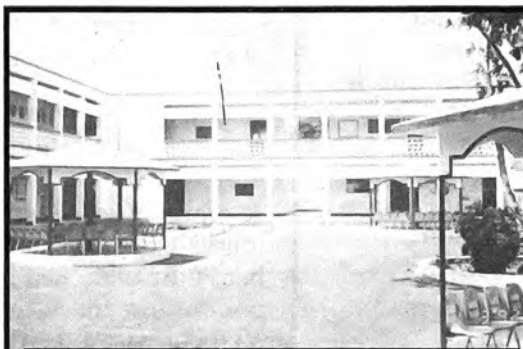


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 28/10 - 3 NOVEMBER, 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 44

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OUR VIEWPOINT

GOOD EDUCATION Yemen's Missing Link!

The basic element which molds society is the educational and cultural dose. In our attempt to create a modern nation, we have built hundreds of schools all over Yemen. It is, no doubt, a worthwhile endeavor. The hardware is often good. It is common practice for Yemen to obtain the best of hardware. In terms of schools, this means the buildings are impressive. Yet, the software is always deficient.

Take Sanaa University, for example. The buildings are better than those of Harvard or Oxford universities. They are better than those of Amman and Kuwait universities. Note the beautifully carved stones which make up the fence of Sanaa University? Isn't that something or what?

Now, did you know that Sanaa University has no academic calendar -- meaning that nobody really knows when the school year starts, when the first term expires, when exams are due, or when the next term starts, etc.?

Take secondary and primary schools. Did you know that for a long time security people have actually named the persons who serve as principals? Of course the security people look for specific criteria in naming their guys!

Is this any way to educate a nation?

Nobody seems to care as things continue to deteriorate. The Ministry of Education is itself full of highly politicized do-nothing hypocrites. These persons and their decisions shape the personalities of our coming generations.

The education sector needs our immediate care and attention. It is the safety valve for the future of Yemen. Please listen!

The Publisher

"The first truly global era has begun."

The United Nations celebrated its 47th birthdate of October 24th, 1992. In Sanaa, the occasion was marked by a heavily attended reception sponsored by the UNDP office.

A message from the Secretary-General of the UN, Dr. Boutros Ghali on the occasion stated that the United Nations is undergoing 'change'. "The (UN) Charter enjoins us to 'save succeeding generations from the scourge of war', and to 'promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'. Today we have a new opportunity to fulfil the Purposes and Principles of the Charter. Its goals -- peace, prosperity, and political participation -- are the pre-requisite of the life in dignity to which every man and woman aspires," the message reads.

The Secretary-General also declared that the "first truly global era has begun". He stated that critical issues increasingly require universal attention and effort. Among these, he listed development, disarmament, the environment and human rights.

The UN Secretary-General's message was not oblivious to the difficulties, but it struck a positive tone. "Despite the news of wars, hunger, homelessness and disease affecting millions, the world is moving toward a new, more participatory, people-centered way of conducting international affairs," it reads.

The message also disclosed three major international conferences it is planning for the future. The first on human rights will take place in 1993, the second on population (1994), and the third on women (1995).

Finally, the UN Secretary-General's message asked everybody to join hands and "dedicate ourselves anew to the Charter", and to its full implementation.

Printing New Money

There is widespread talk in the streets that the government is considering to print a fresh supply of Riyals. The amount being quoted is a staggering YR. 100 billion, almost 40% of the current money supply (M1).

This unbelievable piece of information has struck a nervous cord with the business community. "Many meetings were held, and many more are planned to stop this catastrophe," one businessman told the Yemen Times.

The inflationary implications of such a step is unbearable to an already inflation-prone economy. An official source tried to minimize the damage by stating that this new money, all of it in new high denominations (YR. 250 and YR. 500 notes), is going to replace the dinars which will be withdrawn from circulation. But this is neither accurate, nor does it justify this new big shipment.

Government employees, specially fixed-income people will lose 35-40% of their purchasing power immediately. This will create havoc, and it will be the thing that will brake the camel's back, according to a veteran politician.

At another level, the government plans to increase the salaries of government employees by a hefty 60% starting from January 1992. The employees of the Ministry of Finance have already begun collecting their increments starting from August 1992.

Yemen needs a better monetary policy than the current spend-thrift attitude given the chronic budgetary deficit and in light of a stagnant and depressed economy.

السُفَّارِي
EL SOFFARY

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PERSONAL VIEW

Meaning of Democracy



Dr. Ali Ghaleb Obaid,
Ministry of Industry

The human rights document which the first US Congress approved in 1789, and which later (1791) became part of the US constitution, is considered one of the moral high points in human history. I would like to highlight some of the far-sighted rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of worship, freedom of publication, and due process of law.

These rights were guaranteed and implemented, you will please note, over two hundred years ago.

Now, we are struggling in today's Yemen to implement these same rights. Although there are many Yemeni officials profess to observe the rights of citizens, most are not fully implemented. It is easy, for example, for our leadership to order its officials and officers to carry out actions against citizens - actions which contradict the laws and constitution. What I am trying to say is that accountability is a basic part of a democratic system. Without a proper system of accountability, almost everything becomes void of any real substance.

That is why we have all these difficulties in our country today. While the people want democracy and are gradually internalizing democratic values and behavior, our leadership continues to resist it. It wants certain "arrangements" before it would submit to democracy. Towards this end, they have used tactics of intimidation and blackmail openly.

The violence, lawlessness and irresponsible behavior are all carried out by groups and individuals who refuse to submit to democracy and the modernization process. But if the march of times is any indication, these groups and individuals are doomed and will be relegated to the backwaters of civilization.

LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL

NABORS Drills Water Wells

Yemen Times learnt that NABORS, an oil well drilling company, has just finished drilling three water wells in the area 50 kilometers east of Aden city, in Abyan governorate.

This effort comes within the community-service aspect of the company's program. It will be noted that oil companies regularly drill water wells, construct roads, and make other efforts oriented to the service of the local communities.

Formation of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Brotherhood Association

A group of intellectuals, businessmen and journalists came together on Sunday, October 26th, 1992, and formed the preparatory committee for the establishment of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Brotherhood Association. The aim is to promote more understanding and cooperation between the two peoples and countries.

Yemen Times learnt that the committee is presently drafting the charter, and it will call for a constituent conference next month during which the association will be formally established.

Relations between Yemen and Kuwait were broken due to the position of the Yemeni government on the Gulf Crisis. The association hopes to assist in restoring relations.

Developments in the Oil Sector

Yemen Times learnt that on Tuesday, October 20, 1992, the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and British Gas signed a memorandum of understanding regarding its offshore concession in Socotra. The arrangements include a 3000 mile seismic study and two exploratory wells. The government collected a decent US\$ 7 million signature bonus.

In other oil news, NIMIR Petroleum has shipped its first consignment of 45,000 tons of oil from Block 4 (Shabwa). The company will continue pumping additional quantities. Meanwhile, Crescent Petroleum spudded its first wildcat in its Block 2 (Al-Mabar) concession. Results of this exploratory well are expected by mid-November.

President Saleh Receives the Winning Football Team

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, received on Saturday, October 24th, 1992, the Al-Ahli team of Sanaa, the trainers, managers, and sponsors.

It is worth mentioning that Sanaa's Al-Ahli team was the winner of the football championship this year. "The President's kind attention has spurred a lot of enthusiasm among the club members," according to Mr. Hussain Al-Ahjuri, the club chairman.

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THE NATURAL CHOICE

Mohammed Qassim Noman:

"We are willing to pay the price of our neutrality and independence!"

Sawt Al-Ummal (Voice of the Workers) newspaper has by far the largest circulation among newspapers in the Republic of Yemen. It sells over 50,000 copies every week. It is also the only newspaper with strong and committed readership in all parts of the country, something which makes it the envy of even government newspapers.

Such an outstanding record is due in part to the efforts of the managing-editor, Mr. Mohammed Qassim Noman.

Mr. Qassim is a professional journalist who did his graduate studies in journalism in Algeria. Today, he is a leading journalist and an influential member of the board of the Journalists Syndicate (actually he is the chair of the Committee on Liberties and Freedom of Journalism). He is also the Vice Chairman of the Yemeni Organization for the Defense of Rights and Liberties.

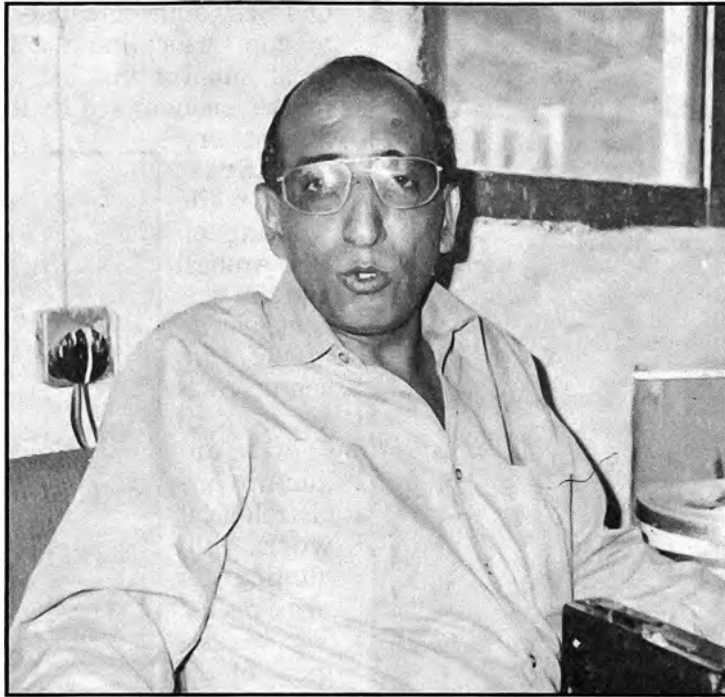
Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Noman at his office in Aden.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you share with us the orientation of your newspaper?

A: Following the 1986 congress of unions and syndicates, we embarked on a course aimed at giving the chance for all viewpoints to be heard. The incidents of January, 1986 showed clearly the folly of suppressing any dissenting views. So we decided that that approach was going to be a major element in our policy. That brought us in direct confrontation with the state apparatus. I remember in 1988 when we got in trouble with the Ministry of Interior in what was then the PDRY because we attacked the demanding and complicated restrictions placed on the travel of Yemenis from the former South Yemen to the former North Yemen.

And now, we are at loggerheads with the central authorities because we serve as watchdog; we expose their shortcomings, and we provide space for dissenting views. We see our role in promoting more democracy, more human rights, and more unity among our people.



Q: But there are those who accuse you of being partisan to the Yemeni Socialist Party. What do you say?

A: Of course, we are not partisan to the YSP, and we regularly run anti-YSP articles or at least which are critical of the YSP.

For your information, the YSP is not even a subscriber to this newspaper. I am sure they buy and read it, but they are not direct subscribers.

But let me say that part of our policy is to promote a civilizational transformation of Yemen towards values that are in tune with the world and our needs. If the YSP supports such a project, then we are allied with it. If the Yemeni capitalist class or businessmen are with this project, then we are allied with them. If there is any party that works for this transformation, we shall work side by side with them.

We are in support of those forces which help in the progress and proper evolution of Yemen. Those forces which want to create a modern state based on civil society and full respect for the citizen.

Q: You have been the target of a smear campaign organized and sponsored by certain political circles. How do you react?

A: We jealously guard our independence and impartial attitude. There is a price to pay for this, and we are willing to pay it, and you (Yemen Times), as another truly independent newspaper, know this. Some circles have yet to grasp the true meaning of

democracy. They have yet to show tolerance towards those who differ with them. They use intimidation and blackmail tactics. We shall, on our part, continue in search of the truth and facts objectively. Our aim is to expose the bad

guys, by promoting the ideas which officialdom seeks to suppress.

We shall expose those who seek to rule by terrorizing and eliminating others.

We shall expose those who swindle government money and misuse public resources.

We shall expose those who want to hold time standstill or who want to turn the clock backwards.

We shall expose those who manipulate and exploit the rights of others.

If as a result of our efforts, certain circles lash back at us and organize smear campaigns, then so be it.

Q: Is the newspaper self-supporting?

