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YEMEN TIMES

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OUR VIEWPOINT

WHAT HAPPENED IN CONSTITUENCY 64

I would like to tell the story of how the ruling parties react the heat of competition. When the chips are down, the stuff about democracy and fair play is out. What is in is how the big guys must protect "their turf" in any way necessary.

The People's General Congress has used the kind offices of a local businessman from the constituency to pass bundles of money to those who have influence to use it in favor of the PGC candidate. Even the district general manager is part of the effort to buy votes. There is hard evidence to prove this. But what the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has done to win constituency is more serious. It threatened voters and it cheated openly. One of its techniques was to pass out name cards of its candidate to the illiterate voters and tell them to "simply give this to the person behind the box inside the balloting station and tell him/her I want this name." Another ploy is based on planting an accomplice inside the balloting committee and that person does the trick. This person will fill in the name of the YSP candidate irrespective of which candidate the illiterate voter names. On two cases, the YSP plant was caught red-handed and the two plants, in station a and c, are under arrest pending appropriate measures. Both have confessed to a fully-worked plot masterminded by the YSP office in the constituency. In stations c and e, the locks of six balloting boxes were broken.

I do not want to generalize by saying that those practices in constituency 64 are the rule everywhere for the PGC and YSP. But I am dead certain the top PGC and YSP people are aware of what their people in Constituency 64 are doing.

The worst part of all of this is that nobody can do anything about these violations. As the team-leader in the balloting committee told me, "We will give proof of these violations, then you go to court to have the situation rectified." But once you have a de facto situation, it is almost impossible to correct the wrong that has been done!

The Publisher
عبدكريم

FREE ELECTIONS IN YEMEN:

THE PGC RIDES HIGH AS THE YSP SINKS.

A Centrist Government is in the Making

The Republic of Yemen executed its elections on April 27th. By anybody's standard, they were free and fair elections, in spite of some violations here and there. These were expected, and they cannot be helped given the background against which the elections were held. Some of these violations are serious. Yet, the hope is that, with time, the violations will be minimal.

In any case, according to many observers, these violations did not have a critical impact on the overall results.

In the final analysis, the People's General Congress (PGC) collected almost half of the seats in the new parliament. The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) came second with almost sixty seats, while the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) came third with some forty seats. The other smaller parties together had less than twenty seats, while the balance was filled by independents. (Please refer to table and details on last page.)

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is also the Secretary-General of the PGC, announced that

there will be a coalition government that will include at least the YSP and Islah, both in clearly subordinate positions to the PGC.

The idea of bailing out the YSP is probably appease it until its grip over segments of the army and security forces, and certain government institutions and public companies is gradually dismantled, or at least loosened.

The idea of bringing in the Islah probably aims to reign it in. This arrangements will lead to a centrist government with the PGC at the helm. It is helpful to have two parties - one at the left and the other at the right who will cancel each other in the eternal political arguments that are expected to fill the long hours of debates in the government.

Both the Islah and YSP are hoping to bargain for certain privileges in the new arrangements, and neither has refused to work in a coalition that includes the other. To further encourage, the PGC has agreed to give them token privileges, for the time being, until it consolidates its control over things.

Yemen is expected to smoothly proceed with the affairs of government following the elections. There are two major obstacles, listed below according to their degree of gravity.

1. What will happen if the YSP falls apart, and there are signs of schism? There are already many demands by the rank and file for the resignation of the party leaders "because they have led the YSP to this humiliating situation by their miscalculations."

Some of the YSP people want the party to lead the opposition, but what will that mean for the army and security forces still under party control? The only proper exit for the YSP is to hold its fourth general congress in which a new leadership can be chosen in a way that reflects the national membership base of the party.

2. Will the PGC, after this gratifying victory, come to its senses and reduce the corruption and mismanagement? The people are waiting to see if the PGC bosses will continue on their old self-enrichment path or whether a serious reform effort will take place.



Creating Useful Products from Waste.
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A New Japanese Grant for Yemen

Notes concerning a new Japanese cultural grant for Yemen have been signed and exchanged late last month at the Ministry and Planning and Development.

In accordance with the said Notes, the government of Japan will provide to the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities a grant of upto \$8.5 million). The funds will be used to purchase equipment aerial platform, vibratory plates, and measurement instruments. These tools and equipment are indispensable for repairing multi-story buildings and roads.

Yemen Celebrates Labor Day

The Republic of Yemen celebrated Labor Day, May 1st. On the occasion, official business was closed as Labor Day is designated as a national day. Also on the occasion, a number of festivals and processions were organized in various cities, specially in Sanaa, Taiz and Aden.

Over One Thousand Visitors for the Elections

At final count, there were over one thousand foreigners who arrived in Yemen in connection with the parliamentary elections that took place on April 27th. These can be grouped into three categories.

1. Journalists: These have come from many countries such as the USA, France, Germany, UK, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, etc.
2. Observers: These were in two groups - those who associated with international observer groups, and those who have flown in from their countries by direct arrangements with Sanaa.
3. Officials and Parliamentarians: These are the guests of the Yemeni government and who have shown interest in the democratic evolution of Yemen.

There was a general consensus that the elections were well planned and executed. There was also the general feeling that they were clean and honest, in spite of certain violations here and there. Most visitors concluded that the violations did not have a critical impact on the results.

According to excerpts from interviews by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose PGC party commands a comfortable lead in the parliamentary seats, the country has executed as clean and fair elections as possible under conditions of developing countries.

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إمتحانات تجريبية في اللغة الإنجليزية لطلاب ثالث ثانوي

Third Year Secondary School English Language Trial Exams

Prepared by:
Jamal Shamekh,
English Language Teacher, Yarim.

Answers on page 15.
More Trial Exams Next Week.

LITERARY SECTION: Questions Based on Unit Five

- A. Correct the mistakes in each of the following sentences**
1. I met a woman who husband is a famous doctor.
 2. He digs the marked ground to a deep of about one metre
 3. Would you go to the party if you are invited?
 4. They played good, so they won the game.
 5. I'm interesting in your subject.

- B. Choose the correct alternatives:**
1. :Although, However, Because" it was dangerous, he wanted to climb the mountain.
 2. My parents told me "don't, didn't, cannot to" be impolite
 3. She went to the library to "look" for, up, a after "some information in a reference book.
 4. If he "was, were, had been" glad, he would have a celebration.
 5. I filled my thermos bottle "by, with, of" gishr.
 6. I lost the scarf "who, where, which" I borrow from my roommate.
 7. If I "know, knew, had known" you were in hospital, I "will send, would send, would have sent" some flowers
 8. The builder marks out "which, where, who" the outside walls will be.
 9. Mohammed is too busy. And so "is Ahmad, Ahmadis, was Ahmad"
 10. Tufa is not "so strong, stronger, strongest" as basalt

C. Complete the table below by putting the rocks in the correct column: basalt, slate, shale, tuff, flint, marble:

Igneous	sedimentary	metamorphic

- D: Change the following sentences into Passive**
1. He draws a design with a knife and a compass.
 2. She saw a man giving the old man a hand.
 3. We have eaten the food many times.
 4. She should type the papers.
 5. We drink tea every morning.

- E: Write the following sentences according to the instructions in brackets.**
1. Hana is 17 years old, and also Arwa is 17 years old. (Rewrite the sentence starting with: "Arwa is as ...")
 2. Because they don't go the right way, they are late. (Begin with: "If ...")
 3. He spreads a layer of plaster onto the glass. (Begin with: "A layer of ...")
 4. The teacher asked, "Do you live in Yarim?" (Begin with: "The teacher asked me ...")
 5. Samia moved here in 1992. (Ask a question using: "Who ...")
 6. He did not work hard, so he failed. (Begin with: "A result of ...")
 7. The secretary has done the typing for Mr. Smith. (Begin with: "Mr. Smith has ...")

SCIENTIFIC SECTION: Questions Based on Unit Three:

- A. choose the correct alternatives:**
1. The roots "absorb, support, provide" the plant.
 2. The word "Timber" means: leaves, water, wood"
 3. Ferns are lower plants "so, as while "they have a very simple structure.
 4. The secretary provided me "for, with, by" a great deal of information
 5. it is "so, too, such" early to discuss such a matter.
 6. If you "speak, spoke, had spoken" slowly I could understand.
 7. She "will, would, would have" look more charming if she smiles a little.
 8. The girls don't talk "louder, as loud, loudest" as the boys.
 9. The ideas "who, where, which" you expressed yesterday were good.
 10. Only "few, a few, a little" women have cars in my town.

- B. Write the following in figures and abbreviations.**
1. AD is perpendicular to BC
 2. AB is parallel to DC
 3. One fifth is greater than one sixth.
 4. Three plus six equals eleven minus two.

- C. Correct each of the following sentences**
1. A plant absorb water through its roots.
 2. Most plant are necessary to man.
 3. Cacti has developed special ways of storing water.
 4. Water plants support by the water where they grow.
 5. The better way to travel in the rain forest is by river.

- D: Do as shown in brackets**
1. If she takes the medicine tonight, she will get better. "Begin with: unless....."
 2. He likes cars but he doesn't have money. "Begin with: If....."
 3. Bacteria are so small that you can't see them. "Begin with: Bacteria are too..."
 4. Unless earth had atmosphere, life would be impossible. "Begin with: If"
 5. Cacti are plants grow in the desert. "Begin with: Cactus..."

- E. Complete the questions.**
1. Materials are made up of molecules. "What ...?"
 2. Plants grow very tall to reach the light. Why ...?"
 3. No, gas has no definite shape. "Does.....?"
 4. Arwa copied the answers. "Who ...?"

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ص ب رقم ٤٨٩٤ - الحديدة

ترقبوا فروعنا في المكلا، عدن، تعز، إب

PLEASANT MEMORY FOR CALCUTTANS

The tinkling of a tram bell, almost an anachronism in the age of the electric horn, will perhaps be last heard in Calcutta before the dawn of the 21st century. After prolonged arguments, these survivors of a leisurely past era will finally be phased out from the city due to lack of viability.

According to a few pragmatic Calcuttans, trams with their rickety machines of yesteryears, occasional derailment and inability to adapt to route changes impede the smooth flow of traffic.

They say if tram tracks are ripped out from some of the busy areas like Bowbazar, College Street, Chitpur and Strand Road, it may ease the claustrophobic congestion of the city's traffic.

On the other hand, the bulk of the citizens vehemently criticize this threat to the Calcutta tramways which have become a part of the 300-year-old heritage of the city. In their view, Calcutta without the trams would be like Venice without gondolas.

To take a glimpse at the chronological history of the Calcutta tramways, one has to go back to the last quarter of the 19th century, the period that witnessed the rise of nationalism and the birth of the Indian National Congress.

The first fledgling attempt to run a tram in Calcutta was made on 24th February 1873 between Sealdah and Armenian Ghat Street, a route length of 2.4 miles. Being inadequately patronized, it failed. The service was wound up in November as the company incurred a heavy loss. Inspired by the successful operation of trams in Bombay by American and English businessmen, the Calcutta tram service was resumed.

