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Yemen Times Subjected to Harassment

The Yemen Times came under severe attack last week on account of the story it ran two weeks ago (issue # 23) when it exposed the efforts of some corrupt PGC politicians who are trying to chop-up the Sanaa University campus and transfer its ownership to themselves. Some of the harassment is in the form of nasty telephone calls to the Yemen Times office and home of the editor, Dr. Abdul-aziz Al-Saqqaf. PGC newspapers have also embarked on personal attacks on the editor of the YT. Finally, a law-suit has been filed against the YT on grounds of "undermining the system" and hurting the "image of the president". Sounds like one of those hoax excuses used in dictatorship regimes. Meanwhile, the issue has created a rift within PGC politicians some of whom are unhappy with the efforts to take ownership of part of the Sanaa University campus. The issue has also become a strong rallying point for an anti-corruption campaign launched in many parts of the country.

House's Vote of Confidence on the Government: What Value?

Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas told the House of Representatives that he will present his cabinet and his government's program on the 4th of July. The objective is to obtain the House's vote of confidence on both. In response to a trouble-making member's yell as to the time frame of the program, and whether it was for the coming three months only (there is a rumor that is the duration of this government), the Prime Minister confidently said his program would cover a period of four years - the full term of the current parliament. At another level, many parliamentarians, lawyers, political scientists, and other interested persons are asking why the government needs the parliament's vote of confidence at all. "The government has assumed its duties, each minister has taken up his post, even without waiting for the technical blessing of the parliament," said a disgruntled member of parliament. He pointed out that the House would have obliged in any case, but the executive branch of authority could not even show that little respect for the House by waiting for its procedural approval. Later on, in a telephone call to the Yemen Times, the Prime Minister indicated that his government's program is being finalized and that it will be presented before 4th of July.

"Our Self-Interest Makes It Necessary to Come to Terms with Saudi Arabia!"



Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and Chief of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, is no wishy-washy politicians. He knows what

he wants, what he thinks is right for Yemen, and puts it bluntly. He is not given to compromises and half-cooked positions.

In an interview with the Yemen Times two weeks back, he openly came out against two issues that the traditional politicians are sponsoring - the Al-Shura Council and Local Rule.

In an interview published in Al-Thawrah and Al-Jumhuriyah newspapers on Friday, June 25th, he made another point. "The self-interest of Yemen makes it necessary for the Republic of Yemen to come to terms with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he lashed out. "We cannot simply ignore the realities. The present as well as future of the region depends on maintaining proper relations and on the level of cooperation among the states of the Arabian Peninsula," he said. "There is near-total consensus on this issue," the Speaker added.

At another level, Sheikh Al-Ahmar pleaded with the world community to "come to the rescue to the Bosnian who are massacred by the Serbs."



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Call for Papers and Participants to Seminar on Constitutional Amendments

Yemen Times hereby announces its plan to sponsor a one-day seminar on Monday, July 12th, 1993, regarding the proposed constitutional amendments. Access to the seminar is by confirmed invitation only. Already, several parliamentarians, journalists, lawyers, political scientists, politicians and others have confirmed their participation. Organizations and individuals interested in attending are welcome to call Yemen Times, phone: 240-466 and arrange an invitation.

Japanese Aid to Yemen: Assistance Without Fuss

The Republic of Yemen and the Royal Kingdom of Japan have signed, on June 23rd, 1993, four notes of agreement covering a total aid grant of US\$ 13.82 million from Japan to Yemen.

The first agreement calls for the donation of 542 million Japanese Yen (around US\$ 4.71 million) for the execution of two water supply projects - the first at Aflah Al-Yaman in Hajjah Governorate, and the second at Al-Ghudu in Marib Governorate.

The second agreement calls for the donation of 512 million Japanese Yen (about US\$ 4.45 million) to finance a solid waste disposal management project in Sanaa City. The money will be used to pay for equipment for garbage collection, transportation, disposal site, and other equipment needed by the project.

The third agreement calls for the donation of 373 million Japanese Yen (about US\$ 3.24 million) to finance a coastal fisheries development project. The fund will be used to pay for gasoline outboard motors, diesel inboard engines, container-type workshops, gill net material, and refrigerated vans.

The fourth agreement calls for the donation of 163.44 million Japanese Yen (about 1.42 million) as a debt relief grant. Based on the UNCTAD TDB resolution of 1978, the government of Japan has taken debt-relief measures to the Least Developed Countries of the world, which includes the Republic of Yemen. According to these measures, Japan has made it its policy to extend grant aid equivalent to the amount repaid according to the repayment schedule agreed upon in the ODA loan agreements concluded between Japan and these countries before 1977.

According to this arrangement, the Japanese Government has provided the Yemeni Government with the amount of 4,619 million Japanese Yen (about US\$ 40.17 million) in debt relief since 1979. The amount of debt relief grant for last year (1992) was 642 million Japanese Yen (about US\$ 5.58 million).

It will be noted the Japanese Government is one of the largest aid partners of the Republic of Yemen. Its annual aid program to Yemen averages US\$ 30-35 million.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Harnessing the Rain Water

Yemen has received abundant rainfall this year. Most of the rain-water, however, goes to the sea or the desert.

It is estimated that the amount of rainfall this year is higher than 600 mm on a national average, and the level has gone to higher than 2000 in certain regions - well above the annual average of the last few decades. To confirm this point, many of the country's long-vanished springs have started flowing.

Yemen is a water-hungry nation. Its need for a continuous supply of water cannot be met unless the rainwater of abundant rainy seasons is harnessed and used in the dry seasons. This process requires a good water management program, part of which, I suppose, is building cisterns and small dams.

Why our politicians do not see water management as a priority issue is something I cannot understand, let alone explain. Water management is probably going to be the most critical factor in the development process of the country, especially in the agriculture and live-stock sector.

The issue cannot be postponed or neglected any further. The season of good rains takes a long time before it returns once the new cycle works itself out.

The benefits of harnessing and managing rain-water are immense. To start with, they are necessary for increasing productivity of current farmlands, and for the reclamation of new lands. Second, livestock and fisheries development requires better water management. Third, the dams would replenish ground-water reservoirs which are being rapidly depleted. Fourth, dams help bring more rainfall because of higher levels of evaporation. Fifth, dams are important for ecological and environmental balance and equilibrium. Sixth, dams and surface reservoirs raise the internal and external attraction and tourism potential for people to go out on picnics and other social trips. Seventh, dams help increase national beauty and natural enjoyment.

Need I say more?

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عبد العزيز

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New Batch of PC Volunteers

Cecilia Hitte, Peace Corps Director in Yemen, told the Yemen Times that a new batch of 39 new Peace Corps volunteers are scheduled to arrive in Yemen on July 10th.

The group will receive their 10-week orientation and training in Taiz. The swearing-in ceremony will take place in Sanaa at the end of September.

Yafa Organizes Seminar on Yemen-American Relations

The Yemen-American Friendship Association (Yafa) is organizing a seminar under the theme of "Yemen-US Relations".

"We are going to invite the Foreign Minister, the US Ambassador, political scientists and politicians to speak in the one-day seminar," explained Abdul-Wasa Hayel Saeed, Yafa Chairman. He added that all Yafa members are welcome to attend the seminar without prior arrangements.

Persons interested in participating or attending may kindly call the Yafa office to arrange the same.

National Committee on Constitutional Amendments

The National Conference (Yemen's main opposition bloc), supported by many parliamentarians, lawyers, journalists and public personalities, has established the National Committee for Constitutional Amendments. Later on, a 17-person executive board was established to steer the efforts of the NCCA. "The purpose of the committee is to build up public opinion regarding what the amendments really are; which are seen as essential, and which are not," explained Dr. Abdo Hamood Al-Shareef, member of the executive board and one of the key persons in the committee. The NCCA has already sent a letter to all parliamentarians urging them not to take hasty decisions regarding the proposed amendments.

In a meeting today, Sunday June 27th, the NCCA will adopt its program of action for the coming weeks.

Ethics in Government

The USIA office in Sanaa is linking up with other offices in the region in a Worldnet symposium on "Ethics in Government."

The program, scheduled for 29th June, features two guest speakers on the subject.

The USIA office has sent out invitations to various journalists who would like to participate in the program.

Yemen Times takes this opportunity to request the USIA office to send similar invitations to Yemeni politicians and officials, and the more senior they are, the better it is.

President Saleh Continues Tour of Taiz Regions

In an exceptionally long-stay, Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, continued his tour of various regions in Taiz governorate.

The president's program, ostensibly to lay-down foundation stones to projects and to inaugurate others, was used to prop up the PGC.

One observer commented that most of the projects were financed by the private sector, notably the Hayel Saeed Anam Group, and not by the government whose 1993 budget has no allocations for new investments.

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**SECURITY EXPERTS
FEAR ADVENT OF
TECHNO-TERROR**

The discovery in Europe of a nuclear materials black market and reports of a recent terrorist flirtation with a bacterial agent has raised concern among international security experts that the world is headed towards high-tech terror.

Long regarded as the stuff of adventure novels and Hollywood movies, the use of radiological, biological and chemical weapons by increasingly sophisticated political outlaws is apparently not all that far-fetched. "In the 1970s and 1980s, we had terrorist attacks at the conventional level: bombings, hijackings and assassinations," said Professor Yonah Alexander, an expert on terrorism at George Washington University.

"While we will continue to see that, I think we are going to see an escalation of terrorism to the biological or nuclear level. "The ballgame is changing," he said. "The extremism, the radicalism is increasing."

Experts agree that the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the transfer of radioactive weapons-grade materials to civilian control poses a particular danger of weapons proliferation to governments, and possibly their surrogates.

In Germany, for example, three Polish citizens have gone on trial for trying to sell 10 kilograms of radioactive material - cesium, strontium and possibly uranium - on the black market to an undercover policeman for more than \$250,000. The radioactive material apparently came from the former Soviet Union. It was one of 150 such seizures in Germany during the past year alone.

Russia's Security Ministry disclosed recently that 100 kilograms of uranium were stolen last year from a city near the country's largest nuclear weapons complex by 11 men who intended to smuggle it out of the country and sell it.

On the biological/bacterial front, West European authorities who raided a safe-house of a terrorist organization, found evidence the group was experimenting with anthrax, a highly virulent bacteria fatal to humans.

A few grams of anthrax spores released into the open air could eventually kill and injure thousands. American counter-terrorism sources said the raid took place within the last 18 months. Several cultures of the bacteria were found but additional details were not disclosed.

Unsettling as the incidents may be, the issue of possible high-tech terrorism remains, however, highly speculative and a subject of unending debate.

"In the past, the major obstacle to the use of high-tech weapons in terrorism was the reluctance of state sponsors to supply them to their terrorist surrogates," commented an expert with the CIA.

"With shifting alliances in many regions of the globe, there are no permanent attachments, and if sponsors provided a very dangerous technology to a surrogate, it could come back to haunt them." Cannistrato said.

**VIETNAM: NEXT ASIAN
TIGER IN THE MAKING**

Eighteen years after the end of the Vietnam war, the United States is still bearing a grudge. At the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Manila in April, 93, the US once again delayed renewing multi-lateral aid to its enemy of old. Japan, Germany, France and Asian countries all argued to the contrary.

Foreign interest in Vietnam's wealth of natural resources is booming. Actual investment shot up by 80% in 1992. BHP Co. Ltd., an Australia oil company, won the tender to start drilling 250 km offshore from Vung Tau - a \$2 billion venture. And it is not alone - British Petroleum, Shell, Total, Mitsubishi Oil and Arabian Oil are all active. Vietnam is indeed showing the first signs of what is sure to be very rapid development. Since the reformist policies of Vietnam's perestroika, or *doi moi*, began in 1986, the country has seen a lot of changes. Ho Chi Minh City, still generally referred to by its old name of Saigon, is visibly Vietnam's economic powerhouse.

High-rise hotels and offices are being build all over the city to accommodate the ever-increasing number of foreign business people and tourists. Billboards advertising Western companies are commonplace. In markets, sophisticated goods with famous international names such as Sanyo, Aiwa and Toshiba line the stalls. Smuggled from neighboring countries, they are sold to the Vietnamese public, hungry for the goods of the developed, capitalist world.

Foreign investors are falling over themselves to get into Vietnam, more than \$4 billion having already been committed. But amid booming economic activity, signs of the people's enduring poverty cannot be overlooked. In Saigon, cigarette sellers line the streets from dawn until midnight, cycle drivers hound tourists to get a fare of 50 cents or one dollar - a large proportion of the average Vietnamese monthly wage of about seven dollars. Many fight off poverty with the help of money sent from relatives who have gained asylum abroad. About 25% of the city's inhabitants are homeless and street crimes are increasing, especially as the number of dollar-laden foreign visitors increases.

Change has been rapid, and the dichotomy between East and West is obvious. Old women in colonial hats and betel-nut-stained teeth sell hand-held computer games, young women in traditional ao dai dress try on baseball caps, and on one of the many French-style boulevards, a Mercedes Benz slowly forces its way through the stream of cyclists.

Environmentally, Vietnam is in a delicate position. The US strategy of deforestation using Agent Orange during the war destroyed an estimated 20,000 sq km of forest and farmland. The resultant toxic pollution has left many areas still dangerous for farming. Since the war, excessive logging by the government has further exacerbated deforestation.

On the 15th of March, when 589 Cuban deputies sat in their parliament benches, for the first time in what is now known as the first constitutional session, they were assuming perhaps their greatest-ever responsibility - to navigate Cuba through the changes it needed. It is no secret that the island is confronting its worst-ever economic difficulties as a result of the demise of the socialist world, with which Cuba had maintained 85% of its foreign trade. At the same time, the US is tightening its blockade of Cuba, which has just moved into its fourth decade.

