ladders to enable them to remove objects from the walls. These marauders now control the region and reign in terror over the helpless population in Somalia.

From the above brief explanation, I urge the United Nations to send peace-keeping forces to protect the Somali people from these armed gangs who are prepared to rob, rape and kill anyone who gets in their way.

By: **Sheikh Noor Qassim Ahmed,**
Hodeidah.

Continued from page 8:

Prime Minister's Speech in Geneva Round Table

2- The chances for the current reform efforts to bear fruit and to become a model for sustained development depend on the country's ability to overcome basic economic problems. These include unemployment, inflation, balance of payments deficits, etc. and none of which can be achieved without an effective and urgent foreign assistance program.

The Republic of Yemen looks forward to playing a constructive role in the regional and international arenas through liberal economic and political policies, peaceful approaches to relations with others, and through efforts which strengthen international confidence and trust among nations based on mutual respect and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other nations.

The Republic of Yemen possesses today the correct will and vision to proceed in this path with full confidence in order to construct strong bridges of understanding and relations that will transcend the short-term and into the distant future.

"We are certain that the fruits of any development achieved in Yemen will not be limited just to Yemen, but will have positive effects in creating regional possibilities, that will allow more prosperity and stability in the region and worldwide," he concluded.

TIPS TO CONTROL ROAD VIOLATIONS

It is with interest that I read your Viewpoint with respect to traffic violations. As a Jerusalemite born Jordanian working on a vital road job between Sana'a and Hodeida, I believe that you have touched on an extremely vital subject thus only dealing with a part of the story.

Out of goodwill and care for the welfare of our brethren here on Yemeni soil and by virtue of the freedom of expressing thoughts based on a fully constructive attitude, I would add the following points which I believe are of great importance. While I appreciate that a part of them may be too theoretical to be applied on the field for reasons we all know and understand... but usually theory precedes any application.

Firstly, I would like to add a (d) to the government's achievements after reaping the revenue from traffic violation, which is to finance charity and social institutes. Secondly, during my past eight week observations along the Sanaa-Hodeida road, I haven't located any highway patrol car or even a policeman. Therefore any violator to basic traffic laws will go unpunished, thus indirectly causing the Yemen foreign exchange a huge burden of heavily laden letters of credit to purchase spare parts of all kinds and at times even new light and heavy vehicles, not to mention the loss of valuable human lives. Some of those violations are stated hereunder:

- a - The excessive speed with which vehicles are driven.
- b - Overtaking at wrong locations and curves.
- c - Passenger and service cars are loading more than double their capacity.
- d - Pick up trucks, referred to here in Yemen as Hi-Lux are filled with passengers on the open back cabin.
- e - The Khamis souks are normally congested with shoppers who really use the road itself as a parking lot, thus hindering the normal flow of business, commerce and tourist traffic.

Thirdly, there is another form of dangerous violation which is costing the treasury heavy expenses namely the non-obseance of trucking companies and individuals to the maximum axle load allowed on the roads. Any normal road user will notice the size of the cargo which usually extrudes horizontally and vertically. This being another serious hazard.

H.E. Abdullah Kurshumy the Minister for Construction and Chairman of the General Corporation for Roads and Bridges who is undoubtedly considered as the Godfather of roads in Yemen, and despite the dour efforts which he and his team had exerted during the past three decades to construct and maintain the present network, it is clear that he cannot offer the panacea for road problems without the full cooperation of other parties such as the Ministry of Interior which must allocate an emergency budget to ascertain the hegemony of the traffic department to all the roads of the republic. Furthermore, the Ministry of Planning can pave the way to hold conferences, seminars and committees to study and propose programmable answers to already existing traffic dilemmas.

It is therefore obvious that traffic violations mentioned above and those dealt with by the publisher are an imminent threat to one of the most precious assets of Yemen thus legal action must be imposed against violators.

Finally, Yemen which nurtured the Mareb Dam builders and the makers of the May 22nd victory, will be able to overcome its problem.

By: **Engineer Bassam Dajani**
AC-APEC Management Team / Jordan

ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZ

MAGIC WORD

NUTRITION

JUMBLES

OCTET ENEMY FROZEN AVENUE

It calls for something extra from a performer—"ENCORE!"

CROSSWORDS

M	A	S	R	I	Z	E	T	R	A	P
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Al-Attas at Geneva Round Table:

"Yemen has the will and vision to chart its new course."

In the opening speech at the Geneva Round Table Conference, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas said "the Government of the Republic of Yemen attaches considerable importance to the conference because it comes at a time when Yemen is facing up to its challenges and difficulties, and "we have the will to apply comprehensive reforms - at both the official and popular levels."

The Prime Minister also said that the time has come for serious consultations with all our friends and partners so as to ensure the highest levels of efficiency in the development and reform efforts; to mobilize the necessary support to guarantee the minimum conditions of success for these efforts; and not to allow the difficulties to lead to more structural long-term distortions."

"The reunification of the country is the most important and dearest achievement in our modern history, and it has come as a climax to a long and hard struggle by our people. The unification of Yemen has strengthened the existing and potential development capabilities as well as Yemen's regional and international role," he said.

The Prime Minister indicated that unified Yemen is based on many values and principles but primarily:

1- To apply a democratic system based on political and intellectual pluralism that guarantees freedom and personal liberties, human rights, and equal opportunities under the laws and constitution.
2- To seek stronger economic and cultural ties with the world based on a larger scope of bilateral, regional and international cooperation with the aim of strengthening peace, security and stability for all peoples.

3- To implement comprehensive economic, administrative and political reforms that are leading to a larger role for the private sector based on market forces.

4- To support efforts oriented towards international peace and towards eliminating tension worldwide by total adherence to the principle of peaceful co-existence and coopera-



tion. To condemn the use of force, or threat of its use, in resolving regional and international differences, to shun extremism and terrorism, and to consolidate international understanding.
5- To constructively interact with issues of international concern such as the environment and population trends, to enhance joint knowledge and cultural and scientific exchange, and to deepen human values and contact among the residents of this planet.

The Prime Minister listed many major social and economic challenges which face the country as the result of unity, the aftermath of the Gulf War, the prolonged drought, and the rising number of refugees coming from the Horn of Africa. "These factors, in light of their pressing and humanitarian nature, will force on us short-term priorities in the use of our resources and services, which may disrupt our long-term policies and approaches," he warned. Speaking about the economic problems facing Yemen today, the Prime Minister mentioned unemployment, which has reached 40%; real income which is falling quickly and dramatically; and the services and infrastructure which have deteriorated. "The return of hundreds of thousands of immigrants and flow of refugees has exacerbated our problems," he added. In spite of the patient nature of Yemeni citizens, the current hardships cannot continue for a long time without serious complications. "That is why the reform program attains such importance," he indicated.

The country has already applied various aspects of the reform package. The price

of oil products have been increased by 100%, and all other forms of subsidies have been removed in the governorates of the former South Yemen. There have been serious efforts to reduce the government budget. 90% of the foreign exchange formalities have been freed from controls. Defense expenditures have been reduced by 14% in nominal terms (and by a much higher percentage in real terms). Administrative bottlenecks that limited the absorption of foreign loans and grants have been eliminated. The efficiency of the tax collection system has been enhanced, and a new investment law has been enacted. This law strengthens the role of the creates a more conducive environment to private enterprise by reducing bureaucratic obstacles, and provides substantial incentives for investments.

"The Republic of Yemen has done all it could to mobilize and develop its own resources, whether in the exploitation of oil and minerals, in agriculture and fisheries, in industry, or other fields," Al-Attas said. It has also attempted to exploit its locational advantage to activate commerce, industry, transportation and financial activities. For this purpose, the city of Aden was declared a free zone, and work is underway to convert Aden into a vital contact point between Yemen and the rest of the world.

Yemen, as one of the least developed countries of the world, has to chart its course of construction, modernization and reform under difficult conditions. It has to achieve those goals in a short time span, and with meager resources. Thus we objectively conclude that:

1- The government has proceeded in its reform efforts to the maximum limits that its resources would allow. Thus, even if the Yemen continued in its current course, the country's ability to make progress is hinged on the support and assistance it gets from its friends (countries and organizations), that are concerned with its progress, stability, and democratic course.

Continues on page 7

Continued from page 16:

Netherlands Ambassador Gysbert Bos

Q: Are there emergency aid contemplated by the Netherlands government now in view of the influx of Somali refugees?

A: I want to tell you that I really think the international community should do something about this situation. The Yemeni government has tried to cope with the problem with its limited resources, but the world has a duty to attend to this matter. I hope to convince my own government to chip in.

Q: What about trade between the two countries?

A: Unfortunately, the volume of trade is very small, partly because of the foreign exchange constraints of Yemen. In 1991, total Dutch exports to Yemen was valued at US\$106 million, and imports from Yemen at US\$23 million. I hope the future will allow more cooperation in this field. I think maybe the Yemeni private sector, the governments of both countries, and the Yemeni-Dutch Friendship Society will play a larger role in interesting Dutch business to come to Yemen.

Q: How about tourism?

