



# YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 8 - 14 JULY 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 28

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Fares As-Saqqaf  
Draws the Line  
between various  
shades of  
Islamicists.  
p. 3



Yemen's Round Table in Geneva.  
pp. 8 + 9

- Life in Red Sea.  
p. 4
  - Integrating the  
Handicapped into  
Society. p. 6
  - The Marib Dam,  
part 2. p. 9
- 
- The French Pages  
10 + 13

## OUR VIEWPOINT



### The Official Media Is Out of Touch!

The basic ingredient in a democracy is the inherent understanding, belief and acceptance of the rulers that they are accountable to the people. This instills a certain degree of respect by the rulers for the wishes of the governed. Unfortunately, this concept which is so basic to democratic systems does not yet exist in Yemen. Our leaders think that by allowing the people to voice their wishes, democracy is installed.

The sad thing is that while the higher levels of authority are willing to really experiment with true democracy and slowly let go of their former powers, the junior and mid-level bureaucrats are unable to cope with the changes. The unfortunate side to this whole thing is that the junior bureaucrats feel they are genuinely serving the leaders, and by extension, the country. Let me use the official media as an example.

Take a copy of Al-Thawrah newspaper today and one from a few years back. You will hardly see any difference. Why? Partly because the guys in charge of it are unable to make the jump - psychologically as well as in real terms. They are stuck in the past. Take the TV station. Did you know that the top management of the the TV station calls in, almost on a daily basis, to receive re-assurances from the Ministry of Information that they are doing fine. During the conversation, they seek instructions as to who/what to put on the air or to blacklist.

It is sad that the top management of the TV and Radio station should seek, and receive, daily instructions on petty matters.

What a pity! They could have contributed to the country's democratization process, instead of accepting to be holdovers from the past.

*The Publisher*

### The PEN American Center: "Please conduct a full-scale investigation."

The PEN American Center, which is headquartered in New York, has written (June 30th, 1992) to Dr. Hassan Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister, urging his intervention in the case of Mansur Muhammad Ahmad Rajih. "We have received reports alleging that political opponents in the former YAR were commonly arrested and convicted on trumped-up criminal charges; we fear that this may have been the fate of Mr. Rajih," the letter stated.

Mr. Rajih, it will be remembered, is a prominent writer and poet.

"An international organization of writers committed to defending our colleagues' rights, we are alarmed at the possibility that Mr. Rajih has been wrongly accused, and is being held solely for his non-violent opposition to the government. We are also deeply disturbed by the trial process and the reports of torture, and we urge you to conduct a full-scale investigation into this case and make the findings public.

"Finally, if no evidence is found that Mr. Rajih committed an internationally recognized crime, we ask you to order his immediate and unconditional release," wrote the letter signed by the President, as well as the Co-Chair for the Freedom-to-Write Committee.

The letter was copied to H.E. General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, and the Yemen Times.

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### YEMENI-SAUDI MINISTERIAL TALKS

Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas disclosed that the Yemeni Minister of State, Dr. Abdulaziz Ad-Dali, and the Saudi Education Minister, Mr. Al-Khuwaiter, are scheduled to meet in Geneva on the 20th of current July. The two ministers are going to study how to best talk about their countries' differences regarding their almost 1500 kilometer border.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia are at loggerheads concerning the location of the borderline which runs from the Red Sea eastwards into the Rub Al-Khali.

In 1934, the two countries have gone to war. Yemen, which lost the war, was forced into signing a border accord which will expire next year (following its last extension).

Yemen is laying claim to the three governorates it had lost to Saudi Arabia after the 1934 war (Aseer, Najran and Jaizan), while Saudi Arabia on its part is pushing claims deep into Yemeni territory.

Yemen has been offering to talk about the border problem for the last two years immediately since its reunification, but Saudi Arabia has been holding off.

In the meanwhile, both sides continue to maneuver for more international support and sympathy, and at the same time stacking up on their supportive documents. Neither side has yet started mobilizing its citizens in this showdown.

**السَّفَارَى**  
**EL SOFFARY**

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## YEMEN TIMES

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## PERSONAL VIEW

Need for Private  
Printing PressesYahia Yusuf Hudeidi,  
Yemen Times

Yemen is trying to tell the rest of the world that we have freedom of the press. Well, at the surface, that is true. But look a little bit deeper.

The government is at every corner awaiting to stop the people from exercising their freedom of expression. We see this in the Yemen Times on almost a daily basis - although some of our readers would be surprised or some would say, "You had it coming."

For example, the Ministry of Information constantly files lawsuits. That is number one. Then, the importing of paper and printing material is in government hands. Third, printing presses represent substantial investments. At the moment most of the papers, including, the Yemen Times, are printed with the government. We have to pay for everything at the market rate. That is fair. We have to pay in cash, and in advance. Well, that is okay. But all of a sudden, they tell you they have decided not to print the paper. They have told this on Tuesday - the day the paper is being prepared to go to the press.

I don't think the media will ever be free of government intervention until they can get the job done without any need of government services. The government facilities presumably belong to the people, but a few officials have been using the government facilities to promote themselves and their personal interests and ideas.

Could the private sector pool its resources and build a modern printing press? This way, we will truly create the base for freedom of the press. By developing our independence from the government, we will certainly move forward in our quest for a democratic system based on a multiplicity of ideas and parties.

## LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL

NIMIR First Oil Shipment Target Date:  
26th September, 1992

Nimir Petroleum Company is pushing ahead aggressively with preparations to start pumping oil from its Shabwah concession. Yemen Times learnt that several of the oil well networks, dubbed sputniks, have already undergone testing. Works in progress includes preparing the facilities, completing seismic and other studies, reservoir engineering, mops, flowline, terminal, CPU, etc. Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources told the Yemen Times that they are satisfied with the vigor with which the Nimir management is pushing ahead with work.

Parliament Talks Regarding  
Supreme Elections Committee

On and off, the House of Representatives tackled the issue of the Supreme Elections Committee. In several sporadic sessions this week, the House was trying to agree on an fifteen-name list that will be forwarded to the Presidential Council. The Council will then choose five-to-nine members from the list.

The Committee, whose validity is four years, enjoys extensive rights in organizing and managing the elections. Its decisions are final in many issues regarding the elections procedures.

As a result, many of the political parties, especially those not represented in the House, have been trying hard to influence the choice of names on the list. As one politician said, "We would like to make sure that the right people get on that list."

## Qadhi Al-Arashi Returns from Sudan

H.E. Qadhi Abdul-Karim Al-Arashi, Member of the Presidential Council, returned to Sanaa yesterday, Tuesday, coming from Khartoum. Qadhi Al-Arashi had represented Yemen in the celebrations of Sudan's national day.

Continued from page 16:

## French Ambassador Nodinot's Interview

**Q: Could you give us examples of French imports of Yemen?**

**A:** Let me first state that the trade statistics for 1991 show that Yemen had a surplus in its trade relations with France. The main imports are crude oil, shellfish and other marine products, and starting from just this month, grapes. We expect that more and more Yemeni products will find marketing outlets in France.

**Q: What are the difficulties in relations with your aid to the government?**

**A:** I am happy to say that we are strongly interested in continuing our aid program. Sometimes, there are complications

because of bureaucratic snags. At the moment, we have on hold FF.15 million

and YR.20 million of French aid which are immediately available for Yemenis to use. These amounts are blocked because the Yemeni side cannot complete the necessary arrangements to draw on them. For example, the coffee project; for example, the assistance to the returnees; for example, the medical cooperation project. Maybe I could use this opportunity to declare my strong desire to disburse the amounts allocated to the returnees before the termination of my service here in Sanaa.

Of course, the government has already done a lot to remedy this recently, especially as called for by the reform plan.

**Q: The 14th of July, what does it mean?**

## More Somali Refugees on the Way

Yemen Times learnt that two more ships carrying some 4500 persons have sailed out of Somalia last week on their way to Yemen. The on-going civil war in Somalia has forced several hundred thousand persons to flee their country to the neighboring countries.

Somali refugees have started flowing into Yemen over the last two years in ever increasing numbers. It was only with the incidents of the Gob Wein vessel that the world community woke up last month to this sad reality.

The two large camps which the High Commission for Refugees is operating in Aden are already too full to absorb more people.

It is worth mentioning that Kenya and Yemen are the only two countries in the region which have harbored the Somali refugees.

## Austrian Mission in Sanaa Inaugurated

The Austrian Honorary Consultate in Sanaa was inaugurated yesterday, Tuesday. On the occasion, Mr. Abdul-Galeel Radman, the Austrian Honorary Consul, gave a reception to which the diplomatic corps and a number of senior dignitaries were invited.

Representing Austrian interests in Yemen is the Austrian ambassador in Riyadh.

## Yemeni-Turkish Cooperation

Dr. Abdul-karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, completed a three-day visit to Ankara, Turkey. The visit aims to consolidated the already strong bilateral relations and cooperation between the two Muslim and Middle East nations. Bilateral, regional and international issues were on our agenda of talks, the Yemeni Foreign Minister said.

Dr. Al-Iryani's visit to Turkey is actually the first visit by a Yemeni foreign Minister to Turkey, although the heads of states of the two countries have exchanged visit

**A:** The 14th of July is a landmark in the history of humanity. It was a break with concepts and beliefs which the world had held for a long time in terms of the inherent value of the individual and citizen. In many ways, we can say it was the beginning of the modern value system.

**Q: Finally, how do you view your experience of Yemen?**

**A:** I am very happy with the time I have spent here. It has been a rich and fulfilling experience. I think that if Yemen continues on this path of tolerance, democracy, and a multi-party political system, coupled with a free enterprise economic structure, then its future is definitely very promising.

Fares As-Saqqaf:

# "Yes, we seek to take over power!"

The religious groups of Yemen are not one monolithic block. They range from the extreme fundamentalists, to the very enlightened and tolerant ones. They are today, in fact, grouped within four political parties - the Islah, the Al-Haq, the Hizb Al-A'mal Islami, and the Ittihad Al-Qiwaa Asha'biyyah. Even within the Islah, the largest of the four, one can easily see different shades of religious fervor. The young members of the Islah, who do not have any former association with either tribal groups or organized political life, represent the moderate or enlightened faction. A leading member of this group is Fares As-Saqqaf. He is the Deputy Director of the Information Committee of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (the Islah) and the Editor-in-chief of the Nahdhah newspaper.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q:** Any group that is unable to cope with change is often relegated to the backwaters of history. This is often the problem of religious groups. Do you see this as a threat to your party?

**A:** I agree that as Muslims we should not be stuck with the rigid text of the teachings and forget their spirit. We can never re-live the past, nor can it serve as an appropriate model, in its old form. In other words, we cannot be strangers to our own world.

This problem concerns major philosophical as well as day-to-day decisions. As a group determined to keep up with the tides of change, we view this very issue as our most important task within our party.

**Q:** But your party (the Islah) is a grouping of diverse, and sometimes incoherent elements. Do you see this as a problem?

**A:** The Islah is basically a coalition that is bound together by a flexible attitude and system. This means that there is agreement on a minimum base, and beyond that, there may be differences among the various members of the party. These differences lead to complementarity rather than contradictions.

**Q:** How do you view the crisis of political Islam?

**A:** I said earlier that we need some form of revival in order to re-understand our own values and traditions. In my opinion, this is not only the question of political Islam, but it is a question of the modern Muslim. There are two factors at play here - the historic accumulation as well as the demands of modernism. We have yet to strike an optimal balance between those two factors. In the meanwhile, we have to by-pass the pressures of enthusiastic verbose in the way we handle ourselves.

**Q:** Still, you have to address such issues as relations with the West, the rights of women, attitude towards the 'other' or different, especially the non-Muslim?

