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# YEMEN TIMES

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\* July 4th through 10th, 1993

Volume III; Issue # 26 \* Price: 10 Riyals \*

### CONGRATULATIONS TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

The Taj Group of India and Sheba Hotels Company of Yemen have just signed a new ten-year management contract to run the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa.

Yemen Times takes this opportunity to wish both parties and the Taj Sheba Hotel great success.

### IT WAS NOT CALLED FOR!

The Iraqi people look destined to be the victims of the US administration's arrogance and lack of respect for human life and international law, on the one hand, and the cruel dictatorship of Mr. Saddam Hussain, on the other. On June 27th, US President Clinton decided to play the role of accuser, judge, and executioner over differences with the Iraqi regime. American tomahawks hit Baghdad, ostensibly to make the regime pay for having attempted to kill US former President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

### U.S. MISSILE ATTACK ON BAGHDAD

At least six people reported killed in Baghdad after U.S. warships fire 23 cruise missiles at Iraqi intelligence headquarters early on Sunday, in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former president George Bush

Tomahawk cruise missile weighs 480kg

At least two missiles land on residential areas close to Iraqi intelligence Agency

Al-Maneur  
Al-Mamun

14 cruise missiles fired from the destroyer Peterson in the Red Sea

Nine missiles led from cruiser Chancellorsville in the Gulf

Old City  
River Tigris  
Presidential Palace  
Bath Party HQ

THE PETERSON \*Hospital sources

The attack was not called for. It is sad that the very country that claims to promote international law and order, breaks it at whim. Mr. Clinton said he ordered the strike based on "compelling evidence". The victims are innocent Iraqi children and civilians. Is this the US understanding of justice, even if the evidence Clinton was showing around were accurate? The US administration, after having done the job, presented "evidence" to the Security Council to justify its action. To start with, the Security Council is not a judicial organ that can pass judgement on such issues. The issue just does not come under its jurisdiction. Second, the UN Security Council is dominated by the US and its allies, thus an adversary has no chance in that forum. Third, why is the case presented after the punishment has been rendered? Most Western nations have said they "understand the US decision and action". Most of the rest of the world has condemned the action, or at least expressed concern over it. In a CNN report, the US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, said, "At least three of the missiles went wide of their mark and produced some civilian casualties. We regret that". So do we.

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### Locust-infested areas in the Republic of Yemen

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times

The northerly wind is bringing more and more locusts from Saudi Arabia. According to the Director General of Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghashm, Director-General of Plant Protection, some twenty swarms are flying into Saadah from the north every day. Some swarms have already extended east all the way into Hadhramaut. The problem started last year when local locusts were discovered in the Tihama and the Abyan coastal stretch. "We took immediate action and brought them under control," says Dr. Al-Ghashm. But in April of this year, Ministry officials were taken by surprise as swarms of locusts appeared in the governorates bordering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - i.e., Beihan, Marib and Shabwah. "We believe that these locusts came from the central plains of the Arabian Peninsula, which had

received heavy rains earlier on. In addition, the locust invasion is also directed by the northerly winds," said Eng. Ali Masood, General Co-Manager of the Yemen-German Plant Protection Project. Eng. Fouad Ba-Hakeem, Director of the Eradication Campaign, noted that the government is giving this matter its first priority. "A team came from the 'combat zone' this morning. The sit-

uation is desperate," he said. "Most of this year's crop is gone," lamented Eng. Abbas Ali Abdul-Mughni, Director of Agricultural Quarantine Efforts. Especially hit are the citrus plantations in Marabih, Al-Jawf and Saadah. "We have set up an operations headquarter here in Sanaa where we receive regular reports on the situation," explained Dr. Al-Ghashm, pointing to a map of the 'risk areas'.

# LOCUSTS INVADE YEMEN: Locust Swarms Occupy 1/5 of the Country -- from Saadah to Hadhramaut

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TIMES

French Pages 14+15

The French Pages

### LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

les pages françaises

### Quality Motor Oil

أجود أنواع الزيوت من كالتكس

### EL SOFFARY

## السُّفَّارِيّ

## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Efforts to Reach-out by the President

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, has embarked on major efforts to reach-out to the general public. He has made prolonged visits to remote regions in the governorates of Hajjah, Al-Mahweet, Hodeidah, Taiz, Ibb, Lahej and Dhamar. In a system that has no proper feed-back mechanism from the people to the rulers, such reach-out trips are crucial. Through them the leadership learns more about real life conditions of society, and listens to people's complaints, and, sometimes, their praise. The president of the republic has made many such trips in the past; but there is one extraordinary fact which makes this last one different. Wherever he has gone, the president has given the people the hard facts about how limited are the things the government can do. For the first time, the president did not raise hopes of a much better tomorrow. He kept insisting that, "all of us are in this together, and all of us have to stick together to make it work". The president also stressed two themes. A. The private sector will have to play an increasingly leading role in the development process. "I call on private capital to embark on investments that will help economic growth," he repeatedly said. B. He urged the general public and decent Yemenis to stand up strongly and courageously against corruption and corrupt politicians and officials. He told the people that they were the final supervisors of the functions of the system. I would like to hail the president's new efforts to reach out. I also hail the new themes he pounded during the visit. I promise to be an active partner in this new philosophy and approach. I pray, though, it is not just empty talk. I sincerely hope that the president means what he says. Otherwise, the credibility gap between the president and people will widen. Mr. President: If you mean what you said and you plan to see it through, the Yemen Times will support you. Otherwise, we'll go our separate ways, again.

**The Publisher**  
عبد العزيز

## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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Publisher: **Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**

Laser Graphic Design & Technical Support by:

OSys of Yemen • Abdulla Faris & Associates, Inc. Sanaa, (01) 240.316

### Two Workshops at Sheraton This Week

This week at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel, two workshops are being organized. The first, on the 7th, is a SABIC company workshop to study the possibilities of investments in Yemen. SABIC will also display its plastic and other products in Saudi Arabia. The second workshop is a Yemenia marketing get together. Some eighty Yemenia personnel stationed abroad are being flown-in for this purpose.

### Today, Ba-Sindiwah Leaves for Bahrain

Foreign Minister Mr. Mohammed Ba-Sindiwah is scheduled to fly out of here on his trip to Bahrain. Mr. Ba-Sindiwah is trying to make a break-through in Yemeni relations with the Gulf states. At another level, Foreign Ministry sources say that arrangements are underway for the visit of the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi, later this month.

### Jordanian Parliamentarians Conclude Visit

A Jordanian parliamentary delegation concluded its one-week visit to Yemen on June 30th. The group opened up channels of communication with the Yemeni House of Representatives and started a cooperation framework. It is to be noted that Jordan will hold its parliamentary elections in November this year.

### Ministry of Interior Drug Exhibition Termed Successful

In line with the International Day for Drugs, the Ministry of the Interior organized an exhibition in which the harmful effects of drugs, and the efforts of the ministry, were displayed. Observers termed the effort as successful.

### President Saleh Offers More Promises

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, concluded last week a whirlwind trip that took him to many governorates. The president, everywhere he went, promised reform and better government. "The government should not make spontaneous decisions, and should not allow in-fighting to create inefficiency" he said. The people were cautiously optimistic about these promises, although the intellectuals were cynical. "He talks about the affairs of government as if he has no part in them. It is as if he were the opposition leader", commented a Sanaa resident. Another observer quipped, "We will give him the benefit of the doubt and support him - for now."

### Bosnia Committee Gains Momentum

The Yemeni Committee for Supporting Bosnia, headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and Chief of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), has mobilized considerable support and sympathy among the people. The committee has opened up bank accounts to collect donations. In meetings with the president of the republic and the prime minister, the committee explained what it was trying to do, and urged both men to make an official contribution. At another level, a media campaign is underway to achieve a higher interaction among the Yemeni people.

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## PRESS RELEASE

Shell (Holdings) Bermuda and Hayel Saeed Anam & Co. (HSA) have signed a Joint Venture Agreement to establish a Lubricants Marketing and Blending Operation in the Republic of Yemen.

The Joint Venture will build a lubricants blending plant in Taiz. It is proposed that the lubricants blending plant should become an industry plant, and other oil companies are therefore being invited to participate. It will become operational during the first half of 1994. The partners will also establish a company in Sanaa for marketing of lubricants in Yemen.

Royal Dutch/Shell companies hold a leading position in lubricants world-wide, and already have a substantial presence in the Yemeni market with imported products.

HSA is one of the leading industrial and trading groups in Yemen, with substantial interests both in Yemen and overseas. HSA have been agents for Shell lubricants in Yemen for over 40 years.



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ص ب رقم ٤٨٩٤ - الحديدة

ترقبوا فرووعنا في المكلا ، عدن ، تعز ، إب

**ARAP MOI ACCUSED OF STASHING MILLIONS ABROAD**

Kenya's opposition has created an uproar in parliament with allegations that president Daniel Arap Moi and his deputy has stashed millions of dollars abroad. Ford-Kenya leader Jaramogi Oginga Odinga told a noisy assembly that Moi and Vice-President George Saitoti had salted away 800 billion shillings (about \$12.5 million) - enough to more than cover Kenya's 500 million yearly debt service. Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi and other members of Moi's Kenya African National Union (Kanu) angrily denied the charges.

The speaker of parliament ordered Odinga to bring proof or retract the allegations. Sure enough, some evidence was brought to the parliamentarians.

The charges were the most serious to date in a row about corruption which erupted because of Western reluctance to resume lifeblood aid to Kenya until it cleans up its act.

Odinga said the amount that Moi and Saitoti had accumulated surpassed the personal fortune of Zaire's president Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu has been accused of siphoning off receipts from mineral exports to live lavishly while Zaire disintegrates.

"If this money was brought back to the country today, most of our economic hardship would be wiped away," Odinga said in a debate on the budget.

Saitoti responded to corruption allegations earlier this week when he denied that the government had been defrauded of millions of dollars in a scandal over bogus gold and diamond sales.

Kenya has little gold and no diamonds, but the opposition alleges that a Kenyan company, Goldenberg International Inc. was compensated for exporting gold and diamonds.

Saitoti, finance minister until a reshuffle earlier this year, insists that gold and diamonds were exported despite the fact that government statistics show no record of or any income from their sale overseas.

Kenya is struggling to restore Western confidence in its economic management following allegations that the Kanu leadership has diverted state funds to enrich itself.

They include charges that the central bank printed billions

of shillings to finance Moi's re-election campaign last December; and plundered the state Social Security Fund to finance the business plans of senior Kanu officials. Odinga said it was absurd for government officials to go on "begging missions" to donor countries for resumed aid until leaders with large private fortunes repatriated their foreign holdings to show confidence in the economy.

Corruption in the Kenyan ruling party has reached such extent that it has lost credibility among the people in spite of "victory" in the elections. A growing disenchantment among the people is forcing some cleaning-up, according to diplomatic sources.

**LDP SEEN LOSING GROUND IN JAPANESE ELECTIONS**

The embattled leaders of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) called a general election for July 18 and analysts predicted that their 38-year monopoly on power was coming to an end.

The elections followed the government's defeat in a no-confidence vote (of 255 to 220) and the LDP's subsequent dissolution of the Lower House. Voters may strip the LDP of its majority, ushering in a period of political turbulence.

One of the few people in Japan to express public optimism was Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Asked if he was concerned about the LDP losing its Lower House majority for the first time, Miyazawa replied, "We are not going to lose".

Miyazawa will host the Group of Seven summit of top industrial nations in Tokyo on July 7-9 against a backdrop of ferocious campaigning.

Japan's partners watched in dismay as his government fell apart, leaving officials incapable of making decisions on pressing issues.

The LDP has monopolized power since 1955, but now faces exemplary punishment at the hands of an electorate disgusted by revelations of the corruption that the LDP has come to represent.

On July 22 the trial of former LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru opens on charges of tax evasion for funds he allegedly gleaned from illegal political donations.

It was Miyazawa's failure to honor a pledge to enact anti-corruption measures, after his mentor was caught with his hand in the till, that

triggered the dramatic no-confidence vote in parliament, which was supported by many LDP deputies.

The LDP rebellion was led by Miyazawa's former finance minister Tsutomu Hata, whose reform faction has formally broken off from the LDP, and has 35 Lower House members. Other party lawmakers defected too. In the aftermath, 11 members from other factions - mostly first-term legislators - announced they were leaving.

Former foreign minister Michio Watanabe, who until last year was seen as Miyazawa's likely successor, slammed the prime minister for mishandling the crisis. "I can't forgive Prime Minister Miyazawa for many of the things he has said and done." He also criticised Miyazawa's risk of no-confidence just before the Tokyo summit. He asked the LDP defectors to remain true to the party. "There's the danger that we'll end up like Italy, with many small parties creating political confusion," he said.

Former premier Yasuhiro Nakasone dismissed the idea that Japan needs change. "What Japan most needs is a stable yen-dollar rate and a healthy economy," he said. Despite the rising tension in the national race and the apparent loss of face for Miyazawa and the LDP, they managed to gain two seats in the Tokyo general assembly in a record low turnout by the public on June 26.

Time will tell how all of this will affect the developing politics of Japan.

**MOROCCANS OPT FOR CHANGE**

In the parliamentary elections which were held on June 27th, the people of Morocco have opted for change.

