





YEMEN TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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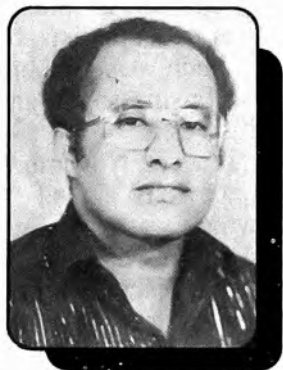
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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen.

PERSONAL VIEW

"Deeds, Not Words!"



Wahbi M. Uqba,  
Ex-Executive Member,  
Local People's Council, Aden

Literally, Yemen was robbed of its basic human rights during the rule of the notorious trio - the Imamate, the British, and totalitarian regimes.

Now, with the bounty of unity, it has become theoretically a nascent democratic country that tolerates rival parties and policies. Yet, ironically, it has turned into a mad house! Everything is in a complete mess and in total disorder.

Cynically, everyone including the rulers are condemning the present rapid deterioration in all aspects of life. Security has become a mockery. His Majesty the supreme US dollar is inflicting fatal blows to the Yemeni Riyal, thus leading to soaring inflation rates. Services in health, education, electricity, sewerage, etc., have deteriorated to catastrophic levels. Corruption is frolicking everywhere. The black market, smuggling, drugs, vandalism, and open stealing of public funds have all become the norm.

Now everyone is moaning and cursing. As a citizen, I demand that the two ALIs forget their differences and bring in the people and other parties to help in running the country. This can only be achieved by the urgent formation of a transitional independent government with a fixed task; i.e., to organize free elections for parliament as well as the local councils, including the post of governors.

In my opinion, there must a decentralization process leading to unlimited authority for the local councils in all affairs, except foreign, military and judiciary affairs. We have to insist on stopping the interference of the central authorities in the local affairs of each region.

Yemen Times Spearheads Study on Children

The Yemen Times has embarked on a comprehensive study on the status of Yemeni children. The major themes of the study include the following:

- 1- Children, Age Structure and Population,
- 2- The Socio-Culture and Children's Life,
- 3- The Health Status of Yemeni Children,
- 4- Educational Opportunities of Children,
- 5- Legal Aspects of Yemeni Child Rights,
- 6- Working and Street Children,
- 7- The Female Child,
- 8- Handicapped Children.

The first preparatory meeting was held on Wednesday, November 18th, and was attended by representatives from Radda Barnen, UNICEF and US AID, as well as experts from the Ministries of Information and Education.

The objective of the study is to produce a document that is comprehensive in addressing issues concerning children. Most of the government's programs as well as those of donors do not target children, specially not the ones between the ages of 5-18 years. At the same time, most of the new problems of the country, such as juvenile crimes, street children, theft, etc., involve precisely children between the ages 5-18 years. Another objective is to raise awareness on the direct needs of children. This translates into urging the government to establish a body that will be devoted exclusively to children's affairs. Next meeting is scheduled for 26/11/1992.

KODEL Snatches Block 6

According to a memorandum of understanding, Malaysia's Kodel has been granted the Block 6 (Iryam) concession. The 3,224 square kms. block was reclaimed from Strake and partners on March 1st, 1992, for failure to live up to its contractual obligations. Block 6 is located northeast of the Jannah and Safer blocks in which oil has been found in commercial quantities.

Souq Al-Halaqah on Fire

A major portion of the market area of the old souq of Sanaa caught fire last Friday, November 20th. According to witnesses, the whole thing was started by a cigarette stub thrown away by a careless smoker. No lives were lost, but material damage was estimated by a government-formed committee at YR 37 million.

The fire brigades arrived at the fire site some six hours late and only after the people have put out the fire. Reasons for delay, late reporting of the incident, the brigade was not on stand-by, and the roads leading to the fire location was closed off.

SUMAA-1 Brings 3302 New Somali Refugees

The SUMAA-1 has docked at Aden harbor and the 3302 passengers disembarked. They joined previous Somali refugees already stationed at the Abyan Camp, a few kilometers east of Aden city.

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# YEMENIA: A New Management, A New Image

Following the death of Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haimi, may God's peace be upon him, Yemen Airways (Yemenia) got a new chairman. It is Mr. Ahmed Kaid Barakat. Mr. Barakat, 58, is well respected as a strong and energetic administrator. He exerts considerable influence in government, the business community, and internationally.

Barakat, born in Sanaa, concluded his education at the University of Birmingham (Bachelor of Science), followed by a higher diploma from the Imperial College in 1959 in London.

He had held many positions in government including Minister of Foreign Affairs (1969-70), Head of the General Elections Commission (1970-71), Minister of Information and Culture (1971), Ambassador to Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria (1972), Head of the YAR Mission to the EEC (1972-77), Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and Member of the People's Constituent Assembly (Parliament) (1978-80), Ambassador to Japan (1981-83), Minister of Economy and Industry (1983-86), and Vice Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources and Chairman of YOMINCO (1990-92).

For the period during 1987-1990, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Bank of Yemen. On the occasion of his taking over as Chairman of Yemenia, Yemen Times Economic Editor Ameen Nouisser went to speak to him about his plans for the company.

Excerpts of the interview:

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

**A:** Let me start by saying that the company is in good shape; and all it needs are some improvements in management and better handling of relations within the company and with its customers and the government.

Let me point out that the company has a good team of well-trained personnel in technical, administrative



and commercial fields. The company has a good image, which although needs polishing, is still good.

We plan to build on these assets.

I am sure there is a lot of work to be done, but there is something to start with.

**Q: But the company does face serious problems?**

**A:** Of course, it does. As part of Yemen, Yemen Airways interacts with the changes and developments. We have been hurt by the Gulf Crisis, following which we lost many lucrative routes, and we lost a substantial portion of our market.

The transitional period and the process of reunification of the various institutions and companies have put many things on hold as people are waiting to see which direction decisions will go.

There is in addition to the economic hardships of Yemen which limit our own growth potential.

**Q: What are your priorities at the moment?**

**A:** With a good team of administrators and technicians supporting me, we are doing a thorough review. At the administrative level, we are moving to put the right person at the right position. At the technical level, we are improving maintenance,

spare parts, services, etc. Our spare parts inventory were low, and we moved immediately to boost them. We have taken a major decision to boost the company's image.

Customer service and punctual operations are high on our agenda. I have moved to stop any external meddling in Yemenia affairs, from whatever source. This stopped a drain on our resources.

Public relations are important, and again I come back to the image issue. We are selling a service, and our image is the biggest asset.

**Q: What is the most difficult problem you are facing now?**

**A:** There is a feeling of helplessness and frustration that we are facing. This leads to lack of motivation among our employees. There is also a leadership

gap at the middle and lower levels, a quality badly needed to push people to produce their maximum. We are working very hard on both fronts. At the same time, we are moving to punish any person who does not perform his/her work properly.

I think if we succeed in these efforts, we will transform the company in a short time.

**Q: Relations with your Saudi partner and Alyemda?**

**A:** You know that Saudi Arabia owns 49% of our shares. There is at the moment a full evaluation of the company's assets to dissolve the partnership. This was a prerequisite for unifying Yemenia and Alyemda.

We are waiting for the completion of this process in the coming months.

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## "BEWARE OF THE COMPUTER VIRUS"

Hassan Al-Saqqaf

A very simple definition of a computer virus is "a program that modifies other programs by placing a copy of itself inside them."

This definition is somewhat over-simplified, but the important thing is the possibility for viruses to replicate themselves.

Viruses may contain a "time-bomb", intended to destroy programs or data on a specific date or when some condition has been met.

A time bomb is often designed to be harmful, like reformatting the hard disk. Sometimes it is relatively harmless, perhaps slowing the computer down every Friday or making a ball bounce around the screen. However, there is really no such thing as a harmless virus. Even if a virus has been intended to cause no damage, it may do so in certain cases, often due to the incompetence of the virus writer. A virus may be modified, either by the original author or someone else so that a more harmful version of it appears. It is also possible that the modification produces a less harmful virus, but that has only rarely happened. The damage caused by a virus may delete data or programs or even reformat the hard disk, but more subtle damage is also possible. Some viruses may modify data or introduce typing errors into text. Other viruses may have no effects other than just replicating.

Two different groups of viruses occur on PCs, boot sector viruses (BSV) and program viruses.

In general, viruses are rather unusual programs, rather simple but written just like any other program. It does not take a genius to write one - any average assembly language programmer can easily do it. Fortunately, few of them do. Now to correct some common misconceptions, here are a few bits of information about what viruses cannot do.

-A virus cannot spread from one type of computer to another. For example, a virus designed to infect macintosh computers cannot infect PCs and vice versa.



- A virus cannot appear all by itself, it has to be written, just like any other program.

- Not all viruses are harmful; some may only cause minor damage as a side effect.

- A virus cannot infect a computer unless it is booted from an infected diskette or an infected program is run on it. Reading data from an infected diskette cannot cause an infection.

- A write-protected diskette cannot become infected.

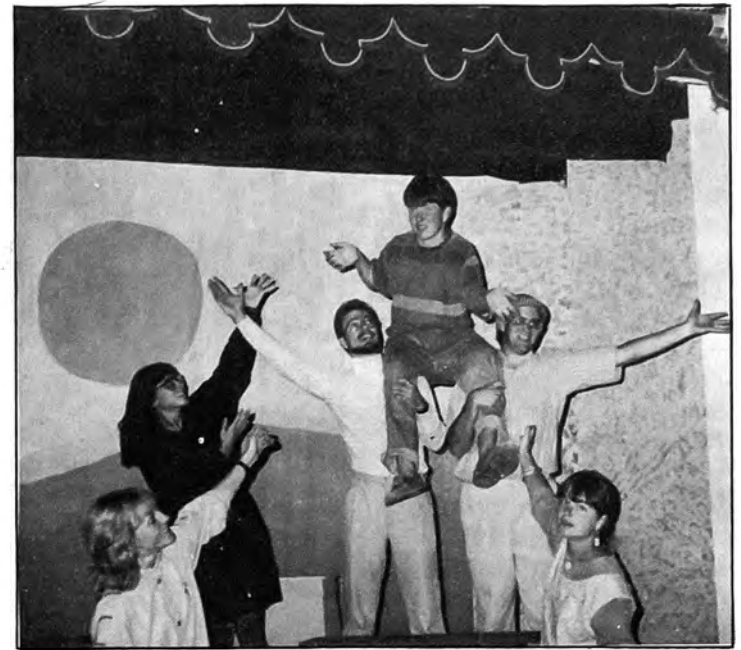
- There is no way a virus can attach itself to data files, so viruses cannot be distributed on data diskettes.

