

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 23- 29 SEPTEMBER 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 39

**On the 30th Anniversary of the September Revolution, Yemen Times salutes the Yemeni people.**



بالذكرى "الثلاثون"  
لثورة سبتمبر،  
تحية صحيفة  
«يمن تايمز»  
الشعب اليمني الأبى

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**Veteran Politician  
M. Al-Fusayyel  
Gives His  
Assessment of  
Yemen's Political  
Evolution.**  
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## OURVIEWPOINT

### To Borrow or Not to Borrow: That is the Question!

The Republic of Yemen's foreign debt burden is becoming unbearable as is already evident from the country's inability to service its debt. Over the last few years, Yemen has repeatedly failed to pay interest, let alone installments, on its foreign debt. Serial re-scheduling has become an integral part of our international finance.

Yet, the country continues to borrow from practically any party willing to lend it. In the process, it has agreed to move from concessionary (soft) loans to more and more commercial term loans. At the same time, no one can deny the visible misuse of funds at almost all levels of government. The question is "Why does the government pursue this course of action?"

In my opinion, the House of Representatives should not ratify any loan agreements, especially if they carry a 5% or more interest rate. A quick cost-benefit analysis shows that due to corrupt and inefficient officials as well as a heavy dose of mismanagement, execution of development projects cost Yemen anywhere between double to triple the normal cost if these same projects were implemented under normal conditions.

We need to re-assess our attitude to foreign loans, especially the not-so-soft ones. The House should not be blackmailed by government officials who employ the "financing development" argument simply to grab their cut in the money.

*The Publisher*

## Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakeemi: A Man Who Set the Numbers Straight

Qadhi Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi, Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC), had proposed to update the 1986 (former YAR) and 1988 (former PDRY) census results by using a variable growth rate ranging from 112% for the capital city of Sanaa to 8% in Lahej. The numbers were presumably worked out in (CSO) Central Statistics Organizations. Mr. Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakeemi, the SEC representative of Ittihad Al-Qiwa Asha'abiyah, questioned the criterion on which such a variation was based. When there was no convincing answer, he demanded that the CSO numbers be abandoned as they can't be justified.

"It would give certain regions a disproportionate weight over others, and it is all based on guess work. We can't depend on guess work to determine the number of deputies for each region in shaping our future parliament," he told Yemen Times. The Chairman of the SEC did not respond positively stating, "We should accept as for granted the numbers and statistics that come to us from the CSO." He implied that Sallam was opening a Pandora box. But Al-Hakeemi was not to be deterred. He filed a case with the courts against the CSO for providing the SEC with wrong information. But the CSO only provided the numbers it was told to cook. All of a sudden,

the political leadership found itself in a strange situation - it can not impose its way even when the Chair of the SEC was "understanding". The uproar that one person alone was able to create was impressive. The media reported the problem, Mr. Sallam mobilized the support of fellow members in the SEC, and the lawyers were more than delighted to help. In the final analysis the SEC (and the political leadership) succumbed. Now they have agreed to up-date the 1986 statistics upto 1988 by 3.29% annual growth rate, and to up-date all the 1988 numbers to 1992 by 3,1% annual growth rate - both the country's average population growth rates for those periods.

We Yemenis do not yet see all the differences between a dictatorship a democracy. Yet whatever difference we already see, we say, "Vive la difference!"



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## PERSONAL VIEW

SENSING PEOPLE'S OPINION:  
THE MISSING NECESSITY

Ahmed Ali Atef,  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Every day we are being subjected to floods of information regarding the attitude and position of both the government and the opposition towards various issues and events in society. But there is no clear and unbiased information about the general opinion of the public. So far in our infant democracy, we have yet to develop a system such as opinion polls. The only way is to have scientific, non-partisan research centers gauge public opinion. This way we can read, in a reliable and unbiased manner, the position of the people towards the issues and and public response to government and opposition decisions. Sensing public opinion is of vital importance, not only because it indicates the degree of acceptability of certain government decisions by the people, but it is an important tool to revise and rectify any steps. It is also a good mechanism to forecast future trends in people's opinion towards the various parties and issues. Information about the public mood, interests and trends could also provide indicators to both ruling and opposition parties to better understand and adjust to the people's needs and ambitions.

The establishment of public opinion polls or research centers in Yemen is an urgent task that needs to be accomplished, the most suitable candidates being our academic institutions, such the Universities of Sana'a and Aden. A major prerequisite is that such efforts are not colored by political affiliation and that they are carried out by persons who are able to keep the results clear from being politicized.

I hope that somebody will embark on this effort as part of the democratization process in Yemen.

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

## Anti-PGC Violence

Well, as the wheels of time turn, now the heat is on the PGC. On Thursday, a bomb exploded near the home of Col. Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, brother of the president. Nobody was hurt, although many were shaken. Then on Sunday, September 20th, the home of H.E. Mr. Yahia Al-Arashi, one of two key architects of Yemeni unity, was targeted. Both persons are senior PGC members. Terrorists seem to have shifted their targets from senior YSP members to senior PGC members. According to a Ministry of Interior statement, the purpose behind these incidents is to create confusion and disorder in the country to destroy the unity as well as to block the elections. One senior PGC official was heard screaming something like "Chez nous?" indicating they had thought they were immune to 'it'.

Continued from p. 3

## Al-Fusayyel on Politics:

Q: How do you see us coming out of this situation?

A: There are a number of factors that will determine how we come out of this situation. For the sake of Yemen, I hope some changes are made. First, President Saleh has to see that his calculations are no longer valid since they are based on old information. For example, the composition of the army is different, the tribo-military alliance has changed, his level of popularity among the people has fallen, etc. Second, I think he needs better aides. The present group of people around the President are more of a liability than an asset to him and to the whole country. Third, I wish we stop squabbling over every little thing, and agree to work together.

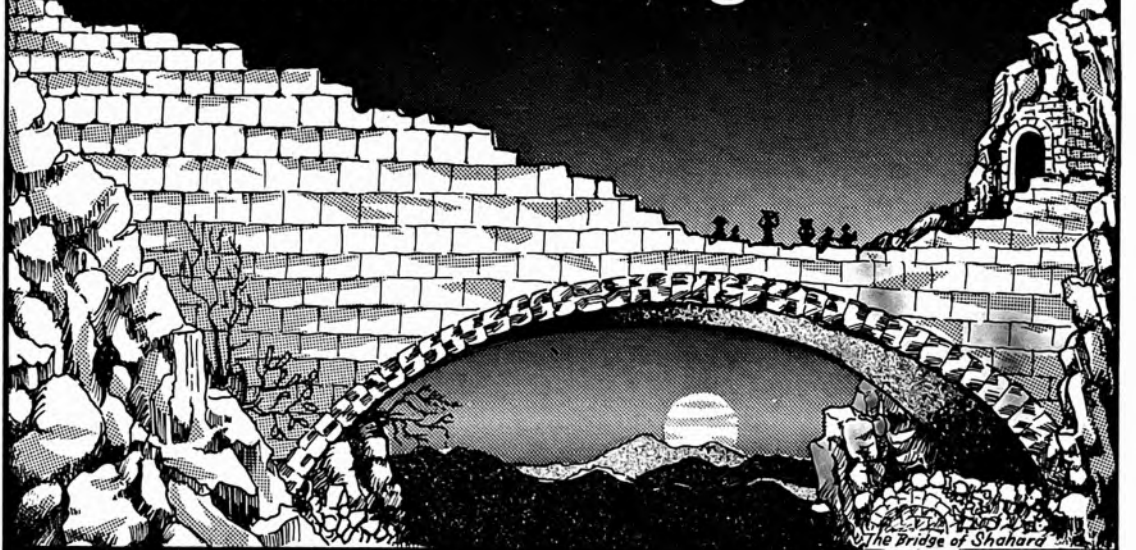
Q: Le me re-phrase. How do you see the elections coming?

A: I don't think there will be elections in 1992. I think this government is unable to handle the heat of elections. I propose a strong coalition government which has a broad base. This coalition government could then organize elections some time in mid-1993.

Q: Any last words of advice?

A: I would advise the leadership to realize it cannot control all the chips as it used in the past. I will give it my advice, although I know it has so distanced itself from decent people that it cannot even be advised. But, I tell it to accept partners who will have a say in the decisions of this country. I would advise the people, in exercising their rights, to stand up to the system which is so fragile that it is liable to fall under the weight of its mistakes.

## Outside the sun has gone down.



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Mohammed Al-Fusayyel:

# "President Saleh Needs Better Aides."

Mohammed Al-Fusayyel is a veteran politician. Born in Sanaa in 1925, Al-Fusayyel was involved in almost every major incident in 20th century Yemeni politics. He is today a member of the House of Representatives and a member of the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress. On the occasion of the anniversary of the 26th September Revolution, Yemen Times interviewed him.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: When was your first involvement with politics?**

**A:** I started politics when I was fourteen years old. But then I did not know it was politics. My teacher, Mr. Ahmed Howrash, simply gave me things to write and then to stick them on mosque doors. That was in the 1940s.

In 1943, when Mohammed Mahmood Al-Zubairi fled to Aden, Imam Yahia sentenced me to a three year jail term in Taiz. After that I went to Aden and by 1947 I joined the Al-Ahrar (The Free Movement).

In 1948, the Constitutional Monarchy was set up by Abdullah Al-Wazeer after the revolt against the Imam. I was with the Al-Ahrar delegation that came up from Aden in support of the new system. In Dhamar we were all arrested, and that is how I started an eight-year jail term in Hajjah.

I was released in 1955, and spent the next few years under close surveillance. In 1959, I decided to go to Cairo for "studies". (Cairo at the time was promoting anti-Imam efforts). As I travelled through Saudi Arabia, the Saudi authorities arrested me and delivered me to the Imam. That was one more year in prison. Between Imams Yahia and Ahmed, I spent thirteen years in prison.

