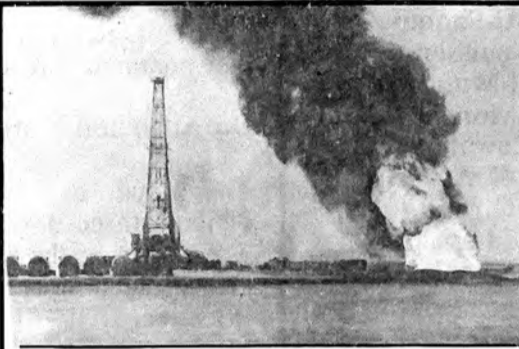


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SANA'A; 4 - 10 NOVEMBER, 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 45

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### "UNDERSTANDING" THE ELECTIONS POSTPONEMENT

Let us first agree that the postponement of the Yemeni elections date is a blow to the credibility of the system. It also casts doubts and many question marks on the degree of commitment to this path. It is not as if our leadership did not know the elections were due before the transition period was over. In my opinion, the postponement reflects, at best, bad administration, and, at worst, bad intentions.

Yet, I think that the leadership deserves our sympathy. There is no doubt that embarking on this difficult path called democracy requires courage, and a degree of risk-taking. The elections are the first in the Republic of Yemen, and they are the first ever to be held under conditions of multi-party politics. Therefore, our politicians have the right to worry about the fate of their careers. It is in this light that I contend they deserve our sympathy.

The leadership also deserves our understanding. No one party, let alone one man, can call all the shots anymore. Even if certain individuals do wield disproportionate influence, the days of a one-man show are over. Therefore, any decision or step has to be hashed out and re-hashed out at various levels and in different circles. Decisions, therefore, are slow in coming. Hence the delay.

This does not absolve our leadership from the blame for the postponement, but it does make us able to continue to work with it. We will continue to hold the leadership to the ideals it proclaims, and we will push it to come as close to them as possible. Meanwhile, we expect shortcomings, but not to the extent of distorting our ideals and dreams. In ten or twenty years, the postponement of this election may mean very little, provided we do carry out clean and honest elections soon.

*The Publisher*

## NEW DEADLINE FOR ELECTIONS: 18TH FEBRUARY 1993

### First Meeting of the 2 ALIs in Six Months

The Supreme Elections Committee is haggling within itself, while it works under two opposing constraints. On the one hand, it wants to oblige the leadership by taking the blame, or at least sharing in the blame for the postponement of elections. On the other hand, it wants to show the public that it is doing its job sincerely and honestly. Between presidential and public pressures, the SEC succumbed to -- yes, you guessed it -- presidential pressure. So, it turned in a letter to the presidential council explaining the difficulties it had faced, the work that has been accomplished so far, and what remains to be done. At the end, it proposed

to extend its term by 88 days. In case of extraordinary conditions, the constitution does allow for a three-months extension. To act on the SEC letter and make a hard decision on the postponement of the elections, President Ali Abdullah needed Vice President Ali Salem Al-Beedh's input. The two men thus met for the first time in six months. The meeting took place in Hodeidah on Monday evening, November 2nd. They agreed on a deal regarding how to navigate the political voyage of Yemen. A presidential council decision to be released before the week-end will embody the details of their agreement.

## YEMEN AND OMAN RATIFY BORDER AGREEMENT

A presidential decree No. 44 of 1992 was issued in Sanaa on October 31st, ratifying the border agreement between the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman. Simultaneously, H.M. Sultan Qabees Bin Saeed of the Oman issued royal decree No. 75 of 1992 ratifying the border agreement.

This step concludes in an amicable way the border issue between the two countries and lends itself for stronger ties and bilateral cooperation.

On the very same day, Yemeni-Saudi border talks resumed in Riyadh at the experts level. The Republic of Yemen hopes to reach with the fraternal Saudi government a mutually-satisfactory conclusion, similar to the one it concluded with Oman.

### Yafa Honors Wycoff

The Board of Directors of the Yemen-American Friendship Association granted Mr. Robert E. Wycoff, President and Chief Executive Officer of ARCO, an honorary membership. ARCO is one of the companies heavily involved in the oil exploration and exploitation in Yemen.

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EL SOFFARY

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## PERSONAL VIEW

## Yemen at Crossroads



**Fred Halliday,**  
Prof. of International Relations, LSE.

Yemen is poised between political progress and explosion. Suspicion between the main parties is high, the country is brimming with arms from Saudi Arabia and the Horn of Africa, the economy is in dire condition, and there has been a spate of unnerving, if low-level political violence.

Those unsure of the political leaders' intentions quote the Yemeni proverb, "You are either a Muslim or a Jew. On the Sabbath we shall see." Amid great uncertainty, and a cornucopia of rumour, the 14 million people of this now united country are approaching the first general elections in their history.

The two ruling parties (PGC and YSP) seem unable to agree on how to approach the poll. Assassination attempts on YSP leaders, which began last year, have led Vice President Al-Beedh to leave the capital and take shelter in the south.

Another difficulty is that the two-and-a-half year period of transition has not been used to move close together, but rather to institutionalise a stand-off. The armies and security organisations of former north and south Yemen remain separate.

Yet, the two parties are examining three options: co-ordination, alliance and unification. According to senior PGC sources, they would like to see full unification of the two parties, preferably before election.

No one knows what the next few weeks will bring. The elections are being postponed for several weeks, on technical grounds, but the shape of post-unification Yemen now hangs in the balance.

Abridged & up-dated from *The Guardian*, October 6th.

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

Yemeni-Dutch Friendship Association  
Inaugurates its Premises

On Thursday, October 29th, the Yemen-Dutch Friendship Association (YDFA) inaugurated its premises in Sanaa. The occasion was attended by H.E. the Dutch ambassador, the executive board of YDFA, senior government officials, intellectuals and many businessmen.

According to Mr. Ahmed Kalaz of YDFA, Yemeni-Dutch relations are excellent and they continue to reach new heights.

## Aden and Marseille: Twin Cities

The mayor of Marseille completed an official three-day visit to Yemen this week. During the trip, an agreement was signed twinning Aden city with Marseille. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Haidar Al-Attas, and officials from Aden city received the mayor.

## Yemen Provides Egypt with Food Aid

In response to the earthquake catastrophe that hit Egypt recently, the Republic of Yemen has provided a small contribution of 300 tons of foodstuffs transported by Yemeni planes in thirteen flights. President Saleh had sent his and Yemen's condolences to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and to the Egyptian people.

## YAFA Organizes Lecture

The Yemen American Friendship Association (YAFA) is organizing a lecture at its office on 11/11/1992. The guest speaker is the honorable Christopher Van Holland, a former US ambassador to several countries in the region. Mr. Van Holland will speak on American politics in the Middle East. Attendance is by invitation only due to limitation of space.

## German Embassy Bombed

A large explosion shook the perimeter wall of the German Embassy in Sanaa at 7:50 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28th. The wall needs to be re-built and there is a heavy damage inside the embassy building. "We will close down the embassy for repairs," German ambassador Dr. Messer said. It will be noted that this is the second bomb blast targetting the German Embassy.

## Promotion of Judges

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has authorized the promotion of some six hundred judges, and has instructed the Ministry of Finance to make arrangements for hefty increases in the salaries of the judicial authorities. If you had plans to ask for a raise, now is the time to present your case, given election considerations by the leadership.

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Jamal M. Al-Mutarreb:

# "We have to be hopeful about the future!"

The Yemeni business community is destined to play a rising role in guiding Yemeni policies and in shaping the future of this country, in spite of resistance from politicians. This new role is partly facilitated by the coming of a new generation of businessmen.

Jamal Mohammed Al-Mutarreb is one of this new breed. At 32 years, he had already served for three years as General Manager of the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). He had to quit that post to attend more fully to his private business, although he continues to sit on the SCCI board of directors. He is also the Secretary-General of the Yemen American Friendship Association.

Yemen Times interviewed him at his office in Sanaa.

Mr. Al-Mutarreb holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Excerpts from the interview:

**Q: People say you are the brain and dynamo behind Bestcon International Ltd. Could you tell us the line of business of this company?**

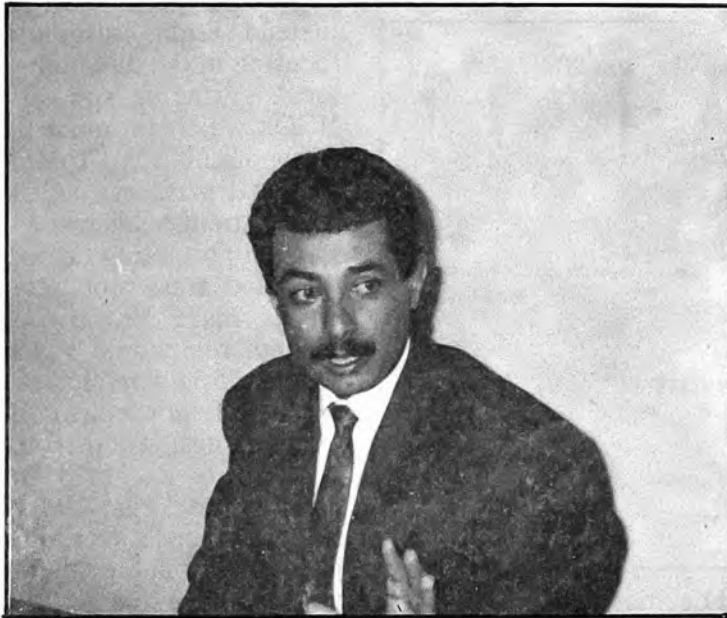
**A:** A group of reputable businessmen have come together in equal partnership to create Bestcon International Ltd. In a very short while, this company has carved for itself a decent portion of the local market. Basically, Bestcon is engaged in two main activities:

a- General trade and representation of foreign companies. In light of our extensive relations, we have become a focal contact point for companies wishing to do/expand business in Yemen.

b- Direct investments in various projects in partnership with renowned world companies. For example, we are now finalizing two new investments - the first a medical project, and the second a project oriented towards servicing oil fields.

**Q: Since your business involves considerable contact with the government and business community, are you sufficiently widespread throughout the country?**

**A:** You are right that our



business links cover a large portion of the country. That is why, although we are headquartered in the capital city, Sanaa, we have contact points and showrooms in several of the main cities and business centers. In the final analysis, however, in this day and age of easy communication and transportation, it is not the physical presence that counts. Yet, we do attend to the issue of physical presence, but to cut down on overhead costs, we pursue a policy of minimal costs for maximum output.

**Q: How would you assess the economic conditions of Yemen today?**

**A:** It is no secret that Yemen faces dire economic conditions. This is due to two sets of reasons:  
a- Regional and international factors which have negatively affected Yemen.  
b- Internal mal-administration and our inability to optimize the use of our resources.

Allow me to focus a little bit on this second set of reasons.

The inefficiency of the government bureaucracy is a major problem. The twin deficits of the budget and the balance of payments have created a tremendous strain on our fiscal and monetary policies. Lack of enforcement of the law in many economic activities leads to many hidden and unnecessary costs.

Finally the lack of future-oriented vision in proper management of the country has allowed a lot of distortions to prevail.

I think we can handle these problems, if we have a

strong political will. In addition, of course, we need to have well-studied reform plans which we must apply seriously and fully. This is especially important in correcting administrative and policy distortions so as to balance the economy.

