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# YEMEN TIMES

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*Serving as Agent of Repression:*

## The Ministry of Information Sues Thirty Newspapers

"We have sued over thirty newspapers," boastfully said Mutahhar Taqi, Deputy Minister of Interior and Head of the Sanaa Branch of the People's General Congress. In an interview aired over Sanaa Radio on Wednesday, July 28th.

Mr. Taqi, in a patronizing tone, expressed his feelings that the new free spirit reigning in the country needs to be tamed and brought under control. "The newspapers have to be reigned in and shown the right path," he said.

Read the full text of the interview on page 12.

It will be noted that the Republic of Yemen suffers from bureaucrats who play up to the politicians and use their authority to screw the citizens in order to kiss the ... of those in power.

Mr. Taqi has no respect for the law, and merely uses it to reach his own ends. Bureaucrats like Mutahhar Taqi are becoming the main stumbling block in the country's evolution to a new system, because they are holding to the old system in which they play up to their political masters and live off the benefits they collect by serving the masters. Sometimes, even when the masters want to change, the 'more royal than the king' bureaucrats stand in the way, as in the case of Yemen today.

The majority of the newspapers, under the threat of lawsuits and other forms of harassment, succumb to the wishes of the Ministry's bureaucrats. This represents a real danger to freedom of expression in Yemen.

There was never any doubt, but the air was tense. "We controlled all the chips, and there was no way anything could go wrong" said a key PGC parliamentarian confidently. But another was edgy and impatient with the tribulations. "We had drafted this thing (government program) together, and there is no reason for the YSP parliamentarians to work against a 'yes' vote of confidence," said Mr. Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh, member of the House Presidium.

A small group of dissenters and independents in the House have been raising hell in what can be seen as one of the fruits of democracy - reducing the clutch of the top persons of the executive branch of authority. There were many meetings and postponements of the vote-taking. The last such postponement was yesterday, July 31st.

But all indicators show that neither the filibuster nor the 172 questions raised by the House committee and from the House floor will stop a "Yes" vote. The Yemen Times contacted the key parliamentarians and they assured a "Yes" vote. When the confidence motion is set, there is no alternative. Prime Minister Haider Abubakar Al-Attas threw an ultimatum at



Mr. Haider Abubakar Al-Attas, Prime Minister

the House. "No strings attached to the vote of confidence. I will not take it," he told an astounded House. To add insult to injury, he implied the House did not know its rights and the limits to those rights. On that point, the Prime Minister is dead right. The House wants to draw up the policy of the government. Articles 94 and 109 of the Constitution clearly state that it is up to the Presidential Council and Government to draw up policies. The House members, by trying to redraft the government program, are trespassing into policy-making territory, which weakens their position. Article 72 of the Constitution does give

the House the right to comment on the government program, but it cannot re-write it. In the final analysis, the government has the necessary simple majority required to pass through a "Yes" vote in the House. In any case, the cabinet is already carrying out its work, and the vote of the House is a little more than a mere technicality. Even then, the discussions and debates in the House floor are of extreme value as they allow the two branches of authority - the executive and legislative - to interact and understand each other better. It also gives our democratic practice more experience.

## The Army: Still the Final Arbiter of Power

A glaring evidence for the deficiency of our democracy, and lack of confidence in the balloting box is the visible attachment of our rulers to the army. They know, all the talk of peaceful transfer of power and accepting the results of the polls and all that jazz is superficial to the workings of politics in Yemen. In this country, the person who has gun-power reigns.

This explains the frenzied current arguments regarding re-shaping, unifying them and re-distributing the armed forces. The Yemen Socialist Party has finally come out openly against unifying the armed forces in its present structure. "First we

build the army along national considerations, not along considerations of loyalty to a tribe or an individual, then we unify it," runs the logic of the YSP according to an internal memo.

What that really means is that the grip of the President's brothers, cousins and kins over the army will have to be diluted before unification takes place. "If the army is unified under the present structure, it will only lead to putting more gun-power under the direct command of the president and his relatives. The army must belong to the whole nation, and all Yemenis must have equal access to it," according to the YSP.

### SANAA UNIVERSITY GRADUATES FIRST BATCH OF PHARMACISTS

The Pharmaceutical Section of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences graduated last month its first batch of pharmacists - some 40 students: 24 females and 16 males. The College, which today has 572 students enrolled, was started with 64 students in the academic year 1988/89 as part of the College of Science. It was moved to its current new premises at the College of Medicine in 1989/90. The Pharmaceutical Section trains students in four specializations; namely, the Drugs, Natural Medicine, Pharmaceuticals, and Organic Chemistry. The graduates are expected to alter the pharmaceutical services in Yemen drastically. The College used the occasion to hold its first Scientific Seminar Week in which important issues were discussed. Eleven studies were presented.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Gentlemen, Democracy Means Accountability Under the Law!

Our politicians and officials devote a lot of their time to talking about democracy in the country. They forget that democracy means respect for the law, and full accountability of everybody under the law.

In Yemen, there is neither respect for the law, nor do we have accountability. In other words, for example, senior government officials can do whatever they want and break any law without any fear of being made accountable.

Let us take specific examples. The media regularly prints violations of different kinds, but no one cares about the validity of these reports.

Most of the reports carry details of clear financial and constitutional violations. If there is no accountability, the laws will not be observed. And if the laws are not observed, then democracy has little meaning.

The role of the media is to help expose corrupt officials. This role is being successfully played out in various democracies, especially in the West. But even in developing countries where democracy flourishes, such as India, Brazil, and others, the media is able to expose senior state officials. If the accusations stand, even heads of state and government fall because of corruption and other charges.

Here in Yemen, we can see daily violations of all the major laws, and yet nothing happens. Why, because the institutions responsible for control, audit and supervision are paralyzed or non-existent. The over-riding dominance of the executive branch of authority makes a mockery of the democracy we speak of. The reason is that the executive branch of authority, especially the president, can appoint and fire at whim the court judges, heads of the Central Organization for Audit and Control, the Governor of the Central Bank, and can even decide who wins in parliamentary elections. Gentlemen, there is need for real accountability in Yemen!

The Publisher  
عبد العزيز

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#### Japanese Volunteers for Yemen

Notes concerning dispatch of Japanese volunteers to the Republic of Yemen under the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program was signed in Sanaa on Thursday, July 29th. The volunteers is just one aspect of the Japanese contribution to the development process of Yemen.

#### Indonesia Denies Talks on Diplomatic Ties with Israel

The Embassy of Indonesia in Sanaa issued a press release denying that Indonesia has ever contemplated starting diplomatic relations with Israel.

The press release flatly denies any reports published in any newspaper implicating that Indonesia has discussed the possibility of having diplomatic relations with Israel. "The Government of the Republic of Indonesia - i.e., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Indonesia in Sanaa wish to confirm denial and that such news is baseless," states the press release.

"Indonesia supports the (rights of the) Palestinian people, and as long as the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict have not been resolved, Indonesia will not have diplomatic relations with Israel," the press release indicates.

It is worth mentioning that Indonesia has exceptional relations with the Arab countries, and it is one of the leaders of the Muslim Ummah.

#### Researchers Syndicate Pissed at Government

Dr. Abdullah Al-Thaifani, Head of the Yemeni Researchers Syndicate, said that neither the Yemeni government nor the parliament have shown enough interest in research. "Historic evidence shows that progress is closely tied to the level of new research that a society carries out. In Japan, the USA, and Europe, annual allocations for research ranges from 2-4% of GNP.

"In Yemen, there is nothing allocated to research, not even in universities," Dr. Al-Thaifani complained. A communique issued last week by the syndicate urged the authorities to give research higher priority in order to help expedite the development process.

#### Yemeni-German Cooperation

The Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Germany held the regular mid-year review talks on German assistance to Yemen. German Ambassador to Sanaa Dr. Kurt Messer who headed the German side to the talks, described the bilateral relations as exceptional and special, and the talks as fruitful.

The review talks climaxed in the signing of three agreements, according to which more German assistance will be made available to Yemen. The agreements call for providing 5.82 million Deutsche Marks to help in various technical support, notably in carrying out studies and research to help increase the level of productivity and allow for enhanced growth rates.

#### Ambassadors Refuse to Return Home

Several of the Yemeni ambassadors who have been recalled by the Foreign Ministry have refused to return.

According to sources at the Foreign Ministry, embassies in six countries have been closed and in several others, the level of representation has been reduced. These decisions come within the efforts to reduce budgetary and foreign exchange burden of the state. Certain ambassadors resist returning, and some have disposed of embassy assets.

#### More US Assistance to Yemen

On Tuesday, July 27th, two agreements were signed between the Yemeni and American governments. According to the first agreement, US assistance to Yemen will be increased by US\$1.66 million. This will bring the US-financed working families project to \$4.16 million.

According to the second agreement, \$440,000 will be added to the "Save the Children" project which provides health care to pregnant mothers and infants.

#### Campaigning Against Outlaws

Throughout the last three weeks, government military and security forces were sent on campaigns to regions in Sanaa and Dhamar governorates to arrest outlaws and retrieve stolen vehicles.

According to reports, the Ministry of Interior has so far retrieved some 900 vehicles and has arrested hundreds of highwaymen or persons implicated with them.

#### TWO CORRECTIONS

1. Last week's piece entitled "LPG Plants Mushroom in Yemen" was written by Hakim Shaher, the Managing Director of Starcon Engineering. We regret the name did not appear with the article.

2. Following last week's article "Waste And What Not," GTZ has asked Yemen Times to point out that it "has assisted in preparing preliminary planning studies for Sana'a" and is not "assisting in drawing up comprehensive plans to include all areas of urban infrastructure and development for Sana'a." The German organization contributing to the new drinking water and sewage networks in the six Yemeni towns (Bajil, Mansouria, Zabid, Mokha, Hajja and Bait al-Faqeh) and with plans for upgrading the Rawdhah sewage treatment plant is KFW, and not GTZ.

Our apologies!

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**Israel Pounds Lebanon**

For the first time since the ill-fated Israeli attack on Lebanon in 1985, Israeli tanks moved beyond the self-proclaimed security zone which is a strip of Lebanese land along Israel's northern border. For the last ten days, Israeli war-planes blitzed Lebanese villages that harbor resistance forces in a massive reprisal operation which killed hundreds of people, including Syrian soldiers, and wounded over 2000. Lebanese and Palestinian forces resisting Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon responded by unleashing salvoes of Katyusha rockets on northern Israel, where two people were killed and others were wounded.

Israel launched the raids against positions held by Hizbollah and Ahmad Jibril's radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in reprisal for attacks which have left seven Israeli soldiers dead since 8 July. "All options are open in Lebanon until calm is restored to the northern border of Israel," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned on state radio from northern Israel. Even then, the deployment of infantry troops north of the security zone to follow up the raids is a grave escalation of the war.

Syria's anti-aircraft batteries lie silent in the face of the Israeli offensive which left four Syrian soldiers dead and many others wounded.

In a first wave of attacks fighter bombers pounded at least 10 villages in Lebanon. Helicopters also went into action, firing missiles at Hizbollah and PFLP-GC bases, where a string of villages was targeted.

Commandos ignored warnings from Israel of further attacks and retaliated by firing salvoes of Katyusha rockets. Israel had ordered its citizens living along the border region to go into bomb shelters as the air raids began, in anticipation of reprisal attacks. When the rockets did strike the upper Galilee area, two Israeli were killed. The rocket attacks triggered fresh Israeli raids in an eternal Semitic eye-for-eye and tooth-for-tooth principle.

Helicopter gunships and war-planes carried out follow-up raids on the PELP-GC base south of Beirut, and helicopters blasted the commando headquarters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction in Ain Al-Helweh refugee camp near Sidon, sources said.

Around a dozen villages on the edge of the zone were targeted by Cobra helicopters which fired some hundreds of missiles, the sources said.

Most of the victims were civilians who were caught in the fire when Israeli artillery lobbed shells on several towns, specially Tyre and Nabatiyeh. The attacks have sent many local people fleeing towards northern Lebanon, Palestinian forces in Lebanon, including the PLO's mainstream Fatah group which backs the Middle East peace talks, said its fighters were being mobilized to counter the Israeli advance from the security zone. Hizbollah men struck at Israel and its proxy South Lebanon Army militia in the buffer zone hitting a tank which burst into flames. As the fighting continued, Israel poured more reinforcements, including armored vehicles and troop carriers.

The Arab League called for urgent UN intervention to halt Israel's attacks, warning of repercussions on the Middle East peace process. The League condemned the air strikes.

It urged the United Nations to "intervene immediately to force Israel to halt its repeated acts of aggression ... and to implement Security Council Resolution 425," calling for an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. Lebanon has also asked the UN Security Council to hold an urgent meeting on this matter.

**Congress Overcomes a No-Confidence Motion in Indian Parliament**

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's two-year-old government narrowly escaped two no-confidence motions engineered by opposition parties as parliament reconvened last week.

The ruling Congress (I) party and its allies command 263 MPs in the lower house against the fragmented opposition's 264. Many of the Congress MPs had wanted to abstain from the voting session, as a sign of disapproval of the way the party is being managed. Yet, at the end, most were brought around.

Congress did survive the determined opposition challenge, but party sources admitted it was a very close call.

Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - the main opposition party - and a centrist-leftist alliance have moved separate no-confidence motions to vote out the government last week. The Hindu-revivalist BJP and the National Front and Left Front alliance have mobilized some 220 MPs between them in the 545-seat lower house.

The rest of the opposition consisted of minor groups whose strength ranges from a solitary

MP to the 20 members of a party led by former federal minister Ajit Singh. Congress spokesman Gadgil said the Ajit Singh group had concluded arrangements with the smaller groups to bail out the government. But Sitaram Yechury, a politbureau member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the dominant left-wing party, said, "It was touch and go for the Congress. We almost ousted the government," he said.

Added BJP spokeswoman Sushma Swaraj, "The situation is very serious for the government. The last no-confidence motions were not a mere formality."

The BJP introduced its motion by pressing charges of corruption against Rao, who has been accused of taking a huge payoff from Harshad Mehta, a Bombay stockbroker and the main defendant in a huge bank and stock scandal.

The joint no-confidence motion protested corruption "in high places," the government's open-market economic policies and its failure to curb Hindu fundamentalism.

"We may have differences, but we agree on one thing - removing the government," said Swaraj, a lawyer, who added that the BJP would seek fresh parliamentary elections.

The communists have reversed an earlier decision not to support a BJP-sponsored no-confidence motion. Congress called the decision "unfortunate."

Earlier on, even as ruling party 'statisticians' reckoned that the government will survive a no-confidence motion during the monsoon session of Parliament, a section of the Congress leadership was reported to have "engineered a subversion from within."

The Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's crisis managers successfully nipped such efforts in the bud. Some Congress veterans were trying to maneuver large-scale absenteeism by Congress parliamentarians when the no-confidence motion was due to take place.

Though the Congress leaders opposed to Rao have been lying low for some time now, the PM's advisors have information that moves were afoot to instigate fence-sitters and known anti-Rao MPs to express their disillusionment with the federal government on the floor of the house. "As voting in favor of the no-confidence motion was not 'politically possible,' we saw that a viable alternative was to abstain," explained one of the engineers of the defection group in the Congress.

Things look grim in Somalia with the UN peacekeeping forces clashing with the warlord General Aideed in a self-breeding circle of violence. Yet, there may be new hope.

The new cycle of violence started when General Mohamed Farah Aideed, Somalia's strongest warlord, gravely miscalculated. In June, Aideed, whose name in Somali means "he who must not be insulted," made a terrible mistake when he ambushed UN workers trying to distribute relief aid. Using women and children as "human shields" his gunmen killed 23 Pakistani soldiers and wounded 59 others. Many of the dead soldiers were later found mutilated with their stomachs cut open and their eyes gouged out.

