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Yemeni Intellectuals and the Masses Mourn the Deceased Mohammed Ali Al-Rabadi:

A HERO HAS DIED!

THANK YOU, Mr. President!

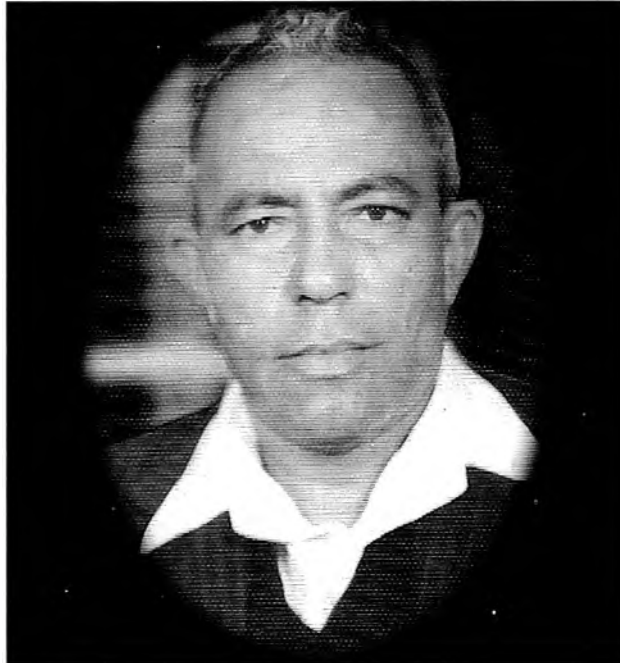
The Union of Sanaa and Aden Universities notified the Yemen Times that Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, has given his instructions to freeze any construction or processing of deeds by the people who are trying to chop-up part of the Sanaa University Campus.

The President was quoted as emphatically stating that he had not given orders for anybody to take ownership of any part of the Sanaa University Campus, and that "he is opposed to chopping-up any part of the Campus." The Yemen Times had raised this issue about one month ago (June 13, Issue No. 23) and which has since created a furor among the Yemeni public.

The Yemen Times would like to express its gratitude and deep appreciation for the President of the Republic for coming on the side of the university and against the cronies whose appetite for illegal wealth has made them disrespectful of any norms and values.

We would like to think that this is a first step in the fight against corruption in the Republic, and in opposing corrupt individuals and groups whatever their positions in society.

Once again, thank you Mr. President, and rest assured that you will find us on your side in your fight against corruption.



Mr. Mohammad Ali Al-Rabadi, literary man, poet, intellectual, educator, and mosque preacher died of a heart attack on July 5th. Al-Rabadi, 57, was a symbol of the untainted Yemeni official, of the patriot who struggled for Yemen, and above all, of a leader of the opposition who fought against a corrupt ion.

Al-Rabadi was recently elected member of parliament in Ibb.

Family members and friends say that he suffered from a heart attack, the third in recent months, following a meeting with the President of the Republic in Taiz on June 28th. Al-Rabadi had criticized the tolerance of corruption and oppression in the regime. During the president's visit to Ibb city on Sunday, June 27th, Rabadi told firmly stated that corruption and oppression represent the real evil in Yemen. Mr. Al-Rabadi, always known for his outspoken and frank nature, created a tense atmosphere in the Ibb meeting with the president. The next day, Monday June 28th, he was invited by the president to Taiz for more consultations and talks. That same night upon his return to Ibb, he had the stroke.

For five days (three days in Ibb and two days in Sanaa), he lay unconscious until he died on Saturday night, July 3rd. The President had offered to fly him out on his private plane, but his condition was too bad to allow such a step. Yemen mourns the death of one of its dear sons. May his soul rest in peace.

More details on page 16



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French Pages 14+15



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Mohammed Ali Haitham Died

On Friday, July 9th, Mohammed Ali Haitham, Minister of Pensions and Social Affairs, died of a heart attack in Sanaa.

Mr. Haitham had been Interior Minister in the first post-independent government of former South Yemen (1967), and then took over as Prime Minister in 1969. By 1971, he left due to the power struggle in Aden.

Upon unification, he returned to Sanaa where he joined the General Committee of the People's General Congress. Later on, he became member of the Supreme Elections Committee, and was recently named Minister in Yemen's first post-elections government.

May his soul rest in peace.

Omani Minister Bin Alawi:

"The code word is 'Be Realistic'."

The Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi, threw cold water on a number of traditional Arab concepts and beliefs.

"This is a different world, and we have to come to terms with the realities and changes," the Minister repeatedly said.

With respect to the boycott of Israel, the Omani minister said a thorough review of this tool is necessary - within the Arab league forum. "The boycott, in its present form, is neither practical nor in the interest of the Arabs," he explained.

Oman, always seen as the master player in international politics in light of its piercing insight and down-to-earth policies, once again displays its talent. The Omani minister lashed at the efforts to present the Arab bloc as one or even as able to exercise much influence in a world guided by politico / military / economic power.

"We have to always keep a realistic view of our potential as well as that of the parties with which we deal."

The Omani Minister who was

responding to questions from the floor, also criticized the fact that, "while Arab and Muslim circles continue to make a lot of noise regarding the economic blockage of Iraq, it is non-Arab and non-Muslim organizations and circles that have provided whatever little assistance Iraq has been receiving."

Minister Bin Alawi also stressed that the realities of today dictate that Yemen return to the fold of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf, and that "Yemen is doing all it can to achieve this goal."

He urged the other countries of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf to see light and interact with the Yemenis overtures. "The exchange of visits by Foreign Ministers between Yemen and the Gulf states is already a good sign," he pointed out.

With respect to the Yemeni-Saudi border talks, the Omani official expressed hope that they lead to a successful conclusion. "Yemen and Saudi Arabia do not any third party to intervene and help them

achieve such a goal. They can and they will do it on their own," he said.

He was extremely happy and satisfied with his talks in Yemen, and that the two countries saw eye-to-eye regarding on all the issues raised during the talks.

The Minister disclosed that the two countries have set up two joint committees - the first a committee to coordinate political position chaired by the two foreign ministers, and the second a committee to encourage trade and joint investments, chaired by the two trade ministers.

"We have agreed to construct a road connecting the two countries so as to encourage exchange of goods and services. We are now looking at many other projects," he indicated.

Finally Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi had a lot of praise for the country's democratic and open political system, which he said is bound to help make Yemen grow and gain the respect of others.

The Minister talked of plans for regular bilateral meetings.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

PRODUCING THE YEMEN TIMES

The hassles and troubles involved in producing a newspaper anywhere in the world are enormous. But the task becomes a 'Herculean' one when it comes to the Yemen Times, for three reasons.

1. The Yemen Times is seen by officialdom as an opposition newspaper which is out to expose the system's shortcomings. Thus, the authorities would do "anything" to stop it.
2. It is not supported, in any way, by any political party and it is not "protected" by any organized or established force. It has no patron.
3. It has no massive resources on which to fall back on to carry out its work.

That is why, from the very beginning, the paper oriented itself towards the market. It aimed to provide a viable product to the reader, and, by extension, to society, which would then become the "backing" for the paper. And, thank God that society, in spite of officialdom's negative attitude, has come through.

Today the Yemen Times is a thriving newspaper. We shall celebrate the next anniversary of the September Revolution by introducing the following major improvements.

1. We will grow to 20 pages.
2. We will introduce full color.
3. We will set-up computer units equipped with a TV reception/filtering system that will snatch any picture that is aired on local or international satellite TV broadcasts. Instead of taking pictures of our interviewees, we will video them and then choose the best shot Yemen Times will thus break still more new ground in the local and regional media.

We think the Yemen Times is providing a good and meaningful service to society. We really don't care what officialdom thinks about us. We take our cue from the market. And our reading of the market is that it is saying, "Bravo!" Producing the Yemen Times is a very difficult, demanding, and trying task. But we like the challenge, and we like even more the great satisfaction of getting the job done.

We ask the readers to guide us in this effort. Please tell us what you think of the paper. Your suggestions and feedback are much appreciated.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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AIDS IN YEMEN

Mr. Ahmad Al-Makradi, Deputy Director of Yemen's AIDS program, says 60 cases have been reported of those infected with AIDS or the HIV virus.

Most victims became infected while in the Gulf or Saudi Arabia, while some caught the virus while studying/travelling in Europe. There have been several cases amongst Somalis and other refugees of African origin.

Three deaths have been reported. The first, a Somali woman, died in Aden in May. The second, an Ethiopian man, died two weeks ago while the third, a Yemeni man, died on July 5th.

The Ministry of Health is planning a community and media campaign to promote public awareness of AIDS. This will aim to get the message across while allowing for social sensitivity.

AERIAL SPRAYING UNDERWAY

A helicopter sent from Addis Ababa via Djibouti arrived in Aden on Wednesday, July 7th. KLM flew in spare parts and maintenance equipment, and after servicing the helicopter was at last able to begin spraying.

Two helicopters are being brought in to spray in the locust-infested areas of Yemen.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTERS OF CREDENCE OF 3 AMBASSADORS

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh received on Tuesday, July 6th the letters of credence of three new ambassadors in Sanaa. These are Ambassador Kyu Tai CHO of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Ahmed Bin Sidi of the Mauritanian Islamic Republic, and Ambassador Mahmood Ali Jubra of the Republic of Eritrea.

OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER IN TOWN

H.E. Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the fraternal Sultanate of Oman left Sanaa on Friday, July 9th following a three-day official visit to the Republic of Yemen.

During the two day visit, the Minister delivered a letter to Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh Chairman of the Presidential Council from HM Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed.

In the official talks between Yemen and Oman, the two sides compared notes regarding their positions on various regional and international issues.

WORLD BANK FINANCES FAMILY PROJECT

A family project worth SDRs 18.8 million (\$26.6 million) was signed in Washington DC on Wednesday July 7th.

According to the terms of the loan agreement, the World Bank will put up the money to finance equipment and services for maternity wards, child-care units, and other facilities relevant to mother and child care.

The five-year project is expected to achieve marked improvement in the child delivery and care services in the clinics scattered all over the country.

The Government of Yemen will provide an additional \$3 million to the project.

836,215 ILLITERATES ASKED FOR HELP TO FILL UP VOTING SLIPS

The technical sub-committee estimates the number of persons who asked for help to fill up the election slips was 836,215 persons, according to Mr. Mohammed Hussain Al-Fareh, Director of the sub-committee. This amounts to 37% of the total votes. Other estimates have put the total number of illiterates at over 55%.

At another level, Mr. Al-Fareh pointed out that the screening committees have nullified 38,612 votes or some 1.7% of the votes.

The election official insisted that the elections would have been more fair and representative if the system had employed the system of symbols, thus guaranteeing full secrecy and the independent decision of the illiterate voters.

JEWISH YEMENIS LEAVE IN RISING NUMBERS

The 2000 or so Jewish Yemenis are leaving the country in rising numbers. Already the villages of Khaidoon and Wadi Abu Jibara, both at the outskirts of Saada, have been virtually depopulated.

Over the last month, some 100 persons have migrated to Israel, via Europe or the USA. The Yemeni government, under the freedom of travel that the constitution guarantees to all citizens, has been issuing all Yemeni nationals, including Jewish Yemenis, passports and other travel documents.

More Jewish Yemenis are sitting on their baggage waiting for their turn to leave.

CIRCUS IS ON

A large group of international actors and clowns are gathered in Sanaa for what is planned as a one-month circus show. "The animals are still arriving," explained Mr. Soaib Iqbal, the manager.

The show is carried out once a day during weekdays with multiple shows over the weekends. Located at the Maidan Assabeen park at the southern end of Sanaa city, the line of persons who queue at the entry ticket box is getting longer and longer.

"We are happy with the response, and we think the Yemeni audience is very good to the actors and animals," explained Shoaib, a Pakistani national.

The circus is a good break for kids and families.

FAMILY PLANNING AND ISLAM

The second conference under the theme "Family Planning and Islam" was held in Taiz during 6-8/7/1993.

A number of theologians, economists, doctors, and other participants are gathered to study how to bring the two together.

Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Kareem Ba-Alawi, Director General of the Health Office in Taiz Governorate, stressed the need for more and continued awareness in the ethical, religious and medical aspects of family planning.

"Islami is not opposed to family planning. It, in fact, supports it," confirmed Governor Mohammed Al-Iryani, who kicked off the conference.

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Salinas Keen to Cement Trade Deal with the US and Canada

As the clock ticks towards Mexico's 1994 elections, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari is racing to cement a trade agreement with the United States and Canada that he feels will guarantee prosperity for Mexico and victory for his long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Salinas wants the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) ratified by the legislatures of the three signatory countries by 1st January, 1994, in order to lock the accord in place and ensure that his hand-picked successor continues the liberal economic policies and political rapprochement with Washington that has characterized his presidency.

Although the PRI has controlled the presidency for 11 six-year terms, even hand-picked successors have been known to veer wildly from the policies of their predecessors.

Since his election, Salinas has introduced massive economic reform and privatization, including the sale to a foreign consortium of the country's phone system. And he has achieved results: Mexico, once an economic basket case, has slashed inflation, increased economic growth and boosted foreign investment.

Despite renewed talks on three ancillary agreements, Nafta has been stalled by a seriously divided Clinton administration and the change of government in Canada.

The actual 2,000-page treaty was signed last December by then US president George Bush, former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney, and Salinas. The Bush administration had planned to submit the treaty to the US Congress for ratification by this spring. Clinton's victory derailed the timetable.

In Canada, the Mulroney government pushed to use its majority in parliament to ratify the agreement before a general election. Despite polls indicating that half Canada's voters reject Nafta, debate has been limited to just six hours on the floor of parliament.