In 1880, seven years after the first attempt, the Calcutta Tramways Co. (CTC) was registered in London. The meter-gauge horse-drawn tram track was laid from Sealdah to Armenian Ghat via Bowbazar, Dalhousie Square, Customs House and Strand Road.

The citizens found new freedom in this system. Before that, the transport system of Calcutta consisted chiefly of horse-drawn carts, bullock carts, palanquins and other primitive modes of conveyance mostly owned by individuals for their personal use.

Now the citizens could go out whenever they wanted by tramcars hauled by the sturdy, tough waler horses imported from Australia. However, most of these beasts did not survive long in the gruelling hot weather of the city.

In hot months they became obstinate and often refused to move despite frenzied whipping. Accidents were frequent. Pedestrians were often run over by the carriages.

Steam locomotives came in 1882 to replace the horses. Only seven steam locomotives were deployed on 19 miles of tram tracks by the end of the 19th century. Besides, the company owned 186 tramcars and 1000 horse. The experiment to replace the horses with Kilbourne Company's steam engines evoked a mixed reaction.

While some citizens found the steam locos swift and safe, for the majority, they were too noisy and awkward. Finally being proved unsuccessful, the iron horses were withdrawn.

The 20th century heralded the age of modern technology. Electric power lit up

the dark streets and houses of the city. There were more shops, offices and office-going clerks and Calcutta was busier than ever.

In the new century, electrification geared up the speed of the trams. The end of 1905, the entire system was converted to electric traction. But the missing rhythmic sound of the horses' hoofs on the cobblestoned streets and the boxy-tramcars left a void.

They became an inseparable part of the citizens' pleasant memories of bygone days. Meanwhile, tram services were also launched in Howrah. The Calcutta system was linked with the Howrah section through the New Howrah Bridge in the early forties.

In the post-independence era, CTC underwent changes in its administrative structure. The government of West Bengal entered into an agreement with the company. The Calcutta Tramways Act, 1951, empowered the state to take over all rights with regard to the tramways and purchase the company any time after 1962. After assuming the company's ownership, the government took over its management in 1967.

Today, CTC is run as a government company with a managing director at the helm of affairs. At present the CTC has a fleet of about 300 tramcars which run on a total route-length of 70.43 km carrying about 1,877 passengers every-day. Besides, there are 23 depots and substations and one workshop where nearly 8,000 employees are engaged.

After more than a century of service in the eastern city, a fund-starved CTC is passing through an age of uncertainty, due to a bitter clan dispute. Hence the decision to replace the trams.

SAGGING PRICES FADE TOKYO'S DREAMS

What will the city of the future look like? Tokyo has launched an "Urban Frontier Movement" in an effort to find out.

A 200-day exhibition, called the "Urban Frontier - Tokyo 1996," which is part of a larger development project on 448 hectares of reclaimed land, which is due to be completed by 2010, is scheduled for later this year.

But promoters are increasingly worried that they may have to scale down or postpone the exhibition due to the recent economic slowdown in the Japanese economy.

Following the collapse in real estate development in the late 1980s, business is now hesitating to make new investments, promoters say. The fast fall in property prices and difficulties in finding tenants have led to financing problems which may delay the projects, according to promoters.

Only eight tenants had applied to join a corporate pavilion sector as part of the event, after the first application deadline set for mid-March 1993 passed, far short of the 25 applications expected by the organisers, officials said.

No foreign applicants have offered to take part in the project so far, according to association officials.

Tokyo city governor, Shunichi Suzuki, has stressed that he has no intentions of changing the exhibition's original plan despite the slump.

But some of the city assembly's lawmakers say that the exhibition will have to be scaled down or postponed if it fails to attract enough business interest.

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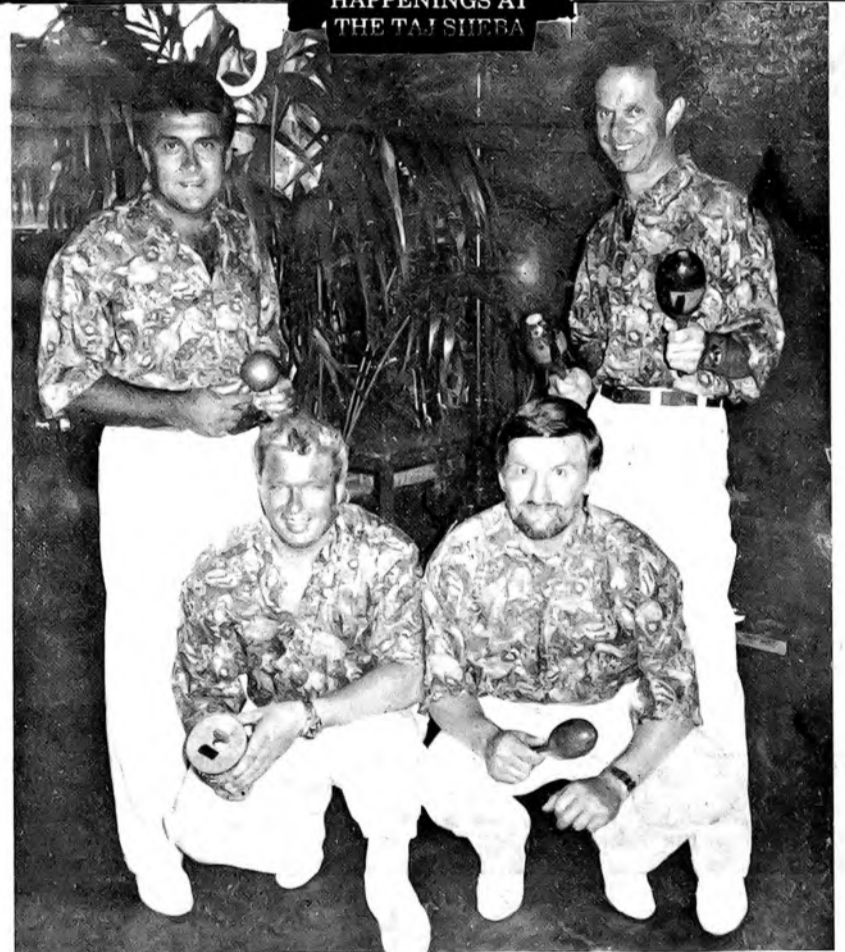


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CREATIVE IDEAS YIELD USEFUL PRODUCTS FROM WASTE MATERIALS!

Dr. Shashi Bala Singh, an Indian national, completed her education in two different disciplines: Political Science and Public Administration, and Education. Her doctoral dissertation was Tribal Elitism in India. As a career woman, she has been teaching at the B.A. and M.A. levels and has served as Principal of Women's College in her country between 1968 and 1991.

Today, she has tagged along her husband, Dr. B. P. Singh who is teaching at the University of Sana'a. But that is not the interesting part of our story.

We are interested in Dr. Shashi Bala Singh's special skills such as knitting, embroidery, sketching, dress designing, interior decoration etc.

Spending long hours idly at home was not exactly something very interesting. So she developed a few brilliant ideas. One of the most glaring sights in front of her as she sat daily by the balcony was the rising volume garbage and plastic waste. How can one re-use plastic bags so widely spread in the city of Sana'a and elsewhere in Yemen.

Her attention was attracted particularly to the abundance of waste in the form of torn plastic bags. With a small hooked needles (crochets), she used this plas-



Shashi and some of her decorative products made of plastic bags

tic waste to produce beautiful decorative pieces such as wall hangings, table mats, floor matting etc. With a little imagination, and some skills, you can convert waste and rubbish and very valuable products.

"First you collect the plastic bags, sorting out different colors. Then you tear them into thin ribbons. Finally, you start knitting," she told the Yemen Times.

Her efforts will help us clean our neighborhood as well create useful products such as decorative and gifts items. "From one plastic bag, one can knit about 7 to 9 inches' length of product. That means one needs many bags to finish one piece," she

explained.

But that is good in itself, as many bags will be cleared off the streets. "I have to wait a long time before a sufficient volume of plastic waste is collected," she said. When asked why does not simply buy the bags, "But that would take away the fun from the whole thing," she replied. Besides, it will spoil the motivation of cleaning the neighborhood, and improving the environmental situation. She also prepares different decorations out of metal cans, which one day, had harbored beans or peas. "I also work with small boxes and containers," she added.

Dr. Shashi has initiated a training program for the

ladies in her neighborhood. "The more people work in this project, the more we can talk about the need to clean our neighborhood, and to be environmentally more friendly," she told me. "I also hope other forms of cooperation and local initiative will be development," she said.

Finally, she indicated that she hoped to link up with women's organizations and other circles. She said, "Women must fill their free time with useful efforts rather than just gossip."

Not only is Dr. Shashi good at salvaging waste and making useful products, but she is also fantastic in producing delicious jam out of white

part of water melons, which many people don't eat. "The parts of melons and other other fruits that are not directly eaten, need not be thrown away. This is wasteful, in a world in which over a million people suffer from malnutrition due to food shortages, and many even die. We have to amend our behavior to be more optimal in the use of these resources," she said.

Finally, Shashi is a superb cook. She has started teaching some Yemeni

women how to make Indian dishes. "I would be greatly interested in doing my bit for this country in whatever way my talents may be utilized," she concluded.

One of my fellow editors was reading this piece over my shoulders. He exclaimed, "What a fantastic housewife. Do you think she has a young sister?"

By: Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

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The Embassy of the Netherlands in Sana'a

presents its heart-felt congratulations

to the Yemeni people and the

political leadership for successfully holding

parliamentary elections.

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شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته
السياسية بمناسبة إنجاز الانتخابات النيابية بنجاح



FSA

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*presents its heart-felt
congratulations to the Yemeni people
and its political leadership
for successfully completing
the parliamentary elections.*

A HISTORIC DAY!

The ballot day, 27th April, 1993, will remain an unforgettable day for it marks the beginning of a new era in the modern history of Yemen. It is a starting point for democracy after years of oppression, pain, sufferings and sacrifices. Since early in the morning, the 301 constituencies welcomed huge numbers of voters to cast their votes in electing their candidates for the new parliament. They also said, 'No' to corruption, favoritism, bribery, frivolity and other ills.

They went to say, 'Yes' to the suitable candidates, to say 'Yes' to the principle of reward and punishment, and to building our economy. This day will be a launching day for the next four years. It is up to us to do a lot during this new phase.

We were not alone in anxiously looking towards the balloting box. The whole world watches us and hundreds of journalists have arrived to tell to their peoples of this great achievement.

By: **Abdul Wahid Thabit Al-Gumhuriyyah, Taiz, 27/4/1993.**

ELECTION DAY!

Nobody knows, as yet, what the outcome of the voting is, and for the first time in our history, the results are not announced on the same day as the elections. To the contrary, we are told they are going to be announced after three days. Therefore, we can expect to hear many surprises. Through the voting, the people found an opportunity to practise their rights re prepared to play their role. Voters are able to differentiate among the candidate and to tell who is good and who is bad.

The voters who cast their ballots were happy for they participated with awareness/responsibility for the first time in electing their officials. Hence, we hope the outcome won't lead to frustrating their aspirations and dreams.

