

YEMEN TIMES

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PERSONAL VIEW

INDEPENDENTS & POLITICS



BASHAR G. ASKAR,
Yemen Times Staff

It is a glaring fact that the majority of the Yemenis are independents - those who are not committed to any political party. Many Yemenis agree that the country does not need this plethora of political parties that have mushroomed 'overnight'. Many independents are frustrated by these parties, and they are even more upset when they are cornered into enrolling.

This may or may not be as a result of their conviction regarding the enrollment in political parties. Therefore, one can say that the political parties, even if they reflect the interests of their members, and often they do not, they actually represent a small fraction of society. Thus, independents are bound to play a vital and critical role in the coming parliamentary elections. In my opinion, there are three kinds of independents.

First, there are those who do not believe in participating in politics, let alone accepting multi-party political systems. These are the individuals who will never join, and even if they did, they will never contribute.

The second group is made up of those who have interest planted in more than one place. For these persons, joining one party will damage their links and interests with others. So they stay aloof.

The third group is made up of persons bewildered by the large number of parties, and they feel none of them really satisfy their needs. These are persons who will readily join in political events, but they need to be convinced.

This last group, composed mainly of university professors, unionists and businessmen, is the key element in the future of this country. I hope the "professional politicians" will grasp this reality and act accordingly.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL

YEMENI VOLUNTEER TO SUPERVISE IN THE ELECTIONS

The Yemeni Organization for the Defence of Rights and Liberties, in its meeting on October 6th, decided to recruit volunteers to supervise in the elections. According to informed sources, already 58 persons who satisfy the conditions put forth by the Organization have volunteered.

Most of these are university professors, lawyers, and other important personalities in the community.

PRESIDENT SALEH RECEIVES EXXON DELEGATES

H.E. Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, received Mr. Lee Raymond, Exxon President for Exploration, and the accompanying delegation.

In the high-gear meeting which was attended by Prime Minister Abubakar Haider Al-Attas, the President praised the forthcoming nature of Exxon and its successful investments in Yemen.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR BLOC MAKES HEADWAY

The newly-formed Private Sector Economists Bloc held numerous meetings with key political parties in order to coordinate efforts for the elections. Meetings were held with H.E. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Assistant Secretary-General of the People's General Congress, Prime Minister Haider Al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and Dr. Abdul-Quddoos Al-Midhwahi, Rapporteur of the Political Bureau of the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi Annasari. Additional meetings are lined up with other parties. However, pressure is mounting from high circles against the independent-minded businessmen and intellectuals to backtrack and fall in line. The process, meanwhile, has developed momentum of its own.

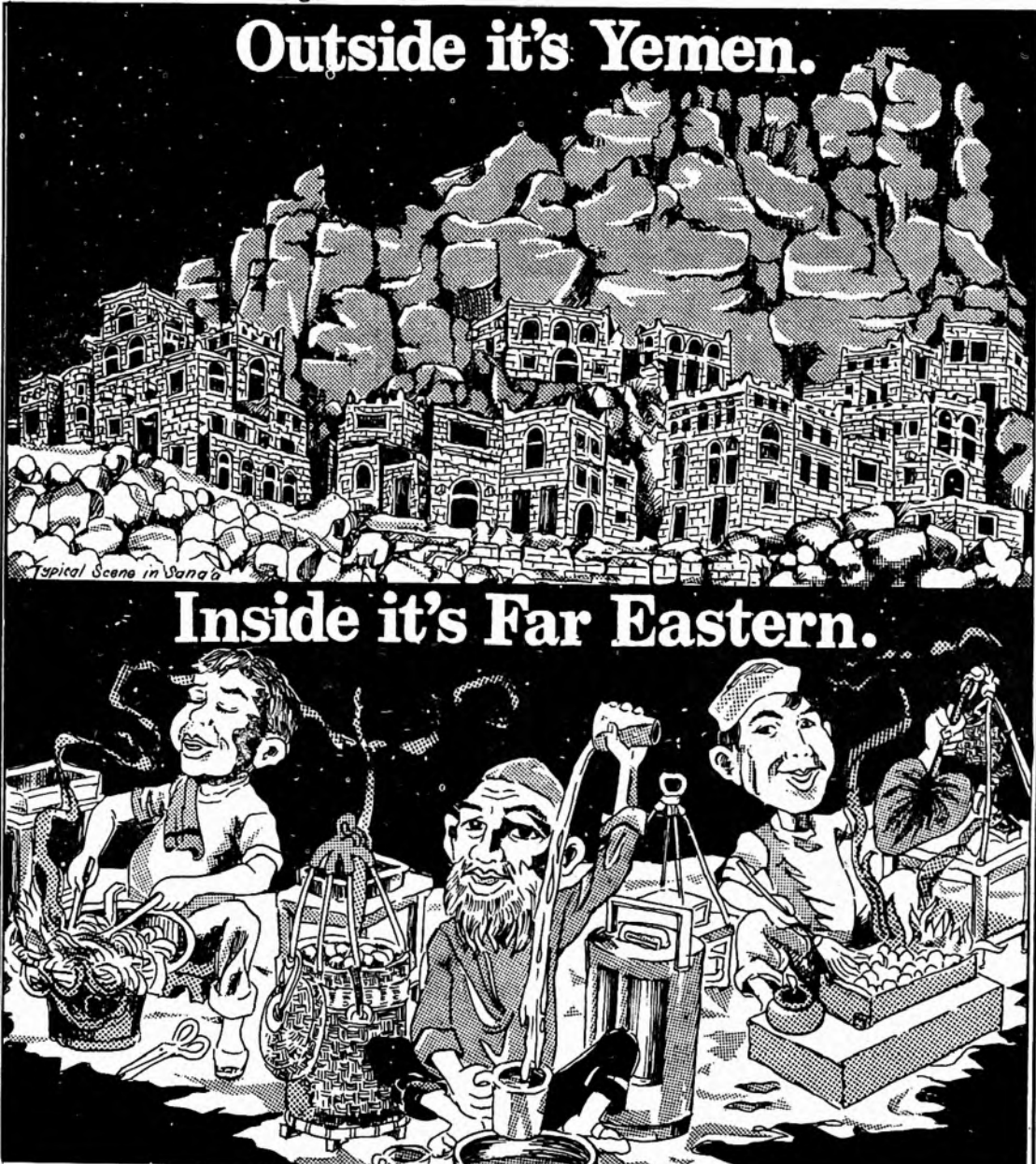
The idea behind this bloc is to create a non-partisan group that seeks to influence the economic decisions of this country. At the same time, the bloc hopes to serve as a neutral forum for interaction among the politicians.

Continued from Page One:

Approaching Zero Hour in Yemen:

The Conference of Political Parties and Popular Organization was concluded and failed to achieve its goal of bringing everybody together and creating a broad-based

consensus. "Now they are talking of a third conference which will bring the whole lot together," commented a leading member of an opposition party.



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NEST '92

Fathi Salim Ali Al-Baidhani:

"Yemen today is self-sufficient in LPG."

With the inauguration of Yemen Hunt Oil Company's Asaad Al-Kamil plant, the Republic of Yemen became self-sufficient in liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

The Asaad Al-Kamil plant is designed to separate the liquid hydrocarbon from water and gas. The liquid hydrocarbons are transported by pipeline for export at Ras Issa, and the water and gas are reinjected into the formation. LPG which is separated is transported by pipeline to an expanded storage and loading facility at the Alif CPU, where it is available to be hauled by tank truck for domestic use.

The plant is handling at the moment roughly 450 million cubic feet per day, and it has 26 producing wells.

The total cost of the entire Asaad Al-Kamil plant is US\$ 140 million, in addition to US\$ 12.5 million for the Cryogenic Plant and US\$ 50 million for the two compressors.

The company charged with the responsibility of LNG, gas and diesel is the Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC). To shed more light on this sector, the Economic Editor of Yemen Times, Ameen Nouisser, interviewed the YPC Chairman Mr. Fathi Salim Ali Al-Baidhani.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: With the coming of Asaad Al-Kamil on stream, can we say the problem of LPG is over for Yemenis?

A: That would be an accurate conclusion. I think that Asaad Al-Kamil is a big plus as far as supply of LPG is concerned. Yemen today is self-sufficient in LPG. This is a direct saving of US\$ 25 million in foreign exchange every year.

By the way, some oil is also pumped out of Asaad Al-Kamil for exports.

Q: What are your plans for 1993?

A: Now that the gas (LPG) is available, we are working on making available the cylinders, the logistics, and the marketing network.

The Supreme Council for Oil has authorized the purchase of 800,000 cylinders. These will be mainly for



household use, although some will be used by commercial enterprises. The private and public sectors are jointly involved in this purchase.

We are now putting the final touches on mobile distribution stations of LPG.

Q: Are you covering the whole republic. I mean places like Socotra?

A: It is our policy to cover the whole republic, even the remote ones. We even try to unify the price system, because it is not the fault of the citizen that he/she is located far away from the capital city or the production center.

With respect to Socotra, a lot could be done once its transportation facilities are up-graded. If there were a good airport or seaport, the island could see dramatic improvements, including a steady supply of LPG.

Thus, I urge the authorities to attend to this matter.

Q: Handling LPG is a hazardous business even in advanced societies. Any special difficulties?

A: Of course, you regularly hear of incidents due to mis-use or mis-handling.

To combat this, we are acting at many fronts.

First, all our facilities and network, including private distributors and trucks are fully insured.

Second, we have a full-fledged awareness campaign using the media. You must have seen our commercials on TV, and advertisements in newspapers.

Third, we have recurrent and direct programs for citizens. These involve talks, warning signs, etc.

Q: There were talks about LPG pipelines to cities and major consumption units.

A: Yes, this matter is under study. We hope to replace diesel and petrol consumption with LPG. It is cleaner and it is cheaper for Yemen. But there are no concrete plans yet.