It was this that led to the United States-inspired retaliation. On 13 June and again on 12 July, US gunship helicopters bombarded Aideed's arms dumps and headquarters in the capital, Mogadishu.

The action of Aideed's thugs is indeed savage, but its savagery is more than matched by the UN attacks against Somali civilians. Hundreds have died in the engagements so far, while Aideed himself slipped away into the bowels of the city. The UN forces, motivated by the US, which seems to be in effective command of the UN Security Council as well as UNOSOM, responded violently using gunships which massacred the innocent as well as the war-lord's gunmen. An estimated 200 innocent Somalis have been killed.

Ordinary citizens in Mogadishu whose antipathy for UNOSOM is rising feel they are being attacked by an alien, foreign power. The saviors have become a brutal occupying force. The UN also proved itself remarkably incompetent in getting Aideed. The warrant for his arrest was put out in mid-June. The tiny quarter of Mogadishu where he is hiding is well known.

Journalists have found him easily and interviewed him, yet the UN intelligence is so poor and their tactics so clumsy, that they have been unable to arrest him quickly and cleanly. Western politicians assume that the moment Aideed is captured, his support will shrivel away.

Respective of the validity of this assumption, there is a rising ill-feeling towards the West and any Somali individual or group that cooperates with it.

In the two and a half years its task is to keep order and back democracy while peace loving Somalis work out a political solution.

Gunmen shot and wounded two Belgian peacekeepers as militia kept up attacks on UN forces in the embattled capital Mogadishu.

A UN spokeswoman said the two Belgian soldiers were ambushed while on patrol about 100 km north-east of the south-ern port city of Kismayo.

**Different Patterns of Savagery: Aided and UNOSOM**

The attack brought to eight the number of UN soldiers wounded in Somalia in the past four days, Major Leann Swieczkowski said. They were evacuated to Nairobi, but their condition was unknown.

Military officials in Brussels described the soldiers' wounds as serious. Four US soldiers and two Zimbabweans have been shot and wounded here since Monday.

Sinpers fired at UN forces in several clashes overnight, UN officials said. Gunmen fired six rifle-propelled grenades at a US military camp, and a Cobra helicopter returned fire, killing a Somali militiaman, they said.

The escalating violence has disrupted aid operations in the capital. Hugh Cholmondley, head of the humanitarian arm of the UN Operation in Somalia (Unosom), said about 50 per cent of relief and reconstruction activities had stopped.

Simon Israel of the Care aid agency said only 22 of south Mogadishu's 35 feeding centres had reopened.

They all closed for several weeks after the Pakistanis were ambushed, some of whom were killed as they distributed food.

Unosom spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said food distribution was being reviewed and the number of feeding centres would probably be increased.

The few relief workers and civilian UN officials who have not been evacuated from Mogadishu since the upsurge of violence are increasingly sceptical about the \$1.5 billion a year UN operation.

The UN under-secretary-general, fppr ji, amotaroam affairs. Kam Ellasonoo, said \$10 was being spent on military relief for every dollar on aid.

"Continued military action in Mogadishu can result in the marginalisation of the humanitarian dimension," he said.

For months ago the UN appealed for \$166 million for relief and rehabilitation in Somalia, but only \$11 million have been pledged.

Wwiczowski said the only way to restore order amid Somalia's anarchy was "to disarm the country."

"That's why we're conducting weapons sweeps every day," she said.

The attacks by Aideed's militia have raised fears that the UN might be getting embroiled in a guerrilla war with Somalis.

But Aideed's arch-enemy, interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, urged the UN to carry on and disarm Somalia, even if it meant civilian casualties.

"Even if 20 or 30 people die, you will save eight million," he said.

"He said that if the UN feared casualties among its troops, the 3,000-strong police force rehabilitated and funded by the world body should be called in."

"They know the place, they can be used," he said.

He deplored Italy's call for an end to attacks against Aideed and said the 2,600 Italian soldiers here should withdraw if they refused to take part in offensive UN peacemaking operations.

Somalia, without a government since 1991, has been devastated by factional fighting that triggered a famine which killed an estimated 350,000 people.

since dictator Siad Barre was toppled from power in January 1991, some 350,000 Somalis have been killed, anarchy has ruled, half the capital has been reduced to rubble, the people have starved, and there has been no system of government.

This is the legacy of President Barre, made worse by Aideed, General Mohammed Morgan (Barre's son-in-law) and the other war-lords.

Ali Mahdi Mohammed has been talking with honeyed words since his main rival was driven underground, but he does not have sufficient backing from his people.

The real hope for Somalia lies in a peace Com-

mittee of Somali elders which is gradually gaining authority in Mogadishu. It is made up of the clergy, former ministers, businessmen, civil servants and women's leaders drawn from all the major Somali clans. This representative committee offers an acceptable solution to Somalis. The UN play-tough role is neither effective nor justified. UNOSOM should try to break the power of the war-lords by disarming the bandits and not by killing Somali citizens. It needs to assume a long-term law and order role to back the peace process and any new authority that emerges out of the chaos. The Committee of Elders is a good starting point. The UN must not stagger from crisis to crisis

by backing the most likely war-lord. Two major reconciliation conferences sponsored by the UN, were held in Addis Ababa in January and March. The March conference gave Unosom the authority to "disarm all the militias within 90 days."

The conferences also established a theoretical framework for government and the outlines of a Transitional National Council, though it has come to nothing with war-lords still in power. UN special envoy Admiral Jonathan Howe met most of the leaders who had signed the reconciliation agreement and they issued a statement on 25 June saying that the UN



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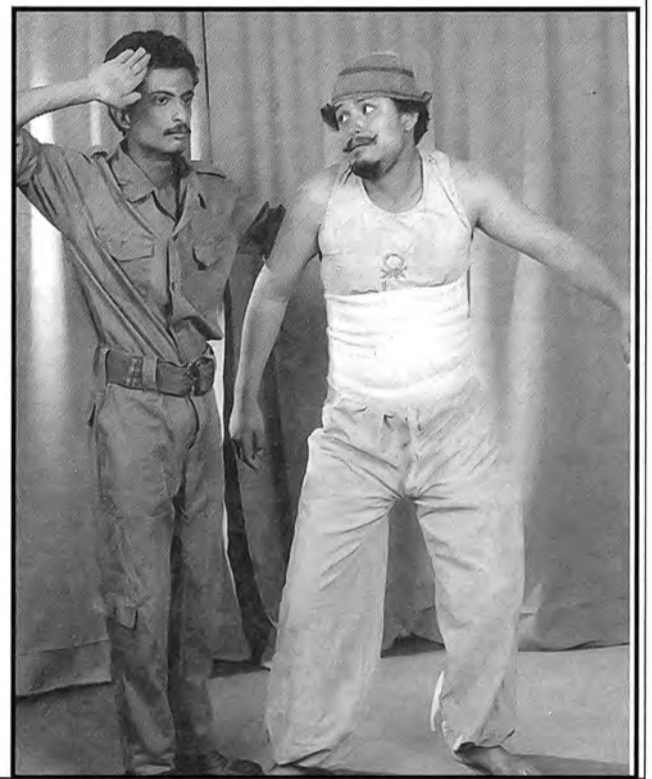
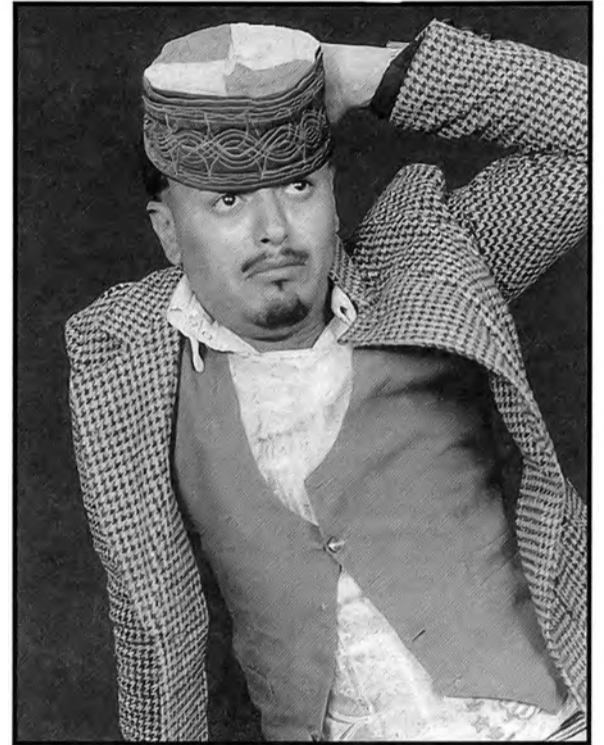
ديحباش

His real name is Adam Saif Ismail, but, by now, everybody calls him Dihbash, the name of his most famous character. Adam, 37, is one of the most famous comedians of this country. He has so far performed the leading role in several plays and a few serial nightly shows aired at various times on TV. "My debut was in 1983 with a play called "Al-Ardh" (The Land) which was directed by the Egyptian Emile Girges," explains Adam. But in a country that provides no encouragement, the young actor was soon disenchanted. He took leave of absence from the Taiz Cultural Center which he had joined in 1981, and headed for Saudi Arabia. He was told by friends that he could sing in marriages and make a fortune in a short time. Jeddah was where he landed in the middle of 1984. "You know for almost three months, there was virtually no marriage in Jeddah. So I decided to return to Yemen and pursue my career as an actor rather than as a singer," he recollects. "Until 1991/2, I acted in several plays. But my real jump to stardom came with the various versions of Dihbash, whose character I play," he stated. "Dihbash, where did that word come from? It is not in the dictionary of the Arabic language," I asked. "I don't really know. It was the director of the play, Mr. Ali Bin Ali Al-Mubannin who coined it. But later on, I met a couple of persons who had that name. From our colloquial Arabic, I also found out it refers to the big bully sheep," he explained. The "Dihbash" play and serial show are about a

vulgar Yemeni who creates havoc wherever he goes. He is an embodiment of a person who cannot live in a society governed by law. Thus he breaks all the laws, and is constantly in trouble. That is why the people of Aden call the norther Yemenis "Dihbash". By now, even the people of Aden have taken on some of the Dihbash characteristics. The conditions of Yemeni actors and artists are sad. "Can you imagine my monthly salary is YR 2500 (56 dollars)?" he asked with tremendous appeal. I think he was using his acting abilities to extract the maximum sympathy. "To add insult to injury, we have bureaucrats who exercise a lot of power. Last month, my salary was subjected to a 20% reduction as a penalty for 'not having observed office hours.' Isn't that ridiculous, I mean our work is not based on office hours," he added. At the end what all this means is that Yemen will not evolve a strong and able group of actors and artists. "What is your last product?" I asked. "We have just completed a

play called Al-Nabbash, which again deals with social issues in our society. But I spend most of my time with the team working on a series that will be aired in Ramadhan of this year. Each three episodes (nights) are grouped together to analyze our social ills. These include things like revenge, male-female relations, treating of youngsters, sanitation, hygiene, etc.," he explained. He went on to talk about economics. "You see, when we produce our programs locally, the country saves hard currency, and more income is available to the locals. This helps the economy, I think," Adam stated. The Dihbash appeal is strongest among children, and that is a source of worry. What is the impact of these programs on our children specially in light of the absence of an educational philosophy and sufficient guidance at home? Only time will tell!

By: Dr. Abdullah Al-Thaifani,  
Educational Editor,  
Yemen Times.



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Ambassador Mohsin Khaleel:

# "Iraq is beyond the critical stage."

By:  
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Chief Editor,  
and Ameen Nouisser,  
Economic Editor,  
Yemen Times.

Dr. Mohsen Khaleel, Iraq's ambassador to Yemen is probably one of the most cultured men in Sanaa. He reads a lot, and has authored many books. The soft-spoken ambassador is an economist turned journalist, and has extensive experience in both fields. We went to talk to him about a number of issues concerning Iraq's relations with its neighbors and how it is adjusting under the current conditions. Here are excerpts of our conversation.



**Q: What is your government's position on Kuwait. I mean does your government recognize Kuwait as an independent state?**

**A:** Our position on Kuwait is the same as that regarding other Arab countries. Our relations are dictated by international law, and the stipulations of the Arab League and other joint commitments.

What happened between Iraq and Kuwait was the result of Kuwaiti actions that damaged Iraq's interests and ultimately pushed us into that action.

Let me summarize and say that the Kuwaiti file has been closed from our side.

**Q: But the Kuwaitis have not closed the file. For example, they claim that Iraq is keeping Kuwaiti and other prisoners. How do you respond to that?**

**A:** I do not think that information is correct. The POW issue is being used against Iraq to delay the lifting of sanctions and the blockade. Let me give you examples of what I mean.

Kuwait has supplied us through the Red Cross lists of POWs, each time the list is different. At one time, the prisoners they were demanding from us were found in the prisons of Kuwait.

In the final analysis, we have no prisoners, and this issue is simply a political maneuver to put pressure on Iraq and continue with the blockade. Kuwait is being used to play in the American game.

**Q: What is the political situation in Iraq today?**

**A:** The situation in Iraq today is more stable than in many countries in the region. Take the Kurdish issue. There is no chance of establishing a Kurdish independent entity. The most they can aspire for is regional autonomy, which they already have within Iraq, and it is more than what the Kurds of Iran or Turkey can hope for.

Take the Shiite issue, which is overplayed in the Western

media. The Shiites have experienced the Iranian destruction which accompanied their offensive during the ceasefire of the Gulf crisis. The Shiites of Iraq know that their salvation and prosperity lies in a unified Iraq, and they work towards that.

**Q: What about democracy in Iraq?**

**A:** In principle, we decided to allow freedom of the press and political pluralism on 24/12/1988. Three committees were formed to prepare drafts of laws for freedom of the press, political pluralism and for a new constitution. These drafts were discussed by the government, national assembly, and the general public, as a step towards their enactment and application following a national referendum.

But in 1989 there was the escalation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis which hindered progress on this front.

When ceasefire was achieved, we returned to these projects in order to democratize political life in the country. But, again, we were confronted with a new problem - the occupation of the northern part of the country by the allied forces. Today, the northern part of the country is beyond the reach of the government in Baghdad. Thus, if we were to carry out the referendum, part of the Iraqi population would be excluded.

That is the reason for the delay in evolving a democratic multi-party system in Iraq. However, I am happy to say that the system is committed to this course.

The government proposed to the communist and Nasserite parties to be formally established. They have decided to wait until things clear up.

**Q: What about political opposition?**

**A:** We understand Kurdish leaders Talabani and Barazani to represent some

form of opposition, based on tribal affiliation. Today there are some 47 political parties among the Kurdish population.

I have already mentioned the opposition of political parties in Baghdad and elsewhere in the Republic.

But the idea of propping up intellectuals by the West to represent opposition is not viable, and carries no weight or influence.

**Q: How much damage has the blockade done?**

**A:** The blockade has done extensive damage to the health sector. The number of children, old and sick people who have suffered from the shortage of critical medical needs is very high. Of course, you know that over forty hospitals and twenty clinics have been destroyed by the air-raids of the allied forces.

At the same time, chemicals needed to purify the water are no longer available, thus adding to the health hazard.

Let me use statistics to show you the health impact of the blockade. Prior to the Gulf Crisis, the annual number of sick cases reported in the country by the whole population was 27,000; today it is over a million.

The main reasons are shortages of medical supplies, malnutrition (due to lack of sufficient food), and higher pollution due to environmental degradation.

Let me conclude by mentioning that we had signed 187 contracts for medical supplies before the crisis. The medicine has not come, even though we have paid for it.

