

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 16 - 22 SEPTEMBER 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 38

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Two Communist Traits in Our Top Leadership

The top leadership of this country exhibits several traits that smell like the authoritarian rulers of communist countries. Here on two examples:

a) State Property is Party Property:
Our system works on the basis of no distinction between state property and ruling party property. In other words, whatever belongs to the state, can safely and easily be turned over to party property. Thus, state buildings become PGC or YSP owned buildings, state farms and lands have become the property of the ruling parties. The leaderships of the two ruling parties have direct and easy access to state funds to finance party "needs". Even worse, government agencies and organizations are there to serve the ruling parties. For example, the official media (TV, radio, newspapers) fall under the jurisdiction of the party guy and not the government official. Did you know that neither the Minister of Information nor the Chair of the TV and Radio Corporations have any jurisdiction over the Sanaa TV station? I can name endless examples to show that state property automatically becomes party property.

b) No Place for Dissenting Opinion:
The second aspect of our leadership's communist-like attitude is that if you dissent, there is no place for you in Yemen. The system works to crush any person who has an independent mind. There are many mechanisms for this, most of which are neither subtle nor legal. In fact, this attitude is the most visible proof of the leadership inability or unwillingness to accept democratic environments whose very soul is the flourishing of all kinds of dissenting and differing ideas. The system has created several organizations which it unleashes in a war by proxy against any person who does not bow to the leadership. This practice is manifest in dealings with political parties, newspapers, etc. At the end, these efforts make a mockery of pluralism in politics and of freedom of the press.

Will our top leadership wake up to the requirements of this new age, and adjust accordingly?

The Publisher

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE WOMEN WHO KICKED OUT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO PERFORM A RELIGIOUS RITUAL?

The National Conference did not go on as smoothly as it should, given that the ruling political parties are against it. "We learnt from first-hand experience as to how low some of these (senior officials) would stoop," explained one of the organizers. The conference started in the Cultural Center. There were two major surprises. On Day 2, the delegates were told to vacate the conference hall because "the female flank of the PGC has decided to perform a mawlid - some religious ritual in commemoration of the birth-date of Prophet Muhammad".

"But wait a minute the birthdate was a good nine days ago," explained one of the delegates who is well versed with religious occasions. "No sweat!" came back the answer. "We have chosen to re-do it today," one of the women snapped. The afternoon session of the conference was cancelled.

On Day 3 there was another surprise. The young man in charge of the halls told the organizers that they should not come the next day. "The hall is reserved for some meeting organized by PGC member Dr. Al-Adhi. Some people from his tribal area will come to meet.

When that happened, the organizers of the conference were infuriated by the very clearly deliberate efforts to stop their meetings. "These people (in power) can't even tolerate peaceful meetings oriented towards the service of this country," said an angry delegate who came from Aden. As a result, the conference was transferred to Dar Al-Hikmah, office of the Syndicate of Medical Doctors and Pharmacists. The concluding session was held at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel.

Prime Minister to Inaugurate Asaad Al-Kamil Plant

The major streets are being adorned with lighting and other forms of decoration as the country is quickly reaching to the climax of the 26th of September.

The Yemen Times has learnt that the senior politicians of this country have been reserved to lead inauguration processions in many parts of the country. In one of those events, it was learnt that arrangements are underway between the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and Yemen Hunt Oil Company for the inauguration of the Asaad Al-Kamil Plant. The Prime Minister, at the commissioning site, will personally open the valve to the LPG line.

The one-day business is expected to take place some time during 20-22 of September.

At another level, the members of the Supreme Festivities Committee are puzzled as to what to do with the program of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, the Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council. "I hope he will return to Sanaa and play his part of the game," hoped a senior official who asked not to be quoted.

Other senior officials with heavy programs including President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the members of the Presidential Council, various ministers and other officials.

السَّفَارِي
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

Editorial Board:

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PERSONAL VIEW**How Is Democracy Understood in Yemen?**

**Ms. Thorayyah Manqoosh,
Writer and Feminist**

Democracy as a system of government is becoming a prevalent phenomena as the new World Order is taking hold more and more in our world. The most basic element of democracy as a system is its belief in political, intellectual, cultural, ... pluralism. These new dimensions release human capabilities and free the scopes of the individual, both of which are crucial components of the post-Communist world.

How did we in Yemen understand these concepts?

Let me discuss the way three major groups interacted with the people, the political parties, and the rulers.

The people's first concern continues to be with basic economic needs. With high inflation and unemployment rates, the masses are oblivious to the democratic process. At best, it is understood to mean more political parties competing for power.

As far as the political parties are concerned, most of which were underground movements in the past, their perception of pluralism is limited to politics. They have yet to cross over to accept pluralism in other aspects of life such as culture, beliefs, intellect, etc. Even in this limited scope, political pluralism is practised with a degree of patronage of the bigger parties over the smaller ones. There is another dimension here. Those parties that are at the leading edge of change and modernization, such as the Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani and the Yemeni Socialist Party, have become the target of violence and constant verbal abuse in the newspapers of the status quo oriented or conservative parties, because the rise of a modern society reduces their hold over the people.

Continues on page 6

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL**Anti-President Demonstrations in Taiz**

Several thousand young men went on a rampage in Taiz on Sunday, September 13th. These youngsters, according to preliminary reports, are draftees who were told through radio and TV announcements to show up on Thursday for the service. For two days, they were provided neither food nor shelter at the conscription camp at Al-Hawban to the north of Taiz. Finally on Sunday, they were told to go home and to come back when they hear another announcement.

As the crowd was let loose, no transportation was provided, and the youngsters had to walk the kilometers to Taiz.

As they descended on Taiz, they were so angry they started shouting anti-president and anti-governor slogans, tearing down the pictures of the president displayed on the walls, billboards and streets. The security people wisely stayed away from the angry youngsters.

European Parliamentarians Assist Yemeni Parliament

The visiting delegation of Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation has offered to assist the Yemeni House of Representatives. One aspect of the assistance is a donation of twenty computers alongwith the whole software package.

President Saleh Orders a YR 100 million Allocation for Sanaa University

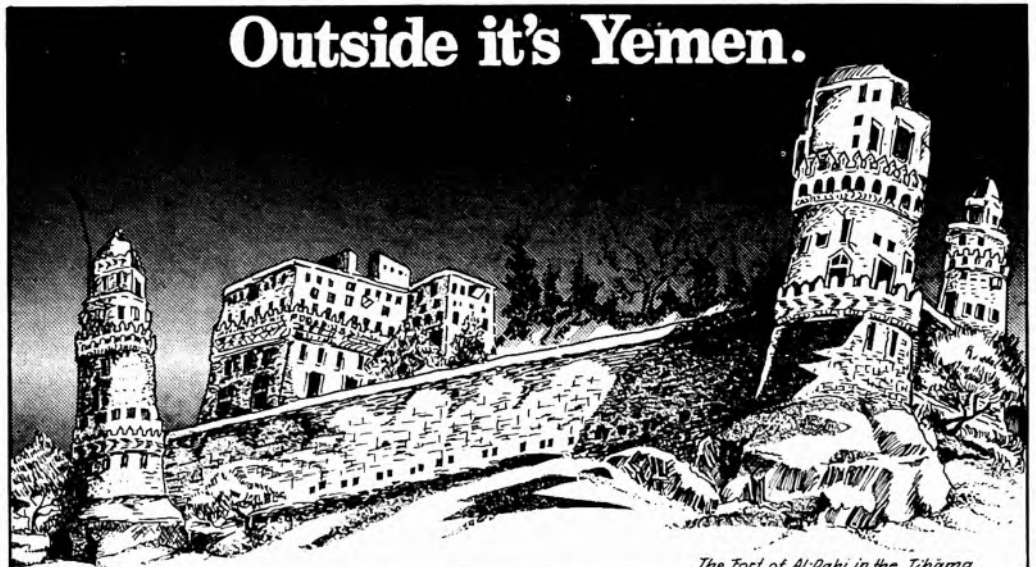
Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, ordered a YR. 100 million additional allocation to Sanaa University. The amount will go to finance urgently needed labs and various facilities at the university.

According to sources at the university, the money will fill a badly needed gap in the efforts of the university to shoulder its responsibilities towards an ever-expanding student body.

Supreme Elections Committee Concludes Map of Constituency Divissions

Qadhi Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi told the Yemen Times that the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has concluded the first draft of the map showing the 301 constituencies in the Republic. The Chair of the SEC also said that supervisory committees are presently being named to man the main balloting stations in each constituency.

At another level, there were in-fightings in the SEC as each party wants to steer the work of the SEC in the direction of its interests. An additional bone of contention was the fact that President Saleh came to chair one of the meetings of the supposedly-independent SEC. "He had no business doing that," one SEC member complained.

Outside it's Yemen.

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Dr. Abdul-Aziz Ad-Dali:

'YEMEN PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE JAKARTA SUMMIT.'

Dr. Abdul-Aziz Ad-Dali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, chooses to keep a low profile. A very soft-spoken man, he is one of the key architects of this country's foreign policy.

He has recently participated in the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Jakarta.

Yemen Times Economic Editor Ameen Nouisser went to speak to him about this and other issues of foreign policy concern.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: How do you evaluate the conclusions of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit of Jakarta?

A: The post-cold war world is slowly shaping the new world order which is unipolar.

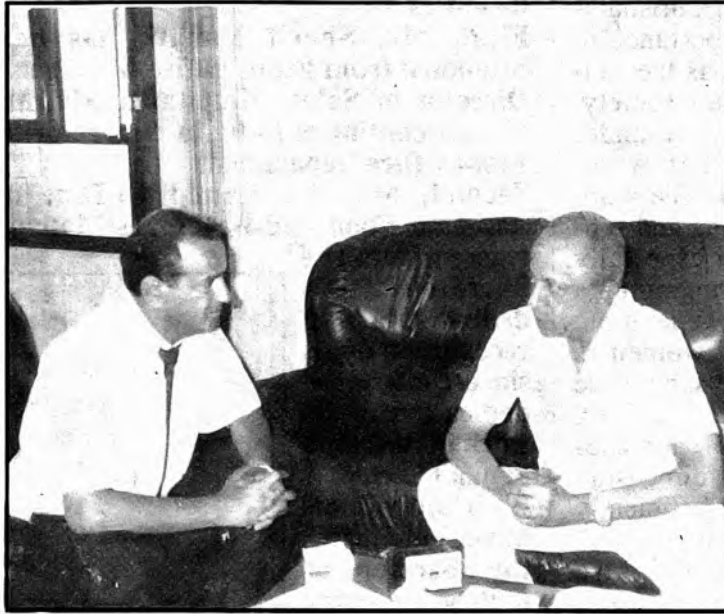
We had hoped that these changes will lead to a more peaceful, and stable world. In the short run this is not the case. For example, conflicts among members of the non-aligned movement already abound.

In light of these realities, the Tenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement came at a critical juncture. Although the goals of the Movement need not be changed, there are new factors that should be taken into consideration. There are three universal issues here, in addition to various regional issues. These are:

1- Relations among the member-states of the Non-Aligned Movement. Differences among member-states strain and restrain the work of the movement. We have tried to create certain guidelines to govern these relations.

2- Relations between the developing countries as a block and the advanced countries of the North. The countries of the South, through the Non-Aligned Movement, must take note of the new economic blocks being erected, and which are detrimental to our interests.

3- The role of the UN in the new world order, the democratization of the UN system, and the relations between the General Assembly and the Security Council. We hope to help in evolving the UN system in a way that will not allow any single country or two or three of them to exercise dominant influence over



the decisions of the UN. To conclude, I think that the Tenth Summit has shifted the Movement's gear from the traditional approach using critical oratory as its vehicles to a new calm approach that stresses the need for cooperation and joint effort. I can say that the Movement obtained a new lease on life in Jakarta.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about the role of Yemen in the Summit and the confusion that ensued the Prime Minister's speech?