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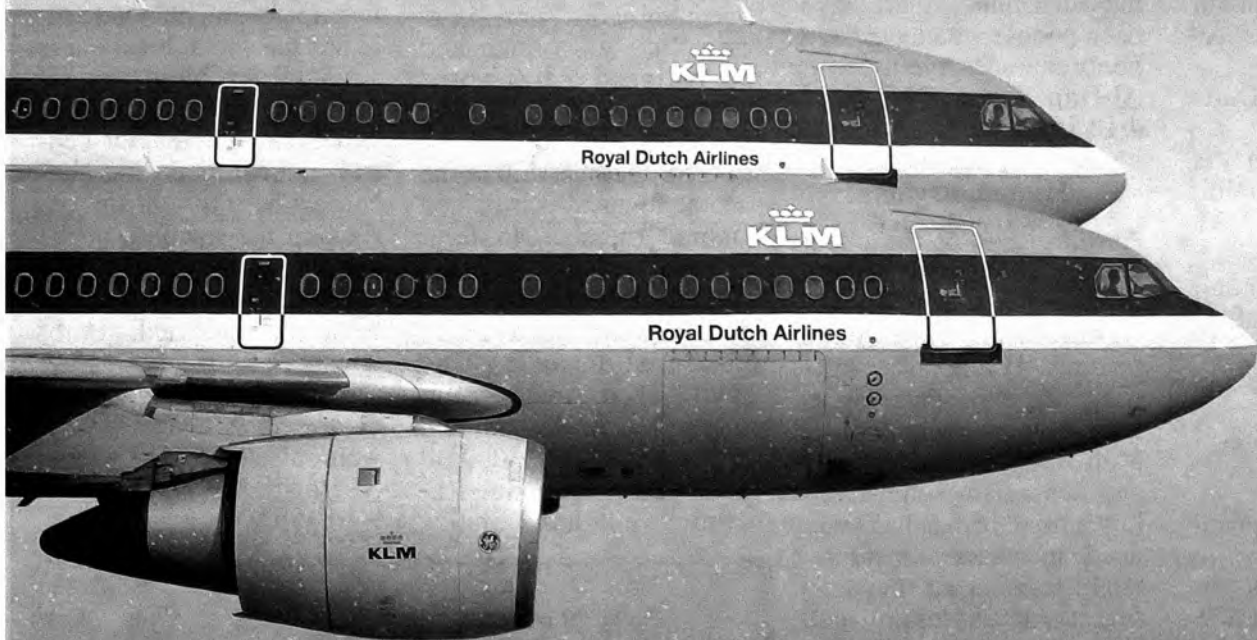
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**The PGC and YSP Chair
A Broad Meeting**

At the residence of Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the People's General Congress, a meeting was held to which representatives of the National Conference, the Preparatory Committee of Political Parties conference, as well as representatives from the two ruling parties the PGC and YSP were invited. The meeting was devoted to seeking the means for reaching a consensus to draw up future outlines and plans to pull Yemen out of the current political deadlock.

During the meeting, a number of positions were expressed with the aim of clarifying decisions and achieving reconciliation. The thrust was to draft guidelines on which the political and social forces could agree. The aim was to stabilize the democratic practices based on constitutional legitimacy through the peaceful and democratic transfer of power by holding free parliamentary elections on time.

The discussions confirmed there were no differences regarding substance, and that the national conference documents were a good base for the future forum. During the meeting a proposal was made by Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the YSP, following consultations with the PGC. The proposal calls for holding a new get-together in which all the political parties and popular organizations shall participate. The proposal also states that the documents of the National Conference and its resolutions would be a good base to start from.

The proposal also calls for a high-level meeting between the heads of polit-

ical parties and popular organizations on the one hand, and the Presidential Council and leaderships of the two ruling parties on the other.

The various participants were requested to respond to the proposal in writing. The meeting was headed by Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, and attended by Salim Saleh Mohammad Jarallah Omer, and Yahya Al-Mutawakil. From the two contending blocs of political parties, attendants were:

A. the Preparatory Committee of the Political Parties group:

- Mohamed Abu-Luhoom,
- Abdo Al-Janadi,
- Abdullah Al-Akwa',
- Ahmed Al-Jurmoozi,
- Mohammed Shafer,
- Yahia Shujaa

B. the National Conference group:

- Abdul Rahman Al-Jafri,
- Qadhi Ahmed Shami,
- Sheikh A/Rahman Numan
- Dr. Abdul Quddus Al-Midhwahi,
- Engineer Abdul Qadir Abdul Fattah,
- Abdul Wahab Mughallis,
- Dr. Abdullah Al-Huraibi,
- Dr. Abdullah Al-Dhaifani,
- Dr. A/ Kareem Dammaj,
- Dr. A/Aziz Al-Saqqaf.

**Raay, Sanaa,
6/10/1992.**

**Badges and Medals:
For Whom?**

As it is known, badges and medals are decorations exalting those citizens who have participated in national efforts and have offered historic sacrifices. These decorations are testimony to great deeds.

Specialized committees are formed from experts regarding the contribution of each individual and group to the national welfare, but the system is flawed.

Those who deserve badges and medals are citizens from all walks of life and classes, and the state must not discriminate between

one citizen and another, except on the basis of their deeds.

Competition should be legitimate, and the state's concern for honoring of our heroes should not be partial to any individual or group. During the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution, there was talk about the credibility of some of the stories given by the veterans and children of martyrs. Questions were raised regarding the legitimacy of the honors bestowed based upon these stories. Therefore, we propose that the specialized committee be composed of experts, prominent figures, and men who participated in launching the revolution. We want them to lay down criteria regarding selection of honorees. We know that there are veterans who have not been honored, although they deserve to be; and on the other hand, there have been people who have been honored undeservedly.

**Al-Haq, Sanaa,
4/10/1992.**

Human Rights

As this issue of the paper comes out, the new Yemeni organization for human rights will have been formed. Islam, as a doctrine, addresses these rights with much understanding. Man's oppression, tyranny and despotism against fellow human beings has practiced since ancient history. Islam transferred the Arab society of oppression and slavery to tolerance and freedom kneeling down only in front of the Creator. And as it is said by the prophet Mohammed. "All people are equal in rights with no preferences or discrimination."

All people are born free with equal rights. We take this opportunity to welcome the birth of this organization with all its noble goals and good will. We hope it will carry out

its responsibility in defending the rights and freedom of all.

**Al-Sahwa, Sanaa,
8/10/1992.**

**President Saleh Donates
Half a Million Riyals to
the Aden Charity
Association**

Chairman of the Presidential Council, Ali Abdullah Saleh made a financial donation of half a million Riyals to Aden's Charity Association (ACA). The President also expressed his strong moral support for ACA. He was well-pleased with the persons in charge of the association comprising efficient and experienced components with the capability to carry out the tasks of the society.

Throughout the meeting with the administrative board of ACA with the president, the talks were cordial and warm. "Aden is a city of all Yemenis and it was home to Yemeni patriots like Al-Numan and the martyr M. Al-Zubeiri," the president said. Then he filled out an application form for membership in the association, and was named honorary member No. 1.

In a subsequent meeting with businessmen, the President urged them to make substantial donations. The Hayil Saeed Anam group and Ameen Al-Aswadi and Bros. donated YR 300,000 each. Tawfiq Abdul Raheem Mutahhar, Shahir

Abdul Haq, Mohammad Adhban, Mohammad Al-Rowaishan and Zaid Al-Qubati donated YR 200,000 each; and YR 150,000 was donated by Abdulwahid Thabit. At the same time, Ghazi Alwan, Abdulla Fahim, Al-Hubari, Al-Awadi, Mohammad Al-Sunaidar, Abdul Jaleel Radman, Saleh Al-Issai, Qassim Al-Sharafi, and Abdul Salam donated YR 100,000 each. Finally, Jameel Mohammad Al-Useimi, Adul Aziz Mursheed, and Al-Hitra gave YR 50,000 each.

**Al-Ayyam, Aden,
7/10/1992.**

**Missing Achievement in
Revolutionary Yemen**

We asked a number of citizens to name the one thing that has not been achieved during the past thirty years of Revolutionary Yemen. Most people thought that the supremacy of the law has not been achieved fully. At the social level that is a social problem that is bordering on a catastrophe. Others thought that the central government has become a base for corruption. Raising the standard of the people socially, culturally and economically has not been accomplished. Problems of security and safety and increasingly high prices are other concerns that were raised by citizens.

**Al-Rasid, Sanaa,
9/10/1992**

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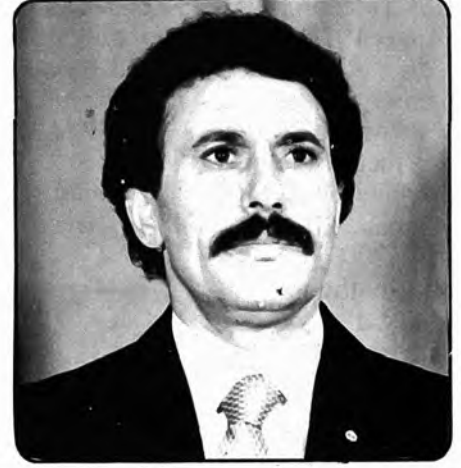
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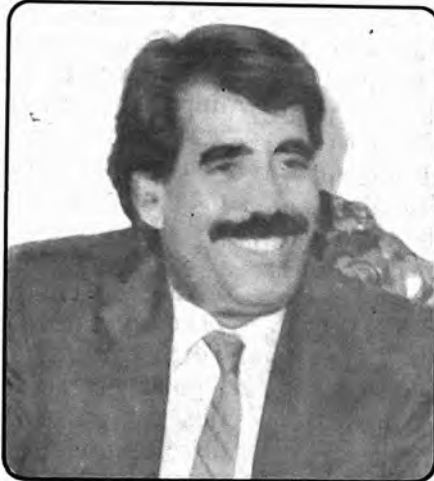


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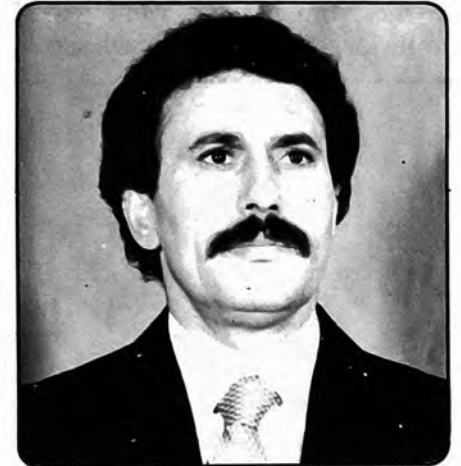
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YEMEN HAS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED TELEPHONE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD

One of the most advanced sectors of Yemen is the telecommunications sector. On the anniversaries of the September and October Revolutions, many new projects were unveiled. Observers believe that Engineer Ahmed Al-Anisi, Minister of Telecommunications since 1978, has a lot to do with these achievements.