**Q: What about economic conditions inside Iraq?**

**A:** There are two sides to this issue. On the one side, there are a lot of hardships due to high prices and unemployment, both of which are placing a heavy toll on our people. This has created hardship for our people, especially among the poor.

On the positive side, the blockade has forced us to depend on ourselves. Iraq has truly achieved development and self-sufficiency by having to rely on its own resources.

Thus, enormous development has been successfully launched by replacing most of the imported factors of production, including certain raw materials, by local inputs.

In agriculture, we have achieved self-sufficiency in various grains, including wheat. Iraq has succeeded in developing new breeds of chicken, which yield more meat and which are more resistant to disease.

We have made tremendous progress in raising productivity in barley, rice, tomatoes, and other vegetables and fruits.

The new canal, Saddam River, is already completed, and the two canals under execution, will cleanse the soil from salt deposits. This will add several million hectares of land for new cultivation.

Continued on page 7



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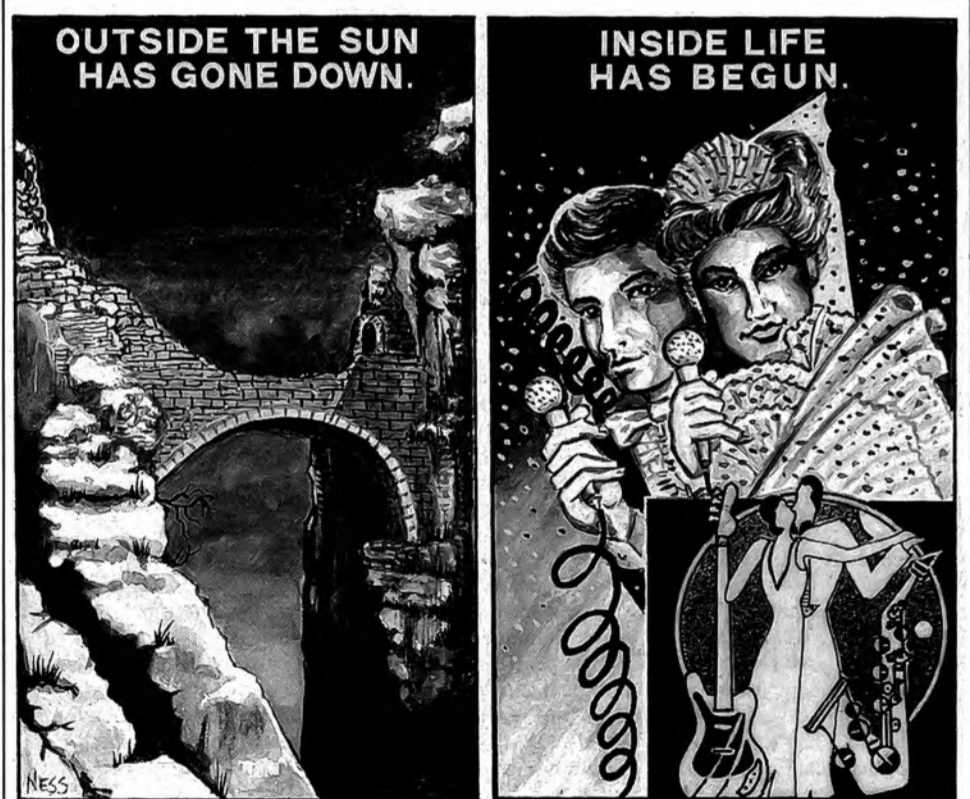
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#### AN INTERVIEW WITH THE LEADER OF THE WORLD ISLAMIC MOVEMENT

It was a coincidence that an Al-Gadeed reporter attended a qat chew in a house in Sana'a with Abdullah Saleh Alnasiri, leader of the world Islamic movement.

Here are excerpts from their conversation:

Q: What is your goal?

A: My goal is to impose the Sharia of God on this land.

Q: What about democracy?

A: Democracy descended on us to cause loss and hunger.

Q: What is your attitude to communism?

A: I will continue to combat it.

Q: And what about unification?

A: The unification is a great achievement. The president contributed to it as a powerful man. As for the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), although it's contribution was weaker, the policy of containing it planned by the other parties failed.

Q: And politics?

A: I understand politics better than Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein.

Q: Have you ever met the president?

A: No, I have not met him in seven years.

Q: Why did George Bush fail?

A: Bush failed because the Americans got fed up with him after four years as president and four years as vice-president.

Q: What do you think of American society?

A: American society is decadent and corrupt, and governed by Zionist apparatus. More than eight million are unemployed. America was defeated in China through the cooperation of Russia with Mao Tse-Tsung. Today the balance of power is gradually changing.

Q: What do you have to say about the governorates?

A: I shall visit Al-Dhali, Yafee and Al-Shuaib, for to me they represent the centers of revolution; their citizens are zealous and their symbols will ignite the next revolution against the Jews. As for Shabwa, my calculations confirm that it will be under oppression for 30 years. It is not fair for Al-Mahara and Al-Jawf to have two members of Parliament in the House of Representatives. As for the people of Aden, they just want to eat, and they follow anyone who gives them food.

Q: Tell me about your last dream.

A: I saw an asphalt road on the top of Mount Jehaf with a lake to its eastern side.

Q: Who are your favorite personalities?

A: Hujahid Abu Shawarb is undoubtedly a historical figure. Haitham Qassim will have a role in destroying the Jews. Sheikh Abdullah bin Al-Ahmar, we have a continual contact with him. As for Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, Salim Saleh, Haitham Qassim, I recommend them to man with me.

Q: Your prophecies?

A: I prophesied the assassination of Bu-Dhaif in Algiers, and he died on the same day. In 1995 I shall be ruling Yemen. Summer 1994, if not before, will witness the end of communism in Moscow. In March 1995 there will be an exchange of missiles between East and West. In the year 1996/7 India will be defeated, and a

powerful state will appear in China. The Russians will engender massive problems for the West, and destruction will occur on both sides. Moslem power will increase. If the month of Safar passes and President Mubarak is still ruling, then I shall quite politics. World sanctions on Iraq will be lifted through a revolution in a great Arab state. President Muammar Al-Gaddafi will be wounded in a conflict between the Moslem Arabs and the Jews. I will rule for eleven years. And on the 15th May, 1995 Israel will dissolve.

**Al-Gadeed, Abyan,**  
19/7/1993.

#### LOOK AT OMAN

Take a look at this country, how it was and how it became what it is today. This is not flattery. To tell the truth, flattery has lost its currency value in Oman's banks. It is important to note that Omani officials prefer working to chatting, outbidding, flattery, or boasting in the name of the nation. Oman is a different Sultanate. It is the people's Sultanate, for its development, comfort and prosperity. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has devoted himself to his country and his people, without exploiting its wealth for his person. Oman is a good example of credibility, trust and sacrifice.

Oman does not only have fantastic cities, wide streets, and modern buildings, and not only oil wells, it also has a practical political, social, cultural, and educational system.

Oman has a leader, and the leader is a penetrating, thinking man. Sultan Qaboos knows how his people want him to rule, and he knows how to make his country happy and prosperous. Oman has undergone a comprehensive evolution, racing against time to become an advanced country. It presents a good example, and it can teach our Arab rulers a thing or two about sacrifice, work ethics, activity and development.

**Adel Al-Assam,**  
**Al-Ayyam, Aden,**  
21/7/1993.

#### BEWARE!

Now and then some of us fall victim to the misleading trends and policies of the official media, which touch our human hearts and feelings by offering us false promises of a more prosperous way of life. The philosophy of lying, fabricating the truth and attempting to eradicate the ideology and opinions of others is, in the long run, a failure, and its negative aspects falls on those who perpetrate it. People talk a lot at qat chews about the different issues of politics and life. Some try to appear as geniuses in their analyses. For example, at one session someone put forward for discussion the issue of decentralization. He started by focusing on the necessity of continuing this absolute centralization in government. Another then knocked down his concept by saying, "You are mixing concepts, for while demanding centralization, you forget you don't even have centralization. You forget that you demand the achievement of

state authority and the application of the rule of law. It means that you need the stabilization of a strong central government. So how can you demand something which is a side issue when the essentials aren't even laid down?"

The problem is, then, not centralization or decentralization. The problem is the excesses and shortcomings of the administration. This administration needs some corrections, which is not a matter of slogans on one point or another

**Omar Al-Awlaqi,**  
**Azzaman, Aden**  
22/7/1993.

#### NO TOLERANCE OF OUTLAWS

The efforts of the security forces in their hunting down of outlaws and criminals have aroused the gratification and admiration of everyone.

While people appreciate these endeavors, they put their hands in those of the Minister of the Interior, who has turned his ministry and its apparatus into a beehive. This latest action will lead to more peace, more stability, and more security. It is of great importance to see such tangible results, as security is a social necessity, and its embodiment as a reality, as it has now, with these steps, become, is a substantial issue.

The responsibility of stabilizing the foundations of security of society is a joint and mutual one, which demands the cooperation of the security forces and each and every national. The new blood which the ministry injecting into its system is a natural part of the coalition government's program. The activation of a widespread security network and the chase and apprehension of these criminals has helped the ministry regain the nation's trust, which will certainly encourage people, and investors, to put more effort into work and production. The police slogan is that they serve the people, and they are paving the way to put this into action.

**Political Editor,**  
**26 September, Sana'a,**  
22/7/1993.

#### THE FATE OF AN OFFICIAL

The transitional period after unification, which lasted for three years, witnessed a division of portfolios and senior posts between the two ruling parties. The division of posts between the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and the GPC that took place came about as a natural result of the merging of the administrative apparatuses of the two states into one unified system, the newborn Republic of Yemen. What we are afraid of now, after the proclamation of the new coalition government, is the illegal exposure to another intervention in civilian issues, one which will have a psychological impact on the nation. The credibility of logic and the new trends of the coalition government in a policy of modernization, based on justice, equality, logic and scientific potential and ability, need a separation of a kind between the civil service and what is called the partisan position. The civil service should have nothing to do with partisanship, favoritism or regionalism, as

such choices will lead to weak and incapable individuals filling government posts. A modern construction of the state requires independence, honesty, science and technology. These are the sound foundations on which to build our new system, without allowing weak individuals into administration.

Qualified and efficient deputies must remain in their posts, as any changes might affect the smooth running of the ministry's routine. The whole point depends on understanding the situation and having a sound ability to tackle the problems. The fate of an official or employee should not be placed in the hands of a person with weak eyesight.

**Abdul-Rahman Al-Haidari,**  
**Al-Haq, Sana'a,**  
25/7/1993.

#### ATHLETIC CLUBS

I don't expect any changes to come about in the way of the clubs in this country becoming establishments for building up and educating our youth, since there is no possibility of our tackling the authorities, either official or civilian, and pressing them to bring about reforms. The clubs' attempts at change and development come only from the leadership of the Ministry of Youth and Sports or from the Olympic Committee. In the northern part of the country sports have been neglected: the state focused only on youth centers. In the South and East it neglected the youth centers and concentrated on clubs. What we need now is a balance between these two components. It is important to change some of these so-called clubs in the North. Athletic

clubs should be places for practicing all kinds of sports. It is true that some of our big clubs, like al-Wahda, al-Shaab, al-Zahra, al-Talieh, and al-Ahli, are no more than show pieces, but they must go on and work out the tasks of the future. The situation of these clubs needs to be discussed if we want Olympic sports to develop in Yemen. Let us move on from these show pieces to real clubs where you can play whatever you like.

**Mutahhar al-Ashmouri,**  
**Al-Mithaq, Sana'a,**  
26/7/1993.

#### ARE WE READY FOR THE ATLANTA OLYMPICS?

Perhaps some think it is too early to think of the next Olympics, but for practical reasons we think otherwise, for the planning process must begin from this moment. It is important to prepare our athletes both morally and physically right from the beginning. Let us think back to the socialist coup, and calculate just how deliberate and scientific they were in their preparations. We saw that they achieved fantastic results in the sphere of swimming, racing and what else in the individual games. Such results prove that athletes who are organized, and given daily exercise and physical preparation, these are the ones who reach the top. The plans should run through successive phases so as to select the ones who are the most capable and have the potential to participate in the World Olympics. We have some champions on the individual level, such as in ping-pong, chess, and running. What

we currently lack is the provision of exercise facilities. We have the ability to participate, and to achieve something, at the Atlanta Olympics, especially in the individual games. What we require is excellent qualified coaches, captains and clubs to bring good results. Let us start now, and expect to achieve some athletic success.

**YasirKaid,**  
**Al-Tagammu, Sana'a,**  
26/7/1993.

#### DEPARTURE OF THE YEMENI JEWS

Al-Mustaqbal sources understand that ten Yemeni Jews left Sana'a recently on their way to London amid political speculation that their destination was Israel.

After their farewells to their families when they left for London a number of these Jews mentioned to Al-Mustaqbal that they were on their way to Israel. The press media also talked about the departure of tens of Jewish families to Israel recently through Rome, London, and Athens, clarifying that these European capitals have given facilities for the movement of the Jews to Israel. Yemeni government sources have declared that the law cannot impede or put any obstacles in front of Jewish citizens, or prohibit them from receiving passports or enjoying the freedom of travel, which is a human right.

The deliberate Israeli welcome of them is part of their policy. As for Yemen, the laws are clear.

**Al-Mustaqbal sources,**  
**Al-Mustaqbal, Aden,**  
25/7/1993.



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# FRESH LOCUST SWARMS CROSS INTO YEMEN

By: Jenny Jobbins, Yemen Times.

