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# YEMEN TIMES

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• July 25th through 31st, 1993

Volume III; Issue # 29 • Price: 10 Riyals •

## So far, so good

The second court hearing of the case of Yemen Times versus the Ministry of Information was held on Thursday, July 22nd. The second was presided over by Judge Hussain Al-Mahdi and assisted by three other judges.

The Ministry of Information has introduced some of its big guns by bringing in several additional prosecutors to assist Mr. Abdul-Qader Hamza, its point-man. On the defence side, in addition to Lawyers Abdullah Al-Marwani and Moqbil Haiderah, new faces took the stand to defend various aspects of the case. These are Ahmed Al-Abiadh, Abdul-Malik Al-Sanabani, Dr.

Mohammed Al-Khateeb, and Mohammed Qassim Al-Asbahi. The Defence panel has, by now, twelve lawyers who working on a voluntary basis, and the Lawyers' Syndicate has taken a decision to come full force on the side of the Yemen Times.

The judge listened to the defence sides it stated the facts of the legal proceedings. The prosecutor's office, under the instigation of the Ministry of Information, has filed a case on behalf of the Chairman of the Presidential Council. It accuses Yemen Times, and Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf in particular, of having unduly criticized the president. The legal question is whether the



prosecutor's office has the right, without the authorization of the accuser, to file a lawsuit. The point is it has no right, and therefore, the defence side requested from the prosecutor's office to present to the court an authorization from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to file the lawsuit, or at least to show that the legal system allows it to file a case on behalf of any person or government official. The prosecutor's office has a one-week postponement to answer the question.

One intellectual who attended the session stated that the defence side is not even looking at the case. It is simply allowing the case to drag on, and use the time to mobilize public dismay at the Ministry of Information. "This is very clear especially since the beneficiaries from the real estate donation of the

president are the key officials assisting the president in his information relations," he added. Anger and frustration is already mounting in the streets, and among the lawyers, journalists, businessmen, government bureaucrats, and prominent intellectuals.

Prof. Al-Saqqaf had published an article in the Yemen Times (Issue No. 23 of June 13th) challenging the President to prove he is genuinely interested in fighting corruption in the system by stopping a few of his assistants in the information sector from chopping up the campus of Sanaa University and transferring its ownership to themselves. These presidential aides were given permission by the president himself to take ownership of 8800 square meters of government land in Sanaa. The beneficiaries decided they

preferred to take ownership of part of the university campus as it is in the center of town and well-located, and is defined as prime real estate by the business.

The university at first resisted the on-slaughter, but, it succumbed as the president's men brought-in army units to supporting their position. At this stage, Professor Al-Saqqaf wrote his article asking the president to prove that he is genuinely interested in reforms and in fighting corruption, and that his statements over the media were not simply for public consumption.

Several parliamentarians, Sanaa university professors, lawyers, journalists, political scientists, politicians and ordinary citizens attended the session.

The next court hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 29th.

## The House & Its Big Tasks

The House of Representatives has become the focal point of Yemeni politics, in view of the major tasks it is expected to perform over the next few days. The House has three important decisions to take:

First, it has to decide on granting its vote of confidence to the new Al-Attas government. There is a lot of resistance on the part of parliamentarians, even those belonging to the ruling coalition of PGC-YSP-Islah. To appease the parliamentarians, the politicians will most probably give the House the right to add to the government program in order to give their okay on the vote of the confidence. "What the heck. Some more promises," stated one senior government official.

Second, parliament has to come up with a list of candidates for the five-person presidential council. Then it will vote to elect the five. There is already a lot of heated debate on this matter as the Islah wants to be represented in the council. If that happens, then, the YSP is probably going to relinquish one of its two seats, and the PGC may also give up one of its three seats in favor of "an independent or at least non-coalition" member. One politician expects a Hashed majority (Ali Abdullah Saleh, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Sheikh Mujahed Abu Shawarib) in the new Presidential Council.

Third, parliament will have to return to the issue of constitutional amendments. These have temporarily taken the back seat for the two more urgent matters, explained above.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### I SALUTE THESE THREE MINISTERS

I take pride in saluting three ministers in the current government, who from the beginning have embarked on real work, with the least politicization.

My salutations go to Mr. Yahia Al-Mutawakkil, Minister of the Interior, who has given the robbers and highwaymen a big knock-out. Everyday, more and more outlaws are caught and brought to justice.

My salutations go to Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, the Foreign Minister, who was able to breathe life into our relations with the Gulf States. Everyday, there is some development in the right direction in Yemen's foreign relations with the GCC countries.

My salutations go to Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, who probably has the biggest job to do in this country. He has already made a print on the educational system. It is men like these who build a modern Yemen and who inspire hope regarding the future. There are several factors that bring the three men together - they avoid being politicized and they address their tasks head on.

I think that these men deserve the full backing of society and the media. What they are doing is exceptional. It takes a lot of personal courage and foresight.

I am not saying that the other members of the Al-Attas government are not doing their job, but what I am saying is that the results of the efforts of these three men are more dramatic. I hope that the efforts of other officials will produce similar results in the immediate future. In our society's interaction with the members of the new government, it is crucial that credit is given wherever it is due. In the case of these three men, credit is more than due. Therefore, I call on the political leadership to kindly study the achievements of our senior officials and give those who deserve the necessary praise and citations.

I take this chance to salute these men, and to salute all others who help Yemen develop towards a prosperous nation.

*The Publisher*  
عبد العزيز

## YEMEN TIMES

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### New Supreme Electoral Commission Named

A Presidential Decree was issued on Wednesday, July 21st, 1993, naming the following persons to membership of the Supreme Electoral Commission (SEC):

1. Mohsin Mohamed Al-Ulufi,
2. Mahmood Abdullah Arasi,
3. Saeed M. Al-Hakeemi,
4. Ameen Ali Ameen,
5. Abdul-Fattah Al-Baseer,
6. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaifi,
7. Khaled Ghailan Saeed.

The commission will meet to name its president and rapporteur, and will take over the documents and other particulars from the old SEC. Some of the members have already taken the constitutional oath.

### Chinese Doctors for Yemen

178 Chinese Doctors and nurses are contracted to come to Yemen and serve in the public hospitals. According to a contract signed on Thursday, July 22nd, a new batch of Chinese physicians and assistants will arrive later this year to serve in hospitals in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah and Abyan.

Since the signing of the contract that brought the first batch of Chinese medical personnel to Yemen in 1966, China has sent over 2000 doctors and nurses to work in Yemen.

### Hadhramis Object to Dividing Hadhramaut

The Hadhrami Yemenis have reacted fiercely to rumors which speak of dividing the governorate of Hadhramaut into two, or even three smaller governorates.

Although the rumors are just street talk, it is understood that certain officials are behind such a step, seen as an important step to abort any Hadhrami plans for secession from Yemen.

A circular being signed by the people of Hadhramaut and their supporters, denounces such devilish ideas about secession, and explains that Hadhramaut is an integral unit which has existed unified and united over the ages.

The circular also describes the motives behind the division as unfounded. Finally, it brings to the open the exploitative nature of the motive behind such a rumor, which the Hadhramis of Yemen say they will oppose.

### Child Study in Full Motion

A study that is devoted totally to documentation and analysis of the conditions of Yemeni children has now reached its field survey stage.

Six teams are now worked on randomly chosen samples in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Saadah and Mukalla.

Specialists from Sanaa University, NGOs, and the education sector have come together to carry out the work. The first stage of the study, which costs one million Yemeni Rials, is being financed and coordinated by the Yemen Times, and assisted by Radda Barnen, UNICEF, and the Netherlands Embassy.

The research and field work will be completed by mid-August, and the first draft of the report will be available to the sponsors by the end of September.

Yemen Times will run a complete story next week.

### Four Highway Robbers Executed

Four highway robbers - Faisal Mohsen Al-Haddar, Shayef Saleh Al-Hanashi, Nasser Ali Al-Furaikh, and Nasser Saleh Al-Hanashi - were executed in public in Sanaa on Wednesday, July 21st.

The death sentence was issued by the lower court and was confirmed at every level of the judicial authority in Yemen.

The four men were found guilty of highway robbery and murder of innocent travellers along the inter-city highways of the country.

The Ministry of Interior is working hard to apprehend all highway robbers who have disturbed the peace of the nation along the highways.

### Yemeni-Russian Military Talks

A high-level Russian military delegation has concluded a few days visit to the Republic of Yemen to discuss supplies of spare parts and ammunition to the military hardware supplied by the former USSR to the Yemeni army, as well as training needs.

The team met with numerous political and military men, and held repeated sessions with Defence Minister Haitham Qassim Taher.

The Russians want to collect on arrears and required advance payments before any schedule on deliveries can be finalized.

Yemen has found other sources of supply for its needs of spare parts and ammunition of the Russian hardware, and is not really interested in new hardware. Therefore, it overplayed its economic hardships as an obstacle to making any payments.

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**PAKISTAN IN NEW POLITICAL TURMOIL**

Pakistani President Ishaq Ghulam Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have both resigned. The parliament was also dissolved, due to pressure from the military and opposition legislators led by Benazir Bhutto. Sharif announced his resignation in a nationally televised speech last week "in view of the undemocratic attitude of some irresponsible politicians." He did not announce a date for new parliamentary elections for the powerful lawmaking lower house of parliament. Deciding to go for snap polls, Sharif has advised President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to dissolve the National Assembly. The President accepted the advice immediately, dissolving the Assembly and appointing a former World Bank economist, Moeen A Qureshi, as the caretaker Prime Minister. Soon after this, he also tendered his resignation according to a formula negotiated by army chief-of-staff Abdul Waheed who shuttled between the president and prime minister to negotiate the agreement for resolving the deadlock in the country's politics. According to the formula, both the president and the prime minister were forced to leave office and seek re-election as common men. Neutral and impartial caretaker governments have been appointed at the federal and the provincial levels. Members of these governments will not be taking part in the polls. The fairness of the polls will further be assured by the army. The chairman of the Senate, Wasim Sajjad has taken over as Acting President. The political instability, starting in the beginning of current year, is, however, expected to continue till after the elections as new alliances are formed and a fierce election campaign gets under way. Sharif's resignation is seen as a concession to the army, which has become increasingly troubled by the political feuds that have paralysed Pakistan's leadership for nearly five months. Bhutto's opposition forces sought Sharif's resignation as a means to avert possible military rule. In his speech, Sharif accused Bhutto of destabilising his government and threatening the country's fragile democracy. "In this country the same people who claim to be champions of democracy are the same people who are threatening it," he said. Sharif's press secretary, Sadiq Farooq, said that an agreement was reached to hold elections in 60 days. The feud between Ishaq Khan and Sharif began in February when the Prime Minister threatened to curb the President's power, particularly his authority to dismiss elected assemblies. The President reacted by firing Sharif on charges of corruption and political ineptitude. Sharif was the first industrialist to head the government of Pakistan. His appointment in November 1990 shattered a tradition under which political power was the preserve of regional chieftains or army generals. He soon made his mark by launching a drive to open up the strictly regulated economy and make Pakistan self-reliant after decades of heavy dependence on foreign aid. But opposition parties accused him of selling state enterprises to friends at cut-price rates and of isolating Pakistan internationally in his pursuit of self-reliance. In his ambitious program of economic reforms, Sharif lifted most restrictions on the movement of foreign exchange, opened the stock market to foreign investment and privatized many unwieldy state enterprises.

**ABORIGINAL CLAIMS POSE A THREAT TO MINING FIRMS**

The leader of Australia's largest export-earning state said last week the Labor government's determination to impose its own solutions to Aboriginal land claims would damage the country's huge mining industry. Richard Court, premier of Western Australia, said all the major mining companies operating in his state were worried about the future. "They (the federal government) are determined to impose their solution on the states and that is going to cause a great deal of pain for a number of industries," Court said. The Labor government has been wrangling with state governments and mining companies since a 1992 court ruling which said native title in Australia had not automatically been extinguished by white settlement in 1788. The government has insisted that no private land was under threat from the so-called Mabo ruling, but courts across the country will hear a number of native land claims next month, including the first on a mining lease. Prime Minister Paul Keating last month threatened to impose national laws to protect native land titles in recognition of the need for a just treatment for Aborigines. The federal government has yet to spell out how its plan, now being formulated through legislation, would work in practice or how it would affect existing land holders. Most states want the title severely limited or abolished. The government in the southern state of Victoria is set to introduce its own land title laws this week, which are likely to validate mining leases between 1975 and 1993. "Forty per cent of western Australia is still vacant crown (government) land, we are the only state in Australia that has such a large amount of vacant crown land," Court said in an interview last week. Western Australia provides more than 25% of the country's annual export income of nearly Australian \$50 billion (US\$34 billion) through its mining operations. The high court ruling, known as Mabo, after one of the Aborigine plaintiffs, said that where Aborigines could prove a continuing link with their traditional lands, their native title may not have been extinguished by European settlement. "What many people in the mining industry still are not aware of is the full ramifications of the decision because it's a very vague concept," Court said. The bitter debate on Mabo was further fuelled earlier this month by the chief of a major mining group who dismissed government assurances that ownership of mineral resources was not at risk. Hugh Morga, managing director of Western Mining Corp Holdings Ltd., said the Mabo ruling was a challenge to the legitimacy of Australia and the high court itself. A number of mining industry leaders have said that if Aborigines gain native title, and with it the right of veto over their land, foreign investment in the huge resources industry would dry up. Australia currently has about 300,000 Aborigines, forming 1.8% of the population, compared to an estimated 750,000 to two million in 1788. Many more Aborigines also live in New Zealand and other nearby states.

