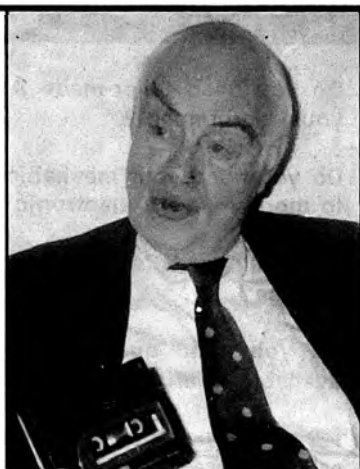


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

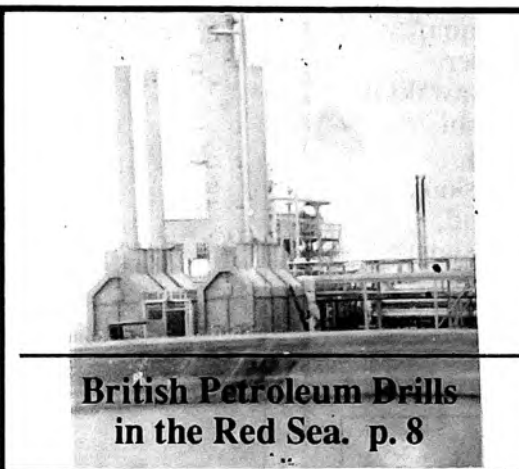
SANA'A; 18 - 24 NOVEMBER, 1992; VOL II, NUMBER 47

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OUR VIEWPOINT



Bad-mouthing Opponents

The official government media have a strange way of interacting with opponents of the regime or the President. The written media, in particular, often resort to direct insults against politicians who are in exile and who are actively criticizing the leadership.

Let me take two cases in point. First, there is Mr. Abdullah Al-Asnaj, who was once a liberation fighter in the former South Yemen and Foreign Minister of the former YAR (North Yemen). Somehow, the official media have traced his lineage to obscure Jewish parentage.

Second case in point is Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Baidhani, a one-time Vice President in the former YAR. The official media have again traced him to be nothing more than the bastard son of an Afghani man and an Egyptian woman. I am happy to say that I know neither man. I can say, though, that this approach of bad-mouthing people in such cheap language disturbs me, and it does not exactly reflect a high level of journalism. It has become commonplace for the system and its proteges to label people in different ways as a means of discrediting individuals who are against the regime. Bad-mouthing people and spreading rumors about them is an old tactic used by the system in former days. Today, people can fight back, and they do, making the regime look silly.

Therefore, it is neither wise nor appropriate for the regime to engage in this kind of mud-slinging, specially by using nonsense such as saying a former Yemeni official was actually not a Yemeni but a foreign plant. I advise the regime and its "journalists" to refrain from this tactic, and to try to discuss the issues rather than the persons. For God's sake, if the regime, which employs more than a thousand journalists, must be able to come with counterattacks better than the kind we read in the official newspapers.

The Publisher

The SUMAA-1: Another GOBWEIN?

The SUMAA-1, a ship registered in Saint Lawrence in the Caribbean, sailed for nine days from Marca in the southern tip of Somalia (120 kms from Mogadishu) to Al-Mukallah. It arrived in Mukallah at 1:30 p.m. on Monday November 16th. Taoufic Ouanes, UNHCR Representative in Yemen, told the Yemen Times that the ship carries Somali refugees estimated to number between 2500 and 3000.

Mr. Ouanes, who accompanied Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas on a field inspection of the refugees yesterday, November 17th, expressed gratitude for the prompt and decisive action of the Yemeni government in help the new refugees.

The SUMAA-1 had sent signals of distress as it ran out of food and water on the high seas. The signals were received by Yemeni airplanes and vessels, which immediately helped guide the ship close to points of supplies. French relief ships stationed at Djibouti also picked up the signals and rushed to help the SUMAA-1.

From Mukallah, the ship was guided to Aden harbor, where the refugees have been allowed to disembark and to join the earlier refugees who live in the Abyan camp.

It is worth mentioning that the Republic of Yemen and Kenya are the only two countries in the region that welcome Somali refugees fleeing the carnage of the civil war in Somalia. The two countries have taken many measures to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees. The number of Somali refugees in Yemen is estimated to be in the neighborhood of 100,000 persons.

Yemen's Leadership Offers More Promises

The Presidential Council, in taking the decision to prolong its own grip over power until April 27th, 1992, has offered the people of Yemen more promises. The famous six promises which it wants the people to believe it will fulfill, and which it had failed to fulfill over the last thirty months, are the following:

1. To abide by the text and spirit of the constitution, and to mobilize efforts in order to carry out free and honest elections by 27/4/1992, and to observe the peaceful transfer of power as dictated by the elections results.
2. To stop exploitation of public office for political gains, and to stop the misuse of state assets and funds, and to adhere to the budget in expenditures.
3. To enforce the neutrality of the official media in the elections campaigns and to give all political parties equal access to their use.
4. To enforce the supremacy of the law and the independence of the judiciary, and to stop unwarranted promotions in the civilian and military circles.
5. To reorganize and build the armed and security forces, and to guarantee their neutrality (in the internal political competition).
6. To ensure peace and order, and to provide safety and stability; and to bring to justice all those who violate the law; and to issue the required laws.

The presidential Council decision simply states to prolong the term of all the bodies that were created by the Unity Agreement, "for the sake of the national interests".

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PERSONAL VIEW**A Word to Israeli Leaders**

Younes Hasson Ebrahim
 Teacher, Sheikh Othman - Aden

Everyone, even the Americans, know that the state of Israel was established in Palestine in 1948 by using force against the unarmed local Palestinian civilians. They killed and forcefully dislodged families - the old and young alike.

Today the Israeli soldiers and armed settlers practise brutality against the unarmed Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli leaders think by doing that and by building settlements they can reach their goal in controlling the whole of Palestine.

Do the Israeli leaders think that they can get away with it? Do they think they can have eternal supremacy over the sea of Arabs and Muslims that surrounds them, in spite of our weakness these days? They are mistaken.

They should read history. Even after two hundred years of supremacy, the European Crusaders were dislodged and turned back. By contrast, the Jewish state is still less than half a century old.

The Israeli leaders only create more anger and hatred against Jews among hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims by their actions.

Israeli leaders must be realistic about their fate among us. We are as lenient as we can ever get. We say, "As there is a state of Israel, let there be a state of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip." Think of the future. Let the Israeli children, if you really love them, live in peace with Palestinian children. Think deeply of the future, the long-term future.

Israeli leaders must remember what had happened to them under Crusader occupation. As a Jewish historian wrote, "The Jews were relieved when Salah ad-Deen retrieved the Holy Land because of the freedom he brought back to them."

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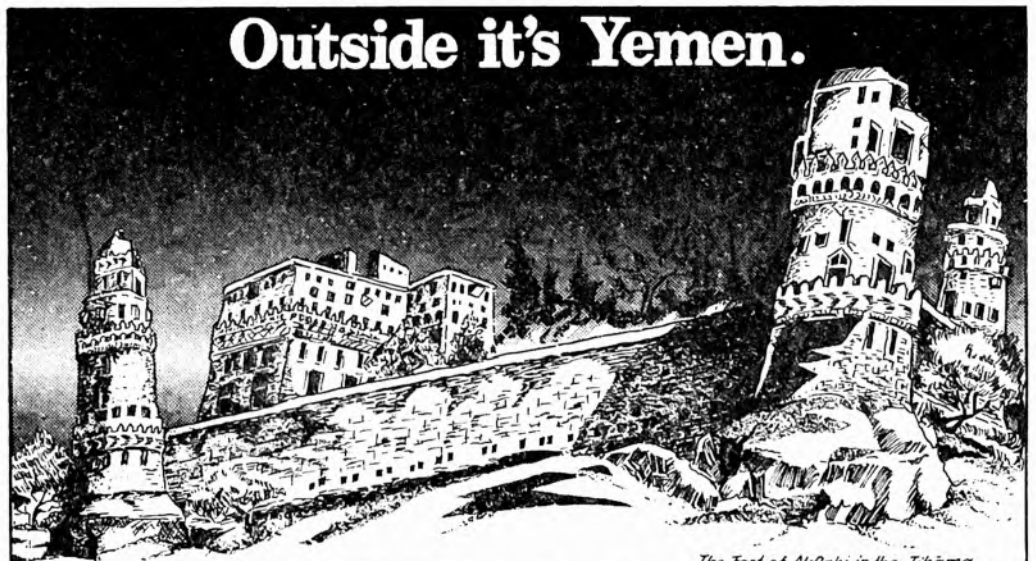
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Christopher Van Hollen:

"Interrupting the Yemeni democratic process will bring about American displeasure."

Dr. Christopher Van Hollen concluded a one-week visit to Yemen on Friday, November 13th. Van Hollen, a former US ambassador, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Editor of the Middle East Journal and Vice President of the Middle East Institute, is today an international affairs consultant in Washington DC.

He was on a study tour to Yemen as well as other countries in the region to assess the political evolution. Yemen Times took this opportunity to interview him.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Let us start with your visit here?

A: This is my fourth visit to Yemen. My first was a one-day encounter with Aden in the days of British rule. Then I came to Sanaa in 1978, and again in 1982. I can see tremendous change. The purpose of my visit is twofold - to explain the change in the USA in light of the recent elections; and to evaluate the democratic progress that is being made in your country.

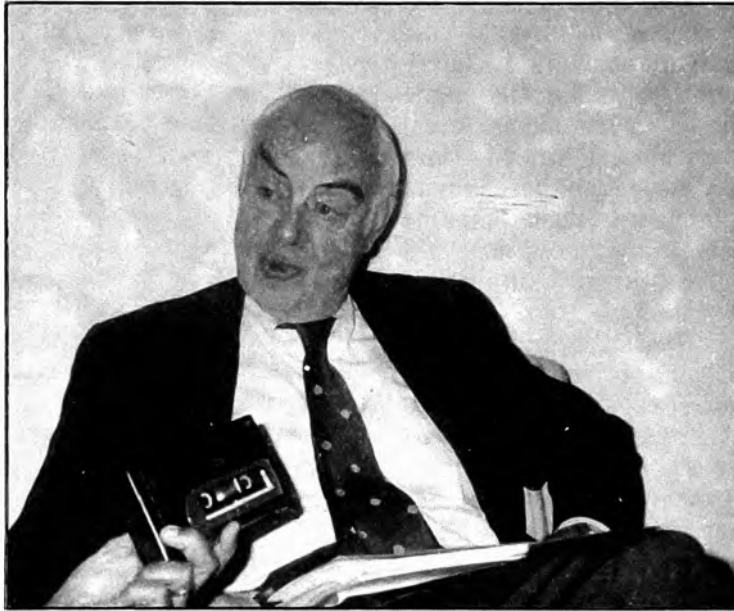
Q: How would you describe the US election results?

A: President-elect Bill Clinton carried 32 states (plus Washington DC) out of 50 states, and 370 of the electoral votes. Thus the Clinton-Gore victory was better than any democratic victory since WW2. That means that Clinton did better than Harry Truman, JF Kennedy, or Jimmy Carter.