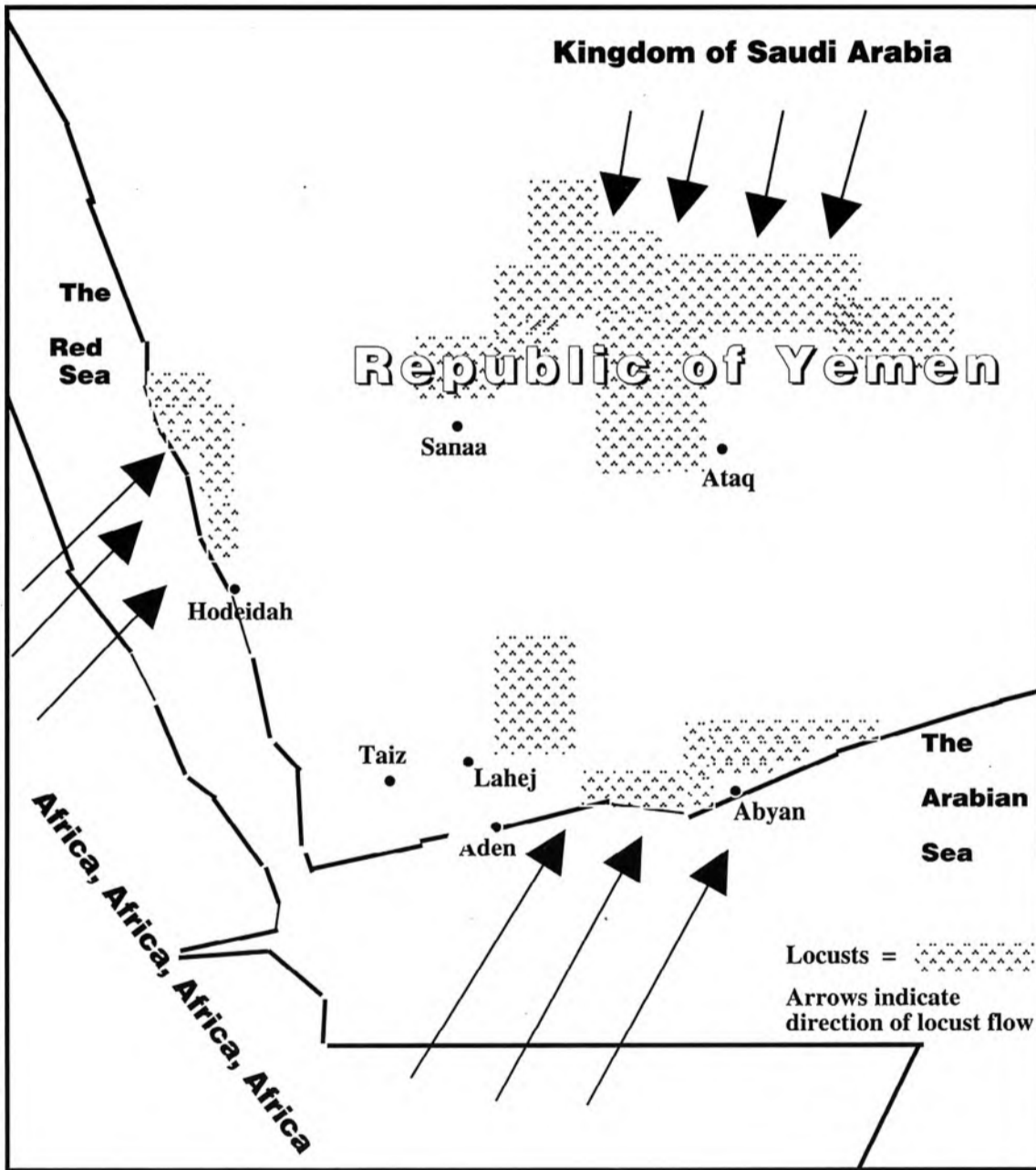
Fresh swarms of African migratory locusts have crossed the Red Sea from Africa to the Yemeni coast. A huge swarm which flew over the Gulf of Aden and landed on the southern coast near Aden last week has divided into two smaller swarms, one of which, measuring 12 km. across, is in Abyan province, while the second, measuring 13 km. across, has moved on to Lahej. Ground survey teams have been sent to both areas with instructions to observe and control the swarms. Another, less dense swarm - 10 km. wide - has been devouring grasses in the eastern coastal region of Tihama since it landed last Sunday (July 25th) near Hodeidah city. Observation teams are assessing whether to use ground or aerial spray equipment. Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghashm, General Manager of Plant Protection at the Ministry of Agriculture, said helicopters now deployed in the east of the country may be sent to the Tihama.. Other swarms are also reported in the south-west, but information is unclear. "What we are lacking is good communications," said Jerry Cooper, a British locust control expert who has been monitoring one of the helicopters spraying in the east of the country. "The area is so big, it's difficult to know what's going on from headquarters."

An official from the Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection Project said radio contact with the teams was very difficult, and his office was unable to obtain details of whether the swarms on the south coast were destroying crops. But he added that farmers in the Lahej area were concerned for their honey production, and spraying would have to wait until the bee-hives were moved, for which the Ministry is providing transport. Cooper said most of the

locusts which have been infesting the east of the country since June have been eradicated, but fresh swarms are reported still to be arriving in the north-east from Saudi Arabia. The most affected area, Wadi al-Jawf, has been largely cleared by aerial spraying, though the Ministry of Agriculture official said it could not be described as "clear". The helicopter used to spray Wadi al-Jawf has also been in the area round Al-Hazm. A second helicopter has completed a survey of swarms within a one hundred

In the light of the experience of the last few weeks, Dr. Mohammed al-Ghashm is putting forward new suggestions to donors for help in obtaining high technology equipment such as global positioning systems, which provide desert orientation by satellite. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is providing spray attachment for Yemen's two army helicopters identified as suitable for spray control. "Next time there is a locust invasion, the Ministry of Agriculture does not want to waste valuable time in

the past few weeks since gaining wings. As well as eating wild vegetation, the locusts in the north and north-east have destroyed sorghum, sesame, vegetable and citrus crops. Ground spraying has continued where possible, but has been hampered by either mountainous or sand desert terrain. Most of the locusts in a swarm near Sana'a airport are in the final "hopper" stage or are undergoing their final molt and gaining wings. The farmers are bracing for more trouble.



kilometer radius of the town of Ataq, capital of Shabwah. The Overseas Development Authority (ODA) representative in Yemen, Gary Franklin, who accompanied the survey team, said many of the swarms earlier reported by ground survey teams are no longer visible. Many may have left the country and moved on elsewhere. "They could have gone in any direction. The conclusions are mostly hypothesis," Franklin said. Franklin said the team had found pockets of locusts around Ataq, but he said it was not always economically viable to launch the helicopter to deal with small swarms. "Some can be dealt with by ground spraying," he pointed out.

asking for equipment to be sent from abroad." Breeding conditions have been highly favorable in Yemen due to warmth, humidity and an unusually high rainy season in late April and early May and again in July, which has brought on vegetation. Locusts breed in areas where vegetation is plentiful after recent rainfall. Most of the swarms which hatched in June have now been eradicated. They were bred by swarms which flew over the undefined border with Saudi Arabia and landed in eastern Yemen, where high rains had caused ideal breeding conditions. The young locusts hatched and matured, devastating citrus and other crops. They have been on the move for

Continued from page 5.

## Iraqi Ambassador...

At the industrial level, the achievements are even more pronounced. One of the major industrial projects is the petrochemical complex, whose output will serve as input in thirty six industries all over the country. We have set up factories that produce tractors, harvesters and five-ton trucks. We are also able to produce top-quality baked blocks, and we have an aluminum smelting plant, etc. We can say that the compulsory inward looking approach has allowed Iraq to galvanize and mobilize internal factors of production and push the technical abilities to their extreme limits.

from the process early on. Q: How would describe relations with Yemen? A: I think relations with Yemen are excellent, and they are based on the fundamentals of Arab aspirations and objectives. You will note that relations between the two countries are historic and deep. I would like to take this opportunity to hail the unification and democratization process, both of which are major accomplishments.

Q: How would you describe Iraq's relations with its neighbors?

A: With Turkey, Iraq's relations continue to make progress, although in a slow pace. There is considerable exchange of trade. With Iran, we can neither describe our relations as good or bad. We are working towards signing a long-term peace agreement that will resolve any outstanding difficulties. We are interested in normalizing relations with all Arab countries including Saudi Arabia and Syria in accordance with efforts to serve Arab reconciliation. We have no pre-conditions. Relations with Jordan are stable, and there is no tangible change although the international media wants to imply otherwise. With Egypt, we are moving to normal relations that would safeguard mutual interests and will help Arab solidarity.

Q: Do you see that the Yemeni position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis is changing?

A: As far as Iraq is concerned, I do not see any change. It is true, however, that Yemen is trying to reach out and normalize relations with the Gulf countries. We not only understand this, but we also encourage it. If Iraq itself is trying to normalize relations with these and other adversarial countries, like the USA, why would we have any problems with Yemen's efforts? We think it is healthy for the countries in the region to get together and try to discuss issues of common concern without an international maestro. The ties that bind Arab countries are strong and firm, and they are subjected to major jolts only when we become pawned to foreigners and their ambitions. Even the ambitions of the foreigners in the region, we are willing and able to accommodate within the legal and legitimate realm.

Q: You did not refer to Iraq's relations with Kuwait.

A: As I said earlier, we would be willing to interact with Kuwait as with any other Arab country, provided Kuwait respects the interests of Iraq as well as the general Arab interest.

Q: Where do we go from here?

A: The first step is to remove the international blockade of Iraq, which is illegal, unjust and immoral. The UN Security Council is reviewing the blockade resolution to see how much Iraq has abided by the UN resolutions and accordingly to decrease or lift the blockade. So far, nothing has happened, as if Iraq has not complied with anything. The UN has to lift the embargo, at least in proportion to how much Iraq has complied to its resolutions. That is the first step. Then we have to work together to consolidate bilateral and regional trust and confidence. This is possible to achieve.

Q: Would you be willing to recognize the international border between the two countries?

A: The way this border was drawn by the UN Security Council team is contrary to international law and legal and historic rights. That is why the Iraqi side withdrew

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 Letters to the Editor

**Crooked Officials and Lawyers**

I read your Yemen Times regularly, and thank you for the good job you are doing. I am writing regarding some property in South Yemen (Aden). As you know, real estate in South Yemen was nationalized, mine along with that of others. Now I, the former landlord, am forced to stand by and watch as my property is sold to the tenant. My property is situated in the Crater area, opposite the taxi stand in Maidan Road. The building comprises two shops, one of which is occupied by me while the other is rented. I used to pay rent for the shop I occupy to the Ministry of Housing in Aden, but for the last two years I have paid no rent. The apartment above the shop was occupied, but was sold by the Ministry of Housing. It was not until some time afterwards that I came to know the house had been sold, and to whom? I am sorry to say that I had given my case to a lawyer, and it was he who bought the house, behind my back. My own lawyer! Whom can one trust in this country? The building is very old, and the new owner has built on it. I have written to tell the authorities of all this, but I have received no reply. I enclose a copy of my letter.

I would like to put forth a few questions. I would like to know whether, if the Ministry sells a property to the tenant, should it be for his personal use only or for him to sell for a big profit? The new owner has another house too. Does he need another one? How many houses can a person buy in this way? Is it fair, or is it a business? I have another property, also situated in Crater Aden. It also has two shops, with a tenant, and an apartment which I occupy. In addition I have a plot of land in Dar Saad, where I built a bungalow, and this too was nationalized. I built the bungalow for my own occupancy, and when nationalized I vacated it. Now I have learned that it was rented by the Ministry of Housing in Aden and sold to the tenant, but again I am very sorry to say that it was the lawyer who has bought the apartment he rented over my shop. I have described these events in full so as to explain my desire for justice. I would like the opportunity to show the documents. In short, is there a law like this in any other country?

Sirajuddin Hatimbhoy,  
Aden.

**HOPES FOR YEMEN**

No one can deny that the unification of Yemen on May 22nd, 1990, was a most splendid achievement not only in the modern history of Yemen but also in the history of the Arab World in general. This event was a dream that nobody was quite sure would come true, but which became a reality. It was beyond doubt a late twentieth century Yemeni miracle. Although the nascent Republic of Yemen was created that May, every Yemeni citizen was looking forward to coming under the umbrella of safety, security and stability in all aspects of life in unified Yemen. No real development and prosperity can come about without peace and security. What is most important here is to create a powerful state well-respected throughout the country. A state which seeks to uphold law and order strictly. We are aware that Yemeni unity has been coupled with democracy and reform packages, but we are convinced that all these are just in vain. The government has proved to be without credence both in words and action. No great changes have been made to rectify and get rid of all the social ills and rotten phenomena prevalent in the bureaucracy. In view of the corruption, favoritism and inefficiency, the country is falling apart. As a result, people suffer from injustice, and grieve over high price, lack of basic services, a fall in the standard of living. No promises have been fulfilled. How can we advocate human and Islamic values, and try to incarnate them in our behavior and the way we deal with others, if we ourselves are corrupted beyond repair. Finally, our hopes rest on the newly elected parliament. It should keep in mind that our society today is just like a clean piece of cloth. The parliamentarians have the choice to draw on this cloth a wonderful picture for salvaging the country by fighting all aspects of corruption, lawlessness and diabolic violence and thus help create a state of institutions based on law and order. Or they have the choice to depict a very ugly portrait and thus forsake the country's future, by remaining aloof and oblivious of people's suffering and their legitimate ambitions and aspirations in leading an honorable life free from intimidation, unrest and insecurity. We do not wish for our hopes to be dispelled and doomed to failure, or thrown into the dustbin. We are full of confidence and optimism that the parliamentarians will shoulder their national responsibilities honestly and fully. In conclusion, let us remind ourselves that, "No life is lived in despair, and no despair is in life," as Mustafa Kamal once said.

Saeed Mohammad Salmeen,  
Al-Obaidi Unity School,  
Sheikh Othman, Aden.

**Our Forests**

Our well-being is inextricably linked with the health of our environment. Nature is a main component and factor in the environment, and it is the very base on which societies survive and prosper. How we use or abuse our nature will determine the legacy we leave for our children. What we plant today will shape the future of our country. Therefore, one wonders at the casual and careless manner with which we handle this most crucial element in our lives. The whole world has given the issue of the environment a renewed priority. New ideas have been introduced as to how we interact with our environment. In Yemen, the environment has been subjected to a tremendous abuse. On the one hand, we have chopped up all the forests and trees, and on the other hand, we have disposed tons of non-degradable material, specially plastic. Forests are an important part of the equilibrium in nature. They are also an important resource in the development process of society. Trees are a free gift, but society has to protect them. It takes very little care and interest to safeguard trees. In Yemen, we are blessed with abundant supplies of cooking gas. So, the nation must stop chopping down trees for cooking purposes. Using gas for cooking purposes is healthier, cheaper, and better in the long run. The state has a duty to teach the people to adjust their habits and attitudes so as to interact positively with the long-term environmental needs. Some of the remaining forests of Yemen are located in small pockets, like in Ibb and Hodeidah provinces. But these are at risk of destruction. It is a pity some of the rare plants have become extinct due to careless chopping. Even the trees with special scent (aroma) like the traditional frankincense, acacia and other trees have become scarce. Yemenis used to extract medicine from the plants and shrubs, many of which are already gone. Educators and the media must help the government in addressing this matter and in guiding the people. In more than one way, protecting our forests is a real investment in our own future well-being. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of taking care of our environment. The starting point is taking care of trees. As a corollary, it would help if we clean up our neighborhoods. But let me stick to trees, and urge the officials and the people to care for trees. This we can do by planting more, and nurturing the existing ones. We should work out a full-fledged plan for this purpose.

