



The Ministry of Information vs. The Yemen Times Case...

THE VERDICT!

"It is a big day for justice and democracy in Yemen." That is what H.E. Gordon Kirby, Deputy Chief of Mission at the British Embassy in Sanaa, said after hearing the court verdict on the case of the Yemen Times versus Ministry of Information.

At 10:15 on Thursday morning, August 5th, 1993, Qadhi Hussain Mohammed Al-Mahdi, head of the South Sanaa District Court, read out the verdict of the case.

"The Press Prosecutor's appeal to try Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Yemen Times is baseless. If the prosecutor says that the paper and its editor have insulted or belittled the chairman of the presidential council, it is up to him to initiate the legal steps - not up to the prosecutor's office. Therefore, I hereby judge that the case is out of this court.

I hereby also sentence that any steps taken against the Yemen Times and its editor, on this count, are null and void," said the judge.

The court room, filled with spectators and followers of the case, was filled with joy and euphoria, as they hailed the judge and the sentence.

In a statement to many newspapers, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf expressed his happiness with the verdict, which the prosecutors said they will

appeal.

"It is a victory for Yemen and for freedom of the press," said Mr. Al-Saqqaf. "Whether he likes it or not, it is also a victory for President Ali Abdullah Saleh for leading a country which allows a citizen to win a case against the



Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

system," Dr. Al-Saqqaf explained. Qadhi Hamood Al-Hitar, Chairman of the Human Rights Organization, hailed the decision of the court. "It is with this kind of decision that

"The court decision strengthens freedom of the press and fosters confidence and trust in the system"

a nation is gradually and slowly built," he said.

Also happy was Ahmed Al-Soufy, representing the syndicate of Yemeni journalists. "I am happy with the way the court has handled the case," he told reporters.

But the most gratified group were the lawyers. The lawyers' syndicate had officially decided to defend the case "as it is a matter of freedom of expression." Ahmed Al-Abiadh, Head



President Ali Abdullah Saleh

of the Defence Council, gave credit to the democratic spirit and rule of law that is beginning to prevail in the country for the victory of the Yemen Times.

More importantly, the case has set a precedent. It has opened

the door wide open for free and honest journalists to tackle issues which bear on the evolution of the nation towards democracy, freedom of expression, and law and order!

Pictures from the scene on page 15

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PRESS REVIEW
TIMES

Can-Oxy Exports One Million Barrels of Hadhramaut Oil

Right now, they are unloading some 500,000-600,000 barrels of oil at the refinery in Aden." It was 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3rd, as Mr. Wes Densmore, President and General Manager of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd., disclosed the details to Yemen Times.

The next shipment is a similar quantity which will be loaded off to the contractor on 17th August. "In other words, within a span of 14 days, we shall have sold over a million barrels," stated a visibly exuberant Densmore.

The oil is pumped out of the Block 14, commonly known as Maseela, which is operated by Can-Oxy. The target production is around 120,000 bpd, starting from late September. Production will be inaugurated to coincide with the anniversary of the September 26th Revolution. "From our side, the Chairman, President, Executive Vice President, Senior

Vice President for International Operations, and other senior company officials are flying in for the occasion," explained Densmore.

The terminal celebration will take place on September 23rd, within the festivities of the anniversary of the September Revolution. Yemen Times will issue a special supplement on this auspicious occasion.

The Countdown Has Started

On Wednesday, August 4th, the House of Representatives, before going on its periodic recess, approved the principle of making amendments to the constitution of the Republic of Yemen. The House had received a letter from Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the People's General Congress, asking the parliament to look into the proposed amendments.

On the basis of the decision of the House, the amendments can be enacted two months thereafter. By October 4th, the Republic of Yemen could well have a new revised constitution.

The changes being proposed are enormous, and there are various versions depending on who is pushing what. The People's General Congress is pushing to change the structure of the presidency - from a five-man council to a president and vice president. The arrangements are for a president for wide powers. The Islah group is willing to go along with this proposal, provided the vice president does not automatically become president, in case anything happens to the president. "We don't want to encourage any mischief or conspiracy. In addition, we have reservations against the would-be vice president (Mr. Ali Salem Al-Beedh) and we don't want to see him president," stated a senior Islah official, who asked to remain anonymous.

The YSP is trying to appear uninterested in the constitutional amendments and that it is being drafted to the changes. "We have to go along with the changes in the constitution in order to have our demands in institution-building met," stated a YSP official.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

A Question of Numbers

Over the last few years, the state has tried to with-hold any statistics it can. Therefore, the Central Bank of Yemen, which used to publish monthly and quarterly statistics on the monetary sector, has ceased to do that. The last such report dates back to 1990. The Ministry of Planning and Development used to publish annual statistical reports on the condition of the economy. The last such report dates back to 1991. Many other ministries and organizations used to publish statistical reports. They don't any more.

How can anybody do any planning, or even any analysis when the numbers are not there. As one general manager of a successful company told me, one of the most difficult tasks we face in deciding on investments and new policies is the absence of statistics. We have to guess the size of the market, the inflation rate, the per capita income, the population growth rate, and many other vital indicators which affect basic economic decisions such as investment.

The playing with numbers, or with-holding them from the public is one of the games played by totalitarian regimes. The fact that government officials can play this game in Yemen today shows they do not understand they are under obligation - both legal and moral - to society to provide it with information regarding a public company or institution. The decision to with-hold information from the public must be seen as a criminal act punishable by law.

In the short run, people will come up with their own numbers, and what this means is that the government organizations cease to become a source of information and are marginalized. They have very little say over the conclusion reached by researchers, aid-donors and the general public.

In the long run, the country's interests will be harmed by the lack of information and accurate statistics on which good planning can be done. Will the Al-Attas government kindly attend to this matter, urgently.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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

Yemenis Seek Political Asylum in Europe

Several Yemenis have applied to various European governments seeking political asylum. The last batch was in London where, on average 4-6 Yemenis apply for political asylum every month with the British government.

According to Yemen Times sources, the UK Government is reluctant to grant approval to asylum seekers as the situation in Yemen does not justify such requests.

Unrest in the Yemeni Army Persists

The 6th Infantry Division in Hareeb is in an uproar. Many of the soldiers found that their remunerations are missing, and that the Chief of Staff of the Division, a Colonel Al-Shai'aani, is to blame.

The soldiers simply arrested the man, tied him up, and took him to the Governor of Marib telling him to make sure the man does not return to camp. That was on July 29th.

On July 31st, the Artillery Division, located at Al-Ruwaik, a few kilometers north of the oil installations, was in an uproar. This time the problem is with the commander, Col. Mohammed Qais. Again, the soldiers reacted in the same way. They arrested their commander, and shipped him off.

A few weeks earlier, the paratroopers stationed in Marib did the same thing to their commander, a Colonel Shamlan.

Most of the trouble starts because the army men do not receive their salaries on time, and they do not receive the food and other supplies

ALESCO General Manager in Yemen

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ibrahimi, General Manager of the Arab League's Education, Science and Culture Organization (ALESCO) concluded a few-day visit this week.

Cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the organization were the topic of discussion during the visit.

DM 19.3 Million from Germany to Yemen

The Republic of Yemen and Federal Republic of Germany signed two agreements on Thursday, August 5th.

The first agreement calls for a German support of DM 16.5 that goes to the National Institute for Professional Training in Aden, and the second agreement calls for a donation of DM 2.8 million that goes to finance equipment and technical needs of the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Documents for Population Census Completed

Mr. Salem Abdul-Malik Bin Humam the Chairman of the Population Census Committee indicated that all paperwork and documents for the January 1994 Population Census of Yemen are completely ready. Mr. Humam also pointed out that a pilot survey has been carried out in order to make sure all the steps are practical and feasible.

The last census carried out in Yemen was in 1986 (YAR) and 1988 (PDRY). The present efforts will give Yemen the basic statistics with which to work.

How the Day was Won for the Government

It was already noon before the various speakers from the government side and parliament finished what they had to say. The vote taking started.

Using an alphabetically arranged list, the presidium of the House began asking each member of parliament to give his vote - Yes or No to the government.

The answers were "No", one after the other for almost 25 names, with a couple of abstention in between.

The prime minister and his cabinet, angry at the way things were going, rose up and left to sit in one of the meeting rooms of the House. Soon, several members of Parliament rose to leave for home.

The Speaker, feeling he lost control of the situation, ordered all doors closed, and called for a short recess. In a meeting that brought together the heads of the blocs and key and influential parliamentarian members, he used threatening language to make them see light. "We go in there, and all of you push for a 'Yes' vote," he is reported as having said.

As the parliamentarians returned to their seats, the Speaker called for a collective and open voting system. "All in favor of giving a 'Yes' vote to the government, please rise," ordered the Speaker, he himself standing up.

The majority of the members of the House stood up, and quite a few even clapped their hands in approval.

As a result, the government obtained its vote of confidence from the parliament. But the government better watch out, because the parliament is itching to withdraw that vote of confidence.

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- **Ramos Seeks Truce with Church.**
- **India To Draw a Solid Line Between Religion and Politics.**
- **Peace Talks on Bosnia Resumed?**

Ramos Seeks Truce with Church

Philippine President Fidel Ramos is working on a truce with the influential Roman Catholic hierarchy over the government's controversial program to curb the country's population growth. President Ramos, a protestant, has made many overtures, including invitations to meet with Catholic bishops to discuss their complaints over the program, which includes distribution of free condoms and birth control advice to poor families.

In a television interview last week, the president said that he was confident "we can arrive at a working agreement where we will not go out calling each other names."

Although the Philippine program is modest compared to strategies in China and India, it has come under fire from the Church. It has become a major issue in a country, where 85% of the people are nominally Catholic.

Government officials and economists have cited the 2.5% annual population growth rate as among major obstacles to reviving an economy which had been stagnant for the last three years. According to a government report, unless the growth rate is brought down, the country's population could double to more than 120 million in the next 25 years, severely straining the nation's resources. But the Catholic bishops conference of the Philippines has denounced the program as "anti-family." Rev. James Reuter, spokesman for the conference, urged Catholic health workers to refuse to cooperate with the population program. However, the Church's ability to influence ordinary Catholics on such a personal issue is debatable. Yet, the church has vast resources and

influence, including in Congress, which must authorize funding for the program.

Senator Jose Lina, a close associate of the church leadership, has already denounced the government program and called for its withdrawal.

Another influential official, Lito Atienza, Vic Mayor of Manila and president of the Pro-Life Philippines, rejects the argument that the country is overpopulated. He has cited figures showing the population density of the Philippines, 535 persons per square mile, is lower than prosperous Asian countries such as South Korea and Taiwan, with densities of over 1,000 persons per square mile.

Yet, another quarrel is brewing in Manila as plans for the return of the body of the late president Ferdinand Marcos for burial in the Philippines.

The former Philippine first lady, Imelda Marcos, urged the supreme court to allow her late husband to be buried in Manila. She denounced as 'oppressive and tyrannical' a government ban on a Manila burial on grounds the funeral could spark violence.

As a second best option, Marcos supporters are working feverishly to prepare a mausoleum in the hometown of the late president in Batac, province of Ilocos Norte, 470 kilometers north of the capital. The town is being spruced up for the long-delayed funeral, which is now scheduled for September 7th, nearly four years after his death in Hawaii.

The many delays have created a degree of skepticism as to whether the long-awaited funeral will take place. Imelda described the September funeral as 'temporary' because she wants her husband eventually to be buried in the capital.

Some 40,000 Marcos supporters are expected to descend on the small farming town of Batac, come September.

India To Draw a Solid Line Between Religion and Politics

Immediately following its winning the confidence vote in the parliament, the Narasimha Rao government introduced a constitutional amendment bill to separate politics from religion. The bill seeks to ban the religion-based political parties and parties having religious names and symbols.

Yet, the bill is already accused by even the secular-minded parliamentarians as hastily drafted. Of course, the religious groups, specially the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have shown open hostility to the bill.

For one, all groups are chagrined that the government did not consult them before drafting the bill, and then opposed their attempts to refer the bill to the parliamentary select committee for a study which normally takes months. Home Minister S>B> Chavan, who introduced the bill, insisted that the government would like to have it passed during the current monsoon session. The implication is that the government wants its provisions to be applicable before the state elections in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan in November the states where the BJP-ruled governments were dismissed last December after the Babri Masjid demolition in Ayodhya.

But Chavan relented in the face of the combined opposition and agreed to a 15-member Joint Parliamentary Select Committee of both houses but with his own rider that the committee will submit its report by 16th August. That way, the government will still have enough time to have the bill passed through both the houses and promulgate it well before the registration of candidates for the state elections.

There is a lot of skepticism even among congressmen what purpose the bill would serve except to create more communal tension and endless litigations in courts over the bill's disputed provisions. "What is the purpose of this bill when it will not be able to even touch the BJP?" asked Saeed Naqvi, a senior New Delhi journalist.

When the government first announced early this year its intention to enact the legislation, many of the would-be victims moved quickly to try to save themselves from its purview. Some of them immediately amended their internal codes and widened their membership base. But some will continue to face difficulty given their names, some of which incorporate certain religions. In any case, even that can be changed.