**FIRST MEETING ON WESTERN SAHARA**

Polisario leaders and Moroccan representatives met for the first time last week in a bid to break a deadlock over a UN peace plan to end the 17-year conflict in Western Sahara. The two sides are bitterly at odds regarding who can vote in a UN referendum which will decide whether the disputed Western Sahara will be an independent state as demanded by the Polisario, or attached to Morocco which already controls most of the area, its towns and phosphate mines. A ceasefire was enforced in the former Spanish colony in September 1991, but a UN peace plan has been stalled by the dispute over who can vote in the referendum. The Polisario wants voting lists limited to about 74,000 people, in line with a 1974 Spanish census. Rabat wants to add 100,000 people it says are refugees not included in the census. The Polisario, which had been fighting for independence in Western Sahara since 1976, has threatened to start fighting again if a solution is not reached. During a tour in May, UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali submitted a halfway compromise to the voter problem to King Hassan II and Mohamed Abdelaziz, the Polisario secretary-general. His proposal, which has not been published, was the main topic at the Laayoun talks. The talks are expected to drag on for a few more days. Boutros Ghali has indicated that if the two sides fail to agree, he will in any case ask the Security Council to go ahead with the referendum before the end of this year. Eleven officials from each side met in the compound of the UN mission for a referendum in Western Sahara which has been monitoring the ceasefire. Sayed, second in command in Polisario, led the Polisario team while the Moroccan delegation was led by Ahmed Senoussi, Rabat's UN ambassador. The Moroccan delegation included two Polisario leaders who had defected to Morocco - Brahim Hakim and Omar Hadhrami, who were present in Laayoun, but did not attend the talks. The two men were on Morocco's delegation to talks to Geneva last November. Polisario objected to their presence and the talks were aborted. The Rabat government has reported the defection of more than 2,000 Polisario militants to Morocco since the ceasefire.

**MIYAZAWA IS GONE!**

On Thursday, July 2nd, Japanese Prime Minister and chief of the ruling party LPD, has bowed to pressure from all sides and tendered his resignation. Mr. Miyazawa carries the brunt of a series of mistakes and shortfalls from his predecessors, and which culminated into the loss of LPD majority in parliament. The LPD has been exposed to numerous scandals, notably corruption and kickbacks collected by its leading members. In any case, the LPD will continue to form the next government, probably in coalition, for the first time, with another party. This may be the beginning of a long period of political instability for Japan.

**BOSNIA ABSTAINS FROM TALKS**

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina will not attend the Geneva peace talks as a protest against the Serbian continued attack against the capital, Sarajevo. "We will give the Serbs three days. If they stop their attacks, then our delegation will be headed by President Ali Izzat Bigovitch, otherwise, there is no point in talking about ease while they bombard our homes mercilessly," stated Mr. Ayoub Janitch, the Vice President and official presidential spokesman. The focus of attention has shifted last week from the fighting in the regions to the capital city which is about to fall to the Serbs. If that were to happen, the Western world will come under serious pressure to confront the Serbs and Croats.

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**HAPPENINGS AT THE TAJ SHEBA**

# Waste And What Not ....

By: Jenny Jobbins,  
Yemen Times.

Do Sanaa residents ever wonder where their household water comes from, and where it goes once they have used it?

Only two small, central areas of Sanaa receive piped drinking water, and only a small area, roughly corresponding to the larger piped water zone, is connected to a main sewage network. The city's infrastructure has simply not kept pace with its mushrooming growth. The influx of new residents flocking to the city to find work, coupled lately with returnees from the Gulf, has doubled the city's population from half to one million in the thirty years since the revolution, making it one of the fastest growing capitals in the world.

Surprisingly, perhaps, it is the older parts of Sanaa, from the Old City west to Al Qa, which are piped and sewered. Also connected to a water supply, but with no main drainage, is the northern section of Shoub.

The vast, new construction zones, which far exceed the original city in size, receive water from private sources, while their wastewater pours into cesspits and, eventually, soaks into the ground.

In Yemen there is no night-soil collection, a fairly hygienic system still used in many parts of Europe until the 1960s, and the usual method of disposal in China today. This morning collection of household liquid waste was a common practice for housing units, rural or urban, with not enough garden space to install a cesspit or septic tank. But here in Sanaa the given wisdom that led to this system has been overlooked: the ground can only absorb so much liquid waste, and tanks should therefore not be placed too close together. This is a pity, for the Old

City of Sana'a had, until recently, one of the most efficient waste disposal systems ever devised.

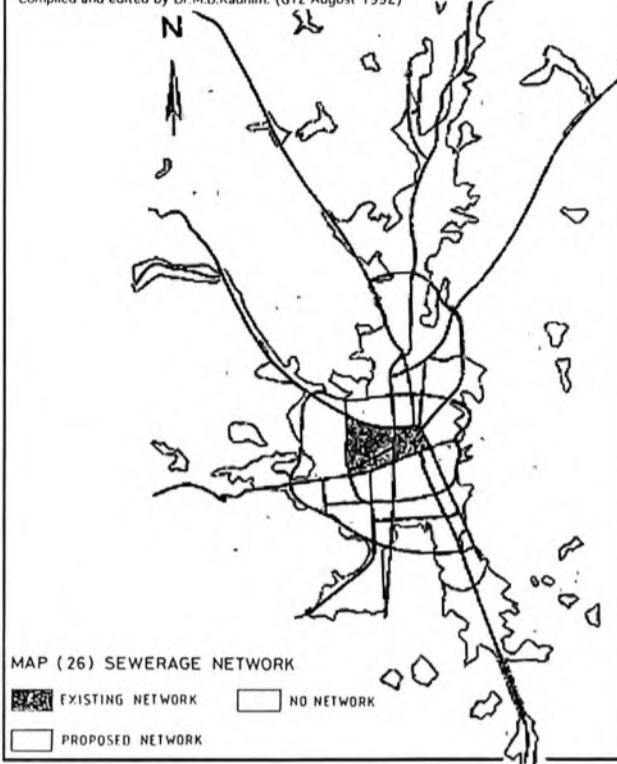
Water used to be recycled in the most intensive manner. Rain water was channeled into the mosques to be ready for ablutions; when used, it flushed the lavatories, the excrement from which was dried and used as fuel for the hammamat or bathhouses while the liquid waste fertilized vegetables in surrounding gardens, a proportion of which, in turn, was given to the mosque. Each household recycled its waste in a similar way, using the dried excrement as fuel. Thus recycling is certainly not a new concept in Yemen, but it seems to have abandoned in its hour of need.

Many rural towns and villages depend for water on ponds or springs where domestic waste is discharged, garbage dumped, and where malaria, cholera and bilharzia are rife. Sana'a's water is drawn from private wells, or is trucked in to fill water tanks.

Although they are relatively small, the areas of the city with water and sewage networks are the most densely populated, which means that approximately 20% of Sana'a's inhabitants receive piped public water. Extensions of both networks were proposed more than two years ago, but so far there has been no attempt to implement the plans. Meanwhile the city is growing longer and wider, more and more building is going on, and more and more cesspits are being dug.

The sewage pipes - and a trickle of waste not collected by the network - flow in a gentle downhill slope towards the settlement ponds at Rawdah, where, when the wind is blowing in a certain direction, they greet passengers on incoming flights. The plant is so overloaded that it has ceased to function

"Sana'a Masterplan 1992-2002: Summary of the First Phase: Preliminary Studies."  
Compiled and edited by Dr.M.B.Kadhim. (GTZ August 1992)



- raw sewage is flowing in, and flowing out, and the area around the ponds is heavily polluted.

A team from the German aid agency Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) is assisting the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning by drawing up comprehensive town plans to include all areas of urban infrastructure and development for Sana'a, Bajil (which is acting as the model for a medium-sized town) and al-Hawdah, capital of Lahej (representing a small town). The German firm Gietech-Dorsch is working with the National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA) on a program to improve drinking water and sewage networks in thirty-six Yemeni towns. The first six projects - in Bajil, Mocha, Zabid, Mansoura, Hagga and Beit al-Faqrih - are being funded by the GTZ, while funding is being sought for the remaining thirty towns. The final designs are being drawn up, and Gietech-Dorsch will soon be putting out tenders for construction which will come under their supervision. They are also upgrading the existing sewage treatment plant at Rawdah. Also funded by GTZ, the plans have yet to be drawn up and work is not expected to commence until mid-1985.

Unfortunately, after reunification the central government missed a golden opportunity to improve the systems nationwide. Instead of fusing the two distinct water, sewerage and refuse disposal systems of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic, incorporating some of the slightly more refined techniques of the south into the chaotic situation in the north, the decentralized southern networks were allowed to run down and even more dependence was placed on

the central authority, already strapped for cash, equipment, and efficient manpower.

In 1978 the Yemen Arab Republic government paid the consortium of Louis Benger International and Kampsax International US\$5 million for an urban survey. Detailed, scholarly and comprehensive, the survey, which filled eight telephone book-sized volumes, covered all aspects of the major towns of North Yemen: Sana'a, Hodeidah, Taiz, Ibb and Dhamar. None of the report was implemented, and piles of copies lie gathering dust among the national archives.

Experts say Sana'a's water may last for another ten years. "This is the maximum," adds Klaus Plett, team leader for Gietech Dorsch. Various suggestions have been put forward to provide Sana'a with water in the future, including piping it from the north or setting up a desalination plant in the Red Sea. "Ten years is all the time left to find and implement a solution," says Klaus Plett.

## TROUBLE AT SANAA UNIVERSITY

The university of Sanaa is being overwhelmed by over 30,000 enrollment applications, whereas the university can barely absorb six thousand. At the College of Economic and Commerce, the teaching staff have set up a committee to study the maximum absorptive capacity of the college, and what can be done to best accommodate the students without infringement on the quality of education. The university is studying many alternatives, including going back to the government for more resources.

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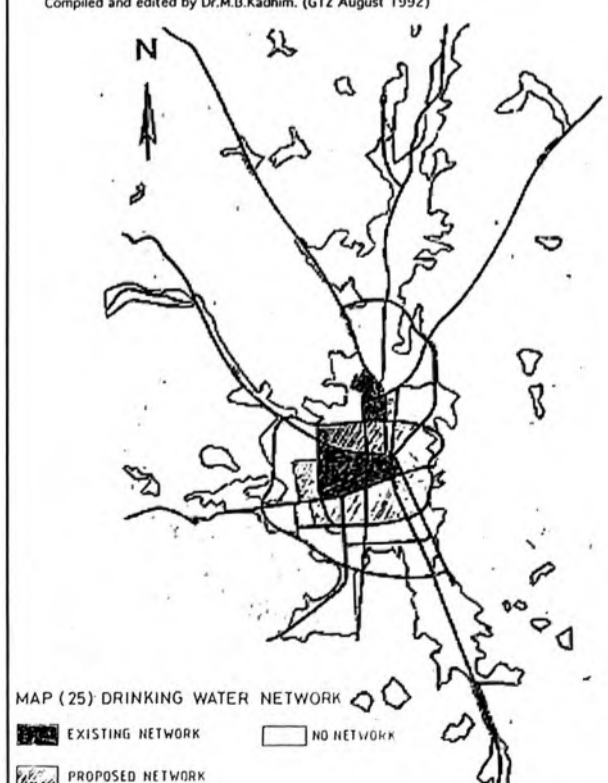
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الجمهورية اليمنية

# Yemeni-American Relations Back on the Upswing

The Yemen American Friendship Association (YAFA) organized a seminar on Yemen-American relations on Thursday, July 22nd at the Sheraton. The seminar was attended by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, the Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Arthur Hughes, the US Ambassador in Sanaa, political scientists, university professors, and journalists. Many members of YAFA also attended. The first speaker was Dr. Ahmed Noman Al-Madhagi, who gave a brief presentation of the history of the bilateral relations, based on his PhD dissertation. "On March 4th, 1946 the USA recognized Yemen, but the first encounter between the two sides was on April 8th," Dr. Al-Madhagi said. "No one better describes that encounter than Richard

## The First Yemeni-American Encounter:

Colonel Eddy's party had to go down to the Yemeni Red Sea town of Hodeidah. As there were no regular steamers on this run, the United States Navy was kind enough to put a new destroyer, the "Ernest G. Small" at the party's disposal. Dawn of April 8th found the "Small" at anchor off the coast of Yemen, where field glasses showed the white buildings of Hodeidah topped by the spires of three minarets and flanked by Turkish forts half hidden among the clumps of palm trees. At a signal from Captain McGrath, the five-inch guns of the destroyer fired a twenty-one gun salute. Soon a puff of white smoke billowed up from the largest fort as the Yemeni side returned the American salute. This turned out to be one lengthy process, for the old Turkish muzzle loaders could fire only once every six minutes, and took over two hours to complete the twenty-one shots, by which time, Hodeidah had been blanketed in smoke. **from: Richard Sanger, Arabian Peninsula, p. 247.**



Sanger in his book Arabian Peninsula Please refer to box above," states Dr. Noman. Dr. Noman describes the Yemeni-American relations in three phases. Phase One goes upto 1990, during which relations grow from non-existent to special. This phase is climaxed by the then Vice President George Bush's visit to Yemen in 1989, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to Washington in 1990. The drop was dramatic in Phase Two as Yemen and the USA took different sides on the Gulf Crisis. "Yemen suffered tremendously from its miscalculation, and continues to pay dearly," Dr. Noman stated.

Phase Three starts with the second post-unity government. Here we see a visible effort on the part of the Yemeni government to distance itself from the Iraqi regime. Foreign Minister Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah takes credit for much of this new orientation. The second speaker, Mr. Aziz Al-Haddi, described the importance of cultural and educational cooperation. He pointed out that AMIDEAST plays an important role in this regard. "Many of Yemen's intellectual leaders and university professors have gone through the Amideast program," he said. Mr. Khaled Ahmed Jabir Afif, Assistant Deputy Minister of Planning and

Development, indicated that the USA has terminated its aid program to Yemen as a result of the Gulf Crisis. "At the same time, we have witnessed a dramatic rise in the volume of private American investment in this country," he said. The official pointed out that Yemen needed and deserved the American support, and expressed optimism that such aid will return to pre-Gulf Crisis level. "We have witnessed a visible growth in the American aid to Yemen recently. We need assistance specially in training and education," he stated. Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, Foreign Minister, spoke at length about the need for Yemen to link-up

with the rest of the world, and not to allow itself to be isolated. "We are doing all we can to rebuild bridges with the USA and our neighbors, the GCC countries. Restoring trust and confidence with the USA must be seen as an important factor in restoring trust and confidence with the GCC countries," Foreign Minister Mohammed Salem Ba-Sindiwah said. Mr. Ba-Sindiwah pledged to do all he can to avoid any misunderstanding in the future. "We shall push forward with policies that are clear, and that preserve the mutual interests and respect. It is in the national interest of Yemen to return to warm and cordial relations with its neighbors and the leaders of the world," he pointed out. The Foreign Minister finally praised the YAFA for organizing the seminar, and for its other efforts in bringing Yemen and the USA closer, and said that he will support the organization, and will participate in its activities. The Final speaker was the honorable Arthur Hughes, US Ambassador in Yemen. "I do not want to go through the pages of history to describe the bilateral relations between our two countries. But I want to stress that the bilateral relations were ready for a major transformation to the better in 1990 just before Saddam Hussain invaded Kuwait. Unfortunately, Yemen took a position that was different from the majority of the world community in handling the crisis. Not only that, but Yemen sought to maintain a normal relationship with a regime the world wanted to isolate. This has

put our relations on ice," the ambassador explained. But the ambassador concluded with an optimistic tone. "What Yemenis have done in terms of democracy and elections, and the recent distancing from the Iraqi

regime, have both allowed our relations to warm-up again," he said. Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Seminar moderator and organizer, wrapped the seminar by promising more seminars in the future.

