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YEMEN TIMES



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OUR VIEWPOINT

In Order to Achieve Growth

One fact of life is about basic economics. Unless a society can make progress at the economic front, whatever progress is made at any other fronts is brought to naught. This is the basic lesson which our politicians have to comprehend. The basic source of wealth should be one's work. Mind you, I am not a communist, but I have a lot of respect for hard work, not necessarily physical exertion. It is possible that some people could get rich without hard work, but this should be the exception and not the rule. It is also possible that some people would work hard, but would never get rich; and these should be the exception and not the rule. In short, the path to development should be through hard work.

If our value system is such that it rewards hard working people, then more people would be encouraged to work hard, thus achieve quick progress.

In our society today, the source of wealth is not hard work. It is a post with the government. That is why people compete to occupy high positions in government rather than compete to work hard. We need to change this in order to make progress at the economic front.

To achieve that, two groups of people would need to have a stronger say in running the country at the expense of the military men and politicians who have taken over the bureaucracy. These are the skilled technocrats and the entrepreneurs or businessmen.

The fate of the country, and its future prospects depend on the re-division of authority within the various groups in society. The military/politicians should wield less influence, and the technocrats and businessmen should raise their heads and make their presence felt in order to lead Yemen out of its present economic difficulties.

These are the dictates of life, if we want to make something meaningful out of Yemen.

The Publisher
SAS

National Conference Presents Full-fledged Proposals

The National Conference, the main opposition group in the Yemeni political scene, has offered the government a full-fledged proposal. According to this proposal, the Supreme Elections Committee will be replaced with a more broad-based, neutral (possibly judicial) structure, the Presidential Council will be expanded to eleven members, and the cabinet will be assigned the only job of preparing for elections.

According to Omer Al-Jawi, an NC leader, "It is upto them to reciprocate," he said. There is no chance that the ruling parties, the PGC and the YSP, will accept the offer.

Extremists Plant Bombs and Explosives in Aden Hotels

Sawt Al-Ummal newspaper to come out in Aden tomorrow, January 7th, carries details of the bombings of the Aden Movenpick and Gold Mohur Hotels over the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

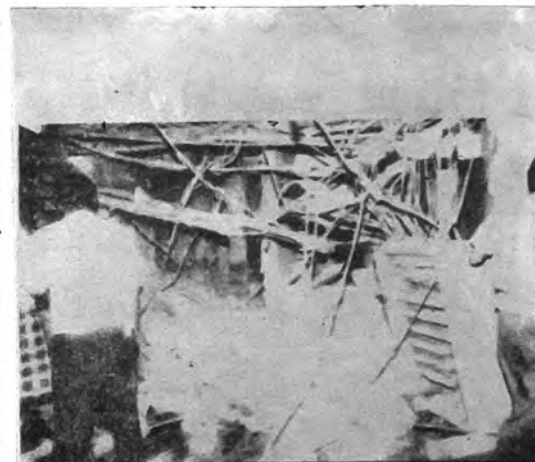
The paper, drawing parallels between these and the Egyptian incidents, attributed the violence to Islamic fanatics who were trained in Afghanistan. The paper also indicated that several Arabs (an Egyptian, a Libyan, and others) were implicated in the bombings and they are now being interrogated by the security.

Among the juicy details disclosed in the paper's article is the contention that the bombs were to explode on the fifth floor, occupied by the American Marines, and not the fourth floor of the Aden Hotel. Supporting this contention is the swift departure, actually the very next day after the explosions), of the Americans from Aden. The paper also said that the Aden security people, refusing to let in on the investigations any other party, has laid its hands on a lot of information regarding the operations of the fanatics in the republic. "The security has arrested over 500 persons working for the jihad group of the Islamicists," the paper said.

The paper also claims that the security has found lists of collaborators as well as targets spanning several countries in the region.

Describing this find as a gold mine and a treasure, the paper said that the Aden security is dealing with the new information with extreme caution. Among other aspects carried by the story are also details about large amount of hard currency, explosives, arms and ammunition in warehouses in Khor Maksar, Crater, and Sheikh Othman.

Finally, the article indicates that the authorities have impounded a ship carrying a shipment for a local charity organization. The shipment includes army uniforms (of an army of an



Arab country), out-dated medicine, and other supplies.

It will be noted that over the Christmas holidays the two largest hotels in Aden were subject to terrorist bombings, presumably in protest to their programs over the holidays. The Islamic fundamentalist groups have vowed to fight un-Islamic programs of hotels (serving liquor, dancing, etc.), even if through terrorism and indiscriminate violence. Two foreigners were killed in the explosions, and several more were wounded. It will be noted that religious fanatics have effectively crippled the Egyptian tourist industry in a similar campaign to bring this sector to heels. In Yemen, the process has just started and it the duel between the state and the extremists is at its early stages. The Aden security is taking no chances. It has blunted every street and alley in Aden as a precautionary measure.



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English Lessons

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Mansoor Rajih on Hunger Strike

Poet and writer Mansoor Rajih has been on a hunger strike starting from 26th December, 1992. Mr. Rajih, who has been named as "Prisoner of Conscience" by Amnesty International languishes in the Taiz Central Prison since 1984.

A death sentence had been passed against Rajih on a trumped up case, and the sentence is pending ratification by the Presidential Council. Many local and international human rights organizations have appealed to the Yemeni leadership to rectify the mistake and release the poet.

Yemen and Oman Strengthen Cooperation

Visiting Omani Oil Minister, Mr. Saeed Bin Ahmed Ashanfari, and his Yemeni counterpart Mr. Saleh Abubakar Bin Husainoon, held several rounds of talks which led to signing a protocol for cooperation.

Mr. Ashanfari is the first senior Omani official to visit Yemen following the successful conclusion of the border talks between the two countries.

Yemen to Host Human Rights Seminar

Senior government officials have received over the last few days the visiting officials of the Arab Human Rights Institute based in Tunis, and the Paris-based International Human Rights Institute, and an Amnesty International.

These meetings come within the preparations for a seminar on human rights in the Arab World to be held in Sanaa during 3-8/4/1992.

It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni Government has been increasingly getting higher marks for its human rights records.

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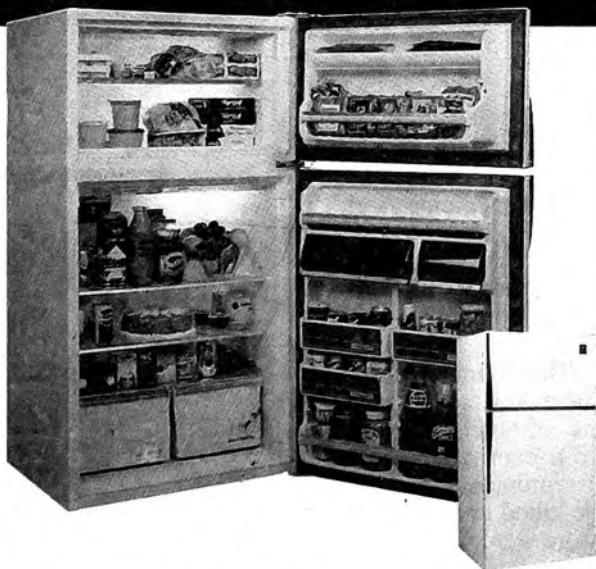
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TIMES Picks Clinton as Man of the Year

Time magazine named Bill Clinton its "Man of the Year" as the US president-elect prepared to take the most powerful single office in what he called "a very troubled world."

"We are seeing the flip side of the wonder of the end of the Cold War," Clinton told the weekly in an accompanying interview. "The bipolar world gave the US and the Soviet Union a limited capacity to contain some of what we are now witnessing in Bosnia. I'm worried about what is happening in Russia."

The president-elect also said he was worried about getting "bogged down" and not being able to deliver on his campaign promises.

To redress the problems that have made the US what Clinton called "a more unequal country than it was 10 years ago," the president-elect said he would concentrate on creating jobs and income growth in the short run.

Clinton repeated his frequent vow to have his wife at his side when president. Asked who he wants in the room when he makes momentous decisions, Clinton answered: "Hillary." "I really respect her judgement. On a lot of these things, she has this mountain of knowledge and experience," he said.

Clinton is Time's 66th Man of the Year. The first was aviator Charles Lindbergh in 1927. Others include several US presidents, British Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, former Philippine president Corazon Aquino in 1986, and last year, Cable News Network founder Ted Turner. Infighting has deeply split the Democratic Party less than two weeks before US president-elect Clinton takes office. The divisions could hamper Clinton's efforts to push trade agreements through Congress after he becomes president on the 20th of this month. The disagreements center on how aggressively the new administration should confront foreign countries over trade issues.

Infighting grew especially bitter last month while Clinton was deciding whom to name to succeed Carla Hills as US trade representative. Clinton finally named his campaign manager Mickey Kantor to the post.

Clinton's election positions him "to preside over one of... those moments when Americans dig out of their deepest problems by reimagining themselves. In spite of major economic difficulties, Clinton takes over the US presidency with a deep and extensive popular support and with American morale very high.

German Recession May Go On

The German government, faced with an economy rapidly running out of steam, has abandoned the optimism of early 1992 as it moves into a chilly 1993. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, marked the end of 1992 by conceding that Europe's economic powerhouse had succumbed to recession. His finance and economic ministers now warn that no growth should be expected in Western Germany for most of this year while the painful transformation of what was communist East Germany drags on.

"At best, in this year, we will have no economic growth, maybe some growth in the last four months," Economics Minister Juergen Moelleman said in a radio interview last week. "We are in a recessionary development." Finance Minister Theo Waigel echoed the same thing. "In the first half we will not feel any real growth," he was quoted as saying in a weekend newspaper interview.

In a study commissioned by the economics ministry and released recently, two leading research institutes said the gruelling adjustment process for the East's inefficient industries will continue throughout 1993.

The Berlin-based DIW institute and the Kiel-based IFW institute said recession in western Germany and other industrialized countries had combined with the collapse of markets in eastern Europe to stifle any recovery in eastern Germany before it could really take hold. "Under these conditions it is not likely that (eastern) industrial deliveries will expand sharply in this year. "It'll not be possible to prevent large numbers of layoffs," the institutes concluded.

A growing number of western German companies ended 1992 with announcements of big job cuts for 1993. Incoming orders are slowing to a trickle while firms groan under the yoke of a strong mark and record high interest rates and there is no indication so far that the independent Bundesbank will reduce official rates soon. Waigel warned that the last embers of Germany's unification boom are doused by recession.

"In the industrial sector we will see rising unemployment in the west. The weakness that other industrial countries had two and three years ago has caught up with us. That was blotted out in Germany by unification and the boom in demand," he said. Waigel urged state and municipal governments to cut spending and urged unions to keep pay demands low to give the Bundesbank room to lower rates.

Controversy Flares over River Project

Scores of environmental organizations have rallied against Greece and the European Community to stop a giant river diversion project they say threatens one of the most important wetlands in the Mediterranean.

The wetlands, 130 kms. west of Athens and on the outskirts of the city where British poet Lord Byron died in 1824, are home to some of the world's rarest birds protected by a series of international conventions.

More than 60 organizations ranging from the fund to Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) say EC-funded plans to divert the Akhelos River will destroy the wetlands.

Although an agreement with the construction company is still pending, the Greek government has said it will go ahead with plans to build four dams along the 220-kilometer river and build a series of diversion tunnels to channel water to irrigate the Thessaly plain.

The government says the \$4.5 billion project will provide needed irrigation for 380,000 hectares in Thessaly, which produces cereals, tobacco, cotton, sugar beets and corn and water for some central Greek cities.

The EC is funding part of the diversion as a hydro-electric project. Greek political parties, and most residents of Thessaly, support the diversion. They say the project will replenish over-exploited aquifers and increase agricultural production. Environmental groups counter strongly. It "does not make sense to spend EC money to produce more crops," says Alister Gammel, head of the RSPS. The RSPS, World Wide Fund and other environmental organisations say the diversion will cut the flow of fresh water and sediment into the Messolonghi wetlands and irreversibly harm the ecology needed for the survival of many birds. More than 100,000 waterfowl nest in winter, including more than five endangered species such as the dalmatian pelican and great white egret. It is also a migratory stop for the slender-billed curlew, a bird so rare that fewer than 100 exist.

Environmentalists say successive Greek governments have allowed farmers to drain the wetlands, have turned a blind eye to summer vacation homes being built in protected areas and have failed to crack down on illegal hunting. "It is difficult to stop this project. It has been promised for 20 years. A whole generation is brought up in Thessaly waiting for it," said Kostas Vassilakis of the Hellenic Ornithological Society.

Delhi Assembly Polls Likely in May

Elections to the new assembly of Delhi are unlikely to be held till the middle of this year, official assurances to the contrary notwithstanding. While federal home minister S. B. Chavan had, as recently as two months back, categorically stated that the Delhi assembly election would be completed this month, this possibility can be ruled out now simply because no notification in this regard has yet been issued by the Election Commission.

A statutory period of 31 days has to be allowed for the completion of the electoral process from the date of the notification.

The month of May appears to be the earliest that assembly elections can be held, particularly in view of the fact that the revised electoral rolls for the capital will be ready only in March.

Sources ruled out any further delay. The delay has suited the Congress (I) which would prefer the fallout from the Ayodhya incidents to die down before putting its electoral fortunes to test in Delhi.

It would also like to gain time for a resolution of the infighting within its Delhi unit which was reflected in the party winning only two out of the capital's seven Lok Sabha seats.

Concern for AIDS Orphans in Africa

One in eight children in the village of Kabonera in south-west Uganda has already lost at least one parent to Aids. Veronica, 14, and her four brothers and sisters have lost both, and now hung for food on family land that is running to seed.

Elsewhere in the village, 15-year-old Semambo has given up school to care for his dying mother with the help of his brother Charles, 11. Because acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) strikes sexually-active adults aged 20-40 year, children like Veronica, Semambo and Charles form a major part of the social problems caused by the disease.

The World Health Organization estimates there will be 10 million Aids orphans worldwide by the year 2,000, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

"When I think of these children, I fear greatly for the future development of Africa," said Dr. Michael Merson, director of the WHO's global program on Aids (GPA), at the International Conference on Aids in Africa last week.