A: Of course, we all know that Yemen is an attractive tourist destination, but there are severe limitations in facilities, especially in accommodations. As these expand with time, there should be a greater flow of Dutch tourists to Yemen. I also hope that there is room for joint ventures in this

field. Finally, I hope that the way tourism evolves will not ruin the country's ethnic characteristics.

Q: The KLM is flying into Sanaa?

A: Yes, I am happy that the talks in The Hague between 22-24/6/1992 have allowed the two countries to initial an agreement, according to which the "Blue - Silver Birds" will land in

Yemen. This will start, I believe, from October this year. I hope that this agreement will open a new possibility for more commercial exchange.

I like to take this occasion to call on Yemen's national carriers to fly to the Netherlands. You know that between 1982 and 1991, Yemenia flew into Amsterdam. I hope that service will be resumed.

Q: Any last remarks?

A: I would like to stress that I am very appreciative of the understanding and cooperation I get from the government officials, and I really enjoy the warmth and friendship of the people. As I said, I hope we can interest the Netherlands community in making an inventory of the possibilities here.

Thus, my deep hopes are that sufficient interest will be generated such that on the first flight of KLM we can have a business delegation headed by a Dutch minister. That would be an ambition that cannot be achieved except if we all join our efforts.



Dutch Assistance to Yemen: 1990-93

Projects by Location	Aid Commitment (in 1000 Guilders)
National Projects	1900
Projects in Sanaa	30990
Projects in Dhamar	35244
Projects in Tihama	28600
Projects in Radaa	78154
Waste Disposal in Aden	2700
Slaughterhouse in Ibb	7620
Environmental Projects	1935
Special Projects	5317
Total	263837

RE-USE OF WASTEWATER

Last May, a National Work-shop was held on the "Re-use of Waste-water Practices in the Republic of Yemen". The workshop was sponsored by the World Health Activities and Sana'a University.

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness on the existing re-use practices of raw or partially treated wastewater in agriculture throughout the country and bring to the attention of policy makers and public health authorities the potential risks involved for environmental pollution of groundwater resources, and the public health risks for farmers and consumers of crops.

Forty experts in various disciplines discussed the current practices in Yemen and the regulations and guidelines available in the international community. Their recommendations are listed below:

1. As waste water re-use is already practised in many locations in Yemen, waste water treatment is urgently needed to prevent farmers and consumers of crops fed with contaminated waste water from getting contaminated.

2. To underscore potential health hazards associated with the use of waste water. Newly established WHO guidelines should be used to set standards for safe use of wastewater in agriculture.

3. A national committee has to be established to ensure the development of proper guidelines, regulations and monitoring programs to control and manage wastewater re-use practices in Yemen. Members of this committee should come from ministries, research institutes and agencies concerned with urban planning, health, agriculture and environmental engineering to ensure integration of all disciplines involved.

4. Research has to be initiated to support the development of guidelines and regulations for using treated wastewater in order to minimize human contamination. Universities and other authorities should focus their research on:

- * the long term impact of waster-water re-use on land and crop production,
- * impact on environment and public health
- * monitoring of waste water treatment technologies in Yemen,
- * the type of irrigation to be used,

5. Public campaigns should be started to educate the farmers and consumers on the potential health risks involved in uncontrolled use of wastewater and unrestricted consumption of crops grown on it. Special attention be given to:

- * crop selection for irrigation.
- * prevent contamination of children by proper fencing
- * public health monitoring of and education to farmers

6. Through recurrent seminars/workshops and mass media, the results from field experiences of wastewater re-use projects should be spread.

7. Sana'a urgently needs to improve the facilities for waste water treatment. The ponds, designed for temporary treatment only, are overloaded and may create smell and public health problems.

8. It is very important to investigate the industrial waste water discharges into public sewer systems in order to assess the potentials of micro-pollution with heavy metals and other toxic elements which can accumulate in soil, plants and food chains.

By: **Dr. A. K. El-Zaemey (National coordinator), and Prof. A. Al-Layla (Senior Advisor).**

THE MARIB DAM: A New Project - Part I

By: **Ganchikov V.G - d-r, Technical Sciences, and Munavarov Z.I. - d-r, Historical Sciences**

The state of Yemen is based on a strong foundation resting on the century-old history of its population that has created one of the most ancient and unique centers of world civilization. The most significant components of the Yemeni civilization are famous agricultural terraces and the numerous water-accumulating dams which are magnificent ancient specimens of the art of hydraulics. Their number, locations and remaining parts display high skills of Yemenis in the erection of water-retaining structures in order to utilize flood water for irrigation and domestic needs. For many years they accumulated their rich experience in the construction of dams executed of local materials, improved the designs of these structures, raised their strength and reliability, developed skills of their accident free operation. The apex of the ancient hydraulic construction is undoubtedly the Marib dam. Its remaining parts reflect a high level of technical decisions and indicate the extensiveness of engineering knowledge and construction skills which the creators of this unique structure possessed.

Among the scholars studying the history of Yemen, there is no consensus on the time when the Marib Dam constructed. The dominant view, based on the Himyarite cuneiform monuments and other proofs, date it back to the time of Ali Yanuf and his son Yata Amr (VII- th century B.C.). The site of the dam was selected in the Wadi Abidah mounth, 8 km away from the city of Marib, the capital of the ancient Sabaeans t a t e .

Two irrigation systems were constructed downstream from the Marib Dam and they fed water to the lands with the area about 10000 ha. The switch-over to the irrigated land-farming was accompanied by a rapid agrarian and economic development of the Marib Plain and the adjacent territories. The irrigated lands of both irrigation systems were called by the contemporaries "two paradise gardens." The fame of the wealth of these lands spread far beyond the boundaries of the Sabaeans state. They are mentioned in the chronicles of the Greeks, Romans and in the Quran itself, the sacred book of Muslims.

Marib Dam is known as one of the seven wonders of the world. The ancient inhabitants of this water-hungry area (mean annual rainfall is 50-100 mm/year) decided 27 centuries ago to

construct a dam and a reservoir with a catchment area of over 10,000 square kms. They also coped perfectly well with the high seismic activity (7.1 - 7.5 on Richter's scale) of the region. The irrigation systems extract no less admiration - they were not inferior to modern ones in their reliability, size of the areas that were irrigated and even in their efficiency ratio. Thanks to the Marib Dam this region became the granary practically of the whole Arabian Peninsula for almost 1300 years - during the period of the continuous existence of the dam! Such historical facts cannot but be exciting.

However, there are a few very depressing facts. The people of this land had to defend it all the time against marauders and invaders. Eventually, there came a time when practically all the population in the Marib Plain perished in the struggle against conquerors. As all the able-bodied men and women diverted their full attention to defence for long periods, there was nobody to control and repair the dam and canals. Finally, the Marib Dam ceased to exist in A.D. 570.

The water was gone, and the population had left this land. One more center of civilization had been ravaged by internecine discords and wars.

After the September 26, 1962, Revolution, that overthrew the monarchy in North Yemen, great attention was paid to the revival of Marib Dam. It was decided to restore the Marib Plain irrigation systems. For this purpose, a contract was signed on September 11, 1976, to carry out a feasibility study of the "Irrigation Project of Two Paradise Gardens" between the Abu Dhabi Social and Economic Development Fund and the Swiss Consulting firm Electrowatt Engineering Services Ltd. In the feasibility study that were submitted in 1978, it was recommended that a 39 m. high dam be executed to create a 390 million cubic meter capacity reservoir, to be located a short distance from the ancient dam. It was also proposed to construct 4 channel-straightening dikes in the dam downstream and 55 km of feeder canals with intakes and other line structures. In 1984, documents for the execution of the dam and the irrigation system were tendered.

The tender for the construction was announced personally by the President of the Yemen Arab Republic. The Turkish firm "Dogus" was awarded the contract for the execution of the dam and irrigation system. The French firm "Solatange" was a subcontractor in the execution of seepage control measures (grouting, impervious curtain). It was already October 2, 1984,

when President Saleh and H.E. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates and the financier, took part in the ground-breaking ceremony of the project.

The new dam was constructed within 27 months. The hydraulic works are equipped with all types of instrumentation except for the instruments to register the strength and character of seismic actions on the dam base and body. The volume of the already accumulated water in the reservoir has reached 100 million cubic meters.

It should be noted that all water streams in Yemen have very small discharges measured by a few liters. That is why while constructing dams on such streams, for the accumulation of flood flows, it is extremely important to cut down seepage losses as much as possible. In such cases, it is expedient to construct an additional water-retaining structure to catch seepage discharge and return the intercepted water to the consumer by means of a pumping station.

This situation gives cause to consider the possibility of reviving the ancient Marib Dam itself. The restored dam would provide for the interception of seepage of the new Marib Dam that would shorten the periods for the reservoir storage and increase the reservoir yield. Different points of view are known to exist relative to the restoration of the relics of the past. In our case the question concerns an important monument of the engineering. And it is suggested to construct not a new project, i.e., to execute the lost structure by the remained pictures with the application of modern materials, but to fill an earth dam and to restore, where necessary, with the utmost care and tact the lost details of appurtenant structures. And it must be done so that the modern masonry should differ from the historical one either in the stone color or in the means of its surface treatment.