The joy of the people in a free/honest elections was equal to their joy on the day of unification - 22nd May, 1990. It is self-evident that the people have suffered a lot during the years when democracy was absent. So the people hope today, and for the first time, to feel the victory of democracy. But if the election results are cooked, we will realize that those who talked about democracy for a long time were but liars. What is important is that we all submit to the ballot boxes we must pass this phase peacefully.

By: **Abdo Hussein Ahmad, Al-Ayyam, Aden, 28/4/1993.**

THE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY

Nearly three years have passed since the unification, but we have noticed that the relations among some party leaderships are still in confusion because of a split in practical standpoints.

There is an agreement about the programs, but when the leaders debate behind the scenes, they differ on even superficial issues. When they come to an understanding about an issue, it means a political compromise neither side really accepts. Thus, it eventually leads to a deadlock.

The current phase is not one of differences. It requires more constructive dialogue leading to clearly defined goals with the purpose of building the state, enforcing the laws, and putting an end to excesses and compromises which reduce effectiveness.

It is self-evident that any organization, whatever its potential might be, is unable to undertake the responsibilities of the system alone, particularly regarding many unresolved issues. It is the duty of the leaderships of the political parties and the independents to review their positions in order to avoid any unnecessary complications.

Our first duty is to focus on democracy away from the dictates of any patrons or promises. The most dangerous elements to any democracy are those individuals who talk about it in tittle-tattle trying to influence the public media through their opportunistic self-serving talks. Anyone who violates the state's laws or exploits the state's resources or the army or the tribe in their bargaining for political edge are not really interested in democracy. Nor would they fight corruption, or resist the American policy whatever they allege to be doing.

By: **Mohammad Ahmad Shukri, Al-Hadaf Al-Arabi, Sana'a, 18/4/1993**

WE MUST PROCEED WITH FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS AWAY FROM VIOLENCE!

Abdul-Wahab Al-Aanisi, Secretary General of Al-Tagammu Al-Yemeni Al-Islah in a statement to Al-Islah weekly confirmed that these elections are the only alternative to get out of our current situation. In addition, the success of the elections will consolidate the democratic course. "We are concerned with holding fair and honest elections away from all tension, violence, cheating, and faking. The elections will be a step towards a change for the better. "I seize this opportunity to affirm to all that Al-Islah

leaders and supporters that we should benefit from what is available to stabilize the morals of our religion.

Regarding the voting, we are not interested in the number of votes that Al-Islah will get but in the tasks that the parliament will undertake.

We are sure that the media know our candidates well in their conduct. We call on the Yemeni people to be on the alert and ready to confront any attempt to impede the procedures of the elections on time."

By: **Abdul-Wahab Al-Aanisi Al-Islah, Taiz, 19/4/1993.**

THE PGC WON'T MONOPOLIZE AUTHORITY

Mutahhar Ahmad Taqi, member of the permanent committee of the PGC, in an interview with Al-Mithaq weekly, talked about the relationship between the PGC and the YSP and the future of Yemen following the elections.

He stated that the code of honor which was signed between the PGC and the YSP has put an end to a lot of bones of contention, and "I believe that the two parties will remain faithful to their present relations."

Through an early reading of the positions of the parties, we can point out that the PGC will be more able to win the seats in parliament based on its programs and achievements during its reign.

"The PGC totally abhors any form of administrative negligence, favoritism and lawlessness. We hope the elections will achieve all our goals in building the new modern Yemen."

By: **Al-Yaman Assaeed, Sana'a, 18/4/1993**

AL-BEEDH CHALLENGES THE PEOPLE

In the last meeting of the Central Committee of the YSP, Ali Salim Al-Beedh, the Secretary General of the party, inaugurated the session by talking about the democratic alternative which the party pursued. He affirmed that the YSP would accept the results of the ballot boxes whatever they are.

Mr. Al-Beedh did not forget at the conclusion of his speech to tell the people frankly about corruption. He said, "You are complaining of corruption, chaos, indifference, and lack of respect for the law, and justice. Then, show us who are you going to elect for the membership of the next parliament, because only those who possess the capabilities to make a conclusive change for all the bad situations deserve the membership in Parliament."

Al-Beedh is right in every single word he said, for God will never come down to change our situation if we ourselves don't change it. It is time to work hard and create defiance against corruption. The citizens' votes are their weapons in this democratic struggle.

Let our citizens direct their democratic weapon against all indifference, irresponsibility, exploitation, and corruption.

Your vote is a tool for change. If you use it well, then there is a revolution and you will prove to the world that you are really a people who refuse corruption.

Such participation will be just like a referendum on the current situation. If you cast your ballot in favor of person who is corrupt, hypocrite, supporter, or coordinator of the corrupt politicians, then, you announce your satisfaction and acceptance of what is going on in the country.

Don't say, it is useless because everything is arranged. This is the language of the weak. Don't be deceived by their sayings or fall into their traps.

Go to the ballot boxes and tell Al-Beedh that we

accept the challenge and that through this election we will announce a revolution against corruption.

By: **Mohammad Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkel, Raay, Sana'a, 17/4/1993.**

HONESTLY SPEAKING

Opportunity knocks only once. It is a fact that the unification was a historic opportunity for the two ruling parties to build the new Yemeni state based on the slogans of law and order. All the Yemenis were prepared to sacrifice themselves for the sake of unification. And even the corrupt would have sacrificed for the achievement of the unification. Unfortunately, the two parties exploited the transitional period to prolong their corruption more and more. Thus, they transformed this period into a partisan period by plundering state funds.

At the political level, and under the guise of freedom, democracy and pluralism, there emerged secessionists, factionalists, and tribes as if they were dissatisfied with the unity. Instead of stability and security, the people lost confidence in themselves, because politics came to

mean cunning, deception, forgery, and other means to secure personal interests. At the economic level, the situation worsened. In spite of all of this, the elections have come as a good opportunity for the two parties to amend their ways and use this chance properly.

By: **Mohammad Saleh Al-Rowaishan, Al-Sahwa, Sana'a, 19/4/1993.**

THE WORLD HAILS OUR ELECTIONS

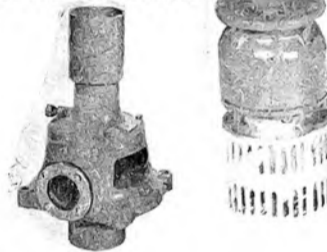
The world media has paid considerable attention to the elections of Yemen. The Washington Post described the elections as an important milestone in building the new Yemen. The Qatari News Agency praised the large level of people who showed up for voting. Radio France International hailed the peaceful nature of the elections process. Radio Voice of America stated that international observers concluded that the elections were honest. Radio Poland had lots of praise for the preparations and successful completion of the elections.

By: **Al-Thawrah, Sanaa, 30/4/1993**

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A proposal on:
"THE FORGOTTEN WINTER FARMING SEASON"

BY: Martin Herzog
 Ecology and Management of Natural Forests, Forestry Development Project. (FAO)

While it is known since quite some time, that terraces in Yemen are being abandoned, it could be observed as well, that lots of new terraces are being established, but rather on flatter lands, in wadis, and by means of caterpillar. The art of building stone walled terraces going to get lost.

There are probably two main factors responsible for that:

a) Agriculture (in general: life-style) in Yemen was rather subsistence oriented. The large influx of money from work in Yemen's society and to the establishment of something close to a leisure-society. - or who would deny that many Yemenis spend much more time on chewing qat than on work. But for farmers it is difficult to keep up with this model of life-style, the productivity of an average farm barely being sufficient to feed one's family.

b) The high labor costs of the pre-Gulf-War era lead to some mechanization in farm work, including terrace establishment. But mechanized agriculture is only possible on flatter areas, so the smaller terraces on steep slopes are left fallow.

An important factor concerning abandoned agricultural land is the erosion. Farmers that left their land to move to town with the hope to improve their income, might come back after some years and find their land washed away.

While I don't have an all-round solution for the economic problems of Yemen's farmers, at least there would be a solution to prevent the loss of land during fallow of unknown duration. This fallow land, especially terraces, should be planted with (fodder) shrubs and/or trees. Those will first stabilize the soil and second produce without much input: fodder for livestock, fuelwood for cooking and construction wood.

The productivity naturally depends on rainfall and soil quality, but in a year like 1992 Leucaenas reached over 2m height in just one year (without irrigation) and could be used for fodder (Jebel Bura'). Acacias and Eucalypts can reach construction wood dimensions in just 5-7 years, when planted on good soils (Eucalypts so, should not be planted close to used agricultural land (and not too close to buildings) as they are very competitive and fast growing.

Productivity estimates made by the Forestry Project show, that trees can produce about the same economic output as the Yemeni staple crop sorghum, given a rotation period of 5-15 years. While the Yemeni farmer is normally not too fond of trees - as long as it is not a fruit tree, the matter might look different for fallow land, as the trees will produce even during his absence and keep his land "in place", without needing constant attention.

Moreover does the Yemeni farmer not need to worry about ownership problems. private land is private land, with trees or without trees (but with trees is nicer and better protected private land!).

Another fallow land problem is the common land (tribe/village). Everybody uses it, but nobody cares for it. The degradation proceeds very fast, soon there will be not many shrubs and trees left in Yemen. A very drastic sample is the Tihama. In years with good rainfall as 1989 and 1992 sorghum is planted all over the dunes, you don't see much of a "desert". But in dry years as 1991 there is no vegetation cover left. Farmers claim their piece of land by removing all vegetation leveling it by caterpillar. Woodcutters remove shrubs and trees outside the farmed areas, and in dry years as 1991 the wind doesn't find any resistance and can blow the whole farmland away. This process of dune creation looks to be faster than the sand-dune stabilization e.g. at Zabid. The local communities should urgently find a way how to stop the degradation of their natural environment, as they depend on it.

Woodcutters should be obliged to replant trees where they harvested. Farmers in sensitive areas as the Tihama should plant trees say every 15-20m between the sorghum. In rainy years as 1992 this could be done very easily by direct seeding (Acacias, Dobera) or cuttings (Tamarix, Salvadora). the rangelands of the Western Escarpment as well can be easily improved by direct seeding of Acacias and planting of Commiphora-cuttings.

Yemen has quite a range of different ecological conditions and specific indigenous plants adapted to those conditions. And as e.g. apple trees can't be grown in Tihama (lack of needed frost), the potential distribution range of each species is limited. This information is available at the forestry project/general directorate of forestry, which is interested and willing to help villages and privates in safeguarding their woodlands.

ERITREA: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

REPUBLIC OF ERITREA
 During 23-25/4/1993, the people of Eritrea have told the world they want to be on their own - an independent country. On this occasion, the Yemen Times hereby publishes some basic data on Yemen's new neighbor.

The new Republic of Eritrea is has a triangular shape. It is located in the Horn of Africa on the southwest coast of the Red Sea.

To the north and west, the Eritrean borders meet with the Sudan, to the south are Ethiopia and Djibouti, while to the east is the Red Sea. Eritrea covers an area of 124,320 square kilometers, and about 126 islands in the Red Sea. The country has a coastline of 1,200 kilometers, with Massawa and Assab as the main seaports.

