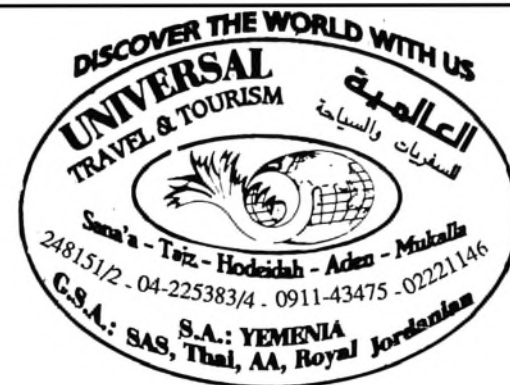




# YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 5 - 11 AUGUST 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 32

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Scholar Abdullah M. Al-Hibshi Talks about Yemeni Manuscripts and his Efforts in Documenting and Editing them. p. 3



The Problem of Drinking Water in Sanaa. p. 4

■ Yemen at Crossroads. p. 8

■ Yemeni Researcher Honored. p.13

PERMANENT FEATURES:

- Sports: page 9,
- French Pages: 10+11,
- English Lesson: p 13

## OUR VIEWPOINT



### The Merger of PGC and YSP Is Against the Interests of Yemen!

Some people have written calling for the merger of the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. In my opinion, this is contrary to the interests of Yemen in general, and to democracy and multi-party politics in particular.

I think that if the two parties merge, which is very very unlikely, the country will soon drift back to the one-party system of the past. It is in the interest of this country that no one single party (let alone a single person), should exercise paramount and unchecked power. The interests of Yemen are best served by a system where various power and influence groups balance each other.

Today, the power balance generally hinges in the relations between the PGC and YSP. I hope that the coming elections will introduce new contenders that will also become part of the checks and balances of the power distribution system.

In the meanwhile, it is in the interest of Yemen to preserve the power balance. We should all work to not let power tilt in favor of one party against the other. It is my belief that if power tilts in a significant way, in favor of one party, say the PGC; then it is in the interest of Yemen for all of us to support the YSP; and vice versa.

My understanding of the interests of Yemen in this way, of course, does not mean I favor a paralyzed state of affairs. In my opinion, paralysis in decision-making is the result of administrative inefficiency and lack of respect for the law, rather than the result of power balances in society.

Needless to say, I would like to see more cooperation and coordination between the two parties, at least for the sake of peace in Yemen, and a better management of the system. But the merger talk is neither feasible nor in the interest of Yemen.

I hope Yemeni intellectuals and farsighted politicians will see this and work to block any merger steps that some people are promoting.

*The Publisher*

## PGC and YSP Join National Conference on TWO Conditions:

On Monday, August 3rd, the Preparatory Committee of the National Conference held its press conference, in which Official Spokesman Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf read the following communique:

### Quote:

The unification of Yemen and its democratic system are two achievements in which all Yemenis take pride. Dialogue and consultations have been the means through which our reunification and the democratic atmosphere of the country were achieved. Dialogue among the national forces will remain as the most important mechanism in addressing our national issues, notably the protection of the unity and consolidation of the democracy. On this basis, Yemen's political parties, popular and professional organizations and public figures have met regularly over the last eight months to prepare for the National Conference to serve as a forum in which national consensus will be sought on pressing issues facing us today. During this period, the following steps were taken:

- 1) Many preliminary meetings, in which most of the political and national forces in the Yemeni scene have participated, were held in preparation for the National Conference.
- 2) The enlarged conference for representatives of the national forces was held on 28/5/1992.. In this conference, a preparatory committee was elected.
- 3) The Preparatory Committee held its first meeting on 30/5/1992 in which it elected a steering committee through a free and secret ballot. Two other committees, one to prepare the documents and the other for administrative and technical affairs, were also formed.
- 4) The committees mentioned above held several meetings, and have almost completed their tasks.
- 5) The Preparatory Committee will continue with its meetings to finalize whatever remains of its duties.

6) The Preparatory Committee decided that the National Conference must start on any day during 4-15/8/1992. It has left the exact starting date to be fixed by the Steering Committee.

7) Regarding certain pending issues, notably the name of the conference and the expansion of the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee agreed to present both issues to the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee for it to make the appropriate decisions.

The National Conference aims to lay down the foundations for the relations among the various political national forces, and to confirm the basic norms derived from our Islamic religion; and from the Yemeni, Arab, and universal values and beliefs. To achieve these, the conference will discuss two documents:

- 1) **Political Conduct Charter Document:** This document, to be discussed and approved by the National Conference, presents the principles, rules and guidelines that govern relations in a democracy, and which the Yemeni political parties, popular organizations, unions and public figures should adhere to. All participants in the National Conference are expected to sign this document.
- 2) **Document on Needed Elections Steps:** The document, to be discussed and approved by the National Conference, presents the steps needed to prepare the climate for executing free, peaceful and clean elections.

Continues on page 2

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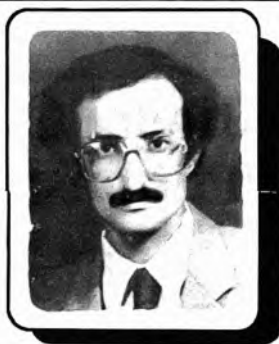
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PERSONAL VIEW

LIBYA, QADDAFI AND ARABISM



Yahia Abdul-Raqeeb,  
Director-General of Information,  
Prime Minister's Office

The official Libyan media has recently raised the banner of anti-Arabism, as a back-lash against the meak Arab response to the UN seige imposed on Libya's airspace.

I would like to analyze the Libyan approach to the concept of Arabism. Between September 1st, 1969, when Colonel Qaddafi took over power, and 15th April, 1992, when the American-led UN Security Council placed Libya under air siege, Libya's approach to Arabism evolved into a completely opposite direction.

Libya had been calling for Arab unification, and the Libyan leadership had sought unity with whichever Arab state was willing to unite with it. At the same time, Libya had opened its doors for any Arab to go there for whatever purpose.

Under the guise of promoting Arabism and Arab unity, Libya had consistently meddled in the affairs of Arab as well as African countries. The self-promotion campaign of Colonel Qaddafi was at the heart of the call for the Green Books, which propose a new third way or approach. Libya has achieved two things as a result of those efforts - it has dissipated its own wealth, and has created a substantial level of disgust among the peoples in whose affairs it meddled.

Qaddafi presented himself as the heir to Gamal Abdul-Nasser, but his stature could never reach that of Nasser, because Qaddafi's achievements are to raise slogans which never materialized.

Even whatever development projects he had offered to finance, in most cases, Qaddafi would change his mind and the recipient country would be forced to seek new financing to complete the projects, and sometimes to even start them.

At another level, a quick glance at the Libyan capital leads one to wonder whether this is really the capital of an oil rich thinly populated country. Now Qaddafi is fiercely lashing at the Arabs, most of whom he had troubled with his nonsense.

Today, Qaddafi's Libya stands for a missed chance.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL

The ISLAH Takes to the Streets

On Monday, August 3rd, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) orchestrated its power by organizing a massive demonstration against the enactment of the Education Law. Sanaa city was swarmed by tribesmen who were brought in from the surrounding countryside, as well as residents of Sanaa who were mobilized for this purpose.

The Islah had earlier organized seminars and other forms of gathering to denounce the bill presently being discussed in the House of Representatives.

It will be noted that the bill calls for the merger of the Ma'ahid Al-Ilmiyyah (religious) and Quranic schools - both strongholds of the Islah, into the main stream educational system.

The Islah has been telling its followers that the "new law seeks to secularize the educational system".

The Yemeni Socialist Party, the main force behind the enactment of the law, along with many other centrist and left-leaning parties, as well as the People's General Congress, are all in favor of passing the bill.

Although the fight is technically over the education law, it is in effect a fight over political influence. The YSP and PGC are interested in depriving the Islah of its near-total control over part of the educational system.

Continued from page 1:

The Yemeni people look forward to a system which is free and democratic, and which respects the rights and opinions of its citizens. The coming parliamentary elections are thus seen as the mechanism through which the transition to constitutional legitimacy is to be made.

The Steering Committee has decided that the three-day National Conference will start on the 15th of August. A communique on this will be issued later.

About 300 Yemenis representing all the political parties, the popular organizations, unions, and public figures will participate in the National Conference.

Unquote

The PGC, which succeeded in enlisting the support of the YSP and several key parties for its position, is demanding to change the name and to expand the Steering Committee to make room for "other" parties to effectively contribute to preparing for the conference, as a price for its participation, as well as those parties allied with it. Both demands, to be discussed in the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee, are expected to win approval.

Following such a decision, the expanded Steering Committee will evolve the two documents into their final form.

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NEST '92



**Abdullah M. Al-Hibshi:****"Our manuscripts are a treasure which needs urgent attention."**

Yemen is one of the countries that boasts a very ancient civilization. It was a place of learning through-out a great deal of the past.

As a result, a great deal of literature and manuscripts have been accumulated through the years.

One scholar who has dedicated himself to the study and editing of Yemen's manuscripts is Abdullah Mohammed Al-Hibshi.

A native of Hadhramaut, Mr. Al-Hibshi has been studying at the hands of senior theologians and scholars in Hadhramaut and Sanaa.

Yemen Times talked to him about Yemen's heritage in manuscripts and his efforts in editing and abridging them.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: What exactly does it mean to edit an old manuscript?**

**A:** There are fairly basic standards for editing an old manuscript. The end product of editing a manuscript is to put in the reader's hands an accurate and readable text of the old work and in a presentable way.

So, one would start by compiling and comparing the text of the manuscript, if there is more than one copy. Then the editor has to read the text and understand it. This requires to add to the text many notes and margins to explain words (for example, if they have gone out of use), and to clarify substantive points which may not be clear to a modern reader.

It is more like up-dating the work.

**Q: Can you give us an idea of the size of this heritage? I mean do we know the number of Yemeni manuscripts?**

**A:** We do not know the exact number of these manuscripts although they run in the thousands. Yet, not all of them are important. Some of these deal with "trivial" subjects and others are in multiple copies.

I think that this is a field which deserves the urgent attention of our scholars and government. Together, we should work to come up with a list of these manuscripts, and choose the important ones among them for editing, abridging, and updating purposes.



**Q: Where are these manuscripts, today?**

**A:** First of all, let me mention that quite a few of Yemen's manuscripts have left the country during the 19th century and first half of this century. European scholars came to Yemen and obtained those manuscripts. Therefore, a considerable volume of our manuscripts are today in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, etc. Actually these are better kept and preserved in those foreign countries than in Yemen.

Within Yemen, I can point to three locations where many manuscripts are kept. a) There is the library of the Grand Mosque (Al-Jami' Al-Kabeer) in Sanaa. b) There is the Al-Ahqaf Library in Hadhramaut.

c) There are many private libraries. I know individuals who keep at home priceless manuscripts of which, often, there is only one copy.

I have to indicate here that there are certain Yemeni centers of learning which harbor many treasures. These are better preserved in the cooler climates of the high mountains than in the warmer climates of the coastal areas. Thus, there are some manuscripts well preserved in Sa'ada, Hooth, and other places.

**Q: Let us come to your efforts. How many manuscripts have you edited so far, and what are their themes?**

**A:** I have, so far, edited and up-dated over sixty manuscripts. Some of these are big and substantive, some are small. For example, I did the magnificent book entitled "Teeb Assama'a", of which only one copy exists, and it is in Europe.