**A:** Of course, these are the most visible of so many outstanding issues.

Regarding relations with the West, I think that we have to go beyond the traditional choices of love it or leave it. We need not internalize everything Western, nor should we shun everything Western. The human civilization is a process of accumulation. Thus part of the existing civilization belongs to former civilizations, which makes it a general human legacy. One more thing, I think we need to transcend our traditional fears and worries of conspiracies. As Ibn Khaldun said, "The weak tend to emulate the strong." Thus, the fact that we are picking up certain Western traits is not something to be alarmed about. Regarding women's rights, unfortunately, our perceptions have been shaped by closed minds with extreme views. We definitely need to reconsider our positions, but this will not be easy. If it is possible at the rational level, it will be difficult at the emotional level.

With respect to the "other", this has resulted from a certain cultural despotism and political backwardness. People are created to be different, and this by itself is a gift to humanity; otherwise we will be robots.

Accepting the "other", and trying to understand him/her is a basic requirement for the workings of a democracy.



**Q:** Let us move to more mundane issues. What do you make of the recent assassinations?

**A:** I don't look at this issue from a purely security angle, it is part and parcel of the overall condition of things. In my opinion, the further stratification of our society will lead to more disorder.

**Q:** What is your position on the coming National Conference?

**A:** I think the need for the various national forces to come together needs no convincing. I therefore, believe it is a useful tool. But, I hope that preparations will be thorough so that it will achieve its goals.

**Q:** You in the Islah seek to usurp political power in the name of religion. That is something you must have heard before. What is your answer?

**A:** This accusation has its base in Christian attitudes to religion. In Christianity, religion is a personal matter. But in Islam, politics is part of religion. But the accusation that we are trying to take over power is actually correct. We do work to reach power, but in the democratic and legal way.

**Q:** How do you see the end of the transitional period?

**A:** I know some people may be opposed to elections because they worry they will lose. But I don't think anybody will be stupid enough to stand in the way of the tide. There is no chance of a reversal and the transitional period will end through the elections.

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# THE RED SEA - EXTRAORDINARY SEA-LIFE

The Red Sea (Al-Bahr Al-Ahmar, in Arabic) has always been an important outlet for Yemen throughout the ages. It continues to play a vital role today, in the country's international trade, fishing activities, tourism, security issues, and other major concerns.

Coral depends on adequate sunlight to flourish, hence much of it grows near to the surface. Thus even those without diving qualifications can enjoy much reef beauty by simply watching it float along the water surface. For the most part, the water is extremely

knocking bits of living coral off the colonies with their formidable teeth. You can literally hear them in their destructive work like distant demolition crews. Look closely at the Fan corals, popular camouflage homes to Feather stars. Star fish are fascinating to watch, so long as you are not a coral polyp - they can devastate tracts of living coral as effectively, if less noisily, than parrot fish.

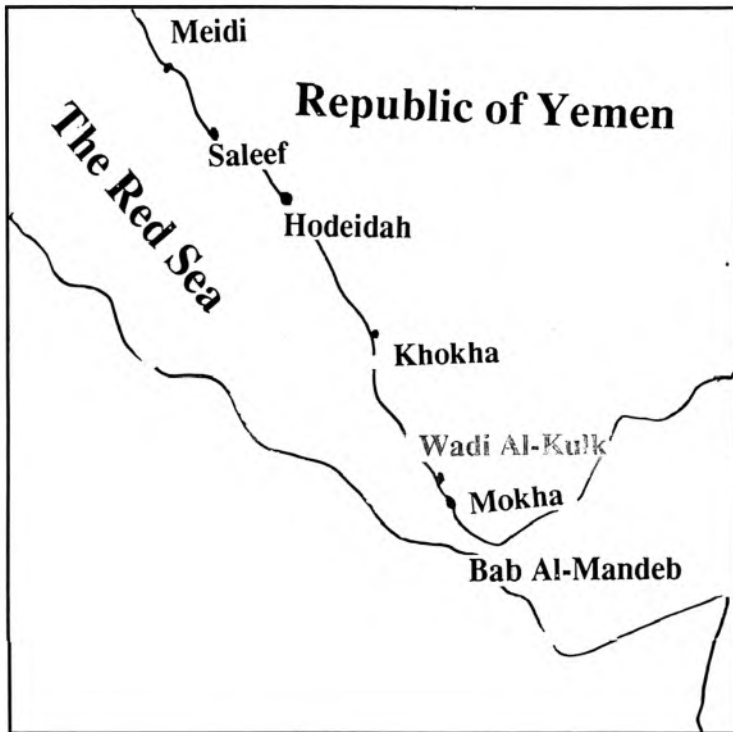
The real stars, however, are the corals themselves, built up by the millions upon millions of small, individual polyps into some of the world's most astounding structures. The foundations are the cement-like secretions made by these miniature, sedentary creatures that are, themselves, master predators. As the colonies increase in size, depending on the species of polyp concerned, they will develop into many, many different shapes and forms -- branches, plates, umbrellas, domes, and more - and the staggering color variations.

The Red Sea is renowned for its profusion of Fire coral, whose name reflects not only its brilliant color but the fact that its tentacles can cause a nettle-like sting and accompanying rash. In total contrast are the tall, thin strands of black coral which are particularly prized for making jewellery. Another feature is the bushy 'soft' corals that bend and sway with the soft underwater currents. These Dendronephthya come in almost translucent shades of red, orange, pink and purple. Although in daylight, the colors are magnificent, a majority of the corals are nocturnal feeders, withdrawing into their protective residences during the day. Their soft bodies and tentacles are often paler or a contrasting color to their exoskeletons. This factor, plus the fascination of seeing them actually reaching out and grasping their minute prey, means that night diving is particularly magical. With a spotlight

illuminating the jewel-like creatures against the stark contrasting of the night sea, the experience has been described as 'dreaming with your eyes open.'

To add to Yemen's Red Sea marine beauty, the palm trees and other varieties which grown in the Tihama transgress into the sea. This equatorial feature forms a beautiful part of the scenery in Wadi Al-Mulk, just a few kilometers north of Mokha, and repeats itself in many locations, but notably in Al-Khokha.

The combination of the sense of weightlessness in this exceptionally buoyant water, the color and endless variations in movement - the gentle swaying of the soft corals, to the jinking shoals of small darting fish, to the slow-motion ballet of the passing ray - all gives new meaning to Shakespeare's words "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy".



There are almost as many stories to explain why the Red Sea is called red as there are days in the year. The most prosaic of the explanations is apparent to anyone who witnesses the sun going down over the legendary waterway. Almost every evening of the year, the fiery sunset tinges the sea with iridescent colors. Yet, it is probably the colorful red coral reefs that give the sea its name. For all the priceless cargoes that have been carried above the waves down the years, and the vast potential mineral and oil resources in the seabed, arguably the most valuable of all the Red Sea assets lies beneath the surface - the miles and miles of breathtakingly beautiful coral reefs which are among the richest in the world.

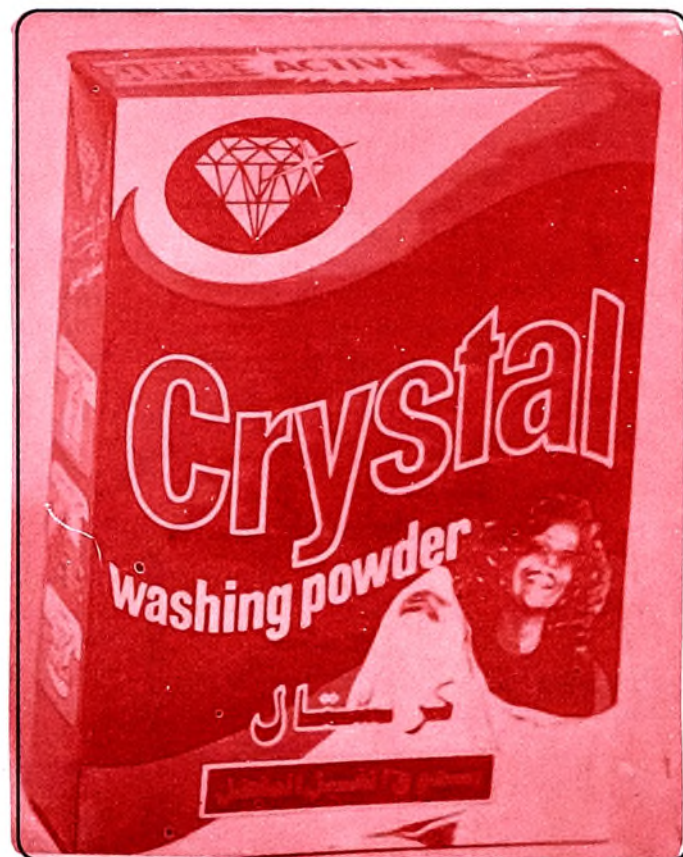
Without any fresh water running into it, discounting the seasonal floods that are unleashed through the various wadis, especially in its southern half, the Red Sea is unusually saline, and virtually tideless. The heat of the surrounding land and the lack of strong currents keep water temperatures constant, and the only time that the sea becomes unduly ruffled is around midday. All the above factors not only suit the corals and their residents, but also make for ideal diving conditions.

clear, with visibility up to fifty meters, so there is no lack of interest for the surface swimmer. The main thing to remember is that the sun can have a devastating effect on your shoulders and back, so take along an old shirt as you are bound to spend a lot of time out there once you see the vistas below.

Scuba, of course, offers the additional freedom to get closer to the coral, fish, crustaceans and to explore the deep valleys, ledges and caverns that make up this vast and fascinating seascape. In most areas, there is a fairly long walk out through shallow lagoon water to the reef table, rendering the eventual plunge into deeper, cooler water pleasantly exhilarating. Beneath the surface, the reef appears to throb with life, much too much to take in at one glance. Huge colonies of Fire coral assault the eye on the edge of the reef, home to wrass, exotic cod, brilliant blue and yellow angel fish and swirling curtains of damselfish. Surgeon fish advertise their presence with flashing blue and silver stripes, but beware, the yellow spines at the base of the tail which are razor sharp and give the fish its name. Parrot fish in hues of green, blue and yellow, sometimes tipped with pink, can be observed

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## Establishment of the Yemeni- American Friendship Society

Planned to coincide with the American national day, 208 Yemenis gathered at the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry on July 4th, to establish the Yemeni- American Friendship Society.

The society hopes to serve as a forum to promote a better understanding and cooperation between the peoples of Yemen and the United States. Its objectives also include to participate in creating an environment of trust and confidence so as to foster more exchange in the fields of business, culture, sports, education, archaeology, tourism, medical services, etc. Its role is basically in the form of providing unbiased information so as to generate as

much good will on both sides as possible.

Over the last two months, a small group of Yemenis has been preparing for the founding of this society. It drew up the society's charter, completed formalities with the Ministry of Social Affairs, and called the meeting.

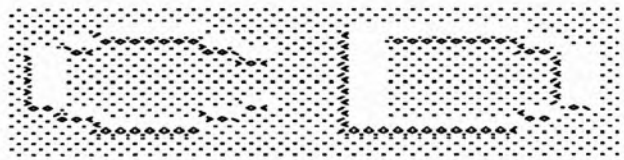
The meeting progressed quickly beyond courtesy statements, to discuss the proposed charter, which was amended on several points. Finally, the representative of the Ministry called for election of the 11-person executive board of the society by direct and secret ballots.

On final count, there were 24 candidates. The results of the votes were:

1. Mr. Abdul-Wasa Hayel Saeed Anam - President
2. Dr. Raoofah Hassan Al-Sharqi - Vice President
3. Mr. Jamal Al-Mutarrif - Secretary-General
4. Mr. Alwan Shaibani - Financial Manager
5. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf - International Manager
6. Mr. Farooq Al-Hirwi - Internal Affairs Manager
7. Mohamed Abdo Saeed - Membership Drive Manager
8. Mohamed Nasser Sanabani - Activities Manager
9. Abdullah Ali Al-Sunaidar - Member
10. Ahmed Hussain Al-Watary - Member
11. Mahfooz Shammakh - Member

Distribution of responsibilities is tentative.

## DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY



### EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A		ADEN	
Afghanistan	217691	Czechoslovakia	32101
Algeria	209688/89	China	32604/30
Bulgaria	217244	Ethiopia (Commercial)	31335
China	275337/40/41	France	32129/090
Cuba	217304	Germany	32162/011
Czechoslovakia	247946	India	33131
Djibouti	265469	Iran	31893/361
Egypt	275948/9	Italy	31848
Ethiopia	208833	Japan	32081/33282
France	275995	Palestine	32717/340
Germany	216756/757	Russian F.R.	32729/32625
Hungary	216679	Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
India	241980	Somalia	41421/101
Iran	206945/948	U.K.	32711/12/13
Iraq	216681/790		
Italy	73409/78849		
Japan	207356/208753		
Jordan	216701		
Korea (Dem)	232340		
Korea(Rep)	245959/60		
Kuwait	216317/319		
Lebanon	203959		
Libya	208815/6		
Mauritania	216770		
Morocco	247964		
Netherlands	215626/7/8		
Oman	208933/4		
Pakistan	248813/14		
Palestine	217306/348		
Poland	248362		



### 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
KLM78093/76968/270879	
Kuwait Airways	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583/667/678
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/275028
Sabena	205865
Saudia	240958/9/60
Sudan Airways	272503/4/5
Syrian 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



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Taj Sheba 272372

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Ambassador 231247/50  
Al Burj 75852

**Taiz (04)**  
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Yazan 217997

**Marib (063)**  
Bilquis Marib 2666-2371

**Sadah (051)**  
Al Mamoon 2203/2459

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Life Express	207885
Skypack	77310



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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

## Radda Barnen Promotes a New Approach to Integrate Yemen's Handicapped into Society

On the 4th and 5th of July, Radda Barnen, in collaboration with a number of Yemeni government and voluntary organizations, has organized a workshop under the theme of "Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) of Handicapped Individuals into Society".

Thirty seven persons from the Ministries of Insurance and Social Affairs, Health, Information, and Education; from the Federation of Yemen Women, Sanaa University, the Mental Development Center, the Deaf and Dumb Society, the Society for the Physically Disabled, the Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy Center, and other organisations participated.

Four work-groups studied the theoretical aspects of CBR, the experiences of other countries, and the program's potential application to the Yemeni environment. "We hope to start applying this idea in Taiz and Lahej governorates," explained Mr. Mohammed Abdo Zagheer, Director of the CBR Project. "We start immediately," he added. Dr. David Henley, Pediatric Neurologist and CBR expert with Radda Barnen, explained the thrust of the program. "All over the world, there are usually two sides to the problem. On the one hand, it is a problem of socio-cultural values which lead the families of the handicapped individuals to hide the problem or simply hide the handicapped member of the family. On the other hand, it is a problem of the availability of services that cater to the handicapped. Thus, it is not enough to urge the families to openly address the problem and bring out the handicapped members of the family unless there are services available to these individuals," he said. Hence, the importance of the CBR program. On the one hand, it aims to educate the families and the public at large to cope with this problem. On the other hand, it hopes to equip the handicapped with skills and qualifications in order that they may be able to contribute to society in a more positive way. "The main mechanism for doing this is the primary health care units scattered through-out the Yemeni cities and countryside," he added. For society at large, it is a

matter of priorities. There is fierce competition for the limited resources which the government and society can muster. Thus, how viable is it to transfer resources for the integration of the handicapped.

The answer is really simple at the economic as well as the moral levels:

First, the CBR is a very low-cost approach to the problem.

Second, society cannot simply overlook this issue because it concerns a large segment of society.

According to a study by Dr. Azza Ghanem of Sanaa University, the percentage of handicapped children in Yemen ranges from 8% (1983 field study in Hababah, Sanaa), to 9.6% in Taiz and Sanaa cities (1988 field survey by Medical College students, Sanaa University) to 13% (1985 field survey of 37 villages north of Sanaa, by College of Education students at Sanaa University).

So the problems of some 10-12% of society cannot simply be ignored.

Third, in economics, it is well known that morbidity entails a high cost as it forces a segment of the work-force to be non-productive for a short time (during sickness). With the handicapped, it is a life-long condition. Society is thus better off if it enables this group to be productive. Commenting on the CBR approach in Yemen, Mr. Staffan Engblom, Country Representative of Radda Barnen (the Swedish Save-the-Children Program) in Yemen, said, "It calls for the full coordinated involvement of all levels of society:

- At the community level, CBR is a component of an integrated community development program. It should be based on decisions taken by its members using local resources.

- At the intermediate level, a network of professional

support services must be provided by the government. Its personnel should give training and provide technical supervision to the community personnel including referral services for the most difficult cases.

- At the national level, CBR seeks the involvement of the government and voluntary associations in the leading managerial role."

Mr. Engblom explained that Radda Barnen is helping out with a pilot project in both Taiz and Lahej. Once a successful model is developed, it will hopefully be replicated in other governorates.

In Yemen, between 500000 to one million children need some kind of extra support and training due to one kind of disability or another. Today, very little assistance is given to these children - in many cases,



they are just hidden away due to shame by the families who don't want to mention that they have a disabled child," he added.

One of the physicians participating in the workshop gave

a telling example of this behavior. "I have known a friend and his family for fifteen years, and I thought I knew everybody in the household. Then one day, I received a call from my friend. He urged to come over immediately as one of his children is very sick. I went over to attend to the sick child - it was a disabled child. I discovered that my friend has a disabled child after fifteen years of close friendship." As Engblom concludes, "In most cases, the children and their families can be trained to allow the child to take his/her rightful place in society."



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## YEMEN'S WEEKLY MARKETS: A Dying Aspect of Socio-Economic

The weekly market system is one of the ancient forms of trading in Yemen. To make sure that there is a sufficient catchment area in terms of population and commodities, the souqs are almost always located in the center of districts and regions. This leads to high costs for the sellers who have to bring their goods from various parts of the country to the market location, and to the buyers who often have to travel long distances to reach the souq. That is they are organized on only a weekly basis. Weekly markets are an important aspect of Yemeni social and economic life. With time, however, as urban centers grow, weekly markets have started losing their significance. Yet, they still continue to serve as an essential outlet for rural areas, although to a lesser degree as time passes by.

Yemeni weekly markets are primarily for exchange of local products; however, some imported goods are also available these days. Given the ethnic nature of these souqs, they are a major attraction to tourists and to resident aliens. Yemenis also go to them because the prices tend to regular markets. The most striking aspect of these souqs is their lively nature-if you care for some hustle and bustle, visit one of these markets. The urban souqs have already replaced the traditional weekly markets in many regions of the country. As a result, the weekly markets are losing their clientele and significance. The question is, is it worth preserving this aspect of Yemen's traditional socio-culture, or should we simply let the march of time decide on this matter.

### A Note from the Editor:

Starting this week, the Yemen Times will run a short, but structured English lesson for our readers. This is oriented towards people who are already able to use some English, but still need some work at it.

Volunteers Lisa Ciardulli and Jeanna Stroble are in charge of these lessons. They are both professional teachers of English at Sanaa University. Please do not hesitate to call in (236435) and let us know what you think of the lessons!

## Lesson #1: Subject/verb agreement

**PRE-TEST.** Choose the correct verb in each sentence.

1. She (work, works) at the library.
2. That boy (talk, talks) a lot.
3. Those balls (bounce, bounces) high.
4. The owner of the store (know, knows) me.
5. I (study, studies) very hard.
6. The students (do, does) their homework at night.

Replace the underlined subjects with personal pronouns.

7. My family lives in Tiaz.
8. That taxi driver works very hard.
9. Those bicycles cost a lot of money.
10. That book needs a new cover.
11. Ali and I want to learn English.
12. Her sister likes to travel.

LESSON:	Singular	Plural	(singular = 1, plural = more than 1)
1st person	I (walk)	we (walk)	
2nd person	you (walk)	you (walk)	
3rd person	he, she, it (walks)	they (walk)	

Notice that the only time a verb changes form is with the 3rd person singular in the present tense. All nouns and pronouns in the 3rd person use a verb that ends in an 's'.

**Oral Practice:** Say each of the sentences below. Change the pronoun each time and be sure to use the correct verb form.

*example:* I teach at the university. You teach at the university. He (or she) teaches at the university. We teach at the university. They teach at the university.

1. I like apples
2. I study French.
3. I play football on Fridays.
4. I want to go to the cinema today.

**Personal Pronouns.** All the above pronouns are called *personal* pronouns. Pronouns replace a noun. Personal pronouns act as the *subject* of a sentence.

he, she, it - these are the personal pronouns which use an 's' on verbs. Any noun that these pronouns can replace will also use the 's'.

- examples:*
1. Ali wants some ice cream. He loves ice cream.
  2. His daughter likes to sing. She sings well.
  3. That bicycle looks new. It looks expensive, too.

we - This pronoun is plural, and must replace 'I' plus another noun or pronoun.

- examples:*
1. You and I watch too much TV. We need to read more often instead.
  2. Ali and I go to the cinema every Monday. We like American films best.
  3. My sisters, and brothers and I play football often. We do many things together.

you - This pronoun can be singular or plural. 'You' is used when speaking directly to someone or a group of people.

- examples:*
1. Ali, please be quiet in class. You talk too much.
  2. Class, make sure to study tonight. You have an exam tomorrow.

they - This pronoun is always plural. 'They' can replace people or things.

- examples:*
1. Ahmed and his brothers like to play darts. They have many contests.
  2. These tests have many mistakes. They need to be typed again.

**POST-TEST:** Replace the subject with a pronoun and choose the correct verb.

1. My cat (like, likes) to eat mice.
2. His father (work, works) in a print shop.
3. The sky (look, looks) cloudy today.
4. My sister (teach, teaches) History at the university.
5. The students (think, thinks) she is a great teacher.
6. Those pens (write, writes) smoothly.
7. Amat and I (hope, hopes) to visit Mali.
8. Yahya (say, says) he leaves on Friday.
9. My brother and I (play, plays) soccer on the same team.
10. The neighbor's daughter (watch, watches) my children while I work.

**WEEKLY IDIOM:** "Give me a break" is an expression of disbelief, usually meant in a sarcastic way. For example, if a taxi driver tells you that it is going to cost you 50 YR to get from Bab Shaub to Tahreer Square, your response might be "Give me a break, that is only a 5-minute ride. It should only cost 20 YR."

**ANSWERS:** Pre-test: 1) works 2) talks 3) bounce 4) knows 5) study 6) do 7) they 8) he 9) they 10) it 11) we 12) she. Post-test: 1) It likes 2) He works 3) It looks 4) She teaches 5) they think 6) they write 7) We hope 8) He says 9) We play 10) She watches

### MAJOR WEEKLY MARKETS IN THE NORTHERN GOVERNORATES

Market Day	Market Name	Location	Rating
Saturday	Souq Attalh	north of Saada	Nice
Saturday	Souq Amran	north of Sanaa	Fair
Saturday	Souq Maraas	north of Hodeidah	Very Nice
Saturday	Souq Al-Suweiq	north of Taiz	Nice
Sunday	Souq Saadah	north of Saadah	Nice
Sunday	Souq Rubat	Jabal Raymah-Tihama	Very Nice
Sunday	Souq Manakhah	Haraz region	Fair
Sunday	Souq Wadi Dhabab	south of Taiz	Very Nice
Monday	Souq Al-Marawi'ah	east of Hodeidah	Very Nice
Monday	Souq Ar-Rujum	Wadi Surdood area	Very Nice
Monday	Souq At-Taweelah	Al-Mahweet area	Nice
Monday	Souq Beit Al-Faqeh	central Tihama	Nice
Monday	Souq Hais	north-west of Taiz	Nice
Monday	Souq Al-Huseiniyyah	near Zabid	Nice
Tuesday	Souq Zaidiyyah	north of Hodeidah	Nice
Tuesday	Souq Al-Jarrahi	central Tihama	Very Nice
Wednesday	Souq Al-Mahweet	Mahweet area	Nice
Wednesday	Souq Dhamar	Dhamar city	Fair
Wednesday	Souq Al-Raboo'	Turba-Hugarriah	Very Nice
Thursday	Souq Khamis Bani Saad	east of Hodeidah	Fair
Thursday	Souq Al-Qanawis	north Tihamah	Nice
Thursday	Souq Mawza'	west of Taiz	Nice

Table source: Universal Travel and Tourism.



