



YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

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OURVIEWPOINT



Would the YSP Change Its Name?

The Yemeni Socialist Party has gone through a major transformation. Today, the YSP is an ardent believer of individual initiative and free enterprise. It is also a strong supporter of a multi-party political system that strongly observes human rights. The new literature of the YSP is a clear indicator of the change in the philosophy of the party.

At another level, the YSP's new friends are different from those of the past. Today, the YSP is forging strong links with political parties in Europe, especially central and northern Europe. This is evident from the protocols it has signed, as well as from the exchange of visits.

But in many circles, the people are still dubious about the intentions and commitment of the YSP to the new values it has taken on.

There is consensus that significant change has taken place. But people are still bothered by the past. This is especially true as the YSP name has become a troublesome reminder of the past.

Hence the question: Would the Yemeni Socialist Party change its name?

There are many suggestions as to what the new name could be ... The Yemeni Liberal Party, the Yemeni Democratic Party, the Yemeni Social Party, etc.

Think about it!

The Publisher

In-Fighting in the Islah

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (the Islah) is going through many difficulties as its cohesion is put to the test in its first real decision. The Islah, which is identified as an Islamic fundamentalist party, is asked to field its candidates for the parliamentary elections coming up during the next couple of months.

According to informed sources, there is a split between the theological and tribal factions within the party over the candidates to be chosen for the elections. The clergymen are led by Abdul-Majeed Zindani while the tribal group is led by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar. To add to the complications, the tribal group itself is split into two competing factions - one led by the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, and the other by Sheikh Naji Abdulaziz Shayif.

Over the last four days, there have been meetings of the Hashed tribal sheikhs to bridge the rift between the two Hashed tribal leaders. Sheikh Naji is demanding that they should assist in building a more honest central government with more respect for law and order among the people.

It is to be noted that President Ali Abdullah Saleh, himself from Hashed, is closely associated with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Al-Ahmar, and the two men have tended to join forces in the face of "external" threats or competition.

THE OLYMPICS: Embodiment of Human Perfection & Cooperation

On Sunday, July 26th, the Olympic Games were officially inaugurated in Barcelona, Spain. King Juan Carlos was at hand, along with many world leaders, to participate in the opening ceremonies. The Spanish authorities have spent over US\$9 billion to prepare for these events.

Over 10,000 athletes from 172 countries are participating in the games which will be held in seven cities. The games will be viewed, through TV transmissions, by over 4 billion persons, while over half a million spectators will watch the games live. The business community is taking full advantage of the market potential that the games provide. Commercials advertized during the games will cost over US\$4 million. The Spanish authorities have mobilized over 45,000 soldiers and policemen to be on the alert for any unplanned developments.

The Republic of Yemen is participating in several of the games. The Yemeni group to the olympics is made-up of 120 athletes, their managers, and a few administrators. Although Yemen is not expecting any gold or other medals, it is believed Yemen's participation will be fruitful.

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EL SOFFARY

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YEMEN TIMES

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PERSONAL VIEW

Break-through in
Yemeni-Saudi RelationsDr. Saleem O. Altamimi,
Prime Minister's Office

For decades, the territorial dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has always appeared like a timed explosive. It could have exploded at any time. The long standing dispute has always been the main source of tension and instability in the fraternal relations between the two countries. Its negative impact is, to a certain degree, felt in Yemen's relations with some of the other Gulf states.

The continuation of the unresolved dispute does not only affect the parties concerned, but it represents a serious and continuous destabilizing factor in the region.

Unified Yemen and its responsible and pragmatic foreign policy have created the necessary conditions and paved the way for a viable and acceptable solution based on mutual recognition of historical rights. An honorable solution which will give a strong impetus, not only to bilateral relations, but also to better understanding and cooperation among the brotherly states in the region on crucial matters affecting the whole Arab nation.

It is understood that the onset of the border negotiations will not be an easy task, but since there is a real willingness and good intentions to tackle the issue seriously, there will be a breakthrough. Moreover, by sitting together in Geneva and conducting an open and frank discussion, the two countries have taken the first step in the right direction.

We should also remind those countries concerned about defending their 'vital interests' in the region that they have an important and constructive role to play in resolving this thorny issue.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL

An Association to Fight
the Confiscation Laws

A group of property owners who were victimized by the confiscation laws No. 27 of 1969 and No. 32 of 1972 have formed an association to nudge the government into a quick rectification of those mistakes.

The Association of Landlords Whose Property Was Confiscated, as it is called, is headquartered in Aden. Its main purpose - "to take all the necessary legal measures to bring about a fair settlement of the property confiscated by the former PDRY".

The establishment of this association is a watershed in the country's progress towards more democracy, because it represents the first institutionalized forum established with the intention of taking the government to court and a step that tries to make it accountable to the law.

Babangida's Message to Ali Saleh

Earlier this week, H.E. Mr. Peter Uno, Special Political Advisor to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida flew into Sanaa on a two-day official visit to Yemen. Earlier this week. He was carrying a message to President Saleh from the Nigerian President.

Radio Israel Beams Special
Programs to Yemen

Radio Israel is beaming half-hour programs four times a week. These programs are especially prepared for Yemeni listeners, notably the Jewish Yemenis.

The announcers call Yemeni regions by name, and run passionate pleas for the Jews telling them that they look forward to receiving them in Israel. The programs also beam songs as well as modern Hebrew language lessons.

According to Yemeni law, any Yemeni is free to travel anywhere in the world except to Israel, which is technically at a state of war with Yemen.

Five New Ambassadors
Accredited in Sanaa

General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, received on Saturday, July 25th, 1992, the letters of credence of five new ambassadors accredited to Yemen. These are Ambassador Li Liuten of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Ahmed Al-Idrisi of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ambassador Yusuf Hamed Nasser of the Temporary Government of Ethiopia, Ambassador Hohvo Christensin of the Kingdom of Sweden, and Ambassador Mariano Alonso Boron Aberastory of the Kingdom of Spain.

تهنئة
نهنيء ونبارك للأخوين
(محمد ونشوان أمين حراب)
بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقبال العقد والزفاف
المهنؤون:
مصطفى محمد الشرفي
عصام ياسين السقاف
يحيى حراب

Hunt Company People Are OK!

Mr. George Slaughter, Vice President and General Manager of Yemen Hunt Oil Company, and four companions were kidnapped on Sunday morning (8:30 am), July 26, as they were boarding a helicopter on their way to Mareb. The kidnapping took place on the Jihanah road, a few kilometers southeast of Sanaa. By mid-afternoon, the group was released. Yemen Hunt Oil Company issued the following press release:

"The General Manager of Yemen Hunt Oil Company, George Slaughter, and five other YHOC employees including two Yemeni nationals, were released unharmed today after being abducted near Sanaa. The release occurred at 7:45 a.m. Dallas time, (3:45 p.m. Sanaa time) some seven hours after the incident began.

The hijacking of a small bus, by two brothers concerned about the jailing of a third brother, was a domestic matter, officials said. The hijackers apparently did not have knowledge of who the bus passengers were. Yemen Hunt officials praised President (Ali Abdullah) Saleh and the Yemen government officials involved for the fast reaction by the government in resolving the situation.

The Yemen Hunt employees were preparing to depart from a helicopter landing site used by the oil company for transportation to and from oil field facilities, and were aboard the bus when the hijacking took place."

In a telephone statement to the Yemen Times, Mr. Slaughter indicated that the incident, unfortunate as it is, will not affect Yemen Hunt Oil Company's work in the country.

The National Conference
Is On August 15th

The Preparatory Committee of the National Conference has finalized the schedules of some of its most important tasks. It decided to hold the Press Conference on August 1st, instead of July 30th as previously planned, to avoid competition with the Foreign Minister's press conference, scheduled also for the 30th.

The last meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held on August 2nd, and the 3-day National Conference will start in Sanaa on the 15th of August.

Although all the political parties are participating, the People's General Congress is still working to change the name from "National Conference" to "National Gathering".

AIDS Workshop Completed

The AIDS Workshop, sponsored and organized by the National Program for AIDS Control, was completed in Aden on Sunday, July 26th.

Dr. Fahmi Mohammed Qayid, Director of the Department of Infectious Diseases, explained the government's policies in working to control infections and contagious diseases.

Several members of the religious leaders and clergymen spoke about the need for stronger moral values among the people. Dr. Ziyad Al-Qiyari, representing the World Health Organization, explained the world-wide development of the problem.

Colonel Ali Uthrub:

"We plan to complete the civil registry efforts by 2000."

Colonel Ali Uthrub is one of the officers who participated in the September 26th Revolution, and one of the staunch defenders of the Republic.

His previous posts include commander of several military brigades, commander of the Police Academy, General Manager of Immigration and Passports Authority, and Minister of Interior. Over the last eight years, he has been the General Manager of the Civil Registry Authority.

Yemen Times Economic Editor Ameen Nouisser interviewed him on the civil registry efforts.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: There have been big efforts at civil registry, especially in the form of issuing identity cards. How far have these efforts come?

A: To date, over 2.8 million identity cards have been issued. Most of these are still of the former YAR and PDRY cards, but we have embarked on a major drive, two months ago, to re-issue the new unified cards.

We have opened branches all over the country, and we have reduced the paperwork required to have an ID issued. We shall continue to work in this direction in spite of the many difficulties.

Q: What kind of difficulties are you referring to?

A: I am referring to many difficulties, but the principal ones are two:
i- insufficient funds,
ii- inadequate personnel.

Q: Many Yemenis still do not have their IDs, and yet elections are quickly approaching. Don't you see a problem here?

A: First of all, I urge everybody to get their IDs. It is a quick process.

Second, the Elections Law has bypassed this problem by focussing on the elections identity card. This means that the citizens will get a new and different ID. Of course, as a prerequisite, one would need the regular ID, but this could be resolved in an exceptional way for this election.

Q: We hear complaints from the Yemenis born abroad, and how much they are hassled when



they apply for their IDs. What seems to be the problem?

A: We understand their difficulties, but I also hope they understand ours. We try to verify their Yemeni ancestry, so we ask them to provide us any documents that will prove their Yemeni lineage. If they can't do that, we ask them to go to court and extract a court verification that somebody has solemnly witnessed that they are of Yemeni lineage. I realize this process can be a bit tedious and cumbersome, but what can we do when the civil registry is neither complete nor old enough to verify these accounts.

At the same time, remember that the country is also hosting many non-Yemenis who are here as refugees. At the same time, we had tried to help these people by going to their countries of domicile. We travelled to Kenya and Tanzania where we met with the migrant Yemeni communities. We gave them forms to fill out and asked them to keep them for when they came to Yemen. Those who have those forms will be exempted from many of the steps in the process of having an ID issued.

Q: Recently, there was a heated debate over the Family Law (women's rights). Could you give us details?

A: We are not directly concerned in the law. Our role is simply to document births, marriages, divorces, deaths, etc.

I think that the Ministry of Justice is more involved in this issue.

Q: Your offices are overwhelmed with all these files. Would it not be easier to computerize or microfilm the files?

A: We have presented this issue to the government. We are now waiting for its approval.

Q: How involved are you in the preparations for the 1994 census?

A: We are a population statistic collecting authority. We hope to be able to play a supporting role in the census effort. We have already had meetings with

the Ministry of Planning and Development, and especially the Central Statistical Organization. We are building records on the population of the country, which is so vital for our planning and development purposes, as well as for our political evolution. We hope that the service ministries such as health, education, etc., will take these statistics into consideration when they apportion their new projects and services.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to bring to the attention of our leaders the importance of having a complete civil registry for the country. Our goal is to have this task completed by the year 2000.

To achieve this goal, we will need the undivided attention and wholehearted support of the leadership, the government, as well as the people. I am optimistic about achieving this goal.

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INTO YOUR PLATE

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AUGUST 1st: WORLD BREASTFEEDING DAY

By:
Dr. Hassan Sugulle,
Health Officer,
UNICEF Sana'a.

August 1, 1992, has been designated as the World Breastfeeding Day. The celebration is part of a global initiative to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding. Proponents include the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) as well as the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF.

The declaration also reflects the goals of 1990's World Summit for Children, which called for strengthening the role and status of women through several measures, including breastfeeding.

Why do millions believe in the importance of breastfeeding? For one, widespread adoption of this practice would save the lives of over one million infants each year. It would also save many infants in each country from getting infected by preventable diseases; decrease the number of women who develop breast and ovarian cancers; and decrease both government and family spending for artificial baby milk and medical costs associated with artificial milks.