Other manuscripts I have edited include "Mu'jam Annisaa Al-Yamaniat" (Dictionary of Yemeni Women), Tuhfata Zaman fi Tareekh Al-Yaman (History of Yemen), Al-Isharah Ila Tafdheel Sanaa A'la Ghairiha (Why Sanaa Is Preferred to Other Cities), Majmoo' Al-Maqamat Al-

Yamaniyyah (Collection of Yemeni Poetry), Masadir Al-Fikr Al-Arabi Al-Islami fil Yaman (Sources of Arab and Islamic Thoughts from Yemen), Mudhakkirat Al-Muayyad Billah Mohammed Bin Ismail (The Memoires of Al-Muayyad Billah), etc. As I said I have done sixty books on various themes.

**Q: Why isn't there a concerted effort in this regard?**

**A:** I had tried to produce an index of all these manuscripts. Although it is published, it is not complete. That could be a starting point for a concerted effort. You will realize, however, that such work requires resources, dedicated scholars and a commitment from all sides.

The universities and the General Organization of Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts could lead this effort. The government could secure financing. Mind you, we are not talking here about big money.

Our manuscripts are a real treasure, but they are being lost because of erosion and misplacement. There are many good works that need to be preserved and made available to all humanity. This is a human heritage, and all of us have a right to it.

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## WATER SUPPLY OF SANA'A CITY PROBLEMS & POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: KHARID HEADWORKS

By:  
V.G. Ganchikov

### PART I:

At present, the water supply of the city of Sana'a fully depends on the use of groundwater received from the two centralized water intakes (eastern and western) and a large number of privately-owned wells.

According to data from the National Water Supply and Sewerage Administration (NWSA), the total volume of annual water consumption by the city of Sana'a is about 12-14 million cubic meters, out of which about 7 m. cubic meters were provided by the centralized city water supply system. NWSA plans the yearly increment in the volume of the centralized water supply in the capital to be on the level of one million cubic meters per annum; i.e. in 1996 it envisages to supply the city with at least 14 million cubic meters of potable water.

After the unification of the YAR and PDRY in 1990, Sana'a became the capital of a new larger state - the Republic of Yemen; an increase in water consumption would be expected. At the current rate of water consumption, the groundwater table in the city of Sana'a falls by approximately 4-6 meters annually and groundwater reserves are thus exhausted rapidly. Any further draw-down of the ground-water table would result in its contamination with faecal waters that start to leak from seepage pits with which most of the city's dwellings are provided.

By using contaminated groundwater without its thorough treatment and disinfection, there appears on the horizon the threat of mass diseases (epidemics) among the population.

The existing situation demands that the measures to increase the water supply of the city of Sana'a be elaborated and implemented as soon as possible.

In 1981-1986, the consultants of the Moscow-based Selkhozpromexport Co. and the experts of the Mosgiprovodkhoz Institute (Russia) studied the Sana'a Basin Water Resources Utilization Scheme and recommended to use the Wadi Al-Kharid flow as a measure to increase water

supply to the city of Sana'a over the next few years.

The Sana'a Basin Water Resources Utilization Scheme has established that the use of the Wadi Al-Kharid surface flow could not fully compensate the deficit in the city's water balance that has already appeared.

But the delivery of water from the Kharid Reservoir will begin to meet the increase in the volumes of centralized water supply in the capital up to the year 2003, preserving the per capita water consumption (64 l/day), or will allow a reduction in the intensive use of ground water and avoid its catastrophic depletion.

On the basis of the recommendations given by the Scheme, the Yemeni side decided to perform a feasibility study for the execution of the Kharid Headworks.

The survey and design works required for this project were entrusted to the experts of the Sovintervod Amalgamation

(Russia) that commenced their work in 1988. The survey aimed to determine the site for the headworks was carried out in the middle reaches of the Wadi Al-Kharid on the stretch with permanent flow.

The investigations also covered the closing dam site in the lower reaches of the Wadi Al-Kharid (on the boundary with the Wadi Al-Jawf), and the closing sites of the two tributaries of the Wadi Al-Kharid - Wadis Attaf and Habbash. It was found that neither the natural nor the socio-economic conditions in the area of the sites inspected provided for the possibility of creating reservoirs in the Wadi Al-Kharid's lower reaches, which could become alternative or additional water sources for Sana'a.

In addition, an expert evaluation was made of the possibility to attain (to provide extra water sources for Sana'a) the Marib and Khada Reservoirs and a part of the flow of the wadis running from the

Western slope of the Yemeni highlands, as well as water desalination plants to be located on the Red Sea shore.

Another possibility is water diversion from the existing Marib Reservoir. This is located some 160 kms east of Sana'a. The height of the water lift is 1.180 m. The reservoir serves to regulate the flow and water supply to irrigate 20,000 hectares of land in the lower reaches of the Wadi Dana. However, there is no excess water in the reservoir, and therefore, no portion of its water could be supplied to Sana'a without reduction of the existing irrigation area. The impact of such a decision on the local, as well as national economy, is enormous.

All those factors make the option of supplying water to Sana'a from Marib unacceptable, both due to economic considerations as well as because of the adverse social impact.

The Khada Reservoir dam, which is under construction, provides yet another

option. When the dam is ready, it would become possible to regulate the flow of the Wadi Khada, which is a tributary of the Wadi Al-Kharid. Discharge and seepage water from this reservoir will reach the Kharid Reservoir.

Although the active storage capacity of the Khada Reservoir is far from meeting Sana'a's water needs, it is an important supplemental source of water.

There is yet one more option - the partial flow transfer of the wadis flowing into the Red Sea. The wadis of the country which flow into the Red Sea originate in the highlands where precipitation is between 600-900 mm. per annum. They possess considerable catchment areas sustaining near-permanent streams. This explains why this part of the country is one of the most densely populated regions with well-developed agricultural activities.

**PART II: Next Week!**



## The Property Centre

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## Text of Investment Law #22 of 1991, Part IV

### Article (36):

4. At the recommendation of the Executive Administration, decide on applications for project licenses provided for in Article 46 of this Law.

5. Consider the periodic reports presented by the President of the Authority on progress of work in the Authority and matters relating to the investment conditions, climate and issues in the Republic and take whatever action is required when needed.

6. Consider the financial position of the Authority and approve its draft annual budget and closing statement of accounts.

7. Approve the contracting of loans and credit facilities offered to the Authority under government, bank or specialized financial institution guarantees in accordance with established rules and regulations, subject to the purpose thereof being restricted to financing Authority activities to the extent of the competence provided for under the provisions of Article (34).

8. Perform the tasks assigned to it by the Government in investment related matters.

9. Approve in kind shares and incorporeal rights that it shall be decided be invested in any of the projects provided for in Article 46 upon a submission and appraisal by the Executive Administration, in the light of the documents and instruments presented by those concerned pursuant to laws and regulations in force in this regard.

10. Consider matters presented by the Chairman of the Board relating to investment issues that are within the competence of the Authority, so that decisions needed in this regard may be taken when necessary.

11. Determine fees for the services provided by the Authority to projects and investors.

### Article (37):

The Board of Directors of the General Investment Authority shall formulate a general investment policy for the free zones.

### Article (38):

a. The Authority's Executive Administration shall execute the policies and resolutions of the Board of Directors and conduct all Authority business and functions referred to in Article 34. It shall also exercise all competence vested in the Authority by virtue of the provisions of this Law, save those wholly retained by the Board of Directors, in conformity with all the rules, procedures and provisions provided for in this Law and the regulations and resolutions enacted in execution thereof.

b. Authority personnel designated by decree of the Minister of Justice in agreement with the President of the Authority shall be vested with the powers of law enforcement to the extent of their competence.

### Article (39):

a. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a month at the invitation of the chairman, or in the event of his absence, the Vice-chairman. The invitation shall be addressed to Board members no less than three days before the date of a meeting. In urgent cases such period need not be adhered to. The Board may also meet at the request of a majority of members should this be necessary. A quorum shall be constituted by the attendance of a majority of members. Resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of the members present. In case of a tie, the session's chairman shall cast the deciding vote. The executive regulations shall determine the internal rules and procedures for the conduct of Board of Directors business.

b. The Board of Directors may constitute one or more committees composed of its members to which it may delegate some of its competence

or assign to perform certain tasks within its purview.

### Article (40):

The President of the Authority shall oversee the execution of the general policy formulated by the Board of Directors and shall, in particular, perform the following functions:

a. Oversee the management of the Authority, and control and develop work processes to ensure achievement of its objectives.

b. The General Manager shall be responsible for managing the Authority's Executive administration and disposing of its business and shall, in particular:

1. Oversee all Authority departments, divisions and units and coordinate their activities.

2. Conduct Authority business administratively, technically and financially and develop working processes to achieve the Authority's objectives.

3. Enter into contracts on behalf of the Authority to the extent prescribed in the Authority's bylaws, within the limits of his authority, or as may be vested in him by the Board of Directors.

4. Assist the President of the Authority to execute the resolutions of the Board of directors.

5. Exercise all the authorities vested in him by the Chairman of the Board, the Board of Directors or the President of the Authority.

6. Prepare periodic reports on Authority activity and level of performance and make the necessary proposals for improvement.

7. Prepare draft plans and programs relating to Authority activities and submit such to the President of the Authority.

### Article (42):

a. The Authority shall have an autonomous annual budget drawn up according to rules in effect in private establishments without being restricted to provisions relating to the budgets of public organizations and authorities.

b. Authority funds shall be deemed to be public funds, may not become the property of third parties by prescription and shall be disposed of as shall be indicated in the Authority bylaws.

### Article (43):

The resources of the Authority shall be made up of the following:

a. Revenues earned in consideration for services rendered or fees collected in the course of Authority activity in accordance with the terms and conditions provided for under the provisions of this Law.

b. Loans and credit facilities contracted for by the Authority pursuant to the procedures and conditions provide for in Article 36 (7) of this Law.

c. Grants and donations approved by the Board of Directors.

d. Allocations earmarked by the Government in the Authority's budget.

### Article (44):

The Authority's bylaws shall be enacted by a decree of the Prime Minister and shall include a definition of the Authority's administrative divisions and the functions of each, as well as all matters relating to budget, accounts, expenditure, employment and other provisions needed to execute the provisions of this Law.

### Section V:

#### Project Licensing, Exemption and Registration Procedures

### Article (45):

a. No Investment project may be established, expanded or upgraded under the provisions of this Law until acquiring a license therefore from the Authority on the basis of an application

submitted to it in writing on the form devised for that purpose.

The Authority shall decide whether or not to accept the application within 45 days following the date on which the application was presented complete with all the documents and information required. The Authority may extend such period for 45 additional days in the case of applications relating to the construction of projects referred to in Article 46 or projects requiring, for justifiable reasons, a longer period.

b. Agencies concerned shall take their decisions approving, rejecting or requiring amendments within a period not exceeding 15 days following referral of the request to them by the Authority. The Authority may take a decision on an application for a license without referring to the agency concerned and without requiring its approval in any of the cases indicated in the executive regulations.

c. Lack of a reply within the periods specified in the preceding paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be deemed to indicate approval. In the case of rejections, the decision shall be substantiated. The party concerned may appeal the decision in accordance with the provisions of Section VII of this Law.

d. The executive regulations shall indicate the application form and papers and documents that must be presented for a decision to be taken in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

### Article (46):

Licensing the establishment of projects to which one of the cases specified in this Article applies shall require the approval of the Authority's Board of Directors based upon a submission by the Executive Administration:

a. Any project the value of the fixed assets of which exceeds YR.40 million or the equivalent thereof in freely convertible foreign exchange regardless of any other factors.

b. Any project the value of the fixed assets of which exceeds YR.20 million or the equivalent thereof in freely convertible foreign exchange in respect of which any of the following factors is present:

1. Should non-Yemeni subscription to capital exceed 70% of total subscriptions.

2. Should the foreign component of annual production cost exceed 60% when the project reaches the stage of full production.

3. Should the project be financed by means of loans the total of which exceeds three multiples of the volume of subscriptions.