**Q: Could you describe the moments immediately preceding the 26th September Revolution.**

**A:** First let me stress that the people were just fed up with the Hameed Addeen family. There was consensus that that family had to go. That is why the 26th September succeeded - not



because it was well planned or anything, but because the people had had it with the Hameed Addeens.

We were planning how to overthrow Imam Ahmed when we learnt he had died.

In a meeting held immediately thereafter, there were two dominant views among the revolutionaries:

- a) some saw that we should continue with our plans to overthrow the Imamate;
- b) others thought that Al-Badr (the new Imam) was reform-oriented and that he

should be given a chance.

It was actually Al-Badr himself who tipped the balance. In a sermon he delivered in a mosque, he forcefully said that he would follow his father's path, and that any trouble-makers would be dealt out the most severe punishment. It was then that we decided to move against him.

On Wednesday (25th) we agreed on the text the communique to be read out over the radio. We gave the communique to the military commanders who were

supposed to bring it back to me with a tank in which I was supposed to ride to the radio station. When neither came, I went to the radio station, and made up the text from memory, and announced the success of the revolution and the overthrow of Imam Al-Badr.

**Q: What was the first setback to the revolution?**

**A:** I can talk about two set-backs that happened immediately.

First, there was a royalist opposition to the revolution and they received Saudi assistance in their attempts to restore the Imam.

Second, Egypt assisted the revolution, but it wanted to control it. This created friction within the more independent-minded revolutionaries and those who accepted more extensive Egyptian meddling.

**Q: Let us come to the present-day. How do you assess the current political conditions?**

**A:** Before I talk about the current conditions, let me comment on the unification process and the subsequent developments.

There was no question both rulers in Sanaa and Aden wanted the reunification,

but with what long-term intentions? I think that Ali Abdullah Saleh had intended all along to absorb the other party. I think the YSP leadership intended to prolong their hold over power, even through a partnership which gave it only partial control.

It is in this light that we should understand the present political struggle. In my opinion Ali Abdullah Saleh wants to return the old ways in which he had exercised near total control over things. He has yet to absorb the new realities, let alone to adjust to them. So he tirelessly tries to turn the clock backwards, and this is the source of most of the difficulties.

On the other hand, the YSP clings to whatever it can in the partnership, and it resists its marginalization efforts.

In my opinion, the country may have disposed of the Imam, but it has not disposed of his system of rule or government. Of course, the revolution has disposed of the divine right of the Imam, but it created a tribo-military alliance on which the system continues to depend.

Continues on p. 2

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DRUGS AND  
EDUCATORS

By:  
Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri

Many countries in the world are vigorously campaigning to halt the spread of AIDS by educating people on the dangers of anonymous sexual contact. An observer commented that if all religious preachers had joined hands to scare people away from adultery, they would not have done any better than the TV campaigns against AIDS.

I propose to fight the drug menace by following the same TV method, so that our younger folks may grasp and understand the real dangers that drugs pose to their health and life. The spread of drugs in the Arab states worries me because it is the most dangerous threat to our society.

Regrettably, Arab governments have yet to wake up to the realities of this deadly threat. Some even continue to cover it up and pretend there is no problem at all, and treat the cover-up process as a matter of national honor, pride, and dignity.

When day when these governments are finally forced to wake up to the drug reality, it may be a matter of national survival.

Drugs are spreading in our countries and victimize primarily our young people. Governments have always fought this epidemic by traditional means such as penalties.

It is clear that we cannot eliminate the whole drug problem as it has already developed roots among our youngsters; but could we not at least start an open campaign?

Let's start with simple things, like cigarettes which have become something common even among minors. You can find cigarette packs in school bags of teenage boys and girls.

Authority is broken down as the youngsters no longer respect their teachers, or even their parents.

Teachers, I must insist, are the safety valve, and they can play an important role in halting the deterioration in our society, especially as far as drugs go. The main prerequisite is that society must support the teachers in this endeavor. We must restore the authority and the status of our teachers.

Otherwise, our pampered children will be doomed as they will be lost to the world of drugs and crimes!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAJOR EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARIES

### FRIDAY September 25th: Sanaa:

1. Military music bands roam the streets playing the National Anthem and other revolutionary tunes.
2. Popular folk songs and dances in the main squares of Sanaa.
3. Lighting of the Revolution Torch by the Boy Scouts at 7:30 pm.
4. President Ali Abdullah Saleh reads the Address of the Nation Speech over the radio and TV.
5. Fireworks displayed in the skies of Sanaa and Aden.

### SATURDAY September 26: Sanaa

1. Morning military/youth parades.
2. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism organizes a folkloric and oratory evening at the Cultural Center.

### In Hadhramaut:

1. Inauguration of the executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### MONDAY September 28th: Sanaa:

Inauguration of new batches of military and security graduates at the Military College.

### In Hodeidah:

1. Inauguration of the executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### TUESDAY September 29: Al-Jowf:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### WEDNESDAY September 30: Ibb:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### THURSDAY October 1st: Shabwah

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### FRIDAY October 2nd: Hajjah

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### SATURDAY October 3: Mahweet:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### SUNDAY October 4th: Saadah:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### TUESDAY October 6th: Dhamar:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### WEDNESDAY Oct 7: Al-Maharah

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### THURSDAY October 8th: Abyan:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### SATURDAY October 10th: Lahej:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric evening.

### MONDAY October 12th: Taiz:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Folkloric and oratory evening.

### WEDNESDAY October 14: Aden:

1. Inauguration of executed projects and laying down foundation stones for new ones in the morning.
2. Youth and Sports activities.
3. Folkloric and oratory evening.



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## THE YEMENI-SAUDI TAYIF TREATY OF 1934, Final Part

Yemen Times prints hereunder 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 (16):

The two contracting high commissioners, bonded together by Islamic brotherhood and Arab origin, announce that their two nations are but one nation. They shall do their best efforts to manage their with the objective of promoting peace and stability between them and to do their best in so doing to safeguard the interests of the other country and without any hostile intentions to any nation.

### Article (17):

In case of any external aggression on either of the contracting parties, it is imperative on the other country to pledge and implement the following:

1. To take a completely neutral position - whether openly declared or in secret
2. To provide all possible cooperation.

3. To proceed in dialogue with the other country regarding the best ways to protect and safeguard the interests of the other country and to prevent any harm from falling on . In any case, the conduct of the should not be such as to be construed or interpreted as cooperating with the outsider belligerent party.

### Article (18):

In case of internal turmoil or strife in either of contracting parties, the other country pledges to:

1. To take the effective and necessary measures to block the perpetrators from using its territories as a launching ground or other benefits .
2. To prevent the perpetrators from entering its territories and to hand them over if they do so, or to banish them as called for in Articles nine and ten.
3. To prevent its citizens from assisting the perpetrators or the revolutionaries or to provide no sanctuary or other encouragement.
4. To forbid any supplies or ammunitions from

reaching the perpetrators or revolutionists.

### Article (19):

The two contracting high commissioners announce their desire in doing everything possible to facilitate the telegraphic, postal and transportation exchange between their two countries and to facilitate exchange of commodities, agricultural and commercial products between them and to initiate detailed negotiations towards a customs agreement to strengthen the economic ties and interests of the two countries. Such agreement will be based on unifying the customs rates in the two countries or on a special system worked out to safeguard the interests of the two sides.

However, nothing in this article shall restrict the freedom of either contracting high commissioner in anything until the referred agreement in concluded.

### Article (20):

The two contracting high commissioners announce their willingness to deputize

the envoys and representatives of the other party in foreign countries whenever needed (either side is not represented). It is evident, however, that this article doesn't restrict the freedom of either side in any way.

### Article (21):

This treaty signed on 5th Shaaban, 1350 A.H. and any former agreement is hereby nullified.

### Article (22):

This treaty shall be ratified by their majesties the kings within a very short time in view of the interests of the two sides embodied in it. It shall become valid from the date of exchange of ratified documents with the exception what was stated in article one concerning the ending of the state of war which shall be effective immediately upon the signing of this agreement by the two commissioners.

This agreement shall be valid for twenty lunar years and subject to renewal or amendment during the six months preceding the termination of its validity.

If the agreement is not renewed or amended during the said period, it shall remain valid for upto six months thereafter, or of notification of one of the contracting parties to the other regarding his desire for amendment.

### Article (23):

This treaty is called the Tayif Treaty, it is written in Arabic in two original copies - one for each of the two contracting parties.

To testify acceptance, each envoy hereby put his signature on it on this day 6th Safar, 1353 A.H. coinciding with 19/5/1934).

Signed on behalf of the Kingdom of Yemen by HE Abullah bin Ahmed Al-Wazeer .

Signed on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by HRH Prince Khalid bin Abdul Aziz.

There is an annex to this treaty, which is considered part and parcel of it. The annex details how the forces are to be disengaged and settlements are to be made.

## BESTCON International Ltd

congratulates the Yemeni people, leadership and government on the 30th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution



## تتقدم شركة بستكون الدولية المحدودة

### بحر التهانى والتبريكات للشعب اليمنى وقيادته وحكومته

### بمناسبة ذكرى (الثلاثون) لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة

**A PLAN TO PROLONG THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD?**

Certain political party media deliberated lately news items stating that Mr. Al-Beedh, the Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council had returned to Aden and that he put conditions on returning to Sana'a. Reports also said that the Chairman and Vice Chairman will meet in Taiz to settle all issues before returning together to Sana'a. There should be a final agreement about the future of the state and the power sharing mechanism. It was also said that the Chairman had refused these conditions insisting that the Vice Chairman return to Sana'a first before he will study any suggestions.

Recent news items suggest that the YSP has put yet another initiative in front of its partner. The YSP has conceded to three PGC conditions in return for PGC consent on the fourth condition as follows:

First: The YSP's consents to participate in the conference of the political parties and popular organizations which the PGC and some other parties are preparing. Second: The YSP consents to the complete application of the law of political parties especially the articles concerning the prohibition of political activities in any (military) organizations. Third: PGC/YSP Coordination to be limited only to the next elections.