Another aspect of the bill is its ban on 'parochial' parties, whose name, symbol and activities "promote enmity among different people and pose a threat to the security of India." The term parochial can be applied to a wide-range of political parties with a base that is largely limited to one region or state. But, it would be hard to prove or even show that they promoted enmity among different peoples, and they are no a threat to the security of India.

If the government decides to crack down on them under the provisions of the bill, endless litigations and even violence are certain to follow.

In the end, the bill would have itself promoted enmity among the people, while seeking to curtail it.

Whatever the merits and demerits of the bill, the government of Narasimha Rao seems intent on pushing it through the legislature, and it looks it will succeed. The full results of the bill will be clear come November, 1993.

Bosnian Talks On Again?

Bosnian peace talks are expected to resume tomorrow, Monday, August 9th, in Geneva, following a one-interruption.

Bosnian President Ali Izzat Begovitch, sensing a trap for dividing Bosnia into three republics, pulled back from accepting a peace plan creating a new "union" of three republics - a Muslim, Croat and Serbian republic.

Experts worldwide have described the Owen-Stoltenberg plan "made plain that the purpose of the plan is to divide the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina into three independent states." As a result, the Bosnian president mediators Lord and Thorvald Stoltenberg that, while he was committed to negotiations, his advisors have told him that the wording of the plan left doubts on the legal status of the new union.

According to the plan, the Muslims would be carved out 29% of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Croats 21%, and the Serbs 50% of the territory of the republic. In terms of population, the Muslims represent 44% of the people, the Serbs 33%, and the Croats 17%, with the balance made up of ethnics from neighboring states.

Mr. Begovitch who had shown extreme flexibility earlier in the week in order to help bring an end to the 16-month war in the Balkan state, is less enthusiastic given the on-slaughter of the Serbian and Croat forces against government forces. The very capital, Sarajevo, was strangled last week as Serbian forces were able to capture the peaks of the mountain range commanding an overview of the city. These developments have made the Muslim Bosnian side withdraw from the talks. They have also increased the American-led

NATO countries to raise their threat of air strikes against Serbian forces.

In a show of force, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher stopped over at the US NATO base in Italy, just across the Adriatic from the troubled former Yugoslavia. While inspecting the forces, the US official indicated that the US was ready to use air power to punish the Serbs and make them see light. "The international community cannot accept the siege of cities, and it cannot accept blocking of humanitarian aid to those who need it," he said in a direct reference to Serb tactics in Bosnia.

The operation will break new ground for NATO, which was founded in 1949, as a Western military alliance against the then-perceived communist threat. It also opens the prospect of a large western military action for the first time since the UN Security Council agreed to defend pre-determined Muslim enclaves in Bosnia.

It is the Europeans who are now pulling back and wavering on the use of force, as they see the possibility of further escalations and real deterioration in the war.

In response to these developments, the Serbs have decided late last week, to relinquish their newly-acquired positions in favor of UN forces. This decision has helped to partly diffuse the situation, and reduce the chances of further escalation.

The US has used this Serbian decision to urge President Ali Izzat Bigovitch to return to the negotiation table for the Monday talks.

Meanwhile, the suffering of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues in light of the shortage of food, water, medical supplies and other basic necessities. The UN and other relief efforts have failed to make a dent in their dismal conditions.



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Queen Arwa and Her Reign:

A Fantastic Legacy in Jiblah:

By: **Fatmah Rawah,**
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

"The best times in Yemeni history are those periods when the country had female rulers." So stated one of the ambitious young women of our modern Yemen. One wonders if she has her mind set on the top job in the country.

The era of Queen Arwa Bin Ahmed Al-Suleihi proves her right. It was some eight hundred years ago that the Queen ruled - first in conjunction with her husband, King Al-Mukarram Al-Suleihi, and then by herself, after his death.

Her reign was peaceful and prosperous. She constructed the roads, repaired the Grand Mosque of Sanaa, constructed new towns in the Taiz-Lahej-Aden axis, built garrisons and fortresses along the trade routes - in both the mountain and Tihama roads, etc. But above all, she patroned theologians and learned persons, and made it possible for literary men to excel in their work.

Queen Arwa is probably the first ruler, after the Saaean Asa'ad Al-Kamil who controlled the whole of

of Awqaf (Endowment), knows the details of the mosque by heart.

"Here lies the tomb of the queen," he says pointing to a three-by-three meter block inside the mosque. Next to it is the library, but there isn't much in it any more, just a few fragments of papers and some torn books.

"The ceiling has three parts. The oldest part is decorated by beautiful alabaster and wood designs. This is the only part of the ceiling still dating back to the Queen's time. The other sections are more recent additions," he explains.

Walking out of the mosque proper, one comes across a



Greater Yemen. At the time, it stretched from the Omani border to the Hijaz mountains.

She built her capital at Jiblah, a few kilometers to the south-west of Ibb among the lush greeneries of the mountains.

Today the two main remains of the Queen and her time are the mosque and the palace. "Actually, there are two mosques - a private one for the queen and her family (and this is attached to the palace), and the larger mosque which she built for the public," explains Mr. Qassim Ali Othman (seen next to the rosary in the picture below). Othman, who is charged to look after the mosque by the Ministry

large open space, which is also used for praying, specially when the inside is full. "That minaret over there (refer to picture), is the only one intact from the 11th century. The others have been repaired and rebuilt. All in all, must work needs to be done to preserve this historic monument."

The mosque is busy, with worshippers and students. Some of the clergy give lessons in Arabic, theology and morality. At the time of my visit, an Arabic lesson was in process, as shown in the picture on the side.

One interesting relic of the Queen is a large rosary of one thousand beads made of spacial coconut wood. "Queen Arwa got that rosary

from the Muslims of India, whom she was helping financially and by providing teachers and religious books, specially the Quran," explained the care-taker of the mosque.

About half a kilometer away, and perched on top of a hill is the palace where the royal family lived. Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Faragi is a resident of Jiblah who is involved with the palace, called Dar Al-Izz.

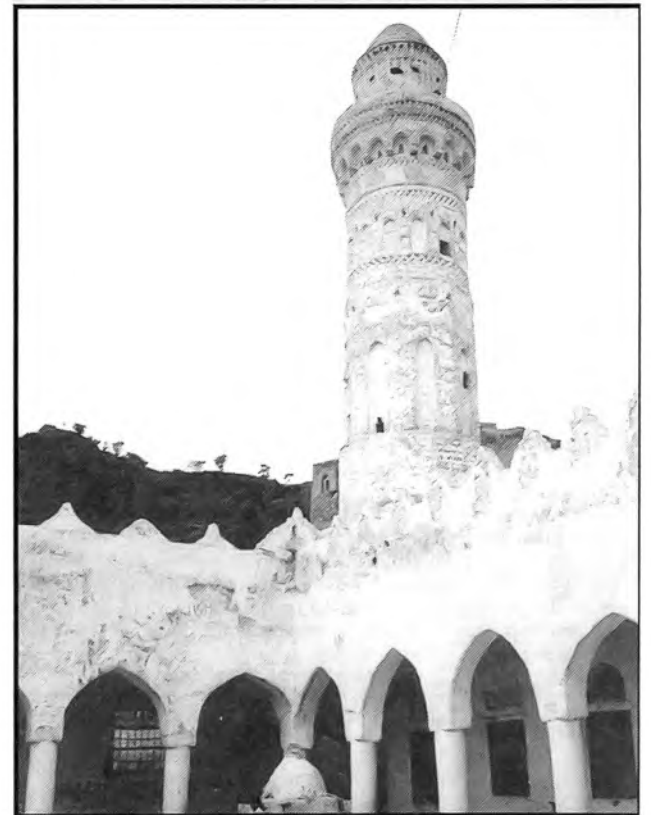
"It is now a broken down big building, that is all. It used to be a magnificent palace with 360 sleeping rooms, in addition to all other facilities and amenities. Each room is designed, shaped and located so that it receives the

maximum sunshine on a particular day. The system was that the queen would move from room to room for the whole year, enjoying the maximum sunshine in her own room," stated Abdullah. The palace needs major re-building and restoration work. There is no effort to do anything about the palace," he concluded.

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A Journalist's Re-creation of the Conversation between King Al-Mukarram Al-Suleibi and His Wife Arwa Bint Ahmad when Deciding to Locate their Capital at Jiblah

- M. I need to build my own capital.
- A. Oh noble husband, that is a very worthwhile endeavor.
- M. Now that my kingdom extends all over Yemen, I have to find a suitable location.
- A. The location needs to be central, and must be located in a place which can support a growing capital.
- M. I am thinking of somewhere around Sanaa.
- A. That is a good idea, but are any better alternatives.
- M. I do not see any.
- A. Wouldn't your majesty consider the lush greenery of Jiblah a better location.
- M. Yes, Jiblah is more prosperous.
- A. It is also more peaceful as the people are more oriented to productive work such as farming, livestock and commerce.
- M. That is also right.
- A. It is also more central to your kingdom.
- M. That is again right.
- A. Jiblah has a large population base which includes men of profession such as ironsmiths, masons, carpenters, builders, traders and craftsmen. There are also many clergymen and learned men in that region.
- M. Yes, I have known the area extending from Dhamar to Taiz has many men of learning and crafts.
- A. Oh Mukarram, my noble and beloved husband, seek to build your capital in Jiblah.
- M. It shall so be done!



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YEMEN'S LOCUST DANGER IS OVER - Unless it Rains

The locust plague seems to be over - but the Ministry of Agriculture is keeping a close watch on the weather. If it rains and the locusts breed in large numbers, the problem may escalate once more.

Last week a group of Embassy and aid organization representatives in Yemen met with Ministry of Agriculture officials at al-Jawf, 120 km. north-east of Sana'a, to discuss the deployment of the funds and equipment brought in to combat the country's locust plague now that many of the swarms have been spray-controlled.

The representatives suggested two helicopters rented from a British company by German and British aid agencies were no longer needed in Yemen and should be deployed in East Africa, where locusts are currently proving a more serious problem.

Infestation is reported to be severe in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Niger, Mali and Chad. Yemen Times flew to the open meeting in a military helicopter with five aid delegates: Dr. Hans-Henning Sawitski, director of the German aid agency GTZ mission in Yemen; Jerry Cooper, a spray control expert from the British aid agency ODA; Dr. Muhammad al-Hani, a Tunisian locust specialist sent by FAO, and representatives from the British and German Embassies.

In Wadi al-Jawf the representatives were taken in the two helicopters over some of the sprayed areas and given a demonstration of the difficulties of aerial spraying over small farms where farmers do not always take heed of warnings to keep their families and animals out of the way. "We often have to switch off the spray to avoid goats and camels," said Graham Dunne, one of the two British pilots.

One helicopter had cleared much of the area of Wadi al-Jawf, while the other completed surveys of areas of territory in eastern Yemen. Locusts were seen to cover a total area of 33,250 hectares, and of these 6,000 hectares were controlled by ground spraying and 7,000 by aerial spraying. Ground spraying is continuing.

The chemical chiefly used is a FAO-recommended organic pesticide, Fenitrothion, which is fully biodegradable. Animals may resume grazing on sprayed land between 3 and 7 days after spraying.

Ministry officials at the al-Jawf meeting were keen for the helicopters to survey for more locusts in Yemen, but Dr. Sawitski suggested that since the contract on the helicopter hired by GTZ did not expire until August 12th, it should be redeployed in East Africa. In a compromise solution, the Ministry and delegates agreed that one helicopter should fly to the southern port of Aden to spend three days surveying the southern coastal area, while the other should fly to Hodeidah, to survey the flat Tihama region. If heavy infestation of locusts were found, the GTZ helicopter would stay on to spray. If not, it would move immediately to Africa.

The representatives flew back to Sana'a - a spectacular flight

over mountains and wadis - on board the two light aid helicopters on the first step of their journey to the coast.

News from the coast was good. The surveys of parts of the southern and western coastal areas showed there was no longer any dense locust infestation, and teams in both helicopters found fewer locusts than expected.

In the Tihama, surveyed by helicopter from Hodeidah, locusts were found to number between 100 and 200 per hectare, too sparse to warrant spraying either by air or ground control. The locusts in the Tihama were not African migratory locusts as had been thought, which would mean they had flown over the Red Sea, but were in fact desert locusts which probably flew in on prevailing winds from eastern Yemen. The Tihama locusts are ready to breed, but except for occasional well-watered plantations the vegetation consists of very dry, wild grassland, which Ministry officials say is unsuitable for mass locust breeding. They believe that under the current dry weather, and as they are low in density, any young which hatch will not be crowded and will develop into the harmless, solitary type of the species.

Nevertheless the area will be kept under observation for the rest of the year, as it is feared that if it rains heavily and mass breeding takes place the young will soon consume the vegetation brought on by the rain and develop into the gregarious, swarming type.