4. Should its unit production cost, when the full output stage is reached, exceed 110% of comparable import unit price, including customs, insurance and freight.

c. Any project requiring a considerable volume of water and energy according to the circumstances and conditions that the Authority's Executive Administration shall take into consideration, or such projects the establishment of which may entail serious environmental impact.

d. Projects listed under "other economic activity" provided for in Article 1 (h).

### Article (47):

Licensing establishment of the projects provided for in the preceding Article requires that they serve the national economy, according to the Board of Directors' discretion in this regard, in the light of an appraisal and submission by the Executive Administration of the positive impact likely to be realized in the following areas:

1. Volume of new employment opportunities for Yemenis, training them and developing their scientific and technical skills.

3. Project impact on the country's foreign exchange position and on increasing and diversifying national exports abroad.

Continues NEXT WEEK!



## SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE LOCAL PRESS

By: Bashar Ghazi Askar

THE JEWS OF  
SA'ADA REGION

The Jews in Sa'ada are living an ordinary life, practising their religious rituals fully and freely just like the other citizens of the country. Mr. Khalid Ahmad Al-Sufiani, in an article published by Sada Asha'ab, issue of 17/7/92, discussed the conditions of Jews in Yemen. He confirmed that they suffered no ill-treatment or humiliation. Being one of the citizens closely related to the region where Jews of Yemen live, I would like to clarify certain points in relation to the conditions of the Jews. According to the constitution, all citizens of Yemen, including the Jews, have the same rights and duties whether in their indulgence in their crafts, full freedom of movement, ownership of land and other real estate, or participation in public life, etc.

It is self-evident that the Jews have a great concern for their cultural and social life. Lately, they have established their own school to educate their children in the Jewish doctrine and language.

What is odd in this whole Jewish complaint is that there are individuals who try to distort realities and to give Yemen a bad name. Disinformation is an unfortunate part of politics, and Yemen has been suffering from it. Yet, decent journalism, whether local or foreign, has a certain duty to bringing out the truth. Printing lies, falsehoods and fabricated stories does not help anyone, including those who are involved in them.

I hereby accuse Sada Asha'ab of misrepresentation of the truth, or at least of exaggerating the facts. I demand that the independent press search for the truth and report it accurately.

**Sada Asha'ab, Sanaa,**  
28/7/1992.

STABILITY IS  
A PREREQUISITE FOR  
HONEST ELECTIONS

Salim Saleh Mohammad, Assistant General Secretary of the YSP and member of the Presidential Council, stressed in an interview on Channel Two TV the

need for better coordination between the YSP and the PGC.

He indicated that better understanding between the two parties will help pave the way for wider coordination among all the political parties and organizations.

Salim also pointed to the decision of the two parties to participate in the National Conference more effectively. The idea of this conference was actually launched in the bi-partisan meetings in Taiz during the unification agreements, he clarified. Concerning parliamentary elections, Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammad declared that the elections are considered a unique event occurring in our country. The holding of a free and honest elections is the aim of all the political forces which are keen on consolidating democracy in our country. But stability and safety are important prerequisites for these elections. He added that there are certain forces which do not want Yemen to go ahead in achieving its programs in prosperity, development, and reconstruction.

**Al-Thawri, Sanaa,**  
30/7/1992.

## VIEW POINT

The democratic interaction which our country witnesses these days is considered one of the great achievements of Yemen's re-unification on the 22nd, May 1990.

To keep this new interaction away from trifles, all political parties should build good will and consolidate trust and confidence among them. Thus, they need to focus on the points on which they agree.

To start with, the fact that the authorities have handled so many sensitive issues such as reunification, democracy, and a multi-party system in a cool and peaceful manner is an indicator of the new rules that govern our politics today. Yemen's national interests must take precedence over petty party politics. This means commitment to such things as democracy, responsible behavior including full respect for the law, and tolerance of dissenting view points and opinions.

It also means credibility of the system in allowing the participation of all national

forces in our community. Frankly speaking, Yemen, in its historic reunification step, has given the world a wonderful example.

There is consensus regarding the need for integrity, stability, and the march straight forward on our current path.

**Al-Gumhuriyah, Taiz,**  
30/7/1992.

THE FUNERAL  
PROCESSION OF  
THE MARTYR MAJID  
MURSHID TURNS  
INTO AN ANGRY  
DEMONSTRATION

The ceremonial tribute last Tuesday in Aden coincided with symbolic marches in many governorates in Taiz, Hadhramaut, Ibb, Sa'ada, Amran, Hodeidah, Shabwa, Marib, Dhamar, Hajja, Al-Baidha and Al-Jawf.

The funeral procession was filled with anger as marchers, carrying the body of the slain colonel, wrapped in the flag of the Republic, chanted inciting slogans. Members of the Political Bureau of YSP, senior executive officials in government, and thousands of people participated in the march in Aden.

Some slogans demanded the YSP to bring out the truth and to expose the forces responsible for the murder. Other posters questioned whether it was an accident that it was only YSP officials that were the target of the assassinations and violence. The slogans also demanded that the political parties, organizations, syndicates to renounce violence and confirm their commitment to democracy and peaceful dialogue. The martyr, Colonel Majid Murshid, political advisor to the Minister of Defence and member of the Central Committee of the YSP, had been assassinated in Sana'a on 21st June.

The body was flown in from Sanaa to Aden three days ago.

Although the body was autopsied, its long stay in Sanaa did not serve justice. We are demanding that the YSP keep its promise to carry out investigations and track down the perpetrators. All the media reports reiterated the need for exposing the assassins and the forces that support them.

The communique issued by

the YSP, Taiz Branch, referred to the fact that if the violence and intimidation continue, undoubtedly the situation will deteriorate into a civil war, confrontation and conflicts.

**Saut Al-Ummal, Aden,**  
30/7/92.

SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE REPUBLICAN  
PARTY, "WE DEFEND  
DEMOCRACY!"

Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ahmar, the Secretary General of the Republican Party and member of the House of Representative, confirmed that the party supports holding elections at the specified time according to previous commitments.

In his statement to the 'Al-Hayat' newspaper, Sheikh Al-Ahmar stated, "We will not commit to the conditions and regulations stipulated by others; but we confirm our commitment to defend our democracy and to oppose any kind of political violence.

By democracy, "I mean the constitutional and organizational set-up as well as the community approach in our public life." He also stressed that the demands of his party will be considered when the parliamentary committee drafting the supreme elections committee law finalizes its work. The Republican Party's representative in the committee had earlier withdrawn due to many reservations, including the fact the committee was not "serious enough" about its duties and tasks.

He also indicated that the relationship of Yemen with neighboring countries is expected to see major improvements soon. "There is no room for friction among brotherly countries," he said.

The Republican Party's Secretary-General demanded a broad coalition government and an end to the bi-partisan power sharing system. Handling economic crisis and political confusion, preparing for elections, and the guarantees needed to carry out honest and free elections, all require a broad-based government. "We also demand the application of the law that governs parties and political organizations, without further delay. This would reduce the violence.

The law forbids members of the armed forces to join any political party."

When asked about the possibility of creating a pressure group by bringing together as many parties as possible, he said that it was a possibility.

Sheikh Sadiq described the tribes of Yemen as brothers and said that certain parties were working hard to provoke an inter-tribal schism and in-fighting.

As for the assassinations, he confirmed that these bloody acts are political actions, and not motivated by tribal feuds.

With respect to carrying arms by individual citizens, he said that it was "part of our traditions/culture and it does not contradict the functions of the state. The concept of arms in Yemen is different from any other place. Carrying arms is part of Yemeni folklore and culture."

**Al-Sabe'en, Sanaa,**  
28/7/1992.

DISPOSAL OF LIQUOR  
IN TAIZ

A large consignment of liquor was destroyed in Taiz last week. The Investigation Department of the Taiz Police has destroyed 431 cases of whiskey, and 237 cases of beer which were being smuggled into Yemen.

The whole issue was discovered by accident when two persons were arrested by the Howban Police force for a minor felony. During the interrogation, the two spilled the beans about the large liquor shipment. The two were apparently accomplices and their role was to be a conduit for the safe passage of the world-travelled liquor.

The destroyed liquor was worth YR.2.4 million at the official rate, and quite a bit more at the market rate.

The destruction process was witnessed by many citizens and was supervised by Major Ahmed Nasr, representing the Governor's Office, Ibrahim Sultan Shaibani, representing the General Prosecutor's Office and Major Mohammed Azzam, representing the General Security Department.

**Al-Islah, Taiz,**  
27/7/1992



**letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to the****DIFFICULTIES  
AT 'NIAS'**

The National Institute for Administrative Sciences (NIAS) is an important center for learning English, secretarial and administrative skills, and certain mid-level and post-university sciences. I would like here to limit my comment to the many difficulties which complicate the process of learning English language. First of all, I'd like to point out that there are some teachers who are not qualified enough to do the job. The ineptness of some teachers leads to the students' inability to learn or to follow the lessons. Second, the time allocated for each group is only less than one hour for each class. At the same time, there is a large number of students per class (at least twenty). In addition to this, the teachers use up approximately 15 minutes of the class time to call students' names to check attendance. Having said that, let me mention that there are American volunteer teachers who really do a good job; not just because it's their first language (which certainly helps, however) but because they are more motivated, more devoted, and possibly more conscientious. I wish the other teachers would follow their example.

Third, contact between the teachers and students, especially in the afternoon sessions, is very limited. Relations with the administrative staff is almost non-existent. I have been studying at NIAS for almost one year, and have yet to see the NIAS senior staff come and observe what is going on in these classes. Fourth, in some programs, the students are not told what their studies will lead to, and whether they will get certificates or not. So they get confused even more and wonder whether to continue or not. All I want to say is, students need to be encouraged and the educational programs need to be revised regularly. I hope the NIAS top management will attend to this matter as soon as possible.

By:  
Abdo Taher M. Al-Ashwal,  
Faculty of Commerce,  
University of Sana'a.

**YEMEN TIMES: My  
Source of Information**

I'm writing to express appreciation for the hard work which the Yemen Times staff puts into every issue. This is very visible from the kind of material the paper publishes. I would also like to express appreciation to the Yemen Times because it is my only source of information on Yemen as I am a poor reader of Arabic. The paper covers many aspects of life in Yemen - political, technical, economic and cultural fields.

Thanks for a job well done, and please keep it up. It is vital for foreigners to be informed on the real situation in Yemen.

By:  
Anthony Leon,  
Sana'a.

**WHAT EXPENDITURE  
IS THIS?!!!**

Recently, I read in the Al-Thawrah newspaper an invitation by the Public Telecommunication system for 55,000 telephone units at a total cost of more than one million US dollars. My understanding is that our country is badly in need of foreign currency. So what is the reason behind spending this hard currency to buy these gadgets which are plentiful in the local market?

There is another side to this story. Why doesn't the Public telecommunication just leave the choice of the instruments to the users (customers)? Why should it buy the instrument for me? I think an explanation on this count is due from the Telecommunication office.

By:  
Salem Al-Mana',  
Sanaa.

**Thanks Yemen Times**

I am very happy with the English lessons which Yemen Times has started running. Every week I go over them with great interest. This is especially true of the grammar lessons. I have a couple of requests from our teachers Lisa and Jeanna, and I hope they will oblige.

By:  
Mohamood Ali Darwish,  
Ma'alla, Aden.

Note: Lisa & Jeanna are looking into your requests.

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS****EVENTS**

The Ethiopian Community Association invites everyone for its Bazaar on the 13th and 14th of August 1992 at the Community Club on Zuberi street, in front of Is-haq building beside the Yemen express office.

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**POSITIONS SOUGHT**

My name is Mohamed Ahmed H., a Yemeni national. I am looking for a vacancy as surveyor, draftsman and Quantity computations.

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P.O. Box 6330,  
Taiz.

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Mohammed Hizam  
phone: 248056/7 daytime.