ASMARA

Asmara is the capital city of Eritrea. It is situated 115 kilometers west of the port of Massawa. A majestic city with visible African, Islamic and Italian architectural influence, it is perched on a plateau 7000 feet above sea level. It is home to almost 20% of the population.

Asmara is a naturally beautiful city with a temperate climate. Modern Asmara has a splendid skyline made of low buildings and tree lined streets. Asmara's air is a mixture of the fresh Red Sea breeze and refreshing mountain cool air. It is close to the sea, the coastal plains and the mountains at the same time. That is why tourists and travellers from the world are attracted to this lovely city.

POPULATION

The population of Eritrea is about 3.5 million made up of nine ethnic/tribal groups. These are: Afar, Bilen, Hadareb, Kunama, Nara, Rashaida, Saho, Tigre and Tigrinya. Religiously the people of Eritrea are divided about halfway into Muslims and Christians. There are no major complications or antagonism between the two religious groups.

PROVINCES:

There are eight provinces in Eritrea. Their names and provincial capitals are given below:

Province	Capital
1. Akele Guzai	Adi Keyeh
2. Barka	Agordat
3. Danakil	Assab
4. Hamasein	Asmara
5. Sahel	Nacfa
6. Semhar	Massawa
7. Senhit	Keren
8. Serae	Mende

BRIEF HISTORY OF ERITREA

Before the European colonization, as elsewhere in Africa and Asia, Eritrea was divided into chiefdoms and sheikhdoms. These chiefs and sheikhs were always at war with each other. From 1557 to 1865 a large portion of Eritrea and

the coastal zones came under the domination of Turkish empire. Eventually the Turks were replaced by Egyptians (1865-1884). In 1881, the Italians installed themselves at Assab on the coast, an occupation which gradually expanded into the hinterland and ended up in the complete Italian domination of Eritrea in 1890, and which lasted until 1941.

FROM ANNEXATION TO INDEPENDENCE

Eritrea then lived under the British military administration. In 1952, the United Nations passed a US-sponsored resolution federating Eritrea with Ethiopia. Let me quote the speech of the US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on the occasion:

"... From the point of view of justice, the opinion of the Eritrean people must receive consideration. Nevertheless, the strategic interests of the USA in the Red Sea basin and the considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that the country (Eritrea) has to be linked with our ally, Ethiopia".

In 1962 Emperor Haile Selassie abrogated the terms of the federation, announced the outright annexation of Eritrea, and declared it Ethiopia's 14th province. That year marked the beginning of a long armed and political struggle for independence.

With the fall of Haile

Sellassie in 1979, the Eritrean people fell from the frying pan into the fire by facing more bitter fighting with the communist colonel Menghisto Haile Mariam. Haile Mariam could not win the liberation war waged by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). On the 24th of May 1991, Asmara fall in the hands of the EPLF. Gradually, the total liberation of Eritrean territory was realized.

In spite of the fact that the liberation of Eritrea was achieved through armed struggle, still the provisional government of Eritrea expressed its deep interest in breaking off peacefully and democratically. It conducted a free and popular referendum that ended with a "YES" to an independent Eritrea.

The provisional cabinet headed by Ato Issias Afe-Werqe announced that the 24th of May will be considered as the national day of Eritrea.

APPEAL TO THE WORLD

The struggle of the Eritrean people has been long and costly. No country has supported this struggle on a continuous basis. Therefore, there is a moral duty on all countries of the world to:

1. Recognize the independent state of Eritrea, specially since the UN especial envoy to Eritrea's referendum, Mr. Samir

Sanbar confirmed that there were no irregularities in the referendum.

2. help in the reconstruction of the country. The donor countries, UN bodies, and nongovernmental organization must assist Eritreans in the reconstruction of their country.

3. assist in bringing back Eritrean refugees scattered in many parts of the world.

4. We appeal to the United Nations to accept its new member, Eritrea, in the UN General Assembly as the world's youngest nation.

YEMEN AND ERITREA

Relations between the Republic of Yemen and the Republic of Eritrea has started on a sound footing by the immediate recognition of Eritrea by Yemen.

In addition, the bonds of history, neighborhood, and a strong ethnic and blood ties between the two peoples and countries will inevitably have a positive impact on developing a mutually beneficial relationship.

Finally, one has to remember that a large Yemeni community had lived in Eritrea during much of this century. In return, a substantial number of Eritreans live in Yemen today.

The two neighbors also jointly guard the southern part of the Red Sea.

By: Sayid Hassan Sherif (Sidkey)
 Yemen-Sana'a

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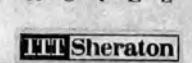
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OPINION

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

A WORLD OF POLITICAL SCANDALS

Actually, at the time being, the corrupt dealings, the influence for exploitation, the bribery and the financial and political scandals are rife in many regions of the world. I think nobody can deny this fact. No policy is said to have been unculpable from corrupt testing. Of course, some world countries have scored a great success in the field of malversation. The matter is regarded as serious. The business is crippled by lack of money. It seems as though the whole business stinks! The savoir-faire has been unavailing. The security body is not able to tackle and crack down on the illegal activities because some officials believe that it is driven by hunger to embezzle public funds, taking into consideration the exorbitant prices of local goods which is not in line with the wages of the working class: There is stagnation. Broadly speaking, the citizens of the developing countries suffered much from stupendous depravity and continue criticizing others and pretend they dislike jobbery. Surprisingly, a few developing countries fight against corrupt business in a primitive way which is likely to encourage people taking full advantage of public money! For example, national crime syndicates are formed to look for and make sure the spread of the corrupt administration of public funds, counting is carried out which is considered as a job with spectacular results. The increase of the wealth growth is, in the long run, scrutinized.

Certainly, it seemed all too illogical. Because the executive committee itself turns a blind eye to the issue! It is incumbent up in the political leadership to assume the responsibility in favor of the people. But the investigation on the increase in public assets and its comparison with their daily income seemed all too marvelous! The legal income is numerous including gifts, heritage, presents, salaries and multifarious works/businesses assigned to the whole family. A fool official could not fail to add to his salary with annual increment of corrupt money. Such being the case, how can the national crime syndicates seize the assets of suspected criminals? What a pity!

Desperately, Somalis derived great mutiny from malpractice. The continued fuss and disturbance are brought about by the recent political scandals and human greed of the unconscious warlords. Somalia is not expected to prosper under their rule. They did for the country and the people worse than Adolf Hitler. All warlords have of the same human objectives even though they are at loggerheads with the parliament, ergonomics, leadership, franchise, and the equal distribution of public funds. It is known that the current political shake-up in Somalia has no interest for innocent Somalis! It precipitated the

country into civil war. All the same, all warlords are from the same academic center in Mogadishu where they were trained how to shed blood.

Evidently, the the UN security council the multi-international forces with the help from the Pentagon could take paramount measures to comprehend the Somali War Criminals who killed more than two millions and destroyed the country on purpose, and made four millions homeless and hopeless. The Somali's disaster affected badly every Somali citizen. So how can war criminals assume the new Somali cabinet? If they assume, how could they describe the catastrophic saga? There could be no position of trust.

Fearfully, the Somali National Reconciliation Conference is taken place in Addis Ababa only to meet the demands of the Somali warlords, not the interests of the Somali people who suffered from genocide and-havoc.

In my opinion, if Somalis fulfil these points, they will be able to get over the difficulties.

Hopefully, people will know that the government's onerous duties are only accomplishments. As long as the nation entrusts them with the executive authority, it is too illicit to treat badly the public interests. The executive authority has to put into effect the multifarious tasks including security, stability, peace, defence, justice and public welfare, etc. Democracy and development could become the broad-based factors for the modern government in Somalia. In fact, the political framework of every country is the first commendable factor of peoples' victory as it is the first factor of failure in every challenge confronting the nation. The subsequent political revolutions, counter-revolutions and the so-called national construction and reform programs have made the Third World Citizens feel despair and live in a state of vandalism!

2. A nation could be the lofty ideals that observe the government political scandals and there should be an accountability which is not lax to the core. As for freedom of expression, everybody must be able to defend himself at the court of justice if he is accused of guilt. There was high jobbery in U.S.A. and Richard M. Nixon was the champion of the "Watergate political scandal. Over and above, people must not forget the intellectual person who hit on such a political scandal was "a prolific journalist." The US laws protected him until he could topple the US ex-strongman, Mr. Richard Milhouse Nixon in 1974.

3. Who is going to judge between defendant and plaintiff? The judicial body must be able to make massive efforts and function effectively because it is the Supreme Authority of every ruling system. Thus the suitable place for the criminal investigation and the judgement of criminals and the accused is either the criminal investigation department or the court of justice. Justly, men are all subject to the law of the land. By and large, people are spoiling for social justice which is part and parcel of human life.

4. Law and order must be brought off in the government administrative systems because it is the hub of splendid achievement. This enables us to take into custody the law-breakers and it is also reckoned among the jurists' best works.

5. The framework of the new government. The new Somali leadership must be legal and civilian. All bold intellectual persons must get a fair crack of the whip irrespective of "who is he?" Unless this action is realized, the political crisis is not expected to end, to be sore. As it is known, the political stability is indispensable for the progress of the country and the whole people because it calls upon them to look for the broad masses' hopes, dreams and future prospects. There would definitely be an omen of success.

Keeping this in mind, nothing could go wrong. Without political stability, people could not distinguish words from deeds; facts from rumors! Thus the peoples' hopes can be realized by bringing in social justice which overcomes difficulties. Nevertheless, without social justice, people would possibly fall victim to an enemy including terrorists, extortionists, dictators, warlords and separatist, etc.

6. The Somali community is encouraged to look after the "Moral Excellence." People should be concerned with the family and academic programs implanting in the rising generation virtuous principles such as: truth, confidence, honesty, faith and Islamic studies.

In a nutshell, we are in need of moral revolution ion every aspects of family life. In my opinion, the world political scandals can be triumphed over if these essential points are put into practice.

- A. Lack of moral and mental stability.
- B. Lack of comprehensive planning.
- C. Lack of self-reliance between leaders and nations.
- D. Lack of human morals and cultural development.
- E. Disunity.

By: Mohammed Ali Shidle, Taiz.

A grand idea is sometimes a collection of smaller ones. Ingenious little triumphs of design. Unseen but inspired solutions to vexing problems. A sudden insight that enables things to be done differently, Better. Combined, they can become a larger idea that adds to the ease and comfort of our lives.

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Dr. Ali Awadh Salem:

"The environment poses many pressing issues for Yemen today!"

Issues related to the environment have commanded a rising priority in world policy circles. Governments established ministries, specialized institutions and commissions to attend to environmental matters. Studies are carried out, and conferences and seminars are held on the subject worldwide. One recent workshop entitled "Global Environment Facility" (GEF) took place during 14-17 April, 1993 in Cairo. The workshop was sponsored by the UNDP in collaboration with the Regional Bureau of Arab States of the UN.

Representing Yemen in the workshop was Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, the Director-General of GEDP, EPC.

Yemen Times talked to him about the workshop as well as general environmental concerns in Yemen.

Excerpts of the interview

Q: What were the main objectives of the workshop?