"On the eve of the 26th of September, there were only 800 telephone lines (400 lines in Sanaa, 200 in Taiz, and 200 in Hodeidah) in the country, and calls were limited within cities.

Today, Yemen has one of the most advanced telephone networks," the Minister said.

Asked about the recent restructuring of the pricing system, the minister indicated that prices had been frozen at their 1968 levels. In addition, all local calls, whether within the city, or from one governorate to another were priced at YR. 2 a minute. "We needed to re-adjust the prices to take note of the changes in costs, the depreciation of the Riyal, and the growth of the land-mass of the country following reunification. For YR. 6 a minute, you can still call from Saadah to Seiyoun," he concluded. Although the Ministry is the umbrella organization

for this sector, it is actually the Public Telecommunications Corporation (PTC), a financially and administratively independent organization, that does the job. Since its establishment in 1982, the PTC has pushed forward in its services.

"Today, we have 125,000 telephone lines in service; and by year-end, there will be 171,000 lines; and by mid-1993, 233,000 lines," said Mr. Abdullah Al-Hammami, the Director General of PTC.

The PTC is able, not only to self-finance its operating costs, but also to cover 70% of its investments. The balance of the money comes from external loans. "We do not need or receive any support from the government," stressed Mr. Hammami.

There is another aspect of the PTC that is equally impressive. It has detailed plans extending all the way to 2007, by which time, the country is expected to need/have almost a million telephone lines.

"Our current plans call for laying down 400 kilometers of telephone cables, establishing 19 new regional switchboards, and major expansions, and replacements in the telephone network," said Hammami.

Speaking about the efforts



Abdullah Al-Hammami

to relieve the pressure on Aden, given its potential role as a free zone and economic and commercial capital, it was learnt that the number of telephone lines has been dramatically increased to 14,600 lines, and the number will soon rise to 22,000. By the end of the current plan period (1997), Aden will have 62,000 lines.

At the same time, there are today some 480 channels for calls between Aden and other Yemeni cities.

In conclusion, Hammami, proudly indicated that Yemen has one of the most advanced telephone services in the world.

To complete the picture on the progress of this sector, Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Ali Basahi, the Deputy General Manager of the Yemen International Telecommunications Company (YITC), himself an old hand in the business since his first employment by Cable and Wireless in Aden in 1956.

"YITC, a joint Yemeni-British company, provides international call services. But recently at the request of the Yemeni authorities, YITC has installed mobile phone services in Aden, Sanaa, and Taiz," Mr. Basahi explained. This service was especially important in Aden, which suffers from bottlenecks in telephone lines, although it was also a handy tool for users in Sanaa and Taiz.

By mid-September, there were already 890 users of the mobile phone system, and the number is expected to rise rapidly.

"We also have plans to provide this service in Hodeidah and Mukallah," he explained. He also said that, although the range of the mobile phones are presently limited to the city limits and the immediate outskirts, there are plans to have a continuous service along the Sanaa-Taiz-Aden road, and the Taiz-Hodeidah-Sanaa road. The company also has plans for eastward and northward expansions. The eastward network will extend to Radaa, Al-Baidha and Ataq, while the northward expansion will cover Hajjah and Saadah.

Speaking of relations between the YITC and the PTC, Mr. Basahi explained that the PTC is actually a share-holder in the YITC and that it also represents the government body charged with the telecommunications sector in Yemen. Basically, the PTC handles local demand, and the YITC handles international demand, and the cooperation is regulated by formal agreements. "We have two agreements - a main agreement, and the mobile phone agreement - that regulate our relations. In my opinion, both sides

are extremely satisfied with the current level of cooperation and coordination."

In terms of facilities available for international telecommunications, the YITC official said that all current telecommunication traffic is carried out via satellites. There is a project which will give Yemen diversity through a new fiber optic submarine cable system, known as SEA-ME-WE2 project, and Yemen will have a cable from Aden to Djibouti to join this new project. The cable system extends from Marseilles in France to Singapore, passing through various nodes. The system is estimated to cost around US\$ 17million. At the same time, Tele-Yemen will have a new modern digital satellite earth station in Sanaa to strengthen the satellite links which already exist.

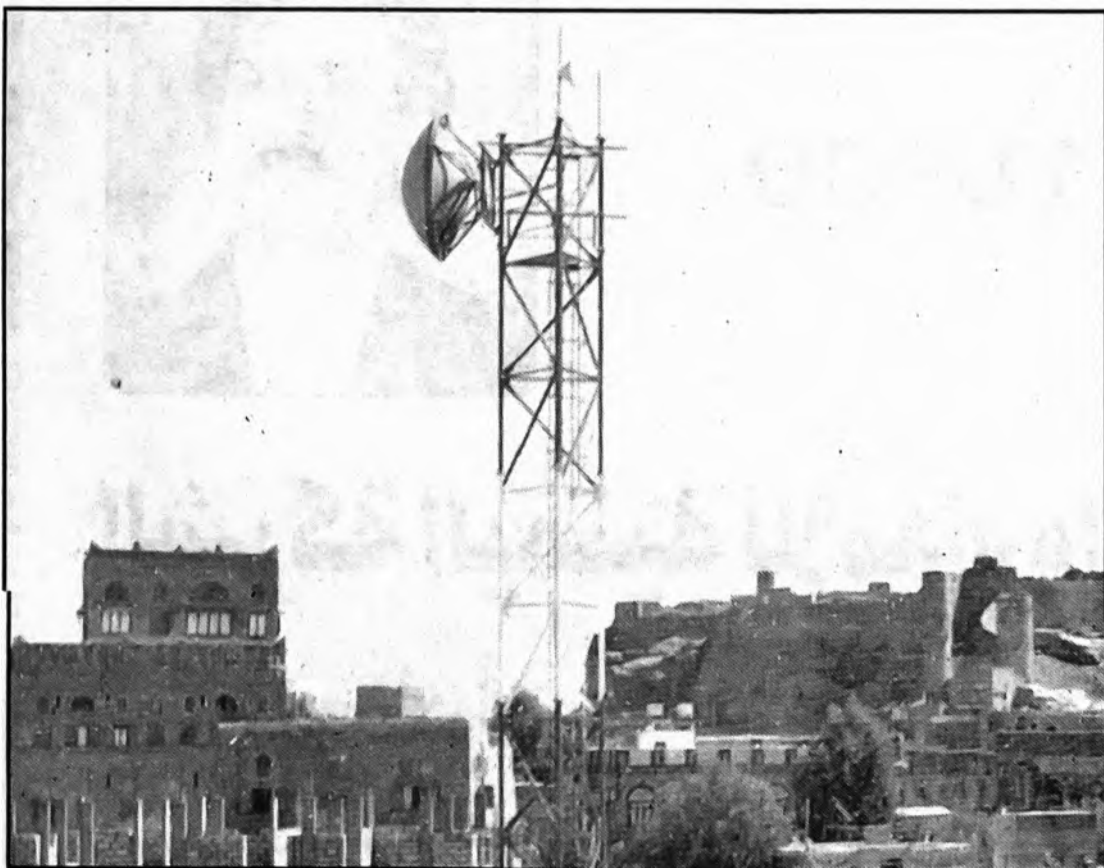


Ali Basahi

Regarding Yemenization, Mr. Basahi stated that Tele-Yemen has a very high majority of Yemeni staff at all levels within the Company. Many of the existing staff have very long experience in telecommunications, and the Company's impressive training and development program ensures that they keep pace with the most modern techniques in all disciplines, including management and the use of advanced technology.

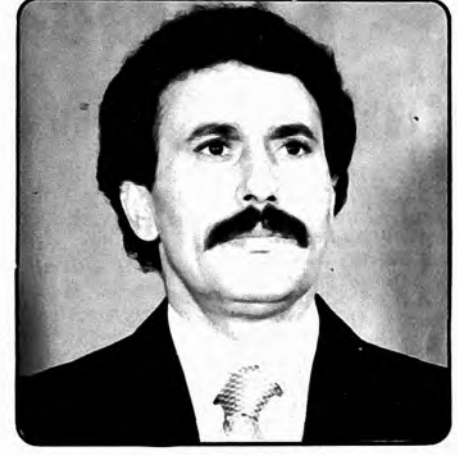
"The rapid development of TeleYemen's operations regularly creates opportunities for existing staff to develop to new areas of responsibility within the Company, and for new Yemeni recruits to join from outside. The Company is planning to increase the number of its staff by about 50% over the next year or so," Mr. Basahi concluded.

Yemen's telecommunications sector has, no doubt, seen great changes; and it is destined to see even greater changes in the few coming years.



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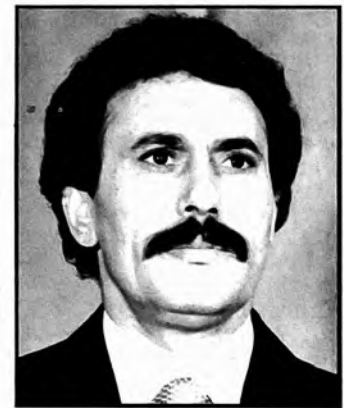


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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Entretiens de MM Ali Salem al-Bid et Ali Abdallah Saleh avec le quotidien Al-Hayat

Président et Vice-Président communiquent par interviews interposées

A une semaine d'intervalle, le Président et le Vice-Président de la République du Yémen ont accordé une interview au quotidien en langue arabe Al-Hayat, publié à Londres. Le premier entretien, dans le numéro du 3 octobre, était accordé par M. Ali Salem al-Bid, secrétaire général du Parti Socialiste Yéménite (PSY), Vice-Président de la République, en délicatesses avec le pouvoir central de Sanaa et "retiré" dans le sud depuis plus de deux mois. Désirant mettre fin aux rumeurs qui font état d'une "bouderie" au sommet pour querelles personnelles, M. Al-Bid affirme, de manière plus ou moins directe, qu'il est impossible de travailler à Sanaa et que la plupart des résolutions prises avec le Congrès Populaire Général, le parti du Président Saleh, lors de l'unification, sont restées lettre morte. Pour M. Al-Bid, son éloignement de la capitale est un moyen de retourner aux sources de la légitimité et d'être à l'écoute des citoyens. Dans son interview, il confirme la rumeur selon laquelle le CPG aurait proposé au PSY de fusionner mais rejette catégoriquement cette éventualité.