This hospital is
Baby Friendly



The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative

In conjunction with this celebration, WHO and UNICEF have drawn up a code of practice for all maternity units to ensure that they give babies the best possible start in life by encouraging their mothers to breastfeed. All hospitals that comply with the "Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding" will have a plaque by the front entrance designating them as "baby friendly".

The reason for decline in breastfeeding, according to UNICEF's 1992 State of the World's Children report, is that more families are living in cities, more women are going out to work, and more advertisements are persuading



mixes badly with poverty, UNICEF says. Without enough money to buy adequate quantities of powder and without enough education to read the instructions on the tins, many families overdilute commercial milk powders. And without clean water or sterilizing equipment, refrigerators, or fuel, the milk powder is often mixed with contaminated water and fed to babies from unsterile bottles.

mothers that bottle-feeding is more modern and sophisticated.

In fact, breastmilk is the world's most sophisticated food, says the UNICEF report. It is so nutritionally complete that an infant normally needs no other food or drink for the first 4 to 6 months of life. And it protects infants against common infections.

Apart from being inferior in quality, powdered milk

As a result, bottle-fed babies in poor communities have been found to be approximately 15 times more likely to die from diarrhoeal diseases and 4 times more likely to die from pneumonia than babies who are exclusively breastfed.

Breastfeeding is more natural and is free of charge. As a mother, please do not deprive your child from such a precious gift from God! As a Muslim mother, breastfeeding is a religious obligation.

Imagine that the world had invented a new 'dream product' to feed and immunize everyone born on Earth.

Imagine also that it was available everywhere, required no storage or delivery - and helped mothers to plan their families and reduce the risk of cancer. Then imagine that the world refused to use it.

Towards the end of this century of unprecedented discovery and invention, even as scientists discover the origins of life itself, this scenario is not, alas, a fiction.

The 'dream product' is human breastmilk, available to us all at birth, and yet we are not using it.

Every day, between 3,000 and 4,000 infants die from diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections because the ability to feed them adequately has been taken away from their mothers. Thousands more succumb to other illnesses and malnutrition.

The more science discovers about breastfeeding, the more unrivalled its position in human nutrition and development is confirmed.

Breastmilk provides an infant's total nutrient requirements for the first four to six months of life. When combined with appropriate weaning foods, it is an invaluable source of nourishment until past the second birthday, preventing malnutrition by allowing the child to develop fully, using the family diet.

The following are reasons to breastfeed your child:

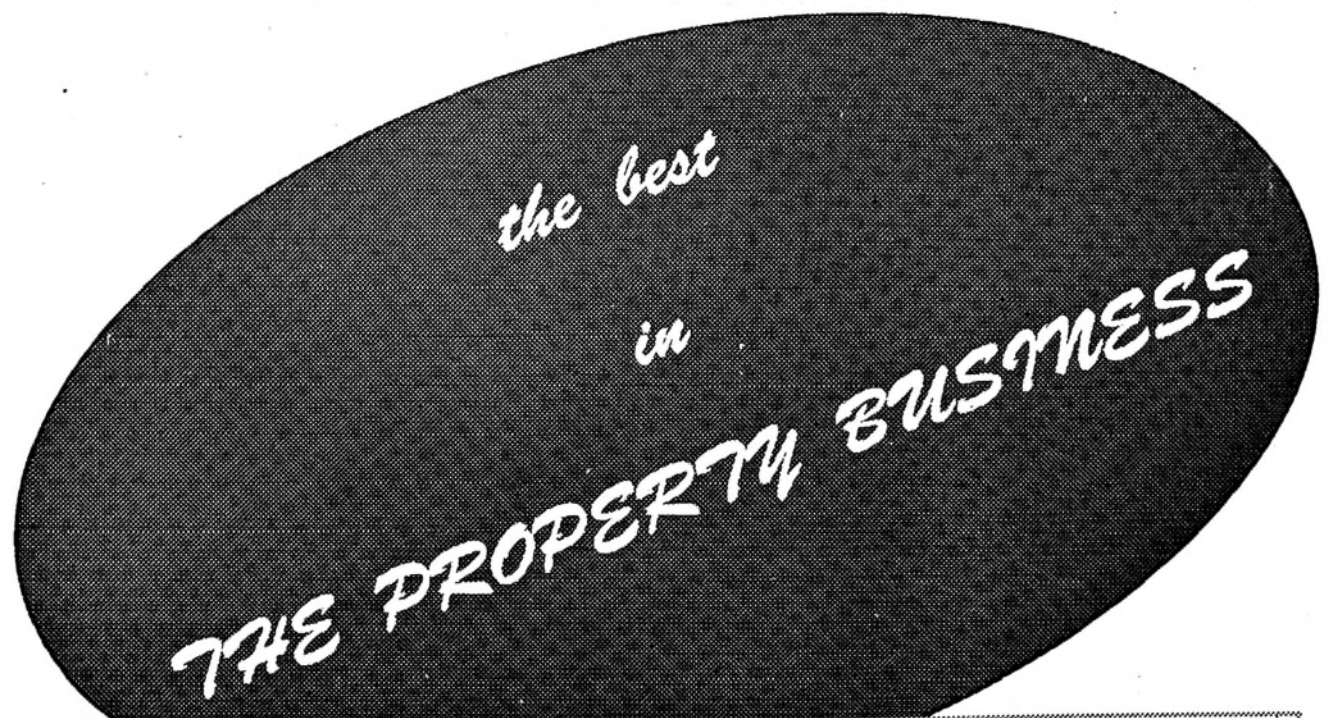
1. Breastmilk is the perfect food for infants.
2. Breastmilk provides the baby's first immunization.
3. Breastfeeding bonds mother and child.
4. Breastfeeding prevents diarrhoea among infants.
5. Breastfeeding contributes to birth spacing.
6. Breastfeeding saves mothers' lives.
7. Breastfeeding saves children's lives.
8. Breastfeeding saves money for the family.

NOW, DO WE NEED ANY MORE REASON?



The Property Centre

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Aden: Malla Street, P.O. Box () - Tel. 42128, Fax ()



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Text of Investment Law #22 of 1991, Part III

9. Conduct research relating to investment and the problems and obstacles hampering effective promotion and orientation of investment to serve development purposes and make appropriate proposals in this regard.

10. Identify investment opportunities and viable projects available for investment in the Republic, and promote them in likely investor circles in the Republic and abroad.

11. Prepare and publish lists of feasible investment opportunities and projects to which Yemeni, Arab and foreign capital could be invited to invest pursuant to the provisions of this Law.

12. Collect and publish information and statements needed to familiarize investors with the investment climate in the Republic and facilitating the acquisition of studies, information and data needed for project establishment by those interested.

13. Keep a record of invested capital in the units of currency in which received, if cash, value in kind subscriptions and incorporeal rights, and review the valuation of invested capital upon disposal or liquidation for reexport or transfer abroad.

14. Approve the transfer of net profits and retransfer of capital abroad after examining the documents concerning a project's financial position and verifying, in particular, that reserves and allocations provided for in law and in recognized technical and accounting practices have been set aside, and that taxes have been paid upon completion of the exemption period provided for in this Law.

15. Carry out other duties and functions assigned to the Authority in matters relating to investment or project transactions and related matters.

b. The Authority may sue in its own name, and defend itself in suits against it, in all matters

relating to its business and duties concerning execution of the provisions of this Law.

c. The Authority shall have the competence to own and dispose of any moveable or non-moveable property, as well as to sign contracts and transactions needed for it to carry out its duties.

d. The Authority shall have the competence to purchase or lease land for the purpose of establishing projects, industrial parks or complexes and free investment zones that may be set up in accordance with the provisions of this Law. It may also, with the approval of the Council of Ministers upon a recommendation by the Board of Directors, reserve and expropriate land that it deems necessary to achieve this end against fair compensation to its owners on the basis of the price for that time and place. The Authority may invest interested projects or investor with the ownership of such lands or rent them according to the principles and conditions approved by the Board of Directors ensuring that prices and rents and terms of ownership or lease are encouraging.

e. The Authority, by resolution of the Board of Directors, upon the request of the parties concerned, may assist in all or part of the cost of studies and research relating to exploring investment opportunities and project feasibility of investment conditions and issues in the Republic and which the Board of Directors considers to be of use in facilitating the Authority's business and achieving its objectives in accordance with the principles and conditions established by the Board of Directors.

Article (35):

a. The Authority shall have a Board of Directors composed as follows:

1. Prime Minister, Chairman
2. Senior Vice-Premier, Vice-Chairman

3. Foreign Minister, member
4. Minister of Industry, member
5. Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, member
6. Minister of Supply and Trade, member
7. Minister of Planning and Development, member
8. Minister of Finance, member
9. Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, member
10. President of the Authority, member
11. Minister of Deputy Minister of the agency concerned who shall be entitled to attend meetings and vote when subjects concerning sectors the agency oversees are being considered, member
12. General Manager of the Authority, Rapporteur

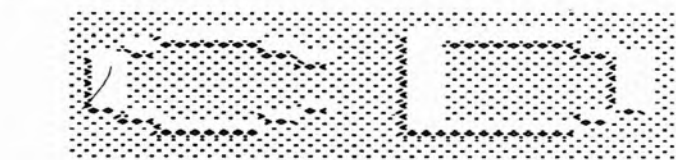
Article (36):

The Board of Directors shall be deemed to be the supreme authority overseeing the affairs of the Authority, disposing of its business and formulating the policies it pursues. It may take such decisions as it deems necessary to achieve the purposes for which it was established. In addition to the powers and competence provided for in this Law, the Board shall, in particular, carry out the following:

1. Formulate policies relating to the Authority's competencies in the context of overall State policy.
2. Formulate plans and programs for the Authority activity in the context of State general plan.
3. Move to develop the Authority's activity on modern technical and management lines including the standards, methods and rules of project appraisal in accordance with the provisions of this Law, and keeping pace with the various developments that impact on the reality of the national economy and requirements of State general policy.

Continues next week!

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY



EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A			
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	209688/89	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Russian F.R	78272/203142
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HOTELS

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Bristol	239197
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Marib (063)	
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SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE LOCAL PRESS

By: Bashar Ghazi Askar

Western Concern for Yemen?

It has become a tradition for the Western industrial countries, especially the USA, to show concern for the well-being of the underdeveloped countries, especially the ones which suffer from poverty and starvation. In many conferences and summit meetings, and through spokespersons, the West often displays a verbal concern for the LDCs - Less Developed Countries. Their assistance is theoretically linked to a move towards more democratic, multi-party systems which observe human rights. Those who follow Western statements often conclude that the West is genuinely keen in assisting the Arab countries by helping them get rid of poverty, backwardness and illiteracy. Western concern is real and human from many points of view; but the link between foreign aid, on the one hand, and democracy, and multi-party politics, on the other, is not so real. The latest Western concern for Yemen, the motivations and expected outcomes are not an exception. Let's wait and see how they handle them vis-a-vis Yemen, and how development is affected in our country!

**Ali Abdu Naser,
As-Sahwa, Sanaa
16/7/1992.**

On the Anniversary of Iraq's Revolution!

General Abdulla As-Sallal, who was attending the Iraqi Embassy reception on the anniversary of the Iraqi Revolution (17th July) said, "I think the revolution in Iraq is considered one of the great revolutions in (the region's) history. It created the motivation for the great September Revolution 1962 in Yemen, which we consider a miracle among the revolutions in the Arab World." "In fact, to start a revolution with Yemen's backward conditions of those days, and to succeed, is something miraculous." Commenting on the 17th of July Revolution in Iraq, and the 23rd July Revolution in Egypt, he described them as the "two main factors which influenced all the patriots of Yemen to ac-

complish our aims." Regarding the current embargo on the Iraqi people following the Gulf War, he said, "I think the Iraqi people, who have a strong will, determination and perseverance, will be quite capable of getting out of this crisis."

**Al-Gamaheer, Sanaa,
20/7/1992.**

The Crisis of the Official Media

In a seminar held recently by the Yemeni Agency for Information - SABA, the Minister of Information (in a clear response to a Yemen Times editorial) stressed that the official media does not suffer any crisis. The ministers' statement was not put for discussion, as "there wasn't enough time to discuss the point with him". With due respect to the minister, I find myself unable to agree with what he stated for the following reasons:

First: The personnel of the official media have the necessary theoretical knowledge as well as the practical experience needed for the work. What is missing is the interactive role and initiative among these cadres.

Second: Co-ordination between the official media organizations is lacking.

Third: There is a preponderant dominance of bureaucrats overseeing the editors, writers and other experts.

Fourth: There are many centers which give out contradicting instructions. These points, in my opinion, express the pressing crisis of the official media.

