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YEMEN TIMES



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Unfair Competition

The Supreme Elections Committee is ordering "all" candidates not to campaign, not yet anyway. The SEC says it will tell the candidates when to campaign; i.e., in the last ten days before the date of the actual casting of the vote.

In the meantime, I want to ask the SEC what it thinks President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Secretary-General of the PGC, and Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Secretary-General of the YSP, have been doing over the last twenty days in their visits to many outlying villages and towns in Hodeidah, Taiz, Lahj, Aden, Ibb and Dhamar? Everybody knows they have been campaigning for their parties. At the same time, they receive a daily TV prime time coverage of more almost an hour, radio transmission of some two hours, and front-page coverage in the official newspapers. This is undemocratic and unfair to the opposition parties and independents competing against PGC and YSP candidates.

Did you note the large entourage of clientele and, of course, the cashiers accompanying the President and Vice President. What the two leaders of the ruling parties have been doing is pure campaigning for their parties and candidates.

The SEC has not intervened, primarily because it was born subservient to the Presidential Council. What disturbs me is that none of the opposition parties, the National Committee for Free Elections, or anybody else has protested this unfair media treatment.

This being the case, I would not be surprised if the PGC and YSP leaders embark, just before election time, on another whirlwind visit to various parts of the country, notably to constituencies where their candidates may face stiff competition.

There is a minimum degree of fairness and decency required in order to carry out credible and honest elections. That should mean that the ruling parties do not use the official media and the state treasury in their campaigns.

The Publisher
[Signature]

SEC Grants Approval to NCFE

The Supreme Elections Committee (SEC), gave its formal approval for the establishment and operations of the National Committee for Free Elections (YCFE). According to Mr. Ahmed As-Soufi, one of two official Spokesmen for the YCFE, the approval was given on Sunday, 14th February.

In the meantime, he explained that the YCFE has gone ahead and distributed duties and functions among its members in the executive board. It has also received nominations for its advisory board from various political parties.

The YCFE is gearing up to play a major watchdog role in the coming elections.

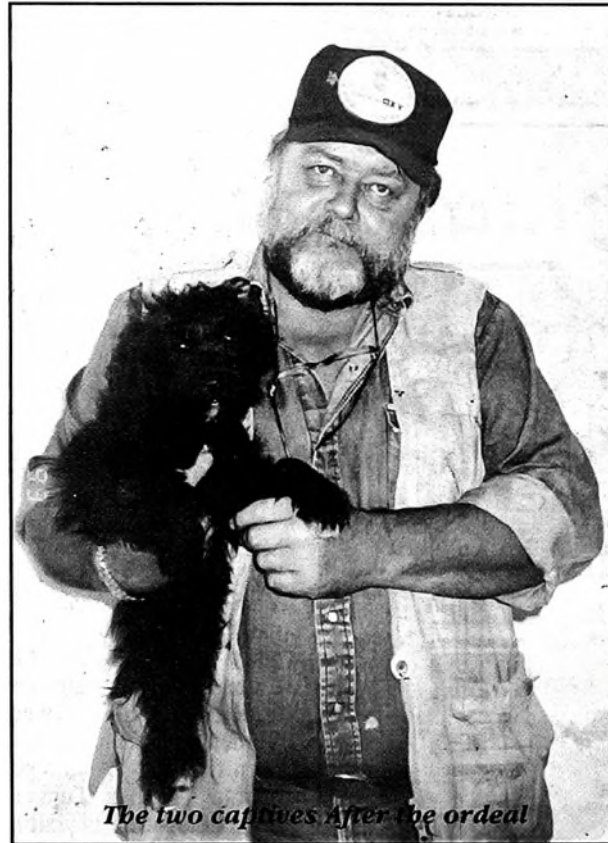
AT LAST, OH AT LAST Sheikh Al-Ahmar Secures the Release of the Canadian Hostage

Mike and Scottie boarded the plane on Monday, February 15th. They said goodbye to their friends and were off on a one-month vacation, which is "well-earned and well-deserved" by everybody's assessment.

The two captives are finally free. The giant Mike Schmitz, a Canadian national working for Sterling Freight Services, associated with Yemen Kuwait Shipping and Forwarding Company, and his tiny Scottish dog (we called it Scottie, its master's name is not fit for printing), had spent 20 days in captivity.

On Sunday, January 24th, Mike was driving from Aden headed for Sanaa. He stopped at the Dhamar checkpoint, as usual. Two men in military uniform told him to park on the side. He did. Then, five men, in civilian clothes, jumped in with him and, flashing their kalashnikovs, ordered him to deviate from the main road and drive east. By the time they stopped, they were in Zurajah, some fourteen kilometers east of Maabar. Thus the kidnap story began. In the home of Sheikh Abdul-Hameed Al-Qowski, Mike and Scottie were destined to spend twenty days.

The news was flashed all over the world. It dealt a major blow to Yemen's effort to attract foreign tourists and international investment. This was soon



The two captives after the ordeal

coupled by the kidnapping of a Japanese national in Nihm, eighty kilometers east of Sanaa. Ko Ichiro Katsurai was a JICA-sponsored agriculture expert doing research on possibilities of agricultural cooperation between the two countries. His ordeal, however, ended fast. He was taken-in by the Nihm tribe on February 3rd, and was released on February 6th. He left the country for good on 7th February. In both cases, the tribes do not harm their hostages. "They treated me very

well," said Mike in an exclusive with the Yemen Times. But he still regrets the loss of twenty days of his life.

It was, nonetheless, a good opportunity to catch up with his reading. He read twenty three books. He and his captors also went through many cases of beer and lots of bottles of hard liquor.

"They served me a lot of lamb, and I hated it. I come from Alberta - cattle country. Of course, my 'hosts' were confused.

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Minister of Defense in Abu Dhabi

Lt-Brigadier Haitham Qassim Taher, Minister of Defense, paid an official visit to the United Arab Emirates this week. It will be noted that this is the first ever official exchange between the UAE and Yemen since the Gulf War. The Defense Minister carried a letter from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, President of the UAE.

Banque Indosuez Chairman in Yemen

Mr. Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani, Chairman and Managing Director, of Banque Indosuez, arrived in Sanaa on, 16th February, on a private visit to the Republic of Yemen. During the visit, Mr. Galignani is scheduled to meet with the Yemeni monetary authorities as well as the business community. He will also, of course, review the progress of Banque Indosuez in Yemen. It will be remembered that Banque Indosuez started operations in Yemen in 1949 in Hodeidah. The bank recently inaugurated its fourth branch in Aden. Its other branches are in Sanaa, Taiz, and Hodeidah.

Tunisian Trade Catalog Exhibition

Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Zaid Al-Mihdhar, a prominent Yemeni businessman, told the Yemen Times that talks with the Tunisian Embassy towards stronger trade relations between Yemen and Tunisia have been fruitful. "As a result of our talks, a Tunisian trade delegation is visiting Yemen this week. In addition, there was a Tunisian catalog exhibition of Tunisian products," he said. The exhibition, attended by the Tunisian Ambassador in Sanaa, was held at the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce on February 13th, 1993.

Labor Law Workshop

A four-day workshop on labor was kicked off by the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Dhaiban, on Sunday, February 14th. The workshop is being jointly sponsored by the Labor Ministry, Arab Organization for Labor, and the Federation of Chambers of Industry and Commerce. Some thirty persons from various private and government circles are participating in the workshop which discusses labor laws, with special relevance to such issues as strikes, rights of workers and investors, etc.

Marketing/Managing Housewives' Products

A training program for marketing and management of goods produced by housewives and other females in the family was inaugurated in Taiz on Saturday, February 13th. The program, financed and sponsored jointly by the Association of Yemeni Women (Taiz Branch), US AID, and the Institute of Higher Education, lasts until the 18th. Thirty five women from Taiz and Ibb are enrolled, and they are learning how to keep records of financial transactions, handle bank accounts, apply for credit, keep inventory, and market products. This is the third such training program in Taiz, which aims at enabling women to generate an independent source of income.

Japan Finances Two TB Centers

JICA and the Ministry of Health have reached agreement yesterday, 16th February, according to which the Japanese government will finance the construction, equipping and training of two centers for combatting TB. The two centers, one each in Aden and Mukalla, come as a second phase to the first phase according to which Japan had financed similar centers in Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeidah.

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NEST

**CHERNOBYL - LIKE-DISASTERS
IN STORE**

The dismantling of the Soviet Union's Weather Forecasting System is undermining the early-warning network that could help protect western Europe from Chernobyl-like nuclear power disasters, officials said.

Weather experts from the former Soviet Union, who met with UN officials in Geneva last week, disclosed that about 20% of the former Soviet weather-reporting stations already have shut down because of a spare parts shortage and other problems.

The early-warning network for nuclear accidents is the most important part of the system, said G.O.P. Obasi of Nigeria, secretary-general of the UNs World Meteorological Organization.

The system developed after the Chernobyl accident in 1986 can alert the whole world in five minutes, as long as any station can immediately report reactor problems, Obasi told a news conference.

"If their systems are no longer working, you can imagine the delays that will be cause for the timely alerting the world," he said.

Sagem Douissenov, head of the hydro-meteorological service of Kazakhstan that in some cases the weather stations in his country are still working but cannot report their information because of a local telecommunications shut-down.

He said that besides early warning, the global weather system was also needed to monitor nuclear accidents in subsequent days.

"Without a good network of monitoring stations to forecast the movement of winds so that the movement of the radioactive cloud can be predicted, it will be impossible to mitigate the consequences," Douissenov said.

Obasi said all of the earth's 10000 weather stations are needed to provide accurate weather forecasting and have also provided the knowledge needed to study climate change, ozone-layer depletion, acid rain and environmental degradation. Since the former Soviet Union occupied 17% of the earth's inhabited area, the weather stations there are crucial to the global system, Obasi said. Not only are some stations being shut down, but they are no longer linked in the centralized Soviet Weather System.

While predictions in the former Soviet republics themselves are less accurate, countries to the West also feel the impact, he said.

"The western countries will be most affected, even in their one-day forecasts" in western Europe and in five-and seven-day forecasts in the United States and Canada, he added.

If the System continues to deteriorate, the accuracy will keep on decreasing," Obasi said. "If you have gaps in any part of the world, it affects whatever will happen in the forecasts for the rest of the world. Satellites can make up only a small part of the knowledge gap," said Gaida Matisone, head of the Latvian Hydro-meteorological Service.

They can only give you about the cloud movements at the present moment, but they are inadequate compared with what surface stations can give, Mrs. Matisone said. "You still need that information to be able to make proper forecasts."

The weather services' problems include currency, with Russian factories rejecting the money of other former republics trying to buy spare parts, Obasi said. Other factories are no longer producing the equipment because they have been converted to produce other products, said Obasi.

Since Soviet equipment was widely used in other East bloc countries, the problems are widespread, and are compounded by civil strife in the former republics and in ex-Yugoslavia, he added.

Douissenov said telecommunications costs for Kazakhstan's weather service "are increasing in runaway fashion." He said his service hoped to be able to make increased use of communications satellites.

**REVIEW ORDERED ON
\$30 BILLION SPACE STATION**

Early versions of the Clinton administration budget would cancel two of the United States' most expensive science projects - the \$30 billion space station Freedom and the \$8.2 billion superconducting supercollider, congressional sources said last week.

President Clinton called for further review of the projects, a congressional source said, after budget director Leon Panetta proposed that both the space station and the supercollider be cancelled.

"The president was not comfortable with a budget that did not contain the station and sent it down for review," the informant said. The sources talked on condition of not being named. Panetta proposed killing the two projects during a meeting with Clinton cabinet officials at the beginning of this month at Camp David. Plans call for the state of Texas to contribute about \$875 million to ward the total cost of the supercollider and for some \$1.7 billion to come from foreign participants, including Russia, and China have already agreed to contribute equipment and technical help.

