

YEMEN TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 9 - 15 SEPTEMBER 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 37

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OURVIEWPOINT

A Dirty Game Called Politics?

I am involved with a group of persons in working towards the National Conference. The common feature that brought us together was that none of us has ever been in power or in any form of executive authority before. We determined, in view of the prevailing situation, that the ruling parties have been unable to work together, and that there is need for the power blocks to come together to talk about how to steer the country through these troubled waters. This is nothing to be ashamed about as we are all learning how to play right in this new system called democracy. We proposed a National Conference in which two major tasks are to be discussed:

- a) to regulate inter-relations among political parties and to draw-up the laws that govern their cooperation and competition; and
- b) to initiate steps that will help in organizing free parliamentary elections, and how to work with the results in light of the various possibilities.

We sincerely believed that by focussing on the future, we were looking after the country's best interests, and that we were giving the politicians in power a chance to clean up the current mess.

The People's General Congress asked us to change the name, the timetable, the composition of the managing body of the preparatory committee and the documents of the conference, as pre-conditions for its participation. In light of our interest to walk the future together, we obliged on every one of those demands. The PGC people were surprised that we submitted to their demands. They thought we will refuse and that will be the end of that. We proved to them our willingness to interact positively with their concerns.

But, the PGC decided to line-up the parties that it supports in order to create a parallel conference, and that has effectively splintered the political parties. This has forced the National Conference organizers to carry out the conference by themselves and proceed with it this week.

What a pity. Even when the opposition parties want to help those in power, somehow the short-sightedness of the rulers stand in the way!

The Publisher

YEMEN'S PROUD HEROINES . THE SABRI TRIO SISTERS



They landed at Sanaa International Airport around 1:00 o'clock on Tuesday September the 1st. They were adorned with silver medals. The Sabri trio sisters - Luai, Lina and Lisa disembarked.

Due to them, and young athlete Ahmed Al-Imad, Yemen collected four silver medals. Our team ranked fourth among the fifteen Arab countries which have competed in the Pan Arab Table Tennis Tournament in Cairo last month.

It was a proud moment for the daughters of Sheba - "We owe it all to our father who was the driving spirit behind our achievements," explained Luai.

If these athletes were from another country, the president of the Republic or at least the Prime Minister would have picked up the phone to say to them, "Congratulations". The relevant minister would have showed up at the airport to bid them welcome. But in Yemen it did not happen. In Yemen presidential and governmental action is

motivated mainly by brute force and other forms of pressure. The system is oblivious to the fantastic achievements of the Sabri trio against great odds.

One day, Yemen will have a leadership and a government that will pay attention to the achievements of decent Yemenis. There will come a day when individuals like Luai, Lina, Lisa and Ahmed are given due credit and honored by the country. In the meantime, we in Yemen Times salute these four young Yemenis, and we would like to say, "We are proud of you."

السعادي
EL SOFFARY

RETAIL PRICE PER COPY = 10 Y.R.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (INCLUDES POSTAGE/DELIVERY AND HANDLING): YEMEN = US\$80, MIDDLE EAST = US\$150, ELSEWHERE = US\$ 250.

YEMEN TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly
Published by : The Yemen Times

Publisher: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

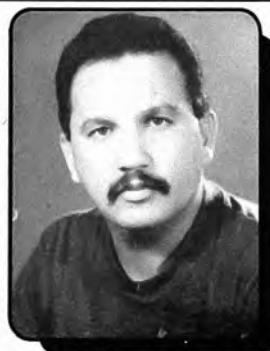
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PERSONAL VIEW**SUCCESSFUL BIO-GAS TECHNOLOGY IN LAHEJ**

**Ali Sherif, UNDP,
Sanaa**

The purpose of Bio-Gas technology application in Habeel, Lahej governorate was simply designed to provide an economic alternative source of energy to rural communities. This was to be done by using animal-waste (cow-dung) instead of depending heavily on fire-wood or bottle-gas which may be a burden for low-income groups.

The bio-gas project was started in 1989 with technical assistance of UNDP/UNIFEM in Lahej Governorate. Unfortunately, the project although, very successful, did not receive the necessary media coverage. The nation has not waken up to the vital benefits and the potential of this project to the nation. Evidently, bio-gas project in Habeel village has transformed and improved the quality of life of the community in that area. The every day burden of hunting for fire-wood is almost terminated. Bio-gas techniques have many advantages which go beyond supplying energy for cooking. It produces bio-fertilizer in the fermentation process and is considered of high quality for plant use, and environmentally deforestation is reduced. The community embarked on maintaining livestock to ensure steady supply of animal-waste (cow-dung) which provides energy through fermentation -process, which the gas is piped to cooking-gas for domestic energy consumption.

Truly, to improve living-standards of the rural community, the bio-gas technique is an important mechanism for them. So let us all try it. The Ministry of Information can organize an information campaign with the aim of universalizing the Habeel village to experience to other villages in the nation.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL**BP Lifts Force Majeure in Antufash**

British Petroleum Exploration Operating Company Limited has lifted, on August 26th, the force majeure it had declared in the Antufash block - offshore on the Red Sea. According to Roger T. Nunn, BP's Exploration Manager in Sanaa, the company has resumed operations in the block and is gearing up to drill its first well shortly.

UN Governing Council Team in Yemen

An eight-member team from the Governing Council of the United Nations is on a one-week (7-13/9/1992) visit to Yemen. The group includes dignitaries from Ghana, Nigeria, Austria, Cuba, Santa Lucia, Poland, Rumania, and Germany. Yemen Times learnt that the group represents a formulation mission with the purpose of assessing the progress of work in the UNDP-financed projects.

The itinerary of the team includes meetings with a number of government officials, especially at the Ministry of Planning and Development. They will also meet several NGO officials as well as Yemeni opinion makers.

An another level, the new UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Awnis Al-Ani, has taken up his post in Sanaa. We would like to say "Welcome ~Mr. Al-Ani."

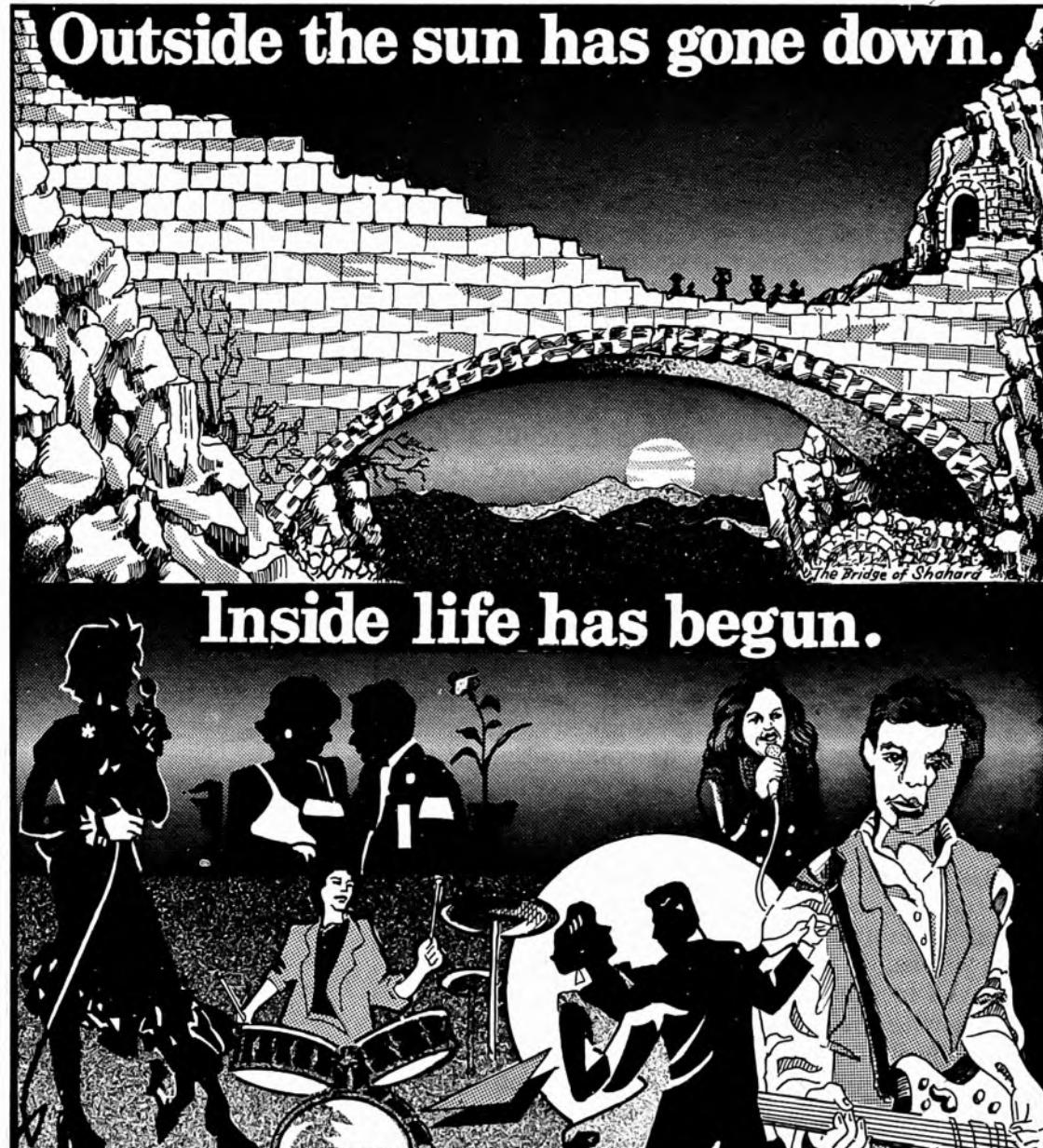
European Parliamentary Delegation Visits Yemen

A five-member parliamentary delegation from the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation (PAEAC) arrives in Aden on Friday, September 11th on a four-day visit to Yemen. The group, includes Mr. Rui Amaral (Member of European Parliament - LDR, Portugal, Co-President of PAEAC), Mrs. Inger Lise Gjorv (Senator - Socialist, Norway, Mr. Robert Hicks (MP - Conservative, United Kingdom, Co-Vice President of PAEAC), Mr. Michael Langan (Senator - FF, Ireland), and Jean Michel Dumont (Belgium - Secretary-General of PAEAC).

The parliamentarians are scheduled to meet with Yemeni parliamentarians, government officials, the press, and businessmen.

Jens Ipsen Takes over as Lufthansa Representative in Yemen

Mr. U. Jens Ipsen, an old hand in the airlines business having seen service in many parts of the world including many Third World countries. Jens replaces Mr. Harald Baghorn, who established the Lufthansa Yemeni service, leaves after over six years of service in Yemen. We take this occasion to wish Mr. Baghorn the best of luck, and to bid Mr. Ipsen "Welcome."

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NEST'92

Mohammed Ahmed Yahya:

"The Government could do a lot to help investors."

Mohammed Ahmed Yahya is a self-made businessman who branched out into industrial investment. He is the owner of the Yemen Cafe' plant which cleans, processes, and packages the authentic Yemeni coffee.

To talk about the coffee business in Yemen, and the processing and marketing of Yemeni coffee, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Yahya at the plant. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Let us start with the beginning. How did the idea come to you?