Under such circumstances, the government introduced a series of special economic measure under what has been termed as the "special period." The process started three years ago, when the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) submitted to public debate in the Fourth PCC Congress, its call for reform. It called on the public to present ideas as to how to overcome the problems "within a reformed socialist system." During that meeting, many daring decisions were taken. For the first time, the National Assembly would be elected directly by secret balloting. Municipal delegates were also elected in the same way. This change made it necessary to create candidacy commissions at all levels, as more than one person could run for the same post.

**CUBA FLIRTS WITH
CHANGE**

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The culmination point to all of this was on the 24th of February when Cuba, for the first time in its 34 year Socialist history, elected 589 deputies and 1,190 provincial delegates. Some 92.97% of the eligible voters participated in the elections. By 15th March, the deputies were on their parliamentary benches.

Although the parliamentarians failed to change the top leaders of the country - Fidel Castro was re-elected as President and Raul Castro as First Vice-President - the deputies cleaned most of the other posts. The Council of the State was fully renovated, and most of the administrative hierarchy underwent massive change. President Castro himself, fully aware of the tides of change, supported the full-scale renovation. "Without chauvinism of any kind, Cubans should feel proud of the truly high degree of upgrading attained by the system."

Now, three months later, the deputies are ready to make another daring change. They are working to liberate the economic from the shackles of bureaucracy and central decisions. The near-final draft of a complete economic reform plan was released last week in an effort to mobilize support for it.

The leading role played by the Cuban parliamentarians offers the country the safety valve it needs to distance itself from past mistakes and to plan for the future. After all, Cuban legislators are not just parliamentarians as in other countries. In Cuba, they are also policy makers and decision-makers with the power to enforce their plans and decisions.



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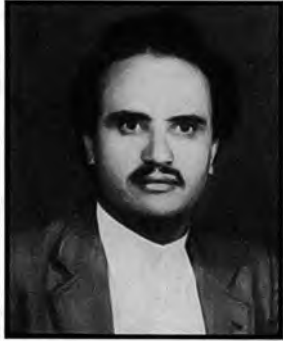
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A Taste of Tragedy

By:
Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times.



There was once a family in which there were, besides the mother and the father, two children. The mother was a very brave woman. She never complained about anything. She never let her children see any of her problems. Both she and her husband believed the environment of children should be entirely cheerful. They brought up their children with care, and gave them everything they could afford. Part of their intelligent bequest to their children was a sound education, a love for sport and a taste for the elegant things of life. All unpleasant occurrences in the family, all sadness, were carefully kept away from them. When their grandfather died, the mother, whose father he was, hid her tears. After she had wept in private she called her children to her and told them, matter of factly, that God had called their grandfather and that he was very happy to go to Him. So it was understood there was no cause for grief. The children, whose first encounter with death it was, were startled at first, but afterwards their reaction was no more than curiosity which was efficiently but briefly satisfied by their parents, who then diverted it into more positive channels by taking them to a circus.

After the circus the children's volley of questions about what they had seen was let loose on the parents. None of the questions were waived or discouraged, and, for days after, the parents and their children talked about the circus. I happened to be in

touch with the family around this time, and I was struck by the way some aspects of the children's curiosity were carefully cultivated by these educated and progressive parents.

I asked their mother about this. What she told me was to the effect that by being so brief and pragmatic about their grandfather's death, she had tried to steer her children's thoughts away from morbid channels and into positive ones. The curiosity about the circus was, of course, to be encouraged as it would lead to useful knowledge. This set me thinking about the words "positive" and "useful". To me it appeared that they boiled down to a third word, "sterile".

Bias

Often when parents are educated and conscientious about their role in the upbringing of children, or even if they are just doting parents, they try to protect their offspring from anything that is "sad" or "negative". They feel that if children "brood" over the negative aspects of life, they will veer away from the "positive" or "useful" side. The bias in this theory is apparent from the terms used. Why should children "brood" over and not "think" of the less happy, but not "negative" expe-

riences of the human state? An encounter with tragedy or unhappiness is an experience like any other, and children should not be turned away from it. As a matter of fact, it is an experience of great value as it teaches one of the most important qualities a child can learn, empathy with the less fortunate. The perceptions which are acquired by watching tragedy at close quarters, especially in childhood, are lifelong. And if an intelligent and sympathetic parent is at hand to offer guidance and support (so that the child is not crushed by what he sees) then the child who has been allowed to witness the unhappiness of others is a lucky child.

Children's Books

In the modern world, in which tragedy takes place on a massive scale (five million children die each year of dehydration alone), it seems only sensible to rear a generation that cares. Unfortunately most children's books that are being written and read today do not focus on this important aspect of the emotional development of children. The tone of most books for children today is "bright and cheerful", or "funny". The flavor of tragedy is missing. Tragedy has a great humanizing influence and crosses the barriers of nationality, culture and race. What prejudice and trust have buried deep, it brings to light.

Bringing up a child on cheerful stuff alone is like bringing him or her up on dessert only. It can hardly be considered proper nourishment for robust emotional health, as it teaches the evasion rather than the perception of unhappiness.

SOMALI REFUGEES: An Uncertain Future

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Sana'a UN High Commissioner for Refugees representative Tawfiq Ouanas said that as long as there is political instability in Somalia he cannot exclude the possibility that another influx of refugees will flee to Yemen seeking refuge. However he could not confirm reports that a number of Somali refugees, mostly supporters of General Aideed, have infiltrated the Aden coastline in small sailboats over the last two weeks. He said Yemeni security forces would normally inform UNHCR of such activity. "They know if people are seeking asylum we will assist them," he said. "There is no need to hide anything from us."

Around two hundred and fifty Somali refugees are reported to have entered the country last week, eluding security forces. So far some one hundred are said to have been arrested after reaching Aden and other governorates and taken to a camp in Abyan governorate.

Ouanas said it is difficult to guess whether any more "legitimate" refugees can be expected following the recent violence in Somalia between UN troops and the forces of General Aideed.

Over the last two years, the lack of government in Somalia has brought a deteriorating economic situation, civil war and violence, particularly in the capital, Mogadishu, and has led to refugees fleeing in their thousands. Ouanas said those who have reached Yemen have exhibited a full range of reasons for seeking exile and asylum.

UNHCR is assisting two categories of Somali refugees in Yemen. First, those of Yemeni origin, some of whom hold Yemeni passports, who began to arrive in Yemen in an earlier trail to flee the hunger and instability in Somalia. There has long been a historical tradition of contacts and family ties between Somalia and Yemen, so the first arrivals were re-integrated into Yemeni society easily. Many settled back into their tribes in the southern governorates, but others, especially as numbers increased, found themselves dependent on UNHCR.

Tawfiq Ouanas stresses that a refugee has no automatic right to full UNHCR assistance. Many Somali

Yemenis were seen to be in need of protection, but were well off enough to support themselves and had no need for material aid. UNHCR officials had to ask themselves if these were refugees or returnees. Many came from families who had left Yemen up to four hundred years ago, so their relationship with Yemen was tenuous at best. Also, they had left Somalia forcibly -- forced out by the war. Moreover, they expressed a wish to return to Somalia once the situation improved. They were thus seen to fall under the UNHCR mandate for refugees.

Some 34,000 of these refugees are now settled in a crowded community at al-Basateen, just outside the Aden city limits. UNHCR provides basic needs: schools, dispensaries, and piped water. A similar community for a further 6,000 has been established at Mukalla. Thousands of others have integrated into their own tribes in the South. Al-Basateen is not a camp, and residents try to find local jobs. But there is not enough work in Aden to sustain such an increase in the labor force and most remain unemployed.

The second category of refugees is the ethnic Somalis, who arrived later on in the struggle. Many were desperate, arriving on crowded boats, which led to their being termed the 'boat people' of the Gulf of Aden. With the return of Yemenis expelled during the Gulf War, Yemeni resources were now stretched to their limit. The ethnic Somalis were given full assistance by UNHCR, and were accommodated at two camps near Aden, al-Shab and al-Haswa. However the Yemeni government requested that the refugees be moved away from Aden's Duty Free Zone, and late last month UNHCR moved its 7,000 ethnic Somalis from the two camps to a new camp located 50 km. away at al-Kawd in Abyan governorate. The number of residents is expected to swell to 13,000 as Somalis unable to find work in Aden rejoin their families in the camp.

UNHCR provides accommodation, food, piped water, and educational and medical services to camp residents. Operational partners are CARE, which organizes food distribution, Medicins Sans Frontières which has a

full medical team, and Radda Barnen, the Swedish Save the Children organization, which runs the educational service. All the teachers are refugees, and teach the Somali curriculum.

As well as basic needs UNHCR is promoting projects for vocational training, income-generating projects, social and cultural activities, and sports and recreation. "The camp is open. It is not a prison, but it is not a hotel either," said Ouanas. "It's a flexible, humanitarian way of dealing. People are allowed to find work outside the camp, but it's not our job to help in that. We are not an employment agency." While many refugees have found employment in Sana'a, they are still entitled to protection and assistance and are offered counseling and medical care.

Ouanas said the Yemeni authorities have proved very generous in their acceptance of the refugees. The Yemeni people themselves have also gone overboard in offering generosity and hospitality, and Ouanas feels that this, together with the full assistance given by UNHCR, has contributed to local good will. "From time to time minor feelings of frustration erupt," he said, "but on the whole the relationship between the Yemenis and the refugees is very good." He added that historical tradition had helped foster good relations. "There has long been contact between Somalia and Yemen," he added.

Ouanas is pleased with the way the camp at al-Kawd is running. He says a democratic committee of refugees discusses day to day issues, but, he adds, "You have to be careful and prudent, because the camp is a little Mogadishu. You have different clans and parties, but so far it's been peaceful." To coincide with the Year of the Family, UNHCR is planning a series of activities. Jointly with the refugees it also hopes to implement more social and cultural projects as well as efforts.

Dialogs are in progress between children at the camp and in Yemeni schools and the French and International schools in Sana'a, and with the International Women's Association. "We should promote dialog and understanding between the refugees, the Yemenis, the authorities, and UNHCR," says Ouanas. "But ultimately we hope for peace and political settlement in the country of origin."

He said an operation for voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees in Yemen was ready to go into action as soon as "peace and dignity" at home provided the incentive. So far the refugees are not ready to return home. "Two to three weeks ago the situation from a repatriation point of view seemed very promising, but in view of the current violence it is fragile again, especially in Mogadishu," he concluded.

By:
Jenny Jobbins,
Yemen Times.

WHY IS THE VALUE OF THE RIYAL FALLING?

The Economic Division of the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research is sponsoring a one-day round-table under the theme, "Why Is the Value of the Yemeni Riyal Falling?"

On Monday, June 28th, a group of experts from the Center, Sanaa University, the Central Bank of Yemen, the banking community and the Ministry of Planning and Development are going to hash it out in order to find the reasons for

the continued depreciation of the Riyal. Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Director of the Division, said that the round-table is expected to lead to conclusions that will pin down the reasons for the problem, and to propose practical steps towards the solution.

"We hope that the shortcomings of the current monetary policy will be rectified through proper steps in this regard," Al-Maitami said.

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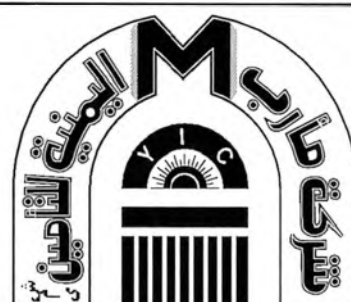
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The Committees of the House of Representatives

On June 22nd, the House of Representatives approved the formation of seventeen committees as follows:

1. The Legal and Constitutional Committee:

- a. Ismail Mohammed Selah,
- b. Anees Hassan Yahia,
- c. Dr. Hassan M. Al-Ahdal,
- d. Salim Mohammed Jubran,
- e. Sultan Said Al-Barakani,
- f. Dr. Saleh A. Al-Dhabyani,
- g. Abdullah Hussain Khairat,
- h. Abdullah Ali Saatar,
- i. Abdul-Wali A. Al-Shamiri,
- j. Ali Abdullah Abu Haleegah,
- k. Mujahed Hussain Ghutheim,
- l. Mohamed Al-Haj Salehi,
- m. Mohamed Salim Ba-Dinar,
- n. Mohamed Ali Ba-Musallam,
- o. Yahia Abdullah Qahtan.

2. Economic Committee:

- a. Ahmed Ali Sultan,
- b. Ahmed Ali As-Sunaidar,
- c. Ahmed Mohamed Adubaibi,
- d. Jumaan Salimain Ba-Riya',
- e. Hussain Mohsin Al-Madhagi,
- f. Hameed Abdullah Al-Ahmar,
- g. Abdul-Galeel Abdo Thabit,
- h. Abdulaziz Moh'd Al-Hadhrani,
- i. Abdulwadood Sharaf A/Ghani,
- j. Ali Ibrahim Hameem,
- k. Dr. Mohamed Al-Afendi,
- l. Mohammed Subar Al-Jumayi,
- m. Mohammed Alji Abu Luhum,
- n. Dr. Mahmood Said Medhi,
- o. Mansoor Ahmed Saif.

3. Supply/Trade Committee:

- a. Ahmed Hamood Taher,
- b. Hizam Naji Fadhil,
- c. Abdulwahab A. Al-Kibsi,
- d. Abdul-Galeel Radman,
- e. Ali Ahmed Ashami,
- f. Ali Ahmed Al-Amrani,
- g. Ali Said Ba-Kreit,
- h. Faisal Othman Bin Shamlan,
- i. Mohjab Othman Mohjab,
- j. Mohamed Ali Ba-Shammakh,
- k. Mohamed Naji Al-Rowaishan,
- l. Mahdi Saleh Al-Jaadabi,
- m. Nasser Abdo Arman,
- n. Nasser Ali Sinan,
- o. Yahia Suhail Al-Harjooj.