The aerial team in Aden surveying the swarm of African migratory locusts which crossed the Red Sea two weeks ago, and split into two soon after landing on the south coast, said it had largely dispersed. The larger part of the swarm, which flew 20 km. north to Lahej, lost 70% of its numbers after ground spraying last week while the rest dispersed to coat the ground at only 100 per hectare. The smaller part of the swarm was also sprayed, with 50% killed. The remaining locusts then split up into still smaller batches, which again cover the ground at no more than 100 per hectare.

These southern coastal swarms are also too sparse to be sprayed either on the ground or by air, but will also remain under observation in case of rain. If it does rain heavily, the locusts will be monitored and sprayed as and when their population grows

too dense. There is no solitary form of the species in African migratory locusts.

"We are very happy with the outcome of the survey," a ministry official, Nabil Magem, said.

The GTZ helicopter returned last Sunday afternoon to Sana'a from Hodeidah, while the ODA helicopter returned on Monday afternoon from Aden. At a meeting between GTZ and Ministry of Agriculture officials on Tuesday morning it was decided that the helicopter rented by GTZ from the British Dollar Helicopter Company should return as soon as possible to Addis Ababa, where it had been deployed. The helicopter rented from the same company by the ODA, whose contract expired at midnight on Monday, had already started its flight back to Addis. Both helicopters flew to Addis from Sana'a in stages, making fuel stops in the central Yemeni town of Taiz and in Djibouti.

Dr. Sawitski, said that since the DM500,000 pledged to Yemen in emergency aid to combat the locust invasion was diverted from African funds, for the remaining days of its contract the helicopter would be used for locust control in Ethiopia. However excess pesticides donated by several donors - Japan, the US, FAO and UNDP among them - would remain in Yemen for current and future use.

Two aerial spray attachments FAO is giving the Yemenis to attach to army helicopters, so that in future the Ministry can fight swarms as soon as they appear, should be ready in three months, in time for the winter breeding season.

All in all, crop damage during the locust infestation has been less than feared in all areas. Apart from early devastation of citrus and some grain crops in eastern Yemen, locusts have mostly eaten wild vegetation and losses kept to a minimum "It has been a very good exercise in cooperation and efficiency, and cooperation with the local sheikhs was especially convincing," said Dr. Sawitski. "We responded to an emergency which is now well under control. The Agriculture Ministry is fully aware of the continuing need for ground surveillance and of the need to be fully prepared for the future."

By: Jenny Jobbins,
Yemen Times.

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THE VICTIM

Lately, I have been bewildered over how to define the word 'victim'. Most people regard this as the concept of one who, through the fault of others, sacrifices his life, his wealth, his reputation or whatever. This may arise through intentional procedure, or it may be the unintentional outcome of the conduct of others, or it may be a sacrifice such as that made by parents. It is also true that a person might fall victim to his own faults or behavior. Excessive ambition, or a desire quickly to reach one's goal, sometimes leads to conceding certain values and principles, selling them at a cheap price to reach a quick result. One pays heavily by such means, and one finds oneself sliding down the path towards making even more concessions, losing one's position as a human being. Falling victim to illegitimate ambition, the conclusive goal of which is wealth and position, is such a means, and such victims are not only dangerous to themselves, but are in the end a jeopardy to society, trying to destroy its values and morals and combating everything that is good through their mistaken values, leading society down the same sliding path of corruption on which they had driven themselves. They know the day will come when their conscience will go on public trial.

The point is that when the nation becomes a victim for the ambitions of one group, then all its sons will pay the price.

Thus, the nation will not forget whatever time brings.

Dr. Abu-baker Al-Kirbi
Al-Naba, Sana'a,
29/7/1993.

SUPERMARKETS OVER CEMETERIES?

Graveyards should receive the respect of all sections of the administration. Indeed the authorities should extend to them protection and maintenance, the upkeep of walls and gardens, and wherever possible should prevent assaults, destruction and random building on top of the graves. Such impingements show disrespect and violate the values of our Yemeni Moslem society. Unfortunately, the relevant authorities grant building licenses, reserving areas for the construction of shops, supermarkets, and houses. The Waqf (endowment office) in Taiz is well aware of these violations. The office is continually following up the issue, but in vain. It does not have the authority to prevent this phenomenon. The plundering of endowed land through buying and selling activities in the Beer Basha and Beer Al-Nashmah cemeteries is unbelievable. It happens that the bones of the dead can be seen quite clearly here and there, and some the grave holes have even been used as sewers. This subject requires

immediate attention.

Abu Baker Al-Izzi,
Taiz, Taiz,
29/7/1993.

OFFICIALS WHO DON'T READ

It is a painful fact that a number of officials and leading persons do not read the local papers and acquaint themselves with what is written there in the way of commentary or criticism, or study the concepts when, as it sometimes does, the hammer points at them. It is as though the local papers were only for ordinary people and had nothing to do with them. To them, the issue is a phenomenon in harmony with democratic practice, and it does not exceed the limits of appearance to say that we have made a substantial transformation to the phase of practicing democracy.

Some conclude that there is a widening gap between the political consciousness of the public media and the political consciousness within the offices of authority, for we notice that the public media's awareness has advanced the awareness of some of the senior officials.

Yes, the ministers and officials also have also their information offices, but these offices only pass on to them what coincides with their image in the way of praise, thanks, and support, letting them live in their rose-spectacled realms without knowing what is going on all around them.

Such cases do not appear strange to us, as we see and hear them repeatedly, though the pointers change from one phase to another.

Regardless of what some of these appear to be asserting, through their allegations about modernization, and about coping with the New World System, they remain naive in their practices and primitive in their feelings and interests. Time will uncover those whose fangs are ready to eat up whatever falls under their power, and will guarantee their future after they have resigned. With the absence of law and the principle of punishment and reward, these cases are repeated over and over, and the wheel turns by their own choice.

Ahmad Hussain Balu,
Az-Zaman, Aden,
29/7/1993.

TOWARDS A RESPONSIBLE DEBATE

Recently a number of Arab papers have spread news of what is called a tight political crisis about to appear in Yemen. The purpose is to renew the intense differences which, it is alleged, exist between the members of the coalition government. Their comments insult the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) specifically, offering an analysis of the undoing of the current coalition. It is clear that behind the allegations are certain factions aiming to spread the idea that no changes have

occurred in Yemen, and that the elections were but a passing event which gave way to a return to the policies of the past. We were not surprised to see their invented slogan 'Depend on it, what is worse for Yemen is best for us'. What astonished us even more was to see some of those of us who volunteered to pave the way for those factions doubting the credibility of our current march towards establishing the foundations of our new culture.

We don't know what interests lie behind the arousal of all these coalition problems, brought to the surface for us to face all at once. All that is really going on is a dialog, a debate over points put up for discussion, and not a crisis in the sense that they want to describe it. None of us wants to return to the former phase. As for the differences in the political movement, these are natural issues, and the current trend of tackling them in our local papers does not do any harm since the raising of these issues stems from the spirit of coalition and democracy, removed from the environment of tension. We believe that we have reached an important phase where serious political agreement can be based on cooperation, coordination and coalition. Instead of fabricating points, let us concern ourselves more with significant issues relating to how people live, and to the development of the country.

Chief Editor,
Al-Thawri, Sana'a,
29/7/1993.

RETURN OF A SINGER

The Yemeni singer Fursan Khalifa returned recently from the United Arab Emirates, where he had lived for many years as an expatriate. While in the Gulf he continued to sing native folkloric songs, as well as other songs including his "Salutation to the Emirates" and "The March of Unification". He points out that home and country do not lose their value while one is away. He is well known for his songs to a number of Yemeni poets, including Dr. Muhammad Abdu Ghanim, Abdullah Abd ul-Karim, and Farid Barakat. He has also said that he will record a number of both old and new songs for Yemeni TV. We hope he will make this his final residence and will write many more songs, and we wish him good health and good luck in his own country.

Al-Haq, Sana'a,
1/8/1993.

GROUP MARRIAGE?

Group marriages are a positive event and a Yemeni tradition, practiced throughout history by the people of Sana'a and, for decades, by the residents of a number of other Yemeni cities. During the wedding ceremonies some guests violate the law by firing into

the air, an expression of rejoicing that might well cause accidental casualties. But we should respect the feelings of the poor, who are unable to compete with the rich. Fancy cars, extravagant parties and feasts, are something which pertain to the upper classes, but they cannot help but affect our feelings. If one thinks of this one will back groups weddings, which are sound, practical, and cost little.

Al-Shoura, Sana'a,
1/8/1993.

TENSION AND DÉTENTE

The crisis of authority of our country is the same as in any other Arab nation. The defacto situation is that we are, in many ways, in a similar state, except for the fact that Yemen pursues democracy and the authorities reached their positions through the electorate. Thus we enjoy popular rule, and thus we represent an oasis in which the aspirations of other Arabs can take a breath of fresh air and relax. Nevertheless we are a distorted copy of our old, uprooted instability. There is a substantial amount of irresponsible chatting taking place behind the scenes over the rights within the nation of each of the three partners in the coalition. Whatever they say about an agreement, without a doubt it is a temporary and useless thing. They believe the solution lies in agreeing to amend the constitution, yet they know that this is flawed. Even the armed forces are

not apart from the structure or interests of the authority. Under the justification of a merger, they implant contradictions among the commanders. Let us leave these leaders to their business and let them discuss the restoration of a unified army on national foundations and outside the rulers' program, which is based on secessionism, regionalism, tribalism and family ties.

The army is the whole nation's. It is imperative to leave the army commanders to organize themselves on a national basis, without employing the slogans of who won and who was defeated in a game of chess.

Omar Al-Zawi,
Al-Tagammu, Sana'a,
2/8/1993.

THE DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF INTIMIDATION

In America and the West 'terrorism' means that which contradicts with its interests, and he who does not respond to the will of the 'World Community' (read America) is a terrorist, however, oppressed he might be, and never mind if he is slaughtered from vein to vein or his human rights are violated. According to America's concept he is a terrorist, because of his standpoint against America and Israel. Thus, they regard Palestinian children, the Lebanese on their own land, the Bosnians, and the Somalis as terrorists. The slaughtering, plundering and raping are humanitarian acts by their standards, while

vis-à-vis such actions the Arab regimes applaud haughtily, and even extend provocation to these 'terrorists'. They ask the help of America and the West in fighting interior terrorism in Arab countries. In Egypt, terrorism is sporting a beard and a head scarf, it is the blind Al-Azheri, Shams Al-Baraudi, and anyone who spits on the Israeli flag. In Saudi Arabia, terrorism is a traffic violation on the way to the mosque, or women car-drivers on the roads. In Iraq, terrorism is tearing up a photograph of Saddam Hussein in the privacy of one's bedroom. In Tunisia, terrorism is the gathering of more than one person to study the words of the Holy Quran, the maximum punishment for which is the death sentence. In Kuwait it is burning the flag of an unknown country, or sitting outside the American Embassy. In Algeria it is when you demand democracy and something called an election.

In Yemen, terrorism is something different. The demand to close down a beer factory is terrorism. The other face of terrorism is to use it as an embroca-tion to lessen the suffocating pains of rheumatism. And then, they say, you have terrorism here. Escape from here, walk away from here, sit here. Then, when terrorism has been completely wiped out, we can talk about a merger and the ending of divisions within the army.

Ahmad Othman,
Al-Islah, Sana'a,
3/8/1993.



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Tribes and Tribulations of Modern Society

by: Gerald Obermeyer, Associate Professor, Fletcher School.

Back in the '60s, when I was in graduate school, and in the '70s, when I began teaching, modernization (translate as industrialization or westernization or even secularization) was not only the magical blueprint by which countries could build a nation for themselves, but it was also a strongly encourage and well-funded area of study for students who would apply this paradigm in their research. Western graduate students and Third World elites were convinced that they had the formula that would reduce the gap between the development and underdeveloped countries of the world.

Among anthropology students in those days there was a subtle debate - which could become raucous during the many seminars on economic development and culture change - between those specializing in modernization and those who thought it important to record tribes and hunter and gatherer societies for their own sake before they disappeared. Stereotypes and name-calling were used to identify "those who applied anthropology" and "those on the track of the exotic."

I wrote my dissertation on the structure of conflict and authority in a Bedouin tribe. The study focused on the law of blood revenge, tribal warfare, kinship and the segmentary structure of tribal society. Carrying out fieldwork in a pastoral society characterized by female seclusion, which does not mean female exclusion, my data stressed the centrality of the male-warrior ethos as opposed to the universalistic ethic of Islam or law of the nation-state.

When I returned to the university to write my dissertation, my adviser told me that it was a good idea to begin my career with a small, controlled study such as tribalism because it would help me appreciate the problems involved in modernizing. At that time, most social scientists believed that social structures based on tribe, ethnicity, or religion were merely traditional idols (and even scapegoats when development schemes failed),

which would soon be sacrificed on the altar of the nation-state. It is comical now to note that both the liberal academics of the capitalist West and the economic determinists of the communist world shared the same faith in the modernization process and the same disdain for the traditional structures which detracted from it, and which Lenin referred to as "historical monuments."