A: As we all know, Yemen was famous through-out the last few centuries for its coffee - Mokha Coffee. So it was one of the products for which our country is famous, and which has a large international market. The idea of building a coffee plant in Yemen began in 1986. The government's new investment law, at the time, and its drive to encourage exports, were important incentives. On the basis of a detailed study of the international market, especially in Europe, we embarked on this project.

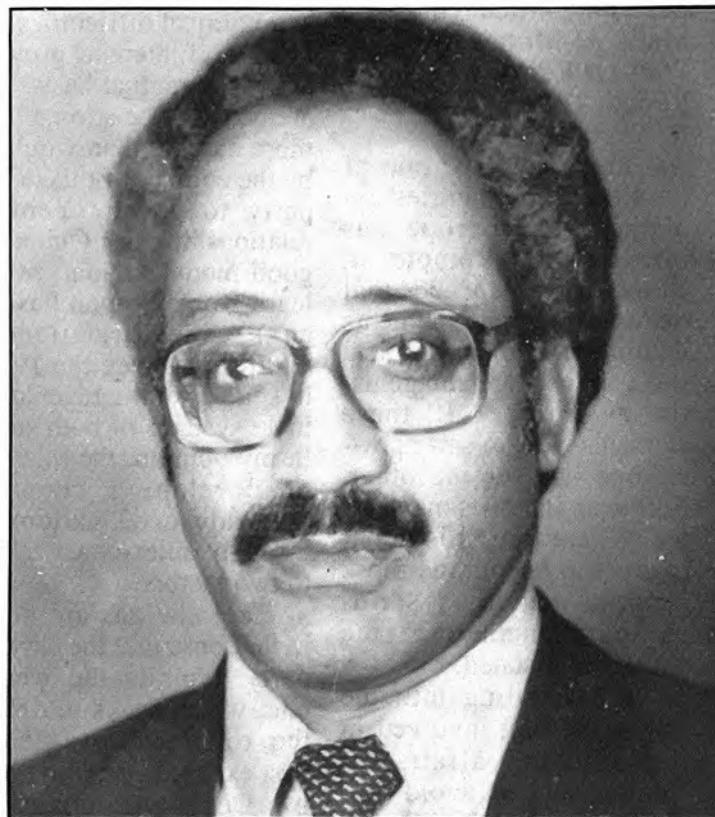
Q: Notwithstanding the fact that Yemen is famous for coffee, is there enough coffee actually produced in Yemen to warrant a factory and export plans?

A: It is not just a matter of quantity, it is a question of market niche. Yemen does produce some coffee which we do process and export. You know, the varieties in Yemeni coffee (Harazi, Matari, Yafaei, Udaini, Anisi, etc.). In fact, Yemeni coffee has a specially strong aroma which is in high demand in certain international markets.

The quantity of coffee produced, according to agricultural sources, is in a continuous rise, although a lot more could be produced if there is better care.

Q: How much investment is involved in processing coffee?

A: It varies depending on what size and how sophisticated you want to make the plant. For us, we wanted ultra-modern technology that will do the cleaning and sifting, the milling, etc. In our case, it was an investment of about US\$ 2-3 million. You can see the plant has



many parts, from the first stage until the automatic suction packing system.

Q: What are the problems you face at the moment?

A: The problems are many. Water supply, electricity and some other basic infrastructural services are an initial headache. Then there is the variation in output from year to year. We haven't got any exact or accurate statistics concerning the lands being cultivated. Although coffee production is rising, it is also true that most farmers are uprooting their coffee and replacing them with other trees, notably qat. Then there is a whole set of problems relating to the government. It starts with the need to bring this or that from abroad, although our value added is indeed very high, and it continues all the way until the pricing process of our products. We get no real support from the government. In fact, we get a lot of complications.

We expected to get governmental loans, but they are not forthcoming. We expected government help in many sectors.

Finally, we face marketing difficulties, locally and internationally.

Q: What makes Yemeni coffee special?

A: First of all, it is the aroma. That strong scent which fills the air and satisfies that coffee lovers. That is probably the strongest point in Yemeni

as you can get. That is why many brewers combine it with weaker coffee to strike a balance.

Of course, grown in the high mountains of Yemen, our coffee has evolved certain features. The small beans almost explode with aroma.

Q: Have you secured a footing in any major foreign market?

A: Yes, of course. We ship the product to many international markets. It's worth mentioning that the distribution channels available now are all local. In fact, we started our own channels in the Gulf markets, especially in Saudi Arabia. We out-competed their domestic processing plants and were doing very well until the Gulf Crisis came, but all came to an end after the Gulf Crisis.

We hope to make a comeback in those markets. In the meanwhile, our busi-

ness with Europe is growing, although there are certain hindrances.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to say that if in an industry in which the country enjoys such a clear comparative advantage, faces all these problems, then how can anybody entertain investing in any other fields. I think that the government has to make good on its promises of support investors. To be frank, unless the investors see real incentives to invest in Yemen and start-up business, who will dare to invest his capital in this country?

The support I am talking about does not necessarily mean subsidies to us. It does mean, however, credit facilities to the farmers, reduction in the paperwork, and promoting our exports in other countries. These steps would go a long way to help local investors.

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In Search of Cheyenne

By:
**Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaqaf,
 Yemen Times.**

If you have driven through the Sumarah Pass, about half-way between Sana'a and Taiz, you must have stopped for a moment at the peak - some 3000 m. above sea level. I did that a few times. As I looked down the deep gorge, I often wondered what it was like down there. Last week, the opportunity to find out first-hand came to me. A friend, who comes from a village is crouched



among the lower mountains, invited me to visit. "My area is called Cheyenne," He told me. Thus, my quest for Cheyenne started. Just after Yareem, driving south with my family, I made a right turn on a secondary road, where a sign promised that Irian was 22 kilometers away. We drove down, down, and down. For a few moments, I had flashbacks of scenes of those movies about men descending to the core of the earth. We passed by several villages and finally, after an eighty minute drive, we were at the bottom of the wadi.

It was like a tropical area - lush with trees, humid and warm, and water flowing down around you. I sort of expected all that. What I did not expect was the density of population and the busy life. One is often a captive of an attitude based on the impression that where one lives is the center of the world, and that life fades away as one moves away from such center. Yet, life at the bottom of the wadi was full and extensive. Rihab, the capital of the district, is said to be home to more than 20,000 persons. After a nice meal under the

trees, we resumed driving along side one of the streams, towards Taiz. We joined the asphalt road at Daleel, a few kilometers north of Ibb.

I do not understand why I never tried this before, and why so few people visit this place. A picnic for a day would be a fantastic outing for family and friends.

One more thing. The place has not known one single case of violence or mishap. Perhaps it is because this place is hidden away from the rest of us, so far.

The Political Corner

Yemeni-European Cooperation

By:

**Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil,
 Political Editor,
 Yemen Times.**

An ambassador of one of the European countries explained that Europe has interests to promote in Yemen. He warned that there were certain elements within the Yemeni political spectrum that are antagonistic to Europe. If these elements were to seize power, one way or the other, European interests may suffer. "There fore, it is in our interest to encourage those elements that do not see us as their enemies," the ambassador stated.

To avoid falling into the trap of getting involved in the internal affairs of Yemen, and to avoid getting embroiled in internal competitions, I have some suggestions to make to the ambassador:

First, may I suggest to the ambassador not to be selective in his country's encouragement of Yemeni groups. The support should go to all of Yemen and its various groups. Support especially

must focus on helping us overcome economic, social and political difficulties.

Second, if interests grow on a just and mutual basis, they are bound to be stronger and more durable than would be by the coming of this or that party to power. Yemen's relationship with China is a good model to analyze and learn from. Yemen has had an excellent relationship with China since the 1950s, in spite of dramatic changes in the systems of both states.

In my opinion, the relations of developing countries with advanced nations go through roller-coasters due to two factors:

a- The relations are unjust in the sense that the stronger party exploits the weaker one, which seeks to disrupt the relationship with the first excuse it gets.

b- Decisions governing these relations are not taken on a democratic basis with popular support. Thus, relations are disrupted in a whimsical way according to the personal desires of the rulers.

The evolution of stable and strong Yemeni-European cooperation is contingent on creating a just and mutually

beneficial relationship. Thus, it would be wiser for the European nations to support the consolidation and implementation of a democratic system in Yemen. In other words, the true way to effectively protect European interests is by making the relations mutually beneficial and by helping democracy develop roots in Yemen.

There is one more thing. The external partners should not be oblivious to Yemen's ethnic, geographic, and cultural ties in the region. Just as a French person today cannot ignore his/her European affiliation, it is the same with the Yemeni regarding his/her Arab affiliation. Thus, the more just Europe's attitudes and decisions are vis-a-vis the Arab issues, the stronger its relations with Yemen and the other Arab states. With the end of the cold war, Europe needs to reassess its relations with the developing countries, in general, and the Arab World, in particular. The new relations should be based on complementary, mutual benefits, and popular-based decisions.



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THE YEMENI-SAUDI TAYIF TREATY OF 1934, Part II

Yemen Times prints an unofficial translation of the Tayif Treaty signed on 6/2/1353 AH (19/5/1934) between the Kingdom of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Article (3):

Both the contracting high commissioners agree on the method organizing their relationships and reviews including safe-guarding the interests of the two sides without any harm to them. They also agree to grant each other privileges no less than what either grants to a third party. This arrangement should be based on a reciprocal basis.

Article (4):

The border line separating the countries of the two contracting high commissioners is illustrated in sufficient detail as follows, and this line is considered an inevitable separation border line between the regions belonging to each other. The border line between the two kingdoms starts from the separation point lying between Meidi and Al-Mawsim on the Red Sea and stretches towards the Tihama mountains on the east, then turns north towards Bani Jama'ah and the tribes who are facing their location from west and north. The line then continues to the east and cuts between the border of Naqah and Ghar belonging to the Wailah tribe and stretches through Yam, then deviating north till reaching the strait of Marwan and Aqabat Rafada. It then extends towards the east until it hits the boundaries between Yam (from Hamdan bin Zaid Waili) and the others.

All the regions situated on the mentioned right side and on the south of this line - starting from the mentioned point on the seaside up to the boundary in all the mentioned mountains - belong to the Kingdom of Yemen. While all regions situated to the left side and on the north of the line belong to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. What is mentioned from Yemen side is Meedil, Haradh, and some of Al-Hirath, Al-Meer, and mountain of Al-Dahirl, Shada, Al-Dhaib tribes. Also some of Al-Abadil all the mountains and regions of Razih, Munabbih, with Aruw Aal Masheikh, all mountains and regions of Bani Juma'ah, Suhar Al-Sham, Yabad and what is

affiliated to them, and Mahal, Mrisah, from Sahar Al-Sham and Amoom, Suhar, Naqat, Da'ar and all of Wailah and so the branch with Aqabat Nahuqat, Amoom except Yam, Wadiat Dhahran from Hamdan bin Zaid All those mentioned with their known bordered regions, and every region among the mentioned directions and what are affiliated to the tribes mentioned in the regions and substantially connected fully or was under the rule of the kingdom of Yemen before 1352 A.H. All those regions which are on the right belong to the kingdom of Yemen. While those regions to the left as Al-Mawsim, Aal-Jabiri, Wathir, Aal-Abadil and Khifa, and Bani Malik and Bani Hareisl, Aal-Taleed, and Kaktar, Dhahran Wadiat and all Wadiat Dhahran with the strait of Marwan, Aqabat Rafada and what is situated behind them from the east and north from Yam, Najran, al-Hadhin, Zur Wadiat and all which are in Najran, from Waila and all which are beyond Aqabat Nahukat up to the boundaries of Najran, Yam from the east, all the above mentioned with their known boundaries and all in between the mentioned locations and what is affiliated to them and substantially connected or under the rule of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia before 1352 A.H. All those situated on the mentioned left of the line and to the north of it belong to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and what was mentioned from Yam, Najran, Al-Hadhin, Zur Wadiat and all of which in Najran from Waila are all according to His Majesty Imam Yahya's arbitration go under the rule of His Majesty King Abdul Aziz.