**Q: Does that mean you are hopeful about the economic future?**

**A:** We have no choice but to be hopeful. But I insist we need to bring pressure to bear on the government to apply reforms in a meaningful way. We have the resources, but the problem is in managing them. The future, in general, is what we make it to be.

**Q: What is your opinion on the efforts towards democratization in Yemen?**

**A:** Democracy is the correct path to pursue, as it offers real guarantees to achieve socio-economic development. It also helps streamline the government bureaucracy by enforcing a system of accountability and respect for the law. All these factors together create a suitable economic environment of stability and growth for business activities to flourish, specially investments.

**Q: What do you think is the role of businessmen in this democratization process?**

**A:** In the past, the business community was the target of extensive smear campaigns which have created deeply-rooted dismay with it. The merchant class, in particular, is held responsible for all the ills that befall the economy. For example, the government prints money to finance the uncontrolled budgetary deficit. As a result the riyal depreciates, and the prices of imported goods rise. The importers are blamed for it.

Still, I think the business community will play a vital role in the democratization process. As an example, it will definitely field candidates in the next elections, although not necessarily in a closely coordinated unit. However, support and "understanding" from the ruling parties will be vital.

HAPPENINGS  
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TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

# RADA BARNEN INTENSIFIES EFFORTS FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

By:  
Fatma S. Rawah,  
Social Editor

For a long time since its birth in 1919, Rada Barnen has worked with small children through "mothers and child health care projects" in clinics. But as new considerations arose, and in light of the fact that more than half of the world population is under 18 years old, Rada Barnen decided to incorporate children from 6 to 18 years old in its work.

At the same time, Rada Barnen made another transformation. In the past, it worked through governments in an aid approach providing assistance to infants and small children (0-6 years). Now it is increasingly working with NGOs by promoting the rights of children with the aim of looking at the individual problems of each country regarding children.

During 19 - 23/10/1992, Rada Barnen organized a workshop on "Children's Rights and Advocacy" at its headquarters in Stockholm. Invitations to journalists working on children's rights and to Rada Barnen program officers in countries in which Rada Barnen operates were sent out. At final count, the participants were from Peru, Bangladesh, Mexico, Romania, Yemen, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Guinea Bissau. I represented the Yemen Times in the workshop.

The main idea was to meet and share information and experience, and to discuss how to promote children's rights. Rada Barnen systematized the information and initiated advocacy work. During the seminar, Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Secretary General of Rada Barnen, discussed ways of making children's rights a reality. "It is not that they (children) have to be treated like grown-ups, but their value is equal to that of adults. At the same time they need protection. That is the meaning of the convention," he said.

He then specified Rada Barnen priority areas:

- children of returnees and refugees,
- working children, and children in prison, and street children,
- handicapped and retarded children,
- children in the army, and in conflict.



Mr. Bjorn Westlund, Information Coordinator of the International Department in Rada Barnen, who was in charge of the workshop, explained the new drive of Rada Barnen to assist in the protection of children. "Rada Barnen has decided to move into joint studies as to how to help children. We would like to find local partners and carry out research as to what can be done to improve the conditions of children and to make sure their rights are observed," he said.

For more than 28 years, Rada Barnen has focussed on helping the development of Yemeni children, mainly through infrastructural and service efforts. They have built clinics and other health centers, provided material and training for vaccination, nutrition, sanitation, family planning, mid-wifery, etc.

But now that approach is reduced. Cooperation with government sectors such as the Ministries of Health and Education have taken lower priority.

Instead Rada Barnen is focusing in the direction of local partners, specially NGOs which promote the rights of children. "I think, the local partners (NGOs) have a stronger interest and stake in promoting democracy, and grass-roots level efforts make them a good channel for people to express their own opinion and to take a firm stand in different issues, whether the rights of a child or other issues," said Helena Karlen, Yemen's Desk Program Officer in Stockholm. Helena also explained that plans for assistance to Yemen for 1993 - 1995 are being finalized. "The proposals have been prepared by our office in Yemen, and final decision will be taken by the board of directors before the end of November, 1992."

One main project deals with street children as it is a Rada Barnen priority area. "This is a prevalent problem in Yemen as well as in many parts of the world." Another project deals with the situation of the children

of returnees and refugees - children in camps. Rada Barnen will help in educational programs in the camps with an eye to giving these children a chance to get education.

"During the coming plan period (1993 - 95), there will be a definite emphasis on Rada Barnen's work in cooperation with NGOs. It will be like an experimental period because the NGOs of Yemen are newly formed. Ms. Helena said, "We will start with eleven NGOs. Two of them, one in Sana'a and the other in Aden, have already started their activities, and they seem to have the interest and capacity to work with children's rights."

On the other hand, Yemen needs to use mass media in order to promote children's rights. Very little has been done so far compared to other countries. "Some countries use public awareness billboards, the written media, TV and radio flash announcements during regular programs, school activities, etc."

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**BETWEEN LEGAL AND HUMANE CONSIDERATIONS**

By:  
**Bahria Shamsheer Ali,**  
Sanaa.

The police have been rounding up illegal aliens, notably Somalis. These are then transferred to the relevant authorities to investigate each case separately, and then to take the necessary measures.

Most cases involve abuse of Somali nationals and this is the thing I would like to concentrate on.

First, let me say that there must a good way of implementing the laws. There is no need to be a bully to apply the law.

I have seen soldiers summoned from their barracks with orders to go out in the streets and arrest illegal aliens that they run into, specially if they are black. It reminded me of racist behavior in other countries.

The soldiers and policemen also use the opportunity to blackmail the foreigners, notably the women. I



have heard stories of bribery, rape, and outright sadism being exercised in the name of the law.

I am not saying that we should not enforce the law. I am not saying that, in theory, the policemen and soldiers are not right. All I am saying is that there are many illegal and immoral actions being carried out in the name of the law. There is also something called human rights which supercedes the law. There is

another dimension to this whole thing.

The main victims of these raids are Somalis, Ethiopians and Eritreans. These are people who have suffered enormously from internal strife and conflict in their own countries. They have come to our country as refugees or asylum seekers. How we turn our soldiers on them? Is this the way we should treat our neighbors? Neighbors who in the past have opened their arms and countries for Yemenis to live with them without any documents or papers.

I think that democratic countries do not chase civilians in the streets and terrorize refugees, even if they are out of their prescribed camp.

The soldiers and policemen are the last people in the world interested in upholding the law. They only use it as a means to extort others. I hope our government will reconsider, at least the way it is going about enforcing the law.

**NEW YEAR GIFTS TO THE HANDICAPPED**

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee of the Physically Disabled and Handicapped Society, told the Yemen Times that wheel-chairs will be simultaneously handed over to 300 handicapped persons in Sanaa, Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden and Mukalla, on new year's eve. "The wheel-chairs are financed by donations from Yemen Hunt Oil Company (US\$ 5000), CanadianOxy Offshore International (US\$ 10000) and additional amounts from Yemeni business households, notably the Hayel Saeed Anam Group," Dr. Saqqaf said.

"I would like to take the opportunity thank these companies," he added. "It makes a meaningful difference in the life of a disabled person to suddenly make him/her mobile," explained Mr. Othman Asselwi, President of the Society.

It is to be noted that 12% of Yemeni population has a form of disability.

**Congratulations to Peace Corps 40th Group**

on the occasion of passing the one-year mark, November 11th! Keep up the good work!

Special "hello" to Lisa and Jeanna from everybody in the Yemen Times, especially the naughty ones.

**ROTHMANS DARTS**

Rothmans has just announced the Rothmans Winter darts league which starts today, Wednesday November 4th, with an open tournament.

On this same occasion, the prizes for the summer league will also be presented.

Participation in the league is open to all. Any team or individual wanting to become a member of a team, in this fun, sociable league, or for any details, please contact either:

Martin Tomlinson on 215790, or Phil Cryder on 216080 x 289

Deadline for participation is November 11th, 1992



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YBRD	271623/4
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Arab Bank	240921 -29
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
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Interior Affairs	252701/7
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## COUNTDOWN ?

With the coming of November, the countdown for the final days of the transitional period has started. Yet, all conclusive evidence indicates that there is what looks like an agreement to prolong the transitional period. In case of any difficulty facing our politicians, they will enter into agreements on every single detail within the policy of power division as usual. This attitude is regarded a confiscation of democracy.

And if we want to be frank, we can say that this period witnessed the last chapter of a comic play. This period was full of speeches and promises, but it was lacking visibly in the dispensation of justice. We can say, with confidence, that this period formed one of the worst stages of division and the most cruel relations, though it was empty of some positive aspects.

It is evident that our people accepted all the episodes of this staged play out of gratitude to those who have achieved the Yemeni dream of restoring its unification.

On the other hand, we should stress that it was the Yemeni people who had borne the pains and sufferings during the era of divided Yemen.

The road to democracy is hard and painful, but as democracy is the choice of our people, all sacrifices are acceptable.

The Yemeni people have the right to pursue the road of democracy fully. It is the right of every citizen to know whether the elections are going to proceed on time. Where the preparations and arrangements are up to date?

Our people are known for their patience and wisdom, yet this patience and wisdom may give way to kind of irrational behavior, if the politicians push the people too far.

Seriously, this kind of policy is unacceptable whatever the agreements are behind the scenes and it is to be noted that the reference point is the people, no matter what agreements and deals the politicians strike.

**Al-Hurriyah, Sanaa,**  
**25/10/1992.**

## ELECTIONS?

It is possible that the elections will proceed before

22nd of November, which is the deadline for the transitional period. Yet, what are the justifications for postponement for a short while, maybe not more than a month, for instance? In case of postponement, how are we going to handle the constitutional vacuum? And what is the impact of postponing the general elections at the internal and international levels, especially on the political credibility of the leadership? What is the constitutional base for the postponement and for the legitimacy of the system during the period between the end of the transitional period and the elections date?

Undoubtedly, all those questions preoccupy the politicians and public, and arouse the concern of all followers and supporters of the democratic experiment in Yemen.

To start with, all of us look towards the Supreme Elections Committee which has found itself unable to complete the task within the short time it was given. In the beginning, the committee's member uselessly debated over marginal issues and political friction became the rule of the day. Valuable time was thus lost. Today, the committee has two options:

First, to proceed with the elections during what is left of the transitional period bearing in mind the possibilities of serious shortcomings and mistakes that are highly probably under such a squeeze. Whatever time remains is not sufficient for any meaningful arrangements whether for the candidates or the electorate. This is especially so because this is our first real experience with elections.

The second alternative is a short-term postponement within the period allowed for in the constitution, maximum of ninety days. This postponement will allow for better preparations, and does not entail any constitutional vacuum. In such a case, there will be a constitutional announcement to be issued by the presidential council specifying the a limited postponement. What remains beyond these options of temporary postponement, is the real political embarrassment facing the Yemeni decision makers vis-a-vis their credibility, particularly if the elections appeared to be only a show without substance. The de-

gree of trust in the system is evident from the fact that many oil firms and foreign investors were hesitant and slow in signing the latest contracts for exploration of oil concessions. Most projects are postponed till post March, 1993, awaiting the the process and results of elections.

After all the credibility of Yemen is on the scale, and this situation may create a serious crisis and even be destructive if we cannot pass the test.