4. Finance Committee:

- a. Ahmed Mohamed Soofan,
- b. Ishaq Yahia Balgheith,
- c. Zaki Mohamed Khalifah,
- d. Taher Ali Saif,
- e. Abdullah Sharaf Murshid,
- f. Abdo Mohamed Radman,
- g. Ali Mohamed Al-Wafi,
- h. Omer Ahmed Jubran,
- i. Mohamed Bukair Selah,
- j. Mohamed Hamood Az-Zuhairi,
- k. Dr. Mohamed Said Moqbil,
- l. Mohamed Abdo Said Anam,
- m. Mohamed Ali Imayah,
- n. Mohamed Ali Al-Maqrani,
- o. Mohamed M. Hizam Masood.

5. Education Committee:

- a. Ahmed Hamood Al-Ju'aidi,
- b. Ahmed Dihbash Matari,
- c. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri,
- d. Hizam Hizam Haijan,

- e. Hassan Abdul-Rabb Al-Adoofi,
- f. Khowlah Ahmed Sharaf,
- g. Salim Ahmed Said Al-Khunaishi,
- h. Sultan Said Al-Suraimi,
- i. Sha'fal Omer Ali,
- j. Abbas Ali Al-Muayyad,
- k. Abdul-Rahman Yahia Al-Imad,
- l. Abdul-Sattar A. Al-Shamiri,
- m. Mohamed Ali Ajlan,
- n. Mohamed Mahdi Al-Kuwaiti,
- o. Mohamed Yahia Abu Hadi.

6. High Education and Youth Committee:

- a. Ibrahim Ahmed As-Soufi,
- b. Ahmed Abdul-Wali Attashi,
- c. Salim Ali Al-Bani,
- d. Abdul-Rahman Al-Akwa',
- e. Abdullah Ali Al-Khowbani,
- f. Dr. Abdullah Ali Al-Maqaleh,
- g. Ali Mohamed As-Saeedi,
- h. Mohamed Hussain Al-Aidaros,
- i. Mohamed Ghalib Ahmed,
- j. Mohamed Moqbil Al-Himyari,
- k. Mohamed Othman Mohsin,
- l. Mohamed Najeeb Saif,
- m. Mohamed Yahia Asharafi,
- n. Munassar Abdullah Munassar,
- o. Munassar Ali Wassel,
- p. Yahia Mohamed Al-Khobari.

7. Cultural and Media Committee:

- a. Ismail Abdul-Rahman Al-Samawi,
- b. Hussain Abdullah Abdul-Haq,
- c. Hussain Moh'd Al-Jumayi,
- d. Salim Omer Musaibly,
- e. Abdul-Habeeb Salim,
- f. Abdul-Rahman Abu Awf,

- g. Abdul-Rahman Yahia Al-Hiyari,
- h. Abdul-Razzak Qatran,
- i. Abdul-Aziz M. Al-Zubeiri,
- j. Abdullah Saleh Al-Musaibly,
- k. Abdullah Farhan Khaled,
- l. Mabkhoot Saleh Al-Buaishi,
- m. Mohamed A/Rahman Darמוש,
- n. Hibatallah Ali Shareem.
- o. Hussain Hadi Jubarah.

8. Public Services Committee:

- a. Ahmed Ali Bobraik,
- b. Ahmed Moh'd Al-Kohlani,
- c. Jamal Mosed Ahmed,
- d. Hussain Ali Taher,
- e. Salim Dahiqli Ali,
- f. A/Rahman Moh'd Al-Hamdi,
- g. A/Rahman Moh'd Humaid,
- h. A/Karim Moh'd Al-Aslami,
- i. Abdullah Ali Al-Khalaqi,
- j. Ali Baghawai Asla',
- k. Ali Said Al-Qushaibi,
- l. Mohsin Rajih Abu Luhum,
- m. Mohamed Ahmed Salman,
- n. Naji Mohamed Al-Jadri,
- o. Dr. Yahia Moh'd Al-Ahdal.

9. Agriculture Committee:

- a. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Bahr,
- b. Ahmed Obaid Bin Dagher,
- c. Ahmed Ali Haider,
- d. Amin Hassan Shayif,
- e. Hassan Sawd Hafj,
- f. Hameed Abdullah Al-Udhri,
- g. Saleh Nasser Nasran,
- h. Abdul-Qawi Al-Humaiqani,
- i. Ali Ahmed N. Adhabab,
- j. Mani' Ali Ghalib Assubaih,
- k. Mohamed Abkar Hujam,

- l. Mohamed Ali Moqbil,
- m. Moqbil Ali Al-Ghail,
- n. Mahdi Abubakar Al-Hamid,
- o. Noman Ali Al-Barh.

10. Human-power Committee:

- a. Ahmed Moh'd Al-Uqari,
- b. Ahmed Salim Khairat,
- c. Hassan Moh'd Maqeeq,
- d. Zaid Ahmed Taha,
- e. Sakhr Ahmed Al-Wajeeh,
- f. A/Kareem Moh'd Abu Ras,
- g. Abdullah Abdullah Qadhi,
- h. A/Wasa Hayel Saeed Anam,
- i. Othman A/Jabbar Rashid,
- j. Ali Ahmed Al-Weraqi,
- k. Ali Ali Qusai',
- l. Mohammed Ali Sha'bain,
- m. Mohamed Mused Al-Fareh,
- n. Mohamed Mushli Al-Radhi,
- o. Yasseen Hassan Al-Nagashi.

11. Foreign Affairs and Immigrants Committee:

- a. Ahmed A/Raheem Sulaimani,
- b. Jubran Mujahed Abu Shawarib,
- c. Hassan Mohamed Al-Matari,
- d. Hussain Mutahar Al-A'nsi,
- e. A/Jabbar Aayedh Thabit,
- f. A/Rahman Ahmed Noman,
- g. A/Rahman Musleh Oweideen,
- h. Abdullah Moh'd Al-Kibsi,
- i. Ali Munassar M. Moqbil,
- j. Qassim Abdul-Rab Saleh,
- k. Moh'd Ahmed Al-Miqdad,
- l. Mohamed Ghalib Ahmed,
- m. Mohamed Naji Ashayif,
- n. Nabeel Sadeq Basha,
- o. Yahia Musleh Mahdi.

12. Justice/Awqaf Committee:

- a. Ahmed Said Al-Mohammadi,
- b. Hussain Badradden Al-Huthi,
- c. Hamood A/Rab Addakheen,
- d. Hussain Assaddeeq Ahmed,
- e. Hassan Ali Addameen,
- f. A/Raqeeb Kaid Ali Basha,
- g. Abdullah Sinan Jalal,
- h. Abdullah Said Al-Haidari,
- i. Ali Rashed Al-Wadeyi,
- j. Ali Abdul-Lateef Rajeh,
- k. Ali Ali Al-Baadani,
- l. Ali Futaini Ghallab,
- m. Ali Abdu Rabbo Al-gherwi,
- n. Moh'd Abdo Hassan Al-Fasheq,
- o. Yahia Yahia Al-Shibami.

13. Islamic Sharia Committee:

- a. Ahmed A/Razzaq Al-Ruqaihi,
- b. Ahmed Mohamed Annuzaili,
- c. Saleh Naji Moh'd Harbi,
- d. Abbas Ahmed Annehari,
- e. A/Rahman Qahtan Qayed,
- f. Abdullah Ibrahim Addahawai,
- g. Abdullah Hussain Adduwais,
- h. A/Malik Ahmed Al-Wazeer,
- i. Moh'd Sadeq Mughallis,
- j. Moh'd Qassim Omer Hussain,
- k. Moh'd Mansoor Al-Bakri,
- l. Moh'd Bin Yahia Mutahhar.
- m.
- n.
- o.

The last three names are to be added to this committee later as the undecided/absent candidates make their preferences known.

Continues on page 15.

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THE COALITION WILL NOT ABOLISH THE OPPOSITION

With the announcement of the coalition between the three major parties, the PGC, the YSP and ISLAH, and the formation of the coalition government, a number of political parties have expressed a fear that the coalition will try to contain and marginalize the opposition forces.

Initially they concede this anxiety for all that has been achieved in our country up to now in the way of democratic tolerance should not lead us to differences. It is worth mentioning that such fears were accompanied by the spreading of inaccurate concepts about the nature of the coalitions and its relation to democracy. Some even thought that the very formation of a coalition abolished democracy and brought a return to totalitarianism.

It is well known that the coalition emerged from the elections through a necessity, and as an expression of a joint feeling within a number of political parties for reaching solutions which will help pull us out of the current crisis.

The coalition came about as an attempt to specify what can mutually be achieved in terms of a national, social, and economic evolution. As a whole, it is an attempt which could succeed or not, but it deserves our concern, effort and endeavor until its features are finalized. If the coalition was limited to three parties following the outcome of the elections, it is or ought to be probable to enlarge the coalition to include all the other political parties, regardless of size or political weight. The coalition did not emerge as a result of a pre-planned curb on democracy. On the contrary, it came about as an expression of comprehensive necessity. The point of difference will remain even within the framework of the coalition parties, and the opposition has the full right to practice its programs whether in or out of parliament.

We agree that anxiety for the democratic experiment is legitimate and justified, for the democratic victory is not something final in Yemen and such a noble goal requires caution and concern. On the other hand, there is no need to hold the illusion that further to the coalition agreement a conspiracy is being planned against the opposition.

Editorial,
Al-Thawri, Sana'a,
17/6/1993.

SANAA'S GROWING PAINS

Salim Alfaras, chairman of the Yemeni Society for the Protection of Coasts and Antiquities and chief editor of Al-Muheet newspaper, has finished his research on the city of Sanaa, concentrating basically on the sewage system. Septic tanks are estimated to number hundreds of thousands. The most important points of this research can be summarized by shedding light on the harm this does to the soil, the buildings, and to man. Domestic sewage contains decayed solids, chemicals and poisonous materials

which sink deep into the ground. Their impact remains for decades, and can result in the pollution of drinking water supplies in the Sanaa basin, pollution of plant life on the surface, and damage to the sub-soil which forms a danger to buildings and man.

The research also included a number of proposals, the most important being a stoppage to the surge of new building within and outside Sanaa, second, an abolition to the septic tank system for the drainage of waste, and their being filled with earth, third, the establishment of a sewerage network to include pumping and processing stations, and fourth ensuring that what is left of the empty spaces inside and outside Sanaa is allocated for gardens and agriculture.

From:
Al-Muheet, Aden,
Issue no.1, May 1993

AN IMPARTIAL ARBITER?

The US describes itself as an impartial arbiter or partner in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. A partner in what? We all know that the US is the patron and partner of Israel. Therefore, when Palestinians are assaulted or oppressed by the Israelis, the US is at least partially responsible for that. Actually, we think that whenever any catastrophe befalls Muslims, whether in Palestine or elsewhere in the world, America is somehow behind it as it has something to do with it. More than once we have heard the American commitment to Israel, and there is a strategic alliance between them. The US stored the weapons that were left-over from the Gulf War in Israel. We also realize that America's determination to disarm Iraq is connected to Israeli security more than anything else. At the same time, the world knows the Israelis possess all kinds of arms, including nuclear weapons. America is upset that North Korea refuses to allow inspection of its nuclear weapons while we have never heard so much as a word about Israel's nuclear capabilities.

More than a year has passed since the start of Arab/Israeli negotiations without reaching any solution. Through the talks, the US aims to achieve Israeli security and safety only. To Arabs, I have to say, "Don't think that America is interested in your concerns. It is interested in Israeli concerns, no more."

By: **Ali bin Abdullah Alwasee,**
Al-Sahwah, Sana'a,
17/6/1993.

A NEW IDEOLOGY

Now and then the previous transitional period of Al-Atta's government witnessed a sense of pessimism, and occasionally the premier even announced his inability to perform his work. Frustration was evident for much of that period.

With the formation of the present coalition government he also began to blame the cadre of the leadership, pointing out that the achievement of responsibility will not be gained out without good will and hard work. We shall leave these issues to the adaptation that comes about with time. But we tell

brother Attas that he is the executive authority, and that he has done the right thing in laying down the concepts of the governing framework. In the coalition government, there will be no more people who might embarrass him by asking for aid, vehicles, and dollars, which he used to complain of during the transitional period.

Such requests were beyond his ability, which compelled him to sell vehicles belonging to the state at cheap prices. Some of these issues put him into critical situations, and he was on the brink of resignation.

To tell the truth, things have changed, and nowadays President Ali Abdullah Saleh moves from one governorate to another in order to get acquainted with the problems felt by the people.

The president also affirmed that there is corruption in the administration, which has abused the concept of democracy. The president also affirmed the seriousness of this phase, and that the responsibility is mutual.

Brother Attas, as prime minister of a coalition government, requires a new ideology for dealing with issues put forward for discussion, and he has put this into motion in his first session of parliament. All in all, he has been an optimist, but what is important is to reconstruct credibility and trust within the public media. These issues ought to give an indication of the uprooting changes about to occur in our society. The whole choice is in the hands of the government.

By: **Mohammed Hussein Shuja Adeen**
Al-Gumhuriyah, Taiz,
20/6/1993.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Now we know what we are after in the process of the elections, whether we want it or not. Today, it is difficult to speak of an active or serious opposition within this parliament, and that includes the three parties that were supposed to form the government: one the authority, the two others the opposition on the right and left. But the three leading parties agreed to steer the affairs of the country far off the expected course of democracy. Anyone who wants to be part of the opposition should leave his party, even though he is a member of parliament, so he and the other independents will not just form a viewpoint without the influence to force change.

What we want is to form a real pattern of opposition in the future, possessing an objective of its own.

