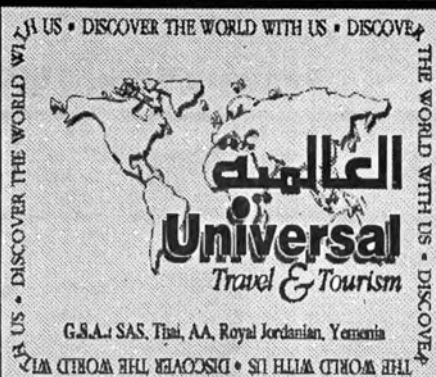


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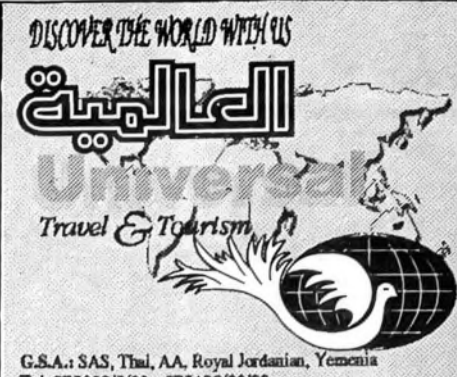


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YEMEN TIMES

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• 13th through 19th January 1993



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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Need to Replicate A Previous Decision

The Republic of Yemen today is faced with an economic crisis. The country needs far-sighted and visionary persons who can lead it out of its present difficulties.

When I think of what is needed today, I can't help but remember similar, although not identical, circumstances in the early 1980s. At the time, the country imported almost everything, and there was a frustrated feeling of over-dependence on imports. Thus, in 1984, a far-reaching decision was taken to encourage local production of agricultural products, especially fruits and vegetables. Imports of fruits and vegetables were banned. Simultaneously, farmers were assisted in growing local substitutes.

Within two years, locally grown fruits were plentiful and inexpensive. Bananas, that were imported from far away places such as Costa Rica, are now produced and exported to such places as the United Kingdom. Oranges, that used to come from Morocco, are now locally produced and exported. Melons of all kinds, grapes, apples, strawberries, peaches, and many other delicious fruits are homegrown.

In terms of vegetables, onions, potatoes, tomatoes and all kinds of legumes are now produced in quantities beyond the local consumption need. All this was triggered by a wise economic decision in 1984 which gave Yemeni farmers a fair fighting chance to face external competition.

The question today is related to our ability to make a similar wise decision. Can we repeat the agricultural success of the mid-1980s, in another sector such as industry or tourism?

The Yemeni individual is capable of rising up to the occasion and deliver, if the politicians are willing to let him/her attain his/her abilities. The problem, therefore, lies with the politicization of everything decent in this country by people who will jeopardize everything just to satisfy their own selfish interests. I demand of our politicians to rise up to the occasion by addressing the needs of the people.

The Publisher
سعيد

NATIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING MEETING

In a letter addressed to Lt-Genreal Ali Abdullah Saleh, secretary General of the GPC, and Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Secretary-General of the YSP. Mr. Omer A Jawi, Secretary -General of the Taghmau al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni, called for a meeting to which all political parties are to be invited. The four -item agenda meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 14th. Mr. Al-Jawi, who was echoing a call by the National Conference, explained that the critical conditions of the country require that the ruling parties as well as the opposition parties get together to salvage the situation. "We should avoid what some have called the Socialization of Yemen, the letter said.

Sudanese Speaker of Parliament:

"We are working to disengage the Sudan from the traditional international market economic relations."

H. E. Mr. Mohammad Al-Ameen Khalifah, Speaker of Parliament in the Sudan, said that his country was working industriously to disengage from the current international market forces dominated by the West. In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times in Khartoum, the Sudanese official described the current world relations as lopsided and unfair. "It is imperative that a new system be developed that is fair to all parties," he said.

Describing the current system, the Speaker said that the multitude of political parties prior to the Salvation Revolution was chaotic and geared to serve the selfish interests of a few politicians who claimed to head political parties. "Political pluralism as exercised in the Sudan was totally alien to the people. It was a senseless replication of the West," he said.

What Sudan has done was to study the examples and experienced of many countries such as Switzerland, USA, France, Libya, etc. as well as the Sudanese experience, and formulate a new system. "We now have a four level system in which the people directly elect their representatives."

Mohammed Al-Ameen Khalifa indicated that preparations for the parliamentary elections, which are two years away, have already started. "For any system succeed, there must a strong moral underpinings, and the symbols of the system - meaning the senior officials - must be seen as living up to the ideals they preach," he said. In that line, he pointed out that his country has chosen Islamic values. "But each governorate has the right to decide on the values it chooses, given that ours is a federal system," he pointed out.

The speaker was upbeat about the results achieved so far. "You can go out to the markets and see. In spite of an undeclared boycott, the Sudan is able to meet its needs and was even able to



export foodstuffs worth over US\$ 1 billion in 1992," he said. "We are sure that we will see better times ahead."

In terms of the responsibilities of the parliament in the session that just started, the Sudanese parliamentarian indicated that they are working to prepare a strategy for the next ten years. "It is our task to dismantle the remains of colonial heritage. "The colonial master has left behind his tools and instruments. We were living and working within the parameters of the former masters. Even the democracy that was handed down to us was one that did not fit our needs. We are trying to answer the questions: 'How should the Sudan be governed? and Who should govern the Sudan?' Now we have to cope with the realities through the legislation of appropriate laws."

Regarding the bilateral relations between Yemen and the Sudan, he stressed that there was interest on both sides to strengthen and improve these relations. "As the parliamentary level, we plan to open new channels of cooperation. I am planning to visit Yemen as soon as possible. I know your country is overwhelmed by the elections process. Therefore, my visit will probably take place after your elections," he said.



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• This week, we regret there are no French pages. See you next week, Insha-Allah.



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English Lessons

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Yemeni Delegation to Oman

A large Yemeni delegation heads for Muscat next week. The group headed by Mr. Abdullah Al-Kurshumi, Minister of Public Works, will discuss the construction of two highways one coastal and the other inland - connecting Yemen and Oman.

French Visits to Yemen

A five member parliamentary delegation arrived here yesterday, Tuesday, January 12th. The delegates all from the right, include two key officials of the Paris municipality.

On the 24th, a French military vessel is scheduled to call on Hodeidah. Several Yemeni naval officers and senior officials will climb on deck for a cordial evening get-together.

BP Officials Visit

A five-man senior group from British Petroleum is in Yemen for official talks with the Yemeni authorities and to review progress on the three BP concessions.

Yemen Participated in Foreign Arab Meeting

Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Dali the minister state of foreign affairs will head the delegation of the republic of Yemen to the meeting held in Cairo on 11th of January. Al-Dali, in a statement to the AL-SABA agency, declared that the participation came in response to a call from the Palistinian State to discuss Israeli procedures taken recently against Pal-estinians.

Negotiations in Riyadh

The fourth round of negotiations in Riyadh concerning the delineation of the Yemeni-Saudi borders began on January 11. The negotiations were chaired by Gafar Basaleh, an office manager for the presidential council, and Dr. Matlab Al-Nafisa, head of the expertise office for the Saudi Cabinet. It is worth mentioning that the expertise committees of the two countries had previously held three rounds of negotiations in September, October and November of 1992. The talks are based on the principle of protection of the legitimate and legal rights of each country.

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To Ms. Lisa Ciardulli:
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CROATS TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMY

Croatia is trying to turn the page on its war with Serbia and get on with the task of moving from communism to a free-market economy, a bare year and a half after declaring independence from Yugoslavia. "It is nice to talk about something else besides the fact that Croatia is in an incredible situation of war. We must be oriented to the future," Ivan Hren, assistant director of the Croatian government's Agency for Restructuring and Development, said. Hren, who oversees the privatization of Croatian industry, said 1,000 of the new state's 3,500 "socially-owned" companies have made the transition to full or partial private ownership. He said the program began in June, only three months after the first UN peacekeepers tool up positions to enforce a ceasefire in the embattled third of Croatia still occupied by Serb separatists. Croatia once thrived with lucrative tourism on its 800 kilometer long Adriatic coast, and workers earning foreign exchange in nearby Austria and Germany. But while the 34-year old Hren speaks with the fluidity and intelligence of a born technocrat, reconstruction in Croatia faces major obstacles. The small nation of 4.7 million people is crippled by inflation of 32 per cent per month, the occupation burden of housing 700,000 refugees from its own and neighboring Bosnia Herzegovina's wars. The fighting in Croatia directly destroyed 10-15 per cent of the country's industrial plant and caused damage to a similar proportion. To all these troubles are added the difficulties in adjusting to secession from Yugoslavia, such as the loss of markets in the former federation, which had a population of 23 million. Croatia contracted public debt of \$3 billion upon declaring independence, when it lost assets which had been in Serbia. Five per cent of Croatia's Gross Domestic Product goes to servicing this debt. One diplomat said: "I think we're in for a lot of trouble here. The economy is collapsing. Communications and transport have been destroyed or cut off" by the war with the rump Yugoslav federation of Serbia and Montenegro. Croatia is not a member of the World Bank or International Monetary Fund and has trouble getting foreign funding. Surprisingly, the streets of Zagreb are full of well-dressed people and shops

are stocked with everything from video equipment to the latest in ski clothes. There are two theories about the situation there. One is that people are not getting by, with the standard of living deteriorating. The other is that folks are doing fine, due to burgeoning black markets. In either case, the prospects do not bode well for the future. "How are we still going on, and not dead?" wondered trade unionist Jasna Petrovic about the apparent prosperity

China to Expand Stock Markets

China will expand its stock market experiment this year by encouraging every province to list top companies and stringing together its first national network of securities brokers, official media said yesterday. "The central government has listed the securities market as one of the most important vehicles to drive an overhaul of the country's economy," the official China Daily said. The new policy represents a major expansion of Beijing's trial run with Western-style securities markets, throwing open the door to participation by both companies and individual investors in China's vast inland regions. Stock fever has been one of the most obvious results of the market-style economic reforms the Communist Party has put into effect to try to save its political rule. The official Xinhua news agency quoted an authoritative source as saying the first step would be official permission for each province to select one or two companies for listing on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets. "The move is tantamount to an official go-ahead to public issuance of stocks in areas other than Hainan, Fujian and Guangdong, the only three provinces allowed to issue stocks to the general public thus far," Xinhua said. Beijing has set a target of about five billion yuan (\$880 million) for new stock floats in 1993, much lower than the 13 billion yuan (\$2.3 billion) issued on the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets in 1992, Xinhua said. The two markets, which have officially been in operation for about two years, saw wide price swings in 1992 as uncertain investors bid up prices and then dumped stock. Stock analysts say the scramble to list new shares temporarily flooded the market with paper, making balanced development more difficult. "The plan to issue five bil-

lion yuan of stocks in 1993 is practical and reasonable," Xinhua said. "The listing of stocks form other parts of China would facilitate easier flow of funds from among different areas while making the capital structure of the stock market more balanced," it added. The decision to allow wider, national participation in stock markets reflects concern in Beijing that booming coastal areas may be leaving more isolated interior regions behind in the race for development, according to analysts. Companies across the country have issued stock, but in most cases they have been able to sell the certificates only to their own employees. Shanghai and Shenzhen list stock trading, China established three national securities companies in October that are projected to become major players on the stock market. One of the three, Guotai Securities, is planning to set up a national network of at least 16 branches to expand business inland as well as along the coast, according to officials. "Only by forming a widespread network of branches can we play a key role," Guotai vice-chairman Yan Guangzhi told the China Daily. He said that, along with relatively prosperous cities such as Guangzhou and Beijing, Guotai hoped to put branch offices in Wuhan in central China and Shenyang in China's north. China Southern securities plans to set up a network of branches and has already opened an office in Tianjin, northern China. "Next year, it plans to open offices in Hong Kong and Macau as springboards to the international market," the newspaper said. The decision to allow companies nationwide to list shares is expected to increase competition between Shanghai and Shenzhen for the role of China's number one bourse. Shanghai is being touted as the new "dragon's head" of development for all of central China, while Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong, benefits from close contact with the British colony and large inflows of foreign capital. During the past year, the number of listed shares in Shanghai and Shenzhen increased to 70 from fewer than 20 in 1991. Some 18 shares are "B" shares targeted at overseas investors. The total value of stocks in the two bourses is more than 100 billion yuan (\$18 billion), and the transaction volume for all of 1992 is expected to reach 100 billion yuan, nearly 30 times 1991's figure, said the agency.



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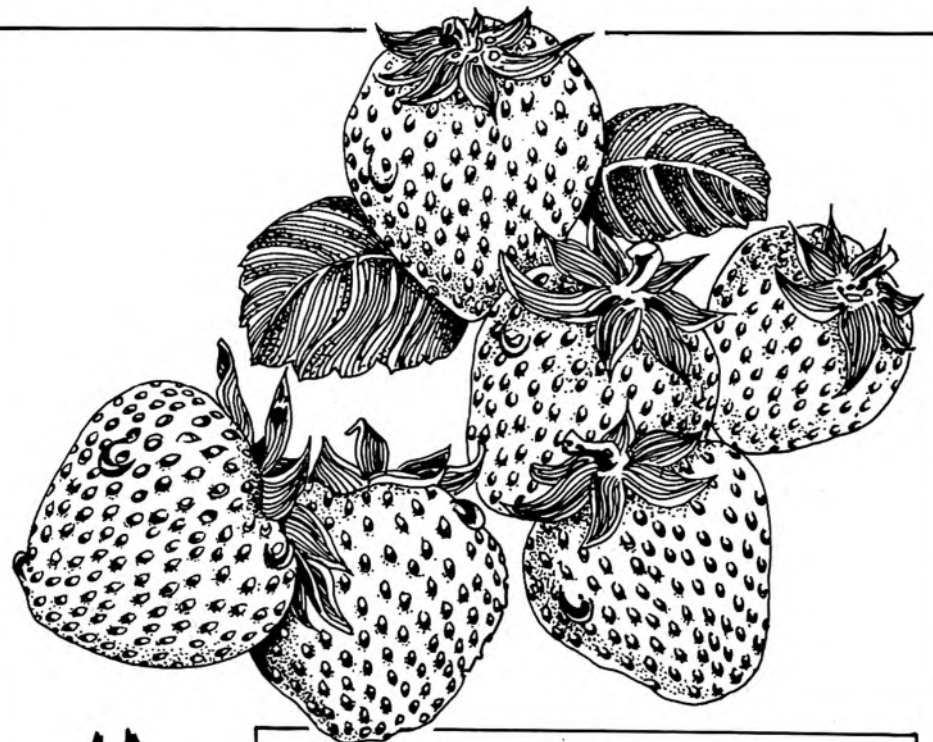
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Determining Who Is a REFUGEE

Millions of people throughout the world are on the move. Most move as a matter of choice, seeking job opportunities, family closeness, and a host of other reasons. And their freedom to move is generally recognized as a human right, except in cases where a person is seeking to escape legal obligations, such as child support or military conscription. The freedom to move includes the freedom to leave one's country. But, ironically, the right to leave does not carry with it a corollary right to enter. Governments are recognized as having certain rights too, among them, being able to decide who is or is not permitted to enter.