The project of the ancient Marib Dam restoration will require to enlist the services of experts in hydraulics, historians, archaeologists, architects, designers, masters of folk arts, etc. The restored dam would become not only an operating element of the Marib Hydraulic Works, but also a wonderful additional attraction and decoration of the route along the monuments of the ancient civilization of the Marib Plain: City of Marib - Bilqis Temple - Moon Temple - Marib Dam.

Continues Next Week

LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Lors d'une table ronde à Genève sous l'égide du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement

Sanaa présente sa politique économique aux bailleurs de fonds internationaux

Mardi 30 juin et mercredi 1er juillet, le Programme des Nations-Unies pour le Développement, qui dispose d'un bureau important à Sanaa, a organisé à Genève, en Suisse, une table ronde sur la Yémen. A l'heure où nous imprimons, nous n'avons pas reçu les premiers résultats de cette conférence internationale.

Cette table ronde, qui a confronté une délégation yéménite de haut niveau conduite par le Premier Ministre lui-même, M. Abou Bakr Al-Attas, aux bailleurs de fonds actuels ou éventuels du Yémen, ne doit pas avoir de résultats concrets dans l'immédiat, sous forme d'aide financière. Il ne s'agit pas d'une de ces conférences classiques organisées par les Nations-Unies pour un pays en voie de développement, conférences dont l'utilité est toujours de mobiliser des ressources.

Il s'agit seulement d'un dialogue avec des partenaires riches pour que le Yémen puisse présenter ses objectifs de politique économique à plus ou moins long terme et lancer des groupes de travail avec des partenaires bilatéraux qui déboucheront peut-être ultérieurement sur des projets financés par ces bailleurs de fonds.

Or, même si cette conférence n'a pas de conséquences immédiates sur le volume de l'assistance étrangère au Yémen, il est très important de constater comment le Yémen s'est penché très sérieusement, à cette occasion, sur son développement à long terme, au moment où il se trouve dans une situation économique très difficile.

Les prévisions du mémorandum économique dressé par le gouvernement pour la conférence couvre la période 1992-1996 et prévoit déjà, à cette date, un plan pour la période 1996-2000 ! C'est la preuve que les autorités de ce pays, grâce à l'aide des équipes techniques du PNUD, ont pu prendre un certain recul et qu'elles ne semblent pas débordées par la situation présente.

Cette conférence de Genève sur le Yémen est une première, pour plusieurs raisons. Ces tables rondes d'un type particulier ont été créées il y a quelques années pour la catégorie des PMA, les pays les moins avancés selon la classification du Fonds Monétaire Internationale, c'est à dire au revenu par habitant et par an inférieur à 500 dollars, catégorie à laquelle le Yémen appartient. Mais la plupart de ces pays est situé en Afrique noire. C'est la première fois qu'un pays arabe en bénéficie. D'autre part, le Yémen est le plus gros pays bénéficiant de cette procédure en termes de population (en général, les autres ne dépassent pas 6 à 7 millions d'habitants, le Yémen approche les 14 millions). Enfin, il s'agit également d'une première quant au but de cette table ronde: généralement, elles sont organisées en vue d'une mobilisation immédiate de ressources par les bailleurs de fonds. Cette fois-ci, ce n'est pas le cas. Il s'agit seulement d'un dia-

logue sur la politique économique à mettre en place au Yémen pour assainir l'économie et les finances et optimiser les aides qui viendront par la suite sous forme de projets.

A cette occasion, le gouvernement, avec l'aide d'équipes d'experts du PNUD, a mis au point un Mémorandum Economique Général, un document qui brosse la situation du Yémen dans les secteurs les plus importants (monétaire, budgétaire, commerce, pétrole, et d'autres...). Et puis surtout, ce qui est le plus important, ce mémorandum contient des déclarations d'intentions quant aux mesures que le Yémen s'engage à prendre pour assainir son économie, mesures de rigueur qui correspondent à celles que le FMI a l'habitude d'imposer aux pays en développement en général. L'institution financière des Nations-Unies avait laissé entendre récemment aux autorités yéménites qu'elles devaient se plier à ce que certains considèrent encore

comme des "diktats" pour bénéficier des facilités financières du FMI (lire notre article dans le *Temps du Yémen* du 8 avril 1992). Parmi ces déclarations d'intention, le Yémen s'engage par exemple à rapprocher progressivement le taux de change officiel de sa monnaie de celui du marché, dit "du souk", actuellement de 30 rials pour un dollar. Selon les prévisions du gouvernement, le taux officiel devrait passer de 12 rials pour un dollar actuellement à 25 d'ici 1994-95. Le gouvernement a pris également des engagements d'assainissement financiers en agissant sur les taux d'intérêts et la circulation de la monnaie ainsi que des objectifs de réduction du déficit budgétaire. Autant de mesures que nous détaillerons dans un prochain numéro.

L'une des exigences du FMI était également de développer davantage le secteur privé et l'économie libérale. Ce sera chose faite selon le mémorandum du gouvernement, qui prévoit de faciliter en outre les investissements étrangers. Ainsi, à Genève, le dialogue avec les partenaires du développement ne s'est pas fait uniquement en termes d'assistance mais aussi de choix politiques pour obtenir l'appui de la communauté internationale. Le problème, que l'on retrouve dans tous les pays qui ont été amenés à prendre ces mesures de rigueur, c'est que les Yéménites risquent de voir se répercuter dans leur vie quotidienne, des mesures d'économie drastiques...

Le mémorandum est un document intéressant également sur le plan des prévisions. Il prévoit deux scénarios, fondés sur des prévisions de production pétrolière différentes, à l'horizon 1996. Le premier, dit "optimiste", table sur une production de 750.000 barils par jour pour 1996. Le second, dit "réaliste" fait état de 450.000 bj. Dans les deux, l'impact sur les comptes nationaux sont évidemment très différents: dans le premier, la balance des paiements serait excédentaire en 1996 alors que dans le second, elle persisterait dans le déficit.

La Conférence de Genève devait être également un test politique pour le Yémen qui a invité 43 délégations au total, partenaires actuels ou futurs, Etats ou organismes internationaux. En dehors des pays occidentaux qui ont répondu présent et des organismes dépendant de l'ONU, on a remarqué des absents de marque, comme l'Arabie Saoudite qui n'a même pas daigné répondre à l'invitation et les autres pays du Golfe, à l'exception d'Oman, présent. Le "test saoudien" a été révélateur pour les autorités yéménites. Plus étrange a été l'absence, ou plutôt la position de retrait, des pays nordiques, traditionnelles puissances de l'aide au développement. Le Danemark s'est fait représenté en tant qu'observateur, tout comme la Norvège.

Le bilan reste globalement positif car sur 43 délégations invitées, une vingtaine étaient présentes, dont les principaux bailleurs de fonds traditionnels du Yémen. Pendant une année, des groupes de travail mixtes élaboreront des projets au Yémen et une nouvelle table ronde se tiendra dans un an, cette fois pour un appel de ressources.

E.G.

Le Yémen doit se raccrocher à l'économie mondiale

Nous déclare M. Philippe Elghouayel, représentant résident a.i. du PNUD à Sanaa

- Personnellement, êtes-vous optimiste quant à l'issue de cette conférence ? Que peut en retirer le Yémen ?

- Une chose est importante déjà, c'est que cette table ronde a permis au gouvernement yéménite de se mobiliser, de réfléchir sur l'avenir à long terme du pays. De discuter des options économiques qui s'offraient à lui dans des conditions très difficiles de réduction considérable de ses propres capacités financières et du soutien des bailleurs de fonds traditionnels après la guerre du Golfe. Par conséquent, cette table ronde lui permet de prendre lui-même son destin en mains.

- C'est une occasion aussi de coordonner toutes les aides et les politiques du développement ?

- En effet. Le gouvernement a créé 17 groupes de travail qui ont abordé chacun des questions essentielles et qui étaient composés de membres représentant quasiment tous les ministères. Il s'est donc agi d'un effort de coordination et de réflexion collective, ce n'est pas le produit du seul ministère du Plan, mais de tout le gouvernement.

Ensuite, il a fallu faire des choix puisque dans leur mémorandum adressé à tous les bailleurs de fonds éventuels, les autorités yéménites ont fait des déclarations d'intention d'ordre politique économique sur les questions les plus importantes. Ces choix donnent la direction vers laquelle le pays s'engage durablement.

- Donc, en dehors des éventuelles aides financières qui en découleront plus tard, cette conférence a été l'occasion de discuter des moyens de ration-

liser l'économie du pays ?

- Oui. Cela, c'est déjà un résultat satisfaisant. Les dirigeants sont fondamentalement motivés car ils savent très bien que le Yémen est dans une situation économique précaire depuis l'unification qui a impliqué des coûts très élevés et que cette unification s'est trouvée obérée par la crise du Golfe. Les Yéménites ont donc perdu des sommes considérables en termes d'assistance extérieure. L'enveloppe financière à leur disposition est bien plus réduite que celle dont ils disposaient avant. Le gouvernement a donc compris très vite qu'il fallait, avec beaucoup moins, faire beaucoup plus. Avec l'unification, les besoins des Yéménites se sont accrus, comme leurs espoirs. Il était donc très important que le gouvernement décide, de manière volontariste, de rationaliser, de réduire les gaspillages, de maximaliser les résultats.