At the same time, Clinton is bringing with him a congress that is still heavily democratic, and the mix is far more liberal than in the past.

In addition there are also important age differences. Clinton at 46, and Gore at 44, are both born after WW2. They are the first US administration to take over after the end of the Cold War. They represent the force of change in US society today.

In short, I can say the Clinton-Gore team will take office in January with a stronger mandate from the American people, and a very supportive congress. They will use those to make major changes.



Q: What kind of changes are you anticipating?

A: You will note that Clinton has won by hammering away on the domestic issues, specially the economy. One of the first things he is expected to do is to establish a National Economic Council. We now have a National Security Council which is dominated by political and military concerns.

He will focus on creating jobs, working on the trade deficit, etc.

Q: Do you envisage any major change in foreign policy, specially vis-a-vis the Middle East?

A: I think there will be changes, but nothing dramatic. He will continue to push the Middle East peace process, and he has already said so. We will have to see if he will personally be involved or whether he will appoint a senior politician to push the peace talks.

With respect to bilateral relations and attitudes to other countries, I think that issues such as human rights and democratic practices will command a higher attention in the Clinton administration, and this is where Yemen nicely fits into the picture. I am very hopeful of improved US-Yemeni relations. Let me add here that I see the Yemen-American Friendship Association playing a role in improving relations.

Q: What would the American attitude be, if for whatever reason, the Yemeni democratic process is interrupted?

A: I hope that that does not happen. It would be a sad development, and it

would bring about US displeasure. Yemeni freedom of the press, democracy, human rights, etc. are important cards Yemen could use in its favor in its international relations. If you lose that, international sympathy, support, and understanding for Yemen would definitely fall.

Q: What is your reading of the political evolution in Yemen?

A: Yemen is actively moving towards political pluralism. Any person looking in from outside would be pleased. There are a number of political parties, unions and associations, newspapers, etc. It is all encouraging, and by the way, the Yemen Times is an impressive example of Yemeni freedom of the press and political openness, both of which give your country enormous credibility and respect in the outside world.

There are sad developments as well. There have been certain incidents and violence, and tremendous economic hardships. These would have to be surmounted for the success of Yemeni political evolution. Therefore, it is not enough to have elections to say you

are a democratic country, but the necessary institutions will have to grow, respect for the law has to be enforced, and accountability will have to be a strong part of the system.

Q: What is your advice to Yemen?

A: First, as a friend of Yemen, let me say that I admire Yemen for trying to achieve noble objectives, specially democratization, against tremendous odds.

Second, again as a friend of Yemen, I would like to urge the authorities to go through with the elections and stick to the new timetable and not to postpone again.

Third, Yemen is perceived by the outside world as a country striving to come to terms with world ideals and values, thus positively contributing to world peace and harmony. I hope you will stick to this course.

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Yemeni Artist Makes an Imprint

By: Anna Love,
UK student in Sanaa

One contemporary Yemeni artist whose original and charismatic work is surely about to make his name known in Europe is Adeni Abdullah Al-Ameen. Born in 1954, he studied abroad, gaining his Master of Fine Arts in Moscow in 1978 and has since exhibited in the Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, and Russia, though has yet to have his work shown in the West.

Al-Ameen tells the story of the goings-on of daily Yemeni life in paintings that are at once dream-like and yet whose subject matter is firmly rooted in reality. His self-assured style boldly outlines each building and each figure of his busy street scenes, defying conventional laws or perspective and proportion, so that the resulting two-dimensional effect is strikingly evocative of a walk through the jumble of houses and people that make up a typical Yemeni town or village. The traditional and the every-day are juxtaposed with the



mythical and absurd. A closer look at one of Al-Ameen's more impressionistic paintings - at first glance, a cityscape of traditional Yemeni architecture and veiled figures - reveals a blurry pink helicopter hovering in the foreground...

In this way, an original documentation of the age-old traditions of pot-making, weaving, extracting oil from locally-caught fish and bread-baking, provides a back-drop to a narrative of wedding parties, funerals and family feuds. However, one's eye is soon drawn from the industrious scenes to a

mermaid, nonchalantly reclining on the bakery roof and two friends reading to each other, oblivious to the activity around them, one cradled, legs dangling in the pale crescent moon, the other on an impossibly low cloud.

The artist's linocuts are 'genuinely entertaining' in one the cheeky sense of humor of the Yemeni women is stylized; in another, five qat-chewers levitate contentedly from a beautifully decorated mafradj window, tracing the snaking curves of their sheesha pipes, and out towards distant stars, their elbows still resting on the cushions at their sides.

**Atta'gammu Al-Wahdawi
Al-Yemeni Holds its
Constituent Conference**

"The resolution of the First Constituent Conference of Attagammu Al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni marked a clear defiance to the regime. "We do not recognize the regime's right to self-prolongation. We see the regime after November 21st as illegitimate," the communique reads.

Attagammu Al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni met during 14-16 November in Sanaa. 193 delegates representing the party's branches throughout the country met to adopt the documents of the party, and to elect the new leadership.

In the opening and closing statements to the conference, Mr. Omer Al-Jawi, took an unparalleled stab at the recent "arrangements" of the Presidential Council.

"We vow to resist the regime's efforts at self-prolongation without recourse to constitutional and legal channels. The party also vowed to adhere to the resolutions of the National Conference.

The Conference finally approved the charter and by-laws and elected the party's supreme body.

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TEXT OF THE YEMENI-OMANI BORDER AGREEMENT, Part B

**Annex No. 1
Regulating Border
Authorities**

The Governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman, in fulfillment of Article (7) of their border agreement signed between them on 3/4/1413 H (corresponds to 1/10/1992), and given their desire to regulate their border authorities, have agreed on the following:

Article (1):
They have agreed that any disputes, differences, accidents that may arise in their border region will be settled according to this annex.

Article (2):
a- The border region is defined as a zone or band, five kilometers wide, on each side, from the border extending into the territory of each country.
b- Neither country may establish or keep installations, military camps, etc., except establishments related to border crossing activities and limited border patrol units. Both sides, immediately as this agreement goes into effect, shall take measures to bring their border military presence within the limits/requirements prescribed in this article.

Article (3):
a- Each country will name the authorities responsible for the implementation of this annex as follows:
i- Border Authority of the First Level:
- for the Republic of Yemen: The governor of the adjacent governorate (Read: Al-Maharah),
- for the Sultanate of Oman: The Inspector-General of the Police and Customs.
ii- Border Authority of the Superior Level:
- for the Republic of Yemen: the Minister of Interior and Security,
- for the Sultanate of Oman: the Minister of Interior.
b- On the basis of diplomatic agreement between the two sides, they are authorized to make changes in the authorities responsible for implementing the border affairs, and they may create new authorities for this purpose.

Article (4):
Within one month of the date of enforcement of this annex, each side will provide the other with the full names, tasks, copies of authorization documents, pictures and signatures of the persons authorized as per article (3) above. Any changes are communicated in the same manner.

Article (5):
Each person authorized to implement border affairs is entitled to appoint assistants, provided that their names, exact tasks and authorizations are communicated to the other party.

Article (6):
The disputes and accidents concerning the border zone shall cover:
a- Destruction of border marks or establishments or other related installations.
b- Opening fire on border patrols or other persons or on border marks and establishments in the border zone of the other party.
c- The escape of criminals (according to the laws of the party from which they are escaping), and their seeking asylum in the zone of the other party.
d- Actions such as plunder and other wise which occur in the zone.
e- Actions such as cross-border smuggling.
f- Hunting of wildlife in the border zone.
g- Misuse of water resources and polluting them or actions leading to interfering with their proper use.

Article (7):
The border authorities of each country shall have the following tasks:

a- To take measures to stop accidents from occurring.
b- To take measures to stop smugglers and criminals from crossing over, if necessary by force, and to engage in pursuit in the aim of arresting them. In case the fleeing persons are able to cross the boundary to the other country, the pursuit should stop, and the authorities on the other side shall be notified of the same.
c- To combat smuggling efforts, and to exchange information on the same between the two countries.
d- To exchange information in case of catastrophies in the border zone.
e- To take the necessary measures to stop epidemics and diseases which destroy livestock and agriculture. In case such circumstances arise, the country in which such epidemics exist or are thought to exist, informs the other party of the same.
f- To investigate accidents.
g- To settle disputes and accidents mentioned in Article (6) within their authority, and to lay claims for compensation, according to their jurisdiction.

Article (8):
a- If a citizen of one country demands political asylum in the other country following a crime committed according to the laws of the country of citizenship,

then such a person shall be apprehended and arrested upon which the country of citizenship shall be notified.
b- The arresting party may repatriate such a person within ten days of his/her arrest to the country of citizenship.
c- If the border authorities of the country to which the person has escaped refuses to repatriate such a person to his/her country of citizenship within ten days, the person will remain in their custody for a period not exceeding sixty days, during which time the documents are to be processed for his/her repatriation through diplomatic channels.

Article (9):
The border authorities may, following their prior agreement, initiate a joint site investigation regarding a border accident. In such cases, experts and witnesses may accompany them. The party in whose zone the investigation is carried out shall supervise the investigation, and a jointly signed communique shall be prepared giving the details of the accident, and the preliminary conclusions, all of which shall be transferred to the judicial authorities.

Continues on page 7

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Postponement of Elections: What the People Think:

The leadership had confirmed many times that the elections will proceed at the fixed time before the 22nd of November, 1992. But the postponement gave rise to worries and fears among the people. To better know the people's feelings, we carried out a limited random survey in Sanaa. Only a handful of the answers of the citizens approached are reported below:

a- Ahmad Hassan Alzirai (a university student) stated, "The prolongation/postponement of the elections is an encroachment on majesty and sovereignty of the people and an impediment to the democratic march of our nation."

b- Mohammad Mohammad Othman (a handicraft) said, "If the two ruling parties are to enjoy any credibility and if they are serious and honest about democracy, let them implement what they had agreed upon in a full and punctual way. I think there is no justification for prolonging the (transitional) period and it hurts the credibility of our democracy."

c- Mohammad Farhan Al-Mikhlaifi (government employee) said, "Our leadership should respect the unity accord (it had signed) and abide by it fully. The time problem is the result of the late formation of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC), for which the Presidential Council is to be blamed. Therefore, if this postponement is dictated by the SEC, I can understand it; but if it is dictated by the supreme authorities then that is another matter."

d- Abdo Ali Dammaj (private businessman) said, "There are certain political personalities fear that the elections will marginalize their power, and that is the drive behind their push for the postponement. The polls are best for the country."

e- Saeed Sultan Mohammad (a waiter in a cafeteria) said, "The postponement will cause harm to the state and will create confusion in the country."

f- Abdo Abdurab Saeed Al-Asbahi (restaurant owner) said, "The enemies of Yemen will capitalize on this postponement and will add stress to the stability/safety problem of Yemen."

By: Saeed Al-Mikhalfi,
Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa,
8-11-1992.

Getting out of the 99.9% Elections Results Business

As is the case in the democratic states of the West, specially in the USA, the candidates for public office compete against each other by presenting themselves and their record and ability to serve society. The media carry their ideas, their doubts, their character.