A: The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- 1) Outlining the basic procedures of GEF,
- 2) Technical presentations showing project possibilities and criteria in the main focal areas of GEF:
 - a) Global Warming and Climatic Changes.
 - B) Biological Diversity
 - C) International Waters Pollution
 - d) Ozone layer Depletion.

Q: What exactly is the GEF?

A: The GEF (Global Environmental Facility) is a fund established in 1991 as a three-year (1991-93) pilot project to provide financial grants and technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to address

environmental concerns.

The GEF has a total of \$1.3 billion at its disposal for the three-year period, and the money is raised as follows:

1. GEF Core Funding: \$860 million,
2. Co-Financing/Contributions: \$300 million,
3. Through the Montreal Protocol: \$200 million.

This fund is, of course, over and above normal development assistance and environmental funds.

Q: Has the Republic of Yemen identified a project to draw on the GEF?

A: Yemen has identified environmental protection as one of its priority policy orientation. We now draw on the GEF for the protection of marine ecosystems and for assuring a sustainable fishing industry. The project focuses on the Red Sea coastline of Yemen to protect marine life, coral reefs and other critical habitats.

In addition, improved environmental management is a key component of the UNDP five-year program for Yemen.

Q: What are the main environmental concerns in the Red Sea project?

A: There are several points of concern.

1. Sustainability of fish supply is a major issue as these are depleted from over-exploitation.
2. As the Red Sea is part of the international naval routes, oil and other forms of pollution is a major concern.
3. Protection of coastal ecosystem by reducing degradation and by providing support to the institutions responsible for coastal control.

I am happy to tell you that the Yemen project was used by the GEF work-



shop in Cairo as a model project. We briefed our counterparts on the details of the projects - its goals, steps and actions, and what has been done so far.

Q: Given that Yemen is not an industrial country, what are the dangers you see to the Yemeni environment?

A: There are two main aspects to answering this question.

First, pollution and environmental degradation may not necessarily start in Yemen for Yemen to be afflicted by it. I am sure you can readily imagine an oil tanker for the Gulf going to Europe going under. This could happen near our coastline. Air pollution is a problem that could come from neighboring states. Some countries dump their 'waste' wherever they can. So, environmental problems in Yemen need not arise from our own action.

Second, industrial activity is just one source of pollution, although an important one. There are other sources of pollution associated with, say, consumption patterns. For example, cars are an

important source of noise and air pollution. Urbanization is another source. Even household garbage, if handled improperly, is a source of pollution. Our efforts at oil and gas exploitation have to be guided by environmental concerns. We are headed towards an ambitious extraction industry in terms of mining and other excavations for minerals. This will have serious consequences, at least on the landscape.

In addition, natural forces such as erosion and desertification have a strong impact.

What I am saying is that environmental protection is an all-encompassing concept and pressing issue in Yemen today. Whether through human actions (ours and those of others), or through natural forces, the environment is being affected.

The dangers are real and long-lasting. It is easier to take precautionary measures rather than try to correct mistakes.

Q: Going back to the Cairo workshop, what was the direct or even indirect benefit to our country?

A: There are, of course, many benefits. We have learned a few more things about the problem. We have linked up with several countries which attended the workshop. These include Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Finally, we understood better the workings of the UN bodies and how to tap their resources for funding projects in the Republic of Yemen.

Q: Any final comments?

A: I would like to say that environmental considerations are a pressing and critical matter to Yemen. We find it hard, sometimes, to convince our officials to make reasonable allocations for environmental projects because they do not have direct or short-term returns and because there are no lobby groups or patrons. In some cases, it is hard to even show the return to the country from these projects. Yet, I insist that the environment is a priority area to which the Yemeni government has to attend.

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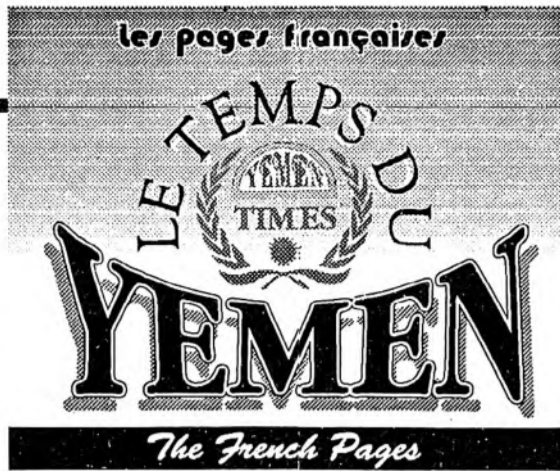
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Rep. of Yemen - الجمهورية اليمنية



CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCAIS

Du Jazz le 5 mai

Le Centre Culturel Français de Sanaa proposera mercredi 5 mai au Sheraton, une soirée jazz "New Orleans" animée par le Jazz Band "Sac à Pulses", en tournée dans le Moyen-Orient. Dans les années 1920-1930, le jazz "New Orleans" représentait la musique symbole des "années folles", l'élément obligé de toutes les festivités. Les orchestres étaient alors très nombreux, et leurs compositions entrèrent bien souvent dans la légende. Sydney Bechet, Louis Armstrong, King Oliver, Fats Waller, autant d'artistes dont les répertoires constitueront la base du programme musical présenté par "Sac à Pulses". Ajoutons enfin que ce cocktail de jazz instrumental et vocal vous sera servi dans la salle du "Souper Club", aménagée pour l'occasion en jazz club.

Mercredi 5 mai, 20h30. Sheraton Hotel. Billets en vente au Centre Culturel Français. Prix du billet: 300 R.Y.

EN BREF

Accord de prospection pétrolière au Yémen: Le ministre yéménite du Pétrole vient de signer une lettre d'intention avec le groupe pétrolier Ben Khalifa des Emirats Arabes Unis et son associé américain US International Petroleum LTD, pour la prospection pétrolière dans la région de Mahara (province de Mahara). Aux termes de l'accord, le groupe Ben Khalifa prospectera une zone d'une superficie de 6 966 km² et versera une somme de 8,5 millions de dollars au Yémen.

Décès d'Oliver Tambo, dirigeant historique de l'ANC: Oliver Tambo, alter ego de Nelson Mandela, est mort samedi 24 avril à l'âge de 75 ans à Johannesburg. Cet ancien dirigeant historique de l'ANC (Congrès national africain) est mort des suites d'un malaise cardiaque.

Les négociations de paix ont repris depuis le 27 avril: La neuvième session des négociations de paix sur le Proche-Orient a débuté mardi 27 avril à Washington. La délégation palestinienne aurait posé à l'OLP trois conditions pour sa participation: le droit de se retirer si aucun progrès n'est réalisé lors de cette session, le refus de la proposition américaine de négociations ininterrompues et la nécessité d'organiser un dialogue national palestinien.

Trente Palestiniens expulsés autorisés à rentrer: Le gouvernement israélien vient d'autoriser le retour de 30 Palestiniens bannis entre 1967 et le déclenchement de l'Intifada.

REFERENDUM EN ERYTHREE

L'indépendance plébiscitée

Les Erythréens se sont prononcés à plus de 99% en faveur de la sécession avec l'Ethiopie.

L'indépendance a fait quasiment l'unanimité en Erythrée. Les résultats publiés mardi à Asmara par la Commission nationale d'organisation du référendum font état de 99,8 % de voix en faveur du 'oui', soit 1156 280 électeurs sur 1173 706 inscrits. Selon les observateurs internationaux, le scrutin a été équitable et bien organisé. Les résultats sont sans surprise, étant donné le fervor nationaliste de la population. Les trois jours du scrutin, les 23, 24 et 25 avril derniers, se sont déroulés dans une ambiance de liesse. A la tombée de la nuit, les rues d'Asmara, quasiment désertes dans la journée, se remplissaient de centaines d'habitants qui dansaient et chantaient.

La reconstruction du 52e Etat africain reste cependant une tâche impressionnante. Ruinée par trente ans de guerre, l'Erythrée fait partie des vingt

pays les plus pauvres du monde, avec un revenu annuel de 120 dollars pour chacun de ses 3,5 millions d'habitants. Le pays montagneux, de la taille de l'Angleterre, est presque dénué de ressources, même si certains spéculent sur la présence de mines, de gaz naturel souterrain et de pétrole offshore.

L'espoir réside dans les hommes d'affaires, qui avaient fui le pays et se sont forgés une très bonne réputation dans toute la Corne d'Afrique. Par ailleurs, beaucoup d'observateurs étrangers sont persuadés que la population, endurcie par la guerre, s'en sortira.

L'Erythrée n'a plus d'économie

En attendant, 80 % des Erythréens sont illettrés et la plupart dépendent de l'aide alimentaire internationale. Le ministre de l'Economie Haïle

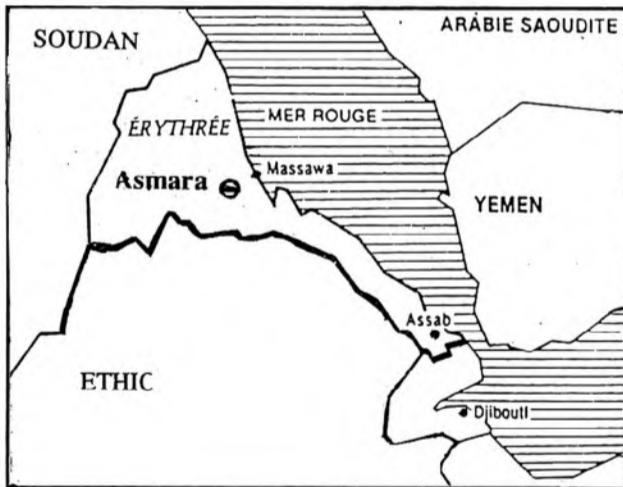
Woldense a déclaré: "L'Erythrée n'a plus d'économie. La guerre nous a conduit au plus bas". Il a estimé à environ deux milliards de dollars le coût de la reconstruction. Pour l'instant, les pays donateurs de la Banque mondiale ne se sont jusqu'à présent engagés qu'à hauteur de 147 millions de dollars. Le gouvernement provisoire dirigé par Issaïas Afewerki a déjà perdu 20 millions de dollars l'année dernière. L'Agence américaine pour le développement international (USAID) a retiré sa participation parce que l'Erythrée a refusé d'accélérer la privatisation des sociétés étatiques. Par ailleurs, certains des donateurs potentiels se sont inquiétés des origines marxistes du FPLE (Front de libération du peuple érythréen), actuellement au pouvoir.

Issaïas Afewerki, qui devrait être le futur chef d'Etat, a promis d'organiser des élections démocratiques, tout en avertissant que le processus pourrait prendre cinq ans.

L'Ethiopie, de son côté, est restée silencieuse face à la sécession de son ancienne province maritime. L'Ethiopie est désormais réduite à l'état de pays enclavé. Elle n'a plus d'accès direct à la mer. L'Erythrée a cependant déclaré qu'elle pourrait disposer librement des ports de Massawa et d'Assab pour importer et exporter toutes sortes de marchandises.

L'indépendance officielle devrait être proclamée le 24 mai, date du deuxième anniversaire de la prise d'Asmara par le FPLE (Front de Libération du Peuple Erythréen).