Two Canadian opposition parties, together favored to win an overall parliamentary majority from Mulroney's Conservatives, have pledged to reopen talks on the treaty.

In Mexico too, politics could disrupt the well-laid plans of the free-traders. Salinas must name his successor by the beginning of 1994 - presidential elections are scheduled for August - but he does not want to do so until the fate of Nafta is assured. The rival left-center party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) has already chosen its candidate - Cuauhtemoc Cardenas.

Many Mexicans believe Cardenas beat Salinas in 1988 only to have the election stolen from him. He is an outspoken critic of Nafta in its present form.

Talks on three ancillary agreements requested by the Clinton administration began in Mexico City in April. Four rounds of talks are planned on parallel accords dealing with labor, the environment, and safeguards against import surges.

Heading the US negotiating team is trade representative Mickey Kantor, a Hollywood lawyer with little experience in Latin America. He has taken a hardnosed stance, advocating tripartite labor and environmental commissions empowered to subpoena records and sanction corporations and governments for violations of labor and environmental standards.

He has also asked for revisions in the Mexican legal process to give US environmentalists and business people standing in Mexican courts.

The Salinas government is unhappy to be sitting at the table still negotiating what it thought was a done deal when

George Bush was president. It says it will not reopen the original agreement or agree to any legal revisions that violate its national sovereignty.

Chief negotiator Jaime Serra Puche also says Mexico will accept "no protectionist measures disguised as environmental and labor rules. Just how steadfast Serra Puche will be is open to question.

The Mexican government is spending millions of dollars to lobby members of the US Congress for speedy ratification. A US government accounting indicates that the Salinas government has paid out \$50 million to North American firms to win passage, at least \$13 million for Washington lobbyists and public relations experts.

This is about what Kuwait spent to convince US legislators to vote in favor of joining the Gulf war on its behalf three years ago. PRI control of the Mexican legislative process guarantees ratification of the treaty here and the opposition's prospects for turning back Nafta now appear to rest solely on what the US Congress will decide. In an effort to counter Salinas' lobbying campaign, PRD leaders have been beating a steady path to the US to express their rejection of Nafta.

PRD second-in command Munoz Ledo and party economist Dr. Ifigenia Martinez toured the eastern US in April, demanding a human rights component to Nafta, a theme echoed at a Princeton University conference by Cardenas, who warned that passage of the agreement would perpetuate the PRI's undemocratic domination of Mexican politics.

It is being pointed out that human rights protections were included in agreements leading to the integration of the European Community. Spain, Portugal, and Greece were all required to democratize their political institution before being admitted.

But success in conditioning trade agreements on improvements in the practice of democracy has been measured in the US.

The Bush administration repeatedly vetoed congressional attempts to deny China Preferred trade status on human rights grounds, following the Tiananmen Square protests.

The bottom line on Nafta for the Clinton administration is much the same as for its predecessor - political stability in Mexico, a condition that appears to mean continued PRI rule, perpetuated as it is by recurring electoral fraud.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, does not disguise his view that Salinas' PRI is Washington's best hope. Asked by reporters why Nafta was so urgent, he responded with one word: "Salinas."

The Clinton administration asked the US Court of Appeals on Friday to reverse a federal judge's order blocking the proposed free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. The Clinton administration asked the US Court of Appeals on Friday to reverse a federal judge's order blocking the proposed free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. The Clinton administration asked the US Court of Appeals on Friday to reverse a federal judge's order blocking the proposed free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada.

It asked the appellate court to act before the end of August. The administration told the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia any delay beyond then "would irretrievably undermine" President Clinton's promise to put the Nafta into force by 1st January and cause "irreparable harm to the United States.

Nigerians Headed for Turmoil

The prospects for a peaceful transition from military to civilian rule suffered a setback following the rejection of the 12th June election results by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of General Ibrahim Babangida and its call for a new election to replace the poll annulled last month.

"We told General Babangida that we are opposed to a fresh elections," the official SDP spokesman, Ramos Idakula, said.

Babangida told representatives of the two major parties that the government would not go back on its decision to organize a fresh election.

Meetings between the president and opposition were suspended because SDP representatives asked for time to consult on the issue, Idakulla said.

SDP officials who met at Benin City, capital of the southern Edo state, decided to oppose a re-election bid and called on Nigerians to boycott it.

The other political party involved, the conservative National Republican Convention (NRC), has come out in favor of holding a fresh election, as it did not do well in the June elections.

Several Nigerian human rights organizations, along with student and the career women's representatives, called earlier this month on the government to uphold the 12 June election, judged by local and international observers as free and fair.

These rights organizations, operating under the umbrella of the Campaign for Democracy (CD), have concluded a week of national protest, which began on 5th July, during which all essential professional groups in the country went on strike in a bid to have the SDP candidate, Chief Masood Kashimawo Abiola, declared the election winner.

CD chairman Beko Ransome-Cuti and Mike Ozekhome, another human rights activist, were arrested on Friday (July 2nd) to abort or minimize the effect of the demonstrations.

"The arrest is meant to scuttle the peaceful protest, but that action has not deterred us from going ahead," CD Secretary-General Chima Ubani said.

Thousands of students have staged many anti-government demonstrations day in and day out in Lagos, Kwara, Oyo, Osun and Ogun states, and in various other regions of the country, in protest at the annulment of the 12th June election.

The army itself, long under the grip of the president, is beginning to show signs of division and chaos.

Theophilus Danjuma, chief of army staff during 1975-79, has joined last week the ranks of retired Nigerian officers critical of General Ibrahim Babangida's handling of elections to restore civilian rule. He was widely quoted in local and international newspapers blaming president Babangida for the political crisis that has gripped Nigeria since the government nullified last month's elections.

Unfortunately, Nigeria looks headed for major internal strife. The three leading political parties have agreed to work together in setting up a transitional government, for the time being, until a solution is found for the present deadlock. The details are being worked out, although General Babangida is more than willing to let the SDP chief, Masood Kashimawo serve as Prime Minister.

What is the purpose of the transitional government, and what its terms are, is still unknown. In the meanwhile, the young people who are out of schools are adding to an already excited urban population. The next few days will be critical for the country as a whole.



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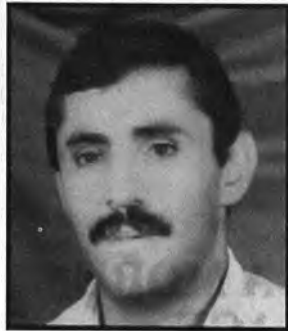
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Self-Help Cleaning in the Neighborhood: A Sanaa "NGO" Leads the Way...

By: Ismail Al-ghabri,
Yemen Times.

"It suddenly dawned on us. We can't get the help we need from the government. If the quality of life in our neighborhood is to improve, we have to do it ourselves." So stated Mr. Ateeq

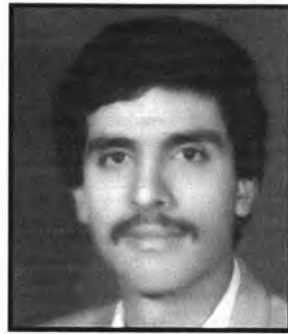


Yahia Sabir, the Chairman of the Azal Social Welfare Association. As the difficulties mounted, a group of young men, under the guidance of their elders, met in the old city of Sanaa. One of the most pressing issues was garbage dumps, which have become a source of bad smell, diseases, and a lot of other problems.

After many deliberations, the people of the Old City of Sanaa decided to form a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to attend to the needs of the neighborhood.

"We started our work around the beginning of the year," explained Mr. Sabir. "The

basic thrust of our work is that if we want to control our neighborhood and lives better, we have to take initiatives. The government is clearly unable to do anything for us, and the politicians have their own priorities. So we started self-help efforts to clean our neighborhood, bring sense to the garbage disposal arrangements, traffic system, and even caring for the elderly and weaker members of the neighborhood. We are holding regular meetings to increase awareness among the residents of the neighborhood that they, and not the government, is responsible for the neighborhood and that they can make a difference if



they are willing to do something about it," explained Ateeq. Another young man added that some limited was also useful. Mr. Abdul-Malik Mohammed Mutahhar, who serves as the



Secretary-General of the Association, indicated that as the school-year was coming to a close, many of the residents remembered the problems associated with having large groups of young boys and girls idle doing nothing.

"We decided to form teams or groups of work. Each street of the neighborhood to be charged to a group. We will provide the tools, and some token money. We have regular inspectors who visit the streets weekly to check which is the cleanest. At the end of the summer, we will give a prize to the group with the best record," said Mr. Mutahhar.

"The idea is to help plant in the minds of the people that they are in charge of the neighborhood, and not some official who sits in an office overwhelmed with his own personal ambitions, and who may never set foot in our neighborhood," Mutahhar concluded.

I met with some of the work groups and was surprised at their willingness to do hard work for non-financial returns. Their morals were high, and they felt they were doing something important.

The environmental, social and economic implications of this model are, of course, enormous.

Yet the Azal Social Welfare Association is denied the basic support that the Ministry of Social Affairs grants to similar organizations. As a result, the association raises funds through contributions from the residents as well as any person willing to support them. The Yemen Times provided a small donation of YR 5000, and we take this opportunity to ask those who can support this initiative do so.

"There are other things we are now looking into. The local clinic, at Souq Al-Baqar, is

closed. We will take measures to open it to the public and start providing the service. We are cooperating with the Old Sanaa Preservation and Maintenance efforts to stop the decay that has crept into some of the buildings. We are interested in promoting artisanry and other cottage industry such as embroidery, silverware, etc. And finally, we are bringing a new spirit of belonging and team work to the neighborhood. I feel these are the real meaning of democracy - for people to have more control over their lives," explained Mr. Sabir eloquently.

Yemen Times learnt that OSys (Office Systems of Yemen) has made another small contribution of YR 5000 to the association, pledged to continue its support and urged others to follow suit.

...

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THE AMERICAN ASSAULT ON BAGHDAD

The latest American assault on Baghdad, which caused a number of civilian casualties, represents an act of piracy and has created a new concept of terrorism.

The question is, does it represent a feature in the policy of the New World Order? Many questions will be asked after what has happened, and, whatever the justifications might be, human aspiration leans towards ending all the tension, wars, and oppressions of man. The new policy should lay the foundations of human rights. In this respect, the military missile attack was not a civilized way of dealing with the issue; the attack went against human rights, peace, and world stability, particularly in the Gulf region.

The justification claimed of an assassination attempt on the former President George Bush should not give the new administration the right to bomb civilians - women, children and the elderly. How are we going to justify the American standpoint, and that of its allies, over the killing of thousands of civilians in Bosnia, Palestine, Somalia and elsewhere? We do not want to reach the conclusion that such actions reflect the trend of the new administration, as offering our peoples this idea would presuppose a tendency to normalize the assaults, intimidation, sabotage and piracy which some of them suffer today.

Analyzing the American standpoint reveals some strange contradictions. From our side, it refuses, blames, and forbids all kinds of terrorism. From its own, it encourages and practices terrorism. It is a dual standard policy. We hold the USA responsible for spreading the fever of terrorism in the region.

Editorial,
Sawt Al-Ummal, Aden,
1/7/1993.

CHATTERBOX

Are we acting in a play? What has happened to the constitution? After saying "Yes" to the constitution, they have put it on the shelf without applying it, since the transitional period was governed by a unified agreement, and not by the constitution. After the parliamentary elections, however, they began to talk about the constitution but forget that the people voted "Yes" in the referendum. Those who attempt to make certain amendments to the constitution are removed from democracy. It is certain that some senior officials have noticed chaos, indifference, corruption, assassinations, robbery, hiking prices and other ills. They believed the shortcomings were in the constitution, and that there was no hope of any remedy except by amending the constitution. They forgot that they refused reforms. Reform means a loss of interests, and a reduction of influence.

Was the referendum a sort of luxury item, or was it a play? Any amendment belittles the will of all those who said "Yes", and that is nothing to do with democracy

Abdu Hussein Ahmad,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
30/6/1993.

EXCEEDING THE CONSTITUTION

A wave of seminars has been activated in Sana'a and Aden, all flowing with the current: the amendment of the constitution before it is officially put before parliament. This national consciousness, which we hope will spread to include all the governments, forms a significant focus for the opposition on the means of returning to legitimacy and compliance with the constitution. What we need after the election process is the application of the constitution in word and spirit. The rulers have no right to continue the Presidential Council for two months, as the constitution gives this right to an elected council from parliament only, and not from any other section. They have extended the period for five months, with the consensus of politicians.

In our estimation the violation of legitimacy has been at the foundation for the transitional period in all its procedures. We want to direct our legislators attending those seminars to make a comparison between the constitution of unity and changes in the political bloc, so as to create and lay down a foundation for legitimacy.

Article 129 of the constitution gave the Presidential Council the right to propose 'amendments' to articles, without mentioning the causes which led to these amendments.

The speaker, Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, recently declared that any amendments should deal with the stated articles after mentioning the causes, without adding any new articles. Who then, including the new parliament, has the right to add new articles if that right is not mentioned in the constitution - especially Article 129?

The parliamentary elections followed the rules of the constitution. Why do we not accomplish its application?

By: Omar Al-Gawi,
Al-Tagammu, Aden,
5/7/1993.

DIVIDED INTO THREE

Initially, the leadership of the totalitarian ruling system remains incapable of understanding the process of government, and also remains paralyzed in ideology as well as incapable of understanding local, regional and international changes. All they can do is appear to be in accordance with these changes and swim with the current, no more. This is what we hear in their statements and speeches, but in practice it is different. The division into two turned, after the elections, into a division into three, and the differences that arose amongst the symbols of authority were, in reality, about the distribution of roles and portfolios. Nothing changed, except that this division went according to an agreement on a coalition, so that at the end there was no winner and no loser.