Direct competitions and comparisons are part of the process. Since we live in an age of advanced mass communication, everything has become within our reach. Thus we have followed the American elections with great interest almost on a daily basis.

These events have eclipsed all other events and have attracted the attention and concern of the whole world including the Republic of Yemen. We have had a first-hand exposure to the three presidential debates between George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot. The objective behind all these debates, lectures, and speeches is to give citizens a chance to make their pick in a meaningful way. This means making decisions on the basis of accurate and complete information.

We in Yemen are going to exercise our democratic right of choosing our representatives on the 27th of April, 1993. We need to make the right choice by naming the most qualified candidates. However, up to date, we have no idea about the qualifications of the persons running. We don't have any idea even about the programs of the platforms and political parties on which they are running. It is within our right to demand that those who intend to govern tell us what they intend to do, and what their position is regarding the main issues facing us. The country needs to organize seminars and debates so as to introduce the candidates and show us what they stand for.

Finally, people are already speculating about the outcome of the election results. Voter participation by 99.9% and victories by one or two parties by 99.4% of the votes is going to be ridiculous.

We need new blood/faces with new perspective.

By: Abdo Hussein Al-Adhal,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
11/11/1992

The Supremacy of the Law!!

Having faith in the principle of the supremacy of the law means commitment to it. It means bringing those who violate the law to justice, irrespective of their standing in society or hierarchy of power. Lack of respect for the law degrades our own citizens. In other words, a democratic society should possess the necessary tools and institutions to uphold the law. It is imperative that respect for the law is engrained in the psyche and culture of our society, and in the conscience of every citizen. Without these principles, democracy can be converted into anarchy and opportunism governed by a free-for-all strife which can lead to disasters.

What differentiates a modern society from a backward one is this faith in laws which are enacted by the people's representatives. The belief in the sanctity of the laws is a basic principle and social value which must be part and parcel of a modern civic society. The behavior and attitude of individuals and groups in their relations with one another have to be governed by the rule of the law. Unless the laws are upheld, the society cannot be termed as civilian or democratic.

Let us use the Sanaa traffic system as an example. Just think what would happen if the drivers did not observe the traffic laws. What would happen to the flow of traffic? As we can already see it in our streets, sometimes, the big trucks and lorries intimidate the small cars. Thus we see the need for good traffic laws, and the need to enforce them on all drivers. Otherwise, there will be no circulation.

Going back to the general need for rule of law, our society is still in need of modernization through various steps and channels. The supremacy of law, whether good or bad, is a basic element. It is for this purpose that creating institutions is critical. Institutions should be stronger than individuals and they should make individuals, however strong they are, succumb to the rule of law.

There is another dimension - dispensing the law should be fair without prejudice.

Raay, Sanaa,
10-11-1992

The President's Democracy

I was confused when I heard President Ali Abdullah Saleh say that "the remedy to democracy's difficulties is more democracy." Whenever I thought of the President may have meant, I reached a dead end. But recently I began to understand what he had meant.

The man meant that whenever democracy gave birth to an institution, the President would match it with a parallel institution beholden to him with the purpose of weakening the original institution. If the (original) institutions got together to push ahead with democratic measures, his institutions will be with them, as they are classified as opposition institutions. Thus they serve as his "Trojan horses".

Let me use examples to show what I understand the President to mean by democracy. As opposition political parties came to existence, the President created his own opposition political parties which "joined hands" with the real opposition parties in opposing the rulers. As independent and opposition party newspapers sprang, the President added to the democratic practice by creating his own newspapers. This gave newspapers less credibility. As popular organizations and associations came into existence, the President matched them with his own version.

And when the National Conference was held, he coupled it with another conference. When the human rights organization began criticizing the system, he created his own human rights organization, which would give the regime certificate of good behavior.

Thus I came to understand what the President had meant by his statement when he said that the remedy to the problems of democracy is more democracy.

And thus, the only remedy for the opposition's democratic demands which cause headaches for the authorities, is by practicing more "democracy".

By: Jamal Amir
Al-Wahdawi, Sanaa,
9-11-1992.

Waiting for April

It is known that leaders in the third world are surrounded by a closed network of clientele who are the main beneficiaries of the regime. The leader serves as the center of a gravity field around which the whole lot revolves. The clientele is not interested in any changes that will affect its benefits, and thus works hard to block such changes. Examples of such situations abound. We have seen them in Sudan, Egypt, Algeria and other Arab states and countries of the Third World.

We feel a certain degree of honesty in the president's and vice president's statements; but the problem is with those surrounding them who exercise their instincts of opportunism.

In democratic countries, there are institutions which protect democracy; there is supremacy of the law; and everybody bows to the constitution.

In Yemen, this is yet not the case.

In a previous article, I said that the elections are not going to proceed on time. I am afraid what happened in November is going to happen again in April. On 22nd November the unity accord will expire and it will be replaced by a new one. The two ruling partners might bring to the scene token players which will symbolize the opposition parties.

The problem is not the accords but their implementation. The transitional period passed and the two partners did not implement much of what they had agreed upon. The next six months will pass and maybe we will find ourselves in the same situation. It is easy to search for excuses and justifications in a society like ours.

Let us assume nothing of what is promised is implemented. What will happen? Will the masses rise to topple the rulers? I don't think so.

Democracy cannot be accomplished without institutions. What exists now is individuals who are an embodiment of institutions such political parties, and not individuals who dissolve in institutions. Thus, setback become easy because the leadership has to buy-out a few individuals to do what it wants.

By: Dr. Abdul-Haq Sultan,
Al-Mithaq, Sanaa,
9-11-2991

Continued from p. 5

Annex 1 of the Yemeni-Omani Border Agreement**Article (10):**

The border authorities of the two countries are going jointly to determine the official points of crossing and port of entry for passengers and goods.

Article (11):

The members of the border authorities, their assistants and experts, upon presenting their authorization documents mentioned in articles 4 and 5 above, and following notification and approval of the other party, may cross over to the other side.

Article (12):

Details of the names of the persons who need to cross the border are to be communicated to the nearest official border entry point (24) hours prior to such crossing. This time requirement may be reduced under dire circumstances and by agreement between the two parties.

Article (13):

The border authorities enjoy the necessary immunity while carrying their tasks. Their equipments and other items they need are not subject to any taxes or duty.

Article (14):

All necessary assistance must be rendered to the border personnel who cross over in carrying out their duties.

Article (15):

a- The border authorities, specified in article (3, a-i) will meet in each zone once every six months, and they have the right to hold exceptional meetings for consultations and to decide on pending matters. If they cannot agree on the proper action, the matter is raised to the authorities specified in article (3, a-ii) to decide on the matter.

b- The border authorities, specified in article (3, a-ii) will meet in each zone once annually or as called upon it by the authorities in article (3, a-i) to decide on pending matter.

Article (16):

a- For the purpose of preserving the border markings, the border authorities mentioned in article (3, a-i) shall exchange information and pay inspection visits prior to their bi-annual meetings, and to report on the same to the border authorities mentioned in article (3, a-ii).

b- If the border authorities determine that the border markings need repairs or re-installations, they report the same to the relevant authorities to take the necessary action to rectify the situation as called for in article 4 of the international border agreement between the two countries.

Article (17):

This annex is valid for five years, and automatically renewable unless either side informs the other through diplomatic channels of its desire to make amendments.

Article (18):

This annex goes into effect as soon as it is ratified and documents exchanged. Signed in Sanaa on 1/10/1992.

Annex No. 2: Next Week**LOCAL BRIEFS, LOCAL BRIEFS****Gold Prospecting Starts:**

Mr. Ali Jabr Alawi, Chairman of the Mineral Exploration Board (MEB), disclosed to Yemen Times that a concession agreement has been signed between the MEB and Meridian International.

According to the agreement, the company will start prospecting for gold in the Wadi Medden area, along the country's coastal stretch about halfway between Aden and Mukalla.

Mr. Alawi also indicated that talks are underway with other companies to explore for other minerals.

French Minister in Yemen

Mr. Charles Josselin, Minister for Marine Affairs in France, arrived in Sanaa yesterday, Tuesday on a two-day visit to Yemen. The French Minister is here to study the possibility of joint ventures in the fishing industry between Yemen and France.

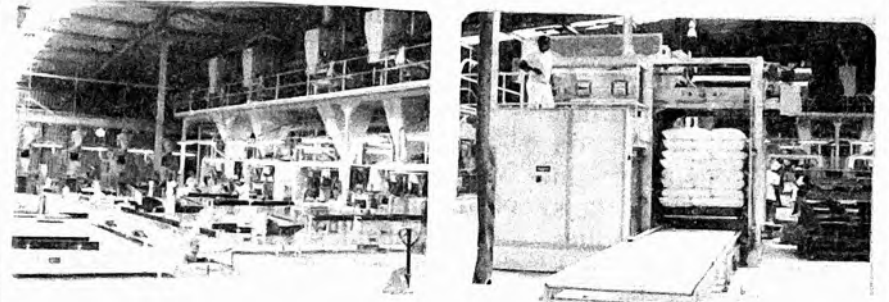
The Minister will meet Yemeni officials, including the Minister and Vice Minister of Fisheries.

Nasserites Issue Statement

The Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Ashabi Annasari issued a statement on November 16th saying that although it participated in the talks, it has not agreed to the prolongation of the transitional period, and that the regime after 21/11/1992 is illegitimate.

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الحديدة ت: ٢١١٥٥١ / ٣ / ٢٢٢٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سبحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦
بورتسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

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BP's Mapstone:

"We are hopeful about our Antufash Prospect."

"We are now drilling Antufash-1, and by mid-December, we should get the results on this prospect. The technical indicators are encouraging and we are cautiously optimistic," said Dr. N.B. (Barry) Mapstone, General Manager of the BP Exploration Operating Co. Ltd. (Yemen Branch).

Located at 16.01.47.72 N. and 42.07.36.18 E, Antufash-1 is the closest ever Yemeni oil well to be drilled near the Saudi border. The well is about 80 kilometers from the coast, and about 10 kms. from the northern border of the company's concession area. "We plan to drill to a depth of 2075 meters," he told the Yemen Times.

It will be remembered that BP was one of six oil companies operating in Yemen to be given letters by the Saudi authorities demanding them to stop their operations "because their concession territories were contested" by the Saudis.

"We had to declare 'force



majeure' because insurance premiums went up to the millions, and we could not find a drilling company to do the job," explained Dr. Mapstone.

"With time, and due to the better climate between the two countries, and in light of the fact that the other five companies continued their operations without interference, we resumed our work in the BP off-shore concession."

In the meanwhile, the insurance premium has

also gone down to almost normal commercial rates. Asked about the impact of that episode on the company's relations with the Yemeni government (the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources), the BP official said that there was a short-term disappointment, but that the two sides have returned to normal friendly cooperation.

With over 275 kms. of seismic by BP in addition to the thousands of kms of seismic done previously, and reprocessed by BP, the company has met its contractual seismic obligation in Antufash.

The company's first phase concession period at Antufash expired on 1/11/92, but the Ministry, in light of the complications, has given the company a four-month extension.