**Ameen Mohamed Sharaf,
Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa,
19/7/1992.**

The Press: Problems of Quality and Quantity

It seems that the press in Yemen will suffer a lot because of explosion in the number of newspapers. It looks like, on average, every ten days, a new newspaper or magazine is born. Today, there are more than 145 publications between newspapers and magazines.

If compared to advanced countries, and as compared

to the population, this is not really a large number. But the problem lies in that these publications lack meaningful content.

One reason is that most of these papers do not do investigative reporting. Besides, the sources and channels of information are very lacking.

There is still another problem. The Third World media is not involved in the development process, and it does not address the real issues. For example, the Third World suffers from the problem of the growth in population. The rate of population growth is much greater than the rate of increase in income. Therefore such countries are destined to suffer from poverty, starvation, crimes, diseases, illiteracy and environmental problems.

The press in our country, in spite of its large number, is weak in its content and competency. It is crippled in the way it operates due to poor information sources and lack of experience. The press does not fulfill the mental needs of its readers. Thus, we should reorganize this process so as not to allow the discrepancy between quantity and poor quality to grow.

This line of reasoning should not lead us to minimize the importance of the media or to belittle it. But the press should not go after sensationalism by drumming up small stories through exaggerations which divided the society into factions.

**Al-Wahdah, Sanaa,
22/7/1992.**

The Coming Months Will Bring Stability and Prosperity

Many Western sources reported that Yemen will witness modernization, development, reconstruction and stability in the coming months. They are referring to oil exploration efforts, especially in Shabwah and Hadhramaut, where large quantities of oil are expected to be produced. The reports indicate that although Yemen has limited declared oil reserves, the early results of the twenty or so oil companies working in Yemen are promising. Yemen's ability to attract so many oil and mineral

companies is by itself a hopeful sign. If there is oil, they are bound to find it. The increasing activity of oil efforts have coincided with certain political developments recently. Consider the border talks with the Sultanate of Oman's which was successfully completed.

Consider the newly-started talks in Geneva between Saudi-Arabia and Yemen regarding the Tayef accord of 1934.

Consider preparations for the November elections. Free dialogue and persistent efforts of the political parties to patch up new alliances despite the assassinations that colored the situation, are leading elements toward stability and prosperity.

**Al-Ayyam, Aden,
22/7/1992.**

The Strategy of Intimidation Through Violence

The strategy of intimidation through violence seems to have raised the stakes in our society. Certain factions are upset and agonized over Yemen's independent views and continued march towards democracy and prosperity. Therefore they began complicating the internal situation by aggressively destabilizing our cities through various diabolic plans, involving brutal assassinations that are alien to our Yemeni traditions and morals. On the contrary, Yemen's deep rooted traditions and values are against treason and stabbing from the back.

What these factions are after in their dirty actions is to spread mutiny, mistrust and malice among the political parties by making them collide against each other. They also attempt to prepare the way for national in-fighting which at the end means disunity.

Accordingly, the sabotage, the assassinations and other similar efforts aim at:

1. creating the atmosphere of distrust among political parties. It is also an attempt to put obstacles in the way of Yemen in order to bring about conflicts and animosities, and to divert attention from the important issues of the homeland.

2. destroying the people's trust and confidence in the

political leadership and government, which is a starting point for creating a gap between the people and the national leadership.

3. stopping any efforts at building a modern state.

4. creating a rift between the political parties and the tribes and other segments of our people.

5. creating turmoil, fear and intimidation among our people.

These facts point to a diabolic strategy of destroying Yemen's unity and tearing Yemen into factions or mini-states. I believe that all political our country are disgusted by this diabolical act of intimidation, and they realize that the goal of intimidation is mutiny and national strife.

interests of our hostiles.

Putting an end to this terror of intimidation, political assassinations and violence as a whole will depend on the unity of all the political parties in our society. Their cooperation and interaction with, and assistance to the political parties in power is crucial in building a strong state, the state of law and order, and towards a comprehensive development.

**Salem Umar Hussein,
Aden, Aden,
21/7/1992.**

Managers' Democracy

When one goes to any government administration in Taiz, one gets disgusted by the behavior of the managers and bosses. All work is delayed because the boss is either late or never shows up.

These big shots do not appreciate the costs that the people incur because of delays of their paperwork. The boss has a government car, he has a driver, and he has a lot of goodies and allowances to go with that. Now, why is he late, or why is it that he does not show up for work? I have reached this conclusion from a bitter experience as I had to complete some formalities, and the problem was always the top guy.

I conclude by kindly informing each manager that his office misses him. Would he please come!

**Abdul-Galeel As-Sufyani,
Al-Jumhuriyah, Taiz,
24/7/1992.**

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

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Hundreds of years ago, most of the Arabs used to travel abroad in order to preach and to teach the Quran. Because of geography, the Yemenis were the only Arabs that focussed on the East African shores. In Somalia, the Yemeni travellers settled down as time passed. They brought a new life to the place; they inter-married with the local population; worked in trade, crafts, and agriculture; and enjoyed prominence.

As the country prospered, the ethnic people - the nomads, and notably the so-called intellectuals, started envying the people who brought life to their country.

This is probably one part of the civil war that forced the Arabs to leave the area.

Although the Arabs lived together with the Somalis, still they did keep some distance from them. They developed their own ways; their houses and quarters were of a different style; and even their lines of businesses were different.

The animosity festered.

Finally it all came out in this bloody civil war. It brought an end to Arab settlements and, maybe even to Islam in Somalia. There is no hope whatsoever of Arabs going back, or having trade relations with Somalis of today. The reason is very clear. The main tie was Islam.

The nomadic and vengeful savages have been destroying even the historic mosques, the Quran was set on fire, the clergy and ulama were either killed or escaped to save their lives.

The looting and burning spared nothing.

It will be very difficult to restore or re-educate these bloody creatures in the Horn of Africa.

Given these changes, it is necessary to re-organize another historic move, another expedition, towards Somalia. It is our (Arabs') task to stand-up to the savages that are bringing so much suffering to the people of Somalia. We have to stop this wind of violence that promises to destroy anything decent on its path.

By:
Ahmed Mohamed Omar Al-Amoudi, Mukalla.

YEMEN IS BIRTH PLACE OF ARABS

Many Arab inhabitants can trace their ancestry to Yemen. The first wave of immigration, was to the Hejaz and Najd. The second one was to Bilad Asham and Iraq when old Marib dam collapsed.

With the coming of Islam, Yemenis willingly took up Islam, and soon became the bulwark of its forces which marched northwards, westwards and eastwards.

Waves after waves of Yemeni tribes, under the able leadership of the great Kings of the Fertile crescent - seated first in Damascus, and then in Baghdad; carried the banner of Islam in all directions. In the process, they settled in those lands, ranging from Khorasan and Bilad As-Sind (in what is today north Iran, Pakistan and India), to Misr (Egypt) and all the way to the Maghreb countries of North Africa. The slim and sturdy Yemenis were well fitted to do the job.

The new religion (Islam) had come to free the slaves, fight the oppressors, and bring social justice. Islam came to give an equal chance to all peoples. It gave the rise to a new nation and a new era. Going back to the first story, these adventures have taken Yemenis to far-away lands where they settled down. Thus the Yemenis are grandfathers of most Arabs.

By:
Saleh Al-Suraihi, Yemeni Embassy, Addis Ababa.

EXODUS VESSEL FROM SOMALIA

The Cargo ship named "Gobwein" which was to carry the last of the Yemeni families from war-torn Somalia, was seized by over 1000 terrorists armed with swords and knives. They ordered the captain to pull anchor and set sail to the ocean. After two weeks of unbearable conditions in the sea of heat, hunger and thirst, the vessel arrived at Mukalla.

The true Muslim, and kind Yemenis granted the passengers in the ship, over 200 boxes of mineral water packed in one liter, and a half liter plastic bottles. But

bad luck struck again - the whole water consignment was taken by the brutal pirates. They started selling the one liter bottles for US\$100 and the half liter bottles for US\$50 to the passengers, most of whom were old, sick and young children.

These bandits will never ever drop the habit of pick pocketing, burglary, and pick and run business, because it is their source of income.

Therefore, I hereby demand the concerned Yemeni authorities to bring these bandits to trial in front of a court of justice. The lunatic who sets his home ablaze will not respect the homes of others.

The Yemenis' hospitality to the Somali refugees will ever live in our hearts, and which we will pass on to the next Somali generations. Yet with gratitude also goes our demand to bring about justice!

By:
M. Abdalla Mohamed Somali, Sana'a.

Keep It Up YEMEN TIMES!

First and above all, let me thank you for an excellent newspaper. I have been reading your paper for half a year now, and it easily surpasses any source of information, available previously. It pleases me to see that it is now possible to print views and ideas Yemenis have always felt themselves free to communicate in speech when meeting visitors such as me.

Your paper very clearly demonstrates where Yemen stands: at the forefront of the democratization process of the Arab World; indeed of most countries in the world. I wish you, your paper and all Yemenis, the best of luck in your progress.

By:
Pertti Hamalainen, Helsinki, Finland.
Author of: YEMEN (Lonely Planet publication: Hawthorn, Australia, 1991), 2nd edition.

ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZ

MAGIC WORD

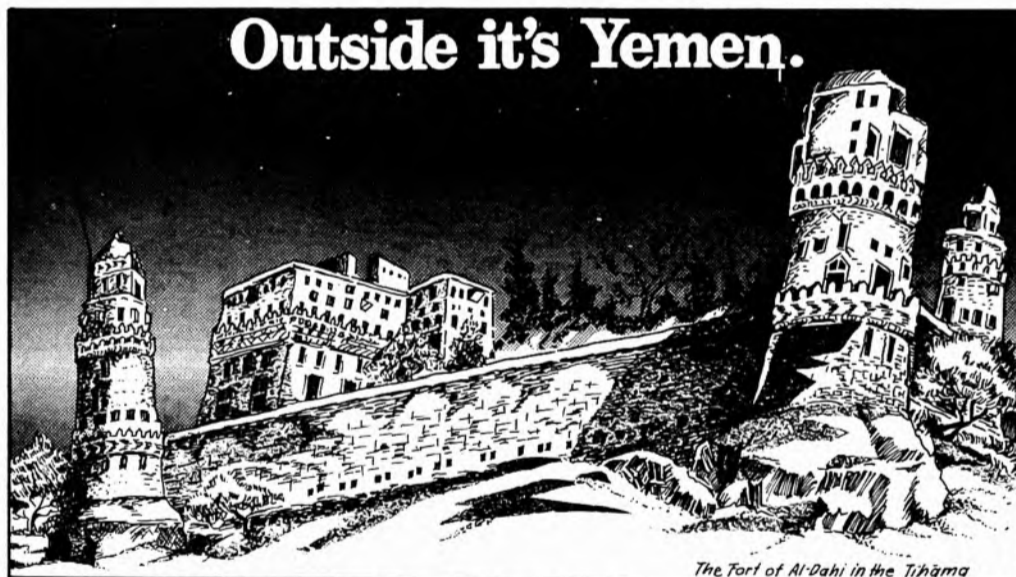
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Bahraini Firm Makes In-Roads into the Yemeni Market

Mr. Maher Mahmood, Export Manager of Awal Refrigeration and Air-conditioning, headquartered in Manama, Bahrain, has just completed a trip to Yemen. "The purpose of the trip was to study the Yemeni market, and assess its potential," he told the Yemen Times.

"In my view, the current Yemeni economic difficulties mask its great potential. That is why we have decided to appoint a local representative, BESTCON. Awal Refrigeration and Airconditioning, with its famous trade mark 'GULF STAR' has been producing and marketing stainless steel kitchen equipment since 1975. "We have been marketing our products in Bahrain, then we expanded to cover the whole GCC region, and now we are poised to expand one more time. Yemen represents a viable option to look into," he explained.

The oil companies, hotels, hospitals, camps, large



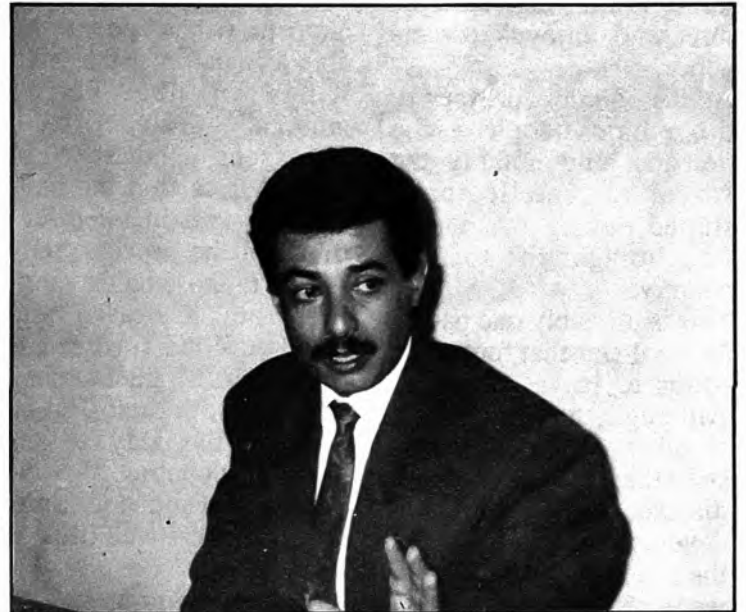
companies, and the army are among their potential customers.

