



THEY HAVE AGREED



By: Yemen Times Staff

Everybody was barely saying, "Thank God, they have agreed." There was a sigh of relief, all around, but not for long. Yes, following long and hard negotiations, the PGC and YSP leaderships concluded an agreement, to which the Islah is a silent partner. The Coalition Negotiation Committee of the three parties headed by Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani (for PGC), Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman (for YSP) and Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi (for Islah) have hammered out a seven point deal that is acceptable to all sides. "The deal is subject certain refinements, but it has been concluded three daily meetings over the last few days," according to a senior PGC source. These seven points are supplemented by a vast array of detailed action plans. This is the

first time that an agreement is supplemented by a plan of action which gives this agreement a new flavor, and, shall we hope, more credibility. The President of the Republic, Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh was also upbeat about the deal. "You should never think that we will allow the situation to get out of hand or resort to violence. Of course, we have differences, but we talk about them, and we find ways to resolve them," he said speaking to a group of businessmen who came to express their anxiety and worry. The President was visibly upset with the rumors circulated about the frightening scenarios that could emerge from the dispute. He has gone through a lot of pain to pacify all persons and groups who visited him. Yet, Friday October 29th was a very tense day. Early in the morning of that day, armed men

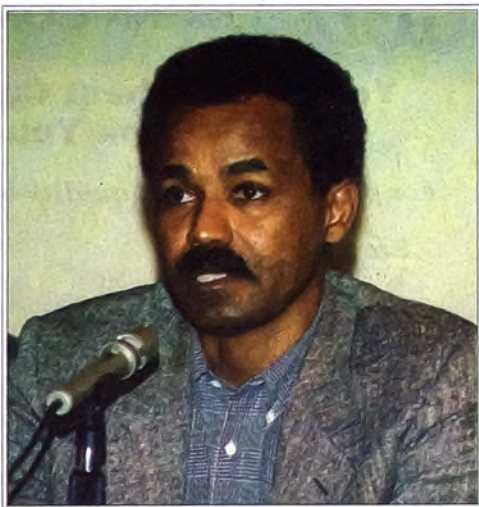
gunned down the nephew of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh and injured one of his sons in an ambush in Mansoorah, Aden. The murdered person was a university student and the Al-Beedhs were on a family call to visit their aunt on Friday, as is the local tradition. This incident has again indicated the precarious nature of the security situation. Ministry of Interior sources say that they are working to arrest the criminals, and everybody is hoping there are no political motives behind the incident, although that is hard to discard given the timing and the targeted persons. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and Head of Islah Party, pleaded on Wednesday (by telephone) with Al-Beedh to return to Sanaa and perform the oath that is required by the constitution. Parliament had adjourned for two weeks, and will return to

session tomorrow, Monday, November 1st. "We had taken this unplanned recess so that there is time for Mr. Al-Beedh to think about the whole thing, and we had hoped that a deal could be reached according to which he will return to Sanaa," Sheikh Abdullah told the Yemen Times. A deal was reached, and Al-Beedh had agreed to return before the Friday incident. Al-Beedh has positively responded to pleas from Yemeni as well as foreign circles. "If we can implement some of the demands, and agree on a time-table to implement the others, then I shall return," he was quoted as having told some mediators. In Yemen, several delegations and committees have been formed to bridge the gap between the PGC and YSP leaderships. Externally, Oman and Jordan have intervened.

Continues on Page 18

Ambassador Jabra:

"ERITREAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO YEMEN CEMENTS BILATERAL RELATIONS."



The President of the Republic of Eritrea, His Excellency Asias Afewerke has arrived in Sanaa, yesterday, Saturday, October 30th, on an official visit to the Republic. The Eritrean President and the accompanying senior delegation will have high-powered talks with the Yemeni authorities aimed at establishing new levels of

cooperation between the two countries which are separated by the Red Sea. In a statement to the Yemen Times, the Eritrean Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Mahmood Ali Jabra, said that the visit comes to re-affirm the special relations between the two countries. "You will remember that there is a substantial

Yemeni community in Eritrea, and likewise, there is a large Eritrean community in Yemen," he said. He added that the talks will also address the recent developments in the Horn of Africa. The Yemen Times has carried out an exclusive interview with President Afewerke, to be published next week.