## SAMS Presents "Charlie Brown" at the Hunt Theater

The Sana'a Amateur Mini-Theatrical Society (SAMS) presents its winter show the first weekend in December. SAMS has been providing the Sana'a English-speaking community with entertainment for about ten years. Penny Marshall can trace the society's offerings back five years. Productions have ranged from Christmas pantomimes to dinner theater to Gilbert and Sullivan. The society depends on volunteers for all its endeavors. Mrs. Marshall especially expressed the Society's gratitude to Yemen Hunt Oil Company for the use of their theater facilities.

This December's production marks a departure from the usual pantomime. SAMS is sponsoring a production of the musical-comedy, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, based on an American comic strip created by Charles Schulz. The play follows a day in the lives of a group of children, most especially the title character, Charlie Brown. The play was first produced off-Broadway in New York City in 1967.

The Sana'a production



brings together a company of talented actors and actresses from different spheres of the English-speaking community. Cast members include Lindsay Coleman as Charlie Brown, Sveta Kouznetsova as his little sister, Sally; Martin Cronin as his faithful dog Snoopy; Lisa Ciardulli as his arch-rival Lucy Van Pelt; Craig White as her philosophical, blanket-wielding little brother Linus; Doug Anke as the Beethoven-loving Schroeder; Kristi Klovovich as the tomboy

Patti; and Zelda White as the sidekick Frieda.

Directing the play is Jeanna Stroble, and set-design is by Nicholas Linfield.

Four performances will take place at the Yemen Hunt Theatre above the City End Supermarket on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 2nd (8:00 pm), 3rd (3:00 and 8:00 pm), and 4th, (3:00) respectively.

For ticket/information, call Production Manager Joyce Davidson at 203847.

## The Property Centre

Sana'a: Hadda Street, P.O. Box (2) - Tel. 215714, Fax. 245301  
Aden: Malla Street, P.O. Box ( ) - Tel. 42128, Fax ( )



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**TEXT OF THE YEMENI-OMANI  
BORDER AGREEMENT, Part C**

**Annex No. 2  
Regulating Grazing,  
Transportation and  
Water Use  
at Border Zone**

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):**

The border grazing pasturelands are specified as 25 kilometers on each side of the borderline separating the two countries according to this annex.

**Article (2):**

The citizens of the two countries who live near the border or adjacent region have the right to use the pasturelands and water resources stipulated under article (1) above, according to tribal systems prevalent in the region.

**Article (3):**

The border authorities specify each year the grazing scope and points of herd crossings based on consultations and the needs of the shepherds.

**Article (4):**

Without prejudice to the stipulation of article (2) above, the citizens of the two countries who are permitted by the relevant border authorities to border cross are exempted from:

a- immigration, residence, travel laws and regulations. Citizens are issued permits by the border authorities of their country for purposes of crossing the border.

b- taxes and customs duty on their personal belongings, tents, herds, household goods, food, etc, unless such items are intended for commercial purposes.

**Article (5):**

Each country reserves the right to determine the number of vehicles which the shepherds of the border zone may bring into their country. Each country also determines the quantity and kinds of firearms which the border shepherds are to be authorized to carry according to permits issued by the relevant authorities in each country, and which specify the kinds of arms and the persons authorized to carry them. If the arms they carry are beyond the quantity limits authorized, they shall leave them at the border entry point and reclaim them on their return journey.

**Article (6):**

In case of an epidemic or any other contagious disease, both countries have the right to take the necessary precautionary measures, including the cessation of import/export, activity. The authorities in both countries shall cooperate towards this end.

**Article (7):**

The citizens of the border zone have the right to the medical services offered in the zone of the other country. They also have the right to purchase supplies within the zone. For emergency cases, they may be taken by the border authorities to the nearest medical facility, in case such facility is not available in the border zone.

**Article (8):**

This annex is valid for five years from the date the agreement runs into effect, and is automatically renewed thereafter, unless either side notifies the other, through diplomatic channels, within 6 months before the expiry date, asking for amendments thereof.

**Article (9):**

This annex shall go into effect once it is ratified by the two governments. Signed in Sanaa on 1/10/1992.

**Warm Welcome to  
Indonesian Embassy  
in Sanaa**

The government of the Republic of Indonesia has formally opened its Embassy in Sana'a, on November 16, 1992. Previously, Indonesia had accredited its Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to the Government of Republic of Yemen.

The designated Ambassador of Indonesia to the Republic of Yemen, H. E. Mr. Ahmad Noor, is expected to arrive in Sana'a next month (in December). In the meantime, the officer who heads the embassy as Charge d'Affaires is Mr. Budiarmah Bahar, Second Secretary.

The other officers at the Embassy include:

- Mr. Chairul S. Natadisastra, Second Secretary - Economic Affairs;
- Mr. Tumpal Martua Hutasubut, Second Secretary - Information and Cultural Affairs;
- Mr. Djoko Sjarifjono, Second Secretary - Administrative Affairs;
- Mr. Eko Indiarjo Redjeki, Third Secretary - Protocol and Consular Affairs.

The Indonesian embassy has already started building contacts with Yemeni government officials, the diplomatic corps and the local community. The address of the chancery and the working hours are:

Location: House No. 15, Street No.16, Hadda Area.  
Address: P. O. Box 19873,  
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen.  
Telephone: 217388  
Working Hours: Saturday - Thursday: 8.30 - 15.30

**DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY**

**EMBASSIES & CONSULATES**

**SANA'A**

Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	209688/89
Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/40/41
Cuba	217304
Czechoslovakia	247946
Djibouti	265469
Egypt	275948/9
Ethiopia	208833
France	275995
Germany	216756/757
Hungary	216679
India	241980
Iran	206945/948
Iraq	216681/790
Italy	73409/78849
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	216701
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	217306/348
Poland	248362

Qatar	217488
Romania	215579
Russian F.R	78272/203142
Saudia Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2
Syria	247750
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395
U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	216998
Danish Trade Office	248138
Greek Hon Consulate	272218
Swedish Consulate	207595

**ADEN**

Czechoslovakia	32101
China	32604/30
Ethiopia (Commercial)	31335
France	32129/090
Germany	32162/011
India	33131
Iran	31893/361
Italy	31848
Japan	32081/33282
Palestine	32717/340
Russian F.R.	32729/32625
Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
Somalia	41421/101
U.K.	32711/12/13

**AIRLINES**

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Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda (HO Aden)	31339
Alyemda (Sanaa)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272435
British Airways	272247
Cathay Pacific	272436
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Lufthansa	272583/
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/
	275028
Sabena	205865
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel	275028-30

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Airport	250868/831

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Movenpick	32911
Gold Mohur	32471
<b>Hodeidah (03)</b>	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
<b>Taiz (04)</b>	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
<b>Marib (063)</b>	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
<b>Sadah (051)</b>	
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Athawrah Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
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YBRD	271623/4
National Bank	53753
Banque Indosuez	272801/3
Arab Bank	240921 -29
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
<b>Government Offices:</b>	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Inter-city Bus Co	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Tourism Ministry	271970/2
<b>Insurance Companies:</b>	
United Insurance	272890/91
Y.I. & Re-Insurance	73311
Marib Insurance	206112/14



**IN CASE OF WINNING  
THE ELECTIONS?**

Samia Al-Ahamdi, the daughter of the first minister of information after the 26th September Revolution in 1962, is one of the symbols in our society. She is one of a few female candidates in the coming parliamentary elections, which aroused widespread interest in our society. Here are excerpts of our interview with her.

**Q:** We have heard that you intend to run in the coming parliamentary elections. Would you confirm that?

**A:** Yes, it is true and I intend to contest in the Radaa region. I am an independent candidate, affiliating only to the Yemeni masses.

**Q:** Do you think it is too early for such a proclamation?

**A:** I want to clarify that my early announcement (of my candidacy) expresses my conviction of the necessity to break this grip of fear, frustration and hesitation in the female medium and also to encourage other women who are ready and have a desire to run in the elections.

I believe that the country which gave birth to the queens such as Bilqis and Arwa in the past will not be short of producing other "queens" in the future.

**Q:** Are you sure that you stand a good chance?

**A:** I am sure of that, and the ordinary citizen, guided by the same good morals and spiritual values, will say "Yes" to Samia Al-Ahmadi, the daughter of the man who sacrificed himself for this homeland.

**Q:** In case you win parliamentary membership, what are your plans and ambitions, as a Yemeni female, first, and as a human being, second?

**A:** Really, my ambitions have no limits. If I win a parliamentary seat, there is no way anyone can prevent me from nominating myself for the presidential council of the Republic of Yemen. This is a constitutional right for each citizen without discrimination.

**Q:** From now and until the election date, how do you see your life affected?

**A:** It is not an exaggeration that my dream is to work for the service of my country effectively. Up to the date of the elections, I will remain a prisoner of my contemplations in achieving this noble ambition. My life will be re-oriented towards this objective.