A study by James Ssekwanuka of Save the Children - Uganda showed that if these children do not find homes they could become "street children," and because of the need to sell sexual favors for cash or food, become highly vulnerable to Aids or infection by HIV, the virus that causes the disease. Traditionally, orphans in Africa were taken in by members of the extended family but this has become

less feasible in areas with many Aids deaths such as Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. More and more children find themselves living with grandparents, in institution, or homeless.

The strategy supported by the WHO sees orphans as vulnerable children, who are nested in vulnerable families and communities," says Sandra Anderson of the GPA's healthcare support unit. "The best way to support these children is by supporting their community, and making it work, by strengthening the schools and working with the agriculture sector."

Many ways have been found to care for orphans ranging from children banding together in small communes to orphanages. In some villages there are clubs where women take turns being part-time mothers to groups of children. Anderson said orphanages were the alternative least favored by governments, partly because when children emerged from these institutions at age 16 they had no place to go.

"Uganda's experience with orphans was not new with Aids," Anderson said. "They had many war orphans. When these children left the orphanages they had been fed, cared for and educated, but they didn't belong anywhere. They have no roots. For this reason the Ugandans feel that even the most meagre upbringing within a community is better than having a rootless person at the age of 16."

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QUALITY OF YEMEN'S EDUCATION IN JEOPARDY

By: Horia Muhammad Yahya al-Iryani, Education Specialist.

Our primary, preparatory and secondary students are busy with their mid-year exams, these days. Yet, can we imagine what their academic achievements have been?

I think of a very low achievement. Most of our schools at the three stages were not, up to this date, provided with textbooks or enough teachers. In addition, the available teachers went on several strikes called for by their numerous unions. They seek to improve their bad living conditions.

Academic achievement in this year is expected to be the poorest since the revolution (1962). This year witnessed new problems that were produced by the current economic and political turmoil. The problem of crowded classes and untrained and qualified teachers were long accumulating. Primary education, especially in the northern governorates, suffers from further deterioration as a result of the unplanned quantitative expansion at the expense of quality. The current economic and political difficulties are an extra complication.

A Question of Volume

Since the revolution, in 1962, there has been a remarkable expansion in educational enrollment. This is clearly reflected in the rapid increase in the number of boys and girls enrolling in primary schools and indeed in the growing number of newly-built schools.

The number of pupils at the primary stage rose from 88,217 in the academic year 1969/70 to 1,078,673 in the academic year 1986/87 and to over two million this year. Similarly, the number of schools rose from 52 in 1969/70 to 6,236 in 1986/87 and over 10,000 this year.

In spite of the significant increase in the number of students who enter schools every year, and the fact that education is free for those who reach school age, only 54.5% of primary school age group are enrolled. This raises two frightening questions: a) What would happen to our schools if all school-age children were to enrol, and b) What are half of Yemen's school-age children doing if they are not going to school? Although education is theoretically open for boys and girls alike, and although it is true that female enrolment is increasing, statistics still indicate a poor female showing. For example, the share of female enrolment of the total student population is about 29% at primary level, 19% at preparatory level, 16% at secondary level, and 20% at the university level. This picture continues to worsen as limited resources force the society and families to prioritize who should go to school - boys or girls. The losers are, of course, the girls.

The unification of the curricula of the two former parts of Yemen has forced the system to abandon the old textbooks, unfortunately before new ones have been readied. As a result, most schools have no textbooks, and these are not expected to be in hand before the year is over. This is problem has forced certain private schools to improvise with hand-outs and other substitutes quickly prepared for the children. But in government schools, this alternative does not exist, hence the low level of achievement.

Packed Classes

Another difficulty is the number of children per class. The average number in the large cities is beyond a hundred per class. Bewildered teachers are unable to control the classes, let alone teach them something meaningful. The three highest densities are: the capital city, with an average number of 124 students per class, Taiz with an average of 116 per class, and Hodeidah with 93. Add to this issue the problem of teachers to students ratio. Each teacher, on a full time basis, is supposed to take care of over 70 children. The ratios vary from place to place, but it is always way above the world average.

What about the Teachers?

For a long time now, teachers have been on strike. They have a real grievance, but the victims are the pupils and students. The extended strike means that the students will get only a small fraction of the educational dose, and there is no way they will cover the whole curriculum. Add to that the fact many of the teachers are neither trained as teachers, nor are they qualified or equipped to serve as teachers. Of course, there are also the teachers who are actually doing their compulsory service. As a result of all of this, the level anquality of education is bound to falter.

Building Schools

In the past, there used to be no system for building schools. The government, under pressure from the tribal sheiks, build schools wherever the sheiks want it to. Education Undersecretary Al-Ra'wi uses this fact to show how politics affects education planning and its quality.

"What actually happens is that in every village or group of villages the Sheikh or the representative of the village asks the government to build schools. He would insist on having the school, almost in his own backyard, irrespective of population distribution. This is done despite the lack of the minimum number of pupils in the area," he said. Unfortunately the government is compelled to satisfy these Sheikhs and calm them down, just out of political considerations.

No Books!

Other Factors



Primary education in Yemen, suffers from low quality, as indicators of the quality erosion at the national level show:

a) Expenditure per students: The annual expenditure per student in Yemen, including all education-related expenses, is about \$86 (compared with \$195 for mid-income countries).

b) Furniture per student: The number of chairs does not exceed 40% of the number of children enrolled at the primary level, which means children compete for the limited numbers of chairs and desks.

c) Physical space per student: The average size of the primary classroom is 56 sq. m. or 0.4 to 0.5 sq. meter per student (one of lowest per student spaces of most countries in the world).

d) Internal efficiency: The system's efficiency is very low, with a high drop-out rate of 71% between-grade 1 and the end of the first cycle (grade 6), and educational waste (leakage, drop-out and repetition) comes to 75.1%.

e) External efficiency: This is measured by comparing the number of students who complete the cycle to those who enter the first grade of that cycle and how many of those graduates find a job easily or are promoted to the next cycle. The results of the primary schools' national exams are the only tangible data available for this purpose.

External efficiency for Yemen can be evaluated by

studying the results for the academic years 1970/71 to 1991/92.

Education Quality Under Real Threat

If the educational quality was improving during the 1970s and 1980s, it has definitely been falling during 1990s. Wrong educational policies and administration, bad economic conditions, and fewer resources available to the government and society are responsible for the falling education quality today.

This week, I saw hundreds of teachers queuing at al-Wahdah school to collect their salaries; those teachers left their schools and abandoned their classes for several days in a row because they had to chase the cashiers for their salaries. I am told that Teacher Training Institutes' new graduates have yet to received their September 1992 salaries?

In short, the low quality of education in Yemen reflects very crowded classes, lack of qualified teachers, unhappy teachers, and unattractive learning situations including unpleasant odour in the classrooms. The educational crisis, in my opinion, will get worse, before it will improve, it at all. Neglecting this problem will only make it worse. We already produce high school graduates who are only semi-literate and who are unable to use simple multiplications.

DAGGERS DRAWN ON RHINOS AGAIN

By: Esmond and Chryssee Bradley Martin

Conservationists are worried that reports of a large increase in the amount of African rhino horn imported into Yemen - one of the main consumers of the product - may signal a renewed increase in poaching of an animal that has already been hunted almost to extinction. There are now thought to be only 3,500 black rhinos in the wild, down from a population in the early 1970s of 65,000.

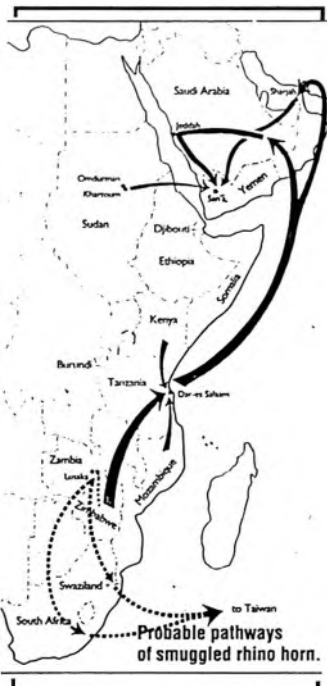
Every year in the 1970s, Yemen was importing some three tonnes of horn, which is used exclusively for making dagger handles. But a slump in the economy, a wider use of both water-buffalo horn and plastic, and a decline in the rhino-horn supply resulted in the mid-1980s in a decline in imports to about 250 kg a year. Now it seems that, between August 1990 and March 1992, just one Yemeni dagger producer was able to buy 750kg - accounting for the deaths of at least 260 black rhinos.

This dealer, - who is based in Yemen's capital, Sana'a and is the country's main producer of daggers with rhino-horn handles - accounts for more than 80% of Yemen's rhino-horn imports.

According to him, almost all of the horn was supplied by Tanzanians of Yemeni origin and by Koreans. It is bought in the Tanzanian capital, Dar es salam, from unknown sources, and taken to the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia. Traders in Sharjah and Jeddah pack the horn in among other goods, load it into trucks and smuggle it south into Yemen. Large consignments used to go by air to Sana'a, despite a 1982 law banning rhino-horn imports. But a few years ago, the government tightened up the customs control at the airport, and only small quantities of horn now slip through, mainly in the personal luggage of Sudanese businessmen and teachers working in Yemen. They have bought it for about \$250 per kg from traders in Omdurman, Sudan, who

themselves bought it from soldiers operating in southern Sudan. In Sana'a dagger-makers pay importers \$1,000 per kg for all but the big horns, the ones that weight more than 5 kg. This is about the same price, in real terms, that was being paid seven years ago.

The traders say the rise in the supply since 1990 is a result of economic desperation in eastern Africa. Certainly, the collapse of Ethiopia, the severity of the conflict in Somalia, Djibouti's internal strife and Mozambique's generally dire straits have led people to take huge risks in order to survive. But few of these people have access to rhinos, and certainly not the 260 individuals needed to supply the horn to the Sana'a dagger-maker in the past 20 months



So where is it coming from? Some may be from old stocks still held in Burundi or elsewhere, but the craftsmen carving the handles are not complaining that the horns are riddled with insect holes, which is what happens when they have been stored for some time. It is more likely that some shipments are originating from Tanzanian rhinos, and probably also from few animals killed in northern Mozambique and Kenya.

Continues on page 15

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Something the laws cannot rectify:

Prejudice: the 'new' world plague

It dons a thousand masks and walks about in every city, town and village of every nation, state and continent of our planet. As is often the case, it glides, unobtrusively at first, into the nooks and crannies of our mind, those elusive mind-spaces shaded with confusion, insecurity, ambiguity, and a host of other virulent, unresolved human frailties. If left in this darkness of the unexamined mind, it further moves to invade the sacred space of our heart, replacing compassion and human bonding with irrational, unfounded fears and separatism.

Fuelled and fortified by our tenacious insecurities, inordinate fears, and moral distortions, it acts to sever our insight into the reality of the unity, inter-dependency, and interconnection of the human family -- and of the whole of life, for that matter. Of all the plagues that have scathed humanity in the course of history, prejudice is still by far the most unrelenting -- and perhaps the most cruel -- for it chips away at our human dignity slowly and calculatingly; it stifles, if not completely, robs us, at every opportunity, of our greatest gifts -- our endless imagination, the boundlessness of the human heart, and the profound inspiration which is derived and sustained by the movement of unending diversity. Prejudice cripples the human spirit and erodes the very essence of human life -- the will to live.

Partially a cultural and social legacy and partially an acquisition of our own doing, each and every prejudice is a dark reality that lurks in our most private and secret thoughts, influencing -- and often dictating -- our every response to the things of life; suppressing spontaneity and involvement; and scorning the most fundamental human right -- to be who we are without shame and without guilt, in blessing and in dignity, from the texture of our hair, to the color of our skin, to the manner of our worship, and to the countless other innate and adopted characteristics, choices and persuasions which create the many varied nuances of individuality that lend enrichment and vitality to the whole of the human family, indeed to the whole of life itself.

In an era when the calculating intellect rules over the awareful intelligence, when modern man no longer lives with his heart, but has dedicated himself to a new idol -- his mind -- and lives within the confines and parameters of its fears and subsequent phantoms, prejudice is not only alive and thriving, but very much on the rise.

Moreover, prejudice is being used most elegantly and eloquently as a manipulative tool by those in power, worldwide. Our craving for security, for certainty, for reward, and for success either in the material and/or spiritual sphere suffocates our dissatisfaction, squelches our inward questioning about

the truth, meaning and justice of things as they are, annihilates our spontaneity, and engenders fear -- the fear of standing alone in full awareness without the illusion of safety proffered by our security systems which, in reality, offer us little more than psychological crutches; and the fear of living essentially and passionately, the heart ablaze with love for the whole of what life has to share. It's sad but true that most of us are not at all aware that fear blocks the intelligence, leaving us merely to make superficial adjustments to living while losing the perception of right values in the process.

Those in power, and this includes all of our authority figures, understand all too well the power of fear and the force of our compulsive need to find comfort in this world -- comfort with a minimum of conflict. As a result, driven by our fears and compulsions, we choose to conform to social and educational patterns designed to cultivate mediocrity, breeding prejudice and separatism by reflecting and teaching behavior, beliefs, attitudes, and values which reinforce dualistic thinking and which tap into, thereby manipulating, our psychological need to be "right"...to be "accepted"... and to feel "comfortable."

I often wonder if we haven't become little more than second-hand human beings--passive imitators of tradition, conventionality, and structural conditioning which, in the long run, only serve to intensify and strengthen the harsh barriers we've raised against one another and, thus, ironically enough, against ourselves.

That we have all been, in one way or another, victims of prejudice is an unequivocal fact. That we have all been, in one way or another, perpetrators of prejudice is also equally true. None of us stands on holy ground and views the social world free of the distortions of personal and social history. No one is without prejudice.