The distribution of portfolios is a technique of totalitarianism. Let us watch to see what is going on behind the scenes.

Editorial,
Al-Haq, Sana'a,
4/7/1993.

THE COALITION

At last the opponents have sat down together under one umbrella; one unified coalition government with one unified program. The coalition of the three major parties is regarded as a practical step.

With our national concern for social stability we regard the coalition, particularly of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and Al-Islah, a responsible stride towards progress and prosperity. We also see that the two partners must comply, and must stop practicing cunning campaigns against each other. This is a moral responsibility of both parties towards their supporters and the rest of the Yemeni people. This style of dialog is the only way to settle any differences. We ask the two parties to stabilize this noble trend in the spirit of all those who have lent them their support.

We are waiting for the YSP, as part of the coalition government with Al-Islah, to confirm its good intentions by putting a stop to its hysterical enmity towards the Islamic movement in the Arab and Islamic world. There should also be a review of the whole policy against Al-Islah. Al-Islah should also adopt a new trend concerning its new relations with the YSP.

Finally, we want the spirit of this coalition to flow through all the joints of the two parties, based on national and religious foundations. It should not pivot only round the interests of the leaders. We have begun to see the tangible signs of such a spirit within the coalition, but we hope it proves to be a strategic pursuit and not a single, tactical step.

Muslih Al-Uzeir,
Al-Ummah, Sana'a,
1/7/1993.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAMIC STATE

It is inevitable that an Islamic state will eventually be established, and its establishment is the duty of all Moslems.

The Arab/Islamic situation today is in a state of decay, meeting conspiracies on all sides. Nothing will rescue it but the establishment of an Islamic state. The world today is devoid of a strong Islamic state to stand against the conspiracy of the West, America, and Zionism. Only the Arabs are nominated to establish such a state. The great enemies of the Arabs and Moslems of today are those Arab regimes who govern them, for they are the stooges of the West. The Algerian, Tunisian, and Egyptian governments are good examples of governments exploiting their people, and even the revolutionary national governments are unable to do anything. They believe in nationalism, but in practice they are opposed to Islam. As our prophet Muhammad said, after the darkness day will come, and will announce an Islamic state. The Islamic state will be established in one of these countries, and it will then announce its adherence to Al-Sharia. What will happen after that, within a year or two, will be the downfall of all the Arab regimes that exist today, just as the regimes of Eastern Europe tumbled. The Arabs will hasten towards an urgent unification under the flag of Islam, or one

unified Islamic empire. The West will stand astonished before this unexpected event.

Israel and the West will be busy with their social and economic problems, and the Zionists will have spread moral corruption within America. Israel will be in a state of fear, and this will lead her to wage war against the Arabs.

The appearance of such an Islamic state is near, and Islam's return to humanity, according to the Holy Quran, is expected. But it will not come without effort. The establishment of an Islamic state in an Arab country will form the core of the great Islamic empire.

By: Ibrahim bin Muhammad Al-Wazeer,
Al-Balagh, Sana'a,
6/7/1993.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

A new sense of optimism is to be seen in the business and port services at the port of Aden after the passing of a resolution to expel the port's general director from his post. The director was found guilty of arrogance and illegal actions, which caused a stagnation in the port activity due to chaos and corruption. In addition to such shortcomings and flaws, he had resisted the idea of converting Aden into a free zone by putting many obstacles and impediments in front of the procedures to establish the free zone.

If we are to succeed in our transformation process, such corrupt officials and wrong behavior must be combated and uprooted at all levels.

Az-Zaman, Sanaa,
1/7/1993.

A CLEAR PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Excerpts from an interview between Minister of Education Dr. Abubakir Al-Kirbi and Al-Mithaq.

Q: What is your new philosophy concerning the field of education?

A: Education requires an obscure philosophy, not theoretical, but planning and programming on a practical level. The ministry has to tackle three issues. First, acquiring the scientific text books to cope with the changes in the modern world - we have to reconsider the concepts relating to education. Second, the teacher as the master of the educational process. Third, the new trend towards discovering various patterns of education related to technology.

Q: How do you visualize the issue of distribution, printing and availability of text books?

A: Text book distribution is really a chronic issue, but in the past few years the school textbook establishment has lessened its impact by printing about 70% of the required books, the other 30% being printed by local printing offices. Centralization is also an impediment, as is the existence of administrative problems.

Q: How do you see the Yemeni teacher?

A: If the teacher bears his responsibility honestly, then the incapable teacher will show up and should be punished for his shortcomings. The salaries of Yemeni teachers are not balanced with price rises. The new policy should be help tackle such problems.

Q: Is there a possibility of finding a solution to the delays

in salary payments for school teachers, whether they are Yemeni or from other parts of the Arab world holding contracts with the ministry?

A: This issue, unfortunately, is purely administrative. Other factors pay a part in it, but in fact there is no justification for any delays in salary or promotions. But it seems there are clear shortcomings. Sometimes the bank is unable to provide sufficient currency to pay salaries. All these burdens are reflected in teacher performance. We will try to tackle this next year.

Q: What has been done about the unification of educational text books?

A: The government program includes this point. We shall choose the best from among the text books for generalization all over the country.

Q: What are the major educational programs included in the election manifesto?

A: Our (PGC) program has been adopted by the government. We should remember the illiteracy percentage, which is 67% in the North.

Q: Is there a program aimed at eliminating illiteracy?

A: The combination of education and development requires a comprehensive development program, and this point is unavailable in many developed countries. It requires state investment.

Q: Do you have a time framework for the implementation of the ministry's goals?

A: We have held our first educational meetings with leaders in the field of education. We have our plan for the year 1993/4, plus a five year plan.

Al-Mithaq, Sana'a,
5/7/1993.



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 Letters to the Editor

Dr. Doolittle - Yemeni Style

I hope the readers agree with me regarding how little our merciful doctors do for the patients and sick people who come to public hospitals for treatment? Unfortunately, many of our doctors are unscrupulous. They are, in fact, unscrupulous. Doctors in public hospitals take no notice of patients and do not deal with them as they should. They often talk roughly to them and try to get rid of them, as though we were in a wild forest and not in a hospital. A sick person should be able to find rest and treatment in a hospital.

Doctors come to hospital late without regard to their work and the sufferings of their patients. They don't attend to their patients, even when these cry of pain. You will see doctors gathered in offices sipping tea or coffee and chatting endlessly while there is work to be done. Who is responsible for what is happening, and who can stop this mess?

Furthermore, the wierd thing is that when you call on the same doctors in their private clinics, you will be surprised to find their behavior entirely different from when they are in public hospitals. You will witness their eager attention and correct manners, specially the soft words and gentle pat. Are these the same people, one might ask.

Have you ever paused to think what this is all about? It is about money! Honest doctors would be helpful and kind to their patients, no matter what. It is part of the profession to be kind to the suffering patients; it is actually part of being human.

I am sure that the urge to make money is present in all human beings. But we have to be civil about it. For some time there has been a growing tendency among our doctors to want to amass as much money as possible - in as short a time as possible - in order to "grow" and regardless of the ideals of the noble profession to which they belong or to the means of gaining this end. The objective of making more Riyals has blinded them as their primary concern of how to serve their pecuniary ambitions has become the over-riding factor in their dealings with society.

I think that our doctors adopt such behavior because of the inability of the government to make them fully accountable. The problem stems from the lack of supervision by the Ministry of Health, which ought to find solutions to this problem. One step in this direction would be to punish the unscrupulous doctors who do not live up to their humanitarian profession. The Ministry could suspend the licence of unsuitable persons who serve as doctors.

Furthermore, the government should give clear directions on the strategy of medical care. If it fails to manage the public hospitals properly, it would be better to close them.

In brief, we can say that doctors not only need professional qualifications to serve in this profession, they also need to be men and women committed to serving society. This commitment is more important than prescribing medicines. I have a deep regard for those good doctors who, unluckily, form the minority. Their work - and their overwork on behalf of their patients - is deeply appreciated.

We call on those less conscientious doctors to amend and regulate their conduct, and we also hope they will come to their senses. They should remember that nothing is permanent except for human need.

By:
Rassas M.Harhara, Sanaa.

Personal View

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

Some people do not understand the meaning of the word "democracy". They misuse it, and in so doing so mislead others. One day a man left his car parked in the street. When he returned, several angry drivers asked why. He replied, "I can park my car wherever I like, because there is democracy."

These narrow-minded figures misunderstand this harmonious, rich system we call real democracy. For the ordinary citizen, democracy is both the easiest and the most difficult form of government. It is the easiest because it permits each citizen a high degree of freedom; in a democracy, more than in any other form of Government, everybody is free to think, talk, and worship as he pleases, and, within wide limits, free to engage in whatever kind of profession or career he or she is fitted for.

But democracy makes heavy demands on each citizen; it places upon him the responsibility of being continually informed of the needs not only of his country but of the whole world. It requires him to weigh and decide which of several conflicting policies will best meet these needs. It demands that he distinguish between the interests of special groups and the general welfare, and between immediate and long-range interests. It insists that he learns to observe the will of the majority without ignoring the rights of the minorities, and it constantly requires of him the difficult task of seeing the implications of economic, political, and social theories and of sensing the effect that these implications will have in the lives of his grandchildren.

By: Said Ahmed Aden (Said Harago)
Somali Teacher in Sana'a.


 Letters to the Editor

Smoking is Bad!

I was very shocked by your article on the National Match and Cigarettes Industry Ltd., in your May 23rd to 29th edition. The fact that the average Yemeni adult smokes 1000 cigarette a year is very alarming.

It is estimated that 4 million people die each year worldwide due to smoking, which is more than from tuberculosis or from infections such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus, for which we encourage all children to be vaccinated against. Millions of riyals are spent each year trying to treat and prevent tuberculosis and to vaccinate the population. Moreover smoking, which can cause a high rate of mortality and loss of mobility, is encouraged. Why is this tolerated?

First, the sale of cigarettes generates a lot of money for businessmen and government.

Second, smoking tobacco is addictive, so to try to prevent or limit its use would be unpopular with those who smoke. I have seen "No Smoking" signs in many Yemeni government buildings.

Third, because the detrimental affect of smoking is not immediate; in fact it may take decades of smoking to kill someone, people turn a blind eye to the warnings.

Many times I have seen a person suffer and die from smoking cigarettes. That includes every thing - from an awful death of a carcinoma of the lung, and the more sudden death of a heart attack, to the chronic chest pain or breathlessness and the amputations it causes to those who have not died.

Probably as your paper is sponsored by a cigarette company this will not be published, but smoking will make some people rich while causing much suffering and needless loss of life if it continues at such an alarming rate. That will be a tragedy for the people of Yemen who I love.

Dr. Levelt, Sanaa.

Editor's Note:
It is Yemen Times policy to give space to any view, irrespective of whether we agree with it or not. It so happens we do agree with you, Dr. Levelt, even if cigarette companies do advertize with us.

Technology Transfer


Throughout history, technological innovations and developments have been key elements in the competitiveness of nations in the fields of economy, defence or politics. The desire to maximize national benefits has greatly restricted the flow of information on new developments and limited their accessibility to potential users. Commercial and legal considerations are often put forward as restrictive factors in the transfer of technology. Nevertheless, scientists have long recognized the need for reciprocal exchange of data,

information and products to carry out regional and international activities in meteorology, hydrology and environmental management.

They also consider that all scientific and technological developments should be shared among the community of nations. This attitude has greatly contributed towards achieving the successful introduction of modern standardization in the observation, collection and processing of meteorological and hydrological data and information, which are exchanged world-wide, and has been a compelling factor in the search for and sharing of improved technology. The co-operative and collaborative mechanisms which started off with the International Meteorological Organization and have been pursued actively within the framework of the World Meteorological Organization have considerably fostered the development and transfer of know-how and technology among member countries, without many of the usual restrictions.

One way to define "Technology" is as the sum knowledge, experience and skills necessary for performing a task, manufacturing a product and establishing an enterprise for this purpose. Technology is the knowledge of how and why its works, which is referred to as the soft part of the technology, involving human resources and management processes. Transfer of technology has many facets and should be considered as the export of technology from one country to another in various forms, including the provision of equipment, software, expertise and the training of local personnel. Yours faithfully,

By: Saleh Al-Suraihi
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.


 Letters to the Editor

We Can't Wait to Receive the YT

We (a Travel Agent dealing solely with trips to Yemen) like the Yemen Times so much that we can't wait for the next edition to arrive. For us, it is the only newspaper from which we can get some more information (for us and our potential clients).

To receive the Yemen Times in time, we would like to subscribe right now.

We hope you will visit Switzerland soon. Please let us know.

Margret Stuebi
General Manager,
ARWA TOURS,
Zurich, Switzerland.

CPJ Welcomes Information on Yemen:

Dear Dr. Al-Saqqaf:

I read the exchange of letter between Eric Watkins and Yemen Times, published in the paper's June 6th issue with great interest.

While the statistics from CPJ's Attacks on the Press 1992 as cited by both Mr. Watkins and your paper are correct, I feel that a clarification is in order. The Committee to Protect Journalists states clearly in its report that the state of press freedom in any given country cannot be gauged by the number of attacks on journalists or news outlets in that country. On page 9 of "Attacks on the Press 1992" we state, "In fact, the most repressive regimes often have the fewest number of documented attacks, and those undergoing transitions to democracy often have the most ..."