By analogy, think of a country as a home. One has the right to leave one's home at will, but not the right to enter another's home without that homeowner's permission. But in certain compelling circumstances, the homeowner has a moral obligation to allow a stranger to enter his home without prior permission. If one house is on fire and its residents' only hope of escape is to jump into the neighbor's adjoining house, no one would tolerate the neighbor in the safe building pushing those attempting to flee back into the flames.

Refugees are analogous to the neighbor escaping the burning building. The return of a refugee into the hands of his persecutors - *refoulement* - is prohibited under international law. But the right not to be pushed back into the flames is not the same as a right to enter. In principle, governments have recognized that individuals fleeing persecution have a right to cross into another country to seek and enjoy asylum. This right was recognized in Article 14(1) of the nonbinding Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In drafting the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which bound governments to the principle of nonrefoulement, those same governments failed to say anything about granting refugees asylum, reserving to themselves the right not to admit a refugee.

Continuing Tension

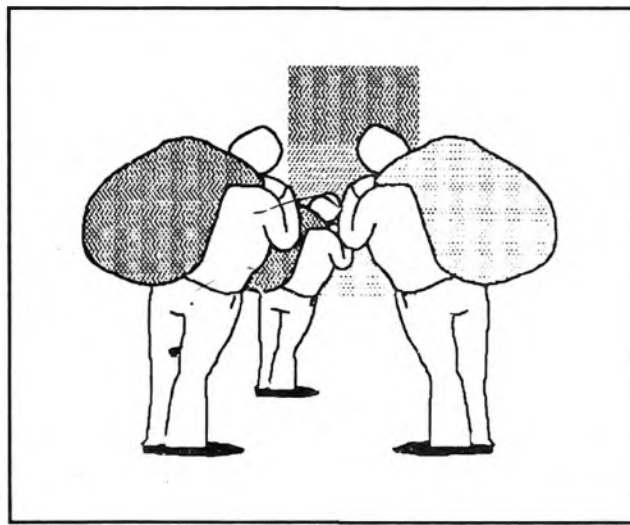
This has created a continuing tension between the right of refugees to flee and not be returned and the right of governments that do not want to violate that international norm offer asylum to refugees on their territory. More than a million refugees - mostly from Southeast Asia - have been admitted to the United States since the mid-1970s. There is no international legal obligation to resettle such refugees: These programs are conducted at the discretion of host countries. Out of an estimated 17 million refugees worldwide, a resettlement country such as the United States determines which of those refugees are of "special humanitarian concern" and thereafter admits a relative few. A total of 132,000 are expected to be admitted to the United States in 1993; mostly from Vietnam and the former Soviet Union. In recent years, governments

have been faced with a new challenge - that of asylum seekers who do not remain in the vicinity of their home country but who move on to seek asylum, often quite far from home. They may continue to move for a variety of reasons. It is often the case that the surrounding countries are unsafe. In Central America during the 1980s, for example, refugees who remained in the region were often mistreated in neighboring countries. They were subject to extortion and threats, subjected to cross-border attacks, and often summarily returned. The "push" factor that caused them to flee their home country continued to propel them out of the region. But there were "pull" factors as well. Whether in Vietnam, El Salvador, Soviet Union, Haiti, or Somalia, political repression often runs hand in hand with economic deprivation.

A refugee genuinely escaping persecution may also be escaping the misery of hunger and poverty. A refugee legitimately seeking freedom may just as legitimately be seeking a better life economically. Governments, however are under no obligation to accept a person seeking economic opportunity. Therefore, they must make a determination whether the asylum seeker is, in fact, a refugee, a person outside his home country who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion if returned to that country. What makes the job of refugee determination difficult is that among the group seeking asylum there rarely is a clear line between pure "economic migrants" and pure "refugees." Rather than two distinct groups, "refugees" more often than not have economic motives as well.

The possibility of making a wrong decision, however, of returning a real refugee to torture or execution, makes the refugee determination procedure a vitally important responsibility of governments. A government does not make a person a refugee by determining him to fit this definition; rather, it recognizes the fact that he is a refugee. The government can make a mistake either by according an undeserving claimant refugee status and allowing him to stay, or by failing to recognize that the claimant actually is a refugee, instead calling him an "illegal alien" and deporting him.

The terms humanitarian refugee or de facto refugee are sometimes used to refer to persons who have been forced to flee war and civil strife but who have not been targeted in some documentable manner for persecution based on the UN definition. Such refugees are often left unprotected, because they do not fit within that definition. Although the five enumerated grounds of the above definition, encompass many of the truly serious grounds for human rights violations, as does its use of the term persecution to refer to the horrors - tortures, arbitrary



arrests, and the like - that governments have committed against their citizens, it does not reflect many of the legitimate reasons refugees around the world flee for their lives.

Broader Protection

In Africa and Latin America, regional conventions have been adopted with a broader definition of refugee that extends protection to persons compelled to flee their country due to foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order. But in the industrialized West, the principle of nonrefoulement is generally interpreted as applying only to refugees meeting the UN convention persecution standard.

In the United States, the Supreme Court recently issued a ruling that clearly drew this line, denying asylum to a young Guatemalan man fleeing guerrillas who attempted to recruit him at gunpoint (*Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Jairo Jonathan Elias Zacarias*). Both the Supreme Court and the Bush administration conceded that the young man, Elias Zacarias, might be kidnapped or killed once returned. "We acknowledge the harsh fact that young men in Guatemala face grave danger," said the government brief, "but that does not convert them into refugees." Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the majority, said, "The killing he feared might well be a killing in the

course of resisting being taken," which would not be recognized as a "refugee" according to the convention definition, which forms the basis of U.S. refugee law and that of most other Northern Hemisphere states. The government takes the position that he can be forcibly returned to life threatening conditions.

Some governments, including the United States, have tried to introduce "temporary protected status" provisions into law to provide a limited safe haven for war refugees until it is safe for them to return. But such laws are always discretionary and deciding what countries are (or, more importantly, are not) too dangerous to return people to tends to be fraught with political and foreign policy considerations.

Returning to the analogy of the burning house, the question facing asylum adjudicators is what constitutes the fire, War, famine, and other conflagrations - causing millions to flee - have, as yet not been deemed by governments sufficient reason to impose on themselves the obligation of nonrefoulement. At present, governments read international (and most domestic) refugee laws to mean that "persecution" is the only fire that warrants nonrefoulement.

By:
Bill Frelick,
Senior Policy Analyst,
The U.S. Committee for
Refugees,
Washington, D.C.

Continued from page 13

CHILDHOOD: A New Newspaper

10- Encourage distribution in schools, youth clubs, etc., at a special price.

Issuing a specialized newspaper, especially for children is no easy task. Therefore, such publication as *Childhood* deserves all our possible support. As for the rest of us (grown-ups) are concerned, there is no harm in reading with our children. We can also help through constructive criticism and guidance, so that the paper does not turn into an adult newspaper with cartoons. The idea is to watch against politicization under any excuse. Many a child newspaper has been politicized through religious preaching, against which the newspaper should watch out. Otherwise, it will turn into a divisive and destructive tool acting to demolish and compartmentalize the community. How long this paper stands upright depends on the stamina of its editor-in-chief and the efficiency of its marketing division. Would it be able to stand up to all the pressure that will be brought to bear, especially in this highly sensitive period and all its ailments. At the other extreme, would the paper just keep telling children that everything is fine and that the children should blindly obey authority. As one American poet put it, summarizing his schooling days and education:

"I learned that government never tells a lie.

I learned that soldiers seldom die
I learned that everybody's free
That's what the teacher said to me
I learned that war is not so bad
I learned of the great ones we have had
We fought in Germany and in France
And some day I might get my chance
I learned that murder is died for a crime
even if it makes a mistake sometime.

Our leaders are the finest men

And we'll elect them again and again."

Unfortunately, this kind of education is wide-spread all over the world, and is standard in our Arab countries. I advise *Childhood* to avoid this path. Telling our children stories about wars, enemies and vengeance are not the right kind of nourishment for the child's mind. A child's mind needs to be filled with thoughts on love, beauty, peace, justice and tolerance of our fellow human beings.

By writing about blue skies, singing birds and beautiful flowers, we will bring-up strong children with vivid imagination instead of robots and thus we could win the bid for our future.



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Corrective Measures within an Overall Reform Plan

Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas's Government is pushing ahead with corrective measures within the overall reform package that it seeks to implement. On December 31st, 1992, the PM issued three decrees, the translations of which we are happy to provide below:

Decree No. 278 on the use of Government-owned Vehicles

Chapter One: Scope of Application:
Article (1): This decree applies to all employees of the government, affiliated companies and corporations, and the local (municipal) councils.

Article (2): Government vehicles refer all cars purchased through the treasury as allocated to the parties indicated in Article (1) above, or through loans and special accounts.

Chapter Two: Assigning Passenger Cars to Officials:

Article (3): The government posts to which cars are assigned, and the maximum number of vehicles per post, are as follows:
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Vice Minister 1

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Deputy Minister 1
Governor 2
Deputy Governor 1
District Director 1
Corp'n Board Chairman 1
Corp'n Deputy Chairman 1
Corporation G Manager 1

Article (4): On the basis of a proposal by the relevant minister and approved by the Prime Minister, each government office designates a car for general use. The Ministry of Finance is required to keep a record of vehicles for this general use, and a register of all errands and trips are to be kept by the driver.

Article (5): It is forbidden to buy vehicles from loans (to the government) and from special accounts. In case of dire need for a vehicle, the approval of the relevant minister and the minister of finance is required.

Article (6): All vehicle purchases are subject to the dictates of Republic Decree No. (49) of 1991 regarding the bidding, auctioning and inventory requirements.

Chapter Three: Use of Government Passenger Cars:

Article (7): All government cars have

to carry a government licence plate number, and it is forbidden to use private (ownership) licence plate numbers, except with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Article (8): All government vehicles are to be used only for official purposes as dictated by the duties of the person using the vehicle.

Article (9): The government shall cover the maintenance and spare part costs of the wear and tear under normal use. Any expenses due to misuse and/or use by unauthorized persons is to be covered by the person under whose charge the vehicle is.

Article (10): The government shall cover the normal needs of gas and lubricants for the vehicle. The daily gas allocation shall not exceed the following limits:

Post Title	Daily Gas Liters
Minister	25
Vice Minister	15
Authority Chairman	10
Deputy Minister	10
Governor	25
Deputy Governor	15
District Director	15
Corp'n Board Chairman	10
Corp'n Deputy Chairman	10
Corporation G Manager	10
General Use Cars (per use)	

Lubricants are applied as advised in the car catalogs.

Article (11): All cars placed under the charge of officials as per article (3) above, shall be returned to the organization if the official is transferred to another post.

Article (12): All organizations have to keep record of all the cars under the charge of its officials. The following details shall be specified:

- Type of car and model,
 - Date of purchase,
 - Price of purchase,
 - Person under whose charge the car is,
 - Periodic repairs and costs thereof.
- These details are to be issued by the Minister of Finance.

Article (13): All government vehicles have to be parked overnight in the compound of the organization, except with special permission from the head of the organization, and in which case, the driver is fully responsible for the vehicle.

General and Transitional Provisions

Article (14): Employees mentioned in Article (3) above who have under their charge more vehicles than the law

allows, have the priority of buy one of the extra cars according to the Cabinet regulations for passing ownership of government cars, and they have to deliver the remaining cars to the Ministry of Finance.

Article (15): It is forbidden to change any cars given under the charge of officials according to article (3) prior to the completion of five years in rural regions, and eight years in cities.

Article (16): For the cars specified in article (3), a driver is employed, and he is responsible for driving the car and proper use of it, according to the maintenance regulations.

Article (17):
a- Persons who leave their posts are entitled to keep one of the cars under their charge, and they are further entitled to purchase another car according to the purchase system of the government. Any cars beyond either option has to be returned to the Ministry of Finance within 15 days of leaving their posts.

b- The Ministers, Vice Ministers and Governors and others mentioned in article (3) are entitled, once they leave their posts, to 50% of their gas

allocation as specified in article (10) above, which should be paid out through their last employing organization. They also get to keep a driver.

Article (18): All organizations have to submit to the Ministry of Finance a complete list of all the cars with all details.

Article (19): All organizations which have government cars carrying private licence plates to change them to government licence plates within one month, unless they have the PM's permission.

Article (20): All persons entitled to purchase a government vehicle, have to turn in all the other cars under their charge within one month; and to start procedures for the purchase.

Article (21): In general, no transportation system should be purchased except within budgetary allocations and according to standing orders and following approval by the relevant minister and the Minister of Finance provided:
a- there are allocations,
b- the post is entitled to a car
c- taxes/customs are included in the price.
d- No proper car is available

Issued on 31/12/1992

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Moscow	SU446	THU	21.10	07:10
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Seat capacity under 164

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Seat capacity 120



Our Development Through a Prospective Value Of Time!

Time undoubtedly is regarded as one of the measures for specifying the range of development and progress. One of the essential measures to specify our prospects and failures is the accurate evaluation for the importance of a time component of each Yemeni for work and production and with a discrimination of the old traditional division of work and the new one. It is known that the share of work was extremely limited particularly for those who were working in the service of the state before the revolution.

In fact, the limited time for productive work in the industrial countries is not more than 4,360 hours and to note the substantial time is not more than 2,000 hours annually being distributed during five days of work per week, and this means that the time is a little more than eight hours daily. Nevertheless, this is not true with some other countries like France whose time of work is less than 1,800 hours annually.

Now let us come to Yemen and consider the six hours of work in all the governmental offices. We see that it is less than 1,152 hours, for work here in Yemen; it is not more than four hours per day. This is not a substantial work day.

Such a case makes our country distant from the civilized countries which give a value to work and production. Then, it reflects an awkwardness in dealing with development and progress.

It is worth mentioning that the components of time in the lives of nations and its progress is an essential factor.

All in all it is a waste of time and energy and it is a corruption of administration when you work four hours out of six each day.

By: Dr. Abdul Fahman Al-Hadad Al-Thawra 7-1-1992

These ministers..... a catastrophe!

When you go to deep into the resolutions of nominating our ministers and senior officials, you get to the point that the choice has gone under three influential factors:

The first factor: Resolutions have to undergo tribal influence and such an affiliation of the minister is done to the satisfaction of the tribe so as to make that tribe feel its participation in authority.

The second factor: The partisan affiliation is also influential in nomination.

The third factor: The third group represents those beneficiaries and flatterers who never disobey, pawns moved on the chessboard or moved through the remote-control of the supreme authority.