(d'après AFP)



INTERVIEW: Semere Berhe, consul à la Délégation d'Erythrée.

"La quasi-totalité des Erythréens vivant au Yémen ont voté oui"

Semere Berhe Beraki est depuis un an consul à la Délégation du gouvernement provisoire d'Erythrée à Sanaa.

- **Yémen Times:** Quand et comment les Erythréens vivant au Yémen ont-ils voté pour ce référendum?
- **Semere Berhe:** Les 16, 17 et 18 avril derniers, nous avons organisé le référendum pour les 3000 Erythréens vivant au Yémen. Le scrutin s'est déroulé dans quatre centres de vote à Sanaa, Taéz, Hodeidah et Khawkha, là où vit la communauté érythréenne. Khawkha est un cas particulier, puisque les Erythréens vivent dans un camp de réfugiés. Des observateurs yéménites, érythréens et des représentants des Nations Unies ont assisté au déroulement du vote.
- **YT:** Quels ont été les résultats?
- **SB:** Nous avons enregistré des résultats exceptionnels. Sur les 1309 inscrits, nous

avons compté 1273 bulletins de vote en faveur du 'oui' pour l'indépendance, un seul bulletin négatif et 35 abstentions. Le vote pour le 'non' a été enregistré à Khawkha. C'est une vieille femme, qui semble-t-il n'avait pas toute sa tête.
- **YT:** Le pays est ruiné par trente ans de guerre, comment l'Erythrée compte-t-elle reconstruire son économie?
- **SB:** Pour la première fois, les Erythréens sont libres. Nous avons payé beaucoup de vies humaines. Maintenant, nous devons reconstruire notre économie. Nous nous sommes toujours battus seuls et nous continuerons à le faire. Nous comptons avant tout sur nos propres forces, même si l'aide extérieure nous est nécessaire. Le gouvernement provisoire essaie d'améliorer les performances de l'agriculture en encourageant la culture du millet dans les plaines et du blé sur les hauts-plateaux.
- **YT:** Quels seront vos relations avec l'Ethiopie?
- **SB:** Nous voulons vivre en

bonnes relations avec les Ethiopiens. Pendant des années, cette région a été une zone de guerre, nous voulons maintenant qu'elle soit considérée comme un exemple de paix.

Propos recueillis par Jérôme BERNARD

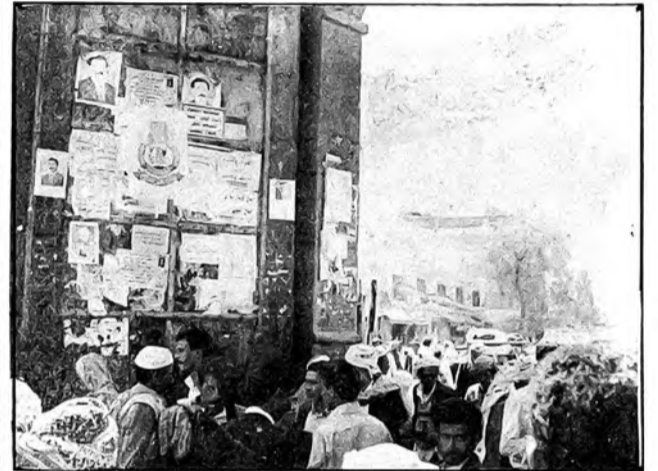
Chronologie

- 1890. La région devient une colonie italienne.
- 1940-1941. Les Anglais occupent l'Erythrée.
- 1952. Elle constitue un Etat fédéré avec l'Ethiopie.
- 1961. Création du FLE (Front de libération de l'Erythrée).
- 1962. L'Erythrée est incorporée à l'Ethiopie.
- 1970. Création du FPLE (Front Populaire de Libération de l'Erythrée) par des dissidents du FLE.
- 24 mai 1991. Prise d'Asmara par FPLE.

YEMEN

Affiches de campagne

A Sanaa, candidats et partis se sont battus à coups d'affiches. Reportage avant les élections.



Elles sont partout dans la ville. A peine la campagne officielle a-t-elle été lancée le 17 avril que les affiches électorales ont fleuri sur les murs de Sanaa. La population ne s'est pas contentée des "panneaux électoraux" officiels, des traits de peinture hâtivement tracés sur les murs des bâtiments publics. Tous les commerçants ont apposé une affiche de leur candidat sur la devanture de leurs échoppes. Collées les unes sur les autres, arrachées, recollées, on les trouvait même sur les vitres des taxis collectifs et des voitures particulières.

Des yeux de femme pour le PSY

Ce sont les affiches du PSY qui sont les plus nombreuses et leur graphisme accroche l'oeil. L'une d'elles représente les yeux d'une femme, accompagnés du slogan: "La souveraineté de la Constitution et de la Loi est un moyen de renforcer le pouvoir". Sur une autre, le parti socialiste a choisi de montrer deux mains ouvrant un rideau noir sur une maison traditionnelle de Sanaa, sur laquelle s'est posée une colombe. Les mots qui accompagnent cette affiche: "Pour une ville désarmée".

L'Islah, le parti islamiste, a fait plus sobre. L'une de ses affiches représente deux mains tenant un Coran. Au centre de l'affiche, le logo du parti: un derrick, symbole de l'extraction pétrolière, encadré par deux plantes, le café et le sorgho, symboles de l'agriculture yéménite. "Nous

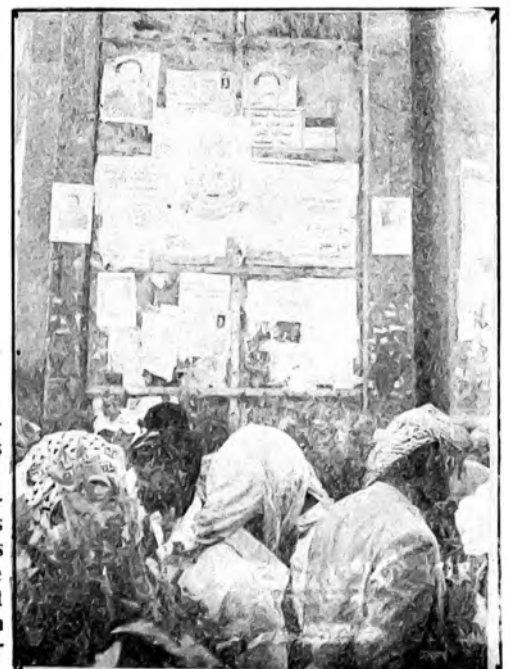
changerons la situation, la charia nous arbitrera", proclame le slogan de cette affiche.

Les affiches du CPG sur papier glacé sont les plus luxueuses. Elles sont à la gloire des réalisations du régime et notamment de la réunification. Sur l'une d'elles, on voit le président Saleh hissant le drapeau du Yémen unifié, suivie de cette citation: "L'unité est un miracle". Une autre affiche du CPG montre une photo du barrage de Mareb, construit avec l'aide des Emirats Arabes Unis. "Sur les chemins de la tradition et de la modernité", dit le slogan, en référence à l'antique barrage de Mareb du royaume de la reine de Saba.

De leur côté, les candidats ont fait imprimer leurs propres affiches, avec leur photo et leur slogan pour les élections: "Il y a un besoin de changement et il se fera par vous"; "Appuyez-vous sur la sincérité de votre candidat", peut-on lire ici et là. Un candidat a osé se montrer plus virulent: "Celui qui achète la loyauté aujourd'hui, la revendra demain".

Les candidates femmes ne sont pas nombreuses mais on voit leurs affiches. L'avocate Nadia Said Abdallah Al-Khalifi, qui se présente sous l'étiquette PSY dans la septième circonscription de Sanaa, déclare: "Pour la souveraineté de la loi, pour la protection de la liberté et les Droits de l'Homme". Un électeur peu amène lui a répondu sur son affiche d'un trait malhabile: "Les hommes dirigent les femmes".

J. B.



A Bab Al-Yemen, les affiches ont été collées sur les portes. Les passants ne semblent guère s'en préoccuper

RESULTATS DES ELECTIONS

Le parti du président grand vainqueur du scrutin

Le CPG devance très nettement l'Islah et le PSY, selon des résultats partiels portant sur plus de 280 circonscriptions. Le parti du Président obtient 120 sièges, le parti islamiste 58 sièges et les socialistes 50. Ces deux partis ont contesté dès jeudi les premiers résultats.

Les Yéménites n'ont pas choisi l'aventure. Avant même la proclamation définitive des résultats, le CPG, le parti du président Ali Abdallah Saleh, apparaît comme le grand vainqueur de ces élections législatives. Au dernier pointage, sur plus de 280 sièges (sur un total de 301 dans la future Assemblée) le CPG recueille 120 sièges, devançant très nettement ses deux principaux rivaux, l'Islah et le PSY. Le parti islamiste recueille 58 sièges, dépassant les socialistes qui ne sont crédités que de 50 députés.

Grande première dans un pays de la péninsule arabique, trois candidates auraient été élues. Elles étaient 50 femmes à se présenter à ces élections législatives, dont 18 à Sanaa et 20 à Aden.

Effondrement des socialistes

L'effondrement du PSY est la plus grande surprise de ce scrutin. L'écart important avec le CPG risque de constituer un facteur de déséquilibre à la tête de l'Etat. Le Président Saleh a cependant affirmé que le résultat des élections ne remettrait pas en cause l'alliance entre son parti et les socialistes. Il a confirmé que les deux partis constitueraient un "bloc parlementaire uni" dans la prochaine assemblée.

Les socialistes ont contesté dès jeudi les premiers résultats, revendiquant au moins 89 sièges, dont 50 dans le sud et l'est du pays. Le PSY a accusé la Haute commission de diffuser de "fausses informations" sur le dépouillement du scrutin.

De son côté, l'Islah a accusé les deux partis au pouvoir de falsifier le résultat final des élections: cela "prouve que le CPG et le PSY ne sont pas résolus à sortir le Yémen du chaos et il est maintenant clair que les deux partis entendent demeurer à tout prix à la tête du pays".

"Truquage" à Aden selon 30 candidats

Par ailleurs, 30 candidats représentant le CPG, l'Islah, le Bloc unioniste populaire nasérien et la Ligue des fils du Yémen, ont accusé le PSY d'avoir procédé au "truquage des élections" dans la province d'Aden. Le jour du scrutin,

l'Islah avait dénoncé les menaces exercées contre les électeurs par des hommes armés dans plusieurs bureaux de vote de l'ancienne capitale du Sud.

Après les élections, des incidents ont éclaté en divers endroits du pays. Mercredi soir, les forces de sécurité ont dispersé une manifestation de militants de partis qui protestaient contre la fraude "massive" lors des élections à Aden. Un manifestant aurait été blessé par balles. D'autre part, quatre hommes ont été tués et quatre autres blessés lors d'une "embuscade" tendue au nord-est de Sanaa contre le fils du chef de la tribu des Bakils, l'une des plus puissantes du Yémen. Les victimes appartenaient à l'escorte de ce "dignitaire" qui venait de remporter un siège de député contre, notamment, un représentant du PSY.