CPJ stands by the statement that Yemen's press enjoys "what may be the region's most liberal press law" However, we agree that while the Yemeni government's record on press freedom compares favorably with that of other Middle Eastern governments, there is plenty of room for improvement (an end to state monopoly over the broadcast media, for example).

Finally, if the Committee to Protect Journalists has been under-reporting violations of press freedom in Yemen, we hope to remedy this situation. We would welcome information from the Yemen Times, its colleagues, and its readers about attacks on the press in Yemen.

We may be reached by phone (212-465-1004), fax (212-465-9568), telex (910-250-4794) or mail (330 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10001).

I hope this letter addresses of your questions about CPJ's statistics. I look forward to a mutually beneficial working relationship between Yemen Times and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Avner Gidron,
Research Associate for Middle East & North Africa,
New York.

German Woman Wants a Pen-Pal?

A 26-year old woman from Germany, English-speaking, married, has one child, works as publishers merchant, is looking for a pen-friend in Yemen. Interested in a regular and lasting correspondence and possibly exchange of cards and photos.

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TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

I. TOURISM: The Official Viewpoint:

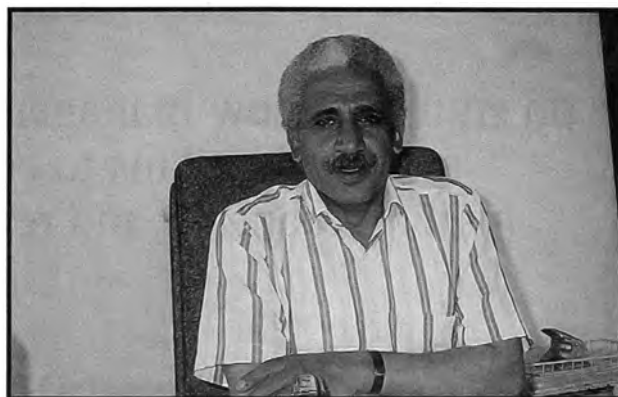
"It is my belief that tourism offers a viable possibility in the country's development and prosperity," said Mr. Abdul-Majeed Bin Wahdain, the Chairman of the Yemeni Tourism Board.

million in their Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa," he added. I also take this opportunity to express my respect for the professionalism of the management and staff of the hotel," he concluded.

various fronts - hotels, travel, museums, markets, folklore, restaurants, etc. Moreover, we have to have good tourist guides, tourist police, and special tourist facilities in terms of administrative paperwork. For example, block visas or on the spot visas are important steps in this direction," Al-Haifi said. The capital city, given the growth in Yemen's relations with the outside world, the coming of the oil, gas and mineral business, the expansion of the diplomatic corps, and the sheer size of the city, will need more capacity of lodging, especially in the category of five-star hotels. "I realize the Taj Sheba plays a leading role in the Sanaa lodging and catering business.



"Yet, it is not given the priority it deserves," he said regrettably. Asked what he meant by a higher priority, he explained that what is lacking is not just resources. "The law governing tourism has not been issued, the regulations allowing us to do our job more fully are not enacted. We can't even plan for tomorrow," he said.



Mr. Wahdain explained that Yemen could generate a steady flow of foreign exchange if it were to pursue tourism more strongly. "The facilities are not there. We need various class hotels in all the cities and the tourist attraction points. It is in this light that I express my appreciation for the Sabaa Hotels Company for deciding to plough in another US\$ 15

The real chief executive officer of the tourism sector is Mr. Mutahhar Abdul-Kareem Al-Haifi, the Vice Chairman of the Tourism Board. "Tourism development requires a concerted effort in

I am sure that is due to the excellent service the hotel offers its guests and the community. We are happy with the decision to extend the management contract for ten years," he added.

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TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

II. TOURISM: The Aroma of Yemen's Frankincense:

The aromatic substance called Frankincense which has tantalized humankind down the centuries came from a tree in the eastern-most provinces of Yemen along the border with fraternal Oman. It came from the flat lands of Hadhramaut, Al-Maharah, and extending into Dhofar in Oman.

The tree which yields the incense may be compared to the pine tree. Its trunk is knotted with a hatchet. The resin flows out and when hardened turns into incense which is gathered and made into lumps.

Yemen is very different from the rest of the Arabian Peninsula, in that certain it gets the southwest monsoon rains.

Wadi Hadhramaut cuts the stretch by running in an east-west direction right in the middle of this gigantic plain to the south of the Rub Al-Khali or Empty Quarter. This stretch of plain land is actually more of a plateau rising to more than 6,000 feet.

From June to November the green grasses support a cattle population of large herds. The cattle are of a unique small breed.

A few years ago the people were separated from the sea. But now because of new roads, lorries bring feed for the cattle to overcome the hardships of the dry season.

Thus is created an economic link between the men of the mountains and the sea. Khor Ruri was a center of South Arabian influence and was identified with the frankincense port known to the Greeks as Mocha.

Here stands the ruins of Queen of Sheba's palace.

The city was founded during the first century BC by the king of Shabwa, the king of the South Arabian kingdom of Hadhramaut.

The King Ilad Yalut extended his sway over the frankincense region of South Arabia and founded many ports along the long coastal plain on the Arabian Sea, specially the port of Samhar, Shihre and Mukalla for its export.

The ports grew into major trading posts and ports of call for vessels from many parts of the world, specially South and Southeast Asia.

Then after 100 B.C., Yemen became an important point on a sea trade route between east and west.

South Arabia grew fabulously wealthy as a result of its indigenous abundance of myrrh and frankincense.

"There is a roadstead designated for the loading of sachalitic incense (sachiles stands for the Kingdom of Hadhramaut)."

The place goes by the name of Mocha (Samhar). When ships from Cana are sent, they cruise nearby spending the winter there due to the lateness of the season and obtain from the Royal officials in exchange for flax, grain and oil, a cargo of this incense, which all along the bay of Sachalites lies in unguarded heaps, because 'a divine power watches over the place.'

The trade in aromatics conducted both by sea from India and East Africa and by land

along the west coast of Arabia was one of Arabia's principal contributions to the character of the ancient world.

Aromatics were used in the Mediterranean world, not only as spices in foods but as ingredients in ointments, perfume, powders, cosmetics, incense and drugs.

The demand for them was immense. Vast quantities, were consumed in religious and official ceremonies by the ancient Egyptians, Persians and Mesopotamians. The later Greeks and Romans also followed suit.

They used it in the embalming process and on Roman funeral pyres. Often large numbers of spices (frankincense, myrrh and balsam) which grew in South Arabia were in use.

The cities of ancient Yemen grew fabulously wealthy from the export of these products and as trading centers for the whole aromatics trade which passed by south west Arabia on its way along the Red Sea and the land route along Arabia's west coast.

A huge quantity of frankincense was grown and exported from the area stretching from Hadhramaut and Al-Maharah in Yemen to the Dhofar region of Oman.

The civilisation of South Arabia grew from obscure beginnings before 1000 BC and developed with the growth of the great states of the Mediterranean and Persia. The frankincense trade was a major stimulus to the re-opening and expansion of the east-west trade routes passing through Yemen.

BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SUCCESS

FROM
AL-FAGOOS GENERAL CO.
Trading and Contractors

TO:
TAJ SHEBA HOTEL
Owners, Management and Staff

on signing a new management contract
and on the plans to carry out
major expansion and renovations.

Al-Fagoos General Company:
One of the pillars of
Yemen's development

NIMR PETROLEUM AYAD CO.
congratulates the

Taj Sheba Hotel

on its continued success.

NIMIR - A leader among Middle Eastern
Oil Exploration Companies

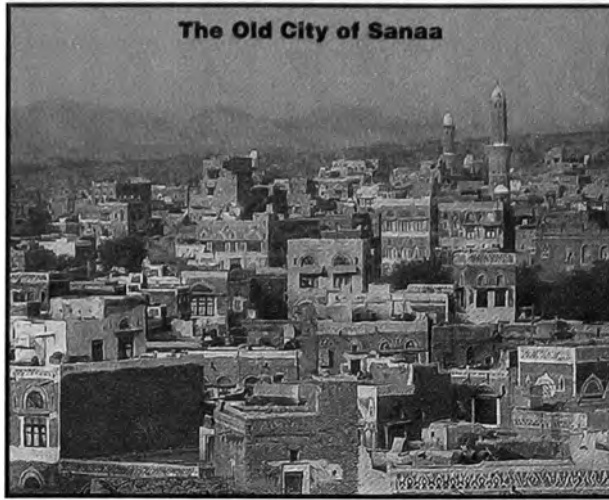
TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

III. TOURISM: Yemen's Fantastic Architecture:

On of the first eye-catching aspects of Yemen is its unique architecture. From the beautiful decorative tall houses of Sanaa, to the splendid stone residences of the mountain villages, all the way to the majestic sky-scrapers of Shibam, Yemenis seem to seek high living. High living; that is, they yearn to reach out to skies.

As you drive through the mountains, you will be puzzled at the hamlets of villages on the peaks of mountains - like snow-caps. Why? Part of it is security. It is easier to defend against invasions. At worst, you will simply thunder down a boulder against an advancing enemy.

But part of it is also the sublime and elevated feeling of reaching out to the skies. But somehow, the beautiful



The Old City of Sanaa

Sanaa residence and the majestic Shibam dwellings have come to symbolize Yemen's architecture. The differences is architectural concepts is that Yemen's architecture is

introvert, whereas most of the region's architecture is extrovert. Meaning: the goodies are inside. The mafraj, the garden, the space and all other aspects of fine living are all enclosed and shut off from the outsider by a high wall.

There is another beauty in Yemen's architecture. Most of the architectural splendor of the region is in buildings that are state owned - palaces, mosques, fortresses, etc. In Yemen, the great architectural achievements are in the private homes of ordinary citizens. "It is a people's achievement," reads as Agha Ghan Foundation report which chose Yemeni architecture for its prize in the 1980s.

The beautiful skyline of Yemeni cities reflects the magnificent and quiet and harmony between man and his environment.



Shibam City in Hadhramaut

Yemen Mayfair Petroleum Corporation (YMPC)

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

Taj Sheba Hotel

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

Yemen Mayfair Petroleum Corporation:

an important contribution to Yemen's energy sector.



INTERMARINE GROUP OF COMPANIES

(SHIPOWNERS - CHARTERERS - OPERATORS)

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.

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

IV. TOURISM: Folklore in Yemen's Four Zones:

Folklore - that tantalizing word which means so many different things. According to the Webster, it refers to the beliefs, legends, traditions, and customs of a people. In other words, it refers to the socio-culture.

In Yemen, this is a rich treasure that has major variations from one region to another.

The Tihama and Arabian Sea coastal stretch is well beholden to the other side of the sea - Africa. In this region, the pattern of housing, food, clothing, legends, etc. have much in common with the Horn of Africa and East Africa.

The Mountains and Lofty Peaks of the central region, stretching from Saadah all the way south to Taiz and east to Lahj represent another distinct region.

The semi-arid regions of Al-Jawf, Marib, northern parts of Shabwah, Hadhramaut and Al-Maharah represent still a third geographic region with its distinct folklore.

Finally, the easternmost regions of Hadhramaut and Al-Maharah, as well as a good part of Abyan exhibit strong influence from Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent and Persia.

Although these are the major four "zones", there are within each of them marked differences. And of course, the urban centers have their own additional nuances.

The clothings are the most catching differences among these zones.

In the Tihama, the clothings are simple, while in the cold

mountain region they are heavy. In the east, the clothings exhibit much decoration, especially among women. In the desert region, the standard bedouin garb is the order of the day.

The homes of the people in the four zones are markedly different. Along the coast, it is more huts and hutches. In the mountains it is stone dwellings, often two or three storeys high. In the eastern region, the houses are mainly made of mud-walls and mud-bricks. In the desert area, homes are usually temporary dwellings such as tents. The food is also different.

In the Tihama, it is sea food. The mountain people are basically carnivorous and use lots of grains, the diet in the eastern regions is rich with vegetables and rice - again the sub-continental influence. In the fringes of the Empty Quarter, it is more dates and camel milk.

Inter-personal relations are dictated by different sets of laws. In the Tihama, it is a fiercely independent and individualistic system in which each person fends for him/herself. In the mountains, it is a tribal unit and everybody adheres to tribal loyalties. In the eastern region, the system is based on the family unit - the nucleus family - as the base for inter-relations. In the desert area, it is the collective togetherness - irrespective of tribal origin - that is important. People who are together, band together.

The beliefs and legends also vary tremendously from one zone to another. In the

Tihama, there is much superstition and the attitude of helplessness against nature - read, the sea. In the mountains, the legends are more of heroic nature, extolling the great Islamic achievement. In the east, the folktales tend to be mystical. In the arid zones, the desert dominates the legends. Social functions are also different. Male-female relations are most egalitarian in the desert zone, and most restrictive (to the women) in the eastern region. These values are readily visible in social occasions such as births, deaths, marriages, re-unions, etc.

Finally the ornaments are also different. The most ornamental part of Yemeni society is the easternmost and mountain regions where the khidhab (naqsh), hannah and other forms of female make-up have been refined to perfection. In addition, jewelry - in gold, silver and other precious stones and metals - are in abundant use. The opposite is true in the coastal stretch and desert regions. In the coastal areas, the ornaments are in the form of utensils and household goods. In the arid areas, there are no signs of real ornaments as the priorities of living are different.

Thus, a small country like Yemen exhibits marked variations thus making it more attractive for the tourists.

When tourists visit Yemen they see differences. From Sanaa to Taiz to Aden and to Hadhramaut, each place has a distinct flavor, or shall we say a different folklore.