- Quel a été le point de départ de cette conférence ?

- Nous avons commencé à en parler entre le PNUD et le gouvernement au printemps 1990. Puis la crise du Golfe a bloqué le processus. Les discussions ont repris début 1991. Nos équipes d'experts ont commencé à arriver pendant l'été. Ils ont effectué, avec le gouvernement, un travail commun formidable. Même pendant le Ramadan, ils travaillaient ensemble la nuit ! Il y avait un très grand enthousiasme de part et d'autre. Cela a été extraordinaire de voir qu'ils ont pu terminer la rédaction du mémorandum aussi rapidement. C'est le fruit d'une très forte motivation. La preuve, c'est que le Premier ministre a inauguré lui-même la table ronde. La motivation était aussi au plus haut niveau.

- En ce qui concerne les besoins immédiats du Yémen, cette conférence ne peut y répondre...

- Evidemment, à court terme, le Yémen a besoin d'aides accrues en attendant que les ressources pétrolières viennent compenser l'assistance étrangère.

- Sous quelle forme alors ?

- Le Yémen a toujours besoin de l'aide en dons qu'il reçoit des Nations Unies ou des états sous forme de coopération bilatérale. Il aura toujours besoin d'un soutien conséquent de la Banque Mondiale par le biais de l'AID, c'est à dire des prêts à long terme et à taux d'intérêt très bas, des quasi-dons. Il en a besoin car l'un des problèmes majeurs qui se pose aux pays en développement qui se trouvent dans des situations de déficits des finances publiques et des paiements extérieurs graves, c'est qu'ils sont obligés de recourir à l'emprunt et qu'il y a ensuite une fuite vers l'avant par le service de la dette qui obère les capacités futures de développement: à mesure que la situation économique s'améliorera, les yéménites vont se retrouver avec une dette impossible à gérer.

Les Yéménites ont également besoin d'accrocher leur économie à l'économie mondiale. Le Yémen n'est pas encore intégré sur ce plan. L'un des objectifs du mémorandum proposé à Genève est là. L'une des solutions est de favoriser les investissements étrangers au Yémen, par l'intermédiaire des zones franches par exemple, ou en les attirant financièrement. Donc il faut une législation, qui existe maintenant, ainsi que les institutions -la Haute Autorité pour l'Investissement vient d'être créée, présidée par le Vice-Premier ministre, M. Al-Attar-. Il faut maintenant mettre en oeuvre cette politique. L'investissement

étranger est très important car c'est une autre manière de renforcer la capacité financière du pays sans l'endetter.

Pour attirer les capitaux extérieurs, il faut aussi restaurer les finances intérieures, des taux d'intérêts et des taux de change stables et réalistes.

Il faut aussi évidemment rationaliser, réformer, améliorer l'efficacité de l'administration et des ministères comme les Finances, le Plan, la Banque Centrale, etc. De nombreux bailleurs de fonds sont déjà engagés à appuyer le gouvernement dans ce secteur là. Le PNUD, quant à lui, discute avec le Ministère des Finances d'un programme d'appui qui leur permettra d'améliorer leur efficacité et d'adopter des systèmes qui soient plus compétitifs dans l'administration, la gestion, la comptabilité, etc. Cela implique beaucoup d'actions de formation, d'équipements en ordinateurs... De la même manière avec le ministère du Plan avec qui on discute d'un projet équivalent, puis avec la Banque Centrale. D'autres bailleurs de fonds comme les Allemands, les Néerlandais, la Banque Mondiale, ont des actions dans ces domaines d'amélioration de la gestion administrative.

Cette table ronde est un peu le point d'orgue de toutes ces actions. Elle donnera l'impulsion nécessaire au processus de rationalisation. Sans elle, le PNUD, qui coordonne les aides, aurait dû frapper aux portes d'éventuels bailleurs de fonds, séparément, et donc de manière irrationnelle comme cela se pratiquait auparavant.

150 à 200 morts dans le drame du Gobwein, dans la baie d'Aden

Les "boatpeople" oubliés...

Ils fuient la famine et la guerre civile qui sévissent en Somalie pour se réfugier à Aden... Mais le Yémen, qui n'a jamais cessé de les accueillir depuis quatre ans, est aujourd'hui saturé.

Lundi 22 juin, un cargo rempli de quelque 3.400 Somaliens fuyant la guerre civile et la famine, s'est échoué volontairement sur une plage d'Aden. Les autorités de la ville portuaire lui avaient refusé d'accoster quelques jours auparavant, obligeant le capitaine à faire route sur Mukalla, à quelque 700 kilomètres à l'ouest. Là, ils n'ont pas été autorisés non plus à débarquer. Les autorités leur ont tout de même donné 4.000 litres d'eau et le navire s'est présenté de nouveau devant le port d'Aden, quelques jours plus tard. Là, épuisés, malades, affamés et assoiffés, les Somaliens, dans un geste désespéré après 20 jours passés entassés dans ce cargo utilisé pour le transport des chameaux, ont obligé le capitaine à échouer son navire à 200 mètres d'une plage de Little Aden, près de la raffinerie. Il est très difficile d'évaluer combien d'entre-eux n'ont pas survécu à ce périple car la plupart des corps ont été précipités à la mer pendant la traversée. Le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés et la petite équipe de Médecins sans Frontières basée à Aden, ont évalué approximativement le nombre total de ces décès à 150 à 200. Après l'échouage, de nombreux réfugiés se sont jetés à l'eau, d'une quinzaine de mètres de hauteur. Certains se sont tués en plongeant, s'emparant sur les outils des pêcheurs venus leur porter secours; d'autres, très affaiblis, se sont noyés en essayant d'atteindre le rivage. MSF a relevé une cinquantaine de cadavres sur la plage, dont 41 enfants et le Croissant Rouge Yéménite a évacué du bateau encore 70 corps sans vie. Les quelque 3.200 survivants ont été ensuite parqués dans un camp de fortune sur la plage, le HCR, MSF et, avec moins de moyens, le Croissant Rouge Yéménite, les prenant en charge.

Le gouverneur d'Aden, qui avait refusé dans un premier temps, d'accueillir ces nouveaux réfugiés, avant de revenir sur sa décision, sur pressions internationales et de Sanaa, selon de bonnes sources, affirme qu'Aden est débordé par cet afflux de réfugiés. De fait, le Yémen, en tant que signataire de la Convention de Genève sur les réfugiés, est le seul pays du Golfe à accepter ceux de la Corne de l'Afrique, Ethiopiens et Somaliens, depuis trois ou quatre ans. Actuellement, il abrite aujourd'hui près de 50.000 réfugiés somaliens, répartis entre trois camps ou éparpillés dans la ville pour ceux qui avaient des racines yéménites (lire notre article dans le Temps du Yémen du 15 avril 1992). Alors que l'année dernière encore, l'Arabie Saoudite a rejeté un navire plein de réfugiés loin de ses côtes.

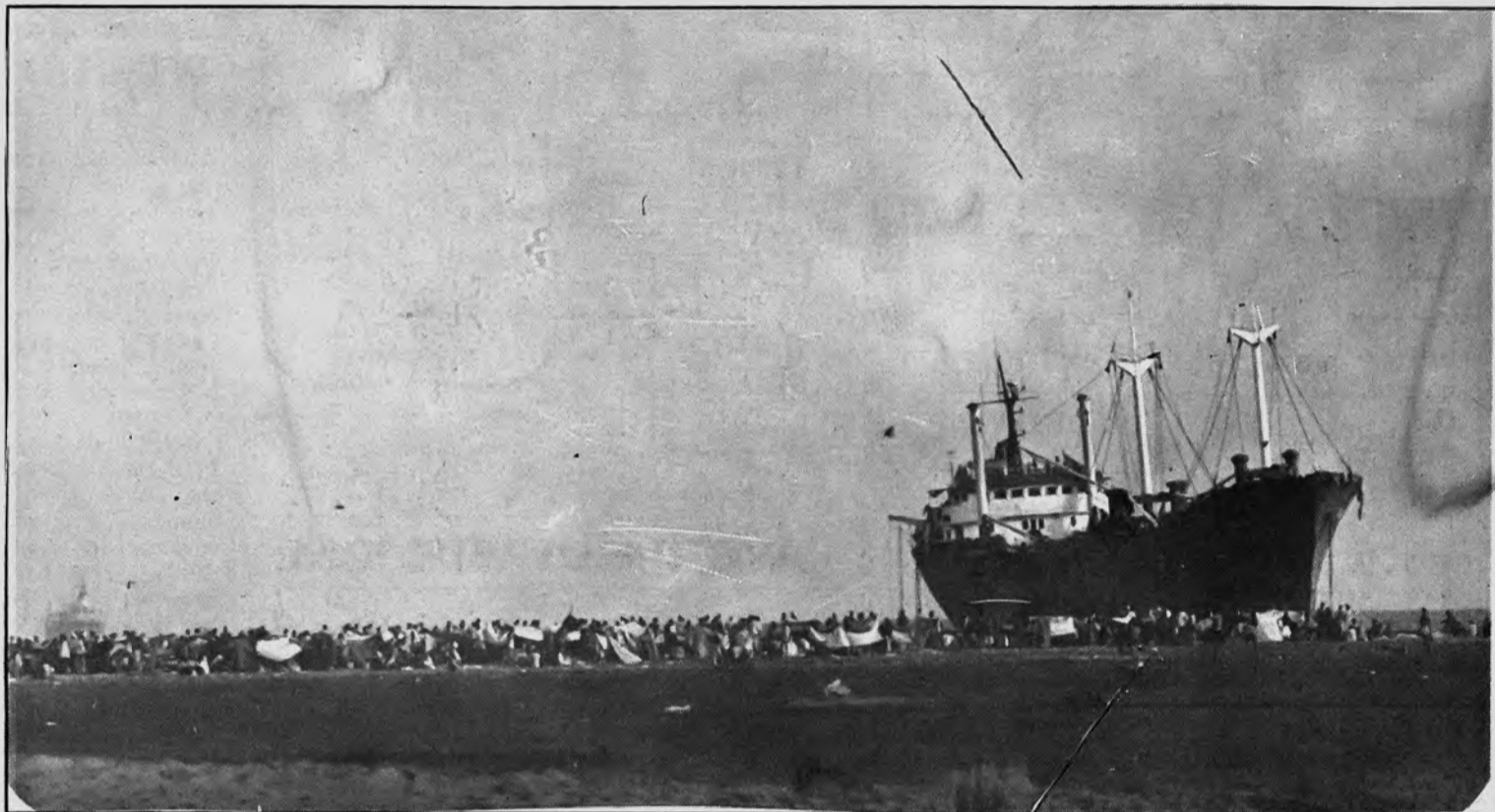
Un autre bateau, un simple boutre cette fois, de 30 mètres de long, a attendu au beau milieu du port pendant 8 jours, une autorisation de débarquer ses 600 passagers somaliens, entassés dans des conditions horribles. Samedi 27 juin seulement ils ont été évacués. Montés clandestinement dans les deux embarcations, nous relatons ici les conditions de vie terribles de ces nouveaux "boatpeoples", oubliés par la communauté internationale jusqu'à aujourd'hui.