Asked about his assessment of the business environment in Yemen, Mr. Mahmood was upbeat. "I think that the Republic of Yemen is literally trying to open up to the rest of the world. I have to say this is my first trip, but I am convinced that the business opportunities are very

good. In addition to liberal and generous laws, I find that the people are warm and very willing to help. Therefore, I think the business environment and the investment climate are very conducive to new activities. I also think that the opportunities will continue to grow as the country succeeds in exploiting its oil and mineral resources," he added. He also indicated

that very little is known about the changing Yemeni situation in the Gulf. Jamal Al-Mutarreb of BESTCON explained that his company is going to embark on a market survey to assess the existing and potential market size. "From the outset, I can tell you that we think there is a large demand out there. We plan to tap that market," he said. "I believe that we have a quality

product, GULF STAR, and we have a competitive manufacturer, AWAL. Thus, I have a strong feeling we are going to see this project off the ground." "There are advantages to being an Arab company, located in the area. We plan to use that to make in-roads into the Yemeni market by offering to our customers better quality products and services at competitive prices," he concluded.



"GULF STAR" offers a complete range of commercial kitchen equipment made in Bahrain, like self-service counters, working tables, bain maries, refrigerated show cases, reach-in refrigerators/freezers, kitchen sinks, rack shelvings, food warmers, mobile carts, etc. All as per customer specification, sizes and designs. We also offer in addition to equipment, a package of services for supply, installation and commissioning of all kinds of food service jobs. We can do a job from the point of inception through the design and engineering process, deliver it, install it, and provide post-project maintenance and service.

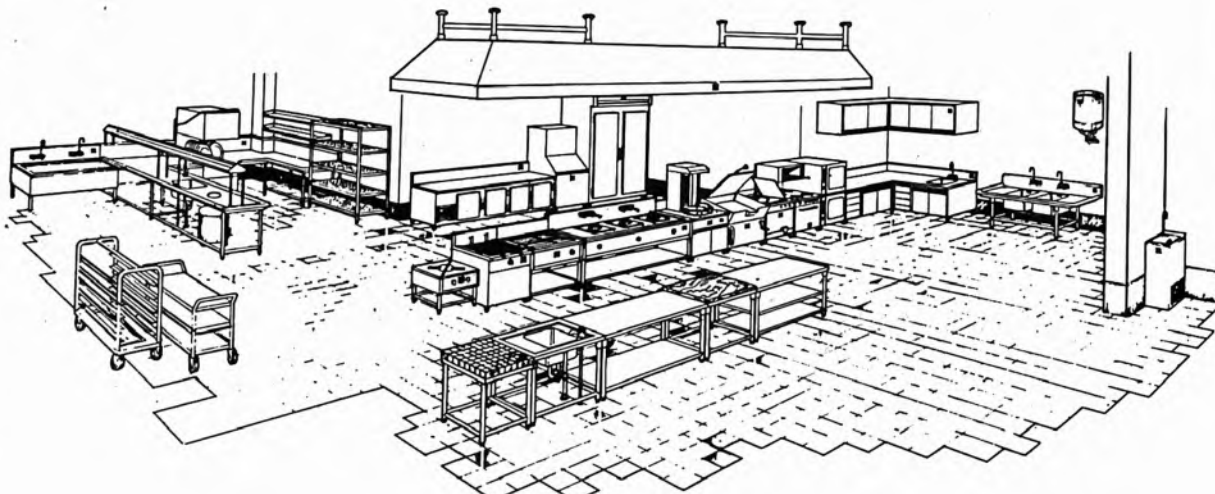
MANUFACTURER AND DESIGNER
OF STAINLESS STEEL
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE:

BESTCON International Ltd

P. O. Box 19272, Sanaa,
Republic of Yemen
Phone: 01-272434, 271811
Fax: 01-272724

Contact person:
Jamal M. Al-Mutarreb



Continued from p. 13

TRANSLATION: THE LOST ART

So why don't we now repeat the same thing and revive the art of translation into Arabic that our forefathers have so well perfected? Perhaps we can make events turn a full circle and make the Arab and Islamic civilization reclaim its former glory. When we look at the situation today, we should be appalled to see the scientific gap separating the Arab world from the scientific reality and technologic advances of the rest of the world.

It is even more appalling to see that the gap is widening instead of narrowing. The Arab individual may be duped into believing that using the products of scientific and technologic advances would make us equal to those who are the makers of these products. This is untrue.

Our development is oriented today towards the consumption of products made by advanced technical know-how. We are even unable to repair these things as they falter. There is another problem. In the name of religion and tradition, many people are stopping us from learning from other nations and civilizations. It does not make us inferior to learn from others, but it does make us inferior to project the impression that we are not in need of the achievements of other races and civilizations.

The very base of the Islamic civilization was built on the work of other civilizations. So why do some people today, in the name of protecting Islam, stand in the way of our learning from other civilizations?

It is my belief that we will remain a consuming nation totally oblivious to the march of times and the civilizational progress of humanity, unless we change our attitude. Due to our xenophobic attitude, we have been transformed into helpless clients to the "living" nations of this world.

Human knowledge and civilization is a heritage that belongs to all of us. It does not belong to only the Greeks, Romans, Persians, Indians, Arabs, Europeans, Americans, etc. It belongs to all humanity, and we can all lay claim to it as fully as any other group.

تهنئه

نتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات
بمناسبة زواج

الشاب هشام عبد الملك الأصبحي

فألف مبروك للأسرتين
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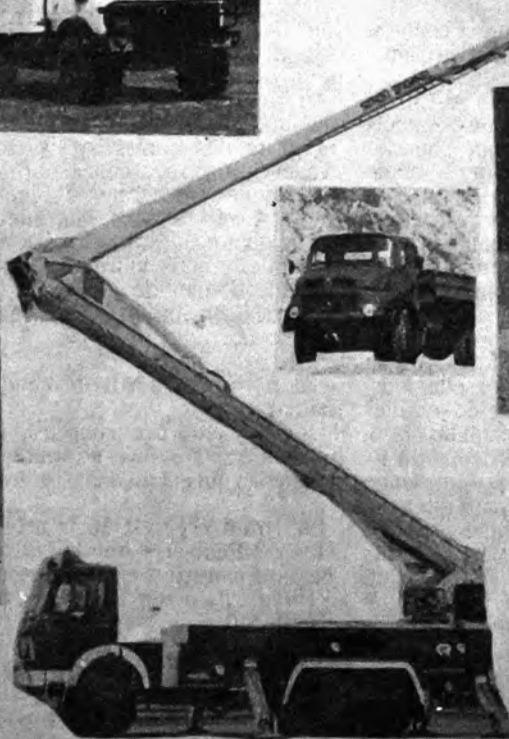
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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Avec la mise en place d'un nouveau Département de Communication et de Journalisme à l'Université de Sanaa

Liberté de la presse: former l'élite des futurs journalistes...

Le Yémen compte aujourd'hui plus de 140 publications de presse, de la petite feuille de chou polycopiée jusqu'au grand quotidien du type Al-Thawra, de l'organe officiel de tel ou tel parti à celui qui se dit indépendant. Cette profusion récente est due à la liberté d'expression qui a été proclamée dès la réunification, il y a deux ans, et le Yémen est un exemple unique dans le Monde Arabe sur ce plan. Il suffit aujourd'hui d'en faire la demande au gouvernement pour pouvoir imprimer un journal.

Si la censure a priori n'existe plus (je le confirme, aucun des articles de ce journal n'est lu avant sa parution), la censure a posteriori, elle, n'a pas complètement disparu puisque les coups de téléphone de "rappel à l'ordre" ou les "convocations" dans tel ou tel ministère se pratiquent encore. De même, si le journaliste peut en théorie dire tout ce qu'il veut, il fait lui-même de l'autocensure en permanence. Si l'on peut critiquer ouvertement l'administration, la corruption, etc... il est une règle implicite qui veut que l'on n'attaque jamais nommément un ministre, à fortiori le Président de la République.

Cela tient peut-être au fait qu'il n'existe pas encore dans ce pays de tradition de la presse libre et donc de journalistes formés dans cet esprit. Aucun d'eux n'a reçu une formation de journaliste à proprement parler. Ce sont surtout d'anciens fonctionnaires, hommes de lettres, personnages qui ont séjourné dans les pays occidentaux avant de revenir définitivement au Yémen. A la télévision, sur les deux chaînes, cette lacune est encore plus évidente. Les journalistes présentent une information "pré-mâchée". En outre, les médias audiovisuels sont contrôlés par l'Etat, radio et télévision, et les bulletins d'informations sont contrôlés a priori. Le journaliste qui lit le journal télévisé n'en a pas rédigé le texte et en prend connaissance quelques minutes avant de passer à l'antenne.

C'est pour remédier à toutes ces lacunes, normales dans un pays qui n'a connu jusqu'à la réunification que l'information officielle, qu'un département de journalisme et de communication a été créé au sein de la Faculté de Lettres de l'Université de Sanaa. Le pari est audacieux, il a été relevé par Mme Raoufa Hassan Al-Charki, présidente de ce département de Communication et de Journalisme qui s'est donné pour tâche ambitieuse de former dans son établissement la future élite des journalistes et des communicateurs yéménites. Cette jeune femme de 33 ans, dynamique et très ouverte (son bureau est d'ailleurs un véritable moulin) nous livre dans un entretien franc et courageux, ce qu'elle pense de la presse dans son pays. Rentrée il y a un an au Yémen après des études de journalisme et de communication aux Etats-Unis et en France, Rawfa Hassan Al-Charki tient en outre une rubrique régulière, tous les samedis, dans Al-Thawra. Elle a été présidente de la Commission de la révision de la loi sur la famille et a été désignée récemment par 22 partis politiques comme une des deux personnes indépendantes qui siègeront au Haut Comité pour les Elections, chargé en théorie de veiller à l'application pacifique de la volonté des urnes lors des législatives qui doivent avoir lieu avant le 22 novembre prochain.

La première promotion de diplômés du département de Communication et de Journalisme de l'Université de Sanaa sort ce mois-ci. Il s'agit de 49 personnes qui n'étaient pas véritablement des étudiants mais, pour la plupart des salariés d'organes de presse et surtout des fonctionnaires envoyés ici pour se recycler.

Ces 49 personnes ont préparé en un an le diplôme de ce département mais il existe une autre formation dans cet établissement, la licence et la maîtrise que l'on prépare en quatre ans. 116 étudiants ont commencé cette formation dès la création du département, le 16 novembre 1991. Deux ans d'études générales où l'on apprend l'anglais et où l'on perfectionne son arabe classique, la langue des médias, sont agrémentés de cours de communication de masse, de cours sur les médias yéménites, dans les pays en développement, etc. Elles sont suivies de deux autres années de spécialisation dans trois domaines: la presse écrite, la radio-télévision et les relations publiques.

La volonté affichée de former l'élite des futurs communicateurs de ce pays implique une certaine discipline. Les candidats, très nombreux, sont triés sur le volet et la note exigée à l'équivalent du baccalauréat au Yémen, est plus élevée que dans les autres départements de l'Université. De même, une assiduité parfaite aux cours est exigée. Le problème, pour Mme Raoufa Hassan Al-Charki, c'est la pauvreté de l'équipement de son département. Les élèves se trouvent encore à la charnière de la première et de la seconde année, donc la spécialisation n'a pas encore débuté mais

dans un an, il faudra penser aux installations adéquates pour les spécialisations, notamment en audiovisuel. Le département se trouve actuellement dans un bâtiment loué sur la rue Zubeiri, sans studio radio ou télé, sans instruments nécessaires pour que les étudiants puissent faire leurs exercices. On envisage bien, en coopération avec le gouvernement qui contrôle les médias audiovisuels, de se servir du matériel des télévisions et radios mais celui-ci est déjà utilisé à son maximum et l'on voit mal une cinquantaine d'étudiants débarquer à la chaîne de Sanaa.

Aussi, Raoufa Hassan Al-Charki lance-t-elle un appel à d'éventuels mécènes pour équiper son département qui sera alors à même de se détacher de la Faculté de Lettres de l'Université pour devenir une faculté à part entière.