**Al-Hadath, Sanaa,  
16/11/1992.**

**NATIONAL UNITY IS  
INEVITABLE WITHIN  
OUR ARMED FORCES**

There is no alternative for our armed forces but full loyalty to the homeland and its unity taking into account that the armed forces of the 26th September Revolution and 14th October Revolution did

not have amassing wealth their first priority. The real tasks of our armed forces are:

1. Consolidating the patriotic, national, human conscious in each individual and eliminating illiteracy through a program for among the soldiers.

2. The formation of cultural libraries in each unit availing the soldiers and officers the chance to enrich themselves and raise their standards through self-education.

3. Giving soldiers the opportunity to continue qualifying themselves through education by correspondence or through enrollment in schools near the cities of their location.

4. Arranging literary/cultural games and matches among the armed forces as part of activity enriching the cultural knowledge.

5. Starting links and contact among the various units of the armed forces in order to allow a unified march forward.

6. The organization of athletic matches among the different units of the armed forces so as to create an understanding among them.

7. Taking the initiative in implementing service projects for the people in the villages/cities such as building schools, medical centres, water supply systems, etc., thus strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the people.

8. To combat the irresponsible behavior of some members of the armed forces. It is necessary to expose those who violate the law and to apply the utmost punishment against practices which harm the image of the armed forces.

In addition, it is necessary to promote among individuals in each military site the spirit of integrity, honest, loyalty and unity.

**By: Abdullah Abdul-Aleem,  
Al-Rayah, Sanaa,  
17/11/1992.**

**WHO HAS THE RIGHT  
FOR CANDIDACY?**

It is something good and fantastic to enable our people to run for parliament. But, those who can run must be proficient, patient, trustworthy, responsible, patriotic and thoughtful, and should aim at achieving prosperity for society at large, taking into account the prophet's saying: Al Ishepherds are responsible for all the flock (citizens).

It is to be noted that the voters should be on the alert and keen on giving their votes to the right candidate. Let me point out here that there will come people who will ask the voters to cast their votes in favor of this or that candidate - often a person with a high social position, a wealthy businessman, or he an affiliate of this or that political party.

There must be an open and free competition among the candidates for reaching the parliament for the

sake of serving the nation and people, not their own interests.

Therefore each voter should express his/her opinion freely and should know that his/her vote might tip the balance in the competition.

We have to note that the previous members of parliament (during the transitional period) have done very little. They simply consented to what was requested of them, and many of the members were absent most of the time, anyway.

Thus, we ask our citizens to be selective in casting their votes and not to grant their trust to those parasitic candidates.

Honestly speaking there are men in our society who are decent and honest, and who have the potential and are ready to work for our people, but they are not favored by the state.

With the approach of elections, we should elect the more patriotic among the candidates. Let us avoid sectarianism, favoritism, tribalism, and factionalism.

**By: Farouk's sister  
Al-Shura, Sanaa,  
19/11/1992.**

**YEMENI WOMAN  
AND THE ELECTIONS?**

It is evident that the Yemeni woman has a constitutional right to be present in the parliament in

accordance with her role in the society, and her number in the population.

The constitution has granted the right to women to exercise her role actively and positively to face all the impediments and challenges which could hinder her march in our country towards taking a real part in the democratic process, as affirmed by the laws. It is to be noted that article (5) of the Elections Law has stressed the necessity of taking all measures and procedures to encourage women to exercise their electoral rights.

Fortunately, there is a conscious female movement in our country demanding a comprehensive and integral political participation. Thus, the general conduct of women should run in accordance with this direction. It is a matter of breaking this siege of fear and awkward feeling when dealing/ competing with men, thus making women feel like prisoners from within.

Therefore, Yemen women should consider seriously running for parliament, and they must all register and vote in the elections. That is the only way we can create influential presence for ourselves.

**By: Marwah Al-Haidari,  
Al-Haq, Sanaa,  
15/11/1992.**

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

## Discrimination in Yemen

I am referring to Mr. abdu Salim's letter (issue No. 44) in which he tackled the issue of muwalladeen, foreign-born Yemenis and how they are mis-treated in Yemen. Abdu Salim mentioned that he lived in Somalia, also as a second-class citizen.

Let me say that life in Somalia for Yemenis born there was much better than it is here in supposedly their own country. In Somalia, the identity card, passport and all other rights of Somali citizens were given to them. Some of them even attained high posts in government like Baitani, Sharman, Abdale, Rajis, Amad A. Salah, etc. They owned the biggest commercial businesses of the country.

But after the Somali crisis, most of the Yemeni-born Somalis returned to Yemen, the land of their ancestors to find refuge in it.

**By:**  
**Saeed A. Mohammed Taiz.**

## The Need for Cooperation between Schools and Parents

Education is a continuous process that starts from birth and continues till death. So it is one's house where one begins life as a student. However, the school regulate and govern the impulses and guide the student through organized transfer of knowledge. Hence cooperation between home and school is highly required to enable children to best acquire the information needed to face the challenges of life. In developing countries, the home and school drift apart.

Most parents are of the view that it is only the teachers and schools that are responsible for education of their children. This is a misconception. The school does play a critical role in the process, but what happens at home is also vital for the academic, social, psychological and vocational growth and well-being of the children.

Here in Yemen most parents never bother whether their children are doing well or not, and some of them may not even know in which grade or at which level their children are. They do not take the trouble of checking their school work and their socio-disciplinary activities in the school.

Unfortunately, the parents do not play a constructive role in the proper up-bringing of their children such as to equip them with good conduct and behavior. I am not talking here of helping them in their school-work, just in the basic attitudes to life, work, others, etc. The following ideas should be ingrained in the minds of both the school staff and the parents.

- Parents should realize that they are as much responsible for the education of the children as the teachers are,

- Teachers should never fail to inform the parents of the activities of their children at school by arranging teacher-parents meetings whenever necessary,

- Parents should take interest in the academic and extra-curricular activities of their children, and should participate if they can.

All these call for our immediate attention for the welfare of our future generation. These steps will also help bring the generations closer together to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

**By:**  
**Hassan Sherif Ali Al-Asbahi, Sanaa.**

## Who Says: Unification = Corruption?

Far many years ago during the reign of the imamate, our people suffered from poverty, ignorance, isolation and oppression. Thus there were, from time to time, many actions towards building a new society based on equality, justice, peaceful co-existence, freedom of expression and good relations with others. For this purpose, thousands of martyrs offered their lives.

Now, we live in a revolutionary era which illuminated the dark life of the past period. We started to build our new society bearing in mind the difficulties and challenges that our country faces. Besides, protecting it from external aggression, we were simultaneously building it from within.

Then, we succeeded in peacefully unifying the two divided parts of Yemen into one state. This was coupled with a democratic system which employs political pluralism as the main mechanism in the political system. Yemen has thus become stronger than ever, and has the ability to play a larger role in the world.

All these historical stages, from the political point of view are marvellous, but from the social or individual point of view, we still hope and expect more than this. We thought that there will be peace, stability, prosperity and security. We also expected that after re-unification, there will be a new system and attitude in the way we handle our problems.

But, what a pity, there is no change, and the days proved the reverse of what we once hoped or expected. It is clear that old habits die hard.

Therefore, our people are suffering more and more from corruption, abuse of authority misuse of public money/property, outright robberies, killings and explosions. To put it bluntly, we don't feel secure any more. We are scared to death of all these bomb explosions and assassinations. Of course, this indicates that our security people do not fulfill its obligations (actually there is proof they are implicated), and I dare to say that these events remind us of those dark previous years.

The question is, is our government aware of the recent problems and difficulties that we face? Does it have a policy to handle such problems?

Then there are the economic problems such as the rising rate of inflation, the continued fall of our currency, the staggering unemployment, the foreign exchange deficit, the budgetary deficit, the bribes and corruption, etc. I am not saying that all these bad points are the result of the Revolution or the unification, but we as citizens, want our government to try to deal with these problems seriously and decently. Moreover, we want our officials to look after the country not just after themselves.

Therefore, there must be a new plan, policy or system in order to deal with these difficulties. We cannot continue with the old ways. There must be a supervisory authority in order to watch what the ministries and the officials are doing. There must be penalties enforced against those who abuse their authority or position.

Finally, there must be solutions for our mounting problems which are the main stumbling block in our development process. I hope that our government can acquire new approaches for recorrecting the old mistakes and try to attend to every problem in our society.

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

## My Visit to Yemen

I visited your beautiful country with its majestic and awe-inspiring scenery. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to the many friendly and helpful Yemeni people I had the pleasure of meeting. In duty-bound, I should like to thank Mr. Abdulkarim Alnashiri of Manakha who made my journey a most memorable experience.

While visiting the wide and open plains of the Tihama, the idyllic mountain villages and the cities with their unique architecture, I felt deeply ashamed about the disastrous consequences and the catastrophic effects of our Western technology upon this country. However, I don't believe that it is too late to remedy the calamities which have befallen Arabia Felix.

Therefore, with due respect to the integrity of those responsible, I would like to address myself first of all to his Eminence Sheikh Abdul Mageed al-Zindani with the request to intervene in the present ecological catastrophe. Your Eminence will undoubtedly agree that the manner in which Yemeni society disposes of its waste, refuse, scraps, etc., constitutes a clear and unquestionable manifestation of blasphemy. The Holy Quran has repeatedly spelled out God's wonderful acts of creation. This unique work of God is being

shamefully dishonored and disgraced by the irresponsible disposal of ecologically harmful waste. It would be a blessing, if Your Eminence would call upon the religious leaders of the Yemen to implement in the Friday sermons the Quranic teachings of God's creation. Practically speaking, it is imperative that at least the waste be gathered together to prevent it from being spread all over the country, thus disgracing God's beautiful creation.