Quelques jours plus tard, alors que le quotidien officiel Al-Thawra a repris l'interview du Vice-Président pour pallier à des problèmes de distribution de Al-Hayat, le Président Saleh accorde également un interview au même journaliste et prend le contre-pied de certaines affirmations de son collègue du Conseil Présidentiel. En outre, il confirme que les élections auront bien lieu avant le 22 novembre. En ce qui concerne la sécurité dans la capitale, il affirme que certains auteurs d'attentats à la bombe ont été appréhendés et que les enquêtes suivent leurs cours...

Par l'intermédiaire de cette "guerre" des communiqués et interviews il ne fait plus aucun doute que la campagne électorale a débuté. Mais il est intéressant de noter qu'à aucun moment, lors des interviews, les véritables problèmes qui intéressent les yéménites, ne sont abordés, problèmes économiques et sociaux au premier plan.

"Mon éloignement de Sanaa n'est pas une affaire" (...), se déplacer d'un gouvernorat à l'autre est une bonne chose (...). Ce que l'on attend des responsables de ce pays, c'est de savoir être à l'écoute des citoyens". Cette explication livrée au journaliste de Al-Hayat par le Vice-Président al-Bid interrogé sur les raisons profondes de son éloignement de la capitale où il n'a pas reparu depuis plus de deux mois, même pour les fêtes du 26 septembre, est très habile. A la base -c'est en tout cas ce que l'on entend fréquemment chez les militants du PSY à Aden- on reproche aux anciens dirigeants du sud de s'être compromis avec le pouvoir au nord pour profiter d'une situation confortable de ministre ou de haut fonctionnaire, en oubliant totalement les revendications des citoyens. M. Salem al-Bid entend ainsi revenir sur le terrain, à l'approche des élections, seul moyen véritable de regagner la confiance du seul réseau de militants bien organisé dans le pays, par habitude du centralisme démocratique des années passées, celui du PSY. Mais le Vice président invoque une autre

raison, qui vient conforter la première: il n'y a plus, selon lui, moyen de travailler efficacement à Sanaa avec les partenaires du CPG. "Il serait utile de rester à Sanaa, suggère-t-il, si un plan de travail et des programmes précis nécessitaient cette présence; ce n'est pas le cas." Et d'ajouter: "Nous avons discuté et signé des accords qui sont restés lettre morte depuis l'unification. (...) Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons œuvré pour tenter d'obtenir des résultats concrets, en vain" (...) J'ai tout essayé mais je n'ai pas rencontré de volonté mutuelle de coopération". Rentrera-t-il avant les élections ? M. Al-Bid ne répond pas à cette question, se contentant de conclure: "Nos déplacements ne sont pas conditionnés, ni fixés d'avance".

Ces mêmes élections, M. Al-Bid juge qu'il ne reste pas beaucoup de temps pour pouvoir les tenir avant le 21 novembre mais il affirme qu'il est très attaché au respect des délais fixés par les accords d'unification. Dans son interview avec le même journaliste, trois jours plus tard, le Président lui répond par média interposé: "Les élections se tiendront bien avant le 21 novembre prochain", affirme le général Saleh.

A certains égards, il semble que le Président ait voulu répondre clairement à certaines des allégations de M. Salem Al-Bid, par le biais de cette interview. Des rumeurs couraient selon lesquelles le CPG aurait proposé une fusion au PSY avant les élections. Pour Ali Salem al-Bid, qui confirme ces allégations, ces propositions sont "inacceptables". "C'est vrai, poursuit-il, on nous l'a proposé mais cette idée est incompatible avec les principes de démocratie et de pluralisme (...) C'est une manière de fuir les véritables solutions". Le Président Saleh a voulu immédiatement rétablir les choses quant à l'initiative de la proposition, dont la chronologie ne semble pas aussi clairement établie que ne le prétend le leader du PSY. "Peut-être serait-il plus juste de dire que l'idée de la fusion a été proposée par le PSY dans un premier temps". La suite de l'explication n'est pas très claire: "Mais alors, le CPG craignait que cela ne soit interprété par les autres partis politiques comme une manière de contourner les principes de la démocratie. Le CPG a alors hésité. Mais dans les derniers temps, l'idée de fusion a été proposée pour des raisons internes, nationales et objectives (...). Alors, certains frères de la direction du PSY ont hésité et préféré la formule de l'alliance. Nous leur avons certifié que la fusion était la meilleure solution et qu'elle n'était pas en contradiction avec les principes de la démocratie (...). Nous leur avons finalement proposé un projet de coordination."

Certains prétendent que le PSY est en train de négocier avec le CPG sa participation au futur pouvoir et des portefeuilles dans le prochain gouvernement. Ali Salem al-Bid dément, mais pour son propre compte, ce qui laisse penser que d'autres s'y emploient: "Moi, personnellement, je ne l'ai pas fait", dit-il.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne la sécurité et les attentats à la bombe dans Sanaa, le Vice-Président affirme qu'ils sont le fait d'"ennemis du Yémen, de l'intérieur comme de l'extérieur", et ne s'étend pas sur leur identification. Il n'en met pas moins en cause le "système et les institutions yéménites" dans l'échec des enquêtes et réclame la démission d'un responsable quelconque. Le Président Saleh lui répond indirectement lorsqu'il prétend que des éléments liés à ces attentats ont été arrêtés et qu'il en fait des aveux "importants et graves, que les forces de sécurité ne peuvent révéler, dans l'intérêt général", bien qu'il se déclare personnellement favorable à l'idée de rendre ces aveux publics... "L'objectif de ces individus est de propager la suspicion, de créer une crise de confiance entre les partis politiques et, peut-être, de empêcher la tenue des élections en créant un climat d'insécurité".

E.G.

Alors qu'ils appellent à un forum réunissant tous les partis

Le CPG et ses alliés ont tenu "leur" Conférence nationale

Le Congrès National des Partis et Organisations Populaires a finalement eu lieu cette semaine, du 9 au 12 octobre, après avoir été repoussé de plusieurs semaines, parce que le PSY refusait d'y participer. Cette deuxième conférence nationale, concurrente de celle qui a réuni les petits partis de l'"opposition" début septembre (lire notre article dans Le Temps du Yémen du 16 septembre 1992, a finalement été convoquée par le Congrès Général Populaire (CPG) malgré l'avis négatif d'une frange de la direction du PSY, dont le Secrétaire Général Ali Salem al-Bid. Dans son interview au quotidien Al-Hayat du 3 octobre (lire ci-contre), le Vice-Président s'est déclaré opposé à toute participation de son parti aux conférences nationales convoquées par leur partenaire au gouvernement "sans avoir trouvé au préalable de dénominateur commun". Cette conférence a donc réuni les partis qui se sont rapprochés, de manière

déclarée ou non, de la coalition au pouvoir, Al-Islah (islamiste), le Baas pro-irakien, le Parti républicain et quelques mouvements nationalistes, en plus, évidemment, du CPG et de quelques membres du PSY.

Mais pour éviter de cautionner la division, le CPG et le PSY par l'intermédiaire de son numéro deux, Salem Saleh Mohamed, ont proposé la tenue d'un prochain forum réunissant les deux conférences concurrentes.

Rencontre entre Cheikh Zandani et Jarallah Omar, selon Al-Nahdah.- L'hebdomadaire islamiste daté du 5 octobre rapporte que le Cheikh Abdel Magid al-Zandani, membre de la Haute Commission du parti Al-Islah, leader de la branche yéménite des Frères Musulmans, a rencontré M. Jarallah Omar, membre du Bureau Politique du PSY, pour "discuter de la création d'une commission qui étudierait les dénominateurs communs entre les deux partis (...) et poursuivre le dialogue".

"HE SOLD ME
THE SCALE I NEEDED,
NOT THE ONE
I HAD IN MIND."



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JOURNEE MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION - WORLD FOOD DAY - DIA MUNDIAL DE LA ALIMENTACION

يوم الاغذية العالمي - 16 OCTOBRE DANS LE MONDE, 13 OCTOBRE A SANAA



Le Yémen doit assurer sa "sécurité alimentaire"

Le 16 octobre a été déclaré cette année "Journée mondiale de l'alimentation" par l'Organisation des Nations-Unies et plus particulièrement son Organisation pour la Nourriture et l'Agriculture (plus connue sous le sigle de FAO en anglais - Food and Agriculture Organization). Au Yémen, l'organisation internationale a choisi d'avancer la célébration de ce jour au 13 octobre en raison de l'anniversaire de la Révolution du 14 octobre 1963 de l'ancien Yémen du Sud.

Plus de 780 millions de personnes dans le monde souffrent de malnutrition ou, pire, de la famine, selon les derniers chiffres de la FAO. Mais la malnutrition ne se résume pas au fait de ne pas pouvoir se nourrir en quantité suffisante pour survivre. Dans de nombreux cas, la qualité et la variété de la nourriture sont le véritable problème, plus que la quantité. Des déficiences en vitamines, minéraux et autres micro-aliments dégradent gravement la santé des personnes dans de très nombreux pays, dont le Yémen.