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Aden, 26 juin.

Ils sont 600 sur ce boutre délabré, long de trente mètres seulement... 600 à vivre les uns sur les autres, depuis leur départ du petit port de Bosasso, au nord de la Somalie, le 15 juin dernier. Les femmes et les enfants, très affaiblis, sont couchés dans les cales, sur trois étages, séparés chacun d'un mètre au plus, dans le noir le plus complet et avec une température qui avoisine les 45 degrés Celsius. Ceux qui ont la chance d'être sur le pont s'abritent sous des tissus tendus d'un bord de l'embarcation à l'autre pour protéger du soleil la peau des enfants déjà meurtrie par la gale et autres blessures...

L'air hagard, résignés surtout, ils n'ont même plus la force de se précipiter sur les boîtes de biscuit et les médicaments que leur apporte l'équipe de Médecins sans Frontières, comme ce fut le cas dans d'autres bateaux. Très dignes, les hommes ne se plaignent même pas; ils se contentent de demander quand on les débarquera. Justement, MSF et le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés ont obtenu ce matin du gouverneur d'Aden que les femmes et les enfants soient débarqués dans l'après-midi. Mais la nuit tombe déjà, il faut se résigner à passer un jour de plus dans ce maudit bateau. Après sept jours d'immobilisation au beau milieu du port d'Aden, pendant lesquels ils ont reçu de la nourriture et de l'eau mais jamais en quantités suffisantes, on n'est plus à cela près, si ce n'est pour quelques vieillards, femmes et enfants, dont l'état inspire la crainte



Après une équipée de vingt jours en mer, avec 3.400 Somaliens à son bord, le Gobwein a été échoué sur une plage de Little Aden, à 200 mètres du rivage.

de l'équipe de MSF. Ici, une femme qui a accouché sur le bateau est victime d'hémorragies internes; là, un vieillard atteint de la malaria est pris de fièvres violentes.

Ils ne disposent pas de plus d'un mètre carré par personne, et encore... On doit enjamber les gens pour se frayer un passage sur le pont. Malgré les efforts pour évacuer les déjections et préserver

cette fragile embarcation des risques d'épidémies, l'odeur est vite insupportable.

Dans ces conditions, les réfugiés de ce bateau n'ont perdu que sept des leurs, dont trois enfants. On ose dire qu'ils ont été relativement épargnés comparés à leurs 3.400 compatriotes du Gobwein, le cargo échoué volontairement quatre jours plus tôt, un peu plus loin sur une plage (lire notre introduction).

A bord du Gobwein, appartenant à un riche commerçant d'Aden, tout n'est que désolation maintenant. Il ne reste plus que le capitaine, de nationalité philippine, qui se terre au fond de sa cabine, et quelques membres de l'équipage. Avant que les soldats n'interrompent notre visite, nous avons pu juger très rapidement des conditions de vie qui ont été celles de ces 3.400 Somaliens pendant plus de vingt jours: les effets personnels sont entassés, très serrés, sur des matelas crasseux, humides et pourris, et les restes de nourriture sont mêlés aux excréments sur le pont, jusque dans les cales... Pour cette traversée, chaque famille a dû payer au capitaine, donc sans doute au propriétaire du navire, 110 dollars par personne!

Après avoir réussi à sortir du navire et à rejoindre la plage, un homme, Ibrahim, a perdu son enfant, un nouveau-né. Désespéré, il demande au responsable de MSF de le conduire au dispensaire que l'organisation non-gouvernementale française a installé dans un autre camp de réfugiés somaliens et où ils traitent les cas les plus urgents: là, trois enfants dont on ne connaît pas les

parents sont traités. Mais pas de nouveau-né. Ibrahim s'attend au pire...

Les survivants sont désormais surveillés par les militaires et les autorités de l'immigration dans un camp de fortune sur la plage, face au bateau, vision de cauchemar pour certains, qui se dresse encore droit, sur un haut fond à 200 mètres du rivage. Des tentes ont été apportées par le HCR, qui fournit également de l'eau et de la nourriture, en quantités bien insuffisantes cependant. Mercredi, une famille de vingt personnes n'a reçu en tout et pour tout que trois litres d'eau. Pas question encore, donc, de se laver, sinon à l'eau de mer. Six hommes et femmes de Médecins sans Frontières, raptés des quatre coins de l'Hadramaout où ils coordonnent des missions de vaccination, s'affairent dans un dispensaire de fortune, à traiter les cas les plus urgents. Des enfants meurent encore chaque jour. L'absorption d'eau de mer a causé des dommages irréversibles à de nombreux enfants... Selon MSF, qui a commencé à les vacciner contre la rougeole, si la nourriture n'est pas rapidement plus abondante, tout comme l'eau, si des latrines ne sont pas creusées très vite, il y aura encore des morts. Tout autour du camp, l'odeur des excréments se fait de jour en jour plus insistante et les épidémies risquent de se développer par manque d'hygiène. D'ici quelques jours, les autorités ont promis de transférer ces réfugiés dans un autre camp, un peu plus à l'intérieur des terres, où ils seront vraisemblablement rejoints par ceux du boutre

qui attendent dans le port.

Pendant un temps, il fut question de repousser ce dernier bateau des derniers réfugiés au large, en dehors des eaux territoriales. Aden, déjà fortement touchée par le chômage et qui croule sous le poids des réfugiés de la Corne de l'Afrique que le Yémen, qui les a accueilli jusqu'à présent sans rechigner, ne peut plus absorber ces populations nouvelles, même temporairement, ce dont on peut douter étant donnée la situation politique inextricable qui règne en Somalie. A court terme, il faut donc trouver les espaces disponibles et presser la communauté internationale, et notamment les pays riches, à financer les camps de réfugiés au Yémen, du début à la fin. Certaines ambassades à Sanaa sont déjà à pied d'oeuvre pour collecter quelques fonds d'urgence. A charge ensuite pour cette même communauté internationale de traiter le mal à la racine, en Somalie, par l'envoi, si nécessaire, de casques bleus.

En attendant, le 25 juin, le gouverneur d'Aden a signé un accord avec le HCR pour garder les réfugiés du Gobwein, vraisemblablement après avoir subi des pressions des ambassades étrangères (notamment de France et des Etats-Unis) ainsi que des autorités gouvernementales à Sanaa.

Mais des drames risquent encore d'éclater sous peu. Le HCR a révélé vendredi 26 juin, qu'un autre navire rempli de Somaliens venait de quitter la Somalie pour Aden...

Emmanuel GIROUD

La communauté internationale se mobilise enfin !

Il a fallu près de 200 morts précipitées et tout les aspects médiatiques du drame du Gobwein (d'autres Somaliens ont péri dans la plus grande indifférence dans les traversées d'autres bateaux depuis le début de l'année et dans les camps) pour que la communauté internationale se mobilise. A la dernière minute, dimanche soir 28 juin, nous apprenons, six jours après le drame, que des fonds importants vont être débloqués pour aider le Yémen à accueillir les réfugiés. L'ambassade de Grande-Bretagne annonce que son gouvernement délivre d'urgence une somme de 92.000 dollars, la France 200.000 francs (soit 37.000 dollars) et l'UNICEF 25.000 dollars, pour les réfugiés somaliens d'Aden.