And since Al-Hadhin, Zur wadiat and those who are from Wailah in Najran are from Wailah and their entrance to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the mentioned points. Therefore, it neither prevents them nor their brothers from Wailah enjoying communication, transportations, familiar cooperations and acquaintance and other forms of access.

Then, this line stretches from the point ending mentioned above among parts of tribes of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and parts from Yemen, with exception Yam from Hamdan bin Zaid and all Yemeni regions up to the ending boundary of Yemen from all directions. The Kingdom of Yemen owns all the parts and the

Yemeni regions up to the ending boundary of Yemen from all directions. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia owns all the parts and regions up to the ending boundary from all directions, with everything mentioned in this article from points in the direction of the borderline as mentioned in the directions. For nomination/delineation of the mentioned borderline and discrimination of tribes and binding their countries on integrity, it shall be proceeded by means of a committee composed of an equal number from the two sides on brotherly, friendly relations according to habitual rules and concrete tribal traditions.

Article (5):

In view of the fact that the two contracting high commissioners desire the continuation of peace, stability, safety for both countries and to avoid anything that disturbs the relations between the two kingdoms. They commit fully not to build any fortified castles or checkpoints in an area of five kilometers on either side of the border in all the directions of the border along the line.

Article (6):

The two high commissioners pledge to withdraw their soldiers urgently from the regions that have become according to this treaty part of the other side's territory, and to safeguard the civilians and the military from any harm as they do so.

Article (7):

Each contracting high commissioner pledges to prevent the people of his kingdom from any aggression or harm done to the people of the other kingdom in every direction or path with commitment to prevent invasion between the people of Al-Bawadi (open rural areas) from both sides and to return what is taken following legitimate investigations after the ratification of this treaty and guaranteeing what is damaged by applying the Islamic law to punish any crime, murder or injury with an appropriate punishment of the aggressor.

Working with this article will continue until another agreement on the means of investigation and estimation the harms and losses is reached.

Continues NEXT WEEK

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY



EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A			
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	209688/89	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Russian F.R.	78272/203142
China	275337/40/41	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
Cuba	217304	Somalia	208864
Czechoslovakia	247946	Sudan	265231/2
Djibouti	265469	Syria	247750
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Int'l Bank of Yemen 272920/3

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THE YSP AND PGC: WHO WILL SWALLOW THE OTHER?

Lately there has been a lot of gossiping regarding the possibility of a merger between the two ruling parties. The general secretary of the PGC referred more than once directly or indirectly to its readiness for such a step (for the sake of the supreme interests of the homeland).

In turn, there has been similar noise coming from the YSP circles, and for the same stated reason, by the YSP.

The most clear reference was in an article written by Abdu Boraji, the press secretary of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in an article in the 26th September newspaper dated 23/7/1992. The very title of the story was "The Merger", in which he explain why it is necessary for the country's sake.

The significance of the article comes from the writers position, for in one way or another, it reflects the president's point of view.

Even veteran politicians see no justification for the continuation of the current status quo, particularly in light of the agreement between the General Committee of the PGC and the Political Bureau of the YSP in adopting practical steps towards jointly ruling the country. This means that, by and large, they have bypassed any political, economic, and ideological differences.

It is worth mentioning that the idea of merger has nothing to do with the process of strife between them which is reaching the point of explosion as the transitional period approaches its final days. Neither is the process of merger related to the on-going struggle among the various wings of the YSP itself.

According to some informed sources, the idea of merger came as a suggestion by the Secretary General of the YSP during last June once the secret agreement between the two parties has been revealed. Then, President Ali Abdullah Saleh put it for discussion at the Permanent Committee last July. There was no decision and the idea remained floating for a while. The YSP leadership considered these developments a sort of evasion and embarked on its own line of action.

But, then as President Saleh took the initiative on merger idea, the General Secretary of the YSP simply left Sana'a and installed himself in Hadhramaut for the last several weeks.

Informed sources mention four conditions for the vice president's return to Sana'a:

1. There should be no elections without prior agreement so as to avoid any complications;
2. Implementation of all the unification agreements;
3. Full enforcement of all the laws issued during the transitional period;
4. Ensuring full safety and securi-

ty in the capital city, Sana'a. Undoubtedly, it seems that the goals of each party behind the merger idea are different.

For the PGC, it serves as a tool for dividing the YSP, and weaken and gradually contain it and restrict its activities and influence.

But for the wings of Al-Beedh and Salim Saleh in the YSP, the process of merger seems to offer them the vehicle for continuing in the power-sharing system. One goal which both parties share is that the merger process can serve as a screening and purification chance - the PGC from its corrupt elements, and the YSP from its extremist elements.

The PGC sees the merger as one of the best solutions to prevent the situation from deteriorating into open turmoil/explosion, in addition to swallowing the YSP, particularly when and if the rift occurs.

Certainly, with such goals in mind, the merger will not be a solution for the struggle for power between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the YSP leadership. Ali Salim Al-Beeth wants wider authorities and to be involved in all decisions - big or small, and to put an end to the efforts to marginalize his role. This undoubtedly upsets the President who is used to being the first and only party in making decisions.

**Al-Sahwa, Sanaa,
3/9/92.**

AMERICA HAS AN INTEREST IN YEMEN'S STABILITY

The representative of the Arab lobby in the US Republican Party, Mr. Jamil Shami stressed the growing American-Yemen economic relationships under the auspices of the Republican party.

It's worth mentioning that the Republican Party encourages US firms and businessmen to cooperate with other states of the world, including Yemen.

The Republican official declared that American President George Bush gives special attention to the stability of Yemen and that he has sent special letters to both the President Ali Abdulla Saleh and King Fahd for tackling the border issue peacefully and through bilateral negotiations.

Mr. Jamil Shami was a guest speaker at the American Cultural Center in Sanaa recently.

Speaking about the trends of the elections process, Mr. Shami affirmed that the Arab lobby is working to mobilize the support of Arab-Americans for the Republican Party. Speaking as a person of Arab decent, he said that he cherished Yemen's unification, and its efforts towards democratization. He expressed his wish that other Arab countries would follow suit. "Yemen's humane response to regional crisis are well respected and valued by the world community," he concluded.

**Al-Nabaa, Sanaa,
3/9/92.**

THE DOLLAR IS DEPRESSED EXCEPT IN OUR COUNTRY

Central banks all over the world did their utmost to boost the US dollar, as it continues its retreat in the world financial and money markets. Hence, in spite of the international rallying, we find that the US dollar slips continuously all over the world, except here in Yemen.

The dollar witnesses a regular daily increase. During the last two weeks, it rose in the black (read free) market from YR. 29 to the dollar to YR. 36, and some people expect it to reach YR. 50.

There are certain measures to deal with such a problem. Yet, there are really many things missing, including basic studies tackling the major reasons which led to such increases. In fact, it looks like the Central Bank of Yemen and the financial bodies are working to defend the dollar, and not the Riyal.

There may be a conspiracy planned against our country and which has to do with the parliamentary elections. Alongwith politicians, involved in the Olot may be opportunist traders, brokers, etc. These opportunitis are responsible for economic stagnation and inflation in our country.

**Al-Masar, Sanaa,
2/9/92.**

RUMORS

It is noticeable that rumors as a weapon have entered the political life and party competition in our country. Although rumors are an old weapon, and part of the disinformation war in which the media play the most visible role, the psychological warfare within Yemen has resulted in shaking our morals and splitting national emotions/feelings thus leading everybody to distress, doubt, and despair.

Rumors in our country exceeded the limits of serving anything good in Yemen, and now they inflict harm on the Yemeni people and state. They create a state of confusion, turmoil, irresponsibility and chaos pushing our people to a fatal strife. Unfortunately the great majority of our citizens interact with rumors, and many believe the rumors to be true. Thus, impulsive reactions from our citizens make them fall prey to the rumorists' intentions.

In the absence of a decisive informing role by the official media to fight such destructive rumors, society is doomed to confusion.

Rumors aim to abort our reunification and democratic practices. Of course there are many dangers to which rumors can lead. They can create confusion and mistrust leading to civil wars. They can make foreign diplomatic corps issue circulars that the country is not safe.

There is another harm coming from rumors. The economy will suffer as people panic under the influence of rumors. Foreign and local investors will be scared away, demand for consumer goods will rise as families stock up food, people will stash foreign currencies thus putting pressure

on demand, which leads to a fall in the price of the local currency, etc. We would like to say to whom it may concern that Yemen is stable and safe. Without going after rumors, we are steadily working for the betterment of this country, now and in the future.

**26 September, Sanaa,
3/9/92.**

DO THE ARABS POSSESS THE ABILITY TO RECONCILE?

Inter-Arab relations are today their lowest in a long time due to the 2nd of August 1991, Iraqi invasion of the state of Kuwait.

Today after the restoration of sovereignty to Kuwait, and punishing Iraq, the question facing us is regarding for how long this rift will remain as a feature dominating the inter-Arab relations. Many Arab regimes are still raising the banner of war and enmical attitudes against each other knowing fully well that it is their peoples who will pay and will continue to pay for the follies of their leaders.

Logic and our interests make it necessary, but inevitable, of getting together and rebuilding bridges of confidence and cooperation. Our leaders must open channels of communication and meet to discuss how to overcome the present difficulties. Our meetings will give us a chance to better understand the new world system and our place in it. It is clear that the new world order is based on shared economic interests and that the world is divided into commercial zones of free markets and free systems that are quickly gaining ground particularly after the downfall of the socialist system.

It is to be noted that the Arab homeland is one fo the most significant regions of the world economically, commercially and strategically. But, we are at a loss as to what prevents the Arab regimes from meeting to solve their problems. There are two main reasons.

First, a number of these regimes don't possess the power to decide on their own since they are bound to foreign patrons. In return for protecting and safeguarding their continuation in power, they have given up part of their sovereignty.

Second, the Arab regimes reached a conclusion that the world is being ruled by America which wants to deal with each party directly, and on a bilateral basis.

Then, the whole problem lies in a new and better understanding of what is going on in the world, and gather information on it. Then there is the need to review and digest the issues with the purpose of interacting with them properly.

In addition, we have to define what we want from of Arabs perspectives and concepts, and the way to deal with our own rifts and arrogant polices which victimize our own people.

**Al-Ayyam, Aden,
2/9/1992.**

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

SOMALIA DESERVES TO BE ASSISTED

First of all, please accept my deep appreciation for having published the article "Somalia: The Unfolding of a Tragedy" by Dr. Ali A. Osman in your issue of 26th August - 1st September 1992.