A: We just about break even. We get a lot of support from the ordinary people and the workers. Every now and then if we need resources, we start a contribution campaign, and workers chip in. These are very small amounts, but

because of the large base, they become large sums. So, we do make ends meet, and we shall never expose ourselves to blackmail by seeking or accepting politically-motivated contributions.

We plan to intensify our marketing efforts, specially in advertisements. All of this should be in line with the board of editors' philosophy and approach.

**A Success Story:
The average number of copies of Sawt Al-Ummal sold each week**

Year	No. of Copies
1986	3,000
1987	10,000
1988	15,000
1989	24,000
1990	30,000
1991	37,000
1992	50,000

Continues on page 9

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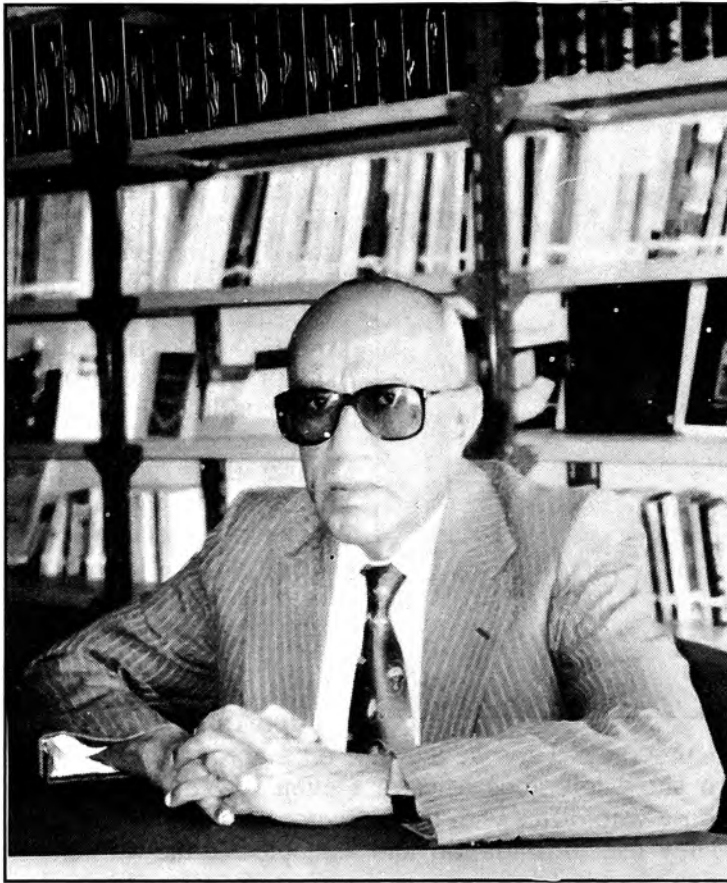
Al-Afif Cultural Foundation Steps Up Its Programs

The Yemeni Encyclopaedia is available for sale at the Dar Al-Hikmah bookstore on Share' Al-Qasr in Sanaa. This initial shipment is almost finished, although a larger shipment is on the way, Yemen Times learnt. The encyclopaedia, a two-volume master piece is the product of three and a half years of 106 scholars from all over the world. "It is a reference on Yemen," Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif said. The encyclopaedia is one of many works sponsored and organized by the Al-Afif Cultural Foundation (ACF). The Foundation was set up and financed by a huge donation from Mr. Afif.

Another major work on which the ACF has embarked is the Dictionary of Yemen. This is a 900-page book dealing with Yemeni names, words, places, concepts, etc. "This is the fruit of the continued and strenuous efforts of Mr. Mutahhar Al-Iryani for the last twelve years," the ACF Chairman explained. He also added that the study is being finalized and that the ACF will finance its printing early next year. In addition to the half dozen books that the ACF has published, the publication program calls for publishing six more books during 1993. These are Madinat Sanaa (Sanaa City) by Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Haddad, Madinat Aden (Aden City) by the late Abdullah Muhairiz, Al-Imam Shawkani by Dr. Hussain Al-Amri; Abul-Hassan Al-Hamdani by Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, and Madinat Zabeed (Zabid City) by Abdul-Rahman Al-Hadhrani.

The ACF is fast becoming a central fountain for cultural and academic studies on Yemen. In addition to its publications effort, it has just established a library for open use by the public, and it has set up a seminar hall which people are invited to use.

With far fewer resources than any of the government organizations (such as Sanaa University or the Ministry of Culture), the Al-Afif Cultural Foundation is doing so much to enrich and document the Yemeni culture. Although the foundation is managed by a committed and highly able board of trustees, the real mover of the whole project is really Mr. Ahmed



Jabir Afif, the former Minister of Education and currently a member of the Council of Advisors to the President. It just goes to show what a minority of one person can do if he/she

has the commitment and vision.

"We invite all scholars to come visit the ACF located behind the Ministry of Transportation," Mr. Afif concluded.

SWISS TEAM BACK ON WORK

A number of European countries involved with the restoration and repair of Old Sana'a are threatening to stop financial and technical support because of trouble encountered by the Swiss team.

The Swiss team, while working on Dar Ambasi which was constructed in the 14th century, was accused of "not conducting archaeological work but hunting for treasures".

The harassment of the 40-member Swiss team has caused the dismay of many archaeological teams working in the country. The unfolding of these events instigated a visit to Sana'a last week by a senior Swiss delegate for talks with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani. The Swiss side was pacified by "Yemen's apologies for the irresponsible

behavior that interfered with their work".

The Swiss team started work in 1991 and its efforts are financed by a US\$ 2 million Swiss grant. In the mid-1980s, UNESCO



declared Old Sana'a a world heritage city, and initiated a campaign for its preservation. A number of countries have responded to the appeal.

It is worth mentioning that the walled enclave known as Old Sana'a has a distinctive architecture dating back to the time of Christ. Today, some 50,000 inhabitants live there.

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Over-Politicized Supreme Elections Committee

By:
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Election fever has gone to high pitch these days, and the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) is at the center of attention, as well as the center of trouble. Let me list a few of its major shortcomings.

1. Involving the President:

To start with, the SEC should not allow President Ali Abdullah Saleh to get too deeply involved in its work. It submits periodic reports on its work, as required by the law, and that is enough. We hear of "unofficial" reports to the president and "unofficial" instructions to it. That is wrong. Another thing relates to the fact that the President personally comes to the SEC meetings to give them "guidance". He has personally gone to SEC meetings half a dozen times already. That is not called for. In addition, the SEC is taking the blame for the postponement of the elections because "it is unable to finish its work during the prescribed time". I do not understand why the SEC volunteers to take blame for something it is not responsible for. It was the Presidential Council that was so late in initiating the efforts in preparation for elections.

2. Regulating Campaigns:

The SEC is responsible for regulating the campaigning process. But, it is unable or unwilling to stop the substantial flow of big money being from the big parties to influential persons, power brokers, candidates,

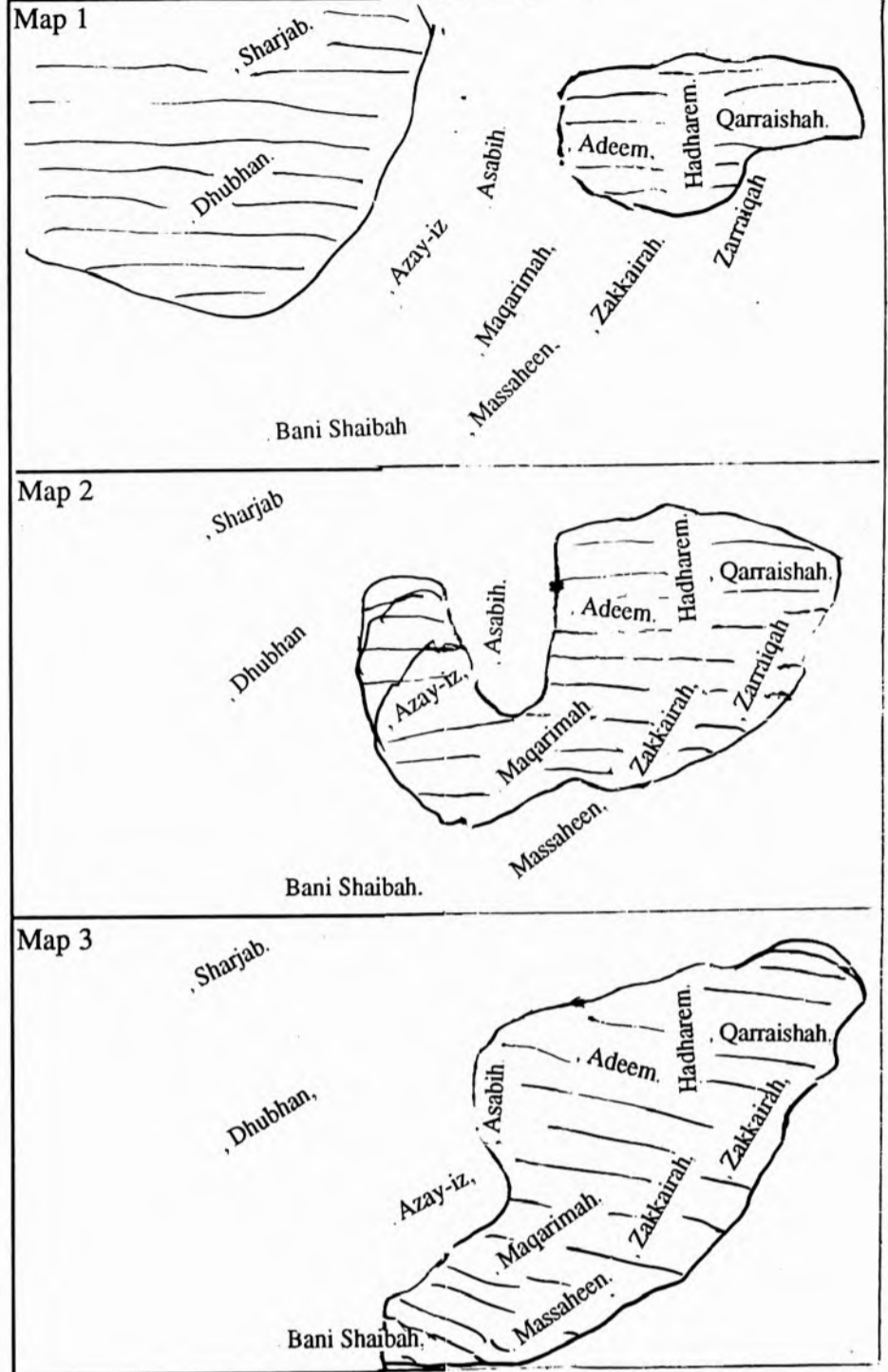
and even voters. The SEC is also unable to stop the ruling parties, specially the PGC, from using the official media to publicize the activities of PGC senior members.

3. Playing with Constituencies:

The boundaries of constituencies have been changing frequently. Where the PGC has chosen the candidate it is fielding, the boundaries are kept stable, and the people are doing a lot of mobilization. The constituencies in which "adversaries" or independents are running are constantly changed so as to frustrate mobilizations efforts. Let me use constituency No. 64 (Shamayatain, Taiz Governorate) as a case in point, because I am running there.

The first proposal was of a constituency split geographically into two unconnected areas. My village and surrounding region were thrown in as appendix to the areas around Turba. (See map 1). I cried foul since the law requires that constituencies cannot be parcelled into separate pieces, but have to be in one area bringing together socially, tribally and geographically connected people.

Then the SEC came up with the horse-shoe region shown in map 2. The idea is to lump together disparate areas across some of the difficult mountains in Hugarriah. I picked up the challenge and initiated very good contact. As my contacts began to bear fruit, the constituency was changed one more time to yield a Chile-like shape - a strip of land extending 32 kms (map 3). Would the SEC please play fair?



