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Off to a shaky start...

Al-Attas' "New" cabinet paralyzed from the start, as its Islah members boycott it.

The names of the "new" Al-Attas government have been read over the radio and television, and the papers have printed them. Yet, the Al-Attas government hit a snag - the Islah members refused to take the constitutional oath and start their job. Their complaint - they want at least an equal share to the YSP.

"We can't amend the government even before it starts its functions," a senior PGC politician told a senior Islah politician trying to convince him to show flexibility. "Why not, we are amending the constitution even before it is implemented," retorted the Islah person.

Yemen Times learned that there will not be amendments to the government, but the leadership will make it up for the Islah in distributing posts of deputy ministers and chairmen of government companies and corporations. On the basis of that understanding, the Islah has agreed to play the game.

In the "new" cabinet, twelve persons occupy their

same posts as in the previous Attas government, six of them have rotated jobs, and six former ministers have returned to the "new" government. The real doze of new blood comes, understandably, from the Islah bloc which has never ruled before. Even then, both the PGC and YSP have together introduced three new faces.

One observer who was shocked as he was reading the names, said, "The political leadership has expressed a definite longing for the past. You can see this in the structure of the 'new' government."

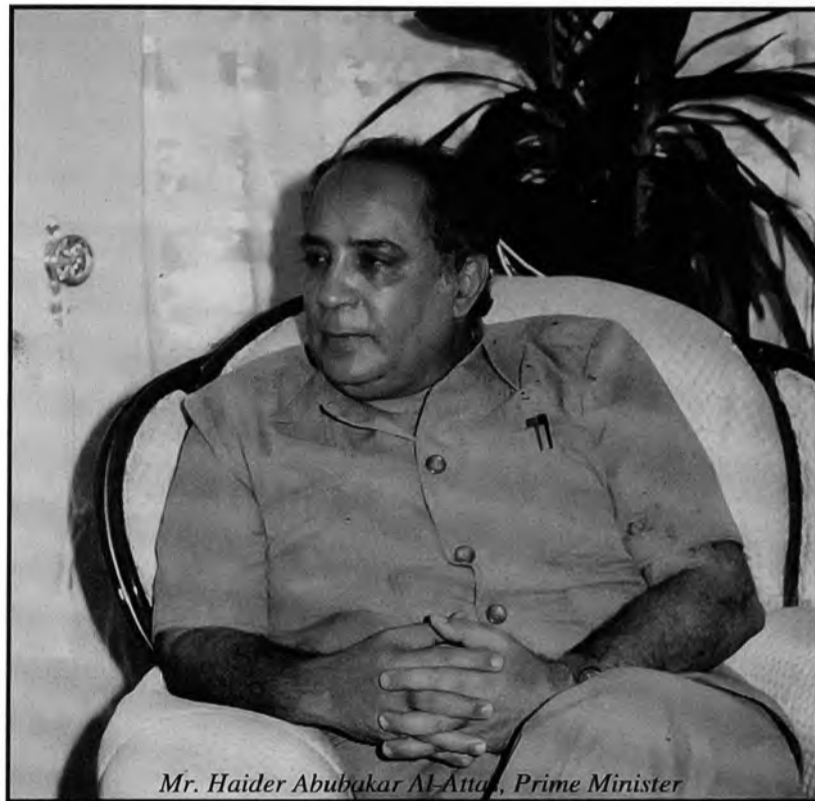
This situation has made many people conclude that this was a temporary government. Their logic - once the constitution is amended, and the presidency is re-structured, and Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salem Al-Beedh are named by the House of Representatives as president and vice president, then another "new" government will be formed.

The process in this scenario has already been set in motion, and the works

are in the pipeline. Remaining time for the completion of the jobless than five months.

This kind of psychological frame leads to more hesitation and paralysis as a new transitional period mentality grips the system. "By giving the presidency a five-month extension, the parliament has actually initiated a new transitional period," pointed out a Sanaa University Professor. "This is bad for the country which needs a decisive and firm leadership which can lead us out of the current mess," he added.

What happens next? Nothing meaningful or substantial as President Ali Abdullah Saleh continues to juggle more and more balls at the same time. As the number of balls rises, the pace of the system slows down. Even if there is no mishap, the system may grind to a



Mr. Haider Abubakar Al-Attas, Prime Minister

halt under the weight of its contradictions. Meanwhile, the economic difficulties continue to mount. As the price spiral eats away on the purchasing power of the people, grievances will be expressed in more violent ways.

The few days preceding the Eid Al-Adha witnessed major demonstrations in Sanaa. The army and riot police was called in to disperse an angry crowd of civil servants. It used tear gas and clubs and fired

shots in the air. In the end, an inefficient bureaucracy was forced to work over the weekend to pay salaries. There was also trouble in the army as many of them became edgy for not receiving their salaries on time. The Mareb barracks saw heated arguments and low-level violence between the rank and file and the officers. The president had to go there immediately after the Eid to pacify the soldiers.

Members of the "New" Al-Attas Cabinet

YSP Members:	Prime Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
1. Haider Abubakar Al-Attas	Vice Prime Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
2. Mohammed Haiderah Masdous	Defence Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
3. Haiham Qassim Taher	Oil Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
4. Saleh Abu-Bakar Bin Hussainoon	Minister of Fisheries	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
5. Fadhle Mohsin Abdullah	Transportation Minister	Same Person, Different Post, Last Gov't.
6. Saleh Obeid Ahmed	Housing Minister	Same Person, Different Post, Last Gov't.
7. Mohammed Saeed Abdullah	Minister of Culture	New Blood
8. Jarallah Omer	Electricity & Water Minister	New Blood
9. Ahmed A. Sallami		
PGC Members:		
1. Dr. Hassan Mohammed Makki	First Vice Prime Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
2. Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar	P.M./Industry Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
3. Alawi As-Salami	Minister of Finance	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
4. Abdullah Al-Kurshumi	Minister of Public Works	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
5. Dr. Mohammed Al-Kebab	Minister of Youth & Sports	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
6. Sadeq Ameen Abu-Ras	Minister of Agriculture	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
7. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Anisi	Communication Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
8. Hassan Al-Louzy	Minister of Information	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
9. Colonel: Yahia Al-Mutawakkil	Minister of Interior	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
10. Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryan	Minister of Planning	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
11. Mohammed Ba-Sindiwah	Foreign Affairs Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
12. Yahia Al-Arashi	Civil Service Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
13. Mohammed Ali Haiham	Social Security Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.
14. Abdullah Ghanim	Minister of Justice	New Blood
15. Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirbi	Minister of Education	New Blood
Islah Members:		
1. Mohammed Dammaj	Minister of Local Government	New Blood
2. Dr. Najeeb Ghanim	Minister of Health	New Blood
3. Dr. Ghaleb Abdul-Kafi Qurashi	Minister of Endowment (Awqaf)	New Blood
4. Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ba-Fadhle	Minister of Supply	New Blood
Other:		
1. Mujahed Abdu Shawarib	Vice Prime Minister	Same Person, Same Post, Last Gov't.

Gov't. = Government



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السفاري
EL SOFFARY

OUR VIEWPOINT

Where are the Opinion Makers?

Democracy is something that needs to grow at the grass-roots level; it is not something that political leaders can install and foster. The leaders can help, of course.

I am sure that our political leaders are trying to help democracy in Yemen grow, within the constraints of their over-riding concern to remain in power. But where are the opinion makers? What have the intellectuals given? What have the unions and syndicates contributed to the process? What have the local elders provided? Almost zilch.

Let me use an example.

Nowadays, there are efforts to amend the constitution. Where are the opinion makers in this context? Have the lawyers taken the proposed amendments and analysed them and explained what they mean? Has the business class taken these amendments and studied their implications? Have the university professors done anything? What efforts are being exerted to shape public opinion on the matter? None, so far!

We still have two months to go before the amendments are to be concluded? The parliamentarians need our help to tell them what is best for the country. The specialists should lead the way in supporting/opposing any of the amendments!

Unless opinion makers do their share of the work to galvanize the public in taking this or that stand, the politicians will always have it their way. That is why we need the opinion makers to talk to the general public and point out the implications of the various steps taken in our democratic evolution.

Opinion makers and intellectuals often cry foul after a decision is taken. In a democratic system, they can be part of the decision-making process, even if they are not part of the government - they need not be able to influence decisions.

But they need to have a strong interest in helping shape the future - by working through the people.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

First Person-to-Person Contact between President Saleh and Sheikh Zayed

President Ali Abdullah Saleh picked up the phone and called H.E. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. The reason - Sheikh Zayed was in London for medical treatment.

The Wednesday June 2nd call finally breaks the ice in the relations between the two men. This was the first person-to-person contact between them. Yemen was given a cold shoulder by the Gulf states (and many other countries) following the August 2nd, 1989, Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Yemen's subsequent position on the issue.

The two men had previously exchanged letters through emissaries to each other.

American Labor Delegation Visits Yemen

An American labor delegation visited the Republic of Yemen over the Eid Al-Adha holidays. The ill-timed visit was aimed at improving relations between Yemeni and American labor unions and syndicates.

Yemeni-Saudi Border Talks To Resume

The Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have agreed to resume talks on the border between the two countries. According to a foreign ministry source, the talks will be resumed around the end of this month.

At another level, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in the most blatant attack against Saudi Arabia, accused that country of encroaching on Yemeni territory and naturalizing Yemeni citizens. In a recent interview, the President said that it was not the Saudis who have a complaint on Yemen, but it was the other way round.

YSP Central Committee Next Week

Yemen Times learned that the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) plans to hold the coming meeting of the Central Committee is planned for next week. According to the source, everybody is bracing for trouble as the two conflicting sides of the YSP party will meet to put forth their points of view regarding the merger with the PGC and many other issues.

"Although the opposing side of the YSP has resigned itself to accepting the merger, we are now concerned with the way the YSP leadership has handled the matter, and its ability to circumvent any legal dissent within the party apparatus," stated one senior member.

President Saleh Visits the Army Units in Mareb

There was trouble once again in several army barracks as their salaries were late in arriving. Given the needs of the Eid Al-Adha, the soldiers and low-level officers were approaching open insubordination to their well-to-do officers. As a result of the complications, President Ali Abdullah Saleh flew out there on Thursday, June 3rd. He carried along sacks full of Riyals to pay off any outstanding dues to the soldiers.

He also re-iterated strongly the "need for sacrifice for the homeland which is making major strides along the road of democracy and development."

"I also urge you to remember that the law prohibits members of the armed forces to belong to any political party. We are the party of the nation and the guardians of its march in this course. We need not belong to any one single party," he said.