Although I disagree with some of his views and analysis, nevertheless I wish to elaborate on one of his most valid points, i.e. the refusal of granting a temporary residence or work permit or an entry visa by foreign embassies to a Somali national which, as the writer pointed out, has become an absurdity.

Western right-wingers think that mass immigration is hurting their prosperous countries and tend to create anti-foreigner feelings in their communities. Furthermore, it is widely alleged that applications by Somali nationals must be categorically rejected on the grounds that their homeland ceased to exist as a state member of the international community. That is due to the unprecedented and ruthless

civil-war manifesting itself as a deliberate national suicide. In fact, it is with the collapse of communism that Somalia has lost strategic value as a Western ally in the Horn of Africa, thus leading to a blind eye regarding Somalia's right for a proper international assistance and intervention to stop the civil-war.

Although the West, at present gives high priority to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to cope with the consequences of several decades of mismanagement, it remains equally vital to continue to help the peoples of the Third World in the context of an integrated and interdependent world to meet global challenges. The Western affluent democracies should definitely preserve certain basic principles, ideals and values inherent in their deep-rooted civilization and historical evolution, regardless of the periodic changes in political circumstances and global strategies.

Dr. Ali A. Osman pointed out

in his article that thousands of Somali professionals and university students roam the streets of foreign cities trying to make ends meet. In this regard, I wish to raise the point that Somalia's post-civil war reconstruction, rehabilitation and development will necessitate a plan like that of U.S. Marshall Plan for European recovery in the post-second-world-war era. In this respect, the preservation and upgrading of Somalia's most valuable asset of highly trained manpower now stranded abroad is the responsibility of the international community in this context. This matter should obviously be of particular concern to the present and future major aid donors of Somalia within the framework of the cost/benefit analysis and rate of return on their investments.

By:
Nuraddin Haji Hussein,
A former manager of a World Bank-financed Education Project, now living in Yemen.

THE PERFIDIOUS LOVER

The sun from the east was steadily emerging as the cries of seagulls were announcing the birth of yet another day of felicity and glory though it was disinterring the buried memory as well as resuscitating the withered agony and relating the obnoxious and woebegone story of a man who was betrayed by his lover who was a demon with an angel's cover nevertheless he had frittered his money to hover A smile about her lips and this went over till the days of his jubilant opulence was lost in the mists of virulent indegence this was a horror he could bear and master he was driven into bankruptcy yet the disaster was when he saw her in another man's arms it hurt, pierced and yes it did harm his heart profoundly to the core and he was left to lick his wounds and recall the retrospect As treacherous time marched and flitted away his sheeny fate faded to gloomy gray At present he has no power to stir or strive but a feeling that he is still alive Awaiting for a dull day to arrive when he'll breath his last and depart this life.

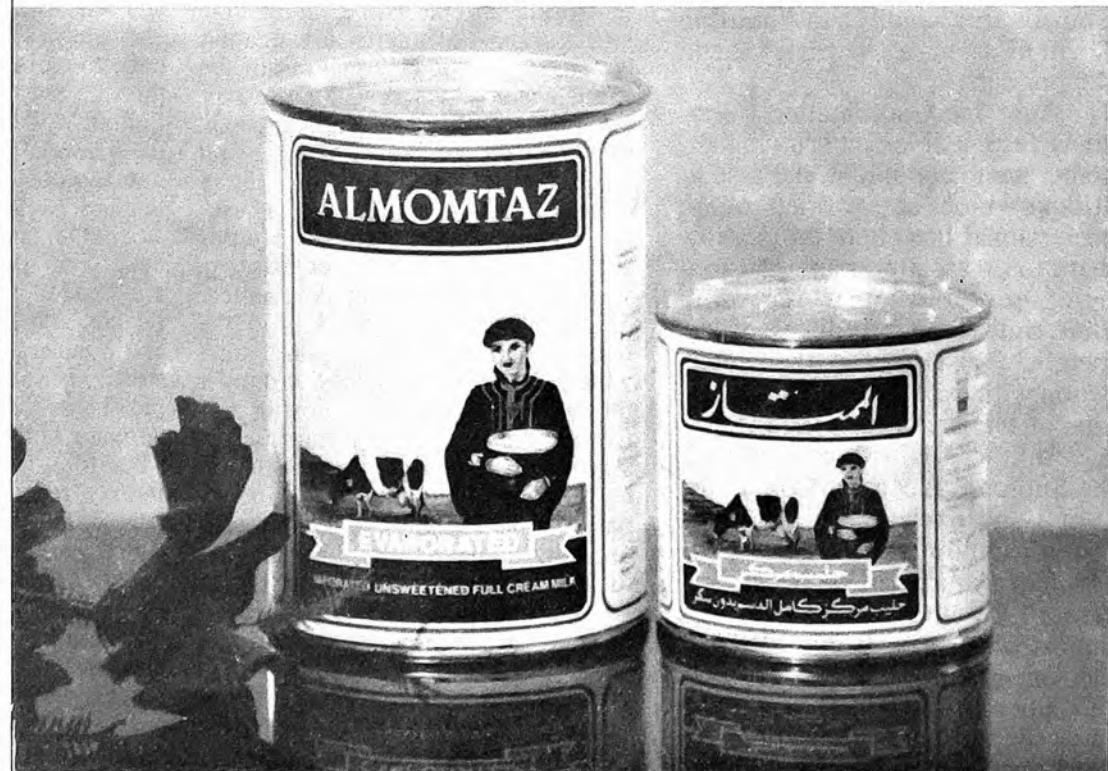
By: Abdulaziz Anwer,
Sana'a.

DEAREST YEMEN

Your very name is dearest to my heart
Oh Yemen, your true love is deeply felt.
Oh mighty 26th of September,
or you the great 14th October.
Yet, the greatest of all is 22nd of May,
Glory be to all by night and day!
We peacefully negotiated and fulfilled,
wisely our unification was achieved.
The world stared, admired and nodded,
As the other Arabs were dumbfounded.
Truly these are the children of Sheba the wise.
It's our most proud memory the gloriest.
it's our sweet dream we cherished utmost,
life is ever changing, springing fresh.
Long life for Republic of Yemen.
Yes for democracy no for terror.
It's felon's nimb and ill character.
When our unification flag waved in the sky,
the flood easing tears radits joy.
Let me sing high the national anthem,
long life for Republic of Yemen.
Dear Yemen, the very shelter for every citizen,
regardless of birth place, color or origin,
sex, occupation or social position,
you are not heaven, but close indeed.
we turn to under any condition.
Yes for democracy, yes for modern Yemen,
yes for equality, yes for modern Yemen.
Let me sing high the national anthem,
long life for Republic of Yemen.

By: Almagrabi - Shakib Mensur,
Ministry of Public Health,
Sana'a.

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**Unions, Syndicates
and Associations**
**Establish Supreme
Coordination Council**

A gathering of representatives from thirty six unions, syndicates and professional associations and societies met on Sunday, September 6th, to discuss ways and means to coordinate their activities and their interaction with public issues. During the meeting, the group formed a Supreme Coordination Council (SCC) and elected a temporary nine-member secretariat for their activities.

The members of the Secretariat are:

1. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf: **Yemeni Economists' Society**
2. Dr. Abdullah A. Thaifani: **Educational Researchers' Syndicate**.
3. Dr. Abdul-Kareem Dammaj: **Medical Doctors & Pharmacists Syndicate**.
4. Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil: **Association for Defence of Rights and Liberties**.
5. Abdul-Rahman Al-Ulufi: **Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives**.
6. Yahia Al-Kuhlani: **General Federation of Workers' Unions**.
7. Ms. Atiqa Asjami: **Yemeni Women's Association**.
8. Abdul-Qader Abdul-Fattah: **Yemeni Engineers Syndicate**.
9. Abbas Daylami: **Federation of Unions of Writers and Literary persons**.

In its first meeting, the Secretariat voted Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf as Coordinator and Dr. Abdullah Thaifani as Vice Coordinator and Rapporteur.

The Supreme Coordination Council is responsible for bringing together the many unions and associations which are formed along professional lines in order to allow them to create a pressure and lobbying group whether regarding their rights and privileges of the members, or regarding their interaction with events in public life. One of the first steps taken in this regard is to establish contact with the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) and exchange views as to how the unions and associations can help. An immediate possibility offered by the SEC is for the unions and associations to enlist their members to serve in the various supervisory and technical committees and sub-committees to work in the polling and balloting stations. Qadhi Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi, Chair of the SEC is scheduled to receive the Secretariat of the SCC later this week.

At another level, the SCC is working to bring closer the perceptions of the political parties regarding the line of action required in Yemen's near future.

**Prime Minister Al-Attas to the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Jakarta:
Our Movement Has Proven Itself.**

Quote:

In the 9th Summit in Belgrade in 1989, Yemen was represented by two delegations. Today here in the 10th Summit, it gives me great personal pride and pleasure to address you with one delegation in the name of the whole Yemeni people and its unified state. The Republic of Yemen was born peacefully in an atmosphere of brotherhood and tolerance based on a democratic system that respects the citizen's free choice and equal opportunity under the law and constitutional legitimacy. Our foreign policy embraces non-alignment based on the mutual respect of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations, and the resolution of differences through peaceful means... There is no doubt that the role played by the (Non-aligned) Movement since its establishment in international politics has been instrumental in preserving international peace and stability. The Movement has also proven itself in supporting liberation and freedom struggles against colonialism, and in combating aggression in many parts of the world. Our Movement has also proven that its goals and objectives continue to be viable whether under conditions of the Cold War, or the post-cold war period which started with the birth of a new world order in the 1980s. Our countries are required to address the new challenges which the world faces through practical and well-studied solutions. Some of these challenges are in the form of ethnic tension and religious military struggles in many parts of the world. The Republic of Yemen follows with great concern and anxiety the painful events and major tragedies that have overwhelmed one of the member countries of our Movement - Yugoslavia. We have supported the urgent call of the Foreign Ministers of Muslim countries to the United Nations to take all measures which will bring an end to the internecine killings and the aggression against certain states that emerged out of the former Yugoslavia. Yet, the destruction, ravage and the forceful expulsion to which the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are exposed today demand that we should exert all sincere efforts to bring back peace to this area and to stop the aggression to which civilian population is targeted. The solution to this crisis is in the hands of the new Yugoslav state which should immediately withdraw the Serbian forces from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other former Yugoslav regions, to cooperate with the international community in bringing back normal life to these regions, and to recognize the right of these regions to independence. If not Yugoslavia will have to bear the consequences of these aggressions. At the same time, we support the right of all countries that emerged from the former Yugoslavia to membership in the Non-Aligned Movement, given that Yugoslavia was one of its founding members. We object to any one of the new countries claiming full inheritance of the former Yugoslavia, and to monopolize its place in the Movement. We fully recognize the historic importance of this conference as it is held in the midst of many regional and international developments and changes, foremost among which is the complicated situation in the Middle East. The

Republic of Yemen has supported and blessed the peace efforts starting from the Madrid Conference until now. Yet, Israeli intransigence has blocked any real progress; to the contrary, Israel has embarked on a policy that is based on expansion and construction of new settlements, the importation of Jewish immigrants from various parts of the world, and simultaneously expelling the local Palestinian population and confiscating and demolishing their homes and lands.