Even those who have analysed prejudice and undertaken the enormous task of compiling their findings, thereby increasing general awareness, brought their numerous prejudices to that task. Those prejudices may have gone unnamed and unchallenged at the time, but they were nevertheless there. Prejudicial values, beliefs, and actions are deeply rooted in each of us and personal growth and maturity beyond our egoistic delusions into an integrated self-hood, inner freedom, and the joy of the human experience both demand and chiefly rely on our willingness to confront "the inner demon" resolutely and intrepidly, without self-condemnation or justification, for these only serve to strengthen fear and block our perceptive vision into the heart of the matter.

The subject of prejudice is a touchy one. At its slightest mention everyone is more than ready to agree that prejudice definitely exists

and that it is indeed voraciously molding the very inner fabric of our lives. But, of all such ready enthusiasts, very few will consciously and frankly admit to his/her own prejudices and biases. It comes much more easily to point a finger elsewhere in condemnation. But, when it comes to ourselves, it's too castrating an admittance to make point blank. "But that's human nature," we say--at least it's the nature we've talked ourselves into believing as being expressively human. Prejudice is a disconcerting subject. It is painful to endure and annoying to see, but to talk about it is downright disturbing--the kind that makes you sweat under the arms and around the temples. The word itself is filled with emotional charge and with the violent intensity characteristic of hidden conflict. More often than not, it invites controversy and defensiveness. We, therefore, prefer to still our inner voice by rationalizing our human injustices. It's so much easier and simpler than dealing with the truth. Yet, our present state of social and world affairs is clamoring for us to become conscious participants in the affairs of our planet and more acutely aware of the destructive impact of this dark force on the way we think and feel and hence, on the manner in which we create, develop, sustain and destroy our values and our relationships--individual, group, national, and global. Our prejudices are responsible for social labels, stigmas, and the resulting victimization and sense of helplessness they engender. Labels and stigmas are difficult to fight for they deplete and demoralize the toughest of natures, instigating and fostering the hatred, violence, and apathy which rage so rampantly in our contemporary world society.

Newspapers, magazines, television, and radio are overflowing with horror stories exemplifying prejudices carried to extremes. Once upon a time such stories at least captured our attention, shook our sensibilities and, perhaps, even moved some of us to compassion. But now-a-days, such stories have been depersonalised, and we have become desensitised.... that is, until it happens to us. The larger, highly emotionally charged controversies such as sexism, racism, and classism, which are but a few of the masks prejudice wears, are so firmly ingrained in our life's outlook that they have become a profound problem in virtually all contemporary societies.

Prejudice lurks within families, communities, schools, organisations, businesses, and wherever we find people at odds with one another. Women seek equality with men, people of colour struggle to break the monopoly of

the white majority, labour strikes out at management, and both men and women of different persuasions from the acceptable norms are marching everywhere to gain recognition of their basic rights. These larger, organised protests are known as liberation movements and they all face a common challenge, prejudice. Prejudice is at the root of our broken human relationships.

Although we don't have to define prejudice to recognise it, its worth our while to distinguish its characteristics so as to clearly identify the ways and means by which we alienate other and by which we feel alienated in turn. It's important, therefore to understand that a prejudice is not a preference. Although they may appear to have the same implication, they each have a definite and crucial underlying distinction.

A preference is a choice of one thing rather than another based on objective and justifiable reasons.

A prejudice on the other hand, is a bias or a leaning, favourable or unfavourable, without reason or for some reason other than justice; it is a bias by hasty or incorrect notions; it is a judgement made without sufficient warrant. Prejudice - involves a predisposition towards a person or group of people that is not derived from adequate information. As one popular aphorism holds, prejudice is a vagrant opinion with visible means of support.

When this is clearly and consciously understood, it becomes easier to acknowledge our prejudices in the light of social mind-sets perpetuated by our passive acceptance instead of challenged and counter-acted by our intelligent inquiry.

I'm often asked, "what is intelligent inquiry?" "How is it different from ordinary questioning?"

The prejudiced, fearful mind, when it questions, is seeking to be pacified; it is, therefore, satisfied with superficial answers, especially to complex, emotionally charged, inwardly provocative problems.

Our world problems are essentially human relationship problems, and their solutions can only be found in ourselves. Intelligent inquiry opens us to this poignant insight, so long as there's a genuine, deep concern and interest in the problem itself.

Intelligence is neither superficial nor mechanical; it is the capacity to feel as well as to reason. Intelligent inquiry, therefore, requires an integration of mind and heart in action. Yet, if we take a penetrating look into our human affairs, it's obvious that we are so busy with the occupations of the mind that we have little time for the promptings of the heart. Intelligent inquiry unlike simple questioning, delves behind the obvious into the obscure, subtle layers of motivation. And when the intelligent mind questions, it does not identify itself with any country, race or ideal-

ogy, but tries to discover what is true.

That environment shapes us is an observable fact. Opinion and tradition mould our thoughts and feelings from early youth, when we are at our most impressionable and susceptible. The immediate influence and impressions from what we term civilisation and culture produce an effect which is powerful and lasting and which shapes the whole course of our conscious and unconscious life. Yet, as formidable as these influences are, we are neither taught nor encouraged to inquire into and seek out the makings of our values, precepts and traditions - the very things that give rise to and shape both our civilisations and our cultures. If, instead, we were to ask: What is civilisation? What is culture? If we were to ask these questions perceptively, with a real interest to discover, we would arrive to the realisation that both are merely sets of prescribed, organised beliefs with norms, rituals and superstitions to maintain the confluence of pre-set social, economic and political goals. As such, therefore, each culture has its traditions, its value systems, and its own ways of threatening and holding people. We are all products of such conditioning, which we proudly tag as our "education" and "proper social principles." It never occurs to us that we have all been moulded and programmed to see, think and feel in the same

Continued on page 11.

حليب الهناء بالهناء والشفاء



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TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR THE PGC/YSP?

The creation of the Republic of Yemen on May 22nd, 1990, came after years of confusion, bloody wars and strife between the former YAR and PDRY. This historic date was strengthened by a vital choice of democracy as the guidelines for the workings of the new republic in line with the changes in the world and the objective needs for the unified Yemen in its historic march towards civilization. The agreement of the two political parties ruling the former YAR and PDRY to form an alliance between them in ruling the new state is one of the basic arrangements to enable democracy to develop roots. But the totalitarian heritage of the ruling parties and the complex nature of the transitional period complicate the situation. In addition, tribalism, despotism, aristocracy as well as the new forces make their presence on the political scene felt thus reflecting themselves on the relations of the two ruling parties and causing much confusion and tension. The political crisis between the two partners reached the level of national crisis in 1992, almost causing a halt in the programs of reform and construction. Such a crisis was the cause behind the mass anger against the whole situations despite the riots, violence and sabotage which accompanied the frenzied demonstrators. We can attribute a part of it to the lack of democratic awareness among the people. It is clear that the continued crisis between the two ruling parties has shaken the confidence of the people in their leadership and the democratic choice. It seems that the crisis offers only two alternatives: The senior officials of the two parties must resign from their posts if they can't work together. Having played a leading role in the unification and democratization of Yemen, they may be responsible for pushing it into a destructive national impasse similar to what we see occurring here and there in the world. The homeland may be split into factions and sects and in the end we may invite the imposition of international trusteeship under the flag of the United Nations. The second alternative is to be on the alert and work to salvage the situation and rescue the homeland from the pending disaster and tragic fate awaiting it. Therefore, the two parties can continue their national and historic roles in moving Yemen one more step towards civilization. The endeavors of the YSP and PGC are badly needed especially in bridging the rift between them. Such a step also requires the participation of all political parties and social forces in the Yemeni political scene.

By: Dr. Mohamed Ali Al-Shahari, Al-Thawri, Sanaa, 31/12/1992

PLAYING WITH FIRE IN YEMEN

Yemen has been living in an environment of confusion and tension since its unification; and this tension reached its climax during the demonstrations which turned into violent riots in a number of our major cities including the capital Sana'a. While certain sources called for the resignation of the government of Haidar Al-Attas, others, including the PGC, pointed the finger of blame at YSP. On the other hand, the YSP denied such blame and stated that the people have the right to express their opinion peacefully and legitimately without any violence or destruction. The Presidential Council made many attempts to contain the people's anger. It called to a general conference to study solutions for confronting the crisis and contain it. It also issued many decrees which will supposedly help the situation. Despite the lessons from those events, the two ruling parties continued their bids to win favor and sympathy from the people. This reflects a short-sighted approach to evaluating the dangers of the situation. Observers of the Yemeni political scene sees the continuation of a blaming tone in the PGC positions after (32) months of partnership with the YSP. The PGC pretends it does not share in responsibility for what is happening. Meanwhile notwithstanding claims of reconciliation between the two sides, the situation continues to deteriorate. Even with the dominance of the security over the official media and at near-total black-out on information, nevertheless, stories about the serious conflicts and events, particularly in the northern tribes, continue to filter through. It has been reported that there are tribal-military camps circling the capital Sana'a from the northern side; and the spread of weapons among the Yemeni people is another source of anxiety. All these would open the door wide for civil strife. In addition to the political parties and the status quo of the economic life all these represent an environment suitable for an open civilian strife. It is to be noted that the socio-tribal structure of the Yemeni authority is similar to a great extent to the tribal structure of the system of the former Somali president Siad Barre. The events since toppling the Siad Barre regime two years ago offers a close example of what happens in case of failure to achieve internal balance which could bring all the political forces into collision. Thus, to be indifferent in such circumstances is like playing with fire and it only leads to a catastrophe and disaster which has no end.

By: Hassan Abu Talib, Sawt Al-Ummal, Aden, 31/12/1992.

THE MATCH OF DESTRUCTION

What happened in a number of Yemeni cities - the riots, violence, sabotage and killings, etc. - do not seem to be strange or unexpected for the close observers who witness certain circles working for the collapse/deterioration of the situation in our society. These circles have transformed political outbidding under the guise of democracy into a field of a frenzied match for gaining support and political gains, with an eye to the April parliamentary elections. Towards this objective, this group exploits all facilities and potentials of the state without any consideration of the people's overall interests. Thus, the people and the nation's resources have become a means for serving the goals of this party which wants to dictate its terms instead of opening the doors for an honest competition serving the homeland and the citizen. In this light, we can see that the role of the rulers has been turned into simply party leaders as their aim is how to gain supporters for their parties rather than who will support the state. As a result, running the state apparatus has become synonymous with party politics in which the players not only employ the authority of their posts, but also their party skills in mounting a propaganda campaign as follows:

1. The race to outbid each other on claims of democracy and the attempt of each team to appear before the public in an appearance different from his real appearance, so as to search for troubles then showing off the ability to solve them and such an issue passes through an accusation to the other parts.
2. Those who practice self-deception have the ability to deceive others through various diabolic techniques. This has become evident in the recent incidents in which the public is fed a lot of wrong information.
3. Any objective which is achieved by diabolic means cannot be regarded as noble.
4. The bidding process of the political parties has itself led to many problems.
5. Within this framework political criticism deviated from constructive criticism to a destructive role aimed at casting a cloud of doubt over everything.

It is evident that most political parties are made up of just leaders and no real following. Under this circumstances, the politicians resort to the easiest and shortest means to power even if with fake promises. Gradually the ambitious and greedy politicians gamble with more and more. It is the duty of all to resort to legitimate means in tackling our situations and in trying to find practical solutions to our problems. Let us compete in an honest way and may the best win.

Al-Urubah, Sanaa, 29/12/1992.

ASPIRATIONS FOR 1993

At the local level, I wish from my heart the elections to proceed on April 27th successfully and for the Republic of Yemen to enter a real democratic system thus constructing the new strong Yemen. I also hope and wish to see the senior officials and ministers to walk in the street and markets purchasing their needs by themselves without any bodyguards or relatives. I also wish to see the political parties practise democracy among their members objectively and with reasonable programs which meet the needs of the homeland and the citizens. Special care and concern for our supreme interests and with revenues from local sources without any dependence of the state of foreign aids. At the regional level, I wish the Arab leaders would get together and start a new trend relationship among them and bridge their gaps through real cooperation based on constructive dialogue, sound principles and mutually beneficial relations. At the world level, I wish to see the United Nations and the Security Council deal with all issues on one footing without favoritism to one side or prejudice against the other. And I also wish to see the U.S. non-aligned in the Arab-Israel struggle and

without animosity towards the Palestinians. I also wish that the Secretary-General of the UN visits the West Bank and Bosnia-Herzegovina accompanied with a number of specialized world committees in the sphere of human rights. I hope to see legitimacy prevalent without any violations to it and the measures of application should be the same whether it is with Iraq or any other nation.

By: Ahmad Ismail Al-Akwaa, 22 May, Aden, 30/12/1992.

THE RESOLUTIONS

Our country is flooded these days with resolutions and recommendations by this or that conference organized by political parties, popular organizations, or other social forces. Most of these age and die shortly. This phenomenon has become so widespread that even foreigners who participate in our conferences and seminars come with ready-made resolutions in their brief-cases. In some cases, these documents are stamped by the customs and security people at the airport who inspect the literature that comes into the country. Many of the resolutions make sense as they call for an end to mis-use of public funds, they demand to control corruption and favoritism, and high prices. But some recommendations

are far-fetched and too ambitious. Some call on South Africa not to mind colors, others call on the Security Council to act out of fear of God, and others demand of the Somalis to stop killing each other. However serious or realistic the resolutions, they are of about equal value. No one knows who is supposed to implement them. Yemenis are fond of passing out recommendations and decisions. Everybody does it. The parliament, the government, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, and even the Yemenia hostess passes out resolutions that you should fasten your seat belt. This large volume of resolutions and recommendations has placed a heavy demand on papers, clips and staples, and above all, on the services of typists. As most resolutions are almost identical, I suggest that we develop a model set of resolutions and recommendations which could be used by all conferences. Maybe it is time to create a statistical council to keep track of all these resolutions. May I recommend the government to set up a Ministry for Resolutions and recommendations charged with collecting all these decisions and then do a good filing job on them. Finally I recommend that you keep these resolutions, there may be a market for them in the future. **By: Hussain Al-Awadhi, Al-Wahdah, Sanaa, 30/12/1992.**



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صناعات: ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ تليفون: ٢٧٨٠ نايجيل يمن فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحدية: ت: ٢٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تليفون: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليفون: ٢٢٣٦٩ سبحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦
بورسودان: ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليفون: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 'UNITY AND PEACE CONFERENCE'

The Unity and Peace Conference, held in Sanaa during 27-30/12/1992, issued a communique in which it highlighted its major demands. The following is the text:

Quote:

Background:

The "Unity and Peace Conference" held its meetings during 3-6 Rajab 1413 H (coincides with 27-30/12/92) in view of the dangerous situation in the country, and in order to avoid infighting and to protect the unity which is still fragile in light of the divisive elements still persistent such as a divided army.