At another level, Mapstone said that the first well in Block 7, drilled earlier this year, showed minor hydrocarbons. "In 1993, we plan to drill another well in this block, and to drill our first well in block 8," he concluded.

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An Appeal to Save the Architecture and Manuscripts of Sanaa

The Sanaa Branch of the Yemeni Association for the Protection of Yemeni Heritage, Shores and Parks held four consecutive weekly meetings over the last month for the purpose of evaluating the damage being done to the architecture and scriptures of Sanaa.

According to an appeal released following the meetings, the association called on the authorities to immediately reconsider the policies regarding repairs and maintenance. "It is our opinion that the engineering studies involved in paving the streets and repairing the old perimeter wall are insufficient," the appeal reads. As an example, the appeal points to the breakup of sewer pipes underneath the cement-paved streets, thus leading to difficulties during repairs. "As a result, water has

leaked into the foundations of the houses near the Grand Mosque, Bab Al-Yemen, Al-Fulaihi, and Al-Ghazali," the appeal said. It then called on the Yemeni authorities to insist that foreign aid teams include specialized Yemeni personnel in their efforts in the Old City of Sanaa. Such a step will allow the transfer of knowledge, and will allow the Yemenization of the efforts in the long run.

The appeal demanded that the government immediately stop the damage that is being done by certain individuals to the historic gates and parts of the perimeter walls of Sanaa.

Finally, the appeal lamented the continuous loss of the old manuscripts of Sanaa due to neglect on the one hand, and their sale by individuals, on the other.

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David Mack:**“US wants to have deep, friendly & continuous relations with Yemen”**

On November 10th, Ambassador David Mack, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, was interviewed jointly by Yemeni TV and the Yemen Times transmitted through the Worldnet program and aired live on Yemeni television.

Ambassador Mack started with a lengthy opening remark, in Arabic. “The United States, with all sincerity, wants to have deep and friendly and continuous relations with Yemen,” he affirmed.

He did mention that differences between the two countries regarding their views “concerning the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq... hinder and impede the progress of bilateral relations between the US and Yemen.”

The US official spoke highly of Yemeni efforts to move towards democracy and political pluralism. “We welcome the democratic practices in Yemen... We congratulate Yemen, the Yemeni people and

leadership for the democratic choice, pluralist political system, respect of human rights, and the creation of an economy based on free market,” Mr. Mack stated.

He also praised Yemeni efforts at resolving all outstanding issues with the neighbors in a peaceful and negotiated way. “We applaud the efforts of Yemen to improve its relations with its neighbors.

The agreement regarding the boundaries with Oman, signed after negotiations which have taken place in a friendly atmosphere, is an example of peaceful solution... In addition, my government encourages the negotiations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia,” he added.

In response to a Yemen



Times question, David Mack regretted the violence that has marred the Yemeni political scene, and specially the assassination attempts. “We very much condemn any resort to violence with the intention of impeding free elections,” he said.

Speaking about economic cooperation between the two countries, the US

official indicated that the pattern of cooperation is shifting from direct US aid to Yemen, to joint efforts and partnerships in the form of investments, specially in the field of oil, which Mr. Mack has termed as a “more matured phase” in our economic cooperation. “We have an agreement between the government of Yemen and our Overseas Private Investment Cooperation. Under the terms of that agreement, we have been working in a very concrete way to encourage US companies to invest in Yemen’s economic development,” he said. He also expressed hope for more trade links and exchange between the two countries.

In response to another Yemen Times question concerning the apparent double-standard of US foreign policy in demanding more democratization from Iraq and not doing the same with respect to the oil-rich Gulf states, the Ambassador explained that

“every bilateral relationship is unique.” Even then, he said, “We encourage the process of democracy, the expansion of political participation, and greater responsibility of governments towards their people everywhere. That goes without exception.”

Commenting on the upcoming change of administration in Washington and its effect on US foreign policy, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State reassured that there will be no major changes. He stressed that the element of continuation will dominate the new policy.

Finally, David Mack described the relationship between Yemen and the United States to be “good relations based upon a high degree of honesty and frank discussions...” “We have some differences, but these are differences between friends. It is our view that Yemen can play a very important role in helping maintain the stability of the area,” he concluded.

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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

Une "Déclaration Constitutionnelle" proroge le mandat des principales institutions jusqu'au scrutin du 27 avril

Pas de vide constitutionnel, selon le Conseil Présidentiel

Au moment où les petits partis de l'opposition tentent de s'organiser pour mener une action commune, derrière, notamment, le Rassemblement Unioniste Yéménite d'Omar al-Gaoui (lire ci-contre), le pouvoir représenté par le Congrès Populaire Général du Président Saleh et le Parti Socialiste Yéménite du Vice-Président Al-Bid, soutenu plus ou moins ouvertement par l'Islah du Cheikh Al-Ahmar, le Parti Baas Yéménite du Cheikh Abou Chawareb et quelques mouvements nassériens, refuse clairement de céder aux pressions: le Conseil Présidentiel, l'exécutif à cinq têtes du pouvoir, a prolongé samedi dernier le mandat des institutions de l'Etat jusqu'aux prochaines élections prévues pour le 27 avril 1993. L'annonce a été faite par "déclaration constitutionnelle" du Conseil, qui prétend ainsi mettre fin aux affirmations selon lesquelles le maintien des institutions pendant la période du 22 novembre 1992 au 27 avril 1993 serait anticonstitutionnel.

C'est par l'invention d'une norme juridique nouvelle, la "déclaration constitutionnelle", que le Conseil Présidentiel a décidé de la prolongation de son propre mandat, de ceux du gouvernement et du Parlement, ainsi que d'autres grandes institutions de l'Etat. Il s'agit là d'un numéro d'équilibriste en matière juridique: d'un genre nouveau, cette "déclaration constitutionnelle" avait pour but de légitimer le report des élections au delà du 22 novembre et d'éviter le vide constitutionnel; le problème, c'est qu'elle est elle-même contraire à la loi fondamentale ratifiée par référendum par le peuple yéménite les 15 et 16 juin 1991 ! En

effet, la Constitution du Yémen prévoit, dans son article 129 une procédure exclusive pour tout amendement ou modification de la norme suprême, procédure très contraignante pour le pouvoir exécutif: "Le Conseil Présidentiel et la Chambre des Représentants ont le droit de demander des amendements à un article ou plus de la Constitution, précise le texte fondamental. (...) dans tous les cas, la Chambre des Représentants discute et décide, à la majorité simple, le principe de l'amendement. Si la Chambre est contre cet amendement, il ne peut être soumis une nouvelle fois au vote pendant une période d'un an. Si la Chambre est pour l'amendement, elle doit discuter des articles à amender passé un délai de deux mois. Si les trois quarts de la Chambre approuvent l'amendement, celui-ci prend effet aussitôt".

C'est donc à l'occasion de cette "déclaration constitutionnelle" que le Conseil Présidentiel a annoncé samedi 14 novembre que les "grandes institutions de l'Etat conservent, (après le 22 novembre, NDLR) toutes les prérogatives qui leur ont été attribuées par la Constitution". Toutes les mesures contenues dans la déclaration du Conseil Présidentiel prendront effet à compter du 22 novembre.

La Conférence nationale qui avait réuni une vingtaine de partis et d'organisations de l'opposition début septembre, a réclamé, mardi 10 novembre, après l'annonce du report des élections au 27 avril, la dissolution du Parlement et la démission du gouvernement le 22 novembre, à l'expiration de la période transitoire de 30 mois qui devait séparer les élections de

l'unification du pays. A cette occasion, un mémorandum a été adressé par les partis de la Conférence Nationale au Président Saleh et au Vice-Président Al-Bid, appelant les deux dirigeants à "comprendre la portée et la légitimité de leurs demandes afin de sauvegarder l'unité intérieure et de jeter les bases d'une nouvelle démocratie". Outre la dissolution du Parlement, l'opposition, le Rassemblement Unioniste Yéménite d'Omar al-Gaoui en tête, avait demandé la mise en place d'un cabinet ministériel de transition siégeant jusqu'au prochain scrutin. Quant au Conseil Présidentiel, l'organe composé de cinq membres du CPG et du PSY présidé par le Général Ali Abdallah Saleh, plusieurs partis de l'opposition ne s'étaient pas opposés à son maintien, à condition qu'il ne soit plus habilité, jusqu'au 27 avril, à signer des décrets.

Dans sa "déclaration constitutionnelle", le pouvoir semble faire une légère concession aux petits partis de l'opposition en promettant de ne pas outrepasser, dans les prochains mois, "les droits que lui confèrent la Constitution". Il s'est également engagé à "ne pas utiliser la force publique à des fins partisans" dans le cadre de la campagne électorale, et à "veiller à la neutralité des médias officiels". La déclaration affirme également que les autorités prendront toutes les mesures pour assurer le calme sur le territoire et procédera à l'arrestation de "ceux qui porteraient atteinte à sa sécurité". Le pouvoir a enfin invité "toutes les forces de la Nation" à faire en sorte que le prochain scrutin soit "libre et honnête"...

Emmanuel GIROUD

M. Omar Al-Gaoui "officialise" son parti d'opposition

Lundi 16 novembre est né officiellement le Parti du Rassemblement Unioniste Yéménite, considéré aujourd'hui comme le principal mouvement d'opposition au régime actuel, lors d'une conférence constituante à Sanaa. Le Secrétaire Général du PRUY, M. Omar Al-Gaoui, a annoncé que son parti, qui existe de manière non-officielle depuis l'unification, compte désormais environ 13.000 membres, ce qui l'autorisait dès lors à élire les membres dirigeants du parti et de fonder ses statuts. Il fallait pour cela réunir les 225 représentants de tous les gouvernorats, chargés lors de cette conférence d'élire les instances dirigeantes du parti.

"Un régime qui ne respecte pas le peuple n'a pas le droit d'exister". La provocation n'était pas absente de cette conférence constituante du Parti du Rassemblement Unioniste Yéménite de M. Omar al-Gaoui. Cette petite phrase, peinte sur une gigantesque banderole de tissu, ornait l'un des murs de l'amphithéâtre du Centre Culturel Yéménite qui abritait cette conférence du principal parti d'opposition au régime actuel. Ce même amphithéâtre qui recevait, en tant que spectateurs venus présenter leurs vœux au nouveau parti, des représentants du Parti Socialiste Yéménite et du Congrès Populaire Général, qui se partagent actuellement le pouvoir ! Provocateur aussi ce portrait, accroché juste en dessous de celui du Président Saleh, du "martyr" Hassan Ali Al-Huraibi, tué le 10 septembre 1991 dans un attentat qui visait M. Omar Al-Gaoui pour la

17ème fois dans sa vie de politicien ?

Dans tous les cas, cette "Conférence générale constituante du Rassemblement Unioniste Yéménite" a bénéficié de mesures de sécurité renforcées, avec la présence de l'armée qui et de la Sécurité Civile qui filtraient les entrées. Pas question, apparemment de compter un martyr de plus dans les rangs de l'opposition.