We are aware that the Movement was in the forefront in supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in its refusal to the annexation of the land of others by force, and in its support for international legitimacy to work out a peaceful and just solution to the Palestinian problem in accordance with UN resolutions. We hope that the Movement will double its pressures until security, peace and justice reign in the Middle East through the return of the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the Arab countries, parts of whose territories Israel continues to occupy.

Regarding the Arab Gulf region, the Movement has to underline that continued tension will only complicate matters even further and makes the opportunity for peace and security in the whole region weaker. Thus, it is the duty of the Non-Aligned Movement to work for the normalization of relations of the region's countries, and to eliminate causes of tension by building trust and normal relations among countries of the region.

My country has witnessed, firsthand, the sad events and harmful developments in the Horn of Africa, and especially in Somalia. The Republic of Yemen has worked to contain the crisis, and exerted all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the warring faction in this fraternal country. My country also opened its doors wide to harbour the Somali refugees who are victimized by the war, and who suffer from hunger, diseases and death. Therefore, I ask this conference to call on the world community, through the UN and its organizations, to double their efforts and to shoulder their responsibilities and to support the Somali people in transcending its plight that is so well-known to all.

At another level, we consider the recent developments in South Africa which are headed towards the abolition of racism, and towards creating a democratic society in that country as positive steps. But, it is regrettable that time passes by, and violence against the people continues in a rising manner. Therefore, it is incumbent on our conference to urge the United Nations to take all the steps to protect the political rights of the majority of the people of South Africa thus guaranteeing their security, stability, justice and equality. You are aware that my country has charted a political course based on democracy, political pluralism, and peaceful dialogue. It has drawn such a course from its experience of a long struggle, and has concluded that the new course is capable of surmounting many of the political, economic, and social difficulties.

In this forum, the issues and problems of many of our countries and peoples come to my attention, and I deem it necessary to urge our Movement to exert its utmost peaceful efforts to bring viewpoints of the conflicting parties closer, and to work to resolve those dif-

ferences, and thus allowing all these countries to become secure and stable, and to cooperate fruitfully. It is my hope that these countries will reach the solutions which serve their interests, strengthen their abilities, and enhance cohesion among them.

The first priority of our Movement is in the current patterns of inter-national relations, and to contribute in creating a comprehensive balance in economic relations. At the moment, the gap between the developing and advanced countries is very large, and many developing countries suffer today from economic crisis which threaten their security and expose their peoples to the dangers of starvation and malnutrition. Thus, the economic conditions require collective measures and steps which aim to accelerate socio-economic development, and to address the foreign debt of these countries, notably the least developed countries by nullification of the debt or by long-term re-scheduling. Debt servicing in these countries constitute a burden which is more than half of these countries' GNP. The need to reach arrangements based on the cancellation of, at least, the interest on the debt in order to avoid exposing the stability of many of these countries to any danger thus hindering stable international relations among nations.

In my opinion, economic cooperation among developing countries occupies today an increasing importance towards achieving collective self-dependence. At another level, cooperation between developing countries and the advanced countries has to be based on durable criteria. Priority for such cooperation should go to such fields as science and technology, exchange of information and expertise because these are the basic foundations to develop joint economic cooperation and to improve the living conditions of the people by securing comprehensive food security.

It is worth mentioning that our world faces a challenge of a new kind, and our Movement must take the necessary steps to allow the world to avert natural or environmental disasters. These should be in accordance with, and as a follow-up to, the Earth Summit that was held in Brazil this year. I would like to express appreciation for the efforts arrived at in the Larnaca meeting early this year regarding the new approach of our Movement. I am happy to note that these efforts and approaches have been approved by the Coordination Office in New York, last February, and were also approved by the ministerial meeting under the auspices of H.E. the Indonesian Foreign Minister. I also would like to express support for the decisions in the ministerial meetings in Accra and Bali which aimed at activating the Movement's role and promoting interaction and cohesion among its member countries. These steps aim to make the Movement contribute effectively in shaping the new world order within the UN. The efforts also aim to revitalize the UN and its organizations by re-structuring them, and safe-guarding their neutrality and equilibrium in order to carry out their functions in an objective way for the security, peace and justice of the world, and in a way that satisfies the interests of all peoples in the world: rich and poor, large and small. **U n q u o t e .**

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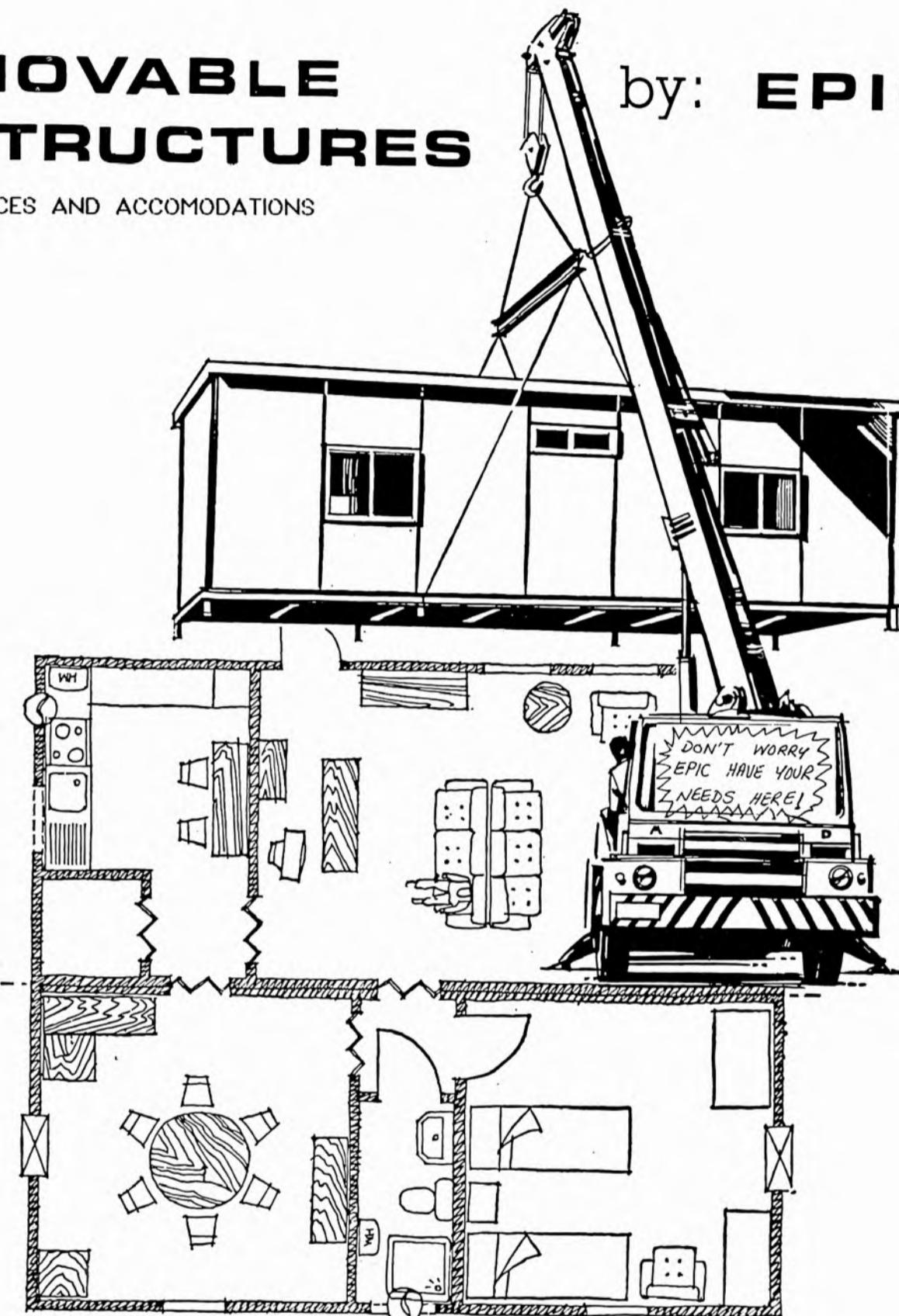
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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Le Premier ministre au 10ème sommet des pays non-alignés en Indonésie

A Djakarta, M. al-Attas évoque les risques de déstabilisation dans le Golfe

108 pays représentés par leurs chefs d'Etat ou de gouvernement ont participé au 10ème sommet des pays Non-Alignés, à Djakarta, la capitale de l'Indonésie, du 1er au 6 septembre. Le mouvement représentant l'ensemble des pays du Tiers-Monde s'est prononcé pour "un nouvel ordre mondial plus équitable et plus pacifique" et "contre la domination économique et politique des pays riches du nord".

Sur le plan politique, deux prises de positions sont importantes: les Non-Alignés ont fermement dénoncé les Serbes responsables de la "purification ethnique" en Bosnie-Herzégovine et n'ont pas fait état de la "zone d'exclusion aérienne" instaurée par les Etats-Unis, la France et la Grande-Bretagne dans le sud de l'Irak, ce qui a provoqué la colère de Bagdad.

Le Yémen était représenté par son Premier Ministre, M. Abou Bakr al-Attas qui a précisé, dans son allocution, que la montée des tensions dans le Golfe était porteuse de dangers pour la stabilité et la paix.

Le discours du Premier Ministre yéménite à Djakarta a reflété, dans son ensemble, la position finale des Non-Alignés sur tous les problèmes abordés.

M. al-Attas a exprimé tout d'abord l'inquiétude de son pays vis-à-vis de la tournure que prend le nouvel ordre mondial. Le "Message de Djakarta", à l'issue du sommet, a réclamé un "nouvel ordre mondial plus équitable et plus pacifique" ainsi que la fin de la domination économique des pays riches du nord. Ce message jette en outre les bases d'un programme du Tiers-Monde "fermement enraciné dans le règne de la loi internationale et des principes de la Charte des Nations-Unies (...)".

Cette dernière déclaration explique la prise de position des Non-Alignés défavorable à l'Irak sur la situation dans le Golfe et l'absence totale de référence à la "zone d'exclusion aérienne" mise en place par les Alliés dans le sud du pays (Lire *Le Temps du Yémen* du 26 août 1992), ce qui a provoqué la colère de Bagdad. M. Abou

Bakr al-Attas a simplement estimé, à Djakarta, que la recrudescence de la tension dans la région compromettait la stabilité et la paix. L'Irak proposait la condamnation de la "zone d'exclusion" mais s'est retrouvé très vite isolé, sous les pressions de l'Arabie Saoudite et du Koweït essentiellement.

Les Non-Alignés ont également "vivement condamné la politique répugnante d'épuration ethnique menée par les Serbes en Bosnie-Herzégovine".

En ce qui concerne le conflit israélo-palestinien, les Non-Alignés se sont félicités de la récente évolution des négociations de paix et a appelé à les poursuivre sur la base du principe de la paix contre les territoires occupés. M. al-Attas a également exprimé le soutien du Yémen aux efforts de paix, rappelant les droits nationaux du peuple palestinien et la nécessité de la restitution des territoires occupés par Israël. Le Premier ministre a d'ailleurs rencontré Yasser Arafat à Djakarta.

E.G.

HUMEUR

Mauvaises manières

Des tapis persans taxés à 60% de leur valeur à leur arrivée à Sanaa, des rideaux à 47% et des meubles à 60% ! Il ne s'agit pas d'importations classiques, qui ne justifieraient de toute façon pas des droits de douane aussi élevés, mais de produits de l'artisanat iranien vendus lors d'une exposition à Sanaa par une délégation de commerçants invités dans le cadre d'un accord entre les gouvernements yéménite et iranien !