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*In Geneva, the Donors Nod in Approval of Yemen's Reform Package and Policies:*

**"Yemen Can Draw US\$1.4-1.5 billion in Foreign Aid over the next Five Years"**

The friends of Yemen, whom Dr. Farag Bin Ghanem, the Minister of Planning and Development calls the partners of Yemen, filled up the UNDP Salle de Bel, as they poured in one after another. Europe clearly dominated the gathering. The German and Dutch delegates were, by far, the key players. Many other mid-level delegates came from Rome, London and Washington. The international organizations were also well represented. All in all, sixteen countries and twelve regional organizations attended. In an extended welcome statement, Dr. Ali Attiga, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director (Arab States), and co-host of the Round-Table, stressed Yemen's genuine efforts to create a new atmosphere for progress. "In the face of enormous local and regional difficulties, Yemen is trying to live up to its responsibilities towards its people and the international community by applying the new values prevalent in our world today. It deserves to be supported," he indicated. The Prime Minister then kicked off the meetings with a statement, which was described by the delegates as frank and candid. Then the various delegations, starting with Yemen, gave their evaluation of the cooperation between Yemen and the donor countries.



Prime Minister chairs the opening session of the Round Table

to streamline the bureaucracy and the administrative process, as far as procedures are concerned. Dr. Farag Bin Ghanem duly took note of this point and explained that efforts in this direction are underway. The American delegate, Mr. John Champagne, Director of Middle East Affairs at the Agency for International Development in Washington, indicated that US aid to Yemen was influenced by many political factors. Decision on this matter thus rests with the State Department rather than with USAID. In a statement to the Yemen Times, he said: "The Round Table Conference has provided a useful forum for an open and frank exchange between donors and the Government of Yemen on Yemen's development priorities. The reform package and the agenda outlined in the General Economic Memorandum regarding Yemen's progress based on economic liberalization within a democratic political framework give significant promise for its ultimate success and deserves donor support. I plan to visit

By accident, Yemen Times ran into a member of the Saudi delegation, who joined HRH Prince Misha'al Ibn Abdulaziz's entourage in the Intercontinental, and asked him, "Do you know what or where Rwanda is?" Answer, "No, and who cares what or where it is?"



General View of the Participants in the Round Table

While in Geneva, Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas, embarked on a major information campaign on behalf of Yemen. On the first day, he held a press conference in which representatives of thirty two press agencies, newspapers, TV and radio stations participated. The Prime Minister explained what the Round Table Conference was all about, and the goals behind it. In answering questions, he discussed the infant democratic experiment of Yemen, the Somali refugee problems, the border issue with Saudi Arabia, and the upcoming parliamentary elections of Yemen. The journalists were very pleased with the PM's frank answers. Later in the day, he held private tete-a-tete meetings with the senior delegates, especially, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Zubair, Advisor to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos for Economic Planning Affairs and head of the Omani delegation to the Round Table. The next day, the Prime Minister went to Channel 5 (French) TV station for an interview. Later in the same day, he met cordially with the senior members of the Yemeni team. Finally, the Prime Minister met at length with the Director of the International Red Cross and High Commission for Refugees in order to brief her on new developments on the Somali refugee situation. "He emphatically called for a more visible and vigorous role in helping the refugees, as the Yemeni government's limited resources are already stretched as far as they can go." He was promised immediate action on that count.



Prime Minister with Mr. Zubair, head of the Omani delegation

long-desired re-unification of each country was achieved", Mr. Liptau said: "I would like to reiterate the preparedness of my government to cooperate ... with the government of the Republic of Yemen." Mr. W. G. Wessels, Director for Development Cooperation for Africa and the Middle East, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, expressed his country's full satisfaction with the level of cooperation with Yemen. "Over the last fifteen years, our relations with Yemen have paid out good results and we hope to be able to continue along the same levels," he indicated. Mr. Wessels pointed out that his country's approach to aid to Yemen is based on the priority placed on rural development based on an integrated and comprehensive approach. Thus, agriculture, health and education, etc. are intertwined and should be addressed together.

"I would like to draw attention to the fact that Yemen has embarked on an important step towards a market-based development system coupled with a multi-party political structure. These ambitions deserve our support, and the Government of the Netherlands will continue to provide its share for the support. This is especially important in light of the far-reaching reforms which the government of Yemen has adopted, and which have the blessings of the Bretton Woods organisations," he concluded.

Yet, there were a number of criticisms and reservations regarding the bureaucratic quagmire. The British delegate, Mrs. Mary McCowan, Head of the North-West Africa and Middle East Department, ODA, London, expressed the need



Mr. Wessels, head of the Dutch Delegation

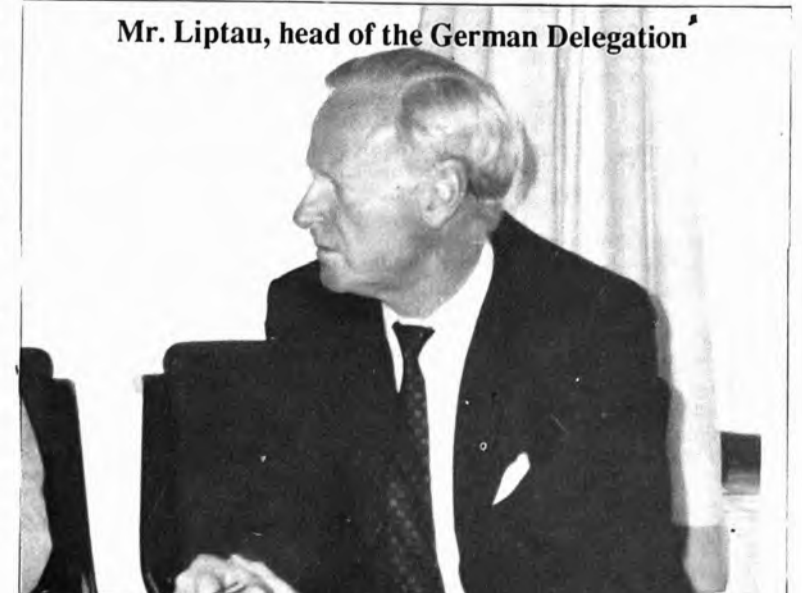


Prime Minister with the heads of the World Bank and IMF Delegations

Yemen before the end of the year to familiarize myself with the aid program in Yemen."

At the end of two days of deliberations, the Round Table came out with a communique regarding the future plan of action. Although, this was not a pledge gathering, it did lead to stronger confirmation of earlier pledges as well as to new proposals. "The good will and better understanding created by the conference will inevitably lead to a stronger level of cooperation between Yemen and its aid partners," Dr. Attiga told the Yemen Times. We are looking into an overall resource potential of about US\$1.4-1.5 billion on which Yemen can draw over the next five years. This is an average of US\$300 million per year. These pledges and confirmations would allow the Yemeni government to draw up a better investment plan. The conference also called for additional meetings to focus on sectoral evaluations to be held most probably in August, 1992, in Sanaa.

"In general, the round table was successful in achieving its objectives," stressed Dr. Farag Bin Ghanem. Yet, one funny thing happened on the second day of the round table. The Saudi delegation arrived, "but there was no word that the Saudis were participating in the Round Table," exclaimed a pleasantly-surprised member of the Yemeni team. "They are not here for your Round Table. They are here for the Rwanda Round Table which starts tomorrow," quipped Dr. Attiga.



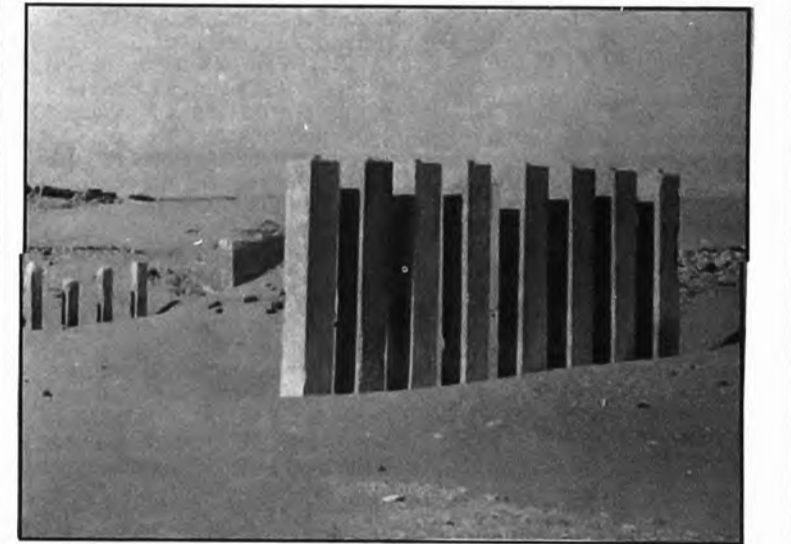
Mr. Liptau, head of the German Delegation

**THE MARIB DAM: A New Project - Part 2**

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

The complexity and volume of works on the restoration of the ancient Marib Dam will require for their implementation the involvement of organizations acting under the auspices of the UNESCO as well as the financial resources of international organizations. At present, the construction of the irrigation system is going on in the Marib Valley. The project designers' plans of supplying water to the consumers are commensurate.

and hierarchy of water users even in cases where designing new irrigation systems for similar areas by replanning lands or the introduction of more progressive methods of irrigation would provide for a higher efficiency of land farming. The only reasonable solution in similar cases is to improve the existing methods and techniques of irrigation which preserve land allotments. Putting the first stage of the irrigation system into operation will provide for the increase of sown areas in the valley from 3031 to 9293 ha. With the future completion of the 2nd stage of the irrigation system and the development



They have expanded the feeding part of the system that includes secondary canals only. Lower order canals were not designed as water is fed from secondary canals to irrigated fields by the local inhabitants themselves. This decision is explained by the fact that the lands are an absolute possession of the tribes living there. The relations between individual tribal and kin groups remain complicated. Their character is determined not only by the provisions of the Sharia, the Muslim theological and legal rules, but to a considerable extent by the provisions of the tribal Urf (traditions that have the force of legislation) and the blood relationship. A specific code on water utilization has also been evolved, according to which the first-priority right for water belongs to the people who cultivate the land adjacent to the source. When their needs are satisfied, they are obliged to discharge surplus water downstream. Under such conditions it is inadmissible to violate the existing economic structure

of new areas, it is planned to increase the area of irrigated lands up to 20000 ha. The hydraulic works will also increase the feeding of ground water aquifers.

Taking the decision on the execution of the new Marib Dam, the leadership of the country put forward a task not only to stimulate the economic development of a particular region but also to raise of the consciousness of the people and in order to strengthen the national prestige of the state. In this sense, the Marib Dam may be compared with similar projects like the Aswan Dam in Egypt and the Euphrates Water Works in Syria. The new Marib Dam has become the most vivid and dynamic image of the new Yemen. There is something symbolic in the fact that the remains of the ancient dam and the new hydraulic works are in close vicinity to each other as a symbol of an indissoluble link of times: from the "paradise gardens" to new economic and social possibilities of the proud and independent Yemeni people.



# LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

*A l'occasion de la fête nationale française du 14 juillet, un bilan globalement positif des rapports franco-yéménites*

## La coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique franco-yéménite recentrée pour plus d'efficacité

Le 14 juillet est jour de fête nationale en France depuis 1880. Ce jour marque l'anniversaire de la prise de la Bastille, prison d'Etat en plein coeur de Paris symbole de l'Ancien Régime, la Monarchie absolue. Elle reste le point d'orgue de la Révolution Française, qui dura -les spécialistes se querellent encore sur cette durée- de 1789 au coup d'état du 18 Brumaire An VIII (9 novembre 1799) lorsque Napoléon Bonaparte prit le pouvoir.