Secondly, I would like to address myself to his Excellency Gen. Muhammad al-Jayify, Minister of Education. The disastrous ecological situation in Yemen calls for immediate action. I would wish that your Excellency instruct all school administrators, principals, teachers to set aside for the pupils/students at least one day each month to gather and collect the waste within the respective community and to organize its efficient disposal in such manner that no harm would be done to man and nature. It should be one of the paramount tasks of public education to instil in the minds of the citizens of the Yemen an awareness of the sacredness and inviolability of nature. To achieve this collective consciousness the schools must play an important role that will prevent the irresponsible manner in which people discard their refuse.

Special attention should be given to such ecologically harmful waste as plastic bags, plastic bottles and containers. Why could not "Hadda" or "Shamlan" natural mineral water offer their products in the same manner as "Canada Dry Cola"?

This alone would eliminate large quantities of plastic bottles which litter the urban, village and country sites. Ecologically disposable plastic bags which after being thrown away disgrace the environment.

Indeed, it is my sincere prayer that those responsible in the realm of religion, education and economy will feel themselves called upon to act in saving this beautiful land from internal devastation.

**By:**  
**Dr. Otto Meinardus, Stettiner Strabe. 11 D 2086 Ellerau, Germany.**

## Yemeni-Ethiopian Friendship Association

I was very pleased to read about preparations to form the Yemen Ethiopian Friendship Association. Relations between Yemen and Ethiopia date back to times immemorial and the bond between the two peoples is very strong. Also Amharic, Ethiopia's official language is, of course, of Himyaritic origin.

We eagerly await the association and the first issue of its publication.

**By:**  
**Yared Woldetridan (Ethiopian), Sana'a.**



**National Conference's Political Communique**

At a time when parliamentary elections were supposed to have taken place to move our country's regime to constitutional legality, the announcement issued by the Presidential Council on Saturday (14/11/1992) came as a disappointment to our people. It confirmed one more time that those in power insist on transcending the constitutional legitimacy, and to by-pass democracy using weak arguments. All in all, this recent step comes to express of a behaviour clinging to power in contradiction to all the authorities' claims being democratic.

Following long and in-depth discussions in a very responsible way and in light of the dictates of the national interest, and based on the resolutions of the National Conference, the Coordination and Follow-up Board of the National Conference decided to call for a general strike on Sunday, November 22nd, 1992.

This step, in addition to being an implementation of one of the National Conference resolutions, it also affirms:

1. The refusal of the Coordination and Follow-up Board of the National Conference of the interpretation of articles 43 and 88 of the constitution of the Republic of Yemen. To misinterpret the articles of the constitution so as to bestow legitimacy on the regime after 21/11/1992 is an exposed attempt at extending the transitional period.

2. There are no real guarantees that the elections will take place on the new date of 27/4/1993. To the contrary, the recent position of the rulers is that the transitional period is not time-framed, but that it comes to an end when its tasks are completed. These tasks are, of course, outlined in secret agreements between the two ruling parties, and about which the people know nothing. The thrust of this position is amply exemplified in the recent meetings of the PGC and YSP parliamentary blocs.

3. Those in power have constantly shown their irresponsibility towards the nation through their insistence in ignoring the ideas and proposals forwarded by various political forces and personalities which have presented the regime with various political solutions and legal options as to how to make the shift to constitutional legitimacy by ending the transitional period, and saving Yemen from its recurrent crises.

4. The extension of the transitional period, which the recent announcement stipulated means the continuation of the sufferings of the majority of our people and lower standard of living, persistent misuse of government resources, printing currency without control, and marked deterioration in the economic, political and security conditions of our nation for an indefinite time.

Therefore, the Coordination and Follow-up Board, in its efforts to take all measures to protect the national interest, urges all political parties, unions, associations, and public figures, as well as all our people, to go on a general strike on 22/11/1992. This strike is a legal instrument to be used to motivate the regime to move forward towards real democracy, and towards institution-building in a modern state.

The strike is not simply a symbol of popular discontent for the continuation of an illegal regime; it is a positive beginning for the involvement of the people in curbing the general deterioration in the country.

We shall continue to work for peaceful and democratic transformation through clean and honest elections.

**Yemeni-French Cooperation in Fish Projects**

"France has agreed to donate US\$2.5 million (FF.13 million) for up-grading and modernizing the Mukallah Fish Packing Plant," explained Salim Mohammed Jubran, Minister of Fish Resources. The Minister spoke in response to a Yemen Times question in a press conference held on Thursday, November 19th. He added that the project will allow the plant to triple its output to 35 million cans of fish. The Minister also disclosed that his ministry was pushing ahead with several joint venture projects (between the public and private sectors within Yemen, and between Yemen and other countries) which seek the exploitation of the country's marine wealth.

Speaking at the same press conference, French Minister for Marine Affairs, Charles Josselin, spoke of substantial possibilities for cooperation between the two countries in this field.

He said that several French companies were studying projects for cooperation in the fish industry, and that delegates will be arriving in Yemen for this purpose.



Commenting on the political evolution of Yemen, the French Minister praised the decision of Yemen to move towards democracy, and indicated that it would allow Yemen to play a bigger role in the world community.

He then strongly urged the Yemeni government to proceed in this path, and to provide an example for a Third World country that applies democratic values and pluralist political system.

At another level, the Yemeni government has signed a memorandum with the Government of Egypt covering bilateral cooperation in fishing and fish industries. According to the memorandum, Yemen has the option of leasing Egyptian fishing boats. The memorandum also calls for the establishment of a joint Yemeni-Egyptian company for fishing. Finally, it commits Egypt to train Yemeni personnel in this field.

The Ministry for Fish Resources had previously established several companies with the local private sector (as well as with immigrant Yemeni capital) which seek a better exploitation of the marine resources of the country. "We are pushing for a proper production without the excessive exploitation which has been noted in several countries," explained Mr. Jubran.



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## The Blue Helmets Go into **MORE** Action

There is no question that the Blue Helmets, the UN Security Forces, have gone into more action. Between 1945, when the UN was formed, and 1988, some 44 years later, the UN Security Council (UNSC) set up 13 peace-keeping operations world-wide. In the last four years (1988-92) alone, the UNSC has set up almost a similar number of operations. One wonders about the increased UN involvement, and the factors behind this rising military profile of an organ established to make "peace".

UN peace-keeping evolved as a technique for controlling dangerous regional conflicts from escalating. The idea is to resolve local conflicts before they involve the major powers, thus reducing the chances of direct confrontation among the super powers. Yet, if the larger countries are in good terms, the role of the UN peace-keeping forces could be twisted so as to serve their interests and ambitions; i.e. controlling the small countries. The UN peace-keeping operations are actually an innovation of the SC, and they are "not mentioned, let alone described" in the UN Charter. However, the first purpose of the UN stipulated in its Charter is "To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures

for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace." Concrete measures to be taken by the UN in this regard is vested on the SC, which is the principal organ with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, according to Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter.

The SC may start with non-military measures. Under article No. 41, the Council may impose complete or partial interruption of economic relations, communications and the severance of diplomatic representation. Should the SC consider such measures inadequate, under article No. 42, it may take "such action by air, sea, and land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security." For this purpose, all members of the UN undertake to make available to the SC, on its call the necessary armed forces, assistance and facilities.

In this arrangement, the five permanent SC members exercise disproportional power in world affairs.

### UN Peace-Keeping Operations:

1. United Nations Truce Supervision Organization: Since 1948.
2. United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan: Since 1949.
3. United Nations Emergency Force: 1956-67.
4. United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon: 1958.
5. United Nations Operations in the Congo: 1960-64.
6. United Nations Temporary Executive Authority and United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea (West Irian): 1962-64.
7. United Nations Yemen Observation Mission: 1963-64
8. United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus: Since 1964.
9. Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic: 1965-66.
10. United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission: 1965-66.
11. United Nations Emergency Force: 1973-79.
12. United Nations Disengagement Force: Since 1974.
13. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon: Since 1978.
14. United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan: 1988-90.
15. U N Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group: Since 1988.
16. United Nations Angola Verification Mission: Since 1989.
17. U N Transition Assistance Group in Namibia: 1989-90.
18. U N Observer Group in Central America: Since 1989.
19. United Nations Force in Iraq: Since 1991.
20. U N Observer Mission in the Sahara (Morocco): Since 1991.
21. U N Peace Keeping Force in Cambodia: Since 1991.
22. U N Peace Keeping Force in Croatia: Since 1991.
23. United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Somalia: Since 1992.
24. United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Bosnia: Since 1992.

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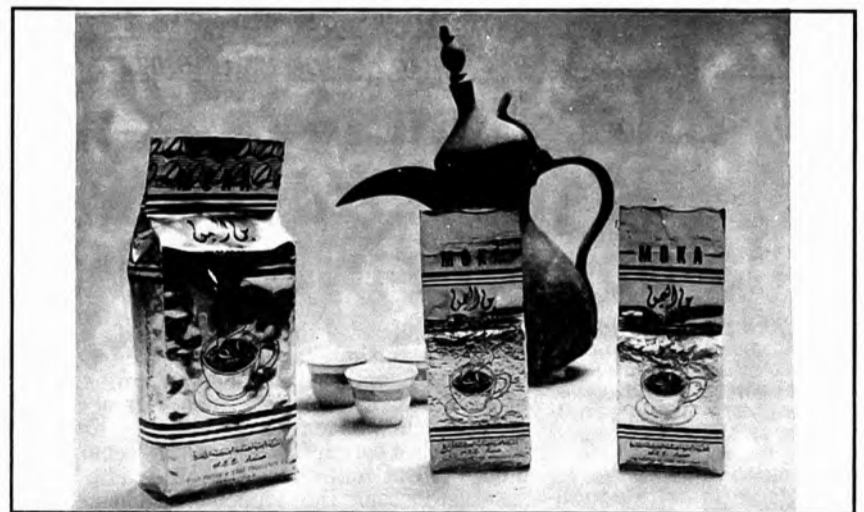
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# LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

A l'expiration de la période transitoire, dimanche 22 novembre

## Succès mitigé de l'appel de l'opposition à la grève générale

L'appel à la grève générale de vingt partis de l'opposition regroupés dans la Conférence nationale pour le dimanche 22 novembre, jour qui devait marquer la fin de la période transitoire instaurée lors de l'unification le 22 mai 1990, a recueilli un succès mitigé. Certes, le secteur public était largement en grève mais le mouvement dure depuis plusieurs jours, pour des raisons sociales. De l'aveu même de M. Omar al-Gaoui, secrétaire général du Rassemblement Unioniste Yéménite (RUY) leader de cette opposition, il est encore difficile de mobiliser les gens contre le régime soutenu par les cinq principaux partis yéménites, largement majoritaires, mais l'opposition doit "exploiter", selon lui, le mécontentement social grandissant.