A: Yemen played a visible role in the summit. Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas gave 2 speeches - one in the name of the Asian Bloc, and the other in the name of Yemen.

The confusion you mention relates to the phrase "Arab Gulf" which came in the Yemen Address of the Prime Minister. Certain journalists and writers, known for their anti-Yemen attitude, tried to draw a wedge between Yemen and Iran on that count. Prime Minister Al-Attas met with H.E. Iranian President, Mr. Rafsanjani. We attach high importance to our relations with Iran, and we will continue to strengthen these relations.

In the meanwhile, Yemen has to be on the alert that there are certain circles working to discredit it and which are disturbed by Yemen's rising international stature, respect and credibility.

Q: There are many pending issues in our relations with the Arab countries of the Gulf. Could you comment on our relations with Oman, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia?

Relations with Kuwait witnessed a severe set-back due to the Gulf Crisis. But my feeling is that with the upcoming return of our embassy staff in Kuwait, a lot could be done to straighten up our bilateral relations.

With respect to relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we have witnessed a qualitative improvement in light of the Geneva meeting covering our border talks. The two countries share vital strategic interests, which will be the base of improvements in our relations.

All in all, we highly value our relations with the Gulf countries, and we continue to work towards tangible improvements in Yemen's relations with them.

(Yemen Times note: Recently, the Saudi Ambassador has returned to resume his duties in Sanaa. Welcome back, Mr. Ambassador!)

Q: What is new in our relations with Indonesia?

A: We enjoy a very cordial relationship with the fraternal Indonesian people and government. Our delegation was received with extra respect and honor.

At the same time, Prime Minister Al-Attas held many sessions with leaders of the Indonesian and Singaporean business communities with whom he discussed investment opportunities in Yemen.

Many of these business leaders are actually of Yemeni origin. Thus, he shared with them the dramatic transformations that are taking place in Yemen in the form of pluralism, democracy, and modernization. Most of them were very receptive, and the Prime Minister promised to help in overcoming any difficulties they may face. In total, I think that the visit was very successful and fruitful.

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Muslims and Christians are Far More Similar than They Realize

Reading the Yemen Times here in Rome, I was impressed by the letter of Mr. Al-Artuqi "In search of Christian/Muslim understanding and solidarity" published in your Letters to the Editor page in issue No 29 of 15 - 21 July. Therefore, may I ask you to run the text of the report released following our last colloquium in Rome during 24-26 June, 1992 between Arab/Muslim and European/Christian scholars. The report is entitled "Women in Society according to Islam and Christianity".

At the gracious invitation of H.R.H. Al-Hassan Bin Talal, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze, President of the Political Council for Inter-religious Dialogue of the Holy See, a Muslim-Christian colloquium was held in Rome from 24-26 June 1992, jointly organized by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (Al Albait Foundation), Amman, Jordan and the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, the Vatican. Thirty Muslim and Christian scholars participated in the colloquium.

The topics treated in the colloquium were:

1. Status of Women:

Muslim speaker: Prof Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat (Vice-President, Royal Academy, Jordan)

Christian speaker: Sr. Dr. Stefania Contore (President, Pontifical Institute Regina Mundi, Rome)

2. Contemporary Problems and Challenges:

Muslim speaker: Prof. Dr. Omaymah Dahhan (University of Jordan, Amman)

Christian speaker: Dr. Eleonora Masin (Professor, Institute of Social Sciences, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.)

3. Future Opportunities & Prospects

Muslim speaker: Dr. Samira F. Khawaldeh (Principal, Tibah Shools, Amman)

Christian speaker: Rev. Dr. Maurice Borrman (Professor, Pontificio Istituto di studi Arabi e d'Islamistica)

Participants were privileged to be received in audience by his Holiness Pope John Paul II on the morning of Friday 26 June. In his brief Address, the Pope commented on the role of women in society today, and stressed the importance of joint efforts by Muslims and Christians to improve women's status and participation.

Three working groups discussed the various issues arising from the papers, and the following are some of the main points agreed upon:

1. Both our religions, Islam and Christianity, believe that God created human beings and gave them a special dignity, in which man and woman share equally. Our religions recognize the differences between men and women as God-given.

2. The participants recognize that both religions, Islam and Christianity give the greatest importance to the status of the family as the fundamental unit of human society. Life today puts the family under stress, and its value is not everywhere fully appreciated. The work done by parents in guiding and supporting the family, and especially the role of women in bringing up a young and healthy new generation. This particular role of women is vital in itself, and at the same time has an influence on other activities, in the educational, social, and economic fields. This extra dimension of her role is not always sufficiently appreciated and supported.

3. While participants emphasize the essential role of woman in the family and appreciate the woman's work at home, they also recognize her full right to engage in any other activities in keeping with her capabilities and circumstances, within the principles and guidelines given by each religious tradition.

4. The participants consider that misguided practices exist, which undermine the dignity of woman and limit her potential. These practices are the product of cumulative social traditions, not of conscious understanding of the true spirit of religion. Continual efforts are needed to correct these misconceptions and malpractices. We need to ensure proper interpretation of our scriptural and religious principles; and to see that no group misuses religious teachings to oppress any other group.

5. Participants are deeply concerned about the exploitation of women, which harms their dignity, especially in entertainment and advertizing. Organized efforts are needed to put an end to this exploitation and raise awareness of the damage it does to the whole of society. On such issues, we can work together with like-minded people.

6. There are obvious shortcomings in much of current legislation concerning the treatment of women, such as terms of employment, remuneration, training, maternity leave and privileges. It is important that this situation be corrected, and that other challenges to women be properly recognized and addressed. This is an area where Christians and Muslims should work together.

7. Religion is of the greatest importance in shaping a balanced human personality and directing it towards the highest values of honesty, virtue and God-consciousness. Participants see the need to increase awareness of religious values among both men and women, and to strengthen their commitment to the principles of faith. This will help to guarantee and safeguard women's dignity and enable them to fulfil their role within a healthy environment of virtue and trust.

By:

Prof. M. Borrman,
Rome, Italy.

SHERATON HONORS ITS EXCELLING STAFF

The Sheraton Sanaa Hotel has recently honored two of its outstanding staff members.

First, Mr. Sherif Hanafi, has been promoted from Front Office Manager to Director of Sales. Simultaneously, Mr. Hanafi continues to be in charge of the Front Office Department.

Second, Mr. Ali Kamal El-Din, the Assistant Food and Beverages Manager was given the Sheraton Presidential Award in recognition of his sincere efforts and dedication to his work in Sheraton Sanaa Hotel.

Both individuals have been with the Sheraton for quite a few years. Yemen Times says "Congratulations fellas!"



تهنئة من الأعماق

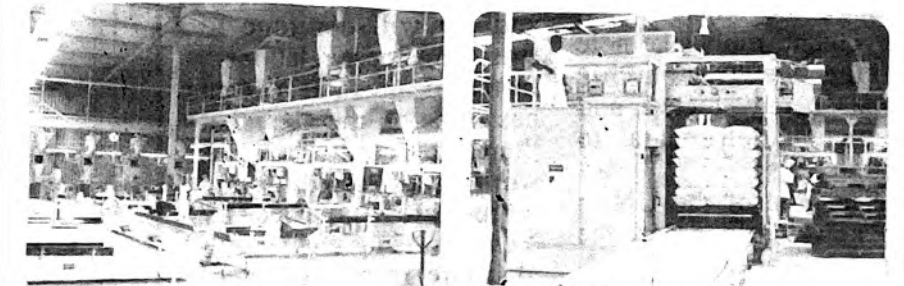
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صناعات: ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٣ تليكس: ٢٧٨٠ ناجيل يمن فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة: ت: ٣/٢٣٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان: ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

THE YEMENI- SAUDI TAYIF TREATY OF 1934, PART III

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

Article (8):

The two contracting high commissioners mutually pledge not to use force in solving any problems between them and to do their utmost effort to solve any current/future differences, including those that will arise from the interpretation and/or implementation of this treaty, and to tackle them through friendly dialogues. In case reconciliation by this method, is not achieved, the two kingdoms pledge to resort to arbitration which is clarified in the conditions stipulated in the supplement to this treaty.

This supplement has the same power, under the law, of the treaty and is considered an integral part of it.

Article (9):

The two contracting high commissioners pledge not to turn their countries into military bases and centers for any act of aggressions or launching ground of any party against the other country. They also pledge to act according to the following stipulations once approached, by a written

request from the other government::

a. If the perpetrator sought after is a citizen of the government approached to take action, he/she should be punished immediately by his/her government in a way that will deter any further aggression and based on legitimate investigations of the case.

b. If the perpetrator is a citizen of the government initiating the request, then he/she should be arrested at once and handed over to his/her government. The host government has no excuse for not carrying out the arrest order and it should take all steps to prevent his/her escape. If for whatever reason, such a person escapes, then the host government should pledge not to give him/her permission to return, and if he/she does, to arrest and hand his/her over to his/her government.

c. If the perpetrator belongs to a third government, he/she should be right away delivered to the government asking for his/her arrest the moment it receives the request of the other government.

Article (10):

The two contracting high commissioners pledge not to harbor fugitives fleeing from his/her state. This applies in all cases whether

a senior personality or a layman, official or non-official, individual or group. The host government shall take all measures, administrative, military or any other. Preventing entry of these fugitives from entering the boundary of the country is the responsibility of the host government. If any or all such fugitives should success in crossing into the border, then it is its duty to disarm and arrest them, and deliver them to their government. In case arrest was not possible, all means are to be taken for banishment of the fugitives from the territories of the country.

Article (11):

The two contracting high commissioners pledge to prevent individuals, workers, officials and anybody affiliated to it from entering in any way with the fugitive citizens of the other party and they pledge to take all measures to prevent any incidents that may lead to anxiety and/or misunderstanding on both sides.

Article (12):

The two contracting high commissioners acknowledge that the citizens residing in each region which had belonged to the other country prior to this treaty would now become citizens

to the other country. Each of them pledges not to accept any person or persons from among the citizens of the other country to become its citizens without the prior formal acceptance of the other country. They also pledge that the treatment of civilians of the two countries should proceed in regard with the local judicial rules in each country.

Article (13):

The two contracting high commissioners pledge to announce a general and all-encompassing amnesty for all the crimes and aggressive actions which were committed by an individual or individuals formerly nationals of the other country, and who became its own nationals. They also pledge a general comprehensive amnesty for its own citizens who sided with or joined in any from the other country. Such citizens are hereby absolved of any crimes or booty taken during the war, and that they should not be subjected to any proceeding, investigations or harm for having taking sides.

In case either side has any doubts of non-adherence to this pledge, they shall consult each other country through meetings of fully authorized delegates. Each side shall name a delegate.

The delegates shall enjoy full authority and shall have a complete desire and interest for peace and the faithful implementation of the treaty and the preservation of the rights of both sides. The decision by the two envoy delegates shall be binding.

Article (14):

The two contracting high commissioners pledge to return and deliver the properties of the citizens whose amnesty is granted to them or to their heirs when returning to their homes. Hence the two contracting high commissioners also pledge of not impounding any of the rights and properties which belong to the citizens of the other country without impeding its exploitation or any sort of legitimate use of it.

Article (15):

The two contracting high commissioners pledge not to get into enter-relations with a third party whether individual or group or government or to enter into an agreement on any issues disturbing the interest of the other country or to get into secret arrangements that will lead to problems or difficulties or that will jeopardize the benefits and interests of the other country or put it at risk.