In a clear attempt to create an image of one-ness and to stick together, the president said, "You are my comrades in arms. We are in this together. I hope you will remember that." The president repeated that message during his tour of four army barracks.

Accompanying the president were Colonel Yahia Al-Mutawakkil, Minister of Interior, and other senior officers.

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RUSSIA PUSHES ON DESPITE PRIVATIZATION HURDLES

Russia's ambitious privatization drive is lagging several months behind target, but government officials and Western experts say the process of rolling back seven decades of communist state ownership is irreversible.

Hostility from Russia's conservative parliament, resistance from some local officials and managers and the hesitancy of Western investors have not succeeded in derailing the biggest privatization campaign attempt in history. "It's up and going. I think they're maybe about three months behind targets set in legislation last June, but that's not bad, is it?" asks Richard Hewitt, chief management consultant at thez Cooper and Lybrand's Moscow office.

Less than 18 months after the Soviet Union collapsed, showcase firms like the Volgo-grad tractor plant, the giant Uralmash engineering works and the Zil factory that churned out sleek black limousines for the communist elite are leading the privatization charge. One in five Russians is now employed in the private sector and 58,000 enterprises - mostly shops, services and small businesses - that had been privatized by the end of February, 1993.

Of medium and large firms, 1,339 had been privatized by mid-May at 'auctions' where ordinary Russians could use privatization vouchers issued last year to bid for shares.

But the government must raise the tempo sharply to meet its goals of privatizing 8,000 large and medium-sized firms during 1993. Hewitt said one major obstacle is the

monstrous size of the largest companies, which resemble small empires owning thousands of apartments, hospitals, cinemas and even collective farms. "One key for big enterprises is going to be how they break it down into manageable pieces," he said.

From the point of view of foreign investors, another problem is the structure of the 'voucher auction,' where typically only about 30% of shares are put up for sale.

In about two-thirds of cases, the workforce opts to retain a 51% controlling share in the firm in question.

"The majority of foreign shareholders will not go into a minority shareholding with a Russian enterprise. To me, quite rightly, there is a lack of trust on the part of Western investors to go into anything they can't control," Hewitt said. "There's a bit of a hole in the legislative support, I think Western investors are worried that unless they get control, the enterprise will continue to run as it has before."

Government officials have acknowledged the need to do more to attract foreign capital, but insist the current procedure is straightforward and should not deter investors. They point out that the vouchers needed to take part in 'auctions' are transferable and can easily be bought on the secondary market.

"The important thing to tell the Western financial world is that there is this window of opportunity, a very easy way of buying stake in Russian companies, that's open only in 1993 because by the end of the year the voucher program comes to an end," said Maxim Boiko, Adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais.

Boiko said the government aimed to foster a capital market, probably with several tiers of regional stock exchanges instead of a single centralized one. "I would expect fairly active trade in these shares in the next two, three or five years with larger, more strategic investors accumulating blocks of shares." Boiko said it was too early to say how newly-privatized firms were coping with standing on their own two feet. But competition within the sector was pushing up wages and employees were clearly better off than those working for state firms. Progress in privatization varied by sector and region. As many as half of small retail shops have been privatized, rising to 80% or more in pioneering regions like Nizhny Novgorod, east of Moscow. But some regions have barely started. Hewitt and Boiko blamed the continuing grip of the communist 'old guard' for this. Meanwhile, parliament in Moscow signalled its dissent in a resolution in April calling privatization 'unsatisfactory' and saying the vouchers system was a tool for profiteering and fraud.

Vladimir Ispravnikov, head of parliament's supreme economic council, said that only 12% of the firms were profitable and the government was conning people by leading them to expect profits and dividends. But Boiko indicated that the government would press on regardless. He pointed to a new decree by President Yeltsin calling for the privatization of 2,000 more firms using vouchers by the end of current June.

LUANDA CRUMBLING AFTER 18 YEARS OF WAR

Off for a bit of shopping in downtown Luanda? That machine gun will have to stay in the car.

The Angoly-Franca, one of the few surviving department stores, had to post a "No guns-allowed" sign at the front door to make sure everyone got the message.

Life has been hard in Luanda ever since the civil war began 18 years ago, just before this southern African country gained independence from Portugal. Even so, residents say they have not seen anything like the last six months.

Since war resumed in October after the collapse of a 1991 peace accord between the government and Unita rebels, Luanda has been critically short of food, water, medicine, electricity - everything except weapons. "Guns? They are easy. You want one?" said Mauricio, patting his hip bag. He asked to be identified only by the one name. The glut of guns is the troublesome result of a government decision to arm civilians in late October during a three-day battle with the rebels after they refused to accept defeat in Angola's first multiparty national elections.

Government forces won the battle, but thousands of pistols and automatic rifles remain in circulation.

A police lieutenant, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said his department records about 30 gun-related deaths each week and that many more probably are not reported. When asked how many killers were caught, he simply shrugged.

Guns are everywhere. On a busy downtown street, two young men stopped their pickup and unloaded the makings of a feast: a live, trussed animal in a

sack, a case of drinks and a bag of corn. They also had two pistols and a Kalashnikov automatic rifle.

Getting all that across the street to their friend's house was difficult: first the thrashing animal, then the corn and drinks.

The guns, studied carefully by a group of curious children, waited on the sidewalk.

Many Luandas are less concerned about the abundance of guns than by lack of everything else.

"The war hasn't blown Luanda up, it's strangling it," said Manuel Bautista, a construction engineer.

When rebel leader Jonas Savimbi emerged from the bush during the brief peace and saw Angola's once beautiful capital for the first time in 16 years, Bautista said, he mocked the shanties between abandoned office buildings, the streets full of rotting garbage, the stench of sewage.

"He saw weakness here, disease, confusion," the engineer said.

As a Portuguese colony, Angola was once prosperous, with an abundance of livestock, grain, fruit, vegetables, and coffee as well as its rich deposits of oil and diamonds.

Luanda was a jewel of the South Atlantic.

But the long war has drained Angola of the means of making things work. Traffic is snarled because the lights do not work. Sewer pipes in apartment buildings break. Electricity frequently fails, creating havoc in hospitals, where doctors face a record number of cholera cases and deaths.

"If this were a military base, there would be sirens and red lights flashing," said Dr.

Vitor Vemba, head of health services in Luanda. "We are in a state of maximum emergency."

Cholera spread through the city of 4 million when more than 2,000 bodies were left rotting on the streets after the October fighting. Half of the residents have only untreated water because the rebels blew up a purification plant. What appears to keep Luanda going is a thriving black market that sprang from the ruins of the national economy. Groups of women on street corners fan themselves with thick wads of the local currency while waiting to buy dollars at rates far above the official rate.

Other women, babies strapped to their backs with swaths of bright cloths, sell chicken grilled over charcoal in automobile hubcaps.

"No one could survive on the salaries they pay in Luanda," said a finance ministry official, who also insisted on anonymity. "people go to work for one day and spend the rest of the week doing business on the street."

Even then, the military men turned politician are still fighting it out, or at least their men are. There is no sign of relief or any solution to the bitter civil war. The New World Order can't care any less. If certain nations want to commit suicide, they are free to have a go at it. African nations are the most likely candidates.

TIGHTEN BELTS, KUWAITIS TOLD

Kuwait said its citizens should learn to live on less to help reduce a budget deficit swollen by costs of repair and reconstruction after the 1991 Gulf war.

Asked if Kuwaitis should tighten their belts, Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Saud al-Sabah replied: "The answer is absolutely yes. I think the situation now is not as it was before August 2nd, 1990."

"Even if you go back to August 2nd, we had a deficit in our budget because of the oil prices and because of the extensive expenditure by the government on many social services," Sheikh Saud told Reuters in an interview.

The oil-exporting country with affluent living standards and a generous welfare state sold a substantial part of its overseas assets to help pay for operation Desert Storm, the repair of massive damage to its oil sector and general reconstruction. Kuwait's overseas assets, valued pre-war at up to \$100 billion, are now put by some market estimates at between \$15 billion and \$35 billion.

The government has proposed a 10% cut in expenditure for the 1993/94 Fiscal year started on July 1 that would lower the deficit to 1.02 billion dinars (\$3.38 billion) from two billion dinars (\$6.6 billion) in 1992/93.

The government has not published details of the cuts.

The International Monetary Fund has called on Kuwait to reduce the deficit by cutting civil service wages and salaries which make up a quarter of state spending and imposing fees for many state services currently free or charged at nominal chap rates.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al-Rodhan has said he is studying the proposals but has ruled out wage cuts. Ninety per cent of Kuwaitis in employment work for the government, where junior grades can earn around 600 dinars (\$1,900) per month.

Opposite members of parliament have called for cuts in prestige building projects and defence spending but urged social spending and wages be maintained for the 1.3 million population.

In 1991/92 the deficit ballooned to 5.33 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion) because of reconstruction, war expenses, civil service pay increases and state-funded write-offs of many Kuwaitis consumer loans.


Sheikh Saud Said "the majority of Kuwaitis' foreign investments were used to help fund Desert Storm and help countries whose economies were indirectly hurt by sanctions against Iraq.

"I think we should learn to accept it and learn to tighten the belt so that within three or four years there will be a balance, so we can get rid of the deficit which exists," Sheikh Saud said.

"But then again I think that is something which is less important than other issues which I have touched upon, like security, because once you have security, things in the country will naturally improve."

"Compared to the deficits that many countries have in their budgets, Kuwait's is just a fraction of other countries' problems."

Sheikh Saud said security was the number one priority for Kuwait as Iraqi leaders Saddam Hussein remained in power.