Dimanche 22 novembre, toutes les boutiques de Sanaa ou presque étaient ouvertes et la foule dans les rues était la même qu'à l'habitude. Il n'y avait pas de renforcement visible des mesures de sécurité, à l'exception peut-être de la nuit du samedi au dimanche lorsque les check-points à l'extérieur de la ville ont été renforcés et le contrôle plus "tatillon". C'est dans le secteur public que la grève a été la plus suivie: vingt ministères étaient plus ou moins paralysés et même l'administration du Premier Ministre fonctionnait au ralenti. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères lui-même n'a pas pu pénétrer dans la cour du ministère dont l'entrée était bloquée par les voitures des grévistes.

De même, tous les enseignants avaient cessé le travail et les uni-

versités étaient fermées.

Cependant, ces mouvements de mécontentement n'ont pas commencé dimanche: la plupart (Enseignants, Affaires Etrangères, Banque Centrale, pêcheries à Aden, etc.) étaient en grève depuis plusieurs jours pour protester contre la cherté de la vie et demander des hausses de salaires. Certes, des représentants de ces corporations ont fait savoir par courrier ou par coups de téléphone aux représentants de la Conférence nationale des partis de l'opposition qu'ils étaient solidaires de leur mot d'ordre à caractère politique (contre le report des élections et la prolongation du mandat des principales institutions jusqu'au 27 avril).

M. Omar al-Gaoui, figure symbolique de l'opposition reconnaissait dès samedi que le mot d'ordre ne rassemblerait pas la majorité de la population et que les grèves avaient avant tout un caractère social. "Nous ne savons pas ce que sera l'écho fait à nos revendications politiques, nous a-t-il déclaré, mais il y a du ressentiment chez les gens et nous exploiterons, dans le cadre de la crise économique et sociale qui sévit, les grèves en cours". "Notre objectif, a-t-il expliqué, est de mettre la pression sur le pouvoir, en procédant pas à pas". L'opposition n'a donc pas de programme d'action précis mais entend, dans le plus grand respect de la légalité, harceler le gouvernement jusqu'à obtenir "des garanties que des élections libres et honnêtes seront tenues le 27 avril prochain". Dans

tous les cas, elle a renoncé aux démonstrations de rues, "de peur de prêter le flanc à des représailles", selon M. Al-Gaoui, qui a confirmé dès samedi l'annulation du mot d'ordre de manifestations devant le parlement pour le lendemain.

Ce même jour, le Parti Socialiste Yéménite (PSY) et le Congrès Populaire Général (CPG) ont appelé à boycotter l'appel à la grève, ainsi que douze autres partis et l'Union Générale des Syndicats (dont le bureau dirigeant a été nommé par le pouvoir après l'unification), qualifiant ce mot d'ordre d'"illégal". Samedi toujours, le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh a prononcé un discours devant les Forces armées, les appelant à demeurer vigilantes afin "de déjouer les complots quels qu'ils soient". Tout en rappelant son attachement à la poursuite du processus démocratique (rappelons que le pays compte plus de 40 partis politiques et 148 organes de presse qui peuvent écrire ce qu'ils veulent), il a ajouté: "A l'ombre de l'unité, de la démocratie et du multipartisme, il ne doit pas y avoir de place pour les luttes politiques (...). La voie est ouverte à une émulation saine par le biais des urnes et à un dialogue pacifique pour résoudre les divergences (...). Les conspirations sont nombreuses et visent l'unité et la démocratie". Les dirigeants de l'opposition se plaignent, eux, d'avoir été victimes d'intimidations indirectes lorsqu'ils appelaient à la grève générale.

E.G.

Après une visite du Secrétaire d'Etat français à la Mer, M. Charles Josselin

## Projet franco-yéménite de modernisation de la conserverie de Mukalla

Le Secrétaire d'Etat Français à la Mer, M. Charles Josselin a effectué une visite au Yémen du 16 au 19 novembre, afin discuter avec le gouvernement yéménite des possibilités de coopération entre les industries de la pêche française et yéménite. La première étape de cette coopération a été scellée par un don du gouvernement français de 13 millions de francs (un peu plus de 2 millions de dollars US) pour la modernisation de l'usine de conserverie de Mukalla.

Le Yémen a beaucoup de ressources en poissons mais peu de navires. La France a beaucoup de navires mais peu de ressources. Cette équation résume, de façon simpliste certes, l'idée qui se trouve à la base de la coopération franco-yéménite dans le domaine de la pêche que M. Charles Josselin est venu inaugurer la semaine dernière, à Sanaa, à Mukalla et à Aden, avec le Ministre de la pêche yéménite, M. Salem Mohamed Goubrane. Les deux industries de la pêche sont complémentaires et les projets devraient se développer

dans l'intérêt des deux pays, malgré la forte concurrence Japonaise, Coréenne, Egyptienne et Iranienne dans ce domaine auprès du Yémen.

Dans un premier temps, le ministre français a parrainé la signature d'un contrat entre la société française Océan Développement, de Concarneau, représentée dans la délégation par M. Pascal Piriou, et la conserverie de Mukalla, à concurrence de 13 millions de francs, financés par le gouvernement français, pour la fourniture d'une unité de fabrication de boîtes de conserves vides (pour une production de 20 millions de boîtes par an) et d'une unité de fabrication de vapeur (pour la cuisson du poisson et la stérilisation des conserves). Ces deux unités remplaceront les machines soviétiques installées en 1979 lorsque les anciens partenaires du Yémen du Sud ont construit cette conserverie pour le thon uniquement. Elle fabrique aujourd'hui 5 millions de conserves par an; la production sera portée progressivement à 20 millions.

La visite de M. Josselin a permis aussi de dégager des points communs entre les industries françaises et yéménites, car en contrepartie d'éventuelles aides techniques et de conseils dans le cadre d'une coopération, les pêcheurs français seraient intéressés pour venir au Yémen pour exploiter les eaux territoriales dans le cadre des droits de pêche. D'autre part, la France, déjà cliente du Yémen pour les produits de la mer, serait intéressée par la langouste et le mérou yéménites (le pays exporte déjà 200 tonnes de langouste par an, dont 150 vers l'Italie et 50 vers la France).

Le Yémen prévoit d'augmenter ses prises de poissons de 17% par an jusqu'en 1996, portant la production de 90.000 tonnes par an aujourd'hui à 200.000 tonnes. Dans ce contexte, la France dispose de technologies à haute valeur ajoutée dont pourrait profiter efficacement le Yémen, dans un secteur déclaré prioritaire par les autorités, porteur de créations d'emplois et d'exportations.

### EN BREF

Avis de recherche de neuf auteurs présumés d'attentats.- Le ministère yéménite de l'Intérieur a publié dimanche dernier un avis de recherche de neuf auteurs présumés d'attentats qui ont eu lieu depuis l'unification. Le communiqué appelle toute personne pouvant "aider à l'arrestation" de ces hommes, à "coopérer avec les forces de sécurité, pour contribuer à la sauvegarde de la paix et de la sécurité dans le pays et pour que la justice suive son cours".

Des journaux yéménites ont récemment indiqué que quelques

uns de ces hommes ont demandé et obtenu la protection de certaines tribus.

L'opposition et même le Parti Socialiste qui partage le pouvoir avec le parti du Président Saleh, et qui a été la principale cible, ont maintes fois accusé les autorités concernées de manque de fermeté dans la lutte contre les responsables de la vague d'attentats qui a secoué le Yémen récemment. Le Premier ministre avait déjà annoncé dans ces colonnes l'arrestation de plusieurs suspects, dont on est sans nouvelles depuis. (AFP)

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*Alors que le Yémen abrite déjà plus de 60.000 de leurs compatriotes*

# 3.302 "boatpeople" somaliens sont arrivés sains et saufs à Aden

**Mercredi 18 novembre, en début d'après-midi, le SAMAA 1, ce cargo transportant 3.302 réfugiés somaliens, est entré dans le port d'Aden. Après le drame qui avait causé la mort de quelques 200 passagers du GOBWEIN, un autre cargo échoué sur une plage d'Aden le 22 juin dernier (lire notre reportage dans le Temps du Yémen N°27 du 1er juillet 1992), on anticipait une nouvelle situation catastrophique pour ces pauvres gens qui fuient la guerre civile qui ravage leur pays, après seize jours passés en mer. Aucun décès n'a été enregistré grâce, notamment, à une opération de secours en mer de la Marine nationale française. Le navire avait quitté le petit port de Merca, en Somalie, le 19 novembre dernier, après de sombres péripéties n'ayant plus rien à voir cette fois avec la guerre civile mais relevant plutôt du "mercantilisme" le plus infâme, pour permettre à quelques personnes de s'échapper de Somalie. Ils étaient partis sans eau ni nourriture et, selon l'équipe de Médecins Sans Frontières, qui prend en charge la santé des réfugiés somaliens d'Aden depuis plus d'un an maintenant, il y aurait eu des décès sans l'intervention de l'armée française.**