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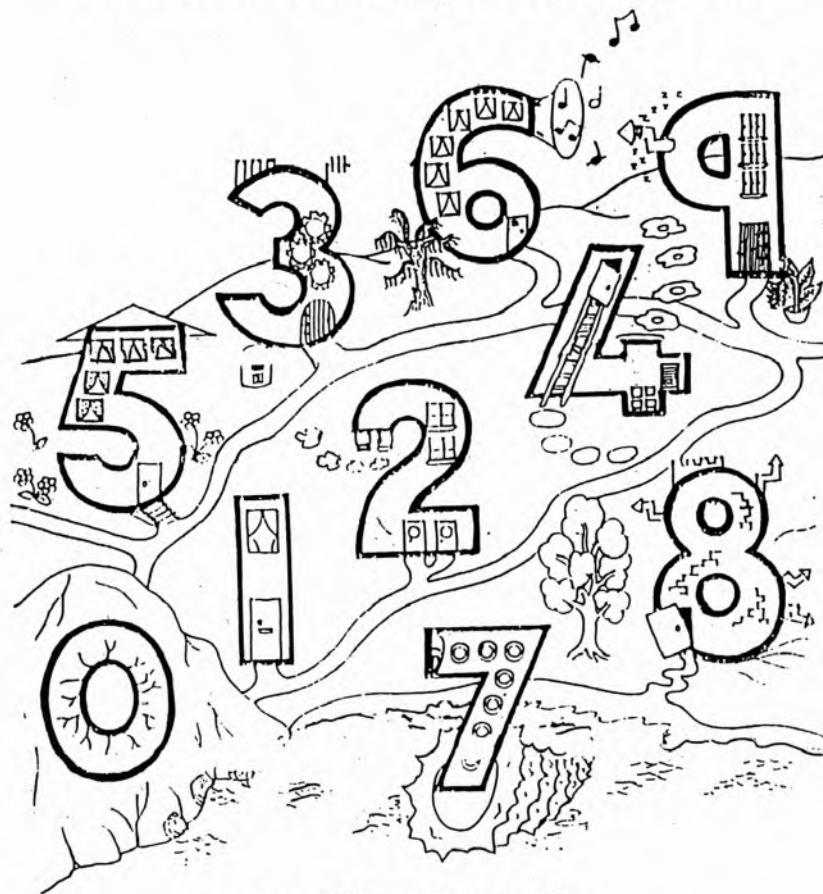
Contact address:  
Abdulla Baalawy,  
Phone: 27229.

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# YEMEN AT CROSSROADS

By:  
Dr. Saleem O. Altamimi,  
Director General of  
External Relations,  
Prime Minister's Office.

## A. Infant Democracy:

Two years after voluntary reunification, it is accepted on a world-wide scale that the regime in the Republic of Yemen is strengthening its democracy. The people exercise their rights through different channels far from any form of coercion. This is testified by the prevailing climate of political and intellectual pluralism in the country.

At the same time, a growing number of Yemenis view the entire political evolution and the pattern of political interaction with growing optimism.

Taking into account this convergence of views, and without belittling our democratic experiment, we can nevertheless say that in this particular stage of national development, our democracy is still in its embryonic stage. In other words, we are in the stage or process of elaborating the rules of what is known as the "democratic game".

## B. Rules of the Game:

The accumulated human experience demonstrates that for a genuine democracy to develop roots, there are certain prerequisites. In the first place, the readiness and willingness of the players in the democratic process to accept and adhere to recognized universal values and principles which guide their behavior and practices, whatever their political and philosophic persuasions. Hence, it is vital that every political force in the country, irrespective of shared or divergent objectives, is a participant in and fully committed to these principles and guidelines (for example, the Political Conduct Charter and the Elections Procedures to be discussed in the upcoming National Conference).

Moreover, democracy should be exercised within the framework of constitutional legality and the national institutions. These institutions can be the base for interaction, as well as the guardian and promoter



of democracy in the socio-political life. The success of any democratic experience is inseparable from the peaceful establishment and evolution of democratic structures. This political framework should not be an issue that could be left to good intentions or personal desire. It is an objective necessity dictated by the needs of Yemen's economic development.

The Republic of Yemen, following unification, has embarked on a road of major socio-economic reforms linked and interwoven to the dominant trends in the world's economy. Indeed, the successful development in this direction could only be possible in the presence of enhanced and viable constitutional democratic institutions.

It is equally important that the success is not linked only to structural formation or the existence of these structures. The core of the problem remains the respect and adherence to the law, and the full implementation of decisions by those involved in the "democratic game". Therefore, the complex political process and the alarming situation of the country call for an earnest effort to form new institutions and to consolidate existing ones. Any attempts to weaken these institutions or marginalize their role in political life, is tantamount to suffocating Yemen's infant democracy.

## C. Concensus on Yemen's Commitments:

Coping with the pressing needs of national development, the government, in pursuance to its Program of

National Construction and Reform, took the initiative to organize the Round Table Conference (RTC) in Geneva on 30th June - 1st, July, 1992. The RTC was a tremendous opportunity to discuss Yemen's economic strategy with its development partners and to list the priorities for assistance from the donor community. The government's working paper (General Economic Memorandum) presented a frank assessment of the present situation of the economy. It identified the nature of the problems which remain unsolved, and it outlined the associated role which might be played by external donors.

Confining ourselves to the political spect of the RTC, it has to be noted that the fundamental question at the conference was "How could Yemen's development partners help the country overcome its current economic constraints and achieve its full development potential?" The response of the partners and donors to this question was very positive and encouraging. Some of them have even gone so far as to identify areas of their possible contributions and assistance. However, it should be clear that the general consensus reached at the conference: to fully cooperate and render all possible aid to Yemen, was not an accident; but it was based on a realistic and constructive appraisal of Yemen's political orientation. Special mention should be made to the general appreciation of Yemen's commitment to democracy, political pluralism, market economy and the observation of human rights. If the international

community views the current political developments in Yemen with appreciation and decides to cooperate, it is because Yemen has internalized universal human values. At this point, there is a logical question to be posed: "Are we in Yemen aware of this stance and are we in a position to create the atmosphere of stability, in order to protect our democracy and thus serve our national interests?"

## D. Aborting Democracy:

At this time, efforts are exerted to enforce law and order in the country, and the entire political set-up is actively engaged in politics of democratization. Yet, it is unfortunate that these positive developments and efforts are confronted with fierce opposition and resistance from certain dubious circles which see Yemen's advances in this direction as an encroachment on their interests. To make things worse, these circles are associated with external political forces which share the view that Yemen's recent political developments do represent a threat to their interests and which may have repercussions in the region.

Moreover, Yemen's modernization process and its principles of independent, balanced and pragmatic approaches to regional and international issues, continues to be the source of deep concern and dissatisfaction to certain political forces. Hence, we can understand the covert external actions and the mounting wave of internal violence, sabotage and perpetration of political assassinations. It is nothing but a part and parcel of an orchestrated effort against Yemen's new democratic experiment.

## E. Fatal Miscalculations:

I believe that the first step in the right direction involves having a correct perception of the global problems and the dramatic changes taking place in different parts of the world. This should make us more convinced that Yemen has no other option but to go ahead with full force in deepening its process of democratization, modernization and the consolidation of national unity. Clearly, these vital issues will continue to constitute common denominators for the Yemeni people and the entire national political structure. At this juncture of national development, it is imperative to master the art of administering our political differences. If there is any valid lesson to be drawn from our past tragic experience, it is that violence should not be the means of resolving our political differences. Any attempt to do so will be a fatal miscalculation and a major setback to our national interests.

Therefore, in my opinion, Yemen today is at a crossroad, which means that Yemen needs social and national cohesion more now than at any other time in its recent history. The forthcoming parliamentary elections constitute a great test and challenge to all. Will we be able to live up to this challenge? Only time will tell.

In the meanwhile, we must work at evolving constantly and at making our democratic institutions and experience develop roots. It is clear that political stability and reform are both essential prerequisites for social and economic development.

## تهنئه

تتقدم أسرة التحرير في صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى

الزميل الأستاذ هشام باشراحيل

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بمناسبة إكمال العلاج بنجاح، والجميع

يانتظر عودته صحيحاً معافاً بأذن الله



**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Starting with this issue, the Yemen Times introduces a sports page. Dr. Dhia Al-Munshi, an author of books on sports, and a well-known personality in the field, is in charge of this page. We hope you will enjoy it.

**OUR ATHLETES IN BARCELONA**

The Yemeni Olympic delegation, headed by Dr. Mohammed Al Kabab, Minister of Youth and Sports, have a full schedule ahead of them. Our athletes are taking part in a number of games, but notably Judo and Track and Field competitions. Yet many members of our delegation have found the visit a good opportunity to have medical check-ups at the Olympic Health Center. Many have regularly lined up to see the MDs and nurses to such an extent that some say Barcelona is full of jokes on this matter.

It will be noted that this is the fourth time Yemen is participating in the Olympic Games. Yemeni athletes had first appeared in the Moscow Olympics of 1980. Then they went to Los Angeles (1984), and finally to Seoul, 1988.

The National Olympic Committee of Yemen was founded in 1979. Prominent figures of the sport movement in the country exerted continuous pressure to see this happen.

Since 1979, the Yemeni Olympians have joined the world Olympic family.

The modern olympic games are an enactment of an old Greek ritual. Going back to history, the Greeks started up the games in 776 B.C. That was at Olympia, the religious capital of the ancient Greeks who hosted the games once every four years.

The ambiance that the events brought with them is one of chivalry, high ideals, and the drive to push the human body to its limits. It was the French baron and knight Pierre de Coubertin who was behind the re-enactment of the ancient games. He was the man who paved the way for their return in the modern olympics. This happened for the first time in modern times in 1896, in Athens, the capital of modern Greece.

The games were interrupted for short intervals during the World Wars. The Barcelona Olympic Games are the 25th round in the movement's history after their revival.

All of the olympic games, so far, have been held in developed countries.

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**- Technology Aids Sports**  
State-of-the-art technology has touched many aspects of the olympics. Using scientific breakthroughs, training and technique can be improved to "build" the perfect athlete. Technology has also helped athletes to keep up by providing better measurement devices.

**- Alexandria 2008**  
Egypt announced its candidacy to host the summer olympic games in the year 2008. An olympic village is to be constructed within 5 years from now, at a site near the city of Alexandria. If Alexandria wins the nomination, then it will be the first time in history, that an Arab or African country hosts the games.

**- Samaranch Lashes Back**  
I.O.C. President Juan Antonio Samaranch used the opening ceremony of the International Olympic Committee's 99th session to defend the olympic movement and himself against what he called the 'envy and hypocrisy' of its most virulent critics. His remarks came in response to recent oral and written attacks on high olympic officials.

When the term of Mr. Samaranch, himself a Barcelonian, comes to an end, he is likely to nominate himself for the post for another term ending in 1997, just one year after the next olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

**OLYMPIC GAMES COMING TO HIGH SWING**

On August 9, the Barcelona Olympic games will be approaching the finishing line. It is most likely the King of Spain will attend the closing ceremonies. He will be saluted with a pair of flags; one will be the flag of its most prosperous region, Catalonia.

For over two weeks, the whole world was focusing on the games at Barcelona, where athletes from all over the world have gathered together to compete under one olympic flag. Certainly, they are trying to send a message to all people in the world, "Let us make our planet a better place to live, in friendship and in peace."

**-- SOCCER**

Yemen league, results of the 28th week (23-24 July 1997)

Yarmook	1	Wihda (5)	1
Shamsan	0	Zahra	0
Hassaan	4	Shabab (Ibb)	1
Shaab (s)	5	Samoon	0
Mukalla	2	Shu'la	0
Ahli (s)	0	Police Team	1

**Bomber**

The name of Abdulla Al Sana'ani, the striker of the Ahli club, still stands on top of the list of bombers in Yemen soccer league. So far he scored 17 goals.