There are so many patterns of such corrupted ministers in the cabinet who are nominated not for their certificates, qualifications or proficiencies, but for the

mentioned above factors. Consider a country being steered by such a method of ruling.

By: Gamal Ahmad Amir Al-Wahdawi 5-1-1993

Pressure Generates Explosion!

Indeed, democracy comes as an equivalent to unity so as to protect the homeland from any shaky storms which could influence its march into the future. This democracy is the value of safety and security for all from any setback.

Initially, democracy should have within its procedures and practices a general election and the completion of its procedures should be done honestly and freely. As I think, the parliamentary elections would specify the patriotic level of all the political parties. Such a practice would be a true and honest exercise to know the hidden and open intentions of this party or that one.

Unfortunately, the practice of democracy which was supposed to begin a new epoch in Yemen on Nov. 22, 1992, was closed by taking a resolution to postpone it up to April 27, 1993.

I don't want to talk about the excuses which led to postponement. Undoubtedly, the Supreme Committee of Elections is to be thanked for its efforts to implement all the preparatory tasks, whether administrative or technical leading to its final goals.

But, all these activities/meetings are not sufficient, for the Yemeni masses are in need of a psychological, preparation for the whole process of elections and to be honest in its endeavors and solutions for the worsened economic situations. It is not a matter of just promises. The leadership should possess the credibility, otherwise the whole economic and social pressure will lead to an explosion and mass outrage.

By: Ahmad Saleh Abdul Habeeb Al-Ayyam 6-1-1993

What Yemen needs Now?

The Yemeni people do not need to destroy this group or that tribe, and it also does not need to ignore or mock him. All those forces are but its citizens and so the homeland is in great need of all the citizens participating in the construction of the new state.

We are in need of an open policy, serious and cooperative with adherence to the new world order. What we require is solutions for all the problems from which we suffer.

The status quo requires the presence of businessmen to give advice and to guide, putting all their potential into the welfare and progress of the country.

The economic crisis is at its climax and we are scared of its exploding. I am fully aware that the Yemeni people are not prepared for a shock to let them die in hunger and starvation versus a number of thousands to live in prosperity without doing anything.

By: Yaseen Ahmad Saif Al-Gumhuryah 6-1-1993

The Press ... Where?

Indeed the press has a mission guiding culture, reform, news and else. Reforms come through taking on issues which concern the society. The tackling of any subject should be objective, honest, and credible in showing the facts.

The ideas put forth for discussion should accept the other opinions with a democratic spirit. In addition to these points, the press should develop a style of dialogue and debate and avoid the language of insult, provocation and hatred.

It is also essential to concentrate on the national grounds upon which we all have agreed. Unfortunately, some of our papers pursue certain trends that spoil the democratic environment, causing harm.

It is necessary to create in our youth the potential of objective interaction which coincides with the freedom of press and opinion and not to bring them up on false practices of democracy. It is our duty to bear the responsibility of uprooting nondemocratic practices through the press in our youth, and such a point should start with the official and party press changing the tone of criticism. Criticism must be constructive in dealing with the homeland and the citizen.

It is not feasible that the PGC/YSP papers turn their objectives to stabilizing democracy and unity from tools for frustration and failure of democratic practice. Honesty, our press should take the initiative to destroy the bridges, thus avoiding any kind of hypocrisy, flattery, provocation and personal insult.

By: Dr. Abu Badir Al-Qiribi Alnaba 7-1-1993

Not Parliamentary Propaganda!

It is all our duty to build a new cultural Yemen and such a task requires from the female sector participation to fight a battle of many aspects, development of ideas which all must remain our basic goal. Women have their role in reconstructing, developing and educating our people. As for us, as women, we should be leading this cultural march towards progress, eliminating illiteracy which is prevalent in our society. Such noble goals are in need of all the patriot forces, discarding their differences.

The elimination of divisionism, factionism, secessionism and tribalism requires all of us to be unified on national grounds, making use of the environment of pluralism and democracy, and we will reach our goals through the following:

1. The protection of the reunification standing

against all aspects of divisionism which could worsen with our practice.

2. Laying out of an economic programme to salvage our society from its recession.

3. The stabilization of our democratic practice, distancing ourselves from the political outbids and squabbles, and taking into account any deteriorations which could dissuade us from our march.

4. Certainly, such aspirations would not be difficult to attain if we possess honest intentions to construct a civilized society. Such an approach is not to be taken as an electoral propaganda; they do represent marginal ideas leading to the noble goals of achievement.

By: Samia Al-Ahmadi Al-Hadath 6-1-1993

Democracy is Still bliss but.....!

The latest explosions in Aden before the ending of the year 1992 have resulted in a lot of contradicting names and pictures published in our press.

After disclosing the threads of this planned and deliberate conspiracy the practice of democracy is further frustrated by laying out the impediments before the march of unification based on pluralism.

What happened gives us serious need to re-evaluate all our policies concerning the disclosure of all the

conspiracies against us. We should not issue marginal resolutions and accusations against each other for future jeopardy threatens the whole society.

Democracy paved the way for free press and difference of points of view. Under such circumstances we should distinguish between what is true or false. The substantial participation, either approved or discarded through the democratic official media, will be more expressive and impressive in reaching the final goals.

Thus, the acquisition of democracy in our society has availed us a historical opportunity which can not be repeated if we are met with setbacks. It is our duty to defend the achievements which are acquired through our struggle. The executive and security bodies do not bear the same tasks as in the past, so a clear, new vision to what is happening now should be one great goal of the responsibilities.

It is for us to learn why we differ and where we differ, and on what can rescue us from squabbles. Being different is something natural, and it is not odd; therefore, through peaceful means and natural channels, we will reach our goals.

Alzaman 7-1-1993

The New Mafia!

We haven't heard fully about the mafia of Yemen. We don't even know very much about the concept other than from news about its existence in Sicily and Milano, Italy, and Miami, Florida, America and some of the islands of Latin America. That a mafia might exist in Yemen is unbelievable. Lately I have read about such news from our press, talking about the different techniques of the mafioso in Yemen who are behind a lot of incidences. In fact, these masked mafioso are experienced men launching a lot of squabbles, accusations, rumours planting doubts and frustration among the various sectors of our people. Gangsters on the highways and those who work in the black market and elsewhere are all names and faces which could merely be the tip of the iceberg.

It seems that critically worsening situations have confused all the papers to the point that we are becoming unable to distinguish flattery, falsehood and cunning from what is regarded as truth or straight forwardness. Thus, we should be on the alert of what is happening here and there to save our homeland from an evitable drowning.

Swat Al-Ommal 7-1-1993



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How TV Is Transforming World Culture & Politics

Historians looking at the 20th Century from the next millennium will likely pinpoint 1945 as the most pivotal year since the voyage of Columbus. Two nuclear bombs exploded over Japan, providing a glimpse of the apocalypse. And an obscure British radar officer named Arthur C. Clarke found that it is possible to relay pictures around the world almost instantly by bouncing radio signals off a few satellites orbiting high above the Equator. Both developments changed the course of human history. Asked once what had caused the stunning collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, Polish leader Lech Walesa pointed to a nearby TV set. "It all came from there."

If it has helped topple totalitarian governments and promote global democracy, television has also for better or worse led a modern Crusade, spreading pop culture over the Earth.

In fact, nearly 30 years after Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase "global village" to describe how the electronics revolution was shrinking the world and shortening the time between thought and action, the Media Millennium is at hand.

More than half of Americans alive today may not remember a time without TV in their homes. They are surprised if someone doesn't

have 25 or 30 channels to choose from. But for much of the globe, television is still relatively new and changing fast.

It only arrived last summer in Vanuatu, a scattered archipelago with 165,000 people in the southwest Pacific formerly known as the New Hebrides. Crowds mobbed appliance stores to watch the new state-owned network's first broadcast - the opening of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

But thanks to Arthur Clarke, places like Vanuatu are fast going the way of the rooftop antenna. Today, there is hardly any spot on Earth untrammelled by a satellite "footprint" - the area, sometimes spanning whole continents, within reach of signals from its parabolic antennas.

The rapid inroads of satellite-based "orderless television" are changing the way the world works, the way it plays, peace. Even countries that have long limited what their citizens can watch on nationalized TV are slowly being forced to relax their vice-like grip.

Madonna writhes on MTV and "Entertainment Tonight" which blares incessantly in many Russian homes and office. Dozens of pan-European satellite channels, beaming everything from highbrow French talk shows to Dutch pornography, trespass national borders without

visas. "Los Simpsons" becomes a top-rated TV show in Colombia and Argentina.

A New Economy

Spurred by technological advance and the worldwide trend toward privatization, a global TV economy is growing at a blistering rate. Consider:

- More than 1 billion TV sets now populate the globe - a 50% jump over the last five years. The number is expected to continue growing by 5% annually - and by more than double that in Asia, where half the world's population lives.
- Worldwide spending for television programming is now about \$65 billion and the tab is growing by 10% per year, according to Neal Winstock, media project director for the New York research firm Frost & Sullivan Inc. TV programs are a major U.S. export now worth about \$2.3 billion annually.
- The number of satellite-delivered TV services around the world is more than 300 and climbing rapidly, says Mark Long, publisher of the World Satellite Almanac. More than half of those services emanate from the United States - everything from the Arts & Entertainment Network to Total Christian Television to sports. Truly global "super channels" such as MTV reach hundreds of millions of households, while CNN, is seen in almost 150

countries.

- Scores of new communications satellites are planned for launch in just the next five years, which will mean a huge jump in the number of space-borne TV channels. The cultural, political and economic effects of this global television revolution are enormous.

TV sets are more common in Japanese homes than flush toilets. Virtually every Mexican household has a TV, but only half have phones. Half of the total Yemeni homes have TVs, in a country where Per Capita GDP is less than US\$ 600. Thai consumers will buy a TV set before an electric fan or even a refrigerator.

Parents in China complain that teen-agers are humming jingles from Nabisco and Coca-cola commercials. Russians in the ecological sinkhole of Tyumen, in Siberia, rank the fate of Marianna, the beleaguered heroine of a Mexican TV-produced soap opera titled "The Rich Also Cry," as their third biggest worry in life after acquiring weapons for self-defense and raising their kids. Turkish school-children adopt an argot dubbed "Turkilize" picked up from German, French, and English-language satellite channels beamed in from Western Europe. Kuwait City rooftops are a sea of parabolic antennas. Vans roam Bogota streets with miniature sat-

ellite dishes on the roof and a megaphone blaring promises of hookups for \$150. In New Delhi, "dish wallahs" nail satellite receivers to crowded apartment buildings. Nearly 20% of all Polish households have installed a dish over the last three years. Ivory Coast distributors have so flooded the dish market that they can no longer even give them away. The Iraqi army carted away 50,000 satellite dishes when retreating from Kuwait - inspiring some CNN staffers to joke that what the Iraqis really wanted was uncensored television, not oil. Philippine troops surprised a guerrilla camp in the mountains because the revolutionaries were engrossed watching MTV from a homemade satellite hookup. Fiji schools reported record absenteeism and "TV hangovers" after live satellite television was introduced for the first time because students stayed up until 3 a.m., mesmerized by American sitcoms.

Shaping History

Whether in the situation room at the White House or in living rooms at home, it is clear to viewers that television is no longer simply a limp witness to history. Television is how most people now experience history, as happened when viewers watched live satellite pictures of US-led UN forces walking into Somalia and

bringing the bandits that ruined that country to submission. Conversely, history is now shaped by televisions - reality eloquently symbolized by East German youths when they hoisted MTV flags over the Berlin Wall as it was torn down.

Oxford political scientist Timothy Garton Ash dubs television "the third superpower" whose influence will grow as satellites and cable revolutionize its content. A complex set of problems and issues arise from that power. Ash warns that borderless TV threatens to make even more painfully obvious the economic gulf between rich and poor nations. Diplomats in Libya contend that television is undermining the regime of Muammar Qaddafi by tempting the country's relatively poor and otherwise largely sheltered population with the consumer product delights seen in Italian commercials.

Even more alarming to some is the prospect of a world full of couch potatoes. The French now spend more time watching TV than working. Spanish school-children watch more than their American counterparts.

Some worry that all that TV watching will make the rest of the world lose its appetite for reading as has already happened to two generations of Americans.

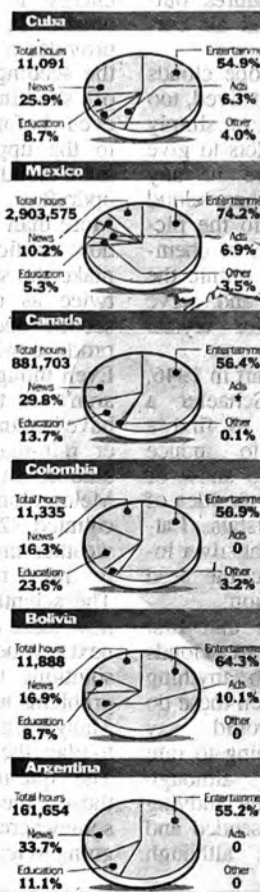
Continues on page 13

The Global Village

Where on Earth Are the TVs?

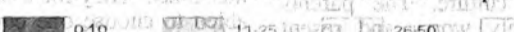
What Viewers See

Here's how selected nations use the airwaves: annual broadcast hours and types of shows, by percentage.



Today, more than a billion TV sets dot the planet. The advanced world claims the lion's share, but the Third World is quickly catching up. Countries also vary widely in how much—and what—they broadcast.

Number of Receivers in Use Per 100 People



Explosive Growth, 1965-90: Receivers in Use (millions)



Source: UNESCO, BBC World Service

OPINION TIMES

Culturally Lost Children

Many Yemeni parents living abroad return to Yemen with their children and start teaching them Yemeni values and culture. This is a good thing, especially if the children are young and in their formative years. The children can learn and experience two cultures, and hopefully they can feel comfortable in both. Eventually as they grow up they will incorporate values and ideas, that are a mix of the two, and most appropriate to their needs. If the children are already pretty grown up, the matter has to be dealt with very carefully; otherwise there will be a gap, and possible problems between parents or the children.

Young Yemeni children who are born and raised abroad come to Yemen and accept things pretty easily. If they weren't able to speak Arabic they learn the language very quickly after coming to Yemen. They learn to understand the way two different peoples think and how to deal with them. Over all, they really become bi-cultural. Loving and respecting the land, culture and people where they were born as well as the land, culture and people of their parents is a critical part of the adjustment process. To be a bi- or multi-cultural person is a gift many parents dream to give their children. Sometimes parents bring their children to Yemen only once, and often when the children are young. If exposure to Yemen is limited to this one time, it usually does not do much good in absorbing the Yemeni culture. So, parents have to bring their children on and off as regularly as possible. This will allow the bond to grow with them, and they will have memories of places and people.