The two ruling/dominant parties of the outgoing parliament, the center-right RNI and the Constitutional Union were among the biggest losers - the RNI winning 28 seats and the CU 27. Among the biggest gainers were the two opposition parties - the nationalist Istiqlal and the left-wing Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USEP). The USEP won 48 seats, while the Istiqlal won 43. The Popular Movement, representing the Berber community, also won 33 seats.

According to a Ministry of Interior report, the leaders of all eleven parties contesting the polls were elected.

In Friday's elections, the people of Morocco voted for two-thirds of the total 333 seats in parliament, and they were to choose from among 2,042 candidates, of whom only 33 were women. Two female candidates - Latifa Bennani-Smires of the Istiqlal, and Badia Skalli of the USEP made it to the parliament.

Voter turnout was estimated at 63%.

The elections were peaceful, and were clean, according to press reports from Morocco. In the campaign and voting process, no government money, manipulation of army votes, or use of force was reported, as was the case in Yemen's recent elections.

Although King Hassan II remains the final arbiter of power, the parliament has increasingly more power in controlling the government.



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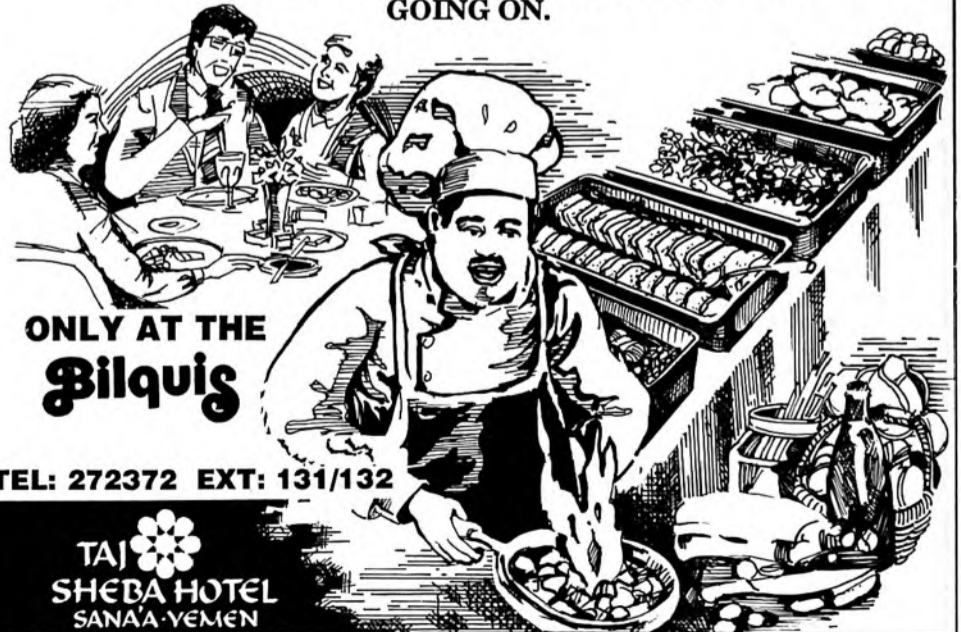
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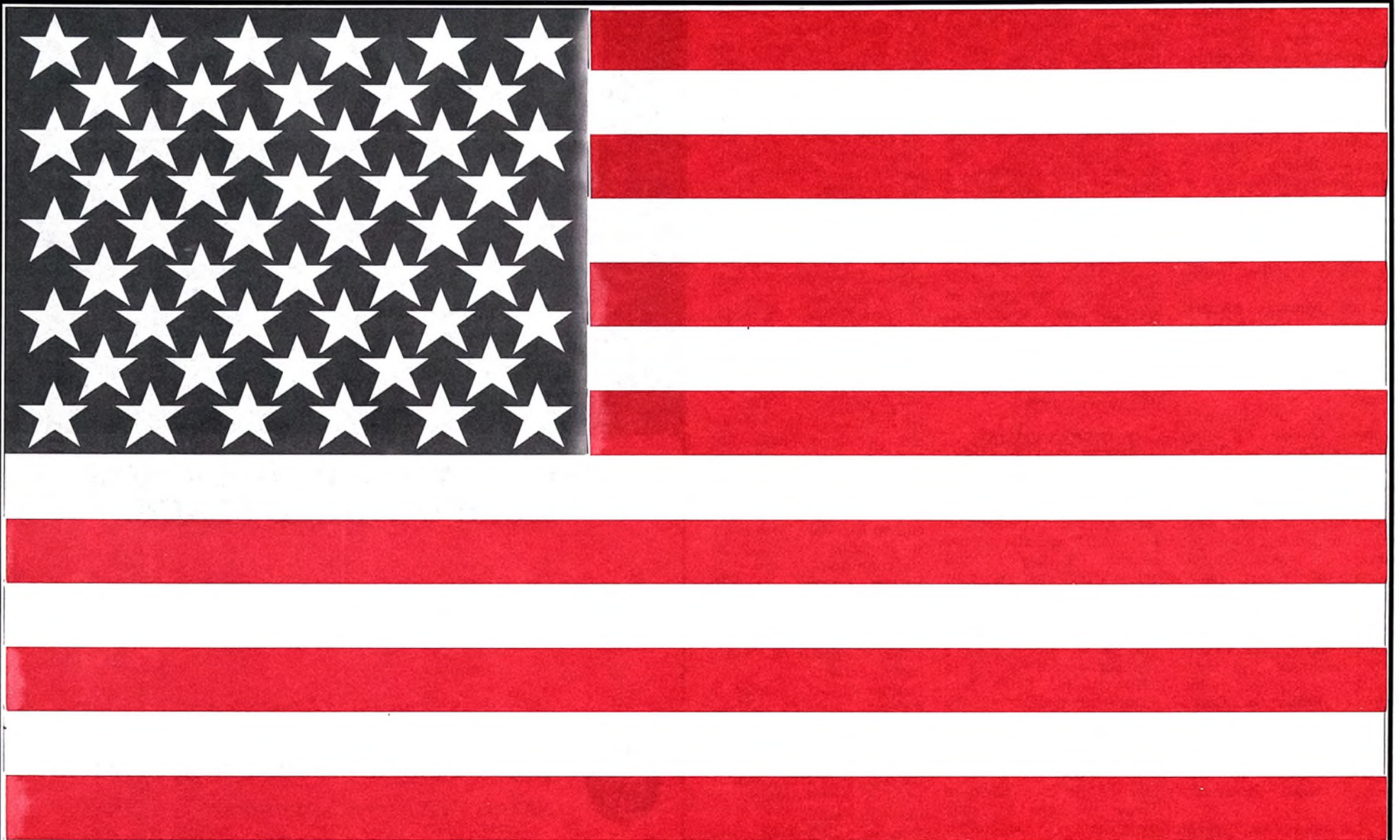
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*If George were here today,  
he'd demand to be a member of YAJFA.  
On the occasion of the 4th of July,  
YAJFA presents the "Yankee Doodle" Story:*

Just about the time Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World, Dutch farmers harvesting their crops sang a work song that began with the words, "Yanker Dudel doodle down."

The words apparently had no meaning, but they did fit the melody that Americans know as "Yankee Doodle."

Sometime later, the tune migrated to England where it was adapted to the children's nursery-rhyme, Lucy Locket. In 1642, civil war broke out.

The Royalists, who favored the crown, were also called Cavaliers because of their flamboyant dress and long, flowing wigs. They were opposed by the Puritans who favored Parliament and were dubbed Roundheads because of their closed cropped hair and plain clothing.

The Royalists poked fun at Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell by singing this version of Yankee Doodle:

"Yankee Doodle came to town  
Up on a Kentish pony,  
He stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it Macaroni."

The word Macaroni referred to the Italian-style clothing that was popular among the fashion-conscious Cavaliers.

In 1758, Dr. Richard Schuckburgh, a British army surgeon, was stationed at Fort Crailo near Renselaer, New York. He wrote lyrics ridiculing the shabbily dressed, untrained colonial troops who were fighting in the French and Indian War alongside the British.

His version enjoyed great popularity among the British soldiers who probably resented having to leave home to protect

territory in which they had little personal interest.

As the colonists' hunger for independence grew, their resentment towards British troops stationed in the Colonies erupted in protest demonstrations and violent clashes. The British retaliated by taunting them with Schuckburgh's version of Yankee Doodle.

Finally, when the British destroyed colonial military supplies at Lexington and Concord in April of 1775, the colonists decided to make Yankee Doodle their fight song.

The Revolution had begun.

Yankee Doodle soon proliferated into a number of camp-songs glorifying the fight for liberty. All used the theme of a visit to camp by an adolescent narrator, but the most familiar today was

written in 1776 by Edward Bangs, a Harvard sophomore and Minute-man.

According to reports, the song was so popular with revolutionary soldiers that they sang and whistled it during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

When the Americans defeated General John Burgoyne's Troops at Saratoga in October 1777, their triumphant rendition of Yankee Doodle led a British officer to write, "Yankee Doodle is now their paean, a favorite of favorites". Perhaps recalling Schuckburgh's version, he added, "It was not a little mortifying to hear them play this tune."

The fighting ended in October 1781, when the Americans, assisted by the French, defeated the British at Yorktown, Virginia. The victors lined up in two parallel

columns, one French and the other American.

Forced to march between them, the British showed their contempt for the Americans by facing the French column. General Lafayette promptly ordered the band to play Yankee Doodle. Infuriated, some of the British soldiers smashed their weapons.

After the war, it took eight years for the 13 colonies to agree on a constitution. Of the 13, nine had to ratify the document before it could be adopted. Delaware was the first, in December 1787. Four more quickly followed.

However, Massachusetts farmers opposed the proposed constitution because they believed it favored trade and finance over agriculture. John Hancock finally persuaded them to support with the under-

standing that a bill of rights would be added.

When Massachusetts agreed to ratification in February 1788, a Philadelphia newspaper published an appropriate parody of Yankee Doodle.

As the various colonies ratified the constitution, they celebrated with parades, and Yankee Doodle was a popular marching song. Newspapers reporting the festivities made up their own versions of the tune and its popularity continued well into the 1800s.

Yankee Doodle is not heard often today, but on a list of popular songs it surely would be near the top. It seems Americans will always consider Yankee Doodle dandy.

Can you sing it?

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# Even in the 20th Century, a Plague hits Yemen

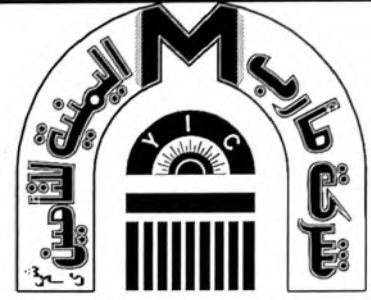
The locust infestation in Yemen is worsening with more and more swarms reported to be migrating into northern and south-eastern parts of the country from the undefined border with Saudi Arabia. Swarms are reported as far north as Saada and south east to Mayfaah, Attaq and the Wadi Hadramaut. Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture's Locust Control Center are standing by helplessly as locusts consume citrus, grass and grain in Eastern Yemen from Saada to Wadi Hadramaut. Propped against a wall of the center's office a huge map of Yemen is studded with green, white and orange stickers. Green represents the already cleared coastal areas, white where swarms have just been reported, and orange the areas where infestation is dense. Most of the stickers are orange. "Fresh swarms cross daily over the border from Saudi Arabia," said Dr. Mohammad Al-Ghashm. "The problem is bigger than our equipment." The locusts were first reported in Wadi Beihan and around Marib and Harib, all vital citrus growing areas. Anti-locust teams have managed to protect some orchards using ground-sprays, but in areas where the terrain is too rocky it is not feasible to use vehicles and aerial control must be used instead. Two specially-equipped hel-

icopters belonging to the British firm Dollar Helicopters are on their way from Addis Ababa. The cost of hiring and transporting them is being jointly met by the German aid agency Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the British agency Overseas Development Agency (ODA). The first outbreak occurred late last year when swarms crossed the Red Sea from East Africa, where locust control has been lax due to civil unrest. Landing in the Abyan area, they soon spread north to the Tihama region. "The coastal areas were cleaned out and are now free of locusts, but they remain under observation," says Dr. Al-Ghashm. Most experts now agree that the swarms which arrived in the spring blew into eastern Yemen with the north-east winds from Saudi Arabia. Breeding conditions were highly favorable in Yemen due to warmth, humidity and an unusually high rainy season in late April and early May, which brought on vegetation even in the sand dune areas on both sides of the undefined Saudi border, where most of the new generation of locusts hatched (see box.) Officials say local tribesmen were slow in reporting the swarms to the authorities for two reasons. First, they love to eat locusts, which they eat like shrimps, as a delicacy.