**Mais cette arrivée, très médiatisée dans le monde entier - une vingtaine de journalistes étaient présents - après deux ans de silence total sur cet exode vers le Yémen, seul pays de la péninsule à les recevoir, et après de nombreux décès, révèle en fait une triste réalité: l'utilisation de l'exode des populations qui souffrent pour réaliser des profits substantiels.**

**D'autre part, le Yémen qui peut s'honorer d'être le seul pays au monde avec le Kenya, à recevoir les "boatpeople" somaliens, doit absolument veiller à ce qu'ils soient traités décentement, en coopération avec le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés qui prend entièrement en charge leur vie au Yémen, notamment à la suite de nombreuses exactions et crimes commis par des éléments incontrôlés de l'armée ou de la police: emprisonnements abusifs, passages à tabac, viols et même disparitions...**



"29 octobre 1992. J'ai reçu de M. Ahmed Saleh la somme de 100 US dollars pour la traversée en bateau de Somalie au Yémen". Ce reçu, griffonné sur un morceau de papier jauni, Ahmed le conserve précieusement dans son portefeuille, derrière la photo de ses parents qu'il a laissés à Mogadiscio. Il le conserve "à titre de preuve". Preuve que dans le désespoir de l'ensemble du peuple somalien, il y a toujours des "vautours" qui, lorsqu'ils n'ont pas d'armes pour détrousser les gens, comme cela se pratique couramment en Somalie, utilisent le "chantage à la survie". Le nom d'un homme, Somalien, est sur les lèvres de tous les passagers du SAMAA-1, qui le vomissent presque: Abdul Wahab Nagi Mohamed. C'est lui qui, en tant que co-propriétaire du bateau selon un contrat qu'il aurait exhibé au capitaine du cargo à Mombassa, au Kenya, où le SAMAA-1 mouillait, a exigé qu'il se rende à Merca. Là, il a promis à des gens venus de Mogadiscio "une traversée de trois ou quatre jours dans un navire aménagé pour des passagers, moyennant une somme de 100 dollars par personne et 50 dollars par bagage. Lorsque les premiers passagers sont montés sur le bateau, ils se sont aperçus que l'aménagement en question se résumait à deux immenses soutes profondes d'une dizaine de mètres et qu'aucune provision de nourriture et d'eau n'était prévue. Ils ont alors voulu débarquer; Abdul Wahab a fait aussitôt monter à bord quatre hommes armés de fusils-mitrailleurs M16 pour les forcer à rester et a fait embarquer de force ceux qui restaient à quai, "comme de la marchandise, avec des grues", témoigne Nasser, un kényan membre de l'équipage. L'un des câbles de la grue s'est rompu et les gens sont tombés dans la soute, d'une quinzaine de mètres de haut: douze d'entre-eux ont été blessés dont certains ont été laissés à Merca!

Le capitaine, un Pakistanais au ventre très proéminent, tranchant avec la maigreur de ses passagers, est mis en cause par tous les "boatpeople" et la majorité de son équipage: il aurait reçu une forte somme d'argent d'Abdul Wahab, qui a mystérieusement disparu avec ses sbires après l'embarquement de tous les passagers, afin de router, dans ces conditions, vers Mukalla. Seules des

vivres et de l'eau pour trois jours ont été finalement embarquées mais le bateau est resté cinq jours en rade de Merca pour des raisons encore indéterminées avant de prendre le large, les réserves épuisées depuis deux jours. Le capitaine Nasser Ahmed se défend des accusations portées contre lui, sans convaincre ceux de son équipage qui l'entourent, qui n'ont pas reçu de salaire depuis deux mois: "J'ai été obligé de tout accepter parce qu'ils pointaient leurs armes sur moi", dit-il en pleurant presque lorsque nous le rencontrons terré dans sa cabine. Mais lorsqu'il vendait les rations d'eau de 5 à 20

dollars selon la quantité aux passagers, les hommes armés n'étaient plus là pour l'y forcer...

Dans tous les cas, les "boatpeople" du SAMAA-1 ont eu beaucoup de chance au cours de la traversée qui ne s'est pas soldée par le drame que l'on a connu lorsqu'un cargo de tonnage identique, le GOBWEIN, est venu s'échouer sur une plage d'Aden le 22 juin dernier, après un périple en mer de 20 jours qui s'est soldé par quelques 200 décès. En seize jours passés en mer, heureusement, aucun des passagers du SAMAA-1 n'est mort. Car, contrairement à ce que l'on a pu voir

à Aden, où toutes sortes d'embarcations ont "débarqué" quelques 60.000 réfugiés sur le territoire du Yémen, les conditions de vie sur ce cargo n'étaient pas catastrophiques, comme ce l'était pour le GOBWEIN ou d'autres embarcations que nous avons pu visiter. Certes, l'air était irrespirable pour qui n'y est pas habitué et le pont était rendu glissant par les restes d'aliments mêlés aux déjections malgré l'installation de latrines rudimentaires. Mais les épidémies classiques dans ce genre de situation - dont la plus terrible, le choléra, n'ont pu se développer. Après une rapide visite à bord du personnel de Médecins Sans Frontières, la situation était jugée "plutôt satisfaisante" sur le plan de la santé. Pourquoi ce miracle?

Sans doute en raison de l'intervention - tardive certes, mais on dit que le capitaine aurait refusé de stopper pour attendre d'être rejoint par le navire français - de la Marine nationale française stationnée à Djibouti, dont un bâtiment, chargé de rations alimentaires et d'eau, a rejoint le SAMAA-1 au large de Mukalla, à quelques 700 kilomètres d'Aden, lundi après-midi.

Aussi, lors de son entrée dans le port d'Aden, le cargo arborait-il des banneroles sur lesquelles on pouvait lire, dans différentes langues, des slogans de remerciements à la France, parfois même en français: "La belle France, merci beaucoup pour votre aide", "Thank You French Navy Forces", etc. Et le Secrétaire d'Etat à la Mer, M. Charles Josselin, en visite au Yémen pour des projets de coopération en matière de pêche (lire ci-contre), était acclamé en montant à bord, mercredi en fin d'après-midi, en compagnie de l'Ambassadeur de France au Yémen, M. Marcel Laugel. Il est vrai que cette intervention de la Marine nationale française a été décisive pour éviter le drame: "Nous étions à bout de forces, raconte Abdallah, un jeune étudiant de Mogadiscio, nous aurions eu de nombreux morts sans ces rations alimentaires et cette eau. Au lieu de cela, deux bébés sont nés pendant la traversée!" Et comme dans toutes les situations, la vie courante reprend ses droits, deux mariages ont été célébrés à bord, et deux divorces prononcés!

En trois heures, tous les réfugiés ont été débarqués et conduits par

camions et autocars dans le camp de la plage sur laquelle s'était échoué le GOBWEIN il y a cinq mois, camp qui avait été rasé depuis mais qui a été réactivé pour l'occasion par le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés, qui gère toute l'aide aux Somaliens au Yémen: plus de 250 tentes ont été dressées mais elles se sont vite révélées en nombre insuffisant car l'on attendait que 2.500 réfugiés. Des personnes ont dû coucher dehors les deux premières nuits et deux familles en moyenne se sont entassées sous les tentes en place. Depuis, le HCR a pourvu le camp de nouvelles tentes. Des latrines ont été installées et un dispensaire de MSF était opérationnel dès la réception des premiers réfugiés. Trois repas par jour sont distribués par le HCR.

La rapidité de cette opération de débarquement et de la mise en place du camp de la plage (Al-Isawah) témoigne de la volonté du Yémen de faire connaître, par la voie des médias, son effort en faveur des réfugiés somaliens. Ce pays, parmi les plus pauvres du monde, a voulu médiatiser, cette fois, la situation qu'il vit depuis près de deux ans: il est le seul de la région à accepter de recevoir ces "boatpeople", avec le Kenya, grâce à un soutien financier et logistique total du HCR et de MSF, partenaires dans cette opération.

Mais selon le représentant du HCR à Sanaa, M. Taoufik Oanès, "le flot des réfugiés somaliens à Aden n'est pas prêt de se tarir", principalement en raison de la guerre civile et de la famine qui continuent à faire rage en Somalie et des profits intéressants à réaliser pour certains propriétaires de bateaux sans scrupules. "Nous voulons donner un conseil aux représentants des Nations-Unies, s'exclame Abdallahman, jeune étudiant somalien que la malnutrition a rendu presque aveugle, bien avant son périple sur le SAMAA-1: envoyez des soldats dans notre pays pour une véritable pacification. Ceux qui sont actuellement en Somalie sont des hôtes, sans moyens. Ils ne peuvent pas nous aider. L'aide humanitaire, cela ne suffit plus!"