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Egypt	275948/9	Italy	31848
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France	275995	Palestine	32717/340
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Iraqi Airways	240091/240909
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Kuwait Airways	272503/4
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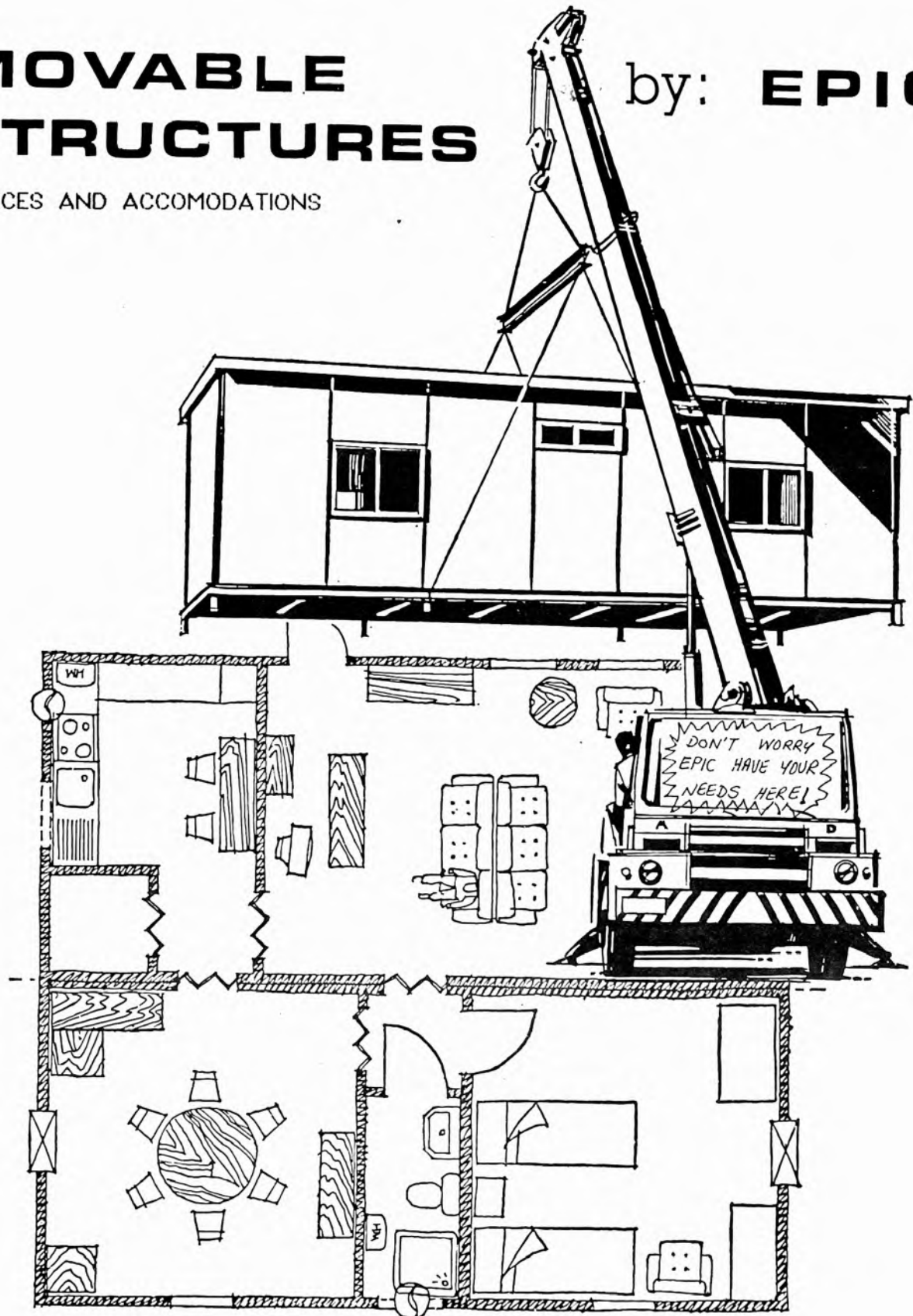
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letters to the editor, letters to the editor, letters to the

Who Am I?

I am a young man called Abu I barely escaped the hell of Somalia's civil war. Upon my arrival in Yemen, my ancestor's homeland, I thought all my difficulties were behind me. Unfortunately I found otherwise. During my life in Somalia, my Yemeni ancestry was taken against me. I was called *gibil ad* (white skin) and *arabyow*. I was delegated second-class status. Now that I am in Mukalla, Hadhramaut, I am called *muwallad*, foreign-born. I am again delegated second class status, and I don't understand the unexplainable attitude towards me for something over which I have no control. Who can control where he or she is to be born? Even worse than the social attitude, I am unable to obtain the infamous bitaqa, identity card, which is a must to get a job, to go to school, or to do about anything.

What is the meaning of human rights in Yemen if the state discriminates against a segment of the population? How can a society whose very survival depended on migrants treat us like this?

Like it or not, with bitaqa or without, I am a Yemeni and I am a Hadhrami. I shall struggle for my rights.

By:
**Abu Salim Nasir,
Mukalla, Hadhramaut.**

Editor's Note:
Maybe the migrants and their children, which are clearly a substantial portion of society (30-35%), can establish their own political party to take care of their interests and protect their rights!

Yemen Is Getting Deeper in Debt

I am happy to tell you that I continue to read the Yemen Times with deep interest. I appreciate the professionalism, versatility and courage of the newspaper and the writers. It is clear that the mentality behind the paper is that of a missionary, and the mission being change of the system towards more universally adopted norms. Let me say that you (Yemen) are getting into immense debt, in spite of the oil revenues. Part of it is that you are not making optimal use of your natural

and intellectual resources. For example, you have abandoned the age-proven techniques of your forebears for the sake of imported ideas. Take the construction sector. Yemenis have been known to be great builders and designers. Through the use of local material (wood, mud, etc.), and the design of homes and buildings to maximize benefits from the climate, use of space, and to fit the local socio-culture, homes in Yemen were ideal. Yet, today, more and more people live in cardboard boxes called flats or apartments which cost a lot more than the old houses, are less durable, and evidently far less comfortable.

I suggest you consider seminars to re-teach your people of the virtue of some of the old ways. Please think about it.

By:
**Kate Hoffmann,
Hamburg, Germany.**

Needed - Information on Yemen

I am at the moment preparing a dossier on Yemen for Thema, a publishing house in Bologna, Italy. I would like to top it with information on the following:

- 1) What are the pressing problems facing Yemen today?
- 2) Has the unification of Yemen made the situation of the country more difficult? If so, in what way?
- 3) What has been the role of the international organizations; e.g., Unesco?
- 4) What are the most able political parties that will assert themselves in the coming elections?
- 5) Are the archaeological heritage and urban structures sufficiently protected and what is urgently needed in this respect?
- 6) In the Yemeni culture, are there literary, musical, theatrical and other output worthy of documenting?

Any information on the above or other subjects is most appreciated. Please write to:
**Salvatore Scaglione,
S. Croce,
704-30125 Venezia,
Italia.**

OXFAM Story

I was very impressed by your social editor's article about OXFAM (YT issue 34 of August 19, 1992).

The information contained in the article was excellent, and it highlighted the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the development process, erstwhile neglected.

I do believe that NGOs offer the most cost-effective and efficient approach to grass-root level development. In our society, there are a lot of idle resources which can be tapped through NGOs. I only wish, the Yemen Times had published the OXFAM addresses (in Yemen and the UK) just in case some of us would like to obtain more information on their experience.

By:
**Ahmed Ali Atef,
Foreign Ministry, Sanaa**

Editor's Note:
Yemen Times cannot run addresses without proper authorization. We hope the OXFAM office will react to your request.

Racism Blowing over Europe

Europe is going through a major transformation in the socio-cultural sense. There are ethno-centric groups that sprang here and there that are anti-foreign (and anti- any human being different to them). These groups of reckless people brought havoc to the countries of Europe. Foreign migrant workers, students learning in European universities, and even members of the diplomatic community have suffered immensely from the notorious tactics of these gangs. The situation is widespread all over Europe, extending from Bulgaria all the way into France. Of course, there are internal factors which aggravate the situation. But these repulsive ways and line of reasoning have to be opposed by decent European citizens as well as the international community. The atrocities of the skinheads, for example, have already been in the media a few times. The racist attitudes of these gangs border on facism from which Europe had suffered a lot in the past. Will the European governments work to curb these trends? What will happen to the poor migrants in the meanwhile?

By:
**Osman Saleh,
Taiz.**

The Moments

There I was together with my loneliness,
Bored in the day, and at night sleepless.
As usual I put my heavy head to bed,
The clock ticked away, insomnia was my fate.
Attentive to listen to anything, with agony.
The eery quiet night was my only company.
But then recollections queued to submit
To my brain which was ready for every bit.
'The Road Not Taken' by Frost first flashed
Then came a Quranic verse to my mind
Then came the face of a woman, I remember not,
Then anarchy reigned in my soul and my heart.
Fantasies and realities quickly blended,
And my sane to my insane finally yielded.
These were moments of passing away,
My flesh succumbed, and I slept away.

By:
**Ghassan Hafedh Abdulla,
Hodeidah.**

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LOW-COST HOUSING SEMINAR CONCLUDED

The seminar on Low-Cost Housing in the Arab Region concludes today, Wednesday October 28th, with a set of recommendations and proposals.

The seminar which had started on October 24th, is jointly sponsored and organized by the Yemeni Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, and the ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia).

The seminar, in which 28 papers and studies were presented, had six major themes as follows:

- a) New Approaches to the Financing of Low-Cost Housing.
- b) Appropriate Technology, Engineering and Material Use in Low-Cost Housing.
- c) Considerations of the Environment and Heritage in Low-Cost Housing Projects.
- d) Patterns of Land Use and Legal Use in the Application of Low-Cost Housing.

e) The Role of Specific Ministries and Organizations in Low-Cost Housing Projects.

f) Case Studies from Oman, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Pakistan and Egypt.

The seminar brings together a select group of experts and researchers from thirty two countries.

Among the most important recommendations of the seminar is to introduce new financing schemes to meet the needs of the low and middle-income segments of the population. Such schemes would place low ceilings of loan amounts, and would assist in the choice of technology and design of housing projects. In addition, they call for reduced demands in terms of paper-work and demands of guarantees.

Another recommendation calls for integrating for low-cost housing with the over-all urban plan so as to give a certain aesthetic beauty to the city-skyline

as well as to the quarter system. Corollary to such efforts, integration of poor quarters also calls for better and enhanced services in all parts of cities.

A third recommendation is oriented towards improvements in the documentation of ownership, and the need to generalize proper deeds and other papers.

Finally, a fourth recommendation calls for serious environmental considerations in light of the real deterioration in the quality of life in poor sections of cities. Coupled with the environmental issue, the seminar noted that much damage and destruction to the architectural heritage is done in poor sections of cities. Both issues deserve immediate attention.

As a corollary to the seminar, there is an exhibition which displays the most cost-effective technologies and methods in the construction of low cost-housing, with special reference to the Arab World.

Continued from Page 3

Mohammed Qassim Noman's Interview...

Q: What is your role in the unionization process?

A: We have yet to play our full role in this matter. But, as a newspaper owned by the workers' union, we have to push unionization issues and the rights of workers. Beyond that, we have to push their civil and political rights as well. Some people complain that we should stick to just union issues and not discuss politics. Of course, this is an uninformed attitude.

We do have a lot of contacts with various unions and syndicates. Our board of editors discusses their plans and worries, and we try to shed light on them.

Q: What are your plans for covering the coming elections?

A: We are now drawing up a detailed plan to cover the issues, candidates, and developments. Everybody is happy with the elections, and I think they are a milestone in the political evolution of the country. If we can achieve a peaceful transfer of power as dictated by the people's will through their votes, it will be a fantastic step forward for Yemen.

We plan to allocate sufficient space for this event, and we will cover all aspects of the elections.

Q: Do you cover the economic side of Yemen's evolution to the same extent - say the oil discoveries?

A: Of course, the economic condition is of paramount importance and we give it due attention. It is my hope that economic conditions will improve parallel to the socio-political transformation.

As far as oil is concerned, it is still only stories in the media. I have yet to see or feel the impact of our oil exports. As a matter of fact, just the opposite is true. Since our oil exports started, economic conditions have deteriorated. The leadership is not telling anybody what it is doing with whatever oil revenues there are. Therefore, given the corruption of the officials, our people are not hopeful about the prospects of the economic situation.

Q: How do you evaluate the contribution of the business class to economic growth?