La prise de la Bastille marque en quelque sorte le passage d'une révolution de salon, parlementaire, à une révolution populaire, révolution dont le peuple fut privé ensuite au profit de la bourgeoisie et d'une minorité de nobles libéraux. La prise de la Bastille provoqua d'autres soulèvements dans les grandes villes du Royaume de France et la révolte s'étendit aux campagnes lors de la Grande Peur. Elle aboutit à la Nuit du 4 août qui marque l'abolition des privilèges et de la féodalité au profit d'une Monarchie constitutionnelle qui voulut réaliser un compromis entre les privilèges du clergé et de l'aristocratie foncière d'un côté et la bourgeoisie de l'autre, compromis qu'illustra la Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen du 26 août 1789. Cette période de Monarchie constitutionnelle dura jusqu'au 2 septembre 1792 et la proclamation de la Première République, éphémère, et à la décapitation de Louis XVI qui suivit.

A l'occasion de cette célébration, le Yemen Times s'est penché, dans les pages anglaises et françaises, sur l'état des relations franco-yéménites dans les domaines culturel, scientifique, technique et commercial. La France est très bien considérée par les Yéménites et la coopération entre les deux pays fait apparaître quelques points forts dans des domaines variés comme les télécommunications, le pétrole, la recherche archéologique, la médecine, la télévision et l'agriculture.

**A l'occasion de la Fête Nationale de la République Française, l'Ambassadeur de France à Sanaa a l'honneur d'inviter tous les ressortissants français présents à Sanaa à une réception à la Résidence le mardi 14 juillet, de 18h30 à 20h30.**

Depuis la réunification, depuis la guerre du Golfe qui a entraîné la suspension des aides de l'Arabie Saoudite et des pétromonarchies ainsi que le retour de près d'un million de yéménites qui vivaient chez le puissant voisin du nord, depuis la réduction substantielle de l'assistance américaine et l'arrêt de la coopération avec l'ex-URSS, le Yémen a été amené à se tourner davantage vers l'aide européenne, et en particulier française.

Or, auparavant, cette coopération franco-yéménite était très dispersée dans de nombreux secteurs, ce qui était préjudiciable à l'efficacité qu'en retirait le pays ainsi qu'à la présence française au Yémen. Le nombre de bourses d'études délivrées à de jeunes yéménites pour étudier en France avaient été accordées sans priorités ou projets clairement définis. L'absence de présence française dans des domaines où pourtant des actions de coopérations fonctionnaient depuis longtemps, est évidente dans le domaine médical, par exemple. Après une coopération de près de 30 années, l'influence de la médecine française demeure inexistant; dans les facultés de médecine de Sanaa et d'Aden, on peut rencontrer de nombreux enseignants de toutes nationalités, à l'exception des Français.

Aussi, depuis peu, la France a recadré son activité de coopération dans les domaines culturel, scientifique et technique vers une plus grande concentration sur quelques priorités, sur un plus petit nombre de projets qui, globalement, se révèlent au fil du temps, être des succès.

Le bilan est donc globalement positif et l'on en voit la preuve chaque jour si l'on prend la peine de discuter dans la rue avec les Yéménites. Les Français sont très bien considérés et sont liés, dans la conscience des gens, à quelques domaines précis: on vous parle systématiquement des programmes d'apprentissage du français à la télévision, des téléphones, et de plus en plus nombreux sont ceux qui vous questionnent sur les lieux où l'on peut apprendre le Français au Yémen. Ainsi, le Centre Culturel Français et l'Université de Sanaa, qui dispensent tous deux des cours de Français pour tous niveaux, voient le nombre des inscriptions progresser régulièrement.

Ainsi, dans le domaine de l'enseignement du Français, le pari n'est pas gagné d'avance dans un pays d'influence essentiellement anglophone, surtout dans le sud. Les principaux lieux où l'accent sont la Faculté de Lettres de l'Université de Sanaa, où l'on

peut préparer une licence de Français dans un bâtiment réservé à cet effet et la Faculté d'éducation de l'Université d'Aden, où le même diplôme, avec une spécialisation dans la traduction, sera lancé dès la rentrée prochaine. Dans le secteur scolaire, une expérience d'introduction du Français est conduite dans trois établissements pilotes de Sanaa et d'Aden depuis février 1991. On pense poursuivre cette expérience et probablement l'institutionnaliser dès la prochaine rentrée, grâce notamment au retour imminent d'étudiants yéménites envoyés en France.

Dans le domaine culturel en général, deux centres français fonctionnent à Aden et Sanaa depuis octobre 1990. Ils organisent, en dehors de l'enseignement du Français, des activités très variées: ciné-club à Aden, vidéothèques, bibliothèques, expositions, conférences et concerts, etc.

Dans le domaine très important de la formation professionnelle où les besoins sont très conséquents au Yémen, la France n'est pas en reste. Dans le secteur médical tout d'abord, la coopération française est en voie de réorganisation pour se focaliser davantage sur la formation. L'hôpital Républicain de Tazé fonctionne depuis trente ans avec une coopération française de quasi-substitution des médecins français au personnel yéménite. L'Ambassade de France s'efforce désormais de redéployer la coopération médicale vers les instances universitaires yéménites et l'octroi de bourses aux enseignants des facultés de Sanaa et d'Aden. Ainsi, l'ouverture prochaine de l'Hôpital de gynécologie-obstétrique Ibn Nafis de Sanaa pourrait-il permettre d'inaugurer cette forme de coopération si sa mise en oeuvre n'était retardée pour des raisons administratives essentiellement. Depuis juin dernier tout de même, des administrateurs et des médecins français sont chargés, sur place, d'encadrer et d'animer, pour de courtes périodes, les équipes médicales yéménites en leur fournissant un complément de formation.

Une coopération déjà ancienne avec la Faculté d'Ingénierie d'Aden a permis que la majeure partie du personnel d'encadrement, y compris le doyen et le vice-doyen, puissent effectuer leurs études en France grâce à des bourses. Après avoir équipé un laboratoire d'électronique, la France intervient dans l'enseignement de l'informatique. Un projet de laboratoire de recherche en images de synthèse est à l'étude pour 1993, qui serait le premier centre de recherche du Yémen.

La coopération agricole est un

volet important de l'aide française au Yémen. Elle a été lancée en 1988 avec la création d'une structure mixte, le Bureau Agricole Franco-Yéménite (BAFY), dirigée par un expert français dont les actions ont essentiellement porté sur la réhabilitation du café, le célèbre Moka (lire les articles dans les Temps du Yémen des 11 et 18 mars 1992). En outre, de fructueux contacts avec la Faculté d'Agronomie de Sanaa ont conduit à la signature d'un accord de coopération avec le BAFY, pour une participation technique à ses travaux, l'envoi de boursiers en France et la mise en place de futures structures de recherche et de recyclage.

Jusqu'alors limité à l'hébergement de chercheurs de passage, le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites est désormais un véritable centre de recherches doté d'un conseil scientifique depuis juin 1991, d'un directeur et de deux allocataires. Il coordonne la recherche française, très importante au Yémen dans les domaines de l'archéologie (missions préhistoriques, protohistoriques, sud-arabiques et islamiques) et des sciences humaines (droit, urbanisme, anthropologie, linguistique sud-arabique, géographie).

La plupart des projets de coopération franco-yéménites sont financés par le gouvernement français directement, pour un budget de coopération d'un montant de 20 millions de francs, mais un certain nombre d'autres voient le jour grâce à la technique des fonds de contrepartie de l'aide alimentaire (pour environ 10 millions de ryaals), même si leur mise en oeuvre demeure lourde et bureaucratique. La France fait régulièrement don au Yémen de céréales et de sacs de farine qui sont commercialisés par un organisme public yéménite. L'argent retiré de cette vente est ensuite affecté au financement des projets de coopération comme ceux concernant la sauvegarde de la vieille ville de Sanaa, par exemple, ou la participation de l'Ambassade de France au projet du PNUD de périmètre agricole destiné aux rapatriés d'Arabie Saoudite dans la Tihama, de créer une unité de conditionnement de dattes, sorte de projet pilote pour le développement futur de l'agriculture dans cette région pour ceux qui ont été expulsés sans ressources d'Arabie Saoudite lors de la crise du Golfe.

La période qui s'ouvre devrait voir la réalisation de nouveaux projets actuellement à l'étude, au premier rang desquels un institut de cardiologie franco-yéménite à Tazé, en partenariat avec des compagnies privées, ainsi que l'ouverture, à l'Université de Tazé, d'un département de Français. De tels projets ne pourront que bénéficier du concours de l'Association d'amitié franco-yéménite qui devrait voir le jour bientôt.

E.G.

### Le Français à la télévision

Les émissions françaises sur la chaîne d'Aden, reportages, documentaires historiques, leçons de français, matches de football, recueillent un grand succès chez les Yéménites. La coopération franco-yéménite avait commencé bien avant la réunification, avec notamment l'envoi en France de boursier de l'ex-Yémen du sud dans des écoles spécialisées dans le domaine audiovisuel.

Aujourd'hui, cette coopération connaît un nouvel essor. Sur la chaîne d'Aden, des émissions de Canal France International (CFI) sont diffusées chaque semaine et l'on peut les capter sur l'ensemble du territoire. Dès que les équipements complémentaires nécessaires au traitement des images (notamment pour l'incrustation de doublages en Arabe) seront livrés, l'équipe francophone affectée à ce projet et animée par un expert français, Sébastien Carliez, sera à même d'augmenter la diffusion de programmes français à deux heures quotidiennes dans un bâtiment spécialement conçu pour eux. Actuellement, les deux chaînes du Yémen utilisent les images des journaux télévisés français diffusés par

AITV (Agence Internationale de Télévision, dépendant de RFO) pour leurs propres journaux. La chaîne d'Aden reçoit désormais ces images en direct grâce à l'installation d'une station de réception Alcatel de deux millions de francs offerte par la France à la TV d'Aden. Cette chaîne peut désormais diffuser en direct même des images de CFI: sport (notamment les matches de foot), spectacles de cirque, etc., qui n'ont pas besoin pour l'instant de traduction instantanée.

Par ailleurs, des leçons de Français télévisées sont diffusées à un rythme hebdomadaire sur la TV d'Aden, fruit de l'adaptation qu'en ont réalisée les techniciens yéménites francophones de l'Institut audiovisuel de Mansourah, anciens boursiers en France.

Les semaines qui viennent devraient voir naître des émissions en Français sur les ondes de la radio d'Aden, notamment des cours de français, venant ainsi compléter l'effort de coopération en matière audiovisuelle.

Le prochain objectif, ambitieux, de la coopération française dans ce domaine devrait être la réalisation d'un journal télévisé en langue française.

La situation s'améliore pour les réfugiés somaliens d'Aden pour lesquels on prévoit de construire un camp de 50.000 places

# Coup de chapeau aux "French doctors" de MSF

Dans les camps de réfugiés somaliens d'Aden, la situation s'améliore de jour en jour et les organisations internationales d'aide humanitaire préparent le terrain pour accueillir de nouveaux "boatpeople" à mesure que la situation se dégrade en Somalie, mêlant les horreurs de la guerre civile à la famine. Les autorités yéménites ont conclu la semaine dernière un accord avec le Haut Commissariat des Nations-Unies pour les réfugiés (UNHCR) qui prévoit que tous les bateaux arrivant au Yémen verront leurs occupants débarqués sur le champ, à condition que la communauté internationale les prenne en charge. Le Yémen, considéré comme l'un des pays les plus pauvres du monde est le seul de la péninsule arabique à accepter les réfugiés de la Corne de l'Afrique depuis des années, mais il ne peut financer le séjour des réfugiés sur son sol. Avec un tel accord, le drame du *Gobwein*, ce bateau échoué volontairement sur une plage d'Aden le 22 juin dernier après avoir essuyé plusieurs refus d'accoster (lire notre reportage sur place dans la précédente édition du Temps du Yémen) ne devrait donc plus se reproduire.