Continues NEXT WEEK

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

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

AIRLINES

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

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Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372
Aden (0911)	
Movenpick	32911
Gold Mohur	32471
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	
239197	
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
COURIERS:	
Aramex	208887
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	207885
Skypack	77310

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Fire Brigade	191
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Electricity Problems	177
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Athawrah Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
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YBRD	271623/4
National Bank	53753
Banque Indosuez	272801/3
Arab Bank	2409211-29
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
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Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Inter-city Bus Co	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Tourism Ministry	271970/2
Insurance Companies:	
United Insurance	272890/91
Y.I. & Re-Insurance	73311
Marib Insurance	206112/14

ELECTIONS!

"No other way of ascending to power," once stated Jean Loban, a French politician. "A bad settlement is better than a good war."

Hence, today the citizens in our country believe that the parliamentary elections will be held under a very bad situation and environment characterized by indifference, irresponsibility, and economic depression.

All this is clear for spectators to witness, but the elections should proceed any way. The Supreme Elections Committee bears a historic responsibility to ensure successful and honest elections for the first time in our modern history. It is essential that all be convinced, including the political parties, that national consent as granted through free elections is the safest and most sound path to power.

Returning to dictatorial rule, a one-party system or a totalitarian system would become almost impossible, even if those dictators changed their shapes or colors. It would also be futile to try to swallow the small political parties.

A national coalition government would be acceptable to all the political parties, based on clear national priorities and values with a specified program for constructing a new Yemen.

Al-Thawri, Sanaa,
10/9/1992.

AL-BEEDH HAS NO CONDITIONS, BUT THERE ARE ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THE HOMELAND

In an interview Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Deputy General Secretary of the YSP, stated that Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and the General Secretary of the YSP, put no conditions for his return to Sana'a to carry out his duties as Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council.

"However, there are issues which concern the homeland which reflect the YSP desire that preparations for the general elections proceed honestly," he pointed out. These and other issues should be discussed urgently in the spirit of democratic dialogue. "It is possible to agree or disagree about many issues and points, but democracy requires the mutual respect even when we have differences." Mr. Salim also made clear

that Ali Salim Al-Beedh will return to Sana'a soon to resume all his formal tasks and duties, and denied rumors about the resignation of Al-Beedh.

As evidence he pointed to the meetings of the YSP Secretarial Bureau which have been tackling many issues related to the consolidation of democratic practice and the role of the party in this matter.

Regarding the outcome of the dialogue between the YSP and PGC concerning the possibilities of a unified list of candidates in the coming elections, Saleh stated that it was untrue. "Some people confuse coordination with merger. They don't understand that the YSP's stand is based on coordination, not only with the PGC, but with any other political party which has similar goals, views and approaches.

"Such coordination would help prevent the splitting of votes among parties with essentially the same philosophies and concerns. Such coordination doesn't mean creating unified lists," he added.

At the same time, the YSP refuses monopoly candidacy systems basically because it is unacceptable in a democracy. The people must be able to exercise their rights in the elections freely and honestly and should enjoy a range of options.

Finally Mr. Saleh added that there are major issues scheduled for discussion between the YSP and the PGC. He also pointed to a prolonged meeting held between Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Chairman of the Presidential Council, and senior members of the Political Bureau of the YSP. "We discussed the escalation of intimidation and violence which targetted senior YSP and other officials, as well as the progress of unification," he said. Mr. Saleh stressed that all those items were tackled in a responsible spirit.

Sawt Al-Ummal, Aden,
10/9/1992.

THE GOVERNMENT ULTIMATUM

The government's ten day ultimatum to the security bodies ended without any action concerning the issue of a security/safety breakthrough. Lately our citizens have become accustomed to living in a state of terror due to the spread of rumors and imminent danger.

To be sure, there are many issues which deserve the immediate attention of the security apparatus, and all of them are very thorny and complicated. For example, there is a problem regarding the implementation of the security plan and the current state of indifference and lawlessness. There is also the questions of who is in charge: the Presidential Council, the government, the Ministry of Interior, the PGC or the YSP.

Another problem is the repeated disappearance of the Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council from Sana'a. Are these disappearances an indication of internal party struggle, an attempt to gain political leverage or something else? And there is still the big question of elections. Will they proceed in a democratic way or will a single coalition poll front doom democracy and besiege the political parties?

Honestly speaking, the citizens are apprehensive and perceive the future with a lot of pessimism. Some people have concluded that there is no way to end the transitional period peacefully and democratically - without bloodshed and terror. Maybe it is time for the people to take their chance in granting the government a new opportunity and then to hold the government responsible to the people it is supposed to represent.

22 May, Aden,
9/9/1992.

THE BAD SECURITY CONDITIONS ARE FABRICATED BY FORCES WHICH DON'T WANT THE ELECTIONS

The security crisis of the country can be attributed to forces which aim to disrupt and impede the elections. The elections and the National Conference are two significant issues which might help Yemen avoid a catastrophe as conditions continue to deteriorate in light of the indifference and irresponsibility of the persons in power.

We should all avoid frictions, rumors and squabbles. The national conference aims to raise Yemen above its current situation by adopting a new spirit of coalition among the political parties and national leadership. It is an important opportunity to help our leadership broaden its horizons regarding the serious

possibilities in our future.

Dr. Hazim Shukri,
Al-Haq, Sanaa,
13/9/1992.

THE FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTION

The first general conference of the Veterans of the Yemeni Revolution of September/October is expected to be held at the end of September or the beginning of October, 1992. Sources from the Veterans' Society stated that the draft of the constitution of the society has been fully agreed upon and that it awaits endorsement in the conference. A number of branch executive committees have already been formed to organize the conference.

The necessary procedures must be finalized with the Ministry of Social Affairs to hold the conference, which is times to coincide with the celebrations of the anniversaries of the 26th September and 14th October Revolutions.

The Society of the Yemeni Veterans includes in its membership all the veterans of the revolution who defended the republican system in the North as well as those who fought bravely in the war of independence in the South.

Its membership also includes all the children of the revolution's martyrs and others who are willing to join the society and devote their activities to perpetuating awareness of the Revolution and its goals and significance in the historical transformation of Yemen. No member is allowed to direct the society's activity towards serving any particular political party. The society represents a forum for all Yemenis.

Raay, Sanaa,
8/9/1992.

THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE: TASKS AND ROLE?

Despite the difficulties and obstacles which faced the previous preparatory committee, it was undoubtedly considered a national accomplishment for keeping tenaciously focussed on the country's political future, both internally and abroad. In spite of the difficulties of preparation, nomination and disparate goals, the conference allows all the political parties, organizations, unions and syndicates to sit together at a round table for the first time. The conference is a national achievement for having brought together these groups and for aspiring to reach a national agreement which we still seek and endeavor urgently to attain. On the other hand, the conference is an opportunity for all those parties, unions and independent social and national personalities to voice their opinion credibly about the various complicated matters facing our country. In fact, the conference is in a critical situation, greatly complicated by a backlog of work, problems related to security, indifference, irresponsibility, a depressed economy and the visible corruption of financial and administrative bodies. The conference, is therefore, a suitable mechanism to help end the transitional period in a peaceful and democratic way.

We have no doubt at all of the efforts of all the patriots who will push the conference forward to achieve its goals and objectives. But time is short, and we should not waste such a historical moment over marginal and unimportant issues.

Al-Sabeen, Sanaa,
8/9/1992

Continued from page 2:

PERSONAL VIEW

As far as the rulers are concerned are concerned, of course there are two parties. With respect to those who came from Aden, especially Ali Salim Al-Beedh, I feel he sincerely wanted to practice democracy with the maximum level of tolerance. With respect to the rulers who are from Sanaa, they see the democratic process as a means to get rid of their opponents, first by creating subsidiary parties, and later by getting rid of the non-subservient elements and thus a return to their former dictatorial ways. In a way, the Sanaa segment of the leadership is taking note of the behavior of the various elements so as to make them accountable in the future. It has also exploited the present circumstances internally and externally to gain respect and legitimacy. Yet, even during this transitional period, our rulers have resorted to violence and physical liquidation of opponents. One can clearly see how irritated they become when faced with dissenting opinion. I wish they could see the real spirit of democracy and its potential.

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

LETTER FROM DUBAI

I am a British Muslim visiting Yemen who visits Yemen frequently. I have been pleasantly surprised on my last visit to discover the Yemen Times. I hope, Insha Allah, and I am told that the Yemen Times is going from strength to strength.

May I also add a word or two of caution regarding the use of terminology common in the Western press and media. Being a Westerner myself I am well-tuned to the use of loaded words as a tool in the art of influencing the thinking of the masses. I refer to the article entitled 'In-fighting in the Islah' in the 29th July - 4th August edition of the paper in which the Islah is identified as an Islamic 'fundamentalist' party.

Of course, the correct meaning of a fundamentalist is one who strues to put into practice the fundamental elements of a particular area of belief. In the case of Islam this means a Muslim who is endeavoring to lead his life according to the teaching of the Quran and the Sunnah of the prophet Muhammed, peace and blessings be upon him.

Unfortunately, the term fundamentalist is deliberately mis-used by the Western media to imply an individual or group which is extremist and intolerant, posing some sort of threat to ordered and established societies in the world. The term has been deliberately applied to Islam by the Western media on so many occasions that in the mind of the common man in Europe and America the word Islam has become synonymous with mindless violence, extremism and narrow minded bigotry.

Such concepts run contrary to the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah of Muhammed, peace and blessings be upon him.

By:
Mohammed Keenan,
Principal, Oxford School,
Dubai, U.A.E.

TURMOIL IN MUSLIM LANDS

The crisis menacing Somalia is yet another latest example of the disunity prevalent among Muslims. While the original objective of the recent struggle in Somalia may have been to eject the despotic rulers of that time, the cost of

achieving this objective in terms of human lives and property has been colossal. the extent of inhuman acts of violence, rape, murders and looting committed by the Muslims on fellow Muslims in immeasurable and unthinkable.

The struggle in Somalia degenerated into a factional and tribal conflict such that every tribe sought to assert its supremacy over the chastic nation seen from the Islamic perspective.

The crisis in Somalia has resulted in thousands of Muslims fleeing their home and country for safer havens. Here in Yemen we have thousands of Somali Muslim refugees whose plight is now known only too well. In this regard, the Yemeni government is highly commended for providing sanctuary to the refugees. Likewise, credit goes to the various organizations involved in aiding these refugees.

We have to ponder over the human and natural disasters and calamities that have engulfed the Muslims. Why is there turmoil in the Muslim lands? From Somalia, to Bosnia, to Nagorno-Karrabakh, to Palestine, to Lebanon, to the Gulf, to Afghanistan, to the Bangladeshi-Thai border, etc. Muslims are killed every day in large numbers in these once prosperous lands? Why is this happening, and who is behind it? How can we avert such tragedies?

The answers lie within the Muslim society. That is to say Muslims are suffering because they have abandoned the QURAN and the SUNNAH. Hence God's wrath in the form of natural and man-made calamities which have befallen on them.

The time is now to shell all these evils that erode the very fabric of our society and this can only be done by adhering to the Quran and the Sunnah of prophet Mohamed and through the cultivation of Islamic code of conduct.

By:
Jameel Abdalla Saeed,
Sana'a.

PROPER REMEDY

Dr. Ali Osman's unbiased article "Somalia: The unfolding of Tragedy" published in Yemen Times of 26th August, reflected not only the trivial clannish grievances that nearly for-

feited sovereignty of the country, but also it denounced Muslim states for their indifferent attitude towards the mass starvation in Somalia. With thousands of Somalis dying as a result of self-imposed starvation, it is a pity that affluent Muslim states are reluctant to help the living skeletons of what was once the people of Somalia. The journalistic epithet of the starving people replaced sending food and medicine.

Osman's suggestion that sufficient number of "blue helmets" be sent to Somalia is a powerful plea for UN intervention in Somalia. Undoubtedly, the deployment of U.N. peace keeping forces in Somalia will enable the needy civilians to get their share in the relief supplies that hither to ended up in the hands of armed looters.