L'un de ces commerçants-artisans n'en revient pas. Il a parcouru le monde arabe avec la même exposition-vente de l'artisanat persan, et affirme n'avoir jamais été aussi mal reçu. Jamais ils n'ont payé la moindre taxe à l'entrée...

Il n'est pas dans les habitudes des Yéménites de recevoir les étrangers de cette façon, n'importe lequel d'entre nous le confirmera, qui a été reçu souvent à bras ouverts dans un foyer yéménite. Ici, les mots "accueil" et "bienvenue"

ont un sens bien plus important que dans les pays occidentaux. Alors pourquoi cette exception ? Les nombreuses expositions d'artisanat étranger qu'a reçues Sanaa (Palestinienne, irakienne, etc...) ont-elles subi le même sort ?

Au nom de quel droit, un très haut fonctionnaire a-t-il débarqué dans cette exposition accompagné de deux gardes du corps en armes, alors que les commerçants iraniens repliaient bagages, exigeant qu'on lui remette deux superbes tapis persans d'une valeur de 5.000 dollars ? Les responsables de la délégation iranienne -invitée, rappelons-le en vertu d'un protocole d'accord- n'en reviennent pas. C'est la première fois qu'ils venaient au Yémen; ce sera sans doute la dernière. Et gageons que l'exposition de l'artisanat yéménite qui doit se rendre à Téhéran en retour, selon les accords conclus, sera accueillie selon les mêmes procédés.

E.G.

Référendum en France sur la ratification du Traité de Maastricht, le 20 septembre prochain

"Approuvez-vous le projet de loi soumis au peuple français par le Président de la République autorisant la ratification du Traité sur l'Union européenne ?" Dimanche 20 septembre, les Français se substitueront à leurs élus pour approuver ou rejeter le Traité de Maastricht, en vertu de l'article 11 de la Constitution qui autorise le chef de l'Etat à soumettre au référendum certaines lois.

Le Traité, signé à Maastricht le 7 février 1992, institue une "Union européenne" fondée sur les précurseurs des Communautés européennes ((Communauté Economique Européenne -CEE- Communauté Européenne -CECA et Communauté Européenne de l'Energie Atomique -EURATOM) et rajoute à ces étapes, qui ont fondé l'Europe des Douze, des formes concrètes de coopération et de politiques communes dans divers domaines.

Ce traité est inspiré dès son premier article par le principe de respect des identités nationales mais prévoit, dans le détail, un nombre important de transferts de souveraineté dans des instances de décision communes. Il affirme par exemple dès le titre 1 que la Communauté n'intervient que si une action commune est plus efficace que des actions nationales. C'est le principe de "subsidiarité".

De même, dans le souci de respecter la volonté des citoyens par le biais de leurs élus, les prérogatives du Parlement Européen -qui sont encore très réduites- seront renforcées: il pourra notamment constituer de sa propre initiative

des commissions d'enquête ou recevoir des pétitions en cas de mauvaise administration. Mais surtout, il devra se prononcer par un vote sur certains textes communautaires qui étaient jusqu'alors ratifiés par le seul Conseil des ministres des Douze ou par le Conseil européen (chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement), et pourra rejeter un texte à la majorité absolue. Ceci est une évolution très importante vers la "démocratisation" du fonctionnement institutionnel des Communautés européennes.

En outre, diverses nouveautés sont introduites par le traité de Maastricht, au premier rang desquelles ont trouvé l'instauration, à terme, d'une Union économique et monétaire (UEM) dont l'aspect le plus spectaculaire sera la monnaie unique pour 1999. C'est ce point qui est le plus critiqué: le Royaume-Uni, comme à son habitude, s'en est démarqué par une clause qui l'autorise à ne pas participer à cette ultime étape et les détracteurs du Traité affirment qu'il s'agit d'instituer, à terme, une "zone mark". En fait, le prétexte n'est pas valable pour deux raisons: la "zone mark" existe déjà: de fait: chaque fois que le président de la Bundesbank éternue, les marchés financiers de chaque pays tremblent; pas question de mener, en France et ailleurs, une politique de taux d'intérêt différente de celle du puissant voisin. Deuxièmement, pourquoi refuser que le mark allemand devienne la référence principale de la future monnaie européenne alors qu'il est

la devise la plus forte et la plus à même de se défendre sur n'importe quel marché ? Seulement, il s'agit là encore d'un abandon de souveraineté, véritable repoussoir pour certains.

Deuxième innovation importante: l'instauration d'une citoyenneté européenne. "Est citoyen de l'Union toute personne ayant la nationalité d'un état membre". Elle ouvre le droit de circuler et de séjourner dans les douze pays de la communauté sans aucune restriction, ce qui est presque le cas déjà. Le traité permet, dans ce sens, une nouvelle stratégie pour la protection des ressortissants de l'Union à l'étranger dans les ambassades et les consulats de chaque pays membre. Enfin, cette nouvelle nationalité accorde le droit de voter et d'être élu dans l'Etat de résidence pour les élections européennes et les élections municipales, sous un certain nombre de conditions et tout en respectant les particularités de chaque pays. En France, un Allemand ou un Grec pourra devenir conseiller municipal mais ni maire, ni adjoint.

Des actions seront décidées de façon commune, d'après le traité, dans divers domaines: il complète certaines compétences déjà prévues dans des traités antérieurs en matière d'environnement, de recherche, de formation, de cohésion économique et sociale. Mais il institue aussi de nouveaux champs d'action: éducation, culture, santé publique, protection des consommateurs, transports, industrie. En matière de politique sociale, avec, là encore une clause de réserve

pour la Grande-Bretagne, le Conseil des ministres pourra adopter à la majorité qualifiée seulement des dispositions sur les conditions de travail, l'égalité entre hommes et femmes et les mesures d'intégration des chômeurs. En revanche, toute décision relative à la Sécurité sociale ou à la protection sociale se prendront à l'unanimité. En outre, la politique commune pourrait conduire à terme à l'élaboration de conventions collectives européennes.

Enfin, deux matières font l'objet de titres particuliers du traité: la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune et la coopération en matière de justice et d'affaires intérieures.

Le nouveau traité rend possible des actions communes en politique étrangère, à la règle de l'unanimité en général pour préserver la souveraineté de chacun et évoque la possibilité d'une politique de sécurité et de défense commune, le moment venu.

Dans le domaine de la justice et de la police, le traité institue une coopération entre les Douze, contrepartie inévitable à la liberté de circuler, notamment en matière de contrôles aux frontières de l'Union, de lutte contre le terrorisme et la criminalité, de trafic de drogue et de fraude internationale. Les décisions dans ces domaines seront prises à l'unanimité. Enfin, le traité instaure une coopération en matière d'immigration et d'asile afin d'aboutir, à terme, à des règles communes.

Emmanuel GIROUD

Français au Yémen : comment participer au scrutin du 20 septembre

Il existe deux manières de voter dimanche 20 septembre, pour les Français qui résident au Yémen:

1- Les personnes inscrites sur la liste du centre de vote de l'Ambassade de France à Sanaa pourront voter dimanche 20 septembre 1992 à l'ambassade, de 8h00 à 18h00, soit personnellement, soit, sur justification d'une impossibilité de se déplacer, par procuration établie devant le consul-adjoint de l'ambassade. Il est rappelé que tout électeur inscrit sur cette liste ne peut voter, personnellement ou par procuration, dans la commune de France où il pourra être également inscrit.

2- Les personnes non-inscrites sur la liste du centre de vote de l'Ambassade peuvent voter par procuration, établie auprès du Consul adjoint à Sanaa ou de l'agent consulaire à Aden, avant samedi 12 septembre 1992 à 9h00. Le mandataire désigné doit impérativement être inscrit dans la même commune de France que le mandant.

LA REGION EN BREF

Washington dément avoir décidé une vente d'avions de chasse F-15 à l'Arabie Saoudite. - Le secrétaire d'Etat par intérim Lawrence Eagleburger a démenti vendredi dernier des informations que la presse tenait de sources de la communauté juive selon lesquelles une décision de vendre quelques 70 chasseurs F-15 à l'Arabie Saoudite aurait été récemment prise. Washington entend ainsi apaiser les craintes d'Israël. La question de ventes d'avions de combat avancés à Ryad a souvent été au centre de polémiques entre les Etats-Unis et l'état hébreu. Le puissant lobby juif a toujours tenté d'obtenir du Congrès de bloquer ces ventes.

Référendum à Djibouti: la nouvelle constitution recueille 97% de "oui". - Les électeurs Djiboutiens se sont massivement prononcés en faveur d'une nouvelle constitution vendredi dernier, avec près de 97% de "oui" au référendum, et par 96,9% en faveur de la limitation des partis politiques à quatre formations. Selon les autorités, la participation était élevée: plus de 75% des électeurs ont voté. Mais l'Association Djiboutienne des Droits de l'Homme affirme, elle, que plus de la moitié des Djiboutiens n'ont pas participé au référendum. Elle dénonce les fraudes électorales notamment dans la région d'Obock, déserte par sa population depuis le début de la guerre civile, où le gouvernement annonce une participation de 40%!

Les 3/4 du territoire, occupés par les rebelles Afars, ethnie majoritaire, ont connu une participation plus faible que dans ceux administrés encore par le pouvoir Issa, ethnie minoritaire du président Hassan Gouled Aptidon.

TRIBUNE LIBRE

De la particularité culturelle du Yémen

Par

**Hamid Motea Alawadhi,
Ministère
de l'Enseignement
supérieur et
de la Recherche
Scientifique,
étudiant en France.**

On parle beaucoup, ces jours-ci, de la question culturelle. Il semble que cela est devenu naturel tant les problèmes les plus récurrents du monde actuel sont les luttes entre les cultures. Aborder la question de la culture du Yémen est à la fois intéressant et polémique. En effet, on a presque l'habitude, sinon l'automatisme, de négliger un tel sujet pour parler plus généralement de la culture arabo-musulmane, prétendant qu'elle englobe donc le Yémen. Nous ne voulons pas critiquer cette manière de voir les choses mais plutôt montrer qu'il existe quand même des particularités qui se dérobent au regard dans chaque-pays arabe. Il faut les mettre en relief afin de mieux comprendre les contributions de chacun d'eux à la civilisation arabo-musulmane, voire universelle.

Celui qui connaît l'histoire du Yémen peut concevoir que ce pays possédait une sorte de particularité dans ce domaine. Si les

habitants de l'Egypte ancienne, les Mésopotamiens et autres créèrent leurs civilisations au bord des fleuves qui ont joué un rôle primordial dans l'épanouissement de leurs peuples, les Yéménites, dépourvus de ces supports naturels, avaient créé eux-même leurs propres "fleuves". Il s'agissait de construire des barrages et des citernes et d'installer des systèmes de réserve et de canalisations d'eau, source de la vie.

Si les autres civilisations anciennes eurent leurs écritures, la civilisation yéménite n'en fut pas dépourvue. La manière par laquelle les Yéménites se convertirent à l'Islam et assimilèrent cette nouvelle religion est très significatif de leur particularisme.