Les quelques cinquantes personnes, dont 41 enfants, qui ont péri dans ce naufrage en plongeant pour essayer de rejoindre le rivage, ont au moins réussi à attirer l'attention de la communauté internationale et de la presse du monde entier sur ce drame qui dure pourtant depuis plusieurs mois, parfois avec des conditions plus terribles encore (lire notre reportage dans Le Temps du Yémen du 15 avril 1992). Une assistance internationale d'urgence a été déclenchée après le drame: la Grande-Bretagne fournit une aide directe d'environ 92.000 dollars, la France 200.000 francs (soit environ 37.000 dollars) et l'UNICEF (Organisation des Nations-Unies pour l'Enfance) 25.000 dollars. Le HCR a appelé à la mobilisation internationale pour réunir

Malgré tous les soins prodigués par Gamal et Sabine, le médecin et l'infirmière du dispensaire MSF du camp de Madinat al-Shaab, la petite Halimo s'est éteinte ce matin, vendredi 3 juillet, à bout de forces. Son corps de bébé décharné n'était plus qu'un squelette et sa peau déshydratée, se frippait dès qu'on la touchait. Ce n'est pas la malnutrition qui a emporté Halimo: l'équipe de MSF avait fait le nécessaire pour l'alimenter artificiellement en introduisant un tuyau jusque dans son estomac. Elle n'a tout simplement plus eu la force de respirer lorsque sa mère l'a mal positionnée pendant son sommeil. Elle est morte étouffée, trop faible pour bouger et emplir ses poumons d'air.

Heureusement, la mortalité infantile dans les deux camps de réfugiés somaliens d'Aden, celui de la plage et celui de Madinat al-Shaab, tous deux près de Little Aden, a sérieusement baissé. Et ceci grâce aux efforts déployés par la petite équipe de Médecins sans Frontières qui a pris en charge la santé des somaliens depuis le mois de novembre dernier.

Rien ne prédestinait cette petite équipe, débarquée au Yémen du sud en 1986 pour superviser des programmes de vaccination (lire notre article dans Le Temps du Yémen du 12 février 1992), à réunir presque tous ses volontaires opérant dans le pays pour porter secours aux réfugiés somaliens. Rien, sinon leur vocation de sauver des vies humaines en toutes circonstances. Dès le mois de novembre 1991 où les bateaux ont commencé à affluer à un rythme plus soutenu à Aden, MSF a décidé de ralentir temporairement ses programmes d'assistance à la vaccination dans le sud du pays réunifié (il s'agit d'encadrer le personnel yéménite et lui enseigner la manière de planifier des vaccinations dans une zone établie; en aucun cas, les infirmières qui en étaient chargées ne

devaient faire d'intervention médicales). Pendant un temps, l'assistance aux réfugiés a mobilisé tout le personnel MSF au Yémen, y compris le médecin chargé de la réhabilitation d'un centre hospitalier à Dissoufal, au nord d'Aden, le Docteur Bernard Simon, ainsi que l'infirmière et le logisticien qui participaient à ce projet, Dominique Piollet et Jean-Marc Cordaro.

Très tôt, grâce à des vaccinations des enfants et des soins intensifs de réhydratation, les "French Doctors" comme on les appelle tous à travers le monde, qu'ils soient médecins, infirmières ou qu'ils s'occupent des tâches administratives ou techniques, ont paré au plus pressé, évité les épidémies et fortement ralenti la mortalité infantile. Ils ont travaillé dans l'ombre jusqu'à ce jour noir du 22 juin où ils ont dû secourir les réfugiés qui se sont jetés du *Gobwein* pour rejoindre le rivage.

"Des enfants sont morts dans nos bras, épuisés", raconte Florence Fermont, venue spécialement de Paris pour mettre un terme au programme de supervision des vaccinations, après six années. Depuis ce jour seulement, la presse du monde entier a débarqué sur cette plage de Little Aden et n'a cessé d'interroger ces volontaires qui travaillent, depuis, près de douze heures quotidiennes, sans un jour de repos par semaine. Aujourd'hui samedi, Bernard Lapeyre, l'administrateur de l'équipe, est obligé de se fâcher. "Si tu ne te reposes pas cet après-midi, menacé-t-il Sabine Prothon, la jeune infirmière affectée au dispensaire de MSF du camp de Madinat al-Shaab, je viens te chercher moi-même". Même exténués, aucun de ces jeunes gens n'a envie de se reposer pour le moment. Pourtant, cela serait utile puisque l'on annonce l'arrivée imminente d'autres bateaux, dont l'un contiendrait

rapidement une somme de 700.000 dollars pour la construction de deux camps de 25.000 places dont le site a déjà été trouvé, à 50 kilomètres d'Aden, dans le gouvernorat de l'Abyan. Ces camps devraient accueillir dans un premier temps les quelques 12.000 réfugiés des deux camps d'Aden, la Plage et Madinat al-Shaab, ainsi que tous les nouveaux arrivants (on annonçait déjà samedi l'arrivée imminente d'un nouveau navire de 2.000 personnes). Il ne reste plus qu'à obtenir l'accord des autorités du gouvernorat de l'Abyan pour commencer la construction de ce camp.

Le HCR, qui s'occupe de la coordination de toute cette aide a demandé aux Nations-Unies, par l'intermédiaire du Programme des Nations-Unies pour le Développement à Sanaa, une somme d'urgence de 40.000 dollars. Le HCR, l'UNICEF et le gouvernement français ont fait parvenir mercredi 20 tonnes de matériel d'urgence à Aden par l'intermédiaire d'une péniche de débarquement des forces armées françaises stationnées à Djibouti. Le président allemand Richard Von Weizsaecker a également profité d'une visite des camps à Aden pour apporter une aide symbolique en médicaments, afin "de donner l'exemple à la communauté internationale".

Sur place, la situation s'est donc beaucoup améliorée. La nourriture, fournie par le Programme Alimentaire Mondial, dépendant des Nations-Unies, est encore mal distribuée mais le HCR qui a reçu un renfort de six personnes s'organise désormais pour améliorer la distribution. Sur le plan de la santé, MSF veille depuis novembre dernier sur les réfugiés somaliens et a permis d'éviter jusqu'à aujourd'hui une trop forte mortalité ainsi que toute épidémie. Rendons ici hommage à ces volontaires qui parcourent le monde pour soulager la peine des autres et qui, à Aden, travaillent environ douze heures par jour sur les deux camps.



Malgré les soins administrés par Gamal, le jeune docteur membre de Médecins sans Frontières, cet enfant mourra des suites d'une déshydratation.

2.000 boatpeople !

Pour l'instant, leur travail consiste à parer au plus pressé. Après avoir administré les premiers soins

d'urgence aux rescapés du *Gobwein* et vacciné tous les enfants contre la rougeole, dont on craint l'épidémie en premier chef dans tous les camps de réfugiés, les médecins, Bernard Simon et Gamal Souleiman, ainsi que des infirmières ont organisé des consultations rapides, appelées "screening", pour passer au crible tous les cas préoccupants. Des médecins somaliens ou des infirmiers, ayant fui leur pays, les assistent dans cette tâche. Une trentaine de passagers du *Gobwein* tra-

vailent ainsi avec MSF aujourd'hui, bénévolement bien sûr. On améliore simplement un peu leurs repas... Les cas les plus graves ont été transférés au dispensaire qu'a construit MSF dans le camp de Madinat al-Shaab, qui s'étend de jour en jour. Les logisticiens de l'équipe, Jean-Marc Cordaro, Mohamed Mohamedi et Pierre Burg s'affairent chaque jour à clouer des planches supplémentaires, et creuser de nouvelles latrines.

Mais le travail de MSF ne s'arrête pas au médical. Avant que le HCR ne prenne en charge l'accueil des réfugiés, depuis environ deux mois, et même encore aujourd'hui alors que l'organisation des Nations-Unies met ses structures en place et installe son nouveau bureau à Aden, le coordinateur de l'équipe, Maurice Blumenthal, un infirmier spécialisé dans le domaine de la santé publique, multiplie les allers-retours entre les différentes administrations, démarque tel ou tel responsable local pour que les malheureux soient

débarqués le plus vite possible et acheminés vers les camps, accompagnant chaque femme, chaque enfant à l'hôpital quand des interventions plus délicates sont nécessaires, supervise la distribution de certains médicaments ou de nourriture, etc. L'équipe du HCR à Aden vient de se renforcer avec six personnes, ce qui devrait alléger d'autant sa tâche.

En prévision de nouvelles vagues de réfugiés (depuis novembre, il arrive 800 somaliens par semaines à Aden, selon les calculs de Bernard Lapeyre), le siège de MSF à Paris a envoyé des renforts. Un logisticien, Pierre Burg, et une infirmière, Brigitte Tixier sont arrivés vendredi dernier et se sont mis au travail dès samedi. Une autre infirmière, Emmanuelle Jacquin, qui travaillait à Sanaa a gagné Aden pour prêter main forte à l'équipe. Dimanche enfin, un médecin est arrivé pour compléter le groupe, qui en compte désormais deux, avec le jeune docteur Gamal Souleiman.

Travailler à ce régime demande de nombreux sacrifices et une santé à toute épreuve, santé sur laquelle veille Maurice Blumenthal en planifiant scrupuleusement des traitements préventifs pour toute l'équipe. Ces volontaires de MSF, qu'ils soient médecins, infirmières ou logisticiens, touchent tous la même indemnité: 6.000 rials par mois sur place et 4.000 francs, pour la majeure partie d'entre-eux, à 6.500 francs en France.

Depuis le début de cette mission, MSF a financé entièrement ses fonds propres les interventions auprès des réfugiés somaliens... Aucun financement extérieur n'a été apporté jusqu'à ce jour. Le gouvernement français a décidé d'allouer à l'organisation non-gouvernementale, depuis la catastrophe du *Gobwein*, une somme de 200.000 francs (environ 37.000 dollars) et désormais, le HCR, qui a signé avec MSF un accord de partenariat sur les camps de réfugiés somaliens, devrait participer financièrement à l'effort de MSF par l'intermédiaire du PNUD.

Première organisation humanitaire à avoir porté secours aux boatpeople somaliens, MSF entend donc bien maintenant poursuivre sa mission jusqu'au bout. Les réfugiés ne jurent plus que par les "French Doctors". Un jour, une petite fille ne voulait pas retourner avec sa mère car elle s'était prise d'affection pour Dominique Piollet, véritable "mère-poule" pour ses protégés. "Ils nous aident à tenir bon ici, nous les aimons et respectons beaucoup, déclare Ali qui fait partie de l'équipe recrutée par MSF parmi les réfugiés, mais nous ne voulons pas rester ici. Si les Nations-Unies envoient les casques bleus en Somalie pour mettre fin à la guerre civile, je vous jure que nous retournerons tous pour les aider".

Emmanuel GIROUD



L'équipe de MSF travaille sans relâche dix à douze heures par jour: consultations rapides pour filtrer les cas les plus graves, vaccinations pour éviter les épidémies, soins divers, etc.

Bilan des relations franco-yéménites à l'occasion de la fête nationale française du 14 juillet

# Des échanges commerciaux en progression constante

La France était en 1990 encore, le second fournisseur du Yémen, après l'Arabie Saoudite. En 1991, ses parts de marché ont considérablement baissé mais les trois premiers mois de 1992 font apparaître une reprise des exportations françaises vers le Yémen. La France doit vraisemblablement se trouver encore au troisième rang des pays exportateur vers le Yémen.

En revanche, les exportations du Yémen vers la France ont connu un essor considérable en 1991, essor dû essentiellement aux ventes de pétrole. Pour la première fois, la balance commerciale du Yémen vis-à-vis de la France était positive en 1991.

Mais les chiffres en millions de francs masquent une réalité: une bonne partie des livraisons de la France au Yémen dans les domaines de l'équipement se fait gratuitement, les protocoles financiers avec des entreprises privées, notamment dans les télécommunications, prévoient la présence de nombreux experts français rémunérés par le gouvernement français ou leurs entreprises respectives, les dons ou les quasi-dons sous forme de prêts à très long terme et à très faible taux d'intérêt sont monnaie courante.