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### YEMEN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

Excerpts from an interview with Professor Ahmed Jaber Afeef, the founder of the Al-Afeef cultural establishment and Al-Jamaheer Weekly.

Q: Five years after the founding of your cultural establishment, how do you evaluate its performance and achievements?

A: I would be exaggerating if I said the establishment had accomplished all its goals, but I am optimistic that we can achieve a great deal in the future. In fact, we have taken over some important projects such as the Encyclopedia of Yemen, which is regarded as the first of its kind.

Q: Can you acquaint us with the background to the daring decision which led to this fruitful effort of issuing the encyclopedia?

A: Let me tell you that the intention of publishing an encyclopedia of Yemen preceded the idea of founding the establishment. In addition to the cultural project, we have approached subjects encompassing oil in Yemen, women, qat, the old city of Sana'a, and a collection of poems. I should like to point out that the encyclopedia took more than two years of preparation up to printing and distribution. The encyclopedia is in two bulletins, with the visual aid of maps, data schedules, and 150 colored pictures.

The items of the encyclopedia, in which more than one hundred researchers from Yemen and the world participated, concentrate on man, land, culture, traditions, customs, geography, geology, history, relics, and other aspects of human knowledge. Regardless of its high cost, I and all my colleagues feel a sensation of rejoicing, for it represents a high point in our achievements.

Q: Do you intend to issue a new, updated edition?

A: Yes, we intend to start issuing a second edition with added items that we were unable to include in the first. But this will take us at least two years.

Q: Are you achieving anything other than your periodicals and the preparations of the second edition of the encyclopedia?

A: We have finished compiling a Yemeni dictionary which deals with everyday dialect and pronunciation, by the author Mutahar bin Al-Iriani. This is in nine parts, and is about to come out. As well as this, two more collections of poems by Muhammad Al-Sharafi are on their way to publication. We try to organize seminars every three months featuring economic, political, and social issues with a regional and worldwide focus. Then we compile the seminar's paperwork into book form for publication.

**Al-Jamaheer, Sana'a,**  
12/7/1993.

### THE PROBLEM WITH AMERICA

Fred Rickson, a 30 year-old American and a teacher of English literature at Sana'a University, is a Peace Corps volunteer. At one time he knew nothing about Islam. He used to attend theological lectures at university, and through these lectures he learned to understand Christianity, Buddhism, and the Chinese religions and beliefs.

In his search for a religion in which he felt comfortable, he

discovered the philosophy of Islam, but all he knew was the theory, learned from books. Then came the opportunity to work in Yemen as a volunteer with the American Peace Corps mission. His two friends in the mission were Moslems, and he found them happy with the doctrine they had faith in. During Ramadhan he fasted with them, and the fast gave him a verve for patience and endurance.

With the Gulf crisis, he returned to the United States with his colleagues and there began to follow the news about the war. The TV networks portrayed the Moslems as terrorists, but this did not affect his intention to convert to Islam. He even convinced his parents to convert by showing them the moral values of the religion.

Regarding alcohol and adultery, he believes they are responsible for the deviations of society, and that most of the problems of society are due on their impact. As for women, he thinks that excessive freedom leads to a loss of respect. All in all, he thinks his conversion has

\*breathed new life into him.

**Hamud Mansur  
Sawt Al-Iman, Sana'a,**  
13/7/1993.

### FRANKLY SPEAKING

Whenever I met a certain friend of mine, I would ask him if he had got married. The reply was always, "Not yet!" During my visits I used to urge him to find a wife, and ask him, "What are you waiting for, after graduation when you get a post and you have reached the age of thirty?"

All religions encourage marriage as a way of fending off adultery, prostitution, and other deviations. My friend, as I know him, is a good man and without vice, but what stops him is the high dowry and expenditure, and the difficulty of forming a family due to the high cost of living.

The dowry in itself costs a minimum of 150 to 100 thousand Riyals. Consider my friend. Where is he going to get such a sum of money?

**By: Muhammad Saleh Al-Rowaishan,  
Al-Sahwah, Sana'a,**  
15/7/1993.

### REVOLUTION IN IRAQ

We hereby salute the people of Iraq for their endurance, their patience, and for their remarkable struggle against aggression, assault, and sanctions. The anniversary of this present situation gives us a chance to make a national challenge to those factions who are behind the movement to topple its leadership.

As for the enemies of the revolution, the problem lies in the progressive march forward in construction, achievement, and the challenge to follow a clear policy and refuse to humiliate itself before the superpowers.

This right, which we believe is embodied in Islam, is regarded as a piercing power, giving us more direction, will, and guidance to adhere to the principles of Islam. The steps of modernization which began in 1968 in Iraq are still continuing, and that is why the superpowers try to contain this country and bring it to its knees through the resolutions of the United Nations.

**Ahmad Abu Yasir Alminef  
Al-Raay Al-A'am, Sana'a,**  
17/7/1993.

### OUR COUNTRY LACKS A GREAT DEAL

It was recently announced that Germany had granted 93 million Riyals to finance a water supply project in the Arhab region of the Sana'a governorate, and the drilling of 15 wells in various parts of the region. Japan granted 53 million Riyals for the Alyusifeen project at Al-Kubeitah in the Taizz governorate.

Reviewing the generous gifts from a number of European countries, I see that over the last ten years both Germany and Holland have given continuous financial aid to Yemen, and that Germany has contributed 50 million marks and Holland 50 million guilders each year.

Next to these two governments come the governments of Japan, France and the United Kingdom. It is to be noted that these countries have never stopped giving aid to Yemen, even during the Gulf crisis.

We seize this opportunity to pay our sincere respects to these governments on behalf of the Yemeni press. Their aid brings a realization that Yemen is regarded as one of those awkward countries which needs to build itself up right from the beginning, and that it lacks even the basic foundations of a state. The countries awarding the donations took into account those necessary priorities for constructing the infrastructure of the country. Among these priorities are asphalted roads, agricultural development, drinking water supply systems, sanitation, garbage collection vehicles and other items of necessity. It is the duty of all of us to start building up the country through the coalition government program.

But unfortunately there is no maintenance of what has been achieved in these past years, particularly in the field of road building, the marketing of agricultural products and the exportation of the surplus.

**Abd al-Rachman al-Haidari,  
Al-Hag, Sana'a,**  
18/7/1993.

### WE NEED A FILM

Is producing a movie beyond our people? Just when is the seventh art going to knock on our doors? We want a production representing the events of the revolution from September/October up to 22nd May 1990. We don't want to see our new minister, Garallah Omar, taking over his role and then leaving it without registering an artistic work. We have actors, actresses, producers and other individuals qualified in the art of movie making and production. What they need is a push towards making a document of events. Sure, there are bulletins, magazines, and academic works, but the economics of film making rests to someone else to tackle, someone with different criteria and taste.

What we need is an art which attracts the audience to the stage and movie screen. We need artistic works to separate our citizens from the possession of weapons and push them straight into reading books and poetry, and going to movies and plays. We need actors who are good

role models for society. Modernization means being civilized in dress, in eating, drinking, and in thinking how to put a stop to the chewing of qat.

Modernization means having a vacation once a year and wearing clean, good clothes, acceptable to all. This is how I understand modernization. Let us start with a movie and with some adventurous investors from the private sector by exempting them from taxation, and even providing them with a technical framework.

Believe me, if one movie were in the pipeline, then we would witness a movie economy on the way. There are Yemeni directors who are jobless, such as Khalid Al-Mishabi, Waleed Khaleel, and others, in Aden. The just go to their offices to drink tea, chat, and sign up.

**Faraj Allah Ahmad Farih,  
Al-Rased, Sana'a,**  
19/7/1993.

### STEPS TO FURTHER

**ARAB-ARAB RELATIONS**  
The accord between Yemen and the Gulf States we have witnessed lately has displayed an outstanding development based on the principles of brotherhood, and of a strong mutual desire to improve the relations destroyed by the Gulf crisis. The first steps came through the acceptance by His Highness Sheikh Zaid bin-Sultan Al-Nihian, the President of the United Arab Emirates, to an invitation to visit Yemen, as well as the mutual visits of officials from Qatar and Oman. All these moves and visits reflect a mutual desire between Yemen and the Gulf States to improve Arab-Arab relations, casting off the gloomy clouds that covered nearly every Arab

nation. Sheikh Zaid's visit to Yemen will undoubtedly put both our states on the right track, eliminating all the bad feelings created by the Gulf crisis. It is also significant to note that the Qatari foreign minister's visit to Yemen scored many points in the way of clearing the air between the two countries. The visit in itself was a step towards adaptation among the Arab states, and a beginning of the restoration of Arab consolidation as a whole. In addition, Ba-Sandwa's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia confirms a near détente in relations. The restoration of Arab reconciliation and solidarity will not be achieved without a continual understanding, a dialog, and visits based on frankness and clarity, so as to wipe out all the problems hanging over relations.

The Arab states are capable of putting the Gulf Crisis aside, and confront the other big challenges they face.

**Political Editor,  
Al-Balagh, Sana'a,**  
20/7/1993.

### THE DIPLOMAT WHO RAISED HIS COUNTRY TO THE SUMMIT

While I was reading the annual report issued by the International Bank on the world economy, I looked at the growth rates achieved by some countries, and their position in world economy and trade. The report attracted my attention to the fact that China is regarded as an advanced industrial country. It occupied third position in industrial states and achieved a growth rate reaching 13.8% during the year 1992, a figure that all other industrial countries have failed to reach.

On reading these pointers, my memory returned to the earlier year of 1972 when China was working hard with energy and vitality to escape from its isolation. China began to move actively into all areas of the world. I remembered the commercial attaché in Aden at that time, who was a flame of vitality, serious in all his steps and working for than 16 hours a day. He could be seen everywhere, in every establishment, and in the suq, sometimes walking about, sometimes chatting. In his arms he carried a bag full of samples of Chinese products. It was unbelievable to see such an attaché, with so much energy, filling in forms, clearances, insurance policies, invoices and other business items to activate trade between his country and others.

In fact, at the time his work aroused the jealousy of the other commercial attachés, but nevertheless he was widely admired.

This is not politics, but a business activity. Such individuals are recruited to stabilize China's position in the world economy. Now, wherever one goes, Chinese products are there to rival others in price, quality and acceptability. China's position today belongs to those unknown soldiers who worked hard for the economic progress of their nation. Thousands of such diplomats and businessmen have given China flourishing prospects. This is a good point to remember, and a pattern which could be followed by all citizens of the Third World.

**Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman  
Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa,**  
18/7/1993.



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# Overcoming the Fear of Flying

German businessman Klaus Schmidt is what they nowadays call a frequent flier, making one-day trips to the other end of Germany nearly every week. It never used to worry him. Until last January. That was when he was aboard an airliner that hit some turbulence as it came in to land. Since his nasty experience of being helplessly shaken like a pea in a pod, the 48 year old Hamburg man lies awake, bathed in sweat, every night before he is scheduled to fly again. He has visions of being aboard a twin-engine jet where both turbines fail. Once aboard his plane he obsessively thinks of how he is entrusting his life to a pilot who is a total stranger. But relief is available. In a conference room at Hamburg international airport, he and 17 fellow-sufferers gather to overcome their fear of flying. Some of the men and women in the room have never flown. Others fly all the time, and hate every moment of it. The German flag carrier Lufthansa has been organising two-day seminars on relaxed flying for the last 12 years, staging them in Germany, Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg according to demand. Studies indicate about a quarter of all plane passengers, perhaps even half, are scared when airborne. The US planemaker Boeing estimates that US airlines alone miss out on two billion dollars' worth of ticket sales because of such fear: the calculated shortfall equals about nine per cent of the value of all airline tickets sold in the United States. The fear of flying can be overcome, psychologist Rudolf Krefting tells those attending the Hamburg seminar. "It's not that they won't experience any fear at all," he explains. "But they can learn to cope

with their terror." The course is designed to prevent fear building up in the first place and show people behaviors that diminish fear when it does arise." Krefting says fear causes a vicious circle. It reveals itself in the form of gloomy thoughts, such as wondering if the plane will drop out of the sky like a stone if the engines fail, or whether the wings will break off, or if turbulence will smash it to bits. Another component of the vicious circle is the variety of physical effects accompanying fear: sweatiness, an accelerated heartbeat, nausea, dizziness and panic. The course seeks to break the circle by supplying first-hand information to counter the participant's counter-productive thoughts and emotions. A Lufthansa pilot addresses the seminar and answers questions for two hours, often longer. He takes queries seriously and never mocks the fears, careful to avoid even a tone of voice that might sound patronising. The pilot explains that it is unthinkable for two engines to fail simultaneously on an airliner, and if they do, the aircraft would not fall like a stone. A regular jetliner can glide up to 200 kilometers without thrust, he explains. On domestic flights, some kind of airport can usually be reached within that distance. The wings of an airliner are constructed in such a way that their tips can be bent eight metres either upwards or downwards without them breaking, so a bit of flapping in the wings is nothing to worry about. As for turbulence, it may be unpleasant to passengers, but it is no danger at all to aircraft. "Imagine the plane as an autumn leaf," the pilot tells the worried passengers. "It separates from a tree

and glides gently away on eddies of air." The currents of air cannot harm the plane. To overcome physical signals of fear, Krefting uses a technique called progressive relaxation developed by US psychologist Edmund Jacobson at the start of this century. Jacobson noticed that fear always activates a physical response and consequently a tensing of the muscles. He therefore suggested over-tensing the muscles just before or in the moment of fear so that an overall relaxation and diminution of fear would follow. "This will help you to let off some steam," explains Krefting as he coaches participants to clench the muscles in their stomachs, thighs and calves, to ball their fists and hollow their backs. Each group of muscles should be tightened for five seconds, then relaxed with a gradual release of breath. Relaxation quickly follows, with deep or very slow breathing slowing down the pounding heart. This all sounds fine in theory, but sceptics may say that practice is a different proposition. Krefting agrees. "The surest, in fact the only way, to overcome fear, is to expose yourself to the situation that frightens you," he says. That is why the highlight of the 920-mark (RO 209) course is a real flight, in this case from Hamburg to Frankfurt and back. Out of the 18 participants in the course, 17 actually board the plane. Lufthansa says the average rate is 94 per cent takers. They go straight from the course to the plane and do their newly learned exercises in the cabin without other passengers noticing. The verdict, based on the majority response is that the course is a general success.