La Conférence a été ouverte par un discours de M. Abou Bakr Al-Sagqaf, président de la Ligue Yéménite des Droits de l'Homme, au moment même où le Cheikh Abdallah Ben Hussein Al-Ahmar, président du Parti Islamiste Al-Islah, qui fait désormais partie -sans le déclarer ouvertement- de la coalition des cinq partis de la majorité (lire notre article ci-contre), entrait cérémonieusement dans la salle, suivi de quelques gardes du corps armés qui forçaient le barrage dressé par ceux qui les informaient qu'aucune arme n'était autorisée dans la salle...

"Démocratie, Egalité, Droits de l'Homme"

Au dessus des têtes des participants à la conférence, la devise choisie par le PRUY était fièrement affichée: "Démocratie, Egalité, Droits de l'Homme". Et M. Al-Gaoui était salué par les longs applaudissements d'une salle comble à chaque apparition à la tribune. Celui-ci se déclare en appât très pessimiste quant aux chances de son parti et des quelques mouvements qui gravitent autour de lui dans le regroupement d'opposition au régime né lors de la Conférence Nationale des partis, au début du mois de septembre dernier, à faire pièce à l'énorme machine constituée par les cinq ou six partis de la majorité, déclarés ou de fait (CPG, PSY, Islah, Baas et quelques mouvements nassériens) en essayant de sensibiliser la population. "De toute façon, dit-il, tout est joué d'avance. Cela ne m'étonnerait même pas que, après le 22 novembre, les cinq partis se mettent d'accord pour former d'autorité un gouvernement élargi cette fois aux islamistes, aux baassistes et aux nassériens".

En attendant, dans les nombreuses résolutions prises par les membres de cette conférence constituante, figure le maintien du refus du report des élections et celui de l'appel à la grève générale pour le 22 novembre, deux décisions prises par les partis de l'opposition qui participaient à la Conférence Nationale du début du mois de septembre dernier. L'écho qui sera fait à cet appel permettra alors de mesurer l'audience de l'opposition.

E.G.

Après une semaine en mer sans eau ni vivres

Plus de 2.000 nouveaux "boatpeople" somaliens dans un état critique attendus à Aden ou Mukalla

Un nouveau drame se prépare dans le port d'Aden ou de Mukalla, peut-être pire que celui qui vit un énorme cargo, le *Gobwein* s'échouer sur une plage d'Aden, le 22 juin dernier, livrant toute l'horreur des conditions de survie des boatpeople Somaliens, dont 150 à 200 périrent au cours de la traversée ou sur la plage d'Aden (lire notre reportage dans *Le Temps du Yémen* n°27 du 1er juillet 1992). Au moment précis où nous écrivons cet article, un cargo transportant plus de 2.000 réfugiés somaliens qui ont fui la guerre civile et la famine de leur pays entre dans le port de Mukalla, à quelques 800 kilomètres à l'Est d'Aden. Au départ du port de Merka, au sud de Mogadiscio, ils auraient embarqué en catastrophe, sans eau ni nourriture, al-

ors que la grande majorité d'entre-eux étaient déjà à bout de forces. Aucune information n'est connue à l'heure actuelle (lundi soir) sur les pertes subies pendant la traversée de sept jours qu'ils viennent d'effectuer.

On comptait quelques 400 enfants au moment de l'embarquement, mardi 9 novembre dernier et le capitaine a fait état de cas de cécité à bord, preuve d'un état de dénutrition avancé. La Marine nationale française de Djibouti était en contact radio avec le bateau et a dépêché dimanche un navire chargé de 19.000 litres d'eau, de 5.000 rations alimentaires et de médicaments afin de tenter une opération de secours en mer. Malheureusement, le bâtiment français n'a pu rejoindre le cargo avant son arri-

vé à Mukalla, malgré le déclenchement lundi matin d'une opération de repérage aérien depuis Djibouti, qui a nécessité deux mirages F1, un Transal et un Bréguet-Atlantique de patrouille maritime.

Malgré les nombreux conseils lancés par radio par le Haut Commissariat des Nations-Unies pour les Réfugiés à Sanaa, relayés par la Marine française, selon lesquels il fallait accoster à Aden et non à Mukalla, ont été vains. A Aden, le HCR et Médecins sans Frontières ont mis en place un plan d'urgence pour l'aide à ces réfugiés: les camps de la plage (al-Isawah), qui avait déjà accueilli ceux du *Gobwein*, a été réactivé et est prêt à les recevoir. Les autorités yéménites, qui ont déjà accueilli plus de 60.000 réfugiés, depuis le début de la guerre civile en

Somalie, ont fait savoir qu'elles étaient prêtes à accepter les passagers du *MS Sumaal*, un gargo immatriculé à Dubaï, dont on dit qu'il aurait été investi de force par ses malheureux occupants à Merka. "Plus vite ils seront à Aden, plus nous pourrions sauver de vies, mais il faut faire vite, supplie M. Taoufik Oanès, le représentant du HCR à Sanaa, déjà occupé à négocier les conditions du débarquement avec les autorités. A l'heure actuelle, on peut imaginer le scénario suivant: les autorités yéménites vont demander au capitaine de mettre le cap sur Aden après avoir fait parvenir à bord l'eau et la nourriture nécessaires aux survivants. Vous trouverez dans ces colonnes un reportage complet à Mukalla et Aden, dans le prochain numéro.

Au quart d'un voyage autour du monde de deux ans, sur deux roues et en solitaire

Philippe Rahmani, le "Messenger de l'Europe" en moto, est passé par le Yémen

C'est un véritable pari doublé d'un vieux rêve que réalise aujourd'hui Philippe Rahmani, de passage récemment à Sanaa: un tour du monde en moto et en solitaire pour "expliquer" l'intégration de l'Europe des Douze (et peut-être plus demain) qui se réalise sur la base de la Communauté Européenne née en mars 1957 et renforcée depuis le Traité de Rome par divers textes dont le dernier, toujours en voie d'être ratifié par les Parlements ou les peuples de chaque membre, est le Traité de Maastricht. A l'aube d'une Europe presque complètement intégrée à la fin de ce siècle, avec des mesures concrètes de coopération et de politiques communes dans divers domaines (lire notre article

dans Le Temps du Yémen N°37 du 9 septembre 1992: une Union Economique et Monétaire et une monnaie unique à l'horizon en 1999 si tout se déroule comme prévu; l'instauration d'une citoyenneté européenne et d'une liberté totale de circulation pour les personnes, les biens et les capitaux entre les pays membres; une unification des législations sur le travail et la protection sociale; enfin, une coopération accrue pour une politique extérieure commune. Voilà les aspects les plus spectaculaires de l'Europe qui se dessine mais que, même dans les pays concernés, les gens ont du mal à appréhender. C'est pourquoi le pari de Philippe Rahmani est audacieux, en dehors de la difficulté physique de ce tour du

monde. Aussi, il explique l'Europe avec ses mots pour toucher, dans tous les coins du monde, surtout là où des pays voisins se battent depuis des lustres, parfois à l'intérieur même d'un pays, comment deux peuples qui se sont fait la guerre plusieurs fois, Allemagne, France, Grande-Bretagne, Italie, Espagne, peuvent aujourd'hui faire beaucoup plus que vivre en bon voisinage. Des exemples concrets et didactiques, qui ont fait mouche chez certains habitants du Yémen que Philippe a pu rencontrer... Et, pour le "Messenger de l'Europe", le Yémen n'était qu'une étape d'un tour du monde de 120.000 kilomètres en deux ans, pour 80 pays traversés!

Ce que l'on aime chez Philippe Rahmani, dès le premier contact, c'est sa sympathie et sa façon de s'étonner et de s'émerveiller de tout ce qu'il découvre. Dans tous les pays, il est reçu généralement "comme un roi" par les plus pauvres comme les plus riches. Il n'aurait donc pas dû être étonné: mais ce qui l'a frappé d'emblée au Yémen, c'est le sens très développé de l'accueil, plus encore que dans les pays qu'il a traversés jusqu'alors. "Les gens ici sont très très hospitaliers. Jusque dans les plus petits villages que j'ai traversés. Rien n'est forcé, tout est naturel. En France où l'on dit à peine bonjour à son voisin de palier, on ne peut même pas imaginer cela!", s'exclame-t-il.

pays où j'aurai envie de revenir, ajoute-t-il. Le Yémen sera l'un des premiers."

Car il y avait seulement six mois que Philippe avait quitté

opie. Depuis le 4 avril, il a traversé l'Espagne, le Maroc, l'Algérie, la Libye, le Burkina-Fasso, le Togo, le Ghana, le Cameroun, le Gabon, le Congo, l'Angola, la Namibie, l'Afrique du Sud, le Zimbabwe, la Zambie, le Malawi, la Tanzanie, le Kenya et l'Ethiopie. Après le Yémen, sa

Yémen et il n'a pas été autorisé à traverser la frontière en moto. Aussi, son périple au Yémen a-t-il été prolongé d'une semaine par rapport à ce que prévoyait son programme: "Je ne devais que traverser le pays en deux jours en suivant l'itinéraire Mokha - Aden - Oman. Je ne devais pas séjourner à Sanaa. Je peux vous dire que je ne suis pas déçu, cela aurait été dommage!" dit-il. Philippe a donc dû faire une entorse à ses principes de motard et s'envoler dans les airs avec sa moto en direction de Bombay, pour

moyen de transport fréquemment utilisé dans les pays occidentaux pour commettre ces basses besognes...

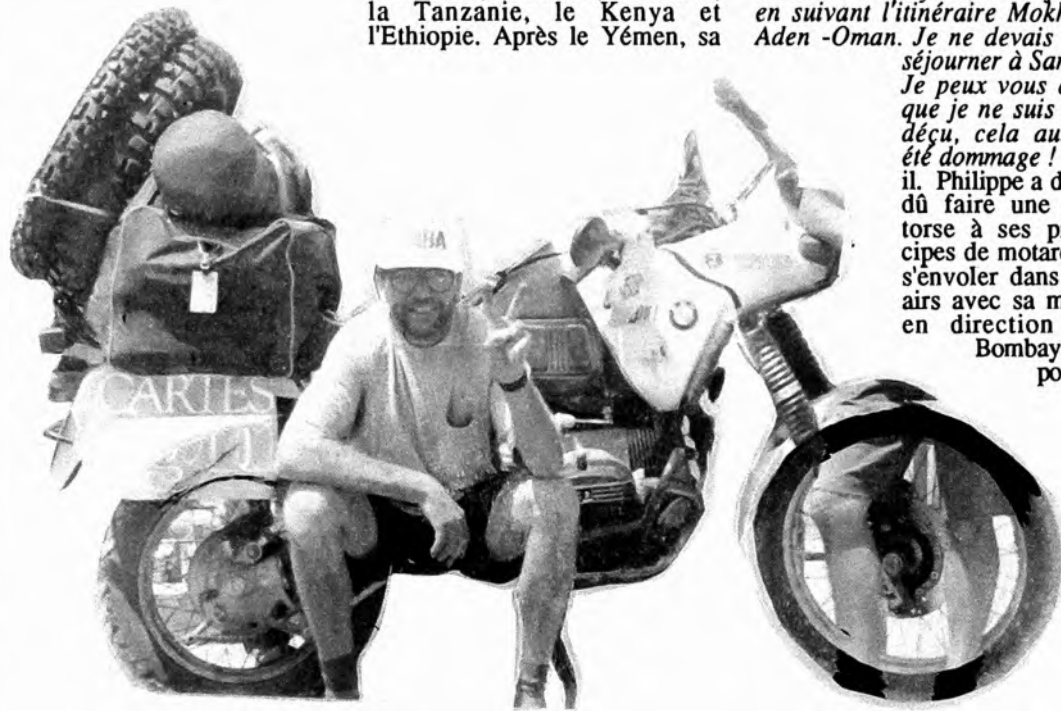
La suite du voyage de Philippe Rahmani l'amènera à parcourir tout le continent américain: Canada, Etats-Unis et tous les pays d'Amérique du Sud. Du Brésil, il embarquera pour l'Afrique, jusqu'en Côte d'Ivoire. Il remontera le continent par le Sierra-Léone, le Libéria, les Guinée Conakri et Bissau, le Sénégal et le Maroc par le Sahara Occidental. Ce sera enfin l'Espagne puis la France, après un périple de deux ans et 120.000 kilomètres.