By: Saleh Al-Suraihi,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**THE NEW PARLIAMENT**

Representative houses in all countries of the world are legislative authorities, playing a leading role in making the laws of the state. They are the real mouthpieces and the voices of the public. These councils also express the worries and misery of the nation. A representative in a parliament is a person who stands in defense of people's rights. Recently we perused the final results of the successfully nominated members in our parliament. The suffrage was as follows: 28% of votes went to the People's General Congress Party (PGC), 17% of the votes to the Socialist Party (YSP), 26% to the Islah Party, and the remaining votes to minor parties. I am not concerned, however, with these results nor with the process of the elections. I just want to give my viewpoint on the representatives themselves. It is difficult to judge or decide on the loyalty or disloyalty of the elected members of the new parliament. To present correct information or precise details, we first have to ask what these people offered the public in previous years? We also have to ask to which class they belong. Through the answers to these primary questions, we can estimate and appraise them. Generally speaking, it is not a criterion that the candidate who had most votes in his constituency really deserves to be the representative, since the voters who cast their votes for him may have chosen the least suitable candidate. Those voters were influenced in several ways by the organizers of the elections. Such people could easily be persuaded, especially the uneducated ones. There lies the problem of selection and suitability. The notable thing is that success is not estimated or measured by the number of votes a candidate wins, but by his suitability. Therefore, we have to ask ourselves, who are the people who selected that candidate? Do they belong to the educated or illiterate class? Are they tradesmen, peasants, or professionals? According to the sovereign conception, those who belong to the poorer classes are regarded as in no position to be representatives in such an assembly. It is no wonder to hear such things from such a narrow-minded society. As is widely known, the chiefs, the sheikhs, the well-off and the tradesmen are mostly the lucky ones. In fact, there are citizens in our country who do not know their own interests and the right way to achieve them. This is a result of ignorance. I fully know that the voters can pick whom they want to nominate. Unluckily, they do not know what's what. However, I want to ask one main point regarding the primary theme, that is, why most of the suitable, educated candidates did not succeed in winning their seats, even though some of them had high degrees, such as university doctorates? The answer to this significant question has two concepts. The first is that either the voters who did not select these candidates might have been right, namely, that they were generally satisfied with the credibility of the less educated candidates. This means that, for certain reasons, these people may not trust or be able to rely on the educated candidates. The other concept is that the same people might not be able to distinguish between the suitable and the unsuitable candidates. These people, it seems, were exploited and deceived by the persuasion of the organizers who pulled the voters' legs through assumed facts. In my opinion, the first concept is wrong. I believe in the second, because it cannot be rationalized that the uneducated representatives would be better than the educated ones in representing the public in parliament. For example, there are members of parliament who are on the wrong side of sixty. Do you think such people can face and solve problems in the council? In comparison with the able and suitable young ones, irrespective of their political affiliations? From my point of view, aged people would be sideliners in parliament. It were better that they left this tiresome task to the young. Furthermore, there are representatives in parliament who, I believe, will offer nothing to the public. Also, there are some representatives who belong to the privileged class. Can they, or any will-off person, discuss rising prices? It is impossible for wealthy people to stand against their own interests. In addition, we have members who own properties, buildings and land. Will these people be able to discuss housing problems, one of the major problems of the country? Can these owners discuss the relationship between the lessor and the lessee? As a point of fact, these particular people are the ones who hike rents so as to serve their personal concerns. Do such people represent the public in parliament? Of course not. On the contrary, they are the source of the public's despair. Members of representative houses need to have good characteristics and qualities. They should be prudent, wise and sober-minded before anything else. A member of parliament should first know the main tasks of the council. He should be zealous in his mission. He must not be double dealing or self-seeking. He should have high ideals and principles, and he should strive on behalf of the public and the nation. Unfortunately, there are incapable members in parliament, and ones corrupted in administrative fields who misuse the laws of the government. But by a miracle we have members who speak of democracy and liberty, although others persecute people, especially those in the countryside where ordinary people are often badly treated. In addition, there are those with their own private jails and chains in their houses. These men should not forget that time and circumstances are changeable, and life will not necessarily go as they wish. In conclusion, we cannot generally say that the House of Representatives in our country has no honest and loyal members, but the unsuitable ones are in the majority, which affects the decisions taken by parliament. I just want to shed light on some of the characteristic features of the representative parliament in our country.

Rassas A. Harhara, Sana'a.

# Personal View

**THANK YOU YEMEN TIMES!**

I am writing to tell you how much I appreciate your effort in producing such an interesting and informative newspaper. I impatiently wait for it to come out every Sunday. What makes the Yemen Times so unique is the fact that, unlike most of the Arabic language Yemeni newspapers, which are either pro or anti-government, the Yemen Times is neutral and objective. It presents facts about Yemen and the Yemenis which makes it the best ambassador of Yemen abroad, and the best source of information for the foreign community in Yemen. Moreover, it provides students of English with an invaluable opportunity to improve their language, which is an educational task, and this is only to mention some of its long-term services to society. I just wonder about the shameless attitude of certain corrupt bureaucrats and how such a multi-purpose newspaper is subjected to vigorous harassment due to its firm stand against corruption and malpractice in this country. If these non-democratic actions and practices prove anything, it is that democracy has not yet been put into practice. Moreover, they indicate that a smear campaign and war will be waged against anyone who attempts to expose these elements of corruption and those who live on it. I should like to thank you for your courage, steadfastness and patience, and I shall keep praying that the Yemen Times will flourish so that it will breathe fear and anxiety in the hearts and minds of those who are resisting change in Yemen.

Mohammed Othman,  
Sana'a.

**Editor's Note:**

Thank you for those kind words. It is feedback like this that keeps us going. We promise to do our best in serving our readership. With God's help, we shall make it.



# “The state of affairs has reached such a dismal level that anything could suddenly go wrong.”

Dr. Abdullah Al-Maqaleh is one of the rising young men in Yemeni politics. He started as an assistant professor in the Arabic department of the College of Arts, and was then elected President of Sanaa and Aden Universities Professors' Syndicate. In the April parliamentary elections, he became a member of parliament, and last month he was elected as chairman of the Higher Education and Youth Committee in parliament. Dr. Al-Maqaleh is an active and leading member of the Yemeni congregation for Reform (the Islah party). Yemen Times Chief Editor Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf interviewed him regarding many issues in the agenda of the political scene of Yemen. Here are excerpts from the interview:

**Q: Parliament has some difficulties with the program on which the government has applied for a vote of confidence. As a member of the parliamentary committee formed to study the program, what do you consider to be the problem?**

**A:** Let me say that I as an individual will not vote in favor of granting the government a vote of confidence as things stand today.

The government program is too general and too vague. It looks like history repeats itself in a very dull way. I have studied the government programs over the last twenty years - presented to Al-Shura Council, to the last parliament, and to this parliament. They are almost identical, and that should not be surprising as the point man of the government for all three governments was Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani. He is very good at it.

We are expected to add a few sentences here and there, tighten up a few of the promises, and then vote yes.

We don't intend to do this. We ask the government to give us a program of action linked up to a time-table. We

want them to say they will do this by such and such a date, and this is how they propose to go about it. This is the difficulty we face with the government program.

**Q: Do you think you can dictate your terms, or do you envisage having the upper hand in your relations with the government?**

**A:** I know there are many considerations, but what we are telling the government is close to an ultimatum. Either do this and that, or we cannot give you the vote of confidence.

**Q: What about the race for membership of the Presidential Council?**

**A:** Well, according to the constitution and laws of the land, any Yemeni can run. This is one of the basic differences between a monarchy and a republic. In a republic, any citizen can aspire to reach the top position in the country.

As it happens, there are many individuals who carry around their own nominations or that of another person. I signed the nomination letter of one ordinary citizen this morning. You know each candidate needs the signature of 25% of the members of the House (75 persons) in order to be considered for the job. Then the House will vote among those who have secured the nomination of 75 parliamentarians. The Presidential Council will be formed from the five persons with the highest votes.

**Q: Any names that you think will win?**

**A:** I think there are certain unwritten agreements which call for political and regional balances.

At the political level, I think there will be two from the PGC, one from the Islah, one from the YSP, and one from the Baath.

At the regional level, there must be a minimal representation of the northern

tribes, the southern governorates, Taiz, and an additional region. At the sector level, the sheikhs the party ideologues, the businessmen, the clergy and the military have to be represented.

In my opinion, the next presidential council will include Ali Abdullah Saleh (representing PGC, the military, and Sanhan/Sanaa's Hashed tribes), Ali Salem Al-Beedh (representing the YSP, the southern governorates, the progressive/modern forces and party ideologues), Mujahed Abu Shawarib (representing the Baath, the sheikhs, and northern tribes/Hajjah area), Abdulaziz Abdulghani (representing the PGC, the business community, Taiz area and the government bureaucracy), and Qadhi Abdul-Malik Al-Tayyib (representing Al-Islah, the clergy and the Ibb region).

**Q: What about the constitutional amendments?**

**A:** These have not yet been put to us for consideration, but we know they are being "cooked" by the coalition party cadres.

These have, for now, taken lower priority, but they will come back to command first priority and immediate attention by late August.

**Q: How do you assess the work of the parliament so far. I mean do you think you can deliver a meaningful part of the expectations of the people?**

**A:** We have a tough job, and we are at a loss as to where to begin.

Most of the things we ask for require abundant resources, and the government comes back with the same answer - no money. We need to resolve many things such as unemployment, and improve services in health, education, etc.

I worry about the frustrations that may grip us in parliament as we increasingly get the feeling of helplessness in doing anything substantial and meaningful.

But we will continue to work

hard to achieve whatever we can. We have to live in hope.

**Q: If we move on to Sanaa University, what is your assessment of the administration?**

**A:** Of course, the shortcomings are very glaring, and things have reached such a sad condition. There is no justification for this kind of negligence. I know the university has no long-term planning, not even short term planning, and its decisions are taken on an ad hoc on the spot basis.

**Q: The number of students who want to be enrolled is far in excess of the absorptive capacity of the various colleges. What is the solution?**

**A:** First, let me say that we have to take in the students, as we cannot ignore their ambitions and their right to an education. But we have to work out an arrangement with the state so that more resources are made available to the university to expand its absorptive capacity.

We are now proposing a new law for higher education in Yemen. This will give the universities financial and administrative independence from the government bureaucracy, and it will enable them to create their own additional sources of income.

**Q: University real estate has recently been exposed to forceful occupation and chopping up by certain senior government officials and military officers. What is your position and that of the University Syndicate on this matter?**

**A:** First of all, let me say that I do not believe the President agrees to this kind of action against the university.

My position and that of the syndicate is that we refuse this kind of blackmail and exploitation.

I have told many people this, and if the authorities cannot protect the university through proper legal channels, then we will take the necessary measures ourselves. One of the things we are thinking of is that, come September, if nothing is done, we will bring tens of thousands of university students to the site, tear down what the officials/officers

have seized by force, dislodge them and return the real estate to full university ownership and control.

We do not want to do this, but if we have to, there is no doubt we will do it.

**Q: Let us move to the party you belong to - the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah). You are a party based on religion. Is it a matter of politics or a matter of religion? Let me rephrase that bluntly. Are you using religion simply to reach political power?**

**A:** I am happy with your direct question.

I will answer by pointing to the philosophy of the Islamic movement in the Arab/Islamic region. When this movement was transformed into political parties, that in itself was an indicator that it wanted to take control over the countries in which it existed. So, we do not hide our ambition to take political power.

Let me point out that until a couple of decades ago we thought we would sit by and let others control the mechanism of the state, as long as they implemented the principles we believed in. That did not happen, and so the Islamic movement moved on to the forefront of politics.

As to whether our efforts are a matter of politics or religion, let me they are a matter of politics and religion together, and there is nothing wrong with that.

We think that we have a message to carry, and it is to make Islamic truth prevail in our lives.

**Q: But do you think you are the only ones who hold that truth or who represent Islamic values?**

**A:** This is a tricky question. Take Yemen for example. Everybody says, 'We are all Yemenis, and therefore, it is taken for granted.' Then we come to various decisions, and some people balk down. In a sense, therefore, yes we are more committed to the implementation and application of Islamic laws and values than others.

Again, we do not think we have monopoly over this, and you can see this by virtue of our agreement to work in a coalition with others. But we are at the forefront of those who push for the application of Islamic values and systems in our societies. It is not enough to say we are all Muslims.

**Q: The position of your party on women?**

**A:** We are not anti-women, and to the contrary we would like to promote the right of women to dignity, to education and to a happy home. So we do promote the rights of women. From the Yemeni elections results, you will see that the majority of women voted for Al-Islah candidates. That is not an accident. I suggest you direct that question to the women themselves.

**Q: I did not hear you list the right to work among the rights you are promoting?**

**A:** Of course, women have the right to work in the fields that are appropriate to their abilities and needs.

Career women in the West would love to have their husbands bring in the money while they take care of the family and home.

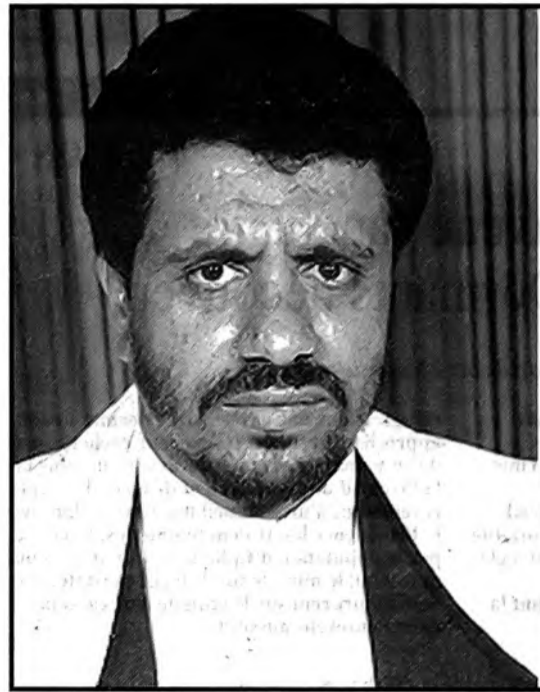
What I mean is that career women have a double burden - at work and at home.

**Q: Finally, what is your assessment of the state of affairs, especially at the economic level?**

**A:** I have to say that the state of affairs has reached such a dismal level that anything could suddenly go wrong. I worry about the level of frustration among the people.

Stealing and corruption have become acceptable values in our society. You see senior government officials or military officers who live lavishly and build palaces not justified by their legal income and wealth.

Corruption is rampant, and favoritism is the order of the day in Yemen's officialdom. Inefficiency and mismanagement are accepted by all.



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## RELIGION

## Un nouveau sanctuaire des Sept Dormants découvert

par Jean Moncelon

Début avril, Jean Moncelon avait découvert un site des Sept Dormants dans le djebel Saber, au-dessus de Taëz (Yemen Times du 7 avril). Il y a quelques semaines, il a retrouvé un second sanctuaire dans le djebel Sinam. La légende des Sept Dormants, d'origine chrétienne, est née à Ephèse en Turquie et a été reprise ensuite par l'Islam. Elle raconte l'histoire de sept jeunes hommes, qui fuyant la persécution d'un prince romain, se sont

réfugiés dans une caverne. Ce dernier ayant appris leur fuite et retrouvé leur cachette, ordonna de les emmurer vivants. Or des siècles plus tard, à la faveur d'un tremblement de terre, les Sept se réveillèrent d'un sommeil mystérieux dans lequel la Providence les avait maintenus. Découverts par la population d'Ephèse, où l'un d'eux était descendu, le miracle fut dûment constaté, et les Sept moururent sur le seuil de leur caverne où ils furent ensevelis aussitôt.

Si le site du djebel Saber, au-dessus de Taëz, avait été visité une première fois par Paul-Emile Botta, à la fin du siècle dernier, un second sanctuaire dédié aux Ahl al-Kahf, au pied du djebel Sinam, était demeuré inconnu à ce jour.

Une simple mention, assez imprécise, dans un article de Serjeant, en 1982, ne pouvait certes pas suffire à localiser un djebel Sinam qui n'est porté sur aucune carte du Yémen. C'est à Renaud Detalle, chercheur au CFEY (Centre français d'études yéménites), que l'on doit un premier indice sérieux, qui, finalement, a permis de trouver le site à l'écart de toute communication.

Il existe pourtant deux accès au sanctuaire du Djebel Sinam, aussi malaisés l'un que l'autre, depuis al-Bayda et Labûs vers l'Ouest, et à partir d'al-

Habilayn et al-'Askariyah vers l'Est.

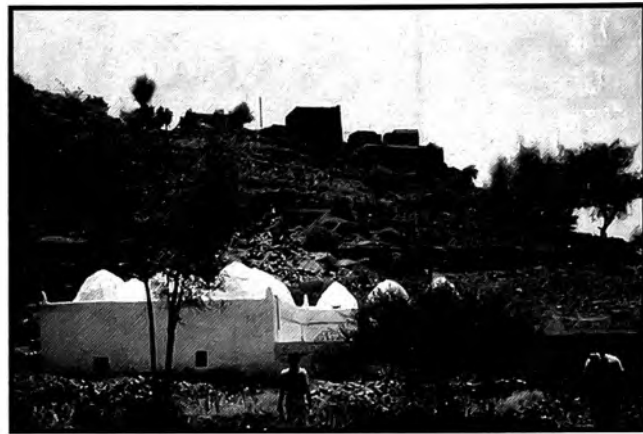
Ce n'est qu'au bout de plusieurs heures d'une piste très rude, qui disparaît le plus souvent dans le lit des wadi, que l'on atteint le site, à proximité du village de Sadi Kharba (le Sadi Gebiet de Serjeant), au pied donc du djebel Sinam. Là, dans un paysage assez désolé, après la luxuriance des vallées où alternent plantations de caféiers et de qât, se découvre enfin, isolée, adossée à la montagne, une splendide mosquée blanche, dont les douze coupes ajoutent à la symbolique du lieu (ce qui est encore plus frappant, venant d'al-'Askariya, après avoir franchi le naqil lham, on a le sentiment alors d'avoir quitté en quelque sorte la géographie physique).