The National Conference (NC) was naively conceived, having ambition but no foundation. It was launched to prevent the unification and the laying down of the foundations of democracy. The NC began to split the parties outside the authority into two factions, one opposing the other. To an extent it was successful in splitting the groups and paving the way towards the elections. Although the NC included 43 party organizations, it was unable to advance a single step. And even the Follow-up and Coordination Board, which was supposed to have

a meeting each Tuesday, found that only one fifth of its members turned up to attend them. The NC, therefore, played no role in political life.

What is opposition? Opposition is a program of activities to expose the negative aspects of the ruling group, and to do one's best to push for positive steps in all fields of life. Thus, political parties cannot be in power and the opposition at the same time. Such a concept was laid down for the independents and the parties of the NC after the elections.

The objective of opposition that we require is to construct a state of unity, for unification was upon us without an goals. When we all agreed to work for unity, we agreed on the broad lines. The backwardness of the country brought with it some backward leadership for these parties. Laymen know what separates the rulers and the ruled once they have employed all sorts of violations in order to keep ruling.

By: **Omar Al-Gawi,**
Al-Tagammu, Sana'a,
21/6/1993.

SOLIDARITY AND GOODWILL

To start with, no one objects to a return to Arab solidarity after all the schisms created by the Arab rulers. In these hard and complicated times

we are in great need of reconciliation. All the Arab wise men and philosophers should take this into account to regain the trust of all the citizens of the Arab world. Either, just like parrots, we repeat the slogans of Arab solidarity, or we take the necessary steps leading to it. When our country announces officially the necessity of repairing Arab-Arab relations post-Gulf War, the announcement stems from respect for the sovereignty of Arab countries and from an understanding of the principles of equality in relations. But we don't know why some interpret these approaches as humiliations. Some of the official announcements of the Arab brothers include provocation aimed at increasing tension among Arab citizens, deepening the gaps among them. The last few years have seen conduct which has served nothing but foreign interests. Do such policies serve the interests of the Arab nations? Let us all think honestly how to settle the disputes between us. To strike from within is not good policy, and does not serve the issue of Arab solidarity at all.

By: **Mohammed Yahya Shineif,**
Al-Mithaq, Sana'a,
21/6/1993.

SUED!

Dr Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, a professor at Sanaa University and chief editor of the Yemen Times, has been exposed to direct threats and blackmail after publishing an article in the Yemen Times, in which he called on the president to stop several politicians and government officials who are trying to chop-up by force and distribute among themselves the Sanaa University campus and real estate.

Informed sources of Sawt Al-Ummal learned that Dr.Saqqaf was summoned by the prosecutor general's office to appear for investigation before the attorney of the press and publications bureau. The attorney of the press and publications bureau directed a number of questions to Dr. Saqqaf, who asked that the exact nature of the charge be specified and the name of the party that sued him be made known to him so that he may prepare his defense. The attorney refused to specify either. As a result Al-Saqqaf refused the interrogation until both are specified.

The incident has generated enormous reaction among the media, lawyers and intellectuals as well as the general public. Democratic and social forces worry that the charge against Saqqaf may herald an era of clear constraints and limitations on freedom of the press.

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FOOD ALLERGIES

Are they all in the mind?

Scientists believe they may have solved the mystery of why so many people think they are victims of allergies, when according to doctors these are often "all in the mind."

The missing link may lie in the mechanisms through which mental reactions, such as anxiety, can produce or accentuate genuine physical symptoms. If people believe certain foods or food additives are harmful, for example, then they become so. If they think they are eating well, the body will safely digest foods that might otherwise cause trouble. Results of a study into food additive sensitivity, presented earlier this month to a conference at the Royal College of Physicians in London, showed that nearly one in 12 among 20,000 subjects believed they had a problem. However, when tested with a range of additives commonly said to cause adverse reactions - but with neither themselves nor the investigators knowing until after the experiment what they were eating - fewer than one in a thousand showed a response.

Doctors now believe that the massive gap in the study resulting between the scientific findings and patients' perceptions was caused by the fact that the additives were swallowed in disguised form. "Genuine reactions including numbness, weakness, headaches, diarrhoea, etc. are much more common than the studies would suggest, but only when the people tested know what

they are getting," said Dr. Richard Cottrell of the British Nutrition Foundation. Specialists at various London hospitals said they get nine patients reacting in that way to every one who reacts when tested "blind" - not knowing what the substance is. "This condition is clearly psychogenic," said Cottrell. That means a real physical response, generated by anxiety or the expectation of a reaction. Likely mechanisms include overbreathing (hyperventilation); a stress response in which the blood oxygen level rises; and disruption of digestive processes. "It is nonetheless unpleasant for the patients - and its management is much the same: you just tell them to avoid those foods."

In another study of additive response coordinated by Dr. Elspeth Young, a dermatologist at Wycombe General Hospital in Buckinghamshire, researchers tested subjects with genuine food items - milk, eggs, wheat, soya, fish, nuts, chocolate, and citrus fruits; and then with artificial foods made up to seem exactly like the real thing. All items were processed into bars and tins so real that bogus items looked like the real thing. The conclusion seems to state that "it is all in the mind."

Further light is being cast on allergies by research into the body cells of victims. Dr. Tak Lee, professor of allergy at Guy's Hospital, has been examining the activity of inflammatory chemicals

produced during an attack of wheezing in asthmatic patients. "We have been able to show that cells in a lung can be made to secrete these chemical in all sorts of different ways, not only by being exposed to allergy-causing substances like pollens," he said. Hyperventilation, which can come about through exercise as well as anxiety, is one of the processes involved. It can dry out cells in the air-ways, causing them to begin to secrete the chemicals that can trigger an asthmatic attack. The cells concerned are sited very near nerve endings, raising the possibility that they could also be receiving direct instructions from the brain in response to psychological stimuli.

In addition, hyperventilation causes the blood to become excessively alkaline, a condition that can lead to spasms of blood vessels in the brain, the heart, and probably in the lungs. "There are enormous implications," Dr. Lee said. "It is possible that both psychological and physical stimuli work through a common pathway."

New research may suggest a new strategy for easing the miseries of hay fever, which affects people when prolonged dry spells bring high pollen counts. Although relaying news of high counts may help sufferers if they decided to stay indoors, the extra worry might in itself make matters worse.

A BRIEF JOURNEY OF EXPLORATION

Amjed Abdul-Hamid,
Science Editor,
Yemen Times.

Nations and individuals have always explored for gold, glory, or curiosity. Five hundred years ago countries competed for new lands and the acquisition of raw materials, and that motivated exploration and created the scientific tools to sustain it. Then the search began to shift to mysterious peoples in exotic remote localities in America, Australia and central Africa, where part of the romance was the unknown. Then they went to the geographic limits of the Earth - the Northwest Passage, the North Pole and Antarctica were opened to sustained scientific exploration.

Was it the pursuit of national glory that powered the leap into space over the last 40 years? Or was it, as the German historian and philosopher Oswald Spengler (1880-1936) speculated, an earnest longing for the outside void? Under scrutiny, one might reach the conclusion that the earnest longing to conquer the outside void was suitably covered over the past centuries. Anyhow, space-travel, humans and robots became the symbols of scientific and technological achievement. The USSR spawned startling early successes. But on July 20 1969 billions of people throughout the world watched Neil Armstrong's first step onto the austere lunar landscape.

By 1972 U.S. astronauts were racing electric cars across rocky lunar plains. The era of Star Trek had begun, and the decision was taken by the Superpowers to go where no one has gone before. The twin spacecraft Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 broadcasted back spectacular pictures of Jupiter and Saturn in 1979, 1980 and 1981. In August 1989 Voyager 2 raced past Neptune, the outermost world of our solar system. Voyager was on extraordinary electronic zoom lens linked via mass communication to the eyes and curiosity of billions of people on earth.

New scientific disciplines were created with their own terminology. Some could be understood by everybody, such as "terraforming", which means artificially changing a planet's surface and atmosphere to make it habitable for humans. However, humanity's problem for the next century is that our home planet is becoming less habitable. We are "reverse terraforming" Earth, and the sciences related to the environment and ecosystems are becoming increasingly indispensable for every nation. Environmentalists and climatologists are becoming close companions and counselors to politicians.

In other scientific disciplines, such as physics, one sees that scientists wander far from convincingly understood territory and terminology in their effort to break new ground. Their

theories take us into increasingly speculative abstract realms such as curled-up ten-dimensional space-time. More than that, the machines needed to conduct experiments are costing astronomical amounts of labor and money. Accelerators, the machines used to accelerate particles to ultimately bombard the target, were first built with some 20 cm. diameter chambers. The superconducting supercollider or SSC constructed in Texas, USA, had a circumference of more than 120 kilometers, enough to accelerate particles to speeds never reached before and to unravel upon their bombardment particles never seen before, but which would ultimately cost upon completion more than 8 billion dollars. and would need 200 million dollars a year to operate. Indeed, it is one of the biggest and mostly costly machines built by humans, but when finished it would give humanity a chance to peer deeper and deeper into the void of the atom.

Scientists are trying also to solve the most frustrating of unsolved problems: the missing-mass phenomenon. There are compelling reasons, both theoretical and observational, to believe that most of the mass of the universe is quite unlike anything astronomers have seen so far. The density of the universe, as inferred from the strength of the gravitational pull of one portion on

Continues on page 15



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DEVELOPMENT OF THE MERCEDES-BENZ STAR



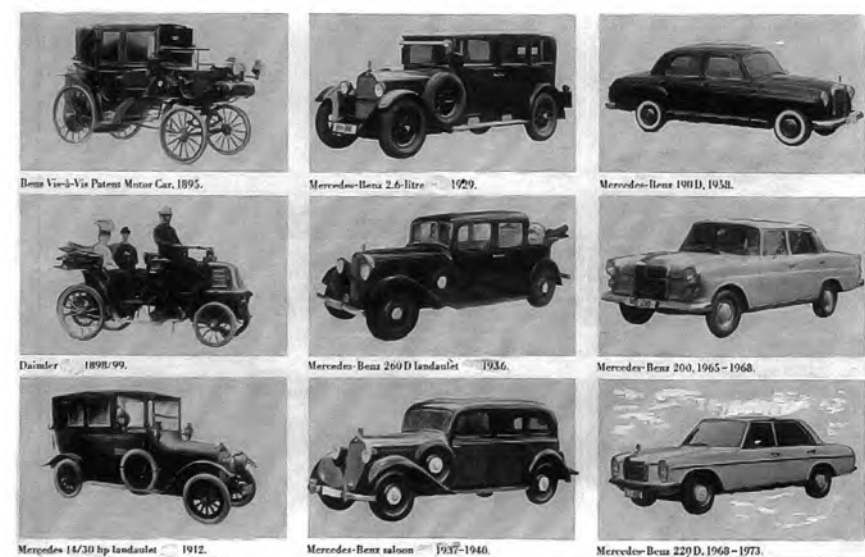
THE NEW 'C' CLASS MERCEDES

This is the new compact car from Mercedes-Benz, designated the 'C' Class. There are 7 model types, namely the petrol driven C180 (1.8L), C200 (2.0L), C220 (2.2L), C280 (2.8L) and the diesel engine range C200, C220, C250.

The 'C' Class replaces the 190 series which was in production for 10 years. Almost 2 million 190's have been sold since 1982. The first 'C' Class cars will be on display in Sanaa later this year, with ABS, airbags, and special equipment for Yemen as standard.



DO YOU OWN THE
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IN YEMEN



If you own a MERCEDES-BENZ car which was manufactured before 1973, is still running and is in good condition, please contact us -
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COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

I wish to submit details of my car for the OLDEST MERCEDES-BENZ CAR COMPETITION

TYPE..... YEAR OF MANUFACTURE.....
 NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 TELEPHONE NO..... TELEX NO..... FAX NO.....

NEW DESIGNATIONS FOR MERCEDES-BENZ CARS

Mercedes-Benz manufacture 54 different models of car. Each of these cars can be fitted with literally hundreds of options, ranging from metallic paint to leather seats, from CD players in the boot to illuminated vanity mirrors, from heavy duty suspensions to tropical cooling and electrical systems.

In an effort to streamline the increasingly complicated model numbers, Mercedes-Benz are redesignating their models. During the course of the year, the following will be introduced

- 'C' Class - the compact car range
- 'E' Class - the mid range series
- 'S' Class - the luxury range
- 'G' Class - the 4 x 4 Gelaendewagen

The Class letter will be followed by a number representing the engine capacity. For example: the C180 will be a compact car with a 1.8 L engine; an S600 will be a luxury car with a 6 L engine. Diesel powered cars will have a plate with the words DIESEL or TURBO DIESEL fitted to the boot lid.

DUTY FREE CARS

United Engineering & Automobile Co can arrange for the collection or delivery of cars which are exempted from duty in Europe.

Cars can be ordered and built to the exact specifications of the customer, for collection from the Sindelfingen Plant near Stuttgart. Alternatively, they can be sent to any other destination, other than North America. These cars will certainly be cheaper than similar cars purchased in Germany or elsewhere in Europe.

Note that these cars built to order will conform to the legal and technical requirements of the country of destination, even right hand drive countries.

UEACO TO HOLD COMPETITION

In order to find the oldest operating Mercedes-Benz car in the Republic of Yemen, UEACO are holding a competition. Owners are invited to send details of their car to the company for evaluation. Assuming the car is in a reasonable condition and is running satisfactorily, it is possible that the owner will win a prize, even a free trip to see the Mercedes-Benz factory in Germany, as well as the museum where the oldest cars in the world are on display.

Later in the year, it is likely that the company will conduct a similar competition for commercial vehicles.

UNSUITABLE CARS STILL ENTERING YEMEN

Cars intended for use in Yemen have to be specially built. Regrettably cars manufactured for Europe, USA and most Middle East countries, are not suitable for Yemen.