In the early 1970s, I took a position at the American University of Beirut. Rather than study "the Switzerland of the Middle East," which along with Cyprus and Iran, social science gurus predicted most likely to succeed in the modernization contest, I chose to carry out research on tribal society and Islamic religion in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. Colleagues would ask, "Why study tribes and religion, things of the past? We are more interested in the 'modernization' or 'the persistence of change' or 'evolution without revolution' in Lebanon (as some colleagues called their studies?)" My Arab students would ask, "Why do you want to go off to these dangerous and primitive places when you could be studying Lebanon?"

Before the 1970s were half over, Cyprus blew up, and the island was divided between its Greek (Orthodox) majority and the newly declared Turkish (Muslim) Republic. Some of us who used to spend weekends on this nearby isle of Aphrodite hardly noticed the warning in Lebanon where the various factions based on kinship, ethnicity and religion had negotiated what the sociologists and political scientists were then calling a "consociational democracy." In fact, at that time if I were to ask a student about "your village or religion, as I often did, they would usually reply that "we are from Beirut" and "we are Lebanese, but a long time ago the family was ..."

A year or so after the partition of Cyprus, which was only temporary until the United Nations could get both parties to the ever-present round negotiating table, the Lebanese "events" (*hawadith*, which in Arabic more accurately means "accidents," as in swerving off the road to modernization) began and

persisted - cease-fire after cease-fire, truce after truce. From 1974 until 1980, I continued to get away to Yemen and the Gulf for research, when the airport was free from bombardment or when the road to Damascus was open, or when I thought the chance of being kidnapped by one of the many militias, or even by my next-door neighbor, was minimal.

By now, when I returned to the American University, the beautiful and endangered campus by the sea, my colleagues and students would look at me in a different way and say, "You certainly are lucky to have a civilized place like the Yemen to get away to."

But, in the meantime, I was recording blood revenge vendettas among the tribes of northern Yemen, skirmishes between the tribes and the state all over the interior of Yemen; the charismatic politics of Sheikh Abdullah (Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar), who dominated the state from the tribal periphery; territorial disputes between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and the on-again-off-again border war between North and South Yemen. But the point is I could have been studying the same conflict-and-negotiation situations in Cyprus, Yemen, the USSR, Yugoslavia or wherever.

Throughout the 1970s, 1980s and even more so in the 1990s, the din of factional strife and civil war grew louder, but it still identified with those societies of the Third World which, given the gift of the state and the chance to modernize by the West after their own not-so-civil World War II, failed to seize the opportunity. Even the most liberal of social scientists began to have doubts about the inevitability of that noble savage paradigm, modernization.

Finally they began to look at the exotica that the anthropologist had been bringing from "strange lands and friendly people," in the words of Justice William O. Douglas. But they perceived this as an indigenous and not a universal problem. The natives had lost the concept of the state due to persistent factional disputes and failure to maintain the state after the West gave up on Asia

and Africa, or granted the natives independence. It has nothing to do with the democratic West, where tribalism, ethnicity and religion had long since been displaced by healthy democratic bickering among political parties, labor unions and other progressive voluntary associations.

If you experience the daily life of a civil war - and I did not leave Beirut until 1985, when the State Department ordered all Americans out of Lebanon - you get some feeling for what it is like to inhabit the segmentary world of the tribe where life itself becomes divided into go and no-go zones, realms of life and death. I experienced this "tribal" maze in many places: When I traveled in the tribal interior of Oman with an escort from the Sultan, when I went out with a British-Omani helicopter patrol in the search of Dhofari "rebels," when with a "holy man" escort I passed through tribal roadblocks in mountainous Yemen, and also when I traveled in "modern" Beirut through Christian and Muslim, rightist and leftist, Palestinian and Syrian, Maronite, Druze, Sunni and Shi'ite barricades. Societies everywhere at all times are a structure of tribe-like groups, be they actual kin-based warrior groups, or their historical extensions, larger and more fierce factions that have opted for the strategies of ethnicity or sectarianism. We cannot depend upon the phenomenon and the consociational rituals of the nation-state to exorcise these demons, as Senator Daniel Moynihan calls them in his latest book, *Pandaemonium*. In fact, as the anthropologist can show, time and again, these demons can turn the nation-state in a disappearing species.

Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose.

from: *Fletcher*, Summer 1993, Volume 15, Issue 2, pp. 1+2, (newsletter of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Massachusetts.)

Gerald Obermeyer, anthropologist, has done extensive field work in Yemen.

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 Letters to the Editor

THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

The Yemeni people yearned for the day when they decide for themselves who should represent them in the House of Parliament. The dream came true on April 27.

On that day, Yemenis from all walks of life went to the polls to their representatives. Eligible voters stood in long queues, in some cases under a scorching sun, waiting for their turn to realize their long standing dream. They were proud of themselves. They announced to the world that, after achieving unification of two parts of Yemen, they were marking history the second time by holding the first general elections, which was unprecedented in the entire Arab World. It was a day of real democracy in the true sense of the word. One cannot really express one's feelings towards such a historic and great event. In brief, feeling free can only be deeply felt by those who experience it.

However, regardless of what happened during the elections, those above mentioned feelings vanished as soon as the members of the NEW cabinet were named officially. It was a great blow to the nation's hopes and ambitions. It seemed as though the hope of changing for the better was merely a dream.

The public was looking forward to a new cabinet, which justifies the general elections. Unfortunately, the policy-makers could not even see that, which creaky shows their real intentions and that they are ready to do anything possible to safeguard their personal gains. Nevertheless, the public, though reluctantly,

if there are positive and tangible signs for change. One priority issue is regarding the prices of essential commodities. It is obvious that the people in power are not ready to do anything about the galloping inflation rate. We want them to keep a small fraction of their promises with which they bombarded us during the election campaigns. What is the point of giving a pay-raise to government employees, while prices to rise at fgar higher rates, which has an adverse effect on the standard of living. Strangely enough, lowering prices in general and those of essential commodities in particular, was one of the countless promises repeated over and over during the election campaigns.

It is therefore clear that democracy is meant to let off steam for the nation's anger and sense of suppression. It is important to note that the people have insight and can discern far more than the politicians realize. The people are no longer naïve and easy to make fun of. Nevertheless, the people in charge of this country hear the people's cries for help, but do not heed the cries! This negative attitude of our officials creates despair, frustration and fear of what the future holds.

To conclude, as far as I know democracy is not just a word to be used and overused in long, rhetorical speeches and election programs. It is a part and parcel of real life. I personally believe that the only democratic day Yemen witnessed was April 27.

Mohammad Othman,
Sana'a.

THE CHANGING VICISSITUDES OF LIFE

Mr. Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri's interesting feature, "A Taste of Tragedy", touched on the important subject of child-rearing.

In modern life, with its fast pace, where values and our sense of priorities often become lopsided, it is easy to wrap ourselves up in a safe cocoon of complacency, where the day to day sufferings of other less fortunate ones do not touch us.

Through all the years of life one experiences the various ups and downs in the changing vicissitudes of fortune. It is the many downs that are the great building blocks of character, understanding and sympathy for the human side of life. In childhood, I remember my first encounter with the death of a close person, which was temporarily devastating. That and the many other losses that followed became an important part of growing. I accepted that as much as there is joy, there is also pain and sorrow in life. To try and shield children from this essential part of living is like trying to tend a garden without the winter frost, but with an eternal spring, which goes against the laws of nature. I remember also the many hours I used to spend brooding over the sufferings of Oliver Twist or another character who happened to be my current hero, and then. As if from a dream, I would awake, and watch the moonlight creeping into my room and making everything around me so beautiful that I would think how lucky I was in comparison.

Maybe my parents had never got caught up with the modern syndrome of education ... maybe it was the way of life then. They provided us with all the tools of education and allowed us to become educated naturally. Our lives were not so sophisticatedly regimented, apart from the monotonous regularity of bedtime, and thus we breathed the free air. We went to school, and we read all the books we could get our hands on in order to have a peep at wonderlands beyond our mundane and simple existence. We spent hours looking at the stars and wondering about our Creator, and chasing after butterflies. We learned as much from our bicycle rides and our tree climbing as we did from our scientific lessons. Today, as I bring up three children of my own in a totally changed world, my husband and I are struggling like millions of other parents to instill the sense of balance within a cluttered life of computers and video games.

As Alvin Toffler said in "Future Shock", man's emotions have been unable to keep pace with the rapid physical changes brought about by technology and scientific advancement. Yes, our generation is caught-up in the middle, with a little of both worlds, unable completely to merge with either. As modern "educated" parents, we are eternally struggling between spontaneous parenthood and the self-inflicted image of the ideal. We think we have to give endlessly to our children and to protect them from all the vagaries of life, because we love them. We want to improve upon the lives we had, in this highly competitive

modern world, and sometimes we forget that they are human beings, and not tools for proving our own prowess to the world. Like everyone else, I have made many mistakes in rearing my children, but like others too, I have often caught myself unaware, and retraced my steps ... pondered a little, and corrected myself in good time, thank God!

For example, I have often stopped myself from telling my children endlessly to go and do something "constructive", another modern syndrome of education. (Being an educator myself, I must admit that I have found this very difficult.) I know we brought them up to like books as we did ourselves, and if they need to know about how life began, they will do so of their own accord. On the side of education, I have found a trip to the mountains or to Bab al-Yemen, and answering their questions, just as educational. A potter in the garden collecting dead insects has been a prelude to introducing them to a concept of life and death. At other times, I have just let them be, and tried not to forget that they are entitled to living out their childhood and enjoying the little joys within the otherwise artificial life around us. Their grandfather's death was their own first encounter, and I did not try falsely to soften the blow by pretending he would ever come back. I let them live out their sorrow and come to terms with it in their own way. As parents, we have to learn when to stand back and when to move forward to love and protect.

As they spent the early years of their lives in the Gulf, I was also faced with the difficult situation of preparing them for an eventual life in Yemen. As my brother once said to me, it is difficult to hide affluence ... and talking of abject poverty within such a life is like trying to portray know in hot desert sands. But being optimistic by nature, I knew there was a way of exposing them naturally to the realities of life. Our summer trips to Yemen were an eye-opener for them; from an early age they were forced to find ways of interpreting the discrepancies between the two ways of life, or even within Yemen itself. Achieving a balance between allowing them to be children and bringing them up to be caring and sensitive human beings is never easy, but it can be done. As much love and care as we give our children, they have to understand our own needs as parents, and that we are not super beings. We are prone to our own bad days and foibles and need their support too to overcome our own problems. I have sometimes wondered at the golden rule parents make of never expressing their small differences of opinion in front of the children. I do not see why children should not understand that people sometimes have differences, even if they love and respect each other. It is also preparing them for a future life that is not a fairy tale or Ibsen's "Doll's House". But no matter how much we sermonize, children will learn naturally from the "hidden agenda" at home, and we tend subtly to pass on our own values of life to them without even knowing it ourselves. We

are, in other words, the best teachers of life to our children, as much as they learn from the "hidden curriculum" at school. In my most extreme moments of so-called professionalism, I have never been able to look at things dispassionately, or to view the people whose projects I manage as so many pieces of paper, or as stepping stones to professional mobility, or become a dehumanized and efficient robot confused between ends and means. And I am sure it was my own parents who passed this value on to me.

Once upon a time, people in England believed that one did not become educated without exposure to the classics, and even if Shakespeare's tragedies seem far removed from modern life, the principles of human pathos are eternal. When I read Ibn-Tufail's "Hayibn-Yakdhaan" to my children, and dramatized the tragedy of an abandoned child brought up by a gazelle, who died leaving the child alone in a world he did not understand, I was not trying to depress them, but they got the message that everything is possible in life, which cannot be taken for granted, even as they enjoyed the fairy tales where everything is always right in the end.

Today, when some fortunate children take all the good things in life so much for granted, while there are millions of children who do not have the bare necessities of life, there is a danger of bringing up superficial and selfish human beings who do

not have a sense of responsibility towards society. In a country like Yemen, we need to bring up a generation which will take the reins into its own hands and cut across the many barriers to development, as the leaders of the future. Educated, yes, but also good human beings who are aware that it is as much their responsibility to pick up the litter from the streets as it is their neighbor's, in order to make it a better world for everyone. And yes, as Mr. Al-Ghabri said, instill in them a sense of tragedy too, for tragedy is as much a part of life as comedy is.

Samira Ali Bindaair,
Aden.

A Better Yemen Times

Frankly speaking, your decision to add more pages to the Yemen Times and also to add full color sounds scrumptious, and I am writing to express my sincere and deep appreciation of such a step.

As a constant reader, I have kept a meticulous watch on the style and the changes in each issue of the Yemen Times.

I urge you to go ahead with the excellent steps which you have decided to take, and I am sure we shall be exuberant over the results!

In closing, I express once more my sincere and hearty congratulations and best wishes for your decision.

A Hodeidah Reader.

Personal View

ADEN: Waiting for Godot?

What are the impressions of the first-time visitor to Aden? Speaking about my own impressions, I must say that I was shocked, and then frustrated by what I saw - a city plagued with all kinds of difficulties.