Second, many keep bees and feared for their hives. Keith Cressman, Locust Reporting and Forecasting Officer from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, reported last week that most of the locust population carpeting the area of Wadi Beihan and along the border are still "old hoppers" about to undergo their last molt and gain wings. "While at the 'hopping' stage, which lasts for the first five weeks after hatching, the locusts can eat but not move," said Cressman. Once they gain wings they swarm, moving fast, and a few weeks later, if conditions are favorable, they are ready to breed. FAO monitors locust movement world-wide and issues a reporting and warning service. When infestation occurs, FAO offers assistance with emergency control as well as financial aid. In mid-June army helicopters flying over dunes impassable to vehicles surveyed the scene and found it more than twice as bad as feared. They estimated the area carpeted with "hoppers" covered 5,500 square kilometers. Ministry of Agriculture officials monitoring the infestation report that new swarms arrive every day. Officials recall the great locust devastation of 1944, when lack of aid and equipment exacerbated the many deaths from starvation in Yemen. Even today, in spite of prompt action by the Ministry and foreign aid agencies, the control program is lagging behind the locusts. Swarms are now reported as far north as Saada. They are consuming grain, alfalfa and grazing areas in Wadi Al-Jawf. They have stripped citrus trees in Wadi Beihan of their leaves, leaving the bare wood and the battered fruit. It is not known whether the trees, their process of photosynthesis destroyed, can survive the devastation. Yemen has appealed for a total of US\$1 million in foreign aid to help fight the infestation. So far FAO has given US\$400,000, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) has offered the Yemeni government a further US\$50,000 in addition to its previous grants, Germany is giving DM500,000 in aid through GTZ, Britain is giving £100,000 through ODA, and Japan is donating US\$100,000 worth of chemicals. The US is giving a further US\$25,000 in addition to the US\$200,000 it assured last week. Other pledges have come from France and Sweden. Part of the funds allocated by Germany and Britain will pay for the helicopters. The rest of Germany's gift will be spent on chemicals, the rest of Britain's on maintenance of the Ministry's ground spraying fleet. "We want to strengthen our facilities for ground control, and we also need aerial sprayers so our army helicopters can be brought into use," says Ministry official

Fouad Be-Hakim. "We want our own equipment so we can deal with emergencies as soon as they arise, without wasting valuable time having to enlist outside help." As Keith Cressman, Dr. Al-Ghashm and Tunisian spray-control specialist, Mr. Muhammad Al-Hani, who has been flown in by FAO, prepared to leave for a reconnaissance trip, those orange spots on the map indicating the infested areas loomed ominously large and bright. There seemed too many for just two helicopters.

By: Jenny Jobbins,  
Yemen Times.



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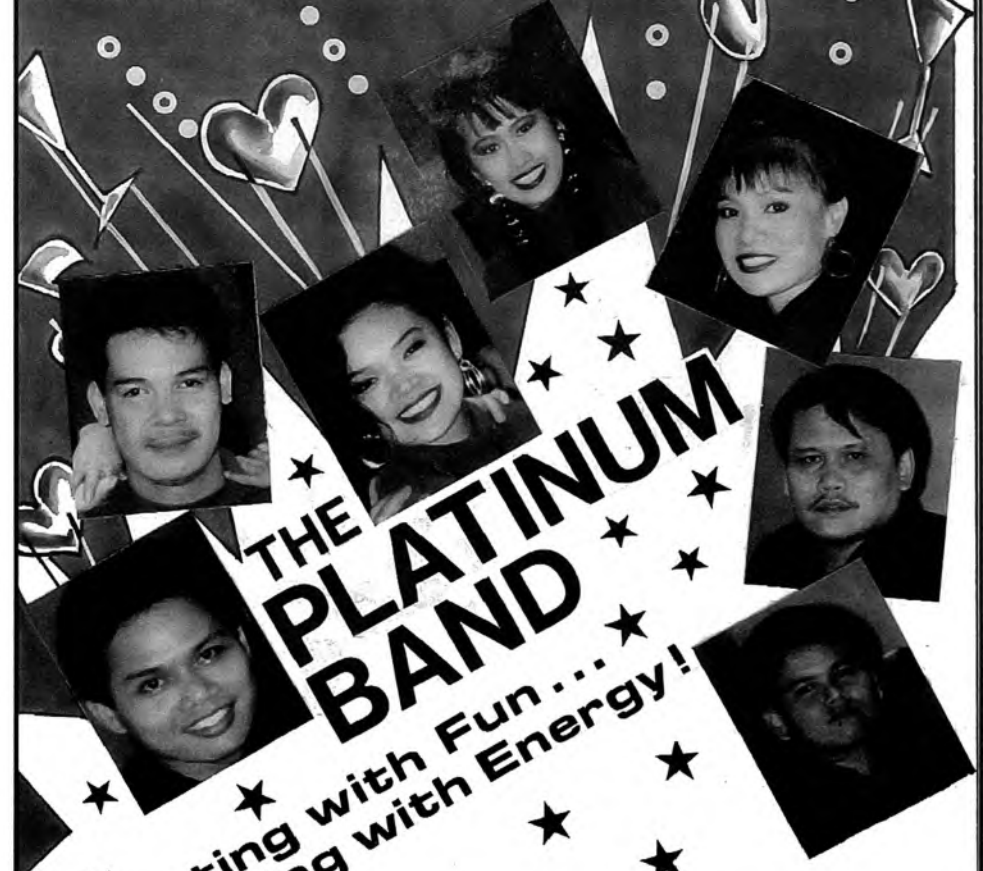
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### About Locusts...

Migratory swarms of desert locusts do not form in regions with a favorable habitat. Instead, they result only when food is scarce. If the available food in a particular area decreases and their numbers increase too drastically, these normally solitary insects undergo a drastic change in physical and social pattern. Once considered a separate species, migratory locusts differ from the sluggish, non migratory form in color, structure, behavior, and physiology. While the green, solitary phase is the normal state of the species, the gregarious phase is a physiological response to violent fluctuations in the environment. When food becomes scarce and conditions crowded, and solitary nymphs come into contact with others, they mature as the "gregarious" type, changing to a dark, patterned color and exhibiting restless behavior. As the food supply diminishes, they begin to march over the ground. Finally they take wing in huge hordes and fly downwind to a low-pressure area where rains have recently fallen. Here they descend on crops and other vegetation, eating it to the ground before flying on to the next low-pressure area. When the locusts are ready to breed they lay eggs in huge numbers, producing the gregarious form of the species. Each of the five stages in the locust life cycle is separated by a molt. For the first four stages the "hoppers" have no wings. While in the hopping stage they are at their most destructive, literally eating their way through their habitat. About five weeks after hatching they undergo their fourth molt, gain wings, and are ready to swarm. The young of gregarious phase locusts revert to the solitary stage only if they mature in isolation.

\*Swarms of locusts regularly number up to 10,000,000,000 individuals.

\*In 1889, a flight crossing the Red Sea was esti-

### THE DOCTOR AND TEACHER

The moment I heard of the nomination of Dr. Abubakar Al-Kirbi as Minister of Education I was filled with optimism, as I know the doctor and teacher Al-Kirbi as one who lectured at Sana'a University, and one who carefully noted the shortcomings and weak standards of the students - all due to low standards of performance in the various levels of education from kindergarten to final secondary levels.

Al-Kirbi is also a doctor, and the Ministry of Education complains of a chronic stomach disease, so it is in great need of a surgeon to cut out its decaying parts. To begin with, the minister needs an educational council to help lay down constructive programs aiming at an evolution in education. The minister needs to have field experience in the schools, and make some unexpected visits that might lead to a comprehensive change in the ministry. It is to be noted that there are sheikhdoms within the ministry which need to be tackled, and a starting point is needed from where the new generations can flourish on sound and healthy foundations. Without education, morals and breeding, our children won't be able to do anything for our country. Home and school are the two factors that combine to give a solid childhood.

What we need is a unified program and methodology exceeding all psychological boundaries. All this bombastic building, these colossal palaces, do not show that we are civilized. It is the duty of the new minister to hasten to apply the laws of education, enlarge our schools, force a change in administration, and pay more concern to students in all stages of education.

Without schools, we do not know where we can begin to achieve the Yemenis' aspirations and dreams.

By: **Ismail Al-Wareeth,  
Al-Thawri, Sana'a,  
24/6/1993.**

### HUMAN RIGHTS: THE LIE

The universal proclamation of human rights included a number of humanitarian gains which, all over the world, have long remained mere dreams. Regardless of the theoretical progress which nations achieved through that proclamation, the central point remained an aspiration not viable in practice. Mostly, the proclamation turned out to be part of a campaign of propaganda.

Despite all the screams, calls and slogans, no one can hide all the horrible, inhuman crimes carried out under the umbrella of those who used to repeat the slogans.

Where is the humanity in what is going on in Bosnia? Where are America, and the other nations of Europe, in the violations and massacres of the Bosnian Muslims? America regards herself as safeguarding human rights, and the spokesman of the

oppressed and the weak, but it practices differently. It is an advertisement of rights and freedom, but what a big lie it is!

To deal with more than one side is an outstanding feature of the foreign policy of America. There are many examples that show how America practices a double policy when dealing with human issues. America implements a double role under the flag of universal legitimacy. What does this mean or show? America mans all those armies to come to the Gulf and Iraq or to Somalia. Why not man the same armies to go to Serbia? Implementing legitimacy is something good if practiced justly, otherwise its aims are something else. This is the tragedy of the century.

By: **Mohammed Abdul-Rahman Al-Magرامي,  
Al-Sahwa, Sana'a,  
24/6/1993.**

### THAT GARBAGE PROBLEM

Even up to now the specialists and authorities haven't reached a point of settlement for the problem of garbage and the method of getting rid of it without causing harm to the environment, to man, and to our cities. In spite of contracts with foreign manpower as cleaners, rubbish collectors and in other areas of labour which have to do with urban cleanliness, and in spite of occasional seminars, nothing has been done substantially to help find a tangible solution to this form of pollution. Even imported projects have failed to lessen its pains. One great problem now facing the municipal authorities is where to find sites outside the cities where garbage can be burned or buried. The burning of rubbish is not a solution, as it causes clouds of smoke which cover wide areas. And if garbage lay around without being buried, the pollution would be even more harmful to health and the environment than if it were burned.

We ask for a solution to this issue. What we require is cleanliness in our capital and our cities.

By: **Shoura's Crespondent,  
Al-Shoura, Sana'a,  
27/6/1993.**

### WHAT DO WE WANT FROM AL-ISLAH?

When Al-Islah participated in the elections, it knew how to deal with reality in a flexible yet logical way. Thus, its participation in political life will give it a positive boost towards progress. The responsibility of Al-Islah in the democratic process gives it a local, regional and global role through its Islamic program, introducing people to a practical, cultural pattern of life. The pattern is not horrible, or fundamentalist, as some enemies of the Islamic solution like to visualize it. On the contrary, it represents a supreme, peaceful mission aiming at justice, equality, peace, safety and security for all. Globally it should bear the respon-

sibility of wiping out the black picture shaped round the religious current which the world saw as terrorists, uncultured, and so on. Just accusations against Islam? Al-Islah can prove to all, inside and outside the country, that the principles of freedom, equality, and sympathy allow for all, and that it can coexist with all, even with its enemies, since there is respect and cooperation from all on the common ground of the nation with its doctrines of dignity and freedom.

It is the duty of Al-Islah to eliminate any blackened or depressed outlook vis-à-vis the Islamic trend in general, whether inside or outside the country. Through its dealings, Al-Islah can be a messenger of the Islamic trend to all people. The principles of cooperation and credibility will pave the way towards a better future.

By: **Ahmed Abdul-Malik  
Al-Makرامي,  
Al-Islah, Sana'a,  
28/6/1993.**

### THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION AND THE STATE OF LAW

Anees Hassan Yahya, member of the political bureau of the YSP and head of the party's parliamentary bloc at the House of Representatives, confirmed that our people, represented by the various organizations, will not accept a new constitution instead of the current one agreed upon by referendum.

In a special interview with Al-Mustaqbal Mr. Anees added that the party omitted from its program a necessary item for constitutional amendments, as it was not among its priorities, and as the current constitution is good enough for establishing the state of law which we lack now.

The idea of amendments has not yet been put for discussion, and any such procedure requires the participation of the people regarding the addition or abolition of amendments. We in the party realize the importance of dialogs launched from the basis of what we have learned from our experience. Therefore, the democratic choice has become a concrete principle for us in every issue. Since we have accepted the pursuit of democracy, we should search for points of agreement. Democracy in the Third World is the foundation of progress, and without it we will not be able to construct the foundations for a new, modernized Yemen. We must acknowledge that there is not a big or small party as an absolute point. The role of any party depends on its activity and its interpretation of the media's aspirations. The base of relations among the parties, whether big or small, focuses on constitutional rights, and the right of those parties and individuals to express their opinions freely.

By: **Hassan Majjob,  
Al-Mustaqbal, Sana'a,  
27/6/1993.**

### WHAT IS BEHIND THE TENTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS?

The consensus of the Arab World affirms that there is no use in continuing the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and such a point was mentioned by a number of our wise men even before the first round of negotiations. Hereby are the points representing the views of the team which refused to negotiate with the Israeli team, particularly in the current Arab circumstances:

1. The negotiations depend basically on the idea of the recognition of Israel, with the full acknowledgment of all the lands occupied during the years 1948-1949, taking into account that Palestine is an Arab land.
2. What is taken by force cannot be restored except by force, and Israel will not surrender or make any free concessions. Therefore, peaceful negotiations are a waste of time and their outcome will grant a legal legitimacy to the Zionist entity.
3. The current situation is the worst possible for negotiations, as the balance of power between the Arab countries and Israel tends greatly to Israel's favor. The negotiations will thus reflect the current reality of such a balance.
4. If we are unable to be victorious for the time being, why not leave the issue to the next generations? Israel's supremacy is but a temporary phenomenon.
5. The peace conference proceeds under the super-

vision of America, and America does not hide its policy as a strategic ally of Israel. Accordingly, we are putting the fate of our issue in the hands of a partial judge who does not hide his prejudice to Israel.