Japan indicated recently that it was still undecided and was concerned about continued support for the project by the US government and congress. The energy department has said "a significant contribution" of more than \$1 billion is needed from Japan.

Congress' general accounting office said in a recent report that a Japanese decision against participation would trigger difficulties with other countries. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has already spent some \$8 billion on space station Freedom and the project has been under heavy criticism in congress throughout its lifetime. Congress forced major redesigns and reductions in size several times since the station was first proposed in 1984 as an \$8 billion, 10-year project by president Reagan.

Plans call for the station to be assembled in orbit during a series of space shuttle missions. The first station construction missions are scheduled for the last quarter of 1995. The station is to be operating and able to house a crew of up to four astronauts by the end of this decade. Nasa was awash in rumors last week, but officials insisted they had no definite word about the fate of the space station. In the presidential campaign, both Clinton and Vice President Al Gore pledged to support the space station. Clinton did say he would expect financial help from other nations that would benefit from the research. Nasa already has struck agreements with Japan, Canada and the European Space Agency.

In his campaign book, "Putting People First," Clinton pledged to "support completion of the space station Freedom, while basing its development on the twin principles of greater cooperation and burden sharing with our allies. By organizing effectively on this project, we can pave the way for future joint international ventures, in space and on earth."

The SSC project involves construction of long tunnels at a Texas site south of Dallas. It is to be the world's largest particle accelerator and is designed for the study of the fundamental nature of subatomic matter.

A Clinton administration official, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, admitted to reports that she does "not feel passionately" about the SSC. "The issue becomes, can we afford this?" She said. During the campaign, however, Clinton expressed no hesitation about the SSC. Clinton said he "supports the superconducting supercollider, during the May 14, 1992 presidential debate. The SSC was viewed by the Bush administration as an essential part of the US effort to keep at the forefront of scientific research.

About \$1 billion has been spent on the project, including the start of construction on the tunnel through which subatomic particles will be accelerated to near the speed of light and then smashed together.



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**TAJ SHEBA HOTEL
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ADEN FLOODS Cause Much Damage

By:
Ali Hashim,
Yemen Times,
Aden Correspondent.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council paid an unexpected visit to Aden. It was seen as a response to the damage done by the floods. "They went to Aden in order to find out first-hand regarding the situation and to assess the loss in property and life.

An urgent meeting of the highest level was convened to deal with the emergency situation in the Aden governorate and the neighboring regions.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the Presidential Council, and attended by the Aden Governorate Council (AGC). Several ministers, all deputy ministers stationed in Aden, representatives of political parties, members of the Chamber of Commerce, commercial organizations, public figures and distinguished personalities, etc., were also present to review the emergency situation now gripping the Aden Governorate.

Deputy Governor of Aden, Mr. Othman Kamarani, presented to the meeting a brief assessment of the situation. He briefed them on the measures taken to alleviate the suffering of the people following the floods.

An initial allocation of YR. 500 million Riyals was made to cover the expenses. Emergency committees were established to deal with the human agony in such matters as shelter, food, etc.

The following are the major issues to be dealt with are:

1. Collapse of 23 large buildings.
2. Walls of over 90 houses cracked or were flooded by water, most of them at the ground floor level. These houses are now in danger of falling.
3. Some 250 vehicles have been damaged partially or fully.
4. Repairs of electricity and telephone cables, and water and sewer drainage networks have to be repaired urgently.
5. Clearing the roads of mud, stones, and clay; and to carry out the necessary repair works to the damaged roads; and draining the swamps of rain water that stagnated in certain low areas. The health hazard of this problem is enormous, and is already being felt by the residents.

The Yemen Red Crescent's relief aid arrived in time with handy gifts such as: tents, blankets, mattresses, food, milk powder, other foodstuffs, and medicine. A team of doctors

are on site to examine and assist treating casualties of approximately 300 persons. They will be given more care and attention to protect the people - especially children and the elderly - from diseases, especially malaria. Some fifteen persons are said to have been killed during the floods.

The Minister of Housing and Urban Development and the Minister of Health were in Aden to oversee the efforts of two of committees (one for housing and building materials, and the other for health issues).

The Yemeni government, in its meeting last week, appealed to foreign governments and international organizations for help to face this crisis. A similar appeal was issued by Dr. Yasseen Al-Qinawi, WHO Representative in Sanaa. "The basic infrastructure in terms of roads, utilities and various services have been destroyed. We worry about an epidemic given the conditions," he said in his appeal.

He also indicated that WHO, along with the relevant UN bodies, will undertake the necessary steps to help remedy the situation, which he described as much worse than first thought.

The Yemeni government has already injected some money into the hands of those affected. Each family whose bread earner was killed in the floods was given a quick cash of YR 50,000; and each family whose property was damaged was given YR 5,000.

"This, of course, is not enough, but it is something to help them meet their immediate needs," said one official in the Aden governor's office.

At the same time, positive response was received from many countries, notably European countries.

The situation is gradually coming under control, as Aden and Adeners are facing up to this nightmare. "The people of Aden are known for their patience and perseverance. They have put up with various catastrophes before," one observer noted.

TEFL/Health Education In-Service Training

By:
Mahmoud Saeed Al-Adeemi,
Head of the Language
Department,
Inspection Sector,
Ministry of Education.

The TEFL/Health Education In-Service Training was held at Sana'a University from January 30th to February 1st. About forty educators and administrators from both Peace Corps volunteers and their Yemeni counterparts participated in the training program which was sponsored by the Peace Corps.

Two experts from Washington led the sessions. The main objective of the program was to integrate health issues into TEFL classrooms.

Dr. Majeed Ghanem, Deputy Minister for Training and Qualifying Sector of the Ministry of Education, and Dr. Ahmed Makki, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Health, were present to kick off the opening session of the



in Yemen. This idea can be further developed when designing new syllabi at both the university and MOE levels.

3) The participants were given the chance to understand, experience and develop health-related material in English language teaching. Participants were encouraged to develop techniques and materials related to their specific teaching situations.

4) A supply of health materials was provided for the program as a resource, especially for teachers not familiar with health issues.

5) The participants left the conference with many



interdisciplinary education conference.

The advantages of this training were:

1) It was a novel idea that the Peace Corps united these two important issues (health and education).

2) It was a well thought-out program which brought together Peace Corps volunteers and their Yemeni counterparts in an intensive training program.

The idea of using health material in the teaching of English is important for the teachers

thoughts and strategies on teaching English using health related material. The main themes included sanitation, nutrition, first-aid, immunization, local and global health issues, etc.

6) The participants examined strategies to incorporate new methods in teaching large and multi-level classes.

This experiment showed the need for more in-service training, given the benefits. It also showed the usefulness of presenting important issues into English language teaching.

Much could be gained by an intensive association with the volunteers and their counterparts, especially if brought together for constructive programs. I would like to conclude by thanking the Peace Corps for this effort and for encouraging more Yemenis to be involved with education issues in Yemen. I hope that there will be more integrated efforts, such as health and education, brought to the classrooms of Yemen.

WTO To Promote Yemeni Tourism

By:
Fatmah Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

Mr. Antonio Savignac, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), was in Yemen last week. He was here on an invitation from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. "Mr. Savignac said that his visit to Yemen came as part of a regional tour covering Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

"We're trying to increase the involvement of Middle Eastern countries in the World Tourism Organization's activities, which, for reasons we can well understand, has not been great in the past. We want to initiate cooperation in developing tourism in this part of the world," said the WTO Secretary-General during a meeting with heads of the tourism agencies in Yemen. He also gave a brief explanation about what the WTO does, and what it can do for Yemeni tourism.

"This organization was created back in 1920s, as an association of official and non official tourist organizations. In 1975 WTO became an inter-governmental organization and today it has over 150 member countries worldwide. It is located in Madrid, Spain," he added.

The important activities of WTO can be grouped into five categories:

etc., is vital for both the environment and tourism.

- The final aspect of WTO efforts is their attempts to make it as easy as possible for people to move from one country to another. In other words, to make it easier for tourists to get visas and to reduce the required less paperwork in controlling of currencies. During Mr. Savignac's four-day visit, he managed to visit different parts of Yemen and met different people for discussions on tourism.

Among them are Prime Minister Abubakar Al-Attas, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Hassan Al-Lowzi, and also met with the heads of the various tourist agencies in Yemen. The discussions stressed three points:

- The possibilities of establishing cruise ships through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden including Mombassa (Kenya) and Bombay (India). "Thinking of the possibilities, the weather, the location you have, the attractions this region has, if you can maintain political stability, I see no reason why our cruises should not be an interesting possibility," was the way Savignac answered the eager demands of Yemeni tourist developers.

- The second issue discussed to establish a chain of tourism hotels. This has already been done in other countries like Spain and proved to be a great suc-



- The cooperation that is awarded to the member countries through a master plans to small countries with the purpose of promoting tourism.

- Training and education of tourism-related personnel. WTO organizes seminars and provides a great deal of assistance to member countries.

- WHO also provides important assistance in marketing and tourism statistics. Information gathered from over 170 countries is organized and published regularly.

- During the last two years, WTO has been involved in environmental considerations. It is known that the interaction between the environment and tourism is increasingly becoming a vital matter. Taking care of natural parks, beaches, mountains,

cess. Selecting various local and traditional buildings for renovation and good maintenance in a very high standard/quality helps shape the tourist image of the country. UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, under the able leadership of Mr. Alwan Shaibani has already pioneered this field. It has renovated several old houses in Sanaa and Hadramaut. Impressed by Shaibani's zeal and vision, Savignac said that if there just ten men like him worldwide, much of the old treasures could be reclaimed.

- The last item which was discussed was about the tourism training institute in Aden. It was agreed that WTO will assist in the development of this institute.

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ترقبوا افتتاح فروعنا الجديده في المكلا وعدن وتعز وإب



JEOPARDY OF FAKING THE MEDIA'S CONSCIOUSNESS!

The actions/reactions, squabbles, and credibility of the political parties and leadership and forces lead to more complications/instability. All are related to the nature of the social structure of the Yemeni society which inherited a compilation of negative values. The press is to blame for reviving ideas of tribalism, secessionism, partisanism and factionalism which are all regarded as dangerous. The press should warn all - whether in or out of authority. It is certain that when the torrent comes, it will destroy all without exception. Affirming such negative values is a mockery of the awareness of the media and it is not useful to tackle things by adding confusion. Some ask for a fake democracy in order to write articles in praise of the rulers.

We need open and frank dialogues; it does not matter whether we differ in our points of view. What is important is to keep our homeland safe and secure. By: **Abdul Majid Mohammad Aldhala'a Al-Hadath, Sanaa, 10/2/1993.**

MERGING OR SWALLOWING!

It seems that the pragmatic wing has overcome the ideological wing of the leadership of the YSP-PGC, after the heated drive towards merger. I have no objection to such a goal, because it is the right of any party/organization to agree with another one on a mutually acceptable course of action. What is important is that the agreement should not endanger the high national interests or become a means for suppressing freedom or even for conspiring against the opposition. I would like to put my personal view for discussion regarding this issue. It is known that a broad base of the two ruling parties refuses the merger process, each thinking that the other party will swallow it. Thus, the late-into-the-night joint meetings between the two parties failed. Even then, the leaders of the two parties continue their merger discussions, not by taking the national interest into account, but by pursuing very narrow party or even personal interests.

It is also undeniable that the striving factions inside the YSP still suffer from claustrophobia after writing a detailed report to the leadership of the party regarding the party's public support and base which decreased. All of these issues consolidated the idea that the party will be unable to win the parliamentary seats in a major way. The party leadership's confusion and past mentality of tribalism, secessionism, and even imamism, allowed it to add new distortions to its old practices and forced it to accept a merger.