CONGRATULATIONS TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

CANADIAN OXY

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

Taj Sheba Hotel

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

CANADIAN OXY

Canada's largest overseas investment is in the Republic of Yemen.

AL-WATARY GROUP OF COMPANIES

present their heart-felt congratulations and best wishes

on the signing of a new 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.

The Al-Watary Group:

A leading role in taking Yemen into the 21st century.

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

V. TOURISM: Points of Attraction:

Khokha - it is like paradise (unfortunately, without the full range of services). The equatorial trees, some more than twenty meters tall, extend all the way into the sea. The green lush, the clean beach, and the sea, make Al-Khokha, about halfway between Hodeidah and Taiz a major attraction point, to visitors as well as residents. Then there is the triangle of Thula - Kawkaban - Shibam, some 30 kilometers north-west of Sanaa. This is where ancient Yemeni mummies, estimated to date back to 3000 years, were found. Here, one can trace lineage to the forebears of modern-day Yemenis.

There is the fortress villages and towns of Al-Maafer, known today as Hugarriyah. The ancient kingdom of Al-Maafer has established itself well in the history books, as well as in the minds of the inquisitive traveller. Turbah, the capital of the region, receives flocks of tourists.

Shawah Attarikhiyyah, or historic Shabwah, some 40 kilometers of Attaq, the modern capital of Shabwah, remains in ruins today. It was, at one time, the capital of the Kingdom of Hadhramaut. It has lots of stories to tell.

Marib, is of course, a major attraction. With the remains of ancient palaces and worship places giving examples of the fantastic ancient Yemenis engineering abilities. Another such example is the Marib dam. The Hammam Ali in Anis is

also an attraction, especially for those interested in hot natural springs. The water flows through chemically rich formations thus taking on some medically useful qualities. Above all, it has a soothing effect. Unfortunately, the facilities are not well developed.

The Sumara Mountain Pass is something many visitors do not want to miss. As your meandering road reaches the summit, stop your driver and spend a few minutes. As you look down deep into the gorge, you will note that you are above the clouds. The villages down-under in the wadi, are several kilometers deep.

Tareem, Shibam and Seiyoun are a must for any serious traveller. They represent the spirit and soul of Wadi Hadhramaut. They are also the center of theology and learning in the region, thus boasting a rich heritage of books and documents for the intellectual visitor.

Aden is a major attraction for the tourist as well as the businessman. It is a city that looks into the future, as it has been designated as the industrial and economic capital of the country, as well as its free zone. While in Aden, most travellers pay a visit to the ancient water canals and drainage system. While you are there, take a quick dip in the the Arabian Sea. The shores along the Aden-Abyan coastal stretch are among the best in the world. Just over an hour's drive to the north-east is Taiz.

Perched at some 5000 feet above level, it offers a cool breeze that gives a refreshing feeling. At the foot of Mount Sabir, it gets a fresh supply of fruits and vegetables everyday. The most visible aspect of life in Taiz is its vibrance, dynamism, and colorful clothings of the people.

Another hour's drive to the north would bring you to Ibb, with its lush greenery. That is why it is called the "Green Province" by the people. From Ibb, you could make short trips to many historic sites in the region, notably to Zafaar, the ancient Himyaritic capital, and to Jibla, the capital of Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed of the Sulehi dynasty.

Sanaa, of course, is the jewel in the crown. History books say that it was Sam (or Schem), one of the sons of Noah, who founded the city. Whatever the truth of that legend, Sanaa is one of the oldest living cities in the world. The old part of the city is far more attractive than the modern one. Souq Al-Milh (or Market of Salt) is a must for any visitor. There, djambiyas (daggers), silver jewelry, and various antiques are available on sale.

If there is time, Saadah, at the extreme north of the country is an additional attraction. Along the road to it, you will pass through the territory of the country's most unruly tribesmen. Be careful.

ARD AL-GANNATAIN

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.

ARD AL-GANNATAIN

A company in the service of the public and with the future in mind, at all times.

"KEEP GOING" TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

Al-Rowaishan Group of Companies

ARE HAPPY TO CONGRATULATE THE

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

ON RENEWAL OF MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AND ON LAUNCHING MAJOR INVESTMENTS.

AL-ROWAISHAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

A strong building block in Yemen's development and prosperity.



SPORT AUTOMOBILE

Le Queen Sheba Trophy premier rallye au Yémen

Au printemps l'année prochaine, si tout va bien, les concurrents du premier rallye automobile au Yémen devraient s'élancer sur les pistes. Il reste moins d'un an pour tout préparer.

L'idée a germé il y a deux mois seulement dans la tête d'un Yéménite, d'un Français et d'un Marocain: organiser l'an prochain le premier rallye automobile au Yémen, le Queen Sheba Trophy. C'est la première fois qu'une telle course automobile serait organisée au Yémen. "C'est un pays qui fait rêver beaucoup de gens. Le Yémen apparaît encore assez mystérieux", explique Christian Riehl, le Français du projet.

A priori l'idée semble un peu tardive, le rallye Paris-Dakar s'essouffle. "C'est vrai, ce style de course automobile est de plus en plus critiqué. C'est pour cette raison que nous voulons organiser quelque chose de plus ouvert. Nous ne fonctionnerons pas au chrono mais à la navigation", déclare Christian Riehl. Ainsi, un équipage qui décide de foncer tout droit à l'arrivée sans passer par les points de contrôle le long du parcours, se verra attribuer des points de pénalités. Les premiers seront peut-être ainsi les derniers.

La société organisatrice

du rallye est l'agence de voyages, Dar Saam Tour, installée à Sanaa. Son propriétaire, Yahya Al-Kibsi avait depuis un moment envie de faire un "coup médiatique". L'idée du rallye revient au Marocain du projet, Tawfik Igmir, qui travaille dans une compagnie d'import-export à Sanaa. "J'en rêvais depuis longtemps", avoue-t-il.

Les voitures seront fournies

Deux types d'équipages pourront participer à l'épreuve. "Il y a d'abord Monsieur Tout le Monde qui pour un chèque dont le montant n'a pas encore été fixé pourra se lancer dans l'aventure", précise Christian. Chaque équipage comptera quatre personnes. Tout sera compris, du billet d'avion, en passant par la fourniture de la voiture et l'assistance technique.

Le deuxième type d'équipage sera l'équipage d'entreprise. Les compagnies qui le désirent pourront faire participer certains de leurs cadres et même leurs clients. La compagnie pétrolière française Total, qui

est installée au Yémen, est intéressée par ce projet, ainsi que la Compagnie générale de Géophysique (CGG). Le tracé du circuit n'a pas encore été arrêté, mais il pourrait passer par Manakha, Hajja, Saada, Mareb, Sayoun, Shabwah, Aden, Taëz, Hoddeidah. Tout cela en deux semaines. Les organisateurs veulent négocier avec les tribus. Chacune sera responsable de la sécurité de la course sur son territoire, en échange d'une somme d'argent.

En ce qui concerne le montage financier, les organisateurs du rallye ont déjà trouvé quelques sponsors. Yemena, Kamaran, Rothmans, Teleyemen et la Banque commerciale du Yémen ont répondu présent.

Lundi 28 juin, une soirée était organisée au Taj Sheba pour faire connaître le projet auprès des entreprises. D'autre part, Christian Riehl a fait venir de France pendant une semaine, trois journalistes français: Gérard Niccaud du Figaro, Christian Mars de Nice-Matin et Bernard Natier de Tout Terrain Magazine.

Les organisateurs ont maintenant moins d'un an pour tout préparer.

J.B.

DROITS DE L'HOMME

Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim prisonnier d'opinion à Sanaa

Arrêté en avril 1992, Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim, enseignant et écrivain, est suspecté de mettre en question les principes de la foi islamique. Il pourrait être exécuté s'il est déclaré coupable, selon Amnesty International.

Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim a été arrêté il y a un peu plus d'un an, en avril 1992, par des agents de la sécurité yéménite. Il a été inculpé d'apostasie après avoir été interrogé au sujet de ses convictions religieuses. Détenu à la prison centrale de Sanaa, cet enseignant et écrivain, est en effet suspecté de dicter des écrits "hérétiques" à ses étudiants et de mettre en question les principes de la foi islamique.

En août dernier, il a été brièvement transféré dans un hôpital, où l'on a diagnostiqué un état dépressif avec "notions paranoïdes". On lui a alors administré divers sédatifs et neuroleptiques.

Déjà emprisonné quatre fois

En septembre, il a comparu devant le tribunal de première instance de Sanaa. Il a refusé de se faire représenter et de participer au procès. Il a gardé le silence pendant toute l'audience. Le juge l'a finalement déféré à une commission médicale pour évaluation de son état psychique, mais fin mars, cet examen n'avait apparemment pas eu lieu. Ali Hashim reste à la prison centrale de Sanaa, mentalement affaibli. Il refuse tout traitement.

Depuis plus de dix ans, Ali Hashim avait des activités politiques au sein du Front démocratique national (FND), principal groupe d'opposition de l'ancienne République arabe du Yémen. Il a été détenu et torturé au moins à quatre reprises. En 1983 notamment, il a-vait passé huit mois au secret. Il était fréquemment battu et on le forçait

à écouter les enregistrements des cris d'autres détenus soumis à la torture.

Il pourrait être exécuté

En 1986, il a dû passer deux mois dans un centre de détention des renseignements militaires, maintenu dans une caisse semblable à un cercueil sans pouvoir aller aux toilettes, avec des fers aux mains et aux pieds.

Aujourd'hui, Ali Abdul-Fattah Hashim pourrait être exécuté s'il est déclaré coupable. Amnesty International considère qu'il est un prisonnier d'opinion. (Source: Amnesty International)

Jérôme BERNARD

PROCHE-ORIENT

Des progrès aux négociations de paix

En vingt mois et dix sessions, les négociations de paix sur le Proche-Orient entre les Israéliens et les Arabes ont produit un changement réel, même si elles sont souvent apparues frustrantes.

Certes, la dixième session de pourparlers bilatéraux s'est achevée jeudi 1er juillet à Washington sur un constat de désaccord. Chaque partie a affirmé qu'aucun progrès n'a été réalisé.

Cependant, comme à chaque fois, personne n'a sérieusement claqué la porte. Aussi bien les Israéliens que les Arabes ne voient pas d'alternative et tentent plutôt de modifier les règles du jeu à leur avantage.

Pour Israël, la poursuite des pourparlers constitue une reconnaissance de son existence par ses voisins arabes. "Les deux parties seront perdantes si elles sortent du processus", estime Camille Mansour, un universitaire membre de la délégation palestinienne. Il pense que les Palestiniens ont arraché peu à peu des concessions aux Israéliens et aux Américains, bien que formellement les progrès aient été "minimes".

Les Palestiniens sont maintenant reconnus comme une délégation à part entière alors qu'ils avaient été admis dans le processus de paix dans le cadre d'une délégation commune avec la Jordanie.

POLITIQUE

Programme de gouvernement

Haïdar Al-Attas a présenté dimanche 4 juillet le programme du nouveau gouvernement au Parlement. Pour obtenir un vote de confiance.

Un mois et demi après avoir été formé, le gouvernement dirigé par Haïdar Al-Attas a présenté son programme devant le Parlement dimanche 4 juillet. Avec du retard. L'article 73 de la Constitution stipule en effet que le Premier ministre doit présenter son programme de gouvernement dans les 25 jours suivant sa formation.

Pour une Justice indépendante

Ce programme reflète dans ses grandes lignes les idées é-mises par la coalition parlementaire formée par les trois grands partis, le CPG (Congrès populaire général), le PSY (Parti socialiste yéménite) et l'Islah, le parti islamiste. Le texte qui a obtenu la confiance du Parlement appelle à une réforme de l'économie du pays et à une amélioration du niveau de vie de la population.

Dans son programme, le gouvernement rappelle son engagement pour la démocratie. Il propose d'introduire le multipartisme au sein de la Choura (une sorte de Sénat à la yéménite). Le gouvernement soutient l'alternance pacifique du pouvoir et veut mettre en place un pouvoir judiciaire indépendant et honnête, dont les

jugements sont appliqués.

La période de transition après l'unification entre les deux Yémen a pris fin le jour des élections législatives, le 27 avril dernier. Pour autant, le nouveau gouvernement a encore à effacer certaines séquelles dues à la partition. Il souhaite notamment unifier les institutions et fusionner l'armée.

Le cabinet Al-Attas veut également rationaliser l'administration selon des critères scientifiques. Permettre l'élection des conseils locaux, se débarrasser de la corruption sous toutes ses formes et redonner aux citoyens confiance dans l'Etat, tels sont les autres points du programme du nouveau gouvernement.