**26th September, Sanaa,**  
**22/10/1992.**

THE COUNTRY FACES  
A CONSTITUTIONAL  
VACUUM

Our people these days are busy moving from one meeting or conference to another--from the National Conference, to the conference of political parties and popular organizations, to the conference of coordination, to the Hamdan conference, and to the Hashid conference. These conferences were held in many places - in Sanaa, in Aden, in Marib, in Taiz, etc.

All these are frenzied attempts by persons, regardless of their attitudes and ideologies or outlooks, aiming to find a solution to rescue the nation from a catastrophe. They all feel that there is something wrong out there, and something ominous is awaiting the nation.

The problems are too many, starting with a continuous rise in prices, lack of security, feeling of terror as a consequence of intimidation policies, confiscation, sabotage, in addition to prevalent corruption and irresponsible behavior. All these factors indicate that our country is in real crisis. It was imperative that the presidential council announce sixty days before the expiry of the transitional period parliamentary elections according to the constitution. It did not; hence, we find ourselves in a constitutional vacuum.

The issue is hard to tackle, but to neglect the situation as it is indicates a careless and irresponsible attitude. All the political parties, popular organizations and all the decent citizens, veterans and patriots are called upon to address this situation and save the country from this deadlock.

**Al-Tagammu', Aden,**  
**19/10/1992**

THE GOVERNMENT'S  
DUTY VERSUS THE  
CITIZENS' DUTY?

The first basic principles in civil societies refer to rights and duties. They do indicate that the rights have the priority over duties, and consequently this means that the government has no business to ask the citizens to fulfill their duties unless the government ensures the rights of the citizens. The government has to combat its deficits, its corruption, and its many shortcomings before it has the right to demand the citizens to do or pay this or that.

Any shortcomings in the just and objective dispensation of the rights of citizens lead to complications. It seems that the government sometimes misuses the concept of the state and laws as it employs them to chain the citizens and to deprive them off their rights by using many excuses and justifications.

In order to clarify the point, we will give an example about some of the rights in the economic field. We see that each citizen has an economic right to work to exploit his/her capabilities and potentials for self-accomplishment as well as to participate in the growth of society. The state has a duty to provide protection and safety to the citizen in his/her search for a job of his/her choice and compatible with his/her abilities. The state also has a duty to take measure to protect consumers from deceit, bad quality goods, monopolistic exploitation, etc. The state has a duty to streamline its finances and not to burden citizens with high taxes. The state has a duty towards its citizens to protect public income, wealth and assets from crooked officials and corrupt politicians and officers who constantly nibble away at such resources.

It is imperative that we immediately establish the necessary apparatus to ensure those rights to the citizens before the state can demand this or that.

The existence of such organizations is regarded as one of the priorities in protecting citizens' rights in a state that is overwhelmed with collecting taxes and fees without paying enough attention to the rights of citizens.

**Al-Thawri, Sanaa,**  
**23/10/1992.**

GENTLEMEN, EITHER  
AGREE OR RESIGN

There is no doubt that the public is happy with the achievement of unification. Yet, many of the people's hopes regarding the miracles that were expected to happen in fulfillment of some of our aspirations have long faded away. The citizen is in need of safety and security. People are afraid for their own lives and property, and the worry comes from disagreement among our leaders. The state is failing to live up to its responsibility for protecting the homeland and its citizens at all levels - living conditions, safety, education, etc. This has made our people afraid, worried, agonized and confused over many issues including the squabble of our top leaders.

The citizens are further pushed to hopelessness by an unprecedented rise in prices, the flawed policy of land redistribution, the deficits in the government budget, etc.

I have no doubt that the politicians realize that our citizens have legitimate demands regarding safety, stability, a steady supply of consumer goods at reasonable prices, an income which is sufficient to meet their needs. But our leaders are consumed in their constant race for more supreme and durable power. They are preoccupied with the means of maintaining hold on power. In this light, we worry about our country and wonder about our leaders' differences.

The painful and simple answer is that they are fighting over who will keep more power in this country. In my opinion, the ruler is responsible first and foremost for the welfare of the people. Thus, ensuring the supply of food, accommodation, clothing, etc. at prices which are within the reach of citizen should be first priority.

The ruler is also responsible for ensuring the citizens' freedom of expression, thought, political affiliation and to exercise his/her full rights in selecting those who will govern. To be specific, the ruler's legitimacy for ruling undoubtedly comes to an end when the ruler plays no role in society's welfare. The rulers in power either have to bear their responsibilities in full or resign.

**By: Mohammed Ali Saad**  
**Al-Ayyam, Aden,**  
**28/10/1992.**

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

## The Right to Respond: Three Rebuttals

### 1) On Cars and Pollution:

On June 3rd, 1992, Yemen Times issue 23, Prof. John Howe, Professor of Transport Engineering at the Inter-national Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering in Delft, Holland, and Dr. Jamil Abdul-Rabb Naji of the Civil Engineering Department at Sana'a University, responded to the "Personal View" expressed by me in issue #11 of 1 March, 1992, entitled "Unsuitable Cars Enter Yemen".

I would like to reply as follows:

Having worked for a short time in Los Angeles in the 1970's and lived under that infamous blue grey haze of poisonous exhaust gases, I hasten to reassure Professor Howe and Dr. Jamil Naji that I certainly am not advocating uncontrolled air pollution. The prevention of the emission of toxic gases from cars is of vital importance to everyone, especially to city dwellers in sunny climates. The motor industry is constantly striving to become more "environmentally friendly", although not only in terms of emission control.

Most catalytic converters reduce pollutant emission. In 1989, Mercedes-Benz cars with their closed loop 3 way catalytic converters were able to undercut the world's strictest emission control regulations by a staggering 50%. Not only that, but the system, fitted to the new 'S' Class models, attains full cleaning efficiency in just over a minute. This, together with the culmination of vapor loss from the petrol tank, improved electronically controlled combustion and reduced noise level, and demonstrated the motor industry's determination to reduce pollution to a minimum.

However, the benefits of these sophisticated technical advances cannot be enjoyed in countries where there is no unleaded high octane petrol. Regrettably the fuel in Yemen is not suitable for use in cars fitted with catalytic converters, and these extremely expensive units will fail within a very short time. The owners will then have to take their new cars to a workshop to be modified for use with the local fuel. Therefore, to import a car from abroad with a catalytic converter is a waste of money, as it is useless under the conditions prevailing in Yemen today.

If and when high octane unleaded fuel becomes freely available, then I would be the first to advocate the fitting of catalytic converters to all cars to prevent air pollution and environmental contamination.

The message I had hoped to convey in my "Personal View" was that cars (and indeed all vehicles and equipment) must be designed and built to perform effectively in the environment in which they are put to work. Vehicles manufactured for use in Europe, therefore, are not suitable for Yemen.

By:

**Hugh Atkinson,**  
United Engineering & Automobile Co.

### 2. On Libya, Qaddafi, and Arabism

Mr. Yahia Abdul-Raqeeb, General Manager of Information at the Prime Minister's Office wrote in the "Personal Viewpoint" column of Yemen Times issue # 32 of August 5th on "Libya, Qaddafi and Arabism". I would like to respond as follows:

I think that the article was written in the desire to appease those individuals whose weapons are besieging today the grandsons of Omar Al-Mukhtar. The philosophy of the Libyan Revolution, as seen from its very

first declaration in 1969, was definitely at the heart of Arabism. It denounced the artificial borders dividing the Arab people, and called on reunification of the Arabs.

What is standing in the way of unification of the Arab people is the self-serving rulers whose interests in their regime is more important to them than the interest of their people.

The writer went beyond the facts when he said that Libya was the source of trouble to so many Arab countries. To the contrary, Libya has tried to assist all the fraternal Arab countries, including Yemen. The last Libyan effort at assisting Arab countries is to Egypt to help it overcome the effects of the earthquake, in spite of the fact that Libya itself is under blockade. It is actually Libya that has opened its doors to all Arabs with no restrictions.

Regarding the comparison of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi with Gamal Abdul-Nasser, I am sure Mr. Abdul-Raqeeb knows that President Nasser had designated the Libyan leader as the person entrusted with Arab nationhood, unity and revolution.

I do not know who Mr. Abdul-Raqeeb was trying to impress when he wrote his article, but I am sure it was misguided and deficient.

By:

**Abdul-Wahhab Mansoor, Sanaa.**

### 3. Somalia is Here!

Mr. Somalia is here and refers to Yemen Times issue No. 39 dated 22nd September 92, concerning the article by Mr. Salah Aidaroos al Amoudi from Mukala Hadhramaut under the above caption.

Mr. Somalia says that Somalia physically and politically exists and it will continue to exist. I strongly resist how he portrayed the country, but it seems that he took the liberty of speaking out to the various international organization on its behalf although he was not empowered to do so. The USC and SNM are the names of political parties, and not nicknames as he mistakenly stated. Aidaroos is entitled to express his opinion, but his knowledge on Somalia seems to be limited. On the first of July, 1960, Somalia joined various international Organizations such as the UN, Arab League, Islamic Conference, and Organization of African Unity - on the basis of the explicit understanding that no member state of these organizations should interfere in the internal affairs of other member states.

The USC and SNM did not engage in any bad treatment of any Arab or other individuals or nations. They are doing their utmost to assist Somalia in any way they can.

The author of the article in question appears to have lost his identity and at same time looks like a satellite that orbits around the elite politicians of the Republic of Yemen and international organizations, perhaps for personal gain.

By:

**Osman Hersi Mohammed, Sanaa**

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

In our Yemeni society, as is the case in many other societies, there are many undesirable and unacceptable phenomena. Some of these are not so dangerous; others, however, are fatal and should be strongly desisted.

I do not intend to talk about this topic in detail, but I will give an example from my personal experience and let the reader be the judge.

A while ago, I spent some time in the residential camp of the Thermal Power Station in Ras Katnib, near Hodeidah. One day, I felt hungry and went to the camp shop. I pulled out a packet of "Yemen Milk" and "Wafer" from the racks. My eyes were fixed on the expiring dates. I was very surprised when I found that the milk expired 2 months ago.

That was just an example.

There are, indeed many such cases but only a few filter through the official media. It is, as you can see, a very dangerous phenomenon which threatens our society in general, and our children in particular. I'd like to ask: "Who is responsible for that?"

By:

**Amin Ahmad A. Jamous,**  
Hodeidah

### HOW DO WE CELEBRATE OUR REVOLUTION?

I sometimes wonder about how we celebrate the anniversaries of our Revolution. I wonder if we actually know the proper way to express our joy. As a matter of routine, we decorate the major streets and buildings with lighting. We raise banners and flags. This is a common feature among many countries.

Such a habit, however, is a costly one. Although at the surface good and interpretative, it costs the government and society a lot of money. And who covers these expenses? Of course, you and I and the rest of the citizens. Just imagine the thousands of kilowatt hours of electricity being wasted daily in such celebrations. It is a problem especially for those countries with limited resources, like ours.

Thus, I ask myself how can we celebrate the Revolution without wasting resources which might be put to better use in projects. The answer from my viewpoint, is

simple, and it focuses on the following:

**a) The government's role:** I believe we can summarize this role as follows:

(i) The government must work hard for the sake of the nation. It must mobilize all its efforts in order to keep stability, security and safety.

(ii) As far as the foreign policy is concerned, good and fruitful relations with other nations must be achieved.

(iii) New and different projects in various fields for the welfare of the people must be carried out.

(iv) Providing laws in order to regulate relations among the people.