6. The negotiation with Israel is a frivolity. If the negotiations on (Taba) took five years, and Taba measures not more than one kilometer square, then how much time will be needed to reach an agreement about Jerusalem?

By: **Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqalih,  
Al-Mithaq, Sana'a,  
28/6/1993.**

### POST-ELECTIONS YEMEN

Excerpts from a letter to Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar: What I want to make clear is that I am not in a position to justify or defend Al-Islah, or adopt its ideology, but my feelings stem from a feeling of responsibility. The experiment of democracy was something new, and the random performance which steered the wheels of the election. Al-Islah faced such difficulty, depending on luck, reputation, and the people's acceptance of Islam as a concept. Islam is the belief of the Yemeni people as a whole. But the laymen of our time belittle the launch of an Islamic doctrine, as if Islam were a program and not a comprehensive ideology.

The one who rules has all the potential and influence to guarantee the ballot

boxes. It is the following equation:

Authority + Influence  
Wealth + Army = Power.

The point is that I hope to see Al-Islah standing with the opposition. Our people know the veteran son of Yemen, Sheikh bin Al-Ahmar, well, and know he has striven against oppression for a long time. The participation of Al-Islah in the coalition government means getting away from the opposition for the following reasons:

1. The participation of the authority with two ministers or three, regardless of their legitimacy, will make them partners in corruption in the case of the PCC failing in its achievement of reform, justice and stabilization.

2. Authority corrupts reformers if they do not come up to a capable standard.

3. Al-Islah began in opposition, but it might find itself a follower of authority and then will be unable to combat corruption.

4. Islam is the doctrine of all Yemenis. It is the duty of all believers of the mission to defend it, but no one has the right, whoever he might be, to claim possession of the mission or to blaspheme others.

5. The participants in authority can not be its opponents at the same time.

In short, I want to see Al-Islah standing with the opposition.

By: **Awadh Al-Arashani,  
Al-Haq, Sana'a,  
27/6/1993.**



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# TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## I. A New Ten-Year Management Contract Is Signed:

The contract period for the management of the Sheba Hotel in Sanaa expired at the end of 1990. But at that time, the Gulf Crisis was the source of much tension in the region. The two parties to the contract, Sabaa Hotels Company and the Taj Group of India, decided to wait and see how events were unfolding.

Meanwhile, they signed a two year contract which lasted until the end of 1992. By then, as Harish C. Dhingra, General Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel, explains it, we were able to overcome all the fall-out from the Gulf Crisis. The two parties were ready to sign another contract.

Negotiations were long and, sometimes, difficult. But the two sides, working in good spirit and with the dedicated interest of making the association even more lasting and more fruitful, they finally signed a new ten-year contract.

On Wednesday, June 16th, Mr. Hayel Abdul-Hak, Managing Director of Sabaa Hotels Company, and Mr. L.A. Menzes,



President of Taj International Hotels, signed the management contract according to which the Taj group will manage the Sheba Hotel for ten years - until the end of 1992.

Mr. Hayel Abd al-Hak used the occasion to express full satisfaction with the association. "The Taj Group has done a superb job in managing the hotel, and we are extremely happy with their performance," he told the Yemen Times.

The feeling is mutual, according to Mr. Menzes. While toasting the deal's successful conclusion, he said that the "Taj group valued immensely its relationship with the Sabaa

Hotels Company, and by extension with the Shafer Group of Companies".

The occasion was attended by a number of relevant individuals from the government offices as well as business and tourism circles.

Mutahar Al-Haifi, an old hand in tourism and the Deputy Chairman of the Tourism General Authority, described the event as one more step in promoting and improving tourism facilities in the country. "We are all well aware of the success of the current management of the hotel, and the extension of its contract is well received by all circles," he said.

## CONGRATULATIONS TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

*Nabors Drilling Company  
Management and Staff*

would like to congratulate the

**Taj Sheba Hotel**

**owners, management and staff  
on the successful completion  
of their first decade,  
and would like to wish them  
an even more  
prosperous second decade.**

## UNIVERSAL Travel & Tourism

**on the occasion of the signing  
of a new ten-year management contract  
between the Sabaa Hotels Company and  
the Taj Group of Hotels of India;  
and on the occasion of the launching of a major ex-  
pansion of the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa,**

**UNIVERSAL Travel & Tourism  
presents its heart-felt congratulations  
and best wishes on more success in the future.**



# TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## II. A \$15 Million Expansion and Renovation Plan Is Approved:

Three specialized companies are now busy working on a master plan to renovate and expand the Taj Sheba Hotel. Professional and expert consultants are involved in the renovation and expansion efforts. Graham Design Limited of Woburn, Massachusetts, is charged with the architectural and interior design; RJ Crocker & Partners of Kent, UK, is charged with structural engineering; and Hoare Lea & Partners of London is charged with the mechanical & electrical consultancy.

A total investment of US\$15 million in envisaged, according to the Managing Director of Sabaa Hotels Company, Mr. Hayel Abd al-Hak.

"Before this year is out, the master plan should be ready. We expect approval by the owners early in 1994, and bids for the contracts should be released early next year. The anticipated execution time is eighteen months," Mr. Abd al-Haq explained.

"During that period, the hotel will be operational as the work is phased in gradually and different components are put in at different stages of the work," he added. "Even then, remember, all the existing rooms will be refurbished and the furniture will be totally replaced," he said.

Speaking about the tourism potential, Hayel was optimistic and said that demand for lodging continues to rise due to increased tourism and business opportunities.

Finally, he explained that the company is seriously looking



Mr. Hayel Abd al-Hak

into the possibility of investing in a major hotel in Aden.

Mr. Harish Dhingra, the General Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel, was also happy with the renovation and expansion plans.

A graduate of Delhi University, Mr. Dhingra specialized in hotel business at the Salzburger Hotel Fachschule in Austria, and did additional training at Cornell University in the USA. He is an old hand in the hotel business, given that his hotel career has spanned three decades, the last two of which have been with the Taj Group.

"I have served in many parts of

Europe and the Middle East," he said.

With the new 85 rooms, the hotel's capacity will increase to 270 rooms, one more restaurant, and a larger lobby. "We

will have the most complete and largest recreation facility and business center in the whole country," said Dhingra.

The new rooms will be larger than the current ones, and the bathrooms will have more modern facilities. The lobby and entrance hallway will be much expanded, and there will be new decoration. All in all, the Taj Sheba Hotel will have a new image.



Harish Dhingra

BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SUCCESS

FROM  
**CLYDE Expro. plc Yemen**

TO:  
**TAJ SHEBA HOTEL**  
Owners, Management and Staff

on the good news of signing the new management contract for ten more years, and on the news of undertaking major expansion and renovations at the hotel.

# The Hayel Saeed Anam Group

congratulates the

# Taj Sheba Hotel

on its continued success.

**We also take this opportunity to present our best wishes for the new management period of ten years.**



# TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## III. A Satisfied Customer Base: The Local Business Community

The Taj Sheba Hotel management boasts of its special relations with the customer base. "Go ahead, carry out a survey and see for yourselves," challenged Mr. Harish Dhingra, the General Manager. The Yemen Times did just that. We contacted a number of key persons in the local business community. Here are random samples of what they told us:

1. Mr. Omar M. Omar the General Manager of UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, said:



"Our company has a long-standing relationship with the Taj Sheba Hotel. We are happy with the efficient and prompt service. We bring in individual as well as group guests, and we have not received any complaints on the hotel. We will continue to use the Taj Sheba."

2. Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Executive Director and Member of the Board of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies, said:



"We have often presented feedback and suggestions to the hotel management, and I am happy to say that we have seen some of our ideas implemented. I can say the hotel management is well in tune with market demand trends."

3. Mr. Abdullah Al-Sunidar, General Manager of the Sunidar Group of Companies, said:



"I have been to the Taj Sheba Hotel many times, either as host or as guest. At all times, I have been happy with the service."

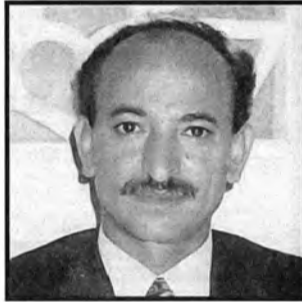
4. Mr. Abd al-Wahab Thabet, Executive Director of Ikhwan Thabet Group

of Companies, said:



"I personally use the recreation and health club facilities of the Taj Sheba Hotel. I find the facilities very adequate. In addition, I think the personal attention of the management and staff make this hotel exceptional."

5. Mr. Abdo Ali Al-Awdi, Chairman of Ard Al-Gannatain, said:



"I enjoy the personal touch and close care of the staff. I make it a point to dine at the Taj Sheba Hotel."

**Yemen Times Note:** We contacted 62 persons, and none gave a bad report.

### BP Exploration Operating Co.

wishes the best to the owners, staff and management of the

*Taj Sheba Hotel*

on the signing of a new ten-year contract and on the approval of major expansion and renovation.

**BRITISH PETROLEUM**

**A Partner in Yemen's Development Process**



## ADHBAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

present their best wishes and felicitations to the owners and managers of

The Taj Sheba Hotel, Sanaa

and hope that the next ten years will be even more prosperous and successful.

**Adhban Group of Companies:  
A Strong Pillar in Yemen's Development**

# TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## IV. A Satisfied Customer Base: The International Community

The Taj Sheba management boasts of its special relations with the customer base. "Go ahead, run a survey and see what they tell you," challenged Mr. Harish Dhingra, the General Manager. The Yemen Times did just that. We contacted a number of key persons in the international community as well as among the locals. Here are random samples of what they told us:

1. H.E. Mr. Kazuo Wani-buchi, the Ambassador of Japan:



"We have frequently used the restaurants at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The embassy staff and myself are very satisfied with the service and the food. I would specially like to mention the good manners of the staff, and how helpful they are to the guests.

"I hope Taj Sheba Hotel has a flourishing and prosperous future."

2. Dr. Barry Mapstone, GM of British Petroleum - Yemen:

"We use the Taj Sheba all the time for all our visitors,



both senior and technical staff, and for formal and informal functions. We are always extremely pleased with the quality of the food, the service, and above all with the quality of the management. We've never felt let down."

3. Jens Ipsen, Country Manager of Lufthansa:

"The Taj Sheba is doing a very good job. When you



have a problem they really make an effort to sort it out. The attraction is that it is very well managed: what they offer you is friendliness and good service."

4. Mr. Emmanuel Garcia-Ligero, GM of Banque Indosuez - Yemen:



"Our guests use the Taj Sheba because it is right in the center of town. The management takes very good care of the needs of businessmen."

5. Dr. Awni Al-Ani, UNDP Representative:



"We have had extensive business and cooperation with the Taj Sheba Hotel. We are happy with our association with them."

**Yemen Times Note:**  
We contacted 62 persons, and none gave us a bad report.

### CONGRATULATIONS TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

The Management and Staff of  
**United Bank Limited**  
(UBL)

join in extending congratulations and best wishes to the owners, management and staff of

## Taj Sheba Hotel

We pray that the next ten years will be as bountiful and successful as the last ten years.

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2. Tehama Trading,  
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Telephone: 231346/7  
Facsimile: 211582

3. Yemen General Insurance Company,  
P. O. Box 2709,  
Sanaa.  
Telephone: 265102, 265193  
Facsimile: 265109

4. Red Sea Construction Company,  
P. O. Box 3337,  
Hodeidah.  
Telephone: 231340  
Facsimile: 211533  
Sanaa Office:  
P. O. Box 73,  
Sanaa.  
Telephone: 208925, 209346  
Facsimile: 209507

present their heart-felt  
congratulations and best wishes  
on the occasion of  
the signing of a new  
ten-year management contract  
between the Sabaa Hotels Company  
and the Taj Group of Hotels of India;  
and on the occasion of  
the launching of a major expansion  
of the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa.

# TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## V. The Employees Are Happy and Positively-Inclined

"The Taj Sheba management is trying hard to help absorb as many Yemenis as possible," explains Mr. Harish Dhingra, the General Manager. "At the moment we have ten trainees at the Hotel Institute in Aden, and some more are doing on-the-job training at our hotel. You have to realize that in the local socio-culture, working in a hotel carries a strong stigma, specially among female employees," he added. Even so, the Taj Sheba Hotel has four local female employees and several dozen male employees. Yemen Times talked to the most senior male and female Yemeni employees in the hotel, as well as two from among the international staff.

1. Mr. Zain Ali, Sales Executive:



Mr. Zain Ali joined the hotel in 1981, when it first opened. He began

as assistant receptionist. Today, he is the hotel's Sales Executive. "I have seen the Taj Sheba Hotel grow and command first place in the market," he said. "I am proud to be part of the Taj Sheba Hotel family. "I am sure the hotel's future is good and my own career will develop well," he concluded.

2. Thorayya Hameed, Front Desk Receptionist:



Thorayya's familiar face and friendly nature are there to welcome you as you approach the reception counter at the hotel. She joined nearly ten years ago. "I feel part of the hotel, and the hotel is part of me. There is a sense of belonging which gives peace of mind, reassurance and, thus, continuity."

3. Dinaz Madhukar, Catering Assistant:



If you are a frequent visitor to the Golden Peacock restaurant, you are bound to have across Dinaz and her broad smile, a lovely entrée to your meal. "The work environment is very good due to the person-to-person contact. I am happy to work here."