**"Imaginez
le Yémen et
l'Arabie Saoudite
dans une sorte
de communauté"**

C'est un vieux rêve que Philippe Rahmani réalise à 34 ans. Fervent motard depuis qu'il est gosse, il rêvait de ce tour du monde depuis l'âge de 14 ans. Convaincu dans la vie des bienfaits de l'intégration européenne, il a donc décidé de joindre l'utile à l'agréable. Il fallait à cet idéaliste une cause à véhiculer... Pourquoi l'Europe? "Parce que j'y crois fermement, comme un exemple de rapprochement des peuples. Et parce que dans le monde entier, les peuples déchirés à rapprocher sont nombreux", avance-t-il.

Et le "Messenger de l'Europe", le titre officiel qui lui a été donné pour ce tour du monde, explique, lors de ces étapes, non seulement aux médias locaux mais aussi aux gens qu'il rencontre ce qu'est l'Europe. "Je leur explique qu'il y a douze pays dans une Communauté, douze pays qui se faisaient la guerre il y a encore cinquante ans, qui s'unissent alors que d'autres, à deux pas, se déchirent comme l'ex-Yougoslavie... Pour moi, c'est un peu un message d'espoir, surtout dans ces pays d'Afrique que j'ai traversés et où l'on se déchire entre tribus, ethnies, pays, etc."

Au Yémen, l'expérience la plus marquante pour Philippe a été l'explication de la CEE aux douaniers de Mokha: ils ont discuté ensemble de Maastricht allongés sur ces lits en paille tressée caractéristiques de la Tihama, en machant le qat! Philippe n'a pas hésité à "mettre les pieds dans le plat" pour être plus didactique: "Imaginez le Yémen et l'Arabie Saoudite dans une sorte de communauté d'intérêts et de politique, leur a-t-il dit... Vous pourriez passer d'un pays à l'autre en traversant la frontière sans formalités..." "No way!" lui ont-ils répondu en anglais, "impossible!" Il y a des moments où la réalité l'emporte sur l'idéal... Mais il y a cinquante ans, nos grands-pères pouvaient-ils imaginer la situation actuelle entre l'Allemagne et la France? **E.G.**



Paris lorsqu'il est arrivé à Mokha, en débarquant avec sa moto BMW de 1.000 centimètres cubes d'un petit boutre en provenance du port d'Assab, en Ethi-

destination devait être Oman, mais en cette fin du mois de septembre, on réglait les derniers problèmes relatifs au tracé des frontières entre le Sultanat et le

redes cendre ensuite sur le sous-continent indien, jusqu'à Karachi, au Pakistan. Ensuite, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodge, Thaïlande, Malaisie, Singapour, Indonésie, Australie, Philippines, Hong-Kong, Chine, Japon, Russie... A partir de ce moment, Philippe Rahmani tentera de réaliser une première mondiale: depuis Vladivostok, remonter jusqu'au Détroit de Bering pour le traverser jusqu'en Alaska.

Pour réaliser cet exploit, Philippe Rahmani et ses sponsors n'ont pas laissé les choses au hasard. Le jeune motard chevauche une moto BMW R100 GS d'une cylindrée de 1.000 centimètres cubes, dont l'équipement et les options ont été entièrement revues pour les conditions climatiques et de relief de tous les pays traversés. Elle est une réplique des motos qui ont permis à Hubert Auriol de se distinguer dans les rallyes Paris-Dakar. Dans tous les pays, les concessionnaires BMW se mettent à sa disposition pour l'aider. Ainsi au Yémen, où il n'existe qu'un concessionnaire BMW-automobiles, il aurait été difficile de trouver les pièces de remplacement si Philippe avait "cassé". Car aujourd'hui, seules l'armée et la sécurité possèdent des motos de grosse cylindrée, ces dernières étant interdites à la vente dans tout le pays. Selon un téloignage recueilli par Philippe Rahmani, il y a encore quelques années, de nombreuses motos circulaient au Yémen mais le nombre d'accidents était devenu insupportable et les autorités en ont interdit l'importation. Une autre raison est souvent évoquée: la crainte des attentats en moto, un

La traversée Assab-Mokha en boutre

La nature et l'architecture, toutes deux particulières, ont également attiré son attention: "Ce pays offre aux yeux un spectacle que je n'ai vu nulle part ailleurs, même en Afrique, où le paysage de l'Ethiopie se rapprocherait le plus de celui du Yémen. Même chose pour l'architecture: partout ailleurs, sur le continent africain, elle est beaucoup moins élaborée. J'espère que le reste de mon voyage m'offrira également d'autres surprises de ce genre". "Je pense qu'il y a beaucoup de

Concert au Sheraton à l'initiative du Centre Culturel Français et d'ELF Franc succès pour Christian Escoudé et son Jazz Quartet à Sanaa



leur Yémen.

Le Quartet Jazz de Christian Escoudé, musicien digne héritier de Django Reinhardt, a réglé la salle par son style: swings délicats et guitares enchanteresses, le "cocktail du jour" était servi par cinq musiciens créatifs et généreux.

Alternant compositions personnelles et standards signés Gershwin et Cole Porter, Christian Escoudé a trouvé la formule: habile combinaison de Jazz gitan et jazz "made in USA", de Django Reinhardt à Wes Montgomery... Car il n'est pas le reproducteur rigide du virtuose gitan Django Reinhardt: il le restitue en improvisateur audacieux, puisant lui-même dans sa tradition et son héritage gitans.

Christian Escoudé a été élu, en 1987, premier guitariste européen par le magazine Jazz Hot et a été considéré par le critique de Télérama comme... "éblouissant, à faire pâlir plus d'un confrère américain".

C'est devant plus de 300 spectateurs que s'est produit mardi soir, à l'Hotel Sheraton de Sanaa, le guitariste jazz français le

plus inventif de sa génération. Le concert a été organisé par le Centre Culturel Français de Sanaa et la compagnie ELF Petro-



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"Love and Terror" An Arab Movie on AIDS

By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Literary Critic,
Yemen Times.

To address such a sensitive issue as AIDS in a conservative society such as ours is indeed a gesture of rare bravery. Yet, the way the issue is introduced is so superficial, I can dare say that the producers of the movie "Love and Terror" (1992) have added to the simplification, and thus marginalization, of this problem.



The Egyptian cinema has already made several shy attempts at addressing the AIDS issue, "Love and Terror" being the most direct, so far. This disease, which the governments of the Arab countries have decided to neglect and downplay, out of fear of terrorizing the public, has finally made inroads into intellectual circles and the movies. A sense of danger, more than official prodding, has pushed the Egyptian cinema into this field. Unfortunately, "Love and Terror", though a brave effort, is also an incompetent attempt. Director Kareem Dhia Al-Deen tries to patch together the scenes from a poorly-written and poorly edited story.

The film starts with the return of Dr. Hind (Sherihan) from the US to Egypt, bringing along the corpse of her husband to be buried in utmost secrecy. Within fifteen minutes as the story develops, we learn Hind is a carrier of the AIDS virus, a fact she discloses to a boyfriend from her early days, *after* an intimate night. Ironically, the man does not panic; he even proposes to marry her.



Driven by her feeling of guilt (for the death of her first husband and the sickness of her second husband), Hind starts to flirt around, causing the virus to spread to wider circles.

To add to the complications, she gets embroiled with a drug gang. The idea of the film was to show the inevitable link between aids and drugs.

The story develops through several action episodes in which the police chase the gang members, including Hind. In the final scenes, the leader of the drug gang himself catches the aids virus. As he starts suffering from the disease, heavenly justice prevails.

Evaluation of the film leads to many negative points, specially the fact that it does not present the anguish that aids causes its victims, and it does not treat it as a very serious problem. The story does not lead to any meaningful suggestions or solutions, or even ideas as to how to interact with aids victims and how to deal with the problem from society's point of view.

The issue of aids has become a real health difficulty, psychological nightmare, and an environmental problem. Our film-makers, story-writers, poets, journalists and teachers would do well to enlighten the public on this matter, even without the support or even the blessing of our governments.

"Love and Terror" took a shot at the problem, we need more well-thought out efforts.

ENGLISH LESSON #19 - Modal auxiliaries

Don't let the big name scare you. This lesson is about a few common words and their uses. Most of the words have more than one meaning, and many of the words can be used to mean the same thing. That's why they are confusing sometimes. This chart should help:

MODAL	USE	EXAMPLE	NEGATIVE
can	ability permission	I can play the guitar. Can I watch T.V. now?	cannot / can't (not used with question)
could	past ability polite question	I could run fast as a child. Could you please close that door?	could not / couldn't (not used w/ question)
would	polite question preference	Would you please close that door? I would like to see a movie tonight.	would not
may	permission possibility	May I borrow your pen? I may go to the party, but I may not.	may not
might	possibility	I might go to the party tonight.	might not
must	necessity probability	You must stop smoking so much. You must be tired after doing all that work.	must not / mustn't
should ought to	advisability expectation	I should (ought to) study tonight. A taxi ought to (should) be coming soon.	should not / shouldn't shouldn't
have to have got to	necessity	I have to get this report done today. I have got to get this report done today.	don't have to don't have to

Please note: -Some of these words have uses other than what is covered here.
-Some words can mean the same thing. It doesn't matter which one you choose.
Examples: may/might (meaning possibility); should/ought to; have to/have got to/must (meaning necessity); can/may (meaning permission); would/could (for polite question).

Definitions: ability - shows you are able to (can) do something.
permission - asking for something, or asking to do something.
possibility - not positive something will happen, but fairly sure.
probability - most likely true, a logical conclusion.
necessity - necessary, very important that something be done.
advisability - a very strong suggestion that something should be done.
expectation - waiting, expecting that something is very likely to happen.