Mais le HCR, qui a pris en charge les réfugiés jusqu'à aujourd'hui, réclame la mobilisation

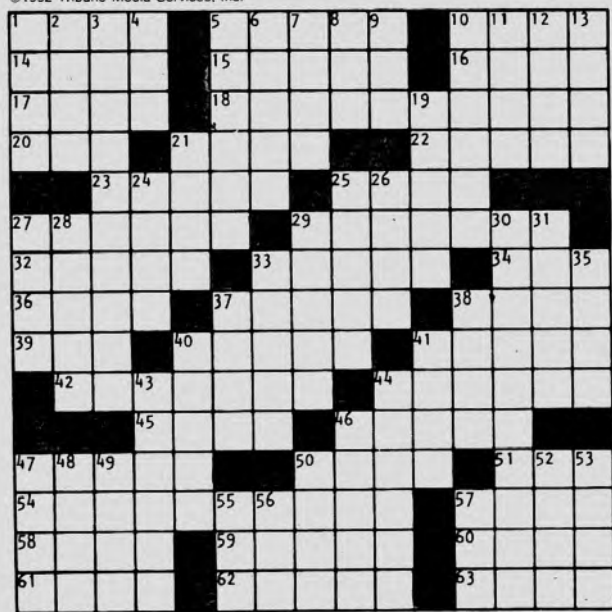
de toutes les ambassades au Yémen pour réunir une somme minimale de 700.000 dollars dans un premier temps pour construire un nouveau camp pouvant accueillir 25.000 réfugiés, et a déjà commencé les études sur le terrain. L'objectif est d'accueillir les nouveaux arrivants pour éviter d'autres refoulements. Le Yémen s'est engagé, par la voix de son ministre des Affaires étrangères, à accueillir les nouveaux boatpeople à la seule condition que la communauté internationale prenne en charge leur survie.

Le Programme Alimentaire Mondial, une autre organisation de l'ONU, a commencé à distribuer, en plus de ceux du HCR, 25.000 repas trois fois par jour, alors que les compagnies pétrolières présentes au Yémen se sont engagées à faire don d'une partie des réserves de nourriture qu'elles possèdent.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Sub detector | 4 Oil-rich bean | 33 Ballads |
| 1 Bulk | 41 Elemental spirit | 5 Intelligent | 35 Ruminant |
| 5 Flame | 42 Sources | 6 Soothes | 37 Friar |
| 10 Golf hazard | 44 Place indicator | 7 Voice | 38 At this place |
| 14 Aware of | 45 Signs a contract | 8 Alphabet letter | 40 Scorch |
| 15 Straight-edge | 46 Backless slippers | 9 Make a mistake | 41 Strong wind |
| 16 Split | 47 Inanimate object | 10 Journey | 43 Washed |
| 17 Remain | 50 Front | 11 Ceremonial act | 44 Wall paintings |
| 18 Electric generator | 51 Article | 12 River in England | 46 Voracious eel |
| 20 Metal container | 54 Western | 13 Lively | 47 The one there |
| 21 Hawaii | 57 Turf fuel | 14 Country in Asia | 48 Golf cup |
| 22 Occurrence | 58 Lily plant | 15 Country in Asia | 49 Metal |
| 23 Inclines | 59 Corolla leaf | 21 Nathan — | 50 Elaborate party |
| 25 Promontory | 60 Drizzle | 24 Fitzgerald | 52 Broadway hit |
| 27 Like some beaches | 61 Serve | 25 Cloudless | 53 Volcano in Italy |
| 29 Hay plant | 62 Low cards | 26 At a great distance | 55 Make a choice |
| 32 Card game expert | 63 Gumbo | 27 Chase fly balls | 56 Through |
| 33 Pilfer | | 28 Antlers | 57 Paid athlete |
| 34 Guided | DOWN | 29 Book of maps | |
| 36 Chest of old | 1 Greatest amount | 30 Slice of beef | |
| 37 Tooth | 2 Against | 31 Mountaintop nest | |
| 38 Run swiftly | 3 Hockey trophy | | |
| 39 African antelope | | | |

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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.

SHAPE UP! (Sol.: 9 letters)

A-Aware; B-Bicycling, Bran; C-Careful, Calories, Cholesterol, Concern; D-Diet; E-Encourage; F-Fat free, Fitness, Fruit; H-Health; L-Life; M-Moderation, Muscle; N-Natural, Needs; P-Plan, Program, Pump; R-Relax, Rest; S-Salt free, Self-control, Sports, Stretch, Strong, Sugarless, Swim; V-Vegetables, Vigor, Vitality, Vitamins; W-Walk, Will power, Weight, Wise

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

TECOT
 YENEM
 REFONZ
 AUVEEN



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

Print answer here: "_____!"

WORDS OF WISDOM

Invest in the truth. It pays handsome dividends every quarter of your life.

Through the ages, art has inspired great thought.

Society needs its dissenters and heretics to grow and evolve.

In times of sorrow one can find solace in the routine rituals of life.

If we could remember to write down half of the great ideas we come up with, we'd all be rich by now.

Machines often evolve faster than our minds can grow and change.

A good laugh can turn around anyone's day, no matter how lousy it has been.

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REWOPLLIWMUSCLE
 HUNTCHOLESTEROL
 CFITNESSMARGORP
 TRNRECKNOCKSIPTI
 EUCAREFULPRTLNB
 RIWI SEBAOSUOAOI
 TTHGIEWRELWMNCC
 SCEERFTLASIIPFY
 NAAXESBVWNNFMLC
 ILLASAI FATFREEL
 MOTLTGLARUTANSI
 ARHEOMODERATION
 TIGRIEGARUOCNEG
 IENEEDSYTILATIV
 VSSEL RAGUSTRONG

ANSWERS ON PAGE SEVEN
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

The former skipper of the Exxon Valdez has been hired as a teacher at a New York maritime college. The Valdez, you may recall, struck a reef in the Alaskan wilderness and leaked 11 million gallons of oil, the worst spill in U.S. history.

Some people in the Philippines still believe in the legend of the "man-ananggal," a supernatural woman who supposedly can separate her body into two parts. The top half is said to fly at night in search of babies to eat.

The Grand Canyon is about a mile deep.

One of Jimi Hendrix's trademark floppy hats recently sold at auction for \$9,000.

Trade experts say the Third World is fast becoming one of the United States' most important buyers of U.S. products and services.

The first truly organized baseball team, the New York Knickerbockers, was formed in 1845.

SLAPSTIX

A KANGAROO IS A POGO STICK WITH A POUCH

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THE FAR SIDE

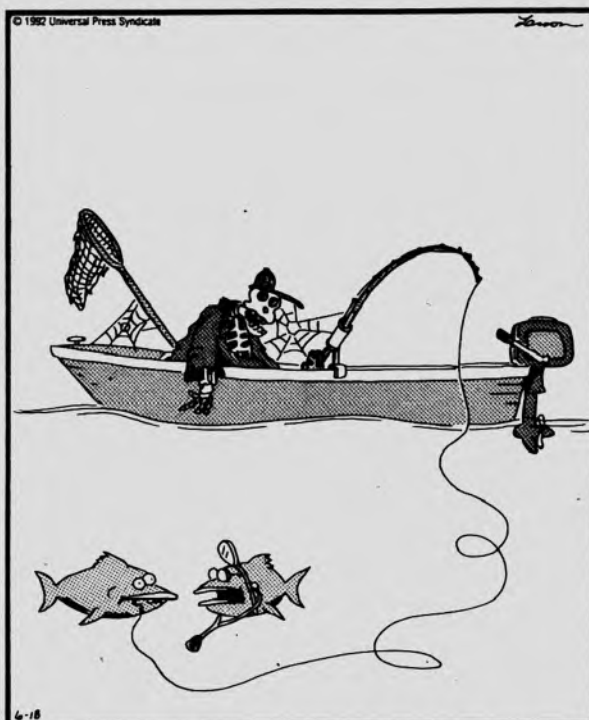
By GARY LARSON



Helen paused. With an audible "wumph," Muffy's familiar yipping had ended, and only the sounds of Ed's football game now emanated from the living room.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Well, first the bad news — you're definitely hooked."

THIS WEEK'S

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Get organized. Schedule a date Tuesday night, to catch up on all the latest gossip.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Tomorrow and the next day will be good for finding a new way to handle an old situation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) After Wednesday, you'll be better able to understand new information about investments, child care, or cooking.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Have your week scheduled by Monday morning. You'll be too busy to worry about it after that.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Your head will begin to clear Tuesday afternoon, so put off studying until then.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Monday night will be OK for discussing a career move, but don't make it yet. Romance should blossom.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Finish up all the jobs that require your undivided attention Monday morning. Conversations will dominate.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Tomorrow and the next day you might get a chance to present your opinions. Take some time now to figure what they are.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Nothing of importance will get done for the first part of the week, as far as you're concerned.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Tomorrow and the next day you may get a chance to talk with somebody whose opinion you admire. Save romance for Friday.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This morning you'll be sharp, but your most productive time is Wednesday through Friday.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Monday night through Tuesday afternoon will be your best time for writing.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) After Tuesday afternoon, you'll be even more sensitive to other people's feelings. Thursday you may be able to help another.