The conference was also held because of the many misguided actions and laws of the transitional government, such as the adoption of a secular constitution which has not given Islamic Sharia sole governance, the issuance of a press law which sanctifies certain wrong values which many not be criticized, the 1991 budget which provided allocations for a factory producing liquor, and the education law which abolished the schools for teaching the Quran and the religious institutes, and the economic hardships.

For all the above, the Popular Festival was held earlier at the Religious Institute of Sanaa during which the people called for a conference that would bring all segments of the people and all parts of the country together. A preparatory committee was elected from the sheikhs, clergy, university professors, representatives of the governorates, and businessmen, etc.

Preparations included grass-root level interaction with the people to choose representatives from each region and quarter. At the end, the attendants were:

- 1) specialists in various fields, such as university professors, and people with experience;
- 2) unions, popular organizations that are concerned with national issues;
- 3) representatives of the rural areas and cities;
- 4) many clergymen, sheikhs, businessmen and public figures; and
- 5) members of the army and security forces.

Main Issues Discussed in the Conference:

- 1) Amending the Constitution was a point of consensus among the participants so that the book of God (Quran) and the Sunnah are above the constitution and laws.
- 2) Holding clean elections on time, and to accept the results thereof. The participants reaffirmed the need to form people's committees to supervise the process of the elections to stop any cheating effort.

3) The cohesion of the armed and security forces on the one hand, and their unification with the people on the other. There was a general feeling among the participants that the divided status of the army does not provide for the consolidation of unity and national peace. Thus, they call for urgent efforts to unify the army and security forces, and to give the chance for all the sons of Yemen to join the army and security forces without discrimination.

4) To guarantee economic stability, and to stop the spiralling of price levels. This issue was a major point in the discussions as the conferees indicated the deteriorating economic conditions in light of the high inflation rates and the dramatic fall in the price of the riyal.

The conference also called for the establishment of an interest-free economy and to rid the economy of all debts.

5) To guarantee the rights of women which were assigned by Islam and to guarantee her a decent life.

Importance of the Conference:

The people of vision in this country attach great importance to this conference because of the dangerous and alarming indicators they see, including the following:

- 1) Belittling the great Islamic Sharia, not taking the opinion of the clergy, and defrauding the dictates of the people and inching towards authoritarianism.
- 2) What they see in terms of divisive efforts, and the rise of political party and tribal blocks which lead towards fragmenting the nation.
- 3) The economic disasters especially in terms of the fall of the value of the riyal and the rise in price levels.
- 4) Administrative breakdown as manifested in overlap of authority, the security vacuum, and the encouragement of sectarian and regional strife.
- 5) The misuse of the information and cultural media which led to moral corruption, and misinforming the public regarding the real internal and external dangers threatening the nation: its land and its faith.

Thus, we can see the importance of this conference which aims to open the people's eyes to the coming danger which could lead to extinction, and thus to allow them to participate in the general

and private affairs.

The Decisions:

- 1) To form a supreme board to follow-up the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the conference. This will be formed from:
 - a- the Presidency of the Conference;
 - b- the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the committees;
 - c- the Preparatory Committee;
 - d- the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and rapporteurs of the committees the Supreme Board has been authorized to form;
 - e- and the public figures whom the Supreme Board has been authorized to nominate.

2) The Supreme Board shall issue the internal regulations which shall govern its work and the work of its committees.

3) The first item in such regulations must indicate that the conference is not a political party, but a general formation which encompasses all segments of the Muslim Yemeni people.

4) The conference shall establish the following funds:

- a- Fund for Assisting the Oppressed.
- b- Fund for Mujahedeen in Palestine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other Muslim nations (subjected to foreign involvement).
- c- Fund for Internal Reconciliation.

5) The Supreme Board shall determine the place and time of the second conference, and priority to be given to Aden. The present conference shall be called the First Unity and Peace Conference, and the next, the Second Unity and Peace Conference.

6) The Supreme Board shall form the following committees:

- a- The Elections Protection Committee.
- b- The Islamic Banks Committee.
- c- The Committee to Bridge the Gap Among Political Parties.
- d- The Committee to Support the Oppressed.
- e- The Committee to Bridge the Gap Among the Clergy and Preachers.
- 7) The Conference adopted the following documents:
 - a- The Unity and Peace Documents.
 - b- Document to Support the Oppressed.
 - c- Document on Brotherhood and Reconciliation.

8) The Conference issued the following statements:

- a- The statement on the foundations of the state authorities and how they are exercised.
- b- The people's statement on amending the constitution.

c- Statement of human

rights in Islam.

The Resolutions:

1) Resolutions by Fatwa (Religious Explanation):

a- Of all natural resources such as petroleum and minerals, a percentage must be set aside for the poor and underclass, without distinction among them.

b- Muslim girls (women) may not be sent for studies abroad unless accompanied by a male guardian, and the state must abide by this.

c- Not one inch of the land of Palestine may be conceded, and the Jewish occupation of it may not be recognized. It is forbidden to set diplomatic or economic relations with the Jews, and all legal means must be pursued to liberate Palestine.

d- Dividing the Muslims is haram (forbidden), and it is not allowed to raise divisive issues in order to divide the Muslims and make them extremists for this or that sect.

e- The state must preserve the land not used/owned by the people, and to survey the poor and needy among the people to distribute among them, as well as to distribute for exploitation and investment purposes in a fair and just manner. The state may set aside part of such land for general use in public projects.

2) Judicial Matters:

a- The constitution and the judicial law must explicitly state the independence of the justice system, and to give it financial and administrative independence, to indicate that interference in the judicial process is a crime, and the penalties thereof.

b- To improve curricula of the College of Sharia and Law in Sanaa University, the College of Law in Aden University, and the Supreme Judicial Institute. Such improvements must be oriented towards opening departments for Sharia studies. The above bodies must also work towards choosing qualified lecturers, and to better student enrollment procedures.

c- To issue the laws regulating penal codes which should replace the laws of the former YAR and PDRY, and to revise the laws already issued in order to reconcile them with the Sharia, and to delete those irreconcilable with the Sharia.

d- To provide adequate protection to the judiciary, to form judicial police under the command of the judicial system, to close-up all private prisons, and to stop imprisoning any person except through a court order.

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Fetal Cell Transplantation The American Genome Project

By:
Amjed Abdul Hamid,
Science Editor,
Yemen Times.

Scientists are optimistic that fetal cell transplantations, which use tissue obtained from voluntarily aborted fetuses, could widely open the doors for treating diseases like Parkinson's disease, a nerve disease, characterized by tremors especially of fingers and hands, rigidity of muscles, slowness of movements and speech, and a masklike expressionless face.

Named after James Parkinson (1755-1854), an English physician who first described it, Parkinson's disease can be compared to Huntington's disease, another devastating neurodegenerative disorder, or even a diabetic's reliance on insulin.

It was found that fetal cells not only thrive in a host, they also can develop into specialized forms and secrete substances that nurture surrounding tissue. In addition, some fetal cells seem less likely than other cells to trigger an immune reaction. These properties could make fetal cells uniquely valuable for treating diseases in which tissue degenerates, like Parkinson's disease, which slowly deprives its victims of the power of movement by destroying cells in a small region of the brain. One of these experimental transplantations in four patients has shown that 5-10% of the implanted cells have survived and 3 of the 4 patients have shown improved mobility. In another dramatic implantation, 7 out of 8 patients have improved, one of them dramatically.

Other researchers have reported progress using pancreatic tissue to reduce diabetics' reliance on insulin, where using fetal tissue could eliminate some

of the problems encountered in obtaining tissue from adult corpses (cadavers). Treating diabetes, a disease which hits 10-20% of the adults of any society and at different ages, with this technique would be a medical landmark.

Others have created symptoms resembling those of Huntington's disease by damaging rat brains and then through treatment restored normal levels of activity.

Some countries like the United States and Sweden among others have taken steps to establish banks of fetal tissues, to preserve the tissue at very low temperatures (cryopreserve) and keep them sterile until the need arises for transplantation.

Although fetal transplantation has a very promising future that surpasses the technique of implanting animal cells into patients, to this day scientists cannot stop the body's immune reactions and rejection. Yet there are ethical problems that have to be solved with fetal transplantation. Some especially in the United States argue that research could encourage abortion for financial or sympathetic reasons. In other countries like England, women who have already decided to have an abortion are asked if they are willing to donate fetal tissue for medical research without telling them for whom it will be used.

Other researchers have suggested that soon it will be possible to culture fetal cells in laboratories, so that cells from one fetus could be used to treat hundreds of patients and relieve them from enormous suffering. Till that day researchers will go on speculation about the impact of fetal transplantation on enhancing and probably even extending life, humanity's ancient dream.

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OPINION TIMES

AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN SOMALIA: SELF-SERVING OR TO SAVE SOMALIA?

EDUCATION

Letters to the Editor

DEAD-END LOVE



Dead-end love,
Going nowhere,
Saying nothing.
Just two poor souls,
Near each other,
Silent and Stoney cold.

When I smile and laugh
And touch your hands.
It is cold and pale,
It doesn't mean:
I love you!

Dead-end love,
Long time past now,
Saying nothing, yet,
Walking hand in hand.

When you shine,
and eagerly look to me.
Our eyes meet,
It doesn't mean
you need me!

Dead-end love,
We drink coffee,
Saying nothing, yet,
Each waiting,
You and me dear.

When we touch and kiss
Caress and sooth,
Yet saying nothing
The joy and hope
It doesn't mean forever.

Dead-end love,
It is just a habit.
Saying nothing
Counting passing hours.
Oh the emptiness.

Dead-end lovers,
Saying nothing,
Still lovers,
Dead lovers.

By:
Salim A O Bin Zagar,
Aden.

The past three years of civil war have left Somalia in ruins. The United Nations and the world were rather indifferent until conditions deteriorated almost beyond repair. It was only through the efforts of some NGOs and Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, and the visits of some world leaders, stars and actresses, and the news media that Somalia became the focus of international concern.

The American government's interest started with the presidential election campaign, when U.S. President Mr. Bush hastily ordered the airlifting of some thousands of tons of food. Mr. Bush is known for his strong stand against any military intervention in Somalia. He is on record to have gone on nation-wide television and radio to repudiate the recommendation for military intervention advanced by a number of American Congressmen who visited Southern Somalia earlier. What then is behind the sudden change of heart at a time when Mr. Bush's days of presidency are numbered?

Even then, Bush's "Project Restore Hope," in which some 30,000 American soldiers are deployed to lead a multi-nation force to feed "the hungry," is a welcome relief. However, this effort may prove to have very temporary results, and definitely, it will be far less than the expectations of most of the Somali citizens.

If the American strategy is limited to only feeding the hungry, without real efforts to disarm the warlords and their thugs and bandits, this "noble" mission will be a major failure. Most Somalis hail the success achieved so far and sincerely hope the US-led international forces will not leave Somalia before the guns and other military hardware are taken away. This policy of taking away the death tools is not only critical in achieving the goals of bringing peace to Somalia, but it is also important to the safety of the UN troops. There are already some early casualties among the UN forces operating in Somalia. Unless, the peace-keeping force collects the hardware, trigger-happy bandits will use it to shoot at the UN men.

If the efforts of the UN force is limited to simply distributing food, then a lasting solution is not attainable. Such a strategy will be catastrophic. It will only provide an opportunity for the bandits, warlords and gangs to wreak more havoc in different parts of the country where peace reigns today. The thugs are even inciting anti-UN feelings by presenting them to the local population as new colonizers, and they are also rekindling tribal wars that were savagely destroying the country only weeks ago.

There is an additional omen. If the American presence in Somalia is seen as part of the local power politics, i.e., to accommodate some warlords at the expense of others, it will be very counter-productive. A case in point

is what Mr. Bush's emissary, former U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, recently declared. He expressed the intention to reconcile the two warlords (Ali Mahdi and General Mohamed Farah Aideed) in Mogadishu, while refusing to meet with a third warlord (General Morgan) in Bardhere. America must understand that it cannot play God and dispense justice in its own way. It should stick to morals for once, and quit playing politics with people's lives. It must understand that all warlords from whatever faction are unwanted bandits and murderers. The warlords in Mogadishu have no better human rights records than those of General Morgan or any other thug. Actually, the warlords in Mogadishu are responsible for the destruction of Mogadishu, making it totally devoid of even the rudimentary services.

Under whatever pretexts, they have ordered the brutal killing and wounding of thousands of innocent citizens, not to mention other crimes committed such as indiscriminate looting, the abduction and rape of helpless women and drug trafficking. They are the real criminals in the endless saga of misery in Somalia today. To so many displaced citizens which have been forced to flee to neighboring countries, to hundreds of thousands of citizens who could not leave the country because they were unable to walk to safety and were thus destined to die of starvation, the recent US efforts to accommodate the thugs are very disturbing.

Mr. Bush loudly claims that the base for the American intervention in Somalia is a moral commitment to save the people from the thugs. So why are they now trying to accommodate them? To embrace any of these men, and to give them a certain international legitimacy serves no purpose. Such a policy will alienate the people of Somalia who are disgusted by the warlords and their thugs. It also forces some factions to take up arms and thus open new wounds in the Somali body.

If the American strategy is to exit the place as soon as possible and not to be bogged down in quicksand, we can appreciate that feeling. But this policy of an unfinished job is not the right way to go about it. Let the Americans put the country on the right course, the UN forces will help a little bit more, and the Somali people will finish the job.