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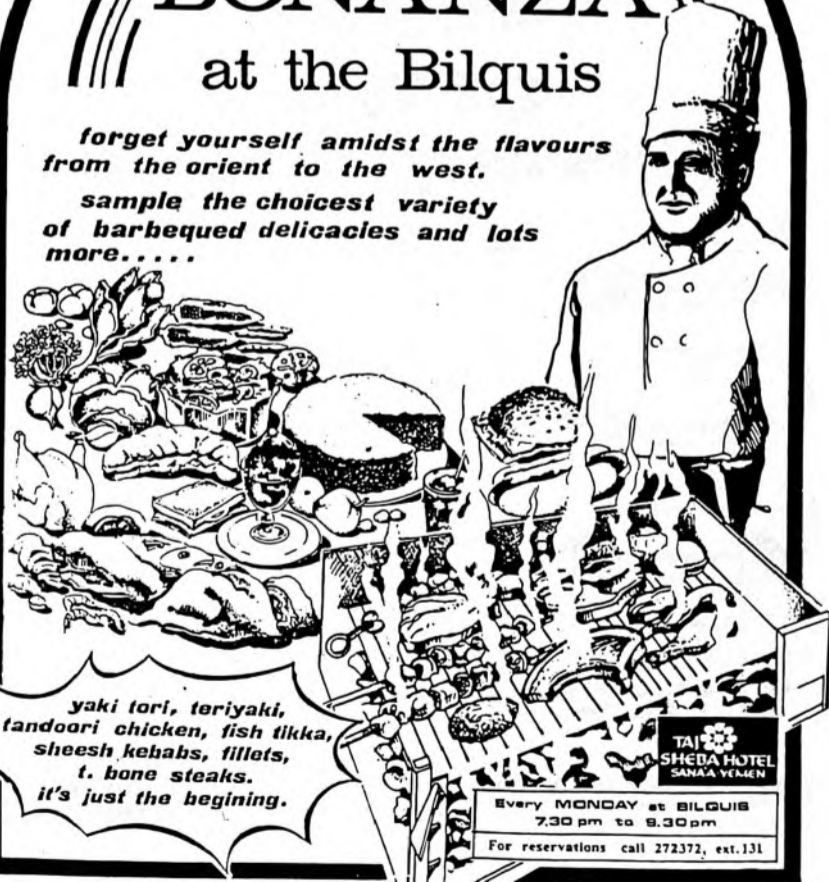
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**Eid Rites and Rituals:
The Mark of the Times**

By: Fatma S. Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

Once upon a time, the eid was a very special time with unique rites and special events. There were a lot of rules to it, too. Today, most of the old rules are broken.

The old ritual have been well amended.

Around 6:30 a.m., the males (adult and young) get showered, put their new, or at least, clean clothes, and go to the central praying ground. Unlike regular prayers, the eid prayer is performed at a central location for the whole city or group of villages. Many people have decided to skip this part of the ritual. The people greet each other warmly, and with a big grin, embrace each other. "Eid Mubarak," is a phrase you will hear repeated frequently. The answer is, "Alaina wa alaikum." On the way back from the prayer, people stop by to say hello to relatives and friends, specially the older folks and the females. Back at home, it is around 8:00 a.m. It is breakfast time, and the whole family sits to eat from the same plate.



Immediately after breakfast, the adult males get together to slaughter the lamb that is sacrificed. This is a tradition which dates back to the days of Ibrahim (Abraham) when he was ordered to sacrifice his only son, Ismail. (In Judaic and Christian traditions, the son is called Isaac. Isaac could not have been Abraham's only son as Ismail was some eight years older. Actually, the birth of Isaac is a prize to Abraham for having obeyed God in sacrificing Ismail.)

Then the male members of the family and the children go out on a picnic and visits to friends. For economic reasons, many families are today unable to purchase a lamb, which costs anywhere between 30-50% of the salary of a mid-level bureaucrat.

Wherever people visit, they are served sweets, cakes, and various light snacks and drinks. The children are given gifts and money. This component of the eid ritual has undergone dramatic change. The house-made is all gone as women find it much easier to simply order their needs from the nearest bakery or grocery. For those families that can't afford to buy the goodies, they make do with tea and candies. By 11:00 a.m., it is back at home. The kids are lew loose to use their newly earned purchasing power. Most adults, these days, scam to the qat market. Qat, of course, has doubled its price overnight given the eid demand. Most people arrange where to chew, as people get together in large groups.

That is the end of day 1. The next day starts around 8:00 a.m. as female relatives start flocking in to visit male relatives. Again, a lot of "Eid mubarak" is being tossed around.

The second day of the eid is often marriage day. If any couple is getting married, it is the second day of the eid. That has not yet changed.

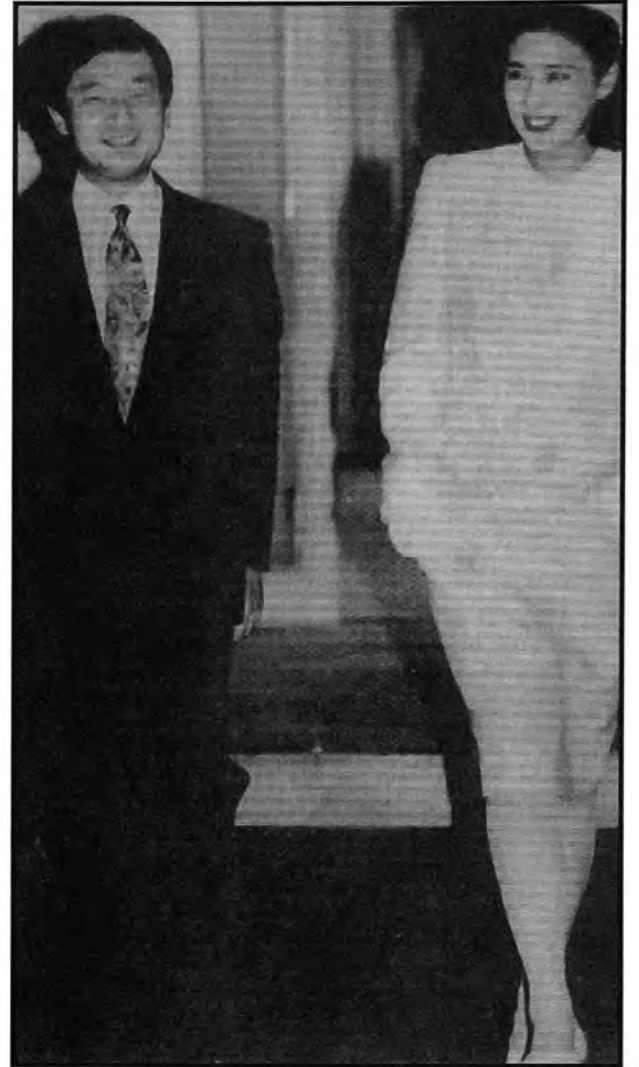
On June 9th, 1993:

Japan's Fairy-Tale Wedding

Osaka University professor and acclaimed dramatist Masakazu Yamazaki was examining the forthcoming wedding of Crown Prince Hironomiya to a "commoner." "From a historical perspective, the occasion is a mirror of the times," he says. The country has geared up for the June 9th wedding. "Japan is bringing fresh blood into a line that began almost 2000 years ago, reaffirming its extraordinary longevity."

In some ways, modern Japanese society has grown to be very individualistic that has gradually produced "a subconscious feeling of starvation."

"There is need for symbolic rituals that allow people to get away from the rat-race of the real world and to experience the transcending quality of idealism. The people of Japan are looking to the crown prince's marriage to provide this tempo as a step to satisfying the spiritual hunger," the professor said. Life in the apalce is dominated by a long and deep tradition of ascetism. This creates a marked contrast between the Japanese royal family and their counterparts in other parts of the world. Even today, when there is much less distance between royalty and the general public, and in comparison to the Western and Arab monarchs who have a penchant for more earthly pleasures (such as freely shopping, travelling, or socializing), the Japanese imperial family practices rigorous ascetism. That is why the crown prince had once



stated, "The imperial family is not 'free;' whoever my future wife is will have to understand that." The bride-to-be, Masako Owada, has proved herself to the epitome of the modern career woman. Her striking intelligence and exceptional ability to adjust to new situations are recognised as great qualities and assets in her new life. The groom, Crown prince Hironomiya, is a highly cultured man who personifies "royal innocence and purity." This quality is based on the ability to disguise one's personal qualities and to exhibit humility. He has exhibited superbly during his student

years at Oxford University. The life of the couple is going to be overwhelmed by the traditions of the court though modern times have introduced much change. It would be improper to predict how the crown prince and his bride will resolve the resultant contradictions. But, it is sure that the two young persons have been well-prepared and very conscious of their new life and responsibilities. Thus, we should respectfully watch what unfolds with the next imperial generation in a long line, and keep our fingers crossed for them.

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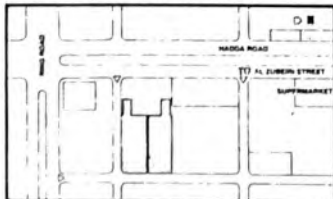
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The Proposed Constitutional Amendments: What Is At Stake, and Who Wants What?

As the House of Representatives resumes its sessions next week, it will be faced with the task of discussing the constitutional amendments. Already, the petition presented to request discussing the amendments is legal because the required one third of the members have signed it.

All three big parties are in agreement regarding the amendments, although with varying levels of enthusiasm and seek different amendments.

First, let us point that the proposal is not a mere amendment, it is a re-writing of the whole thing. Note that it calls for 46 new articles to be introduced, and 58 articles are to be modified. Moreover, three articles will be deleted. Seventy articles will be left as they are (Please refer to box for the exact numbers of the articles to remain intact). The 131 article constitution is going to be transformed into a 174 article constitution. Second, the constitution was not yet put to use. It took so long to draft, and much longer to agree upon. Starting from May 22nd, 1990, when unity was achieved, the country was ruled by the dictates of the unification agreement for a 30-month transitional period. When that ended on November 22nd, 1992, a constitutional declaration ruled for the period which ended with the elections on April 27th, 1993. Since then, the constitution

was expected to become effective, but this was aborted by the demands for amendments.

What are these amendments, anyway?

The PGC, the most enthusiastic among the three big parties, has been pushing to amend the structure of the presidency. It wants a constitutional amendment to replace the collective presidency (five-person presidential council) to a president and vice-president. This is probably the most direct of all the amendments.

Of course, there are many other amendments related to the establishment of Al-Shura Council (Senate), local administration/rule, the strengthening of the judicial authority. The most important new element is that the president and vice president (in one ticket) will be directly elected by the people.

Of course, this requirement as you may have guessed, does not apply to this coming round. The House of Representatives will name the president and vice president, this time. Come next time, in five years, maybe another amendment will do the job.

The Islah wants to re-phrase article (3) so that it reads that the Sharia supercedes any other law and that any law which contradicts it in any way is null and void. Although many consider this amendment as insignificant, and that the Islah simply wants a symbolic victory, more is actually

at stake. While all would agree to the Islah-driven amendment in principle, the new phrasing gives the religious bloc (Islah) the right to become the reference point for all decisions and to have the last word on all Yemeni laws - present and future ones. That means, the clergy will have the right to go through all the laws and re-structure them based on this new reading of article 3. Thus, the Islah people expect that several 'controversial' laws - such as the education law, the family (women's) law - are bound to come up for amendments.