A: Of course, there are many decent businessmen like the Hayel Saeed Anam Group. Their investments and contribution to social and economic well-being are well known. But there are many businessmen who are not clean, and they are the protégés of senior officials who are transformed into merchants. We would like to raise the banner of accountability. We have to control the corruption that has become more prevalent than ever in the last two years.

Q: Any comment on the transitional period as it is coming to its final days?

A: I wish the leadership would implement what it agreed to carry out in the unification agreement. Unfortunately personal interests of power-hungry individuals are putting the whole country in jeopardy by their actions. I hope such individuals realize the risks they are forcing on the country!

Aden University Needs Immediate Attention

By:
Saleh Assayili.

The University of Aden is the second of two universities in the whole Republic, the first being Sanaa University. By the way, construction at Al-Janad University of Taiz has yet to start.

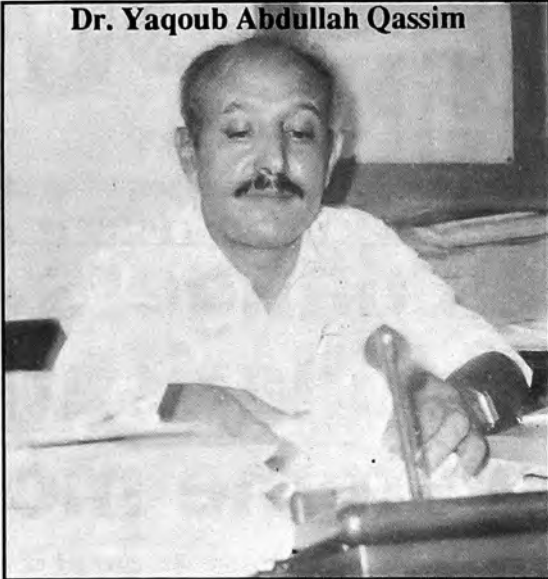
The years of continued neglect of Aden University have now caught up with it. It suffers from many insurmountable difficulties.

Aden University has almost 10,000 students with the new enrollments this year. The university had started with 70 students twenty years ago.

"We have made much progress in the last two decades spite of limited resources," said Dr. Yaqoub Abdullah Qassim, Dean of College of Arts, Science and Education - actually three colleges lumped into one college, administratively. Other colleges at the university include Economics, Law, Medicine, Engineering, and Agriculture.

"Our main problem is really the buildings in which we teach. Most of the buildings were built for other purposes, and later converted to our present use by making minor modifications. In addition, they are old and in many cases decayed,"

Dr. Yaqoub Abdullah Qassim



Dr. Qassim explained. He expressed frustration at the continued neglect of the university.

Commenting on the post-unification conditions, the Dean said that there have been substantial improvements in the salaries of the teaching staff to come to par with those at Sanaa University, and higher allocations were made to the students studying in teacher training institutes and colleges (while simultaneously ending the subsidies and other allocations to students in other colleges). Finally allocations were made for repairs and maintenance purposes. "But the need is far greater than these allocations," he insisted.

"We have plans to start graduate studies as there is pressing demand. But we need resources and a commitment to carry out these plans." It is more cost-effective and viable for the country to initiate higher studies in Yemen than to incur substantial costs by sending our students abroad, according to the Dean. This step will also increase research and academic endeavors within the country.

Comparisons with Sanaa University lead to many frustrations, at least in terms of financial allocations, and the level of government attention. The government has to be fair in its

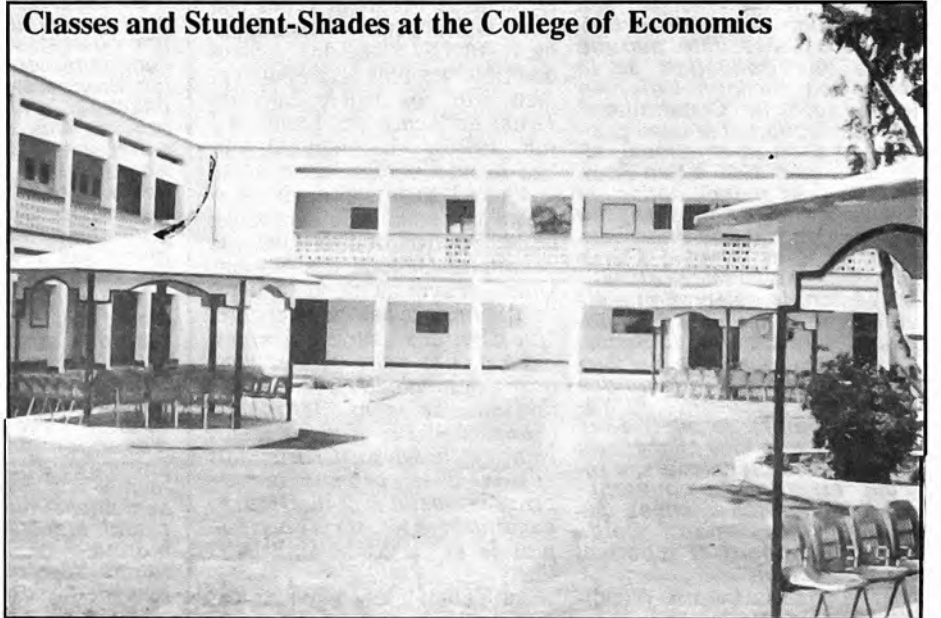
attitude and dealings with similar organizations and institutions.

Regarding enrollments, Dr. Qassim said, "We are being forced to admit more students than we can handle. This year (1992-93), for example, we have admitted almost 250% of our capacity."

Speaking about the future, the Aden University professor said there were plans to start new fields, which are presently not covered.

"We have more Yemeni teaching staff, and more are returning soon with their degrees soon. But we need immediate government attention to help carry out these plans."

Classes and Student-Shades at the College of Economics



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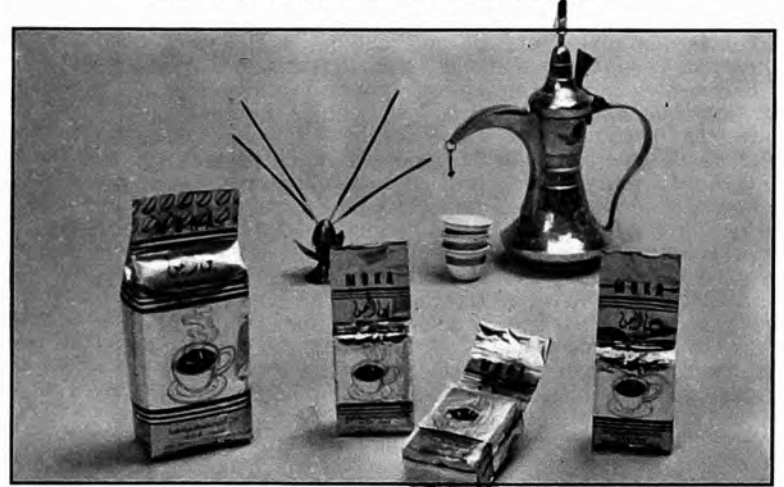
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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Journée mondiale des Nations Unies

Sept agences au Yémen pour l'aide au développement

Le 24 octobre 1945 naissait l'Organisation des Nations Unies, l'ONU. Cette date marque l'entrée en application de la Charte des Nations Unies, en quelque sorte la "Constitution" de l'Organisation et la base principale du droit international, signée le 26 juin 1945 à San Francisco. Dans le monde entier, en ce samedi 24 octobre, la "Journée des Nations Unies" entendait donc célébrer le 47ème anniversaire de la fondation de l'ONU.

Au Yémen, la célébration a été plutôt terne. Dimanche 25 octobre au Centre Culturel de Sanaa, une exposition montée par tous les organismes dépendants des Nations Unies présents au Yémen (au nombre de sept) a été inaugurée par le Vice-Ministre du Plan qui, dans un discours, a remercié, au nom du gouvernement, "toutes les agences des Nations Unies pour l'aide qu'elles ont apporté et apportent encore au Yémen".

Pour célébrer la Journée Mondiale des Nations Unies, on peut regretter que le gouvernement yéménite n'ait pas cru bon de déplacer davantage de ministres, tant un nombre important d'entre-eux sont, de près ou de loin, concernés par le travail des différentes agences dépendant des Nations-Unies au Yémen. D'ailleurs, le Vice-Ministre du Plan, M. Abdulwalij Al-Akel, représentant le gouvernement, a prononcé un discours qui soulignait l'importance de l'action de ces agences dans le domaine du développement au Yémen: "Depuis le milieu des années 60, a-t-il dit, les Nations Unies ont aidé au développement de notre pays. Toutes leurs agences ont participé aux efforts pour pousser notre pays vers le développement économique et social. Elles ont apporté l'assistance technique, des experts, dans des secteurs variés comme l'agriculture, l'industrie, l'eau, la santé, la famille, l'aviation civile, la météorologie, la protection de l'environnement, etc. Cette coopération ne s'est jamais interrompue; au contraire, elle s'est étendue dans le domaine de la santé, du bien-être social et de l'éducation, en particulier." Et le Vice-Ministre a chaudement remercié, au nom du gouvernement, toutes ces agences des Nations Unies et leurs représentants présents dans la salle ou à la tribune.

Ce discours clôturait une matinée consacrée à l'inauguration d'une exposition (avec films vidéo à l'appui) sur toutes les interventions des différentes agences d'aide au développement des Nations Unies, dans le monde entier. Puis, dans l'amphithéâtre du Centre Culturel de Sanaa, le nouveau Représentant

résident du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD), l'une des agences de l'ONU les plus actives au Yémen, lire nos article dans les Temps du Yémen des 4 mars et 3 juin 1992), M. Awni Al-Ani, également Coordinateur résident de toutes les activités des Nations Unies au Yémen, a lu le message de M. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, délivré au monde entier à l'occasion de ce jour-anniversaire: "En dépit des guerres, famines, des réfugiés sans abri et sans terres, des maladies affectant des millions de gens, le monde change (...) Les Nations Unies changent aussi. La Charte nous enjoint de (...) promouvoir le progrès social et de meilleures conditions de vie dans la liberté la plus large", a déclaré M. Boutros-Ghali.

Au Yémen, sept agences des Nations Unies oeuvrent dans ce sens, sous la coordination du PNUD: la FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation, en anglais), dont nous avons largement décrit les activités dans les Temps du Yémen des 29 avril et 14 octobre 1992, responsable de nombreux projets dans l'agriculture et la pêche (expérimentations, irrigations, etc.); le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés, dont le siège est à Sanaa mais qui développe un très important programme d'aide aux réfugiés somaliens d'Aden (lire nos articles des 22 avril, 1er et 7 juillet 1992); l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (qui supervise des programmes de santé de base, de vaccinations et élabore des statistiques; le Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population (UNFPA) dont les objectifs sont l'amélioration de la connaissance de la population du pays et des problèmes qu'elle pose ainsi que l'amélioration des conditions de vie des femmes et des enfants sur le plan de la santé et de l'éducation pour l'essentiel (l'organisation, au Yémen, dresse des statistiques sur l'évolution de la population, développe le "planning familial", tente de promouvoir l'alphabétisation des femmes et les méthodes de contraception, entre autres actions); le Programme Alimentaire Mondial, qui distribue chaque année plus de deux millions de tonnes de nourriture dans le Tiers-Monde (qui fournit au Yémen des rations aux réfugiés de la Corne de l'Afrique); enfin, l'UNICEF, dont l'objectif est la protection et l'éducation des enfants.

Le Cheikh suprême des tribus Bakil veut fonder un nouveau parti, selon l'hebdomadaire Al-Nahda. L'hebdomadaire islamiste tendance modernisatrice rapporte dans son édition du 19 octobre que le Cheikh Naji Abdelaziz Chayef, le chef suprême des Bakils, a l'intention de créer son parti, après avoir récemment quitté Al-Islah, prétextant que "les hommes politiques ne voient qu'à travers leurs partis, sans voir les intérêts vitaux du pays".

Rectificatif. Il n'y a rien de plus stupide de la part d'un journaliste qui la commet, et de plus irritant pour les personnes concernées, qu'une erreur dans les noms. A fortiori lorsque l'article est bâti sur le témoignage de cette personne. J'espère que M. Gérard Chaliand (et non Yves, comme je l'ai écrit dans le précédent numéro, page 12), ainsi que les lecteurs voudront bien me pardonner cette erreur honteuse.