And if the American strategy is to maintain a physical presence in the region, that is also understood, taking into consideration the strategic location of Somalia and the visible American interest in the region. Again this is not the way to go about it. If the US is seen as playing its old game of imposing a puppet ruler who will best serve it, even if in the name of moderation, then such a policy will quickly backfire. There will efforts to dislodge such a ruler, and the cycle of civil war may start

all over again. Whatever good feelings towards the Americans that have grown over the last few weeks, have yet to develop roots. The US efforts at accommodating the thugs will eradicate that and may even replace it with resentment and bad feelings. Somalia is not the right place to begin again this policy of planting puppet regimes. Any attempt in this direction will backfire and will replace the prevailing good feeling and gratitude for the Americans with everlasting hate.

If America's intention is to demonstrate to the world her unchallengeable control over world affairs, again Somalia is the wrong choice, as it will not serve as a convincing example for others. The unruly Somalis and their obstinate and stubborn unyielding character may simply prove the contrary. Somalis today still say "Welcome" to the American forces. I hope the politicians do not blow it.

For the first time in three years, there is a window of hope for the restoration of a healthy Somali nation. No doubt the intervention of the American troops kindled this hope and hopefully the world can save Somalia from itself. That will happen only if:

1. The Americans gauge the majority of the nation's feelings and expectations, disassociate themselves from all the warlords and act impartially towards all factions and tribes.
2. The multi-national forces demonstrate the will to go beyond delivering food bags and engage in disarming all the bandits, warlords and gangs and restore a lasting peace and tranquility in all parts of the country.
3. America takes the lead to work with the UN Secretary General to bring about a practical solution based on democratic values, with some role reserved for our traditional leaders and elders. I take this opportunity to express gratitude to the many world leaders, politicians, actresses, the media and the NGOs who have been instrumental in bringing world attention to the Somali tribulation. Special thanks go to the Yemeni people and government who have welcomed our refugees and gave them a temporary safe-heaven. Equally our hearts will never forget those nations that have abandoned us at the time of our need.

By:
M. B. Gurhan,
Sanaa.

As the dark age of Yemen ended, the revolutionary government built a large number of different types of schools. Everyone felt happy as learning became free and available. As a reciprocal cultural exchange among Arabs, many teachers and planners came to Yemen to teach our children, plan and manage our educational system. The result was quite good; we did increase the number of children enrolled in schools.

Simultaneously, the system was supplemented with local graduates. Many these graduates work in several places. They are influenced in this by their foreign teachers - I mean the Arab ones. There is no honesty, no patriotism, and no real improvements. Bribery is prevalent. Some schools have a large number of teachers and some others are closed. You can find secondary graduates teaching in the prep schools or teachers teaching subjects in which they have no experience. Teachers are whimsically distributed among classes and subjects by the school principal who can be a lawyer, a military man, or anything else. These corruptible persons cause flaws in the system.

Our hope was that the reunification leadership would reform systems, but it seems to have become worse. Teachers' lives have become hard because of rising prices, and teaching is not interesting. As a part of my syllabi, I learn to teach every week and I am enthusiastic to apply certain successful teaching methods. Most of the teachers are foreigners, and classes are too large to control. Students' levels and educational background are very weak.

Still, I look forward to applying the new systems. But we need to take care of some pressing issues. Internal migration should be controlled by providing educational services in the villages. Teachers principals should be assigned tasks according to their experiences and qualifications, not by how much they paid or who they know. Our great culture and history should be inculcated in the minds of our children so that we could boost their morals and motivate them towards great achievements and endeavors. It is in this way that unified Yemen attains greatness and prosperity.

By:
Mansour Mahdi Moqbel,
Faculty of Education,
Sana'a University.

Personal View

WITH OUR PROBLEMS

Every citizen in our country is surprised when he/she hears that the Islamic-law courts are not able to carry out their decisions. They prolong their proceedings until the citizens are exhausted and frustrated. The aim behind such practices is to extract money from the protagonists, especially if they are unruly tribesmen who from time to time sue each other over small things.

Even in the cities, if any one buys a plot of land, for instance, a person or many persons may claim that the plot belongs to them. Thus starts a long process in the courts. As a result, a whole class of parasites has evolved. Their job is to blackmail decent people by threatening court action, unless.

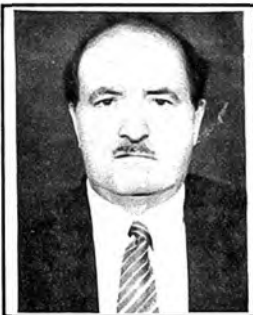
The instructions of Islam call on everyone to earn money or other assets in legal ways and and urge Muslims not to be greedy. Hypocritical religious persons, many of whom are associated with the court system, have created a lot of problems through their illegal interests and their covetousness.

We must be good Muslims and gain our wealth from legal channels, preferably hard work. Greed is something natural in human beings, but we must control it and bring it within limits.

There are very greedy merchants, greedy bureaucrats and government officials, greedy security officers and army personnel, greedy lawyers and judges, etc.

But this behavior is going to create problems to all of us. We must listen to our conscience. We must consider the interests of others before we get away with whatever we can bite off.

By: Saleh Al-Suraihi
Yemeni Embassy, Addis Ababa.



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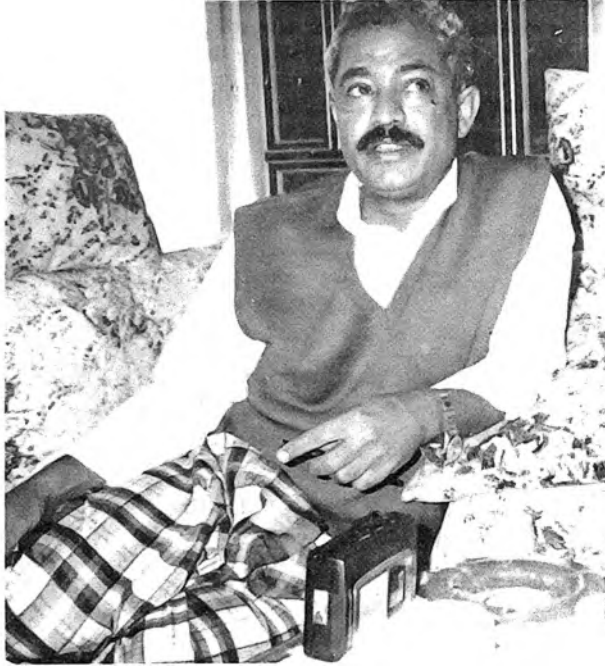
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Governor Dirhem Noman:

"SHABWAH IS A RAPIDLY CHANGING PLACE."

Dirhem Abdo Noman is the Governor of Shabwah. From Hugarriah, Taiz, Dirhem started his early education in Aden. He then joined the army since 1962 when he joined the National Guards just after the September 1962 Revolution. Therefore, he has seen many a battle and participated in the defence of Sanaa during the 70-day Siege. Since 1979, Colonel Noman has been governor. First of Al-Jawf, then of Marib, then of Sanaa, and now of Shabwah. Yemen Times Economic Editor Ameen Nouisser interviewed him on the new developments in Shabwah. Excerpts of the interview follow:



Q: Could we start by an assessment of the current conditions in Shabwah?

A: Like all other governorates, Shabwah is a changing place. It witnesses substantial investments in infrastructure, services, utilities, etc. Yet, the government's resources are rather limited, and unable to meet all the needs of the governorate. Therefore, we are optimizing and prioritizing the needs. As a result the rate of growth is understandably low.

Q: You say this is a changing place. What kind of change?

A: First, we are bringing law and order to what was a distant region. Being at the periphery and given the nomadic pattern of life, we are encouraging people to settle down. So the towns, especially the capital, Ataq, is growing rapidly. Second, we have witnessed the coming of oil companies and the support services for them. At the moment, the main efforts are at exploration, but some production has already started in Block 4 of Nimir company. Third, we are pushing ahead with private investments, especially by the returnees. Many of the governorate's people were immigrants, and most came back after the Gulf Crisis. They brought with them their savings. They are now the dynamo of change in the governorate. These are the changes.

Q: Let us take each of those factors of change one by one. The

sedentarization process, first. Could you shed more light on it?

A: You will note that Shabwah is a peripheral state bordering on the Rub al-Khali (Empty Quarter). Some of the people lead a nomadic life, and that explains why there are no large cities in the governorate. Ataq, the capital, is home to just several thousand people. So we encourage people to farm the land, construct industries, build permanent homes, etc. We have problems associated with jurisdiction over certain issues given the population movements. In any case, I am happy to say progress has been achieved in this effort.

Q: How much of a contribution to the governorate's growth do oil companies make?

A: As I said earlier, the oil effort is still in its exploratory stage. Therefore, the contribution of the oil companies to the local economy is rather minimal. Even the needs of these companies are met by foreigners given the skills required. I have to say that there is a lot of good will shared between the local people and authorities and the oil companies. These companies do employ a few locals as daily wage-workers. They are also very social-minded in that they have shown interest in helping the areas in which they operate. Thus, they have constructed feeder roads, drilled some water wells, etc. We hope they will assist in other

services such as financing the construction of schools and training centers, etc. in their sites of work.

Q: Finally, the returnees, what has been done for them, and how can they contribute to the growth of the region?

A: Many of the citizens of this governorates were immigrants, and now they have returned. Most have settled in the large cities in other parts of the republic, but some have come back. They have some resources at their disposal, and they are using them to open up new businesses like stores, workshops, and other small enterprises. Those who have come back are more or less adjusted, often without assistance from any side, except direct family members.

Q: Are the problems associated with real estate confiscated under the former PDRY resolved?

A: You will remember that the government has issued a number of laws and regulations as to how to handle this problem. By and large, we have sorted this matter out. Some 1800 cases were submitted and the property has been returned to the former owners. I can say that almost all the urban real estate and 90% of the agricultural property have been returned. There are, of course, certain cases still pending with the courts because there are complications and disputes. But this is off our hands, and we leave it upto the courts to handle them.

Q: How strong is the political involvement of the people in the governorate. I mean how much presence do the parties have?

A: First, we are a rather medium size governorate, and we are entitled to only six seats in the next parliament. Therefore, we are not the focus of attention of the political parties. Even then, I can tell you that the Yemeni Socialist Party, the People's General Congress, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen command a visible presence, if at least physically through their branch offices.

I expect more activity in this regard as the candidates compete for support of the people as elections draw closer.

In general, I prefer that we pay more attention to the economic development of the governorate, although the two (economics and politics) go hand in hand.

Q: What do you think of the decentralization issue, especially in terms of local elections of the governor and other officials?

A: I think this is the natural evolution of our course. I can assure you that the current over-centralized system is very costly to our economy, and very frustrating to our efforts.

It will be a big step forward if we can apply a reasonably decentralized system. It will make decisions, not only in Shabwah, but all governorates, more cost-effective and efficient, and they will be more prompt.

The decentralization step will also highlight a higher level of mutual confidence between the center and the hinterlands. It will give credibility to the system, and it will reduce the blame on the center for all the difficulties of the nation, as the local officials will share in the blame if there are shortcomings.

I would like to stress the economic benefits one more time. I think that a decentralized decision-making capacity will increase the economic efficiency of the system, especially in terms of executing projects.

Q: You already have the governorate's executive council which makes most decisions.

A: Yes, all former PDRY governorates have a local executive council headed by the governor. Actually the governor and his deputy were directly elected by the people in the former PDRY.

But most of the decisions cannot be taken today, and even then, without reference to the capital city. I am sure an arrangement can be worked out according to which some authority can be delegated from the center to the governorates.

The executive council of each governorate can prepare the development plans, dispense of all local affairs, and coordinate with the center regarding issues of national concern.

Q: In terms of preparations for elections, what is being done in your governorate?

A: You know that ours is a supportive role. The Supreme Elections Committee has named someone who will head of the governorate's supervisory committee, and they have named the heads of the subcommittees, as well. We will work together and facilitate their tasks. I am sure that nothing major will happen in Shabwah to complicate the elections process. We are alert to all possibilities.

Q: Any final words on this occasion?

A: I would like to use this opportunity to call on our officials to revert to the national interests and to rationalize their steps and decisions. We must tackle our differences with an eye to the overall needs of the country, not our private ones.

I think our major task today is to protect and preserve our unity, and push forward in our development in a responsible spirit. No one stands to gain from getting broiled in small issues which may lead to harmful results on the whole nation.

I would like to stress the need for dialogue and conciliatory attitudes among the power groups of the country. Violence and terrorism will not resolve any of our problems. I also would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for the people of Shabwah for their full cooperation with me and my colleagues in the governorate. Without their sincere and continued cooperation, we would not have achieved what we have.

Finally, I would like to urge them to show even more cooperation, especially in the election days ahead of us.

CONGRATULATIONS

Relatives, neighbors and friends extend their heart-felt congratulations to the Bamoshmoos and Saqqaf families on the betrothal of their children:

Dr. Mohamed A. Bamoshmoos and Ms. Haifa A. Al-Saqqaf

We wish the couple and all the family members more happiness and glory in the years ahead.