The YSP is probably more interested in the articles calling for elected local officials. The governors, district managers, and other local officials are to be directly elected by the people. But these are all "accountable to the president and council of ministers, and that they are obliged under all circumstances to fulfill their instructions."

Among parliamentarians,

there is little awareness of what the amendments are all about. Of course, they all giggle, "It has to do with transforming the collective leadership of the country (presidential council) into a system of president and vice president."

All parliamentarians we talked to are willing, following some deliberations to show they understand the business, to go through with the amendments.

In contrast, the opposition National Conference (NC) parties are concerned with the amendments and the way the system is going about them.

"We are gradually going back to the system of the Yemen Arab Republic," wistfully commented one NC leading figure. "It is a pity that when much can be done to elevate the system and give us dignity, we fall back to the old ways," he sighed.

The general public, overwhelmed by the demands of everyday living, specially in view of the falling purchasing power of a low income level, is oblivious to the issue.

What Foreign Observers Say:

Most foreign observers are not fully versed on the proposed changes in the constitution. Even then, most of them "have a feeling of its direction." The proposed amendments are oriented towards strengthening the executive branch of authority, specially the presidency.

The following points to need to be borne in mind in this context:

1. Democratic evolution dictates that more power be assigned to the authorities directly elected by the people (e.g., the parliament). The current amendments go contrary to this dictum.

2. The hasteful urge to make the constitutional amendments indicates lack of sufficient understanding of and respect for the constitution. In the history of democratic

nations, constitutional amendments are rare and laborious.

3. The judicial authority does not seem to be directly or fully involved in the amendments. It is as if only the executive and legislative branches of authority are concerned with the proposed amendments.

4. The House of Representative, does not, as yet, have legal counselors and has not set up its own legal committee to be able to take on the affront from the executive branch of authority. As such, its contribution will be minimal, and its role will be simply to accept the ideas and proposals that come to it.

5. The constitution is treated like any other law which can be, at whim, subjected to alterations and changes.

Only the Following Articles in the Current Constitution are Proposed to Remain AS THEY NOW ARE:

Articles number 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 80, 81, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 115, 116, 119, 121, 126, 127, 128, 131

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THREE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS!

By the end of May, Yemen has achieved three historic victories in the Arab modern history.

First, we have achieved the unification of the two parts of the country - the south and the north. This was due to the wisdom/sincerity of our leaders and the consciousness of our people despite the poverty.

Second was the achievement of democracy through political pluralism. This has allowed free and honest elections to proceed soundly and peacefully.

Third: was the inauguration of the House of Representatives, leading to a workable and satisfactory political balance among the parties participating in ruling the country through parliamentary blocs.

Thus, Yemen offers a profound lessons to the Arab world, but specially giving the Arab people some hope in for spirit, faith and trustworthiness.

Yemen decided to by-pass the tribe as a cultural unit or institution without denying it socially. Yemen, which started from the very beginning point, is making progress towards prosperity. Yemen's democratic march and modernization give it credibility to finish the course until the end.

By: Ahmad Al-Shamlan,
26 September, Sana'a,
27/5/1993

IN SEARCH OF A SECURE FUTURE

Whatever the shortcomings and excesses which accompanied the general elections on 27th of April, 1993, the process represented a political and historic turning point in the national democratic march of the republic. It turned the last leaf of a divided Yemen ruled by totalitarianism. Today, the new legislature is the only constitutional institution which has the right to amend/add to the constitution, to re-draw the political structure of the state. Yemen through its interaction with the requirements of the times has become able to tear up the last joints of the totalitarian system.

By democratizing, Yemen has taken the first step in the long march. It has also given a good example to its fellow Arab and the Third World. But the democratic evolution needs many conditions to avoid any setbacks or reversal of the process.

The elections have clearly vouched for the historic, social, geopolitical, cultural and psychological abilities of the country.

The PGC and the Yemeni Congregation for Islah through the results of the votes dominated the regions in the Northern governorates while the YSP proved its command over the southern governorates.

Such an outcome shows the national integration of the country is not yet complete. Therefore to achieve full in-

tegration, the merger of the parties sounds like a plausible approach. But this requires consolidation of democracy, and accepting national reconciliation as a mechanism for operating the parliamentary blocs.

The interaction among the three big parties (PGC, YSP, Islah) is a national necessity and it should be the starting point for working out general common grounds.

The conditions for consolidation of democracy, achieving national integration, a comprehensive social cohesion, modernization and prosperity, ..., all point to the need of finding a national alliance or a social/historic bloc formed by all the liberal, democratic and modernized forces so as to continue the historic march.

We believe that the alliance agreement signed by the PGC/YSP could be regarded as a starting point towards alliance with other parties and social/national figures in the country.

To create such an alliance or historic bloc, we must add the economic/political reform program of the Al-Attas government.

As for the unification of the PGC and YSP in a unified organization; it seems the two general secretaries have approved the general trends and guidelines leading to such a conclusion.

Dr. Mohamad Al-Shahari,
Al Thawri, Sana'a,
27/5/1993.

WHAT IS ISLAMIC FREEDOM?

Initially we ought to agree on the definition of freedom. If we don't agree on what things mean, this will intervene in our vision of the facts. Thus, divergence becomes inevitable, even regarding the facts. In my opinion, freedom has to do with the role of the individual, his/her mobility and interaction within the group. Freedom has two equal and balanced aspects. The first has to do with oneself, the second with the others. Both are important, just like the wings of a bird, if either is not functioning, flying becomes impossible.

What is significant is a conscious knowledge of the substance, the names can be whatever. We can discriminate between what is good or bad, oppression or justice under any name.

Agreement on the principles of freedom means commitment to the Holy Quran and the Suna'a (procedures). If we relinquish these, we will become just like dolls or puppets manipulated by the super powers.

Freedom should have certain limits, measures and moral power to distinguish between what is good or bad, forbidden or permitted, etc. Freedom is a necessary remedy for human interaction. But it is like medicine, any overdose is fatal. Any freedom which is not preceded by an arrangement leads to corruption.

The world does not under-

stand Islamic freedom. Simply put, our freedom means that all human beings are equal in their rights/duties without exception. Human beings in general mean there is no difference or discrimination between an Arab or non-Arab, white or black.

For example, what happens in Afghanistan - the infighting among the various sects of Mujahedeen - has nothing to do with Islam. It is a fight over power.

Our goal should lie in the application of (Al-Sharia) and granting Islamic freedom to humanity. Hence, we ought not let reaching power blind us.

By
Ahmad Ahmad Alwashli,
Al-Umma, Sana'a,
27/5/1993

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT!

Basically, the legal and constitutional texts are there to be implemented and respected. The constitution lays down the general frame of the system.

If we take a look at our constitution, we will see that a lot of its items date back to the 1970s. It means that the texts were drafted and thought of under certain circumstances and you see that those circumstances which do not exist any more.

Hence, it is evident that some amendments have become an urgent necessity which will thus face the rep-

resentatives of the people with grave tasks.

The presidential council's proposal in proceeding with the constitutional reforms in light of the new situation shows the clarity of vision regarding the formation/duty of the state's authorities and their relations with each other and with the people.

The general elections can be regarded as a major interlude in arriving at a prospective constitutional base. The amendments are necessary to delineate the spheres of influence among the various forces in society.

The real value for any constitution is in the continuation of the institutions according to certain rules and treating the rulers as factors simply implementing the state's authority.

Such a concept should be engrained in our minds - whether citizens or rulers. This is important because there are those who still feel that their basic affiliation should be with the family and tribe and not with the state as whole.

We should refuse such a concept at it is rejected by the September/October revolutions which adopted the Republican system government and the elimination of all forms of discrimination, or special privileged classes among us.

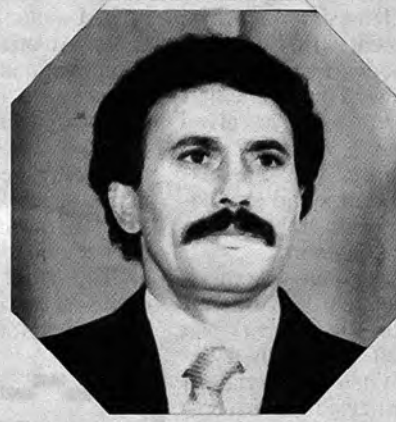
Editorial,
Al Thawra, Sana'a,
3/6/1993

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We take this opportunity to
vow cooperation with all
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and prosperity of Yemen.**


 Letters to the Editor


 Letters to the Editor


 Letters to the Editor

The Yemeni Regime and the International Media: A Response and a Comment

I was intrigued by your article of May 30th (Issue # 21, Vol. III) about Yemen's improving relations with the international media and, in particular, with your claim that the improvements are due to bribery of the international press by the president and government of Yemen.

I have worked as a foreign correspondent in this country for the past four years and during that time have indeed seen remarkable improvement in relations between the government and the international media. In my experience, though, improvements are taking place not because of any inducements offered by your government. Indeed, in my experience, I do not know of a single correspondent who has been offered any such inducement.

Relations between Yemen and the world press are improving for a number of reasons. First, the country has traditionally been under-reported. But as one or two correspondents arrive and send out interesting re-

ports of a relatively unique country, others are bound to follow. To its credit, your government has recognized the value of admitting foreign journalists into the country, of allowing them to travel freely, and of letting them report without 'hindrance'. One result of the government's attitude is a rapidly increasing number of articles about Yemen and an increased interest world-wide.

But Yemen is also acquiring an increasingly good international reputation as a result of your government's policy towards correspondents. Indeed, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists recently issued its annual compilation of "Attacks on the Press: A Comprehensive Worldwide Survey" and it says "... despite political violence and economic difficulties, the Yemen press continues to flourish under what may be the region's most liberal press law." And, in its survey, the CPJ cites just four cases of attacks -- one of them a physical attack and

the other three threats of legal action against local newspapers. Only four of seventeen Middle Eastern countries have a record equal to or better than that. During the recent elections, I had occasion to meet with virtually all of the foreign correspondents who came to Yemen and very few of them -- contrary to your suggestions -- actually got in to see President Saleh, much less to receive offers of gifts... You also imply that the president and the government are using monies better spent on other things to burnish their images in the world press... To my knowledge, The New York Times has recently published two articles concerning Yemen: an editorial on May 8 and an advertising supplement on May 21st...

As author of The New York Times' May 21st supplement (the government's advertisement in the The New York Times), I requested and received complete editorial independence over the text and at no time did any advertiser exert any pressure on me of any sort...