It is true some of the difficulties are shared by other Yemeni cities, including the capital, Sanaa. But what happened to Aden is not justifiable even when taking into account the fact that Aden has lost its function as capital city, the economic recession, the low level of government investment (once you exclude oil-related business), and the negative atmosphere for doing business.

There is one striking feeling you get in Aden. The citizens have concluded that there is a conspiracy to convert their city into a secondary city, just like all others. I am not interested here to prove or refute this, but if there is any party to be blamed, it is our "wise government."

Another group to be blamed is the people of Aden who have moved to Sanaa to get a piece of the pie. If these people thought they were serving Aden by moving closer to the center of decision-making, they have failed in their task.

I have one last question to raise. How serious are we in converting Aden into a free zone? In our endeavor in this respect, it is critical that we study the experiences of other free zones, specially the ones close to us, like Jabal Ali in the UAE, Aqaba in Jordan, or Port Saeed in Egypt. We have to pin down the comparative advantage of Aden and work on that, given our capabilities.

Dr. Yahya Almutawakel,
Department of Economics, Sanaa University.

A Widow

A poor widow, sole and senile with age
For whom this world was no more than a cage
Was silently standing by her husband's grave.
For the peace in his strong arms did she crave.
Lost was she then in a haze of thought,
Though no peace for her it ever brought.
Yet for her it was a short-lived relief
To banish the memory of her dismal grief.
Her days of youth flashed through her mind,
When she was pretty, charming, and very kind
And had cast the spell of her fair beauty
On a man who fell prey to her witchery.
Before long they ceremoniously tied the knot.
The days had passed blissfully on the trot,
But sometimes she saddened and went wild
When she gave up her hope of having a child.
Her maternal heart was tinged with a malaise of pain,
A pain that was so deep for drops of tears to attain.
However, she sustained the ups and downs of life
And succeeded in being good and proficient wife.
She was devoted to her husband beyond measure,
He was her comfort, hope, idol and treasure,
A man who was sad, but had cheered her in boredom,
A man who was a pillar of strength, a fount of wisdom.
Her train of thought came to a standstill suddenly,
And she was hurled into the hands of reality.
Now her sword of comfort was sheathed forever,
Her hope began to falter, her confidence to waver.
Sorrowful tears oozed from her red-rimmed eyes
As a patter of rain muffled her mournful cries.
She felt lonely without any kith or kin.
Unaware of the rain wetting her to the skin,
Unaware of the darkness in which she was enclosed,
Unaware of the wilderness in which she reposed,
Her yearning heart was severed from its only rest.
It pounded as a troubled sea within her aching chest.
To a far extent did her desperate sight roam,
Longing for her one and only native home
That was a dark pit, only a few feet deep,
Where she would lie for an eternal sleep.
Then a cool breeze swept over this lonely terrain.
Taking the soul of the widow, it was still again.
An aged owl flapped over this lonely place.
He began to cry,
"A poor widow, sole and senile with age,
Has at last regained her freedom from her cage."

Abdulaziz A. Fakir, Crater, Aden.

Pioneering Effort to Help the Retarded Children of Yemen.

Nobody wants to bring them to the open. The families of retarded children would do anything to hide them, as they are seen as a curse on the family. As a result, nobody knows how many retarded children there are in Yemen. By extension, nobody does anything for them. That is until 1993. Comes center stage Dr. Eiman Hashem Inqad, a psycho-therapist. Ameen Nouisser of the Yemen Times went to speak to Dr. Inqad and her pioneering work, starting a center to care for retarded children.

Excerpts of the interview:
Q: How did the idea of starting the "Kindergarten of Magic World" begin?
A: We started some eight months ago, at the beginning of this year. I used to work in the Republican Hospital, and then in a private clinic, taking care of the mentally-disturbed or anguished persons. During that time, I observed that there are many retarded children, and that they were not receiving proper care. I am not exaggerating if I say that

Yemeni children, specially if they need additional care, are treated very roughly. It is as if the families want them to die. In any case, that is how the idea of opening a special center to care for retarded children stated. There are, of course, no organization that cares for mentally disturbed children, although there are organizations that cater for the physically-handicapped children.

Q: Did you face any special problems when starting this project?
A: Of course, there were enormous problems, but let me share with you one strange problem. When we applied to the Ministry of Social Affairs to license us, they could not do so because there is no law in Yemen that regulates this sector.

Q: Do you get any support from the government?
A: No, there is no support for our center. Unfortunately, there is also limited interest from the private sector. We hardly get any assistance from any circles. I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to three companies

for their help to us, so far:
1. Mr. Abdul-Salam Shamsan, Chairman of Canada-Dry (Sanaa),
2. Mareb Poultry Company,
3. The Al-Watary Group of Companies.
We have applied to other companies, and we hope to receive positive answers soon.

Q: What is your budget like?
A: Our expenditures on food, and purchases of various needs is YR 30,000. Our current revenues, from the contribution of parents, is YR 17,000. There is a shortfall of YR 13,000 which I cover from my own resources.

Q: What are the large expenditure items?
A: In addition to the above expenditures, we have two major expenditure items - the rent and transportation. As things stands today, the monthly rent is YR 10,000, and the landlord wants a raise. The transportation cost, which is a bus that brings and delivers the children, is YR 10,000, and the bus owner now demands YR 14,000.



Of course, my own efforts are free, and so is the voluntary assistance of some of the personnel.

Q: You mentioned earlier parents' contribution, what do you mean?
A: I mean that well-to-do parents who bring in a retarded child have to pay a fee. We do not take anything from the poor parents. In a sense the rich families pay for the poor ones. The monthly tuitions range from a high of YR 900 per child to a mid-level of YR. 450 to a low of free.

Q: How long do children stay?
A: There are two systems. In the first system, children spend the day with us, and their parents collect them in the evenings. There is another group of

children who stay for the whole week, and then go to their parent over the weekend.

Q: How many children are presently enrolled?
A: We started with only one child. At the moment, we have sixteen children. These are grouped in two categories, depending on their state of mind and level of retardation.

Q: What other services do you provide to the children?
A: We give general advice and consultations to the parents. We also provide the children with various medical treatment, first-aid and other services.

Q: What special problems do you face in this work?

A: I must tell you the frustration I face is enormous. Although I feel I am doing an important service, there are just too many hassles. Let me mention that my own family and friends consistently advise against going on with this project.

Q: Any last message?
A: I would like through the Yemen Times to appeal to all those men and women who are able to help us to do so. Any one is welcome to come and visit us at Cairo Street, in front of Al-Safeer Restaurant. Or they can call at 226-569. Any assistance, however small, will be appreciated and it will make a difference. Please consider making a donation for the sake of the children.



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The French Pages

PATRIMOINE

Rénover le plafond d'une mosquée du 12e siècle

Depuis quelques années, des spécialistes français de la restauration tâchent de sauver le plafond d'une mosquée du 12e siècle située au sud-est de Sanaa. Un travail long et minutieux..

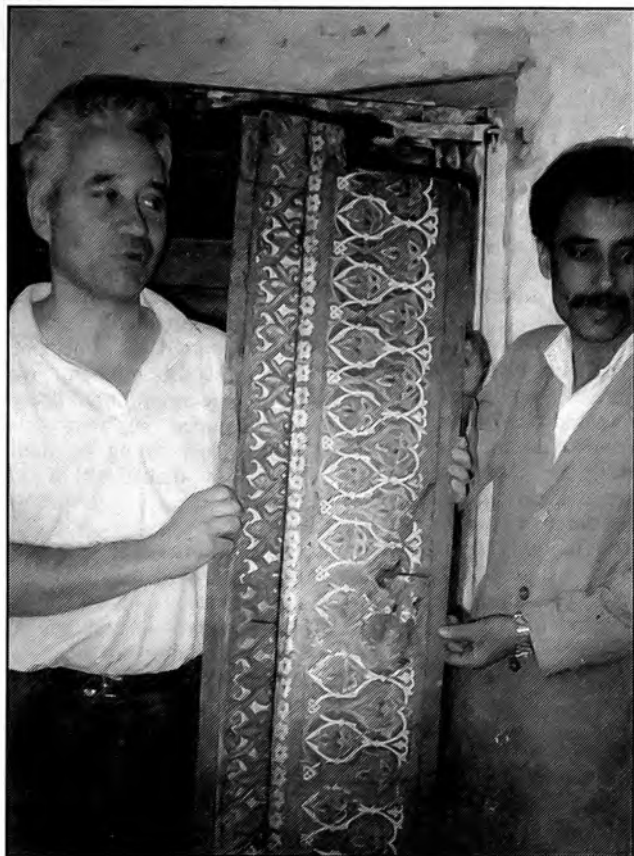
Sur des tables de travail, de longues planches de bois décorées sont posées, recouvertes de plastiques transparents pour les protéger. Ce sont des éléments du plafond d'une mosquée du 12e siècle, la mosquée "Al-Abbas" d'Asnaf, un village situé au sud-est de Sanaa, sur l'ancienne route de Mareb.

Ces éléments en bois ont été entreposés au Musée national de Sanaa, où des spécialistes français de la restauration s'activent à le rénover. "Il est exceptionnel qu'un tel ensemble en bois datant du 12e siècle soit parvenu jusqu'à nous dans cet état de conservation", déclare Marylène Barret, qui coordonne le projet et s'occupe de la restauration des décors. "Il était urgent de sauver ce plafond. Il y avait un trou dans le toit et la pluie allait tout abîmer", ajoute-t-elle.

Le plafond date de 1125

Le projet a été lancé en 1986 dans le cadre de la coopération entre le Yémen et la France. D'un côté, la direction des Antiquités du Yémen, de l'autre, le ministère français des Affaires étrangères. A Sanaa, côté français, le projet est à présent sous la responsabilité du CFEY (Centre français d'études yéménites).

Le plafond de la mosquée a été déposé et transporté dans la capitale en 1986. La méthode de restauration utilisée actuellement a été arrêtée en 1989. Mais le projet vient seulement de redémarrer après une longue interruption entre 1990 et 1992 due à la guerre du Golfe. "Le plafond ayant été démonté, nous pouvons réaliser un travail en profondeur, pièce par pièce", explique la coordinatrice du projet. Deux ébénistes qui restaurent le bois travaillent avec elle, en alternance: Benoît Cruyppenninck et François de Bazelaire. Les Français ne sont pas là toute l'année. Ils viennent pour des missions de quelques semaines. Côté yéménite, le



Dr. Ismaïl Al-Kibsi et Abdul Habib Al-Thubany font partie de l'équipe.

Le plafond date exactement de 1125, 519 de l'Hégire. La mosquée a été construite pour ce plafond. Située à l'écart du village, elle ne paye pas de mine vue de l'extérieur. C'est un cube de dix mètres sur dix. Le seul décor de la façade sont des merlons qui couronnent le toit. Une couverture métallique provisoire a été posée il y a quelques années avec l'aide de l'UNESCO pour protéger l'ensemble. La mosquée fonctionne toujours. "Des femmes viennent y prier et demander d'être fécondes", explique Marylène.

Les bois peints ont le plus souffert

C'est en ouvrant la porte de la mosquée qu'on découvre ce plafond magnifique. Formé

de caissons, il est composé d'une alternance de bois horizontaux sculptés dorés et de bois verticaux peints. La variété des décors est un document historique de l'art islamique. Une étude du plafond sous la direction de Solange Ory doit bientôt paraître.

"Les bois qui ont le plus souffert sont les bois peints", précise Marylène. Il y a des zones où le décor a disparu, notamment dans l'angle sud-est de la mosquée, qui a été frappé par un incendie. Les colonnes qui soutiennent le plafond sont d'origine. Ce sont des colonnes antiques, antérieures à l'islam, qui ont été réemployées. A l'extérieur aussi, on peut remarquer des pierres de réemploi avec des inscriptions sud-arabiques.

La restauration des bois est lente. Rénover une planche peut prendre d'une matinée jusqu'à trois jours. "Je fixe d'abord le bois avec des résines puis je nettoie. Il n'y a pas d'ajout de couleurs sur l'original", explique Marylène. Les planches de bois grisâtres retrouvent alors leurs couleurs vives.

Planches cassées et tordues

Le travail de l'ébéniste intervient après. Beaucoup de planches sont cassées, tordues, pourries. "Je restitue les parties manquantes. Pour le dos des planches, j'utilise du chêne, qui a l'avantage d'être dur et souple. Le bois d'époque, le talh (une sorte d'acacia qui pousse au Yémen) est dur et cassant. Je ne l'utilise que sur les faces décorées en réemployant des morceaux du plafond", explique François de Bazelaire.

La restauration devrait être terminée en 1994. Si tout va bien.

Jérôme BERNARD

DEMOGRAPHIE

La population mondiale croît plus vite que les ressources

Une étude vient de démontrer que si tous les produits alimentaires de base étaient partagés équitablement dans le monde, chaque habitant de la planète aurait moins à manger qu'il y a quatre ans.