4. Dilip Sathe, Health Club Manager:



If you are a shaker and a mover, then the recreation facilities and entertainment sections will meet your needs. Mr Sathe says, "Come, and we shall be happy to serve you."

### BANQUE INDOSUEZ, Yemen

Sends best greetings and warm congratulations to the owners, staff and management of the

*Taj Sheba Hotel*

on the signing of a new ten-year contract and on the approval of major expansion and renovation.

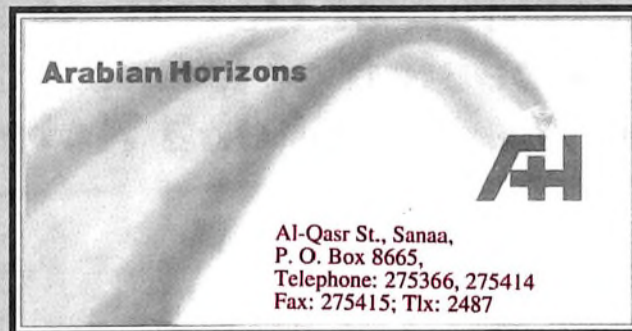
### INDOSUEZ BANK

your bank in Sanaa, Taiz, and Aden as well as anywhere in the world.



## ARABIAN HORIZONS for TOURISM

on the occasion of the signing of a new ten-year management contract between the Sabaa Hotels Company and the Taj Group of Hotels of India, and on the launch of a major expansion of the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa,



## ARABIAN HORIZONS for TOURISM

offer their congratulations and best wishes for the future.

# TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## VI. The Expansion: A Viewpoint

Hureen Advani

With a view to providing better and more modern facilities for today's travelers and businessmen, and to enhance the framework of tourism within the country, a private sector company, Sabaa Hotel Co. has renewed its long-standing management contract of the Taj Sheba Hotel with the Asian Resort & Restaurant Associates Co. Ltd. (ARRA), which is a subsidiary of the Taj Group. It is also commissioning major expansions estimated at US\$15 million.

Such an investment is in keeping with the needs of the time, as no where else in the country can provide first class accommodations and facilities. Furthermore, it will help the national capital of the country, and will indirectly enhance its development. Under the agreement, ARRA will continue to manage the Taj Sheba Hotel for the next ten years.

The credit for the renewal of the contract is due to the hotel's remarkable success. Credit for this, in turn, goes to the General Manager, Mr. Harish C. Dhingra, who has been instrumental in giving the hotel the renowned name it has today.

There was much deliberation on both sides before the contract was finally signed. Representing the Sabaa Hotel Co. at the signing was the Managing Director, Mr. Hayel Abdul-Hak, while the president of the Taj International Hotels group, Mr. Leonardo Armando Menzes, was there on behalf of ARRA.

As well as signing the

contract, Mr. Abd al-Hak made the plans for the extension of the hotel known to those present. The highlights of the plan are:

- Refurbishing of the existing 180 rooms.

- Significant expansion of the hotel's capacity by the addition of 85 new rooms.

- These will be much larger than the existing rooms, and will incorporate the latest technology.

- Expansion of the existing Bilqis and Golden Peacock restaurants.

- Addition of a new speciality restaurant to cater to the increased clientele.

- Complete renovation and expansion of the present kitchen and baking facilities.

- An enlarged, more modern, and better equipped health club area.



- Complete renovation of the lobby to seat more people in comfort and in privacy.

- Improved conference rooms and facilities to suit today's businessmen and party goers.

- More shops.

Building operations should be off to a flying start by December, and if all goes well the Taj Sheba will definitely be the place on everyone's lips by December 1995. Investment in all this renovation and expansion may well stretch beyond the estimated US\$15 million set aside for the purpose, but every penny spent will be worth it in terms of the finished project. Architects have been drawn in from Britain and the US to pitch the best of their knowledge into a long-cherished dream for Yemen.

Many members of the international community may not be here to witness the final result that their friends and successors will enjoy - but perhaps they will make a special return trip to see it!



On the occasion of the signing of a new  
ten-year management contract

## Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC)

would like to wish the

## Taj Sheba Hotel

continued success in its business  
over the next decade.

**YHOC is Yemen's FIRST oil producing  
company and a leader in the country's  
oil and gas industry.**

## AL-SUNIDAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

**presents its congratulations and best wishes  
on the happy moment of signing  
a new ten-year management contract  
between the Sabaa Hotels Company and  
the Taj Group of Hotels of India,  
and on the occasion of launching a major  
expansion of the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa.**

**Al-Sunidar Group of Companies  
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# **TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

## **INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (IBY)**

presents congratulations and best wishes to:

# **TAJ SHEBA HOTEL**

on the signing of the new management contract and explains plans.



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## *CONGRATULATIONS TAJ SHEBA HOTEL*

### **Consolidated Contractors Company**



**present their felicitations and best wishes to:  
the owners, staff and management of the**

# **TAJ SHEBA HOTEL**

**on signing a new ten-year management contract,  
and on the expansion and renovation plans.**

*Keep Up the Good Work!*

# LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

The French Pages

IRAK

## Attaque aérienne américaine sur Bagdad

Les Etats-Unis ont lancé samedi 26 juin 23 missiles Tomahawk sur les bâtiments abritant le commandement des services de renseignements irakiens. En représailles à la tentative d'assassinat contre l'ex-président Bush au Koweït en avril dernier.

Samedi 26 juin, 18h locales. Le bâtiment abritant le commandement et le contrôle des services de renseignements irakiens à Bagdad est touché de plein fouet par plusieurs missiles Tomahawk. Une partie des missiles (14) a été tirée de la Mer Rouge par le destroyer américain USS Peterson. Neuf autres ont été lancés du Golfe par le croiseur Chancellorsville. Selon Bagdad, cette attaque aérienne aurait fait sept morts et plusieurs blessés, tous civils.

### Un raid sans effet

Les Etats-Unis ont justifié cette action "en réponse à une opération irakienne qui a mis en danger la vie du président Bush pendant qu'il se trouvait au Koweït". L'ex-président américain s'était rendu en visite au Koweït du 14 au 16 avril. Une tentative d'assassinat contre lui avait été déjouée. Seize personnes, dont deux Irakiens, sont actuellement jugés pour cette tentative.

Dans une allocution té-

lévisée, le président Clinton a souligné que les Etats-Unis ont voulu ainsi adresser un message politique clair à l'Irak: "ne vous attaquez pas à nous" (les Etats-Unis). Il a accusé nommément Saddam Hussein, le président irakien, de "tyran" et d'être "lâche et détestable".

Cependant, personne aux Etats-Unis, que ce soit au sein de l'administration ou au Congrès, ne se fait d'illusions quant à l'effet de cette attaque sur l'attitude de Saddam Hussein. De la même manière, George Bush, malgré des raids punitifs répétés contre le régime de Bagdad, n'était pas parvenu à briser les reins du leader irakien.

Mardi 29 juin, une deuxième attaque aérienne américaine a frappé l'Irak, dans la province de Bassorah, au sud. L'objectif visé était une batterie anti-aérienne. Un soldat irakien a été blessé au cours de cette attaque.

Depuis son arrivée à la Maison Blanche, Bill Clinton a repris à son compte la politique

de fermeté de son prédécesseur, qui consiste à exiger de l'Irak une application totale des résolutions de l'ONU, avec toutefois une différence sensible: l'administration américaine ne fait plus du départ du pouvoir de Saddam Hussein la condition explicite pour une levée de l'embargo économique qui frappe Bagdad depuis 1990.

### Un test de crédibilité

Quel que soit l'impact du message envoyé à Saddam Hussein, l'attaque de samedi a, en tout cas, permis au président américain d'envoyer un autre message beaucoup plus important aux Américains et au monde: Bill Clinton "a agi avec décision", a déclaré Colin Powell, chef d'état-major interarmes. Cela confirme l'impression que cette attaque aérienne avait pour objectif principal de tester la crédibilité du président américain. Sept irakiens en sont morts.

(AFP)

### Réactions du Yémen et de la France

Le Yémen a condamné di-manche 27 juin le raid américain, estimant qu'il est "contraire à la charte de l'ONU, au droit international et aux droits de l'Homme". Un porte-parole du ministère des Affaires étrangères a affirmé que "le Yémen déplore et condamne ce développement négatif (...) qui entraîne la mort de civils innocents".

La France "comprend la réaction des Etats-Unis et les motifs d'une opération menée sous la responsabilité américaine, et qui est la réponse à un attentat contre l'ancien président Bush", a déclaré le ministère des Affaires étrangères. La présidence de la République française a souligné qu'il s'agissait d'une "réaction conjointe" du chef de l'Etat et du gouvernement. Elle a d'autre part précisé que le président américain Bill Clinton avait prévenu son homologue français François Mitterrand de l'action contre Bagdad.

### En BREF

**Aide de l'Allemagne au Yémen pour lutter contre les criquets:** Le Yémen a reçu une aide de 500 000 Deutschmarks (environ 293 000 dollars) du gouvernement allemand pour lutter contre l'invasion de criquets qui ont envahi les régions de Maareb et de Shabwah. D'autres pays, dont les Etats-Unis, ont promis leur soutien financier. Le Yémen avait lancé le 14 juin un appel à l'aide internationale.

**Un Français détenu en Irak depuis le 18 juin:** Jean-Luc Barrière, un Français âgé de 25 ans travaillant pour une société de télécommunications, France Electronique, est détenu en Irak depuis le 18 juin. Il a franchi la frontière entre le Koweït et l'Irak après s'être égaré dans le désert. Il aurait été condamné à huit ans de prison pour entrée illégale sur le territoire irakien.

**Hosni Moubarak président de l'OUA:** Le président égyptien Hosni Moubarak a été désigné lundi 28 juin pour un an président en exercice de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine (OUA), réunie au Caire pour son sommet annuel. Il succède au président du Sénégal, Abdou Di-

ouf. C'est la se-conde fois que le chef d'Etat égyptien est à la tête de l'OUA dont il avait précédemment assuré la présidence en 1989-1990.

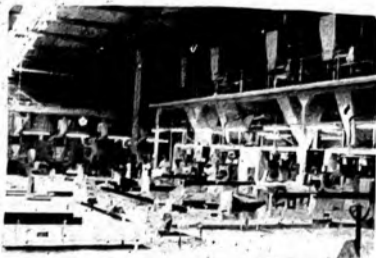
**Une exposition sur la lutte contre la drogue à Sanaa:** La première exposition sur la lutte contre la drogue a été inaugurée à Sanaa le 26 juin à l'occasion de la journée mondiale contre la drogue. L'exposition était organisée par le département de cri minologie. Elle montrait des échantillons de drogues saisies par l'unité de lutte anti-drogues.

A l'occasion de la Fête Nationale de la République Française, l'Ambassadeur de France et Mme Marcel Laugel ont l'honneur d'inviter tous les ressortissants français présents à Sanaa à une réception à la Résidence le mercredi 14 juillet à 19h.



### THE MOHAMED ABDO RABO GROUP A GIANT CORPORATION GROWS FURTHER

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صناعات ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ تلكس: ٢٧٨٠ فاجيل بين فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨  
الحديدة ت: ٣٢٣٤٦٠/٣ تلكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة بين فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تلكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦  
بورتسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تلكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠



# مكرونة المائدة

## فيها الفائدة



ماس للإعلان

إنتاج شركة الصناعات المتنوعة ومواد التعبئة

## CULTURE

# Des Archives nationales pour conserver la mémoire du pays

Le projet de création d'un bâtiment des Archives nationales yéménites commence à prendre forme. Avec l'aide du PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement) et de la France, le Yémen veut se donner les moyens de conserver les documents dispersés jusque-là à tout vent. En principe, le bâtiment devrait ouvrir ses portes en 1996.

Depuis quelques années, le Yémen ressentait le besoin de se doter d'Archives nationales pour conserver la mémoire du pays. Avant la réunification, le Yémen du Nord avait demandé à l'UNESCO de préparer un projet dans ce domaine. Après les retrouvailles entre les deux frères ennemis en 1990, le centre des Archives nationales du Yémen a été créé. On y a dépo-

sé les archives du conseil de la Présidence ainsi que des manuscrits pré-révolutionnaires. Sont venues s'y joindre, après leur transfert d'Aden, les archives de la présidence du conseil de l'ex-République démocratique du Yémen.

Mais ces documents sont conservés en vrac, dans des caisses ou dans des sacs dans les caves d'un immeuble de la Présidence. Une solution

qui ne peut pas durer. L'an dernier, a été lancé le projet de construction d'un bâtiment capable de permettre la conservation de tous les documents présentant un intérêt national.

## Abou Al-Rijal dirige les Archives

Grâce à la participation du PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le

Développement) et de la France, le projet a rapidement pris forme. En principe, le futur bâtiment des Archives nationales ouvrira ses portes dans trois ans, en 1996, la construction devant commencer l'an prochain.

Pour ce projet, le Yémen de-vrait dépenser 118 millions de rials. Quant à l'aide du PNUD, elle s'élève à 616 000 dollars. La France versera au pot commun 100 000 dollars. L'UNESCO reste associée au projet. Une fois par an, l'organisation internationale enverra une mission pour le suivi technique.

La gestion administrative est assurée par les Yéménites. Le qadi Abou Al-Rijal a été nommé directeur des Archives nationales du Yémen. "J'ai été nommé à ce poste car je collecte moi-même des documents, notamment ceux qui concernent la musique, explique-t-il. Pour moi, ce projet est aussi important que la création d'une université".