During my four years as a correspondent in Yemen, I have for the most part been left to my own devices. When appropriate, I have criticised the government in print and when appropriate I have praised it. But at no time have I been subjected to any blandishments or threats. The government may or may not like what I or any other journalist has written about this country. But regardless of its likes or dislikes, the Yemeni government does give foreign journalists the opportunity to be here and to write freely of the experience. That, in the end, is why Yemen's relations with the international media are improving.

By: Eric Watkins,
Yemen Correspondent,
Financial Times.

Yemen Times Reply:

1. We will be happy to share with Mr. Watkins the names of international journalists who have received "gifts" from the Yemeni authorities, if he cares to visit our office.

2. We will be happy to share with Mr. Watkins the dozen or so names of international journalists who have interviewed President Saleh just over the last two months.

3. We are happy that Mr. Watkins acknowledges the advertisement supplement of Yemen in the New York Times, in which he is personally involved.

3. By comparing the Yemeni regime to others in the Middle East and giving it high marks on that count, Mr. Watkins is missing the point. We are supposedly working in a better system and for better ideals.

4. We will be happy to share with Mr. Watkins the visa troubles through which international correspondents and news agency reporters go through to come to Yemen, and some, who are not "kindly" oriented towards Yemen, have been denied entry visas. Yet, we agree, the Yemeni government has loosened up on this matter, specially when it has something to show, like elections.

5. Mr. Watkins himself has been the victim of many complications fabricated by the Yemeni authorities, simply because he had written 'unkind' articles. At one stage of the complications, the problem was so blown out of proportion that the British Embassy was involved.

6. With respect to the statistics of the Committee to Protect Journalists report, let me point to two facts: a- The 1992 CPJ reports carries only one complaint made by a foreign journal-

ist. Yes, Mr. Watkins himself made it. He alleged that he was attacked while doing his job in Yemen. He wrote to the CPJ stating that in June 1992, he was attacked by soldiers while covering the Somali refugees in Aden.

We are sending a copy of his letter which states he had never been "subjected to any blandishments or threats in Yemen" to the CPJ.

b- The CPJ report on 1992 states that there were only five violations in Libya. What shall we make of that, Mr. Watkins?

The truth is the CPJ report includes only those incidents which are brought to its attention - no more, no less.

7. In the final analysis, we are not saying that the Yemeni regime has succeeded in buying the whole international media; but we are saying it has successfully manipulated it recently. We would also like to take this opportunity to point out that as more of the regime's dirty linen is being exposed, the international media has already started re-evaluating the attitude of its Yemeni coverage. Finally, we hope this is not a case in which Mr. Eric Watkins is projecting to be "more royal than the king" by showing 'understanding and patriotism' towards this country, more than the indigenous journalists.

Thank you, Thank you!

I am writing to express my thanks to Almaqatari Shakib Mensur Ghalib, Abdulkadir Nouredin Al-Tayyeb, Abdul-Kareem Al-Saqqaf, and Khalifah Mohammed for their encouraging words conveyed to me through the Yemen Times, issue # 10, Vol. III, dated March 10th, 1993.

I promise to continue writing poems, and I hope they will find similar appreciation.

Samira Ali Bin Daair.

Personal View

What Are Honorary Consultates For?

I am writing because of a sad experience with the Honorary Consulate of Austria in Sanaa. The story is like this.

I needed a visa for Austria, so I approached the Honorary Consulate of Austria. They told me that they are not authorized to issue visas. I thought they meant they needed prior clearance from the Austrian embassy in Riyadh. But, no! They wanted me to directly approach the Austrian embassy in Riyadh and apply for the visa with them.

They gave me the forms, asked me to fill them up, and said, "You can send your passport and the form to Riyadh." I was shocked as other honorary consulates do issue visas, even if they had to take some time. Take as an example the Swiss honorary consulate, or the Danish honorary consulate, just to name two European countries.

Now to add insult to injury, the courier refused to take passports to Saudi Arabia. My only alternative, at this point, was to fly to Saudi Arabia to get the visa. For that, I needed a Saudi visa for Riyadh.

Any way, I decided I did not need to visit Austria that badly to go through this mess. My point, what is the role of an honorary consulate if it cannot even issue a visa that had been cleared by somewhere else?

I hope we will get an answer through your esteemed newspaper.

By: Abdullah Salim Al-Maqtari, Sanaa.

Editor's Note:

We leave it to the Austrian Honorary Consul, Parliamentarian Abdul-Galeel Radman to answer the question of the citizen.

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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Dr. Fadhl Al-Qubati:

"Some politicians are trying to politicize medical care."

The Khalifah General Hospital in Turbah serves an area of about one million inhabitants in the heartland of Hugarriah. The hospital, built at the expense of the fraternal State of Qatar, came into service in 1989.

The Deputy General Manager and Technical Director is Dr. Fadhl Abdul-Kareem Al-Qubati, a graduate of Rawalpindi, Pakistan. To evaluate the service of the hospital as it comes to the final year of its first five-year period, the Yemen Times talked to Dr. Al-Qubati.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you give us an idea of the size and capacity of the Khalifah General Hospital in Turbah?

A: The hospital has four separate buildings - the hospital itself, an administrative flank, the residential building, and the inventory and warehouse (which includes the back-up electric generator). The hospital has three sections - the outpatient clinic, the emergency ward, and the in-patient section with its 130 beds. We, of course, provide the full range of medical services in all fields, with the exception of major and complicated surgery.

Q: In terms of number of patients and operations, what are we talking about?

A: Let me say that this is the only major hospital serving the hinterland of Taiz governorate. In other words, we serve over a million people. We do hear of patients who come from far away corners of the Republic. The daily flood of out-patient calls is enormous, and they range around 400 persons every day. On a daily average, we perform four to five operations. The table below gives the exact numbers of operations per month since the beginning of this year.

Major Operations at Khalifah Hospital During 1993

Month	Number
January	140
February	119
March	103
April	148
May	133

Of course, I have mentioned that we have 130 beds, and with an average stay of 4.3 days per patient, we have some 900 in-patients per month. We are a really busy hospital, and for over 70% of the patients, our hospital is the only alternative.

Q: The human-power at the hospital, is it all local?

A: I am afraid no; although the majority are local. We have an eighteen doctor and two dozen nurses and lab technicians from the Russian Federation. There are eleven Yemeni doctors and twenty five nurses and lab technicians. In addition, there are, of course, the administrators and workers who number more than one hundred. We do cover all the specializations and provide medical treatments to all kinds of patients. We have an intensive on-the-job training program to upgrade our technical and support local staff. We wish to be able to do more in terms of training, but this is restrained by financial considerations.

Q: What are the pressing problems that need to be addressed?

A: There are many serious problems which affect our performance. Let me name the six that I consider most pressing:

1. Security Issues: We do not have a proper security system, and thus you find people who roam inside the hospital with various kinds of weapons. There are no proper checking procedures when entering and leaving the hospital. You can find visitors who stray into the surgery rooms. We have repeatedly asked the relevant authorities to send qualified security personnel to resolve this difficulty once and for all. But there has been no response as yet.

2. Financial Issues: We have a gripping financial difficulty. Can you imagine that the financial allocations to the hospital were higher when it was closed than now when it is operational? We are often put in ridiculous situations as we placate the angry creditors of the hospital.

3. A Lift/Escalator: As you know the in-patient section is on the second floor, whereas the operation ward and many of the doctors' rooms are on the first floor.

On a daily basis, patients need to be carried up and down between the first and second floors. Most patients can't walk. Hence the need for a lift or escalator or whatever. This may appear as a simple matter, but it disrupts our work as dozens of patients are carried by flocks of people up and down daily.

4. The Hospital Dump: The hospital has no garbage dump. This is critical for health as well as other reasons. Can you imagine that the hospital has no garbage dump? We have asked many times from the municipal authorities to get us a garbage dump/ collection system. As yet, no response.

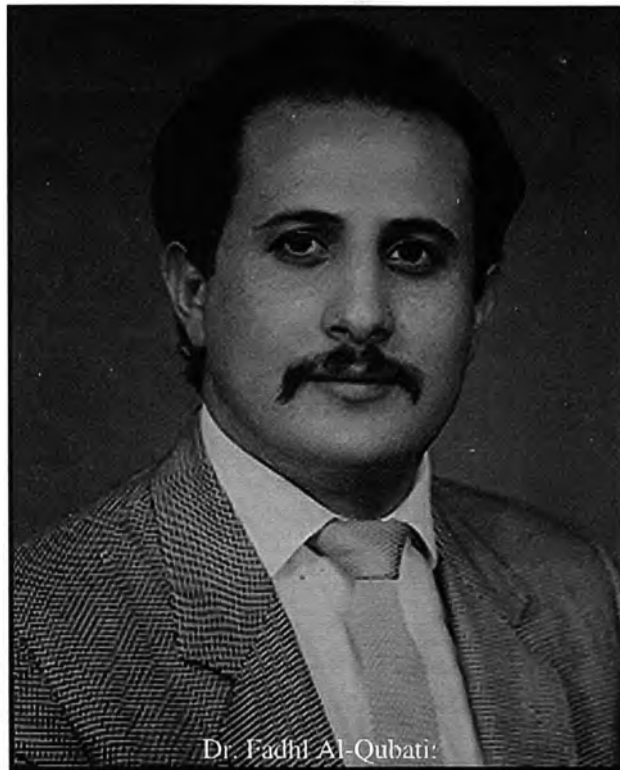
5. Shortage of Drugs: The hospital suffers from a chronic shortage of drugs and supplies. We have shortages in various needs in the emergency ward, in the intensive care unit, and even in the surgery section. The hospital cannot function properly with these shortages.

6. Repairs of Electric Generator and Water Pump: Given the absence of a proper maintenance crew and the absence of spare parts, the electric back-up system (generator) and the water pump are eternally out of order. Of course, you will quickly realize that most of these difficulties could be resolved if the financial resources were made available. We are frustrated that the financial requirements are not met; and we are further frustrated that a lot of resources are wasted by power-hungry politicians. I think that people's health and lives must command a higher priority.

Q: What are your immediate as well as long term plans at the hospital?

A: We have many plans and ambitions, but these sound like day dreaming given the lack of financial support, although the money required is small compared by the amounts spent on other "needs". In the immediate future, we plan to:

1. Operate the hospital's outpatient department in two shifts - morning and afternoons This comes in response to the rising need for medical services.
2. Drill another water well to meet the rising water demand



Dr. Fadhl Al-Qubati:

4. Interact more positively with the local community by helping improve awareness of certain behaviors which help improve the health level.