Il s'agit d'une première dans l'enseignement du journalisme dans un pays qui est en passe de devenir un modèle pour la liberté de la presse dans le Monde Arabe. Il y avait une nécessité, elle pourrait donc être comblée rapidement, les structures étant en place, pour peu que l'on s'occupe du financement de cette expérience primordiale dans un pays qui tente de progresser sur la voie de la démocratisation. Les gens n'avaient pas senti l'urgence du développement d'une presse libre avant l'unification et le processus de démocratisation. Elle se fait sentir cruellement aujourd'hui car il ne faut pas que liberté de la presse se conjugue avec multiplication anarchique de journaux dont le but est davantage de promouvoir tel ou tel parti, tel ou tel groupe de pression, que de faire de l'information.

Emmanuel GIROUD

"Au Yémen, on n'est pas encore habitué à parler de l'opinion des minorités..."

nous déclare Mme Raoufa Hassan Al-Charki,

présidente du Département de Communication et de Journalisme de l'Université de Sanaa

-Que pensez-vous de la presse dans ce pays aujourd'hui ? Quelles sont ses lacunes, quels sont les efforts à fournir ?

-Depuis l'unification et la naissance du sentiment que la démocratie peut exister dans ce pays, on peut créer son journal en demandant simplement une licence au ministère de l'Information. Des gens ont donc vu s'ouvrir des possibilités nouvelles après des années pendant lesquelles le domaine du journalisme a été ignoré. Il n'y avait que les journaux officiels, dans les deux anciens Yémen, et les journalistes étaient formés par le gouvernement. Avec cette nouvelle liberté, un sentiment de joie intense est né et s'est traduit par la volonté d'avoir beaucoup de journaux pour exprimer le plus d'idées possibles.

Si bien qu'aujourd'hui, on arrive à une situation délicate. C'est bien d'avoir des idées mais de répéter les mêmes dans le plus grand nombre de journaux, ce n'est pas une bonne chose. Avoir de nouveaux journaux, c'est bien; mais avoir les mêmes journaux avec des noms différents, je ne pense pas que cela représente vraiment la démocratie. On peut acheter quinze journaux différents et lire exactement les mêmes mots. Il n'y a que trois ou quatre grands courants d'opinion dans le pays exprimés par tous ces journaux.

-Selon vous aucun journal ne sort de la masse ?

-Si. Il y a des journaux qui ont leur personnalité propre, leur identité et qui offrent au lecteur quelque chose de différent de la majorité des autres. Mais trop d'énergie, trop d'argent, sont dépensés pour des choses répétitives. A mon avis, il vaut mieux avoir quatre ou cinq, dix si c'est possible, grands journaux, capables de donner de l'information avec des sensibilités claires mais différentes.

-Selon vous, il y a trop de journaux ?

-Oui. Il y en a beaucoup trop de mauvaise qualité, qui ne font que répéter ce qui est dit dans d'autres.

-Pourquoi répète-t-on la même chose ? Peut-être que la source de l'information est unique au Yémen... Je pense à l'agence officielle Saba.

-Premièrement, ces journaux là ne sont pas des journaux d'information, au sens "de nouvelles". Ce sont plutôt des amalgames d'articles écrits par des personnalités, des opinions, des commentaires, etc. Il n'y a pas de reportages, bien souvent. Ce sont des idées, des éditoriaux, avec la



photo de la personne qui écrit, c'est tout.

Alors pourquoi ? Parce qu'il n'y a pas une grande agence d'information, parce qu'il n'y a pas d'agences privées, parce qu'il est cher pour un journal d'avoir des envoyés spéciaux ou des correspondants, même dans le pays. C'est pourquoi la concentration dans de grands organes de presse serait souhaitable. Je pense que c'est vers quoi on se dirige car les difficultés financières vont faire disparaître quelques titres.

-Une presse trop concentrée serait pourtant un terrain favorable au retour du contrôle de l'Etat. Pensez-vous vraiment que la presse du Yémen est totalement libre aujourd'hui ?

-Je ne souhaite pas un contrôle par un organisme quelconque mais un auto-contrôle par des journalistes responsables et formés. Il n'est pas question de concurrence entre journaux mais seulement de donner l'information et d'éduquer les gens. C'est là la responsabilité des médias.

-Vous avez des exemples pour montrer que la presse est libre ?

-La liberté, c'est un terme un peu flexible. On n'a pas, aujourd'hui, de censure avant la publication des journaux. Est-ce qu'il y a une censure après ? Il paraît qu'il n'y en a pas. Mais, selon moi, il y a plusieurs sortes de censures. Il y a l'autocensure pour le journaliste qui pense que la liberté a des limites et c'est lui-même qui les fixe. Il y a aussi celle de l'éditeur du journal qui pense que pour que son journal ait la vie longue il faut s'auto-censurer. Cela me rappelle la question posée la semaine dernière dans un de mes cours par un journaliste de l'agence Saba, qui m'a dit: "J'étais dans une manifestation. Il y avait des écrivains sur lesquels on pouvait lire des slo-

gans contre le gouvernement et les deux partis au pouvoir. Je ne savais pas ce que je devais faire. Je travaille avec l'agence officielle du gouvernement, donc je n'en n'ai pas parlé. Je ne savais pas si j'avais tort ou non..." Les journalistes de Saba sont payés par le gouvernement, ils ne vendent pas les nouvelles, ce sont des fonctionnaires. Ils sont obligés de cacher la moitié de la vérité pour chaque nouvelle.

Deuxième point: il y a une autre forme de censure qui n'est pas claire, une auto-censure sur des questions très précises, notamment concernant les critiques du gouvernement et surtout du président. C'est une chose qui n'est pas écrite mais qui est dans la tête de tous: ce sujet est tabou. Même les journaux d'opposition les plus marqués ne critiquent jamais ouvertement le gouvernement ou le président.

Mais dans tous les cas, la limitation de la liberté de presse vient du fait que l'on n'est pas encore habitué au Yémen à parler objectivement des opinions des autres, des minorités, que l'on ne partage pas.

-Ne pensez-vous pas qu'à l'approche des élections, la liberté de presse va singulièrement se réduire ?

-Non. Je pense au contraire qu'il va y avoir, pendant la période électorale, beaucoup de liberté de critiquer les personnes qui se présenteront. Ce sera la même chose après les élections. Je suis très optimiste.

-Trouvez-vous que les médias au Yémen ont un rôle utile aujourd'hui ?

-Oui mais le problème c'est qu'on les utilise encore trop pour déformer les faits, la réalité.

-Par exemple ?

-Prenons par exemple la Crise du Golfe. Le pays était déjà en démocratie. Il y avait des gens pour Saddam Hussein et d'autres contre, comme en France ou ailleurs. Qu'ont fait les médias ? Ils ont présenté systématiquement une seule opinion; l'autre partie de l'opinion a été ignorée, comme si elle n'existait pas.

-Tous les médias ont agi ainsi ?

-Non, mais les plus puissants. Et surtout la télé et la radio, fondamentaux dans un pays où les gens sont encore massivement illettrés. L'audiovisuel est contrôlé à 100% par le gouvernement. Mais il aurait fallu que tout le monde puisse exprimer ses idées. La télévision et la radio ont été incapables de le faire. Il n'y avait qu'une seule position du pays...

HISTOIRE

Sheikh Said, la colonie fantôme

par **Christian Couturaud**

Première partie

Nous publions aujourd'hui le premier volet de l'histoire de ce comptoir commercial français établi dès 1868 sur la Mer Rouge, à Sheikh Said, dont on ne savait pas à quoi il était vraiment destiné alors. Base militaire pour contrer l'influence britannique sur la péninsule et s'assurer la mainmise sur cette voie vers l'Extrême-Orient qu'est la Mer Rouge, après l'ouverture du Canal de Suez en 1869, ou simple comptoir commercial comme on le prétendait alors ? Christian Couturaud s'efforce, dans cette fresque en trois parties, de démêler cette énigme. Attaché linguistique de l'Ambassade de France et responsable du département de français à l'Université de Sanaa, Christian Couturaud est docteur en Histoire sur les grands voyages scientifiques autour du monde aux XVIII^e et XIX^e siècles et sur l'architecture navale et l'armement des navires scientifiques (XVIII^e-XIX^e siècles). Il est également l'auteur d'une maîtrise sur les Corsaires dans l'Océan Indien.

N'importe quelle carte vous le confirmera, Sheikh Said est bien à la pointe sud-ouest du Yémen, sentinelle orientale du détroit de Bab Al Mandab. Et pourtant... si d'aventure vous consultez l'atlas géographique en usage à l'Ecole Navale ou à l'Ecole des officiers français de Saint-Cyr, vous verrez cette côte colorée en rouge, comme le sont toutes les autres colonies françaises. De même, si vous passez dans le sud de la France, à Aix-en-Provence, aux Archives d'Outre-Mer, vous pourrez consulter un film publicitaire, produit en 1938 par le ministère des Colonies, vantant, entre autres, les charmes exotiques de cette colonie française de la Mer Rouge. Alors, mythe ou réalité, fantôme ou secret militaire...?

Proche-Orient, Mer Rouge... Des rêves à concrétiser

L'histoire d'amour, le coup de foudre de la France pour la Mer Rouge, remonte à deux siècles plus tôt lorsque, à peine débarrassée du despotisme monarchique, la toute jeune république française tourne ses yeux épris de liberté et d'aventure vers cet orient qui attire périodiquement. Dès 1792, le Directoire ordonne à Bonaparte, sur le point de partir en Egypte, de "prendre les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la libre et exclusive possession de la Mer Rouge à la France". Territorialement, cette aventure sera sans suite immédiate, mais la passion orientaliste de la France vient de trouver ses racines et, si les armes ont renoncé, les coeurs, eux, sont définitivement captifs. Le Proche-Orient, la Mer Rouge sont des rêves qu'il faut

concrétiser.

Les Archives de la Marine, à Vincennes, témoignent d'un projet, très sérieusement étudié, d'occupation des îles Kamaran. Nous sommes en 1805 et Napoléon est alors auréolé des victoires d'Elchingen, Ulm et Austerlitz. Après Trafalgar, sa marine a besoin de se refaire une réputation, et l'armée du camp de Boulogne aimerait bien débarquer quelque part. C'est donc avec le plus grand sérieux, dans le plus grand secret et avec un luxe de détails, qu'est préparé ce débarquement. Mais l'Empereur est versatile, il ne s'est jamais beaucoup intéressé à sa marine et l'Outre-Mer n'exerce aucun attrait sur son esprit essentiellement pratique. Ne dit-on pas qu'il est le seul homme de l'armée d'Egypte à n'avoir rien éprouvé pour l'Orient, à n'y avoir rien compris!... Toujours est-il que les mois passent, le projet s'affine et l'on attend toujours la décision de l'Empereur. Début 1806, il est trop préoccupé par le partage de l'Europe entre ses frères et, dès octobre, la quatrième coalition le remporte vers Iéna, Auerstaedt, Eylau, Friedland... Tristement, une fois de plus les marins ont compris qu'ils n'avaient plus qu'à refermer leurs dossiers et attendre la prochaine directive déplorable qui les enverrait se faire tailler en pièce dans un guet-apens que même le dernier des mousses aurait flairé à des milles.

La France mettra longtemps à se relever du rêve Napoléonien et la Restauration maintiendra l'orientalisme au niveau de la littérature et de la peinture. Les premières années de la Monarchie de Juillet sont aussi timides en politique étrangère et il faudra attendre la fin des années 1830 et le retour aux affaires des marins et des Corses pour que l'aventure soit à nouveau à l'ordre du jour. Les marins sont les amiraux de Rosamel et Duperré, qui vont se succéder au ministère de la Marine et relancer les grandes expéditions scientifiques. Les Corses, c'est "la bande à Sebastiani". Maréchal de France, ami intime de Napoléon, il fut, huit années durant, ambassadeur à Constantinople puis ministre des Affaires étrangères de Louis-Philippe, avant de devenir son conseiller particulier. C'est sous l'impulsion de ces hommes que se constitue l'expédition Lefebvre qui, de 1839 à 1843, explore en détail et cartographie les deux rives de la Mer Rouge, dans leur intégralité. Les résultats de cette discrète mission serviront de support à l'intense

activité scientifique française qui se déroulera en ce lieu tout au long du demi-siècle suivant.