De plus en plus de services facturés en devises aux étrangers

Les dangers d'une "dollarisation" du système monétaire

On assiste, au Yémen depuis quelques mois, à une dollarisation du système monétaire et de l'économie en général. En effet, les étrangers-compagnies, ambassades mais aussi particuliers - en plus des touristes, acquittent désormais de nombreuses factures dans la devise américaine, en ce qui concerne ses services. Le phénomène est connu dans de nombreux pays du Tiers-Monde et il demeure cantonné à quelques secteurs au Yémen. Il n'est pas question ici de se plaindre alors que n'importe quel étranger gagne des sommes beaucoup plus importantes que le salaire moyen au Yémen, mais il convient d'évoquer les dangers de ce phénomène pour l'économie yéménite elle-même. Il contribue à alimenter l'inflation par la dépréciation à due concurrence de la monnaie locale et permet aux riches yéménites d'en profiter seulement, au détriment des autres.

Même s'il n'y a pas de danger immédiat, il faut tirer la sonnette d'alarme, à la lumière des exemples d'autres pays qui ont connu le même phénomène, le cas extrême étant celui du Liban, et éviter que la dollarisation de l'économie yéménite ne s'amplifie au moment où il importe de rétablir la confiance dans le ryal.

Il n'y a pas si longtemps, on brûlait la livre libanaise dans les rues de Beyrouth. Elle n'était devenue qu'un vulgaire papier sans valeur. Si l'on achetait un produit quelconque à une livre, il y a encore peu de temps, il en faut 2.000 aujourd'hui ! La raison en est simple: l'utilisation, pour toute transaction, du dollar a conduit à une dépréciation catastrophique de la monnaie locale et, à Beyrouth comme ailleurs, on ne raisonne plus qu'en dollar aujourd'hui.

Certes le Yémen n'en n'est pas là. Mais des exemples nombreux, moins catastrophiques, ont montré que cette situation favorisait quand même des phénomènes d'hyper-inflation (inflation à trois ou quatre chiffres), en Amérique Latine notamment. Et tout a commencé comme au Yémen, où l'on entrevoit clairement aujourd'hui un début de dollarisation de l'économie.

Tout a commencé il y a à peine un an, lorsque des compagnies aériennes étrangères ont décidé de faire payer leurs billets aux non-yéménites en dollars. Ce cas précis est compréhensible dans la mesure où, même au taux de change officiel de 12 ryals pour un dollar, ces compagnies ne couvraient pas leurs frais (facturés, eux en devises: carburant, nourriture, salaires du personnel, etc.).

Le phénomène s'est perverti cependant lorsque les compagnies aériennes ont été suivies par l'hôtellerie et les compagnies de tourisme en général qui, elles, se voient très rarement facturer leurs frais en dollars. Les exemples sont plus parlants: les chambres d'hôtels sont facturées en dollars au taux officiel à un étranger, même résidant au Yémen, alors qu'il en coûtera trois fois moins cher à un riche homme d'affaire, s'il est yéménite. De

même, si vous êtes étranger et si vous buvez ou mangez dans l'un de cet hôtel et avez le malheur de signer la facture au lieu de payer directement en ryal, comme vous en avez le droit, la somme sera convertie en dollars au taux officiel sur votre facture globale: ainsi, au lieu de payer un buffet, vous en aurez payé trois. Si l'on considère que ce buffet, à Aden comme à Sanaa, est composé pour une très grande partie de produits locaux payés en ryals (riz et farine étant même subventionnés indirectement par le gouvernement), l'abus est manifeste. Or, le problème n'est pas de désigner l'étranger comme la victime d'un racket - ses ressources dans ce pays sont généralement confortables - mais de montrer que les riches familles propriétaires de ces hôtels au Yémen et les personnels étrangers d'encadrement en profitent tout naturellement alors que la femme de chambre ou le serveur sera payé en ryal!

De même, les compagnies de Tour Operator qui font payer le touriste en devise forte pour passer une nuit dans un funduk de Khokha ou manger des sardines de Hodeidah et des bananes de la compagnie Hayel Saeed, le tout acquitté en ryal, parviennent sans doute à faire des profits intéressants. Ce n'est pas le propriétaire riche de telle ou telle compagnie qui s'en plaindra... Le chauffeur, le pêcheur, le propriétaire du funduk seront toujours payés en ryals.

Même les compagnies d'assurances facturent aujourd'hui des contrats en dollars pour les étrangers résidents. Depuis quelques mois, et sans que personne ne soit prévenu à l'avance, les factures du téléphone international pour les compagnies et ambassades étrangères sont passées en dollars. Certes, comme les compagnies aériennes, l'administration yéménite n'est pas à blâmer dans ce cas précis car les compensations entre pays, à la base du système international du téléphone, sont acquittées en devises.

Tout de même, même cantonné encore à un nombre limité de secteurs, ce système est très inflationniste pour une économie et les petits "trinquent" pour les autres. Tout d'abord, la circulation accrue du dollar favorise la perte de confiance dans la monnaie locale et donc sa dépréciation. La demande massive de dollar sur le marché libre explique la chute récente du ryal. (de près de 20% en deux mois cet été). Cette situation provoque le phénomène bien connu des économistes de "fuite devant la monnaie" et de spéculation dollar contre ryal, au détriment du second. "Autrefois, explique un expert en marchés financiers au Yémen, épargner en ryal pour transformer cette épargne en dollars était le fait d'un nombre limité d'initiés. Aujourd'hui, c'est un réflexe pour tout le monde, même pour l'employé de maison qui file au souk changer son salaire en billets verts". Tout le monde a tendance à raisonner en dollars et à ne plus

prendre en compte le ryal. Ainsi tel employé d'une compagnie qui gagnait 10.000 ryal il y a trois ans, l'équivalent de 1.000 dollars alors, et qui, ayant été "augmenté" à 13.000 ryals cette année, se plaint de ne "toucher en réalité que 300 dollars".

Le phénomène est pervers car l'épargne en ryal n'existe plus. Le maigre revenu moyen par habitant est consommé presque entièrement en ryal en raison de l'inflation et celui qui peut épargner le fait en dollar. L'épargne est très importante pour la bonne marche de l'économie d'un pays: elle permet l'investissement (il est très faible au Yémen), elle permet de combler les déficits publics par l'emprunt d'Etat (les déficits se creusent) et détermine les taux d'intérêts. Rien de tout cela ne peut fonctionner.

Le tableau est assez sombre, d'autant qu'il montre très bien que le phénomène profite à un nombre très limité de personnes et joue contre les intérêts du pays, mais il convient de le relativiser. Le Yémen a ses spécificités qui permettent au ryal d'échapper au sort de la livre libanaise et au pays de ne pas connaître l'hyper-inflation. Tout d'abord, contrairement au Liban où la dollarisation touche tout le monde, une part prépondérante de la population (plus de 70%) vit en zone rurale, en économie "démonétarisée" (auto-suffisance, cultures vivrières, troc) et reçoit l'inflation moins durement. Si cette population avait les mêmes réflexes, évoqués plus haut, que les citadins, le phénomène de dollarisation deviendrait grave. De plus, l'inflation dans le pays est relativement jugulée par des efforts louables du gouvernement (maintien de certains produits à des prix bas par subvention à l'importation; recours très raisonnable à la "planche à billet, efforts pour éviter le creusement des déficits publics): elle ne dépasse pas, en moyenne, 40% par an, ce qui est honorable en comparaison de bien des pays en développement.

Quelles sont, donc, les recettes pour éviter que la dollarisation, poussée à ses excès n'atteigne trop gravement le fonctionnement de l'économie ? Il faudrait rétablir la confiance dans la devise locale mais ceci passe par le rétablissement des réserves en devises de la Banque Centrale pour des interventions efficaces sur le marché. Donc par l'aide internationale sous forme de prêts avantageux. L'urgence se fait sentir d'autant plus que de nombreux opérateurs spéculent sur la baisse du ryal, amplifiant le phénomène et créant un climat de panique qui sera d'autant plus difficile à maîtriser que la population n'a pas la capacité de recevoir les messages que peuvent envoyer les autorités monétaires. Dans tous les cas, dans la situation actuelle, une mini-dollarisation du système monétaire yéménite est inévitable: le dollar est une devise refuge en cas de crise dans les pays pauvres. Mais il faut éviter les débordements qui pourraient aggraver la situation.

Emmanuel GIROUD

Alors que le HCR prévoit des activités d'éducation dans le futur camp du gouvernorat d'Abyan

Réfugiés somaliens d'Aden: après la faim et la maladie, le désœuvrement...

Depuis le tragique épisode du *Gobwein*, ce navire échoué sur une plage d'Aden fin juin ayant causé la mort de 150 réfugiés somaliens (lire notre reportage dans le Temps du Yémen N° 27 du 1er juillet 1992), la situation s'est considérablement améliorée dans les deux camps provisoires dressés à Aden pour accueillir les malheureux qui fuient la guerre civile et la famine de leur pays. Elle s'est améliorée sur le plan sanitaire et médical grâce à l'action très efficace d'une petite équipe de Médecins Sans Frontières, l'Organisation non-gouvernementale française (lire notre reportage dans le Temps du Yémen N° 28 du 8 juillet 1992) et sur le plan alimentaire grâce à des rations quotidiennes distribuées par le Haut Commissariat des Na-

tions Unies pour les Réfugiés (HCR) qui a pris officiellement en charge la gestion de ces camps. Les risques d'épidémies et de maladies graves sont aujourd'hui presque inexistantes et il n'y a plus trop de problèmes de malnutrition en général.

Cependant, un autre problème se pose aujourd'hui, à mesure que d'autres réfugiés arrivent dans de petites embarcations chaque semaine et que le HCR attend l'arrivée d'autres grosses vagues de réfugiés: comment faire face au désœuvrement qui règne dans ces camps et comment faire retrouver une vie aussi normale que possible à ces gens, notamment dans le domaine de l'éducation. Un rapport interne au HCR a récemment évoqué le problème et proposé des solu-

Dans le camp de Madinat al-Sha'ab, un peu à l'extérieur d'Aden, la plupart des gens sont complètement désœuvrés si on excepte tel épicier qui, sous sa tente, tient un embryon de magasin, "annexe" d'une épicerie du centre ville, tel coiffeur, ou tel tailleur qui officie à l'aide d'une vieille machine à coudre qu'il a pu récupérer... ainsi que les aides soignants, infirmiers et médecins même que l'équipe de MSF a recrutés pour son dispensaire dans l'enceinte du camp. Tous les autres vont et viennent, sortent en ville pour chercher du travail, balayer

les rues ou, chose presque inconnue à Aden jusqu'alors, pour mendier. Ceux qui restent au camp n'ont rien d'autre à faire que de collecter leur ration quotidienne de nourriture et ont largement le sentiment de n'être plus que des assistés. Le HCR, dans un récent rapport interne, s'inquiète de cette situation qui pourra devenir difficile à contrôler. Déjà dans le camp d'Al-Sha'ab, il n'est pas difficile de remarquer certaines activités clandestines de marché noir, sous plusieurs formes.

C'est pourquoi le HCR appelle à des mesures d'urgence pour com-



Dispensaire de MSF, camp de Madinat al-Sha'ab, à Aden. Il n'y a plus de problèmes de malnutrition ni de risques d'épidémies mais se pose désormais la question du travail des réfugiés et de l'éducation de leurs enfants.

bler les besoins notamment sur le plan de l'éducation. Il évalue la population totale des réfugiés somaliens à 67.000 personnes environ, mais d'autres n'hésitent pas à parler de 80.000 réfugiés. Et le HCR en appelle aux organismes spécialisés des Nations Unies, comme l'UNESCO ou l'UNICEF pour des aides d'urgence.