PRACTICE: Write *all* the letters of the words that fit in the blanks.
A. may C. must E. could G. should/ought to
B. might D. can F. would H. have to/ have got to

1. She is crying. She _____ be sad.
2. I really _____ get more exercise.
3. _____ you come here a moment, please?
4. I _____ travel to Europe next year, but I don't know for sure.
5. _____ you like some tea?
6. How _____ he do such a thing? That was terrible.
7. It _____ have been difficult for you to lift that heavy box.
8. How _____ I help you?
9. Excuse me, _____ you tell me where the library is?
10. Do you think I _____ get my hair cut?

For these, write the *negative* of the modal(s) that fit best in the blank spaces.

11. You _____ like this candy because it is sour.
12. I _____ drive a car until I am 16 years old.
13. Children _____ argue with their parents.
14. My sister _____ do homework because she is not in school.
15. I _____ to play the piano, but I would like to learn.
16. I _____ like it if you left for the party without me.
17. You _____ get angry with him; he didn't mean to make that mistake.
18. I don't feel well, so I _____ go to school tomorrow.
19. You _____ hurt a helpless animal, *would* you?
20. We _____ to go if you don't want to. It is up to you.

WEEKLY IDIOM: This week's idiom is "**bite the dust**". If something bites the dust, it finishes suddenly, is over. It can also mean that something dies, but you shouldn't say that about a person because that is disrespectful. **Example:** 1.) I'm not very good at growing things. All my plants *bit the dust*. 2.) That's the 4th hotel to close this month. Oh well, another one *bites the dust!*

Answers:

1. C. - 2. C. G. H. - 3. D. E. F. - 4. A. B. - 5. F. - 6. E. - 7. C. - 8. A. B. D. - 9. D. - 10. G. - 11. may not/might not, 12. can't, 13. mustn't/shouldn't, 14. doesn't have to, 15. can't, 16. wouldn't, 17. mustn't/shouldn't/don't have to, 18. may not/might not, 19. wouldn't, 20. don't have to.

Tunisia Announces New Reforms

Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, marking five years in power, announced reforms of the civil service last week but did not set an anticipated timetable for introducing democracy.

Ben Ali, on a nation-wide televised address on the fifth anniversary of his coming to power, said he was creating the office of "administrative mediator" who would serve as an ombudsman to arbitrate disputes between the public and the civil service.

He had been widely expected to announce a timetable for installing democracy. He instead said that the electoral code was being revised and the opposition would be permitted to run in legislative polls which is expected in April 1994.

"Definitive versions of propositions will be formulated soon to confirm the introduction of political pluralism in the chamber of deputies," he added.

Since he took over on the 7th of November, 1987, he has kept a tight reign on the pace of change and the limits of democracy. He has brought to heel practically all the political parties and national organisations with the exception of the Tunisian Human Rights League which he totally banned in June.

Last week the ruling RCD and the opposition political parties reviewed the electoral law in order to enable the opposition enter parliament when the next elections are held.

In response to sometimes violent agitation during 1990 and 1991, Ben Ali waged an implacable campaign against Muslim fundamentalists, cracking down systematically on the outlawed Nahdha movement. Nearly 400 Nahdha leaders and activists were tried in September for plotting against the state and sentenced to jail terms ranging from a few years to life.

As a result, Tunisia appears calm. Tourists scared off by the Gulf crisis are returning to the beaches and souks. Even in the university, usually a hotbed of agitation, no incidents have been reported for over a year, partly because the campuses are constantly patrolled by armed security forces.

Diplomats say Ben Ali's suppression of the fundamentalist movement has given him a free hand to permit acceptable political dissent. "Tunisia comes out as a stable country in an unstable environment," said a senior European diplomat with years of experience in the region. "With progress in economic liberalization, this is the major achievement of the Ben Ali era." Despite some reservations, the bottom line is largely positive," he said.

But Ben Ali has so far failed to keep his promise to democratize the country. Tunisians complain that the emphasis on stability is stifling, and the frustration level continues to rise.

Arab Gulf States to Regulate Gold Trade

Arab Gulf states are planning to regulate their gold trade, which the World Gold Council (WGC) expects to boom due to the fall in prices and growth in re-export markets.

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries are studying new laws outlining specifications of gold, silver and other jewellery traded in the region, according to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) finance and industry ministry.

"The new specifications have been presented by Saudi Arabia to the GCC standards and specifications committee, which discussed the gold industry," it said in a statement carried by the Ras al-Khaimah Chamber of Commerce magazine, November edition.

"Once the new regulations are endorsed, trade of gold and other jewellery will be banned if they do not conform to the specifications," it added.

Dealers said the new law would affect both importers and exporters in the six-nation GCC as it specifies purity level in gold and other jewellery.

"The new regulations will also put an end to manipulation in the market and trade of gold," one dealer explained.

Under the proposed specifications, 24-carat gold must be fully pure while purity in 22-carat must be 916.6 per thousand. In 21-carat, it is set at 875 and in 18-carat at 750.

Gold and other gem pieces must also be stamped in both English and Arabic, showing their trade, date of stamping country while silver must carry a picture of a palm.

The GCC states are among the biggest importers of gold. But some of them have become major re-exporters, especially to Iran and India. Figures released on Saturday (November 7th) by the Dubai office of the WGC showed GCC nations imported more than 200 tons of gold in 1991, of which oil-rich Saudi Arabia alone bought 120 tons.

The figure is expected to rise sharply this year as Dubai has boosted imports to meet growing demand in Iran, India and the former Soviet republics.

They said the UAE - Emirate of Dubai imported nearly 165 tons of gold in the first three months of this year, of which 45 tons went to India. The jump in exports followed new Delhi's decision to ease legal restrictions.

"The Gulf region, as far as gold is concerned, is promising to be one of the most attractive regions. Fascination with gold, specially among the Gulf women, reaches its peak. In social occasions, one can observe women, each decorated by a quarter of kilogram of gold," said WGC Middle East director, Andre Bisang.

India Softens Stand on Kashmir and Calls for Negotiations

Moderate Kashmiri politicians urged militants yesterday to give up their violent secessionist campaigning and return to the national mainstream. The call was made after a meeting of former state legislators summoned to New Delhi by Federal Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan, who ruled out talks with militants unless they renounced violence and accepted the Indian constitution. The nearly 70 ex-legislators at the meeting adopted a resolution appealing to "all those who have taken to the path of violence to lay down arms and join the mainstream society."

Home ministry officials said the closed meeting stressed the need to resolve "all outstanding grievances and problems in an amicable and peaceful manner within the framework of the Indian constitution."

Kashmiri representatives of Indian Premier P. V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) Party, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal attended yesterday's meeting. But militant-leaning politicians as well as the National Conference, a traditionally pro-India Kashmiri party, did not turn up.

The talks were the second political move in recent days by New Delhi which were aimed at finding a solution to the secessionist conflict that has left about 4,000 people dead over the last three years.

Last month, a delegation of federal MPs toured Kashmir for a first-hand assessment of the situation. In a speech to delegates, Chavan said New Delhi was ready to discuss "legitimate aspirations of Kashmiri people." This marks a visible softening-up of the Indian position on this sensitive issue. However, Chavan insisted there was no place for violence in democracy.

Kashmiri militants and sympathetic parties have rebuffed the appeal, and refused to settle for anything less than self-determination.

Chavan said the government was determined to restart the political process in Kashmir which has been under New Delhi's direct rule since January 1990 when a National Conference administration resigned "If we are determined, there can be a way to reach a solution. We have to find that way together," Chavan concluded.

Meanwhile, Indian troops killed a high-ranking rebel leader and six others in violence linked to the secessionist drive in the state. Troops killed Omar Hayat Qureshi in a gun battle in downtown Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and said the slain rebel was the chief of the Ikhwan-al-Muslimeen (Islamic Brotherhood) secessionist faction. Kashmir police chief B. S. Bedi said Qureshi's death was a "serious blow" to the Muslimeen, "which is the strongest secessionist force."

2,500 PKK Rebels Surrender in Iraq

At least 2,500 Turkish Kurd guerillas have surrendered to Iraqi Kurds trying to winkle them out of their bases in northern Iraq and fighting is nearly over, a senior Iraqi Kurdish leader said last week. Meanwhile, an armoured Turkish column thrust deeper into mountains northeast of the Iraqi border town of Zakho, apparently aiming to prevent Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighters from escaping.

About 20 tanks and dozens of armoured carriers clanked uphill as the first rains of autumn winter which will soon make military operations difficult, if not impossible.

"In this area more than 500 PKK men have surrendered in the past 72 hours." Fadhel Merani, Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) chief in Dahuk province, said.

"I heard that about 2,000 surrendered in the Hakurk valley in the east," he added.

"The fighting is coming to an end after the PKK signed an agreement with the local (Iraqi Kurdish) government (not to launch attacks from its territory)," he said.

The Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces have been fighting for more than a month to compel the PKK to quit the mountainous frontier region they had used to launch attacks inside Turkey.

Turkish troops backed by planes and helicopters crossed into northern Iraq in mid-October and about 80 tanks and armoured carriers moved in along the main road through Zakho early this month.

Merani dismissed as propaganda a Turkish statement on Thursday (November 5th) that 1,800 PKK fighters had been killed for the loss of 23 soldiers. The Turkish army said 2,700 guerillas were wounded, captured or surrounded without hope of escape and 2,500 were still fighting.

Merani put PKK losses in the western sector at 250 to 300 killed, about twice the number of wounded and 63 captured. He said the Peshmerga had lost about 60 dead and 200 wounded.

The Iraqi government has been keeping a low profile in the inter-Kurdish fighting and in the Turkish on-slaught on PKK strongholds in south-eastern Turkey as well as northern Iraq. It is, according to observers, biding its time as this is not one of its pressing issues at the moment.

New Light on South African Secret Force

A fresh probe into the 1989 slaying of a white activist has shed light on some of the darkest accusations against the South African security forces.

The judicial inquest at the Johannesburg Supreme Court began last month with the limited task of gathering evidence in the unsolved murder of David Webster, a university professor and anti-apartheid campaigner fatally shot outside his Johannesburg home.

But the wide-ranging testimony has included claims of multiple killings and terror campaigns by the Civil Co-operation Bureau, a covert military unit that appeared to have no accountability, not even to the defence minister.

The incidents occurred in the late 1980s when black groups such as the African National Congress were banned and carried out a bombing campaign against the white government.

The government responded with harsh security measures, and counterrevolutionary tactics by the Civil Co-operation Bureau.

"Of all the... government's creations, the absurdly named Civil Co-operation Bureau must be the most grotesque," the moderate Business Day newspaper said in an editorial on Friday (November 6th).

"Although it was supposed to have been disbanded... in 1990, its former officials continue to defy authority and parade their deceptions with perverse pride," the newspaper added. The ANC and other black groups have long accused the government of terrorizing the anti-apartheid movement and killing black activists.

Previous judicial probes into the CCB and the security forces found wrongdoing, but never prosecuted any high-level police or military officials.

President F. W. de Klerk promised to end covert operations last year. But on Thursday he signed a law allowing him to grant amnesty in secret to people who committed politically motivated crimes, including members of the security forces.

Opponents said the amnesty would allow the government to avoid damaging revelations in trials.

South Korean Liberalization

South Korea will stay on the course of gradual financial market liberalization, but it has much to learn from the experiences of Latin America, Germany and other countries, officials and experts agree.