'Mediators' Meet Leaders of Ruling Coalition

The Group of Twenty (G-20), now officially known as the Federation of Patriotic Forces (FPF), who have been mediating between the two ALI's, have held many meetings among themselves and with the leaders of the tripartite ruling coalition. Yesterday, Saturday October 30th, they met with Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the People's General Congress (PGC). They have also met with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and President of the Supreme Preparatory Committee of Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah). On Thursday, the group has met with Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman, President of the Secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). The G-20 has also held repeated meetings with the Group of Nine (Three representatives of each of the PGC, YSP and Islah) who have been meeting among themselves, as well. The G-20 no longer seeks to reconcile the two ALIs, but it wants to clarify its own position and demands vis-a-vis the main issues on the Yemeni political scene.

Read more details on page 7

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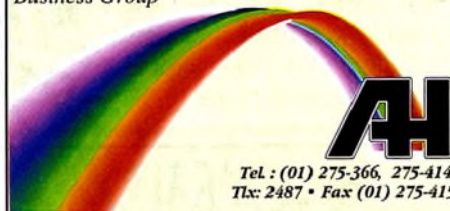
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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Ideals and the Malaise

A friend of mine wrote to me a letter explaining the creeping change of attitude because of repeated frustration of working in a senseless environment in our country. "When I returned (from the Gulf), I came with a lot of feeling and idealism; but I guess idealism is considered childish these days when everything seems to have a price tag. I don't want to become disillusioned..."

There is no doubt that this country has been struck by a plague, or more mildly by a malaise. A prevalent sense of carelessness, irresponsibility, opportunism and an extreme case of selfish behavior. I attribute this to the regime which has planted this mentality and even nurtured its growth and prevalence.

As long as the behavior of individuals does not directly affect the "throne" of the rulers, they are oblivious to what happens. In some cases, the rulers themselves unleash their proteges and enable them to carve out for themselves little empires (government bodies) and, in a parasitic way, suck the blood of their fellow country-men. That is how a small group of officers and government officials have become rich beyond imagination. As one observer noted, "You don't see this level of open corruption in any country in the world." Another visitor remarked, "In other societies, the president's men carry off 10%, maybe 20%, or even 30% of the pie. In your country, they take the whole pie."

Just like my friend wrote, I also don't want to become disillusioned. I think that idealism and a sublime and elevated sense of being is essential if our lives are to acquire meaning. Otherwise, what is the meaning of a pile of rocks, which people call palace or villa. That is why we have to wage war on this parasitic and opportunistic mentality that has pervaded our society. We need more people who believe in ideals to fight off the crooks!

The Publisher
عبد العزيز
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Environment Mission to Arrive Next Week

A UNESCO/ROSTAS mission will arrive in Yemen on November 2nd. A second group from GEF/UNDP arrives on the 10th.

Both groups will study issues related to the bio-diversity and natural conservation in Yemen.

The first group within its fact-finding mission will focus on Socotra within the MAB (Man And Biosphere program).

The second group will do a field survey and study at Al-Hawf area in Al-Maharah governorate. This study will spill-over to include parts of Dhofar in neighboring Oman.

A leading Yemeni participant in the study is Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, Director-General of Environmental Protection Directorate at EPC.

Dr. Iryani in Tokyo

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Minister of Planning and Development, leaves Sanaa next week on an official visit to Tokyo. Dr. Al-Iryani will discuss cooperation and Japanese assistance to the development effort of Yemen.