Avant de procéder au déménagement du camp de Madinat al-Sha'ab pour un autre site, dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan, à Al-Mutalla, où l'organisation internationale construit un nouveau camp qui devra pouvoir recevoir les pré-

miers réfugiés le mois prochain (avec à terme une capacité d'accueil de 60.000 personnes pour un minimum de six ans), le HCR a dressé un bilan précis de ces besoins en divisant la population concernée en trois catégories. Premier type de réfugiés: ceux d'origine strictement somalienne, qui ne parlent que le Somali. Pour ces familles, il faut prévoir des écoles primaires pour l'enseignement de l'Arabe au moins, en plus de la langue maternelle. On estime, au HCR, cette population à 12.000 personnes environ, dont une partie vit à Mukalla. Deuxième type de réfugiés so-

maliens: ceux qui sont d'origine yéménite mais qui ont gagné la Somalie il y a très longtemps (la sixième génération) et ont perdu tout contact avec leur famille au Yémen. La plupart d'entre-eux parle encore l'arabe. Ils ont été regroupés au camp de Basatin, à l'extérieur de la ville et sont environ 32.000.

Enfin, la troisième classification concerne des Somaliens d'origine yéménite dont les parents ont quitté le Yémen il n'y a pas très longtemps (seconde ou troisième génération) et qui ont toujours de la famille dans le pays. Ceux-ci sont disséminés dans les villes, principalement Aden (mais j'ai rencontré à Sana'a d'anciens rescapés du *Gobwein*). Ils sont officiellement considérés comme citoyens yéménites et se procurent très facilement des papiers d'identité.

Le HCR prévoit de construire une école primaire à Basatin et une autre dans le futur camp d'Al-Mutalla, pour parer au plus pressé. Les besoins sont nombreux mais les capacités sont intéressantes: pour le seul camp d'Al-Sha'ab, on a recensé 94 instituteurs et professeurs d'Université ainsi qu'un nombre non négligeable de cadres instructeurs de l'armée somalienne. Il y a donc une possibilité intéressante de faire de l'enseignement sans recours excessif à du personnel extérieur.

L'urgence de ces besoins se fait d'autant plus sentir qu'ils exercent des pressions sur le système d'éducation du gouvernorat d'Aden, qui n'avait pas besoin de cela. Plus de 2.600 Somaliens d'origine yéménite se sont inscrits cette année à tous les niveaux d'enseignement. Dans le primaire, la moyenne des enfants par classe à Aden était de 30 élèves... Elle est de 60 depuis le début de la crise somalienne, selon le HCR. On recense également 350 étudiants à l'Université en Somalie qui ne peuvent continuer leur études ici, faute de place. Ce problème est urgent d'autant plus que ces personnes sont arrivées à un niveau élevé d'études. Le HCR envisage de couvrir les coûts de leur inscription mais demande l'assistance de l'UNESCO pour user de son influence pour leur trouver des places à l'université d'Aden. Dans le secondaire, ils sont plus de 2.000 élèves recensés parmi les réfugiés. Des projets concrets sont proposés par le HCR mais il faut au préalable obtenir des aides financières... En tout cas, dans les camps, le désœuvrement et la condition d'assistés est resenti pour le moment comme la plus terrible des humiliations.

E.G.

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Les promesses de l'unification

Par Mohamed Ibrahim,
professeur de français
à l'Université
de Sanaa.

Le premier gouvernement formé après le succès de la Révolution de 1962 a créé un ministère chargé des Affaires du sud. Cela démontrait, tout comme la constitution d'alors, l'importance, pour le Nord, de la libération du sud, sous l'emprise du colonialisme britannique. L'indépendance, mais aussi son unification immédiate avec la nouvelle République au nord.

On peut dès lors se demander pourquoi l'unification a mis tant d'années pour se réaliser... Le peuple était-il vraiment divisé? Ou bien seuls les deux régimes ont creusé le fossé qui existait par la présence de frontières? Quelles étaient les raisons profondes qui ont empêché cette réunification immédiate?

Premièrement, le ministre chargé des Affaires du sud dans le premier gouvernement du Nord est devenu le premier président de la République du Sud-Yémen nouvellement créée... Malgré son éminence sur la scène politique et malgré ses nombreuses propositions, il n'a pu réussir l'unification.

Ensuite, les deux régimes étaient jeunes. Il leur a manqué l'expérience politique. Tous deux étaient formés de révolutionnaires mais d'idéologies opposées. C'est cette situation qui est responsable, principalement, du retard de l'unification, ainsi que d'autres facteurs locaux ou internationaux.

Car nous avons tout de même entendu des paroles qui chantaient, des slogans marquants... Que s'est-il passé dans le sud, après la chute du gouvernement de Fayçal al-Chaabi? L'aile gauche (marxiste) des anciens révolutionnaires a pris le pouvoir. A ce moment encore, on parlait beaucoup de l'unification. Mais après 1972, rien n'allait plus, dans ce sens. Cette année, marquée par les nationalisations et la fermeture définitive des frontières a déclenché la guerre entre les deux régimes. La méchanceté leur a fait perdre le bon sens. Au lieu de l'ouverture vers le nord, c'était la fermeture totale pour de nombreuses années.

Les gens qui avaient de la famille dans le nord ont beaucoup souffert. La plupart d'entre-eux se sont exilés définitivement. Nous avons cru que la situation ne pouvait être pire et qu'elle irait en s'améliorant. Ce fut le contraire: le pouvoir et les idéologies aveuglaient les dirigeants du sud. Puis il y eut l'assassinat des présidents Al-Hamidi et Al-Ghashmi au nord. Ce fut ensuite la guerre civile entre les différentes tendances du parti socialiste au sud en 1986. Cette guerre civile, malgré son atrocité, fut véritablement l'élément qui a déclenché le processus de l'unification, avec d'autres facteurs socio-économiques.

Car pour sûr, le peuple yéménite n'a rien à voir avec les deux régimes. Les deux connaissaient la faillite économique et sociale. C'est pour sauver la situation qui allait en se détériorant que l'union s'est réalisée, malgré ses opposants.

Les facteurs internationaux, et

notamment la faillite de l'idéologie marxiste, ont également poussé à la réalisation du rêve yéménite.

Mais est-ce que le peuple a véritablement profité de cette "opération de sauvetage" précipitée par les événements internationaux?

Tout d'abord l'unification des terres et des hommes a conduit à la démocratisation à la yéménite. Car nous sommes en train de faire des pas importants vers la démocratisation. On y arrivera tôt ou tard. Parler de circulation des personnes et des biens c'est facile. Mais nous pouvons énumérer un certain nombre d'erreurs. Tout le monde dit que le gouvernement actuel est celui du partage. Le partage du pouvoir par les deux anciens partis uniques n'a pas favorisé la situation socio-économique, ni à Sanaa, ni à Aden.

On parle de la zone franche d'Aden, mais rien de concret n'est encore perceptible. Une chose est sûre: la plupart des anciens cadres du régime sudiste occupent aujourd'hui des postes importants tout comme leurs partenaires nordistes, ne prêtant aucune attention significative aux problèmes de développement et aux intérêts du pays. Le déplacement des fonctionnaires a fait grimper les prix des loyers. Fallait-il que chaque ministre transfère son cabinet d'Aden à Sanaa? Le coût de la vie est devenu un véritable fardeau pour une famille. Où sont les bienfaits promis de l'unification? Où va la richesse du pays?

Les lecteurs doivent nous excuser pour l'emploi des termes de "sudistes" et "nordistes". Mais il faut s'en accommoder au moins

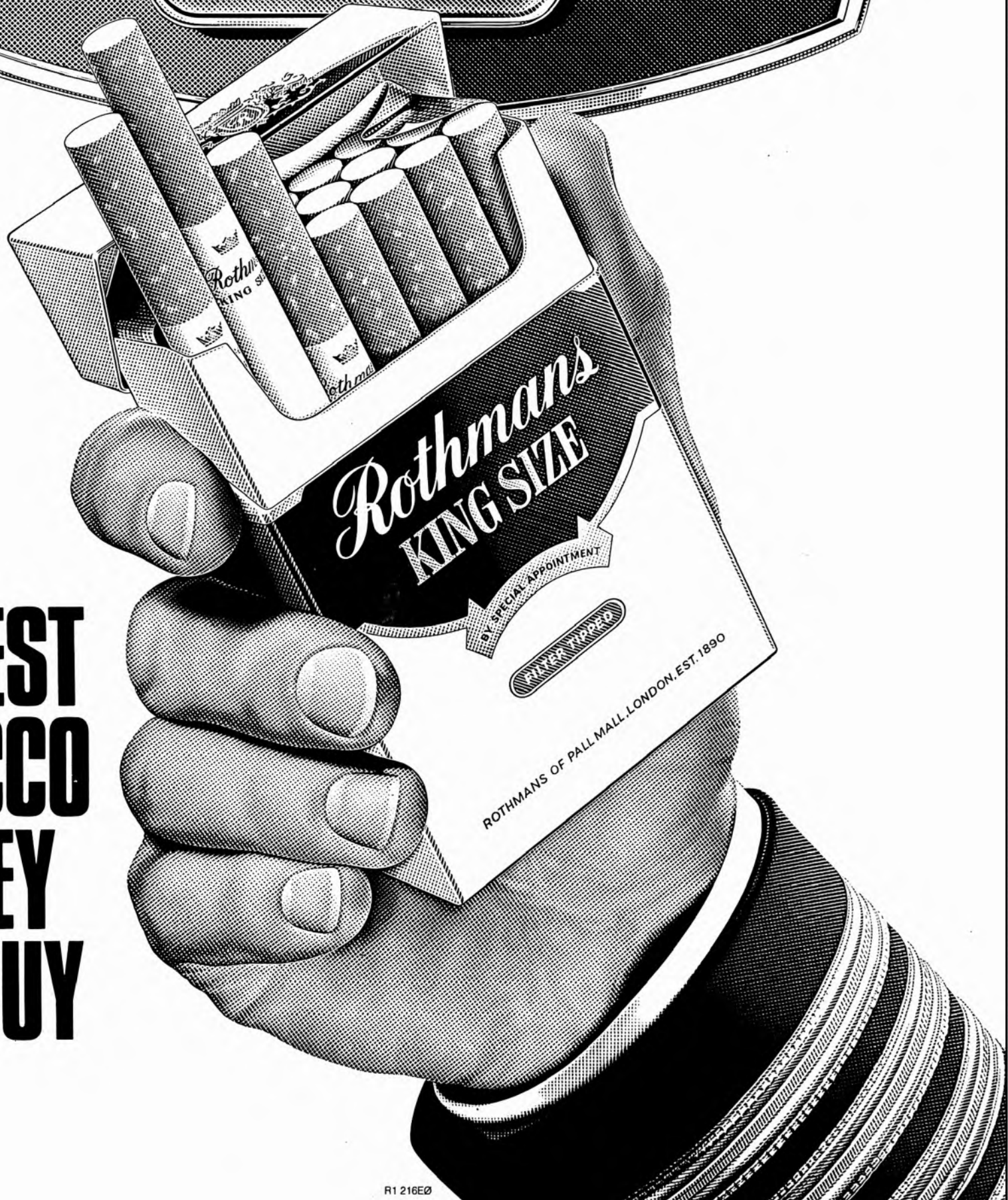
jusqu'à la fin de la période transitoire. Dans tous les cas, il semble que le fossé s'est élargi entre le peuple et ses dirigeants. Egalement entre les deux partis au pouvoir. Cela nous rappelle la situation atroce de 1986 dans le sud. Nous espérons que les élites ne favoriseront pas la montée en puissance des malfaiteurs...

L'écart entre les différentes classes sociales s'accroît. Nos dirigeants, au lieu d'être modestes et raisonnables, vivent dans le luxe et profitent des excès de la bureaucratie: bureaux luxueux, villas extraordinairement meublées, voitures derniers modèles, etc. On vise toujours à grappiller plus de pouvoir. C'est là le véritable obstacle au développement du pays.

Mais il ne faut pas oublier les aspects positifs de l'unification et de la marche vers la démocratisation:

- 1- L'exploitation du pétrole facilitée par l'unification dans les gouvernorats de Shabwa et du Hadramaut.
- 2- L'existence d'un Parlement.
- 3- Le pluralisme politique et de la presse.
- 4- La libre circulation des personnes et des biens.
- 5- La réduction des missions diplomatiques dévoreuses d'argent public à l'étranger.
- 6- La démocratisation sur la bonne voie.
- 7- Les prochaines élections.