Fourth: In return, the YSP demands that the PGC agrees to clearly define the structure of the future state, to introduce tangible reforms, and to strictly apply the unity agreements including the system of equal power sharing agreed upon.

Observers believe that the PGC has refused the new YSP propositions, for they do not introduce anything new. Though the first three items seem to be a kind of concession by the YSP, the PGC considers the fourth item a limiting factor on its ability to maneuver especially the principle of equal power sharing.

**Al-Sahwa, Sanaa,**  
17/9/1992.

**IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS, YEMEN AS RICH AS THE GULF**

World economic experts expect Yemen to witness within the next few years an economic evolution which transfers her from

poverty to be one of the richest countries in the region in light of the oil discoveries being made by many foreign oil companies working in Yemen.

According to Canadian Oxy sources at Maseelah in Hadhramaut, the recoverable crude oil discovered is estimated at (550) million barrels. Discoveries of crude oil in Al-Ghail field alone could reach up to (114) million tons.

Expert sources confirmed that the area of west Hadhramaut embodies substantial oil reserves of more than (700) million barrels. In addition to the Marib field, where Hunt Oil discoveries continue.

The report indicated that daily production by Hunt Oil is around 180,000bpd pumped through pipelines at Ras Issa on the Red Sea, from where it is transferred by vessels to the Aden refinery.

The report added that Yemen, with its 14 million of population, is considered the second most populous Arab country east of the Suez Canal, just after Iraq. In terms of area, though Saudi Arabia is the largest, its population is no more eight million, at best. In addition, the Yemeni people can be described as patient, hard-working and satisfied - qualities which can no longer found in the region.

What is most significant is the new democratic system of unified Yemen. In the coming general elections in November, 21 political party will compete.

Another point is the revenues that will be generated from the major gas discoveries whose quantities are put at 43 billion square meters, besides new discoveries in the Jihana and Shabwa basins.

**26th September, Sanaa,**  
17/9/1992.

**WHAT FATE AWAITS THIS COUNTRY?**

As the transitional period nears its conclusion, the speculation of the political media increasingly gives a clear picture of what is going to happen post 22 November 1992 period.

The opposition political parties stress on proceeding with the elections hoping the ballots will bring about change which will enable them to occupy influential positions of power. Some speculators calculate that the Al-Tajammu Al-Yemeni

Lil-Islah (Islah) is more liable to lose its influence in light of its loss in the referendum on the constitution and in the competition on the religious institutes (education law). Therefore, the Islah is keen on projecting an image of dominance thus ensuring a penetrating presence in the axioms of power. But for the other small political parties which are not expected to gain much in the coming elections, their most clear option is the road of alliances and coalitions.

Most observers already consider the majority of these small parties as satellites orbiting around the two ruling parties- the PGC and YSP.

What is to be noted, however, is that the PGC is trying to employ the elections as a means to pressure the YSP into giving up part of its power (they are presumably equal partners at the moment), in order to expand its realm of influence and thus dominate the political system of the country.

Notwithstanding the statements to the media by Mr. Garallah Omer, a senior YSP leader, YSP, that no

one can confirm the popularity of this or that party, given the lack of any records, it is possible to deduce the prevalence of some parties.

The recent political tension manifested in the departure of the Vice Chairman, Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, from Sanaa, reflects the YSP leadership's decision to start a process of negotiations between the two poles of the country - Sana'a and Hadhramaut.

It is worth noting here that certain expressions began to appear in the political demands and jargons such as 'conditions', 'guarantees', etc. This new trend will inevitably cast doubt on the possibility of the participation of other political parties in the power sharing system, as it may keep the right to rule limited to the two ruling parties.

Hence, we can see how the elections begin to form a source of worry to the two partners whose calculations could be disturbed by the results of free and honest elections.

On the other hand the PGC drive to eclipse its partner, either by creating a state of confusion among the YSP

supporters, or by promoting a schism (rift) within the YSP leadership, has more or less put the country on the edge of explosion especially given the firm response from the Vice Chairman who has finally packed up and left for Hadhramaut.

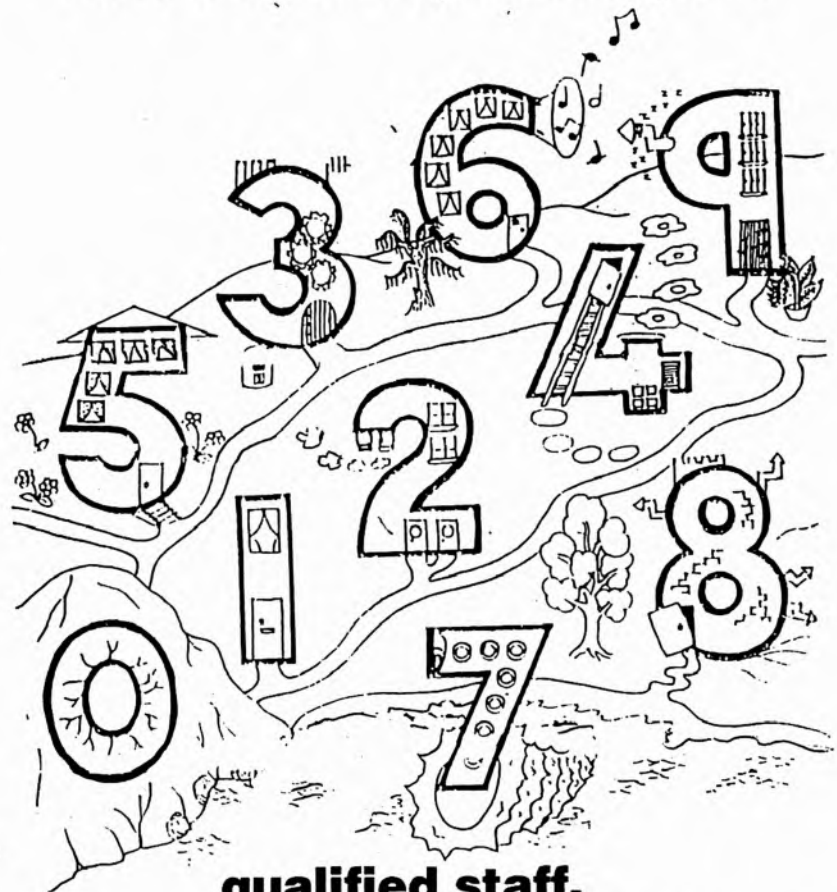
To be more specific, the failure of half a dozen senior mediators, including Tariq Aziz of Iraq and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, points to the gravity of the situation. The secret lies with the Vice Chairman who has yet to say what he wants. He has to make clear exactly what his demands are, within the constitution and according to the unity agreement.

Concern for the homeland should be the over-riding factor in the decisions of our leadership. This concern should take heed of the intention of certain circles to divide the country and/or to postpone the parliamentary or any other set-backs. The leadership must realize that systems and shapes of the past will neither be tolerated nor accepted.

**Al-Nahdhah, Sanaa,**  
14/9/92.

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

## MALE-FEMALE RELATIONS IN YEMEN: A COUNTER-POINT

In "Personal View" of August 26, the Male-Female relations in Yemeni Society is discussed and the view of a housewife is put forward. The main reason behind this 'unjust' situation is the lack of understanding of the Holy Quran and the Sunna of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). In the absence of education, all values (may they be social, moral, etc.) are passed from one generation to another, possibly with some distortions. Hence we in Yemen have reached a point where the very ideals of Islam have either been altered or people use Islamic laws only when it suits their needs.

I agree with the writer that many males twist Islamic laws, or yet, many men will only enforce what is due to them and not enforce what they are accountable for. For example, they do not let their daughters receive proper/full education, because there is a prevalent belief among men that if a girl is "too educated", then no one will marry her. However, the view put forward by Umm Khulood too is misleading. She herself seems to be either confused or uneducated in Islamic social values. While accusing men of misusing Islamic laws, she actually accuses them of enforcing rights given to them by Islam Sharia. For example, she mentions that women require permission of their male guardians when going out of the house or any other mission outside the house.

Well, every Muslim girl knows that it is from the Islamic Sharia and from the saying of the Prophet (pbuh) that any woman who goes out of the house without the prior consent of her husband (the hadith specifies the husband only and excludes other male-guardians) is cursed by the angles until she returns home or repents for her act. So, Umm Khulood, wouldn't the woman that in this case be the one to twist teachings of Islam?

We as Muslims are taught that if one wants to correct a wrong, then it is not to be corrected by taking another wrong step. What people are doing in the absence of real Islamic upbringing, these days, is to imitate Western social values, which we know has, and is bringing havoc to all the people who have attempted them. Yet Yemen is now under this Western propaganda of women's rights and equality among men and women. Statistics and studies on the status of women in the U.S.A., the leader and propaganda of democracy, show that with all the freedom that they have, there is an alarm-

ing rate of female abuse of all types, may it be rape, wife-beating etc.

I agree with the writer that male-female relations have to change for the sake of a good socio-cultural evolution of Yemen, but not by aping the West. The political and economic problems that we have on our hands are already enough and we don't need to add social problems to make matters worse for ourselves. But through education and knowledge, men and women will know each other's rights, respect them, and understand the responsibility entrusted on them by Allah. Our interaction with our families, neighbors and fellow citizens within the proper Islamic values given to us by Allah is the proper approach to these issues. May Allah enlighten us all with true knowledge which will bring us success both in this short world as well as the hereafter. AMIN!

By:  
**Nasser F. Adam Ali,  
Sana'a.**

## WHY YEMENI TEACHERS HATE THEIR CAREER!

Teaching used to be an honorable as well as sanctified profession many years ago. However, now it is no longer so. Since the early days of Islam, Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him), leader and teacher, guided this nation towards the right course. A main component of those teachings was that the nation must respect its teachers.

What I am trying to point out here is the fact that nations can never develop or progress unless there is real education. The record shows that countries that made education a first priority have established civilized societies and achieved great progress and prosperity.