Sur une carte dressée par l'organisation internationale, le Yémen figure dans une zone grise; avec la plupart des pays d'Afrique et quelques uns d'Asie, qui correspondent à une moyenne de 1.800 à 2.000 calories par habitant par jour, alors que tous les pays développés se situent au-dessus de 3.000 calories. La mortalité infantile de 130 pour mille est due en grande partie dans ce pays à la malnutrition, ou, du moins, à une mauvaise alimentation. Quelle que soit la région, le régime alimentaire moyen est le même, à base de féculents, de riz et de pain essentiellement. Nombreuses sont les carences dans certaines vitamines ou minéraux. L'espérance de vie moyenne à la naissance au Yémen est toujours l'une des plus basses du monde, avec 46 ans pour un homme, 50 pour une femme (mais il est de plus de 60 ans lorsque l'enfant parvient à l'âge de 5 ans, ce qui démontre l'importance de la mortalité en bas âge).

Le bureau de la FAO à Sanaa, dirigé par l'Américain Alan Furman, assisté d'un Français, M. Makram Lamy, a organisé, mardi 13 octobre, une journée de célébration pour le Yémen, présidée par le ministre de l'Agriculture qui a décoré les meilleurs agriculteurs du pays (quatre sélectionnés par gouvernorats), à la nouvelle faculté ultra-moderne d'Agriculture de l'Université de Sanaa, qui a été inaugurée pour l'occasion. Toute cette semaine d'autre part, la télévision et la radio yéménites vont diffuser des spots d'informations, préparés par la FAO, sur les moyens de s'alimenter de manière plus équilibrée.

Pour sa nourriture, le Yémen est loin d'être auto-suffisant. Il ne produit aujourd'hui, selon M. Furman, que 20% de ses besoins alimentaires, contre plus de 50% en 1970 (mais les chiffres divergent selon les organisations). Or, d'ici l'an 2010, la population du pays aura vraisemblablement été multipliée par deux, atteignant 25 millions d'habitants. Une stratégie coordonnée de développement de l'agriculture est urgente, d'autant plus que les ressources naturelles du pays en eau et en terres s'épuisent. Le problème de la sécurité alimentaire au Yémen risque de devenir crucial d'ici quelques années.

Il y a plus d'un an et demi, l'unification faisait de la République du Yémen le pays le plus peuplé de la péninsule arabique, avec environ 12 millions d'habitants. Cela créait de grandes opportunités pour ce pays dont la civilisation agricole est l'une des plus anciennes du monde, par l'importance du marché nouveau créé par l'unification. Seulement, le 22 mai 1990 a amplifié, en contrepartie, les défauts structurels de la production agricole dans les deux anciens Yémen. L'offre de biens alimentaires ne suffit pas à la demande en pleine expansion. Le pays est devenu de plus en plus dépendant de l'étranger et l'alimentation y est très peu variée.

Quelques chiffres et commentaires permettent de mieux cerner l'urgence de la situation.

Avec un taux de croissance naturelle de 3,3%, l'un des plus élevés du monde (ainsi qu'un taux de reproduction de 8,3 enfants par femme alors qu'il est à peine de 2 dans les pays industrialisés), la population du Yémen va doubler en 20 ans pour atteindre le chiffre de 25 millions en 2010 ! Selon M. Alan Furman, si la croissance de la population reste en l'état, il faudrait envisager de multiplier la production agricole par quatre pour que le pays ne souffre pas trop de la dépendance extérieure. D'autant plus qu'avec une structure de la population extrêmement jeune (54% des Yéménites ont moins de 15 ans), les habitudes alimentaires vont devenir de plus en plus exigeante avec l'importation croissante de produits transformés de l'étranger.

Certes, pendant les années 80, les deux gouvernements ont fait des investissements considérables dans le secteur rural qui abrite 80% des Yéménites (et fait travailler 58% de la population active), mais ces investissements n'ont pas produit les résultats escomptés. Par dessus tout, les performances de cette agriculture traditionnelle restent caractérisées par une faible productivité et des coûts de production élevés. Pendant toute la décennie 80, la production agricole a augmenté à une moyenne annuelle de 2% seulement, quand la population s'est accrue de 3,3% par an dans la même période.

Le résultat de cette évolution a été catastrophique pour ce que l'on appelle la "sécurité alimentaire" du pays ou son taux de couverture en nourriture: c'est le rapport entre ce qui est consommé et ce qui est importé pour subvenir aux besoins de la population. En 1970, selon M. Furman, le Yémen du nord produisait 50% de ses besoins. En 1980, ce chiffre est tombé à 30%, puis à 16% en 1982. Selon la Banque Mondiale, le Yémen importe aujourd'hui 80% de ses besoins alimentaires !

Les principales raisons de ces faiblesses sont structurelles. Au premiers rang, on trouve bien entendu

la rareté des ressources naturelles nécessaires à la production agricole: la terre et l'eau. Sur l'ensemble du pays, la surface cultivable est de 1,4 millions d'hectares, soit à peine 3% de la surface du territoire ! Et seulement 20% de ces terres cultivables sont irriguées, le reste dépendant du hasard des pluies. Pour ce qui est de l'irrigation, les faibles ressources du sous-sol yéménite sont sur-exploitées (lire notre article dans le numéro précédent du *Temps du Yémen*). Autres faiblesses: la politique agricole menée par les deux Yémen n'était pas appropriée et créait des distorsions entre la production domestique et la demande, et décourageait l'initiative

privée; le manque de coordination est encore l'un des points faibles de cette stratégie et le Ministère de l'Agriculture est entraîné de mettre au point avec la FAO une véritable politique agricole. Enfin, l'un des problèmes cruciaux, en voie d'être résolu grâce notamment à des projets comme celui de la nouvelle faculté

(lire ci-contre), est la vulgarisation de la recherche. Les cadres de l'agriculture de mieux en mieux formés, procèdent à des recherches intéressantes (notamment au Centre de Recherche Agricole de Dharmar) mais on n'en fait presque aucune application pratique sur le terrain. Une véritable politique de vulgarisation de la recherche est un besoin urgent, tout comme celui de personnel qualifié.

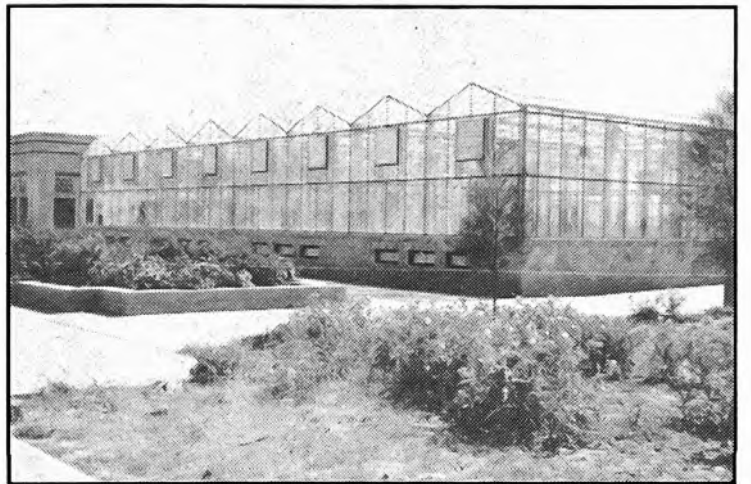
L'enjeu est important car il s'agit de nourrir la population yéménite du 21ème siècle sans aggraver la situation de dépendance. La production agricole représente 20% du Produit Intérieur Brut (PIB) (19.885 milliards de riyals sur un PIB total de 95.478 en 1991 - estimations Banque Mondiale) et la production agricole représente moins de 1% des exportations yéménites, avec pour l'essentiel, en 1991, le café pour 6,1 millions de dollars et le coton pour 2,2 millions de dollars, sur un total des exportations du Yémen estimé à 1,3 milliards de dollars. En même temps, pour ce qui est de l'ancien Yémen du nord, la valeur des importations alimentaires a été multipliée par trois, en termes courants, de 1975 à 1990, passant de 180 millions de dollars par an à 540, soit une hausse de 32 dollars par habitant en 1975 à 60 dollars aujourd'hui ! Les chiffres ne sont pas disponibles pour l'ex-Yémen du sud mais l'évolution est similaire. La Banque Mondiale anticipe -si la population s'accroît dans les proportions prévues et que rien n'est fait pour améliorer la production- une note annuelle d'un milliard de dollars en l'an 2000 pour les importations de produits alimentaires ! L'urgence d'une politique et d'une stratégie agricole à long terme et bien coordonnée se fait cruellement sentir.

Emmanuel GIROUD
(Chiffres: Banque Mondiale, 1992)

Le qat: 34 milliards de riyals par an

Les statistiques de la production agricole ne prennent pas en compte la culture du qat. Elle occupe 80.000 hectares, selon la Banque Mondiale, soit 25% des surfaces irriguées. La production atteint 280.000 tonnes par an et emploie 500.000 personnes, soit 16% de la population active. Si on incluait le qat aux statistiques nationales on estime que le PIB de 1991 s'accroîtrait de 25% à 130 milliards de riyals, soit un revenu supplémentaire d'environ 34 milliards par an !

Une nouvelle faculté d'agriculture ultra-moderne



Une grande serre climatisée équipe la ferme expérimentale de la faculté.

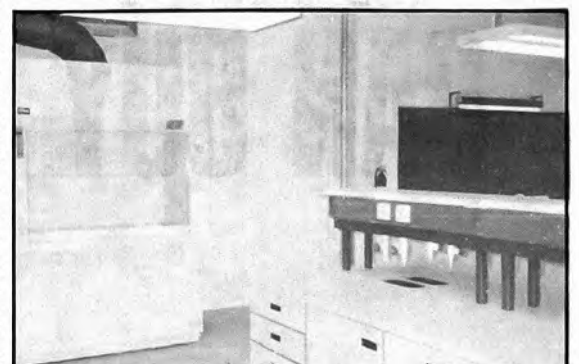
Sur sept hectares, non loin de la nouvelle université de Sanaa, s'étend une faculté aux nombreux bâtiments ultra-modernes, avec parterres de fleurs luxuriants et escaliers en marbre: la nouvelle faculté d'Agriculture. A partir de cette semaine, elle ouvre ses portes à quelques 1.100 étudiants venus de tous les gouvernorats, qui espèrent bien obtenir en quatre ans un diplôme d'ingénieur dans l'une des cinq spécialisations dispensées dans cette faculté: production végétale (agronomie, horticulture), production animalière, économie de l'agriculture, techniques des sols et des machines ou technologies de l'alimentation. D'ici un an, un département vétérinaire devrait s'y ajouter.