Q: How do you propose to resolve the financial difficulty of the hospital, given that the government will never be able to meet your needs?

A: This is the dilemma. On the one hand, we have to function as a government hospital which provides medical services at a fraction of the actual cost. In other words, our service to the patients is subsidized by the government. On the other hand, the government is unable to provide for the hospital's needs, and thus the service gets poorer and poorer. What this means is that the subsidy or the service is, in actual terms, much smaller than what the government claims to be doing. What is needed is a re-evaluation of the philosophy behind medical care. Either the government provides for the needs of the facilities properly, or they go private.

Q: Where do we go from here?

A: I do not want to leave you with a grim picture; we are still hopeful about the possibilities. I am sure much more could be done with the current resources if we restructure our priorities and manage our facilities better.

Q: How is politics affecting your work?

A: I am glad you brought up this matter. I would like to say that the political parties are trying to politicize everything, even the hospitals. Our hospital cannot be affiliated to a political party, something certain individuals have tried to achieve. People are free to exercise their rights in political organization, but they must understand what they are doing. Some individuals are driven by personal interests and they would do anything, including the politicization of hospitals. We have resisted this, and we will continue to resist for the sake of our patients and profession. We will give the utmost of our care to all our patients, irrespective of their political orientation, and we cannot allow politics to stand between us and our patients.

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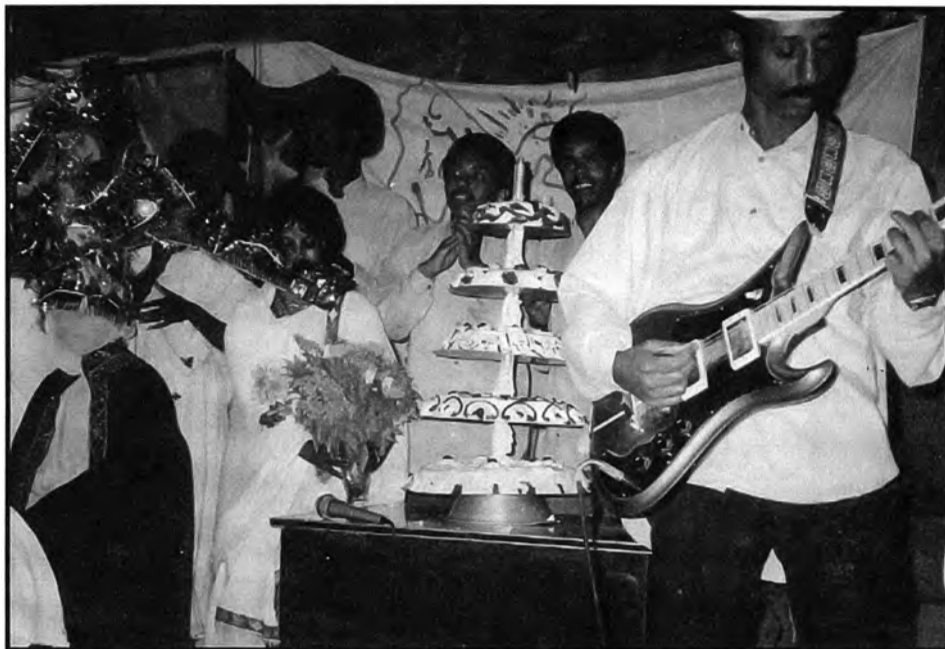
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FETE

Les Erythréens du Yémen célèbrent l'indépendance

Proclamée le 24 mai à Asmara, la capitale de l'Erythrée, la naissance du nouvel Etat africain a été fêtée dans l'enthousiasme par les Erythréens vivant au Yémen.



Sur le rythme d'un "groupe de rock" érythréen, ils ont dansé et chanté.

Pour pouvoir tous être là, les Erythréens vivant à Sanaa ont attendu quelques jours pour fêter l'indépendance de leur pays, officiellement proclamée le 24 mai. Vendredi 28 mai, en début d'après-midi, ils se pressaient nombreux dans la cour d'une villa de Sanaa. Des bâches avaient été tendues pour les protéger du soleil et de la pluie. Beaucoup de femmes avaient revêtu la tenue

de fête traditionnelle, une robe blanche et un châle de coton blanc. Les cheveux tirés en arrière, elles affichaient leurs bijoux en or. Les plus jeunes avaient préféré des tenues plus occidentales. La communauté érythréenne au Yémen compte environ 3000 personnes et en grande majorité ce sont des femmes.

Après les discours de l'ambassadeur et du consul de la Délégation d'Erythrée au

Yémen, les rideaux de la scène se sont ouverts sur un "groupe de rock" érythréen. Comme le veut la tradition, beaucoup sont venus coller des billets sur le front ou les joues de la chanteuse, tandis qu'une autre, le visage couvert d'un voile blanc, portait sur sa tête une carte de l'Erythrée découpée dans du carton et décorée de guirlandes lumineuses et multicolores.

J.B.

KERMESSE DE L'ECOLE FRANCAISE

Questions pour les champions

L'APAY, (Association pour le patrimoine architectural et culturel du Yémen), organise un grand jeu concours dans le cadre de la kermesse de l'Ecole française de Sanaa. Le concours est ouvert du 1er juin au 11 juin 1993 au Yémen. La date limite de dépôt: le 11 juin à 12h au stand de l'APAY à la kermesse, ou le 10 juin à l'Ecole française

de Sanaa ou au service culturel de l'Ambassade de France (à l'attention de Corinne Musa). Le concours est ouvert à tous les élèves ou étudiants du Yémen sans limite d'âge. Le questionnaire est rédigé à la fois en français et en arabe. La proclamation des résultats est prévue le 11 juin à 17h.

Les questions du concours

- 1 - Que signifie le mot Yémen en arabe? (un seul mot).
- 2 - Parmi cette liste, quelles sont les deux villes qui n'ont jamais été capitales du Yémen, ou d'un royaume du Yémen? (entourez vos réponses, 2 seulement): Maarib, Mokha, Taiz, Aden, Sanaa, Jibla, Paris, At Tawilah, Shabwa, Barrakech.
- 3 - Les Romains ont pris une ville au Yémen en l'an 24 avant J-C, laquelle? (entourez 1 seul mot): Najran, Maarib, Sirwa, Barrakech, Hodeidah, Laheij, Hajja, Shabwa.
- 4 - Quelle était la capitale du Yémen à l'époque Hymiarite? Sanaa, Mokha, Zafar, Jibla, Zafar zidin, Shibam, Hadda.
- 5 - La fameuse pièce ancienne, Marie-Thérèse, a donné son nom à une très célèbre monnaie, laquelle? (2 indices: 1 - très prisé au Yémen, 2 - t'as l'air de rien...).
- 6 - Deux pays utilisent encore aujourd'hui un alphabet proche de l'écriture sud-arabique, lesquels? (entourez vos 2 réponses): Guadeloupe, Somalie, Yémen, Lichtenstein, Ethiopie, Zaïre, Arabie Saoudite, Erythrée, Dubaï.
- 7 - Il y a une île du Yémen dans l'océan Indien où l'on ne peut avoir accès par avion que du mois de juin à octobre environ, laquelle? (1 seule réponse).
- 8 - Quel type de bateau en bois est encore utilisé au Yémen? (entourez 1 seule réponse): felouque, houri, dhow, sambussak, zaroug, sambuq, goélette.
- 9 - Entourez trois villes ou villages traditionnels du Yémen qui sont construits en pierre: Maarib, Helba, Thula, Jibla, Sanaa, Al Beida, Kawka, Hajjara, Saada, Tarim, Aden.
- 10 - Il y a 5 grandes familles architecturales traditionnelles au Yémen, entourez les villes qui correspondent aux familles: Sanaa, Jibla, Kawka, Zabid, Tarim, Shibam, Loukoum, Saada, al-Zohra, Timna.
- 11 - On utilise un mot au Yémen pour désigner une pièce dans la maison des montagnes, et que l'on retrouve aussi dans le langage français, lequel? (Indice: ah, qu'il fait bon vivre sur son).
- 12 - Ce mot est originaire de quel pays, (1 seule réponse, indice: attention, ça sent le piège...): France, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Arabie, Turquie, Cocomato, Yémen, Jordanie.
- 13 - Quel est l'élément décoratif le plus répandu dans les maisons yéménites? (indice: la lune a donné son nom...).
- 14 - Il y en a des millions. Depuis une exposition à Chartres, il a donné son nom à une fameuse boîte de graisse du Yémen bien connu des femmes yéménites. Ecrivez-le en français ou en arabe, (indice: premier mot de l'affiche de cette exposition, en 1991-92, les réponses sont aussi dans les Bulletins 1 à 4 de l'APAY).
- 15 - Combien y en a-t-il dans tout le Yémen? en fonction de la réponse ci-dessus (entourez 1 réponse): 500, 400 000, 1 million, 2 millions, 3 millions, 4 millions, 5 millions, 16 millions.
- 16 - Un animal protecteur est représenté à l'extérieur de certaines maisons traditionnelles du Yémen, lequel? (indice: le même, mais vivant, a été découvert le 12 mai dernier

dans la Maison Rimbaud à Aden).

17 - Quel est l'animal que l'on rencontre le plus souvent dans la décoration des maisons yéménites?: éléphant, chouette, poisson, autruche, chameau, girafe, oiseau, renard.

18 - Un animal sauvage vit dans les montagnes du Yémen, en français son nom est double. (indice: 1 - la première partie de ce mot désigne un autre animal domestique dont la consommation est interdite en Islam. 2 - attention, ça fait mal...).

19 - Entourez cinq noms d'oiseaux qui existent au Yémen: flamant rose, cigogne, peruche, corbeau, tourterelle, balbuzard, canard, merlu, ours, frou-frou, pigeon, toucan, colombe, chouette.

20 - Quelles sont les 2 plantes ou fruits les plus connus au Yémen? (entourez 2 mots): banane, datte, goyave, fraise, qât, pêche, dahun, raisin, orange, patate.

21 - (attention 2 questions, 2 réponses sur la même ligne) Quelles sont les deux îles du Yémen qui ont donné leur nom à deux produits de consommation courante? (entourez deux réponses).

22 - Barrez le nom de l'île intruse (qui n'est pas de la région): Périm, Farasan, Sambah, Porto Rico, Seera, Socotra, Kamaran, Abd el Kuri, Sabaha.