# Locusts in Yemen: The Menace Continues

Millions of Rials have been lost over the last two months due to the invasion of locusts. The phenomenon witnessed in Yemen is part of an international pattern that has menaced the world. From 1986 to 1988, the worst locust plague in 30 years struck, which at its height affected over 40 countries. In Senegal alone locust swarms attacked two million hectares, and destroyed 10 per cent of the nation's harvest. "Our village lost two-thirds of its production," said a villager in Niger. "It seemed as if the more we used the pesticides, the more the locusts resisted them." Donors spent \$252.5 million during that time, but left little behind in the way of long-term improvements. When the plague died down, so did the interest of the donors and media. A new Panos book, *Grasshoppers and Locusts: Plague of the Sahel*, argues that more consistent funding and support should go to wards improved monitoring and prevention and targeted crop protection. The focus on intermittent plague has also obscured the constant but less dramatic cost of grasshoppers which have caused more damage than locusts over the past five years. Often chronically underfunded, the wide range of organizations involved in Sahelian pest control have different concerns and priorities. Past lack of support for research, data collection and training have been major obstacles to crop protection. Improved co-ordination and security of funding are needed, says the book. No single control method will work, argues the book. Developing alternative methods, such as bio-pesticides, and expanding the role of village brigades and NGOs, offer new hope in the battle against locusts and grasshoppers - and should reduce dependence on environmentally risky spraying campaigns. The cycle of drought, plague and heavy pesticide use will not be broken until pest management is addressed as a wider development issue, and the emphasis shifts from short-term interventions to a more sustainable approach. As Professor Odhiambo, director of the Nairobi-based International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology recently warned, the opportunity must not be lost to find: "Technologically efficient, environmentally sustainable and durable long-range methods to resolve these age-old migratory pest issues, so closely associated with vulnerable communities and fragile ecosystems." Some scientists say the best thing to do with locusts is leave them alone. What happened in Yemen over the last two months is a good example of this. Many of the locust swarms reported to be devastating vegetation and crops in eastern parts of Yemen seem to have dispersed, and may already have left the country and moved on elsewhere. Meanwhile the area most affected by locust infestation, Wadi al-Jawf, has been cleared by aerial spraying. After completing the spraying of Wadi al-Jawf, a helicopter hired from the Dollar Helicopter Company in Ethiopia by

the German aid agency Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) has moved to the area around Al-Hazm. A second helicopter, paid for by the British Overseas Development Agency (ODA), has been surveying for swarms around Attak. The swarms reported earlier are no longer visible, and it is thought they may have crossed the eastern border into Oman, or may even have flown west over the Tihama and across the Red Sea. The survey team located small pockets of locusts around Attak, but it was not economically viable to launch the helicopter to deal with small

swarms, which could more easily be dealt with by ground spraying. While the GTZ team continues its spraying activities in Al-Hazm, the ODA helicopter may continue its survey, moving along the south coast and the Omani border area. After natively it may join up with the GTZ team. A third alternative is that it may return to its base in Ethiopia or be deployed elsewhere, perhaps in Djibouti, but this is considered unlikely. Because of political instability, locust control has been neglected in many parts of the world, but especially in the Horn of Africa.

## YEMEN TIMES VACANCIES

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## OLDEST MERCEDES CAR COMPETITION GENERATES GOOD RESPONSE

Many owners of old model Mercedes-Benz cars have submitted their entry forms in the competition to find the oldest MB car in Yemen. Organizer of the competition, United Engineering and Automobile Co. Ltd., the sole distributors of Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the Republic, say they are encouraged by the response. Although they will not reveal the exact number of entries received so far, nor the age of the oldest Mercedes yet recorded, a UAECO spokesman told the Yemen Times that the two oldest cars in the competition so far are right hand drive, built in the 1960s. The competition will remain open until September, so if you have an old Mercedes-Benz car still running, please cut out the entry form below and send it to UAECO.

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# THE TAIIZ CENTRAL PRISON = where human life is degraded, daily

## DISMAL PRISON CONDITIONS

The situation inside the prison compound is dismal, to say the least. There is a constant black-out, and the water supply is irregular. Waste disposal is not properly handled and loads of it piles here and there until the municipal truck is brought in to collect the garbage. The sewer problem is more serious. One can literally see the sewer flow out of the ground at several points within the prison compound.

For a building that has been recently built, the deterioration in the walls and ceiling is dramatic. Maintenance is unheard of. The over-crowding has meant that the bullies take more room than the others. The law inside the prison compound is how strong you are and/or how much money you can pay out. It is truly a dismal way of life.



### Persons who Served their Sentences but who are still in Prison because of Outstanding Financial Obligation

Name	Crime	File No.	Date of Imprisonment	Date of Completion of Prison Sentence	Prisoner's Financial Outstanding Obligation In Riyals	In Dollars
Ali Ahmed Mohamed A/Baqi	murder	30/84	3/4/1984	3/4/1989	YR. 96,000	\$2,133
Ahmed Ali Al-Shaibani	murder	97/84	24/9/1984	24/9/1987	60,000	1,333
Zaid Mohamed Said Al-Khamiri	assault	20/85	7/1/1985	27/1/1988	91,000	2,022
Mohamed Hamood Kaid	murder	4/87	14/1/1987	14/1/1990	100,000	2,222
Ahmed Ali Nawab	murder	9/87	19/2/1987	19/2/1991	120,000	2,667
Abdul-Sagheer Haider	assault	8/87	1/12/1987	1/12/1991	150,000	3,333
Mujeeb Mahyoob Abdo*	murder	111/88	16/10/1988	16/10/1989	80,000	1,778
Anwar Ali Radhwan	assault	2/89	16/1/1989	16/1/1990	218,000	4,844
Abdo Ahmed Fadhel	assault	18/90	23/3/1990	23/3/1991	10,575	235
Hazza Saïd Ali Ahmed	murder	112/90	15/9/1990	15/9/1991	300,000	6,667
A/Ilah Saïf Al-Hakeemi	kidnap	1/91	23/12/1990	23/6/1993	20,000	444
Saleh Ahmed Jabir	embezzlement	17/91	12/11/1991	12/11/1992	24,000	533
Hamood Ghalib Suleiman	theft	26/89	6/7/1989	6/7/1992	35,000	778
Mohammed Hazza Abdullah	theft	81/89	3/5/1989	3/5/1990	120,000	2,667
Abdullah Ali Hassan Wusabi	theft	3/91	30/1/1991	30/9/1991	35,000	778
Yahia Hizam Al-Qusari	theft	79/91	9/6/1991	9/6/1993	90,000	2,000
Mahdi Nasser Al-Hamzi	theft	79/91	9/6/1991	9/6/1993	90,000	2,000
Adil Mohammed Qassim	theft	139/91	7/8/1991	17/8/1992	3,500	78
Mohammed A/Galeel A/Noor	embezzlement	221/91	14/3/1991	14/9/1991	16,500	367
Ahmed A/Galeel Qassim	theft	49/9	16/5/1992	16/11/1992	9,500	211
Mustafa Mohamed Al-Mahboor	theft	76/92	31/8/1992	31/1/1993	3,000	67
Abdo Ahmed Mahyoob	theft	68/92	16/5/1992	16/11/1992	6,000	134
Ahmed Saleh Al-Sidrah	theft	201/91	3/12/1991	3/7/1992	19,785	440
Ali Murshid Saeed Al-Hashni	assault	5/92	16/1/1992	16/1/1993	40,000	889
A/Mowla Ahmed Shamsan	theft	41/92	4/3/1992	4/3/1993	6,000	133
A/Khaliq Ali Ma'oodah	theft	55/92	21/3/1992	21/9/1992	27,400	609
Mohamed Moqbil A. Muthanna	theft	57/92	27/5/1992	27/1/1993	16,000	356
Mansoor Saïf Abdullah	theft	54/92	30/5/1992	30/1/1993	21,500	478
Abdullah A. Ali Al-Shuly	forgery	147/92	5/8/1992	5/12/1992	38,500	856
Issam Thabit Al-Shameeri	theft	178/92	13/10/1992	13/4/1993	4,000	89
Hamood Mohammed Saleh	assault	22/93	22/1/1993	22/4/1993	23,000	511

Plus about 62 similar cases for which the documents are missing or incomplete.

Notes: All cases of murder have been deemed accidental and not pre-meditated. Pre-meditated murder are executed. \* = has since been released on bail (collateral).

Source: Prison records, prosecutor's records, and Yemen Times field survey.

The Yemen Times and Saut Al-Ummal were in the Taiz Central Prison last week. Don't get any ideas, it was a quick visit.

A three-man Yemen Times team and a two-man Saut Al-Ummal spent the whole day on Sunday, July 18th at the prison camp where 812 in-mates live in a facility originally built to house only 300 persons.

"We are badly understaffed and underfinanced, while overworked and overcrowded," complained Mr. Abdul-Ilah Al-Akhali, prison manager.

"There are cases of malnutrition, specially among inmates who do not receive support from their families. There are 36 cases of syphilis/gonorrhea, and over a hundred cases of skin diseases," the prison manager told us. Of course, there are allocations for this purpose, but it is with the Ministry of Health, Taiz Branch. "The Health people are neither interested in helping us nor in releasing the funds to be used in the service of the in-mates."

The situation is disastrous at other levels, as well. There are many in-mates who have served their terms, but who still languish in prison. "We need a court order to release these guys. So it is up to them to go to court or assign a lawyer or relative to inform the judges that their term has expired and that they need to be released. This takes money and time. For those who can't afford it, they will remain in prison forever, irrespective of the sentence," explained Mr. Al-Akhali.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Saeedi, the Financial Director of the Prison, spoke very desperately of the financial difficulties. "Now a prisoner has to go to a court session where there is a hearing on his case. Who will take him there, and how? Who will pay for the transportation, the per diem of the policemen accompanying the prisoner, and other incidents?" Mr. Al-Saeedi inquired.

There is also a problem in financing the office needs. "We need files, paper, and various other stationery. Again, we quickly run into financial problems. There must be concrete solutions if we are to observe the basic human needs of the prisoners as well as the prison keepers, because we are in this together," he said.

In some cases, there are no

files or documents as to why a person is in prison, or who put him there. We met many such instances.

1. Attolbi Al-Gersha' Al-Bowkari: This man, about 65 years old, has been in prison for 17 years. He is in jail by a court sentence issued only five years ago. Accused of killing another person, Al-Bowkari is asked by the courts to pay 120,000 Riyals as blood money to the off-springs of Saad Al-Sharafi, the dead person. His folks in Al-Waziyah, Wadi Bukair village do not come to visit. According to prison records, it has been years since anybody visited the old man.

2. Prisoner whose name we have with-held is condemned to prison for committing adultery. No one has his complete set of documents, thus nobody knows for how long he will remain there. "Was it rape?" we asked. The answer to our investigations was "No!" He has been in prison for three years. "I am willing to marry the woman and start a family, if they would let me out of here," the young man, about 30 years, pleaded.

3. Abdullah Mohammed Selah is another prisoner whose case has been badly politicized. In 1984, he killed a doctor, Abdullah Humarati. Since that time, Mr. Selah has become a reformed person. He is doing all he can to improve the prison condition and to take care of the prisoners, specially the weak ones.

The Taiz-born Selah faces an angry Taiz population, partly simply because he comes from one of the northern tribes - Aanes. Through him, a deeply embedded sectarian hatred and regional animosity seeks to find settlement. The soft-spoken Selah pleads to be understood, and not to be the sacrifice lamb for dirty politics.

The original verdict of the courts "guilty of murder" and was sentenced to execution. This was later reversed by two court sentences. The last court decision states his killing of the doctor was a form of self-defence. The politicians do not want to even touch this case because of the deep regional feelings. It is a pity people have to suffer so much because of an inefficient and crooked justice system and the cowardice of politicians. Selah and Dr. Humarati are both victims of

To look into the prison conditions and the prisoners' affairs, the Ministry of Interior sent a three-man delegation to the prisons of Dhamar, Ibb and Taiz. These are:

Colonel Mohammed Al-Matari, Advisor to the Minister, Colonel Ali Mithalhar Qassim, Advisor to the Minister, and Lt-Colonel Abdullah Ali Rabih, Deputy General Manager of Prison Reform Affairs. The trio were in Taiz prison while the Yemen Times team was there. They interviewed most prisoners in the camp, and went through the documents to see that the legal and proper procedures have been followed.

"We have completed similar inspections in the Dhamar and Ibb prisons," said Colonel Al-Matari. "The picture here is not very different. The main complaints are always the health conditions inside the prisons," he added. Colonel Ali Mithalhar Rabih added another point. "When a prisoner completes his prison sentence, there is no reason to remain in jail. Most are kept in prison due to the financial obligations that arise out of the crime, either to the state or to the adversary. (Please refer to the box in page 8 for examples of this phenomenon.) But there is no way for a prisoner who cannot earn any money (because he is in jail), to be able to pay those amounts. This is a dilemma our legal system has yet to resolve," he explained.

The team will go back to Sanaa to submit its report to the Minister of Interior, who in turn plans to present his proposals to the Prime Minister. The team has discovered that there are many prisoners in the Taiz Central Prison, as well as in Dhamar and Ibb, who are thrown in prison because the prosecutors and judges do not do their work. Many are left to rot in jail while their case hearings continue. Instead of arranging for a proper mechanism as to what to do with a person who is accused of a crime, many prosecutors and judges first throw the accused in jail, and then process their cases. That means people go to jail even before their guilt is proven. "Although illegal, this is a common practice in the judicial system," Ali Mithalhar stated.

Q: How is she doing now? A: She is supposed to be a career woman, but she is now overwhelmed with my problems. Poor woman - that loyalty and that devotion. I worry about her all the time. She is barely able to scrap a living - no home, no job, no nothing.

Q: You have lost a lot of weight. What is the matter? A: The doctors say I am sick. I did not even bother to ask about it. They have issued a medical report saying I need urgent medical attention, but what good is this?