Les observateurs indépendants, yéménites et étrangers, présents sur le terrain le jour des élections, ont estimé que les irrégularités constatées ne remettaient pas en cause les résultats du scrutin. "Notre conclusion est que les résultats partiels actuellement disponibles reflètent généralement les intentions de vote des électeurs", a déclaré un représentant du Comité national pour des élections libres (CNEL). Les observateurs yéménites avaient dénoncé le lendemain des élections l'exploitation des analphabètes par des membres de plusieurs partis.

Des scrutins annulés

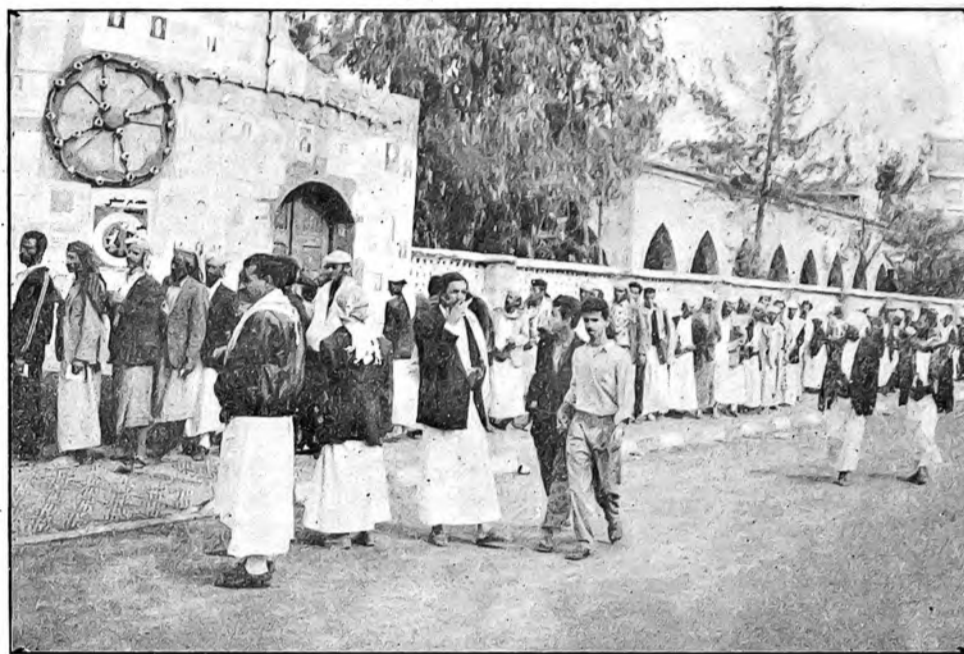
Quelques scrutins ont été annulés en raison d'incidents, notamment dans une circonscription de Raidah, au nord de Sanaa, où un chef tribal local a attaqué, à la tête d'un groupe armé, un centre de vote. Dans une circonscription d'Hodeidah, le scrutin a été reporté d'une huitaine de jours. Quelques jours avant les élections, deux des candidats en lice, l'un du CPG et l'autre de l'Islah, ont été tués à la suite d'un différend.

Les électeurs yéménites se sont rendus en masse pour voter. La participation électorale a été de 90%. A Aden, ils avaient apporté des chaises, des matelas, des transitors et de la nourriture pour rendre plus confortable leur attente. Certains d'entre eux dansaient sur la chaussée.

Les électeurs yéménites avaient à choisir entre 3642 candidats, le nombre des désistements s'élevant finalement à 1264 candidats, en grande majorité des indépendants. La sécurité avait été particulièrement renforcée, 37 000 soldats et policiers ayant été affectés à la surveillance du scrutin, dont 20 000 à Sanaa.

Le pays attend désormais la formation du nouveau gouvernement. Le jour du scrutin, le Président avait exprimé le désir d'intégrer des membres de l'opposition. Pour former un gouvernement "d'entente nationale". (avec AFP)

J.B.



Les Yéménites se sont mobilisés pour voter. Ici, à 8h du matin, devant un bureau de vote de la circonscription numéro 13 à Sanaa.

Des électeurs nombreux et enthousiastes

Mardi 27 avril, Sanaa s'est réveillée déserte. Pour les premières élections libres au Yémen, les magasins de la capitale sont restés fermés. La plupart des habitants sont allés voter dans leur village. Les Yéménites avaient en effet la possibilité de choisir entre trois lieux pour élire leur député: leur lieu de résidence, leur lieu de travail ou leur village. Quelques rares taxis parcourent la capitale. Plus inhabituels sont les pick-ups sur lesquels sont juchés des hommes de la sécurité nationale en uniforme panthère, jaune et marron, pointant vers le ciel un canon de DCA.

Des bulletins numérotés

Dès l'ouverture des bureaux de vote à 8h, les électeurs de Sanaa s'y sont précipités en rangs serrés. Devant un des centres de vote de la circonscription numéro 13, la file d'attente s'étire dans la rue puis serpente à l'intérieur de la cour du bâtiment. Calme et discipline. Les hommes de la sécurité nationale sont là, fouillant les électeurs et faisant respecter l'ordre. Dans cette circonscription, vingt candidats se sont présentés, leurs noms ont été inscrits au marqueur sur une feuille de papier à l'entrée de chaque bureau. Les femmes votent séparément des hommes. Toutes de noir vêtues, un frisson d'effroi les parcourt au bruit des appareils photo. Elles sont obligées malgré tout de relever leur voile quand elles présentent leur carte d'électeur à l'assesseur qui tient le registre des inscrits.

Dans la circonscription numéro un, située dans la vieille ville, la discipline n'est pas la même. Dans une ambiance d'excitation, les électeurs tentent de se frayer un chemin pour voter. L'isoloir est constitué d'une toile bleue ciel, tendue sur trois côtés. Chacun leur tour, les électeurs vien-

nent s'asseoir sur la chaise placée au centre de ce lieu destiné à protéger le secret du vote. En l'absence de rideau interdisant les regards indiscrets, on peut voir s'inscrire le nom du candidat. En effet, les bulletins, qui ont été numérotés, sont vierges.

L'électeur glisse ensuite son bulletin dans l'urne, plié ou non selon son goût du secret. Les urnes, peintes en bleu, sont en bois. Leur couvercle a été entouré plusieurs fois d'un papier collant marron et des scellés ont été posés. L'ambiance est bonne enfant et un peu anarchique. Un jeune militaire retient tant qu'il peut les électeurs trop pressés d'accomplir leur devoir électoral.

Une fois qu'il a voté,

l'électeur doit tremper son doigt dans de l'encre violette indélébile, pour qu'il ne puisse pas voter une deuxième fois. Chacun repart, le doigt en l'air en attendant que l'encre sèche.

Les analphabètes votent aussi

Un vieil homme illettré demande à un jeune homme de l'aider à faire son choix. Les deux hommes suivis d'un assesseur s'installent dans l'isoloir. Le vieil homme glisse à l'oreille du jeune homme le nom de son candidat. L'assesseur tend l'oreille et vérifie que le nom inscrit est bien celui choisi. "Je ne sais pas écrire, je sais seulement cuis-

ner. Ma fille est venue m'aider", explique plus loin une vieille femme visiblement heureuse d'être là. Les représentants des candidats sont assis derrière le bureau, un peu perdus au milieu de cette agitation.

A la sortie du bureau de vote, un pick-up est garé dans un virage. Six hommes armés sont juchés dessus, ils appartiennent à la sécurité présidentielle.

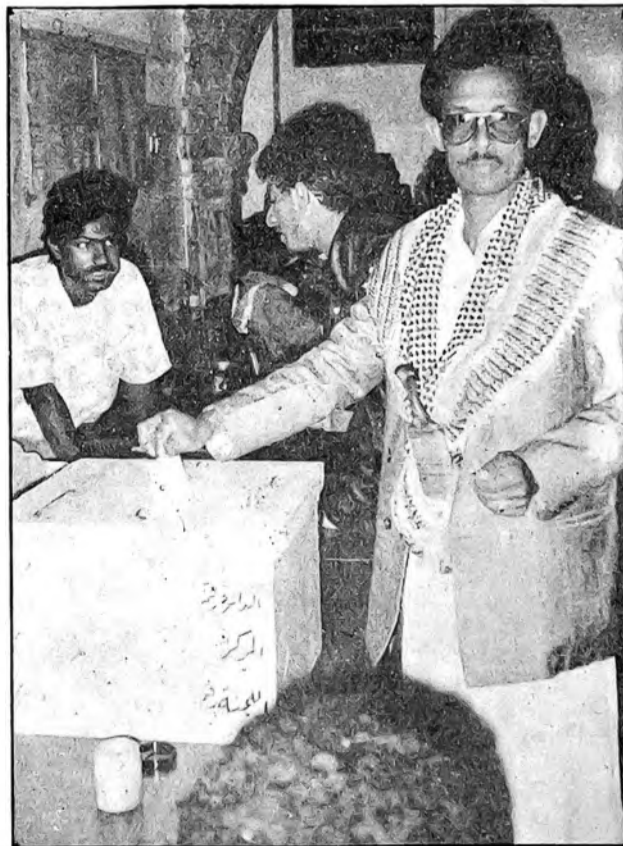
Tout le monde ne vote pas à Sanaa malgré les apparences. "Je ne me suis pas déplacé aujourd'hui parce que j'ai trop tardé pour m'inscrire sur les listes électorales. Je voterai dans quatre ans quand les candidats seront meilleurs et pas pourris comme ils le sont actuellement", explique un Yéménite.

On chique le qat dans les bureaux

Le Président Saleh a choisi de voter à l'Ecole technique chinoise, dans la circonscription numéro 11. Son bulletin déposé, il passe saluer les femmes qui votent dans le bureau d'à côté.

A Wadi Dhar, un village à 25 km environ de Sanaa, la question du vote des femmes ne se pose pas. "Il n'y en a pas d'inscrites", explique le cheikh du village. A 14h, la quasi-totalité des électeurs ont voté, 340 sur 393 inscrits. Le bureau de vote, installé dans l'école, est vide. Un électeur de temps en temps vient accomplir son devoir électoral. L'isoloir, composé de deux couvertures, a été installé dans un coin de la salle de classe. On vient apporter aux assesseurs, qui ne peuvent pas bouger, leur paquet de qat. A Zala, quelques kilomètres plus loin, le bureau de vote commence à être jonché de feuilles de qat. Il est 15h. Dans trois heures, le bureau ferme officiellement ses portes.

Jérôme BERNARD



Ce sont les premières élections libres au Yémen. Un moment historique.

Résultats partiels des élections législatives du 27 avril

Sur 280 sièges (total: 301)

- CPG (Congrès général populaire)	120 sièges
- L'Islah	58 sièges
- PSY (Parti socialiste yéménite)	50 sièges
- Candidats indépendants	44 sièges
- Autres	8 sièges



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YEMENI ELECTIONS DREAMS AND PROSPECTS

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

Being the cultural editor of Yemeni Times, I have the obligation to prepare a weekly article concerning cultural activities. Yet, as an Arab citizen, I can't but go back again and again to the most vital event in Yemeni, and maybe Arab, modern history. That is we are witnessing the first ever experiment in the peaceful handling/transferring of power. Its success marks an age of change in the whole Arab mentality.