Une chose est sûre, la qualité des installations est impressionnante et ne nombreux étudiants français viendraient de locaux aussi accueillants et fonctionnels à la fois. Les laboratoires d'analyses chimiques, d'expérimentations génétiques côtoient les serres expérimentales et les hangars gigantesques destinés à abriter tous les types de machines agricoles afin d'enseigner la réparation et la maintenance. Clou de cette faculté ultra-moderne: la ferme expérimentale qui regroupe tous les types de production possibles: une dizaine de bovins, une cinquantaine d'ovins, des poulets par centaines en batteries, des lapins, des champs de fourrage, de céréales, de fleurs, etc... Tout est conçu pour l'apprentissage le plus complet.

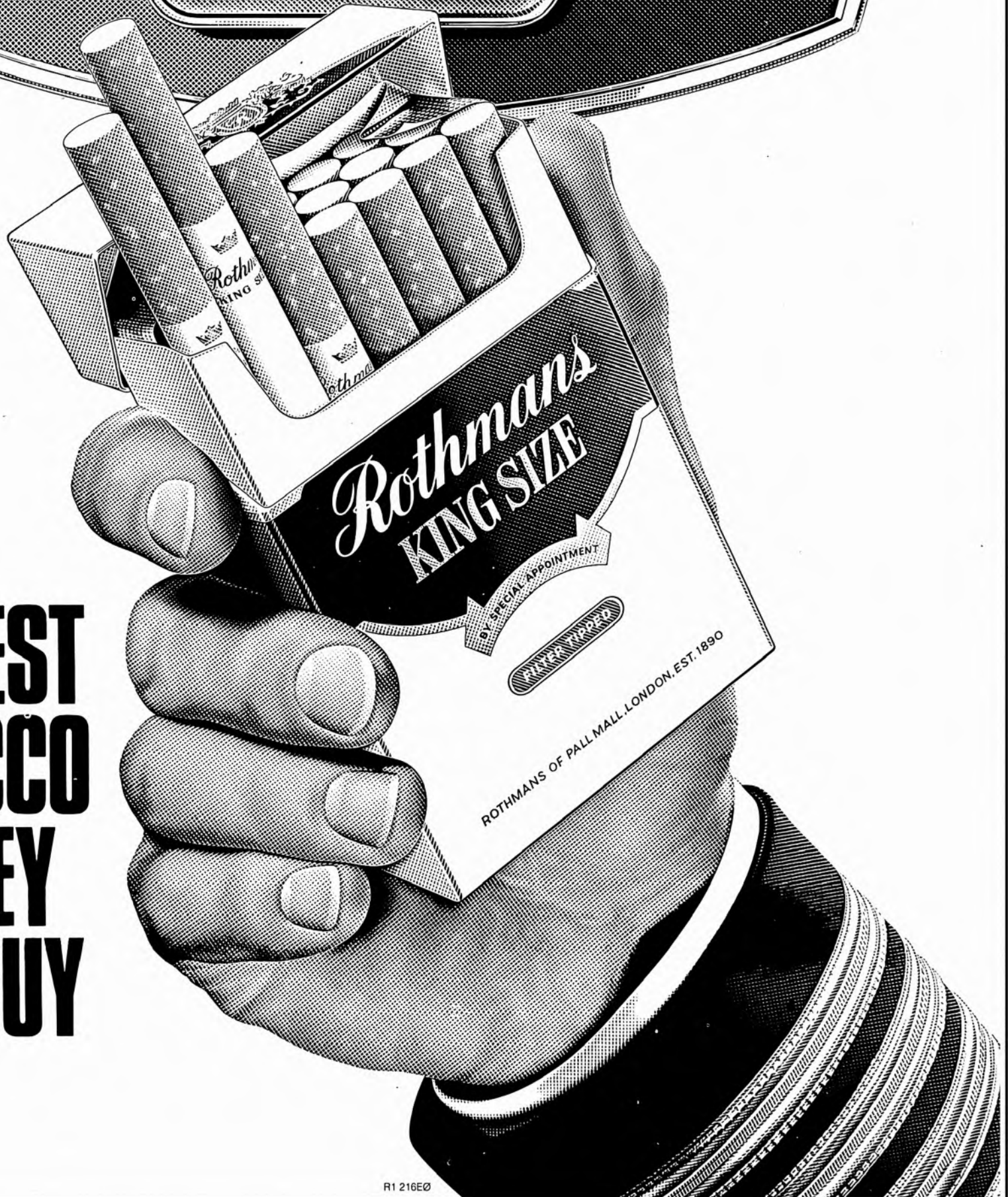
Seul problème aujourd'hui, la plus grande partie de l'équipement n'a pas été encore livrée. Mais le doyen de la faculté est catégo-

dominée financièrement par l'Arabie Saoudite et les autres riches monarchies du Golfe); l'argent devrait être débloqué sous peu, selon le Vice-Doyen, car une délégation de la Banque Islamique est venue à Sanaa récemment afin de débloquent ce dossier ainsi que d'autres. Le reste du matériel est financé par le gouvernement yéménite, à hauteur de 53% de tous les équipements. L'argent est à la Banque Centrale, affirme le Vice-Doyen, la fac devrait être définitivement équipée pour la fin du mois. Une plaque en bronze, à l'entrée, indique qu'elle a été inaugurée le 6 octobre 1991 par le président Saleh, il y a donc tout juste un an. Un an qu'elle est prête à fonctionner mais que la chose est impossible à cause essentiellement de la crise du Golfe. Les bâtiments ont coûté 26 millions de dollars et ont été financés par un groupe de pays arabes...

Vingt professeurs arabes étrangers (Egyptiens, Irakiens, Syriens, etc.) et vingt Yéménites forment l'équipe enseignante. Selon le Vice-Doyen, l'université fonctionnera en trois cercles de travail concentriques: les études, la recherche et la vulgarisation, dont nous avons noté l'importance fondamentale pour le développement agricole du pays dans l'article ci-contre. Le besoin urgent de personnel qualifié rend impératif le bon fonctionnement de cette faculté dans les plus brefs délais. Elle dispose de tout ce qu'il faut pour cela; les technologies les plus modernes, dans tous les secteurs, pourront y être enseignées.



Des laboratoires perfectionnés pour la recherche...



**THE BEST
TOBACCO
MONEY
CAN BUY**

BACK TO SCHOOL

By: Farah B. G. Askar

This is the third of a three-part article in which we look at the "Back to School" phenomenon in Yemen.



C. Private Schools:

The phenomenon of private schools is new in the country, and it is in full force only in post-unification Yemen. It is one of the symptoms of a new liberal approach to socio-economic issues.

People are attracted to private schools for two reasons. First of all, they feel that discipline and serious education go hand in hand, and the private schools have been noted for their better discipline. The grade comparisons of students from private and public schools decidedly tilt in favor of the private schools.

Secondly, the private schools offer a wider range of knowledge. The additional subjects they teach include music, computer, arts, and sports activities, as well as intensive language programs, especially English, but also French and German. Those two factors outweigh the high tuition fees which the private schools demand, and which are extremely variable. This is proven by the long waiting lists for enrollment.

Of course, there are those who enroll their children in private schools because it reflects social and economic status. In the final analysis, however, it is really the quality of education that makes the difference. Today, there are many private schools in Yemeni cities, notably in the capital city. A field survey was made of several private schools in Sanaa, such as Al-Amjad, Al-Yemenia Al-Rayida, Al-Najah, and Azal. Most of them have higher standards than government (public) schools. Even the children of government officials, including those in charge of the education sector, go to private schools. Most people believe that public schools are a failure and would like to avoid sending their children there, if they can help it.

Private entrepreneurs have invested in many schools. The relentless demand for education has triggered numerous major investments in this sector. These days, as children get back to schools, and as they find no space in the crowded government schools, the only other option is private schools. As a result, private schools, sometimes in ordinary buildings, have sprung up here and there. The investors need not know anything about schools or education; they simply employ those who do.

The rising number of private schools has become a major headache which continues to grow. The Ministry of Education is theoretically responsible for licensing and supervising these schools. Unfortunately, the licensing process is a mere technicality, and the supervision process is non-existent. The Ministry barely keeps a record of the schools it has licensed. It has no say in the structure of the schools, in the tuition, in the qualification of teachers, in the facilities offered by the schools, etc.

This situation is a source of worry for many Yemeni parents, especially the intellectuals who are preoccupied with the future of their children. Even some politicians are concerned as they worry about disparate cultures among the new generation of Yemenis.

By and large, the educators of Yemen are not opposed to this trend, but they would like some regulations that control and guide its evolution. They would like to establish minimum standards for the facilities and structures before a school is licensed.

Most private schools, just like government schools, are lacking in science and language labs, and many other facilities. They are a positive addition to the education system, and of course, their growth should be supported. But such growth should be closely guided by education specialists and the relevant government authorities.

Lesson #14

Indefinite Articles

PRETEST: Choose the correct word in parentheses. \emptyset means no word.

1. Ali has (a, an) sandwich, (an, some) apple and (a, some) grapes in his lunch.
2. I waited for (a, an) hour.
3. (some, \emptyset) money is the biggest problem.
4. He is (a, an) old man.

LESSON: The small words *a*, *an* and *the* are called articles, although that name doesn't do much to tell what those words do. The use of these simple, little words is far from simple, and their misuse haunts non-native speakers of English at many levels. This week's lesson is about the indefinite articles, *a* and *an*; a later lesson will address the more complicated problems concerning the definite article *the*.

A and *an* are related to the word *one* and can only be used before singular count nouns. The form *a* is used before words which begin with consonant sounds; *an* is used before words which begin with vowel (a, e, i, o, u) sounds.

A: a man a woman a newspaper a house a university

AN: an apple an egg an oven an hour an umbrella

Note that it is the sound, not the spelling, that decides which form will be used. House and hour both begin with the letter h in spelling, but the beginning sounds are different.

Practice A: Choose *a* or *an* for each of the following words and phrases.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. _____ car | 4. _____ orange | 7. _____ one |
| 2. _____ old car | 5. _____ broken egg | 8. _____ uncle |
| 3. _____ ant | 6. _____ hat | 9. _____ unit |

But when do you use the indefinite articles? What do they mean? A (an) means one of a group of general things named by the noun, but not one that has been identified before in the conversation.