The 1990s: Changing Perceptions of Yemeni Women

This is the second part of an article by Fatma Rawah, the Social Editor. One of the cornerstones in the life of a woman is her married life. Therefore, society's perception of this issue, which is still traditional, is very crucial. In Yemen today, the couple to be married has far less to say in the process than their counterparts in the West. This is even more so as far as the bride is concerned. The degree to which a would-be bride exercises her rights varies considerably from one region of the country to another. The highest degree of flexibility is probably exercised in the Aden-Taiz region, whereas in the tribal parts, such as the remote highlands or desert fringes, the girl does not usually know to whom she is being wed. The parents' decision to marry off their daughter is often influenced by the dowry. As everybody knows, the groom has to pay handsomely to carry off the girl. The original idea of the dowry was twofold:

a) to help finance the marriage celebrations.
b) to symbolize the groom's gift to the bride, and which she uses to buy herself new clothing, jewelry, etc. Unfortunately, the size of the dowry has become one of the main deciding factors in the parents choice of the groom - in some cases it almost becomes a situation in which the bride is taken away by the highest bidder. Most women are fighting off this trend. I know of cases where women would help finance not only the dowry, but also the new home of the couple, if they find the right man. Unfortunately, most of the young men prefer underage and under-educated girls as wives. The more educated a woman, the higher the risks of her becoming an "old maid". This is unfortunate because an educated woman is less of a burden than a less educated one. She is also more able to interact in a mature way with her

husband, especially in raising the children and in addressing various issues in life.

It appears, however, that the main requirement of Yemeni grooms, at this juncture of the evolution of our socio-cultural values, is a docile wife. By the way, it is also true that a less educated wife is easier to dispose of in divorce cases, without awarding her the full rights.

What this means is that society is making women, especially those who are seen as change agents, pay dearly for this role. Career women are liable to be labelled with many names which are morally degrading and psychologically harmful.

This process must not continue. Change is inevitably coming, however slow it may be. We will have to serve as catalysts for it in the hope that the future female generations will benefit from society's changing perceptions of women and their roles.

TRADITIONAL TEXTILES IN YEMEN

Patterns shift and go; bands of color dance up and down. Asymmetrical, unmatching borders throw compositions off center. Juxtapositions of tribal emblems and contemporary symbols lend vigor and surprise. Indeed, the liveliness of Yemen textiles offers a complex visual experience. Generally, there is more play and freedom, a more casual approach to design than one finds in the regular repeats of patterns in machine-made textiles. Yet these distinctive characteristics rarely have been recognized as intentional expressions of aesthetic preferences. The problem, it seems, is due not only to a fault of perception but also to the lack of a descriptive language for discussing these qualities in positive terms. Yemen textiles are usually woven as narrow strips and then sewn together with an irregular alignment of pattern elements. Although a Western mind might construe the shifts in pattern as accidental results of an imprecise process, it is suggested that pre-industrial

looms may have been retained precisely because the un-even result is desired.

In the dyed and printed fabrics, improvisation seems a natural outcome of certain processes. For instance, on the Sanaani sitara (a square sheet that women in Sanaa use to cover themselves), cloth is dyed in a mysterious deep indigo; and patterns of light, reminiscent of a night sky, are created by tightly stitched gatherings that prevent penetration of the dye. Most of the stitches are taken out to reveal the pattern, but some are retained to enrich the surface of the fabric.

Individual variations on a theme are best illustrated when more than one example of a type of cloth is shown. The design consists of patterned blocks organized in grids. Some of the same design units appear in different pieces but vary in arrangements. All the dye is bled from the pattern into the undyed areas, creating an effect of a luminous, thinly painted wash.

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BAHRAIN versus QATAR AT WORLD COURT

Bahrain has submitted a rebuttal of its Gulf neighbor Qatar's request to the World Court to rule on their festering dispute over a clutch of barren but potentially oil-rich islets and reefs, a senior official said late last month.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague would probably take several weeks to study Bahrain's written arguments, which follow a submission from Qatar last February, the Bahraini official said.

Public hearings may follow if both sides agree, he added. It may take months for The Hague to decide whether it even has jurisdiction in the case, which Qatar took to the court on its own last July. Qatar said that it would abide by any ruling the Hague might make.

Manama maintains that the two sides must go together to The Hague to solve the dispute over the islands, shoals and sandbanks controlled by Bahrain. But a joint application has proved difficult so far because the two countries - which were allies during the Gulf War and are both members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - cannot even agree on the terms of the dispute.

Bahrain wants the court to look at the wider issue of sea and land boundaries while Qatar wants it to focus on a few islands which are at the heart of the row.

Bahrain has maintained control of territorial waters claimed by Qatar last April. The United States, Britain, France and Iran have all urged both sides to settle the dispute peacefully after the Qatari announcement, which raised fears of an armed clash.

There have been at least two standoffs between gunboats from the two countries in the past few months. Last year fishermen from Bahrain were seized and later released. Bahrain controls the disputed area under border demarcation decided when Britain handled the two states' foreign affairs during the 1930s.

The GCC had tried to mediate at a collective level, and Saudi Arabia intervened to resolve the problem, but both efforts have failed. The Bahrain-Qatari difference has already strained relations within the GCC.

AFGHAN KILLING FIELDS Searching for those who Vanished during Dark Rule.

Somewhere beneath the abandoned tank dugouts that stretch for kilometers along the Koh-E-safi mountains east of the capital Kabul lie the remains of hundreds of Afghans. They vanished without a trace following the 1978 revolution.

Their only crime was opposing the oppression and terror of the former dictators. The last of them, president Najibullah, was toppled in April by Islamic rebels now running the government.

"I came here to mourn my uncles. Other people are coming too, hoping to find some sign of what happened to our families," said the 29-year-old Abdul Jan, who fought with the Mujahedeen guerrillas against communist rule in Afghanistan.

From 20,000 to 35,000 people in Kabul alone were arrested by the feared KGB-style secret police and were never seen again, said intelligence officials of the new Islamic government's defence ministry. Human rights activists, however, consider that a conservative figure.

Afghans talked in whispers for years about the "polygon," the rock strewn plain at the foot of the jagged mountains 25 kilometers east of Kabul. Many of those who disappeared are believed to be buried in mass graves in the plain.

At another level, The 56-member Mujahedeen Council elected on 28th Burhanudeen Rabbani as the country's new leader.

Ethiopian Elections Completed

Government troops and one of Ethiopia's largest opposition factions, the Oromo, fought last week, but officials said the violence has not derailed the country's first multiparty elections.

President Meles Zenawi Meles, speaking to an emergency session of the ruling council of representatives late last month, said two foreigners had been killed and two wounded in one of the clashes. He did not identify the victims. Despite the fighting with the Oromo Liberation Front, and boycotts by it and several smaller groups, the elections were started as scheduled on the 21st of June, and were completed without any additional complications.

The Oromo faction, claimed that its supporters and candidates had been arrested and intimidated by the Meles' group, the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). It also expressed fears that the EPRDF will unfairly manipulate the vote results.

The polls for powerful regional governments are meant to set Ethiopia on a course towards democracy. It is based on a clearly decentralized system in which the various clans and groups will have a strong say in their local affairs. Voting by secret ballot is set for more than 500 districts. It may be days or weeks before the winners are announced.

Ethiopia, following last year's overthrow of Dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam's rule, is charting a new course for itself.



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**GERMANY SETS UP
PEACEKEEPING FORCE**

Germany is training up to 2,000 troops for peacekeeping operations next year, and might soon be able to send soldiers on UN offensive operations overseas, Defence Minister Volka Ruehe said.

"There is no way of avoiding German participation in blue-helmet action," Ruehe said. Germany's constitution, framed by the World War Two victors to limit German military might, bars deployment outside the Nato region, but the Government wants to change it to allow for so-called 'blue-helmet' world peace-keeping operations.

"We are preparing one to two thousand Federal troops to take part in blue-helmet action from next year," Ruehe added.

"These are not just medics like we have heard for some time in Cambodia, but light infantry, military engineers, paratroops," he said. Ruehe said Bonn would send experts to Finland, Austria and Norway, to learn more about UN peace-keeping operations.

"Later German involvement in UN offensive operations cannot be ruled out," he said. His comments came one day after the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU), of which Germany is a member, agreed on a new military role allowing it to send troops to world trouble spots.

Asked how the Government hoped to win support of the SPD oppositor for such a plan, Ruehe said: "We must lay the political groundwork in the next few months."

**INDONESIA TO STOP
POLYTHENE IMPORT**

Indonesia is expected to stop importing polyethylene, one of basic materials for plastic production, as Petrokimia Nusantara, a privately-owned chemical company located in Cilegon, West Java, will run its first operation and produce such material in 1993. Starting in 1993, Indonesia is expected to stop importing polyethylene, head of the company Hermanto N.J. Goodard told a seminar on the development of plastic basic materials industry and plastic business, recently.

At first stage, the company will produce some 200,000 tonnes of high density polyethylene (HDPE) and linear low desity polyethylene (LLDPE) worth some 500 billion rupiahs, he added.