Many countries in the world today eagerly focus on producing able and highly-qualified teachers. In many countries, a teacher is looked upon as the center of the educational process, and the main force towards progress. In other words, the teacher is the central person who will polish and refine the talented, gifted and promising children who are likely to be leaders in the future. Therefore teachers enjoy certain special merits and status. In certain countries, such as, Japan, Norway and Denmark teachers are well paid and given certain exceptional merits, in comparison to other professions. Now, let us discuss teachers in Yemen. Yemeni teachers must be pitied. Why? The answer is very simple.

Because, the teaching profession in Yemen has been humiliated, and a teacher's salary is one of the lowest.

Teacher in Yemen are overwhelmed by the petty, yet critical matters of daily life. Poor Yemen teachers struggle to make ends meet, and are thus unable to devote their undivided attention to knowledge and their students. To whom shall they complain? To whom shall they explain? At the moment, no one is willing to listen to them.

Yet, I think there is still a glimmer of hope. Parliament has passed the new bill on education, which includes many strong points. The bill has now been forwarded to the Presidential Council for enactment.

We are eagerly waiting.

By:  
**Gamil Al-Guwairy,  
Beer Basha - Taiz.**

## WHERE IS MR. SOMALIA?

I was rich in everything, (in minerals, marine resources, agriculture and livestock). I was educated by the Italians, and graduated on July 1st, 1960. In 1969, one of my sons, Marehan, from the "Darod clan" got control over me and he exposed all my secrets and treasures to my enemies.

This caused me to lose all my reputation until I became a beggar unable to feed my children. Before that I used to tell my friends that my children are all bright minded and friendly to others; that they never cheat their parents, ect. But, my son (Marehan) brought shame to me for twenty one good years. I was unable to say anything; and whenever I uttered a word he used to shut me up, by force. Anyhow, I kept silent, but I tried to groom my other son, "Hawiya". This other son nicknamed himself U.S.C. so that his brother "Harehan" will not understand when we talked. I showed him all my other friends with whom he coordinated to remove Marehan's control over me.

So one day in 1990, after a long fight, Marehan couldn't resist heavy boots of Hawiya. Overpowered, he fled.

For a short moment, I was very happy with my young son. But Marehan did not give up, and to make sure he will not come back, I told Hawiya that I will call on the brother-in-law, "the Isaac" (SNM) and enlist assistance.

Isaac's answer was, "I want my share of the cake." I was surprised and disappointed. I came back to Hawiya and told him the story. But in the meanwhile, Hawiya has changed. Instead of taking care of me, he kicked me and slapped me on the face, he dragged me on the floor. My blood was spilled all over the ground.

Today, I am totally helpless - tired, hungry, malnourished and on the verge of death. I

can't stand it anymore. My doctor (the Arabs) who used to treat me for my social, economic, cultural and other ills has gone away because of the bad treatment he had received from my children.

I have no one else to look to except you, Mr. World (the United Nations, The Arab League, the Islamic World, the OAU, the Non-Allied, etc.). You are the only one left now, can you please initiate a search for me. My name is Mr. Somalia?

By:  
**Saed Salah Eidarus Al-Amoudi,  
Mukalla, Hadhramaut.**

## GREETINGS FROM LONDON

I am writing this letter from Reading University, 70 kms. from London. I have been here for more than two months and according to what I have noticed here I would like to give my opinion about sending students abroad. I am studying in this University with students from more than 34 different countries. Most of them get their support (scholarships) from their own governments.

Unfortunately, we in Yemen still suffer from the misunderstanding of sending students abroad. I have often heard that some people object to sending students abroad because of the "bad consequences". For example, they mention cultural problems, cost, language and finally the corruption of our moral values.

All of us believe that the world is getting smaller nowadays. This means that it is very important to know the cultures of other countries and the way they think and live. Sending students abroad is one way to achieve this. It is true that we have our own teachers and collages at home, but this does not mean that we are in a position to discard the option of studying abroad.

It is something normal that students may face some difficulties especially at the beginning of their stay. For instance, they may find that their teachers know nothing about the student's country but that is a good opportunity to give a good image of our culture, history, etc.

Some people insist that the government should invest the money spent on students studying abroad on projects at home. I worry that people who demand this have forgotten the creation of competent minds is more important. I would to remind that advanced countries spend four times more on education than for military purposes.

Finally, I would like to say that sending students abroad is a sure means for moving from the traditional state to the modern one. In order to achieve fruitful results and attain new progress, students should be encouraged to study abroad.

By:  
**Abdullah Hameed Morshid,  
London.**

## تعازي آل السقاف

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التعازي  
والمواساة لكافة آل السقاف  
ولالإخوان محمد وعبد العزيز عبدالله السقاف  
لوفاة المفطور له الوالد الجليل

الحاج عبد الله عبد الحفيظ السقاف

أسكنه الله فسيح جناته وألهم الجميع الصبر  
والطوان وإن الله وإن إليه راجعون

الأسفون:

فازي عبد العزيز علوان السقاف

عبد الوارث عبد المحسن السقاف

عبد الولي عبد المحسن السقاف

د / عبد العزيز السقاف

علوان سعيد الشيباني

عمر محمد عمر

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congratulate the Yemeni people, leadership and government  
on the 30th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution



## المؤسسة العامة للنفط

تتقدم باحر التهانى للشعب اليمنى وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة  
الذكرى الثلاثون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة

## The General Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry

congratulates the Yemeni people, leadership and government  
on the 30th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution



## يتقدم الإتحاد العام للغرف الصناعية والتجارية

باحر التهانى والتبريكات للشعب اليمنى وقيادته وحكومته  
بمناسبة ذكرى (الثلاثون) لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة



## A Critic's Viewpoint:

## THE TRUTH ABOUT YEMEN'S BARCELONA EXPERIENCE?

More than a month has passed since the Barcelona Olympic Games were over. However, the sports pages in the Yemeni newspapers continue to carry criticism, comments and remarks reminding of the poor performance in the games by Yemeni athletes.

It is a natural thing that there are a lot of questions which need to be answered. The questions reflect deep concern for the future of sports in the country.

I believe that the public has the right to know; therefore I expected the sports authorities to provide facts explaining the poor results of our athletes in Barcelona. Needless to say, accurate information would help the public draw the right conclusions. Without facts the public will remain confused and puzzled.

Last week, the General Secretary of the Yemeni National Olympic Committee, Mr. Hussain Al-Lissani granted interviews to Al-Thawra and Al-Mithaq sports correspondents in order to set the record straight on Yemen's participation in Barcelona.

Was Al-Lissani successful?

Unfortunately, he did not even come close. In both interviews he by-passed the issues and kept beating around the bush. I did not expect him to give the full truth, but at least some of it? His over-reaction to media criticism was totally unjustified. His answers lacked precision, and were often faulty. He accused sports critics of being disloyal to Yemen and that their remarks were ill-intended.

"Yemen has never won a medal in the Olympics before, how can they dare demand a medal from us this time," he growled.

To my knowledge, no single sports writer mentioned medals, just because everybody knew too well there was no way Yemen could win a medal in the olympics. However, there was concensus among critics that Yemeni athletes could have done much better with a little bit more training and better management.

Another point was raised. Why was the delegation made-up of mainly of bureaucrats? The General Secretary of YNOC insisted there was nothing wrong with that! Yet, everybody understands that it is the athletes who compete in the games, and not the bureaucrats. Maybe the athletes needed fans to root for them. But even that did not happen as the bureaucrats were busy with recreational tours and medical check-ups.

It is about time to see positive results, since this was the 3rd Olympic participation for Yemeni athletes. What is the point in sending athletes who are eliminated in the first round of every game in which they join?

Youth Deputy Minister Mohammed Ghalib Ahmad eased the tension with his candid remarks. "We, in the ministry and YNOC, contribute nothing to our athletes. The athletes try hard on their own. They are self-made people," he said.

With due respect to Mr. Lissani, Yemen does not need irate officials who cry foul when the public and media demand answers regarding issues of common concern. He would do well to simply spill out the truth!

## Results of the PAG, Damascus:

At the end of the Pan-Arab Games held in Damascus, Syria during September 4-17, 1992, the countries that went away with the medals are as follows.

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Syria	39	26	29	94
Egypt	29	24	25	78
Algeria	23	16	20	59
Morocco	15	7	6	28
Qatar	8	3	3	14
Kuwait	6	6	13	25
Saudi Arabia	4	11	4	19
Tunisia	2	18	22	42
Jordan	1	6	4	11
UAE	1	2	-	3
Lebanon	1	-	8	9
Palestine	-	2	2	4
Yemen	-	2	-	2
Oman	-	-	1	1

As the Arab athletes waved goodbye Damascus, they did not know where they would meet for the next games. The matter simply is that none of the heads of the delegations offered to host the next games.

## الف مبروك

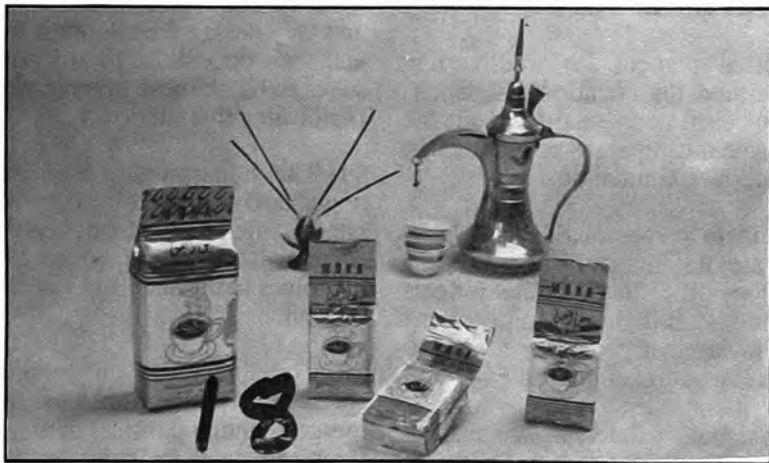
يتقدم كافة آل السقاف وجميع الأصدقاء  
بأعطر التهاني و أحر التبريكات  
للشباب خالد عبدالوارث السقاف  
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون  
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# The National Conference Documents

## Document No. 1: The Code of Political Conduct:

At the end of the National Conference (12-15/9/1992), two documents were issued.