Unfortunately, in most cases children are brought to their parents' birth-place when they are well grown-up. At sixteen or seventeen, the children are almost fully grown-up, and they would have developed a sense of who they are and where they belong. At that stage, it is difficult to internalize another culture. The parents probably worry and resent that their children have become too much like the children in the country where they were born and raised. As a result, they try to re-mould them into an image in their heads. This puts a major strain in the parent-children relations,



and agonizes and confuses the children. The children upon arrival to this "foreign" land, about which they have heard their parents talk about, feel obliged to adjust to this land in which they feel very out of place.

The children most likely don't speak Arabic, to start with, and feel estranged with all these new people, ideas, values and traditions, and some may even decide these are all (maybe) wrong. They have no feelings for the relatives, who quickly impose themselves on the children and start ordering them around and dictate to them the do's and don't's; they often have no interest in learning the local language; and they don't feel that they belong here. The parents find it a must to impose the culture and local nuances on the children and urge them to forget about the country in which they were born. This, of course, is impossible, and the child ends up holding a grudge against the parents, their country and people. For the children to rebel is a likely response if the situation isn't handled carefully. At the least, the children are torn from within, even if they succumb to the demands of their parents. Being multi-cultural is a blessing, although difficult. It can cause problems and mixed feelings because the children might see the adjustment process as some kind of torture or punishment, not as a learning experience.

If both parents and children, as well as society, are taught the benefits of cultural bridges, as these children really are, then the adjustment is easy. One thing everyone should keep in mind is that the children must not feel that they don't belong to either place. They must be enabled to choose one country they can really call home. The feeling of being lost is very dangerous for a young person. The parents can help "guide" the child but forcing him/her to accept a world the child doesn't like or understand is not very loving.

By:
Lora Ali Abdulla Saleh

Cloud Seeding: Making Rain without Dancing

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

Why do clouds sometimes rain and other times they don't? A few basics would help answer that question. First, all air contains moisture. When warm air rises from the earth's surface and begins to cool, some of the moisture condenses into tiny droplets, creating a cloud. The droplets are so small it takes a microscope to see them, and so light they float on the mildest airstream.

Ultimately the cloud is a mass of these droplets and air, with the last constituting 99% of every cloud. Before they can become raindrops, snowflakes, or hailstorms, the droplets have to jump across the airspace between one another and come together, a million at a time, until they are heavy enough to drop to the ground.

At high altitudes temperature drops to zero degrees centigrade or even much lower depending on the season and the latitude. Rain occurs in clouds in which temperatures fall below the freezing point. Despite the extreme cold, cloud droplets are capable of remaining in an unfrozen state even at less than 70 degrees centigrade until they can arrange themselves into a crystalline form. But when a droplet of this super-cooled liquid water encounters a stray particle of a substance such as dust, it receives pattern. The dust (mud) particle would act like an ice cube tray in a freezer where water begins to crystallize on its surface and the crystal gains weight and falls. Some of these falling droplets collide with one another and freeze together. Eventually the frozen water becomes too heavy to remain suspended in the cloud and falls to the ground. Whether that frozen water falls as rain, snow, or hail depends on a variety of factors, including temperatures outside the cloud and air currents within.

Most temperate zone clouds are either too short-lived, too warm, too small, or simply lack enough droplets to give up their moisture in any form. Here is where cloud seeding comes into the picture: The addition of chemicals to clouds to mimic the structure of ice and serve as a template for crystal formation.

The idea got its start in 1946, when Vincent Schaefer a researcher trying to find a chemical way to induce artificial clouds to snow or rain, stumbled on the idea of mimicking ice crystals. Later, it was found that silver iodide could mimic the seed for ice crystallization.

After decades of that first discovery, there are clouds that still don't do anything when seeded. When these do rain, some would say "maybe it was going to rain anyway." Yet, although scientists have been studying the dynamics of seeded and unseeded clouds, although

airplanes have been going inside clouds and spray them with silver iodide, answers are still lacking for too many scientific and technical questions: Have the clouds to which iodide was added actually been seeded? What did the iodide do from the time it was released from an airplane until it left a cloud? What conditions affect a seeding agent's performance? How could one collect falling water to get reliable and certain results from unseeded clouds and seeded ones in their different developmental stages?

By the late 1970s few researchers could agree on when, how or even if seeding worked. But since then, researchers have been using other material beside silver iodide, like spraying the cloud with chemical gases and using gas tracers, as well as using sensitive detectors and computer programs to understand the draft movements inside the cloud and their velocities. Others have used ground-based radars to the same purpose.

Scientists have found that by using these new techniques, they could achieve better results. In other words, the name of the game is to seed the feeder clouds and not the main cloud. Because the updraft in the main big cloud could be very fast, supplying it with seeds would merely increase its speed. But for the crystallization to begin the water must lose its heat which goes as more energy to the main updraft. Updrafts with a speed of 200 kms. per hour could grow into a hellacious hailstone within a monster thundercloud 10-17 kilometers from base to top; but when the speed is only 100 kilometers per hour, it will produce a much smaller result. So, seeding the feeder clouds instead of the main would increase their updraft which would eventually, after joining the main cloud, deprive the main updraft off the energy it might otherwise obtain. In addition to that it provides a better mixing for the seeding material instead of shooting it, sometimes even before crystallization, to the upper layers of the main cloud via its high speed updraft.

More than that, scientists are now confident that they can make the seeded clouds rain twice as often as the unseeded ones and that they produce twice more water. Even though all the answers aren't in, the results so far have begun to redeem weather rain-makers' spotty reputation. In 1989 the World Meteorological Organization counted 32 countries having weather modification (mainly rain making) projects. The scientific community is now more optimistic that the next few decades could bring solutions to even droughts problems and thirsty nations. Many even dream of starting to plant the deserts. The question is, "Weren't those clouds going to rain somewhere else?" Is this going to lead to rain-wars?

Letters to the Editor

The New (Old) World Order Cocktail

Selected by Abu Khaled

Arnold Toynbee, the world famous British philosopher prophesied the establishment of the new world order before 16 years, i.e. in 1976. This was expressed in his dialogue with the Japanese philosopher Diasku Ikeda in the famous book "Choose Life."

"Let us assume that mankind has succeeded in establishing a World Government. (The downfall of communism has made this possible). Let us assume that the member states cannot ever go to war again. Let us further assume that these local states have been prohibited from retaining any armaments of any kind and that this has been effectively enforced, I think the World State will still need an armed police.

"I hold that the World State police, like the present

civilian staff of the United Nations, ought to be directly recruited by the World Government (now the Security Council) itself and that its individual members ought to pay allegiance to the World Government.

The World Police force ought not be composed of contingents supplied by the constituent local states for each of these would pay allegiance to its own local government and would subordinate its loyalty to the World Government, to this local entity. A loyalty ought to be paramount.

"The World Government will have to command sufficient force to be able to impose peace, on the most practical equitable terms, in areas in which injustice and violence amount to serious breaches of world peace and serious violations of individual and collective human right."

What a cocktail!

Personal View

DEMOCRACY OR PSEUDO-DEMOCRACY Three Contrasting Views

The meaning and importance of democracy, euphemistically called "government by the people" have once again sparked off heated debates among various groups. For some people it is an ideal political system which ensures among other things better living standard, protects free expression; and makes leaders or incumbents accountable for their deeds. For another group, it is a degenerate political system which runs counter to moral values. A third group is thinks that democracy is a combination of virtue and vice. In the real sense of the word, it is a stepping stone to the establishment of a free society. If misunderstood or misused, they contend, it is a hot bed of evil. For the last three years, many countries have switched from one-party rule to a multi-party system. The change was necessitated by the people who rose up against unpopular regimes. Firstly, the yoke of repressed communist regimes of Eastern Europe was thrown off. Few African countries who either voted down or militarily toppled dictatorial government, have followed suit. Has democracy fared well in those countries? Indeed many governments' democratization plans so far got off the ground. In contrast, many countries after the change of the ground, are facing political unrest which stems from bureaucratic corruption and the greed of a toppled regime which has often banded with an incoming one. This gives credence to generally held beliefs that half-backed society will always have difficulty in retaining democracy.

Democracy Redefined

Henry Grunwald, former editor in chief of Time news magazine, in a cogent essay entitled "MARCOS, BABY DOC - WHY THE REST," May 12, 1986, noted the futility of democracy in a tribal, traditional or hierarchical society.

Yearning for democracy alone does not signify the birth of a democratic society. True Democracies, as they are cracked up to be, theorize it testingly. Democracy, they say, is not as simple as shelling peas, so one had better master its rudiments.

Preaching the gospel of democracy in a war-torn, poverty stricken world is like preaching to deaf ears. It requires, as Grunwald observed, a sophisticated calculus: the notion that if I take away your freedom for some immediate gain, he may take away mine tomorrow." Only then can one see democracy making strides.

By: Liban A. Ahmad.

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Ibrahim Bin Muhammad Al-Wazeer:

“Yemen cannot withstand surprises from totally free elections. I call for a partial fixing of the elections openly to satisfy certain power groups.”

The Harakat Attawheed Wal A'mal Al-Islami (Unification and Labor Islamic Movement) is one of the centrist Islamic parties in Yemen. It likes to refer to itself as “Enlightened Islam,” meaning they are at odds with the main Islamic party, the Islah.

The Secretary-General of this party is none other than Ibrahim Ibn Muhammad Al-Wazeer (Not to be confused with Ibrahim Ibn Ali Al-Wazeer, Secretary-General of the rather larger Ittihad Al-Qiwa Asha'abiyah, another centrist Islamic party).

Ibrahim Ibn Muhammad Al-Wazeer is the nephew of Abdullah Al-Wazeer, the leader of the constitutional Revolution of 1948 against Imam Yahia. He is seen today as one of the thinkers of Yemen and one of the patrons of Yemen's cultural evolution. A former parliamentarian (for almost two decades), Mr. Al-Wazeer is also an old hand in politics, who has seen hard times in various prisons, as well as subjected to exile during Imamic Yemen.

Excerpts of the Yemen Times interview:

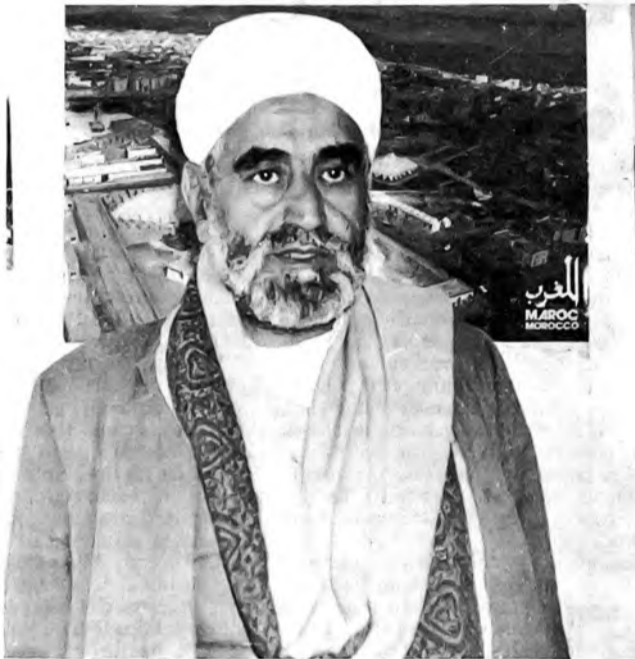
Q: You say your party represents “enlightened Islam.” What do you mean?

A: A fundamental aspect of Islam is tolerance and the ability to co-exist with others. We are not under obligation to mould others into images we hold in our heads. To the contrary, variety is a virtue. Therefore, we oppose the drive of zealots to robotize everybody into one form. Second, as our very name indicates, we are unifiers. We believe in the oneness of God and the oneness of Yemen.

We also believe that peoples and nations can co-exist and work together for the welfare of all. That is why we shun the concept of people who are more Muslim than others, or more Yemeni than others, or even more human than others.

Q: How strong is your party, and what are your programs for the next elections?

A: The beliefs we hold are widespread and people share them with us. Yet, I



do not believe that we have enlisted, in terms of party membership, all those who share our vision and program. As a result, we are not pushing for size or membership, as much as we are pushing to promote certain ideals and visions among people in all parties. If people internalize our ideals, then it is irrelevant who is implementing them.

Regarding the coming elections, we have taken a decision that our role, in the foreseeable future, is in the opposition. We are not eager to share in the state authority, directly. But we do support people who embody our ideals, and hopefully, they will be instrumental in putting them to practice.

Q: How do you finance your activities?

A: You have asked the most critical question. We live in an eternal financial crisis just because the parties in power are not fair. We do raise some money from contributions as well as from the membership fees. But the amounts are small and they limit what we can do.

Q: Yemeni elections: do you think there will be elections? And what are your thoughts about how Yemen is going about its first encounter with democratic practices.

A: Let me confirm that I feel there will be elections. First because I am hopeful and optimistic, and second because there is no other way. Unless we have elections, there will be a lot of turmoil. Regarding the way we are

going about our elections, I wish our rulers and politicians have more courage and come out and openly fix part of the elections.

I know that the country and our democratic arrangements are too fragile to withstand any unknown results and surprises, with which important power groups may not be able to live. In my opinion, the consolidation of reconciliation has priority at the moment over a 100% free elections.

We need to fix a certain power sharing minimum among the major power blocs, and leave a margin for free elections. In the next elections, this margin can be expanded, until we hopefully arrive at purely free elections in the future. Many people accept this, but they do not have the courage to bring it out in the open. I call upon all parties to come together and agree openly on a minimum power-sharing among them, and leave the balance to the people who will decide which party takes a larger role than others, beyond the power-sharing arrangement.

Q: You are a leading member of the National Conference (NC). What is the purpose of it, and how is it coming?

A: First, let me say that the two partners in power (PGC and YSP) have had their share of misunderstanding and disputes. This has resulted in many critical situations, and in some cases, the country was threatened. This has necessitated the emergence of a third bloc that can serve as a forum or

arbiter, hence the NC. Second, the PGC and YSP have created many satellite parties. Technically, these parties are opposition parties, but effectively they are subordinated to the ruling parties. Thus the NC evolved to serve as the truly independent opposition bloc.

The National Conference also serves as the main pro-democracy force which works hard to make the values of democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, private initiative, etc., embedded in our society.

We have had our share of difficulties. Anything that brings so many disparate groups together is bound to be slow. But we have finally evolved into some sort of a bloc, and now we even have an independent office, rented by the NC directly.

We also plan to produce a weekly newspaper. It is a slow process, but given the time-frame, much has already been done.

Q: What do you make of the assassination attempts, violent demonstrations, etc.?

A: I will basically say that these are symptoms of the in-fighting between the partners in power. Their drive to out maneuver each other has led to these problems. Of course, it is all regrettable and out of the law.

Competition should be fair and legal. In my opinion, the two ruling parties need to reconsider their ways and methods.

I have much respect for President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Ali Salem Al-Beedh, but they need to reign in their men and plans.

Q: Relations with our neighbors, especially Saudi Arabia?