23 - Quelle ville d'Europe a accueilli la dernière grande exposition sur le Yémen? (indice: l'APAY y participait, infos dans le bulletin de l'APAY n°4, visible au CCF de Sanaa, ou au CCF d'Aden, ou chez les membres-adhérents...): Paris, Marseille, Athènes, Londres, Amsterdam, Munich, New-York, Lille, Sanaa.

24 - Quel était le jour des dernières élections (législatives) au Yémen? (indice: attention, petit piège, un mot seulement, avec toute cette place vraiment).

25 - Quelles sont les 2 étonnantes découvertes faites le 9 mai 1993, dans la Maison Rimbaud, lors des travaux de restauration? (indice: il y a un fort...): inédits de la "Chasse Spirituelle", serpent, os, clou, grains de café, mèche d'Arthur, photo, coquillages.

26 - Citez 3 auteurs français, qui ont écrit un livre sur le Yémen depuis 1980.

27 - Ces écrivains français célèbres ont vu le Yémen (ou y ont séjourné), quel est l'intrus? (indice: attention au piège...): Paul Nizan, André Malraux, Arthur Rimbaud, Georges Kessel, Henri de Monfreid, Claudie Fayein, Théodore Monod.

Questions subsidiaires, afin de partager les ex-aequos:

1 - Quel était le nom du mari de la reine de Saba?

2 - Son nom se prononce en français comme le symbole de la colombe, c'est:

3 - Ses feuilles vertes et fraîches sont parties dans 18 pays, qu'est ce? :

4 - Citez le nom de deux objets que portent l'homme ou la femme du Yémen.

5 - Combien y a-t-il d'élèves à l'Ecole française de Sanaa le 11 juin 1993 à 11h, 11 min, 11s ?

Un concours de dessin

Un concours de dessin est également organisé. Il a pour thème "Le Yémen...paysages, architectures... et vie quotidienne...". Six dessins ou peintures seront retenus par un jury. Sur une feuille de format A4 (format papier courant), chaque oeuvre devra être signée de l'auteur,

(nom, prénom, classe, âge, nationalité et adresse). Date limite de dépôt, le 10 juin à 12h à l'Ecole française ou au service culturel de l'Ambassade de France (à remettre à Corinne Musa). Résultats, le 11 juin.

EN BREF

Libération des deux ingénieurs américains: Les deux ingénieurs américains de la compagnie pétrolière Hunt et leur chauffeur yéménite enlevés mardi 25 mai par une tribu de la région de Maareb ont été libérés samedi 29 mai sains et saufs. Les ravisseurs voulaient faire pression sur le gouvernement pour obtenir la révision du verdict contre quatre membres de leurs tribu condamnés à mort.

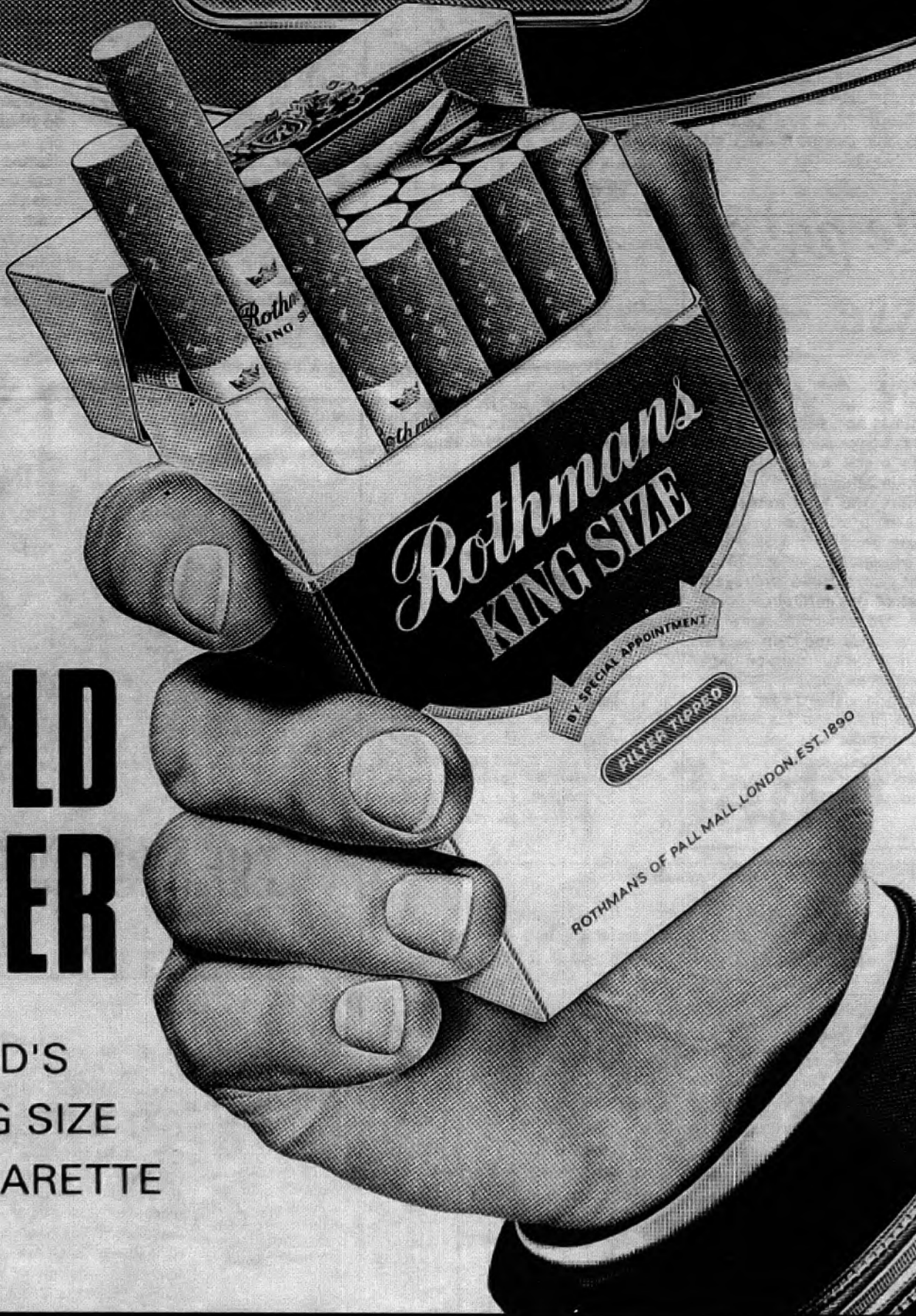
Décès en Somalie d'une Française mordue par un requin: La secrétaire de la représentation française en Somalie, Michèle Demare, est morte mercredi après avoir été mordue par un requin à quelques mètres d'une plage située dans le sud de Mogadiscio. Agée de 26 ans, elle était arrivée en Somalie en août 1992. Auparavant, elle était en mission au Libéria.

Le "Levtchenko", une arme pour les espions: L'Institut de recherche dans le domaine des mécaniques de précision à Moscou a mis au point plusieurs armes totalement silencieuses dont un "pistolet Levtchenko" qui va révolutionner la vie des espions. Selon les Izvestia, même le cliquetis de la gâchette n'est perceptible qu'à condition de se trouver à côté du tireur.

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HOLOCAUST MUSEUM IN D.C. : RE-MAKING OF HISTORY?

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



The American government has decided to open a holocaust museum in the capital city, Washington D.C., to remind the coming generations of the agony of mankind and of the atrocities committed by human beings against each other. That is a good idea, as we all sympathize with the victims that fell during the years of Nazi oppression. Yet, the question at hand is : Are those of the Jewish faith the only victims of man's madness throughout world history? Should the world, the whole world, still cry over one group that suffered, while leaving the millions of other larger groups that were almost annihilated? Some 45 million lives were lost during world war II, but to sheepish politicians, it is only the Jewish portion that really matters ...or that's at least is what it looks like!

I agree that taking one life is as incriminating as taking a dozen, and there is no excuse that can justify crime - whether against an individual or of mass elimination. But why establish museums and memorials for a specific group of people in a very special city, Washington D.C., the capital of the only super power in today's world, in this very special phase of history when the Arabs and the Israelis are negotiating peace in Washington? Maybe they plan to ask the Arab negotiators to go and visit. Is it politically expedient to set up this museum at a time when the European Muslims are being wiped off the face of earth in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

It is not a matter of political expediency or mere humane value, the issue has deep cultural and psychological long-term goals. In my opinion, the establishment of this museum aims at the re-creation of history and re-organization of world's memory, or rather the re-organization of America's coming generations' view of the world, especially of the two coming time-bombs - the unified Europe led by the increasingly growing German Giant, and the Middle East .. where all factors of explosions are interacting.

The coming generations would visit the museum and say: Oh... look at what the Germans did to those poor Jews... no one would be there to explain what happened to the rest of the world. And year after year, when all the talking is forgotten, the museum and its monuments would stand to tell a new story of a world at war. Europe's conscience would be blackmailed, as it has been for the last fifty years, and the "J'accuse" fingers directed to the possible economic competitor that would have to apologize and re-apologize, and keep on paying and compensating till the end of eternity.

At the same time, the Arabs who are pushing a settlement of the Middle East problem with the Israelis, would be told "Look, these guys have already suffered enough. Leave them alone."

I sympathize with all those who were killed by the Nazis or whatever ideology, be they Jews, Christians, Muslims or Atheists. But I can never accept the idea of working hard to satisfy the crazy idea of being responsible for the

agony of one group. Moreover, I refuse to be pressed to that position which holds all the keys to major problems in our world - from hunger, to illiteracy, to pollution, and to continental wars.

Hundreds of holocausts have taken place all over the world - before and after Hitler. Millions were eliminated under various pretexts, ranging from ethnic and religious cleansing to ideological controversy, let alone border differences. Yet, the mentality of the western world is manipulated into just one criteria. A Jewish holocaust deserves a museum to be established in the heart of the world - Washington D.C. But the premeditated rape of tens of thousands of Bosnian women doesn't even deserve a security council action, nor the millions of Vietnamese who died fighting for their homeland, or the million Algerians slaughtered by the French colonial settlers, or the hundreds of school boys and girls being daily disabled and killed in Palestine, or hundreds of thousands of Arabs killed in a long sequence of wars, or even the small group of Americans burned to death for just being different!!

The list goes on endlessly, but the victims are forgotten in the course of time and would stay as meaningless names on stands and tombstones in graveyards spread all over. But the Jews, aah, those nobody can forget. If you treat them like others, then you are anti-semitic.