**b) The Role of the Press:**

I'm not concerned with the audio-visual media, as I believe it is limited. The press reflects the cultural and political attitude of the people. Therefore, it must serve the interests of the citizens. I am sorry to say that there are irresponsible newspapers particularly those which belong to political parties. You can read articles full of insults against some neighboring countries. That action only brings harm to our relations with them.

Of course, there are also times when independent and government newspapers and magazines also run stupid articles, and this phenomenon is not limited to the newspapers of political parties.

Therefore, we have to penalize those writers who damage our country's relations with others.

**c) The People's Role:**

Let us be more patriotic. We need to love our country and to love each other more in order to safeguard and protect our country.

In addition, we have to do our best to keep its security and stability. Moreover, we have to protect our glorious unification and support it.

Patriotism is not banners and big words in parades, it is the ability to sacrifice for one's country and put up with difficulties. We can attain better ways of expressing our joy and happiness. In addition, we need to be more civilized and modest in our celebrations to match our resources.

By: **Mohamed Abdul-Ghani Shawkat,**  
Al-Azhar University,  
English Dept., Cairo

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# OIL SECTOR PICKS UP STEAM

This week has witnessed a flurry of activity among the top management of several oil companies working in Yemen. Visiting Yemen this week were David Martin, (President, Occidental), James Taylor (Vice President, Canadian-Oxy), Robert Wycoff (President, Arco), Mike Bowlin (Executive Vice President, Arco), G. Isenberg (President, Nabors), Chris Papouras (Vice President, Nabors), Anis Ish-tawi (Crescent), Y. Mahmoud (Schlumberger), A.F. Marsh (Shell), Karl Beek (Halliburton), etc. This partial listing of the visitors is an indicator of the busy program of oil companies working in Yemen.

Mr. Robert Wycoff of Arco said, "That is what it takes to find oil - to have a lot of people with high expertise work on it, and to have a lot of companies invest in this endeavor."

He sounded up-beat about the prospects of his company (Arco) finding oil in Block 12, its concession.

"We are going to drill two exploratory wells,

back-to-back, and we will start before 1992 is out," he indicated. The company is also pushing ahead with its seismic work.

Arco also has the contract from NIMIR to work on Block 4, one of the NIMIR concessions. "Block 4 has started producing recently. It produces just about 8500 bpd," he indicated.

At another level, Mr. Colin Shepherd, the General Manager of Sun Oil Shabwa Yemen Limited, told the Yemen Times, "We are going to fulfill our contractual obligations

in Yemen in full, through the exploration phase. What happens after that depends on what we find, just like all the other oil companies," stated

Mr. Shepherd. The first exploration phase of Sun Oil Shabwa Yemen Limited's

concession of 2,182 square kms called Amakeen Block #1 expires in January 1994. The company has already drilled two exploratory wells. Sun Oil also has a 25% stake in the Habrut block operated by Petro-Canada.

CanadianOxy Offshore International Company is making considerable headway to meet its self-defined deadline of production by September 1993. "We will definitely meet that deadline," said David R. Martin,

Abdullah Saleh following his meeting in Hodeidah, "I am very impressed with the personality of President Saleh and his command over the information pertinent to our work."

Mr. Martin also had high praise for the CanOxy team handling the Maseela block. "It is the policy of both Occidental and CanOxy in all their world-wide business to be useful to the local community by ploughing back some of the benefits," said Mr. Martin.



President of Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation and CanOxy's Board Member. "We have already completed 50% of the work of the first phase," he said.

Mr. Martin also mentioned that the

purpose of his visit to Yemen is to review progress on Occidental's concession, Block S2. "We drilled two exploratory wells and we found some oil, but not in sufficient quantities. We plan to continue our efforts in this block," he confirmed.

"Our plan for the Maseela Block (# 14) is to push the development and exploitation efforts simultaneously with new exploration work. The two approaches will proceed side by side."

Speaking about his various meetings with the Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources and other officials, the Occidental president indicated that they had good working sessions on Monday (Nov. 2), and that he is extremely satisfied with the cooperation and backing the company gets from the Ministry.



His words of President Ali

James Taylor, Executive Vice President and CEO of CanadianOxy, explained that over US\$30 million is allocated for 1993 to carry out additional seismic and for drilling exploratory wells in the east and south of the Maseela block. "So far, our efforts covered only 10% of the block," he pointed out.

Mr. Taylor also indicated



that out of 25 wells the company drilled so far, 20 of them are oil-bearing.

"We have decided to allocate US\$ 2 million to finance a study regarding the quantity of the underground water reservoir, which seems to be large.

Mr. Taylor said that the company has already drilled fifteen water wells, for its own use, as well as for the local community. "We realize how important water is to Yemen, that is why we have offered to help in this respect," Jim Taylor said.



## تعزیه

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# LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Sur la demande de la Haute Commission Electorale

## Les élections sont en passe d'être reportées à la mi-février

Judi 29 octobre, la Haute Commission Electorale a remis une lettre au Conseil Présidentiel réclamant officiellement le report des élections pour une certaine de jours et proposant leur tenue pour le 18 février prochain. La raison invoquée est bien entendu d'ordre technique, le temps imparti à la Commission pour accomplir sa mission étant trop court.

Le Conseil Présidentiel et son président, le Général Ali Abdallah Saleh, ne se sont pas encore prononcés à ce jour (dimanche 1er novembre) mais on peut parier que la demande de la Commission sera avalisée. Car, en nommant ses membres seulement il y a trois mois et deux semaines, elle constituait un alibi idéal pour que le report des élections ne soit pas imputable à la chose politique. Il y a une semaine encore, les principaux dirigeants de ce pays, MM. Ali Abdallah Saleh et Saïem al-Bid en tête, avaient beau jeu d'affirmer à longueur d'interviews qu'il n'était pas question de repousser les élections. Tout comme ils auront beau jeu, d'ici quelques jours vraisemblablement, de reprendre l'argumentation tech-

La décision politique du report des élections ne dépend pas de la Commission", avait voulu prévenir M. Jarallah Omar, membre éminent du Bureau Politique du PSY et membre de la Haute Commission électorale, quelques jours avant l'annonce officielle de la lettre adressée par ses collègues et lui au Conseil Présidentiel. En privé, il semblait déjà vouloir disculper à l'avance la Commission qui, cela était évident dès le début, avait besoin de beaucoup plus de temps pour préparer les élections que ce que les dirigeants lui avaient accordé. "La Commission a besoin de ce délai supplémentaire pour accomplir sa mission, a-t-il ajouté, mais la décision politique revient au Conseil Présidentiel".

On sentait déjà, il y a deux semaines, au lendemain d'une interview du président Saleh à un quotidien libanais, au cours duquel il réaffirmait qu'il tenait par dessus tout à ce que les élections se déroulent avant le 21 novembre, que tout sonnait faux: ce jour là, la Haute Commission avait tenu une conférence de presse au cours de laquelle elle a démontré, avec force détails, que le découpage des circonscriptions était très délicat et qu'il faudrait plus de temps que prévu pour préparer le scrutin. L'alibi était tout trouvé, d'ordre technique, au moment où les pourparlers entre les deux principaux partis au pouvoir, étaient au point mort (M. Al-Bid était toujours dans sa retraite d'Aden et le PSY a refusé de participer à la Conférence Nationale des Partis organisée par son "allié" au pouvoir, le CPG).

Ainsi, la Commission a demandé officiellement le report de trois mois de ces élections. Elle estimait jeudi qu'une période allant jusqu'au 25 novembre était nécessaire encore pour achever les travaux de préparation (essentiellement le découpage des circonscriptions). A partir du 26 novembre, la procédure électorale proprement dite exigerait, selon la commission, 83 jours: un mois pour le recensement des électeurs, 23 jours pour la publication des listes électorales et la réception des contestations éventuelles, enfin, un mois pour l'enregistrement des candidatures, la vérification de l'éligibilité, la campagne électorale et la préparation du scrutin. On peut considérer

nique de la Commission pour expliquer la prolongation de fait de la période transitoire. Personne ne pourra les en blâmer. Peut-être peut-on imaginer que, grands princes, soucieux de ne pas brider le processus démocratique, ils n'accorderont à la Commission que 80 jours...

Selon de nombreux hommes politiques contactés depuis, la politique politicienne est bien entendu derrière tout cela, les tractations entre partis pour le partage futur du pouvoir étant caractérisées par le statu quo. Le Cheikh Abdallah Ben Hussein al-Ahmar, chef suprême des tribus Hached et du parti islamiste Al-Islah, a appelé par la voie du journal Al-Sahwa, le peuple yéménite à "refuser une nouvelle période transitoire". Mais dans un entretien accordé au Temps du Yémen dimanche 1er novembre, il semble lui-même accepter le fait accompli en ne prévoyant aucune manifestation pour appuyer cet appel au peuple yéménite (pour des raisons de délais d'impression, l'entretien complet avec le Cheikh Al-Ahmar sera publié dans le prochain numéro du Temps du Yémen).

déjà que cet échéancier a été resserré au maximum par la Commission et que le délai réclamé paraît très très juste... La Commission a précisé qu'il était valable seulement "dans l'hypothèse où elle ne rencontrerait aucun obstacle à sa mission"...

Dans quelques jours - à moins que cela n'ait déjà été le cas dans le délai qui sépare la rédaction de la publication du présent article - le président Saleh devra annoncer la décision finale du Conseil Présidentiel. La Commission a suggéré que cette annonce se fasse avant la fin de la période transitoire prévue par les accords d'unification, le 22 novembre, mais on ne peut imaginer que le peuple sera laissé si longtemps encore dans l'expectative.

En effet, le Cheikh Al-Ahmar et son état-major du Rassemblement Yéménite pour la Réforme, se sont réunis pendant cinq jours la semaine dernière pour préparer le Congrès National de l'Islah, te-

nant, à l'issue de cette réunion, un discours très violent contre les deux partis au pouvoir. Il a appelé, selon l'hebdomadaire islamiste Al-Sahwa, "le peuple yéménite à refuser une nouvelle période transitoire", rendant le PSY et le CPG "occupés à traiter de leurs affaires personnelles et partisans conduisant à la dégradation de la situation économique et sociale du pays", responsables de ce report des élections. Interrogé à ce sujet dans sa "forteresse" de Sanaa, sur la route de l'aéroport, le Cheikh Al-Ahmar a semblé se placer légèrement en retrait par rapport à ces propos: convenant que derrière les prétextes d'ordre technique invoqués, le report des élections a bien une origine politique. Quant à son appel au peuple à le refuser, il se contente de dire que "tout le peuple yéménite est contre le report des élections" et n'envisage aucune manifestation dans l'immédiat, semblant accepter le fait accompli...

E.G.

La plupart ayant des papiers en règle et un emploi

## Nombreux Somaliens arrêtés à Sanaa et renvoyés dans les camps de réfugiés

Depuis près de trois semaines, le gouvernement a entrepris une véritable "chasse" au Somalien dans la ville de Sanaa. D'autres communautés sont également visées par les "rafles" récentes, mais à une moindre échelle: Ethiopiens, Africains en général, mais aussi Philippins, dont la communauté est traditionnellement importante dans ce pays. La plupart des Somaliens attrapés, jetés en prison pour quelques jours avant d'être renvoyés dans les camps d'Aden, sont précisément ces réfugiés que le Yémen peut s'enorgueillir d'avoir accueilli. Il serait dommage de ternir cette image par une politique de la nationalité peu claire et par des excès commis par certains policiers peu scrupuleux et racistes.