A: Any rational person will tell you we need very good relations with all our neighbors especially Saudi Arabia.

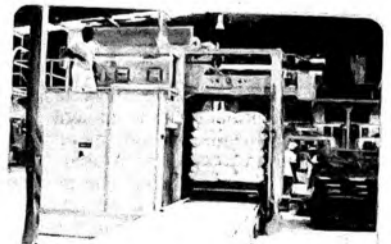
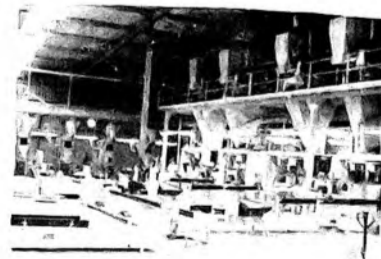
But we have to help them see that they cannot continue to play the role of big brother to us. It just won't do. At the same time, we have to give them assurances that we will not act to harm their interests, and the same from their side.

There is another thing. Saudi Arabia accuses us of introducing democracy into Yemen and which could spill over into their country. We do not plan this, but the democratic spirit is going to come to them from other sources. So, I hope they will find an acceptable solution to this issue.

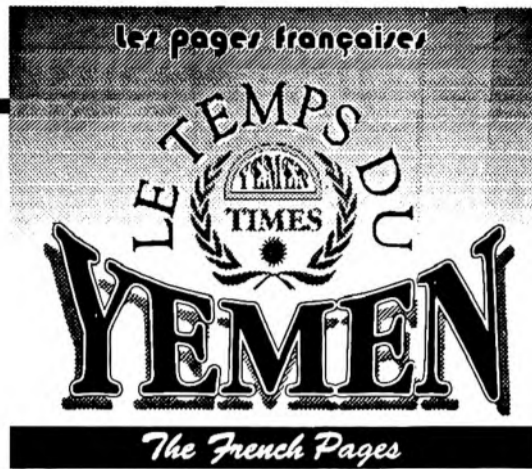


THE MOHAMED ABDO RABO GROUP A GIANT CORPORATION GROWS FURTHER

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صنعا ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ : تليكس : ٢٧٨٠ : ناچيل يمن فاكسميل : ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : ص ب : ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة ت: ٣/٢٣٢٤٦٠ : تليكس : ٥٦٦١ : ابو حجة يمن فاكسميل : ٢١١٥٥١ : ص ب : ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ : تليكس : ٢٢٣٦٩ : سبحان فاكسميل : ٧٤٥٦١ : ص ب : ١٩٣٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ : تليكس : ٧٠٠٧١ : يارن ص ب : ١٦٠



Les deux partis au pouvoir utilisant leurs médias respectifs et la liberté de la presse à des fins politiciennes

Joutes médiatiques entre le CPG et le PSY

Les attaques dont ont été l'objet le P.S.Y. et le C.P.G., relatives aux émeutes de décembre dernier dans cinq villes yéménites, ont eu des répercussions sur la presse écrite locale. Les deux partis au pouvoir s'imputent naturellement la responsabilité de ces événements dramatiques, le CPG accusant le PSY d'avoir été à leur origine, ce dernier accusant le parti du Président de les avoir violemment réprimés.

Quant au citoyen yéménite, qui a payé dans sa chair les différends entre les deux partis, il leur attribue conjointement la responsabilité de la détérioration de la situa-

tion économique, à l'origine des sanglantes émeutes. En réaction, les deux partis sont convenus de mettre en parenthèses leurs désaccords, en interrompant notamment leurs polémiques par organes de presse interposés. Ainsi, leurs porte-parole respectifs, al-Thawri (le Révolutionnaire - PSY), et al-Mithaq (le Pacte - CPG), ont cessé de paraître simultanément, il y a une semaine. Par ailleurs, si ces deux supports sont officiellement militant, un grand nombre d'autres ne le sont qu'officieusement. Par exemple, le "22 Mai" (Sana'a), "al-Rai-al-am" (l'opinion publique) sont des

publications acquises au CPG, car créées, financées et contrôlées par lui. En outre, d'autres publications, à l'existence fugitive, telles "le nouveau Yémen", ou "les lumières du Yémen", paraissent épisodiquement pour véhiculer une critique contre le parti adverse, révéler un scandale, ou même engendrer une "affaire" qui peut dissimuler un malaise entre le président et le Vice-Président. De son côté, le PSY ne se prive pas, non plus, de recourir aux possibilités offertes par la liberté de la presse pour exprimer un différend, ou son désaveu d'une action gouvernementale. Ainsi, si le "14 octobre" est le pendant sudiste du nor-

diste "al-Thawra", il entretient par ailleurs des publications indépendantes qui lui sont inféodées, telles "Aden", "al-Jadid" (le Nouveau), "al-Charara" (l'étincelle), ou "al-Maarif" (connaissances). la récente amélioration des relations entre les deux partenaires au pouvoir les a conduits à interrompre la publication de certaines d'entre-elles, afin de réfléchir sur la mise en place d'une politique médiatique commune, qui viserait à sauvegarder la fragile alliance électorale conclue entre eux. Toutefois, cette solidarité nouvelle s'est traduite par une atteinte à la liberté d'une autre presse véritablement indépendante. Ainsi, l'hebdomadaire syndical "sawt-al-ummal" (la Voix des travailleurs), l'un des plus anciennes publications et l'une des plus professionnelles (Aden, 1969), a subi, en la personne de son éditeur, des persécutions conduisant ce dernier à se réfugier en Egypte. De même, la résidence du rédacteur en chef de l'hebdomadaire "al-Hadath" (l'événement), a été l'objet d'un siège par les forces de l'ordre à Taëz pendant plusieurs jours. Par ailleurs, l'hebdomadaire "al-Wahdah" (l'Unité), appartenant au groupe de presse "al-Thawrah" (pro-CPG), avait bénéficié de la réconciliation des deux Ali (Saleh et al-Bid) en novembre dernier, lui permettant, à titre expérimental, de mettre en place une ré-

daction mixte. Ainsi, le rédacteur en chef est socialiste, tandis que le secrétaire de rédaction est congressiste, chacun étant épaulé par des rédacteurs et reporters de sa tendance. Cependant, avec les événements tragiques de Taëz, ce savant dosage a dérapé au profit du PSY, entraînant par là-même une couverture des faits défavorable au CPG. Le numéro en question avait été aussitôt saisi par le grand patron du Groupe. En conséquence, le rédacteur-en-chef menaçait de démissionner, sa rédaction le suivant dans son geste. Un comité de solidarité se constitua, de même que pour les responsables des deux autres publications sanctionnées, "al-hadath" et "sawt al-ummal". La Direction du Groupe "al-Thawrah" revint sur sa décision, et renonça même à exercer un contrôle sur les articles avant leur parution, laissant ce soin à la Direction du PSY afin d'exercer une pression sur le rédacteur en chef, militant de son parti, afin de respecter ce pacte. Le cas d'"al-Wahdah" illustre bien la vocation au compromis du Yémen actuel, condition essentielle au maintien de son équilibre politique, et la prise en compte par les autorités, à leur corps défendant, des transformations dans les mentalités et de l'attachement à l'exercice de la pluralité (124 publications à ce jour), autant de la part des journalistes que des lecteurs.

CINE-CLUB du Centre Culturel Français de Sanaa

Entrée: Présentation obligatoire de la carte du Ciné-Club. ATTENTION: les séances ont désormais lieu le mardi soir et non plus le samedi.

JANVIER

Mardi 19 janvier. 19h30:

LE SOLEIL DES VOYOUS de Jean Delannoy, 1967. Avec Jean Gabin. Série noire...

Mardi 26 janvier. 19h30:

MELO d'Alain Resnais, 1986. Avec Sabine Azema, fany Ardant, Pierre Arditi. Marcel, violoniste, fait la connaissance de la femme de son meilleur ami...

FEVRIER

Mardi 2 février. 19h30:

RAN d'Akira Kurosawa, 1985. Avec Tatsuya Nakadai. A la fin du seizième siècle, un seigneur féodal décide de laisser le pouvoir à ses fils...

Mardi 9 février. 19h30:

FEMMES DE PERSONNE de Christopher Frank, 1984. Avec marthe Keller, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Caroline Cellier. Le destin de trois jeunes femmes...

Mardi 16 février. 19h30:

POULET AU VINAIGRE de Claude Chabrol, 1985. Avec Jean Poiret, Stéphane Audran, Michel Bouquet. Heurts et malheurs de trois notables d'une petite ville...

Mardi 23 février. 19h30:

MORT UN DIMANCHE DE PLUIE de Joël Santoni, 1987. Avec Nicole Garcia, Jean-Pierre Bacri. Les Bronsky n'ont qu'une idée en tête, prendre la place des Briend, prendre possession de leur maison, de leur vie, par vengeance...

MARS

Mardi 2 mars. 19h30:

LE PLAISIR de Max Ophüls, 1952. Avec Jean Gabin, Gaby Morlay, Claude Dauphin, Danielle Darrieux. Film à sketches d'après trois nouvelles de Maupassant.

Mardi 9 mars. 19h30:

SEPT MORTS SUR ORDONNANCE de Jacques Rouffio, 1975. Avec Michel Piccoli, Gérard Depardieu. Le destin tragique de deux médecins dans une ville de Provence...

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Les trésors de manuscrits de la bibliothèque d'Alahqaf,

Par Hamid Motea al-Awadhi, étudiant yéménite en France.



De l'aveu de tous, le Yémen est doté d'une véritable fortune en manuscrits anciens rares et précieux. Car, auparavant, il a longtemps abrité plusieurs "sectes" islamiques devenues, à un certain moment, clandestines dans le monde musulman. A titre d'exemple, les écrits les plus importants des Muatazilites se trouvent au Yémen. C'est aujourd'hui grâce aux Yéménites que l'on peut étudier l'héritage intellectuel des Muatazilites, héritage dont la civilisation islamique est aujourd'hui fière, car il s'agit d'un des courants les plus importants, sinon le seul, qui a fait prévaloir la raison en interprétant l'Islam et en défendant ses principes.

Des démarches visant à la collecte des manuscrits ont été dernièrement entreprises afin de mettre en place des bibliothèques pour conserver ce patrimoine, peu ou prou en danger (nous publierons dans un prochain numéro, un article complet sur un projet d'archives nationales regroupant le Yémen, la France et le Programme des Nations-Unies pour le Développement, NDLR). Bien que la réussite de ces recherches soit partielle, à l'heure actuelle, il n'empêche que l'on peut parler schématiquement de quelques bibliothèques dites "de manuscrits": la bibliothèque de la Grande Mosquée de Sanaa, la plus importante par le nombre de ses manuscrits; une autre, importante également mais très mal connue, est celle de Tarim, connue sous le nom de Bibliothèque de manuscrits d'Alahqaf. Nous allons nous efforcer de donner quelques éléments sur cette dernière:

La Bibliothèque d'Alahqaf est l'une des plus anciennes contenant des manuscrits du Yémen. On la considère comme le dépôt central des écrits anciens du sud et de l'est du pays. Elle se trouve au centre de la ville de Tarim, dans le gouvernorat de Hadramaout. Elle occupe précisément le

côté nord de la mosquée de Tarim.

La fondation de cette bibliothèque de manuscrits séculaires est fortement liée à l'histoire de la ville de Tarim, dans la vallée de l'Hadramaout, connue pour sa beauté artistique et son originalité architecturale. Elle est également réputée, depuis fort longtemps, pour ses bibliothèques, les lieux de recueillement des marabouts, les écoles et les confréries religieuses. Au demeurant, elle était, pendant longtemps, la ville de la science.

La bibliothèque d'Alahqaf et le lieu célèbre où se rencontraient les marabouts ont figuré parmi les tribunes scientifiques dont tout le monde a tiré profit dans les différentes régions du Yémen ou d'ailleurs.

Il existe, dans le Hadramaout, de nombreuses bibliothèques familiales inconnues du public...

Le gouvernorat de Hadramaout est connu pour l'existence de nombreuses bibliothèques familiales qui contiennent de véritables richesses scientifiques et des trésors d'anciens manuscrits dont la valeur historique est fabuleuse. C'est en fait l'une des preuves de l'épanouissement d'un mouvement scientifique et culturel très enraciné.

Ces richesses se trouvent encore dans les bibliothèques de diverses familles Hadrami. Ces dernières ont largement contri-

bué à la promotion des sciences en les mettant à disposition des étudiants, enseignants et autres chercheurs. Ces bibliothèques furent comme le flambeau qui éclaira la voie de l'esprit et la civilisation universelle.

La sauvegarde de ces manuscrits et imprimés était donc l'un des centres d'intérêts de l'Etat. Il a créé des commissions spécialisées dont font partie les propriétaires des manuscrits et les autorités locales. Ces commissions avaient pour charge de collecter ces documents. Elles ont ensuite créé une bibliothèque dite des "Groupes". Puis leurs membres ont décidé de faire en sorte que ces groupes de manuscrits et d'imprimés soient réunis au sein de la "Bibliothèque d'Alahqaf de Tarim", inaugurée officiellement au mois de décembre 1972.

Un arrêté officiel, en vertu des études effectuées par des commissions ad hoc, formées en 1974 et en vertu des recommandations des missions scientifiques étrangères, avaient décidé la séparation entre les manuscrits proprement dit et des imprimés.

C'est ainsi qu'à partir du 22 avril 1977, une aile indépendante avait été consacrée, dans la mosquée de Tarim, à l'actuel siège de la bibliothèque.

Celle-ci contient actuellement plus de cinq mille volumes, d'anciens manuscrits, dans les différents domaines des sciences humaines et du patrimoine arabo-musulman.

Ceux qui fréquentent cette bibliothèque ont bel et bien la possibilité de découvrir les plus anciens manuscrits rédigés au VIIIème siècle de l'Hégire (XIème siècle après Jésus-Christ), en l'occurrence le huitième volume d'Al Iklil (La couronne), d'Al-Hassan ben Ahmed Alhamdani. Il s'agit du livre de plus ancien de cette bibliothèque, alors que le plus récent date au moins d'un siècle.

Voilà, en bref, ce que l'on peut dire des manuscrits au Yémen. On a toujours l'espoir que les Yéménites, Etat et citoyens, déploient plus d'efforts pour sauvegarder les manuscrits et les protéger contre les différents dangers qui les menacent.

Les Haut-parleurs

par Yahia al-Nasrani

"Ces aboiements sont une offense à Dieu."

Réveillés par les haut-parleurs des soixante-dix minarets de la ville, toutes les nuits, le petit Ali se répétait cette phrase pour essayer de se rendormir. "...une offense à Dieu... Dieu... Dieu..."

Evidemment, à peine replongeait-il dans le sommeil que les ignobles vociférations reprenaient. Il se demandait par quel prodige ce qui dans d'autres villes était un chant ici était si laid. On aurait dit un vieillard qui vomissait, un goret qu'on égorgeait, un pauvre vieux chien qu'on rouait de coups de bâton, un chat qu'on aspergeait d'huile bouillante, tout ce qu'on voulait sauf un appel de Dieu à l'aimer. Et cette abomination se déversait sur les toits de la ville, le même hurlement multiplié par soixante-dix, amplifié par le silence de la nuit.