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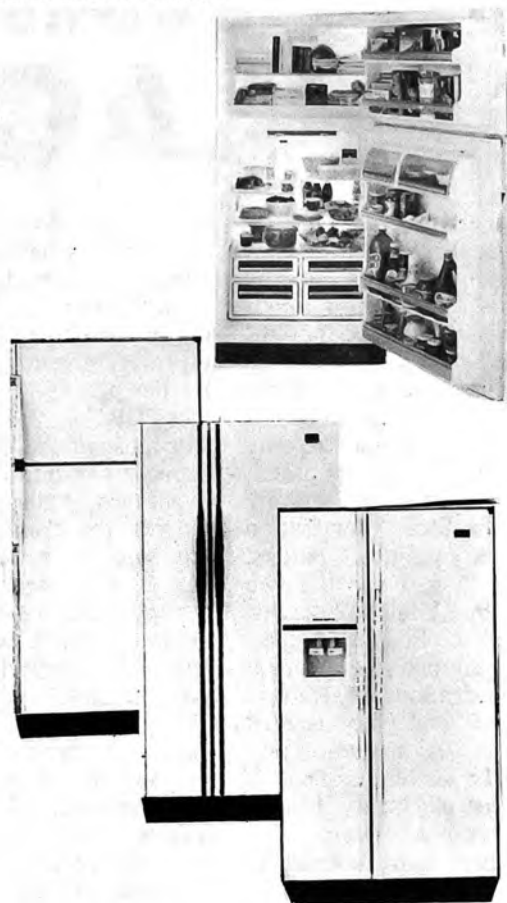


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Continued from page 7:

Resolutions of the Unity and Peace Conference

3) Unity and Peace:

a- To raise the nation in a way based on faith and Jihad (religious struggle), and to pay attention to the role of the mosques and to raise the level of preachers and religious guides and to protect them and assist them through the media, the schools, universities, institutes, civilian and military colleges, etc. in order to combat corruption and low morals.

b- To set up police for conduct to control the behavior of the people's and to arrest morally deviant individuals and to bring them to justice.

c- To stand fast opposed to any missionary movement or any other effort to affect the morals and conduct and safety of our nation.

d- To control tourism within the limits and bounds of our values and traditions, and to apply medical check-ups at the airports, harbors, and all other entry points to block the entry of people who carry AIDS or other lethal diseases into Yemen.

e- Providing the chance to whosoever wishes from the Yemenis to enroll in the military colleges, to serve in the army, and to make the loyalty and allegiance of the army to Allah and the nation. It is also imperative to improve the living and health conditions of the armed forces and their families.

f- To take urgent steps to end the division within the army, and to bring army inventories and stores under surveillance so that no one party can misuse or reallocate the contents.

g- To outlaw the Popular Defence Committees and political militias and to block arming any group affiliated to any party.

h- To disclose those who were responsible for the assassination attempts, and the riots and violence and to bring them to justice.

i- To initiate a full-fledged campaign against highway men, robbers, drug traffickers, and to establish patrols on the inter-city highways.

j- To combat juvenile criminals and to warn against taking them in, and to bring them to justice.

4) Economic and Administrative Matters:

a- The conference calls on the government to encourage private initiative in investments, to protect private ownership, and to consolidate complementary cooperation between all sectors, and to direct investments towards projects which use local raw materials.

b- The conference calls on the government to adopt proper economic policies including the abolition of interest-based banking, and to prepare for the establishment of Islamic banks, and the establish-

ment of a free competitive market based on Islamic Sharia stopping speculation and monopolistic behavior.

c- To implement a commercial strategy based on priorities of importation for basic goods, as well as intermediary inputs for agricultural and industrial production, and to encourage barter commercial ties with Arab and Muslim countries.

5) Education, Culture and Information:

a- To teach each section of Islamic education as a subject by itself in light of the need for it to build the identity of the Yemeni Muslim individual.

b- To create an educational environment in which the educators play a role model, and to require the media and cultural tools to follow the educational plan and program so that the children will grow in it; and to open new religious institutes and Quranic recital centers in the southern and eastern governorates.

c- To carry out training programs for the teachers of religious subjects, to increase their dose in the teacher training institutes, to abrogate the co-educational system (boys and girls together), to help qualify the teachers, and to fight cheating in exams.

d- To set up colleges for studying the Quran, and to establish girls' colleges in all fields, and to build social welfare asylums.

e- To distribute schools to all governorates in a just and fair way, and to make textbooks available before the school-year starts.

f- To enforce on all female teachers and female pupils and students the Islamic uniform (hijab) based on Islamic law and to furnish girls' schools.

g- To attend to the literacy campaign program and teaching of adults, and to expand and increase the vocational centers.

6) Internal Policies:

a- To reaffirm the right of citizens to exercise their political freedoms within Islamic Sharia, and to stress the principle of the sovereignty of God's laws on the land, and the people's right in choosing their rulers.

b- To demand that the government disclose all the instigators of the crisis and bottlenecks, and those who attack citizens, their properties, and those who transgress against public property.

c- To disclose the whereabouts of all those who were arrested, imprisoned and kidnapped prior to unification, and whose fates are still unknown.

d- To ask the state to attend to the needs of citizens in deprived regions, especially in the remote/ border areas.

e- To demand the return of

all property confiscated in the southern and eastern governorates, and to set-up people's and governmental committees to supervise the return of such property within a fixed time frame.

f- To call the political parties to prepare realistic and truthful programs, within the framework of Islam, in addressing the issues facing the nation.

g- To call on the people to stand up firmly in the face of any attempts to postpone the elections or to play with them, or to refuse their results, and to initiate popular and judicial surveillance on their procedures.

h- To demand of the official media and the newspapers of political parties to avoid any reports that feed internal strife or that hurt our relations with fraternal and friendly countries, and to avoid anything that touches personal issues, especially as far as the clergy are concerned.

i- To demand the state to bring the Central Audit and Control Office under the umbrella of the House of Representatives so as to relieve it from pressure from the government.

j- To call on the armed and security forces to play their role in protecting the legitimacy that comes out of the elections and the people's will.

7) Foreign Policies:

a- To reaffirm the sovereignty of the nation over its land and territorial waters.

b- To reaffirm the need to prepare the people and army to repel any foreign aggression.

c- To demand protection of the state, and to work towards protecting the Yemeni citizen from internal and external threats.

d- To demand improvement of our relations with fraternal and friendly countries with an eye to serving the common interests and those of the Arabs and Muslims.

e- The serious support of our Palestinian brothers in their legitimate struggle to establish the independent Palestinian state, and to support the Intifada, and to adopt Jihad as the effective means to liberate Palestine.

f- To call on the state, government and people of Yemen to support our Muslim brothers oppressed in various parts of the world, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to sacrifice all resources to assist them in their resistance to the eradication campaign to which they are subjected just because they hold on to their faith.

8) General Services:

a- The need to implement comprehensive administrative reforms in which the

qualified and decent persons in the appropriate positions, and to improve the systems and financial and administrative laws.

b- To prepare future plans based on field surveys and execute projects according to predetermined timetables.

c- To work towards creating qualified local personnel who will take charge of responsibility, and who will be given appropriate remuneration.

d- To expand the base of health services, to focus on preventive health care, to enforce a free medical service system in government facilities, to subsidize the cost of medicine and child food and to treat them as basic needs, and to organize their importation and local production by encouraging the private sector in this field.

9) Women and Society:

a- To give woman her rights fixed by God and which society has deprived her of, and to educate men on these rights.

b- The conference calls to encourage group marriages (meaning collective weddings) and to enlighten the public not to demand high doweries.

c- The conference calls to impose the hijab (Islamic dress) on all women to be worn so that morals are not corrupted.

d- The conference demands that female students in the southern and eastern governorates wear the hijab and to apply God's Sharia.

e- The Civil Registry law has to give women their rights and to abolish any items (rights) in contradiction to that stipulated in God's Law.

f- The conference demands that working women should be given the rights that will enable them to balance their contribution in the development process with their duties in creating families as well as raising children. Towards this end, appropriate leave should be allowed during pregnancies, deliveries and breast-feeding.

g- To provide child-care facilities in all work locations, and to ensure such services are sufficient and provided free of charge.

h- Women must understand that Islam has given them many rights which were taken away from them. These rights cannot be returned to them unless we take them back. These include the right to education, the right to participation in elections, and the right to cast their votes. Therefore, it is a duty and responsibility for women to participate in the elections through which we can make the Quran and Sunnah supreme to the constitution.

i- To establish children's clubs.

Unquote

Continued from page 5

PREJUDICE...

way, and that this conditioning annihilates the possibility of freely arriving at our own understanding about the things of life; it never occurs to us that our conditioning is prejudicial, creating antagonism not only among believers, but also against those who adhere to other beliefs and persuasions. If we take the concept of environmental influence a step further, we come to realize that we are not only conditioned by the environmental influence a step further, we come to realize that we are not only conditioned by the environment... we are the environment. We are not separate from that which we have created and which, in turn, fashions us.

Our thoughts and responses are conditioned by the values which society, of which we are a part, has imposed upon us. Therefore, since we ourselves both mould and are moulded by the environment, what we think, what we do, and what we say are of great importance and matter significantly in shaping the overall ecology of our human relationships - the foundation of all our social dilemmas. For just as it is true that the environment shapes us, it is also true that it either helps or hinders us.

When I revealed the subject matter of the present article to a close friend of mine, he looked at me rather perplexedly and remarked: "Prejudice? Well we all know it exists, but what more can be said? Other than it exists, what more can you say?" I thought long and hard over his reaction. It soon struck me that his reply typifies the general trend of unawareness, uninvolvedness, and avoidance of all sensitive issues which confront and disquiet us - the kind that demand keen introspection, scrupulous self-examination, impeccable honesty, and the courage and daring to question, challenge, and break through the boundaries that limit and cripple our human relationships.

It also struck me as remarkable at how easily we become conformists. The mind has a peculiar way of "settling" into its own conditioning, and we take up parroting attitudes, actions, and slogans that are not our own in order to remain invisible among the masses and, hence, secure in the crowd. Predictably enough, our fears succeed in shaping us, as they lock us into ignorance and irrational self-protectiveness. Meanwhile we, as unique entities in our own right, grow smaller and smaller while our fears grow larger into obsessions and compulsions that, quite inevitably, tear us and our relationships completely apart.

Prejudice reduces even the best of us to victims and victimisers. When the prejudicial actions of others reduce us to victims, most of us elect to suffer in silent indignation while the sparks of resentment and antagonism slowly kindle into flames of quiet hatred. When we, in our turn, behave as victimisers and perpetrators of prejudice, we use the hurt of our past indignations to justify our injustices while we vent out our pain, frustration, and fear on others, reducing them to victims in their turn.

The Sheba Conference Initiates Contacts

Among the popular conferences, the "Mu'tamar Saba' Lil-Qaba' il al-Yamaniya" (Sheba's Conference of Yemen Tribes) stands out. It was held in the Marib region in the period between September 22nd and October 3rd, 1992. More than 12,500 conferees attended its 13-day sessions. Resisted by the authorities in Sana'a, its conferees, who represented more than twenty tribes from the Madhag and Bakil confederations, met to discuss the prevailing conditions in the country in the open-air of the famous Dhina valley of Marib. The conference elected in its last session an eleven-member Council of Trustees. Sheikh Muhammad Bin Naji al-Ghadir, the Paramount Sheikh of Khawlan tribes, was chosen as its Secretary General, Sheikh 'Ali Qibli Nimran, the Paramount Sheikh of Murab Tribes was chosen as Assistant Secretary-General, and Sheikh Sinan abu-Luhum as Advisor. Several committees were also formed.

Madhag tribes represented in this popular conference were: al-Guba, Hareeb, al-'Abdiyah, Mahli and Rahba of Murad; 'Ubeidah and al-Ashraf; al-Baidha; Aal 'Awadh; Aal 'Azzan; Aal al-Rassas; al-Malagem; Aal Sawad; Qeifah; 'Ans; and al-Hada'. From the Bakil Confederation the following tribes were represented: Nehm and al-Gid'aan; Gihm bani Gabr; Khawlan; Arhab; Dhu-Hussein and Dhu-Muhammad of Dahm; Sufyan; 'Iyal Sureih and al-Jabal; Anis. Not all Madhag and Bakil tribes were represented in such unsurpassed popular gathering, because the main concern of the organisers was to bring together tribes of the governorates of Marib, Dhamar, al-Baidha and some neighboring tribes of Sana'a and al-Jawf governorates.

According to the Assistant Secretary General, one of the most important achievements of the conference was the formation of the follow-up and dialogue committee. The committee successfully contacted a number of tribes that were unable to attend the conference. "We have also established contact with other blocks such as the National Conference and the Taiz Conference, among others," Sheikh Al-Qibli explained.

Members of all political parties and tribes which participated in the conference pledged to exert all efforts to achieve the conference's objectives.



**THE BEST
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CAN BUY**

Arabs Rated as the Poorest Readers in the World ?

By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times.



Are we the poorest readers in the world? This question pressed on my head as I was reading some facts and comments on the Arab books exhibitions and fairs of the year 1992, the last of which was the one held in Beirut last month. Facts and figures tell us, as they have done for generations, that the Arab citizen is one of the poorest readers in the world, as measured by the number of books sold in the Arab world.

Like it or not, books are commodities whose cultural utility masks a wide variety of commercial concerns. Book writing and publishing in Arabic has constantly proved not to be a money earner all over the Arab world.

I was irritating, even horrified, to learn that the book that sells 5000 copies in our part of the world is considered successful by current sale standards. Imagine, five thousand copies for 250 million persons - that is an average of one book per 50,000 persons. Let me put it in a different way. Most of our towns have an average population of 50,000. So what the number saying is that one book per town. Who is this one reader per town?

If one say that the cultural and financial elites represent the class or group of people who read books, then I would say that number should be far more than the 5000 copies sold. I am putting aside the students and government bureaucrats who are in the hundreds of thousands. So why would a publisher choose a career with such hopeless commercial prospects? I will try here to build a collective view based on various statements and interviews made by and with Arab publishers and from all over the world.

Censorship is one of the main problems affecting the publishing business in Arab countries. Censorship is a two-way blade. It is understandable in terms of its announced aim to protect certain moral, political or cultural values, in themselves very flexible concepts. On the other hand, censorship forms a very selective sword in the hands of ruling regimes exercised to limit the freedom of thought, expression and speech. Acting on this basis, Arab governmental censorship is the chain that holds back the flow of sultry into Arab readers. In one country alone, I found a list of over thirty prohibitions. This list of prohibited subjects is regularly distributed to publishers and editors who wish to continue in the market. One could only think of what is left to write about.

The high cost of publishing is another factor in that respect. Almost all inputs in making a book are imported from abroad hence priced in hard currency. Due to the volatility and instability of the exchange rate, there is always a premium to be paid for imported items. Depreciating local currencies make it more and more difficult for the average citizen to procure books. Publishers also complain that Arab governments seldom pay their debts to them. In view of the overdependence on the government as a major customer, this problem grows to very troubling levels.

With all these difficulties why do publishers continue in the business? Publishers claim that they cannot stop despite continued and high losses. Some are philosophic about it and claim to be carriers of a sacred message. However, some were forced to close down, even if temporarily; while many others regularly announce bankruptcy and move on to other fields of business. Authors and translators are no better off; they actually face similar pressures. Many well known writers barely eke out a living.