La première conséquence de la mission Lefebvre est indiscutablement l'engagement français à Suez, en 1854, suivi des premiers repérages à Obock, en 1859. Les marins et les scientifiques sont des hommes de terrain et les nuances et impératifs diplomatiques leur échappent généralement. Leurs conclusions sont nettes et sans détours: le contrôle du Canal de Suez, assorti de deux points d'ancrage de chaque côté du détroit de Bab Al Mandab, donnent à la France la maîtrise des voies maritimes vers l'Extrême Orient. Les deux rives du détroit sont désertes, l'occupation de la côte africaine ne pose pas de problèmes, amis le voisinage de la base britannique d'Aden, sur la côte orientale, est diplomatiquement plus délicat. Djibouti sera donc l'affaire de la Marine et on rusera pour l'installation au Yémen.

Des commerçants marseillais qui font construire des fortins

C'est ainsi qu'en 1868, une goélette française jette l'ancre dans la baie de Sheikh Said avec, à son bord, MM. Théodore Poilay et Mas-Vidal, honorables représentants d'une non moins honorable Maison de Commerce marseillaise. Des contacts sont établis avec la tribu des Ahmis et, les échanges de présents favorisant l'établissement des liens d'amitié, on en vient à parler plus librement. Le vieux Sheikh Ali Thâbat Ahmad évoque sa résistance aux tentatives d'implantation des troupes ottomanes et sa crainte de ne pouvoir leur résister longtemps. Ses hôtes compatissent et, au titre de la nouvelle amitié qu'ils lui portent, souhaiteraient bien faire quelque chose pour l'aider. Ils proposeraient bien à leurs actionnaires de lui livrer quelques armes, mais comment justifier financièrement une telle dépense?

Qu'à cela ne tienne, puisque de nombreuses caravanes transitent par cette région, les Marseillais pourraient installer un comptoir, faire du commerce et justifier les dépenses d'armement par la nécessité de se protéger. Un acte est donc établi, authentifiant la vente à la compagnie de commerce, d'un territoire de 50 km de rayon, en demi-cercle autour de la baie, avec la montagne de Sheikh Said comme position centrale. Le prix est de 80.000 thalers Marie-Thérèse,

20 pour cent payables au comptant, le solde en quatre versements bisannuels.

La baie de Sheikh Said a une forme allongée, grossièrement orientée ouest-est, sur une longueur de 3.000 mètres et une largeur variable de 500 à 1.000 mètres. Culminant à 530 mètres d'altitude, la montagne de Sheikh Said est située au sud-sud-ouest de la baie qui est également protégée par deux massifs montagneux au sud et au sud-ouest, le Jabal Al Manhali et le Jabal As Suniyah. Par temps de vents à dominante sud, ce mouillage est extrêmement bien protégé. C'est entre la montagne et la côte que les Marseillais construisent leurs premiers bâtiments, complétés par un fort au sommet de la montagne et un autre dans la baie, sur l'îlot Sheikh Malu. Ce n'est qu'après qu'ils entreprendront la construction d'un quai en eaux profondes, le seul de la région à l'époque. Tout cela se fait sous le regard inquisiteur des Britanniques de la *Eastern Telegraph Company*, installés non loin de là, sur l'île de Périm, à une portée de canon.

Mais si l'on en croit les commentaires, peut-être pas toujours bienveillants, il est vrai, de ces observateurs, les Français commencèrent par ne rien faire. Puis, sans doute lassés de camper sous la tente, ils entreprirent de construire quelques logements. Ils passèrent ensuite, et sans transition, à la construction et à l'équipement des fortins. Mais les observateurs attendirent en vain la construction des entrepôts qui auraient pu, par leur forme, leur taille, leur activité, donner des informations sur le genre de commerce qui allait être traité en ce lieu.

Sur l'île de Périm, des observateurs britanniques inquiets

Dans les premiers mois, plusieurs goélettes, et même quelques grosses gabares, qui n'ont rien de civil, viennent décharger hommes et matériel. Les voisins de Périm notent que les Français sont assez nombreux et, qu'à des périodes d'activité intense, succèdent des périodes de plus en plus nombreuses de totale inactivité. Parmi les gens de la *Eastern Telegraph Company*, se trouve un Français, M. R..., qui écrit: "Mes compatriotes ne font rien..." Déjà, à ce stade de l'installation, des questions se posent:

-Pourquoi la compagnie de commerce n'a-t-elle pas

d'entrepôts?

-Pourquoi a-t-on préféré construire des forts?

-Pourquoi ces commerçants n'entretenaient-ils aucune relation avec les Ahmis, pourtant très bien disposés à leur égard?

-Pourquoi les goélettes de passage repartent-elles toujours vides?

-Pourquoi sont-ils si nombreux alors qu'il n'y a aucune activité commerciale et que l'on pourrait trouver de la main d'oeuvre moins coûteuse parmi les Ahmis?

-Quel est le rôle exact de ces navires ventrus qui viennent plus ou moins régulièrement et dont les observateurs britanniques affirment que ce sont des gabares de la Royale?

-Pourquoi l'intense activité est-elle entrecoupée de longues périodes d'inactivité?

Toutes ces questions ne sont pas faites pour rassurer les Britanniques dont les espions révèlent, par ailleurs, une activité de plus en plus soutenue, de la part des Français, sur la côte africaine. Ils sentent quelque chose mais ne comprennent pas, ce qui les énerve d'autant plus qu'ils ne sont pas habitués à subir les événements mais bien plutôt à les susciter. Ils entrent donc en contact avec le gouvernement turc du Yémen, afin de lui rappeler que, même si ses troupes ne l'occupent pas, ce territoire lui appartient et qu'il serait bon de montrer aux Ahmis et aux Français où se trouve l'autorité. Le gouverneur turc de Mokha se décide donc à monter une expédition destinée à reprendre les lieux aux Français et à punir les Ahmis.

Sans y participer directement, les Britanniques conseillent cette expédition qui leur permettra de tester la résistance de leurs voisins et fournira peut-être des débuts de réponses aux trop nombreuses questions qu'ils se posent.

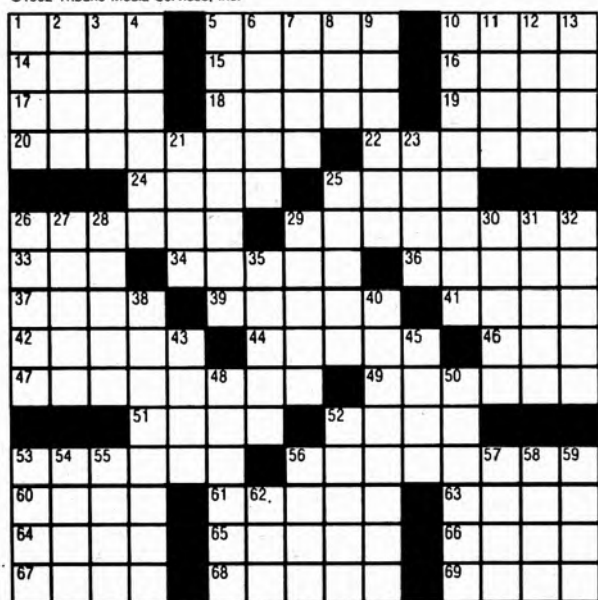
Ils n'auront pas à attendre longtemps la réponse qui, dans sa clarté et sa brutalité, ne constituera qu'une confirmation de ce qu'ils soupçonnaient déjà. A défaut d'entrepôts de marchandises, les Français ne manquent pas de réserves d'armement. Si les contacts commerciaux ont été inexistantes avec les Ahmis, ils ont été bien compensés par une formation militaire redoutable. Si, enfin, ces Français ne savent pas manier la balance et le cahier de comptes, ils sont des plus compétents au maniement des armes et de la stratégie militaire.

**La suite
dans notre
prochain numéro.**

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 39 Milan's La — | 2 In — (spinning one's wheels) | 30 Lease again |
| 1 Phone | 41 Opening | 31 Bring out | 32 Stop |
| 5 Serious play | 42 Tennis's Chris | 3 Lustful look | 35 Musical group |
| 10 Walked | 44 "Sound of Music" family | 4 Not evident | 38 Moon shape |
| 14 Certain code | 46 Make do (with out) | 5 Dinner courses | 40 Came into view |
| 15 Certain fisherman | 47 Stranded | 6 Married again | 43 Correct |
| 16 Carnival feature | 49 Placard | 7 "When I was —" | 45 Vote |
| 17 Musical piece | 51 Animal fat | 8 Brooks or Oit | 48 Canopy |
| 18 Wet stretch of land | 52 Narrate | 9 "We — amused" | 50 Certain pitch |
| 19 Sacred image | 53 Adorns | 10 Three of a kind | 52 Twit |
| 20 Underlined | 56 Ocean denizens | 11 Oriental staple | 53 Shine |
| 22 Table linen | 60 De — (rich) | 12 Fragrance | 54 Obnoxious |
| 24 Lack | 61 Asiatic invader | 13 Contradict | 55 Spindle |
| 25 Seethe | 63 Fall | 21 Observes | 56 Deer |
| 26 Rope for leading animals | 64 Norse god | 23 Islets | 57 Heraldry term |
| 29 Improved | 65 Rub out | 25 Ms. Abzug | 58 Girl of song |
| 33 — carte | 66 Fitzgerald of song | 26 Initiated | 59 Practice for a bout |
| 34 Low chair | 67 Occident | 27 in a way — and kicking | 62 Parseghian |
| 36 Allen or Martin | 68 Furned | 28 Paths | |
| 37 Element used in batteries | 69 Bring up | 29 Get on a train | |

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MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

OFF TO THE AIRPORT (Sol.: 10 letters)
 A-Airline, Airplane, Arrival; B-Bags, Board, Buses, Busy; C-Cargo, Check in, Center, Commercial, Company, Crowd, Customs, D-Depart; E-Exciting; F-Field, Flight; G-Gate; L-Late, Level, Lines, Luggage; N-Noisy, Number; P-Parking, Passenger, Pilot; R-Route, Runway; S-Schedule, Shops, Strip; T-Take off, Taxi, Terminal, Tickets, Transport, Trip; W-Welcome

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DLEIFPILOTRAPED
 EEDNIKCEHC SRCYL
 LVGRBI XATEDEUNA
 UETAANOI SYWBSAI
 DLGGGOBUSYS MTPC
 ESPRAGBSRSTUOMR
 HFAEETUOREENMOE
 CFRTSWELCOMESCM
 SOKNEPASSENGERM
 TEIENNLAVIRRAUO
 EKNCIGNITICXENC
 KAGMLPIRTSCROWD
 CTRANSPORTOGRAC
 IETHGILFSPOHSYA
 TENILRIAIRPLANE

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

MEPOT

JOMAR

NILMAR

FIFRAM



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

Answer here: THE "O O O O O O O O O O"

ANSWERS ON PAGE SEVEN
 GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Lake Baikal in the former Soviet Union holds one-fifth of the world's fresh water. It's more than a mile deep.

Two people in Toledo, Ohio, have opened a drive-in restaurant for pets. It features dried food, dog treats and catnip.

light Zone's" Rod Serling? He was a playwright.

William Maxwell Gaines, the now deceased publisher of "Mad" magazine, once flew to Haiti with 20 of his staffers to try to persuade his one subscriber there to keep getting his magazine.

What was the original profession of "The Twi-

Vanilla comes from a vine that grows to 50 feet long.

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WORDS OF WISDOM

Poverty is a great equalizer.

Character assassination is the coward's weapon of choice.

Some folks make the mistake of thinking the world revolves around them.

If there's no good reason to do something, there's one good reason why you shouldn't.

People who envy others' accomplishments instead of achieving their own will always be poor in spirit, if not in pocket.

Punctuality is a much overlooked virtue in modern times.

Self-destructive behavior is the most contemptible of faults because it is willful rejection of one's better qualities.

SLAPSTIX

A SHRINER WENT UNRECOGNIZED AFTER HIS FEZ WAS LIFTED

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THE FAR SIDE

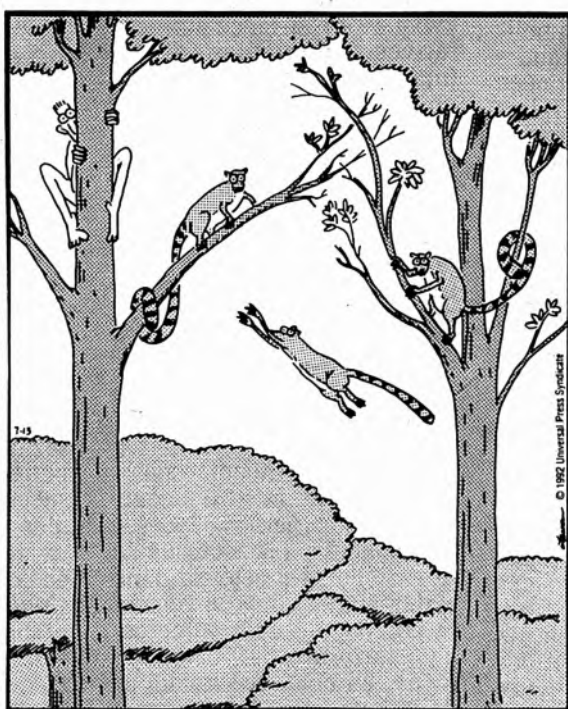
By GARY LARSON



"OK, Mr. Hook. Seems you're trying to decide between a career in pirating or massage therapy. Well, maybe we can help you narrow it down."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Although never achieving the fame of his African counterpart, Larry of the Lemurs was a common sight to natives of Madagascar.