You have to accept that Jews are special, they are different, they are chosen by the Gods. That is why they deserve museum and the thousands of movies and books that was written on them. Again, it is not a matter of being against Jews, but it is the disturbing feeling that they want all humanity to be beholden to them.

Now that the Germans and the Arabs have got the message, each in his way, I think that the next message would be directed to the Japanese, Chinese, and the other Asian giants. There is no other way of life than that of the conquerors, nor is there a way to think or even to remember history other than that which is preset for all. And that in my opinion is what the holocaust Museum of Washington is all about. The American people, known for their little knowledge of other peoples' history, would be, upon visiting the Museum, proud of being of a nation that honors the value of human life. Many would weep and sympathize out of fear of being incriminated by the world order that rules the world's psyche, and still others in the hope of being chosen as sublime sympathizers of mankind and its sufferings.

Thus, the museum was meant to revive human memory of the horrors of the past, but more importantly, it would serve to re-create a new elaborated vision of history, geography, sociology and mythology.



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"Black Comedy" - A Lively Play for Your Entertainment Here in Sanaa



A group of gifted persons are putting together a play -*Black Comedy*, to be staged over the coming week-end. Members of the international community under the able guidance of Nicholas Linfield of Sanaa University are working overtime to finalize the small details needed for the grand opening on 9/6/1993 at 8:00 p.m. Again at the same time on 10/6/1993, and finally at 4:00 p.m. on 11/6/1993. All three performances will be

staged at the Yemen Hunt Oil Company's theater on the second floor of the City End Supermarket, Haddah Complex. The person really working overtime is Ms. Joyce Davidson, production manager, and a Peace Corps Volunteer.

There are quite a few gifted actors involved in the play. Shown in the picture, above, are - from left to right:

(background) Annie Tostevin, Jens Ipsen, Nick

Hillman, Hootoksi Tyabji and in the Foreground Eberhard Schanze.

.....
For tickets, reservations, and more information, you can call:
(01) 203-847
the CLO, British Club and the British Embassy.

Tickets are also available upon arrival at the theater hall, although it is advisable to at least make a reservation.

Kuwaitis Told to Tighten Belt

Kuwait said its citizens should learn to live on less to help reduce a budget deficit swollen by costs of repair and reconstruction after the 1991 Gulf war. Asked if Kuwaitis should tighten their belts, Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Saud al-Sabbah replied, "The answer is absolutely 'Yes.' I think the situation now is not as it was before August 2nd, 1990."

"Even if you go back to August 2nd, we had a deficit in our budget because of the oil prices and because of the extensive expenditure by the government on many social services," Sheikh Saud said. The oil-exporting country with affluent living standards and a generous welfare state sold a substantial part of its overseas assets to help pay for operation Desert Storm, the repair of massive damage to its oil sector and general reconstruction. Kuwait's overseas assets, valued pre-war at up to \$100 billion, are now put by some market estimates at about \$25 billion.

The government has proposed a 10% cut in expenditure for the 1993/94

fiscal year which starts on July 1st. It hopes to lower the deficit to 1.02 billion dinars (\$3.38 billion) from two billion dinars (\$6.6 billion) in 1992/93.

The government has not published any details of the cuts.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) has called on Kuwait to reduce the deficit by cutting civil service wages and salaries which make up a quarter of state spending and by imposing fees for many state services currently free or charged at nominal rates.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al-Rowdhan has said he is studying the proposals but has ruled out wage cuts. Over 90% of Kuwaitis in employment work for the government, where junior grades can earn around 600 dinars (\$1,900) per month. Opposition members of parliament have called for cuts in prestige building projects and defence spending but urged social spending and wages be maintained for the 1.3 million population.

In 1991/92, the deficit ballooned to 5.33 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion) be-

cause of reconstruction, war expenses, civil service pay increases and state-funded write-offs of many consumer loans.

Sheikh Saud said, "The majority of Kuwaitis' foreign investments were used to help fund Desert Storm and help countries whose economies were indirectly hurt by sanctions against Iraq."

"I think we should learn to accept the reality of the situation and learn to tighten the belt so that within three or four years there will be a balanced budget, and we can get rid of the deficit which exists now," he said.

"But then again I think that is something which is less important than other issues, like security. Once you have security, things in the country will naturally improve. Compared to the deficits in many other countries, Kuwait has just a fraction of other countries' problems."

Sheikh Saud said security was the number one priority for Kuwait as Iraqi leaders Saddam Hussein still remains in power and continues to threaten Kuwait.

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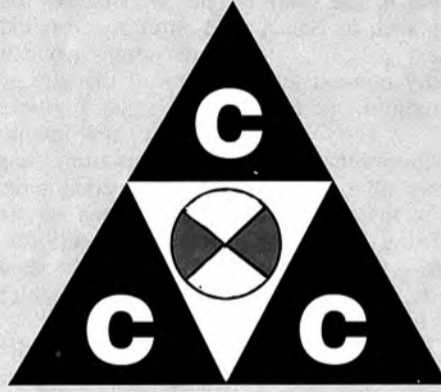
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and affirm our collaboration for
the welfare and prosperity of Yemen.**

شركة

سي سي سي

تتقدم

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ويوفقها إلى ما فيه خير اليمن وتقدمه



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Final Details of the April 27th Election Results:

The popular votes tell a different story than the 'Winner Take All System' Choosing.

The full details of the April 27th elections are now available. The results by popular votes are quite different from the results of the successful number of candidates each party was able to send to the House of Representatives. (Please refer to the table below). For example, the Yemeni Socialist Party collected 30% of the total votes in Taiz governorates, yet it only got six of the 43 seats of the governorate in the House. By contrast, the Islah got only 18% of the popular votes in the governorate, yet it occupies 19 of the seats of the governorate in the House. How can 67,511 Islah votes send 19 persons to parliament while 112,436 YSP votes send only six persons to parliament? The answer is simple. The Islah votes are focused and lumped together, whereas the YSP votes were thinly spread

all over the governorate. In all the southern and eastern governorates (i.e., former PDRY), the YSP dominated the results. In all six governorates, it got better than 40%, in four of them more than 50%, and in one case an astounding 80%. The YSP also got the top position in two northern governorates (former YAR) - Taiz and Al-Baidha. The Islah never got the top position in any of the governorates; but it was a steady second in ten governorates. The People's General Congress overwhelmed its competitors in the northern governorates. In seven governorates plus the capital city, it got a third or better of the votes. Even in the southern and eastern governorates, the PGC did relatively well. It got almost one fifth of the votes in four of the six southern governorates.

The Baath party made a strong showing in several governorates. It did better in the remote governorates (e.g., Mareb, Mahweet, Saadah, Hajjah and Al-Baidha) than in the traditional hubs such as Sanaa city or Taiz. It is virtually non-existent in the southern governorates. The opposition block did rather poorly all over the place. But there was a strong showing in certain governorates where any one of its constituting members had a strong presence. This is clear in Saadah (a Hizbul-Haq fortress), in Taiz (a Nasserite stronghold), and in Shabwah (a Rabitah foothold) and Sanaa city (a Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani toehold). The independents, a wide assortment of people did relatively well, although many were simple tools or plants for the large parties.

The role of some independents was simply to disperse the support-base and votes of candidates running against any of the big parties. The governorates that voted strongly for independents point to one of two facts - a) that the governorate is not politicized as yet, or b) that independent candidates from the region have succeeded in drawing their kinsmen so strongly that they voted for them and not for the candidate of the party to which they may belong. For future mobilization, the parties will seek to expand their influence in the regions which voted for independents. In addition to consolidation of their grip over areas where they have supporters. But much movement of party affiliation is expected to take place, with resulting shifts in allegiance and voting patterns.

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Results of April 27th Elections by Popular Votes:

Governorate	Basic Statistics:	Share of the Three Ruling Parties			Baath	Opposition	Independents
		Eligible;	Registered;	Vote			
Taiz	894,258; 421,973; 372,172	YSP =30%;	PGC =22%;	Islah =18%;	4%	10%	15%
Ibb	803,724; 314,482; 278,684	PGC =32%;	Islah =21%;	YSP =14%;	2%	3%	28%
Sanaa Gov.	745,312; 288,928; 236,241	PGC =33%;	Islah =19%;	YSP =12%;	7%	2%	24%
Hodeidah	703,271; 311,326; 261,125	PGC =41%;	Islah =16%;	YSP =16%;	2%	2%	18%
Hajjah	472,929; 168,742; 144,398	PGC =38%;	Islah =22%;	YSP =11%;	10%	3%	20%
Dhamar	425,818; 162,355; 124,041	PGC =32%;	Islah =22%;	YSP =12%;	3%	1%	27%
Sanaa city	387,214; 205,626; 165,408	PGC =37%;	Islah =25%;	YSP =15%;	1%	4%	16%
Hadhramaut	350,448; 160,299; 128,195	YSP =48%;	Islah =17%;	PGC =14%;	--	2%	17%
Lahj	263,102; 126,288; 101,300	YSP =80%;	PGC = 4%;	Islah = 1%;	--	1%	12%
Aden	223,161; 132,216; 112,610	YSP =59%;	PGC = 7%;	Islah = 7%;	0.5%	2%	24%
Al-Baidha	200,918; 70,986; 59,648	YSP =25%;	PGC =25%;	Islah =23%;	7%	3%	15%
Saadah	183,106; 66,121; 54,810	PGC =27%;	Islah = 6%;	YSP = 5%;	9%	23%	27%
Mahweet	168,952; 60,396; 51,582	PGC =42%;	Islah =15%;	YSP = 2%;	6%	1%	35%
Abyan	166,732; 83,422; 69,652	YSP =54%;	PGC =19%;	Islah = 5%;	--	3%	20%
Shabwah	125,175; 52,662; 42,581	YSP =44%;	PGC =21%;	Islah = 4%;	1%	6%	25%
Mareb	63,828; 32,062; 25,244	PGC =37%;	YSP =17%;	Islah = 6%;	6%	2%	32%
Al-Maharah	48,685; 14,540; 11,191	YSP =61%;	PGC =20%;	Islah = --	--	--	16%
Al-Jowf	46,195; 14,797; 11,532	PGC =23%;	Islah =22%;	YSP =17%;	2%	8%	25%

Notes: Opposition = National Conference Parties: Nasserites + Al-Haq+ Rabitah + Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi
PGC = People's General Congress; YSP = Yemeni Socialist Party; Islah = Tagammu' Al-Yemeni Lil-Islah
Source: Calculated from table in Al-Thawri, Issue 1297 of May 27th, 1993, p. 5