Yemen Times provides its readers translations thereof.

### Preamble:

- On the basis of the teachings of Islam and the tolerant values of the civilizational heritage of the nation, and the objectives and goals of the Yemeni Revolution, and in order to consolidate its achievements in liberating (the nation) from oppression and colonialism, and so as to establish a republican system, and because the people are the source of all authority, and towards achieving political independence and national sovereignty;

- In being faithful to the blood of our long list of martyrs of the national movement which have sacrificed for the Revolution, Liberation, Democracy and Unity;

- In consolidation of the pillars of the Unified Yemen and to protect from various internal and external dangers;

- In support of national unity and the cohesion of the internal front, and to bring about a national reconciliation and to achieve the supreme interests of the nation;

- In recognition of the fact that the constitution is the basic reference point for all laws and regulations that govern the relations of the state apparatus with society, and that define the obligations and duties of all citizens - governing as well as governed;

- In accepting that free, peaceful and democratic dialogue among various segments of society, the political parties, the popular organizations, and public personalities, is the most appropriate vehicle and correct approach to discovering the common denominators and shared objectives and interests, and in evolving the basic national parameters around which a general consensus is to be developed;

- In order to enable all the political and social forces to participate in the political decision-making process and in the implementation thereof so as to achieve modernization, development, progress and reform - as these are prerequisites for Yemen's stability and for it to play its natural and necessary role at the local, Arab, Islamic and international levels.

Having faith in all the above, and in order to reflect them in actual life, the political parties, unions, popular organizations and public personalities participating in this National Conference have agreed to this Code of Political Conduct, and hereby confirm their adherence to its tenets literally and spiritually.

### A. The General Foundations and Principles:

The signatories to this document hereby confirm their adherence to the general foundations and principles which follow:

1. Islam is the faith of the Yemeni people, and from it, laws and rules are

extracted in a forbearing way and in the spirit of ijtihad.

2. The affiliation of the Yemeni people to the Arab and Muslim Nation is a secure base for its national identity, and the unification of Yemen is a practical step towards Arab unity which is considered a major component of our civilizational project.

3. To respect and adhere to the political, economic, social, and cultural foundations, and the civilian nature of the state in the fullest way and as determined by the constitution of the Republic of Yemen.

4. To deem national cohesion as the base for stability in Yemen and as the source of power to Yemeni society so as to safeguard national sovereignty.

5. To submit that political pluralism is the base for democracy, and to work to evolve a strong public opinion that is able to exercise pressure on any attempt that seeks to bury democracy or to empty it from its real contents.

6. To exercise the right of peaceful transfer of power according to constitutional legitimacy.

7. To strongly pursue the division of authority among the (branches of) authority and to clearly define their inter-relations and their relations with society.

8. Democracy in whatever else it means, also means the real contribution and participation of individuals and groups in the dynamics of society in order to arrive at good solutions to its problems and which are in harmony with the nation's conditions and capabilities.

9. To protect the right to unionize and other forms of professional and creative popular associations, and to fully respect the independence, democratic nature, and unity of the unions.

10. The total rejection of violence and terrorism, whatever form they take, and to stand forcefully and in unity against any party that practises them, calls for them, and encourages them.

11. To hold tight to the principle of dialogue, respect and tolerance of the opposing view point and to handle all kinds of differences and variations in political or social issues through democratic and peaceful ways.

12. Not to instigate or exploit any sectarian, tribal or regionalist nuances and feelings, in order to consolidate national cohesion.

13. To respect and safeguard the liberties and rights of the individual which were guaranteed by Islam and included in the constitution, and confirmed by (international) conventions.

14. Complete respect for the rights of motherhood and the right of the child.

15. To neutralize the role of the state and military apparatus so as not to be exploited by any party for political, partisan, or personal benefits.

16. Total respect for the sanctuaries of

knowledge and religion, and the facilities of the state and society, including the official media, and to deny their use for or against any individual, party or political program in the political struggle and competition among the parties; and not to use them to defame or taint or excommunicate any individual or party or body.

17. To encourage scientific research by all means, and to respect and maintain its liberty, and to assert scientific planning in so far as it creates the appropriate ground for scientific thinking regarding the current conditions, and as an important base for comprehensive development.

18. To adhere to and accept an educational philosophy based on the common denominators and accepted values, and to re-assert it, and to make all the educational bodies (such as in education, youth, students, information, culture, etc.) adopt/internalize it in managing and executing their activities and to unify the curricula and administration of the various educational bodies with the objective of raising a harmonious generation in terms of intellect and conduct.

19. To abide by and seek to create an effective cooperation among the political parties and the popular organizations to guarantee that the referendums, and elections (local, municipal and parliamentary) are clean.

20. To pledge to exercise democracy in the various party organs through open and regular elections and conferences through which party leaderships are elected, based on rules and systems that respect the opinions of all and democratic systems.

### B. Guiding Rules for Relations Among Signatories of this Code:

Relations among the signatories of this document are based on the following:

1. Mutual respect for intellectual, political and organizational independence of each party, and to avoid the use of smear campaigns or intellectual and material intimidation.

2. To adhere to constructive and objective dialogue in handling issues on which they differ in a way that reflects their interest in harmony and concord and in a way that gives precedence to the supreme national interests.

3. Any signatory to this document that assumes ministerial responsibility or participates thereof pledges to provide an equal opportunity to all citizens and not to discriminate among them in assigning public posts for reasons not related to qualifications, abilities, experience, in accordance with the constitutions and the laws, and with an eye to creating a stable specialized bureaucratic cadre.

4. To stress the need to urgently implement whatever is left of the unity agreements, especially those related to the unity of the military, security and judicial bodies. Consequently, the signatories see that the supreme national interests require rapidly implementing steps to re-organize the

army, modernize it, and redistribute it to strengthen its defence capabilities. The main duty of the army is to defend the borders of Yemen and the country's sovereignty on its territories and national independence, and not to be involved in the affairs of government and the internal politics of the country.

5. The signatories hereby declare their respect for the neutrality of the armed and security forces as they are organizations of a general national nature, and it is up to the state only to establish them devoid of any tribal, regional or sectarian concentration. They agree, whether they are in power or in the opposition, not to carry out any political party mobilization in them. And they also agree to terminate any such efforts that may exist at the moment.

6. The signatories pledge not to establish any military or para-military bodies in any form.

7. The signatories preserve their constitutional rights to petition/beseech with the Supreme Court any of the laws in force which contradict the constitution, especially those which impinge on the basic rights and liberties of the people, which are guaranteed by the constitution and international conventions.

8. The signatories pledge not to exploit children politically, and not to enlist or mobilize membership among children or students below 18 years of age, in adherence to the laws.

9. The signatories pledge not to use public funds or government facilities or humanitarian organizations in a way inconsistent with the laws, and not to involve such bodies in the local political disputes.

10. The signatories declare that there are legal organizations responsible for security and stability in the country, and they pledge their support for them, and their opposition to any party that seeks to block these organization from performing their duties.

11. The signatories declare that they understand security as a comprehensive concept including (food, health, environmental security...), which all political forces in the state and society share in achieving.

12. The signatories encourage all of forms of coordination, coalition and mergers among political parties, which they see as their right as long as carried out with the consent of the involved parties.

13. The signatories see the National Conference as a mechanism to achieve national consensus regarding issues mentioned in this Code, which may be held as required by the national interest.

14. The signatories have agreed to establish a permanent body to follow up implementation of the resolution of the National Conference, and to call for another conference, if necessary.

15. The contents of this document are obligatory to those parties which sign it and shall be carried out through their political and media activities.

# هايل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

يتقدمون بأطيب الأمنيات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة  
الذكرى الثلاثون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر الخالدة

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5. National Dairy & Food Company.
6. Middle East Trading Co. Ltd.
7. United Industries Co. (Rothmans)
8. The Yemen Company for Agriculture & Livestock Development.

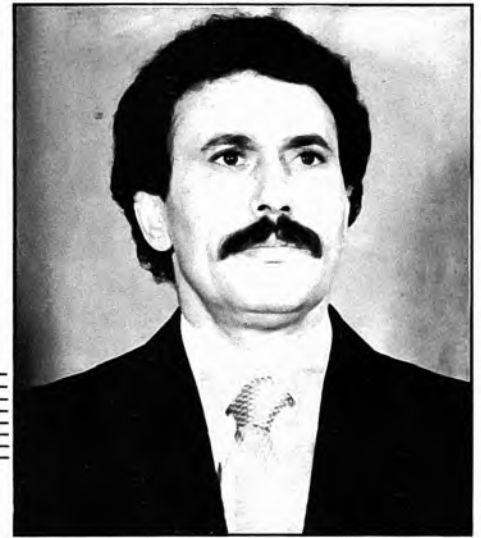
## مجموعة شركات هايل سعيد أنعم:

(مساهمة فاعلة في التنمية والبناء)

- ١- الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة.
- ٢- الشركة اليمنية لصناعة السمن والصابون المحدودة.
- ٣- الشركة الوطنية لصناعة الإسفنج والبلاستيك المحدودة.
- ٤- شركة الصناعات المتنوعة ومواد التعبئة.
- ٥- شركة الألبان والأغذية الوطنية.
- ٦- شركة الشرق للتجارة (متكو).
- ٧- الشركة المتحدة للصناعة (روثمان).
- ٨- الشركة اليمنية للتنمية الزراعية والحيوانية.