**YEMEN SOCCER LEAGUE (1st division)**

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Ahli (Sana'a)	15	3	5	39	14	35
Tilal (Aden)	12	5	3	34	22	27
Shulla	10	6	6	35	24	26
Yarmouk	9	6	8	28	24	26
Wihda (Aden)	9	6	7	28	21	25
Hassaan	8	6	9	22	19	25
Shamsan	7	6	10	29	31	24
Shaab (Sana'a)	8	7	8	36	27	24
Shaab (Ibb)	6	5	9	24	26	21
Wihda (Sana'a)	5	7	10	24	23	20
Shaab (Mukalla)	6	7	8	16	22	20
Police (Aden)	7	10	5	27	36	19
Zahra	6	9	6	22	28	18
Mina'a	7	12	3	28	34	17
Samoon	4	9	8	16	36	16
Tadhamun	1	16	5	12	34	7

W = Win, L = Loss, T = Tie, GF = Goals in Favor, GA = Goal Against, Pts = points.

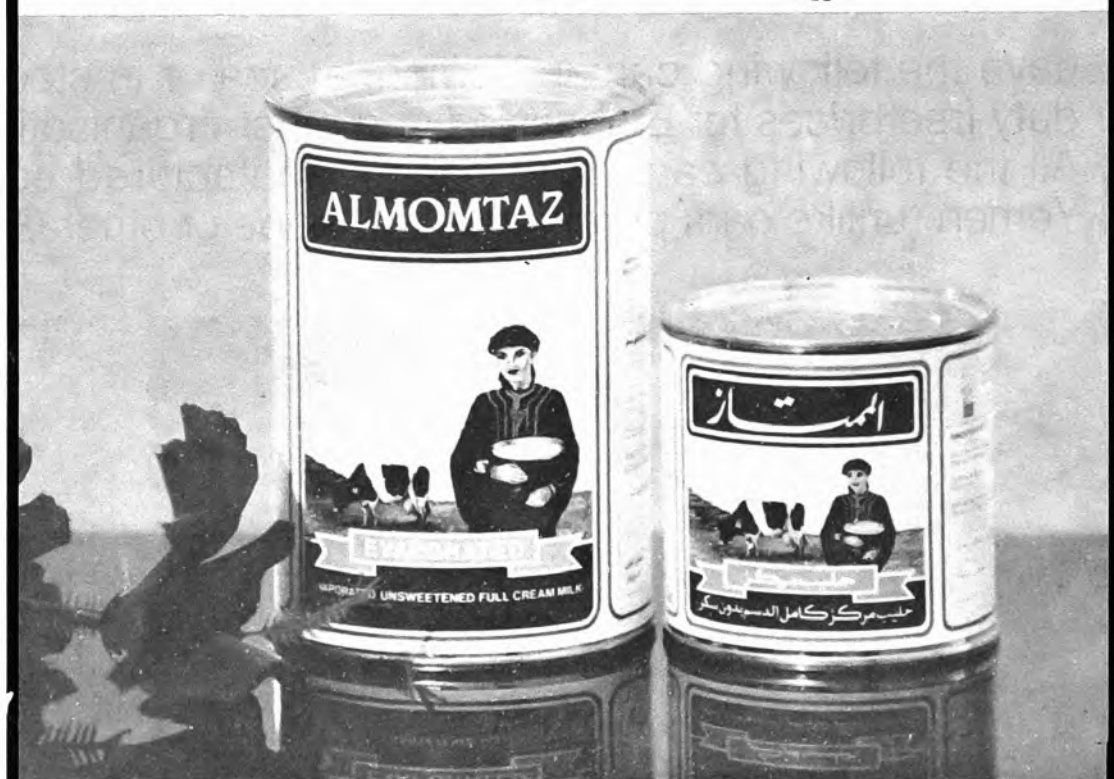
Note: Two points are awarded for a victory and one for a tie.

**Advertizing in the Olympics: The Ethics and the Business:**

International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch was under fire for transforming the olympics into a cheap advertizing event. Critics say that the games and the way they are orchestrated have been pawned to corporate sponsors, television networks, and agents in a billion-dollar industry. The commercialization of the games is clear from the giant bill-boards in stadiums and on athletes' uniforms. Mr. Samaranch defended his position vehemently. "Money is indispensable to the Olympic movement. Without commercialization sports would shrink to a very small size," he said.

He also indicated that there is no ethical issue involved because "sports and money mix nicely and there is no problem in my mind."

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# LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

**SOCIAL**

## Niveau de vie: le Yémen au 130ème rang mondial sur 160

En 1992, l'Indicateur de Développement Humain (HDI en anglais) place le Yémen au 130ème rang mondial sur 160 pays. Cet instrument, qui évalue en fait le niveau de vie des habitants d'un pays, corrige et pondère le simple revenu par habitant qui place le Yémen parmi les 11 PMA (Pays les Moins Avancés, selon la classification du FMI), par des critères plus sociaux tels que l'espérance de vie et le taux d'alphabétisation. Cette correction est particulièrement nécessaire pour le Yémen qui paraît à n'importe quel observateur qui a voyagé dans le Tiers-Monde, beaucoup moins pauvre que la plupart des autres PMA, notamment d'Afrique et d'Asie. Cela tient au fait qu'une très grande partie de l'économie de ce pays n'est pas "monétarisée", qu'elle n'est pas intégrée aux comptes nationaux officiels pour diverses

raisons: marché parallèle, vie en autarcie de la majeure partie de la population dans les campagnes, échanges sous forme de troc, etc. Même si, en théorie, les calculs d'un revenu national par le FMI incluent une estimation de la part due au marché parallèle, il ne peut être totalement satisfaisants pour mesurer un niveau de vie. Des projections récentes montrent que les indicateurs sociaux du Yémen sont néanmoins préoccupants. D'autant plus que ce pays compte l'un des taux de croissance naturelle de la population les plus élevés au monde, 3,1% par an et qu'il a été submergé récemment par un afflux terrible de rapatriés d'Arabie Saoudite et du Koweït, ainsi que de Yéménites qui vivaient dans la Corne de l'Afrique. Ce récent accroissement de la population et son accentuation dans un avenir proche met en danger des systèmes de Santé,

d'Education ainsi que des services sociaux divers qui ne sont déjà pas très performants, alors que la plupart des indicateurs sociaux classiques sont en dessous des normes acceptables. Le taux de mortalité au Yémen est de 53,3 pour mille habitants par an, par exemple. Le taux de mortalité infantile (enfants de 0 à 1 an) atteint, lui, les 130 pour mille. L'espérance de vie à la naissance est très basse: 47, 5 ans ! Le taux d'illettrisme est catastrophique: 66,6% pour l'ensemble de la population et même 85,4% pour les femmes. Les soins de base pour la santé ne couvrent encore que 40% de la population, l'eau courante et les égouts ne touchent respectivement que 34 et 20% des foyers. Mais le ratio le plus préoccupant pour l'avenir du pays est le ratio de dépendance de la population: il s'agit du rapport des inactifs sur les actifs: il est anormalement élevé au Yémen avec quatre per-

sonnes inactives pour un actif, alors que le rapport est de 2 pour 1 dans les pays occidentaux et de 3 pour un en moyenne dans les pays en voie de développement. Ce rapport de dépendance de la population inactive, contrairement à ce que l'on observe dans les pays occidentaux où le troisième âge gagne chaque année en importance, est dû au Yémen à un très forte proportion de jeunes gens. Le groupe des 0-14 ans constitue 52,5% de la population totale. Mais là encore, il convient de tempérer ce chiffre par une simple observation sur le terrain: sur la partie en travaux de la route qui relie Sanaa à Hodeidah, la plupart des ouvriers ont à peine plus de douze ou quatorze ans. Et cela n'est pas un cas isolé: le travail des enfants au Yémen, au noir bien entendu, doit représenter un part non négligeable du revenu national, officiel ou non.

Ce taux de dépendance des inactifs sur les actifs (dû également pour une part non négligeable au faible taux d'activité féminine) s'aggrave encore quand on prend en compte le chômage, très élevé dans le pays: le ratio de dépendance atteint alors les 5 inactifs pour un actif. Depuis octobre 1991, le gouvernement tente de mettre en place un plan d'action d'amélioration du niveau de vie de la population, qui dépend, pour une bonne part de l'aide financière internationale. Les objectifs affichés sont ambitieux: réduire le taux de mortalité infantile à 60 pour mille, accroître l'usage des méthodes contraceptives à 35% de la population féminine, réduire l'illettrisme à 50% de la population, permettre l'accès à l'eau potable à 80% des foyers, augmenter l'espérance de vie de 47,5 ans à 60 ans, entre autres...

**Emmanuel GIROUD**



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230 E	SMOKE SILVER	CLOTH-BRAZIL	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
230 E	MALACHITE	MB TEX GREEN	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
230 E	NAUTICAL BLUE	MB TEX-BLUE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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230 E	PEARL GREY	MB TEX-GREY	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
230 E	ANTHRACITE	MB TEX-BRAZIL	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
230 E	PEARL BLUE	CLOTH-BLUE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
230 E	PAJETT RED	CHECKERED	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
260 LONG	BLUE BLACK	MB-TEX GREY	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
300 SE	BLUE BLACK	LEATHER-GREY	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
300 SEL	SMOKE SILVER	LEATHER-BLACK	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
300 SEL	WHITE	LEATHER-BLUE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
300 SEL	NAUTICAL	LEATHER-BLUE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
300 SEL	BERYLL	LEATHER-BLACK	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
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## HISTOIRE

# Sheikh Said, la colonie fantôme

par Christian Couturaud

## Deuxième partie

*Nous publions aujourd'hui le deuxième 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 XVIIIème et XIXème siècles et sur l'architecture navale et l'armement des navires scientifiques (XVIII-XIXèmes siècles). Il est également l'auteur d'une maîtrise sur les Corsaires dans l'Océan Indien.*

*Nous avons vu, dans la première partie, qu'après l'installation d'étranges commerçants français à Sheikh Said, les Britanniques, qui occupent l'île de Périm, étaient très inquiets de cette présence et soupçonnaient fortement l'existence d'une base militaire. Ayant poussé le gouvernement turc du Yémen à envoyer la troupe à Sheikh Said, ils ne tarderont pas à voir leurs hypothèses confirmées...*

Jusqu'au village de Dhubab, l'expédition turque est une promenade de santé. A partir de là, les choses se gâtent. Il n'y a pas un Français dans les environs -et à aucun moment ils n'en verront- mais les Ahmis sont omniprésents, pratiquant une stratégie de harcèlement dans le plus pur style des cosaques de la campagne de Russie. Une grande partie de la troupe turque est déjà hors de combat, lorsqu'elle arrive en vue de la baie. Là, les canons des deux goélettes embossées dans la baie, appuyés par ceux des fortins, ont tôt fait de transformer la promenade en dérouté. Le message est on ne peut plus clair.

Pourtant, dans les jours qui suivent, les goélettes repartent et le comptoir retombe dans la léthargie. Par contre, les rapports en provenance de Constantinople ne tardent pas, eux, à faire part d'une intense activité diplomatique française en ce lieu. Le gouvernement impérial adresse une violente note de protestation aux autorités turques. Des négociations s'ensuivent qui débouchent sur une reconnaissance officielle du protectorat français sur Sheikh Said. Reconnaissance qui sera cependant bientôt remise en cause, sous la menace britannique.