En 1991, le solde commercial du Yémen vis-à-vis de la France a été excédentaire de 302 millions de francs (environ 55 millions de dollars), alors qu'en 1990 encore, il était déficitaire de 363 millions de francs (soit 66 millions de dollars). Ce résultat est dû à un effondrement l'année dernière des exportations françaises vers le Yémen: après une période de hausse régulière en 1989 et 1990 (+12%), les ventes françaises au Yémen ont chuté en 1991 de 35% par rapport à l'année précédente (467 millions de francs en 1991, 722 en 1990).

Parallèlement, les exportations du Yémen vers la France ont connu un accroissement considérable l'année dernière, soit une progression de 120% entre 1990 et 1991! La France a acheté pour 769 millions de francs (soit 140 millions de dollars) de produits yéménites en 1991. Aussi, le taux de couverture du commerce extérieur de la France vis-à-vis du Yémen a-t-il chuté de 181% à 60% en l'espace d'un an.

Globalement, les échanges commerciaux entre les deux pays entre 1989 et 1991, sur la base des échanges avec les deux anciens Yémen pour les premières années, ont connu une progression constante. Le commerce bilatéral

franco-yéménite est ainsi passé, en francs courants, de 991 millions de francs en 1989 (180 millions de dollars) à 1,2 milliards de francs (218 millions de dollars) en 1991.

En 1990 encore, la France était le second fournisseur du Yémen (avec 7,2% des parts de marché) derrière l'Arabie Saoudite, et son cinquième client (2,8% des parts de marché) derrière les États-Unis, l'Italie, l'Allemagne et l'Arabie Saoudite. Ces classements ont probablement changé en 1991 mais l'on ne dispose pas encore des statistiques yéménites sur les parts de marché. On peut vraisemblablement estimer cependant que la France a été rétrogradée au rang de troisième ou quatrième fournisseur. Dans les trois premiers mois de 1992, selon un expert français, les exportations françaises au Yémen se sont redressées et l'année ne devrait pas être mauvaise pour la France.

La presque totalité des exportations yéménites vers la France est constituée de produits pétroliers, à concurrence de 90% du total, le reste essentiellement de produits agro-alimentaires pour environ 39 millions de francs (le Yémen exporte une très grosse quantité de ses crustacés en France par exem-

ple). Les ventes de pétrole du Yémen à la France ont été multipliées par 2,5 entre 1990 et 1991, passant de 289 à 730 millions de francs (respectivement 53 millions de dollars et 133 millions de dollars).

Les ventes françaises au Yémen sont, elles, plus diversifiées et se divisent en quatre grandes familles: l'agro-alimentaire pour 44% des exportations, les biens d'équipement (essentiellement dans les télécommunications et la construction électrique) pour 29%, les produits chimiques pour 10% ainsi que les biens de consommation pour 6%.

Emmanuel GIROUD

## Onze grandes entreprises françaises présentes au Yémen

Onze grandes sociétés françaises sont présentes au Yémen de façon permanente. Il s'agit de la Banque Indosuez, de la Banque Nationale de Paris Intercontinentale, d'Air France, d'Alcatel CIT et Alcatel Telspace, de Sofrecom, de Renault Véhicules Industriels, de Total, de la Compagnie Générale de Géophysique, d'Elf Aquitaine et de l'Institut Géographique National.

**Le cabinet médical de l'Ambassade de France est réouvert sous la direction du Docteur Patricia Zunic. Les consultations ont lieu chaque jour, sauf le vendredi, à partir de 13h00, sur rendez-vous. Vous pouvez, en cas d'urgence, laisser un message téléphonique au 270.547, ou par l'intermédiaire du standard de l'Ambassade de France.**

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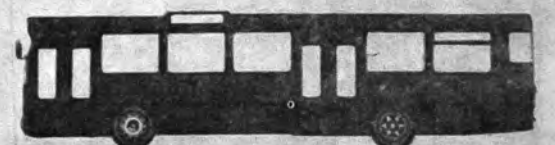
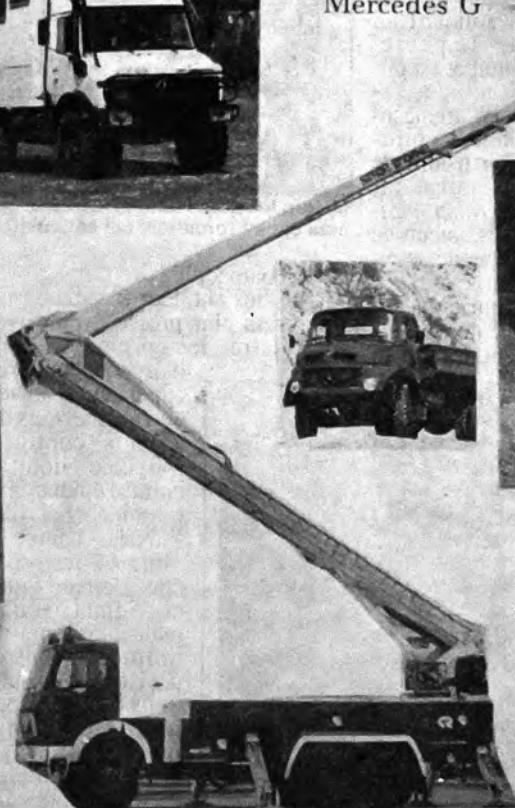
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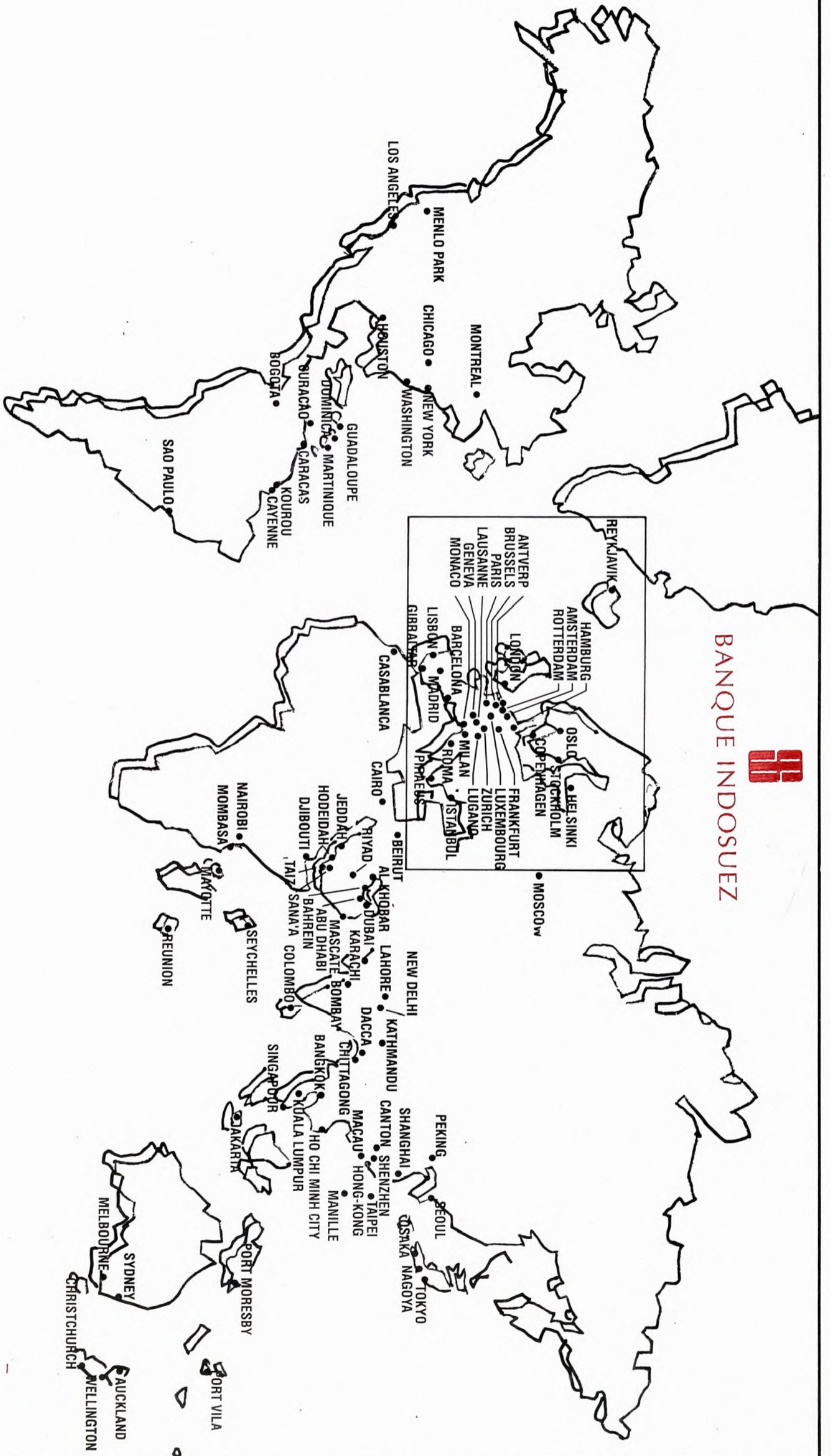


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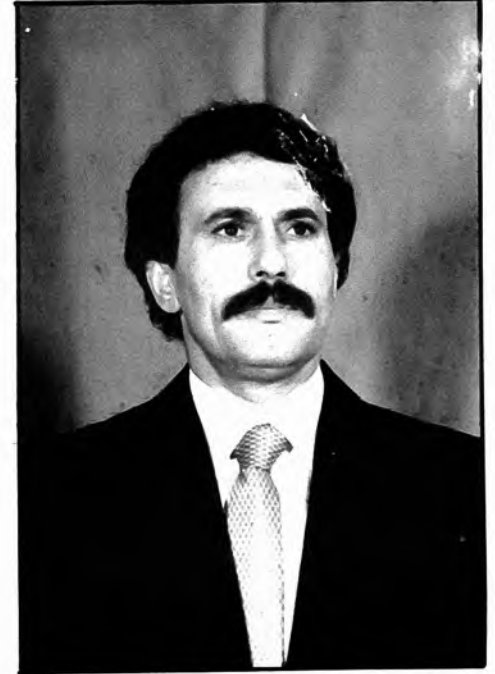
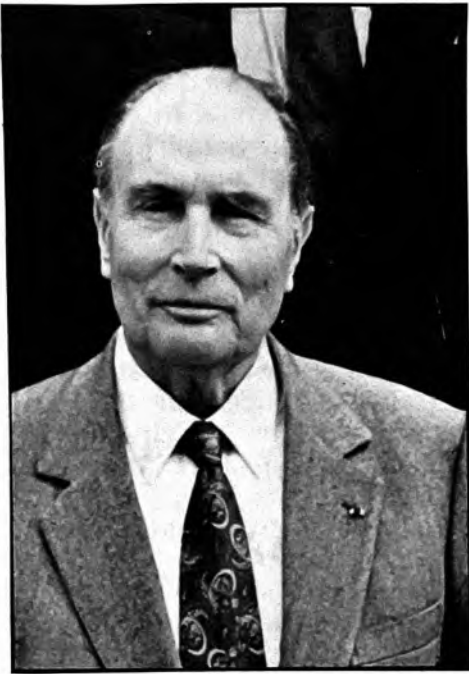
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UNE GRANDE BANQUE INTERNATIONALE  
A VOTRE SERVICE DANS 68 PAYS.

A l'occasion de la Fête Nationale  
du 14 Juillet

l'Ambassadeur de France  
présente ses meilleurs voeux  
aux membres de la communauté française,  
à leurs compatriotes de passage  
ainsi qu'à tous les amis  
de la France au Yémen.