Cela ne pouvait durer. Ali, qui aimait Dieu d'un cœur sincère, devait agir.

Un soir, après avoir souhaité la bonne nuit à ses parents, il fit semblant de monter se coucher mais se dirigea avec la souplesse d'un chat vers l'atelier où il s'empara vite fait d'un gros marteau, une masse plutôt. Son plan était

arrêté. Il fallait faire vite: soixante-dix minarets!

Par chance, les rues étaient déjà désertes. Il arrivait au premier quand l'appel à la prière retentit: cela tombait à pic. Aussitôt, il grimpa l'escalier en colimaçon et s'immobilisa devant le magnétophone (dont les piles étaient très usées, remarqua-t-il) qui crachait ces épouvantables sons. Alors, il ne fit ni une ni deux: il leva haut son marteau et l'abattit de toutes ses forces sur la machine détectée. Au même instant, le silence se fit.

Jusqu'au petit matin, Ali fut occupé à éliminer de la ville tous ces maudits instruments. De minaret en minaret, il était emporté par une extrême gaieté, comme la fois où son papa lui avait fait mâcher du qat. Il éclatait de rire en martelant, en frappant, tout à la joie de détruire. Le plus agréable, c'était de casser une machine pendant qu'elle parlait: la voix (si on pouvait appeler cela une voix) s'éteignait avec la douceur d'une bougie arrivée à sa fin.

Le jour pointait. Vite il rent chez lui. Heureux, sa besogne accomplie.

Dans son lit, il entendait de nouveau les oiseaux. Dieu était content de lui. Et le silence, enfin retrouvé, ne lui apporta pas la paix, mais il l'aïda, toute sa vie, à la chercher.

Après une réhabilitation et une rénovation dans le respect des techniques et des matériaux traditionnels

La Maison Rimbaud devrait ouvrir ses portes cette année à Aden

Officiellement inaugurée en novembre 1991 par les Ministres des Affaires étrangères et de la Culture des deux pays (MM. Roland Dumas, Abdul Karim al-Iriani, Hassan al-Lawzi et Jack Lang), en présence des Ambassadeurs et de poètes, à l'occasion du Centenaire de la mort d'Arthur Rimbaud, la maison Rimbaud d'Aden doit enfin ouvrir ses portes en 1993.

Cet ancien comptoir anglais datant du milieu du XIX^{ème} siècle se situe au cœur de Crater, et était occupé par le négociant Bardey (employeur de Rimbaud). Il a été authentifié grâce à quelques traces écrites par le poète lui-même (il évoque la vue qu'il avait du balcon, et signale le minaret), aux avis et convictions d'historiens et spécialistes rimbaudiens et poètes (Alain Borer, Chawki Abdelamir, Serge Sautreau) et en suivant les dires de quelques anciens d'Aden.

La Maison Rimbaud est destinée à accueillir le Centre Culturel Français (actuellement à Khormaksar), ainsi que le Centre de Poésie franco-yéménite Arthur Rimbaud, et l'Agence Consulaire Française d'Aden.

Dans les derniers mois, le dossier de la réhabilitation de la maison a été confié à un parfait connaisseur du patrimoine et de l'architecture yéménites, M. José-Marie Bel, qui avait déjà, en Août 1991, effectué les premiers relevés.

Mandaté par les autorités françaises, Monsieur Bel vient d'effectuer à Aden une mission d'études finalisées qu'il terminera en février prochain.



Plusieurs entreprises locales ont été contactées. Les travaux de réhabilitation devraient commencer dès que possible.

Le bâtiment comprend trois niveaux: un rez-de-chaussée fait d'une vaste salle aux nombreux piliers et arches; et deux niveaux avec diverses pièces et

des balcons en fer forgé. L'immeuble en pierre locale finement taillée (basalte) a en son centre un puits de lumière qui donne aussi une heureuse ventilation naturelle.

La terrasse (400 m² environ), bordée d'acrotères typiques, offre un panorama sur l'océan et l'île de Sira (vue qui a assez peu

changée depuis le séjour de Rimbaud, mis à part le stade de football, construit par les Anglais dans les années 60), ainsi que sur la ville et son volcan. Actuellement, le deuxième étage est toujours occupé par la Chambre de Commerce d'Aden, qui est en instance de déménagement.

Le programme proposé par José-Marie Bel consiste en une réhabilitation et un aménagement du bâtiment qui, inévitablement, a subi l'usure du temps (de nombreux points sont à restaurer).

A été aussi élaboré un programme d'aménagement déco-

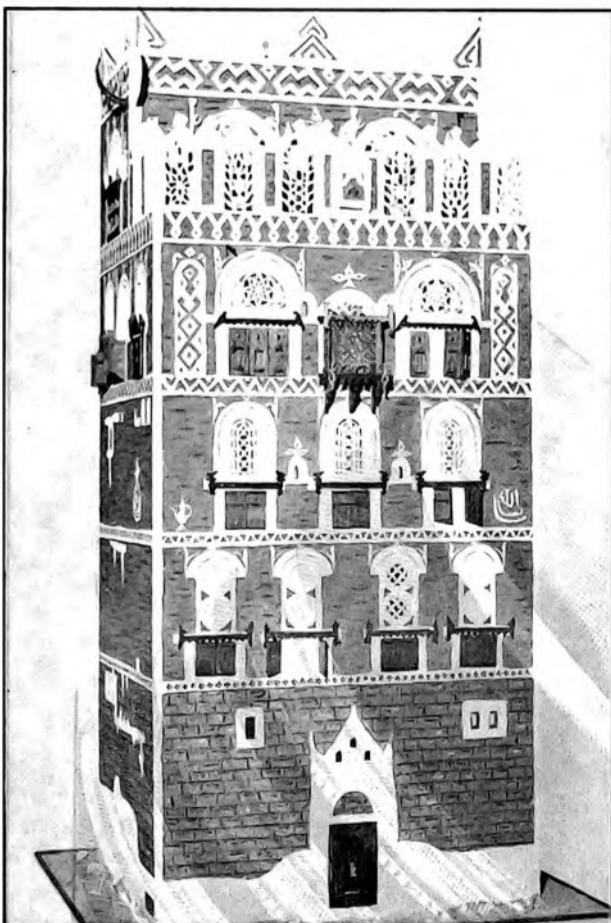
ratif dans un souci permanent de restituer le style du bâtiment de l'époque du poète: lui redonner son sol originel, caché par un carrelage disparate (rez-de-chaussée); restauration des sols (de style victorien) des premier et deuxième étages, des boiseries, des fers forgés et des vitraux. Les belles perspectives des salles et des espaces seront restituées (avec un éclairage soigné, et un mobilier simple et local). Certains espaces seront polyvalents (salles du rez-de-chaussée, terrasses) qui devront favoriser les rencontres, spectacles et événements. Des salles de travail et bibliothèques seront aménagées pour le public, chercheurs et autres visiteurs.

L'ambition de la Maison Rimbaud est de favoriser et de développer les échanges culturels entre la France et le Yémen, notamment grâce aux activités poétiques franco-yéménites qui y seront développées, autour de la figure d'Arthur Rimbaud. Souhaitons aussi que cela soit l'occasion d'un encouragement à la sensibilisation au patrimoine local, fût-il, en l'espèce, de style "colonial": ce style d'architecture n'en est pas moins partie prenante de l'histoire et de l'esthétique du pays.

Depuis le 31 décembre 1992 au matin, les deux drapeaux yéménites et français flottent de part et d'autre du panneau commémoratif de l'inauguration officielle de la Maison.

L'Institut du Monde Arabe s'apprête à fermer les portes de l'exposition "YEMEN, Architecture millénaire," le 17 janvier 1993.

100 jours pour le Yémen à Paris: un beau succès



Maison-tour traditionnelle de Sana'a (pierre, briques et vitraux). Maquette réalisée par José-Marie Bel au 1/20^{ème}.

"100 jours pour le Yémen", voici le pari lancé par l'Association pour le Patrimoine Architectural du Yémen, (APAY, partenaire culturel de l'exposition, voir le numéro d'octobre dernier, du bulletin mensuel de l'APAY) et l'Institut du Monde Arabe (I.M.A.), au cœur de Paris. Pendant ces trois mois, après une inauguration très remarquée, l'exposition, première du genre sur le thème de l'architecture, a accueilli plusieurs milliers de visiteurs (50.000 au moins), et suscité de nombreux événements: concours à la radio et dans la presse, débat-table ronde, rencontres musicales, réflexions sur le patrimoine, ainsi que des reportages et des articles de presse.

L'IMA n'avait pas connu un tel enthousiasme des visiteurs depuis deux ans

Il y a aussi eu une vaste campagne d'affichage dans le métro parisien. A cette occasion enfin, ont été édités un dossier de presse et un catalogue.

Renouant avec ses plus grands événements (Mémoire de Soie, Egypte-Egypte), l'I.M.A. n'avait pas, aux dires

de tous, connu un tel enthousiasme des visiteurs depuis deux ans.

Cette exposition est un succès absolu, avec des répercussions très positives pour le Yémen, notamment pour la relance du tourisme.

Pourquoi un tel succès ?

Sans doute, parce que le Yémen est encore un pays de mystère et de découverte. Mais aussi en raison du thème de l'architecture, thème universel et forcément rassembleur, auquel s'ajoute un intérêt certain pour la singularité de l'architecture yéménite.

Outre les 63 photographies

(réalisées par huit photographes), les textes et les cartes, les objets et échantillons présentés en vitrine, ce sont les maquettes inédites qui ont donné sa véritable originalité à cette exposition (cf. Katia D. Kaupp: "le Yémen en miniature. Expo-cadeau de Noël à l'I.M.A.... vous verrez: devant ces maquettes, les enfants s'inventent aussitôt des contes". *Nouvel Observateur*, 17 décembre 1992).

Volets sculptés, vitraux, plaques d'albâtre, matériaux et ustensiles authentiques...

On doit la plupart de ces maquettes (des principales régions du Yémen, Sana'a, Shibam - Hadramaout-, Jibla, Zabid, Al Zohra) à José-Marie Bel, auteur d'expositions sur le Yémen (Chartres en 1991, Bicentenaire en 1989). Y sont aussi présentées sur la maquette de Shibam prêtée par le musée d'Aden et qui a fait le voyage pour l'occasion, ainsi qu'une reconstitution à l'échelle du dernier étage d'une maison sanaani avec des matériaux et objets authentiques (volets, vitraux, plaques d'albâtre,...)

Les organisateurs envisagent de faire circuler cette exposition en France et en Europe.



Inauguration de l'exposition, le 15 octobre 1992, en présence de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Yémen en France, M. Ali Muthana Hassoun (à droite), de M. Théodore Monod, Président d'Honneur de l'APAY (à gauche) et de M. José-Marie Bel, Président de l'APAY (au centre).



**WORLD
LEADER**

THE WORLD'S
FIRST KING SIZE
FILTER CIGARETTE

"Childhood": THE NEWCOMER TO YEMENI JOURNALISM

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



"The window to look through into the enchanted world of childhood." Thus the chief editor identified her newly born infant "Childhood" -- Yemen's first ever professional newspaper oriented exclusively towards children and issues connected to them.

Born on January 1st, 1993, its aims, as stated in the editorial is for its children readers to "express your thoughts, worries and feelings." The editor also promised Childhood will "get you acquainted with the international world of children, and will be the forum in which you will display your arts and creations." It also aims to serve "national goals, human principles and high ideals.

On page two, the text of the "Covenant of Rights of the Child" was published. The UN and many countries in the world, including the Republic of Yemen, are signatory to this convention.

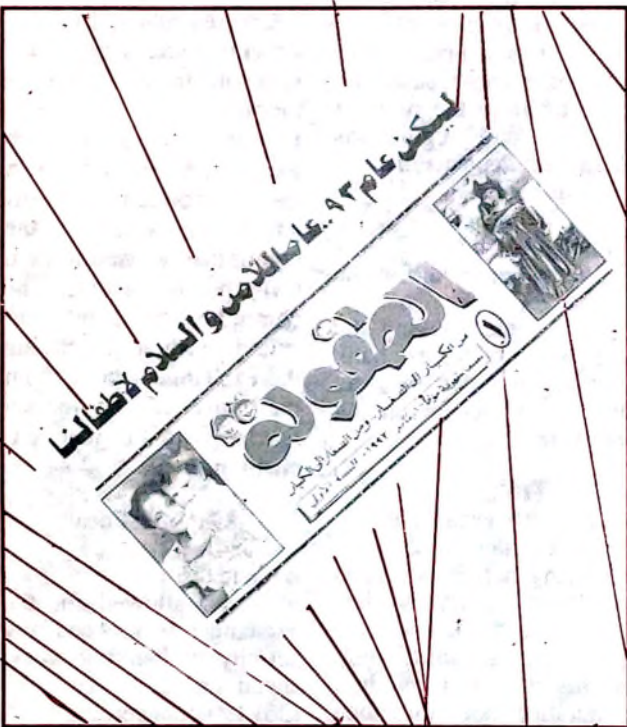
It is vital that our children grow up knowing their rights as well as obligations, free to express what and how they feel about their surroundings, understand better who they are, what their role is, and other information that will enable them to chart a more meaningful and fulfilling childhood and adult life.

Thus we all come a step closer to creating a free, healthy, educated and informed generation capable of fighting for its rights.

assist these talents in coming out and in getting refined," the paper states.

There are some remarks and suggestions for this young paper to consider. I am offering these personal remarks as a result of my enthusiasm for every act concerning children and childhood, amongst which are:

- 1- The relatively high price of the newspaper (10 Y. R.) which is no easy money for the average child to pay. I hope the publisher will consider a lower price, which will increase circulation, and thus make up for the lower price.
2- I suggest announcing contests in writing, painting and other fields with prizes for the winning contribution.
3- Organizing tours for children to get to know their country better.
4- Clarifying the rights of children affirmed by the UN and the Yemeni constitution and laws, in simple language and in the form of stories (one per issue).
5- There is nothing wrong in planting seeds of nationalism and heroism among children, by re-enforcing the positive aspects and fight against the negative aspects that could lead to prejudice.



Over twenty pages of this interesting bi-monthly (fortnightly) magazine, covers stories on Yemen's Goals of National Committee for the Rights of Yemeni Children, as well as cartoons, interviews with children, poems, short stories (national and translated), entertainment, and children's works. The paper invites children to write to it about whatever they choose. "Every child, male or female, has a special talent and gift, about which they know or don't know. Our role is to define and

- 6- Why not invite brilliant names in literature and arts to take part in editing this paper to raise cultural standard of its young readers?
7- Spreading concepts of peace, beauty, justice, etc. through publishing stories of good deeds in which the heroes are children, from all over the world.
8- Running lessons in foreign languages for children.
9- Accounts of high ideals embodied in the bio-data of historic personalities.