THIS WEEK'S

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Schedule meetings and creative endeavors for the first of the week.

Aries (March 21-April 19) First, consider your options. Then, talk them over with somebody who can help you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) A shrewd move could help insure your family's security. Try to figure out what it is and then do it!

Gemini (May 21-June 21) You'll be even more charming and persuasive than usual the first two days of the week.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) You're in luck all week, although there might some resistance. If it's a good idea, adopt it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll be able to express yourself well all week, but it might seem like nobody's listening.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Distractions will abound. You might as well stay home, except that you're probably needed. You'll make up for it later.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You should love someone, but you might not get much done. If at first you don't succeed, try again.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) You'll start feeling powerful. You'll be almost invincible. Put all your plans into effect. Don't procrastinate.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The first of the week won't be too bad. Be very careful of what you say during the middle, though.

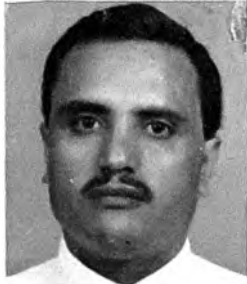
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Somebody may try to thwart your best plans. Act decisively and you'll step up a rung on the ladder of success.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Present an innovation that will solve a major problem. Work out the bugs.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Arguments the first of the week could get in the way of a deadline. Don't worry, you'll catch up later.

TRANSLATION: THE LOST ART

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri, Main Radio Station, Sanaa.



Translation used to be a good source of knowledge for the Arabs right from the early days of our Islamic civilization. Evidences of this abound during the Omayyad and Abbaside Caliphates when ample use was made of the services of translators. Through translation, knowledge accumulated by humanity over many civilizations became available in such vital fields as medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geography, the arts, etc. - all of which was the base of valuable information and research.

Translation from foreign languages into Arabic was one of the major sources of knowledge and learning on which the early Arab civilisation was built, and one reason why it developed fast and to a point higher than most, if not all, previous civilisations. Thanks to the vigorous works of translation, the Arab civilisation was able to carry over to Europe the cultural and intellectual heritages of the Greeks, Romans, Indians, Persians, and of the Arabs themselves who served as the pioneering torch that dispelled the darkness that dominated Europe at that time. Our forefathers realized the important role of translation in enriching the Arab/Islamic thought with knowledge in many fields.

Through translation, Arabs assimilated knowledge that was produced by previous civilizations, and then they proceeded to produce their own. They established close contact with those nations in which these sciences had flourished, and began copying and translating their major works.

All the Arab rulers of various epochs allocated large budgets for translation projects. They were far-sighted enough to see that by so doing, they were wide-opening the door for their scholars, researchers, thinkers and intellectuals to delve into the wealth of achievements of their counterparts in other nations. They also seem to have been fully aware that by according such attention to translation, they were laying down the first building blocks for a civilisation which later became an important source of knowledge and learning to many other nations and civilizations.

Arab history tells us that our forefathers' main translation work dates back to the 7th century. Although the peak of the translation work was carried out during the reign of Caliphs Al-Rasheed and Al-Mamoon, the process had begun at the very start of the Omayyad Dynasty. One of the very first translations was done when Caliph Khalid Bin Yazeed Bin Muawiya asked Arab and Greek scholars living in Alexandria to translate for him some Egyptian and Greek books. Interest in translation continued thereafter through-out the Omayyad period and into the Abbaside Caliphate.

During the Omayyad Caliphate, most of the translation was done from Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Levantine civilizations. When the seat of the Caliphate moved to Baghdad, more Persian, Indian, and Chinese works were translated. Thus, during less than one century, the infant Arab civilization was already absorbing the cream of almost all the major civilizations that had preceded it. Essentially, this explains why the Arab civilization blossomed so quickly and flourished for so long.

As a rule, therefore, Arab scholars were multi-lingual. In addition to Arabic, most were able to freely use Persian, Greek, Roman, Indian, etc. Some of them even perfected the languages of more distant lands such as Chinese.

But these intellectuals were not mere translators. They were first class scholars and researchers. First they internalized what other scholars had written, put the knowledge to the test - once verified - they proceeded to add to it. That is why today, in the sciences as well as in the arts, and even in the folk stories, Arab works are a blend of older work and new additions. The 1001 Arabian Nights stories, for example, draw heavily on the Greco-Persian-Indian mythology.

Continues on page 9

Weekly English lessons:

By: Lisa Ciardulli and Jeanna Stroble

Lesson # 4

The Possessive Noun

PRETEST

Chose the correct form in parentheses.

1. (Jamila's, Jamilas') bag is on the table.
2. The (birds', birds) sing in the morning.
3. There are eggs in the (bird's, birds) nest.
4. This is the (women's, womens') room.
5. This is (Bess's, Bess') brother.

LESSON

The possessive shows ownership of something, who has something. It is not difficult or confusing in the spoken language, but it is a problem in writing and spelling. In particular there is confusion between the possessive and plural forms. This lesson will give rules for forming the possessive forms of nouns and their use.

FORM

Rule 1: The possessive form of singular nouns is made by adding an apostrophe (') s to the end of the word.

Rule 2: The possessive form of plural nouns is made by simply adding an s apostrophe to the end of the word.

Special: If a plural does *not* end in an s, the possessive is made like a singular noun.

If a singular noun ends with s, x or z, the possessive can be made either way.

Examples:	singular	possessive	plural	possessive
	<u>singular</u>	<u>possessive</u>	<u>plural</u>	<u>possessive</u>
	boy	boy's	boys	boys'
	man	man's	men	men's
	Aziz	Aziz' or Aziz's	Azizes	Azizes'

Practice A--Write the correct possessive form for each of the following nouns.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| 1. donkey | 4. ladies | 7. women | 10. people |
| 2. day | 5. dogs | 8. Ali | 11. children |
| 3. Nabila | 6. mice | 9. girls | 12. months |

USAGE

Sometimes instead of the possessive forms above, possession is shown by using the preposition *of*. How do you know which to use? There are some general rules.

Rule 1: For people and animals, the possessives are formed as in the rule above.

Examples: A. the boy has legs...the boy's legs B. the dogs have legs...the dogs' legs

Rule 2: For things, form the possessive using the preposition *of*.

Examples: the table has legs...the legs *of* the table

Note: While this is the formal rule, you will hear and see many native speakers form these possessives with an apostrophe s (as in Somerset Maugham's title The Razor's Edge).

Rule 3: Possessives of time are formed in the same way as those for people.

Examples: a vacation for a week...a week's vacation

Practice B--Read the two sentences. Make one sentence using the correct possessive.

Example: It is a ball. The boy has it. It is **the boy's ball**.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. They are problems. Bob has them. | 6. It is the back. It is in the room. |
| 2. It is work. It is for a day. | 7. This is a Mercedes. My father has it. |
| 3. He is the King. He rules Jordan. | 8. This is a piano. Bushra plays it. |
| 4. It is a newspaper. It is from yesterday. | 9. They are kittens. The cats have them. |
| 5. They are books. The teachers use them. | 10. It is a rest. It is for a minute. |

WEEKLY IDIOM

the apple of one's eye--a person or thing considered to be very valued by someone. A father who is very proud of his son might say that his son is the "apple of his eye."



- ANSWERS Pretest 1. Jamila's 2. birds 3. birds 4. women's 5. Bess's or Bess' Practice A 1. donkey's 2. days' 3. Nabila's 4. ladies' 5. dogs' 6. mice's 7. women's 8. Ali's 9. girls' 10. people's 11. children's 12. months' Practice B 1. Bob's problems 2. a day's work 3. the King of Jordan 4. yesterday's newspaper 5. the teachers' books 6. the back of the room 7. my father's Mercedes 8. Bushra's piano 9. the cats' kittens 10. a minute's rest

INDIAN OFFICIALS FAIL TO SETTLE ROW OVER MOSQUE

The Indian government rushed more federal troops to a northern town last week as politicians failed to agree on how to stop Hindus from building a temple without destroying an adjoining mosque, news reports said.

The failure to arrive at a consensus on how to stop the construction could embolden Hindus to persist with their temple plan, hurting Muslim feelings and creating the specter of sectarian violence of the kind that claimed at least 1,000 lives in 1990.

The temple, whose design requires that the 16th-century Babri mosque be razed, is in the town of Ayodhya in the northern Uttar Pradesh state.

Additional paramilitary troops were sent to Ayodhya to aid local police in case it becomes necessary to bodily restrain hundreds of Hindus who presently are building the temple.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which governs Uttar Pradesh ignored state court orders to halt the temple construction, thus violating of the Indian constitution," said India's Prime Minister.

IRANIAN PRESIDENT DEFENDS REFORMS

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani fiercely defended his economic reforms last week, against growing criticism by radicals, who support a state-dominated economy and are opposed to foreign borrowing. Speaking during Friday prayers at Tehran University, he said that liberalizing the Iranian economy was an "absolute necessity" even if it meant "many sacrifices".

He criticised the state-run and subsidized economy vaunted by the radicals, decrying the "communist principle" of a life based on rationing and coupons. He also defended government proposals to scrap the official rate for the rial, which is 20 times less than the market rate.

"If we continue to offer the dollar at 70 rials (the official rate, compared to 1400 rials on the free market) we will never be able to accomplish anything," said Rafsanjani. He said that by maintaining the current rate, the wealth of Iran would end up invested abroad.

Officials in Iran promised in to unify the country's various exchange rates- the official, market and competitive rates of the rials to the dollar.

KENYAN POLL DEADLINE

Kenya, faced with a continued crush of voters wanting to register for the first multi-party polls in almost three decades, has extended registration recently.

With more than seven million of Kenya's 24 million people already registered, the election commission had previously given a 10-day extension.

Thousands of Kenyans were queueing in a last-minute rush to join electoral lists for the first multi-party elections in 26 years.

Officials estimate that about half the population is too young to vote but registration is already running well ahead of the four million who signed up to vote in single-party polls in 1988. President Daniel arap Moi, 67, bowed to pressure and lifted a nine-year ban on opposition parties last December. He has not announced a date for the elections but they will have to be held before next March when the parliament's term expires.

ROW OVER THRONE

A quarrel has erupted among Ethiopia's monarchists over who to back as successor to the late emperor Haile Selassie, believed to have been murdered after the Marxist revolution that overthrew him 18 years ago.

While in exile in London four years ago, Ahma Selassie, 75, was crowned as the 226th emperor in a legendary line that goes back to king Solomon and the Queen of Sheba 3,000 years ago.

But two weeks back, as Ethiopians celebrated the 100th anniversary of the late Haile Selassie's birth on 13 July, royalist leaders said Ahma Selassie was unfit for the throne because he had suffered a stroke.

One faction has thrown its weight behind Ermiyas Shale Selassie, Haile Selassie's third son who lives in Britain.

Ethiopia has just completed its first-ever parliamentary elections, and the results are expected in two weeks.

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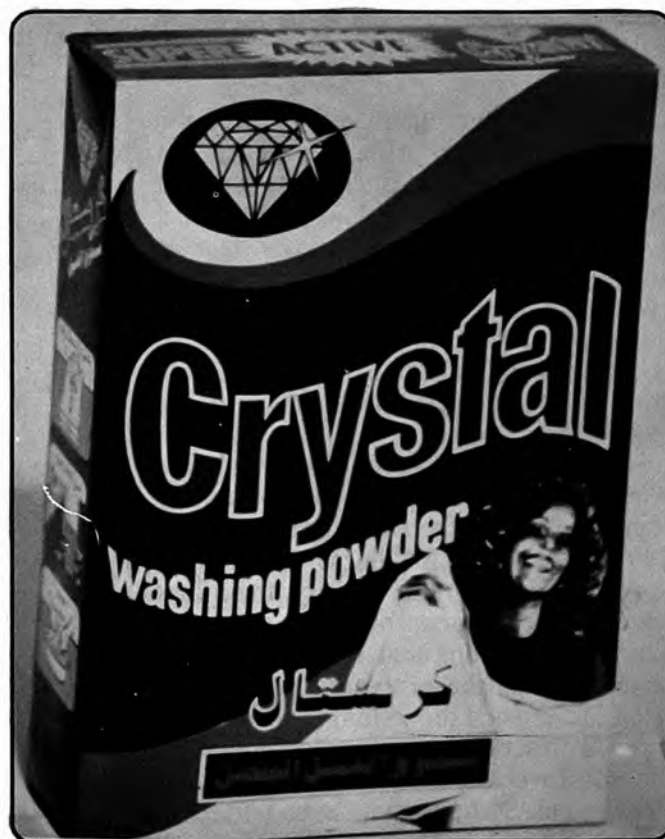
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**BIGGEST N-PLANT
IN CHINA SOON**

China's booming southern province of Guangdong is to build its second nuclear power plant in Yangchun country, it was reported last week.