Indonesia has so far imported 250,000 tons of plastic pure basic material per year. The \$800 million industry run by the company is considered to be able to cover the polyethylene (PE) domestic demand, Goodard said.

If the first stage of the operation succeeds, the company will increase its polyethylene production from 200,000 tonnes to 400,000 tonnes per year, He said. The 47 hectare wide industry, which has reached a 75% development will apply a sophisticated polymerisation technology that is gas phase fluid bed polymerisation technology.

Such a sophisticated technology was first developed by BP. Chemicals, an international chemical company which supplied plastic basic materials to some 60 countries.

PEROT 'PROUD' TO BUY ELECTION

Ross Perot has a simple answer to Democratic and Republican critics who say the billionaire Texas businessman is trying to buy his way into the White House: They're absolutely right.

"I'm buying it for the people because they can't afford it - you made it too expensive," Perot said in California as he opened a three day campaign swing that included Colorado and Boston.

Perot's direct assault on those who rebuke his wealth and largely self-financed campaign is part of a stump speech that's both folksy and funny, with a good dose of criticism for both President Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton.

But it contains few specific on how Perot would handle the nation's problems.

Instead, the speech is a series of slogans and cliches promising change: quotations from Winston Churchill and Lech Walesa mixed with the credo of the fictional three musketeers, "one for all and all for one." Perot's road show, unusual for a candidate who has campaigned mostly through television, is taking him to states where volunteers say they have gathered enough petition signatures to place him on the November ballot. At the events in California and Denver, Perot had a film crew gathering material for television commercials, including interview with supporters.

He is over the 20-state mark now, counting the states celebrating the

end of their petition drives next week. As he tries to pre-empt others from using his wealth against him as an issue, Perot is trying to turn the tables on Bush and Clinton.

He tells audiences they should closely watch every minute of the part conventions this summer - not because of any support for Bush or Clinton but because their tax dollars are paying for them. And Perot tries to play down spending his own money on the campaign by saying that Bush and Clinton have spent \$17 million a piece so far to his \$1.4 million.

"And we're ahead," Perot said with smile in California's heavily republican Orange county. "So if they want to say we bought it, I say we bought it wholesale."

It's one of Perot's most reliable laugh lines but it's not a meaningful comparison. Unlike Perot, Bush and Clinton competed in months of primary contests. And Perot's figure does not include spending from volunteers who say they are quick to dig into their wallets for campaign expenses but often slow of remiss in documenting them.

"Ross keeps saying that, but one of the reasons he's only spent \$1.3 million or \$1.4 million is because so many of us are spending our own money," said Jack Brodbeck, a marketing executive acting as California spokesman for the Perot petition effort.

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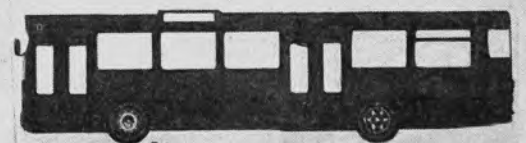
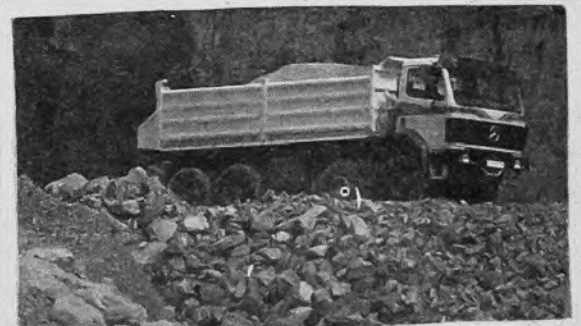
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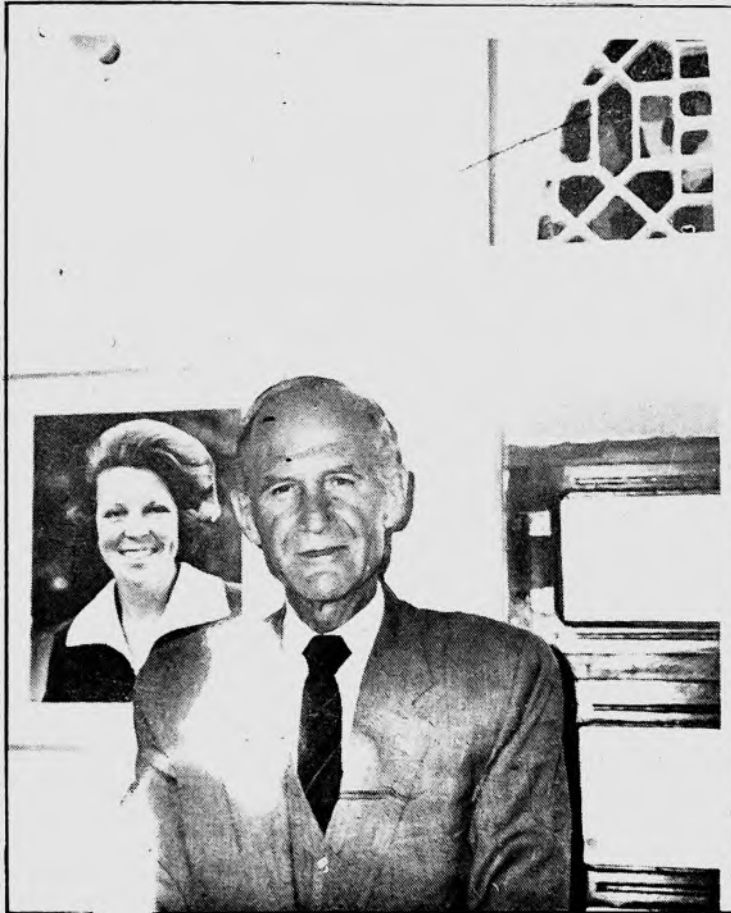
MERCEDES-BENZ ARE THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCERS OF TRUCKS.

Dutch Ambassador Bos: The Netherlands and Yemen have enjoyed a very good level of cooperation and understanding

The Republic of Yemen and the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands have just concluded their mid-term review on development cooperation. It was a watershed in the two country's efforts to streamline their cooperation.

Yemen Times used this opportunity to speak to H.E. Mr. Gysbert Bos, the Dutch ambassador in Sanaa. The career of Mr. Bos makes him one of the experts in development efforts as he was involved in his country's aid program to various countries extending from franco-phone Africa to Latin America. That is why he can address the cooperation efforts of his country with Yemen with the required depth and rigor.

Experts of the interview:



Q: Can you shed light on your discussions and conclusions following the mid-year review?

A: We held a two-day mid-term review (24-25/6/1992) which is a yearly event during which the two sides sit together to assess all their activities. This is different from the other yearly consultation which takes place at the end of each year. In this second event, the discussions focus on policy matters in preparation for the next year's cooperation efforts.

Q: What have you agreed upon at the end of last week's review talks?

A: We have agreed to extend our aid activities that were limited to the former YAR to the southern governorates. After long consultations, the two sides agreed to start in Abyan governorate. We have also agreed that the Yemeni side can draw up to US\$28 million in Dutch assistance every year, by presenting projects which meet Dutch financing requirements.

At risk of giving unnecessary details, let me tell you that the two sides agreed on five specific actions:

1. An independent Yemeni evaluation of the Netherlands aids performance will be carried out.

2. The Ministry of Planning and Development will be the focal point and channel through which all Dutch aid will flow. Of course,

the very fruitful cooperation with line ministries will continue, but the new system will give a more focussed channel.

3. The Embassy of the Netherlands will put more emphasis on its structural obligation. It will embark on more effective monitoring of on-going activities.

4. National working committees will be set up for every project clusters of similar projects. These will discuss policy issues regarding the projects.

5. The Netherlands will provide new programmes for institutional support in the line ministries.

Q: What was the main new shortcoming that came across in your review efforts?

A: I can mention two points that both sides agreed upon. It was pointed out that the well-intended, but nevertheless sometimes bothersome propensity to donorcentric thinking and planning, is detrimental to the integration of activities in local organizational or budgetary structures, and thus, to future sustainability of the projects. On the other hand, the lack of sufficient countervailing power and input from the Yemeni side that would lead to more Yemeni guidance and control concerning the way and modalities in which the Netherlands support could best serve Yemeni interests in the varying institutional settings.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit of the aid volume and the aid projects?

A: Our aid program with Yemen is part of a regional program called the Nile and Red Sea Region (which covers Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Yemen and the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip).

Through this program, as I explained, Yemen can draw up to US\$28 million every year.

Yemen and the Netherlands have enjoyed a very good level of cooperation and understanding. Today there are (36) projects which are part of the Netherlands aid program. An additional (12) new projects are to be added this year.

Over the years, I would reckon disbursed Dutch aid to Yemen is about US\$300 million.

Then there are some special programs which have their own funding in such fields as the environment, women and development, development of human resources, etc. In these projects, the country can directly apply for funding, and if it makes a convincing case, it gets the resources. In addition, there are emergency aid programs, the commodity support program, etc.

(Editor's note: For details on Dutch assistance to projects in Yemen, please see table on page 8).

Continues on page 8

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