Q: Who comes to visit you? A: Sometimes friends come to visit, and my bride too.

## Mansoor Mohammed Rajih Yemen's Most Celebrated Prisoner of Conscience

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa, Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

This week marks the tenth anniversary of the imprisonment of Mansoor Rajih. Yemen Times thought it was appropriate to mark the occasion by talking to him one more time. As I met him, the ailing young man, at 34 years, was visibly in bad shape - physically and psychologically. I spent over one hour talking about different things. Here are excerpts from our conversation:

Q: What is the book you are reading?

A: I have just completed reading a five-volume novel entitled "The Cities of Salt" by Abdul-Rahman Muneif. Tonight, I plan to start re-reading (for the third time) Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls." I hope to re-read the great works of Maxim Gorky also. In fact, lately, I have returned to the classics. The more I read William Shakespeare, the more I respect the genius of the man.

Q: You are not writing poetry any more?

A: I do, but not as regularly as I used to. I have just finished writing a poem of condolence to my bride, on the death of her father.

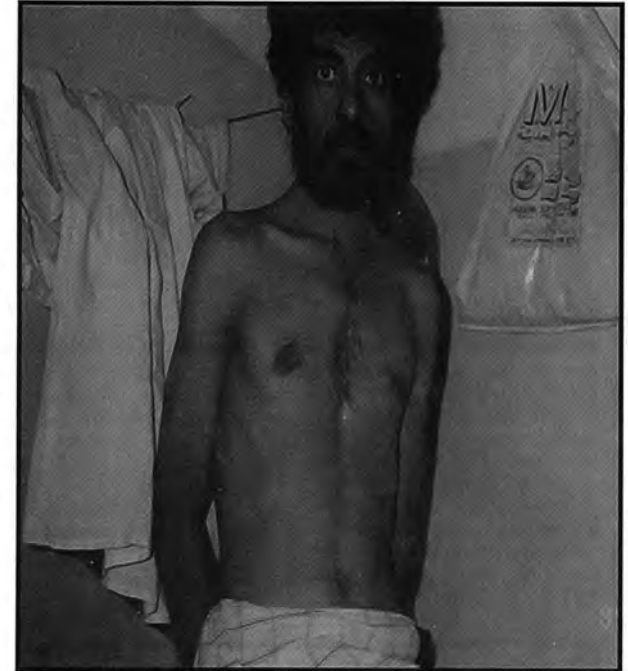
Q: Your bride? You mean your wife?

A: I call her my bride because they took me away from her on the eve of our marriage. It is a cruel thing.

Q: The courts have found you guilty of murder. How do you respond to that?

A: It is really funny. First they arrested me on political grounds. That was in January 1993. For some six months I was interrogated in a very brutal way. They let me go in early July. My bride and I thought it was all over. In ten days we planned our marriage and got married.

The same night of our marriage, they came back for me. That was the last time I was a free man. They fabricated a case and they accused me of murder. The whole trial procedure was a mockery of the justice of this country. Two men came and testified that they saw me one night killing the village elder, and



But I miss company. Oh God, how much I miss people's company. Even now as you talk to me, thinking about your departure haunts me and does not allow me to enjoy these precious moments. Isolating humans is a cruel thing.

85 year old man. They said my father and uncle held the man, and I fired the shot. When the defence lawyer asked them, how did you verify it was Mr. Rajih. They said they had torch lights which they beamed at us and thus they saw everything. "Didn't the light beam startle Mr. Rajih and his accomplices," the lawyer asked. "We did it in a discreet manner," came back the answer.

One last question from the lawyer. "There are six men behind the court bar. Could you please point to Mr. Rajih?" The witnesses pointed to a different man. It is all in the records of the court. Yet, the judge found me guilty of murder and sentenced me to death.

Q: What do you demand now?

A: I demand first to be set free, and I demand appropriate compensation from the state and political leadership. I do not intend to get embroiled in politics, not because I am afraid, but because I am disenchanted with the whole thing.

Q: If you were to be released today, what is the first thing you will do? A: That is a lovely thought. The first thing I will do is probably embrace my wife for as long as I can. Then I will visit our main cities, and catch up with life - see how much change has taken place!

## The Courts Share in the Blame

The Prison Prosecutor, Mr. Ibrahim Mahyoob Ahmed, was bitter about the often irresponsible behavior of the courts and prosecutors.

"For example, a person could be sent to us (prison) pending a court decision on him because he is caught red-handed or under strong evidence or suspicion of crime. Unfortunately, such a person would be left languishing in prison beyond the legal seven-day limit. I can dozens of persons who are today in this prison without a proper court sentence," he said. Releasing a person from jail then becomes a real nightmare because of the bureaucracy.



"There is also another aspect to the problem. Many prisoners are in prison because they owe some money, often a small sum. There is no way

they would ever pay what they owe if they remain in prison. There must be another way. We have to change the rules," he added.

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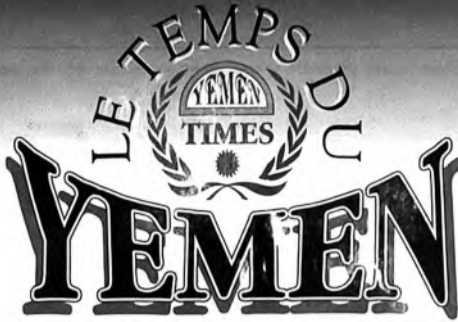
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The French Pages

SPECTACLE

# Le "Cirque européen" jongle, danse et fait rire

Les trente artistes du "Cirque européen" ont entamé une tournée au Yémen. Pour l'instant, ils ont planté leur tente dans le parc Assabain à Sanaa.

Depuis un mois et demi, le "Cirque européen" a planté sa tente à Sanaa, dans le parc Assabain, au sud de la capitale. Le spectacle commence à 20h. Les gradins sont remplis de spectateurs venus en famille assister à la représentation. Les enfants aiment particulièrement les clowns. Mais il y a aussi une danseuse avec un serpent, un magicien, des jongleurs sur des demi-vélos et des cascadeurs.

**Des artistes de toutes nationalités**

Le propriétaire du cirque est pakistanais, il s'appelle Shuaïb Iqbal: "J'ai créé ce cirque il y a trois ans au Qatar. Cela m'a coûté 50 000 dollars. D'abord nous avons commencé à donner des représentations aux Emirats Arabes Unis puis à Bahreïn". "Je suis très content de venir au Yémen", ajoute-t-il. Shuaïb Iqbal se rend pour la deuxième fois dans le pays. Il était venu il y a quatre ans avec un cirque égyptien, Akéf. Depuis, il a profité de son expérience pour se lancer dans sa propre aventure. "Moi-même, je fais un numéro à cheval. Mais nous n'avons pas pu amener les animaux, en raison de problèmes de transport. J'espère que certains arriveront tout de même dans



Elena joue avec un serpent qui pèse 25 kilos.

un mois", précise-t-il. Ils sont une trentaine d'artistes à travailler dans ce cirque. Et de toutes nationalités. Il y a une Polonaise, quinze Russes, onze Pakistanais et un Jordanien. Dans un avenir proche, un Italien et un Roumain devrait rejoindre l'équipe. Svetlana est la directrice du cirque. Elle est Polonaise et a 36 ans. Elle est diplômée en cinéma à l'université du Caire. "Au début, j'ai fait des annonces pour les films en Egypte. C'est au Caire que j'ai rencontré Shuaïb Iqbal, qui m'a convaincue de travailler avec lui".

Elena fait un numéro avec un serpent. Cette femme dermatologue réalise aussi un numéro avec une corde, mais actuellement elle a arrêté en raison de problèmes physiques. "J'ai commencé à jouer avec un petit serpent, long de 15 cm. Je suis passée ensuite à un animal d'un mètre et maintenant je joue avec un serpent long de trois mètres, qui pèse 25 kilos", explique-t-elle.

**A Hoddeidah puis à Aden**

Il y a aussi le magicien jordanien, Mohammad Al-Brince. Il a rencontré le propriétaire du cirque en Jordanie, puis ils ont travaillé ensemble au Qatar et au Koweït. "J'ai commencé à pratiquer la magie il y a quatre ans avec mon grand-père au Maroc. Au début, j'avais le trac, mais avec la pratique, cela va mieux. J'ai joué en Irak, en Egypte, dans l'ex-Yougoslavie, en Allemagne, en Inde, en Angleterre et en Autriche".

Le propriétaire du parc Assabain, Abdullah Al-Maghachy, est satisfait de la présence du cirque: "J'aime beaucoup les enfants, c'est pour cela que j'ai créé ce parc".

Le "Cirque européen" reste encore un mois à Sanaa. Ensuite, il ira donner des représentations à Hoddeidah, puis à Aden en novembre.

Ahmad AL-ASBAHY



Une partie de la troupe du "Cirque européen".

ECONOMIE

# Le Yémen insatisfait de l'aide occidentale

Mohammed Basindwa, ministre des Affaires étrangères, estime que les dons et les crédits des pays occidentaux sont très inférieurs aux besoins.

"Les dons et les crédits des pays occidentaux sont très inférieurs à nos besoins", a estimé Mohammed Basindwa, ministre yéménite des Affaires étrangères, dans un entretien publié samedi 17 juillet par le quotidien d'Abou Dhabi, Al-Itihad. Il n'a cependant pas chiffré le montant de l'aide occidentale à son pays, l'un des

plus pauvres du monde. Le ministre a indiqué que les Etats-Unis avaient repris leur aide après une suspension de deux ans, en raison de la position du Yémen jugée favorable à l'Irak pendant la crise du Golfe, mais que le volume de cette aide est resté inchangé.

"Les Etats-Unis n'ont pas augmenté leur aide comme nous l'avions espéré après que notre pays eût confirmé son attachement à la démocratie pluraliste", a-t-il ajouté.

En dépit de la progres-

sion de sa production pétrolière, estimée actuellement à 280 000 barils par jour, le Yémen est en proie à une grave crise économique, aggravée par les retombées de l'invasion irakienne du Koweït, notamment l'expulsion d'environ un million de travailleurs yéménites des pays du Golfe.

Le Yémen est en voie de normaliser ses relations avec les monarchies pétrolières arabes du Golfe, à l'exception du Koweït, qui demeure réticent à une reprise des contacts avec Sanaa. (AFP)

POLITIQUE

# La réforme de la Constitution en panne

La classe politique yéménite était unanime il y a quelques semaines: il fallait modifier la Constitution. Aujourd'hui, les réticences du PSY font traîner le projet. Le parti socialiste craint une élection du Conseil présidentiel au suffrage universel.

Le projet de révision de la Constitution yéménite est en panne à la suite des réticences du Parti socialiste qui craint d'en faire les frais.

Cette révision de la Constitution avait été décidée après la tenue des élections législatives du 27 avril dernier. Le CPG (Congrès populaire général) et le PSY (Parti socialiste yéménite) avaient convenu de s'y atteler en mai après la formation d'une coalition parlementaire.

**Craintes du PSY**

Le projet de révision porte notamment sur l'élection au suffrage universel des cinq membres du Conseil présidentiel, qui détient le pouvoir exécutif depuis l'unification des deux Yémen en mai 1990. Ces membres sont jusqu'ici choisis parmi les dirigeants des deux partis (2 PSY et 3 CPG) mais en cas d'élection, le PSY ne serait pas assuré d'y être représenté par deux membres. Le PSY, ancien parti au pouvoir au

Yémen du Sud, qui avait partagé le pouvoir avec le CPG depuis l'unification, a été devancé lors des élections par le parti islamiste, Islah.

Le comité central du PSY, réuni début juillet, s'est montré réticent au projet de réforme constitutionnelle. Le quotidien Sawt al-Ommal, proche du parti socialiste, a affirmé vendredi 16 juillet que ce projet suscitait également l'opposition d'un nombre croissant de parlementaires.

Le journal a estimé en outre "plus urgent" de se pencher sur les graves problèmes économiques du pays que de s'offrir une révision de la jeune Constitution, approuvée par référendum en 1991. "La volonté de certains d'imposer la révision est un indice de leur volonté de ne pas sortir le pays de sa situation actuelle", écrit le quotidien.

Ces réticences ont provoqué la suspension des travaux des commissions d'experts des deux partis

chargées de préparer le projet de révision. Prenant acte du blocage, le CPG, qui estime la réforme nécessaire pour consacrer l'unification du pays, a annoncé récemment qu'il envisageait de proposer l'élection du prochain Conseil présidentiel par le Parlement. L'Islah, qui participe au gouvernement de coalition nationale, s'est montré favorable à cette option qui pourrait lui assurer un siège au sein du Conseil.

**Réforme du législatif**


Le révision prévoit également une réforme du législatif avec la création d'un conseil consultatif, Majlis Choura, dont deux tiers des membres seraient élus et qui formerait avec le Parlement une Assemblée nationale. Cette dernière aurait pour seule prérogative de se prononcer sur les accords frontaliers du pays, les traités de paix et les alliances extérieures.

Abdelrahmane AL-HAIDARI (AFP)

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ENTREPRISES

# La bière Seera un avenir en suspens

*La bière blonde fabriquée à Aden vit peut-être ses derniers jours. Sous la pression des islamistes, l'entreprise va lancer un nouveau produit: une bière sans alcool commercialisée sous le nom de Shandor. En attendant, on boit toujours de la Seera dans l'ancienne capitale du Sud.*

Les islamistes ont déclaré sa mort. La brasserie d'Aden est un "défi à la loi de Dieu", a martelé l'Islah pendant la campagne électorale des législatives du 27 avril dernier. Depuis la réunification des deux Yémen, les partisans du Cheikh Al-Ahmar, réclament sa fermeture. L'alcool est interdit dans l'ancien Yémen du Nord, mais à Aden, on peut toujours se désaltérer en buvant la Seera, la bière blonde yéménite. Une provocation pour ceux qui veulent interdire tout plaisir à leurs concitoyens.

Cette brasserie a été construite par les Allemands il y a douze ans. Elle emploie

actuellement environ 200 ouvriers. "Il serait très difficile de les licencier, en raison du taux de chômage actuel", explique le directeur de l'usine. Ce dernier, à la tête de la brasserie depuis huit ans, ne veut pas qu'on publie son nom. Par précaution.

### Une entreprise rentable

L'usine est située à l'entrée d'Aden. De la route, on peut voir les silos se dresser vers le ciel. Les grilles à l'entrée sont encore frappées d'étoiles rouges, souvenir du passé communiste de l'ancien

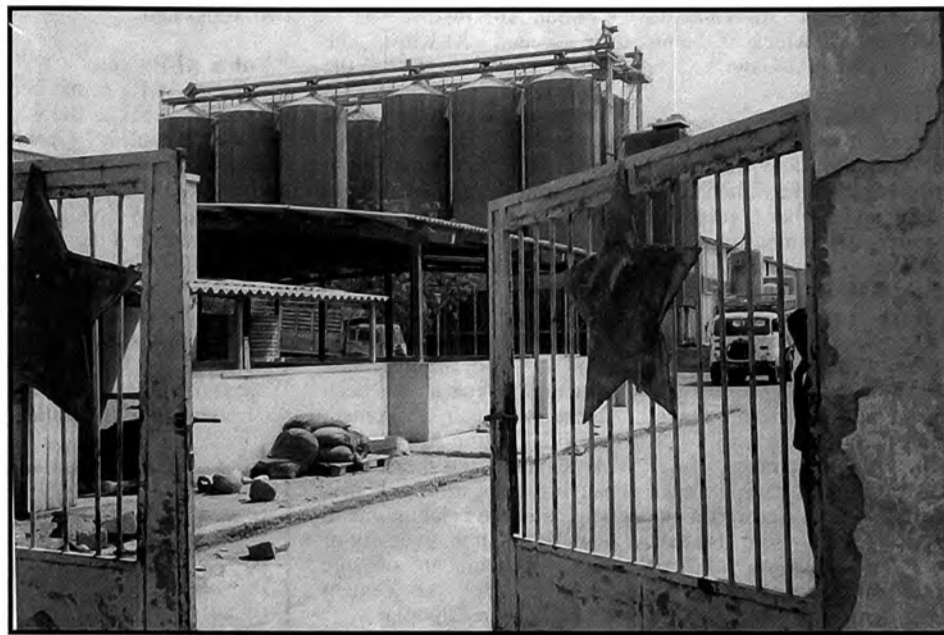
Yémen du Sud.

La brasserie Seera est assurément l'une des plus grosses entreprises d'Aden, peut-être la plus rentable. L'Etat empoche chaque année environ 250 millions de rials sous forme de taxes. Et après impôts, la brasserie dégage tout de même un bénéfice de 80 millions de rials. De quoi faire réfléchir quand on connaît les difficultés économiques de l'ancienne capitale du Sud. D'ailleurs les islamistes ne s'y sont pas trompés. Ils ont mis un peu d'eau dans leur vin et ne réclament plus la fermeture de l'usine, mais un changement de production: la brasserie deviendrait une usine à jus de fruits.

### Un espoir subsiste

Et les islamistes sont en passe de gagner. "Nous allons modifier progressivement notre production. A terme, la production de la bière Seera devrait disparaître. A présent, nous lançons un nouveau produit, une bière sans alcool sous le nom de Shandor. Il y a un gros marché pour ce type de boissons au Yémen, et aussi en Arabie Saoudite", déclare le directeur de l'usine. "Les premiers échantillons vont bientôt être testés sur le marché", ajoute-t-il.

La production de la Seera a été arrêtée pendant quelques jours, le temps d'installer de nouvelles machines venues d'Allemagne.



Souvenir du passé communiste d'Aden, les grilles de la brasserie Seera sont frappées d'étoiles rouges.

## Shandor 0,0 % d'alcool

En apparence, cela ressemble à de la bière, mais l'étiquette de la nouvelle boisson lancée par la brasserie d'Aden ne laisse planer aucun doute: "Sans alcool 0,0 %". Quand on sait que le moindre jus de fruits contient au minimum 0,5 % d'alcool, on peut s'étonner.

La Shandor, c'est son nom, a la couleur dorée de la bière elle mousse comme de la bière quand on la verse dans un verre, mais son goût a un rapport très lointain avec

la bière. "Cela ressemble à du Seven Up", déclare Ibrahim, qui vient de goûter la version citron. En effet, la Shandor se décline en quatre parfums, lichee, mangue, pomme et citron.

Finalement, cette boisson au malt ressemble à un vulgaire soda. Les amateurs de bière au Yémen devront faire appel à un puissant pouvoir de suggestion pour la déguster comme une Seera.

Frank Dziemba, expert en électronique est notamment venu mettre en place une machine pour laver les bouteilles, avec une capacité de 12 000 bouteilles à l'heure.

### "La bière n'est pas différente de l'eau"

L'avenir de la Seera n'a pas encore été définitivement arrêté. Un espoir subsiste. "Si la Seera disparaît, c'est la fin de la civilisation. C'est une question de liberté, on n'est pas

au Moyen-Age", dit le directeur. "Pourquoi font-ils des problèmes? Vous pouvez vous permettre de fermer une brasserie aussi rentable que celle-ci seulement quand vous êtes un pays riche", ajoute-t-il.

Finalement, le directeur tente de trouver des arguments pour amadouer les islamistes: "La bière, ce n'est pas de l'alcool. Il n'y a aucune différence avec l'eau. Le degré d'alcool de la bière est de 4 %. Pour le vinaigre, ce degré d'alcool s'élève à 12 %. Et

pourtant, cela ne pose pas de problèmes. Regardez! Les jus de fruits contiennent au minimum 0,5 % d'alcool."

"De toute façon, il y a beaucoup de contrebande d'alcool et les gens qui en profitent ne payent pas de taxes, contrairement à nous. Notre entreprise participe financièrement à un programme d'alphabetisation. Nous donnons 13 millions de rials", conclut le directeur.

Jérôme BERNARD

## EN BREF

**Visite au Yémen du ministre des Affaires étrangères du Qatar:** Le président du Yémen, Ali Abdallah Saleh, a reçu samedi 18 juillet le ministre des Affaires étrangères du Qatar, Cheikh Hamad. C'est le premier responsable qatariote à visiter le Yémen depuis la crise du Golfe en août 1990.

**Le roi Fadh reçoit Mohammed Basindwa:** Le roi Fadh d'Arabie Saoudite a reçu

dimanche 18 juillet le ministre yéménite des Affaires étrangères Mohammed Salem Basindwa, qui lui a remis une invitation du président Ali Abdallah Saleh à se rendre au Yémen. Mohammed Basindwa a affirmé que "les liens entre Ryad et Sanaa sont en nette amélioration et nous souhaitons voir ces relations revenir" à ce qu'elles étaient avant la crise du Golfe.

**Le chef d'état-major des forces armées yéménites a présenté sa démission:** Le général Abdallah Hussein Al-Béchiri, chef d'état-major des forces armées yéménites, a présenté sa démission pour protester contre la politique du ministre de la Défense Haitham Tahar Kassem. Le chef d'état-major, originaire de l'ex-Yémen du Nord, reproche au ministre de la Défense, originaire de l'ex-Yémen du Sud, de ne pas avoir achevé l'intégration des forces armées des deux parties du pays unifiées depuis mai 1992. Il entend également protester contre la promotion récente de quelque 3500 officiers de l'armée, qu'il juge non réglementaire, et contre la cession de terrains appartenant à l'armée à des personnes privées.

**Evasion de six islamistes détenus à Aden:** Six prisonniers islamistes, en instance de jugement dans l'affaire de deux attentats à la bombe en décembre 1992 à

Aden, se sont évadés dimanche, avec, semble-t-il la complicité du gardien. A la suite des attentats à la bombe le 29 décembre 1992 contre deux hôtels à Aden qui avaient fait deux tués, dont un touriste autrichien, et cinq blessés, les autorités avaient annoncé l'arrestation de 36 personnes, présentées comme des intégristes musulmans, dont des anciens combattants en Afghanistan. Les deux hôtels visés étaient fréquentés par des soldats américains, qui se trouvaient à Aden pour assurer l'entretien et l'approvisionnement d'avions acheminant des aides à la Somalie dans le cadre de l'opération Restore Hope. Aucun soldat n'avait été blessé, mais le Pentagone avait décidé de ne plus utiliser Aden comme escale pour ses avions.

**Emigration de juifs yéménites en Israël, un "mensonge", selon un journal yéménite:** Le journal de l'armée yéménite, "26 Septembre", a qualifié de "mensongères", jeudi 14 juillet, les informations venant de Jérusalem selon lesquelles 246 juifs du Yémen sont arrivés secrètement en Israël depuis août 1992. "Ces informations sont mensongères, ne correspondent pas à la réalité et sont propagées par les ennemis du Yémen pour porter atteinte à son unité et à sa démocratie". "Les juifs yéménites sont des citoyens comme les autres et n'ont d'autre pays que le Yémen".

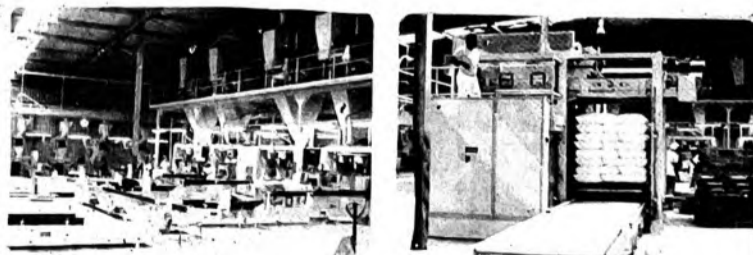
## Apprentis journalistes

Les pages françaises du "Yemen Times" accueillent depuis le début de ce mois cinq apprentis journalistes pour les initier aux techniques rédactionnelles. Ces cinq étudiants, Ahmad Al-Asbahy, Najwa Al-Junaid, Achwak Nasser, Manal Mohammad et Amat Al-Salam Al-Chami, sont étudiants au département de français de l'Université de Sanaa. Vous pourrez lire au cours des prochaines semaines les articles qu'ils auront rédigés en français.



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صنعا ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ : فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : تليفون: ٢٧٨٠ : ناچيل يمن فاكسيل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : ص ب: ٢٥٢٨  
الحديدة ت: ٣/٢٢٢٤٦٠ : فاكس: ٥٦٦١ : ناچيل يمن فاكسيل: ٢١١٥٥١ : ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ : فاكس: ٧٤٥٦٩ : ناچيل يمن فاكسيل: ٧٤٥٦١ : ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ : فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ : ناچيل يمن فاكسيل: ٧٠٠٧١ : ص ب: ١٦٠

**\* Ahmed Al-Shara'aby:**

Mr. Ahmed Al-Shara'aby has been appointed as editor-in-chief of Al-Mithaq newspaper, which is a mouthpiece of the People's General Congress.

Mr. Al-Shara'aby was associated for a long time with the 'Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani, which is being led by Omar Al-Gawi.

**\* Jar Allah Omer:**

Mr. Jar Allah Omer, Minister of Culture and Tourism, plans to visit the Sultanate of Oman in October in response to an invitation from his Omani counterpart Mr. Sayyid Faisal bin Ali Aal Saeed.

The two sides will discuss cultural cooperation.

**\* Abdul-Rahman Hayel Saeed:**

Mr. Abdul-Rahman Hayel Saeed Anam gave a huge party on the occasion of the marriage of his son, Usamah, to the daughter of Ali Mohammed Saeed.

The ceremony took place in Taiz on Thursday and Friday, July 22+23, 1993.

**\* Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadoomi:**

Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadoomi, Chief Editor of Al-Sahwa newspaper, mouthpiece of the Al-Islah party, is finalizing arrangements to visit the USA. Mr. Al-Yadoomi has shown great interest to acquaint himself with the American media, and to open up channels of contact.

**\* Fursan Khalifah:**

Singer and artist Fursan Khalifah is expected to arrive in Yemen next week. Mr. Khalifah will rejoin family and friends after his long foreign life, notably in the United Arab Emirates.

**\* Fouad Al-Kibsi:**

Mr. Fouad Al-Kibsi, the rising young star in the Yemeni singing business, is due to return from the USA to Sanaa this week with his bride. His bride is a young American woman of Yemeni origin.

**\* Ms. Aneesa Abdullah Ghanim:**

Aneesa Abdullah Ghanim, Director-General of Information at the Immigrants' General Secretariat, has been named to head a Yemeni press delegation to Ethiopia. Ms. Ghanim and the accompanying delegation will participate in the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Society of Yemeni Immigrants in Ethiopia.

**\* Yahia Bakkoor:**

Dr. Yahia Bakkoor, the Secretary-General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, has concluded on Friday, July 3rd, a several-day visit to Yemen.

During the visit he met with several senior officials with whom he discussed potential cooperation between Yemen and the organization in the field of agricultural and livestock development.

**\* Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman:**

Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, Head of the Secretariat of the Yemen Socialist Party has successfully undergone surgery. Dr. Noman who is now in Germany, had suffered from a disc prolapse two weeks ago.

**\* Yahia Al-Ra'ee:**

Mr. Yahia Al-Ra'ee has been elected last week as the whip of the People's General Congress bloc in parliament. Mr. Al-Ra'ee replaces Mr. Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh, who is a member of the Presidium of the House of Representatives. An official source for the PGC indicated the purpose of the change to enable Mr. Al-Wajeeh to devote full time to the leadership of the council.

**\* Ahmed Handhal:**

Colonel Ahmed Handhal has been named General Manager of the General Corporation for Grains and External Trade. Handhal replaces Qassim Al-Sabri, who has taken over as Chairman of Yemen Marib Insurance Company.

**\* Jennifer Jobbins:**

British national Jennifer Jobbins has been accredited by the Ministry of Information as the Associated Press stringer in Sanaa.

**\* Mansoor Al-Humati:**

Colonel Mansoor Al-Humati, the presidential hopeful, has left Sanaa for Cairo to pursue his higher studies. The presidential council is being elected shortly.

**\* Yasser Arafat**

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Head of the Palestinian State, arrived in Sanaa yesterday on an official visit.

Mr. Arafat said that he will brief the Yemeni leadership on the stalled peace talks in Washington.

**\* Shawqi and Abdul-Salam Shamsan:**

Mr. Shawqi Abdul-Salam Shamsan, General Manager of the National Beverages Co. - Canadian Dry Sanaa, and his father, Sheikh Abdul-Salam Shamsan, Chairman of the Shamsan Group of Companies, left for Cairo this week.

The two men are on a business trip that will take them to several countries in the region.

**\* Ali Aqabat:**

Mr. Ali Aqabat, well-known businessman, has just returned from a business trip to Turkey.

Mr. Aqabat is now engaged in new investment aimed to establish the first integrated ready-made housing company in Yemen.

**\* Mohammed Haiderah Saleh:**

Mr. Mohammed Haiderah Saleh, the General Manager of the Coffee Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, has completed arrangements for holding a seminar on coffee growing in Yemen. The seminar, jointly held by the ministry, the French Agriculture Aid Office in Sanaa, and Sanaa University will start on Monday, July 23rd, 1993.

## Leading Yemeni Female Computer Whiz

By : Miervat Dwiekat  
Yemen Times

The Mineral Exploration Board makes geological surveys in a search for minerals. It has highly developed drilling techniques. A Computer Department was established to help facilitate the work. To shed light on the work of this department, we had an interview with Mrs. Faiza Mahmood Saddiq, the Principal of the computer Department.

**Q: Why were you chosen as head of the Computer Department?**

**A:** I am a graduate in Chemical Engineering from Kuwait University. When I came back to Yemen I didn't have the chance to work in my field of specialization. So I started taking courses in computer studies. Then I applied for a job in the Mineral Exploration Board ;and I was accepted. I took a number of advanced courses in computer studies. Finally, I was appointed as the Principal of the Computer Department.

**Q: What is your exact job here in the Computer Department ?**

**A:** The Department is considered as a "Data Processing center" in addition to being a "Training Center". All data are collected from all fields all over the Republic to provide

maps and analyses. These can also be helpful to companies intending to undertake different projects or activities in Yemen.

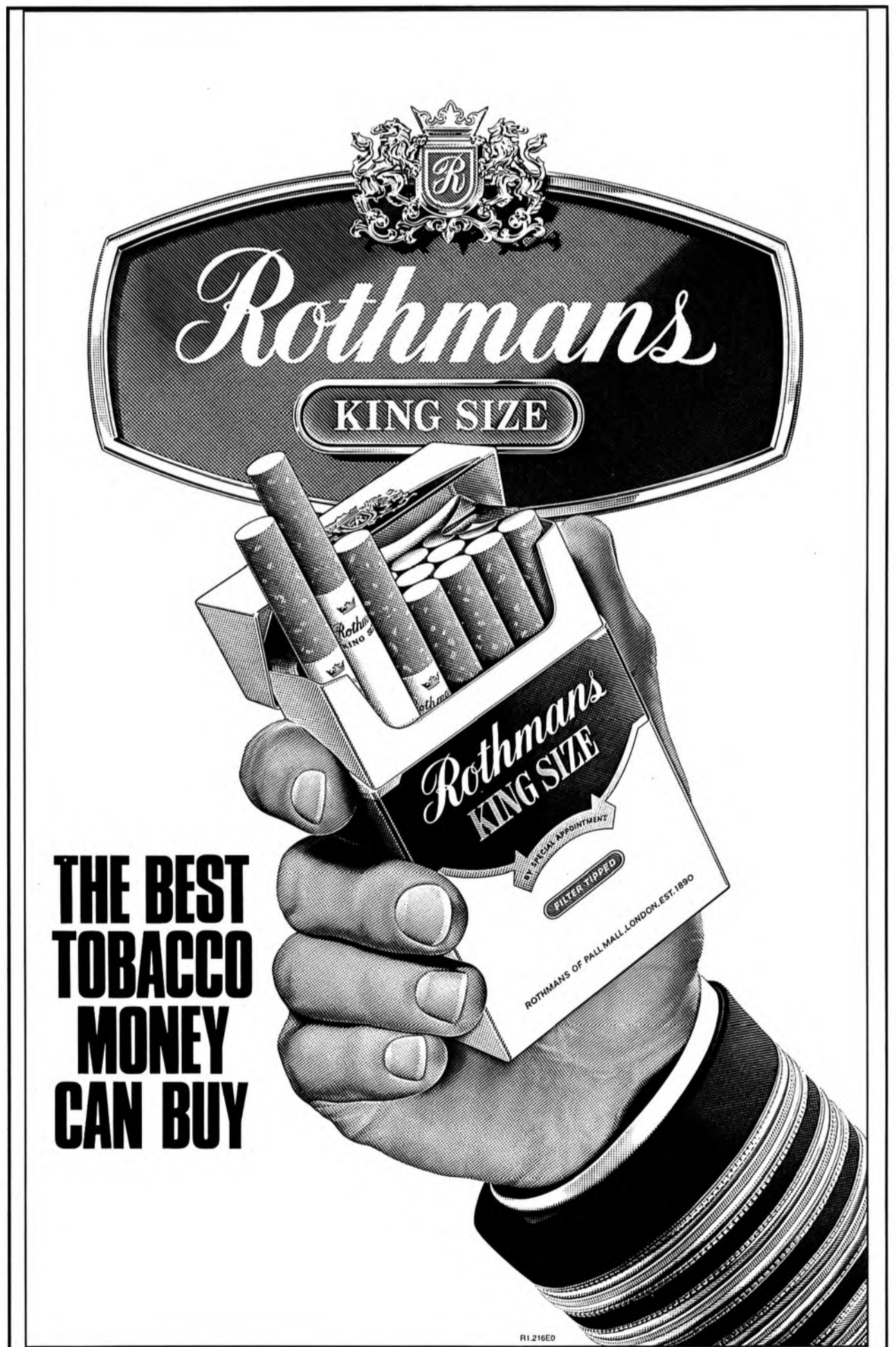
We also train all the geologists to use computers, all according to the plan provided by the W.J.M Company. Our employees have successive courses on the use of the computers. For the time being we are holding three courses for four employees. After passing such courses, they will go on to take more advanced courses.

We gave a presentation to a foreign delegation on the work of the computers. We gave them an idea about the network we started using six months ago under the supervision and help of a foreign trainer.

The aim of this network is to join together all the computers used by the Board with a central computer, on a large screen, so that all the computers work according to the same system.

**Q : Are there any future plans ?**

**A:** Actually, we are proud of what we have accomplished in the year and a half since the department was first established. We look forward to using computers in the various departments of the Board such as Accounting, Administration and Personnel, so that such departments can be connected with the network.



The advertisement features a hand holding a pack of Rothmans King Size cigarettes. The pack is white with a dark band and a gold crest at the top. The brand name 'Rothmans' is written in a large, elegant script, and 'KING SIZE' is printed in a bold, sans-serif font below it. The hand is wearing a dark, patterned sleeve. The background is a dark, textured oval shape.

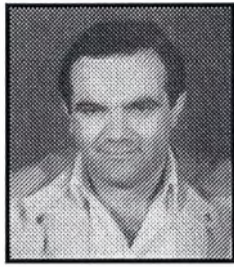
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Fundamentalists versus Liberals, and the Poor versus the Rich:

CULTURAL CHAOS OR POLITICAL ANARCHY

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



For certain reasons, I believe that the open war of terrorism and anti-terrorism (official terrorism) being initiated in various parts of the Arab world, Egypt and Algeria in particular, and the aborted attempts at violence in Tunisia and Yemen, is neither ideological nor religious in basic motive, as some philosophers tend to theorise - though both (ideology and religion) were effective tools for utilizing the poor scapegoats whose bodies have accumulated in hundreds since this war was openly declared a few years ago.

I am not disdaining the individuals who die fighting for what they think is right under whatever slogan. I condemn this age of killing others, mostly the innocent, just for what one thinks is a just cause and means.

Death is your penalty because you are not as Muslim (or whatever) as I am, and as I alone manifest truth and have the sole right to speak for it, then I am the judge and the executioner. This logic, however mad as it seems, is the one that drives all the killing taking place. Just to be encountered by a similar logic from the opposing side, mainly official, who in return claims to hold the truth and the right to kill for it. This is also true, to a wide extent, in all forms of religion and ideology, even of those so-called liberal societies whose civ-

izational masks cover an unbelievable potential to kill. And as the war goes on, contemplating observers race to think of elaborate motives and solutions. Some put it as an Islamic or Yellow (after the eastern Asians) campaign raised in the face of the new western crusaders, others claim it as the historic east-west struggle, others as a semitic/non-semitic conflict that is "written" and fated ... and so on. Yet very few have touched the essence of any man versus man conflict since the dawn of history and civilization, i.e. the conflict between who owns and who doesn't. I am sure that most of them are very aware of this truth, yet there are some preventive reasons that push those observers into metaphysical, non-realistic theorization. The first is the probable classification thereof as old fashioned and anti-modernized, unaware of the new age, communist, pro-terrorist (or infidel, by the other side) and other fancy designations that could be fatal, especially for those who live by their pens and paper. The new classification of thinkers and writers is very edgy, as both con-

flicting parties (holders of exclusive truth) offer no space for forgiveness ... no grey colors allowed. It is either black or white.

I cannot imagine an illiterate carpenter (will full respect to this profession) leading university graduates to death after convincing them that he speaks for God and the Prophet (as in Egypt), yet such a position requires a thorough perusal by psychologists as well as politicians and economists ... how did this young man become convinced to fight for a cause in this specific period? Is it a rooted rejection of all the system represents? Is it the frustration of the system's failure to meet his or her young dreams? Or is it a political doctrine and a vision of a certain way of life? If we say that these and other motives are combined all together, then so they are worth sacrificing the most precious gift of God, one's own and other's lives.

The phenomenon is not occasional, it is rather an elaborate plan to finalize the centuries-old war of ownership and containment, which keys are held there in the fancy offices thousands of miles away from where food is distributed to the peoples of the world according to rules no one can predict or anticipate, where states and leaders are classified as heroes and criminals, and where the sword of human rights is combined with that of International Monetary Fund conditions to define who is worthy of help and who is not. This

outcome, which seems final and vital, the triumph of one form of thought and way of life, is combined and enforced on the whole world-rendering it as criteria for judgment and execution. It has forced diverse reactions in the form of national and religious violence, of which frustration is the common factor and motive. Young men all over the world carrying guns and bombs swarm into each other like beasts, with no other goal or aim. Killing has become a practice where no ideal is left to follow; peoples are re-reading history to find new reasons for destruction in one part of the world (the larger one), while the other part is getting wealthier than ever, and blaming the former for all its problems.

In this environment of cancelling and neglecting the equal rights of others in life, violence combined with cultural retardation is born and nourished thereon, looking towards past heritage for pretexts and explanations, destroying society and culture, breaking all chances of a real raise based on scientific thought and reasoning, where arts and fine arts are devilish and dying for nothing is godly and heavenly.

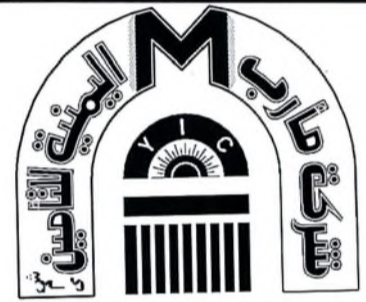
Yet, and despite all, I very much doubt the finality and vitality of the triumph of one's thought patterns, and history's lessons are quite clear. Every civilization that ever lived considered itself the optimal solution for mankind, and, just like that,

died out with surprising ease. In his book "The End Of History", Fukoyama expressed the new world (the western example) as the unsurpassed end of mankind's attempts at perfection, rendering his book a bible for new world orderists, forgetting that history never dies. It rather re-manipulates its inner factors of evolution, and refabricates new civilizations and cultures over long periods, and will keep on doing that till the end of time, if there is one.

So, is the conflict inevitable? And what are the solutions? No one can be blamed for the privilege of having an answer, yet some assumptions could be made. I think that dialog between the one who owns and the one who

doesn't, the oppressed and the oppressors, the strong and the weak, is as meaningless as the war between the two. The assumption that such dialog would be based on equality is a foggy dream that will never come true unless a material and humane base could be established. This material base is a society based on science, reason, acceptance of all to all, productive economy, and above all the self awareness of its role in the building of a new world.

There is no place left for super leaders and their historic insights and all this nonsense. The society has to rebuild its consciousness through its combined creed of building and modernization. But the problem is, where to start ...



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"First, there is the most direct and basic of all, which is 'on-the-job' training. At any time, there would be several new recruits whom we consider as trainees.

"Second, there is training in the Institute for Technical and Managerial Training, which is part of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies. At this very moment, we have five of our workers undergoing training at the institute.

"Third, we finance students who are potential employees and workers during their study-years. We are at the moment paying the stipends and educational expenses of several students in universities locally and abroad," said Mr. Mohamed Tarish.

"The factory provides at the moment employment for about 150 employees. We anticipate the number to rise with our envisaged plans for expansions," the General Manager stated.

As for marketing - there is no problem with that at any level. "The high quality of our product and the good name of Rothmans are two important factors in our exceptional success in marketing. In collaboration and cooperation with the other factories in the republic, we cover the whole local demand of cigarettes," stated Mohamed Abdul Wadood.

Of course there are smuggled cigarettes in the market, and this is detrimental to both the state and the consumer. The state has to forgo its tax revenue because the goods come in through illegal channels. The revenue loss is immense. As far as the consumer is concerned, the smuggled cigarettes are stored in various locations under improper conditions and for long periods of time. These cigarettes lose a lot of their quality, and they could be harmful.

"In my mind, there is no doubt that all sides, but specially the new Al-Attas government, must cooperate to fight smuggled cigarettes and other products," stresses the General Manager.

The UI has also succeeded in penetrating foreign markets. "We are already exporting to Jordan, and we expect to export to east and north Africa," indicated Mohamed Abdul Wadood.

The company is hoping to develop its sales abroad in the near future. "This will help generate more hard currency, and it will allow our output to increase faster, thereby generating employment opportunities for a larger number of Yemenis," added the UI general manager.

Mr. Les Archer explained that one of the vital factors for success is the way the management interacts with personnel and workers. "What we are doing at UI is setting an environment where we can get people to want what we want them to want in a non-threatening way. We are showing we care about people, and making them realise how important they are. Everybody now feels part of the company. Machines are now performing at very high yields and people are developing a pride in what they are producing. And I am proud to be working with such good people. We should

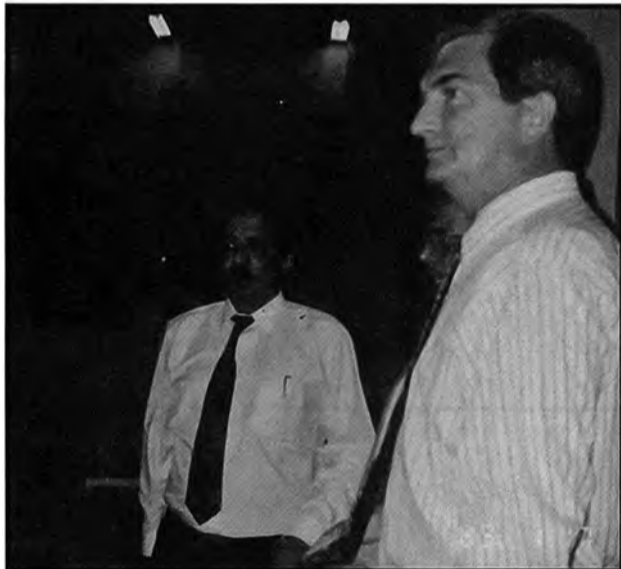


product as they proceed from the factory to the whole-sale merchants and to the retailers and consumers. As far as the government is concerned, this factory alone provides annually about 3% of the total government revenue," Tarish said. "In 1992, the UI paid to the Yemeni government over a billion Riyals, or to be exact 1,071,535,000 Riyals in various taxes," he added. Speaking about the future, Mr. Tarish said, "We have introduced a new brand - Kansas - which is an American-type blended

tobacco which has started taking hold on the international market. We expect it to do the same in the Yemeni market," Mr. Mohamed Abdul-Wadood Tarish said confidently.

There is another dimension to the policy of the company, which is also the hallmark of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group - the company is very community conscious. "We try to behave responsibly towards society. That is we have strict environmental policies. We insist on dumping any harmful by-products in pre-determined remote locations. We involve our employees in aesthetic values. I can say our garden and open space area is amongst the best in the republic," said Tarish. It is true, the company's garden, which is a meadow and a hill-top facing the factory, is a beautiful sight.

The UI General Manager also pointed to another effort of the company - its community outreach program. "We have made generous contributions to many community welfare projects on different occasions. It is company policy to interact positively with the needs of the community in which we operate, and offer our assistance as much and as often as possible," concluded the UI General Manager.



always remember that it is people who change organisations into successes or failures," said Mr. Archer.

As a result, over the last few months since Les joined the team of UI, productivity has increased dramatically.

Rothmans is produced in Yemen under strict conditions - the tobacco is special quality and it is totally imported. "We have to maintain the world standard of Rothmans," explained Mr. Archer.

The Operations Manager also sounded up-beat about the prospects in the future. "We are now carrying a detailed study of the market structure, and we try to match the need. That is why we think that our chances for further market penetration and expansion are good," Les added.

GM Tarish went on to indicate the high value added and the enormous contribution the factory makes to the national treasury. "I have already mentioned the 150 employees who support about a 1000 persons. Then, there is the massive distribution network which employees several thousand persons. There are also the transportation and storage systems associated with our

## Business Clips:

\* The Yemeni government of the Republic has sent letters to the Chambers of the Industry and Commerce of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC) inviting them to invest in Yemen. The circular pointed to the many incentives and privileges that the investment law and the free zone law offer to investors. Response is expected to be low-key.

\* The World Bank is complaining bitterly about the inefficiency of the government's bureaucracy. According to an inside source at the Ministry of Planning and Development, the organ responsible for coordinating the disbursement of foreign assistance and loans, there is over US\$ 500 million of undisbursed IDA money. "This money should be used to finance development projects, but we are unable to organize ourselves to do so," according to the source.

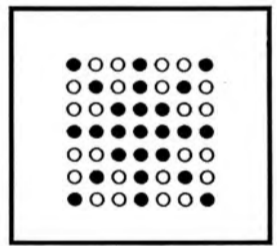
\* The inflation rate in Yemen is estimated at 45% by learned sources at Sanaa University's Economic Department. The continued pumping of fiat money into the economy is steadily eroding the value of the local currency and increases the cost of living. This is coupled by the depreciation of the Riyal which sells at the parallel market for over 45 Riyals to the US dollar.

\* The Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted for two days, 20+21/7/1993, an American catalog exhibition. Many Yemeni business were at hand to link-up with the over eighty American firms whose products were being displayed through the catalogs. Although the emphasis was on the energy sector, many other products used in safety, transportation, construction and so on were also displayed.

\* The Mayor's office in Sanaa is organising a field survey on the tax base of the city. The stress is on consumption, production and service taxes. The survey and door-to-door visits will start on July 24th.

It is worth mentioning that tax avoidance and tax evasion is a major problem in Yemen. According to a study carried out in 1987, the government fails to collect 50% of its tax dues, and the problem is with the big shots.

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**WHAT DRIVES SKINHEADS?**

Secure in a group, Germany's skinheads, many of them 14 to 20 years olds, feel almost invincible as they raise their right arm in a Hitler salute before going off to set fire to the flats of Turkish families and beat up foreigners. Eight people have died at their hands already this year, victims of violence against foreign residents, Germany's homeless and the disabled. Brought before court judges, the skinheads reveal how their background comprised a misplaced childhood spent in children's homes, broken homes, academic failure and unemployment. The picture of right-wing extremists in Germany today is one of aggressive children and youths who yell racist slogans and proudly show off Nazi tattoos. Though they evidently paid little attention during history lessons in school, they have retained phrases such as the "purity of the German race". Although the courts have fined several groups for inciting racial violence, the bands' drunken singers continue to

scream fascist lyrics into the microphone. The murders a while back of two Turkish women and two young Turkish girls in the western town of Solingen in North Rhine-Westphalia have sparked off a rash of fresh attacks, with some 70 assaults on foreigners registered in a single week in the same state. The word skinhead conjures up a picture of shaven headed youths armed with their two favorite weapons of baseball bat and petrol bomb. To act macho, they wear army boots or Doc Marten steel capped working boots. In the evening, they meet for drinking sessions before setting off for a night of terror or, as they claim- "fun". The press has described their external appearance at length, but controversy rages on where they draw their murderous motives from. The reasons put forward range from stupidity and too much cheap beer and schnapps to propaganda drilled into them by neo-Nazi parties. School teachers are blamed for failing to take them in hand, conservative politicians

complain that children are brought up in such anti-authoritarian fashion that they no longer know the difference between right and wrong. Sociologist Wilhelm Heitmeyer says the violence is a product of competition and loneliness, with parents spending too little time with their offspring. He says that political parties, the church and other groups are offering youngsters less and less guidance. Against this background, divorce among their parents coupled perhaps with unemployment only provide further disorientation. Ignatz Bubis, head of Germany's 40,000 Jewish community, believes that the rightist extremists are only carrying out what he is convinced many older German people believe. "At home the parents voice that which cannot be voiced in public, namely violence against foreigners. Outside, the youngsters live out this violence." The picture in most of Europe is the same, if less violent.

**LPG Plants Mushroom in Yemen**

The first liquid petroleum gas filling plant is now operational in Sana'a. The plant belongs to Mr. Ali Bin Ali Al Mufazer, a Yemeni businessman. The plant is located some 10 kilometers outside Sana'a, along the Sana'a - Amran highway.

Construction of the facility started early this year and was completed on schedule on 1st of July of this year. Design and construction supervision was made by a Yemeni consulting firm, Starcon Engineering.

The facility consists of 4 100-cubic meters storage tanks, 20 X 30 meters filling hall, with 48 filling heads. complex includes an administration building and workers' accommodations and a parking lot for semitrailers and heavy vehicles. The facility is accessed from the main highway by an asphalt road.

The filling capacity of the plant is nearly 23,000 cylinders per day. However, at this stage, the plant is operating at about 50% of that capacity. This is mainly because the plant is undergoing trial operation and training of personnel. Nonetheless, it is appropriate to say that this facility compared to other facilities that exist here in Yemen, is low capacity because it is not fully automatic because it is labor intensive.

Demand for cooking gas continues to grow in Yemen, especially, in major cities where consumption is skyrocketing. This is mainly due to the rapid urban growth and the influx of people from the countryside to urban centers in search of jobs, services and better living.

The demand for cooking gas is also driven by the higher cost of alternatives, such as, firewood and electricity, attracted private investors to invest in this promising field in Yemen. In Sana'a alone, there are two additional new plants under construction. One belonging to Mr. Hamoud Al-Mufazer and the other to Al Hada'a group of companies, both by private investors.

City	No. of Plants	Owner
Sanaa	3	Private
Aden	2	YPC
Hodeidah	2	YPC
Ibb	2	Private
Taiz	1	Private
Dhamar	1	YPC
Sanaban	1	Private
Hajjah	1	Private
Amran	1	YPC
Khamer	1	Private
Marib	1	YPC
Lahaj	1	Private
Al-Mukalla	1	Private
Sayoon	1	Private
Al-Katen	1	Private
Saadah	1	YPC

YPC = Yemen Petroleum Company

Liquid petroleum gas, a clean and environmental friendly source of energy, is found in abundant quantities in the Marib oil fields. It is processed and refined in Safer refinery, and transported all over the country in especially designed Semi-Trailers called Bobtails. With the growing demand for Cooking gas, a potential source for saving the country millions of the badly needed hard currencies, creating new job opportunities, with this in mind, one may address the safety aspects of this new industry in Yemen. What about safety in these filling plants ? what about safety in transporting LPG across the country ? These questions and more may properly be addressed to the Ministry of Oil and the Yemen petroleum Company, the Highest regulating body in Yemen.

**European Airlines Caught Under a Cloud**

Analysts agree: the future of the European airline industry in its present form, with losses skyrocketing and no end in sight to the turbulence afflicting it, has seldom been under greater threat.

Hit by worldwide recession, de-regulation in the skies over the continent and mounting competition from US carriers, some even warn that some national airlines may be forced to close, or find merger deals to survive.

"In some European circles there is a resigned view that only three or four companies will operate in Europe," said Belgian Transport Minister Guy Coeme, whose country currently holds the European Community presidency.

"The scale of this economic and financial catastrophe, which is having considerable social consequences, is immeasurable," he told a press conference in Brussels on Thursday.

The figures are bleak: despite vast reconstruction plans by several carriers aimed at stemming mounting losses, most have recorded debilitating deficits over the last few years.

In Germany, Lufthansa has only just managed to climb back out of the red after its profits nosedived into deficit in 1991 for the first time in 20 years.

The German carrier, which has shed 5,500 staff since June last year, does not predict making a profit for at least the rest of the year. Belgium's Sabena this week

announced a crisis plan - involving a cut of five per cent to 15 pper cent in the pay of its 9,000 employees- to economise \$163 million over three years.

Sabena's head, pierre Godfroid, says the crisis is due to currency turmoil, worldwide recession and international deregulation of the airline industry, which he called "the law of the jungle."

The French carrier Air France, earmarked for privatization by the new rightwing administration of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, is suffering similar problems. Faced with losses predicated to run to \$680-850 million in 1993, company president Bernard Attali has warned of sell offs of non-essential subsidiary companies and more staff cuts to counter the crisis.

Spain's Iberia has cut 4,600 staff in the last 18 months, but its losses still mounted by some nine per cent in the

first five months of the year to reach some \$200 million.

In Italy, Alitalia has suffered less than others, but still recorded losses in the region of \$10 million last year, down from 1991's deficit of more than \$25 million.

In December the Italian carrier took a 30 per cent stake in the Hungarian airline Malev, although it says it has no further plans for restructuring of mergers to counter its losses.

Other smaller companies have formed unlikely alliances in a bid to ride out the crisis. The venture, bringing together the Dutch KLM, Austrian Airlines, Scandinavia's SAS, and Swiss Air will cut staff by 10 per cent, or 7,000.

Government aid is also being sought by a number of airlines. The European Commission last year authorised such action for Air France, Sabena and Iberia.

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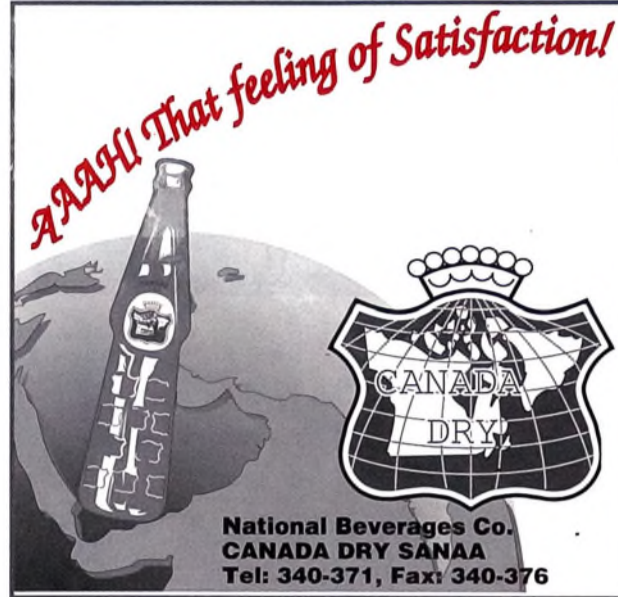
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## • Analysis •

Caio Koch-Weser:

# “Yemen is ready for a structural adjustment program.”



## Undisbursed IDA Funds Available to Yemen Have Piled up to Over Half a Billion Dollars

Mr. Caio Koch-Weser, Vice President, Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank, expressed concern over several bottlenecks in the Yemen economy. He is especially troubled by the current monetary and fiscal policies or non-policies. In addition he expressed concern over the bureaucratic inefficiency which has resulted in over US\$ 500

million in undisbursed loans from the International Development Association, an arm of the World Bank for soft lending. Mr. Koch-Weser held lengthy talks with officials at the Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Planning and Development regarding the necessary policy adjustment. The adjustment package calls

for a more appropriate interest rate structure, correct alignment of the exchange rate, and most important of all, reigning in the galloping deficit in the budget. “These distortions have to be

addressed in a strong and clear way immediately in order for the economy to return to healthy growth rates,” the World Bank official said. Mr. Koch-Weser also had many observations to make on agriculture, human power training and visible problems in the management of the bureaucracy.

He also urged the government to speed the transfer of ailing public corporation to the private sector. “There needs to be a fully-worked out plan for privatization,” he is reported as having told the Yemeni officials.

The World Bank is one of Yemen's largest aid partners. In addition to its direct contribution, the World Bank's blessing and willingness to co-finance is a critical indicator to secure financing from other sources such as banks, funds and governments.

## NOTICE

### MEETING ON NEW IMPORT POLICY

The Ministry of Supply and Trade is pleased to invite all businessmen to meet with H.E. Dr. Abdul-Rahman Abdul-Qader Ba-Fadhle, the Minister, at 11:00 a.m. on Monday 26th July, 1993.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the new import policy of the Ministry regarding the three subsidized commodities (wheat, flour and rice) on tender basis.

The meeting will be held at the Ministry building.

All businessmen are encouraged to attend.

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