For example: There's *a* letter here for you. (We don't know anything else about it.)

The letter is here! (We have talked about this letter before; we both know about it).

Other examples: Do you have a cigarette?

I hear a bird.

Ahmed has a class at 4:00.

How do you express an indefinite meaning for non-count or plural count nouns? *A* and *an* cannot be used with these nouns because of their *one* meaning. For these nouns, the indefinite meaning is expressed either by leaving out the article completely or by using the word *some*.

For example: We are eating *rice* for dinner. (non-count noun)

She bought *some rice*.

There are *books* on the table. (plural count noun)

There are *some books* on the table.

If the non-count or plural count noun is the subject of the sentence, leave the article out.

For example: *Time* is very important. *Televisions* are expensive.

Practice B: Fill in the blanks with the *a*, *an*, *some* or \emptyset (to show no article).

1. I have _____ books.
2. Ali wants to buy _____ car.
3. He eats _____ apples for lunch.
4. Nabila can see _____ bird from her window.
5. My mother gives me _____ egg for breakfast.
6. _____ water is necessary for living.
7. Mahmoud gave Ahmed _____ money.
8. Go to the store and buy _____ flour, _____ eggs, and _____ watermelon.
9. _____ apple a day keeps the doctor away.
10. There are _____ old pencils in the desk.

Weekly Idiom Don't beat around the bush! (To say what you mean)

A student is talking to his father...

Student: I wonder if I could ask you to give me oh...oh...oh...

Father: Well, go ahead.

Student: I know that I cost you much more from time to time, but what can I do? Studying has just begun, so I need...oh...and a school uniform...

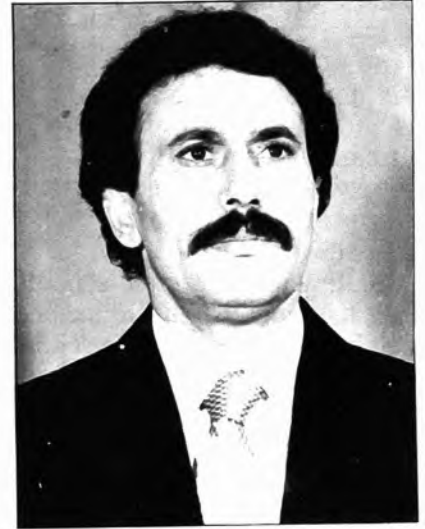
Father: Don't beat around the bush. You have to tell me what you really want.

This week's dialogue comes from Abdo Taher M. Al-Ashwal at the University of Sana'a.

Answers: Pretest: 1. a, an, some 2. an 3. an 4. an Practice A: 1. a 2. an 3. an 4. an 5. a 6. a 7. a 8. an 9. a Practice B: 1. or some 2. a 3. or some 4. a 5. an 6. or some 7. or some 8. or some 9. some 10. or some

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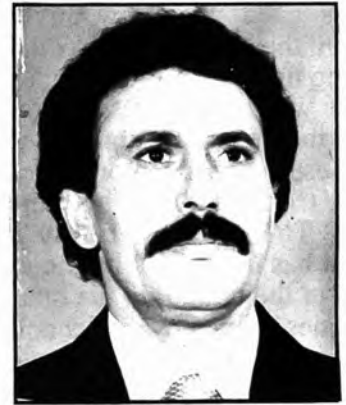


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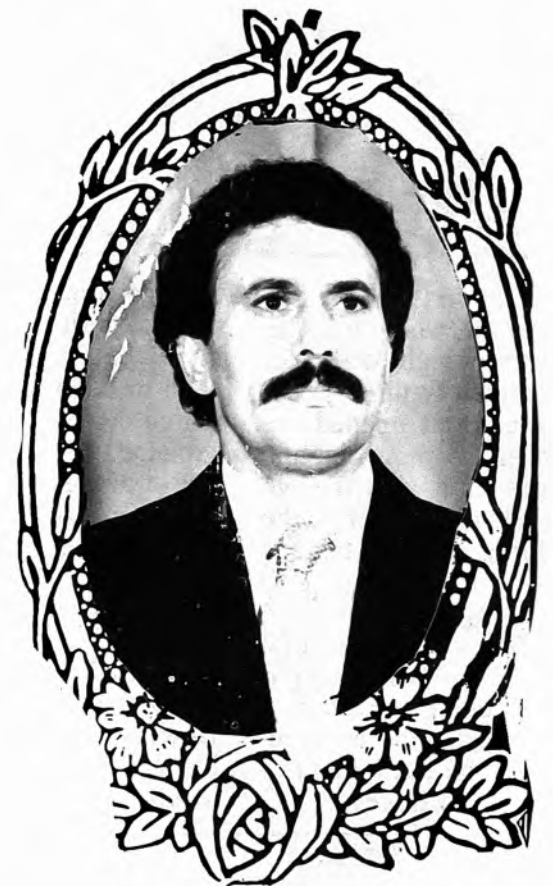
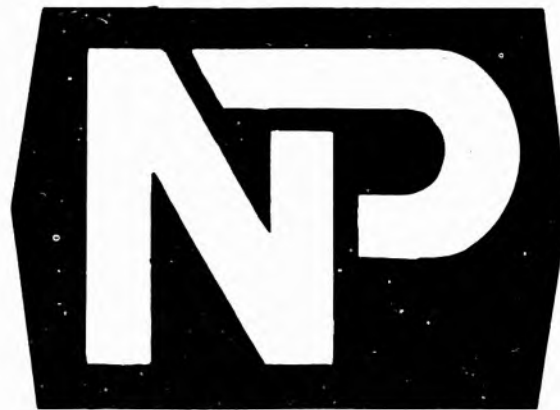
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YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAMS

On Thursday, October 8th, Mr. George Slaughter, the General Manager of Yemen Hunt Oil Company, awarded certificates to a new group of trainees who will start their on-the-job technical training program. The trainees have just completed a four-month English language and technical theory course.

The second group has finished its language program and will start its technical training soon. Finally, a third group was supposed to have started this month, but due to certain developments, the program was postponed until January 1993. "The Training Department personnel are improving as



That is the first level and is basic to the whole training program which will take approximately three years. Mr. Slaughter opened the ceremony by reminding the trainees that what they've gone through is only the beginning, and that there is a lot of work ahead. Addressing them, he said, "You should concentrate and try your best throughout the course because it is very important to the Company, to the nation and to yourselves to succeed."

they go along. They gain more experience, and they know better which parts need to be augmented and which to be polished," explained Mr. Wilson. The trainees enjoy their full privileges, as if they were on their jobs. They receive their full salaries as usual, and they even get pay-raise with time. It is a very good set-up for well-motivated individuals. However, if someone falls behind or fails or is unable to continue, he or she is



Yemen Hunt Oil Company is one of the companies that pushes ahead aggressively with training. The first group is already well advanced in its training and is at the moment at the field doing practical work. "This group is now learning how the CPU operates and how to use the tools," said Tom Wilson, YHOC's training manager, in an up-beat mood regarding the progress.

immediately replaced by someone who is better motivated. The aim is to get well qualified people. Mr. Karim Abuhamad, Director of Training and Safety, pumped a lot of confidence in the trainees "Good thing is they all are eager to learn, we don't see anyone giving up, or anyone leaving. They are all excited and want to reach their goals," he said.

APPRECIATION TO YEMEN TIMES

I'm a student in the Faculty of Education, English Department, in Hodeidah. My appreciation to the Yemen Times for printing English lessons which I find very interesting and useful. I have become one of your regular readers, and I would like to say, "Keep it up, for it is a wonderful paper."

Finally I have a suggestion, if possible to put a separate page for tourism, so as to serve as a guide for foreigners and visitors of our country.

By:
**Ahmed M. Omer Aflah
Zabid, (Faculty of Educa-
tion Hodeidah).**

A STRANGE LETTER TO YEMEN TIMES

Dear Yemen Times, How are you and how is everybody? I hope all are enjoying their work. It displeases me to hear you are now floating around in various corners of the world, without saying goodbye. I have been told that you're fed up with life in Yemen. I have been told that you're bored of Yemenis. I have been told that you're no longer inclined to deal with Yemenis. Moreover, I have been badly shocked at news of your plans to break our engagement without giving me at least one reason. I really don't know what is the matter or what has happened to you. We used to be very close. I've selected you from among many. We exchanged letters, I loved you and your family and I always have nice comments about you.

My beloved one, let me frankly say that you've become so much proud of yourself.

First I was writing to you using ordinary language, but I did not see them in print. I thought maybe they were mingled and confused with those of others. I patiently said to Myself "Never mind, Gamil! Don't give up" I tried again with a highly-flown language; very boastful and I was a 100% sure of getting my articles published. Unfortunately all my attempts were in vain. I thought I was special to you, Dear Yemen Times.

Despite the fact that you rejected me, and neglected my letters, I still love you and rush every week to get you.

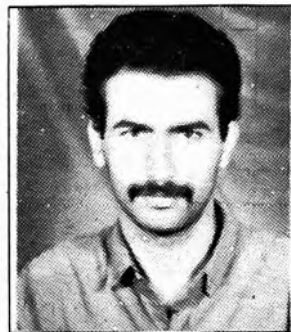
So, please go to your post

office box and open it more frequently, or try to look in the waste basket, I'm sure you will find my letters are accumulating there.

Dear Yemen Times, for God's sake, tell me whatever is

wrong with my letters? Is it because there are many mistakes? Why don't you just correct the mistakes and run them? Or is it because I am from Taiz? As I hardly came across any article written by someone from Taiz. I believe that you're not fair. In short, you are partial.

Finally, let me say that inspite of all the frustration you've caused me, I'd like to start a new page of friendship. So let us say, "Let by-gones be by-gones. Okay?"



Yours,
**Gamil Abdullah
Al-Guwairy,
Mt. Sabir, Taiz.**

Editor's note:

Many thanks, but please note:

- We don't have waste baskets for the contributions of friends.
- We like Taiz a lot.
- We already ran a couple of stories for you before.
- Keep writing.