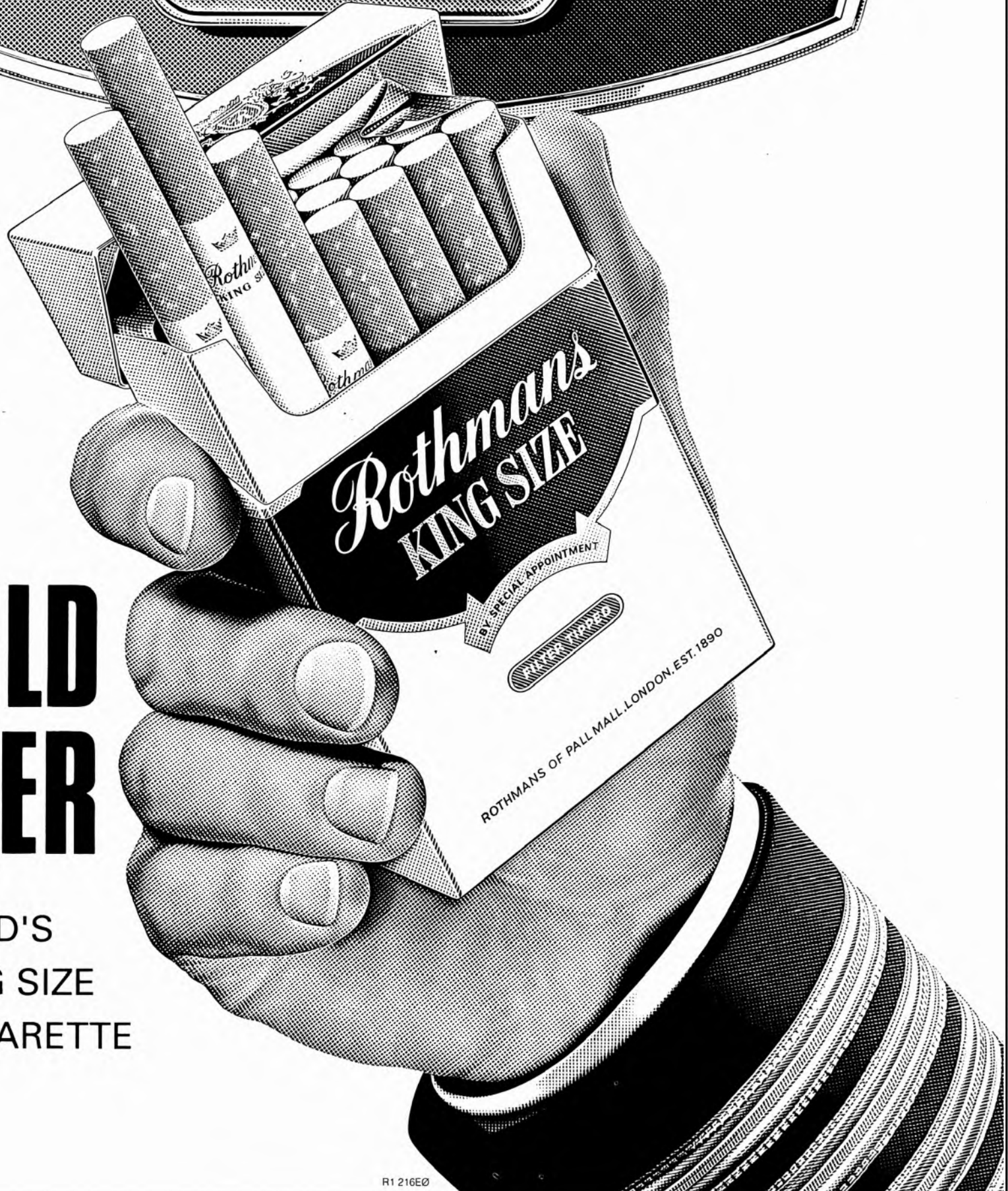
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of the 26 September Revolution*





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## To Yemen ... From India with Love!

I had recently gone to submit my income tax and was approached by an employee of the department to make an 'ex gratia' payment to him. What is an ex gratia payment, and what is the best way to make it? Why am I required to make such a payment when all I want to do is to submit my taxes like an honest citizen?

Ex gratia is derived from the Latin phrase, Extremely Grateful, and is an abbreviation signifying any process in which one party is artificially stimulated to become deeply grateful to the other (i.e., the stimulating) party. In Indian culture, the practice of doing simple, thoughtful gestures towards fellow human beings with a view to making them relaxed and deeply grateful, goes back many generations. It survives today as part of a rich heritage of thoughtfulness and natural socialism, whereby if you own something, usually unmarked currency notes, you make sure others share in this benefit.

An income tax officer will never approach you with an outright demand for an ex-gratia payment, unless it is a long time since he has felt grateful to another. In such a case, out of a natural longing for meaningful contact with another human, he will reach into his desk drawer. There he will seize one from the collection of old wedding cards. ITOs receive invitations to several weddings, and out of a natural sense of thrift, they hang on to the cards, to use the reverse for writing of doodling.

On just such a card, he will write a small four of five digit number, and turn the card to face you. This is a serious number, referred to in the trade as the Gratefulness Threshold Number. If you give him exactly this amount, then he will be instantly converted to a very grateful condition, and your tax liability will rapidly start reducing. Should you, for any reason including penury, give him an amount less than this, then you will have fallen short of the Gratefulness Threshold Number. His face will remain impassive but you will at once enter the next tax slab.

If you are wise, and give him anything over his demand, then you will receive what is known as the Pearly Gates welcome. He will do a small calculation of long term interest gains and so on. For the next three to five years, you will be treated as a citizen who has paid all his taxes in full and final settlement of his dues.

How to make an ex gratia payment? Firstly, you must not let him feel that you are giving him money, or anything material, for that matter. The best way, tried and tested by the great Indian statesmen and sages, is to give a small cry as though a small tropical insect like the tsetse fly had just bitten you and, reaching under the table, pretend to massage your shin. You will presently encounter a soft, slightly sweaty hand there, seemingly groping for its own shin. While discussing double digit inflation above the table, pass an envelope with the requisite sum to the hand under the table.

With the beginnings of a grateful smile, he will accept your ex gratia payment.

Courtesy of:

The Illustrated Weekly of India, April 11-17, 1992, p. 41



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## English Lesson # 11

### VOCABULARY--PART ONE

This week's lesson is a change of pace. We leave grammar behind and turn our attention to vocabulary...the variety of words.

**PRETEST** Write the letter of the correct meaning next to each word,

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| _____ 1. ghoul    | a. fate, future   |
| _____ 2. alcohol  | b. sky blue   |
| _____ 3. assassin | c. drink made from roasted beans                              |
| _____ 4. kismet   | d. fermented liquor   |
| _____ 5. caliber  | e. high-ranking officer in a navy                             |
| _____ 6. azure    | f. quality  |
| _____ 7. mask     | g. a mathematical system                                      |
| _____ 8. coffee   | h. an evil spirit   |
| _____ 9. algebra  | i. something that hides the face                              |
| _____ 10. admiral | j. one who kills, especially the killer of a political person |

### LESSON

How did you do on the pretest? Were you able to find the meaning for each word? If Arabic is your native language, you should have been able to, even if you've never seen any of those English words before. Why? Because all of these words came into the English language from Arabic!

Languages don't stand by themselves; they change. Part of that change includes contact with other languages and the borrowing that results. English owes much of its vocabulary to other languages, including Arabic.

Sometimes it is difficult to recognize the words. Spelling and even meanings change through time and space. Here are our vocabulary words with their Arabic parents:

ghoul--ghala, "seize"	alcohol--al kuhl, a chemical
assassin--hashashin, "one who uses hashish"	kismet--qasama, "he allotted"
caliber--qalib, "mold"	azure--azraq
mask--maskhara, "clown"	coffee--qahwah
algebra--al jabr, "reunion of parts"	admiral--amir a'ali, "high leader"

Note: Word derivations are taken from Webster's Riverside dictionary.

**Practice A** Unscramble these letters to make the vocabulary words.

Example: lough      ghoul

- |             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1. snisāsas | 4. grabale | 7. zearu   |
| 2. berical  | 5. draimla | 8. coohall |
| 3. skam     | 6. effoce  | 9. timesk  |

**Practice B** Choose the correct vocabulary words to complete these sentences.

- The police captured the \_\_\_\_\_ before he shot the Prime Minister.
- Arwa is very good at solving problems. Her best school subject is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The sea at Hodeidah is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I didn't know who he was because he was wearing a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Riyad doesn't like tea; he prefers to drink \_\_\_\_\_.
- We didn't know what would happen. \_\_\_\_\_ brought us here.
- This gold is expensive because it is of very high \_\_\_\_\_.
- The children are afraid of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ commands his ship and all of his men.
- The drinking of \_\_\_\_\_ is forbidden in Islam.

**Practice C** Riddles. Look at the clues given and choose the vocabulary word that fits.

1.  $7x + 52 = 80$



### Weekly Idiom--an albatross around one's neck

An albatross (another Arabic contribution to English through Spanish and Portuguese) is a kind of sea bird. To have an albatross around one's neck means to have a heavy emotional burden that won't go away.

**Example:** After he hit the boy with his car, Ali felt his guilt like an albatross around his neck.

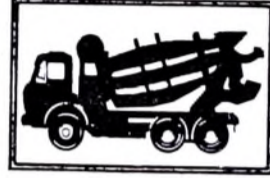


**Don't Forget!** We are still accepting drawings and conversations for our idiom contest. For more details, see the Yemen Times, September 9-15 edition. Deadline is September 27.