La mosquée du djebel Sinam

se compose d'une vaste cour avec en son centre un bassin, d'une seconde cour plus modeste qui ouvre sur le sanctuaire proprement dit. Il s'agit d'une pièce étroite où sont allongés côte à côte les Sept, le visage tourné vers la Mecque, ainsi que leur chien. Une pierre dressée marque l'emplacement de chacun des Dormants, plus une huitième pour leur chien. Trois coupes surmontent le sanctuaire, dans cette même cour on peut voir la tombe du bâtisseur anonyme de la mosquée.

### La caverne est à 300 mètres

Celle-ci, enfin, d'un rigoureux plan carré, soutenue par quatre piliers, compte neuf coupes. L'ensemble, parfaitement



Le sanctuaire découvert dans le djebel Sinam.

tenu, est entièrement clos.

A environ 300 mètres en direction de la montagne, on découvre la caverne, une simple excavation dans le rocher, assez spacieuse, qui a justifié l'édification du sanctuaire. De fait, l'orientation plein sud de la caverne s'accorde avec l'enseignement du Coran: "Tu aurais vu le soleil à son lever s'écarter de la caverne vers la droite et passer à leur gauche au moment de son coucher" (XVIII, 17). De même, les différents éléments consignés dans le Coran se retrouvent-ils sans difficulté.

C'était un vendredi matin peu avant la grande prière communautaire, et une douzaine de vieillards tout de blanc vêtus, nous firent visiter les lieux. Tous sont convaincus que c'est là, à n'en pas douter, le site

décrit dans le Livre saint, quand même ses origines leur sont inconnues.

Et, de fait, si le sanctuaire du djebel Saber peut se prévaloir d'une tradition écrite, de sa situation privilégiée aussi au sommet du djebel Saber, il reste que l'éblouissement à la vue de la mosquée des Ahl al-Kahf ajoute à l'histoire des Sept martyres de la Foi quelque chose qui ressortit à son mystère, à cette "Science venue de Nous" qui demeure l'explication de la légende des Sept Dormants d'Ephèse, laquelle appartient, rappelons-le, aussi bien à la tradition chrétienne qu'à l'Islam.

Jean Moncelon est directeur du département de français à l'Université de Sanaa.

## En Bref

**Yasser Arafat en visite à Sanaa:** Le chef de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat a fait une visite de moins de 24h à les 23 et 24 juillet derniers. Il a déclaré que les Etats-Unis ont promis le rapatriement "immédiat" de 70 malades parmi les expulsés palestiniens au Liban sud (depuis décembre 1992, 396 Palestiniens sont confinés par Israël dans cette région). Il a par ailleurs indiqué qu'au cours de sa visite à Amman la semaine dernière, où il a rencontré le roi Hussein de Jordanie, "des mesures ont été prises pour donner une impulsion à l'idée d'une confédération entre la Jordanie et un futur Etat palestinien".

**Journée de protestation à propos du journal turc Ozgur Gundem:** La Fédération internationale des journalistes (FIJ) a organisé mercredi 21 juillet une journée internationale de protestation des journalistes contre l'interdiction de parution à plusieurs reprises du quotidien turc pro-kurde Ozgur Gundem. Le rédacteur en chef, Davut Karadag a été écroué le 16 juillet dernier à Istanbul sous l'inculpation de propagande séparatiste dans son journal. Une interdiction de parution avait été prononcée contre le quotidien la veille avant d'être levée quelques heures plus tard. Sur quinze journalistes tués en Turquie au cours des dix-neuf derniers mois, sept travaillaient pour Ozgur Gundem, selon la FIJ.

## TALENTS

## Touches de mains yéménites

Le Centre culturel français de Sanaa a abrité début juillet la sixième exposition annuelle de l'artiste yéménite Mohammed Al-Houboub.

Parmi les artistes yéménites qui se sont illustrés dans le domaine de l'art plastique, Mohammed Al-Houboub est certainement le plus célèbre d'entre eux. Jeudi 8 juillet, à 10h du matin, la sixième exposition annuelle de cet artiste, "Touches de mains yéménites" a été inaugurée au Centre culturel français de Sanaa par Marcel Laugel, ambassadeur de France.

### Harmonie des couleurs et des idées

Agé de 33 ans, Mohammed Al-Houboub est licencié en sciences politiques et en économie. Il a aussi un diplôme d'art qu'il a décroché en Corée. Il a participé à de nombreuses expositions tant au Yémen qu'à l'étranger. Il a obtenu plusieurs prix, dont la médaille d'or au 13e Festival mondial pour son plus célèbre et son plus joli tableau "Hiroshima". Ce tableau qui illustre la catastrophe, exprime la tristesse et la peine par le noir et les couleurs sombres utilisées. Une cervelle et une épine dorsale sans vertèbres ressemblent à une chandelle qui a fondu. Le visage de l'homme représenté est celui d'un enfant. Sa main est posée sur sa joue et dans ses yeux, on lit un regard interrogateur: "Pourquoi cette cruauté?", avec une larme qui coule sur sa joue.

Cette exposition fait ressortir l'immense talent de l'artiste. Les thèmes de ses tableaux



Hiroshima a obtenu la médaille d'or au Festival mondial.

évoquent la réalité de notre vie. L'exposition ne s'est pas limitée à un seul sujet, mais elle raconte la situation dans le monde en général à travers différents thèmes. Harmonie des couleurs et des idées, les thèmes des tableaux sont liés et forment une chaîne.

"Je souhaiterais que ces tableaux nous saisissent par leur nuance pessimiste, un pessimisme constructif pour nous pousser à améliorer notre avenir", explique Mohammed Al-Houboub. "Cette exposition dont les tableaux ressemblent à des miroirs, nous incite à nous

voir de l'intérieur", ajoute-t-il. Mais il estime que rares sont les gens qui comprennent et goûtent l'art et le sens de la peinture.

"J'admire beaucoup cette exposition et la variété des thèmes des tableaux qui traitent toutes les causes nationales, aussi bien politique que sociologique, notamment la situation de la femme yéménite", déclare l'ambassadeur, qui se dit attiré par le mélange des couleurs de ce peintre engagé.

Najwa AL-JUNAID

# PALMA

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## ADEN

# Le nouveau camp des réfugiés somaliens

Arrivés il y a un an sur les plages d'Aden, les réfugiés ont emménagé il y a deux mois dans un nouveau camp installé par le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan. Perdus au milieu du désert, ils ont été éloignés de l'ancienne capitale du Sud.

Le ruban de bitume s'étire, rectiligne. Autour, tout n'est que dunes de sable blanc réfléchissant les rayons du soleil. Les réfugiés somaliens ont été exilés là, au milieu de nulle part, à une soixantaine de kilomètres d'Aden dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan. Le nouveau camp a été ouvert le 18 mai dernier par le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés (HCR).

Les anciens camps de Medinat Al-Chaab et d'Issoa sur la route menant à Little Aden ont été fermés. Il y a un an, les réfugiés somaliens avaient débarqué par milliers sur les plages de l'ancienne capitale du Yémen du Sud, fuyant la guerre civile qui ravage leur pays.

## Une latrine pour quatre familles

Le HCR a mis plusieurs mois pour installer le nouveau camp d'Al-Koud. Les travaux ont commencé en novembre l'an dernier. L'ensemble a coûté plus d'un million de dollars. "Nous avons en effet dû niveler les dunes, construire les routes qui traversent le camp, installer des points d'eau et des latrines, entourer le site d'une clôture", déclare Carlos Zaccagnini, représentant du HCR à Aden. "Nous n'avons pas encore tout fini. Il y a l'école à construire et l'électricité à installer", ajoute-t-il.

A intervalles réguliers, les latrines se dressent au milieu des tentes. 450 ont été instal-



Dispersées à intervalles réguliers dans le camp, les latrines dressent leurs quatre barres métalliques (à droite sur la photo).

lées. "Nous avons prévu une latrine pour quatre familles", explique Bashir Khan, officier de terrain du HCR, chargé de l'approvisionnement. Les toilettes consiste en une plaque de béton percée d'un trou et entourée de quatre barres métalliques destinées à recevoir une bache bleue pour protéger des regards indiscrets.

Les réfugiés ont conservé les tentes qu'ils avaient dans les camps précédents. Certains ont agrandi leur lieu de vie avec des bâtons et des sacs plastiques. Quelqu'un ont ouvert de petites épiceries. Autour des points d'eau (il y en a 28 dans le camp), les enfants remplissent leurs bidons de plastique. La distribution d'eau se fait le matin. Le HCR a construit deux citernes qui dominent le camp. Des militaires et des gardes somaliens les surveillent jour et nuit. L'eau est pompée un peu plus loin. Avec un camion, dix voyages sont nécessaires pour couvrir les besoins. Bientôt, la zone de pompage va être reliée aux citernes. Plus besoin de camion pour transporter l'eau. Le HCR a évalué la consommation à 15 litres par personne et par jour, mais dans la réalité, ce chiffre

est plus élevé.

Un programme "lait" a été mis en place. De 6h à 9h, tous les matins, les enfants et les femmes viennent boire le liquide nutritif dans un bâtiment prévu à cet effet. "Comme les réfugiés ne savent pas utiliser le lait en poudre que nous possédons, nous l'échangeons contre des bricks de lait auprès d'une usine locale", précise Bashir Khan.

## Care, MSF et Radda Barnen

Au loin, on aperçoit un hôtel. Il appartient au gouvernement et accueille des personnalités invitées. Le camp d'Al-Koud a été installé au bord de la mer. Prévu pour 13 000 personnes, il compte actuellement 7400 réfugiés. "Beaucoup de Somaliens sont rentrés dans leur pays", explique Carlos Zaccagnini. D'autre part, il n'est pas toujours facile pour le HCR de connaître le nombre exact de réfugiés, en raison de la fraude. La nourriture distribuée gratuitement attire les convoitises: "En décembre, nous avons distribués 26 000 repas par jour à Medinat Al-Chaab et à Issoa. Nous nous sommes

aperçus que certains s'étaient fait enregistrés plusieurs fois". Désormais, dans le nouveau camp, chaque chef de famille a une carte avec sa photo d'identité.

Trois organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) travaillent dans le camp. L'ONG australienne Care supervise la distribution, Radda Barnen, la branche suédoise de Save the Children, s'occupe de l'éducation. L'école, composée de 22 bâtiments, devrait ouvrir en septembre et accueillir 500 élèves. Les professeurs seront Somaliens. Venus de Mogadiscio, il y a en effet beaucoup de gens éduqués parmi les réfugiés.

## Le HCR finance tout

Il y a deux climatiseurs pour l'ensemble du dispensaire. Il s'agit surtout de protéger les médicaments entreposés dans la pharmacie principale. Ils craignent la chaleur. Mais le générateur qui fait fonctionner la climatisation a des ratés. Elle ne marche donc pas 24h/24 comme elle le devrait.

L'unité d'hospitalisation est composée de trois chambres. Sur un bout de bois, pend

encore une perfusion à moitié vide. A la petite pharmacie, il y a un guichet ouvrant sur l'extérieur. Les gens viennent là avec leur "ordonnance" écrite sur un bout de papier. Le pharmacien somalien recopie consciencieusement cette ordonnance sur un carnet puis délivre le médicament.

Les trois ONG sont entièrement financées par le HCR pour leur action dans le camp de réfugiés. Elles apportent leur savoir-faire et l'encadrement humain. "L'aide humanitaire prend une telle importance dans le monde, que les organisations non gouvernementales ne peuvent plus suivre financièrement. Elles doivent pourtant être sur place pour des impératifs médiatiques", explique Carlos Zaccagnini. "Cette nouvelle politique humanitaire a commencé après la guerre du Golfe. En ce moment, il y a d'énormes projets, notamment au Cambodge et au Mozambique", ajoute-t-il.

Le HCR a commencé en juillet les procédures de rapatriement. Des formulaires ont été distribués. "Le rapatriement est toujours volontaire. Il y a quelques mois, des réfugiés étaient prêts à repartir, mais depuis, beaucoup ont changé d'avis en raison des combats entre le général Aïdid et les forces de l'ONU", précise Carlos Zaccagnini. Le camp d'Al-Koud n'est donc pas prêt de fermer.

Jérôme BERNARD

## CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCAIS

### Au ciné-club

Programme du 3 août au 21 septembre

#### Août

Mardi 3 août, 19h30

#### Le Passage

de René Manzor (1986)  
Avec Alain Delon et Christine Boisson.

Mardi 10 août, 19h30

#### La Kermesse héroïque

de Jacques Feyder (1935)  
Avec Françoise Rosay et Louis Jouvet.

Mardi 17 août, 19h30

#### Le Beau Mariage

d'Eric Rohmer (1983)  
Avec Béatrice Romand, André Dussolier et Arielle Dombasle.

Mardi 24 août, 19h30

#### L'Ami de mon Amie

d'Eric Rohmer (1987)  
Avec Emmanuelle Chautet, Sophie Renoir, Anne-Laure Meury.

Mardi 31 août, 19h30

#### Après la Guerre

de Jean-Loup Hubert (1988)  
Avec Richard Bohringer, Antoine Hubert, Julien Hubert.

#### Septembre

Mardi 7 septembre, 19h30

#### Le Grand Chemin

de Jean-Loup Hubert (1987)  
Avec Richard Bohringer.

Mardi 14 septembre, 19h30

#### La Femme Secrète

de Sébastien Grall (1987)  
Avec Jacques Bonnaffé, Clémentine Célerié, Philippe Noiret.

Mardi 21 septembre, 19h30

#### L'Autre

de Bernard Giraudeau (1990)  
Avec Francisco Rabal, Wadeck Stanczak, Smail Mekki.

## Télé d'Aden

Sébastien Carliez quitte la télévision d'Aden. Il repart dans quelques jours en France. Il aura travaillé au Yémen 22 mois au sein du service des programmes français. Très attaché à l'ancienne capitale du Sud, il l'a toujours défendue contre la capitale du nord, Sanaa. Au mois de septembre, un autre jeune Français va prendre sa suite.

Prochainement, un nouveau bâtiment destiné à accueillir le service des programmes français de la télévision devrait être inauguré, grâce à l'aide financière de la France.

## Un bistrot français à Sanaa

Le café-restaurant Sinbad vient d'ouvrir à Sanaa. Le propriétaire a voulu recréer une atmosphère de bistrot français. Ouvert de 8h à 23h tous les jours, il propose des plats asiatiques et européens.  
Rue Al-Shokany (Kouliya El Shourta). Près de l'ambassade d'Italie. Tel: 241 586.



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

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Hodeidah: Phone: 3-232460; Tlx: 5661; Facsimile: 211551; Address: P.O.Box 4015  
Khartoum: Phone: 74569/74610/74562; Tlx: 22369; Fax: 74561; Address: P.O.B. 1926  
Port Sudan: Phone: 2630, 2979, 4465; Telex: 70071; Address: P.O.Box 160



صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٩٥٢-٢٤٠٧٠٢ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦-٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨  
الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩-٧٤٦١٠-٧٤٥٦٢ فاكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠-٢٩٧٩-٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ ص ب: ١٦٠

**\* Ali Nasser Mohammed:** Mr. Ali Nasser Mohammed, former president of the former PDRY, has established the Arab Center for Studies & Publication in Damascus. In a letter to the Yemen Times, he explained that many governments in the region, including the Yemeni government, have been supportive of the idea of the center. The center hopes to promote research in socio-cultural and economic interaction among the Arab countries, but notably among the countries of the Arab Gulf and the Red Sea.