Many individuals, organisations and even Embassies import new cars without considering the unique driving conditions prevailing in the Republic, and these cars are now suffering technical problems.

Even cars from Saudi Arabia and UAE are not suitable.

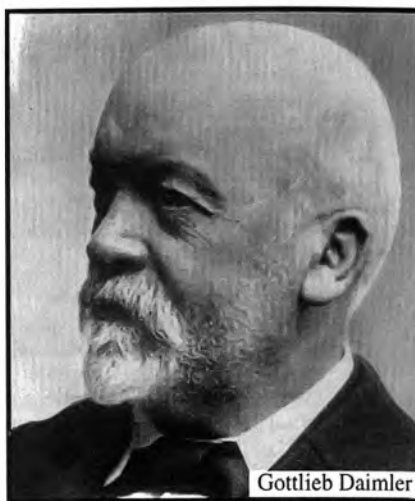
Modifications can be done locally, but it is an expensive operation and is not always satisfactory.

Cars to be used in Yemen must have special aircleaners, tropical cooling and electrical systems, reinforced and heightened suspensions, protection for the engine and above all, a special engine designed to use low octane, leaded petrol.

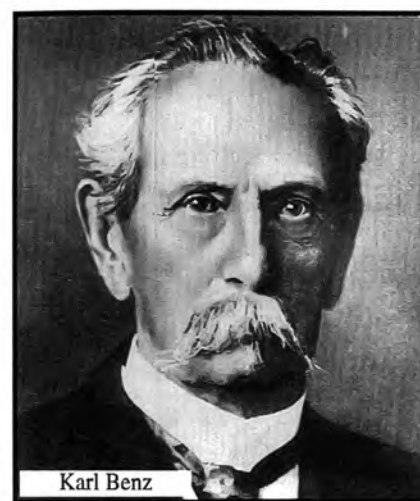
Anyone intending to import a car should really consult the local agent to ensure the car he/she is to drive is built with these special provisions.

All Mercedes-Benz cars imported by UEACO are manufactured to order, with these special Yemen provisions included at no extra cost.

MOTERING SUPPLEMENT

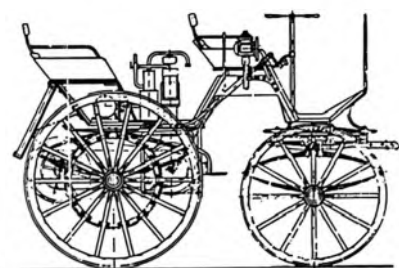


Gottlieb Daimler

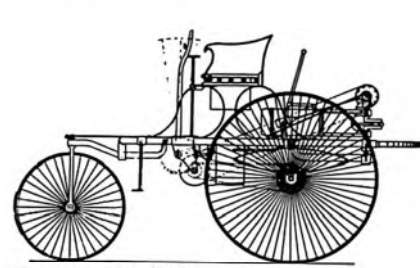


Karl Benz

INVENTORS OF THE MOTOR CAR IN 1886



Daimler motor carriage (1886)



Benz patent motor car (1886)



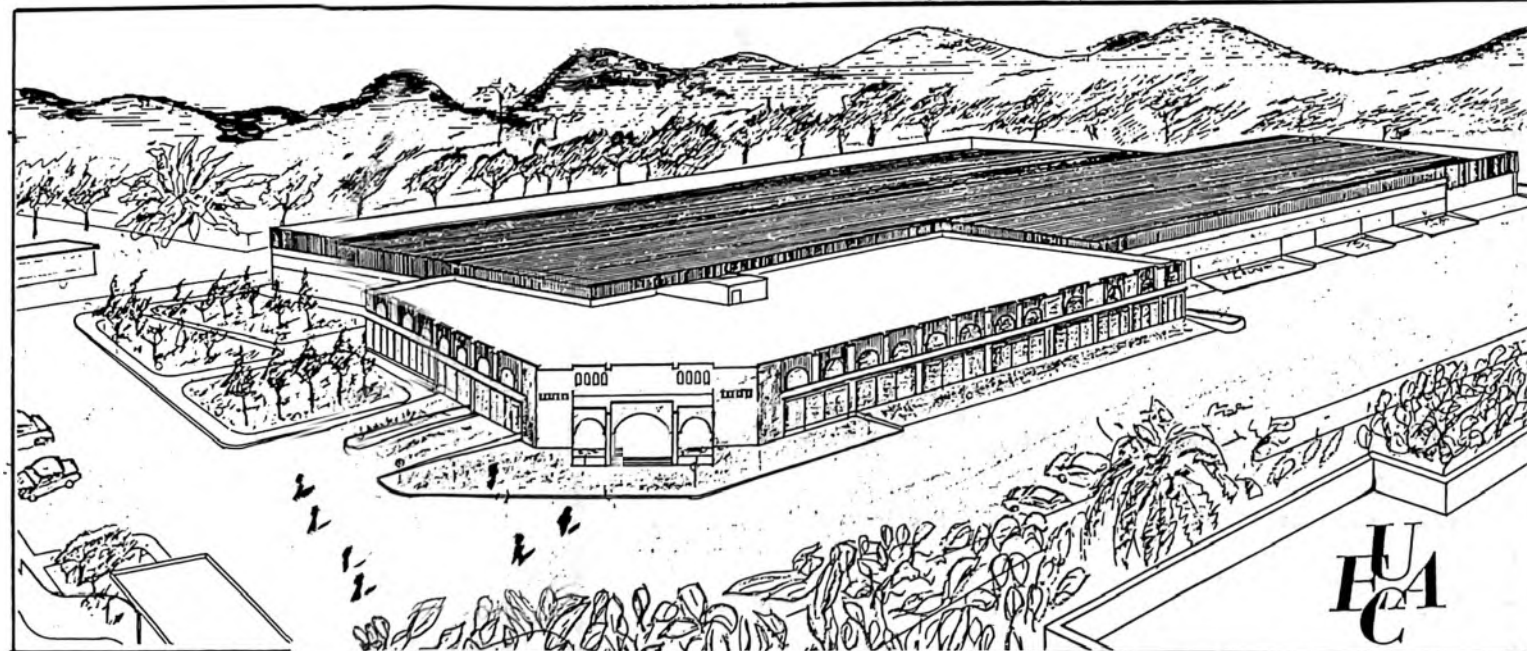
UNITED ENGINEERING & AUTOMOBILE CO NEW SALES AND SERVICE CENTRE

United Engineering and Automobile Co, the sole distributors of Mercedes-Benz cars, trucks, 4 x 4's, Unimogs, buses, fire engines and other specialised vehicles in Yemen, are building a new Sales and Service Centre in Sanaa.

The 4500 sqm complex is situated on the new Ring Road near the Amran Road, to the north of the city. The Centre will comprise a large fully equipped 49 bay workshop for cars and another for heavy vehicles. The parts store will measure 1020 sqm and stock parts for most Mercedes-Benz vehicles. German engineers have been appointed to manage the after sales service operation.

A training school has also been incorporated, especially for the training of Yemeni technicians. Administrative offices and showrooms will be built in the front of the complex using natural stone. The design of the building will be an attractive combination of modern and traditional architecture.

The new Sales and Service Centre will open in 1994.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTOR CAR

In 1886 Gottlieb Daimler built a petrol-driven 'motor carriage' in his small workshop in Cannstatt, near Stuttgart, Germany. Later that same year another engineer, Karl Benz, patented his 'motor car' in Mannheim, a few kilometres away. Daimler and Benz had invented the car.

Each man formed his own company and continued to produce motor vehicles independently, until the two companies merged in 1926 to form Daimler-Benz AG. Today the company enjoys a unique reputation for the quality and reliability of its vehicles, and for its excellent after-sales service that is provided in 173 countries around the world.

Daimler-Benz grew and diversified and has become the largest company in Germany, with sales of DM 98.5 (\$60) billion, and employing 377,000 people. Vehicles are now produced by Mercedes-Benz AG, part of the Daimler-Benz group.

Most of us think of Mercedes-Benz as the company that produces expensive luxury cars for wealthy people, but this is not the complete picture. Few people realise that Mercedes-Benz is also the largest producer of trucks (over 6 tons) in the world. Of the 804,800 units manufactured last year, 277,300 were trucks, buses, Unimogs, and other hard-working, commercial vehicles. Less than 65,000 of the 527,500 cars were luxury 'S' Class models, the rest being the compact 190 and the mid-class 200-300 model ranges.

What is astonishing in these days of mass production and automated assembly, is the fact that every single Mercedes-Benz vehicle, whether it is a car, a bus, a truck or a fire engine, is built specifically to order. Each is manufactured to the customers' exact requirements and incorporates the special components that are essential for the conditions prevailing in the countries to which they are being sent.

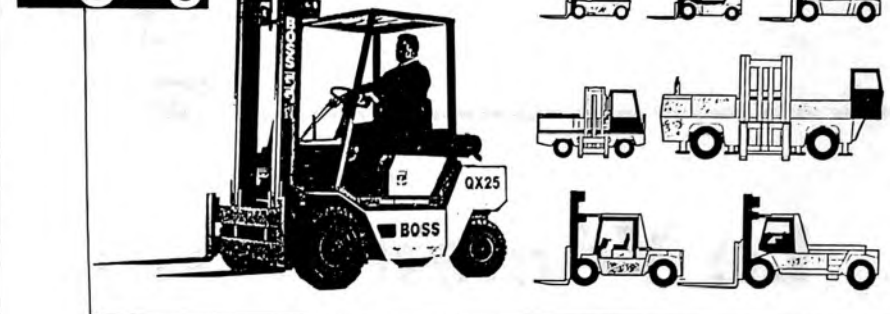
Cars intended for Yemen, for example, must be specially ordered. Cars built for use in other countries are almost certainly unsuitable for Yemen.

The names of Daimler, Mercedes and Benz have been mentioned several times, but who is Mercedes? Strangely, not only is it a girl's name, but it is also Spanish, not German. It means 'mercy'. Mercedes Jellineck was the daughter of Emil Jellineck, the Daimler agent in the South of France in the early 1900's when motor cars were the playthings of the rich. Emil used to race his Daimler cars with his daughter's name painted on their sides, and as they won all the races, 'Mercedes' became synonymous with speed, quality and reliability. Since then the name has remained, as has the fine Mercedes reputation.

MERCEDES - BENZ DEVELOP NEW TRUCKS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Mercedes Benz Desertliner trucks have been designed especially for the tough operating conditions in Yemen and neighbouring countries. The first models have proved to be most successful in Saudi Arabia where they have been undergoing rigorous testing for over a year.

The new Desertliner range replaces the incredibly popular and reliable 'Old Generation' trucks which dominate the truck fleet in Yemen. The Desertliner too, has a bonnet, and drivers can enjoy greater comfort in a larger cab and will appreciate the extra power of the turbo charged, intercooled 354 HP engine. The new Desertliner, together with the Powerliner, is being assembled in Saudi Arabia, especially for the Middle East.



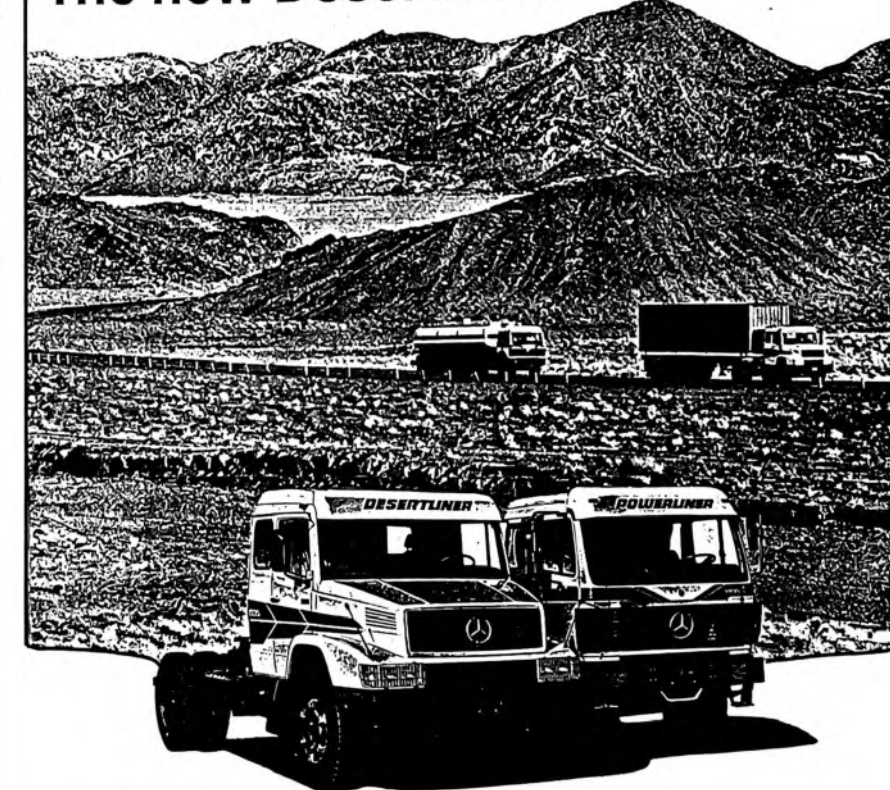
BOSS TRUCKS LTD design, build and market one of the world's widest range of lift trucks from hand operated pallet trucks and 45 T sidelifts, to computer controlled order pickers and 50 T container handlers. Boss trucks can be built with engines powered by petrol, diesel or LPG, and there is also a battery driven range for use in pollutant free environments like food processing plants.

The Lancer Boss Group distributes and supports lift trucks in more than 120 countries, including Yemen. United Engineering and Automobile Co are the agents for Boss Trucks in the Republic.