**Answers** Pretest: 1. h 2. d 3. j 4. a 5. f 6. b 7. i 8. c 9. g 10. e Practice A: 1. assassin 2. caliber 3. mask 4. azure 5. coffee 6. kismet 7. alcohol 8. ghouls 9. admiral 10. algebra Practice C: 1. algebra 2. mask 3. ghoul

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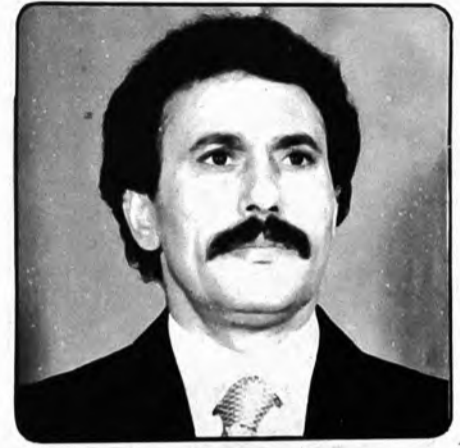
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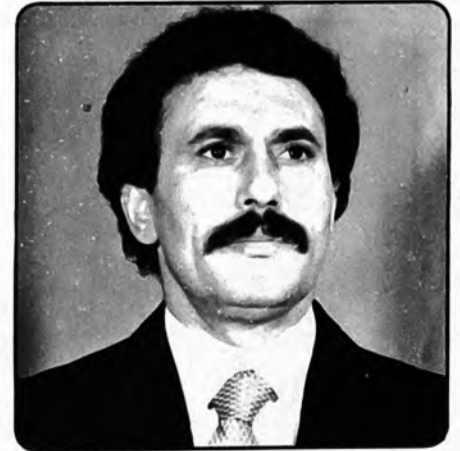


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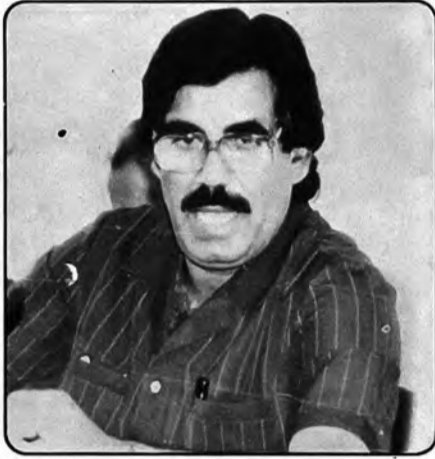


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# The National Conference Documents

## Document No. 2: Steps to Prepare for Elections:

### Introduction:

The Republic of Yemen is, at the moment, passing through a critical and sensitive stage which demands from all the national forces to stop and assess, in a serious way, the nature of the difficulties associated with the shift from the transitional period and with the holding of the elections. Even though all parties agree to end the transitional period on time, and to hold free and honest elections through which the Yemeni people will choose the new authorities and will build a modern and unified state, all parties also agree on the need to accomplish a number of tasks to move over to the post-transitional period.

The tasks mentioned here do not refer to those related to economic and social development, but to those that will allow people to exercise their democratic rights (read holding elections), and that will provide guarantees for their continuation; tasks that will reduce the negative implications of such an exercise due to the recent nature of the experiment as well as due to the low level of social awareness among the people and lack of assuagement among the political parties which have not dealt with one another before in a democratic system and the peaceful transfer of power.

We cannot firmly confirm that our society, our political parties, and our institutions of government have reached a level of conviction to accept the outcome of our democratic exercise which is the decision of the majority as dictated by the ballots. Authorities in developing countries tolerate, sometimes, democratic practices provided that they are on top of them. If such structures threaten their continuation in power, then they will have no more to do with such democratic practices.

The protection of democracy in all societies depends on either of two factors.

A) It is protected by a general social awareness among the people thus rendering it impossible for any of the competing forces to overstep the democratic channels the people have chosen. This is the case in the advanced democratic countries.

B) It is protected by a balance of power among the political and social forces aspiring to participate in leading the system, thus it becomes impossible for any one group or party to by-pass the other parties thereby forcing it to accept the rules of the game agreed to by all parties.

We in the Republic of Yemen are fully aware that institutions of civil society are not yet able to protect democracy if the balance is tipped among the political circles. Thus, we realize that the relative democracy that we enjoy would not be possible had it not been for the equilibrium and balance of power among the political forces running the country since the rise of Unified Yemen.

The conferees have studied the ideas and opinions in a responsible manner and in an open and free environment, and they concluded that their national responsibility requires them to act and contribute in preparing the country for free, honest and safe elections. These are grouped in three sections.

### A: Preparing the Environment:

The political and social forces participating in the National Conference understand that preparing the environment to hold free, honest and safe elections with results that are guaranteed to be adhered to is a matter of utmost importance, and a mechanism to stop any illegitimate efforts at backtracking on this path. For this purpose, and to avoid any destruction struggle among the competing forces, the following steps are necessary:

#### 1. Local Government:

Local government is an administrative mechanism according to which the state distributes its powers and duties among the central and local authorities, such that the central authorities are responsible for the general policies and to manage the national facilities, while the local authorities run the local affairs of the various parts of the country.

It is God's blessing on Yemen that the country does not suffer from an "identity crisis" as there is no group within the country that is unable to co-exist with the rest of the country or seeks to assert a specific status. Yet and throughout history, the unity of the land has been torn apart by personal ambitions, hegemony, and bad, biased and oppressive central rule.

Therefore, it is imperative that we apply democracy at the local level such that the people will elect their local councils and the respective administrative authorities, the director of the district, and the governor of the governorate. As a result, amending the local administration law by expanding the scope of local authority and holding local elections will serve important purposes in preparing the environment for parliamentary elections. The advantages include:

a) Expanding the scope of popular participation and liberating the will of the citizens of all kinds of pressures in order to carry our free and honest parliamentary elections.

b) Local elections will enable the parties to strengthen their contact with their electoral base thus increasing the level of awareness and balance in the political affiliation.

c) Expansion of democratic processes to the grassroots level will create more support such that it will block the return of a totalitarian system, in case one party dominates the parliament.

d) To consolidate national cohesion, to vitalize popular control, and to evolve more effective administration (at the local level), and at the same time allow the central authorities to use their time more fully in planning and drawing general policies, and better audit and control systems.

e) The local elections will allow a more meaningful participation by the people than parliamentary elections which are considered complimentary to the local elections.

#### 2. Army & Security Forces:

The armed forces are the guarantees to protect unity, constitutional legitimacy and to achieve security and stability. At the same time, they are the tools which could be used to backtrack on

the democratic choice. Therefore, free and honest elections with acceptable results cannot be achieved unless the neutrality of the armed forces is guaranteed. This requires:

a) To complete the merger of the armed forces in a real way and to eradicate the symptoms of division.

b) To liberate the armed forces from any allegiance to party, region, family or tribe, and to place them under the full control of a civilian executive authority.

c) To vacate the capital city and other major cities from army barracks and to relocate them in positions that will enable them to protect national sovereignty, and to defend the security, safety of the country.

d) To initiate intensive cultural programs to make members of the armed forces aware of their national role in protecting constitutional legitimacy, and to deepen their loyalty to Yemen and to it alone.

e) To motivate the government to implement its security plan in order to provide stability and safety and such that it blocks any transgressions during the elections. At the same time, the government should disclose the findings regarding its investigations on political violence and to present the perpetrators to justice.

f) To merge the security forces, and to make them responsible for the security of the citizens, state organizations, and officials in the cities and outside, and to forbid any other private security forces from being established.

g) To implement the law governing the acquisition of guns and firearms; to prevent the armed and security forces from direct intervention in the civil life of citizens who exercise their rights according to the constitution; and to block the return of the political security apparatus before the House of Representatives can issue a law to determine its duties; to re-organize its structure; and to stop its use as a tool to oppress citizens who exercise their constitutional rights.

h) To release all political prisoners, and to resolve all issues related to political struggle in the former regimes prior to the rise of Unified Yemen, and to compensate such prisoners in a just way.

#### 3. Public Funds and Posts:

The most dangerous threat to democracy and which may affect the honesty of elections and equal opportunity is the use of the authorities of public funds and public posts in order to strengthen their positions at the expense of the general welfare. Honest elections are not possible unless there are guarantees not to misuse state funds in order to buy the allegiance (of individual and power brokers), and thus influence the elections. Therefore, the following steps are necessary:

a) To re-vitalize the role of the Central Organization for Control and Audit and placing it under the direct jurisdiction of the House of Representatives, and to stop any new illegal promotions

b) To issue the law which forces persons occupying public posts to reveal their financial worth.

c) To form a committee to re-evaluate senior government officials according to the following criteria:

i- The qualifications of the official,

ii- The official proper use of the post in light of a comparison between the legal income and accumulated assets.

d) To adhere to the constitution in forbidding senior government officials in being involved in commercial/business deals, whether directly or indirectly.

#### 4. Media and Worship Centers:

Statements by certain circles could be the means to disturb security and stability, therefore, statements should be made in a responsible way. For this purpose, all participants are required to assist as follows:

a) To respect the centers of worship or knowledge or government offices and facilities, and to refrain from using them to slur, excommunicate any person, party or group, or to use them to call for violence or discrimination.

b) To guarantee the neutrality of the official media, and to desist their use in favor of one person or party, and to ensure an equal access to all candidates.

#### 5. The Judicial System:

No real democracy can flourish with an independent judicial system to which citizens can refer for justice, and to which organizations can refer to determine the constitutionality of certain laws and regulations. Therefore, it is imperative to respect the independence of the judicial system, to apply the judicial law, and to give the judicial system a supervisory role in the elections process. At the same time, specialized judges must be appointed to look into administrative violations (by government bureaucrats) and to stimulate the constitutional department in the Supreme Court so that it can look into constitutional violations.

#### 6. The Problem of Vengeance:

Elections cannot be carried out in the full senses unless the problems of vengeance are effectively frozen so that all parties can participate without fear or anxiety.

Therefore, the participants in the National Conference have agreed to freeze these issues for three years, and to work, immediately following the elections, to resolve these issues in collaboration with the government and the tribal chiefs and elites.

#### 7. People Living Worries:

The difficult conditions of the citizens because of high costs of living and rising unemployment have created a tense situation which could disturb the peace and stability. Therefore, the authorities are urged to find suitable and urgent solutions to the daily problems of citizens by providing strict surveillance to stop those who manipulate prices, and to control wasteful consumption and extravagancy which lead to social strife.