**\* Abdul-Qawi Othman Ali:** Entrepreneur and hotelier Abdul-Qawi Othman Ali sent an open letter to Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, urging him to put an end to illegal actions of some of the influential men in the regime. These men forcefully seize and occupy real estate and other property that does not belong to them. "If the state cannot guarantee the safety and sanctity of our property, I am sorry to inform you that we will seek foreign lands for our investments," he wrote.

**\* Abbas Al-Qirshy:** Mr. Abbas Al-Qirshy, Chairman of the Industrial Bank of Yemen, complained that the government has refused to heed his calls to raise the capital of the bank in order to live up to the tasks and roles required of it throughout the Republic. Today, the Industrial Bank of Yemen is almost defunct.

**Mutahhar Taqi:**

## "We are guiding the press in a legal way."

On the program entitled, "On the Air," citizen Ahmed Ali Al-Jahrani called in with a few questions addressed to the guest of the program that evening, Mr. Mutahhar Taqi, the Deputy Ministry of Information.

**Q:** How was the Press Prosecutor's Office formed?  
**A:** The Press Prosecutor's Office was formed according to the Press Law.

**Q:** Then it is legal?  
**A:** Yes, the objective is to bring everybody under the law.

**Q:** It is reported that this organ (Press Prosecutor's Office) was established to frighten (pressure) journalists, we think it is to protect them. What do you think?  
**A:** Referral to the law should not frighten any person, except those who break the law.

As a media person first, and as a citizen, let me tell you that our press law is the best. When we drafted it, we referred to the laws of all other Arab countries with a democratic experience. We even referred to such countries as Sweden. We have taken the best in those laws. Citizens should know their do's and don't's.

**\* Mujahed Al-Quhali:** Parliamentarian and Chief of the Reformist Nasserite Party, Mujahed Al-Quhali pointed out that there were two forms of confiscations that exist in the Yemen economic experience. "Everybody talks of the official confiscations carried out by law in the former PDRY. We also need to talk about the illegal and forceful confiscations carried out by the influential persons in the army and government in the former YAR and current Republic of Yemen," he added.

**\* Mohammed Abdo Saeed:** Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Executive Director of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, left for a one-month vacation. His last words before leaving office were an urgent appeal to enable businessmen to invest in agriculture and industry in order to activate the economy and create more jobs. "Unless economic growth is achieved, there would major upheavals and trouble in the future," he said.

**\* Eeman Mohammed Ghanim Al-Izzi:** Mrs. Eeman Mohammed Ghanim Al-Izzi has become Yemen's first PhD holder in law. Dr. Eeman has successfully completed all the requirements for her PhD in law in Bucharest. Her thesis was on the "Universal Law of the Child, with specific application to Yemeni law." She concludes that Yemeni laws do not provide adequate protection to children.

**\* Zain Al-Saqqaf:** Mr. Zain Al-Saqqaf, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Union of Writers and Literary Persons, sent a letter of protest to the Lebanese Minister of Culture for having blocked the entry and circulation of a novel entitled "Hadeeqat Al-Hawasi" written by Abdo Wazin. Mr. Al-Saqqaf stated that such an action represents an infringement on freedom of expression.

**\* David Katz:** David Katz, Commercial Officer at the US Embassy in Sanaa, leaves here this week at the end of his two year service in Yemen. We take this opportunity to wish him good luck in his new assignment.

**\* Gysbert Bos:** H.E. Mr. Gysbert A. M. Bos, Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands, returned to Sanaa over the week-end following his annual leave and has resumed his duties at the embassy starting yesterday. Welcome back, Mr. Ambassador.

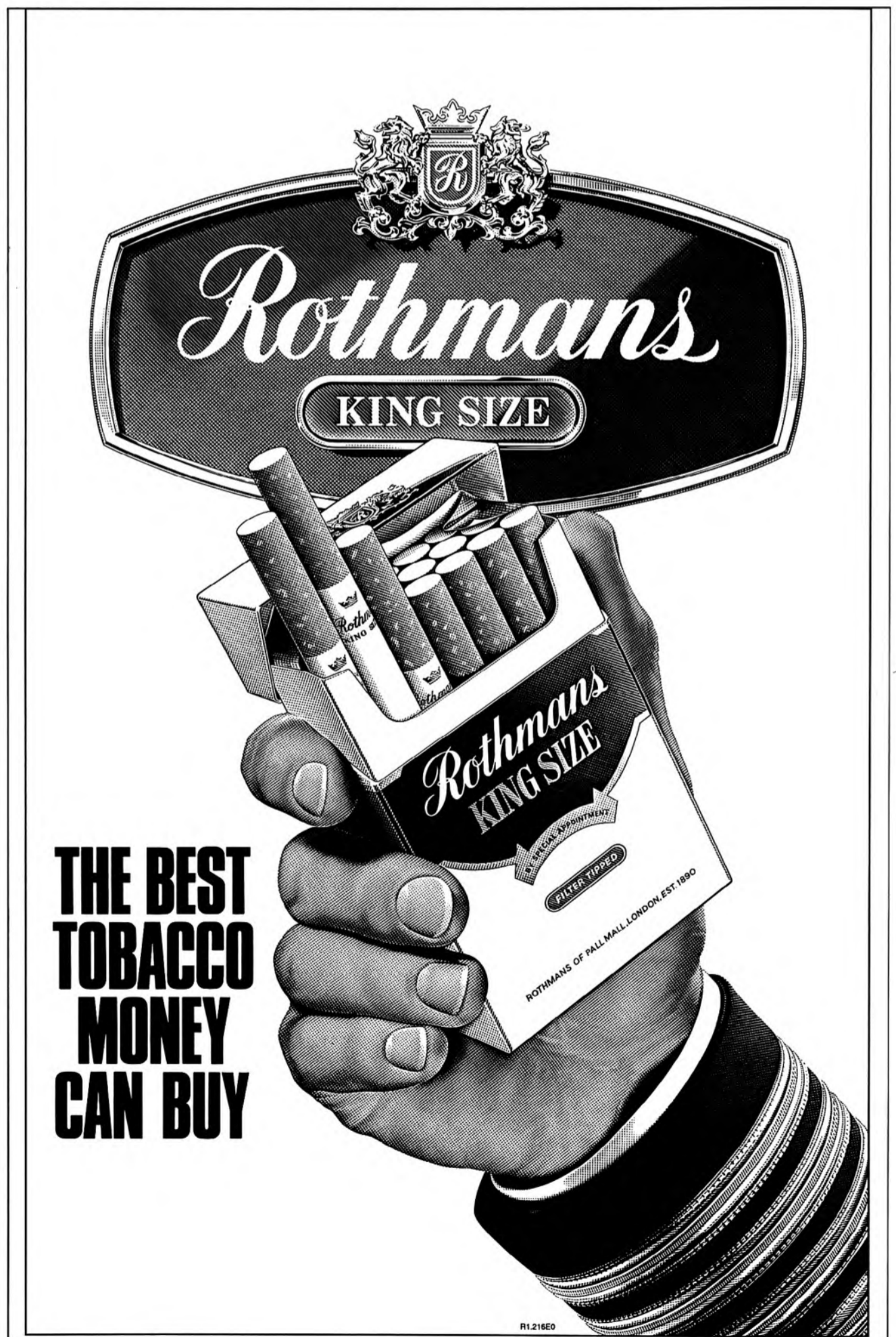
**\* Yusuf Abdul-Wadood:** Prominent industrialist Yusuf Abdul-Wadood expressed his regrets at the efforts of the regime to harass Yemen's independent newspapers. The Ministry of Information has filed lawsuits against thirty newspapers to force them to toe its line. "Unlike the Yemen Times, most of these newspapers do not have the resources or stamina to stand up to the Ministry, and thus succumbed quickly," he said.

**\* Hamood Al-Tuwaiti:** Contractor Hamood Qayed Al-Tuwaiti signed on 27th July a YR 133 million contract with the Ministry of Housing and Development. The contract calls for construction of housing units and relevant facilities over a 65 hectare land to house the returnees presently in camps in Hodeidah city. The project is financed 50% by IDA (World Bank), and 50% by the Yemeni government.

**\* Abdullah Al-Rubaidi:** Mr. Abdullah Al-Rubaidi was appointed last month as General Manager of the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Al-Rubaidi has already taken several steps to revive the chamber and to introduce new activities.

**\* Ahmed Mohammed Nasser:** Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Nasser, Deputy Minister of Communications at Aden, celebrated last week the ground breaking of the undersea cable extending between Aden and Djibouti. This will link up Yemen with the international cable that extends from Marseille in Far to Singapore in Southeast Asia. Mr. Nasser described the project as vital.

**\* Sheikh Hameed Abdullah Al-Ahmar:** Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar, parliamentarian and businessman returned to Sanaa last week following a successful trip to Egypt and Jordan. Yemen Times learnt that he concluded important business deals on the trip.



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## LISTENING IS KEY TO SUCCESS

Eighty percent of our waking life is spent in communicating; of this, we spend half the time at the receiving end. Listening may be an undeveloped social gift, but it is certainly the key to success in personal and professional affairs. Most of us do not realize that mastering this passive art requires the same concentration, creativity and zeal we focus on other areas of life.

Most people imagine that only by paying attention one can become a better listener, but in fact listening too, like reading or speaking, needs practice. To improve upon your listening powers you can draw a list of the best and worst listeners you know of. Note what characteristics of the good and the bad listeners you share. Ask a friend or a colleague as to what their opinion of your listening power is. Compare the list to the targets and improvements you would need.

Look for any of the following characteristics that might stand in the way of good listening. Perhaps you are caught in one of these unfortunate categories.

### SHYNESS

Some people expect to be drawn out of their shells by others. They place an emotional demand on others by silently insisting, "talk to me". If no one does they become silent and unresponsive - in short they tune out, and listening becomes impossible.

### ANXIETY

Some people dread social encounters, lack confidence, and their heads are full of nervous chatter (Will I understand what is being said? Will I do the right thing?) Saddled with such anxiety, they are unable to listen to anybody. So relax! Take a deep breath: releasing your neck and shoulder muscles can help in improving your listening.

### ARGUMENTATIVE

Persons in this category are ready to challenge others. This often breaks conversation flow, and usually reduces it to mere quibbling. Listen carefully before you leap into a discussion.

### PRE-CONCEIVED IDEAS

Compulsive chatterers spend all their energies in formulating arguments than in listening. Such people are not only ruthless egoists but are overeager to impress others with their rigid ideas.

### CLOSE-MINDED

These people are the worst listeners. Their mind is totally shut out to ideas that do not match their own. They are so attached to the security of their prejudices that any new idea seems to be threatening. Be open to other's views without leaving your own, and you will be able to gather something useful from another person's experience.

By being a good listener you can master a social situation. A good listener radiates friendliness, empathy and curiosity, and brings out the best in people.

### BE INTERESTED

Take an active in whatever the speaker has to say. You have to "work" at listening. Let the speaker feel that you are interested and an active participant in the conversation. Encourage him - a nod, a smile or a sympathetic expression assures the speaker that you are really following the words. This makes him more relaxed and animated.

### BE AN OPPORTUNIST

During a conversation, ask yourself, "What is in this for me? What can I learn from this encounter?" Finding a specific purpose will strengthen your powers of concentration and open new avenues for discussion.

### CONCENTRATE ON THE CONTENT

If the speaker is slow or hesitant, take advantage of it by summarizing the points and do not forget to observe the "body language". It is important because if the speaker says he is satisfied with his present job, and simultaneously keeps tapping his foot, or dropping the ash from his cigarette, he is trying to bluff you.

### DON'T PRETEND

To understand when you know nothing about what is being talked about: a simple question can be very refreshing. Most people are flattered or pleased to explain what you want to know.

### BE SYMPATHETIC

Try to see things from the speaker's point of view. You can gain a better understanding of another person's feelings and experience when you relate them to your own.

### DON'T BE EMOTIONAL

If you tend to over-react to emotionally charged words, then try focusing on only their literal meaning. Be patient while listening to any controversial idea. When interpersonal conflicts become unavoidable, then keep the discussion friendly and objective. Lead on to a safer subject where discussion will not degenerate into argument.

### AVOID BEING DISTRACTED

If the speaker has certain peculiar mannerisms, resist getting distracted by them. Concentrate on your listening.

### DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Let your perception and idea of the speaker mature. Only then can you evaluate them logically. After he has finished, mentally repeat and summarize the points and the central theme.

So effective listening is just a matter of practice. Take advantage of every encounter, at home, at the office, or on the telephone. Resolve to hear not only with your mind, but with feelings and instincts too. You will, surprisingly, be well rewarded by the art of listening. It will enrich your experience and add to your popularity.

## YEMENI BURIAL RITES

Death - that final equalizer - has become the focal point of many human rituals. Some of these are rather prolonged and elaborate, some are short and simple.

In Yemen, the process is long and arduous.

"When a person dies, the family gathers to cleanse the body (washing it, shaving off extra hair), and the naked body is then laid out in a straight fashion. The eyes and mouth are closed, the legs are stretched with the toes brought (tied, if necessary) together, and the arms are extended to the side. Then the body is wrapped in a white sheet of cloth and tied at both ends," said Mr. Ismail Ali Abu-Taleb, a member of the clergy, who are well-versed in burial rites.

Then all relatives and friends are informed of the passing away of the person, and they all gather for the burial. This is done as soon as possible.

The people carry the coffin on their shoulders, pass by the mosque for the prayers of the dead, and on to the cemetery, where by now a grave will have been dug. As the people carry the body they chant praises to the Lord and pray that God have mercy on the soul of the deceased.

The grave is dug to a depth of about 1.5-2 meters, and a cave is carved out at one side, where the body is tucked in. Rocks are raised against the cave, and then the hole is filled up while people recite verses from the Quran. After the hole is filled, stones are laid out around the grave as markers, and most people plant shrubs or flowers.

"Back at the home of the deceased the mourning begins as the family receives condolences," explains Mr. Abu Taleb. A lot of wailing and crying is heard as the family members, specially the women, are reminded of the dead person by each new comer who pays respects.

For the next few days, ranging from three to forty days, depending on the region of the country, the family receives condolences. In the meanwhile, the family of the deceased person gives sacrifices in the forms of food to the poor and money to the needy - all thought to be helpful to the dead person. At the same time, verses from the Quran are read in the mosques as well as over the grave.

In the cities, and in certain cosmopolitan families, the people wear black, and they portray the picture of the deceased pasted diagonally on to a black ribbon.

It is over a month before the family returns to normal life.

By:

Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

## PUBLIC ELECTRICITY CORPORATION (PEC)

The PEC 1993 Investment Plan for Urban & Rural Electrification Project

### TENDER 'A' INVITATION:

PEC invites bidders to submit sealed Bids for the supply and delivery (C.I.F. Hodéidah seaport) of material, equipment and supplies for the Urban and Rural electrification projects included in PEC 1993 investment program. The material, equipment and supplies to be procured will include the following :

#### SECTIONS

- Section A. Over head line Conductors
- Section B. Distribution Transformer unit substation
- Section C. Over Head line Insulators
- Section D. Wood poles
- Section F. Cables and Accessories
- Section G. 33/11 kv Substation
- Section H. Distribution Board
- Section K. Over head line hardware
- Section R. Sectionalized and Associated Equipment
- Section T. Tools and Equipment
- Section Z . Diesel Generators
- Section WA Wattmeters

Bidders could obtain the documents from PEC Head Office at the following address:

The Managing Director  
Public Electricity Corporation  
Hadda Complex - B2  
Sana a  
Republic of Yemen  
Telex Nos : 2879, 2880, 2619 YE GEC YE  
Fax Nos : 967 (1) 263115 or 215670  
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The cost of the bids is US \$ 200/= (US \$ Two Hundred) or YR 10, 000/= (YR. Ten Thousand), will be received by PEC on or before 10 a.m . Yemen time on 20th September, 1993, at which time the bids will be opened and read publicly. All bids must be accompanied by a surety of not less than 2% of the total amount of the bid , and shall remain valid for a period not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of opening .