Protéger la monnaie nationale

Dans le domaine économique, la déclaration du Premier ministre au Parlement confirme l'importance accordée à l'économie de marché, qui permet la libre concurrence. Le programme du nouveau cabinet insiste également sur la nécessité de freiner l'inflation et renforcer la monnaie nationale, le rial, en prenant des mesures pour la protéger. (Agence SABA)



مكرونة المائدة

فيها الفائدة



ماس للإعلان

إنتاج شركة الصناعات المتنوعة ومواد التعبئة

SANTE

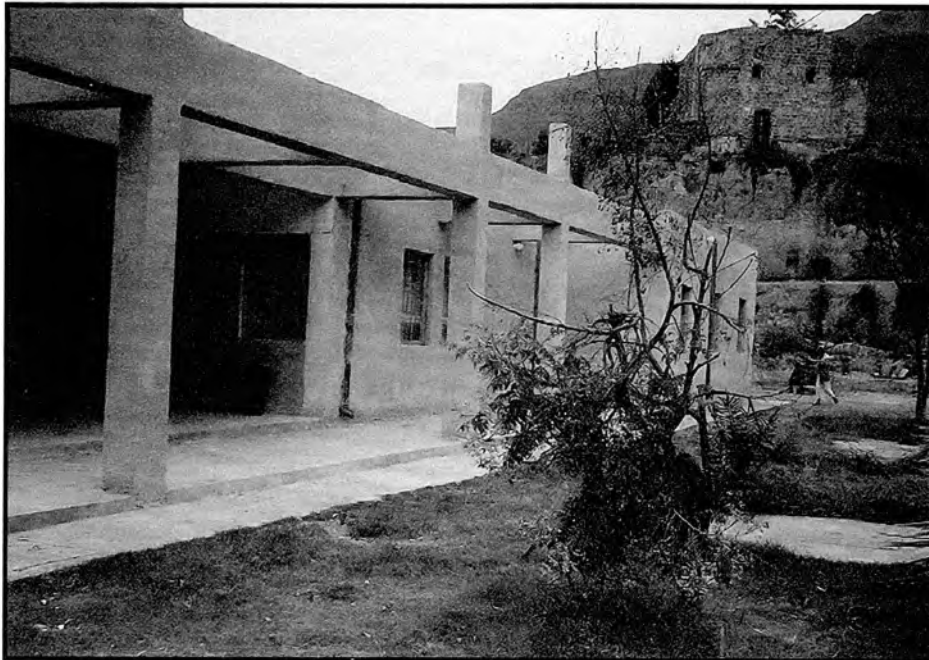
Médecins Sans Frontières inaugure deux centres de santé près de Taëz

L'organisation non gouvernementale française a rénové deux établissements en piteux état dans le district de Dhi Sufal. La mission de MSF est aussi de développer la santé et d'améliorer les soins dans cette région de montagne. "C'est ici que les gens apprennent la propreté et pas chez eux", a déclaré le gouverneur de Ibb.

Jour de fête à Dhi Sufal ce mardi 29 juin. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) inaugure deux centres de santé dans ce district proche de Taëz. Quatre moutons ont été engraisés pour l'occasion. Dans le village d'Al Qaydah, on se bouscule pour assister à l'inauguration. Le gouverneur de Ibb est présent, ainsi qu'un représentant du ministère de la Santé et l'ambassadeur de France, Marcel Laugel. Le personnel de l'établissement est là, mais aussi leurs familles, leurs amis, les amis des amis et des curieux.

Fierté du personnel

Même bousculade au village de Dhi Sufal, un peu plus tard, pour l'inauguration du deuxième centre de santé. Carrelage gris, murs blancs, des ventilateurs verts brassent un air tiède. Sur les murs, des affiches illustrent la vaccination d'un enfant. Pendu à un crochet en métal, un pèse bébé attend les patients, tandis qu'à côté, sur un bureau blanc, une planche en bois graduée a pour fonction de mesurer la taille. Le mobilier semble tout neuf et le personnel en blouse blanche est très fier de montrer les nouvelles installations. "Est ce que dans six mois, quand je reviendrai,



Le centre de santé de Dhi Sufal, installé de plein pied, est entouré de pelouses bien entretenues. "Est ce que dans six mois, quand je reviendrai, l'hôpital sera aussi propre que maintenant?", a demandé le gouverneur de Ibb.

l'hôpital sera aussi propre que maintenant? Vous, médecins, vous avez une grande responsabilité. Il faut garder propre cet établissement, car c'est là que les gens apprennent la propreté et pas chez eux", déclare le

gouverneur de Ibb dans son discours.

Les deux centres de santé d'Al-Qaydah et de Dhi Sufal ont été bâtis il y a une dizaine d'années. Le bâtiment à Dhi Sufal a été construit sur une partie du cimetière du

village, sur un seul étage. Avec le temps, les deux centres de santé se sont fortement dégradés. Il y a deux ans, le ministère de la Santé yéménite a fait appel à l'organisation non gouvernementale française MSF pour mettre en place un programme de santé primaire

(soins de base, vaccinations, consultations pré-natales et post-natales) dans le district de Dhi Sufal, un district de montagne comptant environ 120 000 habitants. MSF avait déjà l'expérience du pays dans les gouvernorats de l'ancien Yémen du Sud. Depuis 1986, l'ONG française y travaille dans le cadre d'un programme de vaccination.

Après quelques mois de travail de recherches, le projet a démarré en juillet l'an dernier. "Les travaux ont véritablement commencé en août pour le centre de santé de Dhi Sufal et en septembre pour celui d'Al-Qaydah", explique Odile Joly, coordinatrice de Médecins Sans Frontières au Yémen. "Nous avons investi 227 000 dollars dans ce projet. Cette somme comprend à la fois la réhabilitation des locaux et les salaires des membres de MSF présents sur place", ajoute-t-elle.

Ils ne fonctionnent que la journée

Ils sont trois à apporter une assistance technique dans les deux centres de santé. Dominique Piolet, infirmière, est là depuis quinze mois et sera remplacée le mois prochain. Edwin Louvel, médecin, et Lionel Vacca, logisticien, ne sont arrivés qu'il

y a trois mois et demie. "J'ai été chargé de superviser le travail des ouvriers. Ce n'était pas évident car les deux établissements sont restés ouverts pendant les travaux", explique Lionel Vacca. Mise à part la réhabilitation des deux centres de santé, la mission de MSF consiste aussi à développer la santé dans cette région.

Deux dispensaires dans la montagne

À Al-Qaydah comme à Dhi Sufal, les deux établissements fonctionnent de 8h à 13h. "Il n'y a pas assez d'argent pour que les deux centres soient ouverts la nuit", précise Lionel. Cela nécessiterait notamment un service de surveillance, un service de restauration... Trop coûteux. Les lits ne sont donc que temporairement occupés.

Médecins Sans Frontières supervisent aussi le travail de deux petits dispensaires installés dans la montagne près de Dhi Sufal. L'un d'eux est en si mauvais état qu'il faudrait en construire un autre. MSF pense rester cinq ans dans cette région. Après, elle espère que la relève sera prise et que son action aura servi à quelque chose.

Jérôme BERNARD

EN BREF

Le ministre yéménite des Affaires étrangères en vi-site à Bahrein: Mohammed Salem Basindwa, ministre des Affaires étrangères yéménite s'est rendu à Bahrein, pour une visite officielle de deux jours, le dimanche 4 et le lundi 5 juillet. C'est la première visite d'un responsable yéménite de ce rang à Bahrein depuis la crise du Golfe (août 1990-février 1991).

Trois Casques bleus italiens tués en Somalie: Trois Casques bleus italiens ont été tués vendredi 2 juillet à Mogadiscio en Somalie et 21 autres blessés, alors qu'ils procédaient à une opération de désarmement. L'opération a également fait un mort somalien et une trentaine de blessés somaliens, dont des civils.

Le Bundestag entérine le déploiement de soldats allemands en Somalie: La chambre basse du Parlement allemand, le Bundestag, vient d'entériner, après plusieurs semaines de querelles politiques, le déploiement en Somalie de Casques bleus allemands. Cette mission constitue la première sortie en armes de la Bundeswehr en dehors du territoire de l'OTAN.

En Afrique du Sud, la majorité noire votera pour la première fois le 27 avril 1994: La majorité noire d'Afrique du Sud devrait voter pour la première fois le 27 avril 1994, selon la décision de principe arrêtée par le "Forum de

Négociations", l'organe de décision des formations politiques engagées dans les pourparlers sur l'avenir du pays.

Washington prêt à une levée partielle de l'embargo pétrolier contre l'Irak: Les Etats-Unis ne s'opposent pas à une levée partielle de l'embargo pétrolier contre l'Irak, a déclaré Madeleine Albright, l'ambassadrice des Etats-Unis auprès de l'ONU. Elle a toutefois précisé que la levée totale des sanctions contre l'Irak restait conditionnée à la mise en oeuvre de l'ensemble des résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité consacrées à ce pays. Si les négociations de New-York aboutissent, l'Irak pourra exporter pendant six mois du pétrole jusqu'à concurrence de 1,6 milliard de dollars de recettes, qui seront remis à l'ONU pour financer une aide alimentaire d'urgence à la population irakienne et le fonds de compensation aux victimes de la guerre du Golfe.

Ouverture d'une "section des intérêts irakiens" à l'ambassade du Maroc en France: La France "envisage, en concertation avec les autorités marocaines", l'ouverture d'une "section d'intérêts irakiens" au sein de l'ambassade du Maroc à Paris, a annoncé il y a peu de temps le ministère des Affaires étrangères français. D'autres pays, qui n'ont également plus de relations diplomatiques avec Bagdad depuis l'invasion du Koweït, ont autorisé des

ambassades de pays arabes à accueillir des "sections d'intérêts irakiens", comme les Etats-Unis ou la Grande-Bretagne.

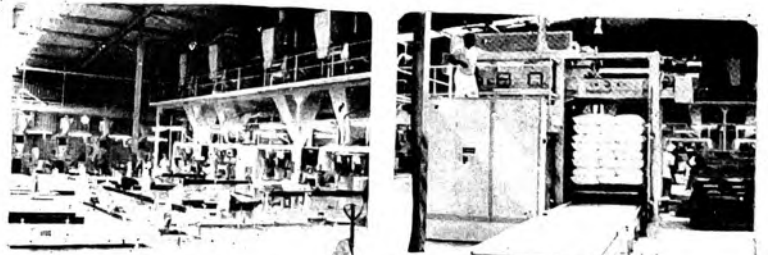
Rapprochement éventuel entre RMC-Moyen-Orient et Médi - 1: Un expert pourrait être nommé afin d'étudier les éventuelles possibilités d'un "rapprochement" entre RMC Moyen-Orient, détenue à 90 % par la holding publique française Sofirad, et la radio marocaine Médi - 1.

Plus de 2,5 millions de cas de SIDA déclarés dans le monde: Le total de cas de SIDA déclaré chez l'adulte et l'enfant était de 718 894 au 30 juin 1993 avec une forte augmentation aux Etats-Unis, vient d'indiquer l'OMS (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé). L'OMS estime cependant que le nombre réel des cas de SIDA dépasse les 2,5 millions. Les insuffisances du diagnostic, la sous-notification et les retards dans la déclaration des cas rendent les chiffres incertains. Aussi 80 % du total estimé des cas de SIDA se situent dans le monde en développement, bien que plus de 50 % des cas notifiés de SIDA le soient dans les pays développés. Il y aurait, selon l'OMS, quelque 8 millions de séropositifs en Afrique, plus de 1,5 million de séropositifs en Asie du Sud et du Sud-Est, 2,5 millions en Amérique et 0,5 million environ en Europe.



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صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحدیة ت: ٣/٢٢٤٦٠ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٩ فاكس: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ ص ب: ١٦٠

NEWS MAKERS: Compiled by: *Al-Izzi As-Selwi*

*** Jarallah Omar:**

Finally, the last of the cabinet members has taken the constitutional oath. Mr. Jarallah Omar, Minister of Culture, took the constitutional oath of Wednesday, July 7th. Jarallah was on a long journey to the USA and Europe.

*** Ahmed M. Al-Fagoos:**

Mr. Ahmed Al-Fagoos, General Manager of Al-Fagoos General Co - Trading and Contractors is expanding its operations. "We are branching out into industrial activity," Ahmed said. His company has just finished setting up an oxygen gas plant, and is now constructing a plant factory, both in Sanaa.

*** Abdullah Abdul-Wali Noman:**

Mr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Noman, General Manager of the Bureau of the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Chairman of the Investment Board, returned to Sanaa last week following his participation in the Fourth Round of the Executive Board of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining. Mr. Noman was nominated as one of a four-member steering committee (Yemen, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Libya) to prepare for the Eight Conference on Industrial Development, scheduled for later this year. Mr. Noman was also elected to the ten-person Executive Board of the Organization.

*** Tawfiq Mohamed Kaid:**

Mr. Tawfiq Mohamed Kaid, owner and chairman of Al-Jawf Trading Company, is a rising star in the business world of Yemen, having picked up the sole agency for numerous international brand names such as BOSCH, AGIP, and others. Speaking about the current economic difficulties of the country, he said, "We need just one thing of our government - law and order. It can leave the rest to the private sector. We will handle it."

*** Ahmed Kaid Barakat:**

The Chairman of YEMENIA, Mr. Ahmed Kaid Barakat, (Yemen Airways) announced that his company is considering Muscat, the Omani capital, as the next potential destination. This week, Yemenia started flying into Asmara, the Eritrean capital. This brings the company's overseas network to 25 destinations.

*** Marcel Laugel:**

Marcel Laugel, Ambassador of France in Yemen, has invited 1500 friends and officials to a celebration to commemorate the 14th of July. Guests will be entertained to live music and good food, and a French ambience.

*** Col. Mohammed Saleh:**

Colonel Mohammed Saleh, Commander of the Parliamentary Guard, has his work cut out for him. He has to cautiously, but firmly tell the armed escorts of the deputies and visitors to leave their guns and military gear outside the premises of the House of Representatives. Last week, twice he was almost forced to a showdown and both times, he yielded.

JOB OPENINGS:

CANADIAN OXY HAS EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED YEMENI NATIONALS WITHIN ITS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT AS FOLLOWS:

Ref: M.I.S. 001 Help Desk Analyst:

Required to staff the Information Technology help desk. Candidates must have excellent communication skills, detailed experience in computing, and an aptitude for computer technology.

REF: M.I.S. 002 Training Support Analyst:

Required to conduct training in computer software products. Candidates must have excellent communication skills, teaching experience in a class-room environment and a detailed knowledge of P.C. software products.