Les témoignages sont nombreux et se recourent sur la place Tahrir, à Sanaa, en face de l'hôtel Taj Sheba, qui était il y a encore deux semaines, le lieu de rencontre favori des immigrés ou des réfugiés somaliens (ces derniers venant essentiellement des camps d'Aden). Aujourd'hui, ils ne sont pas plus d'une dizaine ayant réussi à passer entre les mailles du filet. "Ils arrivaient très nombreux et par surprise et nous embarquaient, sans même regarder les papiers qu'on leur tendait", s'exclame l'un d'entre-eux qui a réussi à trouver un petit boulot comme employé de maison et louait un petit appartement. "Des femmes ont été prises dans la rue alors qu'elles faisaient leurs courses et envoyées en prison puis dans les camps d'Aden alors que leurs enfants les attendaient seuls à la maison", s'exclame un autre. A mi-voix, on parle de viols, de violences diverses et aussi de disparitions pures et simples.

Membre "critique" du CPG, personnage franc et virulent au Parlement

## "La volonté du gouvernement sera de truquer les votes" nous déclare le député Yahya Muslah al-Mahdi

"Si je meurs un jour, je veux que l'on sache pourquoi!" C'est la seule réponse de M. Yahya Muslah al-Mahdi lorsqu'on lui demande s'il est d'accord pour que l'on publie ses propos... Cet ancien ministre de l'approvisionnement, plusieurs fois gouverneur à Saada, à Dhamar, à Hodeidah, ambassadeur à Bahrein et Qatar notamment, personnage haut en couleur et réputé comme l'une des personnalités les plus critiques au Parlement, a déjà essuyé dans sa carrière, dit-il, cinq tentatives d'assassinat au pistolet-mitrailleur. En 1988 lorsqu'il s'est présenté aux élections législatives, sous l'étiquette du CPG pourtant, le pouvoir aurait tout fait pour l'en empêcher. Il est vrai qu'il affirme être l'un des seuls députés qui

n'acceptent pas les ordres de la direction du CPG ni l'argent de la corruption.

Cet homme rompu à l'exercice du pouvoir local en tant que gouverneur affirme que la principale faiblesse de l'Etat yéménite c'est justement le manque d'Etat. Il a été habitué, à Saada, à subir davantage le pouvoir tribal qu'à exercer celui du gouvernement central qu'il représentait. "Or, dit-il, les gens demandent plus d'Etat, dans leur immense majorité. Ils veulent plus de militaires par exemple pour assurer la sécurité..."

En ce qui concerne la liberté d'expression, très réelle dans ce pays - il en est la preuve vivante - il reste assez amer: "Oui, depuis l'unification, les gens peuvent s'exprimer librement. Mais ce sont

les dirigeants politiques qui ne les écoutent plus. Le baillon qui était sur la bouche des citoyens auparavant est aujourd'hui sur les oreilles des dirigeants".

En ce qui concerne les élections, il est encore plus pessimiste: "La volonté du gouvernement sera de truquer les votes. Il n'est pas prêt à abandonner le pouvoir. Il veut seulement placer au Parlement des personnalités qui lui obéiront. Il n'abandonnera pas le pouvoir, quitte à massacrer des milliers de gens et raser des villages entiers. Je ne m'attends absolument pas à ce que les prochaines élections soient libres et honnêtes". Et de conclure l'entretien en soupirant cette phrase: "De toute façon, il faudra 150 à ce pays pour établir une vraie démocratie..."

Les policiers ou les membres de la sécurité civile qui exécutent ces rafles ont bien entendu reçu des ordres; mais alors que certains sont décrits comme "très gentils et compréhensifs", d'autres se révèlent être des brutes sans scrupules, racistes qui plus est. La plupart des Somaliens qui sont venus à Sanaa ont un travail et des papiers en règle, cartes d'identités pour ceux qui ont pu prouver qu'ils avaient des racines yéménites. "Special permits for Somalian refugees" pour les autres. Sans aucune distinction, ils sont embarqués. Ce ne sont pourtant pas les voyous ou les gang-sters décrits par certaines autorités d'Aden au moment de leur débarquement.

Les autorités refusent de livrer les véritables raisons de cette nouvelle politique, se contentant d'invoquer des raisons de sécurité et de santé: comme au jour de leur débarquement, certains continuent d'affirmer que la plupart de ces réfugiés sont porteurs du SIDA. Il leur faudra s'informer mieux à l'avenir, auprès des leurs propres autorités compétentes puisqu'une enquête avec prise de sang systématique a été conduite par les services de santé du gouvernorat d'Aden dans les camps de Madinat al-Sha'ab et de la plage: sur une population de 16.000, seuls quatre Somaliens ont été analysés "séropositifs". Un taux inconnu dans n'importe quel pays d'Europe! Des raisons plus vraisemblables peuvent être perçues: l'approche des élections, même repoussées de trois mois, rendent le gouvernement nerveux. D'autant plus que, selon des sources informées, les autorités craignent que ne se soient glissés parmi ceux qui sont remontés d'Aden, des éléments "enrôlés" par certaines associations caritatives proches des islamistes dans les camps, et qu'ils soient manipulés à des fins politiques.

Le gouvernement a certainement de bonnes raisons de conduire cette politique. Dans tous les cas, le représentant permanent du Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés au Yémen, M. Taoufik Oanès, affirme qu'il préfère voir les réfugiés dans les camps, bénéficiant de toute l'aide possible et vivant dans un minimum de dignité, que dans les rues des grandes villes. Il leur conseille, s'ils n'ont ni emploi ni toit, de retourner dans les camps.

Mais dans tous les cas, il importe que le gouvernement yéménite, dont les plus hauts responsables ont affirmé qu'ils recevaient de bon coeur les "frères somaliens" fuyant la guerre civile, doit avoir une politique claire, en accord avec la Convention Internationale de Genève de 1951, que le Yémen a ratifié, et accordant la liberté de mouvement aux réfugiés. Il faut également unifier la politique de la nationalité: des papiers d'identité yéménite délivrés à Aden à certains Somaliens ne sont pas valables à Sanaa! Et, de grâce: si l'on décide de renvoyer ceux qui sont sans emplois dans les camps d'Aden, que cela se fasse dans la dignité, en coordination avec le HCR, et sans abus de la part des autorités policières.

E.G.

Visite à Sanaa d'un professeur français de sciences politiques et spécialiste du monde arabe

# Conférences sur les expériences démocratiques comparées, par M. Rémy Leveau

Le Professeur Rémy Leveau, spécialiste français du monde arabe contemporain, est venu à Sanaa pour quelques jours, la semaine dernière, à l'invitation du Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, afin de tenir des conférences et des débats sur les différents processus de démocratisation et d'élections dans le monde arabe. Ses interventions ont recueilli un grand succès, non seulement auprès des intellectuels yéménites, professeurs d'université, parlementaires, cadres de partis, etc. Surtout, en le suivant pendant ces quelques jours, nous avons été frappés par l'intérêt extraordinaire porté à la chose politique et au processus de démocratisation du pays, par la génération nouvelle des Yéménites, notamment à travers les très nombreux étudiants qui ont assisté et participé de manière très incisive et critique, aux différentes conférences.

Professeur des universités à l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris et directeur de recherche à la Fonda-

tion Nationale des Sciences Politiques en France, le professeur Leveau est également responsable d'une équipe de chercheurs du Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI), sur les migrations et l'Islam en France et en Europe. ancien Professeur à la Faculté de Droit de l'Université de Saint-Joseph à Beyrouth, ancien conseiller culturel de l'Ambassade de France à Tripoli en Libye et Conseiller Technique du Ministre de l'Intérieur marocain de 1960 à 1965. Au titre de cette dernière expérience, M. Leveau a été l'un des principaux artisans de la mise en place des premières élections libres au Maroc et le parallèle est très intéressant avec la situation du Yémen d'aujourd'hui. Fort de son expérience et des nombreux séjours qu'il a effectués dans la plupart des pays arabes, le Professeur Leveau a dressé des perspectives intéressantes sur les processus électoraux, en se gardant toutefois de toute analyse sur la situa-

tion au Yémen qu'il ne connaissait pas. "Je ne suis pas venu ici pour donner des leçons, a-t-il dit à plusieurs reprises, mais pour recueillir des informations sur le processus de démocratisation en cours".

L'expérience est intéressante au moment où l'Europe semble ne pas trop s'intéresser au processus électoral au Yémen alors que les Etats-Unis multiplient missions d'experts, voyages d'études auprès du Congrès pour des parlementaires yéménites et autres séminaires sur la démocratie et les rapports entre les parlements et les gouvernements. D'ailleurs, des contacts ont été pris, par l'intermédiaire du Professeur Leveau et du Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, entre la Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques en France et l'Association des Sciences Politiques de l'Université de Sanaa pour des échanges futurs de documentation et, pourquoi pas, d'intervenants au même titre que le Professeur Leveau la semaine dernière.

Plus de 700 personnes dans un amphithéâtre comble, dont les places assises ne suffisaient pas pour accueillir tout le monde, ont salué la dernière conférence du Professeur Rémy Leveau, mercredi dernier, à la Faculté de Commerce et d'économie de l'Université de Sanaa. Cette manifestation était organisée par le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménite, l'Ambassade de France et le Département de Sciences Politiques de la faculté, dont l'intérêt des étudiants et enseignants pour les sujets traités et l'efficacité de l'organisation méritent ici d'être salués. Au cours de cette dernière intervention, l'analyse faite par le Professeur Leveau des différentes typologies d'élections dans les pays démocratiques et ceux qui aspirent à le devenir, a suscité de très nombreuses réactions sous forme de questions.

## Le syndrome algérien toujours présent dans les esprits

Le Professeur Leveau a fait la distinction entre deux types d'élections: les "élections de changements", propres aux vieilles démocraties occidentales, dont l'objet est de changer les équipes dirigeantes au pouvoir et donc de faire élire des Parlements organes législateurs et de contrôle du gouvernement; les "élections de participation", qui sont le fait des pays sur la voie de la démocratisation mais qui hésitent encore à franchir le pas qui obligerait leurs dirigeants, et notamment le dirigeant suprême, roi, sultan ou président, à remettre en cause leur place à la tête du pays. Ces dernières élections visent donc à faire participer toutes les forces politiques, au sein d'un parlement-lieu de discussion, de confrontation de tous les partis du pays, dans la mesure où ces forces politiques sont d'accord sur les bases du régime en place. En aucun cas elles ne doivent aboutir à un changement de régime ou de pouvoir. Un exemple largement repris par le Professeur Leveau prouve la difficulté de cet exercice: l'Algérie, où les élections de décembre dernier entraînaient dans cette seconde typologie mais qui ont failli aboutir à un changement de régime; l'armée est intervenue, entre les deux tours, pour priver de leur victoire les fondamentalistes du Front Islamique de Salut.