Watching the democratic race for power, through campaigns, newspapers, party programs on TV and personal campaigns, I cannot say anything but that Yemen has set an example with far reaching results, that will in the course of time pay off handsomely towards creating a democratically-oriented society. This first experiment may not be crowned, as hoped by enthusiasts, with the ideal political system. Nor would it be useless or just another political game, as many skeptics believe. It is a serious attempt to put things right in a widely

unfavorable environment, where tyranny is the rule and democracy is the exception. Its impact on the future of the whole area is immense. We can imagine the influence of an increasingly rich democratic republic with a strategic position in the area.

The lessons learned from freedom of the press, political pluralism, co-existence of ideologies, and the 'acceptance' of the ruling body to compete democratically for its continuity, etc., are immense. These new political values and traditions will allow Yemen and its coming generations to leap to a new age.

Democracy is not limited to changing faces, it is rather a process of liberating education, scientific research, literature and all other facets of social life. It is the assured remedy for all social and traditional ills and problems. It is the only history-proven path for progress.

As an enthusiast of the democratic path, I imagine the Yemeni society in twenty years time will be a leading regional country if it sticks to its multi-party system. Pluralism and freedom bring about the

best in the nation's citizens. They also bring harmony and social justice as accountability becomes the order of the day. There will be long-term development plans that are free from the whimsical decisions of dictators and inept bureaucrats.

Such a political system is, by necessity, twined to a liberal and free market structure. Free trade and investment is the rule of the day, and I expect to see a dramatic transfer of technology. This is not a fantasy or idle dream, it is the basic fact that history shows. Just contemplate what countries like Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia have achieved in a short time. Part of the trick is within the system they have adopted.

There, in that democratic atmosphere, culture would grow. Writers, artists and researchers would ride high to ensure the most fascinating side of society. We would see museums, art galleries and publishing houses spread all over the country; novels and poetry printed in large volumes. We would see this virgin land with its long beaches and the most

beautiful terrain, landscapes and architecture, with comfortable climate year-round, etc., stimulate millions of dollars of earnings from tourism. The democratization process and liberalization of the economy and opening-up of our culture would end a long age of hibernation for Yemen.

Printing and publishing activities are at their lowest levels at the moment, while a few outstanding poets and novelists tend to publish abroad. Theater is an occasional activity while there is no sign of a local cinema industry at all. This lack of creative activity is not attributed to the economic status alone, but to the structure of the system itself. We can see many African nations with less per capita income and higher illiteracy rates produce world class literature. The problem is in our conscious acceptance of an eternal ruling oligarchy and our passive attitude towards their excesses. We don't know what prospects the future holds, but the enthusiasm of the people of Yemen for democracy and freedom holds the promises of a better future.

Democracy, accompanied by a free and effective judicial system and an established media, active economic deals and the full enforcement of law and order, will inevitably create a modern homeland promising welfare for its citizens.

The anarchy-like conditions now prevailing are temporary and bound to give way to a more logical arrangement. Some of the problem emanates from the slogans that certain national forces raise without really meaning them. In this sense, these forces, often led by urban elites, actually hinder the natural evolution of the country.

Life is no waiting room in an international clinic, where we can sit and wait for the international drug to push us a few months ahead. And it is not natural resources or individual fortune that lead to prosperity and a better future. The name of the game is human talent and abilities - both of which need room to breathe and reach out to the far horizons. In this sense, Yemen has taken a few steps towards liberating its own people to breathe better and to stretch their arms to reach out to the far beyond. We are on the threshold of a long journey that will take us to the new Yemen.



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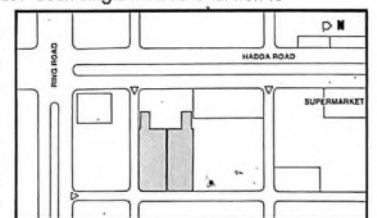
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- * Computer skills,
- * Excellent interpersonal skills,
- * Valid Yemeni driver's licence,
- * 48 Hours per week.



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- * Orders supplies,
- * Performs other program and administrative work.

CONDITIONS:

- * Two years of previous secretarial work,
- * Native speaker of Arabic and Level Three of English ability,
- * Minimum of 30 wpm typing ability in English,
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- * Valid Yemeni driver's licence,
- * 48 Hours per week.

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GULF GOLD TRADE

Gold trade is booming in the Gulf Arab region which is rapidly becoming one of the busiest world markets for bullion and jewellery imports and re-exports. Traders and experts say Dubai now ranks as the fifth most important center for gold trade in the world and Saudi Arabia is quickly catching up.

Dubai's gold imports rose 72% in 1992, an all time record for the emirate, to 284 tons from 165 tons in 1991, according to World Gold Council figures. Most of it was re-exported either as bullion or jewellery. In Saudi Arabia gold imports rose to 135 tons in 1992, from 120 tons in 1991.

The traders say the growth rate in the gold trade in the Gulf was between 10 to 15%. They attribute that to good legislation, low cost of labor, minimal insurance cost and custom tax.

They say that a current dip in world gold prices and the easing of controls on gold imports in some countries like India and Pakistan were largely behind the boom in the Gulf's gold trade. None of the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries imposes any tax on gold bullion; although Saudi Arabia levies a 12% tax on jewellery imports, Bahrain 10%, Kuwait 4%, and the United Arab Emirates 1%.

Andre Bisang, Middle East director of the Geneva-based World Gold Council (WGC), said the region is witnessing a rapid evolution in gold trade.

"In the long term demand in the Gulf.... is going to grow and there is a very clear evolution in the market," he indicated.

He said Saudi Arabia is emerging as a competitive world center for gold trade and manufacturing of jewellery while Dubai was a major world market for re-exports. "I think there is a very interesting development in Saudi Arabia which is the largest consuming market in the Gulf," he concluded.

One of the main reasons for the high demand for gold in the Gulf countries is its use in social events, notably in marriages and births. Upon marriage, for example, the groom bestows on his bride a handsome collection of gold ornaments such as necklaces, bracelets, etc.

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 الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليفون: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦
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WHAT THE ELECTION RESULTS MEAN!

The April 27th elections have given the People's General Congress the upper hand in the power politics of Yemen. It occupies more seats than the Islah and YSP combined. But, still, it cannot claim to have obtained a mandate.

The PGC is at liberty to create coalitions with any of the YSP, Islah or the independents. The most likely scenario, however, is for the PGC to bring in all those three groups in an effort to marginalize the role of every one of them.

The most important result of the elections is the psychological one. The YSP, the main competition to the PGC, so far, is highly demoralized, and there is a rift within its ranks. Segments of YSP are already demanding the collective resignation of the party leadership, specifically the Politbureau. Yemenis worry that the YSP leadership will engage in something crazy under the heat of the results. "That is why President Ali Abdullah Saleh goes out of his way to appease them," explained one observer.

The geographic distribution of the results follow the well-established pattern of zones of influence, with a few major exceptions.

1. The PGC dominated the capital city as well as the northern, central and western governorates. Its hub is basically Sanaa city.

2. The Islah collected most of the votes in the major cities, including Taiz city, long regarded as a YSP stronghold. The Islah has also proven it is the best organized party in the country, well shrouded by a lot of secrecy.

3. The YSP continues to wield uncontested influence in the southern and eastern governorates. More than any other governorate, Taiz proved to be a free for all, with the YSP, PGC and Islah making a visible and almost equal presence in it.

The Results of the Elections:

The People's General Congress (PGC)	122
Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)	62
Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)	57
Independents (A mixed lot)	46
Baath Party	7
Hizbul Haq	2
Tanzeem Wahdawi Shaabi Nasseri	1
Tasheeh An-Nasseri (YSP-sympathizer)	1
Demokrati Nasseri (PGC-sympathizer)	1
Unknown	2
TOTAL	301

One of the main problems in the 27th April elections is that it has proved that all parties, without exception, are willing to break the law to promote their candidates. In incident after another, the main parties have broken the law. But their methods are different:

1. The PGC basically uses two tools - money and the establishment. The PGC has distributed a lot of money to win favor, and it has used the local government bodies (specially the security) to 'convince' voters to vote for the PGC candidate.

2. The Islah uses religious mystique to win the hearts of the people. This is very effective among the illiterate rural people and urban underclass. The people are told that Islah candidates represents the 'good' and the competitor the 'bad.'

3. The YSP is more of a bully. It cheats, blackmails, threatens and spreads nasty rumors on its competitors. Lately, it has also started passing out money. However, scare tactic is the main component of the YSP approach to winning. All those and other parties share one important strategy - their vehement opposition to independents. In many cases, the parties work jointly to knock off, first, the independents, then, each other.

This has allowed independents to get together and exchange notes, for now.

At the international level, the elections were the last chapter in the healing process of Yemen's relations with many countries. The quick statement by the US administration in blessing the elections is seen as a sign of a change of heart in Washington towards Yemen.

Europe has always taken kindly towards Yemen, and the elections have given an additional reason for stronger and better understanding.

Within the Arab World, Yemen's bold step has caught many by surprise. It has shown that Yemen has, one more time, can chart its course towards a better future.

At the internal level, the elections have given the Yemenis a new moral boost which, if properly used, could help resolve many of the current problems. However, the economic difficulties will be the most important factor in the internal harmony of the country.

If the new government is able to address the major economic problems, then a long-lasting tranquility and social peace can be expected. If however, the economic problems persist, then whatever good will and good feelings were generated by the elections process will vanish.

The new government could start by taking the first step in fighting corruption.

Many Yemenis are waiting anxiously to see the new faces in the government. Ali Abdullah Saleh has the ability to name a few technocrats and skilled persons to manage the government, as he is under no pressure to accept politicians forced on him by his coalition partners. If he does that, then it will be an indicator of a new beginning. If he continues on the old road, his new success will be quickly eroded.

Finally, the parliamentary elections can be seen as a fore-runner to the local elections to be held before the year is out. August 1993 was mentioned as a possible date for it.

The old balance of power in Yemeni politics has visibly tilted towards the right, as was expected. The leftist and left-leaning parties have received a major blow. The YSP, which represented 50% of the power structure in the past, is reduced to less than 20%. The Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Ashaabi Annasseri, which one time boasted of being Yemen's largest grass-roots level party, is almost driven to extinction. The other leftist parties are totally wiped out.

On the other hand, the Islah, Yemen's largest religion-based party, has come out as the second largest party, second only to the PGC. The other religion-based party, Al-Haq was able to secure two seats. The religious circles claim that they and their sympathizers represent half of the new parliament, "as many of the PGC deputies are 'undercover' sympathizers with the religious bloc."

Confronted with these developments, the YSP has come out with a warning that the right may nullify the democratic accomplishments. Given its loss of credibility over the last three years, not many are listening to YSP warnings. Maybe it is a mistake.

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YEMEN TIMES: A SUNDAY PAPER

Starting with this issue, Yemen Times moves to become a Sunday newspaper. The change is due to many considerations. We hope this will not cause any major inconvenience to our readers, and we hope they will take note of it.

اليمن تايمز تصدر الأحد

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