Si tous les produits alimentaires de base (viande, poisson et céréales) étaient partagés de manière égale entre tous les habitants de la planète, chacun d'entre eux aurait moins à manger qu'il y a quatre ans. C'est ce que vient de révéler une étude montrant que la population mondiale croît plus vite que les ressources alimentaires. L'étude a été réalisée par le Worldwatch Institute, organisme américain indépendant chargé d'analyser l'économie mondiale et l'environnement.

Ce phénomène est essentiellement dû à une croissance record de la population mondiale, mais reflète également le ralentissement depuis plusieurs dizaines d'années de la production alimentaire.

Les principales sources d'approvisionnement en nourriture (fermes, élevages et océans) semblent toutes approcher, ou peut-être déjà atteint leur rendement maximum par habitant. L'étude note ainsi que la production mondiale de céréales a chuté de 8 % par rapport à 1984, année de production record et que pour la troisième année

consécutive, les chiffres de la pêche stagnent à 97 millions de tonnes de poissons, loin du record de 100 millions de tonnes de 1989.

La production de viande par personne a commencé à baisser après une croissance régulière pendant près de 40 ans, et la production de bœuf a atteint son taux le plus bas depuis 30 ans. Parallèlement, la population mondiale a été augmentée de 91 millions de personnes depuis un an. L'étude estime qu'à ce rythme, la population mondiale actuelle de 5,5 milliards de personnes aura doublé d'ici 2030.

Une note d'espoir en Afrique

Une autre étude, réalisée par commission consultative sur la Population africaine, se montre plus optimiste. Selon cette étude, l'Afrique connaît une croissance démographique plus forte que le reste du monde, mais des signes de ralentissement apparaissent dans plusieurs régions du continent.

La forte poussée démographique qui a commencé en 1960 dans les

pays africains de la côte atlantique, du Sénégal au Cameroun, et ceux de la côte est du continent, de l'Ethiopie à l'Afrique du Sud, devrait se poursuivre dans les trente prochaines années. Toutefois des pays comme le Botswana et le Zimbabwe dans la partie sud du continent, de même que le Kenya, ont mis en place des programmes de contrôle des naissances remarquablement efficaces.

La commission note en outre que le taux de fertilité des femmes, c'est-à-dire la moyenne des naissances pour chaque femme, a également chuté au Cameroun, en Côte d'Ivoire et à l'île Maurice.

La commission consultative souligne la nécessité de multiplier par dix les dépenses dans le domaine du contrôle des naissances pour parvenir à des réductions significatives de la population sur le continent africain.

(AFP) voulons pas être oubliés." *plafond*", explique François de Bazelaire.

La restauration devrait être terminée en 1994. Si tout va bien.

Jérôme BERNARD

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Hamid Ahmed Abdallah est d'origine yéménite. Il est titulaire du BEPC et habite à Sanaa.

"En lisant les interviews de membres du gouvernement yéménite, j'ai constaté qu'ils disent tous la même chose. Ils font beaucoup de promesses, annonçant la modernisation de pays grâce aux ressources pétrolières.

Mais tout cela, ce sont des mots, qui n'ont pas de rapport avec la réalité. Et je me demande, si les pays voisins tiennent compte de tous ces discours. Sont-ils au courant de la situation sociale et économique du Yémen? Quelles que soient les difficultés, nous

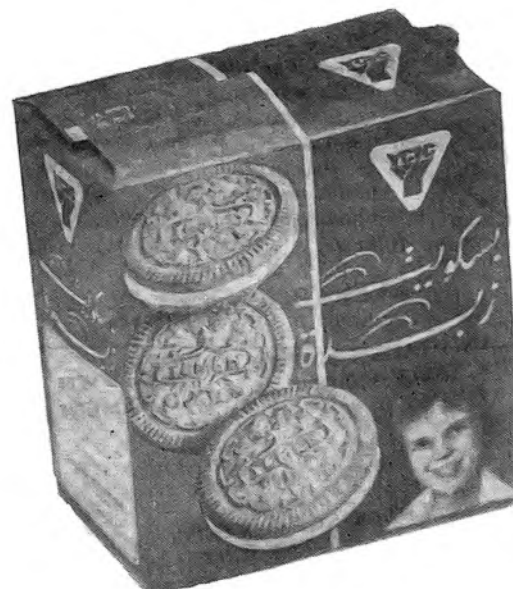
devons nous rappeler que notre pays a beaucoup souffert, que nous sommes au 31e anniversaire de la Révolution, au troisième de l'unification.

Pour autant, devons-nous fermer les yeux sur la corruption. Il faut punir ceux qui privilégient leur intérêt personnel et familial avant l'intérêt national. Nous devons développer la morale.

Je voudrais dire à chaque membre du gouvernement qu'il est le représentant de tous les Yéménites. Nous sommes capables de supporter beaucoup de choses, mais nous ne voulons pas être oubliés."

بسكوت أبو ولد

الأفضل لتغذية الصغار،
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ABU WALAD

BISCUITS

ENVIRONNEMENT

Jardins de Sanaa

Ilots de verdure sur fonds ocre des maisons traditionnelles, les jardins de la vieille ville de Sanaa sont menacés. Il n'y a plus assez d'eau pour les cultiver dans leur totalité. Des espaces vierges que certains utiliseraient bien pour la spéculation immobilière.

Une vieille femme est accroupie arrachant les mauvaises herbes dans son carré de légumes. Nous sommes dans la vieille ville de Sanaa, dans l'un de ces jardins, qui depuis des siècles fournit la ville en légumes frais (onions, salades, sorgho, fruits des cactus...). Ces terrains appartiennent aux Awqafs, les biens religieux, qui depuis toujours les louent pour une somme modique à des familles aujourd'hui, dans cet ilot

de verdure, qui a pour nom Al-Boustan Al-Abhar, un quart seulement de l'espace est encore cultivé.

Un arbre mort, le tronc et les branches blanchis par le soleil, symbolise l'abandon progressif des cultures. La terre nue conserve encore les traces délimitant les carrés de culture. Il n'y a plus assez d'eau pour cultiver l'ensemble du jardin. Les quatre familles vivent pourtant

dessus. L'espace encore cultivé l'est grâce aux ablutions de la mosquée qui borde le jardin. De plus en plus, la culture est faite par les femmes et les enfants. Les hommes qui sont allés à l'école essaient de trouver un autre travail leur fournissant un revenu plus élevé.

Abandon des cultures

L'augmentation de la consommation d'eau avec la vie moderne (introduction des salles de bain...) a asséché les puits qui fournissaient l'eau bienfaitrice aux jardins. Il y en avait environ 45 répartis dans la vieille ville.

D'une profondeur de 20 à 30 mètres, la plupart sont asséchés aujourd'hui. Celui du Megshamat Al-Souk Al-Mihl est resté imposant avec ses pierres de taille. Une rampe avait été construite sur laquelle évoluaient les chameaux chargés de tirer l'eau du puits. Une citerne en béton avait été construite au-dessus quand les habitants étaient passés à la motopompe. Mais aujourd'hui, plus rien ne fonctionne. Il n'y a plus d'eau.

Douze puits encore en activité

Seuls une douzaine de puits sont encore en activité. Pour chercher l'eau désormais, il faut creuser des puits de 250 mètres de profondeur. Et cela coûte cher. Trop cher pour arroser les jardins. Le GOPHCY (Organisation générale de préservation des villes historiques du Yémen) a calculé qu'environ 45 % de la surface totale des jardins (165 000 m²) est négligée.

Certains jardins ont la mosquée, qui déverse en abondance les eaux usées des ablu-

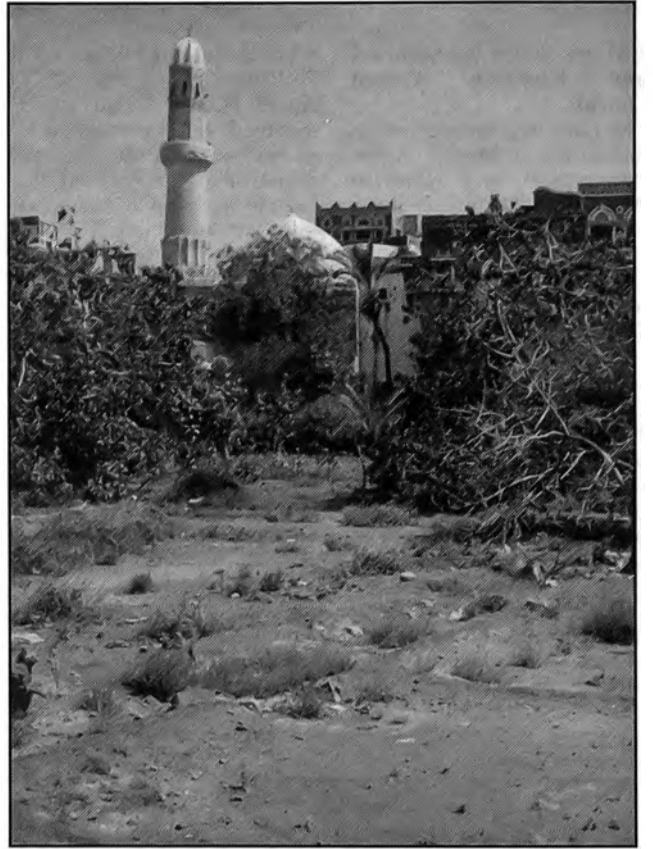
tions des fidèles. C'est le cas du jardin Megshamat Al-Jamal Kabir. L'ensemble du jardin est cultivé et cinq familles vivent dessus.

Les espaces laissés à l'abandon attirent les convoitises. Les spéculateurs immobiliers grignotent peu à peu ces espaces verts. Il suffit de comparer, la carte de la vieille ville dessinée en 1929 par deux Allemands, Rathjens et Wissmann, et celle d'aujourd'hui, pour constater cette progression (voir ci-contre). En 1929, la partie ouest de la vieille ville était composée essentiellement de jardins. Aujourd'hui, certains subsistent dans cette partie de la ville, mais ils ne sont de plus en plus menacés.

Techniques d'irrigation

C'est pour faire face à cette menace que le GOPHCY, et notamment le département d'études et de coopération technique dirigé par deux Allemands veut lancer un projet de sauvegarde de ces jardins. "Il faut préserver le microclimat de la vieille ville. Les Megshamat et les Boustans sont les seuls endroits de la vieille ville avec de grands arbres. Partout ailleurs, comme par exemple le long du wadi Sailah, ils ont disparu", explique Heribert Bachem, qui a rédigé le projet.

"Nous voulons encourager les agriculteurs de



Une partie de ce jardin de la vieille ville a été abandonné. La terre s'est desséchée. Au fond près de la mosquée, quelques parcelles sont encore cultivées.

ces jardins à utiliser des techniques d'irrigation qui consomment beaucoup moins d'eau. Il faut leur démontrer qu'avec moins d'eau, ils peuvent faire pousser aussi bien". Quelques agriculteurs seraient apparemment intéressés.

Pour financer ce projet, le GOPHCY cherche des donateurs. Au départ, il propose chance d'être proches d'une grande puits s'est tari il y a sept ans. Mais

(environ 25 % de sa surface est à l'abandon), le Megshamat Al-Ahbar et le Boustan Al-Joza, dont seulement 10 % de la surface est encore cultivé (depuis deux ans, la canalisation d'eau venant de la mosquée Falahi ne fonctionne plus).

Jérôme BERNARD spon- sors. Au départ, il propose chance d'être proches d'une grande puits s'est tari il y a sept ans. Mais

La vieille ville de Sanaa en 1929...



et aujourd'hui



Le grignotage de l'espace vert dans le vieux Sanaa est visible quand on compare la carte dessinée en 1929 par les Allemands Rathjens et Wissmann et celle tracée par le GOPHCY. L'ouest de la ville a été envahi par les constructions.

En Bref

Archives nationales du Yémen: Jean Luquet, expert des Archives nationales de France, en mission au Yémen dans le cadre du projet d'Archives nationales du Yémen, a déclaré au cours de son séjour: "Les familles yéménites qui fourniront des documents historiques rendront un grand service au pays". "Nous utiliserons des papiers spéciaux pour conserver les documents et j'espère qu'il y aura un système informatique", a-t-il ajouté. Blandine Blukacz, volontaire des Nations Unies pour ce projet, a tenu à recueillir l'un de ses propos publiés dans le Yemen Times: "Je tiens à dire que les Yéménites comprennent très bien l'aspect patrimonial des archives". Il faut ménager certaines susceptibilités.

Environnement: Les habitants d'Al-Rawdah ont eu une heureuse initiative. Jeudi 22 juillet, ils ont décidé de nettoyer la ville de toutes ses ordures. La protection de l'environnement commence à intéresser les Yéménites.

L'Arabie Saoudite accuse l'Iran de la responsabilité de la chute des prix du pé-

trole: Le ministre saoudien du Pétrole vient d'accuser récemment l'Iran d'"être le seul responsable de la chute des prix" du pétrole. "Toutes les revues pétrolières sont unanimes sur le fait que la production de l'Iran a dépassé son quota de plus de 227 000 barils par jour en juin." Le quota de l'Iran attribué par l'OPEP est de 3,34 millions de barils par jour pour le troisième trimestre.