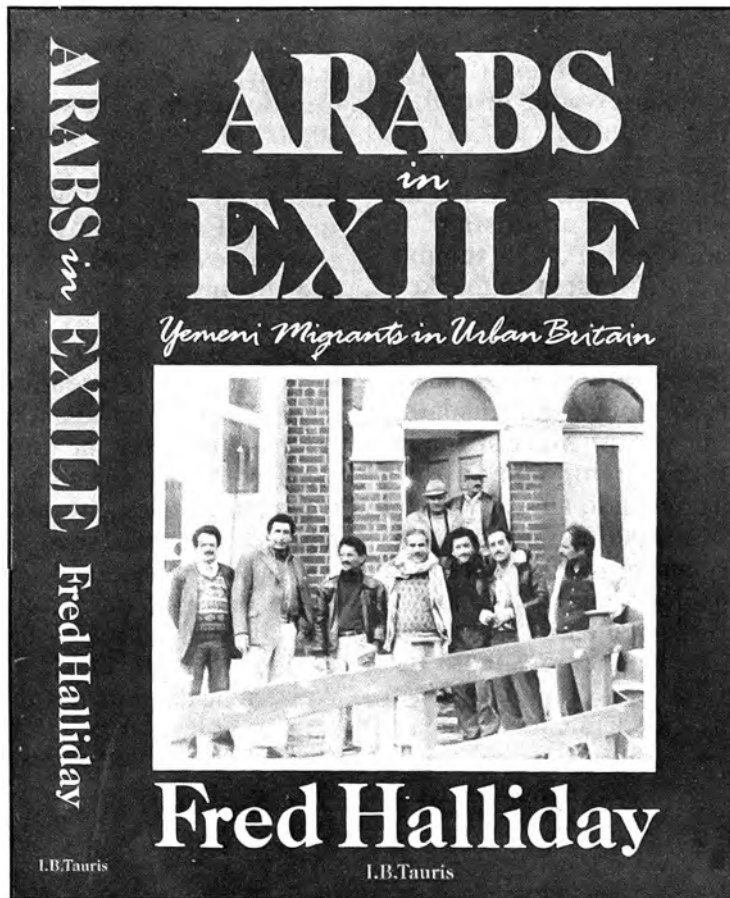
Ces points positifs répondent-ils aux objectifs fondamentaux de la révolution de 1962? Si oui, où résident donc les faiblesses pour établir l'ordre et la stabilité dans le pays ainsi que pour assurer le développement économique?



**THE BEST
TOBACCO
MONEY
CAN BUY**

Book on Yemeni Immigrants in Britain

Fred Halliday, Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics, has just published his third book on Yemen. It is entitled *Arabs in Exile: Yemeni Migrants in Urban Britain*. He had earlier authored *Arabia Without Sultans* and *Revolution and Foreign Policy: The Case of South Yemen 1967-87*. The new book, a solid 256 pages, is published by I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd. (London: 1992). The hardback copy sells for 35 Sterling Pounds.



The Yemeni community is one of the most established, yet least known of all migrant groupings in Britain. Yemenis, sailing from Aden, began settling in British ports at the beginning of the twentieth century. After World War II they became part of the immigrant labor force in Britain's industrial cities.

In addition to the book's particular value in tracing the roots of the Yemeni community from its arrival to its evolution since 1962 (when restrictions were placed on colonial immigration), it provides detailed information on the political interaction of the immigrants with their original homeland.

Mr. Halliday's new book is the first full-length study of the contribution of the Yemeni immigrant community in the United Kingdom to the socio-political evolution in Yemen. In particular, the book gives a detailed account of Sheikh Al-Hakimi to the Al-Ahrar Movement which aimed at liberating the former South Yemen from British rule, and dislodging the Imam from former North Yemen. Al-Hakimi relations with such giant figures in modern Yemeni history as Al-Zubairi and An-Noman are well highlighted.

The book also portrays the political and economic background to the Yemeni migration and the ways in which changes in Yemen have affected the community in Britain.

Finally, the book examines the political organizations and the changing identities and perceptions of the Yemenis in Britain, and their inter-relations with the wider Asian, Arab and Islamic communities.

Professor Halliday, one of the outstanding western Yemenologists, was in Sanaa last month to participate in a seminar on "Yemen's Search for a Place in the New World Order", sponsored by the Foreign Ministry. In a special visit to the Yemen Times, he indicated that he is at the moment working on other studies on Yemen, with special emphasis on the democratization process.

The book, *Arabs in Exile*, is a useful addition to local libraries as well as to political and diplomatic circles.

ENGLISH LESSON #16 - SPELLING HELP #1

Spelling in English is very difficult, even for native speakers. This week and next week we will talk about some spelling rules that may help you. You might want to cut out and save these lessons for easy reference later. Remember, though, for every rule in English, there are always exceptions.

PRETEST: Are these words spelled correctly? Write a T if the word is correct, and F if it is not.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. hurried | 6. ageless |
| 2. joyous | 7. changeable |
| 3. lovely | 8. loveable |
| 4. glorious | 9. ageing |
| 5. enjoinable | 10. encouragment |

Rule 1, The Final 'Y'. When you want to add a suffix (an ending) to a word that ends with '-y', here is how you do it:

- If a consonant comes directly before the 'y', you drop the 'y' and change it to an 'i', then add the suffix.
- If a vowel comes directly before the 'y', then keep the 'y' as it is.
- If the suffix you want to add is '-ing', then always keep the 'y'.

Examples:

(consonant - y): cry - cried, cries, crying (adding the suffix '-ing'.)

marry - married, marriage, marrying

(vowel - y): stay - stayed, stays, staying

enjoy - enjoyed, enjoyment, enjoying

Exceptions: day - daily, say - said, lay - laid, shy - shyly

Practice A: Add the suffixes given in parentheses () to these words.

Example: buy (ing) = buying

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. merry (ment) | 6. pay (ment) |
| 2. sleepy (ness) | 7. angry (ly) |
| 3. joy (ful) | 8. plenty (ful) |
| 4. dry (d) | 9. play (d) |
| 5. hurry (ing) | 10. carry (s) |

Rule 2, Words with a Silent 'E'. If you want to add a suffix to a word that ends with a silent 'e' (that means you don't pronounce the 'e'), then here is what you do;

- If the suffix you want to add begins with a vowel (-est, -ing, -able, -y, etc.), then drop the letter 'e'.
- If the suffix you want to add begins with a consonant (-tion, -ment, -less, etc.), then keep the letter 'e'.
- If the suffix you want to add is 'd' or 's' (past or plural), then keep the 'e'.

Examples:

(adding suffixes that begin with a vowel): continue + ation = continuation

save + iour = saviour

solve + ing = solving

(adding suffixes that begin with a consonant): live + ly = lively

announce + ment = announcement

noise + less = noiseless

Exception: Words that end with '-ce' and '-ge' will keep the 'e' almost always, unless the suffix begins with an 'e' or 'i'.

Example: change + able = changeable, change + ing = changing

Practice B: Now add these suffixes like you did in practice A.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. write (er) | 6. noise (y) |
| 2. move (ing) | 7. move (ment) |
| 3. love (liest) | 8. love (able) |
| 4. wise (ly) | 9. wise (est) |
| 5. judge (ment) | 10. race (ing) |

POSTTEST: Go back to the pretest and correctly spell those words which are wrong.

WEEKLY IDIOM: This week's idiom was written and submitted by Abdo Taher M. Al-Ashwal. "Take a shot at it" means to try something.

AGIL IS TALKING WITH MANSOUR ABOUT LESSON 9 IN YEMEN TIMES:

Abdo: Did you read Lesson 9 in Yemen Times this week?

Mansour: Yes, they requested that we choose an idiom that they gave, and to write a dialogue or draw a picture to go with it. I want to do it, but it seems very difficult.

Abdo: Why don't you take a shot at it. I'm sure you can do it.

Answers: Pretest: 1. F, 2. T, 3. T, 4. F, 5. F, 6. T, 7. T, 8. F, 9. F, 10. F.
Practice A: 1. merriment, 2. sleepiness, 3. joyful, 4. dried, 5. hurrying, 6. payment, 7. angrily, 8. plentiful, 9. played, 10. carries
Practice B: 1. writer, 2. moving, 3. loveless, 4. wisely, 5. judgement, 6. noisy, 7. movement, 8. lovable, 9. wisest, 10. racing.
Posttest: 1. hurried, 4. glorious, 5. enjoyable, 8. lovable, 9. aging, 10. encouragement.

**OMANIZATION
PURSUED**

The presence of a large community of expatriate workers in Oman has caused a big drain on the country's foreign exchange earnings, a senior Omani labor official said.

Dr. Sayyid Said Bin Sultan al-Busaidi, secretary-general of the Supreme Committee for Vocational Training, told a symposium in Muscat on Sunday, 18th October, that "foreign exchange repatriation was equivalent to revenues from 200,000 bpd of oil exports." He also pointed out that foreign workers have repatriated a total of some US\$10 billion since 1985.

The official urged strongly the omanization process stating that dependence on foreign workers had negative social and cultural effects in addition to its serious impact on the national economy.

Mr. al-Busaidi cautioned, however, that Omanization should mean replacing expatriate workforce gradually and with capable and well-trained Omanis.

**Aftermath of
Egyptian Quake**

Cairo is bracing for trouble at many levels. First, additional tremors and earthquakes have caused more panic among Cairo residents and more havoc and disorder in the ill-prepared government bureaucracy. Second, the victims of the earthquakes have taken to the streets, demanding immediate assistance and relief. A peaceful protest quickly boiled over into a riot last week, prompting President Mubarak to appeal to the people for patience and time. At the same time, the government positioned armored vehicles at major intersections. Simultaneously, riot police have been keeping a close watch on Cairo flashpoints, and have already arrested over a 100 persons.

Most of the protesters worry that corrupt officials will pocket a substantial portion of the international assistance that has been coming to Egypt. At best they fear that inefficiency in dispensing the assistance will lead to more hardships.

**Trial of Jordanian
Plotters**

The trial of two parliamentarians Laith Shubailat and Yaqoub Qarrash, and two aides accused of plotting to overthrow the King with Iranian support, has taken dramatic turns as the court continues its hearings.

The prosecutor-general provided fresh evidence. In a secret hearing, to which the defense lawyers were invited, a Syrian businessman called Wasseem Ramadhan Yassin, testified that he had handed over DM 300,000 (about US\$ 200,000) to Mr. Shubailat in April. "The money was from the Iranian government," he testified.

The 12-member defense team decided to withdraw from the case because they "were not given prior notice to the secret hearing, and that they could neither properly cross-examine the witness nor verify the documents in support of his testimony. The judge accepted the lawyers' withdrawal and adjourned the session, ordering the defendants to hire new counsel.

**Moroccan King on
Conciliation Tour**

Morocco's King Hassan arrived in Jeddah yesterday, Tuesday, October 27th, on a tour of several Arab countries in a drive to heal regional rifts caused by the Gulf War, and to push forward Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

The King will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt. He will also exchange notes through emissaries with several of the countries he is not personally visiting.

Sources indicate that the King is proposing to convene an Arab summit, even if limited to the 'key' Arab countries. The items on the trip's agenda include the Middle East peace talks, inter-Arab disputes, the rise of Muslim fundamentalism, sanctions against Iraq and Libya, and bilateral economic and financial relations between Morocco and the countries being visited.

The King enjoys close ties with the West, and is seen as a moderate mediator.

**American Faith
Healer Told to
Leave India**

An American faith healer was ordered to leave the country after an angry mob nearly lynched him for allegedly tricking them at a mass rally on Thursday, October 22nd.