En 1870, les goélettes reviennent et, sans explications, embarquent la moitié des "commerçants" français. Un an plus tard, un autre gros contingent quitte les lieux, ne laissant que quelques gardes. Dans la décennie suivante, sans qu'on ne puisse plus vraiment parler d'activités, des navires militaires viennent régulièrement faire escale à Sheikh Said, y déposant même des stocks de charbon. Le directeur de la *Coal Company* de Périm estimera ces stocks de 80 à 100 tonnes en 1884. En 1881, un rapport en provenance de Périm informe le gouverneur d'Aden que, sans qu'aucun navire n'eut mouillé depuis plusieurs mois, les Français ont disparu. Les derniers gardiens ont disparu, on ne sait quand ni comment.

Le silence et la tranquillité retombent donc sur ce lieu désertique quand, deux ans plus tard, débarque un commerçant français d'Aden, M. Deloncle, qu'on dit très actif sur la côte somalienne, et pas seulement dans le domaine du troc. Cette visite correspondant aux bruits, qui se font de plus en plus insistants, d'une prochaine installation des Français à Obock. Pour les Anglais, cela ne peut qu'annoncer un retour définitif de leurs rivaux à Sheikh Said. C'en est trop. Le lieutenant-gouverneur de Périm contacte immédiatement le gouverneur turc de Sanaa et le convainc de venir occuper les lieux, lui promettant, en outre, une assistance anglaise, si nécessaire.

### 1883: poussés par les Anglais, les Turcs occupent le comptoir

C'est une petite compagnie d'une centaine d'hommes, dont une vingtaine d'artilleurs, encadrée par une dizaine d'officiers qui, sous le commandement d'un certain major Youssouf, vient s'installer à Sheikh Said. Elle est détachée de la garnison de Taiz et sera relevée tous les six mois. Pour effacer tout souvenir des Français, elle commence par réprimer durement la collaboration des Ahmis. Ensuite, elle détruit partiellement les installations du comptoir et rase le fortin de l'îlot Sheikh Malu. Elle construit alors, sur le flanc de la montagne, une station télégraphique qui centralisera bientôt tous les messages du Yémen, avant de les répercuter sur la *Eastern Telegraph Company* de

Périm. Enfin, un colonel, Djaber Effendi, vient, accompagné d'un officier européen qu'on dit Allemand, pour construire un fort et des casemements sur le sommet de la montagne. Le fort est équipé de grosses pièces d'artillerie réputées être en mesure d'atteindre la côte des Dankalis, de l'autre côté du détroit de Bab Al Mandab. La compagnie sera, en outre, équipée d'un canon de campagne avec ses mulets.

Les français ne semblent pas, pour autant, avoir renoncé à leurs droits sur Sheikh Said.

En 1882, leur vice-consul à Hodeidah adresse une note à son ministère pour rappeler que, les navires des Messageries Maritimes venant mouiller deux fois par mois dans ce port, il serait utile de réactiver le dépôt de charbon de Sheikh Said. C'est d'ailleurs vraisemblablement ce qui a motivé le voyage de M. Deloncle, dont il a été fait état plus haut.

### Les préparatifs de l'Entente cordiale imposent le silence diplomatique

En 1884, un ingénieur français vient tracer les plans du futur port de Hodeidah. Il en profite, bien entendu, pour envoyer discrètement l'un de ses adjoints, un Russe, faire des relevés à Sheikh Said. Malheureusement, celui-ci se fait prendre. Il est envoyé à Mokha, emprisonné, puis expulsé et déposé sur les côtes africaines de la Mer Rouge, à Ra's Raita, d'où il aura bien des difficultés à rejoindre Massaoua, puis un port civilisé.

Mais aucune réaction officielle française ne fait écho à ces tentatives privées, dont on peut supposer qu'elles ne sont pas innocentes. Ce n'est qu'en 1893, qu'à l'initiative d'un groupe de députés de droite, l'Assemblée Nationale invite le gouvernement à réoccuper d'urgence Sheikh Said. Celui-ci ne réagit toujours pas officiellement mais les Turcs jugent plus sage de renforcer leur garnison.

Un peu comme le serpent de mer ou le Monstre du Loch Ness qui ne réapparaissent que lorsque l'on n'a plus rien à dire, le cas de Sheikh Said est de nouveau évoqué par le ministre des Colonies, devant les députés, à la fin de l'année 1896. Il réaffirme, ce jour là, les droits de la France sur sa colonie et la volonté de son gouvernement de les faire respecter.

A la même époque, une société française obtient l'adjudication de l'implantation de phares sur le Jabal Tay et l'île Jabal Zuqar, la plus nord des îles Hanish. Les archives

diplomatiques et celles de la Chambre des Députés s'enrichissent alors de quelques rapports clandestins supplémentaires sur la "colonie". Cela conduit les députés, en 1897, à voter une nouvelle motion exigeant la réoccupation immédiate de Sheikh Said et à charger leur Commission des Colonies d'en définir les modalités d'application. Le gouvernement oubliera, une fois encore, ce rapport de ses élus.

Il faut avouer que l'époque ne se prête guère à une querelle avec les Anglais. On en est aux préparatifs de l'"Entente Cordiale". Par ailleurs, l'Ambassadeur de France à Constantinople, Paul Cambon, celui-là même qui, grand défenseur de Sheikh Said, en obtint une nouvelle reconnaissance de la souveraineté française par les Turcs en 1890, est lui-même sur le point d'être nommé à Londres pour concrétiser cet accord.

L'année suivante, une nouvelle tentative d'information, dont on peut difficilement croire, encore une fois, qu'elle est une initiative personnelle, est perpétrée. Emile Roulet, ingénieur français des services sanitaires ottomans, est envoyé, à la demande de la Conférence Sanitaire Internationale, sur l'île de Kamaran pour y construire un lazaret destiné à stopper la progression de la peste et du choléra vers l'Europe. Il lui faudra quatre années, entrecoupées de nombreuses visites dans le Yémen continental, pour achever son oeuvre. Et là, alors qu'il se dit malade, épuisé par son long séjour sous un climat très dur, il se décide de prendre dix-sept mois de vacances qu'il consacra à se promener le long de la côte de la Tihama, de Al Luhaya à... Sheikh Said. Dix-sept mois pendant lesquels, accompagné d'un guide interprète somalien chrétien, que lui a fourni le R.P. Justinien, de la mission catholique de Hodeidah, il va amasser une somme considérable d'informations, de notes, de cartes et de croquis.

Lorsqu'il arrive à Périm, Emile Roulet se voit tout de suite convoqué par le Lieutenant-Gouverneur qui lui notifie l'interdiction de débarquer à Sheikh Said. Roulet proteste de la pureté de ses intentions et s'en va, aussitôt, affréter un sambouk pour y aller voir de plus près. Le lendemain, quatre officiers turcs de la garnison de Sheikh Said viennent lui renouveler cette interdiction. Comme il est fonctionnaire ottoman, il proteste une nouvelle fois de la pureté de ses intentions. Il se contente alors de jouer les tou-

ristes à Périm, de jour, et de ramer et dessiner au large, la nuit. Les Anglais, avec qui il sympathise, lui font part de leur étonnement et de leur incompréhension face à l'attitude des Français dans cette affaire. "Peut-on comprendre vos patriotes, lui dit le directeur de la Compagnie de Périm, ils occupaient avec Sheikh Said la route des caravanes du Yémen, ils avaient un lieu de dépôt de charbon unique, ils pouvaient avoir le seul port à quai de la Mer Rouge... Les Français ont été aussi naïfs en évacuant Sheikh Said qu'en nous avisant à temps de leurs intentions, pour nous permettre d'occuper Périm avant eux."

### "Par sa colonie la France ouvrirait aux Européens le Yémen..."

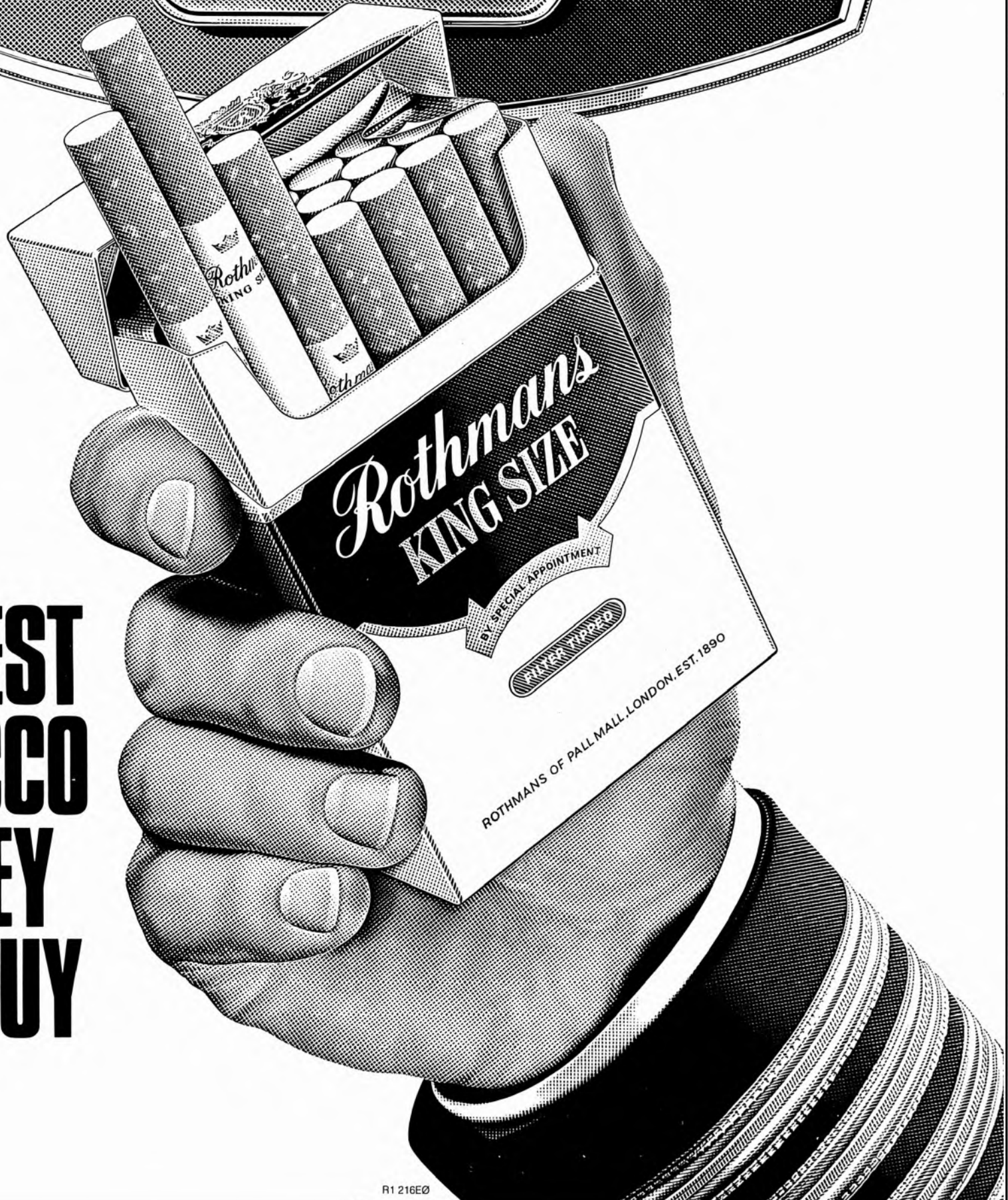
Et Roulet de conclure ainsi son rapport: "Si la France se décide à revendiquer ses droits et à reprendre son bien, si elle veut retrouver dans la Mer Rouge la position qui était, qui doit être la sienne et lui est indispensable... il lui serait possible de faire, sans grande dépense, à Sheikh Said, le plus beau et le plus sûr port de la Mer Rouge. Les navires y viendront non seulement prendre leur charbon, charger les cafés et les autres denrées pour l'Europe, mais encore s'approvisionner d'eau, de viande fraîche et de légumes".