Liban, l'argot du canon: Alors que le canon s'est tu dans leur pays, après quinze ans de guerre civile, les jeunes Libanais inventent un nouvel argot à base de termes militaires. D'une jolie fille, ils disent ainsi qu'elle "a les yeux comme un radar anti-aérien, des sourcils beaux comme des tranchées du front" ou qu'elle est ardente "comme une balle tchèque". Une moins gâtée par la nature devient "une auto-chenille" (trop grosse), avec "des hanches de démineur" et "un nez comme un T45", char d'assaut.

"En prêtant l'oreille aux conversations de mes étudiants, j'ai repéré un nouvel argot incompréhensible aux gens de ma génération",

explique Nader Sraj, professeur de linguistique à l'Université libanaise. "J'ai entamé en 1987 une étude qui m'a permis de collecter plus de 200 expressions nouvelles se rapportant aux termes militaires, après avoir fait remplir à mes étudiants et leurs amis 600 questionnaires", a-t-il précisé. "Parce que la société civile a été militarisée pendant seize ans, le langage a naturellement suivi", explique-t-il. Celui qui s'exprime trop lentement "parle balle à balle", le menteur "fait voler les obus" et celui qui critique durement "bombarde comme le New-Jersey", en souvenir du cuirassier américain qui pilonnait les crêtes surplombant Beyrouth en 1983. Autres exemples: "Par ton bombardement aveugle" (conversation incompréhensible), "tu m'as mis sur une bouche de canon" (dans de beaux draps), alors que j'étais "la balle de ton fusil" (à ton service).



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صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٩٥٢ - ٢٤٠٧٠٢ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ فاجيل يمن فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحدیة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكس: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ فاكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكس: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

• Muna Salim Basherheel and Khowlah Ahmed Sharaf:

The only two female parliamentarians, Muna Salim Basherheel and Khowlah Ahmed Sharaf, have received invitations from the US Congress to visit the USA in order to exchange notes. The dates for the trip have yet to be fixed.

• Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar:

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and Chairman of the Yemeni Popular Committee to Support Bosnia and Herzegovina, has called on the merchants and traders to attend a meeting in his home, tomorrow, Monday August 9th. This is a fund-raising meeting.

• Anees Hassan Yahia:

Parliamentarian and YSP Anees Hassan Yahia stated that the level of corruption is so pervasive in the Yemeni society that it is like AIDS, "eating away on all the good things in our society." He indicated that interest groups stand in the way of any law and order, in the way of the enforcement of the constitution, and in the way of the application of Reform Package.

• Abdullah Ahmed Ghanem:

Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Ghanem, Minister of Justice, returned to Sanaa this week. The Minister participated in the Executive Council of the Arab Justice Ministers held in Cairo last week. More inter-Arab cooperation in tackling drug traffic and other issues are envisaged.

• Abdullah Al-Baraddoni:

Poet, thinker and philosopher Abdullah Al-Baraddoni returned to Sanaa last week following his participation in the Twelfth Jerash Festival celebrated in Jordan. He expressed his deep satisfaction with the activities of the Jerash festival.

• Mohammed Mohsen Atroosh, Awadh Ahmed, and Mohammed Maisari:

The trio of Yemeni singers and artists are putting the final touches on a new joint effort. Atroosh, Ahmed and Maisari are going to participate in the name of Abyan governorate in the annual Babel Festival for Fine Arts to be held in Baghdad next month. Several journalists from Abyan are accompanying the three singers.

• Qadhi Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi:

Qadhi Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi, member of the Presidential Council, returned last week following a medical treatment trip to Europe. They say he feels better.

• Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh:

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, Director of the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research, has just completed co-authoring a book on the poetry of seven Arab cities. The other co-authors are prominent Arab poets and writers including Jamal Al-Ghaitani, Ali Ja'afar Al-A'laq, Al-Munsif Al-Wahaibi, Mahmood Darweesh, and Faisal Jalool. The book is expected to go to print next month, and should be in the market a short time thereafter.

• Mohammed Abdo Saeed:

Prominent businessman and one of the Hayel Saeed Anam leaders, Mohammed Abdo Saeed, has broken off from the monotonous world of business. He has taken one month leave. His secretary says he has left strict orders not to be interrupted.

• Abdul-Salam Khaled Karman:

Mr. Abdul-Salam Khaled Karman, Minister of Legal Affairs, has chaired this week the Committee for Parties and Political Organizations. The Committee, which is responsible for licensing political parties, was re-structured last week. It includes as members Abdullah Ahmed Ghanem, Qadhi Ali Hamood Al-Dailami, Lawyers Ahmed Al-Wadeyi and Mohammed Hamood Munassar.

• Hussain Al-Maswari:

Colonel Hussain Al-Maswari, Mayor of Sanaa, has been busy over the last few days pushing projects to clean-up the city. The mayor told a large meeting of all officials concerned with the issue, Mr. Al-Maswari explained that the total daily garbage disposed in Sanaa has reached 800 tons. "Our capacity is to handle less than half that volume," he disclosed. A major clean-up is expected to start next week.

• Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby:

Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, is pushing ahead in full force, regarding the reforms and revitalization of his ministry. He is presently concentrating on getting the textbooks come September.

Teaching Yemeni Women the Virtues of Breastfeeding

By: **Mervat Duweikat,**
Yemen Times.

In celebrating the Second World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August), the Republic of Yemen joins the international community to promote, support and protect natural breastfeeding. In this context, Dr. Hassan Sugulle, Officer in charge at UNICEF (Yemen), explains, "Yemen has adopted the theme, 'Optimal Breastfeeding' and the universal slogan 'Breastfeeding is Best'." Optimal breastfeeding, Sugulle explains, means, "all women should be enabled to practise breastfeeding and all infants should be fed exclusively on breastmilk from birth to four-six months of age. Thereafter, children should continue to be breastfed, while receiving appropriate and adequate complementary foods, for up to two years of age or beyond." The theme is chosen by Yemen in view of the declining duration of breast-



feeding, in general and exclusive breastfeeding, in particular. "This trend is a major concern for UNICEF as its reversal and arrest constitute a central strategy in child survival programs. On this occasion therefore, we would like to re-appeal to parents, officials, UNICEF partners and health workers to observe to undertake vigorously the promotion, support and protection of breastfeeding," states the UNICEF official. In this regard, UNICEF proposes to undertake joint efforts which involve the following steps:



1. Urging mothers to initiate breastfeeding immediately after birth, and making sure the newborn feeds with the colostrum.
2. Making arrangements to ensure that the newborn and mother are together at all times, especially in the infant's early weeks. This

will facilitate the psychosocial development of the infant as well as successful and optimal lactation. This issue concerns mainly career mothers.
3. Teaching the mothers to breastfeed the baby on

demand. In this way, when to feed will be dictated by the hunger of the baby and not by the clock.

- Instructing the mothers not to give the baby anything else except breastmilk until he/she is four-months old. Not even water!
- Avoid bottles, teats or pacifiers.

In addition to the above proposals, UNICEF appeals to health care facilities to adopt the "Baby Friendly Hospital; Initiative."

We are pushing the hospitals of Yemen to become "Baby-friendly" explained Dr. Zein Ahmed Zein, a UNICEF consultant. That means that the hospital will push breastfeeding among its patients and will avoid powder baby-milk. "If we succeed in making our hospitals and health centers 'baby-friendly', then we can capture at least 100,000 babies every year.. You see, each year, some 600,000 babies are born in Yemen, of these about 100,000 are delivered in hospitals and health centers," explained Dr. Zein. The Sab'een Hospital in Sanaa has already become 'Baby-friendly' and we are working with it.

On Thursday, August 5th, Health Vice Minister Dr. Awadh Ba-Matraf was at hand at the Sab'een Hospital to inaugurate in the graduation of the first batch of 'Baby-friendly' nurses and lactation specialists. "The sixteen women who were graduated represent the core personnel for the drive to teach Yemeni mothers and parents the importance of breast-feeding.

There is a draft law since 1983. The law entitled, "Protection and Encouragement of Breast-feeding and Regulation of Marketing of Baby Food," is also oriented towards the same UNICEF goals - breastfeeding. Vice Minister Ba-Matraf, in a statement to the Yemen Times during the inaugura-



tion ceremony, promised to support the UNICEF and other efforts in this regard, and pledged to push for the enactment of the law.

The WHO (World Health Organization) representative in Yemen, Dr. Yasseen Qinawi, stated that as a result of complications due to artificial feeding, 31% of the Yemeni infants suffer from diarrhea. "Therefore, it is critical that parents learn to breast-feed their infants," he added.

Dr. Fawzia Hamid Ga'afar, Assistant Director-General of Health Education at the Ministry of Health, pointed out that a joint committee had been formed to assist in promoting natural breast-feeding practices. "We are working through the media and by informing the general public the virtues of direct mother-infant relations. One important aspect of that is breastfeeding," she said.

Dr. Fawzia indicated that although 90% of the Yemeni mothers breast-feed their infants, only 5% do it on an exclusive basis. "Most mothers depend increasingly on other sources, such as powder baby-milk, to supplement the mother's milk

from an early stage of the infant's life," she added.

According to a UNICEF survey regarding the prevalence of breastfeeding, 83.1% of the rural mothers and 61.2% of the urban mothers of the northern gov-

ernorates of Yemen (former YAR) breastfeed their 3-6 months infants. The percentages are 82% and 71% in the southern governorates (former PDRY).

This is the start of an important message to mothers."

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YEMENI TELEVISION AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

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

When I say future, I mean the very near future, measured in years or even months. And when I say challenge, I refer to the inevitable, fatal confrontation Yemeni Television is likely to face very shortly. It is no lie nor more illusion that in a very short time, recipients or spectators all over the world receive TV broadcasts directly without even needing satellite dishes and receivers. When the spectator shall have full choice of channels being transmitted from numerous satellites hovering over our heads. I have a hunch that most of those who have installed satellite dishes and receivers do not watch local TV broadcasts anymore, some of them even suggested cancelling thereof altogether, a bad joke of course. This problem is not easy to deal with, yet the case is not fully hopeless, as remedies are always there if the will to change is present. I can confidently say that the level of Yemeni TV (both channels) has risen during the past two years, shyly trying to break through various social and traditional barriers to deliver the message of keeping people in touch with the world. Excuses may be understandable, claiming that most of the people cannot get hold of Sat. receivers may be true time being, but what then...? Some officials (which is true throughout the Arab

world) claim that TV programs should always keep a medium level to meet the requirements of the majority (they mean laymen) and that intensified cultural dosage may cause boredom to the spectators. On the other hand stand those who claim defence of ethics, pre-texting the lack of worthy entertainment, with those two trends, the spectator is the main loser. In no time (with full respect to the efforts of officials), channels 1 and 2 of our TV will drop into oblivion unless major changes are introduced. We have to force our way in or else accept being thrown out. Increasing broadcasting hours is a necessity, full time broadcast during Fridays and holidays is also as important. Increasing channels and airing specialized and focussed programs will also help. There can be one for high quality cultural material, such as plays, movies and so on. Another could be dedicated to sports or to foreign languages broadcasting. Such arrangement is a model solution based on granting the spectator several local options before turning to look elsewhere. As competition with direct international transmissions intensify, even more steps are needed such as allowing the establishment of private TV stations, cable TV techniques. What I am saying is that the government has a duty to encourage local contributions, even from the private sector, to come on its side in the competition with

foreign programs. This may save some of the local culture to a far more extent than the notorious routine of the two government channels can achieve.

I am not calling for chaos, as a certain degree of control or management of the situation is always required, but it seems that in a short time we will have no chance but to play the game according to international rules. So why not start at once.

Last Wednesday, Channel One interrupted an entertainment program, which was of great interest to the public. The announcer simply said that there was an important political announcement to be reported. It turned out to be a political oratory. I personally switched off the set. If I had the choice, I would have gone to another channel.

I would like to ask our officials, what would prevent any viewers from turning to other channels if these were available, once they are dissatisfied with the programs on Channels One and Two. This option is increasingly becoming available. I am not against showing the political activities and 'achievements' of our officials, but I am for limiting them to a reasonable and tolerable extent. Otherwise they backfire.

Yemen chose a free political system, and the peaceful nature of its people makes them ready to accept change and deal with it. Thus, to allow more air time for purposes other than the ruler's 'achievements' is a basic necessity. But for

Yemen, as I said, the issue is manageable. I wonder what other totalitarian regimes in the region where the ruler's news occupies 90% of the broadcast hours would do?

To signify the importance of cable TV, we note that in the USA the number of spectators increased from 17 million to 56 million in the period from 1980 to 1992. This form of entertainment can be provided and even directed as the material is selected locally, unlike the satellite transmissions from overseas.