## Près du palais présidentiel

Pour l'instant, le choix du site du futur bâtiment des Archives n'a pas été définitivement arrêté. Les Yéménites avaient proposé un terrain appartenant à l'Etat, dans un quartier périphérique de Sanaa, au nord-est, près de la nouvelle faculté de médecine. Le défaut de ce terrain était de n'être desservi par aucune route et seule l'électricité à moyenne tension passait à proximité. Le choix va sembler-il se porter sur un terrain au sud de la capitale, près du palais présidentiel. Contrairement au précédent, il est plat et est raccordé aux réseaux.

## Un bâtiment d'inspiration yéménite

La réalisation technique du projet est assurée par la France, qui se charge de la formation des archivistes (lire article ci-dessous), de la création des systèmes d'archives, de la réalisation des plans du bâtiment et du suivi architectural. L'esquisse a été dessinée par Gérard Benoit, un architecte français. Le bâtiment doit être capable de recevoir 51 employés dès son achèvement. Gérard Benoit a tenu compte des désirs exprimés par Abou Al-Rijal: respect de l'architecture traditionnelle yéménite avec l'utilisation de matériaux locaux et bâtiment construit autour d'un patio. "Ce



Le qadi Abou Al-Rijal est le directeur des Archives nationales du Yémen.

bâtiment respectera les normes internationales en matière de sécurité", précise le qadi. Les problèmes de sécurité concernent notamment l'évacuation des documents et des personnes en cas d'incendie. Un autre architecte français, volontaire des Nations Unies, sera chargé de surveiller la construction du bâtiment. Il devrait être choisi à la fin de cette année.

"La France a été retenue pour ce projet en raison de sa renommée et de son expérience dans le domaine des archives", déclare Sylvain Fourcassé, conseiller culturel à l'ambassade de France. La France préside le Conseil international des archives. Elle a par ailleurs acquis de l'expérience dans la conception de centres d'archives dans les pays tropicaux qui réclament des conditions particulières de conservation. Au Mexique et au Burkina Faso par exemple.

Les Tunisiens participent également au projet. "Les Yéménites ont estimé que les Archives de Tunisie étaient les mieux gérées du monde arabe.

Il existe dans ce pays un centre de formation des archivistes. Dans le monde arabe, il n'y a que dans ce pays et en Algérie qu'existent de véritables centres d'archives", explique Philippe El-Ghouayel, ancien représentant du PNUD au Yémen et qui a quitté le pays le mois dernier. Le qadi Abou Al-Rijal précise en effet: "Nous avons pensé un moment à demander l'aide du Soudan et de l'Irak, mais finalement nous avons estimé que les Tunisiens étaient les meilleurs".

## Convaincre les particuliers

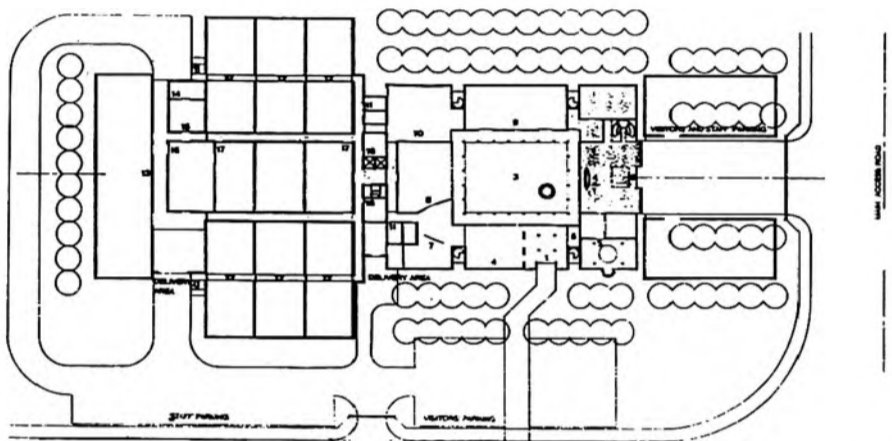
Pour avancer, le projet dépend de la loi sur les Archives, qui n'a toujours pas été votée. "Cette loi prend exemple sur la loi française et la loi tunisienne. En raison des élections législatives et du nouveau Parlement, nous ne savons pas du tout quand elle sera votée", explique le qadi Abou Al-Rijal. Le directeur des Archives nationales souhaite que le Centre d'Archives soit ouvert à tout le monde, "seuls quelques documents seront en accès limité", précise-t-il.

Au début, le tri et la collecte d'archives concerneront les documents accumulés dans les ministères. "Il est encore trop tôt pour rassembler les documents appartenant à des particuliers. Nous devons d'abord les convaincre de prêter ce qui leur appartient et cela passe obligatoirement par le vote de la loi. Dans le projet de loi, j'ai proposé d'étendre à cent ans la période où seront tenus secrets les documents personnels appartenant à des particuliers", explique le qadi.

"Je vais terminer ma carrière avec un projet dont je suis fier. Après, ce sera à mon tour d'entrer dans les archives", conclut-il.

Jérôme BERNARD

## Plan du premier étage du futur bâtiment des Archives nationales du Yémen



1 Hall d'entrée	16	12 Unité de stockage des archives
2 Entrée menant à la direction des Archives Nationales	7 Cafétéria	13 Unité de stockage temporaire
3 Patio	8 Salle de lecture	14 Broyeur
4 Accueil	9 Salle d'exposition	15 Salle de nettoyage
5 Salle de prière	10 Centre de formation du personnel	16 Salle de tri
6 Locaux des services de sécurité	11 Sanitaires	17 Salle de travail
		18 Locaux techniques

L'architecture du bâtiment des Archives nationales du Yémen respectera le style yéménite. Le plan dessiné ci-dessus n'est pas définitif. A l'avenir, le bâtiment pourra s'agrandir.

## Former des archivistes

Blandine Blukacz, volontaire des Nations Unies, a commencé en décembre dernier la formation des futurs archivistes. Elle essaie de leur faire comprendre l'importance d'un métier jusque là déconsidéré.

Depuis six mois, Blandine Blukacz a entamé un travail déterminant pour la réussite du projet d'Archives nationales yéménites. Volontaire des Nations Unies, elle est chargée de former les futurs archivistes. En effet, il n'existe pas de personnel spécialisé. Sa mission qui a commencé en décembre 1992 doit durer deux ans.

Cinq sessions de formation sont prévues chaque année. La première a démarré en janvier, à raison de trois cours de deux heures par semaine. Les futurs archivistes travaillent déjà dans ce domaine au Conseil de la Présidence et dans les ministères. Aidée d'un traducteur, Blandine leur explique les techniques qu'elle a elle-même apprises. Elle est en effet diplômée de l'Ecole des Chartes, prestigieuse école d'archivistes en France. "Pendant un an, j'ai été conservateur aux Archives nationales françaises en mission auprès du Rectorat de Paris", précise-t-elle.

"J'ai dû faire comprendre à mes élèves yéménites, c'est la différence entre le métier d'archiviste et de documentaliste. Un documentaliste constitue un dossier sur un sujet pour aider quelqu'un dans son travail. Un archiviste conserve et traite des documents qui ont été produits au cours du travail. Mes élèves mélangent ces deux notions", explique Blandine.

## Le projet prend du retard

Les Yéménites ont été un peu perturbés par cette remise en cause. "J'y vais doucement. Je ne leur ai pas encore dit qu'il faudrait changer leur plan de classement. Je veux d'abord être sûre de comprendre leur manière de travailler". Blandine essaie aussi de leur montrer l'importance d'un métier jusque-là déconsidéré. "Au début, ils étaient assez étonnés. La profession d'archiviste est considérée comme un métier peu important au Yémen. Dans la société yéménite, les archives n'ont pas une grande valeur, explique-t-elle. En France, nous avons une formation historique, nous comprenons l'aspect patrimonial des archives. Les Yéménites n'ont pas cette profondeur historique. Quand j'explique à mes élèves qu'il faut que dans cent ans les chercheurs puissent se retrouver dans les documents classés, ils ne saisissent pas bien. Ce qui les intéresse,

c'est avant tout de retrouver des papiers utiles pour les administrations".

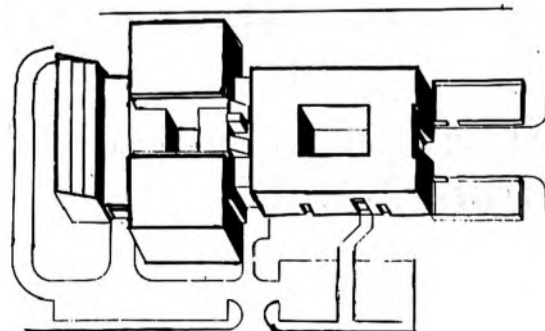
Blandine rencontre actuellement quelques difficultés dans son travail. La deuxième session de formation qui devait commencer début mai n'a toujours pas démarré. La raison invoquée est la formation du nouveau gouvernement. D'autre part, elle veut se montrer plus sévère dans la sélection des candidats. Lors de la première session, sur quatorze élèves au début, huit ont finalement passé l'examen final et six l'ont obtenu.

Autre problème: elle n'a pas pu jusqu'à maintenant commencer la deuxième partie de sa mission: dresser l'état des archives conservées dans les ministères. Elle a tout de même visité quelques services d'archives. "Je m'attendais à une absence totale d'organisation. En fait il y a des services constitués dans les ministères et au Conseil de la Présidence, ils utilisent des classeurs". Mais pour pouvoir avoir libre accès à ces services, la loi sur les archives doit être votée au Parlement. Ce qui n'est toujours pas le cas.

Blandine attend beaucoup de la visite d'un consultant français pour redynamiser le projet. Jean Luquet, conservateur du Patrimoine, spécialiste de la collecte, du tri et du classement des Archives contemporaines en France doit arriver le 10 juillet à Sanaa.

J.B.

## Plan en perspective du bâtiment des Archives nationales



# NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by: Al-Izzi As-Selwi

**\* Ahmed Mansoor Abu Usbaa:**

Mr. Ahmed Mansoor Abu Usbaa, a diplomat at the Foreign Ministry, is putting the final touches on his new book on the National Political Movements during 1955-62. The book is forwarded by Qadhi Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani, former President of Yemen.

**\* Rashed Mohammed Thabet:**

Rumors are rife stating that Mr. Rashed Mohammed Thabet, the former minister who represented the PDRY in the unity talks, is slotted to be the next Yemeni ambassador in Cairo. Suggestions have come from the Foreign Ministry that there will be dramatic change in Yemen diplomatic representation abroad.

**\* Dr. Abdubakar Al-Qirby**

Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, is putting in a lot of overtime in his efforts to bring sense to his Ministry. He has, of course, his work cut out for him, if at least in terms of sheer size. The ministry manages the affairs of some three million pupils and students, several thousand schools, and uses over 100,000 teachers and administrative staff. Observers say Dr. Al-Qirby is already making a mark.

**\* Suad Abd al-Rahman Rajih:**

Ms. Suad Abd al-Rahman Rajih who now serves as Director General of Personnel at the former Ministry of Immigration, is lined up as Deputy Chairman of the Immigrants' Board, which is to be established.

**\* Noman Al-Masoodi:**

Mr. Noman Al-Masoodi, the Honorary Chairman of the Yemeni-Ethiopian Friendship Association, has been able to launch the association to new levels. The former parliamentarian is an active and dynamic person.

**\* Abdullah Faris:**

The gifted stylist and computer genius Abdullah Faris has just completed the development of several new fonts and software packages for local use. Among his new works are the documentation of school certificates by the Ministry of Education and new designs for Yemenia.

**\* Mohammed Abdo Saeed,, Abd al-Ghani Rammah, and Mohammed Hussain Al-Zubairi:**

The trio joined the ministerial board of the Ministry of Supply and Trade. It is the new business-minded minister who asked them to join the board, thus diluting the power of the ministry bureaucrats who used to 'occupy' the board.

**\* Hazem Bakir:**

Mr. Hazim Bakir, Chairman of the Yemeni Company for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, is leading the company into more renovation and expansion. Before the end of this decade, the company is expected to double output and expand into new lines, according to a master plan recently approved.

**\* Noman Al-Masoodi:**

Mr. Noman Al-Masoodi, the Honorary Chairman of the Yemeni-Ethiopian Friendship Association, has been able to launch the association to new levels. The former parliamentarian is known among friends as an active and dynamic person.

**\* Abdul-Wasa Hayel Saeed Anam:**

Mr. Abdul-Wasa Hayel Saeed Anam, Chairman of the Yemen American Friendship Association (YAFA), held a lunch engagement in honor of H.E. Mr. Arthus Hughes, the US Ambassador in Sanaa, who was awarded an honorary membership in YAFA. Abdul-Wasa explained YAFA works for closer relations. In a reply statement on the occasion, the ambassador promised to work, in cooperation with YAFA and other venues, for the consolidation of Yemeni-American understanding, friendship and cooperation.

**\* Dr. Abdul-Rahman Abdul-Qader Ba-Fadhle:**

In a very short time, Dr. Abdul-Rahman Abdul-Qader Ba-Fadhle, Minister of Supply and Trade, has succeeded in putting the Ministry in shape. Already, attendance at the ministry is being strictly observed, bureaucrats are nicer to the businessmen who have to finish formalities, and "law-breakers are watching over their shoulders, these days," as one businessman remarked.