Thus the merger accord came entirely from the top leadership, and not from the base. Perhaps, there are also some regional causes and internal pressure forcing the merger. It is of great importance to add (Gar Allah Omar) to the

four group committee as a representative of the extremists in the party, to be acquainted with the current negotiations and to prevent any attempts at diminishing his influence in the new formulae of the merger. In my opinion, whoever is the loser/winner of the merger process will have no reply until the whole procedure is over, but all the evidence indicates that the PGC is endeavoring to split what remains of the overwhelming YSP hierarchy in the party. The hawkish wing also contributes to the achievement of the merger, hoping to gain ground and swallow the congress through its pressure to give up the compliance to the national code. The whole process of metamorphosis is an imposition of a vision of one side as to how the new unified party will emerge.

By: **Saeed Thabit Saeed, Al-Eslah, Sanaa, 8/2/1993**

A NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FREE ELECTIONS

The whole world has expressed in the Yemeni elections; tons of letters and hundreds of phone calls have arrived from all over the Arab homeland demanding an information concerning the electoral process in Yemen. How does it progress? What are the future expectations? Will the authorities cheat in the results of the elections? Will the current rulers accept the outcome? Are we going to face a situation similar to what has happened in Algeria? Will Yemen add its contribution to human achievements in this field?

It is also noticeable these days that many delegations from Europe/America, both formal and non-formal, visit Yemen and some of them have expressed interest in sending during the elections to monitor the progress of the general elections. Even the Arab Organization for Human Rights lately had a prolonged dialogue with the delegation of the National Democratic American Institute for International Affairs regarding the elections in Yemen and the readiness of the international community to facilitate the whole procedure.

The Yemeni Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms established an independent National Committee for Free Elections to take charge of the monitoring process, and to coordinate with international organizations for the same purpose. Mustafa Ahmad Mohammad Numan - an independent personality - to chair the committee. The NCFE and the American NDI agreed to draft a program to train volunteers in the means of supervision of the voting process.

It is clear that our experience will be important especially as we are struggling to change a corrupt system. Every citizen who does not participate in the elections, and displays lack of interest actually serves corruption in Yemen. Let us register, vote, and elect honest members to the next parliament.

By: **Dr. Mohammad Abdul Malik Al-Mutawakil, Raay, Sanaa, 9/3/1993**

VISITS

The visits of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council, under the last conciliation program between the two leaderships of the YSP and PGC, had a positive impact on the registration process. We don't know whether conciliation between the ruling parties is something actual or a tactic for the elections.

Undoubtedly, the media will not forget everything that has a relation to the two ruling parties' legacies of corruption and the violation of laws and legislations. What is essential for the ordinary citizen is how to get a bit of food, which is not particularly easy to get these days. The hike of prices has no apparent limitation/stoppage despite all pleas, resolutions, and recommendations of the cabinet. It is evident that the general citizen blames and believes that the president and the presidential council bear all of the responsibility for the hike in prices, the destabilization of the economy in general, and the insecurity and corruption in store. For the citizen, with his simple speculations/calculations sees that it is within the leadership's capability to tackle/reform the issues.

Oh leaders, if you feel for the citizens' suffering, you will not blame them for not approaching the registration centers and can't blame them for not being trustworthy to the party or the congress. It is an unbearable situation and the leadership's concern should focus on the pains/sufferings of the citizens and no placation hereafter will be beneficial. Our population is about to awaken, and you should take it into account.

By: **The Chief Editor, Al-Balagh, Sanaa, 9/2/1993**

VENGEANCE AND THE STANDPOINT OF THE STATE

Vengeance, as a phenomenon, was and still is regarded as one of the most important issues in the life of the Yemeni people, due to the tribal structure of the society. Such an action belongs to illiteracy, instability, the inactivity of the judicial authority, negligence of the administration in settling issues of tribal differences, and the corruption of the whole administration itself. The state bears the responsibility for not making crucial decisions in solving such fanaticism among the individuals and members of one family or tribe.

Sometimes, the executive authority arouses hatred or interferes in the process to end the issue. Any postponement in judgement might also lead to vengeance; they resort to enforcing their rights by themselves whatever might happen.

Even when the judges render their judgements, if there is not implementation, things begin to deteriorate through bribery, cunning, tolerance, procrastination, pressure, etc. Then, when they feel without hope, the only solution is to act the way they like.

Some of the individuals even forget that all people are born equal and that there is no difference between one another. The only measures are piety and honesty.

It is the duty of the state to apply (the Sharia) principles on all without any discrimination, and thereby put an end to vengeance/killing of any kind.

By: **Ali Mutahar Al-Ashrabi Al-Mithaq, Sanaa, 8/2/1993**

DEMOCRACY PROTECTS OUR UNITY

Al-Gamaheer in an interview with Colonel Mohammad Abdulla Al-Kibsi, member of the Al-Baath Arab Socialist Party, raised a number of heated issues on the Yemeni and national field. Excerpts from the interview.

Q: How do you see the importance of the elections?

A: Democracy protects our unity. We ought to affirm the necessity of opposing any behaviors which goes against it.

We need interaction between the official media and the private media. We are proud of our democratic process.

Q: What are the requirements for national conciliation?

A: We, in the Baath party, are interested in national conciliation and we lobby for it continuously. Hence the on-going meetings/consultations are of great importance to reach solutions based on common national ground. We have coordinated with Al-Nasserite parties and we are ready to enlarge this dialogue with any other parties.

Q: What are the essential issues which the elections must settle?

A: The basic issues upon casting the ballots are to avoid any influence on the citizens' constitutional right. The honesty of the elections is vital or the experience will be incomplete.

Q: How do you assess the US aggression on Iraq?

A: I see that this international terrorism is shameful and against human rights. The whole act of aggression is unjustifiable and it continues after two years of starvation/embargo on Iraq. Such an act is inhumane, irresponsible, and it taints the so-called "World Order" with savageness. There shouldn't be a double standard when dealing with such issues.

Q: What do you think of the branch for the Islamic Arab Shabi Congress in Yemen?

A: The congress of the Arab Shabi Islamic forces elected Dr. Mohammad Abdul Malik Al-Mutawakil as a General Secretary for the branch, but, due to differences in points of view, we formed a high committee and we are working together to do our duty for our brothers in Iraq.

Al-Gamaheer, Sanaa, 8/2/1993.

FAR-OFF PARTISM

The elections are fast approaching, and the urban aristocrats who forgot their relatives/villages now began to remember many of them. It is good to return to your origins, but let us give some examples concerning those who intend to stand in the elections in their villages.

They can do a lot for their villages. They have the capability to pave the roads and to accomplish the other necessary projects.

It is the duty of the candidates to present their programs with simplicity, honesty when trying to convince the citizens.

I have heard that one of the prominent figures was very arrogant towards the poor people of his village. Whenever they paid him a visit, he used to order his bodyguard to tell them that he was out or that he was asleep, or had a meeting, and so on.

Now, all of a sudden he is available. He welcomes the villagers "whole-heartedly". Such persons want to succeed in the polls, but why don't they remember their constituents except in these days?

We ask the citizens to choose only those candidates with loyalty to their people and region.

He who served the citizens in the past deserves your nomination.

We also demand of the outgoing parliamentarians not to re-nominate themselves, whatever their qualifications might be, to give the new and young candidates an opportunity to pursue their chance.

As for the political parties, it is of great importance for them, if they want to win, to nominate their best, most honest, reliable and qualified candidates for the elections.

By: **Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Al nahari Al-Gumhuriyyah, Taiz, 9/2/1993.**

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YAFA Honors AMIDEAST Boss

The Yemen American Friendship Association (YAFA) awarded the Honorable Ambassador Robert Sherwood Dillon, President and Chief Executive Officer of AMIDEAST, an honorary membership in the association. To mark the occasion, YAFA organized at its office a small get together of several members and businessmen. Upon presentation of the certificate of membership, Dr. Raoufah Hassan, Vice Chairperson of YAFA, pointed to the common efforts of AMIDEAST and YAFA to bring Yemen and the US closer.

In an acceptance speech by Ambassador Dillon, he said that the people appointed by the Clinton administration in the State Department and specially those charged

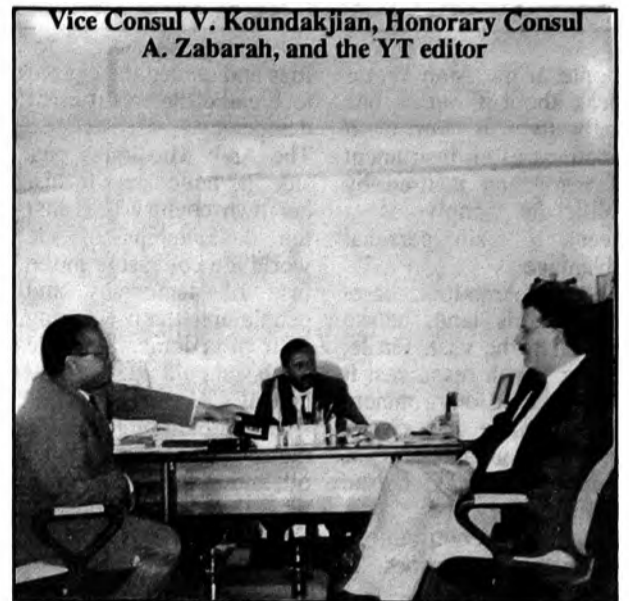


with Middle East Affairs are highly knowledgeable persons who are fully versed on the region. "I think that we can be hope-

ful about the attitude and efforts of the Clinton administration," in this region. On the same occasion, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Director of Media and International Affairs at YAFA reviewed the activities of the association planned for 1993. "We plan to undertake several activities in the form of seminars, a regular newsletter, and exchange of visits between Yemen and the US," he said. Finally, Mr. Jamal Al-Mutarrib, Secretary-General of YAFA, issued an invitation to participate in the activities of the association, which he described as the most active of all friendship associations in town. "I also urge all to fill-up the membership forms and join us in this worthwhile effort," he concluded.

Continues from page 1 Mike and Scottie are Free At Last

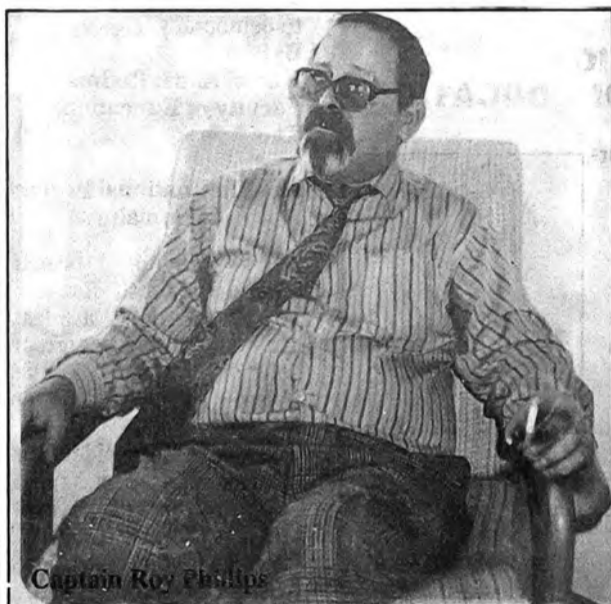
Mike has many little anecdotes to tell. "Captain Abdul-Salam (a three-star police officer at Sanaa International Airport and Mike's main guard) and I did a lot of boozing together. One night he drank fourteen cans of beer and a bottle of vodka. Then, staggering, he handed me his 47 AK and told me 'Guard yourself because I am going to go to my family.' Fifteen minutes later he was brought in pulled by the ear by Sheikh Abdul-Hameed Al-Qowski," explains Mike. "Another time, they took me to go shooting. They tried to hit their target but they all missed by a couple of feet. They gave me the gun, and I drilled four bullets into the target right away. (Mike is a former Mounted Trooper.) At that stage, they grabbed the gun and took the car keys," explains Mike. Then there is Scottie which gave Mike and his captors a lot of trouble. As far as Mike was concerned, remaining in the same room together with the dog for twenty days forced him to live with strong odors. But it was the captors who had to deal with more hassle. The five-pound animal caused a lot of panic as it approached the tribesmen and licked their "clean" clothes. The little dog was even biting on their robes and gun straps.



made three dashes into Al-Hadaa territory to get Mike out. But to no avail. It was finally Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, the paramount sheikh of Hashed, who got Mike and Scottie out. He gave his written commitment that the murder case would be brought in front of the courts within two months. The honor of Sheikh Abdullah is now at stake. Phillips says that he and his man are used to this kind of situation. Schmitz was the victim of similar situations in Iran and Libya, while Phillips has seen similar events personally in Kuwait during the Gulf Crisis. "We have gone through it before," they said.

wanted a foreigner, and Mike was not a pre-determined target. Abdulmalik Zabarah, Honorary Canadian Consul in Sanaa agrees. "It was a sad incident, and we regret it happened. But I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Yemeni authorities and Sheikh Abdullah for their efforts and assistance," he said. The tribes of Al-Hadaa, who were suddenly thrown into the center of international politics and world media, have a simplistic attitude to the whole issue. "We just wanted the government to act promptly to satisfy our demands," said one of the Al-Hadaa tribal sheikhs. "We did not mean to hurt anyone."

But what does it all mean for Yemen? What does it mean to its international image, and to its efforts at establishing a modern state? What does it mean when military and police officers openly line up with their tribes against the Sanaa government? What it mean when major problems, with an international twist, can only be resolved through the tribal mechanism and not through the civilian or modern vehicles? According to observers the kidnapping and hostage-taking has dealt a serious blow to the image of the country. "Many foreign visitors, especially tourists and businessmen have cancelled their plans to come to Yemen. Three Americans have cancelled their upcoming visit to Yemen," a businessman said. "They asked me if I could guarantee their safety," he added. According to Majid Mohsen Al-Sadi, Chairman of Yemen Kuwait Shipping who deserves considerable credit for his role and support during the crisis "A lot of people have been supportive and helpful. These are from oil companies, government officials and tribesmen. We are just happy it is over peacefully."



Was Mike's life at risk at any time during the twenty days of captivity? "Yes," according to him. That was the night Captain Roy Phillips, the Welsh guy who serves as General Manager of the Yemen Kuwait Shipping Company, "came to look me up and try to get me out of Zurajah." He stayed late and the tribes offered to have him sleep over. "His snoring almost killed me," said Mike jokingly. Roy Phillips risked his own life three times to get his man out. Against the advice of his own (UK) embassy and friends, he

As far as official relations between Yemen and Canada are concerned, there should be no impact. "Although Ottawa was disturbed and concerned with the incident, given that some 2000 Canadians live in Yemen, it is not expected to have any effect. We realize this is an internal issue, and that Mike was simply caught in the middle," said Vicken Koundakjian, Vice Consul at the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh. Koundakjian, who was instructed by his government to fly to Yemen, stressed his belief that the captors simply

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Letters to the Editor

DEMOCRACY AND THE ARAB INDIVIDUAL

People of the Arab World speak about it, but no one really lives it. For us it functions as an instrument of terror and is used by politicians simply as a means to gain personal advantage. When the Arab looks carefully at his land, he/she finds it to be vast, fertile, and rich with resources. It has a varied environment encompassing seas, rivers, plains, mountains, and (of course) deserts. If he/she studies history, the tremendous contributions of his/her ancestors to scientific progress and knowledge come to the front. But if he/she considers our time, all one can see is stagnation and helplessness. Geographic boundaries and petty arguments undermine our hopes of any kind of Arab unity, and the oil of our land is slowly being drained away with nothing permanent gained by us. All the while, poor people are constantly being bullied and insulted by the author-

ities and denied the chance to breathe the fresh air of democracy. The Arab who looks outside the boundaries of his/her own country sees that the dictatorships of the world are collapsing in the face of democracy and people are finally winning their freedom. So, the Arab should ask him/herself, "If we have this rich history of achievement, this bountiful land, oil, and millions of people, what then is our problem? What do we need to set us on the right course of progress?" Over the past decades, people with opinions and decision makers have tried to find a means to provide a better life. Some of them said that the achievements of Europe pointed the way, so they started talking of industrial progress and science. Other people discovered that there are systems of thought in Europe that might help us, so they spoke of nationalism, communism, and liberalism. The third

group thought that the solution lay in unification. The last group insisted on the necessity of returning to Islamic roots and of rejecting foreign thinking and influence, but all we have really done is just talk...and congratulate each other...or else argue crudely. Ultimately speech is just speech. We neither have unification nor liberty. As a result of this situation, we have forgotten democracy. When a person finally remembers it, he wants it to work for his own advantage and would not adhere by it if his interests were threatened. The funny thing is that some people argue that democracy, because it is a European invention, is irrelevant to us and we do not need it. Some people have gone beyond this and regarded us as minors who are not qualified to be engaged in democracy. However, the worst are those people who scream to delay democracy because of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

What we see now is democracy being established for the purpose of good in many parts of the world, while we are still just watching.

We must not continue to be merely spectators. This is our chance. We must seize it. We have the right to democracy.

By:
Kamel A. M. Radman,
Faculty of Education,
Taiz

UN Multinational Forces in Somalia

After having beaten around the bush for two years, the UN at last arrived at the correct solution for the Somalia Crisis. Anyhow, "Better late than never."

There is no president or chairman; in fact, there isn't any sort of government in Mogadishu at all. The social infrastructure has collapsed completely and a dozen factions are imposing the law of the jungle over every inch of the country.

The tribal elders and the intellectuals cannot find a remedy for the blood civil

war, simply because the spoken language there is that of "machine guns" and the only group speaking it perfectly are the warlords and their thugs. Indiscriminately, the warlords (military or civilian) are the real brains behind the chaos and all the rest of the atrocities. They organize looting, shooting, and mapping for their militia forces; irresponsibility is their day-to-day duty. The U.N. effort of sending Mr. James John, Mohamed Sahnoun, and Ismat Kitani to Somalia failed because their approach was completely wrong. They wasted time and energy in dialogue and consultation with the bandit leaders of the SLA (the Somali Looting Army) of General Aidid, and the USC (United Somali Criminals) of Ali Mahdi. The UN has to realize that it has been beating a dead horse by talking to the warlords. To be realistic, UN Resolution 794, recently approved by the Security Council, is a humanitarian step in the right direction. We Somali citizens living abroad, especially in Yemen, express our thanks

to the UN, USA, and to all countries participating in the multinational operation in our country. My suggestions to realize Operation Restore Hope are:

1. The multinational troops should disarm all the bandits so as to restore sanity.
2. The forces should stay in Somalia for as long as necessary to clear up the mess, once and for all. Otherwise, the bandits will certainly return.
3. A nationwide reconciliation conference should be held to finalize the differences of tribal factions in Somalia. I don't think the current summit conference in Addis Ababa will be an effective one.
4. Intellectuals have to form a strong and powerful civilian government. The soldiers must be forced to stay in their barracks.
5. If all of the above steps can't be put into practice, then I suggest Somalia should be brought under trusteeship by the mandate of the United Nations.

By:
Sayid Hassan Sherif
Abdullahi,
English Language
Teacher,
Sana'a.

WE NEED PEACE!

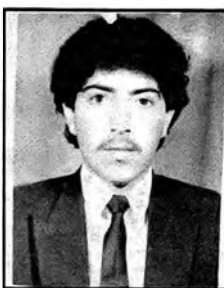
We Yemenis have already suffered a lot from many civil wars, especially that which immediately followed the Revolution. The war lasted for seven years. Our economy was in destroyed and the country was very poor. We need no anarchism, we don't like to see our new civilization destroyed, and we don't want to see our cities under the development and control of the hands of criminals. Farmers must buy modern ploughs and modern harvesters, not guns. In cities, we need to pave the dusty streets and roads. Our ancestors built a civilization that we're proud of, but we should add the best of what the West has for our progress. The most important thing of all is that each one of us must take part in elections and feel the country is very dear to him/her and to all. Prophet Mohammed (may peace be upon him) said, "love of one's nation is part of faith." We should be hopeful.

By:
Saleh Al Suraihi
Yemen Embassy,
Addis Ababa.

Personal View

EDUCATION IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Of course the aim, the purpose, and the goal of the Faculty of Education is to graduate good teachers who are expected to play their role. But let us look at reality. Do these graduated teachers have the abilities and the qualifications for their jobs? I wonder!



I will not comment on all the departments, but I will focus on the English Department, the English students in the faculty, and their future as English teachers in different schools.

Some of the students in the department, who are in their fourth year, and who will graduate in a few months, still make mistakes in pronunciation, and simple spelling. Who's responsible for all this? Of course, the students are at fault, but also to be blamed is the fact that the faculty requires that a student study more than ten courses of Arabic during the four years. Then there is the exam system. Most students study all of these subjects just to pass exams without understanding the real use of the subjects in the future.

As a first step, I propose to replace some of the Arabic courses with English courses, thereby enriching and polishing our future teachers' English? I know this is like a drop in an ocean full of problems that face the students in the English Department at the Faculty of Education. But it is the beginning.

By:
Yahya S. Dahami
Sana'a University.

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Abdullah Abdul-Aalem

“Yemeni democracy is still not tolerant enough to take-in the opposition outside the country.”

Mr. Abdullah Abdul-Aalem is one of the former leaders of Yemen who is still in exile, because arrangements for his return have not been carried out.

Mr. Abdul-Aalem is from a small traditional farming family in Qar-raishah, Hugarriah. After his graduation from the military college in Egypt in 1965, he served in many posts including commander of various army camps. His last post was member of the Command Council, under the late President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, with whom he had participated in the 13th of June Movement. Today, Mr. Abdul-Aalem lives in Syria. Yemen Times economic editor Ameen Nouisser interviewed Mr. Abdul-Aalem in Cairo.

Q: How do you see the political evolution of Yemen, especially since unification?

A: I think the unification of our country is a very spectacular achievement. I am sure the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party, in general, and Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh and Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, in particular, deserve a lot of credit for this. However, I understand there are many difficulties that unified Yemen faces. Therefore, I urge all to persevere and not to risk our unity, under any conditions. In unified Yemen, our political scene will see rapid transformation.

Q: As an army man, how do you see the role of the armed forces in Yemen?

A: The armed forces are an important part of any nation, and they could be misused, as in military dictatorships, or they could be a positive element in the progress of nations. In Yemen today, the armed forces are split into many little "cores" each of which pledges allegiance to a specific person or group (read, tribe). This is not normal and it could lead to disaster. Two things are immediately needed.

a- To re-arrange the army so that there is an administrative and rank hierarchy that falls under the command of the Ministry of Defence.

b- To move the armed forces from the cities and relocate to the border areas where they belong. In the final analysis, the armed forces are made up of men who are patriotic and loyal to Yemen, and they would not blindly obey the orders of any adventurous person.

Q: A general pardon was announced by the current leadership on several occasions regarding individuals and politicians who were condemned of various crimes. You were not included in any of the lists. What do you make of it?

A: I was forced to leave Yemen following the coup d'etat against President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi that was led by his lieutenant, Mr. Ahmed Al-Ghashmi in October 1977. That was a bloody and cruel event in our history. For seven months in the reign of Al-Ghashmi I demanded a thorough and objective investigation of the coup and the events that followed. Regarding the pardon you mentioned, I am not looking for any pardon, but I am demanding a full rehabilitation because many have tried to defame my name and career. Many criminals have been promoted for carrying out the dirty work, and they are, today, part of the regime. I have full details on these events.

Q: How do you perceive the coming stage in our political drama?

A: Of course, nobody knows the future. I can tell you, however, that the future will be shaped by the kind of alliances and partnerships that will be struck among the major parties. For example, will the PGC continue as a partner of the YSP or is it looking for a different partner, e.g., the Islah? What is the relationship between the YSP and the other forces of modernization in Yemen?

Q: What is your view on the coming elections?

A: The elections are important, but we have to make sure we are on the right course, not like many Third World elections. In this regard, it is necessary to think of and apply local administration because this is the real base for democracy. The ideas and vision embodied in the resolutions of the Taiz Conference, for example, offer many good proposals and solutions. In the final analysis, a democracy is not just elections. A democracy is an application of the peaceful transfer of power from one group to another, and this does not yet exist in Yemen. In fact, even collective power sharing does not yet exist in Yemen, as there are individuals who still want to call the shots by themselves. Even then, the elections are a good beginning.

Q: You represent part of the opposition that is located outside the country. Given the democratic environment existing in Yemen, is there need for opposition outside the country?

A: The opposition plays a legitimate and necessary role in any democratic systems. It does not matter where the opposition is located as it plays by the rules. As far as our experiment is concerned, it is still nascent and fragile, and therefore, the regime is actually opposed to any symbol of the opposition that begins to build a following. Thus, there is no sufficient breathing air for effective opposition. That is why, for some time to come, there will be Yemeni opposition based in foreign countries, and it will play a useful and healthy role. Let me comment a little bit on to the role that the people expect of the opposition in Yemeni politics. The opposition is, in my opinion, the true representative of the hopes and aspirations of the people. Thus, political parties in the opposition need to pull themselves together. A strong and

effective opposition is a necessary component of a working democracy. We in Yemen do not have that yet. In fact, "democracy" in Yemen is not even tolerant enough to take-in the opposition which is mushrooming outside the country.

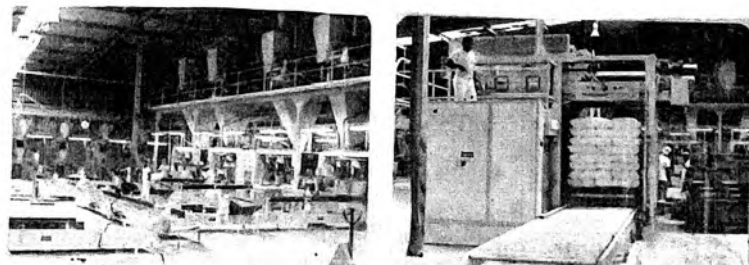
Q: Any final comments?

A: I urge all citizens to value highly their freedom and democracy, and use their rights to fully exercise their votes to choose strong candidates who will give the next parliament the teeth it needs in order to enable our infant democracy to develop roots. Without a strong parliament, democracy in Yemen will be superficial and limited. I also use this opportunity to call on journalists and lawyers, and other groups of modern civil Yemen, to play their destined role in this evolution.

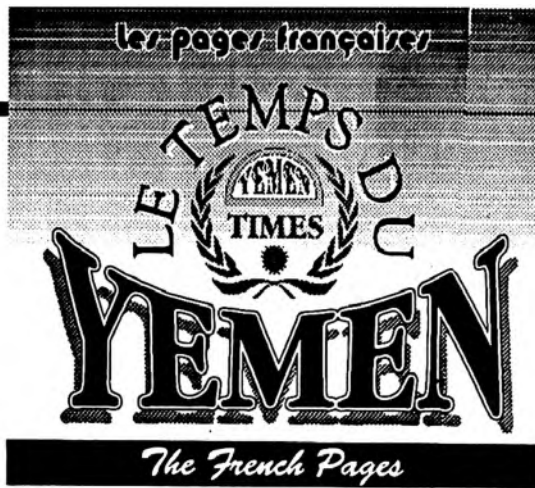


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صنعا: ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ : تليفون : ٢٧٨٠ نايجيل بين فاكسميل : ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب : ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة: ت: ٣/٢٢٢٦٠ : تليفون : ٥٦٦١ اوجبة بين فاكسميل : ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب : ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ : تليفون : ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل : ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب : ١٩٢٦
بورسودان: ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ : تليفون : ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب : ١٦٠



Avec la visite du ministre yéménite de la Défense

Reprise des contacts officiels entre les Emirats et le Yémen

Le chef de l'Etat des Emirats Arabes Unis (EEAU), cheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyane, a reçu dimanche dernier un message de son homologue yéménite, le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh, marquant le premier contact officiel entre les deux pays depuis plus de deux ans.

Selon l'agence de presse WAM des Emirats, le message, qui porte sur les relations bilatérales, a été remis au prince héritier d'Abou Dhabi et commandant en chef adjoint des forces armées, cheikh Khalifa ben Zayed Al Nahyane, par le ministre yéménite de la Défense, le général Haïtham Taher Kassem.

Le ministre yéménite a participé à l'inauguration dans la capitale émiratie d'un important salon d'armement, au moment où les monarchies de la péninsule arabique affichent leur volonté de développer leurs propres capacités de défense, deux ans après la guerre du Golfe. Le général Taher Kassem est le premier responsable yéménite à se rendre dans les Emirats depuis le début de la crise du Golfe (août 1990).

Sa visite intervient alors que le Yémen tente de normaliser ses relations avec les pays du

Conseil de Coopération du Golfe (Arabie Saoudite, Koweït, Emirats, Qatar, Bahreïn, Oman). Le ministre d'Etat yéménite aux Affaires étrangères, M. Abdel Aziz al-Dali, a récemment visité, pour la première fois depuis la fin de la guerre du Golfe en février 1991, l'Arabie Saoudite, avec laquelle le Yémen tente de régler un conflit frontalier, et le Qatar. (D'après AFP)

Abou Dhabi décide l'achat de 436 chars français AMX-Leclerc. L'EEAU a annoncé dimanche dernier son intention d'acheter 436 chars Leclerc à la France. Paris refuse de révéler encore le montant du contrat et la date d'exécution de ce dernier.

Le ministre français de la Défense à Oman et aux Emirats. Le ministre français de la Défense, M. Pierre Joxe, a évoqué samedi à Mascate avec des responsables omanais de la sécurité régionale, les moyens de développer les relations bilatérales, notamment en matière de défense. Le lendemain, le ministre français participait à l'inauguration d'un important salon d'armement à Abou Dhabi, aux Emirats Arabes Unis.

Le considérant comme prisonnier de conscience

Amnesty International réclame la libération de Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim

Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim est un écrivain et enseignant de 40 ans. Il est actuellement détenu dans la Prison Centrale de Sanaa, selon Amnesty International, accusé par les autorités d'apostasie, autrement dit d'abandon, de reniement de sa religion. Il est passible, selon la loi, de la peine de mort pour ce "crime".

Il a été arrêté le 17 avril dernier par la Sécurité. Il avait déjà été "hospitalisé" -disons interné- pendant quatre semaines en mai et juin 1991 et a été de nouveau placé sous examen médical en août 1992. Le premier rapport médical concluait à une déprime chronique et recommandait seulement du repos, l'absence de stress psychologique et un traitement continu. Le second rapport fait état, lui, de "maladie dépressive accompagnée d'idées paranoïaques". On lui a alors prescrit un traitement à base de neuroleptiques, avant son internement en prison.

Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim est né à Madagascar en 1952; sa mère était Malgache, son père Yéménite. Sa famille a émigré au Yémen au début des années 60. Ali devint alors un étudiant en sciences politiques, jugé "activiste" et fut arrêté une première

fois en 1981, à l'Université de Sanaa. Après une visite à Aden en 1983, il fut immédiatement arrêté pour la seconde fois pour raisons politiques et détenus dans un centre de la Sécurité à Hadda, dans les environs de Sanaa, puis dans une autre prison: en huit mois de détention, il a été continuellement battu et soumis à une forme de torture très usitée ici, le "Kentucky chicken": suspension prolongée à une barre de métal glissée derrière les articulations des jambes et des bras. Depuis, il a été arrêté et torturé à plusieurs reprises.

Au début de 1992, un journal islamiste l'a attaqué parce qu'il était considéré comme un non-croyant. Après une grève de la fin, il fut arrêté de nouveau le 27 avril 1992.

Amnesty International le considère comme un prisonnier de conscience et réclame sa libération immédiate. Elle demande également à toutes les personnalités et médecins de ce pays d'écrire au Président Saleh pour accélérer le processus.

Rappelons que Sanaa doit abriter un séminaire international sur les Droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe du 3 au 8 avril prochain...

E.Q.

Après les inondations

Aide financière française pour les gouvernorats du sud sinistrés

La France a fourni une aide financière au Yémen pour l'aider à réparer les dégats occasionnés par les inondations dues à des pluies torrentielles qui se sont abattues entre les 5 et 8 février dernier, sur trois gouvernorats du sud, Aden, le Lahej et l'Abyan. L'ambassade de France à Sanaa a fait part vendredi dernier de la volonté de la France de répondre, par un don d'urgence, à l'appel à l'assistance internationale lancé par le gouvernement yéménite. Il s'agit du premier volet d'un versement plus conséquent, dont le montant n'a pas été révélé par l'ambassade de France. Cette première contribution sera consacrée à des actions de reconstruction, en coordination avec les autorités compétentes sur place.

Selon les autorités, douze personnes auraient péri lors de la catastrophe et plus de 560 habitations auraient été détruites dans les inondations. Des témoignages sur place font état de nombreux véhicules, voitures et même autobus, emportés par les eaux. Les quartiers d'Aden les plus touchés ont été ceux de Crater et de Maala, où ont déferlé de véritables torrents.

Visite du président de la Banque Indosuez

Le Président de la Banque Indosuez, M. Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani, est arrivé au Yémen hier mardi, pour une visite de plusieurs jours, notamment à Ta'iz, Sanaa, Hodeidah et Aden.

Président et directeur général de la Banque Indosuez, M. Jeancourt-Galignani aura loisir à répéter à ses interlocuteurs que sa compagnie est présente au Yémen depuis 1949, lorsque le premier comptoir a été ouvert à Hodeidah.

M. Jeancourt-Galignani profitera de sa visite pour rencontrer les autorités financières et monétaires du pays ainsi que des représentants des milieux d'affaires.

En même temps, le Pdg de la célèbre banque française à vocation internationale, qui n'avait pas encore eu l'occasion de visiter Aden depuis la réunification du Yémen, se rendra dans l'ancienne capitale du sud où la Banque Indosuez a ouvert une succursale en décembre dernier.

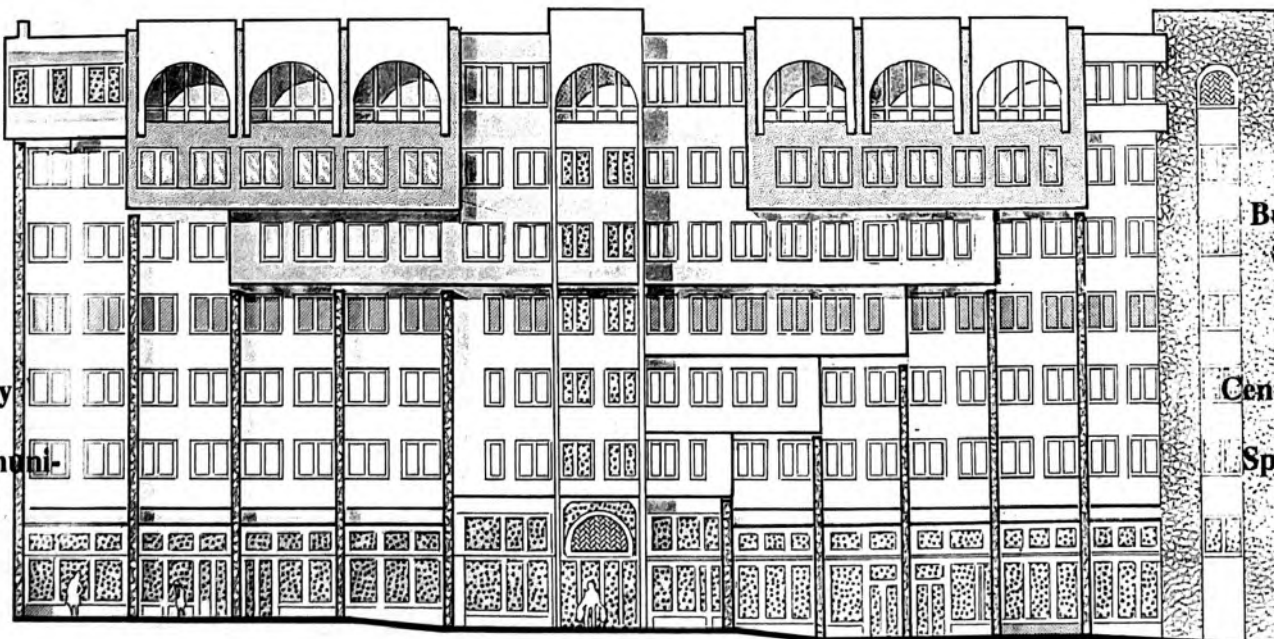
L'ouverture de cette succursale montre que la banque d'affaires française joue un rôle de plus en plus important dans la région, où elle est déjà active à Oman, en Arabie Saoudite, à Bahreïn et aux Emirats Arabes Unis.

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Organisme scientifique à Sanaa, dont le but est de coordonner les travaux des chercheurs français

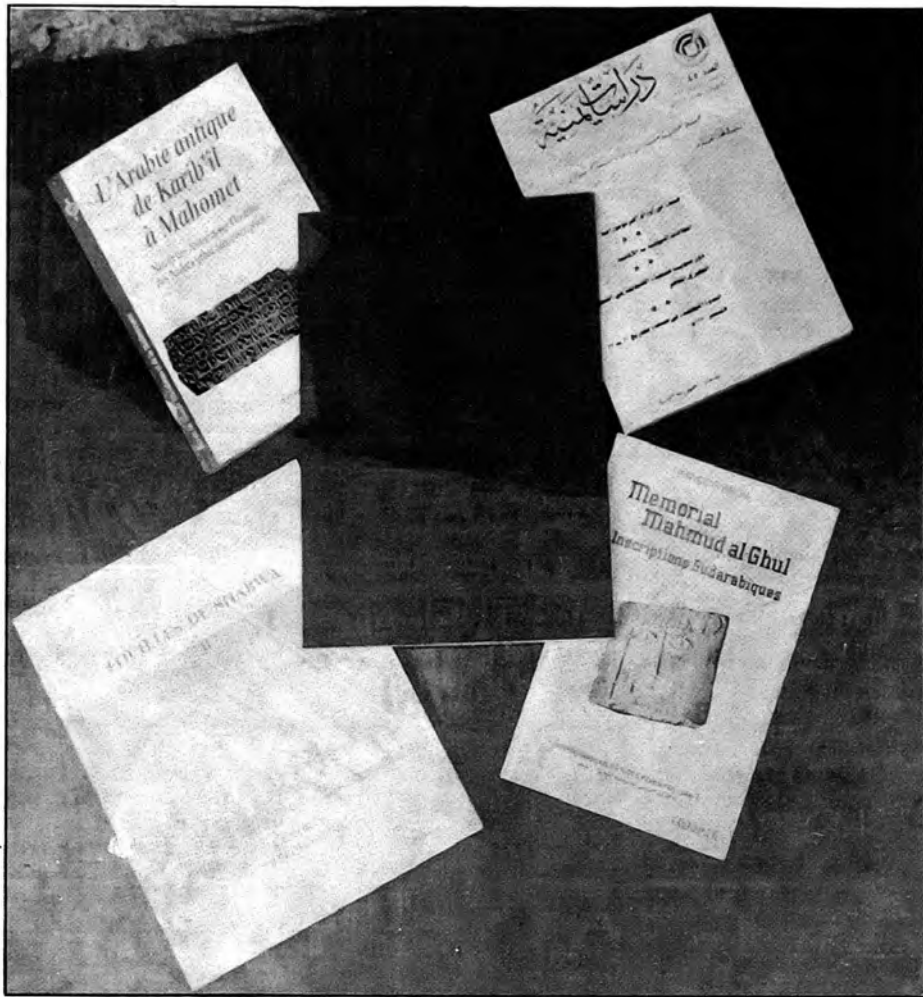
Le CFEY publie ses premières "Chroniques yéménites"

A l'occasion de la sortie officielle du premier bulletin annuel d'informations du Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, nous passons en revue ici les dernières publications des chercheurs ayant travaillé avec cet organisme sur le Yémen.

En créant ce premier bulletin annuel d'informations, le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites célèbre une décennie d'existence et franchit un nouveau cap. Miroir de la recherche française au Yémen, ces Chroniques Yéménites ambitionnent de devenir la pierre angulaire d'un réseau de chercheurs et de servir de pont entre les institutions. Le contenu de ce premier numéro établit un état de la recherche en sciences sociales et humaines aussi complet que possible qui sera régulièrement actualisé. Celui-ci est prolongé par une incursion dans les domaines du patrimoine et de la restauration, sujets d'un intérêt croissant au Yémen et enjeu d'un débat dont on trouvera quelques échos sous la rubrique Point de vue.

Le CFEY est un observatoire privilégié de la vie culturelle yéménite. Il se doit de publier des éléments d'information difficilement accessibles par ailleurs et qui puissent constituer des ensembles documentaires inédits et précieux. C'est l'objectif de la rubrique Périphériques entièrement consacrée cette année à la place de l'écrit dans la société yéménite. Ce thème est abordé à travers une étude sur les librairies de Sanaa, une présentation de la presse yéménite et un entretien avec un responsable de l'Union des Ecrivains Yéménites. Ainsi prend tout son sens le titre de ce bulletin, à la fois chroniques de la recherche et reflet d'une société en pleine mutation.

Franck Mermier
Directeur du CFEY



Découvrir l'antique Shabwa

"L'exploration archéologique du Yémen est aujourd'hui partie sur de bonnes bases et la redécouverte d'une civilisation originale, qui a duré des siècles et qui ne vivait nullement repliée sur elle-même, est en bonne voie. Shabwa (l'ancienne capitale du Hadramaout) représente un moment de cette civilisation en une région qui a fortement contribué à la prospérité du Yémen antique et à une date où les liens avec le monde méditerranéen et le monde iranien sont plus étroits". Ernest Will, l'un des auteurs de cet ouvrage collectif, conclut ainsi son avant-propos, démontrant l'importance prise par les recherches de la Mission archéologique française à Shabwa depuis quinze ans maintenant. Fouilles de Shabwa II, rapports préliminaires, édité par Jean-François Breton, qui dirige la mission archéologique française, est un recueil des travaux de différents chercheurs français qui, depuis 1978, ont entrepris la fouille des ruines de l'antique cité. L'effort principal de ces travaux a porté sur un monument exceptionnel identifié avec le château royal.

Le tome I des Fouilles de Shabwa a été mis au point par Mme Jacqueline Pirenne, pionnière des fouilles du Hadramaout et considérée par ses pairs comme celle qui a joué un rôle fondamental dans l'ouverture du Yémen aux recherches archéologiques: avant d'être fauchée par une mort brutale, Mme Pirenne a rassemblé ainsi, dans Témoins écrits de la région de Shabwa et l'histoire" (BAH I. 34, Paris, Geuthner 1990), les premiers résultats des recherches.

Citons encore Ernest Will dans son avant-propos, pour décrire l'ensemble des travaux des chercheurs qui ont collaboré à cette publication: l'étude... "consacrée par Jacques Seigne au château avec la reconstruction détaillée de cet ensemble architectural, celle de Rémy Audoin décrivant les peintures et les sculptures de ce palais, celle de Leila Badre restituant la statigraphie générale du site. Mais il convenait de placer en tête l'étude faite par Pierre Gentelle de l'irrigation antique de Shabwa: sans le recours à cette irrigation, le développement d'une ville importante eût été impossible et la redécouverte d'un système relevant d'une technique déjà raffinée est un modèle du genre. Jean-François Breton, de son côté, donne un aperçu général du site et de la ville qu'il replace dans son contexte historique et Christian Darles traite du problème de l'architecture civile à Shabwa. D'autres études sont consacrées à des découvertes plus ponctuelles comme celles de Jean-Claude Roux (Tombe IX et chantier 13), ou au matériel archéologique, les monnaies présentées par S.C.H. Munro-Hay, les perles par Helen Morrison, un coffret d'ivoire du château par Jean-Claude Béal".

Fouilles de Shabwa II, rapports préliminaires. Edités par Jean-François Breton, GEUTHNER, 1993.

Une collaboration entre le CFEY et le Centre Yéménite d'Etudes et de recherches

Dirasat Yamaniyya: la vieille ville et la nouvelle Sanaa

Le 17 février, pour la présentation du premier numéro de Chronique Yéménite, le Centre Français d'Etude Yéménite tenait également à inaugurer officiellement sa première collaboration à la revue en langue arabe du Centre Yéménite d'Etudes et de Recherche, Dirasat Yamaniyya, pour son 45ème numéro. Cette revue contient tous les actes du colloque de décembre 1990 consacré à La place de la vieille ville dans l'expansion urbaine de Sanaa. Les exposés prononcés en français au cours de ce colloque ont été traduits en arabe et publiés dans ce numéro 45 de Dirasat Yamaniyya. Nous reproduisons ci-dessous la liste des exposés traduits en arabe des chercheurs français, ainsi que celle des contributions des chercheurs yéménites.

- **Contributeurs français:**
Jean-Luc Arnaud: Yéménite architecturale contemporaine, éléments pour une définition.
Jean-François Breton: Maison-tour et maison-cour dans le Yémen antique et contemporain.
Jean-Charles Depaule: Si on commence à tout changer dans la maison...
Pascal Maréchaux: Rôle des équipements dans le développement urbain et la revitalisation du centre ancien.
Franck Mermier: Les souks de Sanaa, un monde bouleversé: changements économiques et recompositions sociales.
Myriam Olivier: Modernisation

des techniques d'entretien et de construction des maisons au Yémen.

- **Contributeurs yéménites:**
Abdallah al-Daylami: L'influence de la vieille ville de Sanaa sur la formation de la ville actuelle.
Abd al-Rahman al-Haddad: Aspects historiques du développement urbain de la vieille ville de Sanaa.
Hatim Muhammad al-Sabahi: Les transformations architecturales de la ville de Sanaa.
Jamil Shamsan: L'influence de la vieille ville de Sanaa sur la nouvelle ville.

Notons que ce colloque avait été organisé conjointement par l'institution gouvernementale yéménite chargée de la protection des sites historiques, l'Organisation Générale pour la Sauvegarde des Villes Historiques du Yémen, et par le Service Culturel de l'Ambassade de France, grâce à une subvention du ministère français de l'Equipement, dont une partie a été consacrée au financement de la publication du N°45 de Dirasat Yamaniyya. Dans l'avenir, selon son directeur M. Franck Mermier, le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites s'efforcera de privilégier, dans sa politique de publication, la parution de textes en arabe, afin de rendre accessibles au public yéménite les travaux des chercheurs français sur leur pays et leur culture.

L'Arabie avant Mahomet: les temps ignorés...

Dans la dernière publication de la Revue du Monde Musulman et de la Méditerranée est paru L'Arabie antique de Karib'il à Mahomet, nouvelles données sur l'histoire des Arabes grâce aux inscriptions: Christian Robin, membre du Conseil scientifique du Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, a élaboré un recueil de différents textes scientifiques, notamment dans le domaine sudarabique, écrits par lui-même et d'autres chercheurs (J. Ryckmans, F. Briquel-Chatonnet et A. Avanzini), qui retrace l'histoire de cette période systématiquement dépréciée par l'Islam, qui précédait l'an 622 de notre ère, le début de l'ère islamique. Pour la religion musulmane, ces temps qui ont précédé la Révélation sont englobés dans un terme vague et péjoratif: la Jahiliyya, les "temps de l'ignorance".

Or, pour Christian Robin, le rôle que jouèrent les Arabes au Proche-Orient durant le millénaire qui a précédé l'Islam, a été fondamental.

L'aspect tardif des recherches archéologiques dans ce domaine explique que ces temps soient encore si mal connus: la première fouille en Arabie Saoudite a été ouverte en 1972. Au Yémen du Sud, l'étude du site important de Shabwa par une mission française (lire ci-contre) a débuté en 1974.

Les ruines les plus spectaculaires de cette péninsule arabe se trouvent au Yémen: Qaryat al-Faw, Shabwa, Baraqish, as-Sawda (l'antique Na-

shan)... et surtout, largement étudiées dans cet ouvrage, "une multitude d'inscriptions remontant jusqu'au VIIIème siècle avant l'ère chrétienne, qui donnent le nom de souverains oubliés, mentionnent de puissantes tribus arabes, font reculer de six siècles les premières manifestations de la langue arabe (...)", selon Christian Robin, dans l'introduction à cet ouvrage.

L'objet de cette publication, selon son principal auteur, est

ainsi de récapituler les progrès fantastiques accomplis ces dernières années dans la connaissance des anciens Arabes, conséquence directe du développement des recherches archéologiques en Arabie.

L'Arabie antique de Karib'il à Mahomet, nouvelles données sur l'histoire des Arabes grâce aux inscriptions, dans le sommaire N°61 de la Revue du Monde Musulman et de la Méditerranée, EDISUD.

Le Yémen dans la mémoire de Mahmud al-Ghul

Dans la collection "L'Arabie Préislamique" du Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites de Sanaa, Memorial Mahmud al-Ghul, Inscriptions sudarabiques, est le second ouvrage après Sayhadica. François Bron, chargé de recherche au Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques en France (CNRS), y retrace, de façon non exhaustive certes, à travers de nombreux documents photographiques, l'oeuvre de Mahmud Ali-al-Ghul, chercheur qui a produit d'importants travaux scientifiques, notamment dans le domaine des études sudarabiques. Il est l'auteur, notamment du Dictionnaire sabéen et du Choix d'inscriptions sudarabiques (en arabe), publiés en collaboration avec plusieurs collègues.

Décédé en 1983, ce grand professeur d'universités de Londres, d'Ecosse, du Liban et de Jordanie, fut également un découvreur. Dans son introduction à cet ouvrage, Christian Robin raconte: "Son premier voyage au Yémen remonte au 3 avril 1971. Pendant une quinzaine de jours, il n'hésita pas à se rendre dans des régions d'accès difficile, à la recherche des vestiges des civilisations de l'Arabie ancienne". Il prit alors de nombreuses photographies au cours de ce périple, que l'on retrouve dans ce recueil.

François Bron: Memorial Mahmud al-Ghul, Inscriptions Sudarabiques, édité par le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, GEUTHNER, 1993.



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THE MANIPULATION PROCESS: Creation and Recreation of the Recipient Mind

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



Are we really as free as we believe we are? Do we really make our decisions and ideas? How true is our approach to world events, whether related to us or not? How do we as groups and individuals form our reactions?

These questions and many more force themselves on us almost daily. Take, for example, the role played by the important radio broadcasting stations in the world. One important aspect of them is the statistics on their almost captive listeners. In the Arab world, as a case in point, the BBC alone has some 120 million regular listeners, and this is over half of the total Arab population. The VOA commands the attention of 54 million Arab listeners, while there are some 17 million Arabs who listen to either Radio France International or German Radio's Arabic Service.

The statistic in itself is not surprising, taking into consideration the highly technical and subjective quality of the material produced and introduced in addition to the entertainment and the informative value provided by those stations. This is also true for TV inter-

national services, where there is fierce competition among stations. And it is true for the readable material such as newspapers and magazines.

As this magnitude of information keeps flowing into our minds on a daily, (or even hourly) basis, we cannot help but to respond in turn by keeping our ears, eyes, hence our consciousness wide open to digest it, driven by our eagerness to keep up with the nonstop wheel of change taking place every minute of every day around us.

However, let's take a look at the hidden side of the coin. Over the years, those sources were our only means of evaluation and judgement of events in view of total absence of competition from our local media, which was out-classed in all aspects with very few exceptions. Our vision of the world was, and still is, created by those sources; setting our priorities and in result, our points of view. The first

aim achieved is the split interest; because the main feature of this morning becomes an old story this afternoon, we as recipients, would have to swallow a few carefully arranged features before getting to the one of our interest.

Thus, we unconsciously accept this planned arrangement of priorities, not noticing even the changes in our points of view reflected in just a small period of time. For example, most of us are made to believe that the ex-Soviet Union was just a fraud power after generations of imagining it as the superpower that keeps the world in balance.

One week, we find out that Sudan is the main threat to world peace; next week, it's Libya, Afghanistan, or even Yemen. Iraq is in the headlines for one week, then is totally absent for weeks; so are Somalia and Palestine; so are European unity and other major events making our priorities change for another time within one month. We are forced to follow Lady Diana's news, Mafioso adventures, and other unimportant news in order to get a glimpse of what we really need to know; which exemplifies the meaning they want to stress.

This kind of elaborate media control is true for all

viewers in the world, and we can see that major international newspapers change their headlines in their evening editions and some front page titles are wisely moved onto an interior page, thereby reducing the importance of that headline exponentially.

For example, when you read about Bosnia on the first page this morning as a headline, and in the evening edition you see the same space occupied by some earthquake or flood, you are subjected to an unconscious resetting of priorities, which is true also for any radio or television broadcasted news.

So we wake up every morning with our minds already manipulated by the previous evening's news, and eager to be remanipulated by the morning news; hence, total loss of independent thought. I'm not talking about everyone, because there are always exceptions. However, on the average the learners whose ranks are constantly increasing think that they have increasing rights in the decision-making process. The enslaved lot that are driven by morning news, as well as being seduced by fashionable advertisements, try to keep up with the world news as diligently as they can.

Then how can we get our information and where can we get it from, if our local news agencies are either out of date, or totally dedicated to the silly news of our leaders' superiority, as we can observe in many Arab media? Do we have to choose between ideologically veiled lies and those veiled with allegations of free handling of information and satellite technologies, or should we simply stop reading and listening? Do we possess the ability to distinguish between right and wrong unconsciously falling into the ditch planned for those who think they do?

I have no solution in fact, since we have to keep up with the world even though the statements are carefully arranged for us to hear and read, and evaluations are written for us to adopt; indifference is a mirage that is rarely easy to locate in people.

Depending on the magnitude of this informative seige around us, as citizens of the world, (since this is true for the Americans and Swedes as well as for Yemenis) we have to rebuild ourselves right from the beginning; recreating our minds to receive in a new way and returning to the roots of knowledge by pre-information age history makers and reread Plato's,

Aristotle's, Machiavelli's and Ibn Khaldoun's works, as well as literary masterpieces of past centuries. Then, human minds and souls were realistically analyzed and their behavior was judged accordingly. Perhaps then, we can reform our understanding of history and of the state of the current civilization. In fact, what I'm asking for is the reprint and reproduction of major world works in a simple form and translation meant for our new generations to understand and digest. Why not even impose them on schools so the generations could emerge equipped with analytical skills and the ability to determine what is the right course of action through the cultural gap between our young people and their international counterparts. Then, those generations can catch up with the revolution of communication exploding in the world and create their own international influential means of talking to the world. It is not a regressive request, but our present nothing new to offer and is merely duplicating the western example. This could have catastrophic results. We have no cultural identity, so we must fight for a place in the future.

Continues on page 15

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فاكس ٥٥



JOINT EEC/YEMEN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING SANA'A MEETING

The fifth meeting of the EEC/Yemen Joint Cooperation Committee was held on 8th February, 1993, here in Sana'a with the participation of officials of the European Community and Member States of the European Community on the one side, and officials of the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and Development and other relevant ministries on the other.

The EC delegation was headed by Mr. R. Houlston, head of the Middle East Division of the Commission of the European Community, and the Yemeni delegation was headed by Dr. Mutahhar Al Saeedi, Vice Minister of Planning and Development.

During the meeting the recent developments in the Republic of Yemen and the European Community were reviewed within the context of EC-Yemen relations. The Yemen - EC trade has moved from a one-sided export from EC to Yemen in 1987 to a trade equilibrium of around ECU 500 million in 1992, and both sides would like to see a continuing increase in EC-Yemen trade.

In the field of economic cooperation, the EC is already supporting ongoing projects for the development of the Yemeni tourism potential and half-yearly calibration of navigational aids at Yemeni airports. Support in form of expertise to the Central

Bank is shortly to be provided. Views were exchanged on the possibilities of a fishing agreement, scientific and technological cooperation and EC investments in the private sector. These possibilities shall be further investigated following the the Joint Cooperation Committee Progress on EEC-financed development projects for seed production, fisheries Mahwit road rehabilitation and maintenance scheme were reviewed. Concerning new EC-financed projects, these should focus on the water and environment sector and rural development. The EC would look into various proposals ... during the meeting, focusing on the Sana'a Sewage Treatment Plant, dam cons... at Tihama V and expansion of seed production to other crops. The Yemeni side briefed the EC on the election which is to be held on April 1993. Democratization and the upcoming election were welcomed by the EC, has provided ECU 500,000 as an EC grant for election materials and equipments. The two sides agreed to continue to discuss improvements in their cooperation including the possibility of introducing a Financial Protocol. The EC stated its intention to open a technical liaison office in Sana'a. The EEC/Yemen Joint Cooperation Committee meets annually alternately in Brussels and in Sana'a.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN NATION BUILDING

By: Dr. Abudallah Ahmed Al-Thaifani, Educational Editor, Yemen Times.

Education is a very important instrument in mobilizing human resources for national development so as to achieve nation building effectively. In the case of Yemen, when the 26th September Revolutionary government came to power, the most important concept it adopted was of education as a basic human right. Because of the condition of the country in the early years of the revolution, which was particularly difficult financially and economically, the state was unable to provide for the educational needs of society. In terms of education, the urgent needs were then not merely to open schools but to ensure that the existing ones would be run smoothly and continuously. In order to maintain schools, it is first necessary to have adequate supplies of teachers, an appropriate curriculum, and suitable and sufficient numbers of textbooks.

The revolutionary government, as a result of the lack of local resources, tended to focus on external financing as a means to bridge the resource gap. There were two main mechanisms to fulfil policy. The first was to ask for foreign aid in order to train and educate local manpower, while the second was to use all means including foreign aid as well as local resources to ensure permanent resources for the development process

instead of relying on external help indefinitely. With respect to the first mechanism, the Yemeni government asked all its Arab neighbors and other friendly countries to assist in our coming difficult problems the response came from only very few countries. Egypt was the first country in the Arab world to act. Soon after Iraq, Kuwait and Syria sent educational aid, each according to its financial ability to contribute. With regard to foreign countries, the more interesting fact was that, the eastern countries, especially China and the former USSR, offered considerable aid in different fields including education.

Despite all these difficulties and dilemmas, the education system has witnessed considerable growth over the last two and half decades.

More significantly, progress put heavy pressure upon the state to expand the educational system to cover the whole country. In fact, the unprecedented expansion of the educational system during the period under review imposed heavy demands on national resources. Every possible effort was made to met such demands. But in reality the development process in education was the still is unable to offer educational opportunities for all the school-age population on the one hand, to improve the quality of existing schools, and to raise the standard of educational provision on the other.

The major reason for this is that, some educational programs have suffered and still suffer because of poor management. At the present time, the Yemen

has centralized educational system involving central planning with local execution of policy, which makes the introduction of appropriate local features of education more difficult. The expansion of education, of all kinds of education at all levels, was not coupled with a parallel expansion of teacher training and administrative training programs. Also, there is no appropriate policy for providing a variety of educational institutions, and directing clients along appropriate vocational and academic paths.

Socio-economic changes should be taken into consideration as major factor in directing the development of education at all levels and stages. Unfortunately, the current policy of education leaves the door open for young people to choose any kind of education they like, regardless of what their abilities are, or the needs of the society are. As a result of this policy, for example, the university and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research are faced each year with an endless flow of applications for university education. Thus, in spite of expanding capac-

ity, satisfying the demand is still an impossibility.

Education must be geared more closely to manpower requirements in accordance with proper and comprehensive planning. It is useful to mention here the following points:

Firstly, the number of children going to schools is far less than the total number of children of school age.

Secondly, access to education for girls is far less than equal to that for boys. There is a high percentage of women who have not received education.

Thirdly, technical and vocational education is still ineffective and does not make a positive contribution to the process of development.

Fourthly, actual development is far from being compatible with the theoretical framework proposed. In other words, the reality is very far from the stated aims in educational, and this in turn has resulted in the creation of a number of serious educational problems. There are a variety of factors which have responsible for the slow development of education in general.

See you in another article, next week.

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Continued from page 13:

MANIPULATION...

We have no economy to back that identity and we are led by groups which are just a product of the very same conditioning, and replacing them would bring no fundamental change.

Thus, the rebuilding of the mind should be our main purpose, unless we are masochistically enjoying their manipulation of us by our own illiteracy and ignorance from the inside and total sadistic mind-control from outside. We are all but products of the massive flow of the informing and reinforming process where slight political changes can do nothing to replace the opportunity for our own rabbit to grow and join the race. The race is inevitable. So is the conflict of civilizations as history keeps telling us, and as the stronger cultures prevail, we have no option but to get ready for its arrival. There will be no place in the next century for weak cultures and they will be obliged to dissolve into a part of a stronger one, which is armed with knowledge.

The discarded and assimilated ones will have nothing to offer to humanity except old stories of a once-upon-a-time age of glory and the destined "Golden Age" that shall never come.

Freedom of thought and expression is one step on the road to that goal, redesigning education is another, but the decision to advance on this course is the first step we all must take.

In the final analysis, the culture that will prevail in the next century is not really the specific little things peculiar to societies, but those aspects that are of universal value applicability. Thus, cultural values such as tolerance, peaceful co-existence, diligence, freedom of association, human rights, democracy, etc., which are all universal values, will have to prevail in all societies. There are many among us in the Third World, especially in the Muslim World, who fear of losing our socio-culture. This is a legitimate concern. But as the world is getting smaller, there is no way of fencing off against the world. What we can do is to promote those aspects of our culture that are universally acceptable, and make the world adopt them as its own.

Japan has done this. It has taken on much of the Western culture, in spite of what may read in books. But it has also given the world much of its own; e.g., management style, labor-entrepreneur relations, etc. Can we follow the Japanese example?



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English Lessons

Weekly By: Jeanna and Doug

LESSON #32

Review of Prepositions of Time

Throughout the past month these lessons have been focussed on prepositions of time. This lesson gives you a chance to show what you've learned.

Test A: Look at the calendar below. Read the sentences which follow and fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

March 1993						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Munir arrives 6:00	3 Ahmed to Jordan	4	5	6 shop before lunch
7 John visit	8 John	9 John	10 John leaves	11	12 Munir's 25th birthday	13 will
14 Ali meeting 10:00-12:00	15 exams	16 exams	17 exams	18 exams	19	20

QUESTIONS

- Munir will arrive _____ 6:00 _____ Tuesday. He has been away _____ last week.
- Ahmed is going to Jordan _____ the third _____ March.
- I'll do my shopping _____ the morning _____ Saturday.
- John will stay with Nabil _____ his visit. He will stay _____ four days.
- Munir was born _____ 1968.
- Ali has a meeting _____ Sunday, March 14, _____ 10:00 _____ 12:00. You must call him either _____ 10:00 or _____ 12:00.
- Exams begin _____ the 21st and continue _____ the 24th.
- Today is March 1st. Munir's birthday is _____ eleven days.

Test B: Give the same or similar information using the prepositions given.

example: I was born ten years ago. (in)
I was born in 1983.

- I've lived in Sana'a since 1990. (for)
- The class begins at 8:00 and ends at 10:00. (from, until)
- In the time of Ramadan, Muslims fast and pray. (during)
- We will meet again when a week has passed. (in)
- Abdullah moved to Taiz ten years ago. (since) (be careful of the tense!)
- Abdullah moved to Taiz ten years ago. (before)
- I will drink tea when the class ends. (after)

Test C: Answer these questions using the prepositions given. Because these are based on your own life, there are no answers given.

- When is your birthday? (on)
- What year were you born? (in)
- When is your first meal of the day? (in)
- How long do you sleep at night? (for)
- How long have you studied English? (since)
- When do you eat lunch? (at)
- What is the work week in your country? (from, to)
- When is the rainy season in your country? (from, until)
- When do you go to sleep? (at)
- What month were you born? (in)
- When will Ramadan begin this year? (after)
- How long does Ramadan last? (for)
- When will the Yemeni elections be? (in)

WEEKLY IDIOM

the same old tune

The same old tune is a story, line, or explanation that has been heard many times before.

examples:

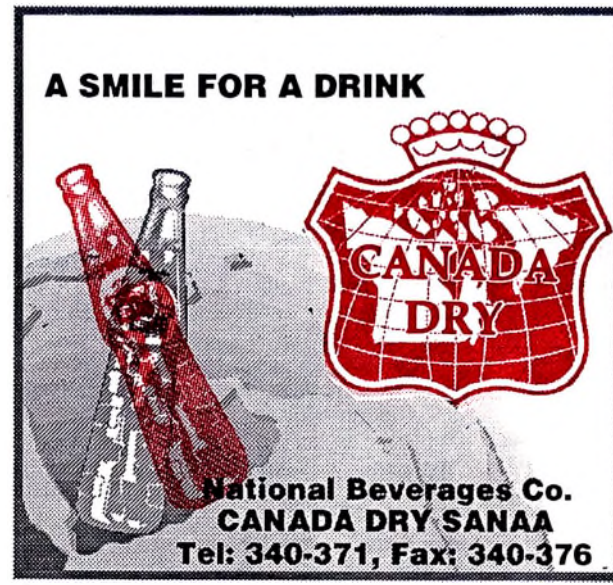
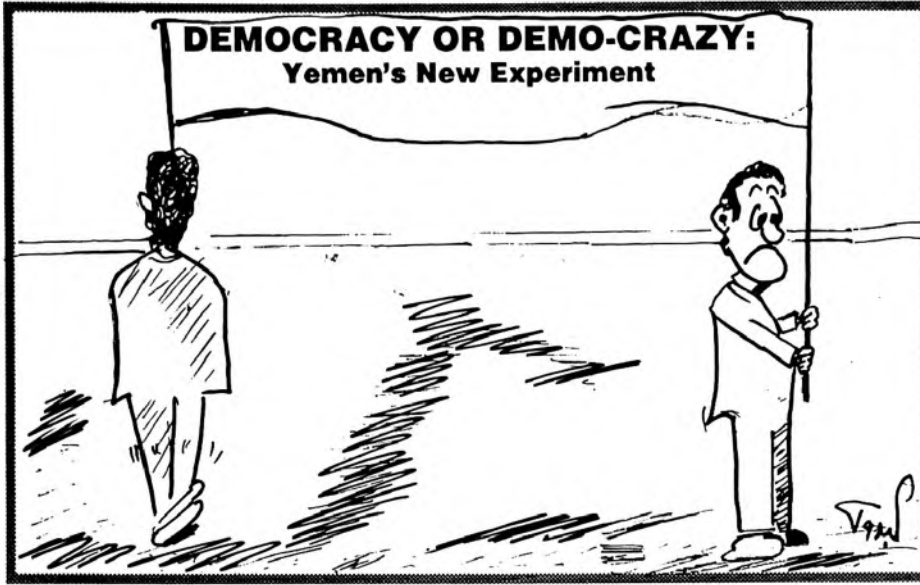
The politicians who hope to be elected are playing the same old tune about reform.

Don't come to me with the same old tune. Your story never changes!



ANSWERS Test A 1. at, on, since 2. on, of 3. in, on 4. during, for 5. in 6. on, from, until (to), before, after 7. on, until 8. in **Test B** 1. I've lived in Sana'a for three years. 2. The class is from 8:00 until 10:00. 3. During Ramadan Muslims fast and pray. 4. We will meet again in a week. 5. Abdullah has lived in Taiz since 1983. 6. Before 1983 Abdullah did not live in Taiz. 7. I will drink tea after class.

Featuring Next Week



Interviews:
Entrepreneur Hassan Abdo Jaied Shares with Yemen Times his Assessment of the Yemeni Business Climate.

Banking:
The Chairman of the YCB Describes the Bank's Strategies.

Yemen's Health:
Dr. Ahmed Makki Sheds Light on Preventive Health Services.

Music to Your Ears:
The Sons of the San Joaquin (The Cowboys) Sing for Yemeni audiences.

Human Rights:
An Assessment of the Refugee Issue and the Role of the UN

• Analysis •

Lessons to Draw from the Registration Process

LESS THAN TWO MILLION YEMENIS REGISTERED FOR ELECTIONS

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor, Sanaa University.

At final count, on Tuesday night, February 16th, there were still less than two million persons registered for the elections of the 27th of April. Come the deadline, Thursday night, 19th February, there is no way more than 2.5 million could be registered. This is a bad omen for the Republic of Yemen's first

elections, as the number of registrants is less than 18% of the population base, and just about 40% of the number of eligible voters. This situation casts a long shadow on the legitimacy of the coming parliament as it will be voted in by a small minority of the population - possibly as low as 12%. Is this an acceptable base on which to draw legitimacy? At another level, the number of registered females is very low, indeed. In many governorates, but especially in the capital city, it is a

small fraction of the eligible base of female citizens. The total number of female registrants is not expected to exceed a quarter of a million, or some 20% of the total number of registrants. By far, the highest number of female registrants has been in Taiz (39%), with Hodeidah coming a distant second at 33%. In terms of age groups, the older folks have beaten up the young lads. Although Yemen is a young nation, it is the older ones who are more serious about their responsibilities. What this helps achieve in

politics is that it tilts the country more towards the mature (read, conservative) elements. Another lesson to draw from the registration process is that the role of political parties has been tremendously exaggerated. In constituency after another, independents have been able to mobilize their supporters, and to finalize arrangements for their registration in a much more successful way. As a result, it is clear that the political parties, even the "big ones", are not as able to move the voters as they may claim.

Another clear message drawn from the mix of potential candidates and their followers is that the situation is very fluid in most constituencies. Therefore, the results will be determined by the ability of the candidates to strike deals and alliances. This is easier to do for the political parties than for the independents, because the parties can make offers for trade-offs. One of the most important lessons that can be drawn from the registration process is that the Supreme Elections Committee is a very ineffective and self-centered organ. For one thing, it decided on its own, to break the law and skip arranging any female registration polls. Then when it grudgingly formed them, it sent them well after half the time was over. And even then, it sent them without the tools to perform the work; e.g., without cameras, books; thus effectively forcing them to be subordinate to the men's committees from which it borrowed the ledgers, books, and cameras. Another thing is that the SEC has been busy with its own jawboning, and forgot to mobilize the people to register. Let us hope, Yemen will do better in the next phase.

Distribution of Registrants as of Tuesday Night, Two Days before the Closing Date of Registration:

Taiz	20.6%
Ibb	12.2%
Hodeidah	11.0%
Sanaa City	9.1%
Hajjah	7.7%
Sanaa Governorate	7.2%
Aden	4.7%
Dhamar	4.5%
Hadhramaut	3.9%
Abyan	3.0%
Lahj	3.0%
Al-Mahweet	2.9%
Saadah	2.9%
Al-Baidha	2.8%
Shabwah	2.1%
Others	2.4%
TOTAL	100%

Source: Yemen Times calculations.

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