Lack of resources is no excuse as any of the many loans and grants could be utilized. Local capital is also able to establish its own stations. Television is, and will remain, the most important tool in influencing the attitude of society whether we like it or not. It is also the main tool for entertainment. Being internationalized in the way we see now, creating a worthy local competitor is a must, from the cultural, social and political points of view. I don't think that any government in the world would easily swallow its population being directed by those others. There is also the quality of introduction personnel, the poor standard of Arabic language the inconsistency of the artistic value of the material, and many other ailments that shall be remedied. The first step is to find new and acceptable announcers who daily come into our homes through the small screen. The TV stations must solicit

very good and qualified persons to present their programs - not persons who are politically reliable, but persons who will do the job to the viewer's satisfaction. We can benefit from other more experienced television stations in the region. The Jordanian television comes to my mind.

I put these issues along with my fears regarding our ability to compete in front of the officials in the ministry of information and television authorities of both channels. The purpose is to get ready for the new age of communications which has already fallen on us. There will come a time, very shortly, when the national transmissions will be marginalized as viewers

choose to watch the more entertaining and informative material aired from the rest of the world. The only way to stop this would be to remove the TV sets from the homes of the people, which, of course, cannot happen.

I am, therefore, calling on the authorities to seriously study the idea of giving the private sector a chance in establishing their own TV stations. The idea of trying to increase the number of channels and scope of programs is also worth our consideration.

The choices are simple - either we accept the reality of the coming situation and interact with it in the most beneficial way, or to close our eyes and reject it and wither away.

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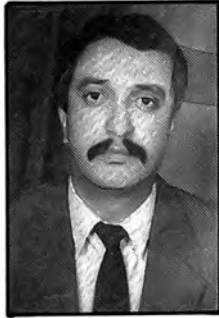
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Pharmacists Propose Joint Arab Medical Investments

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times.



Dr. Abdulkarim Dammaj

The 53rd round of the Executive Office of the Federation of Arab Pharmacists concluded its meetings in Sanaa last week. During the three-day talks (2-4/8/1993) which were attended by delegates from various Arab countries, the group discussed possible cooperation. "One of the key things we are now pushing is joint Arab investments in producing medicine and medical supplies," explained Dr. Ali Mohammed Ibrahim, the Chairman of the Federation. "We have also agreed to exchange experience and expertise in this regard," he added.

Dr. Ibrahim indicated that the world is moving towards larger entities, and the

smaller entities cannot compete in this world. It is this reason that makes us urge the Arab countries to get together, and create larger factories to produce the region's medical needs. The Arab official also indicated that the discussions covered coordination in scientific research as well as the need to enact laws that contain similar requirements in all Arab countries

Dr. Abdul-Kareem Qassim Dammaj, Chief of the Yemeni Syndicate for Medical Doctors and Pharmacists, pointed out the talks were fruitful.

"The Federation also agreed to provide some assistance to Yemen, specially in the form of technical assistance," he said.

In conclusion, he expressed happiness for the Federation of Arab Pharmacists to choose Sanaa for their meeting. "It shows their high regard for our country and its achievements, on the one hand, and for the active participation in the Arab arena of the Yemeni Syndicate for Medical Doctors and Pharmacists," explained Dr. Dammaj.

The Arab delegates were able during the visit to meet with various local officials,

including Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas.

"There was one little snag in the whole thing," quipped one observer. The group did not see the Minister of Health at any time, as if the Minister was not interested in their efforts. Another observer pointed to the lack of minimum congruence and harmony among the various Yemeni politicians. "Dr. A. Dammaj is a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party, while the Minister of Health is an Islah member," he said. It is really sad that, even for the sake of show to the outside visitors, Yemen's senior officials cannot project a unified stand in interacting with them.

We hope the Minister of Health has a good reason for staying away from the meetings and the delegates.

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THE REASON FOR LOVING EVERY SEASON

Helping the Physically-Handicapped Become Mobile

Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times interviewed Colonel Ahmed Hamood Al-Saqqaf, Director General of the Physical Therapy and Natural Health Center in Sana'a. Excerpts from the interview.

Q: When was this center established, and what is the number of employees and specialists working in it?

A: The center was built in 1978, and it was officially inaugurated in 1982. There are 85 persons working in the center. That includes the management as well as health personnel.

Q: What kind of services does the center provide?

A: We interact with two groups of people. The first group is the physically handicapped. People who are not mobile because of birth defects or injuries. For this group of people, we provide various tools and equipments that will give them mobility. I am talking of crutches, wheel chairs, and many other things like special shoes, etc.

Let me just stress on you that by giving a person mobility, you change his/her life totally. It is a wonderful thing to do to make a person mobile.

The second group of people we help are people who need electric treatment, physical therapy, massage, guided exercise, etc. These are patients with problems of the joints, backbone aches, paralyses, nerve problems, rheumatism, early epilepsy and other similar diseases. We are the only center in the country that offer this service, therefore, you will see crowds and long queues in front of every machine we have.

Q: In helping the handicapped, from where do you get the gadgets?

A: We have a technical department which is a workshop which produces many of these products such as helping sticks, indicat shoes, backbone helpers, walking sticks, substitute limbs (industrial arms, legs, etc.) and wheel chairs.

Q: How many cases do you deal with, on average. Say the first half of 1993.

A: Let me give you the numbers of our patients in the first half of 1993 in three categories:

1. X-ray and similar services which help determine the problem, and hence the appropriate treatment : 5,800 patients.
2. Patients enrolled in our physical therapy program such as massage, electric and wave/current shock treatment, etc. : 5,912 persons.
3. Patients who do exercises under the direct and regular guidance of our specialists: 5,974 persons.

Q: What are the difficulties facing the center?

A: We face a shortage in trained local technical staff, so are obliged to get foreign workers. The complications that arise out of this are enormous.

We have a major shortfall in financial allocations, thus limiting what we can do for our patients. You see we cater to the poorer segment of the population; therefore, they do not constitute a pressure group on the group to attend to their needs.

Q: Have you approached charity organizations and businessmen for help?

A: So far, no charity or private donations reach our center. We may intensify that approach.

Q: Any help from international organizations?

A: Yes, from UNICEF.

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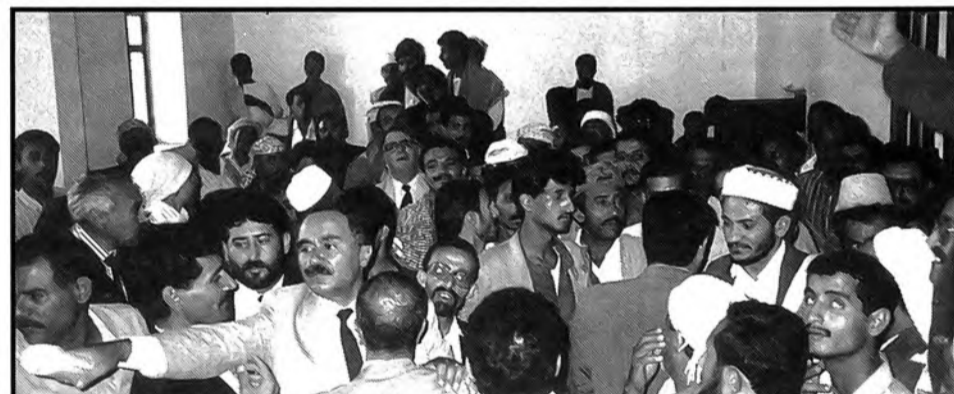
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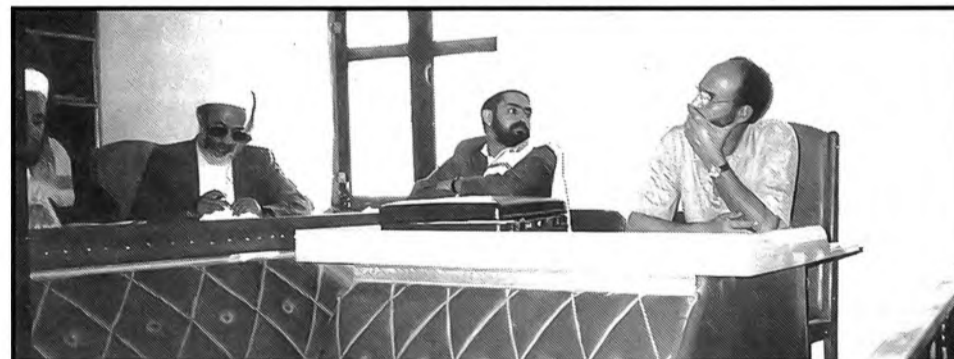
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Rothmans Mitsubishi Teams Triumph

The Rothmans Mitsubishi Sonauto Ralliart Team scored their third victory in the 1993 FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies when Bruno/Dominique Serieys (Pajero T3) won last month's Baja Aragon Rally. Baja Aragon is unique among World Cup events, because competitors cover 800 kilo-meters of racing in a single day. Despite being so short, it is incredibly tough, run in semi-desert conditions, with intense heat and choking dust among the hazards. This puts tremendous pressure on the crews. After experiencing in-car temperatures up to 60 degrees centigrade, and setting an amazing average speed (including stops) of 78.64 km/h, the exhausted Saby had to be helped from his Pajero at the finish. "This was one of the hardest drives of my career," he said. "To get a result on this event, a driver has to give everything and more." The Rothmans-Mitsubishi teams trained vry hard for



the rally, and were thus able to achieve good results. The first and third positions in the race were occupied by the Rothmans-Mitsubishi drivers as follows:
1. B.Saby - D. Serieys: Rothmans Mitsubishi Pajero at 9.21.27
2. P. Lartigue - M. Perin: Citroen ZX at 12.20
3. E. Weber - M. Heimer: Rothmans Mitsubishi Pajero, at 16.02
 A puncture lost the chance of

winning for the 3rd Rothmans Mitsubishi team: Al-Hajri and Magne. "It happened after only ten kilometers of the event, and we were then held up by slower vehicles for the next 400 kilometers," said Al-Hajri, Qatar's champion. The Hajri-Magne team, at 37.25, finished 7th place.
 The next race for the Rothmans-Mitsubishi teams will be in Pharaohs Rally in October 3-13, 1993.

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• Analysis •

Prime Minister Al-Attas:
"We now have a new formula."

By: Fathy Al-Adeemi,
Yemen Times.

Speaking about the tripartite arrangements that brought together the PGC, YSP and Islah in a coalition government, Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas said, "We now have a new formula for the inter-relationship and for working together."

In a press conference held on Wednesday, August 4th, the Prime Minister responded to a torrent of harsh questions from the local and international media. Following the press conference, one Ministry of Information remarked, "It is getting more and more tough to face the media. Even 'our guys' are asking questions we would like them not to."

The Prime Minister indicated that his new government is going to work on three main priorities: the security situation, economic conditions and the management of resources. "These are the three areas which command our attention and which shall have over-riding priority," he said.

The PM said that unlike the transitional period, we shall now be unable to tolerate any law-breakers - whether inside the government or outside.

Witty and extremely alert, the master politician played to the press folks by forcefully stating that there will be a new pay scale regarding the journalists and media persons that will do them justice. The journalists believed that to mean a raise in the salary.

The Prime Minister also got out well of what would have traditionally been an embarrassing question. "We have proof of Yemeni Jews going to Israel. What do you say?" one of the reporters asked.

"The laws of Yemen guarantee freedom of



Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas

travel for all persons. We cannot deny that right to a person just because he is Jewish. But given, the Arab boycott laws, to which Yemen is signatory, any person dealing with Israel is subject to the punishments stipulated in the laws," he answered.

About the army, the PM stated, "Of course it is unified." And of course, it all depends on what you mean by unified.

Al-Attas then said that his government will specially cater to the need of investors - both local and foreign. "We will do our utmost to make the private sector work efficiently and at ease. Our plans call for providing all needed assistance to the investors," he said.

World Officials Exchange Visits with Yemen...

According to Yemen Times sources, the rapprochement between Yemen and many countries has been cemented, and that arrangements are underway for exchange of visits.

On August 25th, former US President Jimmy Carter is expected to land in Sanaa for a one-week visit. Carter is the special guest of Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council. The former US pres-

ident has been increasingly involved in efforts to promote human rights and democratic systems worldwide.

Come October, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed, ruler of the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, is scheduled to visit the Republic of Yemen. Also in October, Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao is planning a visit, if internal Indian politics allow.

An official at the Presidential Office also expressed hope that His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, President of the fraternal United Arab Emirates, will show up in Sanaa before this year is out.

At another level, Yemeni Foreign Minister, Mohammed Salim Ba-

Sindiwah, expects to make a tour of Europe later this year. London is high on his agenda.

to diplomatic sources in Sanaa, the Prime Minister, Mr. Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, is also making tentative arrangements for a trip to Europe early next year.

Meanwhile, steady progress is being made between Yemen and the rest of countries on the Arabian Peninsula. Qatar has gone ahead and named an ambassador to Sanaa, while the UAE has lifted its restrictions of the travel of Yemen to the UAE. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is expected to shortly make an important gesture towards Yemen in the same direction.

Editor's Note:

Given the advertisement volume, readers may please bear with us until we move to a 20-page format in about six weeks.

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