Yemen's Second Kidney Center at Hodeidah

Yemen's second kidney center will be inaugurated this week in Hodeidah under the auspices of the Minister of Health. Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Hammami, General Manager of Al-Thawrah Hospital, and one of the key promoters of the project, indicated that the center comes as the result of joint efforts by the hospital, the Hodeidah Local Council and the Association of Friends of Kidney Patients. He also pointed out that Gambro of Sweden has provided the machines at the clinic.

Dr. Hammami mentioned that kidney patients suffered enormously from the Gulf Crisis as the services they needed were readily available in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and not in Yemen. Gradually, the service is being made available, and at a manageable cost. The first kidney center is at Al-Thawrah Hospital in Sanaa.

The Al-Thawrah Hospital's official also praised the role of various organizations in helping kidney patients. He especially mentioned the decision of the chairman of the Land Transportation Authority of transporting any kidney free of charge to the Sanaa Kidney Center. "I hope that decision will be extended to include the Hodeidah center," he said. He also added that the Hodeidah Center will expand to specialize in kidney and urinary tract problems.

Yemeni-Saudi Border Talks on Track

Mr. Jaafar Saleh, Vice Director of the Office of the Presidential Council and Head of the Yemeni side to the Yemeni-Saudi border talks, told the Yemen Times that the talks were back on track. He and his companions left for Riyadh on Monday, 26th.

Although cautiously optimistic because the Saudis agreed to resume the talks after two postponements at their request, Jaafar expressed his feelings he doesn't expect anything tangible to come out of this round. "Maybe in future rounds, we could get on with something, but not this time," he said.

International Journalists Consultation Meeting in Sanaa

The International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) and the Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ) will hold a consultation meeting as from tomorrow, Monday, November 1st. The meeting is being hosted by the IOJ Regional Office headquartered in Sanaa.

IOJ Regional Manager, Mahboob Ali, told the Yemen Times that Gerard Gatino, First Secretary of the IOJ, and Sajjad Al-Ghazi, Secretary General of the FAJ will lead the teams of their respective organizations in the talks.

The last time the two organizations held consultation talks was in January 1991 in Harare.

On the sideline of the talks, the IOJ will award its 1993 Prize for the Arab Region to Mr. Milhelm Karam, Vice Chairman of the FAJ and Chief of the Lebanese Journalists Syndicate. The IOJ awards five prizes each year.

Workshop on Women

The UNFPA is organizing and sponsoring a major workshop on women next month. According to Ms. Samira Bin Da'ar of UNFPA, several leading female personalities have already been working to prepare for the workshop. She mentioned from the university Dr. Nouriyah Ali Hummad, Department of Sociology, Dr. Waheebah Fara', Faculty of Education, and Dr. Raofah Hassan, Department of Information.

"We hope the workshop will lead to the establishment of a Center for Women's Studies and Research, in coordination with the Center for Yemeni Studies" Samira stated.

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Canadians Vote for Change:

The results of the elections in Canada have changed the political landscape. In Canada, a new era, albeit potentially volatile, has begun. Jean Chretien, Chief of the victorious Liberal Party, who is now busy with consultations in order to form the coming government, told the media that he "accepts with humility the challenge to prepare Canada for the 21st century." "Tomorrow, I will want to form a government for all Canadians," he said. Mr. Chretien indicated that his highest priority is to concentrate on the economy by creating jobs and to give dignity to workers all across the land.

Lucien Bouchard of Bloc Quebecois has quickly downplayed the secessionist utter-

ances of the campaign period although he insisted he will work to advance Quebec in Canadian institutions.

Preston Manning of the Reform Party promised to play a "constructive role". Finally, outgoing Prime Minister Kim Campbell said, "I accept the judgement of the Canadian people."

Results of the elections are shown below:

Party Name	# of Seats	% Popular Vote
Liberal Party	178	41.6%
Bloc Quebecois	54	13.9%
Reform Party	52	18.1%
New Democratic	8	6.6%
P. Conservative Party	2	16.1%
Independent	1	n.a.
TOTAL	295	100%

Palestinian Peace Process Continues:

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators continue to advance, inch by inch, on the peace process that will ultimately lead to a Palestinian homeland.