80% of all **ROSENBAUER** fire tenders sold worldwide are built on Mercedes-Benz chassis, and are powered by Mercedes-Benz engines. The 8 wheel-drive tender above is designed for airport operation. Rosenbauer also produce a full range of fire fighting equipment from helmets to chemicals. United Engineering and Automobile Co are the sole agents for Rosenbauer in Yemen.

The new Desertliner



The new Desertliner joins the team

Mercedes-Benz Desertliner and Powerliner Trucks are tough thoroughbreds built for tackling the rigours of rough terrain and long-distance roads. With its new, advanced technology turbocharged and intercooled 354 hp power unit, the Mercedes-Benz LS 1935 Desertliner gives optimised torque for high cruising speed, low fuel consumption and improved driver comfort. All this power and class is combined with traditional Mercedes-Benz reliability, economy and durability



United Engineering & Automobile Co



NATIONS UNIES

Le Yémen va recenser sa population

Avec l'aide du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population, le pays prépare un recensement de sa population prévu en janvier 1994. Une enquête pilote doit démarrer le mois prochain.

Pendant 15 jours, en janvier prochain, les Yéménites devraient vivre au rythme du recensement organisé par le gouvernement. Ce dernier a décidé de lancer une grande enquête sur sa population, avec l'aide du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population (FNUAP), ainsi que d'autres bailleurs de fonds, l'US Aid et le gouvernement des Pays-Bas. Ce recensement est le premier à être aussi étendu et aussi exhaustif après l'unification des deux Yémen.

" Cette enquête est très importante. Elle est nécessaire pour formuler les politiques de population", explique Hedia El-Ghouayel, responsable au Yémen du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population. "Le dernier recensement réalisé dans l'ancien Yémen du Nord l'a été en 1986. Pour le Yémen du Sud, c'était en 1988. Leur analyse vient à peine d'être terminée et de toute façon, il est très difficile d'utiliser ces données au niveau national. Les

questionnaires étaient différents, l'environnement politique et social aussi", ajoute-t-elle.

L'aide apportée par le FNUAP est d'ordre technique. Il fera venir un expert en recensement. Il se charge aussi de former le personnel, notamment sous forme de bourses à l'étranger. Quelques véhicules et un peu de matériel (des climatiseurs) seront également fournis. Le coût de ce programme qui s'étend de 1993 à 1996, a été fixé à 862 450 dollars. En effet, après la collecte des données en 1994, l'analyse devrait durer de un à deux ans.

13 000 enquêteurs

Pour ce recensement, deux centres de collecte de données vont être ouverts à Hoddeidah et Mukallah. Ils viendront s'ajouter aux bureaux d'Aden et de Sanaa. Les enquêteurs seront au nombre de 13 000, supervisés par 2600 chefs d'équipe. Ils

seront choisis parmi les employés des administrations et les instituteurs.

Une campagne publicitaire

Pour préparer la population, le gouvernement prévoit une campagne publicitaire à la télévision et à la radio. Les enquêteurs se déplaceront dans chaque famille. Le gouvernement a estimé qu'en quinze jours chacun d'entre eux devrait traiter environ 1000 personnes. Mais avant de lancer le recensement, le gouvernement va tester les questionnaires sur quelques échantillons de population. Cette enquête pilote va commencer le mois prochain.

Le recensement est actuellement l'un des programmes les plus importants du FNUAP au Yémen. D'autres projets sont en cours, tel que le programme de santé maternelle, destiné à étendre les services de santé maternelle et de pla-

nification familiale et le choix des contraceptifs, avec notamment l'introduction du Norplant (un contraceptif dont les effets durent cinq ans). Autre programme du FNUAP: une assistance pour la constitution de l'Etat civil. L'enregistrement des naissances et des décès est quasiment inexistant au Yémen. Le projet du FNUAP, qui a démarré en août 1992, a pour objectif d'améliorer la collecte de ces informations. Le Fonds est également sur le point de finaliser deux projets d'assistance dans le domaine des Femmes, Population et Développement. L'un des deux projets s'adresse en particulier aux femmes rurales. L'objectif est l'établissement de petites entreprises de production qui contribuera à améliorer leur statut économique et social et par ce biais, contribuera à leur donner plus de chances pour user de leurs droits en matière de choix de leur niveau de fertilité.

Jérôme BERNARD

En BREF

Le gouvernement Al-Attas a demandé le report au 4 juillet de la présentation de son programme: Le Premier ministre Abou Bakr Al-Attas a demandé au Parlement de repousser au 4 juillet la publication de son programme de gouvernement. Ce report est contraire à l'article 73 de la Constitution, qui déclare que le Premier ministre doit présenter son programme dans les 25 jours suivant la formation de son gouvernement pour obtenir la confiance du Parlement.

Plusieurs milliers d'ouvriers en grève dans le sud du Yémen: Plusieurs milliers d'ouvriers observent depuis mardi 22 juin une grève illimitée dans la province de Hadramaut pour protester contre le non versement de leurs salaires. La grève a paralysé les commerces et le port de Mukallah, où les opérations de chargement et de déchargement ont complètement cessé.

30ème session du Comité central du PSY: Le Comité central du PSY (Parti socialiste yéménite) a tenu pendant trois jours, du 19 au 21 juin, sa 30ème session présidée par le Vice-Président Ali Al-Bid, également secrétaire général du parti. Le secrétariat du PSY a élu président le Dr. Yasin Said Noman.

Alyemda Yemen Airlines a pris livraison d'un Airbus A310-300: La compagnie

aérienne Alyemda vient de se faire livrer son premier gros porteur, un Airbus A310-300, qui assurera les liaisons avec l'Europe et l'Asie.

Le Koweït va augmenter sa production au cours du troisième trimestre: Le Koweït, qui a refusé un récent accord de l'OPEP sur les quotas de production, va augmenter de "manière progressive" sa production au troisième trimestre jusqu'à 2,16 millions de barils par jour. La production actuelle de 1,6 mbj sera portée à 1,9 mbj en juillet, à 2 en août et à 2,16 mbj en septembre, a précisé le ministère koweïtien du Pétrole.

A Djibouti, grève de la faim des détenus politiques d'ethnie Afar: L'ancien président du conseil du gouvernement (de 1967 à 1977), Ali Aref Bourhan et ses onze co-détenus condamnés en juillet 1992 à des peines de 5 à 10 ans de réclusion criminelle, ont entamé samedi 19 juin une nouvelle grève de la faim. Ils veulent ainsi protester contre le report au mois de septembre des délibérés en cassation de leur affaire par la cour suprême qui devait en principe se réunir le 20 juin.

Un technicien français tué en Somalie: Jean-Claude Jumel, ingénieur du son de la chaîne française de télévision TF1, a été tué vendredi 18 juin par des francs-tireurs à son arrivée à Mogadiscio en Somalie.

Du bon usage de la méthode Coué

Le Yémen n'a qu'une idée en tête: renouer avec ses voisins l'Arabie Saoudite et le Koweït, fâchés de sa position pro-irakienne pendant la guerre du Golfe. Le pays a tant besoin de leur aide financière qu'il anticipe le moindre signe favorable. Le gouvernement a ainsi annoncé à grand renfort de publicité la rencontre mardi 15 juin entre le ministre des Affaires étrangères yéménite, Mohammed Basindwa, et son homologue koweïtien, Cheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, en marge de la conférence mondiale des droits de l'Homme de l'ONU à Vienne. Finalement la rencontre n'a pas eu lieu. L'agence officielle SABA n'a parlé que "de plusieurs rencontres avec des homologues de pays amis".

Le Koweït ne semble pas très pressé de renouer. Le président du parlement koweïtien Ahmed Saadoun a ainsi exprimé des réserves sur une normalisation des relations entre son pays et le Yémen. "Une normalisation avec le Yémen, ou tout autre pays ayant soutenu l'Irak, doit au préalable faire l'objet d'un examen circonstancié avec toutes les instances du pays, dont le parlement, parce qu'il s'agit de relations avec des régimes, et non ces individus qui en font partie", a-t-il déclaré mardi 15 juin.

A force de manier l'auto-suggestion, le Yémen arrivera bien un jour à regagner les faveurs de ses riches voisins.

BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Les pays musulmans veulent agir

Devant l'incapacité des pays occidentaux à trouver une solution au conflit, l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique réclame la levée de l'embargo sur les armes.

Les pays non alignés et musulmans ont lancé une nouvelle offensive diplomatique à l'ONU concernant la Bosnie-Herzégovine. Ils ont fait circuler il y a quelques jours à New-York un nouveau texte préconisant la levée de l'embargo sur les armes au profit des Musulmans bosniaques et le déclenchement de raids aériens contre les armements lourds des Serbes.

Des Européens prudents

D'autre part, à Vienne, les 51 pays membres de l'OCI (Organisation de la Conférence Islamique) ont menacé de faire capoter la conférence de l'ONU sur les Droits de l'Homme, si cette Assemblée n'adoptait pas une déclaration spéciale en faveur des Musulmans de Bosnie. "Il est inconcevable que la Conférence adopte un document final et n'ait pas de document sur la Bosnie", a souligné un membre de la délégation pakistanaise.

Les Etats européens impliqués militairement en Bosnie (France, Grande-Bretagne, Espagne) considèrent toujours qu'une levée de l'embargo sur les armes mettrait en danger leurs Casques bleus et

n'aboutirait qu'à une intensification de la guerre.

Les pays musulmans, dont les inquiétudes ont été ravivées par l'annonce d'un nouveau plan de partage du territoire bosniaque, estiment que la ligne défendue depuis un an par les Européens a totalement échoué et que l'ONU doit changer radicalement de direction.

De fait, la mise en oeuvre de la résolution 836 tarde à se concrétiser. Trois semaines après l'adoption du texte, aucun soldat n'a encore été envoyé en renfort en Bosnie.

Les pays européens ont tenté de calmer les ardeurs des pays musulmans. Ils ont mis en avant la déclaration adoptée mardi 22 juin à Copenhague par les dirigeants des "Douze" réaffirmant leur soutien aux efforts des Nations Unies en vue de mobiliser des troupes et de l'argent pour la protection des "zones de sécurité".

Si un projet de résolution sur la question de la levée de l'embargo sur les armes était déposé officiellement à l'ONU, "il ne recueillerait pas aujourd'hui les neuf voix (sur quinze) requises", a estimé un diplomate de la CEE. Mais tout peut changer dans les semaines à venir.

(Avec AFP)

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The soap that fussy people choose for soft and tender skin.
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FLEAU

L'inquiétante invasion des criquets pèlerins

Depuis la fin de l'an dernier, le Yémen est confronté à une nouvelle invasion de criquets pèlerins qui menace les zones cultivées. Le Dr Mohammed Al-Ghasm, directeur chargé de la lutte anti-acridienne au ministère de l'Agriculture, estime que la situation nécessite une aide rapide des organisations internationales.

Cauchemar des experts de la FAO (Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture), les criquets pèlerins détruisent toutes les plantes sur leur passage. Depuis la fin de l'an dernier, le Yémen est confronté à une nouvelle invasion de ces acridiens.

Des criquets venus d'Arabie Saoudite

"De la Tihama à Aden, nous avons tout nettoyé et cette région est maintenant sous observation. Mais depuis le mois d'avril une invasion de criquets venue d'Arabie Saoudite, s'est abattue sur les régions de Maareb et de Shabwah. Et là nous sommes débordés", explique le Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghasm, directeur chargé de la lutte anti-acridienne au ministère de l'Agriculture.

Dix essaims de criquets se sont abattus sur les régions orientales du Yémen. Un essaim peut compter plusieurs millions d'insectes et chaque criquet pèlerin consomme chaque jour l'équivalent de son poids, soit 1 à 2 grammes. Des millions d'oeufs ont été déposés sur une surface de 2000 km². "La situation nécessite une aide rapide des organisations internationales. Nous avons notamment be-



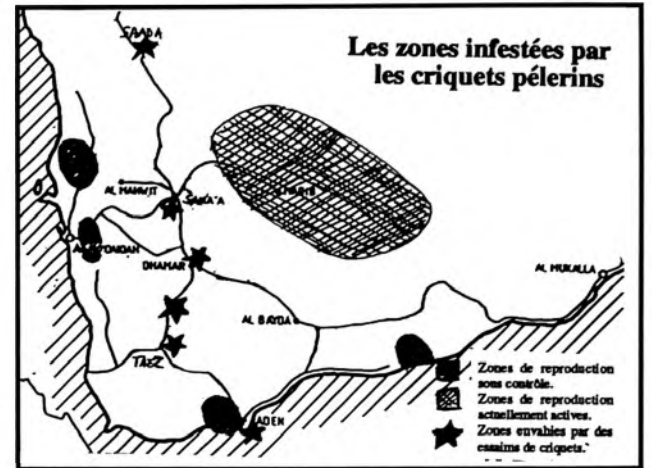
Les criquets détruisent toutes les plantes sur leur passage.

soin de deux hélicoptères pour couvrir les zones inaccessibles en camionnette", ajoute le Dr. Al-Ghasm. Pour le moment, les services de lutte ont fait appel à l'armée, mais les hélicoptères, trop gros, ne sont pas adaptés aux besoins.

La capitale Sanaa et d'autres villes du pays ont pu avoir une idée de l'ampleur de ce fléau. Des nuées de criquets sont apparues certains jours au mois de mai, envahissant les rues.

"La meilleure saison

pour la reproduction des criquets dans le Tihama est l'hiver, maintenant le climat est trop sec. Par contre, dans la région de Shabwah, les conditions sont actuellement très bonnes". En effet, les criquets aiment particulièrement la chaleur et



Les équipes de lutte anti-acridienne luttent actuellement dans les régions de Mareb et de Shabwah.

l'humidité. "Les pluies abondantes qui sont tombées sur le Yémen cette année ont favorisé la reproduction des criquets", explique le Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghasm. Les conflits dans les pays de la Corne d'Afrique expliquent aussi la recrudescence de ce fléau. Ces pays ne peuvent contrôler la situation.