By:
Liban A. Ahmad,
Sana'a.

OFFICIAL ROBBERY AT OUR SCHOOLS

I am writing to express my disgust and astonishment at the behavior of the principals of certain government schools. Right here in Sanaa, one can go to government schools and see that the school principals are busy collecting large amounts from the citizens who approach them to register/enroll their children.

The cost of living in our country is already very high, and the standard of living is deteriorating. People cannot afford to buy textbooks, school uniforms and other legitimate needs. Yet, now they have to satisfy the illegal demands of the school principals. If you don't pay, you can't get your children enrolled in the schools closest to you, or even at all. Thus, in many cases, families have to select which children to send to schools. Always the losers have been the girls. For God's sake this is wrong, and it has a harmful effect on our evolution.

Is the government so absent as to allow this lawlessness under its nose in the capital city? Will the poor who are deprived of basic services like education for their children remain quite forever? I think not. I call on the Ministry of Education to put an end to this ridiculous situation.

By:
Budoor Al-Mawiri,
Teacher, Sanaa.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE CREATES A PERMANENT BODY TO COORDINATE AMONG PARTICIPANTS

The National Conference (NC) concluded its sessions this morning, Wednesday, 16 September. During six days of deliberations (originally scheduled for four days only), participants from 18 political parties and 32 unions and associations discussed the current political conditions of the country, and the prospects of the future.

In the inauguration session, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Jafri, Chairman of Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen, gave a detailed background as to the purpose of the NC and the efforts in preparing for it. He warned that the country needs all the political forces to share thoughts as to the future of democracy in the country. "We are not in opposite camps. We are all interested in safeguarding our country and its achievements. But this cannot be done by excluding any person or group from participation."

The Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, a senior member of the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi Annasseri, spoke on behalf of the political parties. "The conference is the beginning of a major corrective effort in our country's evolution," he started. "The country is overwhelmed with inefficiency and corruption, and we cannot stand by and watch it deteriorate any further," he insisted.

Then speaking on behalf of the country's ulema (clergy), Qadhi Ahmed Ashami, Secretary-General of Hizbul Haq, addressed the conference. "Our leadership has proven, in its present structure, it is unable to lead the country. The sufferings and worries of the people increase day after day. This is unacceptable, and change is inevitable," he explained.



"We are like a seed planted underground. We shall not rot and succumb to pressures, we shall burst out like a useful plant."

Next to take the stand was Mr. Mohammed Al-Fusayyel, Member of the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress and Member of Parliament. "We do not ask this leadership to be clean, all at once, but we are asking it to kindly organize its own corruption. At least, if we know how they want to be bribed, and what price, then we can at least plan our work to interact accordingly," he said.

"The economic conditions of the country have seen deep dives and the people are paying a high price for economic mismanagement and depression."

Dr. Raoofah Hassan then spoke on behalf of the women of Yemen. "Whenever there are difficulties, the female sector is the first to be victimized," she said. Therefore, it is in our interest to make sure that the current difficulties are alleviated. "I would also urge all the forces in our society to participate in this conference in order that together we shall evolve a solution to our endless problems and piling difficulties."

The NC has come to an end with a press conference in which the results of the meetings were shared with the public.

The Conferees have agreed to create a permanent committee (secretariat) to coordinate their work, and to serve as a block in their dealings with the parties in power.

Yemen Times will publish next week the full text of the conference results and other pertinent documents.

41st Swearing of Peace Corps Volunteers

This evening at the American Embassy compound, officials, friends and spectators will observe the 41st Swearing-in ceremony of 23 American Peace Corps volunteers. According to Cecilia Hitte, the Peace Corps Director, the group is going to join many organizations in Sanaa, Aden, and numerous locations in the countryside. She added that the volunteers include nurses, lab technicians, management experts, English teachers, curriculum specialists, etc. It is worth mentioning that the Peace Corps annually bring to Yemen around two dozen volunteers for a two-year term. These have been very effective in helping Yemenis in various fields, especially in health and education.

The Netherlands Gives More Help to the Returnees and Refugees

According to Mr. Alexander Bartelink, First Secretary at the Netherlands Embassy in Sanaa, his government has just decided to donate an additional 4.2 million guilders to finance the drilling and network of a drinking water system in Zungubar in Abyan governorate. Mr. Bartelink also indicated that another 4 million guilders has been donated to finance health projects in the same area.

The area is the site of the new camp for refugees, as well as a collection point for returnees.

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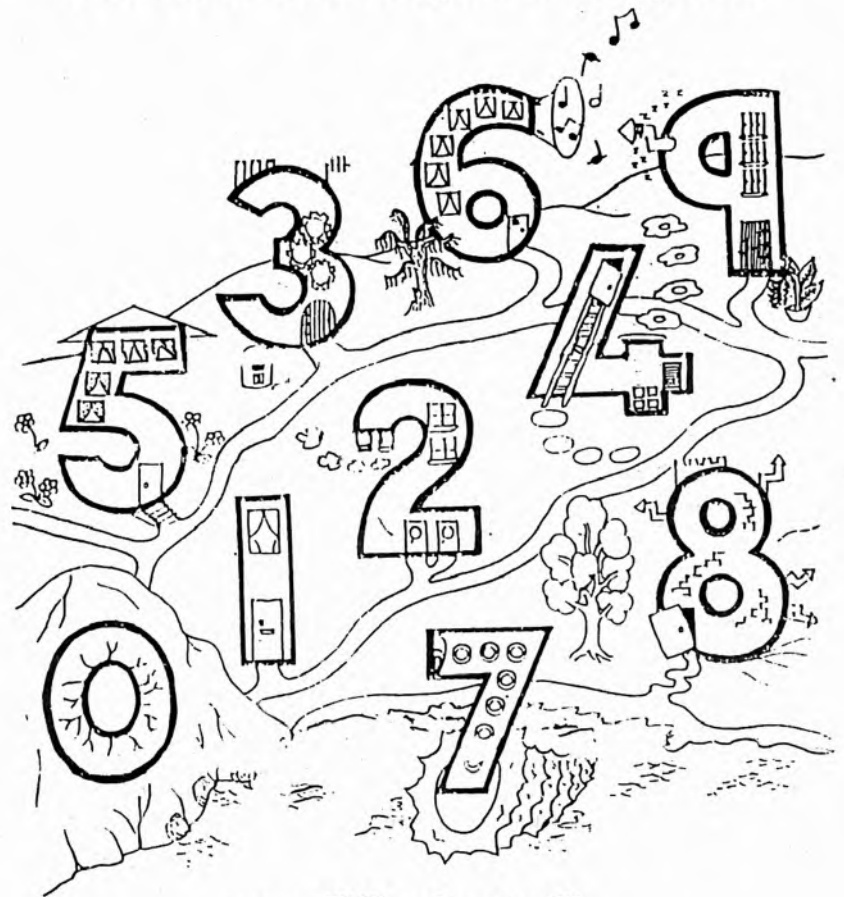
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LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

AL-AHLI: Yemen's 1992 Soccer League Champion

The Al Ahli team of Sanaa officially became the champ of the Republic for the 1991/92 soccer season. It gained the title of the national soccer league following a victory over Zohra 2-1.

By half-time in the match, Al Ahli was leading 1-0 thanks to a header from its veteran player Yahia Ja'ara. Earlier, Al-Ahli had played a fierce game with Hassan, which one of the fans described as a real battle. Hassan performed very well. Its players, however, missed several chances. At the end, Al Ahli beat Hassan 2-1.

This year, Al Ahli had in mind only one thing - how to score goals that will lead them to the title and the cup. Last week's final game with Zohra was a successful completion to a streak of wins that put Al-Ahli at the top.

Issam Draiban, unblocked the 1-1 tie with a stormy kick that was the 'golden goal' and gave a 2-1 lead to his team. Thus the Al Ahli became the champ of soccer in 1992.

Youth Minister Honors Four Medalists

Dr. Mohammed Al-Kabab, Minister of Youth and Sports, received the Yemeni four silver medalists who returned from Cairo two weeks ago following their participation in the table tennis tournament. The four are the trio sisters Lina, Luai and Lisa Sabri and Ahmad Al-Imad. The minister congratulated them on their excellent performance and encouraged them to continue their training. He also promised government support and assistance in their efforts.

Yemen Times had cried foul on the lack of interest on the government's part in the accomplishments of the young sports achievers. That was in a front page story it carried last week. Yemen Times was phoned by a senior official to point to the government action in response to the Yemen Times article.

We thank them for that.

Best Soccer League Bombers

The last matches of the Yemeni soccer league witnessed an exchange in the

positions of the best bombers in the league. Sharaff Mahfood still stands on top of the list with 28 goals. However, Mohamed Hassan Abu Alaa of Shu'la, came out of nowhere to occupy the second place. He scored an unbelievable 5 goals in his team's last match to collect a total of 26 goals in total. At the 3rd place is Abdulla Al-Sana'ani with 21 goals. His team-mate in Al-Ahli Issam Draiban scored 18 goals and thus ranks 4th in the last of best bombers.

Egyptian Team Favorite for Soccer Title in PAG

Six teams are taking part in the soccer tournament of the PAG. Egypt's powerful team is grouped with Jordan and Kuwait in Group B. In group A are Syria, Saudi Arabia and Palestine. The matches were played as follows:

On Sept. 4: Syria versus Palestine

On Sept. 8: Egypt versus Jordan

On Sept 9: Palestine versus Saudi Arabia

On Sept. 10: Jordan versus Kuwait

On Sept. 11: Syria versus

Saudi Arabia

On Sept. 12: Egypt versus Kuwait

On Sept. 14: 1st winner in Group A versus 2nd winner in Group B

On Sept. 15: 1st winner in Group B vs 2nd winner in Group A.

In the next few days, the final matches will be played according to the following schedule:

On Sept. 17: Match for 3rd and 4th places, and

on Sept. 18: The Final Match will be played.

Sports commentators say that the Egyptian team in Group B is the strongest contender for the title.

Incidentally, Iraq, which is not participating in the current games, was the winner of the soccer tournament of the 6th PAG in Morocco 1985.

At another level, some 3000 athletes from 19 Arab countries have participated in the PAG games which began in Damascus on September 4th. Hundreds of thousands of fans rooted for the players.

As the games reach their conclusion, the over-worked Syrian security personnel are finally taking a deep sigh of relief and thanking God that nothing major had gone wrong.

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- * Candidates should be experienced in the use of Lotus and Word Perfect.
- * Yemeni nationals are given first preference.
- * Salary will be commensurate with merits of the candidates.

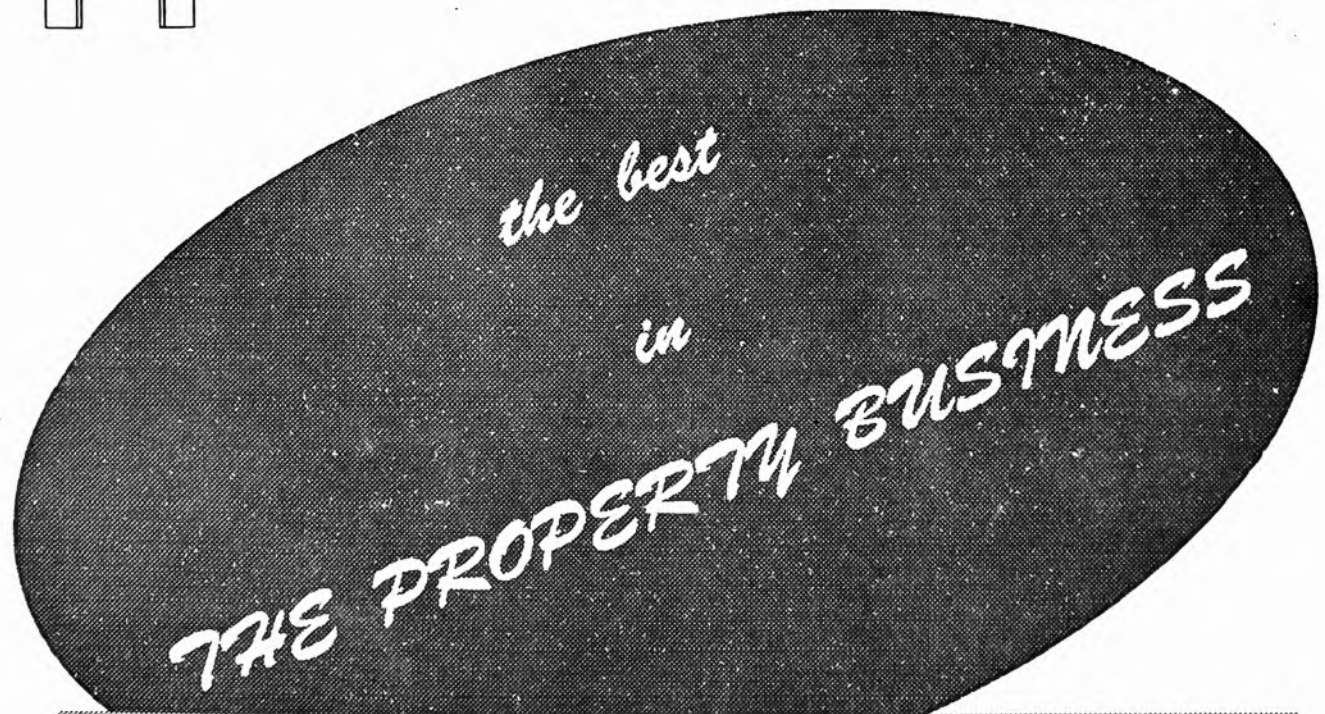
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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Une rupture entre les partis dirigeants et leurs alliés plus ou moins déclarés et un groupe d'opposition varié

Deux conférences nationales concurrentes pour préparer les élections

Ce qui sera peut être le paysage politique du Yémen après les élections législatives, qui doivent être tenues avant le 22 novembre, se dessine de plus en plus clairement mais à l'occasion d'une "guerre de conférences nationales" et non sur les grands sujets qui pourraient intéresser les Yéménites. La semaine qui vient de s'achever a vu les alliances tacites ou déclarées se confirmer et les partis entrer précipitamment en campagne électorale de manière anticipée. L'opposition et les indépendants, après avoir longtemps hésité, ont décidé de finalement tenir cette conférence nationale sur la préparation des élections, envisagée depuis le début de l'année. Au même moment, les deux grands partis au pouvoir, CPG et PSY, et leurs principaux alliés de fait ou déclarés - les islamistes d'Al-Islah et les Baasistes pro-irakiens - ont décidé de boycotter cette conférence et de tenir la leur, non sans avoir tenté une dernière fois de convaincre les autres de s'y rallier. La rupture entre les deux conférences est désormais consommée et l'on peut voir, dans ces deux groupes, l'ébauche de ce qui pourrait être la future majorité et la future opposition, à tout le moins l'ordre dans lequel ces partis iront aux élections. Tout en considérant que la politique yéménite est trop aléatoire pour affirmer que cela ne changera pas au dernier moment...

"Nous appelons toutes les forces politiques à assumer leurs responsabilités en optant pour un consensus national". Trop tard. Ce dernier appel à la raison a fait l'effet d'un coup d'épée dans l'eau et ceux qui l'ont lancé ne peuvent en vouloir qu'à eux-mêmes. Car jeudi dernier 10 septembre, cette demande pressante du Haut Conseil de Coordination entre les Organisations Populaires, créé "à la hussarde" il y a dix jours pour recoller les pots cassés, n'a pu empêcher la tenue, du 12 au 16 septembre à Sanaa, par les formations d'opposition de gauche et indépendantes de "leur" Conférence nationale; objectif: établir un "Pacte d'honneur" entre tous les partis de ce pays en vue de préparer les élections et pour prendre acte des résultats quels qu'ils soient. Les deux partis au pouvoir et leurs principaux alliés se sont toujours opposés à cette conférence dans ces formes et ont multiplié les tentatives pour y substituer un congrès national à leur goût. Du coup, ils ont décidé de la boycotter et de maintenir "leur" Congrès des partis et Organisations Populaires dont la date n'a pas été fixée.

Mais pour bien comprendre ce qui a conduit à cette rupture,

somme toute annoncée, il convient de remonter un peu dans le temps. Au début de cette année 1992 précisément, au moment de l'annulation des élections législatives algériennes, qui a eu un très fort retentissement dans la presse yéménite et dans la population. Avant que le parlement ne se prononce sur la loi électorale donc, la peur du "syndrome algérien" a fait germer dans l'esprit des dirigeants de l'opposition l'idée d'une conférence nationale qui réunirait toutes les formations politiques en vue d'adopter un "code de conduite", inscrit noir sur blanc, valable avant les élections et surtout après, quels que soient les résultats. L'idée était, il est vrai, de se prémunir contre la puissance des "deux grands" qui ont encore la mainmise sur les armées respectives des anciens Yémen du nord et du sud.

Des stratagèmes pour repousser l'échéance

Des "deux grands", seul le Parti Socialiste Yéménite en avait alors accepté l'idée, puis s'était rétracté dès lors qu'il s'était aperçu que son "allié" au gouvernement, le Congrès Général Populaire, ne se prononçait pas. Depuis, le gouvernement a usé savamment

de nombreux stratagèmes pour repousser la tenue de cette conférence nationale: les partis dirigeants et leurs alliés ont demandé plusieurs fois d'en remettre la date, pour des raisons diverses; ils ont exigé qu'elle change de nom; que sa commission préparatoire soit "plus représentative", etc. Il semblerait que les promoteurs de cette conférence aient alors cédé sur la plupart des exigences, en vain. Ils ont donc décidé de la tenir coûte que coûte dès samedi 12 septembre.

Entre-temps, pris de vitesse, les deux partis dirigeants et ceux qui n'ont jamais accepté l'idée de cette conférence, ont créé ce Haut Conseil de coordination entre les Organisations Populaires en vue de ramener les petits partis à plus de raison, nous l'avons vu. En vain. Ils ont donc ensuite pris l'option - non confirmée depuis - de tenir leur propre conférence, qui sera conduite par le jeune député et président du Parti Républicain, Mohamed Ali Abou al-Louhoum et regroupant, outre le CPG et le PSY, le Rassemblement Yéménite pour la Réforme (parti islamiste Al-Islah du Cheikh al-Ahmar), les Baasistes pro-irakiens du Cheikh Abou Chawareb, quelques formations nassériennes et d'autres petits partis.

Une crise qui peut en cacher une autre...

Lors de la séance d'ouverture de la Conférence Nationale des partis d'opposition, samedi 12 au Centre Culturel Yéménite, il y avait du monde pour entendre les participants critiquer fortement la situation actuelle à la tête du pays (les trois principales figures sont Omar al-Gaoui, leader du parti de centre gauche Tajammu, à l'origine de l'idée de conférence nationale, le docteur Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf, représentant les indépendants et Mohamed Rahman al-Jiffri, président du parti de la Ligue des Fils du Yémen, organisation islamiste progressiste, qui préside la conférence): la crise actuelle qui oppose le Président Saleh au Vice-Président al-Beid, qui continue de bouder le Conseil Présidentiel depuis sa retraite dans le sud, cache en fait une crise latente qui pourrait déboucher sur un affrontement, avant ou après les élections, entre ces deux formations qui contrôlent encore chacune une partie de l'armée, non réunifiée. Selon les participants à la conférence, cette crise ne provient pas de divergences sur la politique future ou sur des sujets essentiels pour le pays (les protagonistes se seraient empressés de les faire connaître pour mettre en lumière leurs soucis respectifs de la bonne marche du

pays), mais plutôt d'une querelle entre personnes, ou, pire, entre les deux partis, dans la lutte pour le pouvoir, et qui pourrait dégénérer au détriment de la population.

En dehors de ces critiques, les participants à la Conférence nationale sont venus avec des propositions concrètes, provenant de toutes les parties. Les séances de travail se sont prolongées jusqu'à aujourd'hui mercredi. Nous les détaillerons dans le prochain numéro.

Un prélude aux futures stratégies électorales ?

Qu'en est-il de la situation politique aujourd'hui, après ces dernières évolutions et peu de temps avant des élections dont on ne sait toujours ni quand ni comment elles auront lieu ? Cette "guerre des deux conférences" peut-être considérée comme un prélude à l'ordre de bataille que suivront les organisations politiques lors de la confrontation électorale puisqu'elle sépare en deux camps des partis qui ont déjà formé entre eux des alliances de fait - tacites ou déclarées. Le "Congrès des Partis et Organisations Populaires" regroupe en effet, nous l'avons vu, des partis "alliés". Le Baas et l'Islah ont conclu récemment une alliance contre nature (parti laïc et parti confessionnel) en créant un Comité de Coordination, scellant ainsi l'axe tribal de ce regroupement (les Cheikhs al-Ahmar et Abou Chawareb appartiennent à la Confédération Hached, le premier est le beau-père du second); le même Baas s'est rapproché tacitement du PSY et les deux partis ne sont plus ennemis; le CPG et le PSY, malgré des querelles de personnes, sont tenus par une alliance contrainte de fait, au sein du gouvernement, et des rumeurs d'alliance écrite, voire de fusion (!) circulent; d'autre part, il est difficile d'imaginer un clash entre le parti du président Saleh et l'Islah (bien sûr, une alliance déclarée serait difficilement justifiable pour les élections dans la mesure où l'Islah a appelé à voter contre la constitution lors du référendum); enfin, on parle régulièrement de contacts entre le PSY et le parti du Cheikh al-Ahmar.

Ainsi, s'il est à-priori aisé de tirer des conclusions à partir de la situation actuelle sur ce que pourraient être la majorité et l'opposition de demain, de tels édifices, qui reposent sur des liens tribaux, religieux et politiques peuvent s'écrouler au dernier moment. La "guerre des conférences" ne fait qu'ouvrir la campagne électorale...

Emmanuel GIROUD

Présentation d'un film de Philippe Fabry, le 23 septembre

L'Indus à Sanaa

Parti de Cannes, il y a deux ans, sur son voilier de 12 mètres 60, Philippe a bourlingué depuis dans la Méditerranée; il s'est engagé dans la Mer Rouge et a accosté au Soudan. Récemment, il a mouillé à Hodeidah, étape technique logique pour le voyageur, le temps de faire une intrusion dans l'arrière pays yéménite et de rencontrer ses habitants, qui lui rappellent ceux des montagnes de l'Afghanistan.

Pourquoi le bateau ? Le bateau est pour Philippe Fabry une suite logique de ce qu'il a vécu ces vingt dernières années. Il a voyagé en Afrique, une dizaine d'années en Asie, avec, de temps en temps, des arrêts de quelques mois, rarement des années (sauf au Pakistan qu'il connaît très bien, pour travailler dans certains pays. Mais toujours le voyage... et les mêmes problèmes: où manger, où dormir, comment se déplacer ? Il a eu le sentiment qu'avec le bateau, il pourrait les résoudre... C'est le moyen de s'affranchir de toutes ces contraintes, qui finissent par être très routinières, qu'on soit en Chine, en Amérique du sud ou au Yémen... "D'autres con-

traintes apparaissent certes, mais elles ont le mérite d'être nouvelles", dit-il.

Enfin, le rythme du voyage qu'a entrepris Philippe est lent. Finis les chocs culturels du trajet en avion, qui, selon lui, "détruit une partie de la progression dans la compréhension des gens de chaque pays; on est encore là d'où l'on vient et l'on n'est pas encore là où on est arrivé".

La zone qu'affectionne Philippe Fabry est celle du sous-continent indien où il a passé ces sept dernières années.

Philippe Fabry est également l'auteur d'un film qu'il a tourné, avec Patrick Moreau, cinéaste de "Connaissances du Monde", intitulé "Indus", dont a été tiré un livre. Il s'agissait surtout d'un prétexte pour faire des images sur le Pakistan, car que serait le Pakistan sans l'Indus ?

Le Centre Culturel Français de Sanaa vous propose de découvrir cette région du monde le mercredi 23 septembre à 20h00, dans la salle située à l'étage du supermarché "City End", près de l'hôtel Ramada Haddah, grâce à un commentaire de son film en direct, en Français, par Philippe Fa-

bry, qui revient à Sanaa pour l'occasion. Les invitations, gratuites, sont à retirer au Centre Culturel Français de Sanaa (Tél: 271 666), ou le soir même, avant la projection.

L'Indus, du Tibet à l'Océan Indien, un film de Philippe Fabry et Patrick Moreau. "Une extraordinaire expédition de quelques milliers de kilomètres dans le creuset méconnu de plusieurs civilisations. A cheval en Asie centrale sur les traces de Marco Polo ou à bord des bateaux antiques des Mohanas, fiers héritiers de la tradition de batellerie sur le bas Indus... Découverte de l'art du Gandhara, conséquence inattendue de l'occupation hellénique: Bouddha, jamais représenté auparavant, l'est selon les critères esthétiques grecs. Visite du Kafiristan, le pays des infidèles, descendants des troupes d'Alexandre le Grand. Les avalanches sur la Karakorum Highway, route époustouflante qui coupe les Himalayas, du Pakistan jusqu'en Chine, Tarbella, le plus grand barrage du monde construit avec un remblai de terre", etc. Autant de merveilles à découvrir avec ce film.

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Trente ans après la Révolution, le Yémen vu par un Yéménite

Par
Mohamed Ibrahim,
Professeur
au département
de Français
de l'Université de Sanaa.

Le 26 septembre 1962, c'est l'annonce de la victoire de la Révolution contre l'Imam. C'est également la naissance de la République Arabe du Yémen. Cet événement a créé un bouleversement total dans le régime colonial d'Aden, régime existant dans le sud du Yémen depuis 1829. Un an après seulement, la lutte commençait contre les colonisateurs. Elle était acharnée et le peuple y a massivement participé.

Qu'en est-il respectivement trente et vingt-huit années après ces deux révolutions, celle de septembre et celle d'octobre ? Les deux régimes, séparés puis réunis en un seul, ont-ils réussi à modifier les conditions économiques et sociales ?

La réponse est oui. Un exemple frappant de cette réussite réside dans les transports. Le réseau routier était inexistant, il est bon aujourd'hui entre les grandes agglomérations. Le médecin

français Claudie Fayen nous a dit qu'elle avait mis deux jours pour aller de Taëz à Hodeidah; quelques heures suffissent aujourd'hui. Formidable, n'est-ce pas ? En tout cas en ce qui concerne les liaisons entre les grandes villes.

Car les rues dans ces mêmes villes sont loin d'être dans un état satisfaisant. Toutes ne sont pas pavées ou asphaltées. Franchement, il y a une négligence considérable dans ce domaine. Il serait également souhaitable que les gouvernorats prennent l'initiative de restaurer une certaine propreté dans les villes qui dépendent d'eux.

Il est vrai que le Yémen attire de plus en plus de touristes du monde entier, surtout depuis l'unification. C'est peut-être aussi parce que le Yémen a choisi publiquement la voie du pluralisme et de la démocratisation. Cette démocratie qui avance donne une certaine stabilité au pays.

Cette stabilité précoce pour une démocratie naissante et cette franchise inattendue dans sa pratique se manifeste particulièrement au sein dans le travail du parlement, sorte d'émanation, pour la période transitoire, des deux principales forces dirigeantes du pays, les

deux anciens partis uniques au pouvoir dans le sud et le nord d'avant l'unification, auxquels s'ajoutent quelques membres d'autres partis. C'est un amalgame, sans grande opposition.

Peut-on se contenter de la situation actuelle à deux ans et demi de la réunification et à trente ans de la Révolution mère ? Si de simples paroles ne suffisent pas à améliorer une situation économique et sociale, que peut-on faire ? Gouverner un pays n'est pas une affaire simple. Le gouvernement doit d'abord établir la justice sociale et établir les conditions d'un développement économique. Puis investir les richesses du pays dans des domaines rentables pour redistribuer selon les intérêts du peuple.

Le peuple yéménite, croyez-moi, ne veut pas seulement manger, mais aussi vivre honorablement. Quand le vrai développement et la vraie justice sociale pourront-ils voir le jour, malgré les efforts déjà fournis ? Seulement quand il y aura une opposition politique au vrai sens du terme. Tout est possible si l'on a fortement envie de changer ses habitudes, c'est inévitable.

Le développement du Yémen a été retardé de plusieurs siècles

dans son développement avant la révolution. Pourquoi ne se lança-t-il pas résolument et à fond dans un authentique effort de développement et de justice sociale dès l'annonce de la création de la République du Yémen, le 30 novembre 1990 ?

Le mois de novembre prochain est signe d'espoir. Les Yéménites vont exercer leur droit de vote pour la deuxième fois depuis l'unification, après le référendum qui permit d'approuver la nouvelle constitution il y a un peu plus d'un an. Ce sera la première fois qu'un parlement sera élu démocratiquement ici. Les Yéménites vont participer massivement à ces élections législatives, cela ne fait aucun doute. Ils observent patiemment les jours qui viennent. La démocratie complètement accomplie est la seule voie pour sortir le pays de l'impasse et calmer les esprits.

Nous estimons que les élections se dérouleront dans de bonnes conditions de sécurité et sans ambiguïtés ni démagogie. Peut-on espérer que la fin de la période transitoire verra naître le développement et la justice sociale, compléments essentiels, vitaux, de la démocratisation ?

LE GOLFE EN BREF

Le nombre des sorties aériennes des alliés pourrait être réduite dans le sud de l'Irak. - Le nombre quotidien des patrouilles aériennes alliées dans le sud de l'Irak, qui a déjà diminué de moitié depuis la mise en place de la zone d'exclusion aérienne par les Etats-Unis, la Grande-Bretagne et la France, pourrait être encore réduit si Bagdad continue de n'opposer aucune réaction à ces missions de surveillance. C'est ce qu'a déclaré le général Michael Nelson, commandant des forces américaines dans le sud-ouest asiatique. Le nombre des sorties effectuées par l'aviation américaine, britannique et française étaient de plus de 100 par jour au début de la mission, il n'est plus que de 40 à 60, selon le général Nelson. De son côté, Bagdad affirme avoir enregistré 708 vols en une semaine, entre le 3 et le 11 septembre, dans les deux zones d'exclusions, celle au nord du 32ème parallèle, celle au sud du 36ème parallèle.

Le Premier Ministre koweïtien favorable à une présence militaire occidentale "à long terme" dans le Golfe. - Le prince héritier et Premier Ministre du Koweït, Cheikh Saad al-Abdallah al-Sabah, s'est déclaré favorable à une présence militaire occidentale "à long terme" dans le Golfe et a réitéré le soutien de son pays à la zone d'exclusion dans le sud de l'Irak, dans une interview à l'hebdomadaire *Newsweek*. Depuis la fin de la guerre du Golfe, le Koweït a signé des accords de défense avec les Etats-Unis, la France et la Grande-Bretagne. Le prince héritier a, par ailleurs, affirmé que son gouvernement "continuera à soutenir le peuple palestinien, mais pas l'OLP", accusée d'avoir soutenu l'Irak, pendant la crise du Golfe.

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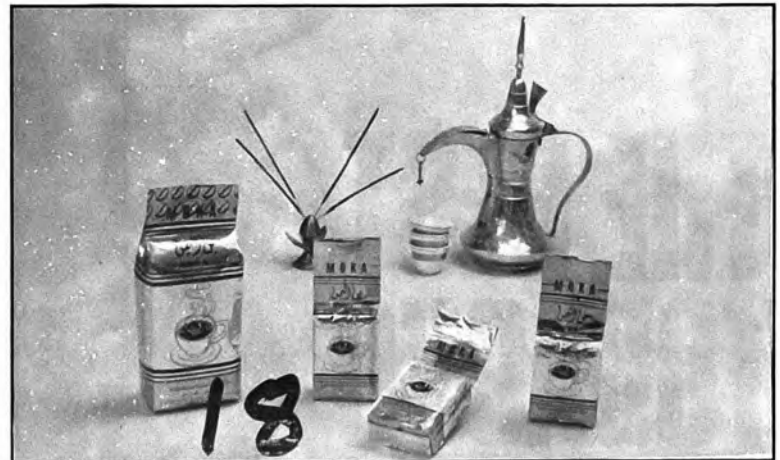
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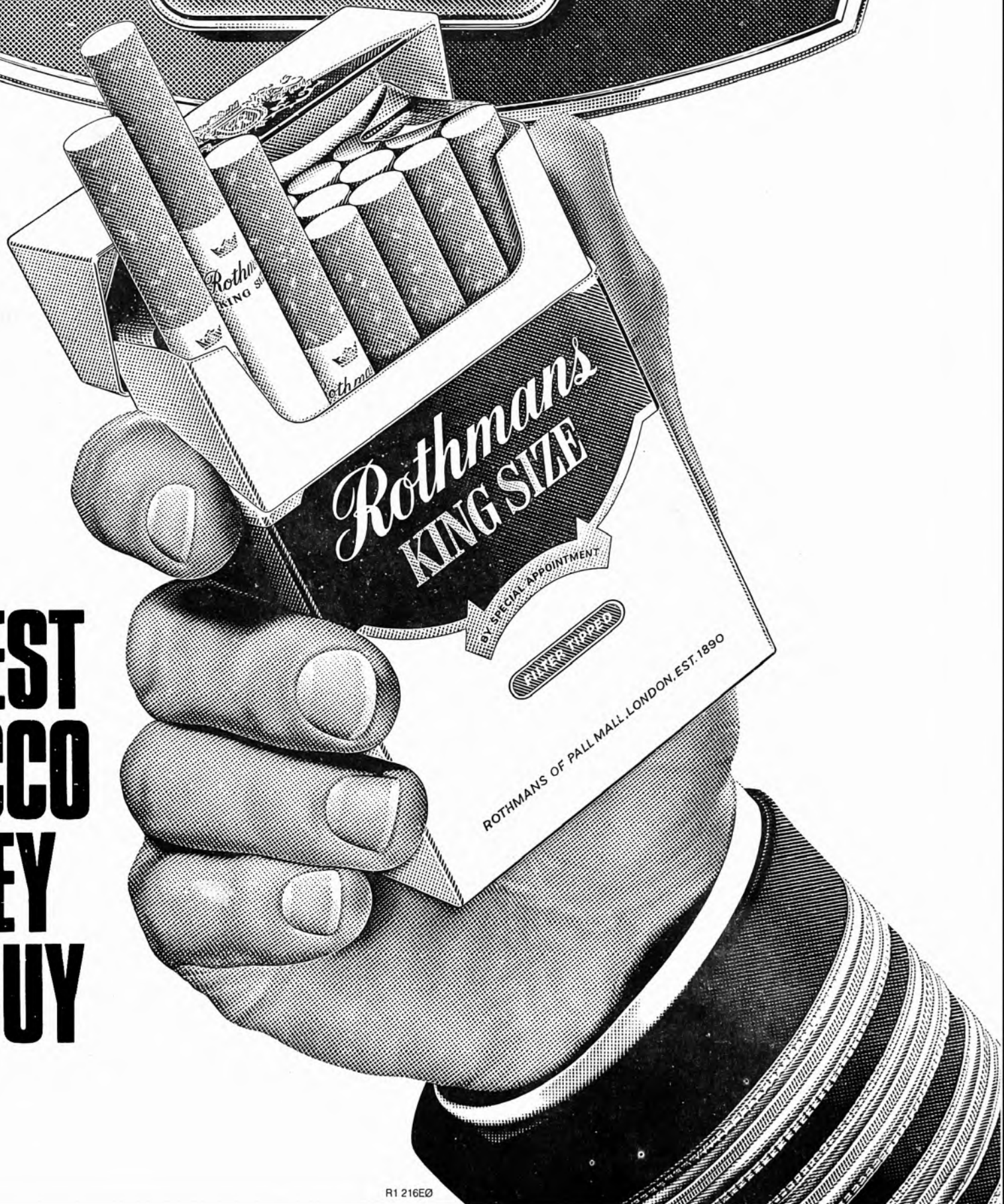
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THE VIDEO MOVIES SYNDROME IN THE YEMENI HOME

By: Farah Bashir G. Askar, Sanaa.