It is important to note that the book market in Arab countries is by no means stable, as rates of development differ widely among Arab societies. The Iraqi, Libyan and Algerian markets, for example, are retreating in front of newly evolving Gulf markets, especially Saudi Arabia, which buys, according to one publisher, 30% of the total number of books produced by Lebanese publishing houses. In addition, there is no stable market as the reading tradition is still in its infancy. Demand for books in the Arab world is low, which forces non-specialization of publishing houses. Thus one could see the same house publishes novels, poetry, children's stories, school textbooks, newspapers, etc., according to requirements. Some publishers print at the same time books on science, medicine, sorcery and even witchcraft. This means that there are no permanent readers for any one field, and thus no specialized printing houses. The more irritating fact is that the number of readers is constantly decreasing over the years. This is probably because Arab families sit staring at the television set, and the

number of video tapes has understandably skyrocketed. Far from being a healthy phenomenon, this matter carries a bad omen to official efforts at eliminating illiteracy among the people. It also casts a lot of doubt on the illiteracy campaigns' success record announced by the governments.

Finally, the major reason for this poor Arab performance is the pressure of continued cultural oppression practised by ruling regimes that aim to control what their people read, and preferably force them into not reading. The daily brain-washing exercised by the governments, and their visible encouragement that people follow sports events rather than read books have led to this sad situation.

It's no secret that the degree of a nation's freedom and development is to be gauged by its cultural refinement and progress. And no community can be considered civilized without attaining the highest standards of cultural production and consumption, and book publishing and reading are an integral part of it.

My conclusion is loud and clear. Free the Arab mind from the chains of governmental and other forms of non-official censorship; let the people read and write; let them argue over white pages rather than fight it out in the streets; let them communicate with the wide world that is steadily becoming a small village due to the communications revolution...

Let that be, otherwise we will all find ourselves, within a very short time, in the backwaters of civilization, and maybe even outside life and time.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE BABURY MOSQUE

By: Ali Al-Sharif,
Sanaa



1. Many centuries ago, a Hindu author Balmeek wrote a fiction called 'Rama' which included the story of an imaginary prince of North India called Ram, his wife Seeta and brother Laxshman. Rama's father Daxit according to the story, was son of a horse and ruled north India with Ayodhia as his capital. Due to the intrigues of his step mother, Ram was expelled from the kingdom and was ordered to spend several years in the jungles of Southern India. His wife Seeta and brother Laxshman chose to go with him. South India was then ruled by a cruel ruler named Rawan who had 10 heads and even if one head was cut off it would grow again immediately. Rawan saw Seeta during one of his hunting expeditions while Ram and Laxshman were themselves out on a hunting trip. He was spellbound by the charm of this north Indian beauty with Central Asian blood, got her abducted and shifted her to the safe haven of Sri Lanka. It goes to the credit of evil Rawan that he never molested Seeta although she remained in his captivity for several years.

2. Ram traced Seeta's whereabouts through his animal friends, the leading one being the monkey god Hanuman. Hanuman had the capability of becoming as big as a mountain and as small as a human thumb. Hanuman crossed the Strait of Kumari (about 20 miles wide) in one leap alongwith his army of monkeys - defeated Rawan and liberated Seeta. In subsequent centuries both Ram and Hanuman be

came gods and Hindus started worshipping them.

3. While writing this fiction Balmeek had not imagined the havoc and mass killing of helpless Indians his story would cause many centuries later.

4. The golden rays of Islam spread in South Asia from 7th century AD onwards. The subcontinent was, at the time, governed by a most unjust and cast system. The message of oneness of the Creator of the universe, the equality of all human beings irrespective of their origin and color of skin, were accepted quickly by an increasing number of Indians. Islam spread throughout the subcontinent in a very short time. By the time, the great Muslim leader Zaaheeruddin Mohammad Babur (the lion), the founder of glorious Mugal dynasty came into India in the 15th century, a large number of the local population of Ayodhia had already embraced Islam. They selected a suitable vacant plot in their neighborhood and built a beautiful mosque - a master piece of Islamic architecture of the time, and named it Baburi Masjid after the Emperor of India. For all ensuing centuries of Islamic rule, followed by about a century of British domination, no one ever disputed the site of the mosque.

5. After the independence of Pakistan and India in 1947 and still this issue was not raised.

Then one night a Hindu from Ayodhia claimed to have seen 'with his own eyes' the baby Ram fly out of the central dome of the mosque and into the heavens thus indicating that Baburi Mosque was Ram's birth place. Since then, a movement was started by militant Hindus to build Ram's Temple by demolishing the Baburi Mosque.

6. The World Hindu Council and the Hindu fundamentalist Bharti Janata Party spearheaded a campaign to destroy the Indian cultural and architectural heritage. In spite of decisions from the Indian courts to the contrary, they demolished the mosque and started construction of the temple. The provincial government of these fanatics who came into power on the promise of constructing the temple, thus making a crude joke of the Indian Constitution which in theory speaks of secularism and equal rights for minorities. The central government appears completely impotent when a human tragedy of unparalleled proportions is taking place right in its own lap.

Equally shameful is also the position of the leaders and Muslim countries who are home to over one billion persons. For all their numbers, the Muslims failed to take any concrete step as this tragedy unfolded right in front of their eyes. It is time that the Muslims act as one Ummah in this common and noble cause and demand the Indian government to stop the lawless and the fanatics.

UNICEF Assists in Developing TV Flashes on Health Education

The General Directorate of Health Education of the Ministry of Public Health, is shooting these days split-minute T.V. flashes on health education. These are short snaps which fill intervals between the regular TV programs. The messages are mainly about mother and child health, vaccination and immunization procedures, the importance of breast feeding, dehydration problems, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, etc.

Two weeks back, representatives from UNICEF, the Ministry of information (included people from TV, radio station, and newspapers), the Ministry of Public Health, NGOs and from UN organizations, held their second meeting, dubbed the "Love Meeting".

According to the explanation of the Deputy Director General in Health Education & Information, Dr. Fawzia Hamed Jaffer, the aim of the meeting was to show the participants new TV spots on health messages as a kind of first pre-testing to get feedback and comments in order to amend and adjust the messages in the flashes, if necessary. That will be the first step. In the second step, meetings will be held in a few selected governorates, such as Aden, Abyan, Taiz and Hodeidah. "We want to be sure that the majority of the people will understand the messages and they will tell us their opinion to make changes to improve the messages." She said.

The first 'love meeting' was held a year ago, this is the second 'love meeting'. Why is it called 'love meeting'? Dr. Jaffer said, "We gave it this name because we ask people to come and share their opinion with us. These people come and participate willingly."

UNICEF is the counterpart in financing the General Directorate of Health Education in directing these spots. Mr. Robert Taybji, the Information and Communication



Officer at UNICEF Sana'a, reminded the participants that they were there to talk about how to communicate ideas, about how to spread knowledge that saves the lives of children. "One of Yemen's major problems is its very high infant mortality and morbidity rates. Of course these have been steadily falling, but they are still high. Over 2,000 children under five years of age still die every week, and over 1.2 million live on in bad health and poor growth. A fundamental cause of this tragedy is that today's knowledge about how to protect the health and growth of children is not yet fully available to the majority of the Yemeni people. It is our duty to ensure that every family in Yemen has access to such life-giving knowledge. This is why health education and health communication are vital to the survival and development of Yemeni children."

Third World Criticize IMF Reform Packages

The economic restructuring programs devised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were sharply criticised by many community activists from the developing world at a recent forum in the American capital.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations in 40 countries came to the Washington DC at the same time that the IMF and World Bank were holding their annual meetings in the same city. Through a series of public discussions and in testimony before the US Congress, the Third World organizers told "the other side of the story" regarding the IMF's economic reform initiatives.

In sometimes impassioned responses, a dozen members of the citizen groups, including Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace International and the Development Group for Alternative Policies, sought to counter the IMF's claim that there is no practical alternative to its austerity approach.

The Fund maintains that its restricting packages are needed to improve economic performance in many of the countries seeking to borrow money from the IMF. Most private and state-owned financial institutions in the developed world also make their loans conditional upon a country's adherence to the IMF regimen.

Governments that agree to the Fund's terms are presented with a set of policy requirements aimed at easing foreign trade and investment restrictions, phasing out price subsidies, and generally promoting free-market economics.

The aim of these reforms is to spur growth in the targeted country, which is often mired in pre-existing debts to the Fund itself or to commercial banks in the industrialized nations.

At its annual meeting in Washington, the IMF/World Bank reiterated its contention that structural adjustment is producing significant gains in much of the Third World. Countries that implement the Fund's plans are generally faring better than those that do not, IMF officials say. About 75 nations, including some in eastern Europe, are now

following the Fund's prescribed formulas.

In challenging the wisdom of this path to recovery, the critics' meeting started from the premise that the banks are to blame for instigating the debt crisis.

restructuring initiatives. These programs are based almost exclusively on economic considerations, with little thought given to their social impact, said Atherton Martin, director of the Development

producing commodities for export has led to an oversupply of certain items. This, in turn, has helped push commodity prices down to what the World Bank acknowledges to be the lowest levels so

when half of the Philippines' 60 million people are living in extreme poverty?

Even if the IMF reforms do manage to spark economic recovery, Briones said, the gains will be

On Banking In Yemen

The main aspect of Central banking is the degree of independence it has from government control. If a central bank is subservient to the ministry of finance, then there is little chance for it to chart an independent monetary policy. I am afraid this message has fallen on deaf ears in the Third World.

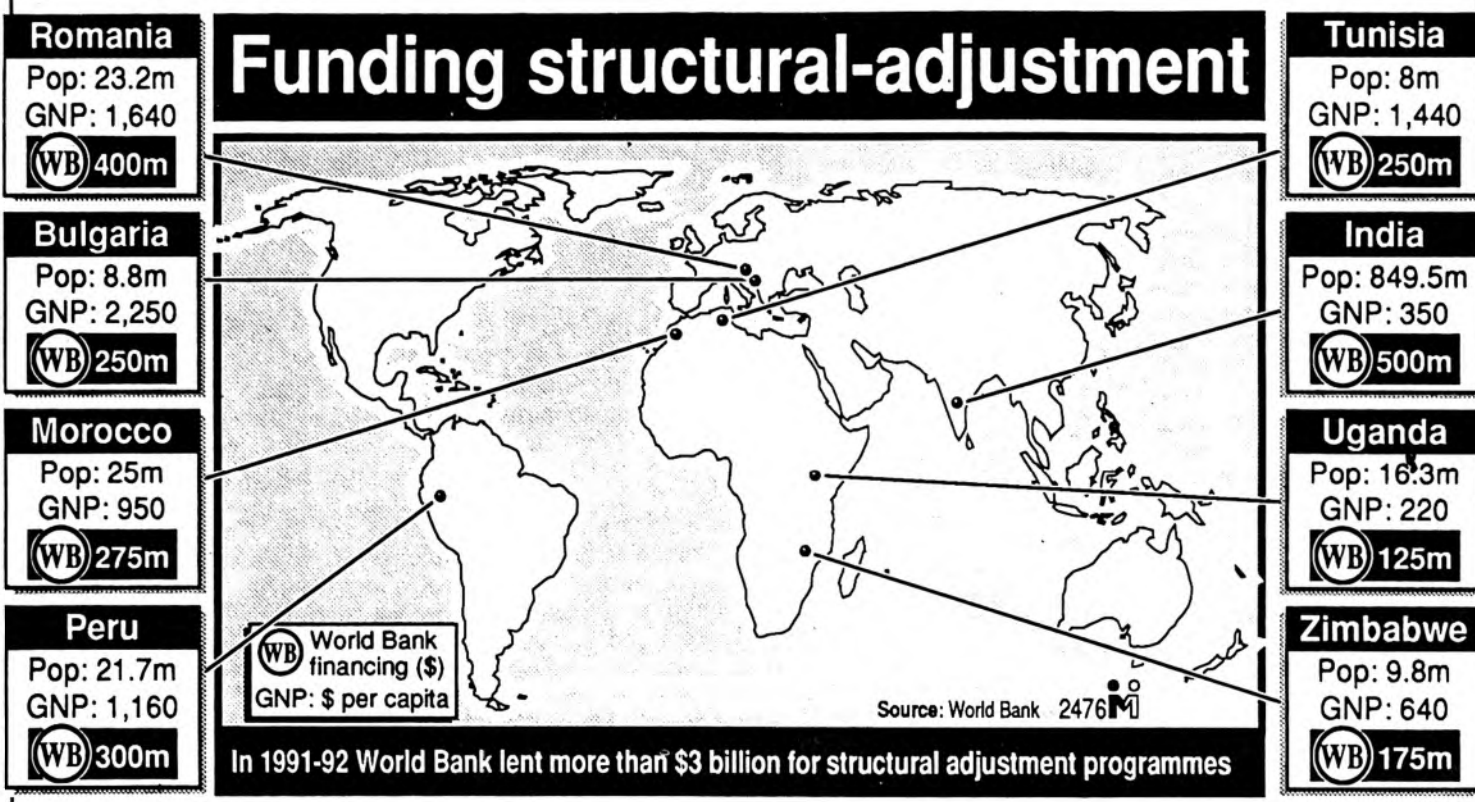
In the advanced countries, it is very clear that the central bank enjoys a lot of power, and is not subject to the whims of the finance minister. However this is not the case in developing countries. That is why we go through many monetary difficulties.

Let us take Yemen as a case. We do not have any monetary policy here. Our monetary policy is a residual factor of the fiscal policy. I will use an example to illustrate this point.

How does the Central Bank decide on the money supply, or to be exact, how much money to print? It takes the amount of deficit in the government budget as its key indicator. In other words, even during a recession, the guiding light of the central bank's policy is what happens in the ministry of finance.

Then there is that fantastic Keynesian creation - deficit financing. This has led many a developing country to disaster. We forget that no nation can live beyond its means - at least not for long.