REF: M.I.S. 003 Network Software Analyst:

Required to install and maintain all network software program products including Microsoft Windows, Excel, Word, Lotus, Word Perfect, Freelance, etc. Candidates must have a demonstrated ability to work in a P.C. networked environment.

REF: M.I.S. 004 Programmer:

Required to develop code for program specifications for both new application and existing application enhancements. Candidates must have a demonstrated ability to carry our program development work in a networked P.C. environment.

Interested applicants should forward details of their qualifications and work experience in English, quoting the appropriate reference number, to:

**Recruitment Manager,
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Co.,
P. O. Box 6065,
Khormaksar,
Aden.**

Only applicants with the appropriate qualifications and experience will be considered.

VACANCY FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

A Member of the Firm of Delotte Touche Tohmatsu International has been requested to seek employment of a number of full time qualified male or female Executive Secretaries to work in Sanaa. The candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages, written and spoken.
- Able to type English and Arabic with acceptable speed and accuracy, using word processing programs - WordPerfect, WordStar, Windows, etc.
- Can handle secretarial duties including filing and general correspondence.
- Have work experience in a similar scope and position for a minimum of 3 years.
- Preference will be given to Yemeni citizens.

The right candidate will be offered a package with an excellent remuneration. Should you qualify, please apply in writing to:

P. O. Box 1493,
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen.
Or Call 215676, 263110 for an appointment

All applications will be treated in strict confidentiality.

A SYMBOL OF THE UNTAINTED OFFICIAL IS DEAD

A frenzied crowd was chanting endlessly exalting the late Mohammed Ali Al-Rabadi. The number was estimated at well over 30,000, almost 25% of the total official population number of Ibb city.

The funeral procession that carried the late public figure was two kilometers long. People from Saadah, Taiz, Sanaa, Hodeidah and Aden were pouring in. Delegates after delegates paid their last tributes to a man who has become the symbol of purity in the



badly infested environment of officialdom. The man, who boldly stood up to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, just a few days earlier, and told him off was dead - penniless. Only 40% of the old two-story house in Old Ibb in which he lives is his. The rest belongs to the Awqaf and Al-Mansoob. "The man died of a broken heart," said one of the relatives, still in full mourning. The next day following his return from Taiz (from a meeting with the president) with a broken heart, he was already in the intensive care unit after a heart attack. "For three days (June 28-30), he was in the hospital in Ibb, where they could not even obtain the required medicine," lamented a friend. Then he was shipped to Sanaa where he stayed at the hospital for two more days before he died. "We saw in government newspapers the president had ordered to ship him out for medical treatment. He had ordered that

\$10,000 be made available for the purpose. The money was not made available. Then the PGC office people talked of making \$5,000 available as a first instalment, urgently. I did not see any of that money, either, and I told them to work it with the doctor. I was busy trying to get my passport," said Khalid, the late Rabadi's son and would-be companion. But the young man could not even get his passport. There was just a clear case of lack of interest. Meanwhile, it was learnt that President Ali Abdullah Saleh has ordered the government to finance the construction of a home for the family of Mr. Rabadi. At another level, intellectuals and journalists in Sanaa have formed a Rabadi Friends Committee. They plan to issue a book on the man's life and achievements.

...

CV of M. Al-Rabadi

Name: Mohammed Ali Al-Rabadi
DOB: 1936
POB: Ibb city
Family: A strict family person and religious in an enlightened and tolerant way. Father of one son and four daughters.
Employment: In government service since 1958. During this time, he occupied many senior level posts at the deputy minister level at the ministries of information, education, municipal affairs.
Political Affiliation: independent
Political Activity: A political activist, he was imprisoned in the infamous Al-Qala'ah prison by the Imam in 1956, and was imprisoned again in 1965.
Political Beliefs: A strong believer in clean government and in the strict accountability of officialdom, something that has created an eternal conflict between him and the rulers.
Skills: A literary man and poet. He was head of the Union of Literary Persons and Poets during 1982-92.
Parliament: He was voted as member of parliament in 1993 in constituency No. 85.
Thoughts and Beliefs: A fervent defender of the freedom of the individual and human rights.

WILLIAM GOLDING: DEATH OF A GREAT WRITER

By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times

On June 19th, one of the greatest novelists of the English language passed away quietly in his house after a rewarding literary life that insured his position as one of the prominent symbols of British literature that is witnessing one of its lowest cycles ever. Although little known outside the English speaking world, William Golding did mark his name in the list of glory of Nobel prize winners in 1983, thus making him the fifth Briton to earn that honor. His first novel "Lord of the

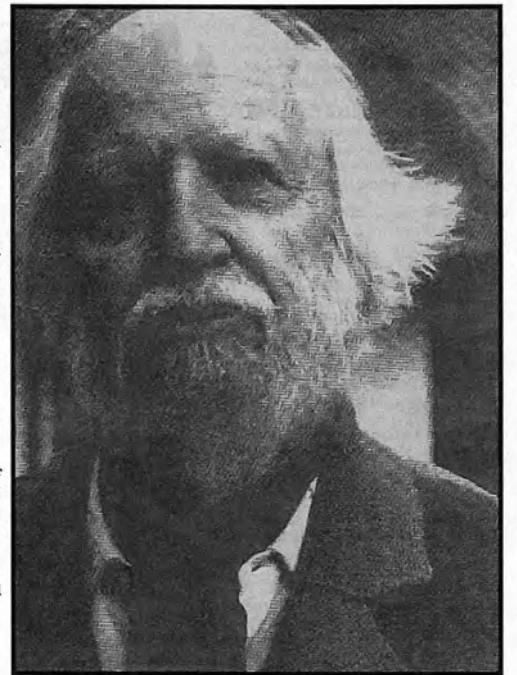


Flies" (1954) came as a shock for both readers and critics making its way as one of the greatest British literary works in the post-war period, and got into school text-books all around the Anglophonic world. In "The Lord of the Flies", as in his later works, Golding explains his view of the world, life and

human nature. In the novel, a group of children find themselves in an isolated island, and try to organize themselves in a community to survive. Unlike the Robinson Crusoe story, where humane ideals finally set things right, those kids fail to co-exist as one community and turn to crime, violence and anarchy. This ending explains the writer's perception of human nature; i.e., that it carries the seed of evil in its deepest depths. This pattern of thought has imprinted all his later works despite the changes in sites and characters and of course the dramatic build-up.

This sense of inherent violence and terror, which formed the landmark of his literature, was probably due to his sad war experience (he served in the navy and participated in the famous D-day of Normandy - 1944), and due to his childhood memories from the evil ghost stories his mother used to tell him. He concluded that evil was an integral part of human nature. He once said in an interview addressing the British people: "You believe that you have won the war and defeated Nazism, so you are nice and polite .. but beware .. we have the evil deep inside all of us." His words

must have touched the deep puritan belief of his country people. "Lord of the Flies" was translated into 26 languages, Arabic being one of them. It was also made into a movie, having been shown on



the screen twice - 1963 and 1990.

He used his teaching profession to circulate his theory of the innate evil in human nature. He allowed his students to freely discuss the subject in classrooms, and often, violence became inevitable.

"The Inheritors" came out a year later, in 1955. The novel is an irritating account of the tragedy of the Neanderthal man, who was wiped out of the face of earth by his successor, the modern man (Homo Sapiens).

After a long pause came, "The Tower" came out in 1964. This tells the story of a monk of the Middle Ages who had a burning desire to build a tower in his cathedral and his inner struggle against his basic instinct (1964).

Then comes the brilliant "Rites of Passage" (1980) which earned him an outstanding British prize.

In his 40 years of writing he has given the world 10 novels, one play, a group of articles and short stories, and one poetry collection. He was a teacher, a war fighter (a navyman) and a lecturer at home, in Continental Europe and the USA.

His literary activity faded a bit in the seventies, but he strongly returned during the eighties to get several prizes crowned by the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1983. In 1988, William Golding became a "Sir." A talented pianist and a self-teacher of ancient Greek language, Golding loved the sea. He bought himself a yacht and sailed out regularly. He persisted on this hobby although he had two major accidents -- in 1953 and 1967. Golding also loved horse riding describing it as sailing on earth.

His life went on in isolation with his wife and two kids, away from the noise and clamor of public life. Golding was never a news maker. One of the critics described him as "one of those writers who

can make the reader feel seasick."

This great English giant had dedicated his life to prove his pessimistic concept of human nature, a fact which made many critics disagree with the decision to award him the Nobel prize. Yet, the Nobel committee had described its reasons saying that "The shrewdness and the clarity of the realistic art of his writings, and the variation and universalism of his usage of the legend (myth), still enlighten the world of today's humanity."

Instinctive evilness, the original sin, terror, inability of man to co-exist in peace under civilizational conditions, the fall of the good in front of the bad, are all part of our real life. But, this kind of writing has made him a lot of enemies among the critics despite his rich imagination, poetic language and transparent imaging of human nature.

He always projected the interrelationship between man and the social structures as leading to frustration and destruction. He never proposed remedies, but he always revealed the darkest genetic sides of the soul and the inherent evil therein.

As literary giants leave this world one by one with no worthy successors, we can mark the coming death of the age of arts and literature, and the birth of the new age - of satellite dishes and colored TV. There are no more legendary heroes to inspire ideals and moral examples, no vivid imagination. No more literary masterpieces which inspire readers for the coming generations.

I'm afraid that book-reading commands an ever smaller portion of our time, the space and time being taken over by watching TV and videos. Over the years, names such as CNN, MBC, etc. have replaced those of William Golding and his likes.



**THE BEST
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A Dying Breed: The Sanaa Textile Factory

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times.

The Textile Factory at Shoub in Sanaa was contracted out in 1964, almost thirty years ago. The People's Republic of China executed the project.

The factory was designed for a different time and by a different technical know-how. "We have tried to update the machines and the system," explained Mr. Saleh Ahmed Al-Sanabani, Vice Chairman and the General Manager of the plant, himself an engineer who graduated from Russia. The Sanaa Textile Factory employs 1700 persons and works three shifts producing 9 million yards of cloth. This is used mainly to produce army uniforms, as well as uniforms for school children. "We also provide the hospitals with their needs of gauze and cotton as well as bed linens and staff uniform. In addition, we cover some



competition, just because the machines have a very low productivity and they recurrently break down. "We had arranged Japanese loans to overhaul the equipment, but the government simply refused the whole thing. The government insisted to privatize the whole plant. That was supposed to have happened during 4/3 - 4/9/1992. But it did not happen," Al-Sanabani indicated. Why? Because there were no takers! "Last month, we signed an agreement with a Chinese



15% of the local market need for cloth," stated Mr. Al-Sanabani. Most of the raw material is local. The factory uses local cotton exclusively in a contractual arrangement with the Tihama farmers. "We provide them with interest-free credit and we take care of the costs of seeds and packing sacks and they hold the prices of the cotton stable," The Vice Chairman added. But still, the factory cannot compete with international

BRITISH AIRWAYS: Gaining Momentum in Yemen



Mr. Robert Lee, British Airways' Regional General Manager Africa/Middle East/India, and the accompanying delegation left Sanaa on Wednesday, July 7th, at the end of an official visit to Yemen.

"The purpose of our visit is to study the Yemeni market and to conclude agreements for British Airways' plans to fly into Yemen," said Mr. Lee. "Towards that end, we spoke to many airlines people and businessmen. On top of all, we held a meeting with Mr. Mohsin Al-Yusufi, the Chairman of the Yemeni Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority," he added. Asked about his preliminary impression, "Our evaluation of the situation is very good. We will be sending more teams shortly to finalize lodging, airport arrangements, and other needs. We hope to start flying into Yemen before the year is out," he concluded.

Alwan Shaibani, Chairman of UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, and the agent of BA in Yemen sounded optimistic about the prospects. "Many people say that the market is small and that there is a recession in the economy. But in our business, you are successful mainly depending on how much effort you put in your work," he said.

Mr. Shaibani should know about hard work and a knack for opportunity and timing. He and his colleagues have built UNIVERSAL and the half dozen companies he chairs from almost scratch. "Success is another word for hard work. Of course, there are a host of other factors, but



hard work comes first," he insisted. "We shall help tie-up all the loose ends to enable the British flag carrier to land in Yemen. I think it will happen in November," he added.

Dining On Top of the Mountain of God!

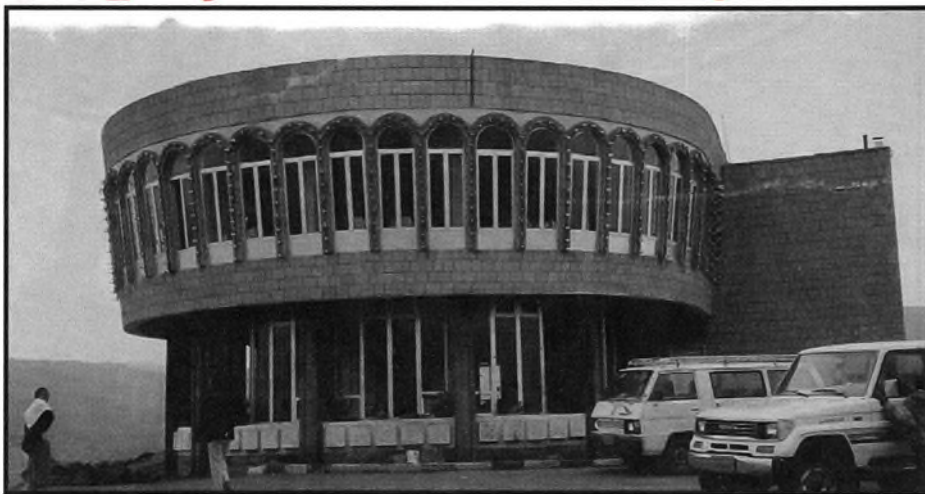
By: Ameen Nouisser, Economic Editor, Yemen Times.