Aussitôt, les questions ont fusé sur l'exemple de l'Algérie qui a profondément marqué la conscience du peuple yéménite il y a quelques mois (les prochaines élections au Yémen marqueront une progression très importante

des islamistes, qui sont même susceptibles de jouer les premiers rôles, alors que l'armée est un élément du pouvoir loin d'être négligeable. "Ne pensez-vous pas que si l'armée n'était pas intervenue, l'Algérie aurait connu une réelle démocratie?", pouvait-on entendre notamment dans la salle. "Pourquoi les occidentaux ont-ils si peur de l'arrivée au pouvoir des Islamistes?" On sentait bien, derrière ces questions sur l'expérience algérienne, que le sort du Yémen, dont la situation se rapproche de cette dernière avec cependant des spécificités notoires, inquiète largement ces jeunes étudiants. Ils voulaient savoir, même s'ils n'ont jamais posé directement la question, où se situait l'expérience yéménite dans la typologie dressée par le spécialiste français et appuyée de quelques exemples récents dans la région (Jordanie en 1989, Koweït le mois dernier, Liban, qui illustrent parfaitement le type "élections de participation").

Les réponses à ces interrogations ont été on ne peut plus claires et franches. Evoquant l'expérience algérienne, M. Leveau a affirmé que si l'on avait pris en compte les résultats des municipales de juin 1990, que le FIS avait largement gagnées, on aurait dû se douter des risques de changements de régime impliqués par des élections libres. A ce titre, il a rappelé l'importance, dans ce type de régime, de tenir au préalable des élections locales, sans risque pour le pouvoir central, avant toutes élections parlementaires. Ou bien, pratiquer les techniques du sondage d'opinion qu'il ne s'est pas fait faute de critiquer, prenant comme exemple les démocraties occidentales, comme un moyen puissant d'influence sur les électeurs indécis qui interprètent les résultats d'un sondage comme un choix "sage" puisque reflétant celui de la majorité.

## Elections de participation, élections de changement

D'autre part, pour avoir alors étudié de près le problème, il a affirmé que l'armée comptait et était prête à admettre une participation des islamistes de 30% au Parlement. Quand elle a senti qu'ils emporteraient la majorité, elle a interrompu le processus électoral (en ce qui concerne le Yémen, les conséquences de la partition de l'armée en deux peuvent être interprétées différemment, mais l'équilibre de la terreur ainsi préservé peut devenir un rempart contre une in-

tervention dans le processus électoral-NDLR).

En ce qui concerne le Yémen, le Professeur Leveau est resté modeste en répétant à plusieurs reprises qu'il ne disposait pas suffisamment d'information pour juger. Il a néanmoins avancé: "En resituant le peu que je connais de l'expérience yéménite dans tout ce que j'ai observé de par le monde, les futures élections me semblent faire partie du second exemple dans ma typologie: il s'agit d'élections de participation, visant à intégrer dans le système politique et dans un parlement-lieu de débats, sans changement du pouvoir, les partis et organisations constituées. Si ce processus électoral devait dépasser cet objectif, peut-être y aura-t-il une crise. Je ne peux pas aller plus loin dans l'analyse". Puis il a ajouté que dans la région de toute façon, à l'exception notable d'Israël (ce qui n'a pas manqué de provoquer de petites manifestations d'humeur dans la salle), "il y avait une assez large ouverture depuis peu pour des élections de participations mais pas d'ouverture pour des élections de changement". "J'espère que cela n'est qu'une étape, a-t-il ajouté.

Auparavant, lors de sa première conférence à la Faculté de Lettres de Sanaa, lundi 26 octobre, le Professeur Leveau avait démontré, lors d'un cours magistral sur l'évolution du suffrage lors des élections en France, depuis la Révolution Française jusqu'à l'établissement du vote des femmes en 1945 par le général De Gaulle, que les démocraties occidentales avaient réussi à passer des élections de participation aux élections de changement seulement après un long processus jalonné de nombreux revirements. Dans tous les cas, aux cours de toutes ses conférences à Sanaa, le Professeur Rémy Leveau a martelé cette idée que dans un pays, quelle que soit l'avancée du processus de démocratisation, tous les intérêts et les forces politiques doivent être représentés au Parlement s'il en existe un, afin qu'ils ne soient pas tentés de s'affronter dans la rue.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne les mouvements islamistes, le Professeur Leveau a affirmé que la peur des fondamentalistes chez les Occidentaux n'existaient pas vraiment, du moins pas chez les dirigeants, puisque l'on arrive parfaitement à s'accommoder de relations étroites avec la République islamique d'Iran ou avec le régime fondamentaliste d'Arabie Saoudite, avec lequel les occidentaux collaborent étroitement de longue date, politiquement mais surtout économiquement.

Toutes ces interventions ont été l'occasion de mesurer l'intérêt ex-

traordinaire des Yéménites en général, pour le processus démocratique en cours mais surtout celui d'une "jeune garde" d'étudiants en sciences politiques avides de démocratie et qui participent déjà très activement soit au sein du comité technique de la Haute Commission Electorale, soit dans un nouveau Comité National de Surveillance des Elections avec une soixantaine de personnalités yéménites, en coopération, dit-on, avec un organe similaire aux Etats-Unis.

## Si seulement dix pour cent d'entre-eux entraient au parlement...

Selon le Docteur Mohamed Abdul Malik al-Mutawakil, professeur au Département de Sciences Politiques, futur candidat à la députation dans le secteur quatre de Sanaa, et auteur d'un projet d'élections municipales remis l'hiver dernier au gouverne-

ment et enterré depuis, cette nouvelle génération de politiciens est très bénéfique pour le pays. Il faut les laisser s'exprimer, dit-il, car ils sont convaincus des bienfaits de la démocratie. Seulement, pour s'exprimer, ils se sont rendus compte qu'il fallait appartenir aux états-majors des grands partis constitués, ce qu'ils n'hésitent pas à faire pour la plupart... Mais le député Yahya Muslah al-Mahdi, considéré comme l'un des critiques les plus virulents au Parlement à l'égard des dirigeants (lire notre article ci-contre) considère qu'ils font partie de cette frange du peuple yéménite éclairée, l'"intelligentsia", qui désire ardemment la démocratie: "ils sont l'unique chance du Yémen, dit-il, même si dix pour cent d'entre-eux seulement parviennent à entrer dans le futur parlement, cela suffira pour progresser sur la voie de la démocratisation"... Une affirmation qui vient étayer les analyses du Professeur Leveau sur l'importance de la participation...

Emmanuel GIROUD

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**26,000 Trainees Enrolled in 100 Teacher Training Institutes**

"The are at the moment, over 26,000 teacher trainees enrolled in some 100 teacher training institutes scattered all over the country," disclosed Dr. Mageed A. Ghanem, Deputy Minister for Training and Qualifying Sector at the Ministry of Education. As the country braces for one of its largest ever strikes, the strike of teachers in government schools, Yemen Times talked to the man who is in charge of producing teachers.



"The financial and social status of teachers in Yemen leaves much to be desired. Their income is far below that of their counterparts in bureaucratic responsibilities, and their social standing has suffered a lot due to erosion of their status," said Dr. Mageed. With a Ph.D. in education, and a researcher and author of many articles and papers in the field, Dr. Mageed ought to know.

"No nation can achieve any meaningful development unless it offers a good education to its children," he said. Education is the vehicle for change. It is not the buildings, it is the curriculum, the teacher, and it is the system that leads to progress."

"Yemen has no educational policy, period," he insisted. "What is the vision that guides our efforts? None! "All the efforts in the past, from primary to university education, was simply geared towards illiteracy eradiction, and in the process we force our children to memorize some facts which they quickly forget. "In other words, aside from reading and writing, and even that is not in good quality, our graduates do not possess any employable skills," the Deputy Minister lamented.

With specific reference to the teacher training institutes, he indicated that the former three and five-year systems (in what was YAR) and the former four-year system (in what was PDRY), are all united into a three-year system admitting graduates from the basic education level (9th grade or preparatory level). There is also a new two-year system for secondary school graduates. They have already stopped enrollment in other than the 3-year system.

Speaking about the possibility of self-sufficiency in the demand for teachers, the Deputy Minister pointed out that every year, the teacher training institutes produce about 5000 new teachers. He pointed to a distributional bottlenecks among the regions, but that will require additional measures in the future. In four to five years, the country should attain over 90% self-sufficiency in teachers. "But it is not just a matter of quantity or numbers, it is a matter of quality and professionalism," Dr. Mageed said.

"In terms of quality improvement, my office has applied two programs. First, we have short-term crash courses. These are three-week intensive programs coupled with on the job training. Second, we have the new program, which will start in the summer of 1993. In three summer-long courses, teachers who have university certificate can earn an MA, while continuing with their work. This stops losing teachers (to go to higher studies), and at the same time couples their site experience with theoretical skills. We are also trying to move from low qualification teachers to more highly qualified ones," he pointed out.

Moving to another issue, Dr. Mageed said, "In Yemen less qualified teachers are relegated to teach in lower grades. We should choose our best teachers and assign them to lower grades. It is in the formative years, e.g., primary education, that we need good teachers so they may leave their mark on the children," he argued.

Dr. Mageed also argued against paying allowances to the teacher trainees. "Given the abundant applications on the one hand, and our meager resources, on the other, we should not pay students to enroll. We must use the scarce resources to provide better teaching aids, lab facilities, and in general improve the level of education. Of course, arrangements need to be made for poor or out-of-town students. But teacher training insitutes should not be a refuge for students who enroll simply for the allowance." About the strike, the Deputy Minister was sympathetic although he wished the strike could be avoided.

**ENGLISH LESSON #17 - SPELLING HELP #2**

Spelling is one of the hardest things about learning English. Last week we gave you a couple spelling rules to cut and save for when you need to check something quickly. This week's lesson will include more rules. First try this pretest and see what you already know:

**PRETEST:** Write a T if the word is spelled correctly, and an F if it is not.

- 1. recieve
- 2. their
- 3. hiden
- 4. hankerchief
- 5. suffering
- 6. opening
- 7. remained
- 8. spinning

**Rule 1:** *The spelling of 'i' and 'e' in the middle of a word.* Here's a little rhyme to help you remember if a word is spelled with an '-ie-' or an '-ei-'.

I before E  
except after C  
or when sounded as A  
as in neighbor and weigh.

**Examples:** I before E - friend, chief  
except after C - receipt, perceive  
sounds like A - neighbor, feign, their (this is a word often spelled wrong.)

**Practice A:** Write -ie- or -ei- for each blank space.

- 1. bel\_\_ve
- 2. w\_\_ght
- 3. c\_\_ling
- 4. p\_\_ce
- 5. rec\_\_ve
- 6. r\_\_gn

**Rule 2:** *Doubling Consonants.* Sometimes a consonant at the end of a word gets doubled when adding a suffix (an ending) that begins with a vowel (-ing, -ed, -ence, -en, -est, etc.). Sometimes the last letter does not get doubled. Here's how you can tell.

- a. If the word has only one syllable, and it ends with a vowel-consonant, then DOUBLE the last letter.
- b. If a word ends with two (2) consonants, or two (2) vowels + a consonant, do NOT double the last letter.
- c. If a word has more than one syllable, and the last syllable is stressed, follow the same rules as you would for a one-syllable word. If it ends with a vowel-consonant, then DOUBLE the last letter.
- d. If a word has more than one syllable, and the last syllable is NOT stressed, do NOT double the last letter.