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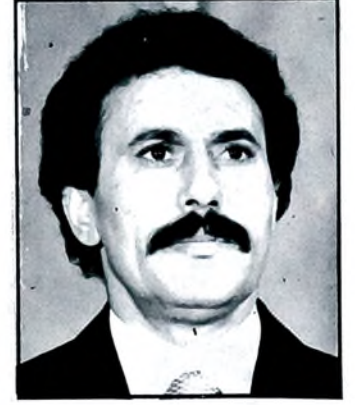
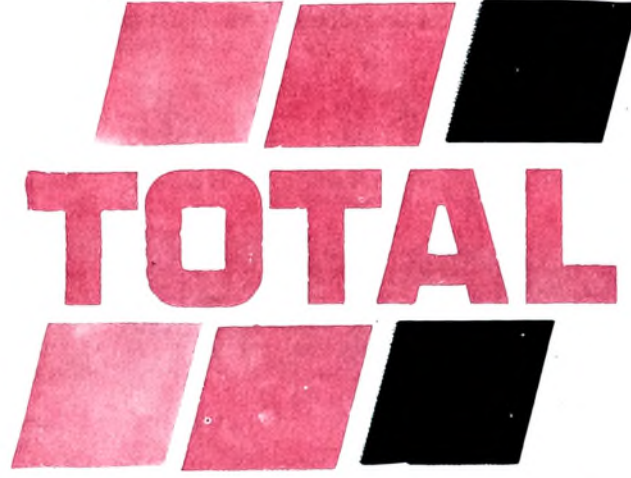
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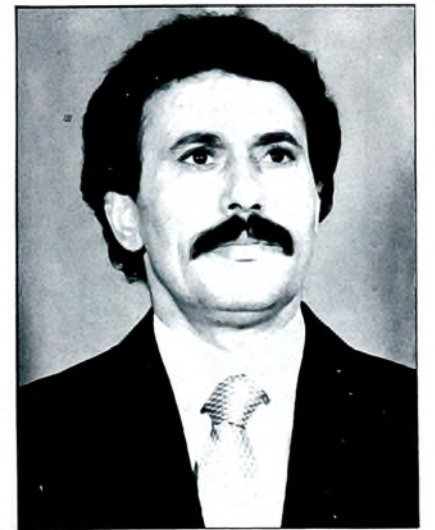
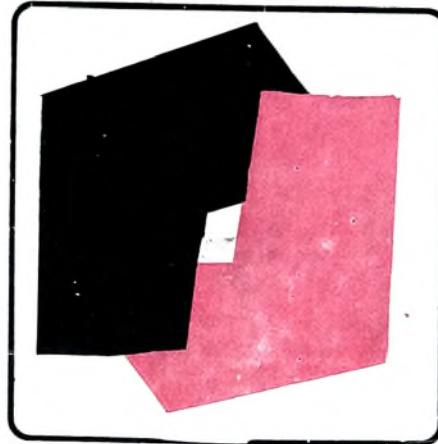


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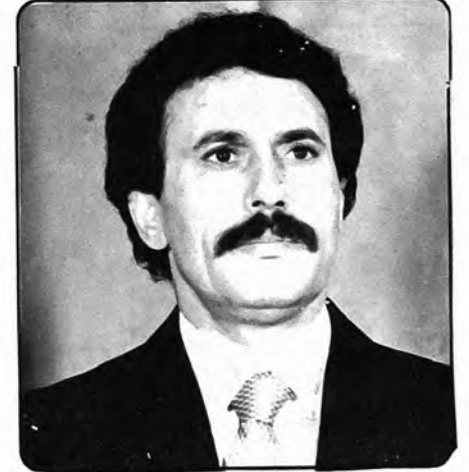
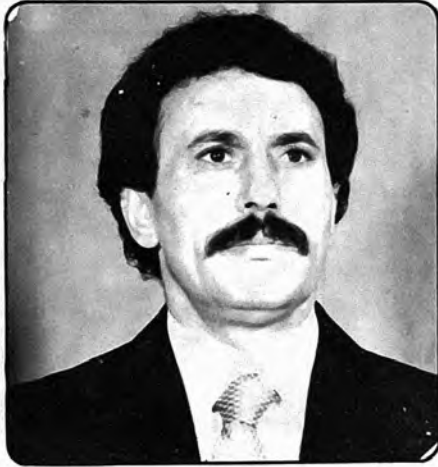


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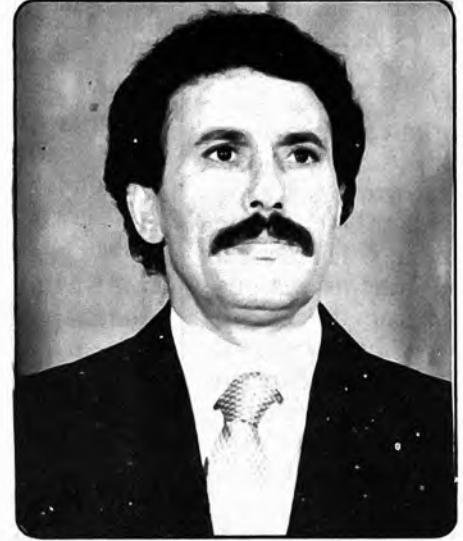
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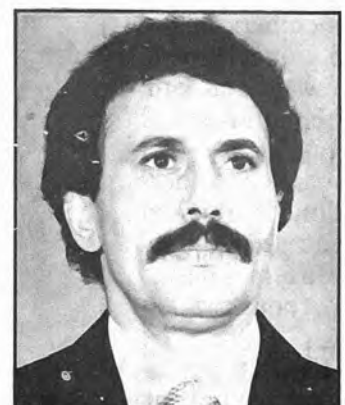
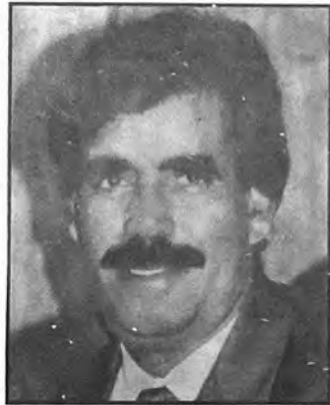
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KUWAIT: ANALYZING THE RESULTS

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf from Kuwait.

Kuwait has its new parliament, and it is no push-over. The new parliamentarians represent a formidable opposition and an alert watchdog.

The government-sponsored candidates lost very badly. The biggest winners are the independents and the Islamic bloc candidates. There are a number of conclusions one could draw from the results:

1. The parliamentarians of the 1985 Council returned in full force, although the parliamentarians of the later council (the National Council) lost.

2. The independents now represent the largest bloc in parliament, and they are the ones who will tilt the balance one way or the other, especially in the tug of war that is expected to become a daily business between the government and opposition.

3. The government was the real loser in the elections, because the number of vocal critics and opposition leaders has increased.

4. The Islamic bloc was able to penetrate into the hinterland, beyond traditional strongholds in cities.

5. Tribal affinity and loyalty continues to command considerable sway, even in the cities. Thus, tribal leaders were able to gather enough votes to get into parliament in a major way.

6. The intellectual group has lost especially as some of its figures have failed, such as Sami Al-Munais and Jasim Al-Qutami.

7. Twenty members of the former 1985 Council made it to the new parliament, although the number of candidates was 34.

8. The three main contenders to the position of Speaker of parliament are Ahmed Assadawn, Jasem Hamad Assaqr, and Abdulaziz Al-Adasani.

9. The new Kuwaiti parliament has eight PhD holders and six lawyers in addition to other highly qualified individuals. The majority of the members are below 45 years old.

10. The elections were almost completely incident-free, and both winners and losers accept they were clean.

11. The parliament will meet later this month to choose its speaker, and to look into giving its vote of confidence to the government that the Crown Prince will have formed by then.

Results in Kuwaiti Elections:

A. Independent Candidates (14 members):

Ali Al-Baghli, Abdul-Mohsin Jamal, Mishari Al-Usaimi, Abdulaziz Al-Adasani, Dr. Abdulaziz Arrabei, Dr. Abdul-Mohsen Al-Mudeej, Ali Salim Abu Hadeedah, Ghannam Al-Jamhoor, Mohammed Dhaifallah Shirar, Ahmed Nassar, Dr. Nasser Assani, Ahmed Al-Kulaib, Jamal Al-Kandari and Talal Assaeed.

B. Takattul Annuwab = Parliamentary Bloc (10):

Yaqoob Hayati, Hamad Al-Jowaan, Abdullah Yusuf Arroomi, Mishari Al-Anjari, Saleh Al-Fidhalah, Ahmed Assadawn, Mohammed Al-Murshid, Salim Al-Hamad, Abbas Munawir, Ahmed Nassar Ashireian.

C. Al-Minbar Adimoqrati = Democratic Forum (2):

Abdullah Annaibari and Dr. Ahmed Al-Khateeb.

D. Al-Etilaf Al-Islami Al-Watani = Shite Islam (2):

Adnan Abdul-Samad and Nasser Sarkhowh.

E. Attajammu Addastori = Constitutional Bloc (1):

Jasem Hamad Assaqr.

F. Attajammu' Al-Islami Asha'abi = Fundamentalist Islamic Bloc (3):

Ahmed Baqir, Jasim al-Awn, Mafrij Nahar Al-Mutairi.

G. Al-Harakah Addastoriyyah Al-Islamiyyah = Islamic Brotherhood (3):

Dr. Ismail Ashatti, Mubarak Adduwailah, Jumaan Al-Aazimi,

H. Majlis Watani = National Council (6):

Hamood Nasser Al-Jabri, Mubarak Al-Khireinj, Mohammed Khalaf Al-Muhmal, Khalaf Dumaiter Al-Anzi, Rashid Al-Habeedah and Talal Al-Ayyar.

I. Tribal Group (9):

Khaled Al-Adwah, Share' Al-Ajami, Hadi Hayif Al-Huwailah, Aayidh Alloosh Al-Mutairi, Fahd Al-Aazimi, Dr. Abdullah Al-Hajiri, Turki Al-Aazimi, Saad Al-Aazimi and Muslih Al-Azimi.

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