There are more than forty video shops and centers in Sana'a alone, according to the Ministry of Information records. A survey of these shops indicates that each one contains some 15,000-20,000 cassettes of Arabic, foreign (mostly American), Indian, and animated films. Each cassette has 6-15 duplicates, depending on the film's popularity. There are no video recorders in Yemen with the capacity for high-speed dubbing of films. Therefore, each shop or center has a "lab" for recording. The end result is a poor copy, which further deteriorates with use. It also means that each video shop or center has to purchase large numbers of video machines, sometimes as many as fifty, for this purpose. There are three parts to each video center. There is the showroom in which all the films are stalked. Three to four video machines are available for a quick display of the contents of the films customers would like to borrow. The second part is the lab room. This is an inside room to which access by visitors is limited. Finally, there is the management side of the business.

Starting a video center requires a substantial capital. The minimum is around one million Yemen Riyals. In addition, each center employs 3-6 persons, most of them very well versed in the popular movies. In many cases, the owner is a single person, but there are cases of joint ownership.

The cost to the customers? Most centers ask for a YR. 200 deposit as a security and YR. 300 as a monthly subscription fee. Subscribers are entitled to borrow 35 cassettes. The overnight rental fee is YR 15 per cassette. The cost to actually buy a cassette is about YR. 150.

According to our estimates, nearly 18000 cassettes are lent-out each day in Sanaa alone. This translates into almost 30,000-40,000 hours of watching video movies. Most families watch one film per day, although there are those who would watch four or even more films per day. According to educationists, due to the absence of other forms of entertainment, videos have become a major alternative. But this has also become an expensive past-time as the daily rental quickly adds up. On average, one can conclude that the Yemeni family spends some three to four hours watching videos every day. Women watch mainly Arabic movies while men prefer American films, and the younger folks go for Indian films. The most popular movies are American and old Arabic movies. There are card catalogues and albums classified in four or five ways for the easy reference of the prospective borrowers. There are also huge posters that attract the attention of the customers. In many cases, the client would ask for the opinion of the vendor as to which films he/she should borrow.

There are three groups of movies - Arabic, American and Indian which sell like hot cake. Copyrights - the word is almost unknown. Most video shops freely copy from other cassettes or from the programs being aired. Technically, the video shops can register the films they officially obtained and ask the other video places to purchase a copy for rental purposes. It does not happen like that, and it is a free for all market. That is why one can borrow a very bad copy which irritates rather than entertain. Most video shops replace bad copies with new recordings only once they are alerted by their customers.

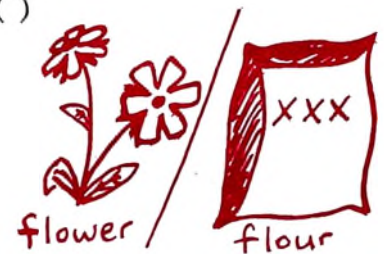
The phenomenon of the proliferation of video centers in Sana'a and other big cities raises cultural, psychological and social issues. The social and cultural implications of this phenomenon on the Yemeni society is long-lasting. "We should address this issue in a serious and thorough way," urged a psychology professor at Sanaa University. We will have to wait a few years to see the impact of this phenomenon on Yemenis.

HOMONYMS

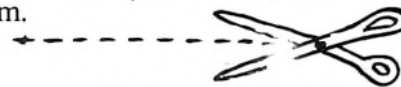
English Lesson # 10

PRETEST: Choose the correct word in parenthesis. ()

- I need (flower, flour) to make a cake.
- Watch out for that (hole, whole) in the road.
- I would like to go (to, too, two).
- He lives by the (see, sea) in Hodeidah.
- I have the (least, leased) amount of work to do.
- Her (sun, son) lives in America.
- I need to (by, bye, buy) some milk.
- The doctor has many (patients, patience) waiting to see him.
- There are so many (poor, pour) people in Somalia.
- I (past, passed) my history exam yesterday.



LESSON: Homonyms (pronounced haw-mo-nims) are words which sound the same, but have different meanings and spellings. (remember the lesson comparing "their/there/they're, your/you're, and its/it's"). Homonyms are just one reason why spelling in English is such a problem.



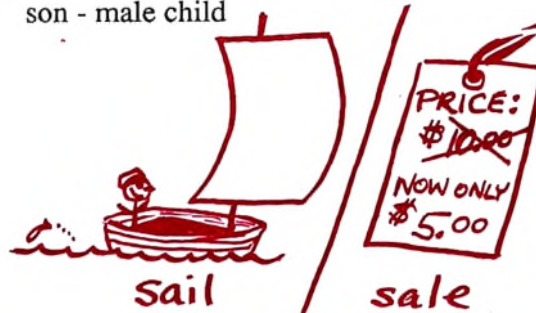
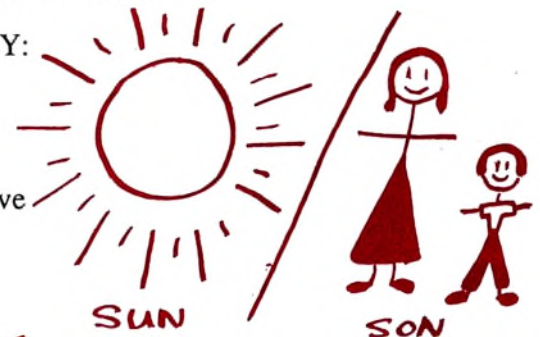
Note: You may want to cut this lesson out of the paper and keep it for a quick look, in case you need it later.

EXAMPLES: Here are some of the homonyms which are most often confused and spelled incorrectly. They are used in sentences to help you understand the meaning.

- Where are you going? (place)
What am I going to wear today? (put on, as in clothes)
- I have two brothers. (number)
I want to go, too. (also) OR, I have too many things to do. (more than)
I must go to the store now. (preposition)
- The weather in Sanaa is wonderful. (rain, sunshine, cloudy, hot, etc.)
I don't know whether I should go to school today or not. (if)
- I can't hear you, speak louder. (you hear with your ears)
Put the box here, not there. (a place)
- I would like a piece of cake. (part of)
We should all pray for peace in Bosnia. (the opposite of war)
- My brother wants to buy a car. (purchase)
Bye, nice seeing you again. (short for 'goodbye')
That rich man walked right by that beggar. (preposition, next to)
- All the students passed their exams. (the opposite of failed) OR, She walked right passed me without saying 'hello'.
The unification of Yemen happened in the past. (before, opposite of future)
- I should write a letter to my sister. (as in read and write)
I don't think the answer is right. (correct) OR, Take a right at the corner. (direction)
- Good people do not lie, cheat, or steal. (take something that is not yours)
Those shelves are made of steel. (metal)
- The hospital has many patients. (sick people)
Teachers should have a lot of patience. (understanding, calmness)
- They went through the door. (preposition) OR, Are you through yet? (finished)
He threw a stone at the dog. (past tense of throw, to toss)

HERE ARE MORE, DEFINED QUICKLY:

- hour - time
our - possessive
- stationery - paper for writing letters
stationary - stays in one place, can't move
- whole - entire thing, all of
hole - space with nothing in it
- sun - heats the earth, in the sky
son - male child
- plane - short for airplane, flies in the sky
plain - simple, not fancy
- road - street
rode - past tense of ride
- least - the smallest amount
leased - past tense of lease, to rent



POSTTEST: Choose the correct word in parenthesis.

- I want to (sail, sale) on a boat to Kenya.
- Tell me the (tale, tail) of Ali Babba.
- The bells (tolled, told) during the wedding.
- She has lost a lot of (wait, weight).
- My flowers are starting to (die, dye).
- I bought this dress on (sail, sale).
- Look at the (tale, tail) on that cat!
- I (tolled, told) you not to do that.
- (Wait, Weight) for me, I want to go.
- I want to (die, dye) my hair red.

Answers: Pretest: 1. flour 2. hole 3. too 4. sea 5. least 6. son 7. buy 8. patients 9. poor 10. passed. Posttest: 1. sail 2. tail 3. tale 4. weight 5. die 6. sale 7. tail 8. told 9. wait 10. dye.

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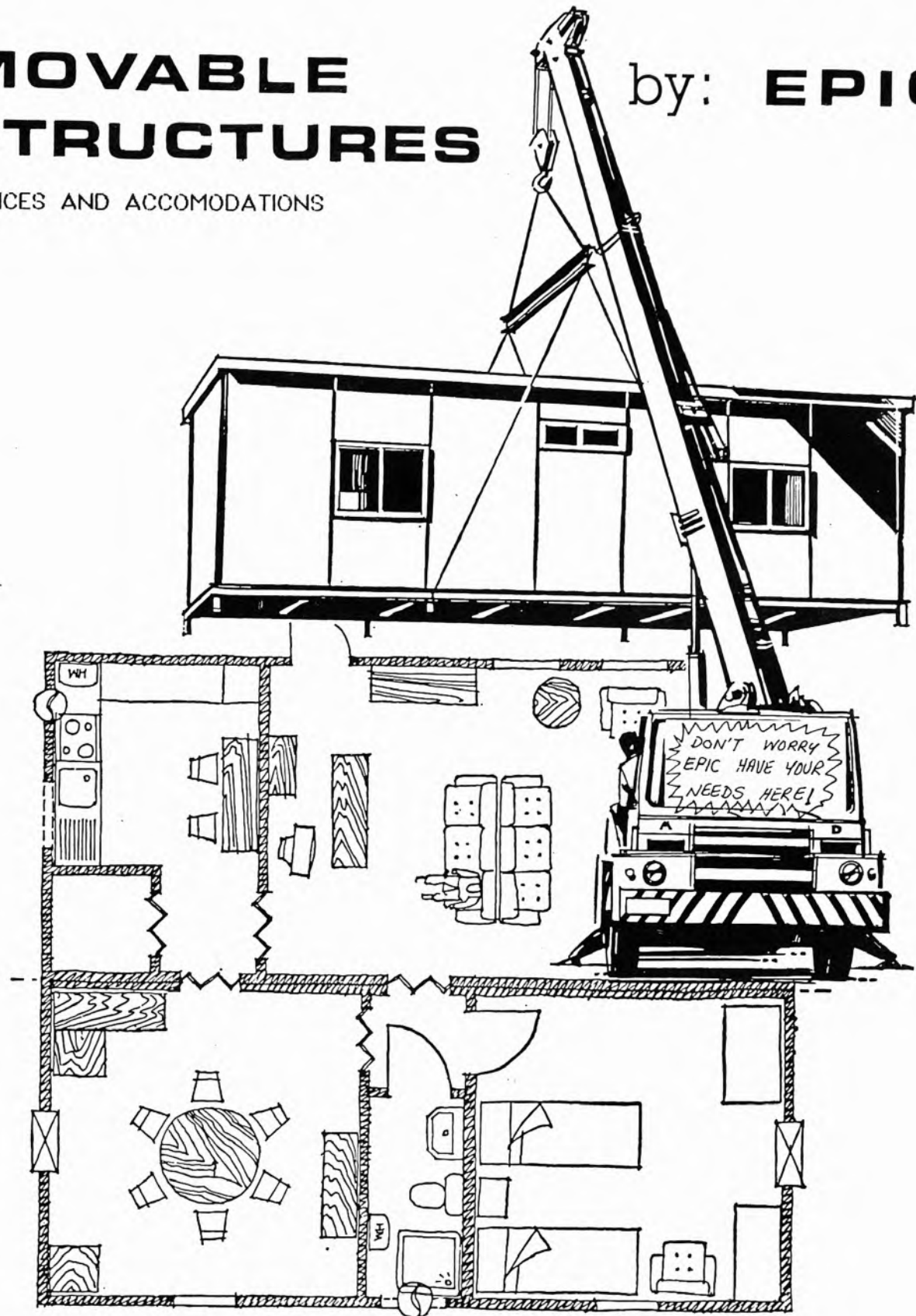
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GULF WAR COST ARABS \$670b

The Gulf War cost Arab economies US\$ 670 billion in losses, depressed productivity by 7%, and raised inflation sharply, a report issued recently said. A summary of the 1992 report - which covers 1991 and was prepared by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab League Secretariat, and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries - revised an earlier estimate that put losses at US \$ 800 billion.