By: **Ali Saif Hassan, Sanaa**



Martin Khor of the Malaysia-based Third World Network argued that developing nations had been pushed into massive borrowing by Western corporations and lending agencies eager to make what appeared to be potentially profitable investments.

When offered seemingly favorable repayment terms and outright payoffs, officials in many countries took on unsustainable debt burdens, Khor said. And often, he added, these loans were for enormous projects, like hydroelectric power plants, that proved to be environmentally damaging and of little social value.

Despite prodding from the media, participants in the September 21 forum were comparatively reluctant to criticise Third World governments. The IMF, which is controlled by the world's richest nations, was generally castigated in much stronger terms than were the leaders of the poorer countries.

Peggy Antrobus of Barbados, a researcher at the University of the West Indies, maintained, for example, that governments are acting in a humane and responsible manner when they subsidize the prices of essential goods. The IMF exacerbates the misery of poor people in the Third World when it presses governments to end these subsidies, she argued.

Speakers at the forum insisted that living conditions in their countries are actually deteriorating -- not improving, as the Fund claims -- primarily as a result of the IMF's

Institute of Dominica. In order to promote sustained growth in the Third World, Martin declared, emphasis must be placed on "enhancement of the human conditions" through investments in housing, health care and job training.

He argued that the Fund's approach is self-contradictory because the ensuing cutbacks in government services have the effect of lowering workers' productivity. Several speakers reported that nutritional intake is declining in countries where the adjustment formula is being applied.

As a means of boosting a nation's foreign-exchange earnings, the IMF programs establish incentives for growing crops that will be exported.

Traditional farming which is geared to feeding local populations, is often supplanted by the technology-dependent export crops. In addition to aggravating food shortages, this switch-over can have negative consequences for the environment, speakers noted.

One reporter observed that this export-driven strategy may encourage cultivation of narcotics, which fetch high prices in First World markets.

Humberto Campodonico of Peru agreed that such an outcome is occurring in his country. He said that credit restrictions resulting from the IMF program had further fostered coca cultivation because farmers were having difficulty obtaining loans for seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Martin Khor pointed out that the emphasis on

far recorded. Unable to sell their exports at a reasonable price, Khor explained, Third World nations are only sinking deeper into poverty.

Lenora Briones of the Philippines cited the case of her own country, which is sometimes hailed as a successful example of IMF-style restructuring.

How can such a claim be made, Briones asked,

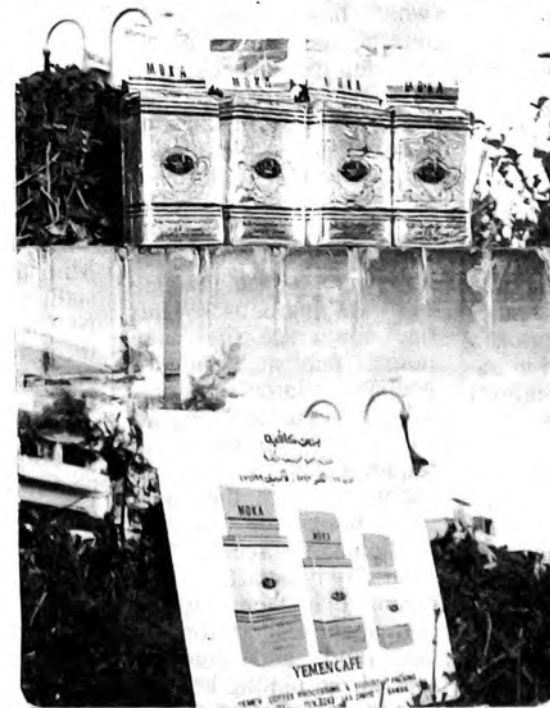
to pay foreign debts rather than to ease the plight of the impoverished.

In the final analysis, however, and in spite of the convincing arguments of Third World experts, the IMF "wisdom" prevailed as it better served the interests of the rich nations. The IMF reform packages are being readied to be sent to Third World countries who "need" them.

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Continued from page 4

Yemeni Daggers and the Rhinos

But much of it may be coming from Zimbabwe, were the worst poaching in Africa has been taking place - more than 250 rhinos were killed between late 1990 and March 1992. From 1988 until at least 1990, Zimbabwean rhino horn was being taken to Lusaka, Zambia, and

shipped either by air to Swaziland or by road to South Africa, where Taiwanese businessmen were buying it for re-export to Taiwan. Now, though, the South African authorities have clamped down on this trade, and Taiwanese dealers have become more interested in Asian rhino

horn, which they prefer for both medicinal and investment purposes. It is possible that Zimbabwean horn which used to move south now reaches Dar es Salaam by train or road from Lusaka. Though traders would not make as much money from it, there is a ready market for its re-export to Yemen, and little likelihood of official confiscation.

Whatever the sources and trade routes, possession of rhino horn once it has arrived in Yemen is not illegal, which is why Yemen's foreign minister Dr Abdul Karim al-Iryani has said he will ban the internal trade in raw rhino horn - in effect, to ban its use. The workshops of dagger producers will be inspected regularly and if any craftsman is caught carving raw rhino horn, he will be fined.

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LESSON 26 Expressions of Comparison - Part III

For the past two weeks, we've practiced comparisons using comparatives and superlatives with adjectives and adverbs. Today we will talk about some other forms of comparison.

A. "the same as" and "different from" are used to compare two persons, things, places, animals, etc. (Sometimes "different than" is used instead of "different from" when speaking. "Different from" is more formal and preferred in writing.)

examples:

1. My shoes are black and size ten. Yours are, too. (also) There is no difference. = My shoes are the same as yours.
2. This book is red and very small. That book is blue and big. = This book is different from that one.

PRACTICE A: Using the sentences above as examples, write new sentences using "the same as" or "different from".

1. This is an English grammar book for beginners. So is that one.
2. This radio is small, but that one is big.
3. Four times three equals twelve, and three times four equals twelve.
4. John's pen is blue. Mary's pen is green.
5. Ahmed's address is on Zubeiry Street. His brother lives on Diary Road.
6. My hair is long and brown, and yours is, too.

B. "the same --- as". Look at this sentence: My pencil is the same as yours. This means everything about the pencils is the same. But what if only one thing about the pencils is the same, like the size, for example? Then you could say, "My pencil is the same size as yours." OR "My pencil is the same length as yours." (or color, style, brand, etc.) Nouns are used with "the same --- as" expressions. = "the same (noun) as"

C. "as --- as". This kind of comparison can be used with adjectives or quantity.

1. **Adjectives:** Look at this sentence again: My pencil is the same size as yours. "Size" is a noun. Now switch it to an adjective like "big". = My pencil is as big as yours. Now you must use the expression "as (adjective) as", not "the same (noun) as".

other examples:

- a. His new watch was as expensive as hers. b. Ali is as tall as Mohammad.

2. **Expressions of Quantity** (much, many, little, few) Use "much" and "little" with non-countable things, and "many" and "few" with countable items. examples:

- a. Bushre bought five books and so did Amat. = Bushre bought as many books as Amat.
b. Fatma had three cups of tea and Nora did, too. = Fatma had as much tea as Nora. OR Fatma had as many cups of tea as Nora. ("much" goes with "tea" because it is a non-count noun. "many" is used with "cups" because it is a countable noun.)

NOTE: With "as (quantity) as" expressions you can put the noun after the quantity or not. Example: I ate as much as my sister. (no noun after the quantity) OR: I ate as much food as my sister. (the noun "food" is after the quantity.)

PRACTICE B: Change the "the same (noun) as" expression given to a "as (adjective) as" expression. Use the opposite adjective of the one given in parenthesis.

example: This pencil is the same length as the other one. (short)

Change to: This pencil is as long as the other one.

1. Zubeiry Street is the same width as Hadda Road. (narrow)
2. Ali is the same height as Faisal. (short)
3. Marie is the same age as Mona. (young)
4. His house is the same size as mine. (small)
5. This dress is the same price as the other one. (cheap)

Now switch. Write a new sentence using "the same (noun) as." example: This tree is as tall as that one. Change to: This tree is the same size as that one.

6. This bus travels as fast as the other one.
7. This lake is as deep as that one.
8. My kite is flying as high as yours.
9. This bag of potatoes is as heavy as my little brother.
10. His shirt is as blue as the sky.

PRACTICE C: Use an "as (quantity) as" expression to change these sentences. (some sentences have more than one possible answer. Write the one you think is best.)

example: I drank four cups of coffee this morning, just like you did.

change to: I drank as much coffee as you. ("I drank as many cups of coffee as you." is also correct, but the first sentence is shorter.)

1. Abdul-Rahman ate three plates of fasoolia, and Ahmed did, too.
2. Najiba only ate a couple bites of food, and so did Fiza.
3. Ali chews fat every day, and so does Mohammed.
4. I have three sisters just like you do.
5. Anwaar and Khadija both study for two hours every night.
6. I saved 2,000 rials and so did my friend.
7. My sister only saved 20 rials and so did my brother.
8. This whole year, I read only two books, the same as you.

WEEKLY IDIOM: "to hit it right on the nose."

means something well-said. When someone sums up a situation exactly, with few words, and you agree with what they said, you can say, "You hit it right on the nose."

example: Two old men are sitting together, talking:
1st man: "You know, the problem with kids today is that they have no respect for authority any more."
2nd man: "My friend, you have hit it right on the nose. I couldn't have said it better myself."



Answers: Practice A: 1. This grammar book is the same as that one. 2. This radio is different from that one. 3. 4 x 3 is the same as 3 x 4. 4. John's pen is different from Mary's. 5. Ahmed's address is different from his brother's. 6. My hair is the same as Faisal's. 7. Zubeiry Street is as wide as Hadda Road. 2. Ali is as tall as Faisal. 3. Marie is as old as Mona. 4. His house is as big as mine. 5. This dress is as expensive as the other one. 6. This bus travels at the same speed as the other one. 7. This lake is the same depth as that one. 8. My kite is flying at the same height as yours. 9. This bag of potatoes is as heavy as my little brother. 10. His shirt is the same color as the sky. Practice C: 1. Abdul-Rahman ate as much fasoolia as Ahmed. 2. Najiba ate as little as Fiza. 3. Ali chews as much fat as Mohammed. 4. I have as many sisters as you. 5. Anwaar studies as much as Khadija. 6. I saved as much money as my friend. 7. My sister saved as little money as my brother. 8. This year, I read as few books as you did.

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• Analysis •

On Democracy and Development

"It is a Chicken and Egg Situation."

By: Khalifah Nassor Khamis

Borrowing a thought from a prominent African Politician, Dr. J. K. Nyerere, the interdependence between DEMOCRACY and DEVELOPMENT is similar to that of chicken and eggs. Without chicken you do not get eggs, and without eggs you very soon lose your chicken. Nyerere's comparison was between independence and development, very relevant, then, in the 1960s when most colonized countries were gaining their independence. Now, the more appropriate comparison is between development and democracy, i.e., without democracy you do not get development and without development you very soon lose your democracy. But development for whom? The answer is embraced within the meaning of democracy. Democracy is to abide by the wishes of the majority of PEOPLE. Development,

then, must be directed towards the majority of the same PEOPLE. As a system, such as that of South Africa, where a government is by the majority of a minority whites, cannot be accepted as true democracy, development of a few on the expense of the majority is also not accepted as true development. On the one hand, this is a message to the West, the preachers of democracy. They have to support the economic development of the concerned states if their emerging democracies are to be sustained. They also must be sincere about development towards the majority of the people. Their capitalistic appetite for exploiting the natural resources of countries in the name of supporting a system whereby democracy is used to serve the self-indulgent wish for wealth amassing, and immortalization of the few who hold political power. In fact, condoning such a system is in itself a gross



abuse of the democratization process. The dissatisfaction and frustration of the majority will certainly lead to chaos and the eventual collapse of the whole system. On the other hand, this is a message to the people of Yemen. The elections are now approaching and the official campaigns will soon start. We should use this opportunity to elect a suitable leadership that will steer us into the 21st century - a leadership that will be a servant and not a master of the people, a leadership that will be answerable and accountable to the people. That person who dishes out money or other bribes for the purpose of buying votes is politically bankrupt. His designs are obvious. He is investing now to acquire more while in power (later).

He will readily sell the nations dignity and pride to any interested party. The person or party that accepts money from foreign countries for the purpose of campaigning is even worse. He/She is the nation's disgrace. He/She will certainly make Yemen a puppet "guided" by foreign nations, and Yemen will become a nation of beggars, surviving on alms and leftovers of other Nations. A person who bases his popularity on tribalism and/or on religious fanaticism, implying he/she is more Islamic than other Muslims is both a political calamity and a social tragedy. He/She will take the nation backwards to pre-historic times. And finally, watch out for opportunists! These are the noisy-lot. For they want to be noticed. They will criticize the leadership indiscriminately and will organize advisory conferences and meetings without invitations. They are the people without principles. They will jump into the train whichever direction it is going. You should also say "No" to the prospectors who have an attitude of "Now is my turn to get rich." We should say "No" to a system that will create a few millionaires and a multitude of destitutes. Say "No" to that leadership which possesses to give medals to extravagant foreign exploiters of our natural resources. It is our chance to decide.

Supreme Elections Committee Announces the List of Supervisors

The Supreme Elections Committee announced in a press conference on January 4th that it has completed the list of almost 14,000 participants who will supervise the elections process. Governorate level supervisors, and polling station supervisors have also been named. At the same time, Qadhi Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi read out the detailed steps for registration and the subsequent steps. Registration is expected to start on January 11th and the polling stations will remain open for a full month. Citizens are urged to apply to the nearest station bringing along with them two personal 4 x 6 cms pictures. Upon application, the citizens will be given a form to complete. This has such details as full name, place and date of birth, constituency, etc. The registrant is then given a certificate of registration which he/she can then use when contesting (running) or later when voting. After the one month period, each polling station will produce a list of the people who have registered with it. The list will be reviewed for one week and people will have the chance to correct spellings, errors, and duplicate registries, etc. As Qadhi Al-Arashi said, "In spite of all the shortcomings, we are going about this thing (the elections) in the most genuine and sincere way. I hope all of you (the people) will extend your hands to make our experience a success."

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