**Examples:** a.) One syllable with a vowel-consonant ending: 1.) drop - dropped  
2.) ship - shipping  
3.) lug - luggage

b.) One syllable with 2 consonants or 2 vowels + 1 consonant: 1.) fast - fastest  
2.) gold - golden  
3.) weep - weeping  
4.) seat - seated

c.) More than one syllable, last syllable stressed, with a vowel-consonant ending: 1.) permit - permitted  
2.) forgot - forgotten  
3.) occur - occurring

... with 2 consonants or 2 vowels + 1 consonant: 1.) insist - insisted  
2.) repeat - repeated

d.) More than one syllable, last syllable NOT stressed: 1.) differ - difference  
2.) litter - littering

**Practice B:** Add the suffixes to the words, using your rules for doubling consonants.

- 1. win (er)
- 2. omit (ed)
- 3. wait (er)
- 4. begin (ing)
- 5. visit (or)
- 6. thin (est)
- 7. creep (ing)
- 8. rot (en)
- 9. grasp (ed)
- 10. admit (ance)

**POSTTEST:** Now go back to the pretest and correct the ones that are wrong.

**WEEKLY IDIOM:** "Not playing with a full deck" If you say that someone is not playing with a full deck, that means you think the person is not very intelligent or is a little bit crazy. If someone is always making mistakes or doing things you think are unusual, you might say, "That man is strange. He's not playing with a full deck!"

**Answers:**

Pretest: 1. F, 2. T, 3. F, 4. T, 5. T, 6. F, 7. F, 8. F, Practice A: 1. -ie-, 2. -ei-, 3. -ei-, 4. -ie-, 5. -ei-, 6. -ei-, Practice B: 1. winner, 2. omitted, 3. waiter, 4. beginning, 5. visitor, 6. thinnest, 7. creeping, 8. rotten, 9. grasped, 10. admittance, Posttest: 1. receive, 2. their, 3. hidden, 4. hankerchief, 5. suffering, 6. opening, 7. remained, 8. spinning.

## SERB MILITIAS MURDER BOSNIAN CHILDREN IN COLD BLOOD

Bosnia's beleaguered Muslims fought on separate fronts against Serbs and the Croats, their one-time allies, but UN officials said the factions had agreed to a truce to get aid to one million children. Last week, Muslim, Croat and Serb military officials met again in Sarajevo to negotiate an end to the six-month siege imposed by Serb militias.

French General Phillipe Morillon, commander of UN peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina sounded up-beat about the prospects of this week's cease-fire agreement.

Officials of the UN Children's Fund said the truce has allowed overland deliveries of food, and other supplies to Bosnian cities.

"We want to reach up to one million children with the basic necessities to face the harsh winter," said Unicef's spokeswoman in Sarajevo, Edith Simmons. Unicef hopes to deliver 300 tons of blankets and clothes; upto 800 tons of high-protein biscuit, medicine, vitamins and vaccines, and school books, UN officials said.

Children have been among the prime victims of the six-month war, which has been marked by Serbian atrocities and cruelty against Muslim civilians in a campaign dubbed "ethnic cleansing".

This has left more than 14,000 people dead. UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali last week named Fritz Kalshoven, a Dutch international law expert, to lead the five-member war crimes commission to investigate Serbian atrocities against Muslim civilians. Other commission members include Torkel Opsahl, a Norwegian international law professor, judge Keba Mbaye of Senegal, Egyptian law professor Shereef Bassiouni, and Cmdr. William Fenrick, a legal expert with the Canadian Defence Department.

Aid experts fear the young and old will be hit hardest by winter. They predict tens of thousands of people could die in Sarajevo alone where most houses lack roofs, window or walls and desperate citizens are felling trees for heating. Fearing the worst, the international community has increased pressure to reach a peace deal.

Bosnia's Serb and Croat militias now effectively control most of the republic's territory. The embattled Muslim-led government controls only Sarajevo, Tuzla in the north, Bihac in the northwest and a handful of towns in central Bosnia. Some Muslims fear major portions of their country, presently in the hands of Croats and Serbs, would be permanently annexed in a peace deal.

## UN OFFICIALS FLAY SOMALI WARLORDS

A senior United Nations official accused Somalia's warlords of blocking aid to the victims of the world's worst famine for decades. "These so-called warlords have to be condemned, because they are against the very survival of their own Somali people," executive secretary of the UN's Economic Commission for Africa Layshe Yaker told a news conference recently.

He said it was "irresponsible" of the warlords, the only government left in Somalia, to block the deployment of UN troops which aim to protect relief workers and their convoys of food.

Yaker's words echoed the rising exasperation of UN and private relief officials at the slow pace of deploying the first contingent of a UN force which is supposed to number 3,500 by year end. Some 500 Pakistani troops have been in Mogadishu for more than a month but have to man the port and airport, the hub of relief operations, because of objections by the local warlord, Mohamed Farah Aideed. Gunmen routinely plunder aid at the port and airport and shootouts have made both places unsafe for aid workers struggling to get food to remote inland areas.

According to latest UN estimates, more than one million of the country's six million people are threatened with death by starvation and millions more are chronically hungry.

Yaker, who heads an organisation set up to coordinate and study economic development in Africa, said a second international conference on Somalia would be held in the Ethiopian capital some time next month (December).

He said all UN agencies and private relief agencies involved in fighting the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today would be invited to attend.

The Addis Ababa meeting follows a conference in Geneva on 12-13 October which launched a 100-day action plan to push back the frontiers of famine in Somalia. It aims to get 200,000 tons of food to Somalia by the year's end, but currently only a trickle is getting through Mogadishu's port because of lawlessness and banditry by gunmen who control it, UN officials say.

Aid workers say the 100-day plan is pointless unless the warlords who have tattered each other for control since toppling President Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991, end clan wars.

In a new positive development, the United Nations secretary-general named his new representative to oversee the flow of its food airlift. By Monday, November 2nd, food airlifts were resumed to Somalia, notably to 11,000 famished people in the southern Somali town of Bardere, where a hundred persons die of starvation daily.

## ISRAEL TO WORLD: "No go on peace!"

Israel has shrugged off any international pressure to move forward on the US-sponsored peace talks in Washington, DC. It has refused Syrian offers to defuse the state of war between in return for giving back the Golan Heights, it has refused Palestinian proposals for self-determination and a phased out system of home rule, and it has engaged in heavy retaliation bombarded vast areas of Lebanon. Israeli aircraft and artillery bombarded Shia Moslems villages in southern Lebanon last week in retaliation for a guerrilla attack at the weekend in which five soldiers were killed and another five wounded.

Israel also deployed substantial military reinforcements in its occupied zone inside Lebanon, where the attack by Lebanese Hizbullah forces occurred.

The shelling by Israeli and its surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), extended across almost the width of Lebanon, from the Mediterranean in the west to the lower Bekaa Valley in the east. A UN source said 200 shells exploded in just one hour around the market town of Nabatiyeh and in the Bekaa.

Israeli helicopter gunships raided two villages, including Kfar Tibnit, a staging ground for Hizbullah guerrillas. At least eight Lebanese civilians were reported wounded.

Lebanese-based guerrillas also fired rockets into Israel's self proclaimed security zone in the southern part of the country. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, addressing the opening winter session of the parliament, held both Syria and the Lebanese movements responsible for the attacks.

"It's hard to understand how they (Syria) on the one hand, are involved in negotiations with us, and on the other hand, permit this kind of actions," said Mr. Rabin. General Ehud Barak, chief of staff of the Israeli Army, said Israel would continue to fight the guerrillas and would "exact a high price" for the Hizbullah attacks. Syria maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon and most of Hizbullah's material and financial assistance from Iran passes through Syria.

The Lebanese and Syrian governments have refused to disarm Hizbullah on the grounds that it was a "resistance movement" fighting Israeli occupation.

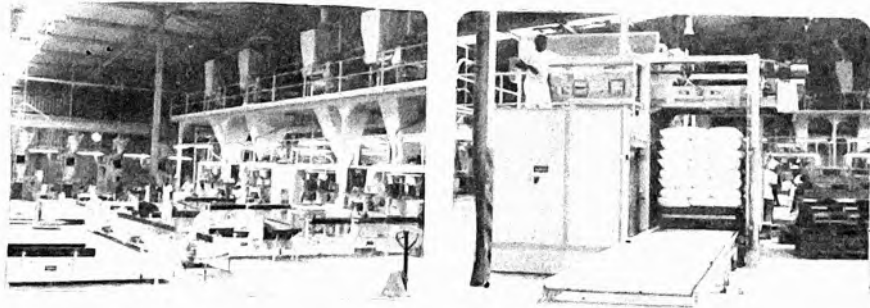
At another level, Israeli security forces continue their blockade of several Palestinian towns. Jericho, for example, is already beginning to suffer from supply shortages of basic consumption goods.

Finally, a report released in Amman on November 1st, stated that 18 Palestinians, whose ages range from four to sixty years, have been killed by Israeli soldiers during October 1992 alone.



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صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٣ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : ٢٧٨٠ ناجيل يمن فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨  
الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ فاكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورتسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

## 100,000 IN LONDON PROTEST COAL CUTS

At least 100,000 people, including thousands of miners, some wearing headlamps and orange work suits, marched through torrential rain in London last week to protest the government's proposed coals industry cutbacks.

"If the government ignores this protest, the only axing that will be done will be of this government," Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mine-workers told the demonstrators.

John Smith, leader of the opposition Labor Party, urged prime Minister John Major to "protect the national interest and start to be a prime minister."

"Go down to pits you want to shut and look at the investment and modern machinery which would be written off if this decision goes ahead," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Major, who was forced to retreat in humiliation on a much wider shutdown of mines reiterated his support for greater European unity and warned that he didn't want to see an "isolated, sour" Britain. British news reports said Mr. Major had threatened to resign and call a national election if Parliament refused to ratify the Maastricht treaty for closer union among the 12 European Community members. Debate begins in the House of Commons today, Nov. 4.

"It will be trench warfare in the House of Commons if he introduced this particular bill," warned James Cran, a Conservative Party lawmaker. "My colleagues and myself are absolutely determined to oppose the bill."

But Mr. Major criticized fellow Conservatives who opposed the treaty and said that Europe was the key to Britain's economic success.

"I do not want to see a Britain isolated, sour, without influence in the largest free-market trading bloc the world has ever seen," he said last week on BBC radio from Egypt where he was marking the 50th anniversary of the battle of El Alamein.

Mr. Major's slim 21-seat majority in the 651-member Commons has left him vulnerable to rebellion. The government was forced to make embarrassing concessions to placate angry Conservative party members.

British Coal, a nationalized company, announced Oct. 13th that it would stop production at 31 pits with a loss of 30,000 miners' jobs.

Mr. Major, bowing to pressure from rebel lawmakers in his own party, announced a three-month review of the plans two weeks ago.

Carrying placards reading: "Britain can't work without jobs," and "Sack Major not the miners," the miners, their families and other union members marched behind a miners' traditional brass band.

The closure of the coal mines will exacerbate an already dire economic situation with the highest unemployment rate in Western Europe. Yet, the inability of the mines to compete, and the environmental considerations are quite compelling.

As one observer put it, "Mr. Major is put between a rock and a hard place." His options are very limited, and either way he goes, he is bound to face strong opposition, and is bound to make new enemies

## Ramos Confronts the Philippines Kidnap Gangs

The Philippines has managed to stay out of the news, until now that is. A wave of kidnap-for-ransom has plagued the country, specially the capital Manila.

Most of the victims have been businessmen of Chinese descent, alongwith a number of Americans, Japanese, and other expatriates. Officials are finding out that creating a new environment condusive to foreign investments requires a serious action against the lawlessness that has pervaded the country recently.