#### 8. Personal Identity Card:

To ensure the participation of all citizens in the elections process, and to enable them to exercise their rights in running and electing, the relevant authorities are obliged to facilitate that all citizens easily acquire personal or family identity cards, and to cut back on bureaucratic routines which hinder the handing over of IDs.

Continues on page 19

Continued from page 18:

## Document No. 2 of the National Conference

**B: Steps Necessary to Carry Out Free and Honest Elections:**

1. To issue rapidly the maps delineating the boundaries of each constituency, which should be drawn along objective and rational lines, and to indicate polling stations. To start registration of voters and to issue the list of registered voters so that the candidates can ascertain their validity and they can embark on their campaigns.
2. To encourage the candidates and their campaigners to mobilize support among the voters.
3. To ensure that no citizen entitled to participate in the elections according to the constitution is hindered from participation.
4. To minimize the bureaucratic hassles involved in exercising the right to vote, by limiting the procedures to two steps only:
  - a- To register and receive the voting card,
  - b- To cast the ballot.
5. To make sure that the polling stations are as close to the people, however far they may live.
6. To locate polling stations in a way that will not bias the outcome by serving certain candidates at the expense of others.
7. To provide the chance for all employees who work for the government or the private sector, in Yemen or abroad, to participate in the elections process.
8. To determine strictly the role of urban quarters chieftains, and to place them under the supervision of the elections committees.
9. The Supreme Elections Committee must shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities in the fullest sense to achieve free and honest elections. If it fails to do so, it should resign at once.
10. To fully implement, in the literal and spiritual sense, the elections law without special considerations to this or that party.
11. To air the sessions of the Supreme Elections Committee on TV and radio and to make its deliberations open to the media so that the people will get an accurate picture of what is going on and to contribute by rectifying any mistakes.
12. To facilitate the tasks of whoever wishes from among the Arab and international human rights organizations to attend the elections process.

**C. Milestones on the Future Road:**

Our National Conference is a historic opportunity for the participating parties to define their visions regarding issues of general concern and programs of joint action. The political parties, popular organizations and public personalities (have met to put their minds together in order to address the future rather than the past). Therefore, it is important, not only to look into how to go about the coming parliamentary elections, but also to place milestones in our quest to build a modern state. We see ourselves as the core and base for a civil society that has the responsibility of building the new society.

In the era of democracy, responsibility for state building shifts from the traditional forces, such as the military and the tribes, to the organizations of civil society which provide a wider and more enlightened framework for change. Thus, the pressing issues for which we have to struggle include:

1. To draw distinct lines between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of authority and between presidential (central) and local authorities so as to stop transgressions and overlap of responsibilities which lead to constitutional violations and breaking laws.
2. To rebuild the structure of the state in a way compatible with the needs of society and amenable to the achievements of the objectives of development plans.
3. To amend the civil service law and its executive by-laws in the direction of re-allocating technocrats on the basis of qualifications and abilities, but without prejudice to acquired rights and privileges so as to achieve stability within the government bureaucracy.
4. To take serious official and popular steps to control the corruption and corrupting influence, and waste and inefficient use of public resources.
5. To take official and popular measures to stop constitutional violations, the breaking of laws, and human rights violations.
6. To bring in qualified persons with scientific expertise in finding solutions to the burdens of the people, and to achieve progress and development.
7. To accept that the public, private, mixed, and cooperative sectors are important instruments in the development, and to reject any un-studied and unjustified calls to by-pass any of the above sectors.
8. To handle all issues of land and real estate - public - as well as private - in all parts of the Republic, and with due consideration to the interests of the owner and user.
9. To expedite uniting of the curricula, educational administration and personnel, encompassing public and private schools, with the aim of generating a generation unified culturally and based on values emanating from the faith and heritage of the people, and with an eye to binding education to development.
10. To reconstruct the armed forces in a way that will block the tribal, sectarian, regional and family influence, and in order to strengthen within the army the concept of protecting constitutional legitimacy and national sovereignty.
11. To strengthen the role of the House of Representatives by developing the capabilities of its members, and to provide to them information which helps them in carrying out their tasks. The parties, unions and media will collectively support the independence of the House, to implement its decisions, and to hold accountable any member who betrays the responsibility and trust because of personal benefits.

**D. The Tools:**

We are used to holding meetings and conferences which issue resolutions for the implementation of which the government is held responsible, and

every one of the participants goes his/her way forgetting about the whole thing. When we meet again in another conference or meeting, we issue similar resolutions and recommendations, and again ask the government to implement them.

Put differently, societies in developing countries are used to expect things to come from the authorities, and they are used to deciding and implementing what they want, and to follow all the democratic and legal channels in so doing.

The resolutions and decisions of the National Conference are not made to be cabled to the authorities, but they are decisions we have taken with the intention of carrying them ourselves. Some of the practical steps we shall embark on include the following:

1. To form committees from the parties, popular organizations and public personalities to participate in (and supplement) the committees formed to supervise the parliamentary and local elections.
2. To form committees to go to the people in the various governorates to urge them to carry out local elections and apply the law without waiting for a decision from the authorities.
3. To form legal teams to follow the elections process and to pinpoint any violations of the law.
4. To form popular committees at the grassroots level to mobilize general opinion to pressure the authorities into

implementing (their side of) the decisions of the National Conference.

5. To call for the formation of a coalition government which is strong enough to take bold decisions in preparing the environment for the elections. Such a government should inevitably be formed in consultation with the political forces and House of Representatives, while limiting the role of the Presidential Council to only issuing the agreed-upon decision.

6. There is a proposal to form a permanent body, with fully-drawn up strategies and objectives, to follow-up and coordinate all the above decisions and resolutions. This body will be entrusted with:

- a) To study all the legal mechanisms to implement the resolutions of the National Conference;
- b) To initiate dialogue with all the forces in society that believe in the objectives of the National Conference
- c) If need arises, to call for another National Conference and to prepare for it;
- d) To draw up the by-laws for its activities.

The body is to be formed as follows:

- a) one representative for each participating political party;
- b) one representative for each participating popular organization;
- c) seven public personalities to be named by the above representatives.

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## THE COMPLETE STORY BEHIND THE VICE CHAIRMAN'S STANDPOINT!

By: Salim Abid,  
Courtesy: Sawt al-Ummal, 17/9/1992

I want to discuss an issue that was raised in the local papers regarding the absence (from Sanaa) of the Vice Chairman, Mr. Ali Salim al-Beedh.

Some writers questioned the vice-chairman demanding reasons for his residence in Hadhramaut at such a critical moment. Some of these writers were innocent individuals, but many were by crooked persons who had an axe to grind, and they were put up to what they have been writing. This latter group has used all kinds of false and dishonest information. Some of them even said that the vice chairman had no right to leave Sana'a over trivial differences among politicians and that they are to be expected under democratic conditions. They urged him to take measures leading to face to face dialogue with the other partner. To put things this way would be fictitious, illusory and deceitful.

I see that it is essential to point out the facts behind the basic difference between the vice-chairman and the chairman of the presidential council according to informed and responsible sources.

The vice chairman's departure from Sanaa is not to escape from direct and face to face discussions. The vice chairman left Sana'a only after he could not make the other side see light. His decisions represents a mature, rational and responsible choice given the conditions imposed on

him by the crooked positions of the leadership concerning the implementation of the unity agreements. I am referring to critical issues concerning the elections, the participation of all the national political forces in a meaningful way, the need for real steps to remedy the worsening security situation. The departure of the vice chairman curbed some of these escalations. To remain in Sanaa would have led him to acquiesce or to a showdown. A showdown is what certain circles want in order to suspend the constitution and to announce martial law.

It is known to all that the vice chairman tried hard during the last two years to convince the partner to faithfully implement the unity agreements; to proceed in preparing for elections in a decent way; and to guarantee equal opportunity for all parties and forces.

Unfortunately, his appeals fell on deaf ears. To the contrary, he had to battle off efforts to freeze various parts of the unification agreement and to even amend the constitution. He had to ward off pressure tactics including the liquidation of some leaders of the YSP in order to lead to a crisis. His own authority, role and duties were paralyzed. Finally, he was compelled to leave Sana'a thus avoiding the showdown some parties eagerly sought.

The vice chairman continues to insist on resolving the three pending issues: proper preparations for elections, security, and broad political participation. He even offered to resign if that would help achieve these goals and save the country from turmoil.

Knowing all this, how can we blame him for leaving Sanaa in order to avoid a showdown.

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**Contractors for mechanical  
and heavy civil projects:**

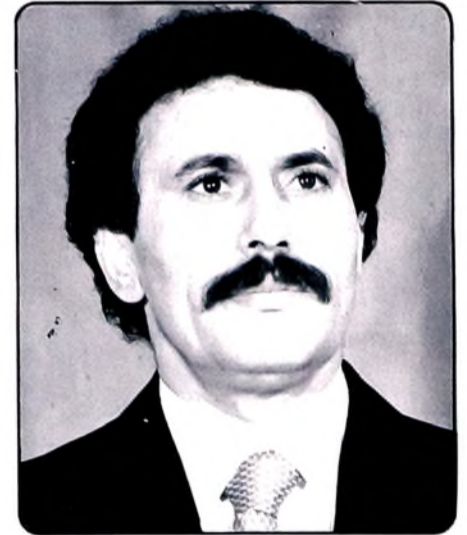
Refineries, Pipelines, Petrochemical Plants,  
Sewage Treatment Plants, Water Treatment  
Plants, Water Reservoirs and Distribution  
Systems, Highways, Offshore Structures,  
Underwater Works, Marine Works, etc.

Sanaa Aden

Phones: (967-1) 275281 (969-1) 42910  
Facsimile: (967-1) 272713 (969-1) 42910

# YEMEN PETROLEUM CO.

**congratulate the Yemeni people, leadership and government  
on the 30th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution**



## شركة النفط اليمنية

**تتقدم باطيب التبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة  
الذكرى الثلاثون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة**