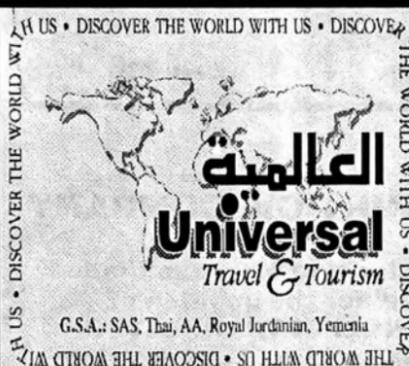


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YEMEN TIMES

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Forgotten Winter Farming Season

This year, Yemen has had lots of rain during November 1992 through April 1993. Yet, the farmers of Yemen have not ploughed the land. The winter farming season, which was so well-known in the past has quietly died. In fact, many of the children and younger folks were puzzled when I brought up the matter.

I remember in the old days, mind you I am talking of simply two or three decades ago, the second farming season was a normal part of the agriculture cycle. It was discontinued because of low winter rainfall. But, that excuse quickly became reason to abandon the land whatever the climatic conditions.

To add insult to injury, an increasing acreage of land is being fallowed even during the main (summer) farming season. The reason behind this process is the low rate of return from farming, especially for grain farmers. As a result, there have been two alternatives, both bad for Yemen:

- A) To fallow the land,
- B) To grow qat on it.

What can be done?

We have many graduates and specialists in this field whose opinions could be more useful than mine. Yet, I think one of the main parts to any solution is to make it worthwhile for farmers to keep ploughing the land. I am not referring to direct state subsidies, because that is neither feasible (given the state's budgetary deficits), nor acceptable in the long run. There must be other things that can be done to encourage the farmers such as better extension services, improved seeds and aid with marketing/storage/transportation services. Providing long-term easy loans is also another aspect to look into.

All in all, if the farmers continue to abandon the land, the rural-to-urban migration will intensify and the problems will simply be carried over to the cities. We need to attend to this matter urgently, and re-introduce the winter farming season. Whatever is produced during this season, is in addition to the national output given that presently the resources (manpower, land, etc.), and the rain water goes to 'waste'.

I call on the Universities of Sanaa and Aden, and the other specialized institutions, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the regional integrated development authorities, to carry out research on how to help retain the farmers on the land, and what can be done to convince them to continue to plough the land. In my opinion, this is a very critical matter which affects the future of the country.

The Publisher
عبدكريم

A Kuwaiti Delegation Visits Yemen

Yemen Times learned that a Kuwaiti delegation, made-up of citizens, journalists, lawyers and public figures will arrive in Yemen in mid-May. The delegation will exchange views with Yemenis regarding how to revive the now-dormant relations between the Republic of Yemen and the State of Kuwait.

"We hope to find ways to overcome the estranged relations between our two fraternal countries," said Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, one of the key architects of the visit. "It is crucial for Yemen to come to terms with all its neighbors, for the sake of its own development and prosperity. I think this is possible with the election of the Parliament on 27th April, and the subsequent government. The new faces (in government) will be able to distance themselves from the utterances and positions of some members of the current government," he added.

Leading the Kuwaiti delegation will be Dr. Ghanem Al-Najjar, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Popular Committee for the POWs and Missing (from the Gulf Crisis). In a telephone conversation with Yemen Times, Dr. Al-Najjar said that they will come with open hearts and minds to listen to the

Yemeni side in the hope of undoing at least some of the damage done to the bilateral relations.

Prior to August 2nd, 1990, when the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussain, invaded Kuwait, relations between Yemen and Kuwait were special. Kuwait was one of the key aid partners to Yemen.

"Nobody expects Kuwaiti aid to Yemen to be resumed, but we hope to reduce or even eliminate the ill-feelings that grew out of Yemen's position on the Gulf Crisis," said one of the organizers of the trip.

Most Yemenis feel their country's position was misunderstood. "We condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and demanded its withdrawal, but we also opposed the US-led allied forces which bombarded Iraq," is a statement that one hears frequently. In theory, Yemen's position sounds balanced, but in practical terms, as manifested in the media reports and in the street demonstrations (partly sanctioned by senior officials), Yemen's position is definitely one-sided or pro-Iraq.

"It is time for both sides to come to grips with the fall-out of the Gulf Crisis and build confidence in the bilateral relations," said Dr. Abdulaziz Ad-

Dali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and one of the key figures in the efforts to bring back life to the Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations.

In a recent seminar on Yemeni-Gulf relations, Dr. Ad-Dali extended an olive branch and offered to make a fresh start so as to serve the "mutual interests of all countries of the Arabian Peninsula."

Mohammed Ashkenani, a member of the delegation to come from Kuwait and a key person in the search for the POWs and Missing persons, expressed hope as to the outcome of the visit. "We hope the visit will be a watershed in relations between our two countries. There is a growing feeling in Kuwait to help all the brothers see light and to rebuild mutual confidence on a clear base."

The Kuwaiti delegation will be the first to visit Yemen following the Gulf Crisis. Hopefully, the two countries will resume full diplomatic relations. On the Yemeni side, preparations are underway to declare the formation of an association for Yemeni-Kuwaiti Fraternity.

"Yemen and Kuwait need each other, and there should not be a total blackout in relations and contact. There are ways to resolve our differences," said Dr. Al-Saqqaf.



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Red Sea Environment Workshop

A regional workshop under the theme of "Global Environmental Facility" is being planned in Cairo to address the environment of the Red Sea. The four-day workshop (14-17/4/1993) is being sponsored by the UNDP.

Yemen Times learned that Mr. Ahmed, Saif Al-Kubati, UNDP (Sanaa) Officer, and Mr. Ali Awadh Salem, Director-General of the Environmental Protection Council (EPC), are going to represent Yemen at the workshop.

Mr. Salem, it was further learned, will present a paper entitled "Protection of the Red Sea Coral Reef from Pollution."

According to the EPC, the Republic of Yemen is paying increasing attention to the environmental needs and that the situation is bound to deteriorate unless serious efforts are exerted urgently. The solid waste and non-degradable waste of Yemen is increasing in volume, and it may be a menace over the coming years.

Workshop on Rural Women

The Ministry of Agriculture is organizing a workshop entitled "The Life of Rural Women in Yemen" during 10-13/4/1993 at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa.

Alongwith the workshop is an exhibition, which shows the living conditions of rural Yemeni women. For more details, please read interview on page 9

Iraqi Delegation Arrives in Yemen

A delegation of eighty Iraqis arrived in Yemen last week to help in the maintenance and repair of the power plant just outside of Aden city.

This is the first time that an economic service contract is signed between Iraq and another country. Although the contract brings no revenue to Iraq, Yemen risks a lot by this action.

Ruwaishan Honored

The Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FYCCI) awarded a citation to Sheikh Mohammad Bin Yahia Al-Ruwaishan for services "rendered for the private sector in the country." The General Manager of the FYCCI, said on the occasion, "By honoring Sheikh Ruwaishan, we are showing gratitude to a man who has been a major driving force behind Yemeni private enterprise and personal initiative." Yemen."

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SHEVARDNADZE BLAMES RUSSIA FOR HIS TROUBLES

There are still flashes of humor and the engaging smile that broke down barriers among the West's Cold War warriors. But former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze cuts a sombre figure as he strides a smaller, but just as turbulent, stage in his Georgian homeland in the Transcaucasus.

"My work is hellish," the silver-haired 65-years-old Shevardnadze said in a recent interview, adding with a smile: "but the satisfaction is total." He is wrestling with the consequences of a bloody separatist rebellion, intrigue and economic chaos. But the Russian political conflict in his old battleground of Moscow - a conflict that has awakened ghosts from his past is uppermost in his mind.

Just as he rallied to Yeltsin during the heady days of the August 1991 coup, he has stepped up beside the Russian leader in his struggle with parliament. "If President Yeltsin loses, the consequences will be bad, not only for Georgia, Russia and Europe, but for world peace in general," he said, speaking softly. "The most negative things could happen. Things could go as far as anarchy, chaos and civil war and dictatorship," he said, evoking the prospect of an alliance of communist, extreme nationalist forces taking control of Russia.

Shevardnadze remains a hate-figure in Moscow's conservative circles, particularly in the Russian army, for the leading role he played in the break-up of the Soviet Union in his five years as foreign minister. A reminder came last month when Yeltsin's arch-rival, Ruslan Khasbulatov, drew applause at meeting of the top legislature which he chairs by denouncing Shevardnadze for breaking up the Warsaw Pact. "Khasbulatov never passes up a chance of having a bite at me," Shevardnadze later commented to journalists in Tbilisi.

For Shevardnadze, the outcome of the Moscow crisis is vital to the future of his homeland of 5.4 million, an explosive mix of ethnic groups and clans with old scores to settle. The crisis in Georgia's Black Sea province of Abkhazia has given Shevardnadze and his compatriots a foretaste of what could happen if conservative forces win the day in Moscow.

Hundreds of people have been killed in brutal conflict since Shevardnadze sent military troops to the region last August to deny greater autonomy to the people of Abkhazia.

The Georgians say the Abkhazians, who account for only 17% of the population, are armed and backed by the Russian army. The Abkhazians, on the other hand, speak of Georgian colonialism which plans to deny them basic rights in self-rule. The Georgian leader said the conflict would have been resolved peacefully by now if "aggressive" Russian paratroop units in Abkhazia had not meddled. He goes even further to blame Russia for his troubles in Georgia. "Everything that is happening in Abkhazia is a reflection of what is happening in Russia," he said.

Shevardnadze returned to Georgia, where he was once communist party chief, from Moscow just a year ago and went on to win election as chairman of parliament, a post which makes him effectively head of state in his tiny homeland.

Did he miss the big stage of East-West politics? "No. I have no nostalgia. Why? Firstly, I did everything in that post as Soviet foreign minister that could do. My conscience is clear. To do more was impossible. What I achieved is already a lot for one person I do not regret anything," he said.

Apart from the Abkhazian crisis, discontent simmers in South Ossetia and Western Mingrelia, home of forces loyal to toppled President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Many Georgians see Shevardnadze as unable to stage off a civil war. He faces an uneasy alliance with Georgian nationalist forces in the army around Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani.

And with the economy in tatters because of the draining numerous conflicts and the economic difficulties, he cannot remain in favor indefinitely. But he still wants to rule. Asked if he still expected to be in power in one or two years' time, he shrugged. "Who knows? for good or for bad, I will fulfil my mission here, but I still feel I can do something for Georgia while it is forming itself as an independent state.

COLOMBIA FINDS REAL JAIL FOR ESCOBAR

Unlike the jail that housed Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar before his escape last July, the new one prepared for the billionaire criminal has no wet bars, fax machines, whirlpool baths or walk-in closets. The jail in this Medellin suburb, where 18 of Escobar's associates are being held, instead has closed circuit TV cameras normal-sized cells and single telephone.

Officials say this is where Escobar will likely be held if he is captured or if he surrenders. Either possibility seems likely given recent blows to his organization.

The government allowed a group of journalist inside the Itagui jail in an attempt to show the world they have learned from mistakes made during Escobar's last incarceration. "Here we have no parties, no dances and no disorder," said the new jail's warden, Mj. Agobardo Arias.

Each inmate has a 3.5 meters by 3.5 meters bedroom with a toilet and shower. There is an outdoor patio and a social area with tables, weight-lifting equipment and a table tennis table. Prisoners can make one telephone call per week, and must be in their cells by 7 p.m. and awake by 6 a.m.. To get inside the facility, visitors pass through five electronically controlled steel doors. Most of the prisoners have been accused of drug trafficking and murder. Some place statues of Roman Catholic saints in their cells. Others pin up photos of scantily clad women. A sticker on the wall of one cell reads: "Colombian marijuana - 100% export."

Escobar had a very different set-up after surrendering in June 1991. He turned his cell into a luxurious command center for his cocaine business, hand-picking his own guards, and installed waterbeds, cordless telephones and wide-screen TV sets. There was even a man-size doll house for his young daughter.

When prosecutors learned Escobar's men murdered rival drug traffickers on jail premises, the government decided to transfer them to a military post. But security forces bungled the operation. On 22 July, Escobar and nine of his jailmates walked past hundreds of army troops to freedom.

Seven of those escapees have since surrendered, along with 11 other Medellin drug traffickers. They are all being held in Itagui.

At an adjacent facility, authorities are holding the three Ochoa brothers - Babio, Juan-Bavid and Jorge-Luis. The brothers, who also surrendered, stand accused of running the Medellin cartel alongside Escobar.

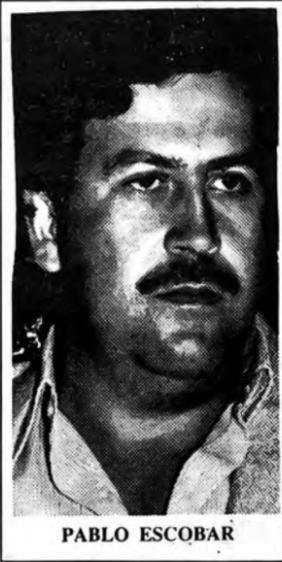
Escobar has sent word through his attorneys that he may surrender again if the government honors four requests:

- a- paving Itagui's outdoor patio,
- b- three telephone calls a week,
- c- security for his wife and children, and
- d- access to his own kitchen to guard against being poisoned.

The government has yet to respond to the Escobar demands, although they seem rather insignificant, compared to past privileges.

Meanwhile, the world community is in an uproar to reign-in the drug traffickers. From Colombia and other Latin American countries, to Europe, to South and South-east Asia, efforts are stepped up against the growers and traffickers of drugs. In the USA, handsome rewards are offered for any information on drug dealers, and stiff sentences are handed out.

Even then, the world drug business continues to ride high. The size of the drug market, which runs into billions of dollars every year, is believed to be surpassed only by the arms market.



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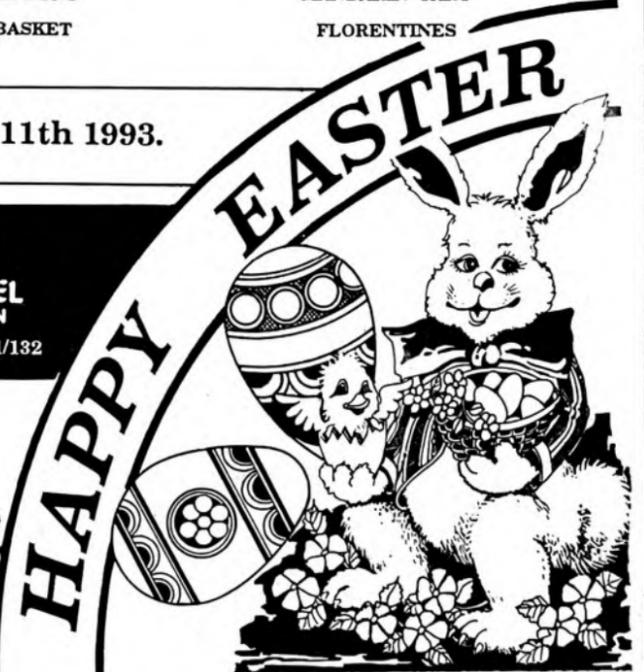
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ARABIAN ADVENTURE

The Mystic of the Orient Captured in Lifesize Models

There was once a famous mosque in Arabia. Surrounded by palm trees and cool fountains; its minarets stood tall and erect. On an adjacent street was a busy market where camels brought goods from far lands. On another street, a princess, dressed in white with a veil across her face, waved to the crowds as her palanquin bearers moved their heads in a humble nod, asking people to make way for the princess. After all, the princess was in a hurry to get to the royal palace where beautiful dancers were to entertain the guests.

It all conjured images of those tales of the rich Arab culture. Given the environment, one could easily "see" Ali Baba peeping out of a large brown jar, heroes flying over the city on red carpets, Alaa' Deen holding tight to his lamp, and Sindbad was fighting giant waves on the high



seas. Brave men and beautiful women defending truth and virtue against evil men and spirits, and

protect their 'city'. It is all in the mind. Well, it need not be. Now Lego has produced

life-sized models of some of the Arabian folk tales. Now, you can personally delight in the 'Arabian

Adventure', which is a city of entertainment, just like Disneyland.

The displays have captured the imaginations of kids and grownups alike, in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan. Now they are on their way to the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman. Will Yemeni entrepreneurs bring the entourage to Yemen? It is upto them, and it is a money maker.

It is not just the about the Orient, on display are also many other fantasies from other civilizations, including the modern one and future ones. There are townships, space cities, impressive train and car models, etc. And what is more, each of these models have been put together block by block, sometimes using more than 30,000 pieces per model.

Kids can buy the Lego blocks, follow the instruc-

tions step by step, and make for themselves many exhibits.

In a special "hands-on" section, children and their parents actually get to play with the blocks and try to build structures of various ages and times.

The overwhelming reaction of the public gives a sure indication of the need for entertainment that brings back images of the past glory of this region.

In line with the American, European, and Japanese Disneylands, has any of the rich Arab countries ever thought of a regional Arabian Disneyland. This could bring together the beauties of the civilizations of the ancient world and modern times. It could also help Arab children prepare to look towards the future.

CHEATING AT WORK

By: **Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times.**



All over the world, civil servants are a target for criticism for inefficiency, red tape, waste and a host of other offenses. The main reason is that servants are on continuous contact with the public which hold them responsible for most of its problems. It has touched upon a point that makes one sit up in surprise. One usually hears about grown up men cutting work is something one hardly ever hears. One misses job a day, two, even few days because of sudden illness or a family problem from which one cannot walk away. Coming to work and rushing off again after an hour or two is not the characteristic behavior of a mature man. The attitudes of some civil servants are becoming very strange nowadays. Those who are used to rush away from their offices during working hours, usually leave one or more of their personal items, such as a glasses, behind in an attempt to deceive their superiors and others whom they want to think that they are around and doing some official work or that they are having a meeting with somebody within the office premises. This pretension is a cover up for attending to personal affairs such as shopping. If such employees were closed on the actual time they put in their work, one would find out that they

do not exceed two hours a day. From the administrative point of view this type of irresponsible behavior could be considered a chaotic state of affairs resulting from negligence and lack of control. From the economic point of view, it is a cause of waste in time and energy which results in decrease in productivity and efficiency. Economic waste in time or resources when coupled with inefficiency result in a great loss to a nation. Even through cutting work has become a common phenomenon in public administration one cannot, however make a sweeping generalization by saying that this phenomenon is common in all governments bodies. There are, in fact some governments organs especially those that have close contact with citizens, whose employees can hardly keep up with the volume of their daily weeks. In other words they have a lot of work to do and are sometimes overburdened. One wonders then whether cutting work is the employee's responsibility to practise a reasonable degree of self control, but it is mostly the

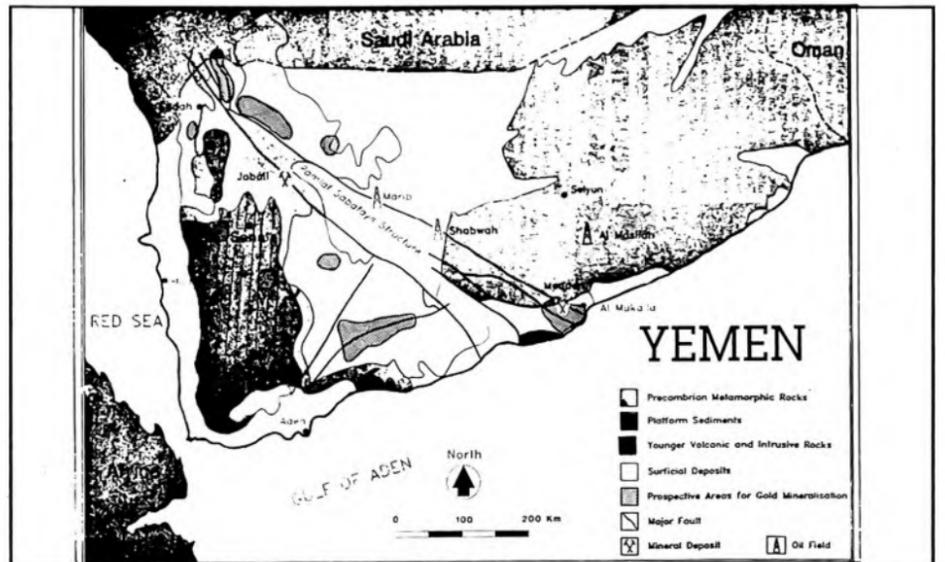
responsibility of the administration (especially the direct boss) who should see to it that everybody has enough work to do during working hours. There is always work to be done and even at full times, there is still some important work to be done such as making filing system more efficient updating information, following up cases, and finalizing some transactions. Employees could do all these things and more instead of just chatting with each other, solving cross word puzzles, or making private calls. It is true that everyone has sometimes urgent personal business which can't be postponed. But there are so lazy employees who argue they have nothing to do. Obviously such allegations are baseless and totally unacceptable because work, whatever it is has many aspects on which one can work on all the time. One cannot go far around pretending that there is nothing to do until work piles up and thing end up in administrative paralysis. This kind of attitude has to be corrected, otherwise we could wind up with the sort of administrative inertia from which traditional bureaucracies suffer.

The Mines of Yemen

The search for minerals in Yemen had, until recently, yielded only rather modest results. In the vicinity of Sa'adah, some surface iron had been found, some copper together with nickel near Taiz, copper in the Al-Jabaly area, and gold in Wadi Madan.

The exact position of this mine has been completely forgotten, and even its name - Ar-Radhradh - had been lost for a long time. It emerges quite clearly from the quotations that the Yemenis practised advanced mining techniques. The scarcity of detailed

The country has been parcelled according to concession blocks available for international companies to pick up and start exploration work. Already, many companies have shown interest, and initial agreements to explore for minerals have been signed



Throughout history, references to Yemen's mineral wealth abound. The writings of the Yemeni scholar Abul-Hassan Al Hamadani in the tenth century, speak of an important silver mines which is supposed to have been in operation in the Wadi Hareeb-Nihm in the early Middle Ages.

references may have a political reason for it. Metal mining in Arabia, as a whole, seems to have been a jealously guarded secret from the Persians. But there are many specific references to the silver and other mines of Yemen. "And the merchants amongst the Iraqis, Persians, Syrians and Egyptians carried the silver away and pocketed great profits," reads the final chapter of Al-Hamadani's book. Today, the mining potential of the Republic of Yemen is encouraging.

with three companies. "We expect activities in mining to intensify during the second of this year," says Mr. Ali Jabr Alawi, Chairman of the Mineral Exploration Board. He was also upbeat about the prospects. "Mining is a long-term investment. But unlike oil, its linkage effects in terms creating job opportunities, income to the state, creating other business, etc., are enormous. I think that it will be one of the answers to our current economic problems," he added.

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المعرض الخامس للمرأة الريفية

The Life of Rural Women in Yemen



Drawing: Amin Qasim - Design: Fritz Plepenburg

في فندق تاج سبأ من تاريخ ١٠\٤\٩٣م وحتى ١٣\٤\٩٣م
من الساعة ٩ الى ١٢ صباحاً ومن الساعة ٣ الى ٥ بعد الظهر

**5th Exhibition on Rural Women's Activities,
Taj Sheba Hotel, April 10 till April 13, 1993, 9-12 am and 3-5 pm**

الجهة المنظمة: إدارة تنمية المرأة الريفية في وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية، الجمهورية اليمنية

Organisers: Directorate of Rural Women's Development (Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources)

CONSCIENCE

With the day of the general elections for the new Parliament rapidly approaching, the people who wish to throw a monkey wrench into the process have surfaced. They want to ruin the march of this unique experiment in our modern history. They cast a shadow of doubt over the role of the independent personalities who possess efficiency, high potential, credibility and, above all, honesty - qualities which the new Parliament needs to build the foundations of the first Yemeni state on the bases of law, order, and equality.

We should be on the alert to expose these opportunists who work by spreading rumors. It is our duty to warn people not to be deceived by any fraudulent slogans.

It is also the duty of voters to think a hundred times before casting their ballots, for there are those who can change their colors to meet all situations.

Voting is a national responsibility and it is not just a means for sending new members to Parliament. It is important to choose straight, forward and loyal people who possess the conscience and deserve the voters' trust and respect.

New members of Parliament should never forget their voters after the elections. They should listen to them and tackle the issues that concern his or her constituency.

Above all, the country is in need of members who have fear of God.

By: Tammam Bashraheel,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
31/3/1993.

WOMEN AND THE PARLIAMENT

After the second stage application of candidacy, it became clear that the opportunity for female candidates accede to the Parliament is either very limited or non-existent. Are we supposed to occupy at least half of the seats of Parliament, according to population distribution by sex. If we take it by the percentage of female-to-male registrants, then at least a fifth of the seats in Parliament would be occupied by women. Will this be achieved? The reply is a definite 'No'.

First: The level of awareness among women (in social, cultural, and political matters) is still limited and this means a subordinate position in relations in society.

Second: The female sector is still far less organized than the male sector.

Under such circumstances, I can't visualize that female candidates will have any real presence in the upcoming elections. Therefore, I call on all the leaders of the parties to bear their responsibilities, nominate female candidates, and guarantee the success of at least a certain number of them. To allocate some ten or fifteen constituencies for women would be a first step towards real participation of women in politics.

I suggest, to secure the success of female candidates

to discourage any strong competition in various constituencies. Women's participation in the registration process already represented a fundamental step towards building the new Yemen.

By: Dr. Abubakir A.
Al-Kirbi,
26th September, Sanaa,
1/4/1993

TOGETHER TO THE ELECTIONS

My friend was surprised at the high level of concern by the media, political circles, and world diplomacy over what is happening in Yemen in terms of preparations for the elections.

He asked me surprisingly, "Why all of this fuss?" Some institutes are helping us achieve/accomplish the next parliamentary elections in a good way! There was even a press conference devoted to talking about this election and the American administration's perception of it.

Is Yemen the first state in history to proceed with parliamentary elections? Does the outcome of this election have an impact on world politics?

I replied to my friend: "The issue is not as you see it or think of it.

First: Democracy has become one of the most important components of the New World Order. If this issue is familiar in the Western world, it is quite unfamiliar in the backward Third World, of which Yemen is part.

Second: Yemen is not just a marginal geographic point on the new political map, which is gradually forming today. Yemen, with its natural resources, has become a region that attracts interest. And there can be no economic interests in any region without social and political stability. The world sees that the execution of this election democratically and peacefully is regarded as proof of the maturity of the political system in our country. It also symbolizes the acceptance of the principle of peaceful transfer of authority. Such a process will also be a measure for the potential of the adaptation to the 'New World Order'.

By: Hassan Almaqas,
Al-Thawri, Sanaa,
1/4/1993.

THE YEMENI - GULF SEMINAR

Yemeni-Gulf relationship is a matter of adjusting relations rather than a crisis. I think that there is a planned plot to implant grudges among the people of the area to create one crisis after another forever. Due to the crisis, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis suffered, and no one is studying who is behind this problem. When Yemeni immigrant workers returned home, they encountered various points of view and were frustrated to find out that most of the political parties and government were unable to help them or even stabilize the country, though Yemen's standpoint was better than other Arab governments.

We in Yemen feel that we share many things with the other peoples of the Peninsula since there have been population movements in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

We also remember well the aid on the governmental and non-governmental levels from our brothers from the Gulf. For example, I know that the University of Sana'a was a gift from the State of Kuwait and that Kuwait built a number of hospitals and schools. The Marib Dam was a gift from the United Arab Emirates. And there is more which makes us an integral part of the region, especially in the Arts, folklore, artistic products, etc.

I think it was necessary for the people to play a role in the position of the country in the crisis before anything deteriorated between the governments. Unions and organizations should have a greater role in reducing the tension and pain of the citizens.

In reacting to the crisis, we should work to minimize the damage, not prolong the suffering. Watching a Kuwaiti play about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, I suffered a lot when I saw that the issue of hatred was enlarged from just Saddam to the whole Iraqi people by sort of ridiculing them as though the Iraqi people were responsible for the invasion.

In the same way, we notice how the Yemeni citizens were driven out of the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia without giving them any permission to return to their jobs. Hence, I hold the view that the solution of the current crisis in the Gulf cannot be solved through the governmental channels only.

Let us think together to strike clear relations, and play a decisive role in the restoration of our brotherly relations.

Excerpts from Omar
Al-Gawi's Speech,
Raay, Sanaa,
30/3/1993.

THE ELECTIONS AND THE LOTTERY CANDIDATES

The elections are not a lottery in which luck plays a decisive role, carrying the candidate to the House of Representatives. The whole democratic process depends on the electoral programs announced by those candidates and it also depends on credibility. It is evident that there are a number of candidates in each constituency representing parties and organizations or who are just independents. It is significant for the citizens to cast their ballots freely and honestly electing those who prove to be the best. Some of the candidates have noble goals.

There are also groups who are after their own personal interests. But, all of these candidates, whether good or bad - honest or dishonest, have the right to participate in the elections under the democratic practice and their guaranteed constitutional rights.

To have this large number of candidates in a constituency might make one think that some of them are

just dreaming of winning the ballots as they would win a lottery.

Such lottery candidates, whatever their temptations, promise, or expenditures might influence the elections, but would not gain anything if we are aware of their calculations.

It is inevitable that the elections will bring new members with sound programs to our country's first elected Parliament.

By: Fuad Saeed Al-Matiri,
Attagammu, Aden,
29/3/1993.

THE BALLOT BOX

Let each candidate play his or her role, participating in this unique experience for the first time in Yemen. At the end, the ballot box will reward the person who has sacrificed more for the interest of the people.

Those who heeded the pain and suffering of the people and felt the agonies and worries will not be let down by our present democratic experience.

Every candidate, whether partisan or independent, should prepare him/herself to run in the elections with self-esteem. To attain the goals successfully, a candidate must sympathize with the people's worries. A good reputation is a basic factor for winning in the electoral process.

Another significant point is

the candidate's programs, and achievements which will endear him/her to the voting public. There is a feeling that the candidate who is believed to be able to fulfil his/her promises will deserve the trust of the general public. Hence, the ballot box is seen as a measurement of trust.

It is time for the Republic of Yemen to boast, alongside with other modern nations, for pursuing democracy as a practical link between the people and the government. Such an open policy will be a cornerstone for the rest of the Arab Homeland.

The programs, naturally, will include all the achievements, projects and investments that will boost our national economy.

Al-Naba, Sanaa,
1/4/1993

THE WAY TO THE DAY OF ELECTIONS

Though division and various psychological barriers are still prevalent following the unification, we are all pleased to exercise our democratic right in these elections. We still have two currencies, two armies, and we have two governing bodies presently ruling the country. It was assumed that the unification steps should have finalized all aspects of the merger during the transitional period. The leadership has left a lot of

problems without solutions leading to indifference, plunder, bribery, fraud, favoritism, expenditure of the states' funds, etc., instead of taking steps towards building the state.

Now there is no solution except walking to the ballot boxes and letting our citizens cast their ballots freely, to vote for those who are faithful to their honor and to their religion.

By: Mohammad Abubakir
Al-Haddad,
Al-Sahwa, Sanaa,
1/4/1993

A NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT!

Political observers through their speculations expect that the electoral campaign will be nasty and the competition among the major political parties the PGC, YSP, ESLAH and BAATH, etc., fierce. They don't expect a clear-cut or all-encompassing alliance to occur, not even between the PGC and YSP.

However, reliable sources indicate there will be no clear victory in the elections. Thus, they expect that the upcoming government will be a coalition government of the major parties chaired by one of the leaders of the PGC or the YSP.

Al-Yaman-Assaaid, Sanaa,

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Trinity, the Atom and the Shatterer of Worlds: PART 1

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

It was on the night of 22nd April, 1904, that the shatterer of worlds was born in New York. Born into a Jewish family, Julius Robert Oppenheimer was destined to make history. Since his schooldays he showed all signs of genius, and his parents pushed him to the best schools of the time. Felix Adler, the famous German immigrant philosopher, was his first teacher. Thus the boy was stamped, as many of the other pupils, with heroic, and high-minded philosophy based on the cult of the individual. With his voracious appetite for knowledge, Oppenheimer soon distinguished himself as the schools' star pupil. In 1922, he was enrolled at Harvard University the best university one can find for the best of minds. He completed the four-year chemistry course in only three. In his last year he decided to continue his postgraduate work in physics at Cambridge University in England, again a first class school. He was taught by J. J. Thompson (Nobel Laureate in physics, 1906). The ambitious Oppenheimer found out that he was more attracted to theoretical than experimental physics, so he chose, after a short while, to continue his study in Göttingen University in Germany.

Early that year, 1926, the German physicist Erwin Schrodinger (Nobel Laureate in physics, 1933) had proposed a revolutionary theory of the atom which seemed to explain so many of the things that Niels Bohr's (Nobel Laureate, 1922) theory did not. Instead of Bohr's planetary model of the atom with the nucleus surrounded by electrons, all moving in defined orbits, just like the sun and its planets, Schrodinger proposed that the electrons could be thought

of as a wave curved all around the nucleus, and their exact position was always uncertain as Heisenberg has shown (Nobel Laureate, 1932).

Schrodinger had gone as far as developing a mathematical description of the atom called quantum mechanics, and it was his theory that was the main preoccupation of Göttingen that year.

In 1927, and after 2 years of study under James Franck (Nobel L., 1925), with brilliant colleagues like the English Paul Dirac (Nobel L. 1933) and Edward Condon (author of the Handbook of Physics), he received his doctorate "with distinction." He then returned for one year to the US and then came back to Germany to study under Paul Ehrenfest, Einstein's friend and then Wolfgang Puli (Nobel L., 1945).

In 1929, he returned to the US to teach at the University of California at Berkeley during the distinguished years of its physics department headed by Robert Millikan (Nobel L. 1923) and enjoyed the friendship of another remarkable physicist Ernest Lawrence (Nobel L. 1939).

In 1930, "Speed hydrogen ions to break up atoms" were the headlines of the newspapers reporting on the first of Lawrence's great atom-smashing machines. These cyclotrons, as they were called, worked by continuously accelerating charged atomic particles in a magnetic field and then aiming them at an atomic target. The subatomic pieces that were broken off on impact were to provide clues to the internal structure of the atom. One of the first machines Lawrence had built had an eleven-inch cyclotron chamber, for which the magnet required weighed two tons. It was indeed the combination of Lawrence's experimental skills in building these machines and Oppenheimer's theoretical ones that

demonstrated the importance of these particle accelerators to the extent that nowadays too many countries are in a race to build bigger and bigger machines to look deeper and deeper into the atom. For instance, what is called the SSC (Superconducting Super Collider) which the US has started building a few years ago has a circumference of 54 miles, and would cost when finished around the end of this century some 11.3 billion dollars, and 300 million dollars a year to operate. The breaking of the atom history went during the 1930s.

In 1931, Cockroft and Walton (Nobel Laureates: 1951) split the atom in Cambridge University in England; in 1932, James Chadwick (Nobel L. 1935), an associate of Rutherford in England discovered the neutron, the second elementary particle needed to build a nucleus of an atom in addition to the proton; and in 1934, the French F. Joliot and his wife Curie discovered artificial radioactivity - by bombarding a target with alpha particles (which is a helium atom without its electrons). New elements were formed and it looked like the old dream of alchemists was coming to reality, but the 20th century alchemists had something else in mind.

Also in 1934, Enrico Fermi (Nobel L.: 1938) bombarded uranium as target with neutrons instead of alpha particles, and reported finding several different radioactive elements as products; 1938 Hahn and Strassman (an element discovered in 1967 was called Hahnium after the name of this German chemist professor Otto Hahn) proved that what Fermi had observed 4 years earlier was the bursting of the nucleus which they called "Atomic Fission"; 1939, Frisch and Lise Meitner reported that large amounts of energy are given off by this process. The big question was whether the neutrons that are liberated could then cause another fission in another uranium atom, which means another release of energy and so on, thus producing a chain reaction. In that same year, 1939, Leo Szilard, the Hungarian immigrant scientist and the French Joliot-Curies couple have separately confirmed the chain reaction.

Thus the picture was that the allies and the Germans at the end of 1930s were not thinking how to change dust into gold, as the old alchemists had

tried, but the modern alchemists, by bombarding atoms with neutrons, wanted to break the magic bottle and set the genie out with a roaring hell of more than 20,000 tons of TNT explosion power for each one kilogram of Uranium. Sadly, they succeeded.

When the vastness of the destructive power of a weapon working on fission became apparent, and that it could be developed, Szilard, so frightened by his own discovery, began to campaign furiously for a moratorium on the publication of anymore work associated with nuclear fission.

In the summer of 1939, a secret meeting was held in Berlin and resulted in a decision to commandeer all existing stocks of uranium, and to obtain fresh supplies from the newly captured mines of Czechoslovakia.

In the US Einstein contacted the Belgian Royal family to ensure that the US would have access to the uranium mines in the Belgian Congo, and with his friend Szilard and a banker named Sachs drafted a letter to President Roosevelt urging the American government to join the race to produce the first nuclear weapon - a task which Oppenheimer was to fulfill six years later in a place called Trinity.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE

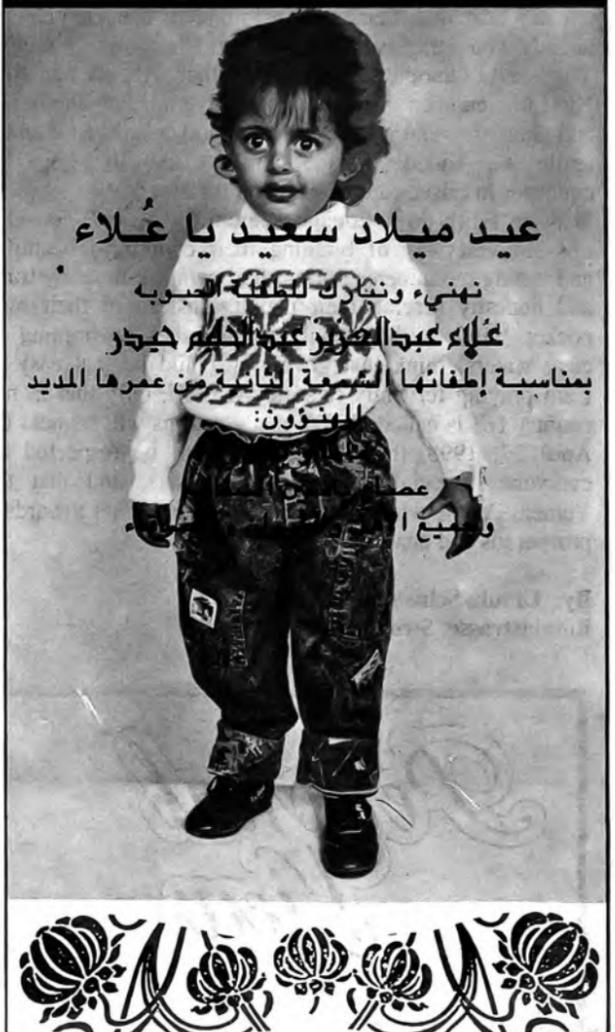
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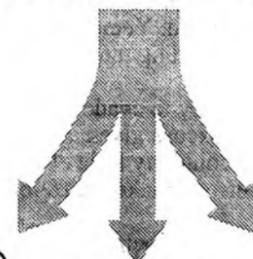
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Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

**FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE,
ELECTION RESULTS MUST BE RESPECTED,
ESPECIALLY BY THE 'LOSERS'**

As an eager reader of 'Yemen Times' I want to express the great worry I feel when reading the political news from Yemen during the past few weeks: I hope and wish and pray that I am NOT witnessing the build up of a YEMEN TRAGEDY!

Since I am only a "small fish" on God's Earth, I can neither understand nor believe that the "big fishes" (the politicians) do not clearly realize where their power games will their people and their country lead! Are there not already enough sad, and bad examples on Earth? Are your "Two ALI's" really blind and deaf? Do they really neither see nor hear that Yemen is in imminent danger, or even already on the very brink, of becoming another Yugoslavia, another Somalia, another Angola, another Vietnam, another Zaire, another Algeria, and another..., and another..., and another ..., and another ... Must Yemen really be added to the already too long list of countries in crisis, catastrophe; and disaster?

Why on Earth do politicians seldom (or never?) consider this simplest way of building their own most beautiful and lasting monuments during their own life-time: by truly and honestly serving their peoples instead of their own pockets? But, perhaps, only small fishes (swimming in clear waters) think that governing could be that easy ... I am praying fervently (also to ALLAH, only that in my country HE is called GOD), that elections will be held on April 27, 1993, that their results will be respected by everyone, especially also by the losers, and that the Yemeni People will be allowed to see and to go towards a prosperous and peaceful future in Unity!!!

By: Ursula Schwendener
Bondastrasse, Switzerland.

Personal View

Even the Little Efforts Matter

There is a folk tale I would like to tell. It is about a big fire that menaced a forest. All the animals fled - the lions, tigers and elephants fled; the monkeys, squirrels and rabbits fled. All that is, except for a sparrow that flew back and forth between the fire and a nearby river carrying as much water as it could in its beak.

The animals laughed at the sparrow, and belittled its efforts. "What do you expect to do with your little beak?" they kept on asking. Its answer was simple. "I do my share of the job. It is my responsibility."

I remember that story as I observe the painful condition to which our country has fallen. Everything beautiful seems to be ruined. Even the social and personal relations are tainted. Yemen is the responsibility of all of us, including the lowliest and weakest.

Why is it that most Yemenis try to evade their responsibilities? The main excuse given at all times is, "What difference could my little efforts make?" I say everyone's efforts make a difference and they are important.

If we refer to the story, the moral behind is that no one should despair, and that the efforts of all of us must be pooled together to guide the nation. The society we aspire to cannot be created by others. We should all chip in and try to make it happen. We should all shoulder our responsibilities fully and do our share of the job in building this nation - our beloved Yemen.

Mohammed Al-Nidhari,
National Institute for Administrative Sciences,
Sana'a.

**UNO SHOULD CONSIDER ALL SOMALI
WARLORDS AS WARCrimINALS**

Hargeisa is the second capital city of Somalia, Kismaio is the third, and Baidoa is the fourth; but today Mogadisho itself is not the first, because all of them are at ground level. Everything in my country is just like a number multiplied by Zero.

The national infrastructure of my motherland is split into pieces, brothers started killing brothers, thus the bloody civil war broke in the four corners of Somalia following the end of Siad Barre's dynasty. On the other hand, there were no political principles whatsoever; everything was miscalculated on the basis of tribalism led by either military or civilian wolves.

Law and order became frozen at once and well-armed bandits, and warlords replaced policemen in the country. Clan based criminals committed indiscriminate looting of all fixed or moveable personal or public property from every inch of the country; if it was not removable, it was destroyed. Factory parts, monuments, hospital beds, and university materials were looted and exported for sale. The military war planes together with aviation spare parts in the warehouses were dismantled for exportation and sale. From the other side, famine and hunger claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people in the southern regions, especially Baidoa, thus Somalia became a state with a skeleton population.

The irresponsibility reached beyond human imagination because with all those inhuman activities and barbarous commitment of catastrophe, the warlords and their bandit gunmen were busy drinking alcoholic beverages in their looted houses with dozens of kidnapped ladies around them. Caring not the least about who dies or who doesn't.

Thanks to God, the RESTORE HOPE OPERATION was passed by the Security Council, then at once, the united task force was brought in. The food distribution network was reconstructed. The first national reconciliation conference was held in Addis Ababa - immediately the Addis accords were carried by the multinational forces led by U.S., teaching the bandits and their leaders the first chapter of UNITAF lessons.

As a result of this, all warlords who were exercising the power of the "law of the jungle" for the last two and half years became just like an elephant who tries to hide itself in the Arabian Desert.

The second Addis Ababa conference was started on March 15, 1993 with the all tenants of warlords and their victims. This time the warlords were not as stubborn and obstinate as before for the following reasons:

- 1) The Yemeni government invited all delegation from the different warring function to give them advice and remind them to consider the national interest above all.
- 2) The heavy machine guns and huge destructive weapons were confiscated from the hands of the warlords thus they became like "eagles without wings."

Robert Okley - U.S.A. envoy to Somalia, to make a long story short, all efforts and commitments made by the United Nations. The Ethiopian government and all peace loving people, the warlords could not agree to sign the last peace accord in Addis Ababa with constant complains on the issue of Kismaio, and the shape of the government in a country which has already turned into ruins and graveyards.

I appeal to the International Court of Justice and the United Nations to bring the Somali warlords and their bandits to trial so that they face the verdict as war criminals.

By: Sayid Hassan Sherif Abdullahi (Sidkey),
Sana'a.

NEW HUMAN PROBLEM

The population of the earth is growing more and more, rough every minute. The planet will have 6 billion at the end of this century; the population of China alone will be a billion and a half in spite of what the Chinese government has done the best to control the birth for long time ago. Worthwhile of mention, in this connection, is the fact that 95 per cent of the world population growth is taking place in the in the developing countries. Continued rapid population growth in the third world has brought about imbalance as far as the ratio between human numbers and resources is concerned.

Indeed, rapid population growth in the developing countries has, also brought an increasing number of people into



collision with resources required to sustain them. This phenomenon is one of the causes man-made threats to the glo

bal environment. The justification is elimination of epidemic diseases like small-pox, yellow fever, diarrhea and cholera, for this reason the birth is much more than the death by virtue of the progress medicine in the whole world.. Increasing numbers add demand on agricultural land, water, trade and other resources, making it more difficult to support growing numbers of people; in the same time the declining resources have contributed the increasing immigration from rural areas to urban areas.

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

THE LAST LEAF OF DON QUIXOTE

Today
Red trees are filling my horizon...
No guards.
Facilities are entering my bosom...
But I am greater if they knew... the minute is mine
And the watches are beating for my name...
A black glowing is penetrating in my time
- No guards -
I was going to be high
And I collected the earth sparrows
To my wing....
They were dead... walking over my days
They were drowned
And i am a moving eternity...
Today.... no guards on my gate,
Nor poets,
A black cold in my veins...
- You were sleeping in the wind
Neither flowers were flowing no dreams...
- But the minute is mine...
Around me my body is stretching out to my weapons...
They had came from unknown clouds
Till they entered my memory ...
They had came without symbols.
However, the water is my day
And the palms are my cups,
The mud is my night and the times are my building,
The bodies are my chance and the fire is
My lighthouse...
I build cities to inherit them
For the astrology...
Today
Blades of ambiguous flames piercing the colors...
The guards on a distance removed my pictures...
I'll divulge:
My gallows was green and dried
From the souls of the dead.
They had prisoned my foal
And streets I was committing drowsiness
On it's biography..
Yet the minute is mine... and the glory...
Do you remember a night you were dragging it
where the times of the ebb?
- My enemies had passed without necks...
They took the fire from my body ...
Oh! take your blood and let me
pouring my nightmare...
Today... clouds of ravens
Are tearing the light..
Insects are invading my skin,
Cows of lime are licking my skull..
No guards...
My weapons are shooting me...
Where should I go when hands bent to be bows
with claws tearing my body...
Where should I go?
My language is trickling sand and stones...
Neither the sun is joints to my vision
Nor is the wind...

By: Soheil Najm,
Sana'a.

31/3/1993.

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Hayat Al-Qirshi:

"70% of rural farmwork is done by Yemeni women."

In 1991, the government created the Rural Women's Development Directorate as a separate entity under the direct guidance of the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development. The aim was to cut down on red tape, and to indicate the increasing attention of the government to this sector.

The person charged with this duty is Mrs. Hayat Al-Qirshi. Mrs. Al-Qirshi, whose official title is Director of the department, is a graduate of Aden University. She continued her studies in India where she completed her M.A. She joined the Ministry of Agriculture in 1988; and ever since, she has been actively working to improve the lot of the rural population, specially the women.

Yemen Times Social Editor, Fatma Rawah, interviewed Hayat. Excerpts of the interview

Q: What are the major activities of your Directorate?

A: The main thrust of our efforts are threefold:

1) To train and qualify rural women by organizing workshops, seminars, etc., in rural development;

2) To introduce aspects of home economics and to stress the implications associated with it in terms of the national economy;

3) To provide orientation in business issues. That is, we encourage female entrepreneurs and equip them with skills in product marketing, accounting, stock-taking, loan processing, etc.

The upcoming workshop and exhibition fall within this effort.

Q: What are the aims of the workshop and exhibition?

A: The overall aim is to obtain the support of the decision makers and to direct their attention to the activities of rural women. It is well known that rural women are badly underprivileged in this country. They contribute a lot to the nation. It is estimated that 70% of rural farmwork is done by women. And what do they get in return? Very little. There are other objectives. But, in general we try to promote out-reach efforts which target (rural) women.

Q: You say some 70% of rural farmwork is done by women. Can you elaborate?

A: Actually I don't want to discuss this now as we are planning a special research project dealing with this matter - the contribution of

(rural) women to the economy. The research or study will document the number of hours that rural women spend in agricultural activities. This project is to be financed by the Dutch Embassy. The specific proposals will be ready by the end of May, and the work immediately thereafter. We will start by documenting the contribution of rural women, including household chores like fetching water, firewood, taking care of the family, etc. It will be an important survey and will cover many parts of Yemen.

Q: Do you detect any changes in the attitudes, roles and perceptions of Yemeni rural women?

A: I can assure you that rural women are eager to change, and they do not accept their present conditions. Rural women want to learn more, they are willing to work hard, and they even accept to take risks.

In general, women from the coastal regions (e.g., Tihama) and lower slopes (e.g., Taiz, Lahej, Abyan, etc.) are faster at accepting change. The idea is to push change in these areas, and then women from those areas will become agents of change in the other parts of the country.

I can also say that younger women (girls) are quicker to adapt to their new role than the older folks. That is why you see the new generation more assertive and forceful than the parents. This is mainly because they are more educated, and thus they know their rights better and they are more self-confident. An increasing number of young girls refuse to play the role of the docile housewife whose main task in life is to breed.

Of course, change is a gradual process, but I can say the wheel has already begun turning.

Q: How are your efforts and projects funded?

A: Our projects are funded mainly by foreign donors, such as the UNDP, specialized UN bodies; through bilateral aid from friendly countries, and through international organizations such as Oxfam and others.

The government of Yemen, of course, pays the salaries for the employees, travelling expenses and other incidentals.

Q: Can you explain very briefly women's rights in Yemen?

A: The laws in Yemen give all citizens their full rights without discrimi-



nation on the basis of sex, color, etc.; but enforcement of these laws is lacking. Thus, the problem is not a legal one, it is a socio-cultural one which leads to visible discrimination against women. Women have their rights fully spelled out in the Islamic Sharia, as well. Again here, the traditions of the society obstruct the full implementation of the rights of women.

Let me give you an example from our own work headaches in this regard - money allocated for female-related projects. We never get that money easily, as the responsible people in the Ministry are reluctant to authorize payment. They see such projects as less important or of low priority. In other words, projects oriented towards women are often cancelled or at least postponed. We always have to follow up so persistently and to plead with them. That wastes a lot of our time and energy.

Q: The unification of the country, what changes has it brought in terms of women's rights and the development of rural women?

A: We (women) of course benefited from the unification of our country, just like our male compatriots. This was the dream and hope of all Yemenis.

In terms of direct impact on female rights, I can tell you we expected much better results. In some cases, just the opposite of our expectations happened. We told ourselves, "There are many qualified (read = liberated) women in the former PDRY and there are reasonably adequate facilities in the former YAR - a perfect combination. Instead, most future / progress - oriented women are frustrated, and only meager resources are allocated to helping women 'grow'.

One idea is to apply a compulsory service in rural areas for all female graduates. Just like medical students who graduate have to do a one-year service, so should women in order to help their fellow (female) citizens. This could also be seen as the counterpart to the military service that male graduates have to perform.

Another idea deals with promoting the social standing of career women. Through a well-planned campaign, we need to impress on the general public that career women do make a positive and important contribution to the well-being of the nation, and that they should be supported and respected for their efforts.

Q: Women and politics - that is an intriguing issue. What do you think about the role of Yemeni women in the coming elections?

A: Women are citizens of this country, and their participation in politics should neither be something intriguing nor exceptional. It should be seen as something normal. Women have participated in the registration process,

and I believe over half a million have registered. This means two things:

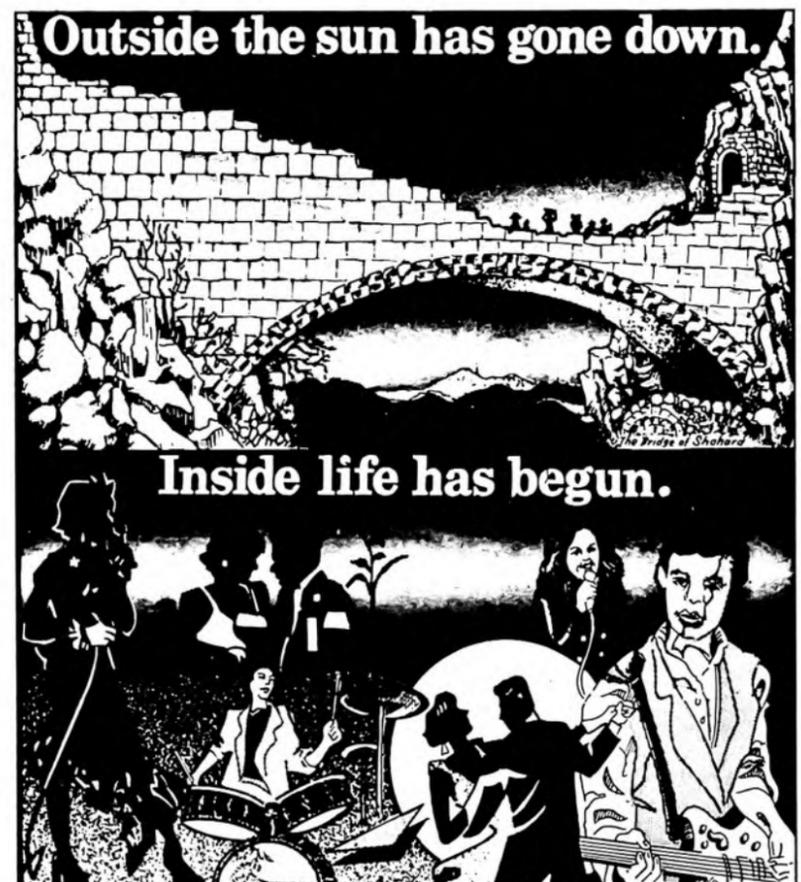
a) There will be some women who will stand for elections, and hopefully win. There are women in the current parliament).
b) A sizeable part of the voters (20%) are women. Therefore, candidates have to spell out their programs and plans regarding women, if they wish to get the female votes. This election is a litmus test for the degree of socio-cultural evolution in Yemen.

Let me add one thing.

In the past, female participation has been an urban phenomenon. Today, most of the registrants, and many of the female candidates are rural women.

Q: Do I detect the beginnings of a female lobby group evolving in Yemen?

A: Of course, what I said is my own thoughts. Other women may also share these thoughts. But sooner or later, some degree of coordination among Yemen's women will create a lobby or pressure group. I can't wait to see this happen!



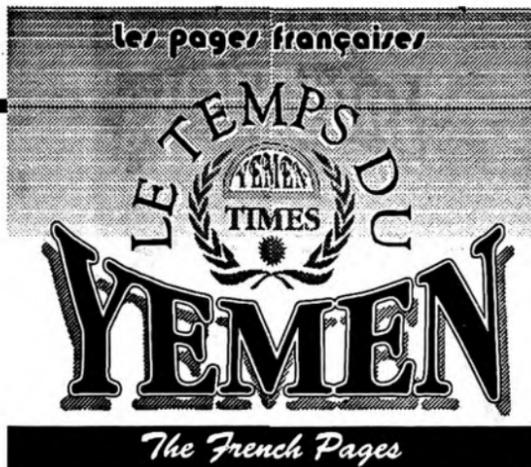
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APRES LES ELECTIONS LEGISLATIVES FRANCAISES

Edouard Balladur premier ministre

Le nouveau chef du gouvernement a formé une équipe restreinte: 29 ministres et aucun secrétaire d'Etat.

Le président de la République française, François Mitterrand, n'a pas perdu de temps. Dès le lendemain du second tour des élections législatives, qui a été marqué par une victoire écrasante de la droite (coalition entre le RPR, parti néogaulliste, et l'UDF, parti de la droite libérale), il a nommé un nouveau premier ministre, celui dont le nom était sur toutes les lèvres: Edouard Balladur, membre du RPR (Rassemblement pour la République) et ancien ministre de l'Economie sous la première cohabitation de 1986 à 1988.

Mardi 30 mars, celui-ci annonçait la composition de son gouvernement. Une équipe réduite, puisqu'elle ne compte que 29 ministres et aucun secrétaire d'Etat. Les noms les plus attendus étaient ceux des ministres de la Défense et des Affaires Etrangères, les deux "domaines réservés" du Président. En choisissant François Léotard pour le premier et Alain Juppé pour le deuxième, deux ténors de la droite française, Edouard Balladur a voulu montrer que cette se-

conde cohabitation ne serait pas de tout repos pour le Président.

Toutefois, Edouard Balladur a tenu d'emblée à assurer que "le gouvernement entendait naturellement respecter scrupuleusement les institutions de la République et appliquer la Constitution dans sa lettre et son esprit". Il a mis fin aux exigences d'un départ anticipé du Président avant la fin de son mandat en 1995.

Implosion du parti socialiste

Pour marquer son entrée en fonction, le nouveau premier ministre a pris une série de décisions: économies de fonctionnement des ministères, coupes de 20 milliards de F dans le budget de l'Etat pour financer des mesures pour l'emploi, engagement d'un audit de la situation du pays...

Vendredi 2 avril, lors du premier conseil des ministres, le nouveau gouvernement a adopté d'autres mesures: préparation de la réforme du statut de la Banque de France, dans la ligne du Traité sur l'Union Européenne de Maastricht, et d'un

texte sur les privatisations des entreprises du secteur public.

Le même jour, Philippe Séguin, membre du RPR et champion du Non au référendum de ratification du traité de Maastricht, a remporté le "perchoir", la présidence de l'Assemblée nationale française, face à Dominique Baudis, maire de Toulouse et membre de l'UDF. Cette bataille entre le RPR et l'UDF, a mis en lumière les rivalités internes de la majorité.

Les socialistes, quant à eux, assistent à l'implosion de leur parti. Samedi 3 avril, on apprenait la démission de Laurent Fabius de son poste de premier secrétaire du PS et la mise en place d'une "direction collégiale" jusqu'aux Etats généraux du PS prévus en juillet. Présidée par Michel Rocard, candidat des socialistes aux élections présidentielles de 1995, cette direction provisoire ne fait pas l'unanimité. Jean-Pierre Chevènement et ses amis devraient annoncer ces jours ci leur départ du PS. (avec AFP)

Jérôme BERNARD

Le nouveau gouvernement: les principaux ministres

- Ministre d'Etat, ministre des Affaires sociales, de la Santé et de la Ville: Simone Veil.
- Ministre d'Etat, ministre de l'Intérieur et de l'Aménagement du Territoire: Charles Pasqua.
- Ministre d'Etat, Garde des Sceaux, ministre de la Justice: Pierre Méhaignerie.
- Ministre d'Etat, ministre de la Défense: François Léotard.
- Ministre des Affaires Etrangères: Alain Juppé.
- Ministre de l'Education nationale: François Bayrou.
- Ministre de l'Economie: Edmond Alphandéry.
- Ministre de l'Industrie, des Postes et des Télécommunications et du Commerce Extérieur: Gérard Longuet.
- Ministre de l'Equipement, des Transports et du Tourisme: Bernard Bosson.
- Ministre des Entreprises et du Développement économique chargé des petites et moyennes entreprises, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat: Alain Madelin.
- Ministre du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Formation professionnelle: Michel Giraud.
- Ministre de la Culture et de la Francophonie: Jacques Toubon.
- Ministre du Budget, porte-parole du gouvernement: Nicolas Sarkozy.
- Ministre de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche: Jean Puech.

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Le sida au Yémen

Par Mohsen Al-Jaradi, ingénieur au laboratoire de normalisation du Yémen, étudiant en français



Récemment, un petit article d'une dizaine de lignes dans le quotidien *Al-Thawra* du 5 mars dernier a attiré mon attention: on y expliquait que le nombre de personnes atteintes du SIDA en France l'année dernière avait augmenté de 31% chez les femmes et de 28% chez les hommes. On pouvait également lire que le total des personnes atteintes de cette maladie était de 80.000 (et 180.000 pour les seuls séropositifs)... Le taux de mortalité parmi les gens malades du SIDA était de 60%, ajoutait *Al-Thawra*. Le quotidien prétendait également que les hauts responsables du ministère de la Santé en France s'attendaient à ce que ce dernier taux passe à 70% cette année...

Je ne sais pas quelle crédibilité on peut accorder à cet article, l'auteur, anonyme, ne citant même pas ses sources! Aussi je m'interroge sur l'attitude de nos hauts responsables dans le domaine de la Santé face à cette terrible maladie qui touche aujourd'hui tous les pays, sans exception. On peut émettre plusieurs hypothèses: ou bien nos experts ont réussi à trouver un remède au SIDA et il n'est plus nécessaire d'en parler; ou bien alors, nous, citoyens arabes et musulmans, nous bénéficions d'une protection surnaturelle contre cette maladie; ou, encore, nos responsables ont peur de mentionner les statistiques du SIDA au Yémen, par crainte de perdre leurs places; ou bien, enfin, il s'agit tout simplement d'une ignorance totale de la fatalité et de la gravité de cette maladie, ainsi que de sa vitesse de propagation, même si les pays les plus touchés sont éloignés. Peut-être avons nous tous contracté une maladie qui nous ravit et nous rassure lorsqu'on regarde les statistiques des autres pays, jours et nuits, et qui nous rend aveugles quand il s'agit des nôtres.

Le SIDA ne s'arrête pas aux frontières

Le SIDA est aujourd'hui une maladie que l'on ne cache plus et le danger est présent pour tous, Arabes, Musulmans, Occidentaux, Chrétiens, etc., sans distinction de race ou de religion. Et ce fléau ne s'arrête pas aux frontières, n'a pas besoin de visa pour les franchir. N'importe où... Aussi, pourquoi adopter la politique de l'autruche? Il est temps de sortir la tête du sable! Nous devons nous réveiller, échapper à nos conflits traditionnels, politiques, tribaux, sociaux... et nos responsables doivent cesser leur course aux places et aux fonctions importants pour contrer cette maladie qui menace chaque famille.

Au Yémen, nos responsables ont des idées préconçues sur le SIDA: ils pensent qu'il

ne se transmet que lors de rapports homosexuels et ils ignorent que beaucoup d'enfants, dans le monde entier, sont morts du SIDA, à cause de transfusions de sang contaminé. Des personnes font don de leur sang sans savoir qu'elles sont atteintes... Le SIDA se transmet aussi par l'utilisation de seringues usagées. De même, penser que le SIDA ne se transmet que lors de rapports homosexuels est un signe évident d'ignorance de la nature de cette maladie, ou bien une fuite devant la réalité. Car, cela est évident, le SIDA se transmet aussi lors de rapports sexuels entre hommes et femmes, mêmes mariés!!

Si l'on ne se réunit pas pour parler ensemble de cette maladie, pour promouvoir une importante campagne d'information pour le public, notamment sur les manières de s'en protéger, on ne mérite pas d'exister en tant que nation comme les autres, qui luttent pour le progrès et le bonheur de leurs citoyens.

Il faut engager une campagne d'information

Certes, il ne faut pas nier qu'un tout petit effort a été consenti par nos responsables de la Santé: avant le Ramadan, une conférence sur le SIDA a été organisée à Aden mais à huis-clos, entre spécialistes seulement! Comme si cette maladie était honteuse... Il faut impérativement promouvoir des campagnes d'information à la radio, à la télé, dans les journaux... 80% des Yéménites ignorent que les pharmacies vendent des préservatifs, meilleur moyen connu à l'heure actuelle pour se protéger du SIDA. Il faudrait aussi expliquer aux gens comment et quand les utiliser. L'Islam, notre religion, nous donne expressément le droit de nous protéger des fatalités, par tous les moyens.

Ainsi, on doit prendre conscience des risques de propagation du SIDA au Yémen au lieu de se contenter d'observer et de commenter le développement de cette maladie en France, en Europe ou en Israël. Il faut avant tout "balayer devant notre porte" avant de parler des problèmes des autres. Les gens éduqués et les responsables du gouvernement doivent prendre leurs responsabilités pour faire connaître et comprendre les risques du SIDA et les moyens de s'en protéger.

EN BREF

Six employés travaillant pour Total-Yémen enlevés pendant plusieurs heures: Six employés (deux Canadiens, un Américain, un Britannique, un Philippin et un Indien) de compagnies occidentales sous-traitantes de Total-Yémen ont été enlevés jeudi dernier pendant près de douze heures par la tribu des Bani al-Harith sur un site de forage de la province de Chabwa. Cette tribu exigeait l'embauche par la filiale de la compagnie française d'une centaine de ses membres. Les otages ont été libérés en début de soirée après la signature d'un accord entre Total-Yémen et la tribu prévoyant l'embauche de 80 de ses membres.

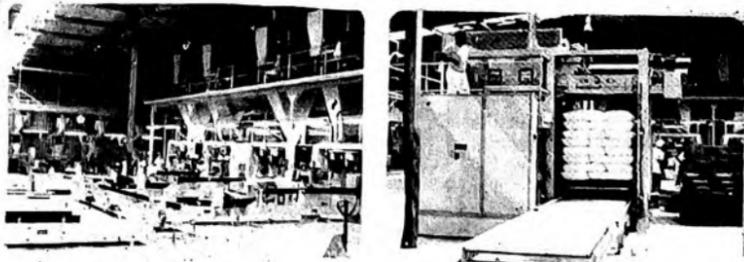
Des experts irakiens au Yémen: Une équipe de 80 experts et techniciens irakiens se trouve depuis une semaine au Yémen, pour la maintenance d'une centrale thermiquedans la ville d'Al-Hassouah, à 25 km au nord d'Aden. C'est la première fois depuis la crise du Golfe que l'Irak est chargé d'exécuter des opérations de ce genre dans un pays étranger.

Indemnisation des victimes de l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak: Neuf commissaires désignés par le secrétaire général des Nations Unies vont examiner les demandes d'indemnisation présentées par les victimes de l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak le 2 août 1990. Le délai d'expiration pour déposer sa demande d'indemnisation a été fixé au 1er juillet 1993.



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صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحدیة ت: ٣/٢٢٢١١٠ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ فاكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ ص ب: ١٦٠

RELIGION

Les mystères du Djebel Saber

Un sanctuaire dédié aux "Sept dormants" a été retrouvé près de Taëz par Jean Moncelon, directeur du département de Français à l'Université de Sanaa. Les spécialistes ignoraient son existence jusque-là.

La mosquée est là, toute blanche, posée au milieu d'un amphithéâtre naturel, dont les murets de pierres seraient les gradins. A 3200 mètres d'altitude, l'air est frais dans le Djebel Saber, la montagne qui domine Taëz. Vue de l'extérieur, rien ne distingue cette mosquée d'une autre. Pourtant, Jean Moncelon, directeur du Département de Français de l'université de Sanaa, veut en avoir le cœur net. Selon les indications fournies

par un ami yéménite, un culte serait rendu aux "Sept dormants" à cet endroit. Jusque-là les spécialistes n'avaient pas connaissance d'un tel site au Yémen. Les "Sept dormants", c'est une légende chrétienne née à Ephèse en Turquie, et reprise ensuite par l'Islam. Elle raconte l'histoire de sept jeunes hommes, qui fuyant la persécution, se sont réfugiés dans une caverne. La légende dit qu'ils en sont sortis vivants au

bout de 309 ans. D'où le miracle (voir ci-contre l'article de Jean Moncelon). L'imam Abou Mohamed Al-Faqih est le gardien de la mosquée. Il confirme le culte rendu aux "Sept dormants" et commence à nous réciter la légende. Dans la salle de prière, il y a une enceinte en bois ajouré, à l'intérieur de laquelle on distingue, dans un coin, un trou. C'est la caverne de la légende, celle des "Sept dormants". La

mosquée est construite au-dessus de la caverne (al-Kahf), conformément à la sourate XVIII-21 du Coran, qui dit: "Construisez un édifice au-dessus d'eux (les Sept dormants, NDLR), leur Seigneur les connaît parfaitement".

le rocher et dont l'entrée a été récemment maçonnée. En y pénétrant, il s'écrie: "c'est la réplique exacte du tombeau dédié aux "Sept dormants" à Ephèse". Des niches ont été creusées de part et d'autre d'une allée centrale. A côté de cette tombe,

d'autres tombeaux. Ceux qui sont venus se faire enterrer là, ont sans doute voulu être au plus près des "Sept Dormants" pour ressusciter avec eux au moment du Jugement dernier.

Jérôme BERNARD

Des pèlerins viennent d'Egypte, de Turquie...

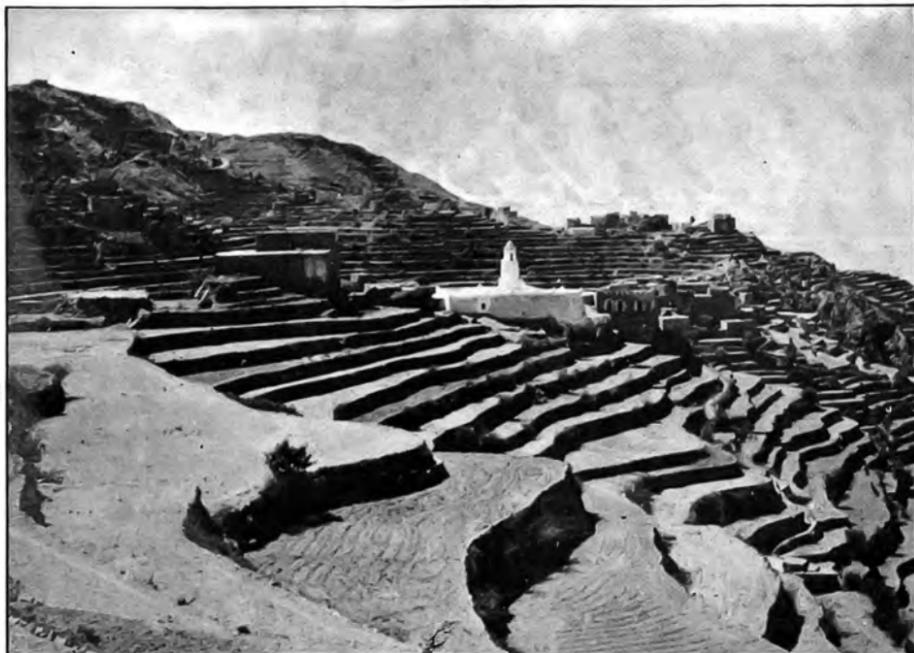
Chaque année, des pèlerins, de provenance d'Egypte, de Turquie, de Syrie et du Koweït viennent sur ce lieu de culte, grimant la route en lacets qui mène au sommet du Djebel Saber. Le pèlerinage a lieu le dernier vendredi du mois de Rajab, c'est-à-dire un mois avant le début du Ramadan. Selon l'imam Abou Mohamed Al-Faqih, la caverne a une entrée (bab al-Kahf), au pied du Djebel Saber. Un souterrain remonte de cet endroit jusqu'au site de la mosquée. Cela confirme les indications que Jean Moncelon a entre les mains.

Un peu au-dessus de Taëz, après une heure de marche à pieds, nous retrouvons le site de bab al-Kahf. Il y a un trou, pas très profond, barré par un morceau de métal rouillé. Les villageois nous expliquent qu'il est en liaison directe avec la mosquée au sommet du Djebel. "Un jour, quelqu'un a voulu vérifier la légende. Il est descendu dans le trou, mais n'est pas allé très loin, car il a eu peur d'y rester", raconte un villageois.

De retour du site de bab al-Kahf, Jean Moncelon est intrigué par une tombe creusée dans



L'imam Abou Mohamed Al-Faqih.



La mosquée a été construite au-dessus de la caverne, où selon la légende les Sept Dormants sont venus se réfugier.

L'histoire des Sept Dormants

par Jean Moncelon

Sept jeunes gens, chrétiens, originaires d'Ephèse, parce qu'ils avaient refusé des viandes impures, se réfugièrent un jour de l'an 250 dans une caverne du mont Pion, proche de la cité, pour échapper à la vindicte d'un prince romain dont ils étaient peut-être les pages. Ce dernier ayant appris leur fuite et retrouvé leur cachette, ordonna de les emmurer vivants.

Or, des siècles plus tard - à la faveur d'un tremblement de terre - les Sept se réveillèrent d'un sommeil mystérieux dans lequel la Providence les avait maintenus. Ils envoyèrent en ville l'un des leurs, afin qu'il leur achète du pain. Mais confondu parce qu'il présentait des pièces de monnaie vieilles de deux cents ans, celui-ci dut conter son histoire et conduire la population d'Ephèse devenue chrétienne, évêque en tête, jusqu'à ses compagnons. Le miracle fut dûment constaté, et les Sept moururent sur le seuil de leur caverne où ils furent ensevelis aussitôt.

Telle est la légende rapportée en chrétienté latine par Grégoire de Tours et en chrétienté orientale par Jacques de Saroug, dès le VIe siècle.

La légende chrétienne reprise par l'Islam

Il se trouve qu'en 448, lors du réveil des Sept, l'Eglise orientale était fortement divisée sur le dogme de la Résurrection du Christ. Le miracle l'attestait, et c'est ainsi que les rapporteurs de la légende - ainsi que, plus tard, Jacques de Voragine - l'ont interprétée comme une preuve de la Résurrection.

L'histoire des Sept Dormants serait restée sans doute une pieuse légende si elle n'avait pas été reprise intégralement dans le Coran, où les Sept sont les Ahl al-Kahf (les gens de la caverne) de la sourate XVIII: "Comprends-tu que les hommes de la caverne et d'al-Raquim, dit le Coran, constituent une merveille parmi nos signes?" (XVIII, 9). Seules différences entre la légende chrétienne et le récit coranique, l'incertitude à propos de leur nombre: "Mon Seigneur connaît leur nombre mais il en est peu qui le sachent" (XVIII, 22); la durée de leur sommeil qui est, selon le Coran, de "trois cents ans auxquels on ajoute neuf années" (XVIII, 25). Quoi qu'il en soit, pour les musulmans que la pudeur empêche de croire à la mort et à la résurrection de Jésus, fils de Marie (Cf IV, 157-158),

les Ahl al-Kahf restent des témoins de cette Résurrection promise par Dieu (XVIII, 21) et que leur réveil a en quelque sorte anticipée: "Nous les avons ressuscités..." (XVIII, 19). Preuves pour les chrétiens ou témoins pour les musulmans de la Résurrection, les Sept Dormants constituent donc, selon l'expression de l'islamologue Louis Massignon un "trait d'union Orient-Occident entre le christianisme et l'Islam."

Et, en effet, bien qu'il soit tombé en désuétude dès la fin du moyen-âge en Occident, alors qu'il demeure vivant en Orient musulman, le culte des Sept Dormants a laissé des traces non négligeables. En Europe, deux sanctuaires, récemment restaurés en perpétuent la tradition, l'un en Bavière (Rotthof, près de Passau), l'autre en Bretagne (Vieux-Marché, dans les Côtes-d'Armor). En Orient, on le rencontre à Ephèse même, où 400 pèlerins chrétiens, enterrés là, attendent de ressusciter avec les Sept, et dans le Djebel Saber, près de Taëz, où ce sont cette fois de pieux musulmans qui reposent dans la proximité de leur sanctuaire avec la même espérance de ressusciter avec eux et qui, fait surprenant, sont allés jusqu'à reconstruire sous terre leur sépulture turque telle qu'on peut la visiter à Ephèse!

Le site d'Ephèse a été relevé et fouillé par des archéologues autrichiens, tandis que le Djebel Saber, lieu de culte toujours visité par les pèlerins musulmans, reste à "inventer". Et il y a là mieux qu'un sujet d'étude passionnant pour qui veut répondre à l'appel des Sept, une manière d'initiation à leur spiritualité, avec un changement d'orientation de sa méditation personnelle, tournée désormais vers l'Etoile du Yémen (Sohayl), c'est-à-dire plein sud, comme firent les Sept Dormants lorsqu'ils se prosternèrent au seuil de leur caverne (bab al-Kahf), en signe d'abandon à Dieu, avant d'entrer dans leur sainte dormition - ce "bercement": "Tu les aurais crus éveillés qu'ils dormaient et que nous les retournions vers la droite et vers la gauche" (XVIII, 18), et de recevoir l'enseignement de cette "science qui émane de Nous" (XVIII, 85), dispensée dans leur sommeil par le mystérieux guide de Moïse, al-Khadir, le Verdoyant.

Car l'histoire des Sept Dormants appartient aussi à l'herméneutique.

Jean Moncelon est docteur d'Etat en philosophie et directeur du Département de Français à l'Université de Sanaa.

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OSCAR 93: THE FALL OF THE HOLLYWOOD EMPIRE
"UNFORGIVEN", THE WORST ACADEMY
AWARD WINNER IN DECADES

By: Saad Salah Khalis
Culture Editor,
Yemen Times.

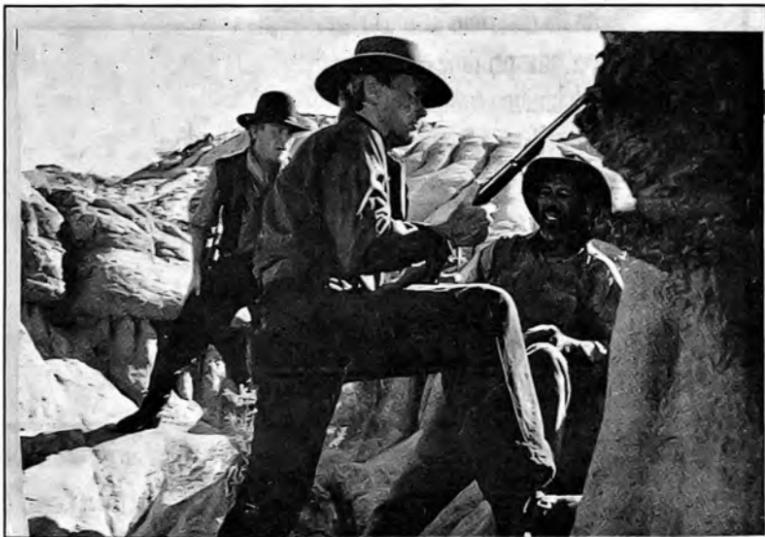
The day of days for all movie stars, directors, technicians and artists, as well as managers and propaganda directors is that of granting American Academy awards for cinema known all over the world as the Oscars, after the late uncle of one secretary of the Academy. The material value of the statue in itself doesn't exceed 300 \$, yet the road leading to the stage of honor where the prize is raised high may well cost tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars and long months or sometimes years of hard-work.

On that stage in Los Angeles many stars are born and extinguished every year in front of the eyes of millions of spectators all over the world. Nobodies become celebrities, superstars fall down in numbers creating that fantastic atmosphere of the enchanted world of cinema. Despite all that glamour, Oscars are among the most controversial of all awards among critics, in terms of their artistic value. Many serious critics started to doubt the credibility of those awards considering the quality of the winners has been declining over the years, one clear example occurred on March 29, 1993, when Clint Eastwood's "UNFORGIVEN" was awarded the prize of the Best Film, and Eastwood himself was awarded the prize for Best Director. The film was preceded by a huge publicity campaign for months, making its coronation as "best of the year" rather inevitable.

Critics all over America wrote in the most reputed magazines about the "class" and distinctiveness of this Western. Some even paid tribute to the moral values it tried to revive that were for so long forgotten. Surprisingly enough, it turned to be another reproduction of old Westerns where the time-honored gunfighter sets everything right in the end, with no special direction skills or techniques. The Hero (who is also the director) is just an older copy of the same characters he has played for a quarter of a century; back to Sergio Leone's classic "For a Fistful of Dollars" (1967) when he played the man with no name, through "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly", "High Plains Drifter",



and who suggested that the just punishment for the criminals is to give seven ponies to the girl's pimp, causing the prostitute's society to go mad and raise a reward for vengeance. The film, in itself, is entertaining with smartly arranged scenes, where Eastwood directs the darkness to express his vision of human nature. The cast is very impressive led by Eastwood himself, who takes considerable time before reminding us of the old hero that once fascinated us, but the film is far from the Oscar's usual standards.



Clint Eastwood himself) living in isolation trying to escape the shadows of a highly notorious past when he used to "Kill about everything that walks and crawls" as was put on his very tongue in the script. He was then converted by the love of a woman (another repeated theme of classical westerns) who died leaving him two children to whom he later devoted his life, giving up drinking and gunfighting for eleven years to dedicate his time to raising his two children on his pig farm. Then, a sudden moral breakthrough occurs, when he is approached by The Schofield Kid (played by Jaimz Woolvett) telling him that a prostitute was brutally slashed by two men, and that her colleagues have raised about \$1000 as a reward for murdering those criminals. Urged by the need for the money to raise his children, the ex-gunfighter decides to accept the task and rides with an old friend, Ned Logan (played by Morgan Freeman) and the Kid, to punish the evildoers.

The moral base is rather weak here, as Eastwood shatters the ideal of the classical western hero of ethnal incentives and runs through a wild violent chase, avenging the poor victim in that typical western style. The bad guys are chased at the same time by the local lawman, Sheriff Bill Dagget (brilliantly played by Gene Hackman) who strictly opposes any violence in his little town,

and who suggested that the just punishment for the criminals is to give seven ponies to the girl's pimp, causing the prostitute's society to go mad and raise a reward for vengeance. The film, in itself, is entertaining with smartly arranged scenes, where Eastwood directs the darkness to express his vision of human nature. The cast is very impressive led by Eastwood himself, who takes considerable time before reminding us of the old hero that once fascinated us, but the film is far from the Oscar's usual standards.

I can't see that sense of style that earned the great masterpieces of the past this distinguished award. This raises a rather disconcerting question: Is the art of cinema declining? I doubt that; there must be another reason for a work like "UNFORGIVEN" to get all that success and publicity. Maybe we can tell from the background of one scene in the film where Munny threatens to "come back and kill everyone!!" while lightning illuminates the American flag behind him. Is that the message that the whole world should get?

The evolution of the re-born cultural policeman that is capable to return from isolation at any time to impose his own brand of law anywhere he likes in the way he likes.

In my opinion, the success of "UNFORGIVEN" a message stating that no violation of the rules set by these vigilante lawmen would ever be forgiven. There is no way to put the film in comparison with great Hollywood classics of the past, but a film with such concepts is now imposed on millions of spectators to see and digest with the brainwashing fact of its being an Oscar winner.

Ironically, the film was highly praised by both George Bush and Bill Clinton!!!



Yemeni Politics and the Elections:
Conspiracy Mentality, Line of Reasoning and New Yemen

"It is ironic that the people should be both down-trodden and master at the same time." So said Dotoville, a keen researcher in the relations between the people and the elites. He should have said, "It is ironic for the people to agree to be down-trodden while it is the master." That is, if we were to fit the statement to Yemeni conditions.

The nation has to build institutions, guard the sovereignty of the people and protect the country. Yet, how can it do that with a leadership that is holding the strings to everything in its hands. Our leadership wants the people to act according to its wishes, or else it threatens to create endless troubles, including violence and civil war.

This is done through blackmail on the one hand, and giving special privileges, on the other. As a result, one segment of the opinion-makers is frightened and scared, and another segment is corrupt and evil.

Now democracy comes and change knocks on our doors. Yet, the mentality of the leadership has not changed.

In my opinion, there are two general trends at work in the politics of Yemen.

One is the traditionalist forces which want to preserve the status quo, or even push the country back in time. The other side wants to bring in change and push for modernization and integration of Yemen with the modern civilization. All sides know that holding time still, or going back in time are impossible. Thus the struggle for the impossible is bleeding the country and frightening the people.

The mentality of the people is gradually being gripped with hate against a group that is the reason for its sufferings and pain. How the people will react in the elections is worth observing as well as documenting. It is a watershed in our modern history, and a clear indicator of the perception of the people regarding the leaders of Yemen.

The line of reasoning which the people have adopted is easy to detect. The people are wary of the current rulers and they are thinking of changing them, but there is a major worry in case the change is abrupt.

The people's mood is set for change, but gradual change; not out of love for the current politicians, but out of love for the country; lest there should be trouble.

Institution building, notably those responsible for the democratization of the country, should be a priority in the coming years. This is the only to save our country from turmoil, and the only way we can achieve progress and development in Yemen.

By:
Ahmed As-Soufi,
Official Spokesman,
National Committee for
Free Elections.


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THE ADEN FLOODS:

Two Months Later Very Little Is Done

By:
Ali Hashim,
Aden Correspondent,
Yemen Times.

The rains and subsequent flood disaster that overwhelmed Aden and other adjacent governorates during the first week of February 1992, have caused much damage to lives, homes, and property.

Two months after the ordeal, Yemen Times went to find out what has been done to help the people. Following lengthy talks with the officials and victims, it was apparent that very little has been done, so far. The following is a sample of our discussions with the victims.

Mr. Abdo Saeed Shaibani is one of the tenants of the Al-Fadhli Building which collapsed. He and his neighbors now live in the Teachers' Trade Union Building (TTU) Aden until a solution is found for them.

The following are excerpts of the interview:

Q: What exactly happened during the rainy days in Aden?

A: We were fast asleep and suddenly woke up to find that our flat was full of rain water which was pouring through cracked walls and ceilings. It happened so quickly and took us by surprise. We were quite bewildered.

Q: How did you manage to escape to safety?

A: I was terribly confused and tried to leave through the ground floor, but the doors were stuck. Finally, we escaped through the roof with much difficulty.

Q: How much property did you lose?

A: My loss in property,

together with other tenants, was great indeed. We lost everything as our furniture and belongings were all submerged in the water. After the rains stopped, we took stock of what was left, and that was little. Let me also tell you that other materials were looted by some of the so-called volunteers who came to help us.

Q: How many people lived in the building?

A: Six families were living in this building making a total of 28 persons. We have all moved to the TTU building, temporarily.

Q: What is your feeling about the incident?

A: I feel very sad for losing my flat and belongings. We are promised new premises by the state, and I look forward to moving into one of the new flats being built by the government.

The other loss cannot be made up. The social and personal agony is also tremendous. But I tell myself this is God's wish and I have to accept it. However, much of the suffering could have been averted by better management and more conscientious officials.

Q: Do you have proper sanitation and other facilities where you now live?

A: Not at all. For example, we have only one toilet for all six families (28 men and women). That makes us worry about health hazards and risks of disease. I hope the authorities will attend to this matter urgently.

Q: Which families suffered the most from this disaster?

A: All families suffered and all of them grieve. I hope something can be done fast.



Q: What type of relief aid was given to you?

A: Not much. The government gave 30 kilograms of rice, some sugar, flour, blankets, and YR. 5,000 in cash to every family.

Q: What was the outcome of your meetings with the Prime Minister and the other responsible officials?

A: It was positive. The prime minister asserted that the government is responsible for rebuilding the two demolished buildings in six months' time. All the former tenants will be repatriated in their new flats as they were before.

Q: Any final comments?

A: First, I would like to thank the Yemen Times on behalf of myself and all of the victims of the rain disaster for the interest shown to us and their sympathetic attitude. We are going to spend the two eids in this shelter. If efforts are speeded up, we hope to return to our new flats in time and lead our former normal lives. Secondly, we all hope that the promise of the prime minister and all the responsible officials to get the work accomplished was perfectly accurate and feasible.

Ali Salim Al-Beedh in the Sultanate of Oman

Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, left Sanaa yesterday morning (Tuesday April 6th, 1993) on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. This is the first visit by a Yemeni official at this level since the two countries signed a conclusive border agreement.

The two countries are presently working on the detailed demarcation arrangements. In addition, Mr. Al-Beedh is expected

to discuss means and ways to develop economic cooperation, specially commercial exchange and

joint investments. "The potential is enormous," according to senior source in the Yemeni government. An Omani chamber of industry and commerce delegation recently visited Yemen for the purpose of promoting bilateral economic ties.

It is worth mentioning that the Sultanate of Oman is playing a critical role in bridging the gap between Yemen and the other Gulf countries.



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SPS Organizes a Seminar on Safety & Protection Services in Oil Fields

SI recently established a Safety & Protection Services as a specialized division to service oil companies. SSI itself is a well established company, operating in Yemen since 1983.

Last week, two seminars were held by SSI Safety & Protection Services in the Sana'a Sheraton Hotel. The purpose of the seminar was to address the fire, safety and security issues that affect the oil businesses. The need for this service in Yemen, as well as in the rest of the world, will continue to escalate.

A range of systems, services and products are locally available, and they are fully supported by SPS.

The seminars, which were the first of their kind in Yemen, were attended by

representatives from the leading oil companies in Yemen as well as the diplomatic missions, government organizations and commercial companies.

The importance of the seminars was demonstrated by the level of attendance and the calibre of the guest speakers, which included Joseph Adams, Managing Director, SSI Ltd and David P. Mills, Group Secretary Manager, SSI Ltd

Both were on a visit to Yemen for this purpose

coming from the Cyprus Headquarters. Christophe J. Hall, Director, Systems International Ltd England also spoke in the seminar.

"The people living and working in Yemen need to pay a great deal of attention to the protection of their property, assets and themselves," said by Mr Tony Betka, SPS General Manager.

By: Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.





Dar Al-Hajar, Ukhainah Village, Za'azei

IMPORTANT Numbers

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumbury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Central Bank	274371/3
YBRD	271623/4
National Bank	275373
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
United Bank Ltd	272424

Government Ministries:

Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61

Insurance Companies:

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Marib Insurance	206112/14
Yemen General Insurance Co.	265191

EMBASSIES & Consulates

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Cuba	217304
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Djibouti	265469
Egypt	275948
Ethiopia	208833
France	275995
Germany	216756/757
Hungary	216679
India	241980
Indonesia	217388
Iran	206945/948
Iraq	216681/790
Italy	73409/78849
Indonesia	217388
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	216701
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebnon	203959
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	206770
Morocco	207964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Pallistine	217306/348
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/203142
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2

Syria	247750
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395
U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	216998
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Canadian Hon Consulate	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
Greek Hon Consulate	272218
Swedish Consulate	207595

ADEN

Czechoslovakia	232101
China	232604/30
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335
France	223129/090
Germany	232162/
OII	
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232081/233282
Palestine	232717/340
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Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways	272247
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
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Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Biquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
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Mukalla (06152)	
Hadhramaut	2060

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LESSON #39

Adjectives from place names, part two

PRETEST Fill in the blanks with the correct adjective for the place names.

1. A person from England is _____.
2. A person from Yemen is _____.
3. A person from Thailand is _____.
4. A person from Pakistan is _____.
5. A person from Finland is _____.
6. A person from Poland is _____.
7. A person from Sweden is _____.
8. A person from Oman is _____.
9. A person from Iceland is _____.
10. A person from Iraq is _____.



Last week we began to look at patterns for creating adjectives from place names, concentrating mainly on adjectives of nationality. In the last lesson we dealt with the suffixes **-an**, **-ian** and **-ese**. This week we will look at the suffixes **-ish** and **-i**. If it seems that there are more exceptions than examples for each one, remember that these are simply patterns, not grammatical rules.

Pattern 3: -ish

This suffix is frequently used to mean *almost* or *sort of*. For example, *pinkish* means not exactly pink, but close. With place names this suffix is often used with places which end with **-land**.

England.....English	Ireland.....Irish	Scotland.....Scottish
Poland.....Polish	Finland.....Finnish	

As usual, this pattern does not always hold true. There are several place names which end with **-land**, but have adjectival forms which are largely unpredictable.

Greenland.....Greenlandic (Greenish would sound very silly!)		
Iceland.....Icelandic	Switzerland.....Swiss	Thailand.....Thai

At the same time, there are place names which do not end with **-land**, which still take **-ish** as the adjectival ending.

Britain.....British	Sweden.....Swedish	Spain.....Spanish	Denmark.....Danish
---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	--------------------

Practice A Give the adjectives for these places:

1. Switzerland _____
2. Poland _____
3. Ireland _____
4. Britain _____
5. Denmark _____
6. Thailand _____
7. Iceland _____
8. Spain _____
9. England _____
10. Finland _____



Pattern 4: -i

This suffix is an example of how English borrows from other languages. **-i** is not a usual suffix in English, but is borrowed from Arabic to create adjectives for place names in the Arabic (referring to the language) world. Because of this borrowing, the use of this suffix is limited geographically.

Yemen.....Yemeni	Oman.....Omani	Iraq.....Iraqi
Aden.....Adeni	Sana'a.....Sanani	

If the place name in English does not correspond with the name in Arabic, this suffix does not work: Egypt becomes Egyptian, not Egypti.

Another place which uses this suffix, even though it is outside the geo-linguistic border: Pakistan.....Pakistani.



Practice B Give the adjectives for these places:

1. Kuwait _____
 2. Iraq _____
 3. Iran* _____
 4. Pakistan _____
 5. Hodeidah _____
 6. Jordan* _____
 7. Bahrain _____
- * See last week's lesson

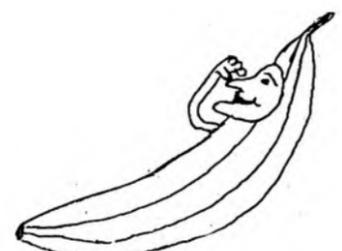
WEEKLY IDIOM

Bananas!

This word is used to mean "crazy" in some contexts. It is usually seen with the verbs "go" or "drive."

Lutfi drives Riyadh bananas!

Did the children like their gifts? Like them? They went bananas!



ANSWERS Pretest 1. English 2. Yemeni 3. Thai 4. Pakistani 5. Finnish 6. Polish 7. Swedish 8. Omani 9. Icelandic 10. Iraqi Practice A 1. Swiss 2. Polish 3. Irish 4. British 5. Danish 6. Thai 7. Icelandic 8. Spanish 9. English 10. Finnish Practice B 1. Kuwaiti 2. Iraqi 3. Iranian 4. Pakistani 5. Hodeidi 6. Jordanian 7. Bahraini

Featuring Next Week

Interviews:
Sheikh Saeed Al-Zikri Gives his Assessment of the Yemeni Economic Conditions.

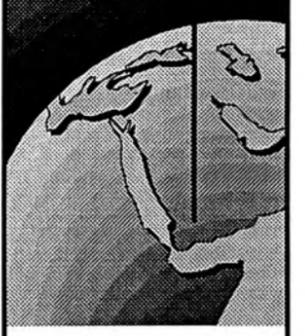
Poultry Business:
Abdullah Al-Omeri Sheds Light on the Difficulties of the Poultry Industry.

List of Candidates:
Yemen Times Publishes the List of Applications for Candidature in the House of Representatives in the April 27th Elections.

One Day in the Life of A Campaigner:
A First Hand Look at the Efforts of Candidates in Winning the Hearts of the Voters.

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• Analysis •

SOLUTION FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL?

By: Ali A. Salem, Director-General, GEPD, Environmental Protection Council, Sanaa.

Yemen, nowadays faces one of the most serious environmental problems - solid waste. House refuse and garbage can be seen almost everywhere, scattered in a random manner along the main streets, narrow alleyways, and many other places. This immediately reflects the lack of environmental awareness, let alone discipline. The social and economic impacts are also enormous. Focusing on the solid waste disposal system in Yemen, let us see what the experiences of other countries can offer in this field. After all, this problem is nearly universal among developing and industrialized nations alike. Concern about the amount of municipal solid waste, the difficulty of disposing of it, and the potential health and environmental hazards created by components of this waste material has generated widespread interest in the problem. The search for solutions that decrease the amount of waste produced and increase the amount that can be recycled or composted continues.

Presently, not enough data regarding recycling methods and the actual scope of this problem are available. To show the size of the problem elsewhere, in America in 1988, each person generated 4.0 lbs. of solid waste per day. This number is expected to increase to 4.2 lbs. per person per day by 1995. One approach to solving the problem of solid waste disposal in Yemen besides the utilization of recycling technology would be to use an incentive system. Prices can be an effective mechanism for allocating resources, including waste disposal capability. For price controls to work effectively, it is important for individuals to bear the full cost of their actions. An ideal pricing system, in which households and businesses are charged according to the amount and toxicity of the disposed waste, would provide them with an economic incentive to adopt a variety of disposal reduction activities; these could include altering purchasing patterns, re-using items within the home or office environment, and composting and recycling. An ideal system of pricing would be nearly impossible to carry out unfor-



unately. Many communities have experimented with programs based on some of the principles of ideal pricing. Under these unit-based pricing programs, households are charged for each bag of waste that they dispose of. Unit-based pricing shows a great deal of promise in some communities, but its use might not be appropriate in others. A number of problems would arise in adapting the program to the characteristics of the community (such as population density, income levels, etc.). Producers and importers could be held responsible for ensuring that a certain percentage of their products is recycled. They would do this by buying enough recycling credit to certify that the required amount of recycled material has been used. Firms that use the recycled product would generate credit that they could sell.

Yes, Sultan As-Sameyi Can Stand for Elections

Mr. Sultan Al-Sameyi is currently a member of the House of Representative and he would like to run again. If he does, he is a sure winner, given the level of sympathy he has generated as a person who has dared to face the regime headlong. It is now sure that he can run at constituency No. 40, and he need not find a way to get beyond the siege that the authorities and certain "individuals" have enforced around the constituency. His problem is an old one, but the sequence of events was recently triggered by an incident on 16th February, 1993. (Please refer to Yemen Times No. 9 dated 3rd March, 1993). On that day, Sultan As-Sameyi was stopped by a group military policemen who requested him to produce permits for the guns his men were carrying or to go with them to their commander. The situation soon got out of hand, and at the end of the day, two soldiers and a citizen were killed. Since then, the authorities have sought the arrest of Mr. As-Sameyi, who is still in hiding. Meanwhile, he has written a letter to the Chairman of the Supreme Electoral Committee (SEC), and another to the Taiz province supervisor of the elections. The SEC has been agonized over the issue. There were two distinct groups in the SEC. One side defended As-Sameyi's right to stand, the other thought he was not entitled. For six hours, on Monday, April 5th, the SEC was tormented but at the end it came through. The final verdict: YES, Sultan As-Sameyi is accepted officially as a candidate, and the regime's leadership should brace for an opposition parliamentarian with a vengeance. Simultaneously, the trial of the case could be continued in the courts. As-Sameyi has yet to give himself up to the authorities. Unfortunately, neither the current House of Representatives nor the judicial authorities have the "independence and credibility" to look into the case. Thus, to whom should As-Sameyi give himself up? At the same time, the witch-hunt for him continues. In the maze of all the uncertainties that surround this problem, one thing is certain. The popularity of Mr. As-Sameyi has risen sharply, at least among the folks down under in Taiz. He has become a hero in their eyes. And several political parties are trying to capitalize on this by "championing" his case, at least in the media.

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Ali Mohammad Saeed Heads Delegation to Ethiopia

Mr. Ali Mohammad Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies, headed a Yemeni business delegation to Ethiopia. The group left Yemen on Tuesday, April 6th. "The purpose of the visit is to inspect the conditions of the Yemeni community in Ethiopia, render whatever assistance possible, and study the possibilities for economic cooperation between the two countries," Mr. Ali Mohammad Saeed told the Yemen Times prior to his departure. It will be noted that the Hayel Saeed Anam Group finances cooperative development projects in Yemen, and its contributions have now gone beyond the Republic of Yemen.

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