Finance Minister Rhee Yongman told an international seminar which ended on Saturday (November 7th) that Seoul planned to "liberalize and open up Korea's financial industry to the level of developed countries in the very near future."

"However, as the experience of some Latin American countries shows, hasty liberalization could invite undesired sideeffects and destabilize the economy," he warned.

Park Yung-Chul of Korea University, which sponsored the two-day seminar drawing some 30 foreign and South Korean economists, agreed, pointing to the hyperinflation in some Latin American countries in the 1970s and 1980s.

"An increased capital inflow would produce a higher growth at the cost of higher inflation and current account deterioration with real appreciation of the domestic currency," he said. James Hanson of the World Bank argued that capital account liberalization provided greater access to foreign financing for domestic investment and allowed individuals to diversify their holdings. But he warned that bank failures and capital flight might be the consequences of liberalization carried out without "reasonable fiscal balance and a sound domestic financial system."

South Korea announced last year a four-stage interest rate deregulation plan, followed by the announcement in March, 1992, of a three-stage financial deregulation and market opening plan to be completed by 1996. The stock exchange was opened last January to partial foreign investments, drawing in \$1.7 billion of foreign capital.

The financial market opening plan has already introduced Korean currency funding for foreign banks and internationalization of the South Korean won.

The third phase of the plan, presently under study, will include liberalization of capital transactions, bond market opening and other measures.

EC Moves to Avert Trade War with US

European Community External Affairs Commissioner Frans Andriessen said last week he was optimistic that talks with the US will reopen soon to avoid a damaging trade war. He spoke after an informal meeting of EC trade ministers who recommended a swift resumption of the talks to end the deadlock which is holding up agreement on the Uruguay round of world trade talks, held under the General Agreement in Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

If that approach failed, they said a summit should take place between US President George Bush, EC Commission President Jacques Delors and British Prime Minister John Major. "I remain optimistic because the differences in views, although substantial, could be bridged," said Andriessen. He added that "neither the Community nor the United States is entitled to make a failure of trade talks."

Conflict between the world's two leading trade powers to forge an agreement, which Major-current holder of the EC's rotating presidency--has said would add \$200 billion to world trade, could tip the world economy into depression.

EC-US talks collapsed in Chicago on Tuesday (3rd November) after failure to settle their dispute over subsidized oilseed production--the final obstacle to a global deal in the Uruguay Round talks to liberalize world trade.

Washington swiftly announced it would impose 200% duties on \$300 million worth of EC white wines and farm goods in one month's time. Pressed on whether the EC Commission had drawn up a retaliatory list of US goods in answer to Washington's threat of sanctions, Andriessen said, "Not as yet."

"What we should do is to try and find a solution within this period and possibly prepare our response to such a measure," German Economics Minister Jergen Moelleman said.

US trade representative Carla Hills said the US was ready to return to the negotiating table. US Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said the two sides were far from a fair deal.

Fear of Future Afflicts Groups in Serbia

In the Queen of Greece cafe in central Belgrade, Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, has no supporters. The eulogies in the media to Serbian military successes in Bosnia and to Mr. Milosevic's policies find no echo. If these people were a straw Poll, then the president could be out of a job after the elections in December.

The pensioners, students, house wives, businessmen and Bosnian refugees who drank their morning espresso there, listening to a blind man playing depressing melodies on an electronic organ, were uninterested in the tally of Bosnian towns which the Serbs have recently captured. And they were sceptical of the state media's favorite theme: that the growing poverty of Serbs stems from an international plot against their country. But defeatism and despair about the future were pervasive, and they work against Serbia's disunited opposition parties.

No one admitted to supporting Mr. Milosevic, but no one expected him to be removed from office either. "People have been brainwashed," said Vesna Grubacic, a public relations officer for Serbia's biggest export company, Genex, who was recently made redundant. "They say the world is against Serbia and we must sacrifice again, as we did in our epic history." Vesna expected no positive change from the elections, because "people like me" were already leaving. "I am the result of a mixed marriage and I feel I no longer have a country. I always felt Yugoslav, not Serb. Five families I know have emigrated to Canada in the last 18 months. They were all in their thirties, and all professional. There is no future for us here. We are leaving and they (she pointed at a family who looked as if they were Bosnian refugees) are pouring in. The whole social structure of Belgrade is changing."

Rade Bogosavljevic, 36, the boss of a small private trading company, backed Mr. Milosevic when he rose to power in 1987. Now he rues his choice. "Milosevic talked like an anti-Communist, but now we see the people he surrounds himself with, it was

obviously all a lie. The main problem is to get rid of the international blockade and Milosevic can't do it. It has ruined me.

I can't import anything. My standard of living has gone down 300 per cent this year." He believes most Serbs now prefer the pacific businesslike style of the Yugoslav Prime Minister, Milan Panic. But Rade was convinced that Mr. Milosevic would retain control of Serbia, nevertheless. "People are frightened about the future, and most of them will not even vote. Serbs expect things to be solved at the top. They like Panic because they want a peaceful policy, and I am for that as well. we are ready to forgive everyone, even the Croats. In spite of their crimes."

The last 18 months of war have ground the economy nearly to a halt. Sanctions have made life difficult for everyone except the war profiteers. But despite a drastic drop in living standards, there is no sign of violent unrest, as in Romania.

Peruvian Rebels Go on a Rampage

Shining Path rebels gunned down the third-most important officer within Peru's antiterrorism unit and later dynamited banks and the offices of state utility companies, officials said.

Col. Manuel Tumba was the third member of Dincote police force attacked and the second to die since the September 12th capture of rebel leader Abimael Guzman, a Dincote Spokesman said. Tumba was Dincote's chief of administration, the spokesman said. He denied earlier military statements that Tumba led Dincote's Elite Delta Group, a unit trained for special anti-subversive operations.

Late on Thursday, rebels dynamited the offices of the state water, telephone and electricity companies and four banks in the capital, shattering windows, a bomb squad spokesman said. No casualties were reported.

Guzman was captured by the Dincote force and sentenced to life without parole by a military tribunal. Guzman's rebel group, the Shining Path, has vowed revenge for his arrest.

The Shining Path has killed ranking military officers in the past, but this was the first time they assassinated a top Dincote official. Those in Dincote closely guard their identities to prevent the rebels from tracking them. Guzman's arrest was a coup, but Peru's troubles are still far from over.

TAIZ CONFERENCE SET FOR EARLY DECEMBER

"The First Popular Conference of Taiz Governorate will be held to remedy rapidly deteriorating conditions in the living standard of the people, the prevalence of corruption, and the lack of basic services in Taiz governorate," said Mansoor Ahmed Saif. He also explained that



the conference is propelled by the helplessness that the citizens of Taiz feel in the face of institutional blocks (read, tribal) in the country. Mr. Saif added that the citizens of Taiz, although at the head of the list of educated Yemenis, are often marginalized in distribution of senior government posts because they have no block to fall back on. "Even those senior officials of Taiz who attain high positions, they do so courtesy of their less qualified patrons," he said. The people of Taiz had earlier planned for an all-out strike to take place on 17th July, 1992, President Saleh's coronation day. It was a message to our rulers. The strike was cancelled in the last minute because of 'promises' by the president to make changes, one of them being changing the governor. "We also plan to

send a message to the political parties which are grid-locked in Sanaa and which revolve around a few individuals. We want them to know that we are not happy with the way they are evolving," he said. Mr. Mansoor Ahmed Saif, Member of the House of Representatives and one of the Conference's organizers concluded that another message of the conference is to "tell the citizens of Taiz not to be afraid of the rulers any more. We want to tell our people to stand up to their rights." Another organizer of the conference, Ahmed Mohammed Ali Othman, stated that one of the

major demands of the conference will be to introduce local government and to free local financial and administrative affairs from central control. "We suffer greatly from a destructive over-centralization," he said. "The people of Taiz have been at the forefront of those who have sacrificed for the revolution. We have fought and died for it; financed it. And yet, we are marginalized in spite of our role and contributions." "We want a country based on law and order, a modern state that is fair to all its citizens," he said. The First Popular Conference of Taiz Governorate, is expected to be held during early December. Its motto is "To Bring Popular Efforts to Bear in Order to Create a Modern Yemen Governed by Justice, Equality and Democracy."



Yemen and Saudi Arabia Kick Off to a Good Start on Border Talks

"We have hit it off well," said Jaffer Saeed Basaleh, Head of the Yemeni negotiating team in the Yemeni-Saudi border talks.

The Yemeni side has turned in a proposal that will regulate the negotiation process. "This is designed to help raise the level of trust and confidence between the two sides. We have proposed a legal cover for our talks that will guarantee a 'non-prejudice' status to both sides," added Basaleh, who is also the Vice Director of the Bureau of the Presidential Council as well as Member of the House of Representatives. What a non-prejudice status means is that if during the negotiations, either side accepts to make certain concessions in terms of their positions, such concessions are not binding or final unless the whole deal is successfully concluded.

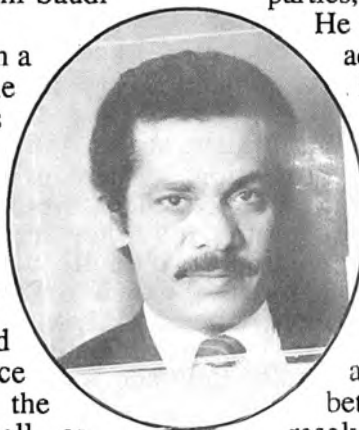
"Our position is that we are willing to

reach with our brothers in Saudi Arabia an agreement that will satisfy both parties," the Yemeni official stated.

He said that Yemen is ready to address the whole border issue in its entirety between the two countries. He then pointed to the Yemeni-Omani border agreement, in which he had personally participated, and described it as a model which could be replicated.

"The Yemenis and Saudis are brothers, and any issues between them should be resolved in this spirit of fraternity and cordiality," he said.

It is to be noted that the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have had two official rounds of talks and several undeclared rounds of consultations. According to Basaleh, both sides have shown extreme interest in the completion of the negotiations successfully.



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WITH HAPPINESS, THE AL-QUAITI FAMILY DID RECEIVE A NEW BABY GIRL "DUA'A". ON THIS VERY HAPPY OCCASION, WE PRESENT OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO WADEE ABDUL-AZIZ, AL-QUAITI AND WIFE, AND WE WISH BABY "DUA'A" A HAPPY LIFE.

The Well-Wishers:
Khaled Al-Quaiti and wife, Jamal Al-Quaiti, Jamal Al-Naqib and wife, Zaky Bin Shaiban, Dr. Nabhan and Family, Talal Al-Quaiti, Sanad Alkaf, Ahmed Al-Khader.

IDEAS ON 1992 MAN OF THE YEAR?

We are now reviewing the persons thought to qualify for Yemen Times Man of the Year: 1992. The conditions are primarily personal/professional success coupled with tangible services to the community. The 1991 Man of the Year was Dr. Tareq Abu Luhum, the famous pediatrician and Chairman of the Charitable Society for Social Welfare. If you have ideas as to who should be considered, please let Yemen Times know before mid-December.