Il ne s'agit pas évidemment de faire de l'ethnocentrisme, loin de là. Mais ces faits sont, hélas, méconnus des étrangers alors qu'ils sont restés gravés dans la mémoire collective de ce pays, jusqu'à nos jours.

Le Yémen passe aujourd'hui pour un pays original dans bien des domaines tels que l'architecture, le chant, la musique, mais également la politique.

L'architecture yéménite, qui fascine les architectes et chercheurs des quatre coins du monde, est partie d'une philosophie purement locale. Celle-ci a réussi à allier les besoins essentiels de l'individu

aux dons de la nature, d'une manière minutieuse. Si le principe de la maison islamique repose sur le principe de la séparation entre ce qui est intérieur (sacré) et extérieur (profane), la maison yéménite fait abstraction de ces jugements de valeur et essaie de concilier les deux concepts par ses effets architecturaux spécifiques: la verticalité, la multiplicité des ouvertures, et l'organisation de la circulation à l'intérieur de la maison.

Le chant et la musique, domaines encore très peu étudiés, coïncident bien avec le mode de vie et le besoin de bien-être des yéménites. Là aussi, le Yémen est un champ de diversité au plan local, mais original au plan extérieur.

Si l'on discute la question de la pensée politique, on constate que l'avenir de la culture de ce pays est étroitement lié à l'évolution politique. Certes, cela n'est pas spécifique au Yémen. Mais la conception yéménite de la politique trouve ses interprétations enracinées dans l'Histoire. On peut citer les modèles figurant dans les livres religieux, qui inspirent encore largement la pensée des Yéménites.

Pour expliquer où réside la particularité dans ce domaine, il suffit de comparer le Yémen aux autres pays du Tiers-Monde en général et de la région en particulier. Les ré-

formes politiques qui prennent place dans ces pays sont dues aux incitations, et même aux exigences, essentiellement extérieures, dictées par la conjoncture. Autrement dit, il est question d'une "mode", d'un "habillage" et rien d'autre. Alors que l'expérience yéménite est différente. C'est seulement après l'unification qu'un processus démocratique s'est mis en route et a entraîné dans son sillage un changement intellectuel profond.

On assiste maintenant à des phénomènes politiquement et culturellement sains tels que le multipartisme, la liberté de la presse, la création d'associations professionnelles et syndicales, etc. Toutes ces démarches mènent vers une "société civile" qui est, pour les intellectuels yéménites, le résultat d'un processus de civilisation au même titre qu'une évolution conjoncturelle.

Car il faut remonter dans le passé lointain pour trouver les racines culturelles de cette pratique démocratique, naguère manifestée par la Reine de Saba (Bilquis).

En conclusion, la culture yéménite d'aujourd'hui est liée à celle d'un passé lointain et les deux sont dotés de caractères originaux et contribuent positivement aux acquis de la civilisation arabo-musulmane.

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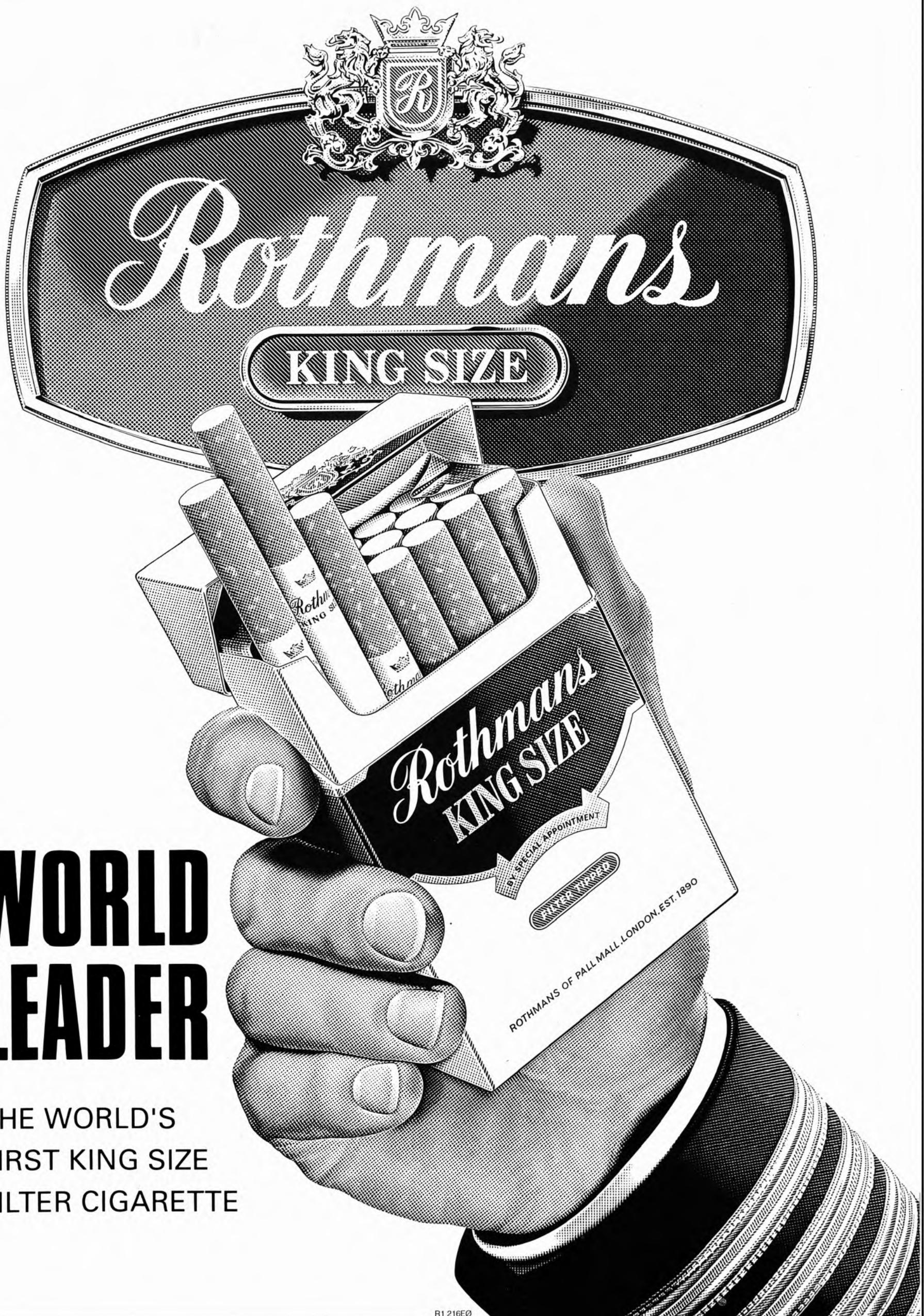
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Educational Research in Yemen: A Big Task and Meager Resources

By:

Dr. Abdullah A Al-Thaifani,
Head,
Educational Researchers
Syndicate



During the last two decades, the level of change in educational facilities and in the sheer number of enrollments has been phenomenal. This expansion, given its pace and ad-hoc nature, has created several problems for the education process as a whole. Thus, the need for educational research has become more critical than ever before. Several specialists in the field of education have noted the herculean task facing educational research coupled with the meager resources allocated for this purpose. One writer says, "As educational problems in developing countries become more acute, and the funds become relatively more available, the faint glimmer shining out of educational research will steadily grow brighter. But we shall never be able to cope with the tasks facing this profession."

Another researcher wrote that the majority of educational researchers try to promote change by influencing educational policy-makers or educationists. Their work is also, in part, oriented towards the general public. In the case of Yemen, the situation is already critical. There is a fierce debate about the very viability of educational research. Some groups maintain that "the time has not yet come for us to address head-on matters related to educational research". Others point out that Yemen has not been able, so far, to carry out research properly and efficiently. When confronted with the very limited budgetary allocations for research as an important reason for its backward nature, these groups state that the economic situation forces a trade-off, and the evident victim is projects whose returns are either intangible or of a long-term nature. Yet, it is clear that educational research is actually a very viable effort. Whatever is spent on research in education could generate returns at many levels, including savings in educational expenses. In the final analysis, educational research is not only important, but essential for solving our many problems. Critics should not use the sad conditions of researchers and research centers to belittle the value of good research. I can point to the efforts of the Educational Research and Development Center (ERDC) which, in spite of chronic financial shortages and the limited interaction of the government with its work, has achieved quite a few successes.

SHERATON GETS TWO NEW CHEFS

Sheraton Sanaa Hotel has just made an important new addition to its staff. Kamal Verma is the new Executive Chef. Kamal brings with him years of experience from various parts of the world. His most recent post was in Australia. He is now gearing up to introduce many ideas on "creative kitchening" in his concept of "East Meets West".



Mr. Liaquat Ali is the new Pastry Chef. Ali joins Sheraton Sanaa from Sheraton Oman where he was apprenticed under master pastry chefs from Europe. Thus, he is today full of talents, especially for that "Sweet Tooth", Ali's preparations can be enjoyed both at the Sheraton, and at your home.

CONTEST!

Each week we write a popular American idiom. We include a picture or dialogue to help demonstrate the meaning. Now we would like our readers to join in and help us out. This week we'll give you five (5) idioms, and we would like you to choose one that you like and then send us a picture you have drawn, or a dialogue you have written to go with it. We will print the winning pictures and dialogues in future issues.

RULES:

1. Pictures should be no bigger than 7 cm high x 9 cm wide.
(smaller than that is fine, too)
Dialogues should be 4 to 6 lines long, using the idiom.
2. Pictures should be drawn in black ink only.
3. Include your name and where you live.
4. All entries must be received by Yemen Times by Sunday, September 27th. (Even sooner would be great!)
5. You may send in as many drawings and/or dialogues as you like, but only one of each will be chosen from each person.
6. Send your entries to:

YEMEN TIMES
P.O. BOX 2579
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS:

PICTURE: (The picture can be funny, or show a scene between two people which is realistic.)



WEEKLY IDIOM "Hold your horses!"
This expression is used to say "wait" or "slow down" or to ask someone to not rush you. Example: You and a friend are about to leave for dinner. He's very hungry and keeps asking you to hurry. You have just one thing to finish before you can go. You can say, "Hold your horses! I'll be ready in a minute!"

DIALOGUE:

WEEKLY IDIOM: "Get real" is a phrase you would say to someone who is saying something which doesn't seem possible.

example: Fatima and Bushre are doing homework together.
Fatima: Do you know what I'd like to do when I finish school?
Bushre: No, what?
Fatima: I'd like to be an accountant for a big company, and make lots of money.
Bushre: Get real, Fatima. You're flunking math. Don't you think you should start learning math before you decide to make a career in it?

* * * * *

CHOOSE FROM THESE IDIOMS FOR THE CONTEST:

1. "**Don't beat around the bush.**" This means say what you mean and get to the point. Don't just make hints or talk around what you really mean to say.
2. "**Take a shot at it.**" (or "take a stab at it.") means to give something a try - to at least make an attempt to do something, even if you are not sure you can do it.
3. "**Head over heels in love.**" This means someone is really, really in love with someone, crazy in love.
4. "**Between a rock and a hard place.**" This means that someone has to make a decision between two unpleasant things. Neither of the two choices is wanted.
5. "**Up the creek without a paddle.**" This saying is used when someone has a problem, or is in big trouble, and there is no solution or answer to the problem.



What is Being Done to Help the Lepers of Yemen!