Continues on page 4

Continued from Page 7

How TV Is Transforming the World ...

With satellites beaming down literally hundreds of TV channels over whole continents and oceans, countries lose control over the information crossing their borders - an unstoppable migration of ideas, images and culture that raises basic questions about the meaning of national sovereignty in the modern world.

"The nation-state is less and less able to control what goes in and out of it," said Everette E. Dennis, a media scholar and executive director of the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center. "It really makes customs and other nuances from the past kind of irrelevant."

What is happening around the world is the outcome of nearly two decades of global deregulation, spreading capitalism and advances in technology that are making electronic communications perhaps the world's preeminent growth industry. "Technology has made it possible to add a number of channels in a variety of ways," said Eli Noam, an expert in global television at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business in New York. "And the old state-run broadcasting systems are running out of steam."

While international radio dates to the 1930s, borderless TV did not mature until the 1980s.

Billions in Advertising

The surge in communications satellites hurled into orbit - literally hundreds since 1965, with more than 70 additional "birds" planned through 1996 - stems from the mushrooming demand for telecommunications pathways to transmit telephone, data and TV signals around the world.

The global market for communications satellites is projected to reach \$750 to \$1,000 an hour for a link between North America and Europe.

Many of the new channels are being financed by advertising generated from an increasingly industrialized world looking for new outlets for its consumer and manufactured goods.

In Europe, TV advertising is expected to more than double to \$36 billion by the turn of the century. The Pacific Rim's nascent TV ad market - just emerging from years of heavy-handed government regulation has already reached \$14 billion. With worldwide satellite networks, the Holy Grail of marketing - global advertising is finally a reality. Europe, with a market of 320 million viewers, today has twice as many hours of programming to fill as it did a couple of years ago. The number of channels has exploded to 120, from 39 in the past decade and could reach 250 within three years. More than 95% of the homes in Belgium now get at least 25 cable TV channels the highest penetration anywhere in the world. Satellite channels attract half of the TV audience in some Western European countries.

Ever higher-powered satellites not only carry more programs but also allow for smaller and cheaper receiving dishes, making it

virtually impossible for governments to regulate their spread. When the Colombian government ordered that the country's estimated 300,000 owners register their satellite dishes, only 50 complied.

"In another five years, there will be direct broadcast satellite all over the Arab World," said Abdullah Schleifer, professor of television journalism at American University in Cairo. "And whether (people) want it or not, everyone is going to have access."

Historically, the empowered elite have always sought to suppress the wider distribution of ideas, wealth, rights and most of all, knowledge. This is as true today as it was 537 years ago, when German printer Gutenberg invented movable type to print the Bible. For two centuries afterward, government tightly controlled what people could read through the widespread exercise of "prior restraint." Then, in 1695, the English parliament abolished pre-publication censorship - an act as significant for freedom of the press as the 1791 ratification of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Some governments still go to mind-boggling lengths to make the news fit their political purposes. When Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by the Russians in 1983, killing 269 people, the top story on South Korean evening news was about President Chun Doo Hwan instructing village leaders to start a road clean up campaign.

The opening story on Yemen TV is always about the President of the country did on that day, irrespective of how ever important stories are reported from the rest of the world. The Chinese government doctored videotape of the 1989 Tianan Men Square massacre, reversing the order of events to make it appear the killings were a justified reaction to mob violence.

Just as censorship of the printed word could not continue with the emergence of democracy in 17th-century Britain and 18th-century America, so today suppression of the electronic media is thwarted by technology and rapidly growing economies around the world.

The growing middle class in newly industrialized Thailand is typically growing impatient with old-style government censorships. Currency traders complained the Bangkok banks racked up huge losses during the Gulf War because they didn't have instant access to news of market-moving events. A little over a year later, when officials tried to censor news reports of violent attacks against anti-governments demonstrators in Bangkok, Thais scrambled to buy gray-market satellite dishes so they could see unfettered foreign news broadcasts.

Ever since the Gulf War, customers dine at one of Kuwait City's most popular seafood restaurants in front of a battery of giant-screen television sets tuned variously to CNN, BBC-TV, Kuwait's own two government channels and a state-run station in nearby Bahrain. Over dinner, they debate the



contents.

If you can't lick 'em, some governments apparently feel, you may as well join 'em. There are presently more than 40 established or planned government-run satellite TV channels. Many have the same propaganda gaudy purpose as their terrestrial predecessors, but some are reacting to the new marketplace.

Egypt's Space Channel, for example, originally launched to entertain homesick Egyptian troops in the Saudi desert during the Gulf War, is seen as a response to Middle Eastern Broadcasting's Pan-Arabic news channel, owned by Saudis with royal connections.

Like ambitious states that want to join the nuclear club, a country today barely ranks as a world-class power unless it lofts a satellite bearing its own acronym: Asiasat, Aussat, Turksat, Thaicom, Arabsat, Insat, Indonesia's Palapa and Spain's Hispasat, to name but a few.

"It's frequently a question of political sovereignty, not just economic rationality," said Meherro Jussawalla, a research economist with the East-West Centre in Honolulu. "Each country wants to control its satellite system for domestic purposes."

Cultural Control

Even more than on politics, however, the greatest influence of satellite television is on culture. Whereas it used to take decades or centuries for one culture to seep into another, television today can spread lasting images in a matter of seconds.

"Foolish programs coming in foreign languages to our cable television stations are as much a danger to us as some attacks on our frontier," threatening Israel's culture, heritage and language, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said not long ago. Ironically, Peres shares this concern with Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria who now call satellite receiving dishes - les antennes paraboliques in French - les antennes diaboliques.

While devout Muslims march through the streets of Algiers, satellite TV programs from France's TV5 and Italy's RAI 1 show naked women astride naked men and an Italian strip game show called "Tutti Frutti."

Furious British politicians are seemingly powerless to block a pornographic satellite channel beamed from Holland called "Red Hot Dutch." Spanish intellectuals

worry that Mexico's booming export of telenovelas (soap operas) masks its cultural imperialist ambitions. American Christmas shows in Ethiopia caused a rush among Ethiopians to find Christmas trees.

Occasionally, the attempts to block these images are comical. On Egyptian TV, which abides by Islamic code, kisses on reruns of "Dallas" and "Falcon Crest" are edited out after the first split-second smooch. Even that is too racy for more strict Saudi Arabia, which protests that viewers in Jeddah can receive the Egyptian TV signals and people in its southern provinces watch Yemen's televised Parliamentary debates.

When Pakistan - a country where even state-run TV's female newscasters are veiled - allowed CNN into the country, Islamic religious leaders quickly objected that the most popular show on the network was "Style" featuring stunning women modeling the latest fleshy fashions. At first, authorities tried to superimpose black bars on the screen to block out the women's skin. But the models moved so fast that several knees and elbows sneaked out the entire picture, permitting only the audio track of the latest creations from Paris and Milan.

Satellite dishes "bring in all kinds of evil and corruption," said Saudi Arabia's chief Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Baz, who ruled that the dishes violate tenets of Islam. Yet neighboring Yemen has opened the door wide for any person who can afford to get them.

The roots of such fears can run deep, as they do between Japan and South Korea, where Koreans remember Japan's colonization and attempts to wipe out its language and culture. So when Japan started satellite broadcasting, Korea - fearing another cultural invasion - protested and demanded that Japan adjust its "footprint" to exclude the country.

Neither quotas nor religious edicts are likely to slow the onslaught of borderless television. Rather than homogenizing the world, it is likely that the revolution will instead lead to a greater diversity in programming, especially as developing states become more sophisticated in the use of the medium. The global village won't be called "Dallas."

Abridged by: Fatma Rawah, Social Editor, Yemen Times

Resolutions : Vehicles, Exchanging and the State

Decree No. 279 on the disposition of government-owned vehicles

The resolution of the Cabinet (No. 279), 1992, concerning the foundations of vehicle possession as granted to the state:

The Cabinet's Presidency

After reviewing both the constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the constitutional announcement issued on November 14, 1992, as well as the Republican Resolution (No.1), 1990, regarding the formation of the cabinet, and through the implementation of the joint meeting resolutions of the presidential and cabinet councils, two resolutions have been reached. The premier resolve.

Article (1):

The foundation of possession application included in the following articles concerning the surplus vehicles according to the bill of using vehicles issued by the resolution of the premier of the cabinet (No. 178) 1992.

Article (2):

Any official has the right to purchase one vehicle for his usage.

Article (3):

The price of the vehicle for the official's usage is determined according to its nominated price at the time of issuing these foundations on conditions that the installment accounting on the basic nominated price should not be more than 10% annually.

Article (4):

For vehicles which end their nominated prices on the basis of a usage installment of 10%, their sale price will be 10% of its purchase price.

Article (5):

The sale is proceeded to the referred officials in the previous articles on installment and on the following foundations:

- The initial payment of 10% of the sale price.
- The remaining sum is due in monthly installments to be received either from monthly salaries or pensions. These paymade within a period of seven years.

Article (6):

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for preparation of three conditions: one for employed limitation of vehicles and the other two conditions for the purpose of possessing the surplus vehicles.

Article (7):

The committees of limitation and possession:

- Committees are

formed in all ministerial offices under the supervision of a minister from:

- Deputy minister as head of the committee,
- A general director of finance affairs as a member.
- A representative of the central body for sponsorship and supervision as a member.

These committees are responsible for the finalization of the procedures of limitation, withdrawal and possession of vehicles belonging to the general ministerial offices.

b) The formation of committees for economic sectors under the supervision of the concerned minister from:

- The general director of economic units - head of the committee.
- The financial and administrative manager at the units - head of the committee.
- The financial and administrative manager at the unit - member.
- A representative from the Ministry of Finance - member.
- A representative from the central body for sponsorship/supervision - member.

All these committees are concerned with the finalization of the procedures of limitation, withdrawal and possession of vehicles belonging to the economic units.

c) The formation of a committee in each governorate under the supervision of the governor from:

- The deputy governor - head of the committee.
- The general director of finance office - member.
- A representative from the central body for sponsorship and supervision - member.

All these committees are concerned with the finalization procedures of limitation, withdrawal and possession of vehicles belonging to government offices in the governorate.

Article (8):

It is the duty of the above mentioned committees in the previous article to assemble the unneeded vehicles in all the ministerial offices or branch offices in the governorates, informing the Ministry of Finance of the limitation outcomes and specifying the ones being possessed due to the limited foundations in this resolution with a limitation to what is surplus.

Article 9:

It is the duty of the Ministry of Finance to take the necessary steps for selling the unneeded vehicles after the process in coordination with the formed committees in (Article 7).

Article (10):

The payment and installments gained through selling the unneeded vehicles will all be returned

as states general revenue. As for the economic sector, these payments will return to the revenue of each unit.

Article (11):

The procedures are retroactive up to Feb. 28, 1992, as maximum, and extending the sale of the surplus up to March 21, 1993, as maximum.

Article (12):

This resolution is in effect from Jan. 1, 1993, and published in the official paper. Issued by the cabinet presidency. Dated: 7th of Rajab 1413 A.H. (Dec. 31, 1992). Haidar Abu Babir Al-Attas. The Prime Minister.

Decree No. 280 on exchange work:

The resolution of the premier of the cabinet (No. 280), 1992, concerning the bill organizing the exchange work in the republic of Yemen.

The Premier of The Cabinet

After reviewing both the constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the constitutional announcement issued on November 14, 1992, as well as the Republican Resolution law No. (21), 1991, concerning the Yemeni Central Bank, and the Republican Resolution law No. (36), 1991, concerning banks, and according to the Finance Minister's statement and with the approval of the cabinet, the following resolution was reached:

The Resolution:

Chapter one: Nomination/definition.

Article (1):

The bill is nominated (the bill of organization of exchange dealings).

Article (2):

The words and the following expressions mentioned in the bill have the clarified meanings below if not denoting another equivalent:

- The government: the government of the Yemeni Republic
- The bank: (The Yemeni Central Bank.
- The Council: the council of the Yemeni Central Bank administration
- The governor: the governor of Yemen Central Bank.
- The exchange dealing: dealing with foreign currency and precious metals.
- The Exchanger: any person, naturally or considerably licensed to deal with exchanging, according to this bill.
- The foreign currency: any currency other than the Yemeni currency.
- The precious metals: medals, gold or silver

coins or certificates of possessing gold or silver in any case or shape except having an increase in value through manufacturing.

- The bank licensed: the commercial bank licensed to deal in the Republic of Yemen according to the bill-law No (36), 1991, concerning banks.

- Person: natural or considerable

Chapter Two.

The general rules organizing the exchange dealings:

Article (3):

No registration of any exchange company in Yemen can occur without a license issued by the central bank according to the law of banks article (5) item (a), Article 4:

a) No allowance for registration of any companies dealing with exchange activities unless they have written initial approval from the bank on registration its contract and its basic constitution according to capital companies.

b) After finalizing the special procedures of registration and licensing for work according to the valid laws, the bank issues the final license for practicing the exchange and it is registered in a special book at the bank.

Article (5):

The bank publishes the names of the bodies being licensed to exchange currency in Yemen and their addresses and locations of their activities in the official paper after finalization of the procedures of registration at the bank and official authorities referred to in articles(4).

Article (6):

a) The license issued according to this bill is valid for three years, and the bank renews it after its expiration if no violations to the articles of it is committed.

b) The bank has the right to issue a resolution depriving the company of its license in case of violation to the rules of this bill.

Article (7):

The allowance of granting licenses for exchanging currency in Yemen to two of the following sections:

- The first section: Includes the Yemeni stockholders companies or limited institution according to the rules of the valid Yemeni laws on condition that the shares of the partners should be nominated and possessed all by Yemenis whether natural or considerable persons.
- The second section: Includes the individual institutions or persons companies institutions must not be less than 2,000,000 million riyals.

Article (9):

a) The license specifies that the first section of companies practice their exchanging activities at the places nominated and their addresses.

b) The license specifies that the second section of companies reveal the locations licensed for the practice of exchanging.

c. The exchanger is prohibited from opening a branch or branches in non-licensed places for his work; otherwise he will be exposed to the punishment stated in article 5 of law No. (36), 1991, concerning banks. One is only allowed to transfer any of the branches licensed by a written approval from the bank.

Article (10):

The exchanger is prohibited, according to the license issued by article (14) of this bill, from practicing another kind of commercial job. Also, it is not allowed that any of the companies or institutions of first and second to lay down in the contract or its basic constitution any purposes violating with exchanging activities pursuant to the rules of this bill.

Article (11):

The exchanger must deposit cash estimated 25% from the paid capital to the first sect companies and the companies of the second sect before starting his work to any licensed commercial bank. That is the order from the Central Bank, it is a principle to guarantee and restrict the exchangers to the rules of the bill and regulations dealt with deposits in commercial banks.