**Emmanuel GIROUD**

## Policiers et militaires, ne gâchez pas tout!

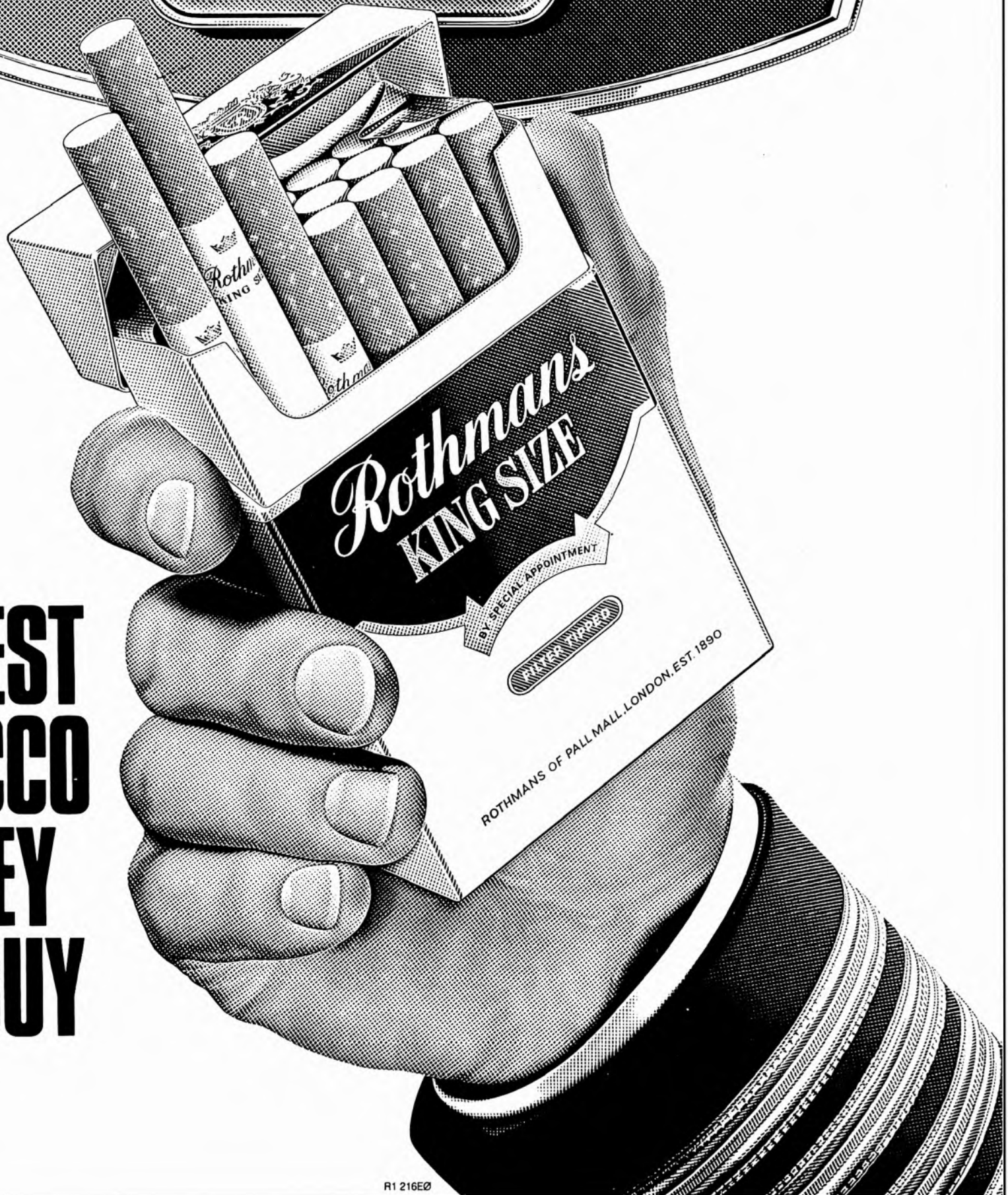
Ahmed git sur un lit du dispensaire de MSF dans le camp de Madinat al-Shaab, et ne comprend pas, pour le moment, ce qu'on lui dit: sa tête est enserrée dans un bandage que le sang a traversé au dessus de l'oeil droit; son bras gauche, cassé à de multiples endroits, est plâtré jusqu'au coude. Il souffre d'une fièvre au niveau de la clavicule et ses côtes le font souffrir. La veille de notre rencontre, il a été passé à tabac successivement par un policier sur la route qui le menait de Sanaa à Aden, avec d'autres victimes de "raffles" (lire notre article dans Le Temps du Yémen N°45 du 4 novembre) et par les soldats à son arrivée au camp de Madinat al-Shaab. Ces derniers l'ont frappé à coup de crosse de fusil jusqu'à ce qu'il soit inconscient, lui brisant les articulations de la main et des doigts. Il s'était plaint des conditions dans lesquelles les Somaliens, même ceux qui ont des papiers en règle et du travail, ont été "rafflés" à Sanaa, Hodeidah et Taëz pour être rafoulés dans les camps d'Aden.

De nombreux témoignages font état de la brutalité des policiers et soldats et du viol n'est pas absent de ces actions brutales. Un jeune homme de 19 ans, Ibrahim, qui travaillait à Sanaa dans une com-

pagnie de Tour Operator connue a été arrêté en août dernier à Sanaa: après lui avoir confisqué ses papiers officiels (il est yéménite mais d'origine somalienne, habite le Yémen depuis trois ans et louait un petit appartement à Sanaa), il a été jeté en prison pour une durée de trois mois au cours desquels il a été régulièrement battu, avant d'être renvoyé dans le camp d'Al-Shaab où il doit recommencer toute la procédure pour obtenir de nouveaux papiers!

Le gouvernement a peut-être de bonnes raisons de renvoyer ces gens dans les camps, où ils ont un toit et de la nourriture, mais cela doit se faire dans le respect de la Convention de Genève de 1951 qu'il a signée, sur le respect des droits des réfugiés. Le Yémen peut se vanter d'avoir une vieille tradition d'accueil des réfugiés politiques sur son territoire. Il serait dommage de gâcher cette tradition en ne contrôlant pas les exactions des forces de sécurité et de l'armée qui sont chargés de surveiller ces camps et officiellement aussi de protéger ceux qui y trouvent refuge. La politique du gouvernement doit être claire dans ce domaine, en collaboration avec le HCR.





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# Naji Al-Ali: Tribute to an Arab Artist

Saad Salah Khalis,  
Cultural Editor,  
Yemen Times.



"We want Low's head before Churchill's." So demanded an upset Adolf Hitler speaking about the caricature Artist of the Daily Telegraph during World war II. The lot of cartoonists and political artists has always been precarious.

"If I'm ever killed, Handhala is still alive ever protesting." Thus stated Naji Al-Ali in one of his very few announcements. In a London street five years ago this week, hatred finally silenced the artist and the bullets managed to beat the artist's brush in another episode of the never ending duel between good and evil.

Naji Al-Ali, a Palestinian, was a great writer who had never written a word. Naji's few square inches spoke far more louder than prolonged pages of words and phrases that lost their meaning through ages of repetition. His symbolic artistic language has left ever lasting print on Arab caricature art as well as on blood-braided Arab modern history. He was described by the late Salah Jahin, the reputed Egyptian caricaturist, as the peak of Arab modern political artistry. "After becoming masters, we were taught by Naji how to draw all over again."

The kid Handhala, Naji's favorite character and potentially his personification, with his back ever turned to us in protest symbolizes the pure artist's (and our) conscious to serve as a witness on all the issues and events that Naji put on paper throughout his life - issues which resist the passage of time, as they are and will be pending for a long time.

Al-Ali's political awareness and the artist's instinct made him a lot of enemies, for there

is no stronger weapon than true art. One Palestinian leader who Naji often criticized, said after his death, "Thank God he's dead, martyred like many others."

A wide variety of symbols were used by Naji Al-Ali throughout his career in various Arab publications and newspapers such as Alyom, Al-Moharrir, Al-Hurriya and Al-Qabas. Handhala, of course, was the most visible symbol. In addition, he used the cedar tree and the number 10452 (area of Lebanon in square kms) for Lebanon; the three pyramids, the Nile and the folkloric jelabia for Egypt; the kufia, iqal and the guerilla uniform for Palestine; oil barrels for the Arab Gulf states; etc. His caricature was never funny. To the contrary, it was sad, somber and deep.

Gallery Kufa of London held an exhibition this month for Naji's works. Many caricaturists came from all over the world to remember their colleague in the fifth anniversary of his death. They came from the U.S., Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Turkey, India, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Bahrain and Qatar.

"Put on record, I know my killer," once Naji Al-Ali had said. No matter who the killers are, they silenced the artist, but not his art.



## ENGLISH LESSON - #20

### SIMPLE PAST TENSE - REGULAR VERBS

The simple past tense does not generally cause problems for students of English. Its use is straightforward: *it is used for actions that began and ended in the past, at one particular time.*

Rules for forming the past tense are also clear: *add the suffix '-ed.'*

However, problems do arise in two areas: *spelling and pronunciation.* Spelling was addressed in lessons 16 and 17. This week's lesson is about pronunciation.

To make a regular verb past tense, add the suffix '-ed'. This suffix has three possible pronunciations, and this is what causes problems for non-native speakers.

Before we start, place your fingertips lightly on your throat.

Say "zzzzzz". Do you feel a buzzing in your throat? Now change from "zzzzz" to "sssss". Did the buzzing feeling stop? Sounds that make the buzz are called **voiced**; those that do not are called **voiceless**.

Note: All vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) are voiced.

**ACTIVITY A:** Tell whether each sound is voiced or voiceless.

- 1. /b/      6. /p/
- 2. /k/      7. /v/
- 3. /a/      8. /z/
- 4. /f/      9. /o/
- 5. /s/      10. /m/



#### Rules for past tense pronunciation:

- A. '-ed' is pronounced /t/ after voiceless sounds  
looked (lookt), asked (askt), helped (helpt)
- B. '-ed' is pronounced /d/ after voiced sounds  
dried, arrived, begged, robbed
- C. '-ed' is pronounced /ed/ after words which end in 't' or 'd',  
(which adds another syllable)  
needed (need-ed), wanted (want-ed), rested (rest-ed), added (add-ed)

**ACTIVITY B:** circle the correct sound for the suffix for each:

- |          |   |   |    |            |   |   |    |
|----------|---|---|----|------------|---|---|----|
| 1. work  | t | d | ed | 6. watch   | t | d | ed |
| 2. load  | t | d | ed | 7. believe | t | d | ed |
| 3. try   | t | d | ed | 8. wait    | t | d | ed |
| 4. laugh | t | d | ed | 9. fill    | t | d | ed |
| 5. count | t | d | ed | 10. walk   | t | d | ed |

**ACTIVITY C:** Practice saying these sentences.

- 1. Ali pushed and Ahmed pulled.
- 2. We waited for two hours.
- 3. They asked for help.
- 4. She shouted and cried with joy.
- 5. The children worked and played.