It will be the biggest in China when it comes on stream in 2000.

The 60 billion yuan (\$10 billion) plant will be built near the coastal town of Tungping, 230 kms southwest of Hong Kong.

It will have a capacity of four million kilowatts, twice the size of Guangdong's other nuclear plant at Daya Bay, 'Wen Wei Po daily' said.

It said all the facilities of the power plant, including reactors and five turbines, will be ordered from France, but the plant will be of Chinese design.

Formal contracts setting up the project will be signed in late October. Construction is expected to start in 1995, Zhang Minbiao, vice-mayor of Yangchun told the paper.

The nuclear power plant will be wholly funded and run by the Guangdong provincial government.

Zhang emphasised that when it comes into operation, there would be no need for the province to buy electricity from neighbouring Hong Kong, as the plant would be capable of meeting the needs of the whole Pearl River Delta region.

The Daya Bay nuclear plant, just 50kms northeast of Hong Kong, has created concern in the British colony over its proximity and its safety. It is due to become operational in October next year.

**UN Resolution
Calls for
Resumption of
Negotiations**

African National Congress (ANC) leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela, said last week that he was happy with the UN decision to send an envoy to South Africa to help restart constitutional talks and put an end to violence. "We have asked in our resolution for the appointment of a special representative of UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to come to South Africa. We never asked for anything else," he indicated.

But Mandela said that the ANC would rejoin the talks only if the government met its demands. These include the rapid setting up of a constituent assembly and steps to halt violence. The UN resolution passed on Thursday, July 16th, calls for a resumption of political negotiations, broken off last month by the ANC after the Boipatong massacre in which at least 43 died.

The resolution also calls for a UN envoy - since named as former US secretary of state Cyrus Vance - to visit South Africa to find ways of ending the violence and to help the country make the transition to democracy and to apply universal suffrage.

The white minority government, although willing to talk about changes, is still dragging its feet in the talks. "Sooner or later change will come. We might as well play the game right and win some good will," said a white South African.

**YUGOSLAV REFUGEES:
A PROBLEM FOR NEIGHBORS**

European countries that have taken in thousands of refugees from the fighting in what was Yugoslavia appealed for international help to deal with the influx and end the war.

As leaders from these countries met in Vienna, Austria, last Saturday, they discussed how to handle the problem of refugees who crossed the border by train from the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia.

The German foreign ministry announced that Germany would take some of the refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina who had been stuck along the Croatian-Slovenian border.

Officials of Austria, Italy, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland also announced similar initiatives.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said former Yugoslavia's neighbors already consider themselves overwhelmed with hundreds of thousands of refugees taken in and were

appealing for help from the United Nations.

In a joint declaration, these countries called on the UN to bring the conflict in Yugoslavia to an end immediately.

Croatia, which said this week it no longer could accept more refugees from Bosnia, is a "huge refugee camp," said Premier Franjo Greguric.

Around 2 million people are said to be refugees from the fighting accompanying the breakup of the former federation.

Hundreds of thousands have remained in Croatia and Serbia, but many more are refugees outside the borders. Croatia is caring for hundreds of thousands of its own refugees from fighting last year.

A renewed offensive by Serbs in the central and eastern parts of neighboring Bosnia, has sent a new flood of refugees crossing its border. In the meanwhile, the neighbors are bracing for more refugee problems.

**THE MAFIA
KILLS YET
ANOTHER
JUDGE**

Italy was in an uproar last week as it buried yet one more judge killed by the Mafia.

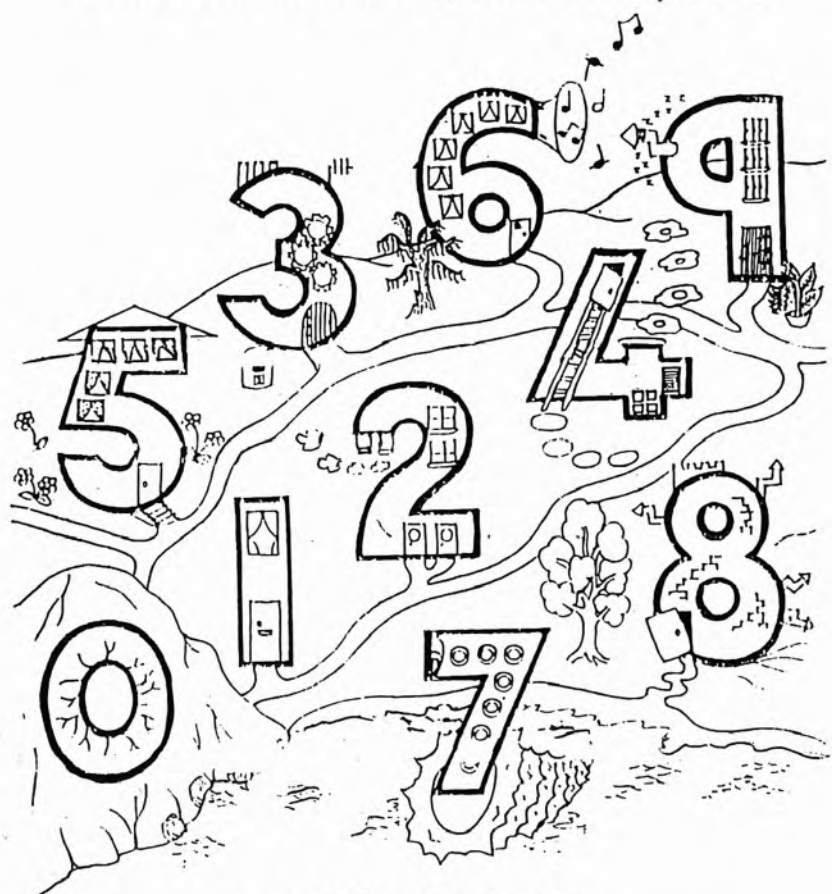
A car-bomb had killed Paolo Bosellino, the chief public prosecutor in Palermo, his bodyguard, and at least three other people in the Sicilian capital Palermo. Another leading anti-Mafia Italian judge, Giovanni Falcone, was killed with his wife and three bodyguards by a bomb outside Palermo on May 23.

The measures, inspired by Italy's battle against terrorism in the 1970s and early 1980s, gave police and magistrate broader powers to fight the Mafia.

Colleagues of Borsellino's have recognised his body at the scene of the blast which hit his car, and two armored cars in his escort. Judges and lawyers in Italy have threatened to go on strike if the Mafia is not reigned in.

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SAUT AL-UMMAL:

Pioneering & Patriotic Newspaper

By:
Ali Mohammed As-Sarari,
Editor-in-chief,
Al-Mustaqbal Newspaper



The nasty media campaign to which Saut Al-Ummal newspaper is exposed to these days has aroused the interest of many circles which follow the politics of Yemen, notably those who closely follow this paper.

To start with, let me say that this is not the first time that Saut Al-Ummal has come under fire; but it is the first time that it is being targetted with such ferocity and volume.

The campaign involved all kinds of derogatory remarks such as calling the paper's editorial board agents of foreign forces, promoters of sectarianism, provincialism and many other things.

Its editor Mr. Mohammed Qassim Noman was accused of ties with the former security system (in Aden), and was also accused of having plotted to murder journalists such as Ismail Shaibani, who actually was a dear friend of Noman.

In the face of all of this nonsense, I do not project myself as defender of Saut Al-Ummal or its paper. After all, the paper has the highest circulation in the country, and dealers and distributors take each week's edition on the basis of no refund. Mr. Noman is known for his patriotism, devotion, efficiency and dynamism. Neither the paper nor the editor need testimonies from me. But I find this a good occasion to salute this newspaper, and give the reader some background on it and its editors. The paper first came out in 1968, but soon it was strapped with many problems and difficulties, and by 1986, it was a weak newspaper which lost its very raison d'être.

Suddenly, things changed, and the paper began to present its readers with exceptionally good material which made it the leading newspaper in Aden at the time. This major change was due to the coming of two journalists - Abdo Fara and Mohammed Qassim Noman to the paper's editorial board.

In hindsight, I can determine that the spectacular success of the paper is due to its fiercely independent

approach as well as its policy of constructive criticism. It rebelled against the norms, and against the dictates of the authorities; neither of which had much popularity. Unlike the other papers in Sanaa and Aden, at the time, Saut Al-Ummal addressed everything, even those issued considered taboo. It also gave, without any reservation, breathing room to intellectuals strangled by the government-owned or controlled media. All of a sudden there was a new phenomenon in the Yemeni information system. It started by refusing the orders of the ideological guidance department of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. It also refused the interferences of the Ministry of Information. The price was high, the Chief Editor, Abdo Fara had to quit. Mr. Mohammed Qassim Noman, his colleague, continued on the same course charted by Mr. Fara.

The irony of the Saut Al-Ummal situation was that its new policies and attitude were not welcomed by the then-leaders of the former PDRY, and at the same time, the leadership of YAR did not welcome it either. The ideologues in both Aden and Sanaa issued warnings and threats

against the paper, which it simply brushed aside and continued on its daring path. In the meanwhile, time was working in favor of the paper and its editors. The politicians were beginning to bow to the march of the times, and they realized that they cannot control everybody. Positions were being revised, especially within the YSP.

I have been a close follower of Saut Al-Ummal over the last six years. There were times when I disagreed with the newspaper and the articles it ran in view of the prevailing politics. But I have always appreciated the newspaper's daredevil attitude and professionalism in giving space to non-conforming views.

There is another thing. I know that the editorial board of the paper includes individuals in the YSP, the PGC, the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi An-Nasseri, the Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani; and yet, the paper runs many kinds of articles reflecting the views of others who are not in those parties. Many would insist that the dominant party in the editorial board of the paper is the YSP, but the YSP itself was probably the subject of more criticism than any of the other political parties. I explain that by the integrity of the people who work in this paper, as they are willing to run stories contrary to the interests of those in the parties to which they belong.

The paper has, in one of its articles, published an article critical of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Many observers believe that that article was the one which opened the way in the local



media to assess anybody in government. At the time, many biased individuals spread rumors stating that the paper was instructed to run the article by the YSP. But in the very next issue, the paper ran another story very critical of Mr. Ali Salem Al-Beedh, the Vice President and Secretary-General of the YSP. The writer of the two articles, Mr. Abdul-Habeeb Salem, himself a member of the PGC, was the subject of a lot of gossip and snipes, as well as nods of approval and support.

In my opinion, I think Saut Al-Ummal does print stories that go beyond the scope of freedom of expression. I think the editors of the paper also believe this, but they also believe in the right of writers to have a forum to express their opinions, however sacrilegious they may seem.

The papers that are now mobilized to campaign against Saut Al-Ummal, are actually looking for minor excuses to wreak their vengeance. Part of the problem, to them, is the dramatic success of this newspaper, and its ability to sell any quantity. The readers each week, eagerly await their favorite paper - Saut Al-Ummal. Thus, other papers understandably become envious, especially those which the authorities have showered with funds.

But that is not the real reason for this campaign. The reason is that certain circles are adamant at liquidating a successful newspaper just because it pursues an independent line in the way it approaches various issues.

The attitude of Saut Al-Ummal is equally clear. It brushes aside the attempts and continues its bold mission. It continues to be the voice of the people; it continues to support the underdog in our political competition; it continues to push forward our national unity and democratic practices. It has become a forum to expose and fight corruption and inefficiency (refer in this regard to the interview with Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, which became the topic of extensive debate in the community). Saut Al-Ummal represents a new breed of Yemeni newspapers, of which there are not many. It does not work for cheap financial gains in the articles it runs. In light of all this, we can understand the nature of the campaign against Saut Al-Ummal, and what such a campaign hopes to achieve. It also becomes clear which are the parties that try to throw their sicknesses and frailties on others.

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