Next to Ibb city stands a small mountain, facing the more gigantic mountain. For some strange reason, this place is called Jabal Rab or the Mountain of God.

I thought of a good reason once I was on top of the mountain - you



can see and supervise everything in Ibb city from that location. That is also probably the reason that the Ibb municipality built a resort on the summit. There is a nice restaurant, a swimming pool, a trackway for casual walk - all on top of God's Mountain. "We have poured into this project over YR 3 million to bring it up to standard," said Mr. Abdulkader Al-Showaiter, the manager of the facility. He is trying to make it a first-class tourist attraction. "At the moment, we entertain some 200 foreign visitors and about a thousand locals every month. On week-ends, it is full," explained Al-Showaiter. To really transform the place, Al-Showaiter would need to bring-in many new facilities and services, which are now lacking. "Look, I am not the owner of the place, I am only the renter. If it were my



property, I would really make it different." Now, that is a good suggestion for the World Bank in its next visit to Yemen - force privatization on this stuff.

The extraordinary location of the resort makes it a necessary stopping point for travellers. "We plan to build a hotel next to the resort so that people can stay longer," the manager explained.

Other than the bureaucracy involved in having to work with the owner - the Ibb municipality - what other problems are there? "There is one big problem," said Mr. Al-Showaiter. The governor brings his senior guests to this facility. He does not pay promptly. The last government guest came here last week - the

President and his entourage of over 500 persons. The bill was YR 60,000 for services rendered to the President and his company. The governor has refused to pay the bill and has established a committee to look into ways to bring the amount down. Do you know, I feel frustrated when something like this happens, while the governor paid in cash, YR 300,000 for the qat of the

president and his company." The resort offers a unique sight at the lush green around the Ibb area. "UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism and other tour operators do make this facility one of their stop points for their group tourists. We hope to induce many more in the future. And one day, I hope to this facility will be privatized; I shall purchase it and make it run along market lines."



The United States Commercial Office, Sanaa Invites you to attend The Oil, Gas and Mining U.S.A. Catalog Exhibition At the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce & Industry July 20-21, 1993 0930 to 1230

The Oil, Gas and Mining U.S.A. Catalog Show includes information on more than 80 U.S. firms offering products and services in the following categories:

- * EXPLORATION
- * ON-SHORE/OFF-SHORE DRILLING & PRODUCTION
- * SECONDARY RECOVERY
- * MATERIAL HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION
- * SAFETY
- * MAJOR PIPELINE PROJECTS
- * PETROCHEMICAL REFINERY
- * MINING (UNDERGROUND AND STRIP MINING)
- * CONSTRUCTION FOR OILFIELD AND MINING OPERATIONS

This exhibition will permit you to learn about a wide variety of U.S. companies seeking new markets for their products and services. In addition to direct sales, these companies are also looking for representatives and distributors. This is an excellent opportunity to pursue contacts with U.S. firms. Looking forward to seeing you at the Oil, Gas and Mining U.S.A. Catalog show. Should you have any questions, please contact the U.S.

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Notice is hereby given that SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V., A Company organized under the laws of the Netherlands, of Carle van Bylandtlaan 30, 2596 HR The Hague, the Netherlands, is the sole and exclusive proprietor of the following invention:

PROCESS FOR CATALYTIC PARTIAL OXIDATION OF HYDROCARBONS

for which application for patent was lodged in the Patent Office of EPC on June 24, 1992 under serial No. 9220879.1

Copies of the specifications and drawings, if any, of the aforesaid invention may be obtained upon application to the above-mentioned owners.

It is hereby declared that the aforementioned SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V. claim for themselves, their successors and assigns, the full, sole and exclusive right, power and authority by themselves, their agents, or their licensees, to make, use, exercise and vend in the Republic of Yemen, the aforesaid invention and that they will take all legal steps against any person or persons infringing such rights.

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Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2
Syria	247750/52
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

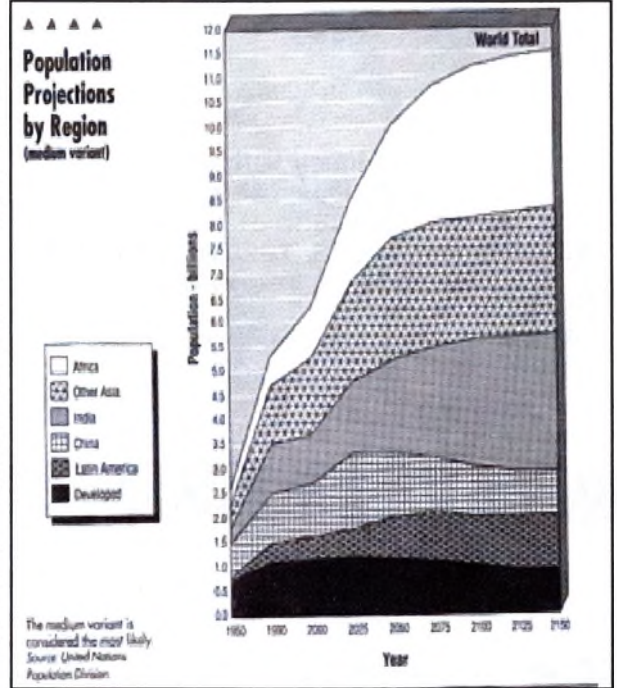
U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	216985
2. Honorary Consulates:	
Austria	266725
Belgium	205925/865
Canada	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534
3. International Organizations:	
FAO	207331/607
UNDP	215505
UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204
ADEN Consulates :	
China	233115
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335
France	223129/090
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russian (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.
FAO Branch	233722/232146

UNFPA Warns Against Population Trends

Last week, on the occasion of the World Population Day, the United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) issued a grim picture of the population growth pattern. According to a high estimate, the world population could hit 11.5 billion by the middle of the next century.

The message, repeated again in the letter from Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director, is "to inform and give access to couples and individuals to family planning programs, improve access to education and health, improve women's status, and ensure equality of opportunity."

The UNFPA plans an International Conference on Population in 1994 which will set the agenda for a concerted effort over the next 20 years.



CONGRATULATIONS

Relatives, friends and colleagues convey their best congratulations to

Dr.
Ali Awad Salem

for having been awarded the Ph.D. degree in Environmental Science from the Kennedy University in California, USA.

From:

Raffiq Awad Salem,
Yasser & Nasser Raffiq,
Mohammed Abdul Nabi
Ahmed Said,
Mohammed Saif,
Mohammed Al-Farawi,
Yassin Al-Farawi,
Coleagues at EPC,
Friends at Yemen Times

New Front Office Manager at Sheraton Sanaa Hotel

Holger K H Frohlich of Germany took over from Sherif Hanafi his post as Front Office Manager at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel. Hanafi has taken over the more senior job of Sales Director.

Holger brings with him an impressive history of professional achievements and an extensive international experience. "You have to do a little bit with magic and mirrors when business drops. You always need to retain the guest's perception that they are getting fine service," said Holger. Mr. Frohlich comes to Sanaa from the Frankfurt Sheraton, Europe's largest Sheraton. The Sanaa Sheraton team has gone out of its way to welcome its new member, and his lovely wife, Susanne. "Holger is going to add to the potential of the hotel in better serving the guests and their friends," said Mr. Parmar, the hotel general manager.



AIR LINES

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

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

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

HOTELS

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

تعازينا

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بأحر التعازي وعميق المواساة لوفاة ابن اليمن البار :

الشهيد / محمد علي الربادي

أسكنه الله فسيح جناته وألهمنا جميعاً الصبر والسلوان ، وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون .

الأسيفون:

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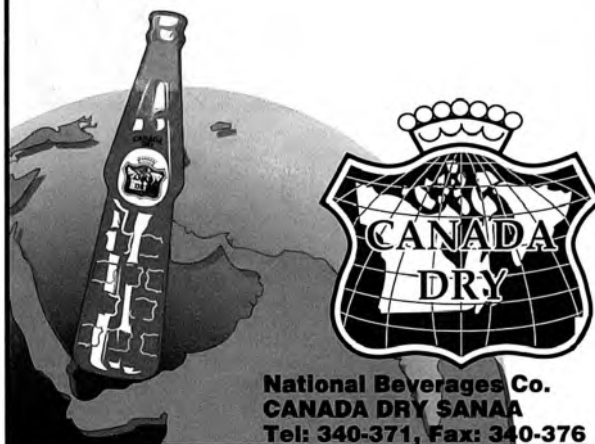
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• Analysis •

CHOLERA vs. HYGIENE: An Uphill Battle in Public Awareness

The current wave of cholera and dysentery cases reported around the towns of Taiz and Ibb shows little sign of abating in spite of efforts by the Ministry of Health to control the spread of the disease.

A total of 6,840 cases of cholera and related dysentery have been reported since the end of May this year, bringing to 33,327 the number of cases since the current epidemic was first brought to Yemen nearly three years ago. Deaths up to the end of 1992 totalled 1112, with the highest mortality rates among the very young and the very old. No statistics are available for deaths this summer.

The cholera epidemic started in September 1990 in Al-Mahara governorate, carried by a Yemeni returnee who had been held at an overcrowded camp in Jordan at the chaotic start of the Gulf War. Waves have broken out during the last four summers. In 1990 and 1991 cases were confined to the

southern governorates, but last year outbreaks occurred throughout Yemen. This year the outbreak has centered in Taiz and Ibb axis.

A senior official at the Ministry of Public Health, who declined to be named, said medical teams are facing three major stumbling blocks in their fight against the epidemic.

First is the lack of attention paid by the public to domestic and personal hygiene; second, the extremely poor level of sanitation in the disposal of human waste and garbage and the contamination of food at all levels, from the lack of fly control to the watering and washing of vegetables with contaminated water; and third the contamination of water sources - wells, pools and rivers.

"The ministry's role is to treat patients and to give guidance on health matters, but we are fighting a losing battle against these problems and attitudes," the spokesman said. "Cats bury their

personal waste, why don't humans? If everyone washed their hands with soap and water after defecation and before preparing food, cholera and dysentery cases would drop at once by 50% without any intervention by us."

The roots and symptoms of cholera and dysentery are similar, but the treatment is not. While death from cholera would be rapid without treatment, it is easily curable when caught in time and fatality is no more than one percent. This strain of dysentery, on the other hand, is highly resistant to drugs, and fatalities can reach 20%.

The spokesman said health education campaigns through the media were failing to reach their target. "The TV programs we run are excellent," he said. "But 90% of rural areas don't receive TV because they have no electricity, and newspapers fail because 90% of the population can't read. The people who get sick are the very poor, and they are the people we

find hardest to reach."

The ministry is organizing mobile teams to bring health education to remote corners in the governorates. "There are three good ways to catch people's attention," said the spokesman. "At a funeral, in the mosque, and in school. When someone has just died we sometimes have a chance to explain to the assembled mourners why it happened. We are enlisting help from the mosques to broadcast our message, but above all we rely on schools. If we can convince children when and why they must wash their hands, they'll take the message home."

With the ready availability of drugs and the help of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef, the Ministry of Public Health has brought the treatment of the related diseases largely under control, but its hands are still tied by the fatal lack of public awareness and by poor cooperation between ministries - the Ministry of Water Resources concentrates its efforts on urban water supply, which reaches a mere 15% of the population. "I get a hundred cases which I can cure, but I'll get another hundred cases tomorrow because they use the same water source," the official said.

Almost all water sources in the affected areas are infested with the cholera and dysentery viruses. Infected feces are washed into the water supply by rains, and flies breed in the garbage. Short term plans include the purification of water in domestic containers, before use; long term plans now waiting for cabinet approval indicate the elimination of contamination at source.

Fighting the cholera problem in Taiz and Ibb must be seen as a national priority, as this problem could easily spread, as it did last year, to many other parts of the republic. Unfortunately, the decision-makers are overwhelmed by political priorities and the power-sharing arrangements among the parties running the government. When they do wake up to the problem, its sheer size may make it un-manageable.

Using the Law to Arm-Twist "Adversaries"

The Ministry of Information sent two more letters to the Yemen Times this week. The first letter accuses the Yemen Times of breaking the law by employing foreigners. If we did that, the matter should be the business of another authority, not the Ministry of Information. As it is, we don't have any full-time foreigner on our payroll. All the foreigners who cooperate with the Yemen Times are in Yemen for some other business, their association with the Yemen Times is an aside.

The second letter accuses the Yemen Times of changing its editorial board without recourse to the Ministry, and demands that Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is not fit to serve as Editor-in-chief, because he is not devoting full time to the newspaper. The status of the Yemen Times is the same as that of almost all other newspapers. The editors-in-chief do something else in addition to the paper they manage.

The Ministry is picking on the Yemen Times because it charts its independent course in reporting events. Everybody we talked to chuckled at the politically-motivated efforts of the Ministry of Information. Twisting the arm of the Yemen Times because it does not "toe the line" says very little about freedom of the press in this country.

It is a pity that the law is used by those in power to tame-in the citizens, whereas in the civilized world, the law is used to protect citizens against the excesses and abuse of officials.

Everybody knows about the real motives of the Ministry of Information in creating difficulties for the Yemen Times, yet no one is willing to take action.

We at Yemen Times will make all adjustments necessary to strictly abide by the law, and remain within its limits, even if we do so alone. But we will also continue to serve as readers without being beholden to the Ministry or its wishes.

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