**WEEKLY IDIOM:** *to be chicken.* To be chicken means you are easily scared. If you say someone is a chicken, it means you think he is a coward, and not brave.

examples: 1. Don't be such a chicken about asking questions in class. There is nothing to be afraid of.

2. Ahmed was too chicken to ride the motorcycle.



#### ANSWERS:

- Activity A: 1. voiced 2. voiceless 3. voiced 4. voiceless 5. voiceless 6. voiceless 7. voiced 8. voiced 9. voiced 10. voiced  
Activity B: 1. t 2. ed 3. d 4. t 5. ed 6. t 7. d 8. t 9. d 10. t  
Activity C: verbs are pronounced: 1. pushed, pulled 2. waited, cried 3. asked, played 4. shouted, cried 5. worked, played



## NUCLEAR AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The world's nuclear community plans to hold commemorative programs in the coming weeks to mark the 50th anniversary of the first man-made nuclear chain reaction.

It was on December 2nd, 1942, that a small group of scientists harnessed the energy of the atom for the first time.

The British nuclear forum plans to hold a celebratory one-day meeting on December 2nd, in association with the science museum in London, to look at the event in a historical perspective and to analyse its subsequent impact on nuclear technology and public attitudes to nuclear issues.

There are plans to show television pictures of a similar event being held simultaneously in Chicago. The German nuclear society's annual lecture, which was held on November 12th, was titled "The Next 50 Years of Nuclear Fission."

The first week of December, 1992, has been declared nuclear week in

France. A conference for students, to be attended by about 400 people, is to be held on December 1st. Among the participants will be Bertrand Goldschmidt, a nuclear pioneer and contemporary of Fermi.

The US Council for Energy Awareness has produced a fact sheet, entitled "50 Years of Progress: the Benefits of Nuclear Technology." It shows how nuclear technology has enhanced life in many ways by its use in medicine, industry, agriculture, scientific research and electricity production.

In India, two major public awareness programs are planned in Bombay. The first is an appreciation program comprising two courses each of two weeks' duration for university faculty members. The other is a program concerning nuclear engineering and reactor technology and the other in materials for the nuclear industry commencing from November 30.

## SINGH LAUNCHES PROTEST AGAINST WHEAT IMPORTS

Indian opposition leader and former prime minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has launched a national campaign against wheat imports, driving to the rich agricultural heartland of Punjab to fire his first salvo. Singh urged farmers to protest the imports, telling a rally last week in the town of Moga that the nation's economic sovereignty was at stake. Farmers of Punjab, Indian grain bowl, were at the forefront of the "green revolution" in the 1960s which broke the nation's dependence on overseas food handouts.

Singh said it was time for the "brave Punjabis" to again rise to the occasion, saying the three million tons of wheat being bought from foreign producers was a symbol of the government neglect of domestic farmers. The centrist politician, who governed India for eleven months during 1989-1990 alleged that the government was paying for the overseas wheat nearly twice the sum its agencies paid local farmers to procure the commodity for the subsidised public distribution system.

## The Vatican:

### "We were wrong about Galileo."

After 359 years, the Roman Catholic Church has officially admitted that it was wrong to have condemned the revolutionary Italian scientist Galileo for asserting that the earth orbits the sun. "Better late than never," said Margherita Hack, director of the astronomy faculty of the University of Trieste and a world expert. Pope John Paul II last week definitively closed the book on the affair, one of history's most notorious conflicts between faith and science.

The Pontiff rehabilitated Galileo by accepting the results of a commission of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences he set up 13 years ago to study the case which gave the Catholic Church a reputation of being wary of scientific progress.

The Inquisition, which sought out heresies, condemned Galileo in 1633 for backing a theory of astronomer Nicolas Copernicus because it clashed with the Bible which said: "God fixed the Earth upon its foundation, not to be moved forever."

The commission acknowledged that the Inquisitors who had condemned Galileo had made a "subjective error of judgement" and inflicted much pain on the scientist who is now considered the father of experimental physics.

"These mistakes must be frankly recognized, as you, Holy Father, have requested," commission president Cardinal Paul Poupard told the Pope at the ceremony.

Although the Pope and some of his recent predecessors have admitted that the Church was wrong, scientists have criticized the Vatican for not having moved faster to set the record straight officially.

"The fact that it took 359 years is grave," Hack told the Rome newspaper La Repubblica. "But even more scandalous - ridiculous - is that it took the commission 13 years to reach this decision." "It's an obvious but useless acknowledgement.

Scientific truth triumphed centuries ago, with or without the authorization of the church," Hack said. In his address to scientists, the Pope praised Galileo, the first man to use a telescope and to assert that the earth had a double motion -- its annual orbit around the sun and its daily rotation on its axis. But he also said the Inquisitors who condemned him were working with the only knowledge available at the time.

"The error of the theologians of the time, when they maintained the centrality of the earth, was to think that our understanding of the physical world's structure was, in some way, imposed by the literal sense of Sacred Scripture," He said. Inquisitors forced Galileo, then 69 years old and in failing health, to sign a retraction admitting his conclusions were contrary to the faith. He read out a statement in which he "abjured, cursed and detested" his past errors.

And for the past centuries, Galileo stood as a symbol of the incompatibility of faith and science. And this incompatibility is not limited to Christianity and science, but also includes other religions, like Islam and Judaism.



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**JAPANESE SING COMPANY SONG**

For the 70,000 employees of the Osaka-based Japanese electronics firm Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., every day begins with the same ritual. Some 20 minutes before the working day begins, most turn up for voluntary gymnastics, either in the factory or in the office.

Before the machines are set running and the computers switched on, an employee makes a little speech containing his personal message for the day. Then, all together, they strike up a rousing chorus of the company song, "Love, Light and a Dream". The text conjures up the spirit of the company.

Every firm in Japan worth its salt has its own company song. Yet Matsushita - with its National and Panasonic brands, Japan's largest producer of televisions, radios and household tools - places particular value on the idea. "It is an old custom, and everybody has become used to it," says company spokesman Agira Nagano. For Japanese firms, who see themselves as big families, a feeling of togetherness and the belief of all employees in a common goal retain great significance. The songs are designed to express the spirit - in Japanese, "shafu" - of the company.

The songs almost always contain the words "future" or "harmony". "Now it's time to take action, there are no limits for our ideals," run the lyrics to the NEC computer firm's song.

Over at the Hitachi Zosen dockyard, the magic formula explains that "our ambition is to connect the countries of the world with ships". The Obayashi construction firm prefers to call on its workers to "make a rainbow bridge in the sky".

Carmaker Toyota, whose lyric proclaims that, "for the bright future, our heart is one", is satisfied with playing the company song daily over the intercom.

Electronics firm Canon merely gives a rendition of its "We are opening the door of the future together" on special occasions, such as to welcome new employees.

**Talal Abu Ghazaleh Elected to USTA**

From November 11th to 14th, 1992, the U. S. Trademark Association (USTA) held its mid-year meeting of its committees in conjunction with a forum entitled "Language and the Law" in Florida, USA. This forum focused on the use of and misuse of language in the community. A variety of professionals and scholars shared their expertise in improving the clarity, and thus, persuasiveness of both oral and written communications.

The President of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP), Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, participated in these meetings, particularly in the Editorial Board Meeting to which Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh was elected during USTA's annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, on May 5th, 1992.

The mid-year Editorial Board Meeting discussed various important issues such as keeping current and competitive, the importance of timeliness, what is in the pipeline for 1993, the priorities of the reviewer's role, the nature of the reviews or original articles and published materials, and a look at 1992 in retrospect.

**Nigeria's Presidential Council Postpones Elections, Again**

Nigeria's military rulers launched a campaign to head off popular anger as they announced another delay in the long promised restoration of civilian rule. It is the third postponement in three years. President Ibrahim Babangida, a general who seized power in 1985, announced that parliamentary elections scheduled for January 1993 will be put off until June 1993. He gave the need for more time to finalize preparations as the excuse.

The Logos-based campaign for democracy, which considers Babangida's program a sham designed to perpetuate army rule, has urged people to make Nigeria ungovernable after January 2, 1993. The Armed Forces Ruling Council held a four-day crisis session last week to chart a way out of the impasse. It invited opposition parties for talks, which turned out to be "arrangements merely designed to endorse the official line."

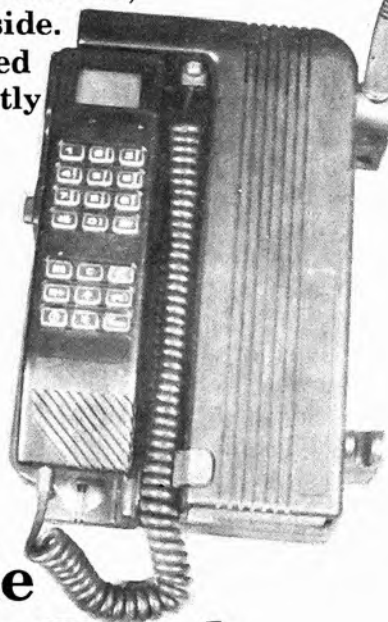
"This administration has no intention of being in power any longer than is absolutely necessary," Vice President Augustus Aikhomu, told the media. "Yet it cannot be black-mailed and stamped out of office by 'anarchists and paid agitators'."

In an indication of tension, the state-run New Nigerian daily reported that a group of disgruntled Nigerians were "actively at work to destabilize the country through armed struggle." According to reliable sources, some foreign diplomatic missions in Nigeria are known to be financially supporting this group.

Babangida narrowly foiled an April 1990 coup plot. The army has ruled Nigeria for 22 of the 32 years since independence from Britain. Commenting on the corruption, "Nothing will stop the influence of money from playing a dominant rule," said Tunde Babawale, a political scientist at Lagos university.

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