بمناسبة ذكرى الثورة الفرنسية (الرابع عشر من يوليو)  
يتقدم سعادة السفير الفرنسي بصنعاء  
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات  
إلى الجالية الفرنسية المقيمة في اليمن  
وإلى الفرنسيين الزائرين  
وإلى كافة أصدقاء فرنسا في اليمن  
وكل عام والجميع بخير



## THE TOUGH-WILLED WIDOW WHO BEAT THE ODDS

Philippine President Corazon Aquino beat tremendous odds to hand over a country transformed from dictatorship to unbridled democracy. Hailed as a Filipino Joan of Arc when she led the fight against dictator Ferdinand Marcos, critics say she squandered the opportunities of the 1986 popular revolt and leaves behind a nation still mired in poverty. Aquino stepped down last week after six dramatic and exhausting years, fulfilling her ambition of ensuring the first peaceful turnover of power in the Philippines in a quarter of a century and defying pundits who predicted her early ouster.

"I have not always won, but to the very end I never shirked a fight and did not lose the last one," said the 59-year-old Aquino when assessing her record.

The tough-willed widow who toppled the corrupt Marcos dictatorship also tamed a rebellious armed forces, curbed a simmering communist insurgency, restored freedom of the press and revived an independent judiciary.

A shy and deeply-religious person, she beat the odds by surviving six coup attempts and now gratefully handed over power to General Fidel Ramos, her loyal defence chief who helped keep her in the presidential palace.

Aquino capped her stormy six-year term by securing Ramos victory in May's elections. Ramos himself kicked off his presidency by saying only he could ensure the continuity of the reforms she had begun.

"President Aquino was very successful in restoring democracy. While Bangkok was racked with riots last month because the Thais wanted a true democracy,

the Philippines was having peaceful elections," said Joker Arroyo, a human rights lawyer who served as Aquino's executive secretary in 1986-87.

"It is upto president Ramos to preserve and improve the democracy which is in place."

But Aquino failed to make a dent in the deep-rooted poverty and pervasive corruption in the Philippines, and critics argue she should have taken a tougher line with foreign bankers to reduce the \$29 billion external debt burden.

Aquino was never at home with power and failed to capitalise on the magic of the 'people power' revolt which swept her to office to forge real change. tionist rules.

While accusing the Marcos family of stealing billions of dollars from the country during their 20-year rule, the Aquino government has tried to intervene in the judicial system to secure any conviction against the family and allies of the late dictator. Just six years after being hounded into exile with her husband, flamboyant former first lady Imelda Marcos was able to mount a political comeback by running against Ramos in the May elections, she came fifth out of seven candidates.

Aquino, feted by the United States after the 1986 popular revolt - bows out having watched over the ending of nearly 100 years of an American military presence in the former US colony.

"She brought personal virtue to the presidency where her predecessor brought only greed, covetousness and dark ambition," said columnist and Aquino's former spokesman Teodoro Benigno.

## Mongolia's Elections Run Smoothly

Travelling by foot, horse, motorcycle and car, Mongolians turned out in force to vote last week in their country's first elections since adopting a democratic constitution in February.

Balloting to choose 76 members of parliament should end with solid victory for the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP). Since the opening of voting stations, voters have come out to vote under sunny skies often wearing colorful, well-cut traditional silk robes. Out-of-town voters arriving in the suburbs of Ulan Bator hitched their horses outside the polling stations.

No official figures on voter participation were available but turnout at the polls was big, according to the elections commission. Observers from the US Congress and European legislators were present during voting, in which 1.1 million eligible voters from a 2.5 million population are obliged by law to vote.

Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren whose MRPP party is generally seen as being communist by Mongols, denied criticism from the opposition that there had been violations of the electoral law during campaigning.

The principal opposition democratic coalition, with 48 candidates, has blamed the officially ex-communist MRPP for monopolising information channels and abusing the state apparatus. The MRPP has remained in power since the country's first free elections in 1990. "Democracy will win in any case as we are also a democratic party," said Byambasuren, smiling and relaxed.

Mongolia, which for 70 years was a virtual additional republic of the Soviet Union but rejected Moscow's supervision two years ago, is experiencing an economic crisis that is characterized by a serious shortage of food and fuel products.

Voters waited patiently in line in front of a small school to cast their votes. Mongolia is one of the poorest countries in the world, and it is now trying to move away from its communist past to a new market-based system.

## JEWISH SETTLERS VOW RESISTANCE

A senior member of Israel's victorious Labor Party said last week that Jewish settlers have warned of armed opposition to Palestinian autonomy his party has pledged to implement within the year.

"Several months ago a delegation of rabbis from the (occupied) territories came to the Knesset (parliament) and told me that this time there could be shooting," said Mordechai Gur, a Labor parliament member and a former army chief of staff.

"There is no point in hiding from ourselves or from the public that the (autonomy) process could be very hot, could be very hard, and could also be very cruel," Gur told army radio. Gur's warning came as a Palestinian woman stabbed and wounded a Jewish settler who in turn shot and wounded her in the West Bank Palestinian city of Hebron a week ago.

The incident came on the heels of the worst Arab-Israeli violence in months in the occupied lands last Thursday. Arabs stabbed to death two Israelis in the Gaza Strip and an Israeli soldier and three Arabs were murdered by soldiers in a West Bank gunfight.

Labor, led by Yitzhak Rabin, trounced Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud party in a general election on 21st of last month. Rabin has pledged to negotiate a limited autonomy agreement with Palestinians in nine months to a year. Shamir was quoted in a newspaper interview saying he had intended to drag autonomy talks last October with the public goal of reaching an autonomy agreement within one year as an interim step to a final peace arrangement.

The more than 100,000 Jewish settlers living among the 1.75 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip fear Rabin's plan will end their dream of annexing the land they regard as the Jewish state's by biblical right.

The settlers, who live in heavily guarded enclaves, are well-armed. Many of the men tuck revolvers in their belts and tote Uzi sub-machine guns and M16 automatic rifles.

Since the last election, the settler leadership openly began planning a campaign of mass demonstrations against autonomy.

## ALGERIAN TRIAL ADJOURNED

The trial of two Muslim fundamentalist leaders on charges carrying the death penalty broke up abruptly in Algeria last week when defence lawyers walked out. Abassi Madani, 61 and Ali Belhadj, 35, leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), returned to the cells they have occupied since June 1991 after their supporters demanding an Islamic state plunged Algeria into turmoil.

Foreign reporters and observers were barred from the trial. It was not immediately clear when the case will resume.

The accused faced charges including aggression and conspiracy against the state. Belhadj is also charged with kidnapping and torture of kidnap victims.

Five other FIS officials faced lesser charges. Paramilitary gendarmes manned roadchecks round the pillared tribunal in the military headquarters town of Blida, 50 kms. south of Algiers.

Relatives of the accused were let through but foreign journalists were turned away. Defence Ministry sources told Reuters: "It is an internal affair. It is in a military barracks and we cannot let foreigners in. Also there is not much room inside. Perhaps there will be a communique."

A French television crew was briefly held and their cassette seized after they filmed the checkpoint, one of two on the last kms before the courthouse. French lawyer Jacques Verges, asked to attend by the defence, was also refused entry.

The FIS lawyers walked out in protest at what they termed as "lack of form" and the absence of key witnesses.

At another level, the situation is further complicated with the assassination of, Boudhief, the Chairman of the ruling council. Many people continue to blame the FIS for the murder. Meanwhile, Algeria has a new leader, Mr. Ali Kaffi.

The military-supported ruling council has yet to draw a clear-cut strategy in its dealings with the FIS and other Islamic groups. In the meanwhile, symbols of the military and the state are under constant attack by armed groups. Just two days ago, five soldiers were ambushed in Boudouaou, 40 kilometers from Algiers.

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**Ambassador Nodinot:****"Yemeni-French Relations  
Have on a Solid Base."**

J.F. Nodinot, the French Ambassador, is a writer as well as diplomat. This year, he has updated one of his old books on the Arab World entitled "21 Etats pour une Nation?" Mr. Nodinot is going to finish off his term of service in Yemen, which started on 19/12/1989, soon. On the occasion of the 14th of July, France's National Day, the Yemen Times interviewed him: Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: How do you evaluate Yemeni-French relations?**

**A:** I think that relations between Yemen and France have a solid base. Our relations continue to grow at various levels and in the different fields.

Yemen's population today is more than 13 million, which is more than half of the total population of the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, Yemen today is the only country in the region which is experimenting to create a modern state based on democratic values. Moreover, Yemen has peacefully negotiated its re-unification at a time when neighboring countries (Horn of Africa) are falling apart in civil wars. Those and other factors make Yemen a respectable country with which France is interesting in building strong relations.

France and Yemen also see eye to eye regarding many regional and international issues such as regional security and the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

**Q: What are the difficulties that stand in the way of more cooperation?**

**A:** There are a few difficulties at various levels. At the cultural level, there is the attitudinal problem. Let me give you an example. Last week, a Yemeni delegation went to France. It had a nine o'clock appointment; it showed up at eleven o'clock. The French side could not see them, and they got upset. There is also the language barrier.

At the commercial level, there is a visible absence of a commercial court system which can rectify the business violations quickly. This is crucial to enable expansion of business. But we have achieved considerable progress in various joint projects.

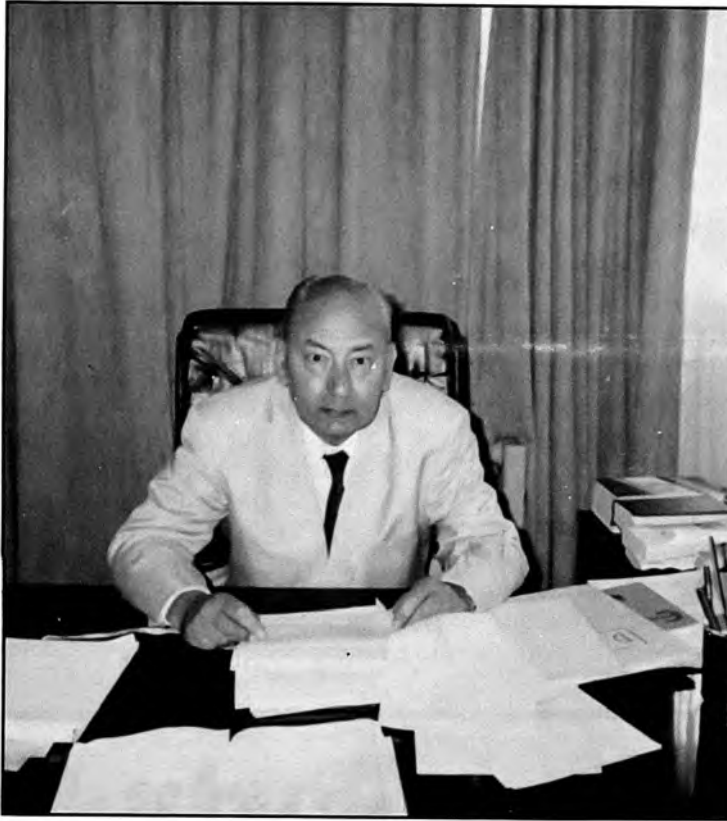
**Q: Could you give us examples of cooperation projects between Yemen and France?**

**A:** Over the last two years, I can point to several examples of joint efforts. Sanaa University started a French Department, and the University of Aden will

flowing in. We will contribute towards that. There is also a coffee development project.

In fishing and marine products, in oil exploration, archaeology, trade, telecommunications, transportation, etc.

Continues on page 2



follow suit starting from September 1992. We are providing the teachers, and other facilities.

There are French CFI programs which are transmitted through channel 2 on Yemeni television.

The Yemen Times has started two pages in French, which hopefully, as the paper expands, will grow to four pages.

The French Cultural Center has activated its programs, and enrolments are growing at a steady pace.

In the health sector, we are finalizing steps to assist in operating a pediatric and gynecologist hospital in Sanaa. We will bring in French physicians and assistants, who will transfer their knowledge and experience to their Yemeni counterparts.

In the field of agriculture, we are helping introduce high-yield varieties of pine-apple trees which are adapted to Yemen. Efforts are also underway in other crops and trees. For example, the resettlement of 400 families (returnees) on farms, will require an allocation of YR. 6000 per family to be paid to the families to maintain their livelihood until their incomes from the farms start

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*is appointed in the position of*  
**Vice President and General Manager**  
**of CanadianOxy Offshore International Ltd.,**  
**Yemen Republic**

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