**\* Mohammed Al-Rabadi:**

Mr. Mohammed Al-Rabadi, Member of Parliament and the famous patriot, is reported to be in bad health. The old man, seen as an adversary by the regime, is said to have suffered from a heart attack following which he was hospitalized. He has no funds for medical treatment abroad.

**\* Jamal Al-Yafeyi:**

Jamal Al-Yafeyi has decided to branch out into tourism and travel. Mr. Al-Yafeyi has been quite successful in trade and contracting work.

**\* Abdullah Abdul-Aalem:**

Exiled politician Abdullah Abdul-Aalem has just completed his BA in Law in Syria. The former Member of Presidential Council changes homes between Syria and Egypt.

## Brief Encounter

*"The Dock Brief"*

by John Mortimer.

The choice of John Mortimer's fine two act play, "The Dock Brief", for the Taj Sheba Hotel's presentation at a dinner-theater on June 30th and July 1st was an admirable one, not least because of the fine acting - and admirable casting - of the play's two characters, Herbert Fowle and Wilfred Morgenhall, played by Leslie Bryant and Nicholas Linfield.

After spending the years since he graduated from law school doing crossword puzzles, down-at-heel barrister Morgenhall receives his first "dock brief". Arriving to convince Fowle, a

mild-mannered bird fancier, that he did not murder his wife, he is temporarily flummoxed by a steadfast admission of guilt. Changing tack, he decides he will enlist the jury's sympathy for a jilted husband, only to learn Fowle killed his wife because she didn't run off

with the lodger. Fowle, the philosophical born loser, quickly realizes it is the self-absorbed Morgenhall, anxious to win the case but sadly out of practice with the reality of the court, who is need of support, and tries his best to assist, and to please, by acting out court-room scenarios, then quietly and resignedly pointing out their flaws.

In the second act, after the trial, Fowle listens to Morgenhall's summing up of his inadequate - indeed silent - performance. Morgenhall did not cross-examine the witness because he was "beneath him"; he did not address the jury because he was tongue-tied. Though it is painful for Fowle, he finally admits that a mis-trial has been declared owing his inadequate representation in court; he has been reprieved, and is free to return to his birds. He easily convinces Morgenhall that he owes his freedom to his barrister's brilliant "ruse of silence", and they leave the prison, each free in his own way.

Many thanks to the Taj Sheba, and to Nicholas Linfield and Leslie Bryant, for an excellent evening.

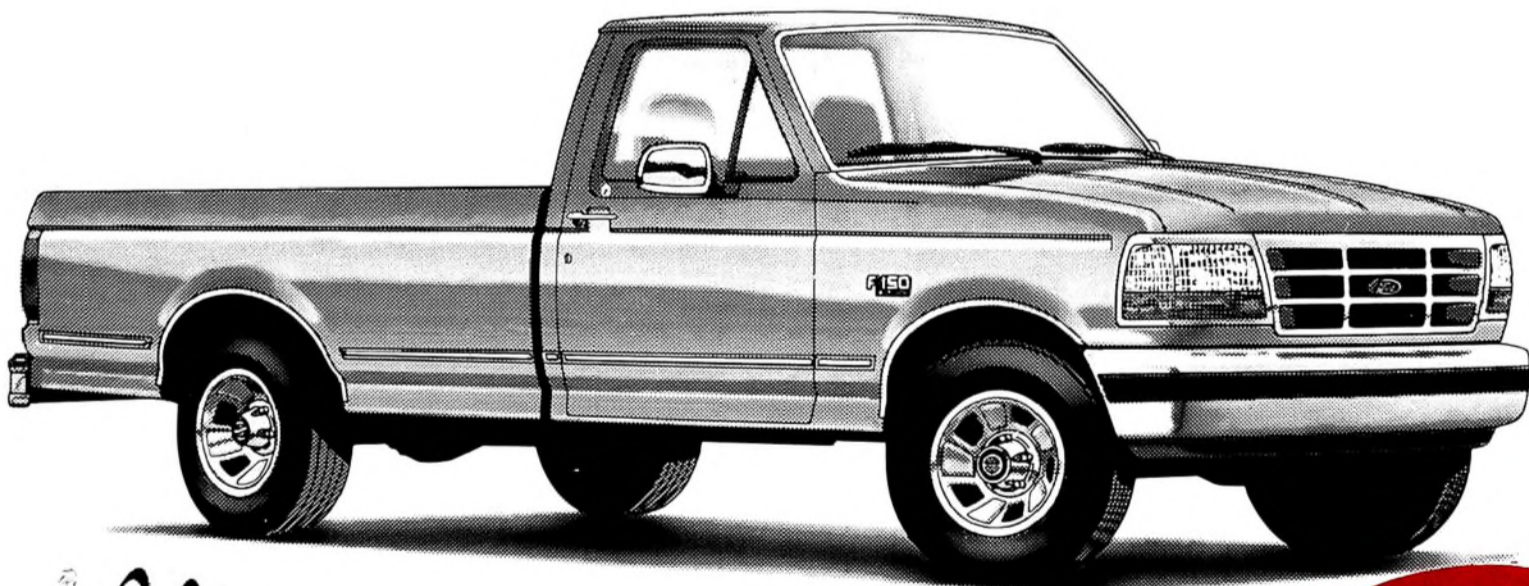


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# Dr. Nizar M. Ghanim: Versatility in the Age of Specialization

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

On my way to his clinic in Baghdad street, I wondered what Dr. Nizar Ghanim would look like. Would he be one of those amateur literates who write some verses now and then in their spare time, or would he be one of those genuine talents eagerly trying to show the real face of this fertile land, a person with a message to deliver. In his room, our conversation went on and on, covering arts, music, medicine and society, Qat, Orientalism, and free medical care for artists, writers and all 'creators.' The dialogue started on a superficial note, only to end deep in at the roots. This musical, encyclopedic, Renaissance man diagnosed everything in sight.

I must say, I liked what I found. Born in Aden, Dr. Ghanim has a degree in general medicine from Khartoum University. His career opened in Dubai, then continued in the UK where he gained an M.A in occupational medicine. Today he teaches medical ethics at Sana'a University's Medical College, as well as being a regular writer and poet.

Here are some excerpts from our interview:

**YT: Let's talk about beginnings, and how art and music entered your life?**

**NG:** Actually, I was born into an art-inspired family. My father, Dr. Mohammed Abdu Ghanim, is a reputed poet and musician. He used to recite his poems to us prior to their publication, enabling us to sense the magnificence of art and literature at an early age. I used to listen to him playing his Oud on the verandah, which made it easy for me to digest music when he started to teach me. I was brought up to realize the additional qualities that art and music bring to humanity. Two doctors can diagnose the same disease in a similar way, but no poets can write in the same style, even if their thoughts are identical.

**YT: Let's move on to serious literary activity.**

**NG:** My first poem published was in Khartoum. I was in high school, and loaded with all a teenager's emotions, seeking independence and assurance of my personality. I shyly presented the poem to an editor of "Alshabab wa Alriyadha" magazine. When it was published, I felt an overwhelming happiness and a sense of achievement.

**YT: The Sudan period seems important in your evaluation as a writer.**

**NG:** It is. Yemeni people have this unique feature of expatriation, and I was no exception. In Sudan I was the only Yemeni in the school, and faced a difficulty in forming relationships. Now I can say that I know half of the Sudanese people, while the other half know me. I dedicated myself to writing about Sudani-Yemeni bonds and relations; that was an obsession that led me to turn to the master of all sciences, history. Studying history enabled me to learn how to create the right basis for writing and how to derive conclusions that can help us to understand the present as well as the future. I utilized this knowledge in my book, "Between Sana'a and Khartoum", which was described by Dr. Abdulaziz Almqaleh as a unique historical document. So my first public address was through poetry and journalism, where I published some articles.

As the years have gone on, I have published six books altogether, as follows: "Roots of Yemeni song in the Depths of the Gulf", (1987) in contribution with Khalid Alqasimi of the UAE, "Between Sana'a and Khartoum" (1989), "Originality of the Arab Song" (1991), "Collapses of Expatriation" (Poetry collection, 1991), "Yemeni/Gulf Song between Originality and Modernity" (also with Khalid Alqasimi, 1993), and "Haminiyat ... Seda Sira" (Popular poetry ... Echo of Sira) (1993).

**YT: What about music?**

**NG:** In 1977, I recorded my first

song for Radio Sharjah under the title of "Amwaj". Its significance was due to my use of the Pentatonic scale of music, a distinction of East Asian and black African music. This musical scale is characterized by simplicity as well as having wide prospects. The Chinese were the first to use it (and still do), as well as black Africa (except North Africa), and even some parts of Europe and America, especially in children songs due to its simplicity in comparison with the world wide known scale of seven notes. Since then I have introduced 19 tunes as songs and written the words of three (Bint Beledy, Ashti Aqollik, and Qalbi Alek Meshgoul) for various radio stations such as Sana'a, Aden, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Um Al-Qeuwain, Kuwait, Swat Al-Arab, UM Derman, Holland and the Voice of America. I also introduced a 13 series programme on Radio Sana'a entitled "Between two Songs", selecting a popular Gulf song and comparing it with a Yemeni original.

**YT: What about future projects?**

**NG:** I was instructed by the research center to supervise and inspect research by orientologists into Yemeni music. As a local supervisor, I had the chance to discuss with reputable orientologists the history and peculiarities of Yemeni music. In my library I have a fine collection of references, among them Skiele, Lambert, Alisner, Habib Yemin, Shehrezad Qasim, and others.

I am now carrying out prolonged research under the title "Yemeni Studies on Medicine and Music", and "The Bridge of Conscience between Yemen and Sudan". The latter is much like the former, each constituting historical/cultural research in its own way.

My interest in such relations is due to my belief that Yemen is a limitless civilization, and that geographical borders are never civilization's borders. You can imagine what I mean when you realize that Himyaritic remains have been discovered in "Halayeb" (The disputed area between Egypt and Sudan). I demand those civilizational borders. We are almost sure now that the Arabization of Sudan and Islamization of Africa was mainly conducted through Yemen.

This intercourse always tends to create new cultural conditions, those rich, half-cast cultures. I read once that during the sixteenth century (the period of Portuguese occupation) there was a place in Alhashr town where an African band from the island of Lamu used to dance for six months, then be replaced by an Indian one for another six months, and so on.

We can see how this wonder land was a center of interacting civilizational. Music is an essential part of our and others history; searching for music is the search for the bright side of civilization. There are many paintings and inscriptions that prove the role of music in this line in pre- and post Islamic periods, as the antiques of



Yemeni National Museum in Sana'a show, especially the one that depicts a woman playing a Canara (Roman-Guitar like instrument) and a man listening. Alhamadani, in "Alaklil", mentions the cave in which a statue of a man and a woman are both playing music. The man, described as "the keeper of Aad", was metamorphosed into stone by the gods as a punishment for playing music. This cave has never been found, yet the story itself indicates a musical heritage. Travellers also spoke of the pre-Islamic kings of Yemen, Alaqyal (the Giants) of whom the last king was Bin Jeden (the one with the beautiful voice). There is also Umr bin Amir, who enjoyed listening to his poems being sung by his maids. We have the historian Mohammed Abu Bekr Alfarsi, who lived and died in Aden and wrote two books on music that were never found, and the kings of the Resolian period in Taiz, who were, like Almdhaffar, doctors and artists. In that period the theories of Yemeni music first evolved, but unfortunately no manuscripts have been found, in spite of indications by the great British historian and Yemenophile Robert Seargent (who passed away last May), and Abdullah Alhubaishy, Hussain Alurny and others, who indicated the existence of such manuscripts in various world museums.

**YT: Lets talk about the clinic**

**NG:** Let me say that the free clinic for artists, writers and other similar members of society is a private initiative. We are a group of 15 doctors who have agreed to provide free treatment services to this section of society on a certain day of the week out of the feeling that this section gives more than it takes, and in order to heal broken relations between the Yemeni people and their doctors, often described as vampires by the media. We are trying to prove we are not, and relations are improving. The infection has reached Aden, where the brilliant Dr. Hussain Alqaf is running a similar project with a group of doctors. Being a specialist in occupational medicine, I can understand the unique problems this section faces. 25% of them suffer from psychological disturbance, 1% of them from mental ones; many of them are alcohol addicts. There is no reason to be shy when tackling the truth. Then comes the most destructive of all, the Qat, this poisonous tree that inspires lies, bribery, falsehood, aberration,

and perversion. The time and spirit wasted in hours of chewing is unbelievable; the legendary lies attached thereto are horrible, especially those that combine with manhood, power and superiority. Getting rid of this fatal plant is a necessity. We are ready to provide treatment here, even in the form of "weaning", for those willing to get rid of this notorious habit. We can prove to them that a man can still be a man with full physical and mental potential, like every man elsewhere in the world. Every developing nation has common factors of backwardness, yet we have a unique addition; we have this prevalence of the psychopathic character, this dangerous, irreversible character that enjoys tormenting others. Such characters spring up all around the world, but elsewhere they are in prison, warehouses or in quarantine. Here, they are responsible people with authority. I call on all Yemeni intellectuals to fight this psychopathic character for the sake of our beloved Yemen. I'm not naming any one in particular, I'm talking about a wide sample. We have to set an example for others to follow, such as that set by Dr. Abdulkarim Alqirbi when he prohibited Qat in the Ministry of Education: he started by giving it up himself. Such examples would be the first step of reform, and I consider the formation of a party of "Transcendental Morals" a necessity. I would be the first to join. I'm privileged to have an opportunity to plead this through the Yemen Times.