Par sa colonie de Sheikh Said, la France ouvrirait aux Européens le Yémen, un des plus riches et des plus intéressants pays du monde. Elle assurerait à ses flottes et à celles de ses alliés, en cas de guerre, la plus belle station navale que l'on puisse constituer dans la Mer des Indes. Elle pourrait y avoir des dépôts de charbon... S'y procurer des vivres frais en abondance, avoir là, enfin, un sanatorium où déposer ses malades qu'elle ne peut soigner, à cause du climat, à évacuer sur Obock ou Djibouti".

Le début du siècle étant marqué par le respect strict des termes de l'Entente Cordiale, les autorités oublient encore une fois Sheikh Said. Mais l'intense activité privée qui se développe dans ce domaine, ne peut empêcher de continuer à voir, de sa part, des agissements en sous-main.

**La suite dans notre prochain numéro.**





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## Yemeni Researcher's Dissertation Named as Best for 1991

Dr. Abdullah Al-Gheithi, faculty member of the College of Education - Sanaa, has been awarded the "Outstanding Doctorate (Ph.D.) Dissertation Award for 1991" by the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale. The award was given for his dissertation entitled "Differential Expansion of Higher Education Enrollment among Non-Industrialized Nations: 1970-1990". The award was handed over by the American Ambassador in Sanaa, H.E. Mr. Arthur Hughes in a ceremony in Sanaa on Sunday, August 2nd. On the occasion, Ambassador Hughes expressed his delight with the accomplishments of Dr. Al-Gheithi, and the potential he holds for future contribution.



However, it is really Dr. Al-Gheithi's academic advisor who best summarizes the whole thing. He wrote:

"It was a distinct honor to serve as Dr. Al-Gheithi's Ph.D. advisor these past several years. I congratulate Yemen and USAID for selecting him for graduate study. I feel he has the potential to make many valuable contributions to higher education in his country and throughout the world in the years to come."

Dr. Al-Gheithi utilized various resources including World Bank macro-economic and macro-sociological data in his analysis of the development of higher education in a number of countries throughout the world. Other scholars have noted that Dr. Al-Gheithi's dissertation is one of the best known examples using international data bases. The research findings will be a valuable resource for planners concerned with the expanding role of higher education in development -- on both national and international levels.

We in Yemen Times join-in to congratulate Dr. Al-Gheithi, and we sincerely hope that Sanaa University, in general, and the Faculty of Education, in particular, will give this exceptional scholar a chance to contribute.

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May 17, 1992

*Arthur Hughes*  
Dean of the Graduate School



## Weekly English lessons:

By: Lisa Ciardulli and Jeanna Stroble

### Lesson # 5

## The Present Continuous Tense (also called the Present Progressive)

The present continuous tense shows that an activity or action is happening 'now', or is in progress at the moment of speaking. The verb usually ends with an 'ing', and is used with 'am', 'is', or 'are' (the 'be' verb as a linking verb in present tense.)

examples:

John *is sleeping* now.

I *am trying* to study

It *is raining*.

My sister *is writing* a book.

We *are working* hard every day at the office.

Amat and Bushre *are taking* the same courses this semester.

**Practice A** - Decide if the verb in parenthesis should be in simple present or present present continuous. Change the verb if necessary.

1. Ali (sit) in the last row now.
2. Right now I (watch) Ahmed. He (read) his book.
3. My mother (walk) to the store every day.
4. Please be quiet. I (try) to hear the TV.
5. Where (be) Iman and Selwa?
6. You should always (lock) the door when you leave the house.

**NEGATIVES.** When making a present continuous into a negative, use 'not' between the linking verb and the 'ing' verb. Example: I am working today. - I *am not working* today.

**Practice B** - Change the sentences from simple present to present continuous, and make the sentences negative. example: We (hope) for rain. -- We *are not hoping* for rain.

1. We (play) football this week.
2. They (watch) TV.
3. She (attends) classes at the university.
4. Ali (works) at the Police Department.
5. My friends and I (sing) together.

**QUESTIONS.** Begin a question in the present continuous with the linking verbs 'are' (plural) or 'is' (singular). The subject goes between the linking verb and 'ing' verb. examples: *Is Ahmed working* at the post office? *Are we staying* in that hotel?

**Practice C** - Change the following word groups into questions in the present continuous. example: you / think/ about a vacation = *Are you thinking* about a vacation?

1. he/ hope/ for a job here
2. you/ live/ in Aden now
3. your friends/ stay/ at your house
4. Ali's mother/ enjoy/ her visit
5. someone/ use/ the telephone

**EXCEPTIONS:** Some verbs do not use the 'ing' ending or a linking verb, but they still show that action is presently happening. Here are some examples:

**A. Senses:** hear, taste, smell, see.

examples: I *hear* a noise. I *see* a plane.

**B. Mental Activity:** know, believe, understand, recognize, remember, mean, think (sometimes 'think' is used with the 'ing'. See practice C.)

examples: I *think* he is a kind man. I *mean* this book, not that one.

**C. Possession:** possess, own, have, belong.

examples: He *owns* (or *has*) a car. That hat *belongs* to me.

**D. Attitudes:** want, prefer, need, appreciate, love, like, hate, dislike, seem, look, appear.

examples: I *need* some help. She *loves* her husband. He *looks* tired. They *seem* angry.

**Oral Practice** - On your own. Look around you and describe what is happening. What do you see and hear; who is doing what, etc. Use as many verbs in the present continuous as possible. Example: *I am looking* at my room. *I see* a cat. *It is sleeping*...

**WEEKLY IDIOM:** "Chill out" is an expression used to tell someone to relax, not to worry, calm down, or not to get so excited about something. When someone over-reacts to a situation, you can tell them to "chill out." If you are just sitting around doing nothing in particular, and someone asks what you are doing, you could say, "Just chilling."



**Answers:** Practice A: 1) is sitting 2) am watching and is reading 3) walks 4) am trying 5) are 6) lock Practice B: 1) are not playing 2) are not watching 3) is not attending 4) is not working 5) are not singing. Practice C: 1) Is he hoping for a job here? 2) Are you living in Aden now? 3) Are your friends staying at your house? 4) Is Ali's mother enjoy- ing her visit? 5) Is someone using the telephone?



### PLEA FOR EMERGENCY AID FOR DIPLACED SUDANESE

The United Nations has appealed for emergency aid for some 110,000 people in the southern Sudan regions of Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria displaced by war, floods and drought.

A press release from the UN's Operation Lifeline-Sudan received last week said the most affected people were the Bor and Tuic Dinka tribes from the Bor-Kongor area devastated by drought and floods in 1990-91 and tribal clashes that followed the split of the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in August last year.

The offensive by Sudanese government troops against the SPLA in March sent thousands of people fleeing to camps at Ame and Atepi near the Ugandan border.

The massive displacement is taking place during the early wet season, the most critical period of the year. Grain stocks are low and the people are arriving at camps destitute, most of them severely malnourished and surviving on wild fruits.

The UN said although international assistance was urgently needed, distribution would only be possible if all parties to the conflict in southern Sudan agreed to cooperate with the UN and other relief organisations.

It added that large numbers of Sudanese would continue moving southwards and enter Uganda if relief aid did not reach them soon.

Last week, relief workers in Uganda said a massive influx of Sudanese refugees into northern Uganda had started following recent advances by the Khartoum government troops against the SPLA.

An estimated 500,000 people have died in the war mainly due to famine, and a further 4.5 million people have been displaced.

The UN is asking the Sudanese government to hold off its military advances, which seem to offer a unique opportunity to crush the rebellion in the south, for humanitarian reasons.

The Sudanese government has bowed to that logic and offered to talk to the rebels without prior conditions, and has even offered a self-rule (autonomy) under a federal system. The last round of these talks took place in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, in early June.

### LEBANON SETS DATE FOR POLLS

President Elias El-Hirawi's government has called for a three-stage general elections for August and September in line with political reforms following Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

A government statement said voting will be held on August 23rd in the eastern Beka'a valley and the northern province; on August 30th, in Beirut and the Christian and Druze hinterland surrounding the capital; and on September 6th in south Lebanon.

The decision was taken despite opposition by right-wing Christians who fear the new parliament would be controlled by Syria and would weaken their traditional hold on power in Lebanon.

Under an Arab League brokered peace pact that ended the civil war, known as the Tayif agreement, the nation should elect a new 128-seat parliament, divided equally between Muslims and Christians. Christians who had traditionally enjoyed a 5-4 edge in power since independence from France in 1943, have not objected to giving Muslims more political power; given the new population realities which indicate that Muslims have become a clear majority in the country.

However, the right-wing Christian leaders have been outspoken against holding elections before the withdrawal of Syrian troops from major Lebanese cities to avoid Syria's influence on the new legislature.

Hirawi signed political reforms in September 1989 and Christian leaders have been calling for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from most of Lebanon's major cities by this September in line with the Tayif peace accord, which called for the redeployment of the Syrian army in Lebanon two years after political reforms were installed.

However, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said recently that Syria would consider removing its troops from Lebanon only after the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon with 40,000 troops deployed in most of the nation under a 1976 peace-keeping mandate from the Arab League.

Israeli forces and allied Lebanese occupy a strip along the southern border.

### NEW MOMENTUM IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

Syria said it would attend a new round of Middle East peace talks in Washington later this month and other Arab countries have also given their approval.

"We welcome the resumption of the bilateral peace talks as soon as possible. We will respond positively when we receive the invitation," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara told reporters.

Sources in Damascus said other Arab countries bordering Israel and a Palestinian delegation from the Occupied Territories would also attend the talks. In Jerusalem, Communications Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel planned to go to the Washington talks.

US Secretary of State James Baker said last week the United States, the sponsor of the negotiations, would like to see Arab Israeli peace talks resume in Washington on August 10th.

Baker has just completed a six day tour of the Middle

East to try and revive the stalled peace process. Five rounds of bilateral talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon have taken place in Washington, the last round was in April.

The talks virtually ground to a halt before Israel's June general election because all sides wanted to see who won before moving forward with serious negotiating proposals.

The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had refused to hold any more talks in Washington. He argued a venue in or closer to the region would show that Arab countries recognised Israel's to exist.

The foreign ministers of the Arab countries taking part in the negotiations last Saturday ended two days of talks in Damascus by endorsing the resumption of the peace process but warning they saw no substantial change in the policies of the new Rabin government.

### KUWAIT TO HOLD JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES THIS WEEK

Kuwait is to hold joint land, air and sea military exercises with unnamed allied Western powers later this week, an official source said.

The exercises aim to "improve co-ordination between Kuwaiti and allied forces commands," a defence ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the official KUNA news agency.

The official daily 'Saut al Kuwait' said the decision to hold these exercises had been taken several weeks ago and have no relation to the (now-resolved) tension between Iraq and the United Nations over (earlier) Iraqi refusal to grant access to weapons inspectors to the agriculture ministry in Baghdad.

The spokesman said the manoeuvres came under defence pacts with Western powers, but he did not mention which countries would be taking part.

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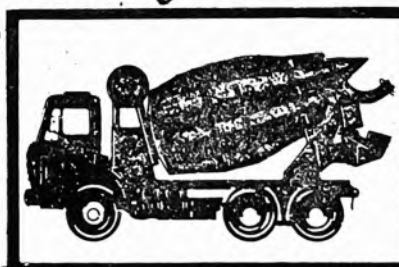


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## BOSNIA: THE DEATH DRAMA CONTINUES

The UN peace keepers have formally abandoned efforts to send food to 70,000 Muslims trapped in Dorazde in eastern Bosnia, as Serb besiegers poured artillery fire into the town. UN troops in Bosnia dropped plans to reach Gorazde by road after a reconnaissance convoy with a first load of supplies was ambushed last week. Mik Magnusson, the UN spokesman in Sarajevo, said that relief supplies for the town, 70 kms east of Sarajevo, now depended on an effective ceasefire.