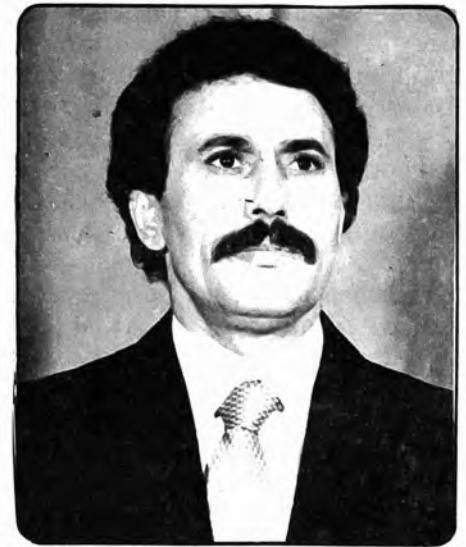
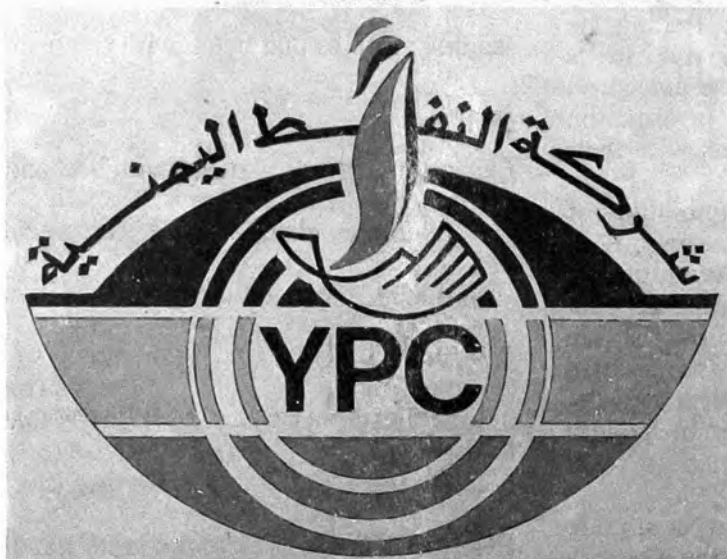
Police in the eastern metropolis of Calcutta put Morris Cerullo on a US-bound flight on Friday, Oct. 23, charging him with indulging in "undesirable activities".

Cerullo drew a crowd of 30,000 after he put ads in papers in the name of the East India School of Ministry of Evangelism that claimed even speech and hearing-impaired people would be cured by his prayers. Many people were brought on stretchers, wheelchairs and ambulances to the Thursday healing prayers. At the end of the two-hour session, he pronounced the sick cured, at which point pandemonium broke out, and the healer was almost lynched by the sick and their attendants.

Western healers often stage similar rallies in India.

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**شركة النفط اليمنية**

تتقدم بالتهاني القلبية للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته

بمناسبة العيد التاسع والعشرون لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر الأبية

China Enviogorates Its Political Leadership

China's Communist Party's has concluded earlier this week its weeklong congress with a step to speed up market-oriented economic reforms of its paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping. Although the congress failed to approve a similar reform in the political arena, changes were made at the highest political organ - the politbureau. Eight of the 14 members tendered their resignation, including President Yang Shangkun, Legislative Chairman Wan Li and Defence Minister Qin Jiwei, all over 65 years old. More cleansing was carried out in the Central Committee. About a 100 aging members of the Central Committee were replaced by younger blood, ranging in age between 45-50 years. The new Central Committee has 319 members and alternates, compared to 285 in the old one. 61% of the members of the new committee are less than 55 years old.

The Central Committee is the most powerful political organ and is responsible for ratifying major decisions by top leaders. The party hopes the younger committee will ensure a smooth transition after the death of Deng, 88, and other veteran revolutionaries who have dominated the party for over a decade. The Congress also abolished the Central Advisory Commission, a high-level body which had been set up to absorb party veterans retired from their posts. The Congress has been an affirmation of the pragmatic policies of Deng, who has persistently argued that the party's survival depends on its ability to keep the economy growing and incomes rising.

However, the party failed to make the same political reforms towards more democratization and openness. To the contrary, the congress pledged to deal with an iron hand with any political opposition or demands, thus raising the specter of the Tiananmen Square events.

The Congress ended with the more than 2000 delegates standing to sing the Internationale, the anthem of the shrinking world communist movement.

Bush Is in Trouble

The three presidential candidates' debates are over. Bush was unable to deal a knock-out to Bill Clinton, Ross Perot amused the viewers with his witty remarks, and Bill Clinton seems to be headed for the White House. Mr. Bush's undoing seems to be the economy, as the rivals hammer away on his lackluster performance in this sector.

Mr. Bush's smear campaign on the character of Mr. Clinton did not achieve its expected results. On the contrary, it could have backfired, if anything at all. Bush had accused his main rival of lack of patriotism because "he had demonstrated against the US in foreign countries (UK)." Most viewers preferred Mr. Bush to stick to issues rather than get involved in mud-slinging.

According to recent polls, Clinton continues to widen the gap between him and the President. Almost fifty percent of the people asked who they will vote for, chose the governor, while less than a third chose Mr. Bush, and the balance went for Mr. Perot.

In spite of the dramatic rehabilitation of Mr. Perot due to his performance in the debates, he is still not perceived as a serious contender because of his abrupt earlier withdrawal from the race. His showing in the polls has never exceeded the 15% mark. Even then, the Texas millionaire continues to dole out millions of dollars for television time. He has already paid out US\$ 20 million over the last three weeks alone. In lecture advertisements, Mr. Perot presents his viewers with amusing solutions to the economic problems.

With less than a week to go before the November 3rd elections, there is little that President Bush can do other than to sit and watch his chance for re-election slip away. The main message that Clinton carries to the American people is, "It is time for change." They seem to agree with him.

Yemen Times believes that President Saddam Hussain or Iraq will be the first to cable his congratulations to Bill Clinton. He is probably also preparing a cable of condolences to Mr. Bush.

The Soldiers Are Fighting over Angola

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and Unita rebel leader Joans Savimbi, both military men, are geared to plunge Angola into yet another civil war.

The two men had agreed to let the people choose their leaders, according to a UN-sponsored May 1991 peace agreement which ended a long and bitter civil war. The UN-supervised elections were held last month. The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola of President dos Santos won 49.57% of the 223-seat parliament, and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola of Mr. Savimbi won 40.07% of the votes.

As neither party won the needed majority (50%) of the votes, another round of voting was necessary. But, Savimbi, seeing that the votes were going against him, retreated to Haumbo in the south of the country, where he garrisoned himself. The Angolan government accused Unita of planning to seize the south and partition the country. Huambo Governor Baltasar Manuel demanded that Unita withdraw its forces from the city and other cities such as Bie and Moxico in the south under international supervision. President dos Santos had invited Savimbi for talks under the auspices of the South African Foreign Minister. Savimbi declined insisting that the President first call for another round of voting since neither side won a majority of the votes. He also claimed that the elections had been fraudulent.

President dos Santos agreed in principle to call for another round of voting, but insisted that Unita men first lay down their arms as called for in the agreement. The US, which is one of the foreign countries overseeing the implementation of the May 1991 peace agreement, is pushing ahead to bring the two men to the negotiation table.

The United Nations, under whose umbrella the whole peace process is unfolding, said that there was no foundation to Savimbi's claim that the elections were rigged. It also condemned Unita's ambiguous attitude to the elections.

EC Ministers Push Accord on Toxic Waste

EC environment ministers agreed in their meeting in Luxembourg earlier this week to speed up bans on chemicals that eat holes in the earth's ozone layer, and to impose new controls on movement of the European Community's waste.

Diplomats said the ministers are working on a deal to speed up by one year (to the start of 1995) the deadline for halting production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other compounds blamed for damaging the ozone layer.

The question of toxic waste, which was the main item on the Rio de Janeiro World Summit in June, 1992, has caused deep divisions within the EC, and the ministers fear that failure to set common controls would further delay application of an international waste convention and make the EC lag behind other western countries. Disagreement among EC ministers would have been embarrassing because the community had tried to paint itself as a pioneer in global environment policy in the Rio summit.

The new accord is based on an earlier understanding. Regulations on waste shipments within and beyond the EC were drafted in a bid to fulfill the bloc's pledges under the 1989 Basel waste convention.

The main disagreement was between small EC members like Luxembourg and big ones such as France, which have essentially blocked the original plans of the European Commission to make sure they allow for national bans on waste imports.

Faced by growing public awareness and hit by recent scandals over illegal shipments of dangerous waste such as syringes and hospital blood bags, France and Germany are espousing a policy of 'handle your own garbage at home'. But Ireland and Luxembourg and other small nations have been fighting to ensure that the accord will not mean that big countries with better waste treatment facilities simply bar waste from EC neighbors which cannot afford to handle their own small amounts of waste. It is known that European countries as a whole are the largest producers of toxic waste.

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KUWAIT EMBARKS ON A NEW ERA

In an interview with H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Adsani, Speaker of the Kuwaiti Parliament, Yemen Times was told that Kuwait was ready for a new era. "We hope to launch a new relationship between parliament and the government in order to enable the country embark on a new era," he said. The speaker went on to say that first priority will be strengthening the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). "The recent events have proven that the GCC is not yet able to withstand strains and that it needs to be further streamlined," the parliamentarian said. Speaking about relations with the rest of the world, Mr. Al-Adsani quickly said that Kuwait's attitude will depend on other countries' reactions to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. "Yemen is one of the countries which was not on our side," he pointed out. On the possibilities of rapprochement with Yemen, he said that the wounds have not yet healed, and that he suspected it would



take some time before an action positively disposed towards Yemen could be taken. "We know we have a lot of friends in Yemen, and that we need to overcome the complications of the Gulf Crisis, but give us some more time," he said. On the issue of constitutional amendments, the speaker said that one of the first matters the new parliament will look into is to amend the constitution, with special reference to the rights of women (to vote), and to bring equality

to the rights of Kuwaiti citizens. The speaker also stressed the fact that the new parliament has a broad-based mandate from the people, which it intends to use to bring about reforms and improvements in the system. "We are going to exert a lot of influence on the works of the government and the direction of its decisions. We plan to be a full partner in the efforts of launching Kuwait into a new era. The nation is ready for it, and we will make it happen."

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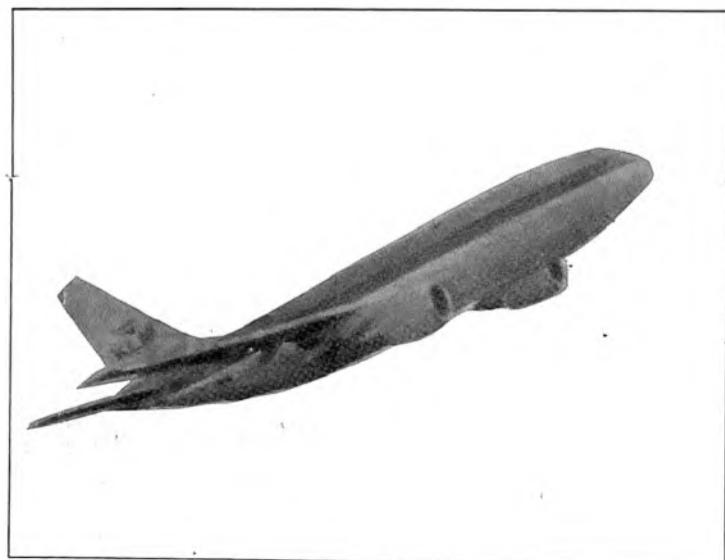
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THE BLUE BIRD IS HERE

"KLM flight No. KL 535 has just landed," an announcement from the Sanaa International Airport tower came. It was 21.50 on Sunday, October 25th. Thus Royal Dutch Airline, (KLM) started its twice a week service to Sanaa. "This twice a week service is a fantastic new option to travelling between Yemen and the rest of the world," explained a Yemeni businessman. Another agreed, during a reception hosted by the airline. It was an occasion for talks on more cooperation between the Yemeni and Dutch side on matters of civil aviation as visiting Dutch dignitaries held



meetings with Yemeni civil authority officials. Said a Yemeni official, "The Netherlands commands a special place in the Yemeni official hierarchy." The same is also true regarding people to people relations.



NEW MERCEDES BENZ ENGINEER ARRIVES

Jurgen Wasserberg of Mercedes Benz headquarters in Germany, has joined the United Engineering and Automobile Company team in Sanaa. Mr. Wasserberg, a highly qualified engineer with experience in 13 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East over his 21 years of service with Mercedes Benz, takes over the management of the workshop. United Engineering and Automobile Co will shortly conduct a Service Week during which Mercedes Benz owners can have their cars checked by the Master technician personally.



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