In appreciation of the major effort being exerted to help the lepers, Yemen Times reproduces below extracts from the recently released annual report.

The National Leprosy Control Project (NLCP) accelerated its efforts in the beginning of 1991 by opening branches in four governorates as pilot projects supported by the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA) as follows:

Taiz branch: Al-Nour city.
Ibb branch: Leprosy clinic in Al-Thowrah Hospital.
Hodeidah branch: In Al-Olofi Hospital.
Dhamar branch: In the Dhamar medical complex.

Each branch is manned by a medical officer, medical assistant both of whom are helped by primary health workers in their concerned

to request their help and cooperation for better performance of the field workers.

3. Tracing of cases from the old register:

The purpose of these visits were to find the situation of old cases (1864 patients) registered at Al-Nour center since 1973, to evaluate their condition, to convince society to accept these patients among their families as cured and non-infectious cases in spite of their deformities and to examine family contacts.

B. The field visits outside the pilot area:
Several visits were paid to the rest of the governorates and aimed to collect information about old cases, migrated cases, distribution of medicine to the governorate centres, discovery of new case, in-field training of field workers and recording video tapes of for the



medical officers at these governorates are reluctant to attend the training at Al-Nour City.

School Visits:

Visits were made to 23 secondary and preparatory schools and 7,208 students were examined. No leprosy cases were detected.

Health Education:

The Project administration organized a program to educate the population about leprosy on following factors.

- Case detection
- Case holding
- Treatment
- Social aspects
- Eradication of leprosy
- Religious attitude towards the disease

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

Lectures to students, government officials, primary health workers, modern and traditional doctors, nurses and soldiers. At health centers social gatherings, general and private gatherings.

CLINICS:

The project has three types of clinics:

1. Weekly clinics:

There are four main weekly clinics at each headquarter of the (4) branches.

2. Monthly clinics:

These regular mobile clinics which, every 28 days, make follow-up of patients and their treatment. These are 31 clinics and are distributed as follows:

Ibb branch	9
Taiz branch	8
Hodeidah branch	10
Dhamar branch	4

3. Main Clinics:

These clinics are in Sana'a, Mahweet, Saadah, Shabwa, Al-Mahara and Seyoun. Other governorates still do not have clinics because

All the training courses were supported by GLRA. The following training courses were held at the project's training center during the year.

1. Refreshment training

from the general public.

a) Major improvement and maintenance works, in addition to some limited filing and shelving systems and facilities.

b) A contract was signed with a catering firm to supply three meals for inpatients and for crippled patients in their houses surrounding the Hospital area. Which will solve the long standing problem of feeding the patients this will be effective from 1st January 1992.

c) Two doctors, one assistant pharmacist and five nurses were employed.

d) The mosque and the school of Al-Nour city were repaired at the expense of a philanthropist family - the Hayel Saeed Anam group.

e) The training center:

1. This building which was a gift from Mr. Hayel Saeed Anam companies was upgraded and completely finished this year.

2. Gaidoom hall for the training was furnished and completely equipped this year.

3. The administration of the project located at the training center was completely furnished.

4. Personnel needed to form the administrative structure were recruited.

5. A computer was supplied by WHO.

6. The parking lot was completed in the training center.

SERVICES OF GUEST EXPERTS:

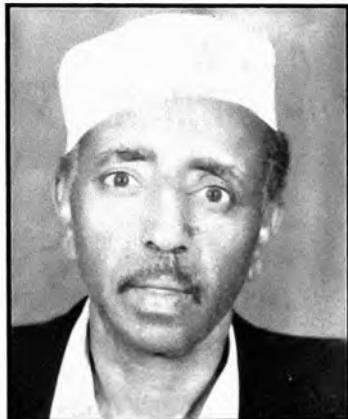
1. Professor Dr. Bruce Ostler (Haas Foundation - California) with two of his colleagues all eye surgeons and his wife as secretary of the mission visited Al Nour center during 3rd to 27th of June 1991. They operated and treated the eyes of leprosy patient in the center and other urban and rural areas of the country.



Salute on Eritrea's Anniversary!

On the 1st of September 1992, the "DOVE" of the Horn of Africa (Eritrea) celebrated for the second time since liberation its anniversary day. This is the day Eritreans took-up arms to liberate their country - it was the 1st of September, 1961. The hero and martyr Hamed Idris Awate shot the first bullet.

Eritrea was tricked into submission to Ethiopia by the late King who transformed free Eritrea into the 13 Teklai Ghizats (governorates) of his country. On occasion of the 1st of September, Eritrea will also celebrate its "FIRST FESTIVAL" in the beautiful capital of Asmara, and



in Nacfa the capital of the Sahel region and the strong-hold of the Eritrean revolution and resistance movement. Haile Selassie and his successor General Mengistu Haile mariam, who was

fostered and sustained by the then USSR, unsuccessfully conducted over six destructive nationwide campaigns to eliminate the Eritrean Peoples Revolutionary Army. Eritrea offered her sons - rows after rows of martyrs, until finally it clenched its independence.

Today, Eritrea stands for liberty, peace, peaceful co-existence among the neighbors of the region.

Eritreans used to celebrate their national anniversaries in foreign lands. This time Asmara will entertain the thousands upon thousands of Eritreans and their friends to participate in this timeless moment.

I, for one, for the neighborly and brotherly land of Yemen, salute you "Oh beloved Eritrea". May Allah consider us with them, to see the florate Asmara in her nuptial veil. Long life to September 1st, and the 24th of May. Glory to our martyrs.

By:
Mohamed Saeed Ismail,
Eritrean in Yemen.

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Radda Barnen Official:

"Although much has been done for the children of Yemen, a lot more remains to be done."

Background:

Radda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children) is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization built on the principle of voluntary individual membership. It was started in 1919 in Sweden, as an aid effort to post-WW1 children of Europe. From the 1960s, it started to assist development as well as disaster relief projects in developing countries.

Today Radda Barnen is a nation-wide movement which fights for the rights of children, basically by advocating the implementation of the UN convention on the rights of children. Radda Barnen does not implement projects independently, but always links up with local organizations - whether official or NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations). Although financial and administrative support is an important component of the program, exchange of experience, working methods, project approach with general moral support are also main items of the cooperation effort.

Radda Barnen in Yemen:

Radda Barnen has been in Yemen since 1963. Its assistance is oriented towards the children and mothers. The main partners were the ministries and other government agencies. Up to date, Radda Barnen has constructed 15 clinics and equipped more than 100 and provided training to the staff. Today, it operates a PHC in Taiz, and CBRs in Taiz and Lahej governorates.

"Recently, we have started a scholarship program for training of medical personnel in foreign countries," said Steffan Engblom, the country representative of Radda Barnen.

"This year, our budget will witness a 25% to 30% increase and the trend will continue for the next plan period: 1993 - 1995," he added. Even then, however, the annual Radda Barnen expenditures are still less than US\$ 2 million, a far cry from the US\$ 10 million per annum they used to spend in recent years. "In the past we used to equip clinics and provide a lot of hardware. This is why a lot



of money was needed. Now we need less hardware and more training and softwares," clarified Mr. Engblom.

Visitor from Stockholm:

Visiting Radda Barnen, Yemen at the moment, is Ms. Helena Karlen, Desk/Program Officer of Yemen at head office in Stockholm. "We are very happy with two developments in Yemen," she said. "First, the mushrooming of NGOs which are increasingly becoming our main partner. Second, within the democratization process of your country, Yemen has ratified the UN Convention of the Rights of Children in 1991. I would like to remind that each country, after two years of ratification, has to report on the status of its children and degree of implementation of children's rights," she added.

Ms. Karlen is on a few day acquaintance visit. Her first impressions are that, even though much has been achieved over the last few years, a lot more remains to be done for the children of Yemen.

The main efforts of Radda Barnen in Yemen is the health situation of children. "Although during the past 15 years the situation has improved, still a lot has to be done," she said.

New programs:

"Handicapped children are a priority. In addition, the children of refugees as well as street children need our support and warrant a concerted effort in order to give them a chance," explained Birgitta Engblom-Danielson, the Program Officer of Radda

Barnen - Yemen. "We are now carrying out research on street children and working children. "We want to develop basic data and hard information on street children and working children so that we can tailor-make programs to help them," she added.

Radda Barnen has over time, built an impressive reputation. As one Taiz resident told the Yemen Times, "If the Radda Barnen people run for elections here, they will definitely win."



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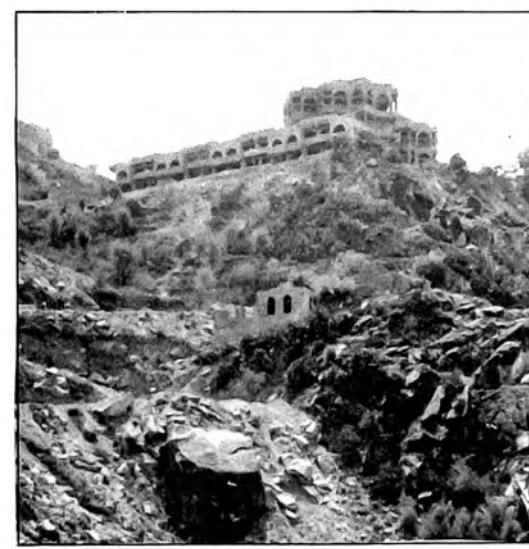
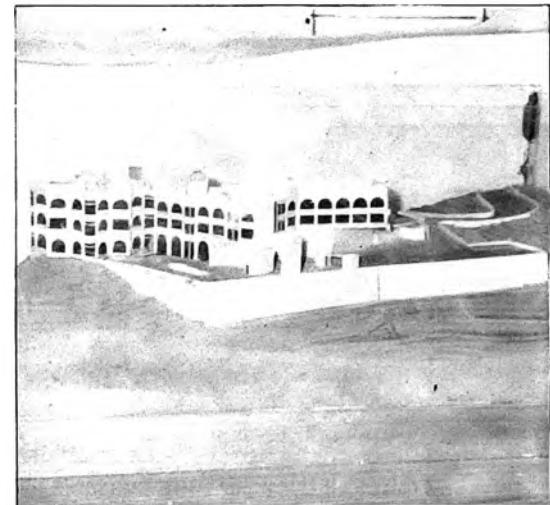
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THE SHEIKH ZAYED RECREATION CENTER IN TAIZ NEARS COMPLETION

The Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Recreation Center in Taiz is scheduled to be inaugurated before 1992 is over. Work on the project proceeds in full scale. The project is perched on one of the lower peaks of Mount Sabir, overlooking the city of Taiz.

The Sheikh Zayed Recreation Center, which costs around US\$ 4 million, is being financed personally by the President of the United Arab Emirates, as a special gift to the city of Taiz.

According to informed sources, President Zayed used to spend days in a row in Taiz where he felt comfortable and relaxed, given the city's mild climate and natural attractions.



The engineers supervising the work explained that the project has three major sections. First, there are the suites, which are rather comfortable lodgings for VIPs or senior dignitaries. Then there are the rooms. Finally, there are the ballroom and dining areas.

The lay-out and structure of the center is not tailor-made to the ordinary visitor, although regular citizens could spend a few hours there, explained one of the supervisors.

The military high brass as well as in government already have their eyes on the center. The fact that the Economic Military Corporation is the supervisory body of the project, readily lends itself to the conversion of the project for semi-private use.