The Serbs have been working on a strategy which seeks to evacuate the Muslim enclaves of eastern Bosnia (in an effort dubbed by the media as "ethnic cleansing") with the aim of annexing it in order to create a Greater Serbia.

The Bosnian government, on its own, is fighting from outside to carve out a supply corridor to the besieged town.

In the meanwhile, heavy fighting continues in Sarajevo and other parts of the former Yugoslavia. In Sarajevo itself, where 380,000 are riddled by Serb artillery and mortar batteries, citizens are killed daily as they queue for humanitarian aid.

The USA and Russia have played a passive, if not negative, role so far. The unabating violence has spurred calls in Germany for air strikes against Serb forces, and increased efforts by European countries to help victims of the ethnic war.

Meanwhile, trainloads of exhausted Bosnian refugees fleeing the trauma of civil war and Serbian onslaught arrived in towns across Germany as Bonn's emergency relief drive went into full swing. The 2,600 men, women and children, wearing identity labels and carrying little luggage, began their stay in Bonn stammering their gratitude in broken German, but looking drawn and sad.

Despite the collapse of the EC efforts to broker a ceasefire in Bosnia, leaders of the warring Serb, Croat and Muslim communities met last week in London and discussed the country's constitutional future with EC mediators.

Even as the talks drag on, the death drama for Muslim Bosnians continues.

## FESTIVITIES CANCELLATION DISAPPOINTS CUBAN FAITHFULS

For the first time in 33 years, Fidel Castro has urged Cubans to stay home last week, on the 26th of July, instead of celebrating independence day, thus disappointing faithfuls who annually gathered to herald his victory over a right-wing dictatorship.

Castro had little choice but to cancel the annual 26th of July festivities, political analysts say. A Cuban dissident went so far as to accuse the government of trying to hide from rising popular discontent.

Cuba is suffering its worst economic problems since the 1959 revolution, struggling to raise hard currency to make up for subsidies lost from its former main trading partner in the crumbled Soviet bloc. Castro has been forced to backtrack ideologically, allowing a new constitution that guarantees private foreign investment and overseeing a "dual economy" one in pesos, and one with better stores and food for dollar-carrying tourists. He stayed out of Cuba on 24th and 25th to participate in meetings in Spain and Latin America, and left for the Galician region the next day to visit family roots.

Back home, committed communists said they will miss the annual pilgrimage to Havana's plaza of the revolution, where as many as a million people gather annually to hear Castro's address on the state of Cuba.

The day marks the anniversary of Castro's 1953 attack on the Moncada barracks, his first shot in the six-year struggle that overthrew corrupt right-wing military dictator Fulgencio Batista.

"My father fought against the Spanish, and I fought for the workers since the 1930s," said Tiburcio Travieso Alvarez, 86 fanning himself with a copy of the communist newspaper 'Granma' one afternoon on the porch of his rowhouse. The retired ironworker said he had attended 30 of the 32 independence day celebrations. He missed two because of a car accident and a serious illness. Travieso Alvarez said he had to fight for social security, high quality medical care and good education, which younger, complaining Cubans take for granted. He said such things, which Latin America and even parts of the United States

do not have, could be lost if the socialist revolution ever ended.

Before visitors left his house, he brought out a framed photograph of Lenin reading 'Pravda' the now-dead Soviet communist party newspaper. The photograph was from his son, who inscribed on the back that it was "my most precious gift."

"They talk bad about Lenin in Russia but they haven't won yet." Predicting the Russians would return to communism, he said, "There will be surprises."

The cancellation of a high profile independence day came as no surprise to Cubans, said an American specialist on radical thought in Latin America and author of two books of Cuba.

"Basically, the cancellation is a matter of money and priorities," said Shelton Liss, a university of Akron professor who spent most of June in Havana.

## NO AGREEMENT ON COCOA PRICE STABILIZATION

Cocoa producers and consumers completed their second round of negotiations in Geneva on a new price-stabilization agreement. But no deal was finalized as delegates left the Swiss headquarters of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

A third negotiating session has been penciled in for November, it was reported. Hopes of progress had been boosted by signs that most European Community members were prepared to take a more conciliatory stand because of damage done to the economies of African countries by the prolonged market depression. Such hopes evaporated as the meeting adjourned.

At the end of June, the market price of cocoa - weighed down by several years of overproduction and record-high surplus stocks hit its lowest level for 17 years. This made cocoa the cheapest it had ever been in real terms,

after allowing for inflation, according to calculations by the London-based International Cocoa Organisation. Ghana and the Ivory Coast - Africa's two largest producers - rely on cocoa as their main export earner.

The main bone of contention in the meetings was which mechanism to adopt to stabilize prices. The producers proposed an export quota system, but the consumers preferred an export with-holding scheme.

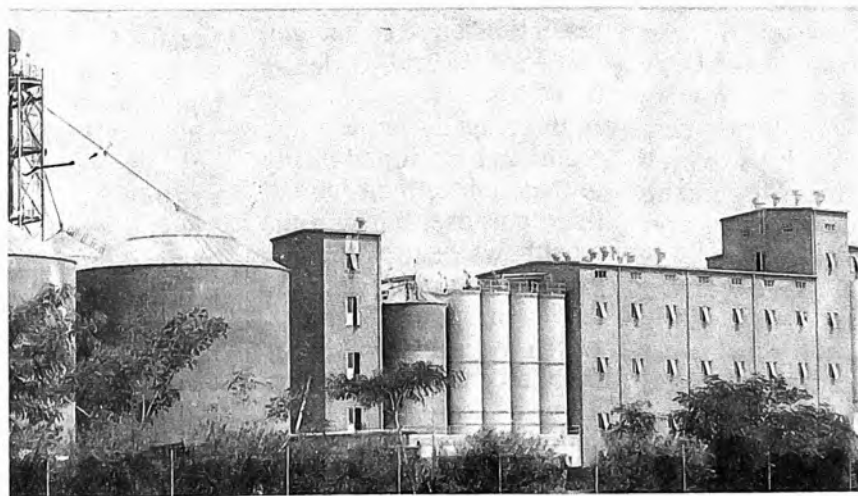
The EC, which is the key player on the consumers' side because the United States has said it would not be party to any price pact for cocoa, refused to discuss the quota system.

Under the withholding scheme, the producers would put cocoa into storage when prices were low and release it to the market when they were rising. The cocoa organisation still holds a stockpile of 240,000 metric tons of beans accumulated before this program was abandoned in 1988.



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صنعا ت : ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٣ تلکس : ٢٧٨٠ ناچیل یمن فاکسمیل : ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب : ٢٥٢٨  
 الحدیة ت : ٣ / ٢٣٢٤٦٠ تلکس : ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة یمن فاکسمیل : ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب : ٤٠١٥  
 الخرطوم ت : ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تلکس : ٢٢٣٦٩ سیجان فاکسمیل : ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب : ١٩٣٦  
 بورسودان ت : ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تلکس : ٧٠٠٧١ یارن ص ب : ١٦٠



# SOMALIA'S SAD PLIGHT

By:  
Ahmed Nur Sheikh Ali

Somalia's sad plight can not escape the attention of any human soul. The country is consumed by a futile and pointless civil war, fought or rather led, mainly by village-level tribal chieftains whose sole goals are to establish local hegemony and gain personal wealth, at this period of confusion and disintegration and in the absence of a central government. In the process, national as well as private property is being mercilessly ravaged. To gain wealth and power, these chieftains employ ruthless marauders. Looting has become an ordinary and legal conduit in making money and securing a strong position. To be in such a position one simply needs to arrange and equip a group of thugs who enjoy killing and raping in the absence of law and order.

The government nominated in August 1991, in Djibouti proved to be one (not even the strongest) of several contenders madly fighting for power. Destruction of human life and property has become the order of the day. In short, there is a war of attrition.

As a result, anyone who has the means has fled the country. The boat people phenomenon has appeared in the Horn of Africa. The most sought haven has been Yemen. All the boats available have transported refugees from Merea, Mogadishu, Bossasso, Djibouti, and Berbera with destination designated as Yemen. The acute necessity which is behind the decision to flee has been exploited as an unimaginable business opportunity by boat owners. Each passenger has to pay US\$150 for the voyage crossing the Gulf of Aden. One of the ships which started from Mogadishu and arrived in Aden port several weeks back is reported to have carried 3200 passengers. This means that the ship owner has pocketed almost US\$ 500,000 in a one-way voyage which took around 20 days or so. Through such greedy and inhuman business, upstarts have enriched themselves in the most shameful way.

In March, 1992, a faulty boat, unfit to sail, carried about 450 refugees from



Bossasso to Aden. Halfway to Aden, the passengers were told that the engine went off power. Provisions were running low. The normal period of voyage would take about 36 hours. The boat was floating on the water for 16 days - 45 people perished.

In June 1992, a cargo ship, the Gobwein, carrying about 3000 refugees from southern Somalia arrived in Aden, Yemen. Due to hesitation by the authorities in allowing the ship to unload its human cargo, the ship hovered on the shore of Aden for a week. When the long-awaited permission came in, the death toll on board had already mounted to about 200 persons.

Only after that calamity and especially following the visit of the German President to the refugee camps in Aden, the world community started to supplement the limited Yemeni resources. It was only then that the world began learning about this problem and took some steps to address this situation. The sad story should have been told long before.

Today, the very Somali nation faces the risk of extinction. Our people are dying in large numbers; yet no one cares.

Imagine the continued killings in Somalia and the repeated death tolls on sea - and yet, the New World Order is oblivious.

In this tragedy, writers and reporters have found plenty of material for their journalistic purpose, but will the world wake up to this tragedy? Doesn't anyone care for poor Somalia, which was ruled for 9 years by blind chieftains; another 21 years and 97 days by a callous general; and the last two years by marauders? Is Somalia destined to moan and groan under its grief and sufferings?

Whatever assets in agriculture and livestock had existed are gone. The infrastructure of the urban centers has

been destroyed. Today our most precious assets, our people, are driven to extinction.

To be a Somali in this day and age is to be subjected to all kinds of humiliation. It is a shameful destiny. Somali educational certificates are being rejected, and it is almost impossible to get a visa to any country in the world. We constantly overhear jokes, and people make fun of Somalis by pointing to the savagery of the bloody marauders. Alas! Egypt, supposedly a staunch patron of Somalia, has taken a position of carelessness or even enmity. Forget about helping the sad plight at home, or extending help to those arriving in Egypt. Somalis who have residence permits and return visas are denied re-entry. Some are repatriated under the pretext that they had been involved in the fighting. Fighting is a man's game in the Somali pastoral culture, a fact to which Egyptian security is overly sensitive, as it may be an element of instability.

Yemenis have done better. Yemen today stands out as the leading country which is extending a helping hand to the Somalis. Patiently, Yemenis are also seeking solutions to the civil war. They have succeeded in helping some of the refugees, and I hope they will succeed in getting those fighting at home back to their senses. I pray to God to bless Yemen for its efforts.

Surely the Somalis have proven to be too rough and too weak to settle peacefully their differences, but it makes me sick when I see the position of the world community and the international bodies. These simply watch as the country disintegrates and wither away. The body I blame most and hold responsible for most negligence is the Arab League and the governments it represents. Except for the governments and peoples of Yemen and the Sudan, all others are selfish on-lookers.

To sum up, I appeal to the world community to help the Somali refugees in the world at large but particularly, those who are in Aden. These refugees, like all other human beings, need shelter, food, medicine and all other facilities. At the same time, I ask the

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leaders of the world to stop this horrible civil war and to restore Somali integrity, sovereignty, without delay. I hope that all the inter-

national bodies will back efforts to restore reason and sense to Somalia by stopping the war-lords and their fighting thugs.