Une aide de la France

Actuellement, un expert de la FAO évalue la situation au Yémen. Il a estimé que le pays a besoin de 25 camionnettes. "Nous en avons actuellement 43 sur le terrain, mais il nous en faudrait une centaine de plus", s'insurge Mohammed Al-Ghasm. "D'autre part, nos réserves de pesticides ne vont pas au-delà d'une semaine. Nous en consommons environ 3,5 tonnes par jour".

Pour lutter contre les criquets, plusieurs types de matériel sont utilisés. Des pulvérisateurs UBV (Ultra Bas Vol-

ume) à piles permettent d'atteindre les zones inaccessibles aux véhicules. Ce matériel est individuel. Un homme peut traiter un hectare par heure. Des pulvérisateurs montés sur des pick-up permettent de couvrir de plus larges étendues.

La France participe depuis 1989 à la lutte anti-acridienne, notamment par l'intermédiaire du Bureau agricole franco-yéménite et le PRIFAS, organisme rattaché au CIRAD (Coopération internationale en recherches agronomiques pour le développement) et spécialisé en acridologie opérationnelle. La France a notamment assuré la formation de personnel et a fourni du matériel.

Le Yémen n'est pas le seul pays qui inquiète la FAO. La situation est préoccupante dans la Corne d'Afrique. De nouvelles populations d'acridiens devraient se déplacer vers des zones de reproduction estivale au Soudan et en Erythrée.

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NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by: Al-Izzi As-Selwi

*** Abdul-Haq Saeed Abdo:**
Mr. Abdul-Haq Saeed Abdo, Board Chairman and 87% owner of Saba Contracting Company, has personally visited the work site of the Turbah-Gahily road construction project. Work on the 8.3 kilometer road, which costs YR 43.7 million, was started on 15/12/1992. "We will start putting the top tarmac layer next month," Mr. Abdul-Haq said.

*** Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman:**
It is being reported that Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, and newly elected President of the Central Secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party, is slotted for Secretary-General of the YSP. The cool-headed and soft-spoken Noman will replace Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, who will be kicked up to the more ceremonial post of Chairman of the Party. Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed is expected to keep his post as Assistant Secretary-General. Other changes are also in the pipeline.

*** Qassim Sabri:**
Mr. Qassim Sabri has taken over as Chairman of Marib Yemen Insurance Company (MYIC), the country's largest insurance company. Mr. Sabri has had extensive experience at the helm of public and mixed companies. He is studying the options open to him in invigorating the MYIC even further.

*** Ahmed Kaied Barakat:**
Mr. Ahmed Kaied Barakat, Chairman of Yemen Airways (Yemenia), has taken several important decisions to strengthen the company's fleet of airplanes. The company will pick two new Airbus A-310 airplanes, and it is raising the maintenance level of the current airplanes. At another level, the company is re-structuring its flight routes to cater to changing demand patterns. One new route is the Sanaa-Asmara-Sanaa sector.

*** Dr. Mohammed Ali Moqbil:**
It has become almost certain that Dr. Mohammed Ali Moqbil will head the Political Guidance (Morale) Department of the armed forces. The department will also incorporate the military printing and publication section, which now issues many newspapers, including 26th September. Dr. Moqbil, an MD, is a colonel in the armed forces and had assumed this duty in the 1970s. His last post was Minister of Health in the first post-unification government.

*** Abdul-Razzaq Al-Ruqaihi:**
Abdul-Razzaq Al-Ruqaihi, Chairman of the General Authority for Books, said that the authority is so ineffective that its existence and non-existence are almost the same. "This situation is the direct result of the government's lack of interest in this field," he said.

*** Shawqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed:**
Shawqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anam, General Manager of the Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce, is leading a fund-raising campaign to help clean up Taiz city. The government has been unable (read unwilling) to pay the garbage collectors of Taiz, thus leading to a major garbage problem for the city. By the end of last week, some YR 180,000 was raised, and the workers of the Taiz municipality were paid. They returned to work immediately. "The garbage must be collected, otherwise the health complications will cost society far much more than the direct costs of cleaning the city," Shawqi told his supporters in the campaign. Already, Taiz suffers from cholera and other problems.

*** Colonel Mohammed Abdullah Saleh:**
Colonel Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, Commander of the Central Security Forces and brother of the president, left Sanaa for medical treatment abroad. The several-week trip is also expected to give the newly-appointed Minister of Interior, Colonel Yahia Al-Muwatakkil, a free hand in running the ministry and in exercising full control over its affairs. The president's brother wields considerable influence in the interior ministry, something with which Al-Mutawakkil, took issue with.

*** Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan:**
Al-Haj Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan, Chairman of the Jamaan Group of Companies, stated that the difficulties facing his business at the moment are temporary. "The Group will shortly bounce back to full activity and in a way that will allow a visible contribution to the economic well-being of the country," he said.

*** Ameen Al-Sunaini:**
Ameen Al-Sunaini, Captain and Goal-Keeper of the Yemeni National Football Team, announced that he has decided it is time to throw-in the towel. Ameen made an outstanding contribution to the exceptional results of the Yemeni

team in the recent Asiatic games, which will lead to the Olympics. Although Yemen did not win enough matches to move on to the next round in the games, it did win against China and Pakistan - a major achievement for a team that is struggling to make ends meet. The Yemeni officials, of course, are oblivious to the needs of the team. Mr. Al-Sunaini said he will serve as trainer for promising young athletes.

*** Hussain Al-Awadhi:**
The well-known journalist and columnist, Hussain Al-Awadhi is getting ready to return to the USA to resume his higher studies. Hussain was in Yemen on leave and to touch base with his folks.

*** Saleh Munassar As-Siely:**
Saleh Munassar As-Siely, newly-appointed Governor of Aden Governorate, called his staff to a meeting and laid down the ground-rules for the new order of the day. "I want everybody to be ship-shape and get on with the work. You goof around, you are out," he told them.

*** Nabeel Hayel Saeed:**
Mr. Nabeel Hayel Saeed Anam, the General of National Trade Company (NATCO), returned this week from a long business trip. Most business circles agree Nabeel has proven himself as a dynamic and first-class entrepreneur. The elegantly-dressed young man is destined for an important position within the Hayel Saeed Anam Group.




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ANSETT AUSTRALIA AIRLINES GROUP OPENS REGIONAL OFFICE IN CYPRUS

The Ansett Australia Airlines Group has appointed Nick Moudarri to head its regional organisation covering the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa, effective 1st July, 1993. Previously, he was Commercial General Manager of Gulf Air, and General Manager of Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean, and North Africa for Dan-Air.

Ansett's International Development and Sales Director, Rod Robson, announced that Nick Moudarri will be responsible for marketing and selling the Ansett Australia Airlines Group which includes Ansett Australian Airlines, EastWest, Ansett New Zealand and Hayman Island. The objective is to prepare these markets for Ansett's expansion into South East Asia, following the Australian International Air Services Commission decision to grant to the airline the right to operate international services from Australia to Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. The commission is currently deliberating with respect to Hong Kong and Japan.

The Ansett Australia Group is currently the leading domestic carrier in Australia and New Zealand, with a reputation for quality service and attention to detail. It operates a fleet consisting of A320's, BAE 146's, Boeing 767/737/727's and Fokker 28's and 50's, with an average age of only four years.

Offering the most comprehensive network in Australia and New Zealand, Ansett Australia, Ansett New Zealand and associated carriers, including Ansett Express, Ansett WA and leisure carrier EastWest, have created a precedent for an excellent range of promotional fares for international travellers. The introduction of G'Day Pass and Down-Under Discount Deals, the first combined Australia and New Zealand Airpasses, now reduces travel costs by up to 55% off normal economy fares. To qualify for this fare, travellers must pre-book their flights prior to departure from the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa.

For business travellers, the Group offers superior First and Business Class services satisfying the most demanding executive. In addition, to the most spacious First and Business Class configuration available, Ansett's Golden Wing Club, with lounges at all major airports and many other benefits, in an asset for this valued category of traveller.

Ansett has three classes of service - First, Business and Economy - and offers a frequent flyer program. This accumulates mileage on Ansett and EastWest services in conjunction with Cathay Pacific Airways, Singapore Airlines, United Airlines, All Nippon Airways, Swissair, and Australian Airlines.

Owned by News Corporation and TNT, Ansett owes its name to its late Chairman Sir Reginald Ansett.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

<p>Nick Moudarri, Ansett Australia Airlines, 12 Leptos Kamares, P. O. Box 2028, Paphos - Cyprus. Tel: (03576) 652084 Fax: (03576) 652226</p>	<p>Kaid Yehya, Ansett GSAs Yemen, Marib Travel & Tourism, Ali Abdul Mughni Street, P. O. Box 161, Sanaa, Republic of Yemen. Tel: (009671) 272432</p>
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RACIAL URPRISING & NEO-NAZISM IN EUROPE: Racism vs Human Rights in New World Order

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



Are we witnessing the return of the dark ages...or is it the rebirth of Nazism? What is going on all around Europe? Is it but a temporary crisis of economic dimensions or is it a racial-cultural war initiated by the Europeans against the third world. Is it part of the new arrangements of the world in an era built on the supremacy of one superpower and the European fear of marginalization in the advent of the ever growing Asian giants?

The subject is far deeper than to be tackled by a short article; yet a brief review of the situation which is increasingly haunting all of Europe might help. It will clarify the horrible life of a guest worker in major parts of the "Free World".

A bomb has just exploded in Germany where over two million Turks live. These people face the unique option of being burned alive or go back to their motherland which many of them have never seen. That is the reward they get for their sacrifices and participation in building the economy of one of the major economic powers in the world today.

As they represent 33% of the foreigners in Germany, the Turks are the most vul-

nerable group at the moment. The rise in the number of racially-motivated attacks is alarming. There were 270 racial attacks in 1990, 1483 in 1991, 2010 in 1992 and 1400 in the first three months of 1993. It seems that the other minorities - mainly of Balkan origin, also suffer from the same predicament. The situation is deteriorating quickly because of the shy government statements and the lack of effective preventive measures.

Unfortunately, it looks like the European governments have suddenly discovered, the right remedy for all their economic and social problems - "Throw them (the guest workers) out." The notorious Le Pin of France clearly pointed to the only solution for the three million unemployed in France - Throw the three millions immigrants out of France! This kind of economic logic is spreading

all over Europe quickly. The problem is everywhere. In the "poorer" south of Europe, Spain is home to a million foreign workers and Italy is home to 800,000 legal guest workers and a similar number of illegals. In central Europe, e.g., Austria, 7% of the labor force are foreigners. Even in Scandinavian countries, once considered the paradise of immigrants, life is getting rough.

Blocking immigration is seen as the panacea to all problems. This smart idea may be the only procedure the European governments have unanimously agreed upon during their debate regarding their anticipated unity. Then Britain came out on the stage, with the deputy Winston Churchill stating to the press that the flow of immigrants may negatively effect the pattern of life in Britain, and that the German example may put Europe on the verge of a civil war. Using the easy-to-market concept of economic crisis, the foreigners are blamed for all the ills and they have become scapegoats to all agonies.

Thus the European governments seem more determined than ever to stop the flow of foreigners, and even to reduce the lot that is already there, no matter how much suffering they bring on others.

The legend of the existence of superior systems that can control the flow of events for their own benefit gets weaker and weaker. This is especially true after the dramatic collapse of the former USSR which taught us that great turns in history can never be pre-calculated. The factors driving those turns are often hidden as they always were since the dawn of mankind. Many civilizations throughout the history of mankind do never realize that they carry the seed of destruction even as they exhibit the signs of their supermacy. No civilization ever exists eternally, and the shifts in the civilizational cycles will continue to move. The current Western one is no exception.

The new dramatic European developments lead us to comment on yet another major global event - the international conference for human rights, held recently in Vienna. In this meeting covered by around 1500 journalists, the "worlds" of our planet gathered to discuss the most pressing subject of the century, i.e., human rights.

This meeting was a glaring example of lack of communication among humans. The delegates could not agree on a definition of those rights. The fact that this meeting is held under

the high expectations of the "poor nations" severely complicated the situation and raised the level of frustrations. The leaders of the "new world order" could not deliver on the beautiful promises made if the poor nations were to adopt the western ways - mainly a democratic political system based on pluralism, and a liberal economic system based on the market.

Most of the delegates from the 'poor nations' could only see the Europeans presenting another model - the Yugoslav example which clearly showed its cruel and ugly racist face.

The conference was described by an Asian representative as "The most difficult ever" as the dispute erupted on almost every issue.

Disputing parties were the western delegation on one side, with their known concept of human rights led by the US, and backed by surrogate nations in Africa and Latin American!! While the opposing party was the Asian block, standing firm for its own concept of human rights despite large internal differences thereof,

led by China with effective support from Iraq, Iran, India, Yemen, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and others who fought for the priority of fighting hunger and the right to bread as the

first law of basic human rights. The second group accused the first group of trying to impose its own perception of human rights and its own way of life on the rest of the world neglecting all differences and cultural background, and called for a more general and balanced economic prosperity as the basic prerequisite for granting human rights.

The other party fought fiercely for the concept of unity of human rights, being indivisible, and called for the establishment of a high commission for human rights with wide authority to stop any violation in any nation. Awkwardly, the Africans and Latin nations stood against their Asian allies in this controversy (Maybe in expectation of western aid, as accused by the Asians).

Apart from all the dispute, the clear fact is that humanity is passing through one of its worst historical periods in which the acceptance of the "other" as an equal is more illusive than ever.