Iraq and Kuwait lost \$ 350 billion in war damages, and \$ 185 billion in an economic downswing.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states paid out in cash some \$ 84 billion for military and other support, the report said. In addition \$ 51 billion in capital left Arab countries. "Of course, there are other losses cause by the January-February 1991 war, but it is difficult to assess their financial value, especially the damage to the environment," the report stated.



The Arab economy had began to recover in 1986, and it continued to grow by 3% per annum until 1989. But then, the Gulf Crisis came, and it changed everything.

"The Arab economy fell by 1.2% in 1990 and by 7% in 1991. Inflation in 1990 and 1991 sharply rose by over 20% beyond the level that had prevailed before," explained Mr. Osama Al-Fageeh, Chairman of the AMF.

The report gave no figures

but the Arab gross domestic product (GDP) stood at US\$ 419 billion in 1990 and \$397 billion in 1989. A decline of 7% means that the GDP in 1991 stood at \$ 389 billion.

After the Arab trade surplus improved in 1990 with the rise in oil prices, it dropped by nearly half in 1991 from \$ 31 billion, the report indicated.

But the general balance, which includes the budget, trade and balance of payment, was hit by a deficit of \$ 4 billion in 1991.

Oil represents a large part of the Arab exports and its revenue stood at \$ 96 billion in 1991, compared to \$ 101 billion in 1990.

Arab oil exports accounted for 38% of the total world crude exports in 1991. Arab countries continued to fork out money to import food, even though their farming sector has grown 7% per year over the last decade. Imports of food stood at a total of \$ 165 billion between 1980 and 1991.

The industrial sector declined by 12% in 1991 because of damages of facilities in Kuwait and Iraq.

The report gave no figures on debt due on Arab countries in 1991, but it fell to US\$ 153 billion in 1990, from \$ 158 billion in 1989, partly because Egypt and other Arab countries were forgiven part of their debts. It was the first decline of debt in a decade.

Debt servicing, however, increased by 11% to \$ 17 billion.

The sad impacts of the Gulf War will continue to haunt Arabs for yet a long time to come.

A GREEN REVOLUTION AGAINST AIDS

In the rain forest of a tiny western Samoan island, a university professor found and saved trees containing a compound that protects cells against the Aids virus in a test tube.

The compound - prostration - has been tested only in the test tube against the Aids virus. It will be years before it can be tested on humans.

Nonetheless, Paul Cox, the Brigham Young University professor who saved the forest from bulldozers, is excited, as are National Cancer Institute researchers studying the drug.

"Everything we do seems to look better," said Cox, 38, an ethnobotanist and tropical rain forest biologist. Ethnobotany is the study of how indigenous people use plant for medicine.

The institute's research has yielded two promising results.

First, human lymphocytic cells were coated with prostration and doused with HIV-1. Not only did the prostratin keep those cells from succumbing to the virus, which causes Aids; it protected cells when added as much as 24 hours after infection.

Researchers also found that prostration inhibits the growth of tumours. That was a big surprise because prostration is part of a group of organic compounds known to cause tumours.

Cancer researches can use this clue to better understand the compounds.

For Cox, the results are a hint that a dream might come true, a dream that began as a nightmare.

His mother, a wildlife biologist, died of cancer in November 1984. "I felt so terribly helpless. I wondered what I could do with my life to help people," Cox recalled.

He embraced ethnobotany, a topic of his dissertation at Harvard University, and traveled with his wife and four children to the Samoan islands in search of native healers. They spent parts of eight years in the islands, located in the Pacific Ocean about 2,200 miles southwest of Hawaii.

"We just had our mats and a little grass hut on the beach," he said.

One day in 1987, weeping islanders ran into the village saying bulldozers were destroying the forest. Village leaders has sold

the forest to raise money to build a school ordered by the government.

"I said, what if I could pay for your school, would you stop?" Cox recalled. "One of the chiefs ran eight miles and stood in front of the bulldozer."

Cox and his wife were prepared to sell their home and car in Utah to pay the \$85,000 mortgage for the school, but donations from family and friends made this unnecessary.

Within a year, the Samoans turned their 30,000-acre forest into the Falealupo forest preserve and made Cox a chief. He continued to research tips from native healers and to collect plants and trees.

One such tip led him to homolanthus nutans, a tree with shiny green leaves, pale flowers, and the compound known as prostration in its trunk. Samoan healers use it to treat yellow fever, a viral disease spread by mosquitoes.

Cox sent a sample to the National Cancer Institute in the late 1980s. The results of work by chemists there were published in the 'Journal of Medicinal Chemistry' this summer.

Gordon Cragg, director of the institute's natural products branch, cautions that prostration could take a

decade to develop as a drug safe for humans.

"The exciting this is they've isolated this active compound," said Suraiya Rasheed, director of the viral oncology and Aids research laboratory at the University of Southern California.

However, she said more study is needed into prostratin's effects on inhibiting the Aids virus in normal lymphocytic cells from human blood.

The best results found by the cancer institute were in tumour cells, which are particularly hardy and not as susceptible to viral attack. On normal cells, prostration inhibited the virus, but only at high doses.

And the cells were made static, essentially create the compound, then manipulate molecules in search of a more perfect compound that kills the virus but not the cell, Rasheed said.

Thomas Evans, director of Aids research at the University of Utah, notes that dozens of potential HIV-fighting drugs are identified each year.

"There are a lot of different compounds that inhibit HIV in the test tube that don't pan out, either because they're toxic or because when they're used in animals or humans they just don't work," he said.

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PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 30th

Yemen Times learnt from reliable sources that the elections for the 301 seats in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Yemen are scheduled to start on November 30th, 1992. In the meanwhile, candidates are required to file in their candidatures by November 5th with the Supreme Elections Committee. By the 10th of November, the list of candidates who have met the requirements will be announced.

Candidates will have the period of 10-30 November for their campaigns. However, there are a number of knots that have to be tied before the process can proceed smoothly. Next week, Yemen Times will run a complete story on the preparations for the elections and interviews with relevant individuals.

Two Years After Kuwait ...

WHAT DO YEMENIS THINK OF SADDAM HUSSAIN?

Markus Roloff, Sanaa.

Entering the hairdresser's shop at Al-Qa'a Square, one sees his smiling face on the wall. Just a few meters further, you can sip your tea looking at several Saddam Hussain pictures. You can see him as the military leader with a determined expression on his face, as the politician in civilian dress, as the Arab with his traditional head-dress, as the father with a child on his lap...

An article torn out of the American weekly *News-week* is stuck to the wall telling about the difficulties and risks of toppling Saddam. The pictures can be seen everywhere - towering above the machines that make papaya and lemonade juices in the coffee shops, in the various groceries, and even in homes.

Two years ago, the Iraqi leader invaded Kuwait. When the war broke out, public support for him in Yemen was widespread, although there were enclaves of Yemenis who opposed his invasion.

Walking through Sanaa today, one can see in many places his portrait, in fancy uniforms. How do Yemenis feel today about Saddam Hussain? That is the question for which I went in search of an answer.

"He is a real man. He dared to stand up against America and the West. He has great courage," says the shop owner at Tahreer Square, pointing with shining eyes to the Saddam pictures high on his wall. "Howa batal al-Arab" - for the young man in the photocopy shop, Saddam is the "Hero of the Arabs".

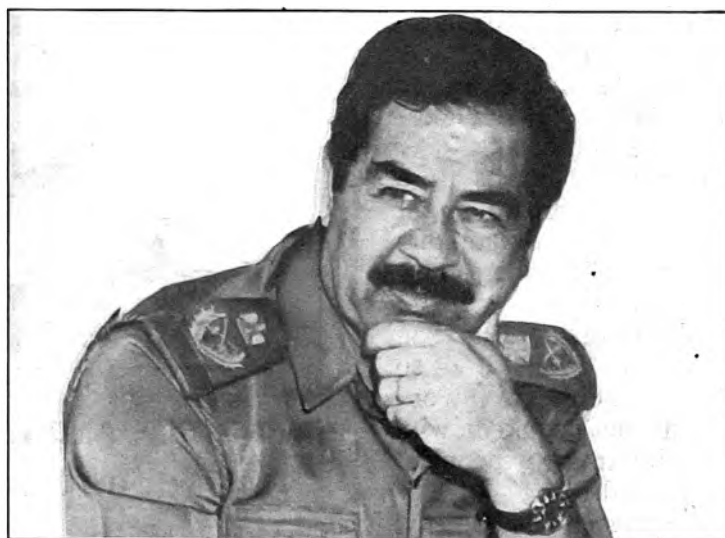
When asked if he did not change his mind after the Iraqi leader's defeat in the



Gulf War, he affirms, "Batal al Arab hattal yowm" -- "Hero of the Arabs until today". A dress shop owner on Abdul Nasser Street shares this opinion. "Saddam even won the war - militarily and politically." All the information coming from "America and the West is false." Says a shop-owner for electrical appliances on

The businessman on Ali Abdul-Mughni Street is not a fan of Saddam either. "Saddam is a catastrophe for the Arab and Muslim worlds. He is an egotist consumed in his own self-glory. He is very inconsiderate of life as well as the need of others. He has the capacity to kill with great ease." At the same time, he has no commitment to values such as democracy or human rights.

A picture with a young smiling Saddam is hanging above the entrance to the Al-Qaa Police Station. As I approached to have a closer look, I was joined by three officers. "Saddam tamam. Saddam tamam," (Saddam is okay) they repeated to me.



Zubairi Street, "He is the best Arab ruler at the present time," he said. Although there is a decided majority in favor of Saddam, it is not a total consensus. The intellectuals and businessmen, in general, do not support him. As a university professor very clearly indicated, "We are torn from within. We hate Saddam and his dictatorship, but we do not love what the West is trying to do to Iraq and the Iraqi people. I just wish he would go away."

The majority of Yemenis still admire Saddam, after two years of his invasion of Kuwait.

But there is an increasingly vocal minority that is organizing itself to distance the country from Saddam. In fact, a group is working to announce the creation of a Yemeni-Gulf Brotherhood Society with the specific purpose of rebuilding the damaged bridges with Kuwait, and the other Gulf states.

In the meantime, Saddam is riding high!

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YEMEN TIMES MOVES TO A BETTER OFFICE

Yemen Times has moved to new premises. The new office of Yemen Times is on the second floor of building No. 13 on Street No. 3, extending eastwards from Ali Abdul-Mughni Street. Please refer to the map below:

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