Article (12):

It is not allowed for the exchanger to stop his activities unless taking the approval of the bank which lays down the way and conditions for ending the work or stop it.

Article (13):

If a person granted the license decided to stop exchanging activities within six months from the date of issuing the licence, the bank has the right to abolish his licence or give him a duration not more than six months. Finally in case not proceeding the exchange activities during the duration, the licence will be abolished.

Chapter three: Permission of exchanging activities.

Article (14):

The bank is permitted to do the followings:

- The purchasing of foreign currency and selling it for its account and under its responsibility.
- The purchasing and

selling tourism cheques are being issued from the banks working in Yemen or abroad for their accounts under their responsibilities. The collection is proceeded through a coverage of selling.

C- Purchasing and selling of precious stones.

D- Acceptance or preceding of any exchanging from or to abroad according to the valid regulations organizing the dealing with foreign currency.

E- It is allowed legally for the licenced exchangers and the operating banks in Yemen to deal with currency abroad through a previous permission from the Central Bank on specific amounts and raising the amount for citizens from three thousand dollars up to ten thousand dollars for each passport.

F- Any other activities approved on by the bank.

Article (15): The price of selling/purchasing the foreign currencies are specified by a committee formed as follows:

A- Chairman of the council of bank association as chairman.

- Two members from the banks association as members.

- Two members from the exchanging association administration council as members.

- A member from the general union of commerce and industry chambers as member.

- A representative from the general administration for sponsorship on banks as monitor.

B- The bank together with the committee lay down the foundations to organize the work of the committee referred to item (A) from this article. The committee must be consulted when specifying the exchanging price from the move of the market reaching to a real exchanging price.

Chapter Four

Article (16):

It is not allowed for the exchanger to proceed any activity of banking work, stated on in the law No. (36) 1991 concerning banks with exception to what was allowed to in article (14) of this bill. It is prohibited for the exchanger to deal in the exchange stock of foreign credit or bearing any similar compliance.

Article (17):

It is not allowed for the exchanger gaining direct/indirect debit facilities from local/foreign banks without a previous written approval from the bank.

Continued next week...

Continued from page 16

Sheikh Al-Qibli ...

cessation of political misuse of public and demanded severe punishment for those who abuse the country's resources. Other issues emphasized by the Saba' Conference, are:

- The implementation of all executive and organizational regulations of the civil service law which calls for reforms. The government should give priority to putting an end to discriminatory policies regarding employment and promotion of civil servants, and to indexing salary scales to the cost of living.

- Serious action must be taken against smuggling and smugglers

- Equal opportunity must be given to all citizens in employment, joining military and police academies and educational institutions as well as in the nomination process for scholarships to study abroad; priority and preference in this context should be given to qualified applicants; political, tribal and sectarian prejudices should be discontinued.

- The government should pay attention to the agricultural sector, encourage and protect agricultural production; prepare general policy and the agricultural map to protect and encourage farmers to free the country from over-dependence on foreign food products.

- Pursue a balanced development strategy between rural and urban areas.

The state should pay special care to the historic heritage of the nation, and should issue a special legislation to prohibit the sale or donation of ancient relics.

- The state should limit the inflow of foreign workers and train Yemenis to replace them.

- The state should pay a special attention to the returnees and provide them with employment opportunities and training.

- A reduction in government expenditures and the optimal use of available hard currency are needed.

- Corruption and disgrace of the judiciary should be stopped, and qualified and honest persons must be chosen to dispense justice

- The political assassinations point clearly that the security authorities are handicapped. In fact, these sometimes act as protectors of the terrorists and criminals.

- The state should announce an economic policy that reduces our dependence on the international economy, increase productivity; give greater role to the private sector, and make use of oil revenues in developing the country instead of directing these resources for personal and luxurious exploitations.

- Local elections are the right means to elect officials at the governorates' level. Any delay in these elections is anti-democratic. The conference demands moves towards fiscal and administrative decentralization.

One of the most important resolutions of the Saba' Conference, Sheikh Al-Qibli indicated, was the formation of a forty-member tribal "Council of Social Reform" to deal with tribal disputes, prepare the grounds for locally elected government.



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LESSON 27

Expressions of Comparison - Part IV

This is the last lesson on comparisons - promise! Today we're going to have fun with some expressions. But first, a little more work with them:

A. "as ... as" expressions with adverbs. Last week, we talked about using this expression with adjectives and quantities, for example, "as big as" and "as much as". "As ... as" expressions can also be used with adverbs. (You remember adverbs - they answer the question "how?" and often end with an "-ly.") An expression using "as (adverb) as" is usually written as a negative.

example #1: "Ali speaks very clearly, but Ahmed doesn't."
This sentence can be rewritten: "Ahmed *doesn't* speak *as clearly as* Ali (does)."

Notes: 1. Notice how the two things being compared switch places in the new sentence. In the first sentence Ali is mentioned first. In the second sentence, Ali is mentioned last.
2. Notice how "does" is in parentheses at the end of the second sentence. That is because it is not needed. You can write it if you want. You use the affirmative "does" to show that Ali *does* speak clearly. Ahmed *doesn't*.
3. Remember that DOESN'T is used with the subjects HE, SHE and IT; and DON'T is used with I, YOU and THEY.

example #2: "Ali is a very clear speaker, but Ahmed isn't." This sentence is basically the same as in example #1, except that this one is using an adjective - *clear* speaker. In example #1, an adverb is used - *speaks clearly*. Example #2 can be rewritten the same way as in example #1.: "Ahmed *doesn't* speak *as clearly as* Ali."

example #3: "Jeanna sings very well, but Lisa doesn't." ("well" is an adverb)
This sentence can be rewritten: "Lisa *doesn't* sing *as well as* Jeanna."
OR if you have, "Jeanna is a very good singer, but Lisa isn't." (good is an adjective)
This sentence can ALSO be rewritten: "Lisa *doesn't* sing *as well as* Jeanna."

PRACTICE A: Rewrite the following sentences using "as (adverb) as" expressions.
example: John talks very slowly, but James doesn't. = James *doesn't* talk *as slowly as* John.

1. Ali drives very carefully, but Ahmed doesn't.
2. My car goes very fast, but his car doesn't.
3. Selwa speaks English very well, but Amat doesn't.
4. John is a very slow walker, but James isn't.
5. Mohammed works hard, but Yahia doesn't.
6. My mother is a good cook, but my father isn't.
7. In my class, the little girls play quietly, but the boys don't.
8. Sayeeda paints beautifully, but Hiyat doesn't.
9. Mercedes cars cost a lot, but Geo cars don't.
10. Tigérs are feirce animals, but kittens aren't.

B. The word "like" is often used to mean "similar" or "almost the same".
examples: 1. John's coat is *similar* to James'. = John's coat is *like* James'.
2. James' new car looks *almost the same* as John's. = James' car looks *like* John's.

C. Similes. A simile is a literary term where a comparison is made between two different things using "like" or "as". For example, "John is like his father" is not a simile. The comparison is made between two people. People are thought of as being similar in many ways. But to say, "He runs like a gazelle" is a simile because there are not many similar things between people and gazelles. Comparisons like these make every language more interesting.
more examples: 1. She eats very little and so does a bird. = She eats *like* a bird.
2. He is quiet and so is a mouse. = He is *as quiet as* a mouse.

PRACTICE B: Use "like" to make similes from these sentences. These are common American expressions of comparison.

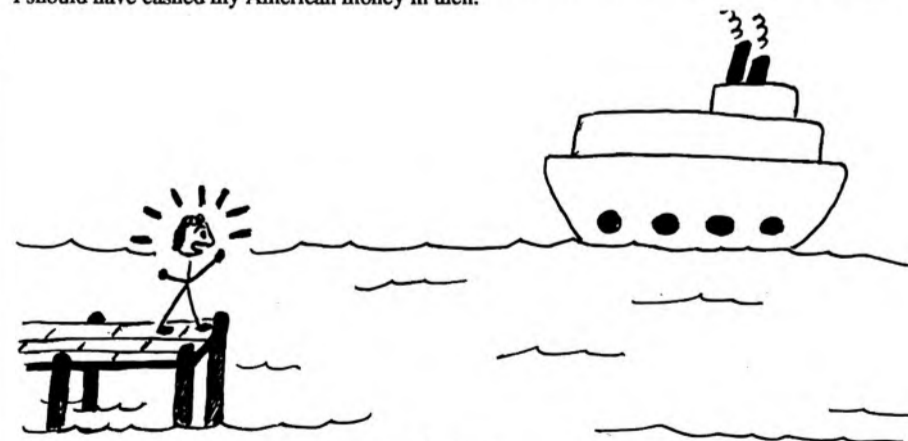
1. Ali works hard and so does a horse.
2. John eats sloppily, fast, and a lot. A pig eats that way, too. ("too" means also)
3. He walks with a wobble, and his feet stick out. A duck walks the same way.
4. She sings beautifully, and so does a bird.
5. The fighter, Mohammed Ali (Clyde) moves around quickly so that he seems to float. A butterfly floats. His punches sting hard and hurt. A bee's sting hurts, too. (The simile made by these sentences became Mohammad Ali's slogan, his motto as the great fighter.)

PRACTICE C: Now use "as (adjective) as" to discover some popular American similes:

1. John is sly. A fox is sly.
2. This bread is hard. A rock is hard.
3. Mona is pretty. A picture is pretty.
4. His word is good. Gold is good.
5. Bushre is light (she doesn't weigh much). A feather is light.
6. My teacher is cold. (meaning mean and unfriendly.) Ice is cold.
7. That joke is old. The hills are old.
8. His face is red. A beet is red. (a beet is a vegetable that turns bright red when pickled)
9. My friend, Fatma, is so sweet. Honey is sweet.
10. He is strong. An ox is strong.

WEEKLY IDIOM: "Missed the boat" means to miss a good chance to get or do something.

It can also mean that someone is unaware of something or doesn't understand. For example, if someone tells a joke and everyone laughs except one person, you could say, "He missed the boat." Another example: I sure missed the boat last week when the rial was up to 50 to a dollar. I should have cashed my American money in then.



Answers: Practice A: 1. Ahmed doesn't drive as carefully as Ali. 2. His car doesn't go as fast as mine. 3. Amat doesn't speak English as well as Selwa. 4. James doesn't walk as slowly as John. 5. Yahia doesn't work as hard as Mohammed. 6. My father doesn't cook as well as my mother. 7. In my class, the boys don't play as quietly as the girls. 8. Hiyat doesn't paint as beautifully as Sayeeda. 9. Geo cars don't cost as much as Mercedes. 10. Kittens aren't as feirce as tigérs.
Practice B: 1. Ali works like a horse. 2. John eats like a pig. 3. He walks like a duck. 4. She sings like a bird. 5. Mohammed Ali floats like a butterfly and sings like a bee. Practice C: 1. John is as sly as a fox. 2. This bread is as hard as a rock. 3. Mona is as pretty as a picture. 4. His word is as good as gold. 5. Bushre is as light as a feather. 6. My teacher is as cold as ice. 7. That joke is as old as the hills. 8. His face is as red as a beet. 9. Fatma is as sweet as honey. 10. He's as strong as an ox.

Featuring Next Week



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• Analysis •

Sheikh Al-Qibli: "Our Task Is to Pull This Country out of Its Current Predicament."

By: Dr. Ahmed No'man Kassim al-Madhagi, Yemen Times Political Editor

Sheikh 'Ali al-Qibli Nimran, the Paramount Sheikh of Murad Tribes and the Assistant Secretary General of "Mu'tamar Saba' Lil-Qaba'il al-Yamaniyah" (Sheba Conference for Yemen tribes) pointed out that the formation of the tribal-alliance-based conference last September was needed to overcome the current unnatural situation in the Republic of Yemen.

"Our Conference actually plays a role in the national arena through its efforts to dissolve differences between those in power concerning the upcoming parliamentary elections, so that Yemen can put an end to the extended transitional period; overcome the current economic difficulties; and bridge the gap that exists between the rulers and the opposition. If unresolved, these problems could lead to the frag-

mentation of the country," he told Yemen Times.

"To play this role, our Council of Trustees decided on 25th October 1992, to form a 10-member committee to initiate dialogue with all power groups in society to explain the objectives of this tribal grouping," Sheikh Qibli said. According to the Saba' Conference's Assistant Secretary General, their dialogue committee was formed of the following sheikhs: Muhsin Muhsin Abu Nashtan, Seif Ahmad al-Qibli, Naji 'Abd Allah al-Sufi, Muhammad Qassim Buheibih, 'Abdul-Hamid Muhammad al-Qawsi, Ahmad al-Bashah bin Zuba', Muhammad Hussein al-Thuraiya, 'Abd Allah 'Ali Hantash, Yasser Ahmad al-Awadhi, and al-Shareef al-Hussein 'Ali al-Dhameen. He stressed, "We believe that the best means to overcome the current political crisis is to re-establish trust between the ruling parties, the YSP and PGC. Without trust and without settling their differences all sides will lose. They have done a great job

in the unification of Yemen, and they should maintain this accomplishment. Unless they abandon the current policies, their differences at this stage of our political history will lead to a disaster for Yemen."

He added, "We also want to see the YSP and the PGC willing to let other parties and they must abandon their pre-unification politics. There is room for all nationalists of this country to participate in the nation building processes."

"The people have suffered a lot and, it is high time that all Yemenis became part of the new Yemen, where there is no room for dictators: all groups in society should collaborate in building this country," al-Qibli said.

Regarding the current situation, the Assistant Secretary General of the Saba's Tribal Conference stated, "The majority of our people are poor and suffer from deprivation, and the government's decisions throughout the last 31 months did not provide adequate response to their needs. Unless the current economic situation makes a turn to the better fast, through real reforms and people-serving policies, the



swear to work, at all levels, sincerely and truly, with each other, for the interest and the welfare of all, within the context of our Islamic and tribal values and beliefs, which are supreme to our political commitments." The Conference emphasized the need for and importance of preserving Yemeni unity; demanded that parliamentary elections take place before the end of the transitional period; blamed the state for the unrest, infighting and assassinations; warned that the state would be held responsible for any further bloody disputes between the tribes and the Yemeni people; demanded equal opportunity for all Yemenis in Government projects; the

Continues on page 15

VOTERS REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS

The registration process of voters has just started and the polling stations are manned (and in a few cases womaned) by the supervisory committees that have undergone a four-day training.

The registration process will continue for one month, during which all adult Yemenis are required to fill up a registration form and receive a registration completion document.

Yemenis are already queuing in various parts of the country to exercise their constitutional rights in choosing their next house of representatives. According to informed sources, of the some six million or so persons entitled to register, only about 60% are expected to complete the registration process. Another 10% to 15% of the registrants are expected to fail to cast their ballots. According to Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakeemi, Member of the Supreme Elections Committee and Vice Chair of the Information Committee, "The process is smooth and so far so good."

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