**YT: Any calls for the government?**

**NG:** I want to say that we have initiated our project with no governmental aid and with very limited resources, but that even a limited governmental effort could achieve miracles. The private sector has helped us a lot. Many have provided medicine free of charge; Shahir Abdulahq, Mohammed Abed Rabu, Adhban, and others, just to name a few. By the way, a similar project is being run by the Yemeni lawyer Abdulaziz Baghdadi in the field of law suits, which shows the recognition of Yemeni lawyers to the role of the arts in society. I'm calling all local and foreign organizations to put their hands in ours, and to hold conferences and symposia with us to help us solve our age-old problems. Let's start with population control, the role of women, and other pressing problems. I know the UNDP is interested in population control, and so is the Dutch Development Program, so why shouldn't we work together to achieve those goals?

In a similar manner, though in another direction, I would like to say that the Ford Foundation is currently negotiating with us the establishment of an exclusive archive for popular art heritage, in the same way they have done in Egypt and Sudan. The initiative is present in our society, yet team work is what is required to achieve our greatest dreams.



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الجمهورية اليمنية  
Rep. of Yemen

# The Sickly Riyal: What Is With It?

By: Ameen Nouisser, Economic Editor.

"The Riyal is sick, and its sickness is affecting all our lives," with those words Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Director of the Economic Division of the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research (YCSR), kicked off a round-table of experts and bankers on June 28th, 1993. The first speaker at the round-table was Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Finance at Sanaa University and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Economic Society. "We have a major structural disequilibrium that has created a triple deficit in the economic system," he began. "The chronic budgetary deficit, which last year (1992) was more than 25% of GDP, is the first of three deficits. The second is the balance of payments deficit which is basically a trade problem as Yemen's exports are in no way able to finance its imports. Finally, we have a savings deficit or a negative savings structure. Society's total expenditures (on consumption and investments) are far more than its total income. In the past, Gross National Savings were positive (while Gross Domestic Savings were negative) because of the inflow of remittances," he said. Dr. Saif Al-Asaly, assistant-

professor at the Economic Department of Sanaa University, then picked up the ball. "We have to look into the various bottlenecks that plague our production possibility curve," he said. Unless the little problems are sorted out, then the Riyal will continue to fall. The third speaker was Dr. Mutahhar Al-Saeedi, Vice Minister of Planning and Development. "This issue has its origins in the 1970s. In those days, the Yemeni economy was integrated, via the outflux of hundreds of thousands of workers, with the economies of the oil-rich countries. Thus, our factor costs were distorted. Capital became relatively cheap, and labor relatively expensive. This determined the consumption and investment patterns," he said. The fourth speaker was Abdullah M. Al-Olufi, Director-General of the Banking Control Division at the Central Bank of Yemen. "We cannot expect the monetary institutions to do a job that requires all parties to join hands," he began. The Central Bank cannot even come up with an appropriate interest rate structure. "For example, we know we have a negative interest rate. But which bank will accept deposits if we ask them to pay, say, 30% or more percent in interest on deposits? You realize they

can't find acceptable borrowers to the deposits," he said. Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari, Vice Minister of Fisheries, put the blame squarely on the consumption pattern and the over-dependence of our society on imported goods and services. "When almost everything we consume is imported, then we must expect a major imbalance in foreign trade. This is the primary reason for the depreciation in the value of the Riyal," he added. Dr. Mohamed Al-Maamari of the Economic Division of the YCSR played on an old tune. "The main reason for the fall in the Riyal is the integration of the Yemeni economy with the world market. This is the root-cause of the problem," he said. He used the dependency theory analysis in his approach. Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami

said the reason for the fall in value of the Riyal was primarily because of the Central Bank's willingness to continuously pump fiat money into the system. "The rate of growth of the money supply by far outstrips the growth of the economy. Hence the high inflation rate and the subsequent fall in the value of the Riyal," he indicated. He urged for a strong monetary policy to combat this phenomenon. Mr. Hassan Al-Zubeiri, Vice Chairman of the Yemeni Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, stated that attention should be focused on the over-all economic well-being of the country, rather than just on the value of the currency. "These things are linked. Unless we can encourage more investments and create more jobs, not much can be done at the monetary level," he argued.

Year	Money Supply	Central Bank Loans to the Government	Net Foreign Assets of Banking System
1987	33,743.3	33,975.7	3,864.4
1988	35,832.2	40,200.6	1,375.6
1989	37,449.8	44,478.2	1,153.3
1990	62,997.4	74,913.7	6,324.2
1991	79,340.6	82,252.7	6,029.5
1992	95,054.6	104,818.3	1,177.0

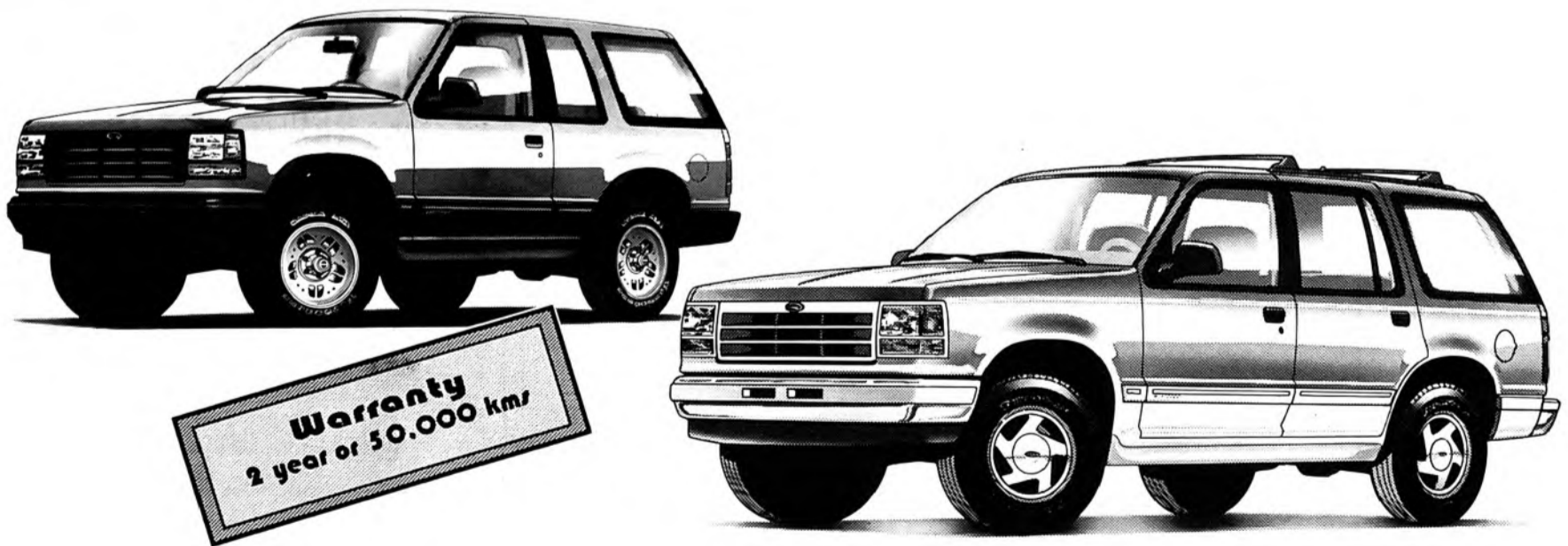
Note: All amounts in millions of current Riyals.

## Business Clips:

\* Last week, Mr. Chopra, Director of EMENA Division at the World Bank paid a visit to the Republic of Yemen. During the visit he tried to reach an agreement with Yemeni officials regarding the structural adjustments needed to rescue the Yemeni economy. "We will be happy to discuss any ideas or packages towards corrective steps," he was told over and over. "But, of course, you know that the (new Al-Attas) government is formulating its program which will be presented to parliament. Once that is done and approved, then any ideas and suggestions will be welcomed." The Yemeni side has simply bought more time. According to informed sources, negotiations regarding adjustment needs were scheduled at the turn of the last decade. But then Yemen got into unification process, and the international organizations did not want to add any more difficulties to the process. Two years later, the IMF/World Bank teams came back to negotiate application of the needed recipe. But Yemen was approaching its elections, and the IMF/World Bank did not want to take the blame for cancelling or postponing the elections. Last week, they were here. An amused delegation member chuckled at the serialization of excuses the Yemeni officials were presenting to postpone taking the medicine needed to salvage the economy. "Sooner or later, you will have to bite the bullet," he said. The IMF/World Bank recipe calls for a depoliticization of the economy by putting qualified people to the posts, rather than placing politically loyal individuals. It also calls for reducing the budget deficit and government consumption. The recipe finally calls for a correct monetary policy in terms of re-alignment of the interest-rate structure and the exchange rate of the Riyal. An over-inflated bureaucracy will also have to be deflated, and an inefficient public sector will have to be privatized. To achieve those goals, a large IMF/World Bank delegation is scheduled to arrive in Yemen in August to spend two weeks to negotiate the steps and decisions necessary to correct the distortions in the economy. But in August, the country will be busy with its constitutional amendments and the election of a president and vice-president. \* Crush, the soft drink recently introduced in Yemen is already commanding a significant portion of the market. According to Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Salam Shamsan, General Manager of the Crush plant, the company has studied the market thoroughly, and put together a campaign to make sure the product makes a strong entry into the market. Alongwith the more famous Canada Dry, the two products of the Shamsan group dominate the soft-drink market.

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• Analysis •

**"Good Luck, Mr. Ali Izzat Bigovitch!"**

**An Open Letter to President Ali Izzat Bigovitch of Bosnia-Herzegovina.**

Individuals as well as groups and societies in the world community strongly deplore the atrocities committed against your people. It is indeed sad that a world which is getting set to leap into the twenty-first century should exercise this kind of savagery, and, of all places, in Europe.

I also take this occasion to congratulate you and your colleagues on your cool-headed and pragmatic interaction with these developments. I make it a point to urge you to continue this policy, which has gained you the respect of the world as a wise leader and has attracted more sympathy and understanding for your case and point of view.

It would be ideal to safeguard the territorial integrity

of Bosnia-Herzegovina in evolving its identity and statehood. But if this evolution is resisted by the Bosnian Serbs and Croats, there is very little that can be done about it. I urge you and the Muslims of Bosnia to consider the possibility of establishing an independent entity just for yourselves. I am sure you are aware that Europe is steadily headed towards accepting the division of Bosnia, and it looks like the next round of talks will address "how to do that", rather than "whether to do it."

The odds have been, and continue to be, high against the Bosnian Muslims. It would be suicidal to continue to fight off the Serbs and Croats at the same time, and against the backdrop of a hostile Balkan region, a partial West, an oblivious Muslim World, and a blinded UN Security Council.

Even the Vienna Human Rights Declaration of June 24th has no meaning. You will please realize that the 54 abstentions in that vote represent the "Western" nations,

thus leaving the 88 country majority to represent a meaningless paper record of the event.

If we analyze the positions of the leading world powers, this is the picture:

1. Russia is openly supportive of the Serbs.
2. Britain and France continue to vacillate, putting one foot in each camp - a game they have perfected through years of real *geopolitik*.
3. Germany appears to be on your side, but it is unable to do much alone.
4. The USA is sympathetic but it is not willing to antagonize others for your cause.
5. China and Japan are indifferent.

The Arab and Muslim Governments, many of them beholden to the West, are unable to offer you much. Yet the Muslim peoples and the world community vehemently support you and are looking for ways to help you. I write this letter to urge you and the leadership of Bosnia to keep the following objectives as your top priorities. First, to understand the *real-*

*politik* of the situation and continue to interact with it tactfully. Second, to maintain an outlet corridor to the sea for the Bosnian state. Third, to urge that the Bosnian leadership remain always united, and exercise democratic principles within its system. Fourth, to remember that the "New World Order" is not yet in order.

Meanwhile, I pray that the world's leading powers wake up to their responsibilities to act fairly and to stop further genocide by the Serbs and Croats against the Bosnian people simply because they are different. The atrocities against the Bosnian Muslims are a disgrace to Christian civilization, and a shame to the Muslim peoples. It is unfortunate that the long-awaited Vance-Owen plan was not implemented by Europe and/or the UN Security Council.

Respectfully,  
**Ismail Al-Noaman,**  
Advisor, Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources,  
Former Yemeni Ambassador to the United Nations.

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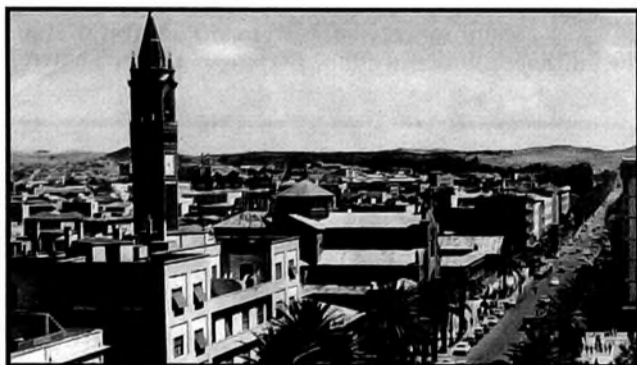
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