## Helping Farmers Stay on their Farms

We must appeal to those living in rural areas to hold fast to their villages and their rural way of life, and not migrate to the cities in search of a modern lifestyle. If it continues at its present rate, this influx from rural to urban areas will lead to many undesirable consequences. One of these is that the agricultural sector will shrink. Farms will be abandoned and allowed to run waste, and crop and livestock production will be adversely affected. The social equilibrium of urban areas is as much affected as the countryside by this large scale transfer of people.

Nonetheless, compelling people to stay in specified towns and villages is an unjust solution, as some of these areas suffer from unendurable poverty. The most important services they lack are in the field of public health. Often several villages are served by a single, small dispensary, which is strained to the limit by over demand. Such a dispensary will have only one physician, one nurse, and one lab technician, and only open between 8.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. If a villager needs first aid outside those hours he or she has to go by car, if one is available, to a town or city often hours away, while his or her life may be in danger and suffering aggravated. Such a situation does not encourage people to stay put in the countryside. This problem applies equally

to the difficulties encountered by the non-availability of electricity and a reliance on generators, which all too often break down, and the resulting troubles and costs which far exceed the villagers' limited resources.

Often there are no good agricultural roads linking outlying villages to the towns, another major factor in rural backwardness. The damage caused to produce before it reaches the market, marketing difficulties, the lack of means of keeping produce fresh, and its storage in cases of overproduction, all these are key factors in upsetting the equanimity of the farmer, hurting his interests, and causing him great losses each season.

Officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Industry, Electricity and Water, Transportation and Communications who are charged with the planning and development of these areas need to make serious efforts to study the conditions of villagers and find suitable solutions to encourage them to stay on the land.

Above all, health services should be improved and dispensaries built up into small, self-contained hospital units providing round the clock health care. Innovations such as this could prove invaluable.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

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شارع مجاهد (الخرطوم)، جوار صيدلية المختار، صنعاء

# "We can get it right the first time, all the time, and on time."

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times

It is a refreshing feeling. It also gives one a lot of confidence in Yemen's future - something steadily eroded by the actions of politicians. I was there with a young man, Khaled Ahmed Hayel, 31, who was full of energy and self-confidence. That is not strange, he is a third or fourth generation son of the Hayel business family. Khaled is the General Manager of General Industries & Packages Company. The company's motto is: "We can do it right, the first time, all the time, and on time." The power behind that confidence can only be seen by visiting the management and workers of the plant. Khaled, with a BSc in Engineering from the University of South California, joined the company in 1986, and has been with it since then. "The factory has (3) distinct sections: foodstuffs section, cosmetics section and printing section," he said. Under license from international brand names, the company produces many products.

good dividends for the company as well as for the country. Today, the company employs around 3-4% foreign manpower, down from almost 20% just a few years ago. This has saved jobs and hard currency for Yemen. The three sections have fared differently over the years. The printing and foodstuffs sections have done very well. But the cosmetics products have suffered from a 20% tax surcharge and a recession, both of which have dampened the demand for these products, which are seen by the majority of Yemenis as luxury products. The printing section does the printing of labels for products, name tags, textbooks, exercise books, and similar products. "An advanced Apple Macintosh workshop does the type-setting and designing," stated Khaled boastfully, pointing to his new Quadra 700. "We even print for companies competing with our sister companies (other Hayel Saeed Anam companies). Not only that, we sometimes give these competitors better prices and conditions so that we prove



products. "Summer is a low season, given that schools are closed. That is why some of the machines are idle at the moment. It is the nature of the business," explained Khaled Ahmed Hayel. One more thing, the company interacts with the community rather well. "We try to pass on some of our profits to society by making regular donations to environmental concerns, youth programs and sports events in particular. Our company is a patron to a few clubs in Taiz city and the regions around, and we take care of talented young men," stated the young General Manager of General Industries and Packages Co.



The 1020 employees and workers of the factory are grouped into what is termed as Total Quality Plan Management. Each Director of department or chief of section has sufficient authority to address the issues in his department or section. "According to our system, departments can address their problems, or even those linking them to other departments without referral to the top management. This allows us in top management to focus on planning, marketing, and other strategic thinking," Khaled said. This system of management by teams or nucleus groups takes after the Japanese model, and has proven itself successful in the factory. "We stress training more than anything else. Our training program includes technical and managerial aspects of the work, as well as English language for the operators and superior workers," the GM pointed out. This policy has paid

to them that we are interested in their business," he added. Within the printing business, the company just brought-in an engraving machine using a copper topping. This allows it to run off tens of thousands of copies from the same original. "We can literally let the machine print for a week in one run," said Ahmed Al-Rubaidi, the production manager. Not much is wasted in the printing business. Whatever 'waste' paper is spared from one product is transformed into another. The exercise books yield small note pads as a by-product, and the larger products yield envelopes as by-products. This helps achieve optimal use of our resources, and therefore allows for efficiency and competitive pricing," stated the Vice General Manager of the factory, himself another young engineer. In the foodstuffs section, the products are mainly confectionery, such as chocolates, lollipops and various similar

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Eritrea	209422
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Germany	216756/757, 266873/4
Hungary	216250, 216679
India	241980/1/2
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Iraq	216682/790
Italy	73409/78849
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Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
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Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
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Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2
Syria	247750/52
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	216985

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Canada	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534

<b>3. International Organizations:</b>	
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UNDP	215505
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UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204

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## Hepatitis is still a serious health issue

Of all the infectious diseases known to man-kind, probably the most significant are the five types of viral hepatitis. The potentially deadly sickness constitutes a global health problem of epidemic proportions, made all the more tragic because some of them are preventable.

Inevitably, as a worldwide problem affecting all ages, the most vulnerable are those living in poor, unsanitary conditions, malnourished and all too often are refugees with no long-term resting place. Not surprisingly, the virus thrives in such climates.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Five types are now known to exist, all caused by viruses. Viral hepatitis is considered a comparatively new disease. However, in 1942 some 50,000 United States Army personnel developed jaundice following vaccinations against yellow fever. The vaccine contained human serum, or blood, which is today known to be a carrier of hepatitis B. Subsequently, a new vaccine was developed against yellow fever which did not require human serum.

The remaining four hepatitis types are hepatitis A virus, hepatitis C virus, hepatitis D and finally hepatitis E virus. Both C and E have only recently been fully understood by the medical profession. Historically, the existence of hepatitis A virus, or HAV, was first proposed in 1947, but was not detected until 1973 when the viral particles were first demonstrated in human faeces. In developing countries it is mostly transmitted by children who are first infected through contaminated food and water. Travellers to developing countries where sanitary conditions are poor are also at risk.

Last year, a new vaccine came on to the market which is able to protect against HAV for up to 10 years. It consists of two injections given between two to four weeks apart, providing immunity for a year.

It consists of two injections given between two to four weeks apart, providing immunity for a year. A booster injection six to 12 months later, completes the protection. The vaccine contains killed HAV which is able to trick the body into producing the same defence antibodies as the actual infection.

Hepatitis B virus, or HBV, is spread through sexual contact and contact with body fluids such as blood, saliva and urine. It is also spread through using or sharing contaminated needles.

The incidence of hepatitis B virus throughout the world is exorbitant. In England and Wales alone, it caused the largest number of deaths among the five types of viral hepatitis, reported by the Office of Population and Census Survey in 1991.

In South East Asia, where the virus is prevalent within a region of 300 million affected individuals, it is most commonly transmitted from mothers to newborn infants. As a result, it is the young who are predominantly afflicted.

The identification in 1964 of the "Australian antigen" led to the development of the first HBV

vaccine and earned Americans Blumberg and Gajdusek in 1976 Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology. This vaccine was the first produced by genetic engineering that was approved for humans.

Human Delta Virus, or HDV, is not possible without the development of HBV become the more important. Furthermore, it leaves time, money and space for scientists to seek the development of vaccines against the remaining two viruses.

Hepatitis C virus was discovered only about four years ago. It had been known for some time that another strain of hepatitis virus existed. Additionally it was learned that it was transmitted through the chimpanzee family, though not from chimp to human, and was believed to be a very small virus.

An American team was determined to find this hitherto elusive agent. Through a highly skilled series of scientific investigations, the whole of the HCV genetic structure has been cloned and HCV determined.

A diagnostic test for the presence of antibodies to HCV is now available to screen blood for transfusions. Inevitably, too, work has been underway to produce a suitable vaccine. It is a long way into the future though, so prevention of spread among needle users is important.

The fifth virus is HEV, not yet cloned, and its agent is unknown. It is prevalent in North Africa, Mexico and the Indian subcontinent and is believed to be transmitted through faeces and contaminated food or drinking water. The potential for a vaccine is poor at present since its agent has not been identified.

So what sets these apart from other viral infection? We know viruses are potent and malevolent. We should also not forget that some hepatitis viruses are every bit, if not more, lethal than Aids. Not least is the fact that complications with hepatitis can lead to cancer and to death.

Children infected with HBV may well become carriers of the virus. In this way, the virus will continue through generations. In his address to visiting members of the Association last year, Dr Robert Buerk, liaison officer to the Biocine company, described the problems of research and development of vaccines.

Safety is particularly important with vaccines since they are applied to great numbers of healthy people. The large numbers involved means that even rare adverse reactions can affect many people. It is unacceptable to make healthy individuals sick to protect them from a disease, which although they are collectively at risk, they may never as individuals contact. Most of the existing vaccines use a modified version of the pathogen itself as the immunizing agent.

Using viruses can present dangers to the scientists and the alternative is genetic engineering, which futuristically may help make our planet a richer, healthier place to live.

## Coffee: A Traditional Product that Has Become Alien in Today's Yemen

### By: Miervat Dwiekat Yemen Times

Mention coffee, and one conjures images of a distant land - Yemen, and its famous coastal town of Mocha or Mocha, spell it any way you like. Well, Yemen and coffee are no more twins, as the country today produces less than 5,000 tons.

To remedy this dismal situation, the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with a French unit to assist in coffee growing, and Sanaa University, a four-day workshop, coupled with an exhibition was held last week.

On Thursday, July 29th, the workshop was completed by issuing several recommendations in order to restore coffee to its old glory. The first step is to carry out research on new strains and seedlings which are disease resistant and plentiful in yield.

The second important step is to provide farmers with

incentives to keep growing coffee. One aspect of this incentive package is to provide soft long-term loans to the farmers.

Third comes marketing. Compared to other cash crops, coffee fares poorly. A farmer has to produce the coffee, package it, and ship to foreign lands and await payment long after he has harvested the crop.

Some arrangements must be made available to the farmer to help him draw on the coming payments on exports. Other marketing assistance could also be worked out.

Fourth, the workshop called for the establishment of a coffee growers association in order to give them more clout in interact with the rest of society and the business.

Finally, the recommendations called for the introduction of new techniques in coffee growing, specially those related to the management of water, fertilizers and pesticides.

The twelve papers presented

to the workshop covered many other aspects of coffee growing.

On the inauguration session on Tuesday, July 26th, Mr. Moqbil Ahmed Moqbil, the Deputy Agriculture Minister, pledged the ministry's support for coffee growers in order to develop this product.

"Other than being a viable product by its own right, coffee has been the symbol of Yemen. Its name is associated with our 18th century history. We have a duty to protect this plant and make sure it continues to flourish in our country," he said.

French Ambassador Marcel Laugel who also attended the inauguration session, and whose government provides assistance to this product, expressed his government's continued interest to support Yemeni coffee growing. He also indicated that Europe, in general, and France in particular, offers a good marketing outlet for Yemeni coffee.

There are certain regions

within Yemen that have been important in growing the two main varieties of coffee. Al-Haima, Raimah, Bani Matar, Al-Mahweet and Yafa' are the most famous among these regions.

The prospects for Yemeni coffee remain dim, notably because of the onslaught of qat. Today, coffee is grown on less than 8000 hectares, down from 30,000 hectares a few decades ago.

If the government and society fulfill even a small fraction of the recommendations, then there is a good chance not only to salvage Yemen's coffee growing, but to make it flourish.



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# “Over \$ 2 billion in revenue from oil exports in less than three years.”

Mr. Saleh Abubakar Bin Hussainin, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, disclosed that the government share in the revenue from Yemeni oil exports was \$210 million for the first quarter of this year (January-April, 1993), and that the total government income from oil exports for the 34 months (June 1990 - April 1993) amounted to \$2.7

billion. The bonus and signature revenues stipulated when signing concession agreements are in addition to this sum. So stated Mr. Bin Hussainin in an interview to be published by 26th September Newspaper on Thursday August 5th. The Oil Minister also disclosed that 29 international oil companies have signed con-

cession agreements and are presently engaged in exploration and / or exploitation efforts in the Republic of Yemen. Mr. Bin Hussainin finally stated that the first shipment of oil from the Canadian Oxy efforts in Maseela (Block 14) will be on Tuesday, August 3rd. "This shipment will go to the Aden refinery in order to

ascertain the quality of the oil, and its comparison in the crude available on the world market. The purpose is to arrive at an appropriate price for the crude," the Minister indicated. The Minister finally pointed out that the actual commercial shipment of the Maseela oil will start in September. It is worth mentioning that Yemeni oil is presently being pumped out of three different fields - the Hunt fields in Marib/Al-Jawf, the NIMR fields in Shabwah, and the CanOxy fields in Maseela. The total Yemeni oil production by the end of the year will be around 350,000 bpd, about a third of which will go for local consumption. Additional discoveries are not very likely to add substantially to the size of oil output in the Republic of Yemen, and talking about major possibilities unnecessarily raises the expectation level of the people.

## Japanese Ambassador Activates Yemeni-Japanese Association

In an effort to boost the activities of the Yemeni-Japanese Association, H.E. Japanese Ambassador in Yemen Kazuo Wanibuchi is hosting a dinner get together at his residence on Wednesday, August 4th, 1993. Invited to the occasion are the heads of the Japanese companies operating in Yemen, the executive board of the association, prominent personalities in the community, and journalists. "We are interested in increasing the level of interaction and in raising understanding and cooperation between the two peoples and countries," a spokesman of the Embassy told the Yemen Times.

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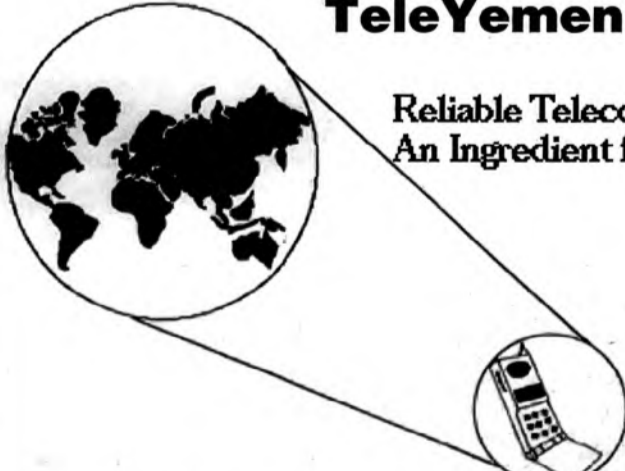


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