President Fidel Ramos has taken a swift action to curb the kidnapping. He has set up the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) as a "superbody" against lawlessness headed by Vice President Joseph Estrada. However, the PACC was hamstrung by inadequate financing and alleged "leaks" in its operations.

Some of the revelations were disturbing indeed. The PACC was thought to have gained an important breakthrough with the arrest of several police officers, who themselves were involved in the planning and execution of the kidnappings. Additional arrests were also made among Manila gangsters and mob leaders. Yet, meticulous investigations had to be eased as the recent confessions alleged the involvement of fourteen police and army generals.

Observers contend that there over forty kidnap gangs operating in Manila alone, and are extremely sophisticated. An indication of this sophistication is that the ransom notes are often said to be accompanied by photocopies of victims' bank statements.

As the main victims have been Chinese businessmen, the Chinese community has been visibly upset by the incidents. The response has been two-sided. Many of the new investments were shelved and/or taken to other countries. Another option has been for the Chinese to set up vigilante forces manned by foreign mercenaries.

The Philippine government has landed heavily against both options. Government officials disclosed that they have convinced the leaders of the ethnic Chinese community out of those plans.

Mr. Ramos may also have contributed to the lack of confidence in the PACC by declaring that he was "not satisfied" with the performanc of the PACC, prompting Mr. Estrada to offer his resignation. Mr. Ramos quickly confirmed his confidence in the abilities of Mr. Estrada, and ordered immediate additional financing for the PACC.

The number of kidnap cases reported this year was over a hundred individual cases involving over 350 victims, double the level in the same period last year. The ransom amount ranges from half a million to several million pesos.

The people of the Philippines had high hopes of the new administration headed by President Ramos. But numerous problems ranging from the withdrawal of the American bases to a new wave of street crime, and to a renewed fighting and secessionist wars, have all overwhelmed the government. The kidnappings are an additional complication.

Mr. Ramos has declared an all-out war against the kidnap syndicates. He has given this matter first priority in his efforts to reshape the new Philippines. The outcome of this war will itself go a long way in shaping the country's economy in the coming years.

## NABIYEV TROOPS DEFEATED

Dunshanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, was mostly quiet last week after the government, backed by units of the Russian army, defeated a two-day coup attempt by supporters of the former Communist president.

The rebels left Dushanbe after the government of acting President Akbarshah Iskandarov promised that a special parliamentary session would decide whether Mr Rahman Nabiyevev, who was ousted from office at gunpoint in September should be re-installed. There was no indication whether the promise would be kept.

More than 2,000 irregular troops patrolled the city and there was occasional gunfire.

The coalition Tajik government-of pro-Islamic and democratic parties has fought forces loyal to former President Nabiyevev since May in battles that have killed more than 1,000 people. The pro-Nabiyevev forces possess substantial arms, including armored vehicles, but analysts said they seemed unlikely to mount a new challenge to the government soon.

Part of the reason is a lack of leadership. Two of the three stongest rebel military leaders were either killed or wounded in the coup attempt, which began at dawn on Saturday when they seized control of much of Dushanbe.

Mr. Rustam Abdul-Rahim was killed and Mr Langari Langariyevev was wounded: both were leaders of the irregular militia recruited from the southern Kulyab region. the political leader of the coup attempt, Mr Safarali Kendjayevev, the former parliamentary speaker, was wounded by his own troops when commonwealth of Independent States forces escorted the rebels out of Dushanbe on Sunday night.

This leaves just one of Mr Nabiyevev's key military leaders, Sangak Safarov, perhaps the most daring and skillful of the ex-president's lieutenants fully operational. Safarov did not take part in the latest fighting.

The 201st CIS division garrisoned in Dushanbe provided tacit support to the Tajik government during the coup attempt, though taking no part in the battle.

## COFFEE ACCORD EXTENSION OKAYED

The present international coffee agreement which has no price-control provisions has received sufficient backing from nations that trade the commodity to be extended automatically for an extra year.

The International Coffee Organisation has said that 23 exporting countries had notified the United Nations of their acceptance of the treaty's extension, which took effect last month.

Under condition set last year, at least 20 exporting and 10 importing members of the organisation had to have accepted the one-year extension by 25 September for it come into force automatically.

The extension will keep the coffee organisation in existence as the main forum for negotiating a new importer-exporter coffee agreement with price-support provisions. The third round of negotiations was opened recently in London and a further session has already been tentatively set for later this year.

The aim is to draw up a new accord by the 31st of December, so allowing time for the necessary ratifications to be received for it to come into force when the current pact's one-year extension ends.

Negotiators have said that good progress was being made towards settling at least one of the most controversial aspects related to new coffee pact, the controls that would be needed to ensure export quota limits were not violated.

A quota system designed to stabilize prices by matching supply with import demand was accepted earlier this year as the regulatory mechanism for the proposed new accord.

Proposals put forward by the United States and the European Community indicated their willingness to play a greater part in policing exports, which the exporters sought.

The United States proposed a new System of import controls - enforced by the customs authorities in importing member countries - designed to uncover violations of quota limits. A tough penalty system was also outlined.

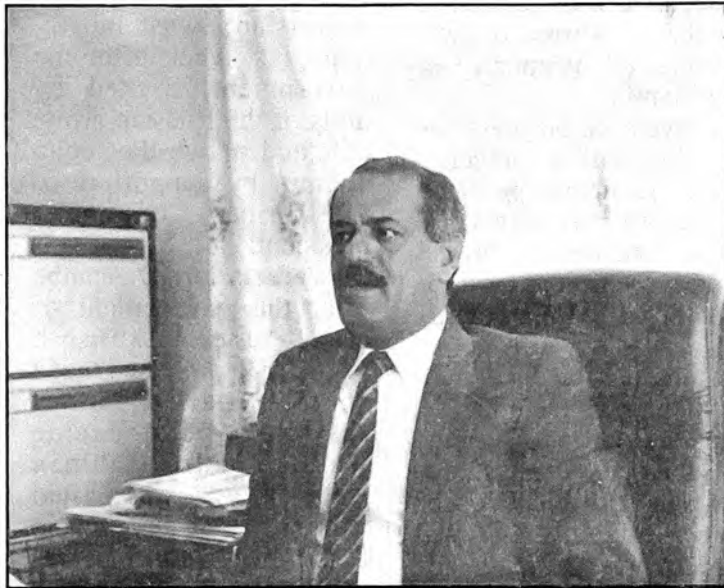
## Marine Captain Saeed Yafai: "Yemen controls one of the richest and vital waterways in the world."

Mr. Saeed Abdullah Yafai is a professional seaman. A graduate of the UK, he rose up the ladder of responsibility until today he holds the post of Chairman of the Public Corporation for Marine Affairs (PCMA). Explaining the duties of the PCMA, Mr. Yafai said, "Our coastline extends 2435 kilometers from deep in the Red Sea (north) to deep in the Arabia Sea (east)." He went on to explain that this colossal coastal stretch is rich with marine resources, specially fish. "The continental shelf is also rich with minerals which await exploitation," he added. He also pointed to the tourist-related advantages of the beautiful and clean shoreline of Yemen.

"Yemen is signatory to (19) international agreements. The PCMA, for example, is responsible for making sure that Yemeni-flag vessels are equipped and maintained to international standards," Yafai pointed out. Yemen also sits on one of the most heavily used waterways in the world. "You know that the tankers which carry oil from the Gulf to Europe and other destinations mostly pass by our shores. We have the task of environmental control, and have to ensure that the oil traffic does lead to pollution on our shores," he said.

The PCMA chairman also indicated that security concerns, drug trafficking and smuggling of goods are issues high on their agenda. Asked why the PCMA is headquartered in Sanaa, and not in one of the coastal towns, Captain Yafeyi had no answer except "political expediency." "We had indicated our point of view which insisted that PCMA should be headquartered in Aden or Hodeidah, or any other Yemeni coastal town. But we were told that the present political conditions require that PCMA be headquartered in Sanaa," he explained.

As a result, the head office does very little, while the branches do most of the actual work. "They constantly refer to us to discuss and decide on many issues that arise during the work." The cost of such constant reference in terms of resources and time is, of course, borne by the country.



Regarding the difficulties of PCMA, Captain Yafai went through a long list of problems. "We are barely fulfilling a fraction of our duties. Our branches in Aden and Hodeidah have not been fully set up, we do not have the necessary man power to man such a long coastline, we do not have the equipment and tools to carry out our jobs, and we do not have the minimum of necessary resources to implement the tasks outlined by the government," he said in one stretch.

Asked about the recent press reports of the dead fish that were washed ashore and which many sources say was due to the action of certain foreign ships which leaked out their waste in Yemeni territorial waters around Bab Al-Mandab, the PCMA official said that he had "read" such reports but that he had no way of confirming the incidents.

"We had asked the Ministry of Finance to allocate the value of two multi-purpose patrol boats. We had in mind to assign one to Aden harbor, and the other to Hodeidah harbor. But the money was not allocated - not in 1991 and not in 1992. We hope to push the government to find the money and allocate it in the 1993 budget," he complained.

Asked why he did not approach international agencies, Mr. Yafeyi smiled and stated that it was ironic that foreign organizations have been more supportive to PCMA than the Yemeni government. "We are now discussing with the International Maritime Organization and the UN Environmental Protection Agency to secure their assistance," he added.

He pointed to an on-going (2-5/11/92) workshop in Aden harbor sponsored by EPA on environmental protection methods.

"Patrolling our shores and territorial waters is a big and important task, and I can't understand why the government fails to attend to this matter. I hope our officials and citizens will see the significance of this sector," he concluded.

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## German President Honored for Assisting Refugees

Mrs. Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Chairman of the Nansen Committee, was in Bonn on Monday, October 26th, 1992 to personally award the Nansen Medal to German President Richard von Weizsacker for his "unwavering stand against all forms of intolerance, racism and xenophobia, and for his support for the cause of refugees".

On the occasion, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees commended Dr. Weizsacker for his political leadership and personal interest and commitment to the plight of displaced persons. "We commend Dr. von Weizsacker's deep personal commitment to promoting the acceptance of refugees and displaced persons in these troubled times. His unwavering stand against intolerance is deeply appreciated by all of us who work on behalf of the world's more than 18 million refugees," Ogata said.

The Nansen Medal, awarded 33 times since 1954, is named for Norwegian diplomat and explorer Fridtjof Nansen, the first UN High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations. The award is aimed at focusing attention on the plight of refugees and giving new impetus to international support for the uprooted.

In the deliberations which led to the award, the UNHCR cited Dr. von Weizsacker's trip to Yemen earlier this year during which he visited the Somali refugee camp in Aden, and drew attention to the problem. "He has also shown concern and support for refugees abroad,



most recently during a visit to Somali refugees in Yemen" the UNHCR stated. On the occasion, an exuberant Taoufik Ouanes, UNHCR Resident Representative in Yemen, told the Yemen Times that the honor was well deserved by H.E. the German President. He also indicated that, thanks to the generous support of the world community, the difficulties faced by the refugees are today under control. "The situation has improved and stabilized," he said. Mr. Ouanes also indicated that construction of the Abyan camp is almost completed, and that the refugees presently stationed in Aden and elsewhere will be transferred to the Abyan camp. Finally, the UNHCR Representative thanked the generosity of the German and Dutch governments in assisting Somali refugees in Yemen.