To that extent, the question remains. What will the new form of the world be in view of the present moral havoc. Ages of peace as promised by "New Order" prophets, or total anarchy and conflict as the events tend to show.



Anis Ishteiwy:

"We are optimistic about striking oil in our concession blocks."

Mr. Anis A. Ishteiwy, General Manager of Crescent Petroleum (Yemen), is an old hand in the oil business. He has been at it for the last 25 years, and all over the world. He is also not new to the Crescent group - he has been with them for almost six years in their Sharjah, UAE office.

He has been in charge of the Crescent Yemen operation since July 1992.

American educated and a native of Libya, Anis is optimistic about the prospects of the Crescent concession.

"Crescent Petroleum operates two concessions - blocks 2 (Al-Mabar) and 9 (Al-Hajar) - both in Shabwah Governorate. We have completed all the seismic obligation under our contract in both blocks by August last year," he said. As far as block 2 is concerned the commitment is for 2000 kilometer lines of seismic and four wells. "We have drilled two wells, and we are now drilling the third," he indicated. Before the year 1993 is out, the company will have drilled the fourth well. The wells, drilled in different parts of



the block, were drilled back-to-back. "Each well was drilled based on a new concept and with a different different play-type; i.e., a different concept," said Ishteiwy.

The first well had good oil shows, but it did not flow. What this means is that the oil is at the residual level. Thus it is not commercial, although it does indicate there is oil. The second well did not show oil. "This has allowed us to focus and zero-in on other possible oil-bearing horizons given the large size of the block," the Crescent official said.

"By the end of the year, the first stage of our exploration period will come to an end. It actually ends in January 1994. Our partners and ourselves will decide on the next plan of action. As far as block 9 is concerned, we have completed the seismic commitment - about 1000 kilometer line - and we are doing some

extra seismic to better determine our options," Ishteiwy said. "Come February, 1994, we shall spud the first of two exploratory wells called for in the concession agreement," he added.

In winding up his statement to the Yemen Times, the Crescent Petroleum (Yemen) General Manager expressed his satisfaction with the level of cooperation with the officials and the locals. "Upto date, we were not the victim of any hijacking or any misfortune. I suppose we were lucky. I hope we will be as lucky in finding oil," Mr. Ishteiwy concluded.

Editor's Note: Following the above interview, Yemen Times learnt that a Crescent company Hilux pickup vehicle, carrying drilling equipment headed to Mukalla, was hijacked near Dhamar.

The Partners in Block 2:		The Partners in Block 9:	
Crescent *	60%	Crescent *	17%
Clyde Expro	20%	British Gas	66%
Inpex	10%	LL&E	17%
Itochu	10%		
		* = operator	

Locusts Threaten Yemen's Citrus Crop

International governments and aid organizations responded swiftly to Yemen's call for help with an all-out attack on swarms of locusts infesting some of its most fertile regions.

"The situation is serious and is going to get worse unless things are done quickly," says FAO Sana'a representative Allan Furman. "But we have responded as well as we can under the circumstances and we

are reasonably confident we can begin spraying in 10 days time." Experts believe the locusts crossed the Red Sea last August/September to the south Yemen coast from E.Africa, where locust control has

been lax due to civil unrest. From the south coast they spread north to the Tihama region before being blown inland.

Warm temperatures, combined with an unusually high rainy season which led to abundant green vegetation, produced favorable breeding conditions.

The locusts are now threatening citrus, grain and vegetable crops in the areas where they hatched of Marib, Harib, Wadi Beihan and Wadi Jenab. They now cover two main areas of approximately 45 square kilometers and 20 square kilometers. It is feared unless they are checked swarms may spread to the important agricultural area of Wadi Hadramaut.

When the locusts were confined to the coast, they could more easily be controlled by ground spraying. But the inland terrain includes desert sand, rocks and hills, and the Yemeni authorities can no longer contain the infestations with their ground-based equipment. On Tuesday the Ministries of Planning and of Agriculture summoned foreign ambassadors to a follow-up meeting of that held two weeks ago with UNDP, at which aid requests were listed. The US has promised US\$250,000 through its regional fund. G.T.Z., the German aid agency, had pledged DM500,000 to fund the supply of aircraft and chemicals. Jordan has been asked to provide a fixed wing aircraft, Japan is donating US\$100,000 worth of chemicals, and France and Sweden have pledged financial support. So far this year FAO has allotted US\$210,000 and is considering a further US\$100,000.

Bee keepers will be sorely hit by the spraying, and have been advised by the Ministry of Agriculture to move their hives away from affected areas. Honey is a major agricultural product in Yemen. "We are making a lot of effort to handle this problem, and the Minister has given (it) first priority," a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said.

By: Jenny Jobbins
Yemen Times

Business Clips:

* The Yemen Economic Society (YES) is planning a seminar on "Government Budgeting in Yemen." According to Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, Member of the YES Executive Board and the person who proposed the theme. "The idea is to study how the government prepares its budget, and how the system could be improved."

By the way, the government has no budget for 1993. It just did not bother to prepare one this year, and it has decided to replicate the 1992 budget.

At another level, the YES also plans to hold a symposium on the economic programs of the three major parties. "The purpose is to compare the points of agreement and departure in the economic programs of the three large parties (PGC, YSP, Islah) and to study the implications upon implementation," according to Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Secretary-General of the YES. The symposium, which bring together academicians, businessmen and politicians, is scheduled for early August.

* The US Embassy - Commercial Section, and the Yemeni Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry are jointly organizing a card-catalog exhibition of American companies working in the fields of oil, gas and mineral exploitation. The exhibition, scheduled for 21-22/7/1993, is going to take place at the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce. It will be kicked off jointly by the US Ambassador and the Chairman of the Chamber.

* Yemen Commercial Bank has introduced yet another service to its customers. The bank has made arrangements for an insurance coverage on customers deposits to the value of YR 1,000,000 and/or US\$ 25,000. Clients have now one more reason to bank with the YCB.

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Port Sudan: Phone: 2630, 2979, 4465; Telex: 70071; Address: P.O.Box 160.

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الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
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Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.
FAO Branch	233722/232146

AIR LINES	
Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways	272247
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909
KLM	78093/76968/270879
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	205865
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel	275028-30

Yemenia Branches:	
Abdul-Mughni	274803/4
Haddah	204538/550
Shaoub	250833
Zubeiry	260834/5
Head Office	232381-9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831

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Aramex / Aden	255.683
Aramex / Taiz	213.489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218.168
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

HOTELS	
Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Biquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
Mukalla (09152)	
Hadhramaut	2060

Continued from page 5

Parliamentary Committees:

- 14. Defence/Security Committee:**
 - a. Ahmed ismail Abu Houriyah,
 - b. Ahmed Qayed Addowhami,
 - c. Ahmed Nasser Fadhle Al-Aqrabi,
 - d. Juail Mohammed Salim Attuaiman,
 - e. Sultan Mahyooob As-Sufyani,
 - f. Abdullah Abdo Ali Uhaif,
 - g. Abdo Mohammed Murshid,
 - h. Ali Mohammed Uthrub,
 - i. Qassim Qassim Az-Zaidi,
 - j. Mujahed Mujahed Al-Quhali,
 - k. Mohsen Sarie Mohsen,
 - l. Mohammed Hamood Ar-Rassas,
 - m. Mohammed Musleh Ashahwani,
 - n. Mulsim Mabkhoot Al-Manhali,
 - o. Yahia Mohammed Ghuwair.
- 15. Local Administration Committee:**
 - a. Ahmed Ali Shaiban,
 - b. Husain Husain Khamees,
 - c. Sultan Ali Al-Arاده,
 - d. Saleh Abdullah B-Qais,
 - e. Saleh hadi Daghshan,
 - f. Abdullah Ahmed Mujaidi'
 - g. Abdullah Ali Serhan,
 - h. Abdullah Mahdi Abdo,
 - i. Abdo Hashem Al-Alawi,
 - j. Abdul-Wahab Hilal Al-Kuwaidi,
 - k. Mohammed Ahmed As-Sabri,
 - l. Mahmood Husain Saba'ah,
 - m. Muntadhir Moh'd. Ahmed Al-Mikhlaifi,
 - n. Mahdi Abdullah Saeed,
 - o. Sadeq Ad-Dhabab.
- 16. Complaints Committee:**
 - a. Ahmed Saleh Al-Faqeeh,
 - b. Hizam Abdullah As-Sa'ar,
 - c. Hussain Ahmed Al-Qadhi,
 - d. Hameed Abdullah Al-Jabarti,
 - e. Zaid Mohammed Abu Luhum,
 - f. Abdullah Ali Al-Rabawi,
 - g. Ali Aayedh Mahshal,
 - h. Mohammed Saleh Ali Mohammed,
 - i. Mohammed Abdullah Ashareef,
 - j. Mohammed Ali Azzurairqi,
 - k. Mohammed Qassim Qaza'ah,
 - l. Mohammed Mohammed Mansoor,
 - m. Mohammed Najj Saeed,
 - n. Nasser Salim Balgheith,
 - o. Yahia Nasser Al-Asadi.
- 17. Liberties & Human Rights Committee:**
 - a. Zaid Ahmed Sulaiman,
 - b. Sultan Hizam Shamsan,
 - c. Suleiman Mohammed Al-Ahdal,
 - d. Saif Ali Al-Ammari,
 - e. Adil Mohammed Abubakar As-Samhi,
 - f. Abdul-Hameed Mohammed Farhan,
 - g. Abdul-Rahman Ali Al-Ushbi,
 - h. Abo Mohammed Al-Jundi,
 - i. Abdul-Wali Hazza' Al-Aameri,
 - j. Abdul-Wahab Al-Rowhani,
 - k. Faisal Abdullah Manna',
 - l. Mohammed Najj Allow,
 - m. Mohammed Yahia Asharaf,
 - n. Muna Salim Bashraheel,
 - o. Yahia Mansoor Abu Usba'a.

Several of the committees have already met and elected their committee chairmen and rapporteurs or minutes keepers. The large parties have again indulged in what they have perfected- dividing things among themselves. As a result, the committee chairmen and rapporteurs were named by the party bosses, and the parliamentarians happily oblige. It would have been better had the committees chosen their leaders on the basis of qualification, ability, and interest, rather than on the basis of political affiliations.

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 و
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 بمناسبة زفافهما الميمون وبالرفاه والبنين ، إنشاء الله
 عن الأهل:
 الدكتور/ عبدالعزیز السقاف

Continued from page 7:

A Brief Journey of Exploration

another, is at least ten times what can be accounted for by adding up all known sources. The remainders, the so-called missing mass on "dark matter", cannot be planets, gas clouds, or anything of a familiar sort. Indeed the dark matter, almost surely, cannot be anything assembled from the conventional building blocks of matter which we humans consist of - protons, neutrons, and electrons - in any way whatsoever. It is a real embarrassment for scientists to return back to the same old notions of the post Copernican era, for they are telling us now that we are built of a kind of matter that comprises 10% of the universe while the rest (90%) is of a totally different kind of matter called dark matter, and that's just like saying that we are at the center of the solar system. From where we humans are standing now it looks as though we are still at the beginning of a very long journey of exploration. Anyhow, we are relatively young in comparison to the expected age of planet Earth, and we are growing up and learning very quickly. Probably our distant descendants will look back upon our times of growth and see the adolescence of the species. But let us all hope that humanity won't be doomed to the hellfire of technologically generated instability between the different parts of Earth, forever to be a half savage waving a pistol, never able to overcome fully our animal origins. We are free to grow up or to fail and destroy everything.

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In Search of Quality Living

Since the beginning of life on this planet, the struggle of humanity has been one long search for better quality living. Improving the quality of life, as a goal, is achieved through the introduction of change.

Change comes in the form of revolutions, inventions, investments, long hours of hard work, arduous education and training, and above all, eternal patience.

Such concepts as pluralism, democracy, human rights, freedom of the individual, equal opportunity, justice and fair treatment, and most important of all, the full accountability of those entrusted to manage the affairs of government, are all part of the process of enhancing the quality of life. They are not an end in

themselves, they are the tools that are supposed to give more meaning to our lives.

We can say that the search for a better quality of life in modern Yemen started with the September 26th, 1962 Revolution. Since then, other events have come about with the explicit goal of improving the quality of life for Yemenis.

Recently, the unification of the country and the adoption of a multi-party political system are, at least in theory, important steps in the improvement of the quality of life.

The fact is, however, that there has been a marked deterioration in the quality of life for the majority of the people of Yemen, in spite of the creation of more tools that ostensibly, would help improve the quality of life.

Today, Yemenis are jobless in more numbers than ever; the condition of the poorer segment of society is so

miserable that most of us are shocked; our value system has been so eroded and corrupted that society aimlessly wanders in many various directions.

Thus there is a marked contrast between the rising number of tools aimed at helping improve the quality of life, and the standard or quality of living itself.

Many people, specially those who are part of the regime and its beneficiaries, as well as foreign parties with a stake in the current system, would be quick to point to the tools - multi-party politics, freedom of the press, etc.

I don't want to take issue with whether these are tools genuinely applied or not, because there is a legitimate question mark there.

But I do want to take issue with the fact that, notwithstanding these tools, the quality of life continues to deteriorate. That is exactly what an ordinary Yemeni

would tell you. I have heard many people exclaim, "I don't really care if the country had ten newspapers or two hundred newspapers, but I do care that my life is getting more miserable."

In arguing about democracy and the other important tools for creating a better life, let us not forget the job they are supposed to do - to improve the quality of life. If the tools don't lead to the objective, then there is something seriously wrong with them or with the way they are applied.

Please remember the tools are only as good as they enable the fulfillment of the objectives. In Yemen, even with the coming of more tools, life has become more miserable. As far as the citizens are concerned, this is the ultimate issue that will shape their attitude towards the regime and its tools.

Prof Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Sanaa University.

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