Israel has steadily released batches of Palestinian prisoners, many of them teenagers. Of the 13,000 or so Palestinians in Israeli prisons, some 1,500 have already been released. Under the agreement, the early batches include only the sick, old, young and women. These steps have created a tremendous good-will on both sides, and have given a new spirit to the talks. The PLO, desperate to boost Palestinian support for the

peace deal, continues to push forward for quick and early release of the prisoners.

In another measure to build Palestinian confidence, Israel has eased restrictions on Palestinians entering the country.

Meanwhile, negotiators continue to hammer away on the details of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, where a limited Palestinian self-rule will be established. The PLO is planning to move from its current headquarters at Tunis, to Gaza and Jericho before the end of this year.

Support for the PLO and the peace deal is growing as dividends from the peace are felt by the local population.

Shevardnadze Makes a Comeback:

Russian troops are back in Georgia, in response to an appeal from Georgian president Eduard Shevardnadze. Ostensibly, they are there to take the "necessary means" to guard the railways from being cut off, as ordered by Russian President Boris Yeltsin one week ago.

Convoys of Russian troops and armored vehicles have been patrolling roads this week along stretches of Georgian railroad affected by the civil war, but they have not taken positions, thus maintaining official neutrality. The railroads are vital supply lines from the Black Sea to the Georgian capital of Tblisi and to landlocked Armenia.

This week has also seen the turn of fortunes in Georgia where the embattled Shevardnadze is trying hard to hold on to power after he had earlier replaced the elected president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who is trying to make a comeback.

The forces loyal to Gamsakhurdia have been pushing on moving in a south-east direction towards the capital. They occupied several major cities, including the seaport of Poti, before they were dislodged.

The reversal of the trend came only after Shevardnadze signed last week an agreement according to which Georgia joined the Commonwealth of Independent States, under Russia's leadership. Many in the Tblisi government protested and resigned their posts because of this action, which might limit Georgia's independence.

Last month, Georgian troops were totally pushed out of the northwestern province of Abkhazia by separatist forces which have successfully waged a "war of liberation." Shevardnadze has decided to leave the Abkhazians alone, for now, and concentrate on defeating Gamsakhurdia. Once this matter is settled, he may want to address the Abkhazian rebels.

Global Conferences on Refugees:

More than fifty non-government organizations (NGOs) and human rights organizations have descended on Kathmandu, the Nepalese capital, for a conference on refugees.

The conference which starts tomorrow, November 1st, is being sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is the second of six regional conferences being convened. The first was convened in Caracas, for the Latin American region.

The Kathmandu conference is for the South Asian countries.

Additional conferences will be held for Africa, Middle East, Europe and the Far East/Oceania.

These regional conferences are supposed to prepare for the world meeting on refugees to take place in June in Oslo.

"Most countries of the region have confirmed they will participate in the three-day meeting in Nepal. We are trying to make it possible for all countries in the region to attend," a senior UNHCR official said.

The problem of refugees has become one of the major problems of the world, caused by political turmoil and natural disasters.

AIDS on the Rise in Germany:

German health authorities have admitted that 2,305 Germans are newly infected with the AIDS virus. The Federal Health Ministry (BGA) stated that those people the AIDS virus when they were given transfusions of contaminated blood. Health Minister Horst Seehofer fired this month two top BGA officials, including its director Dieter Grossklau and ordered the dismantling of the BGA. Legal proceedings are already in full bloom, while the German government has earmarked some \$6.2 million to pay for compensation. The haemophiliacs associations have dismissed the amount as derisory.

In total, the number of Germans infected with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) today has exceeded 60,000 people, two thirds of them homosexuals and Lesbians.

This problem is becoming a high priority issue with the government as well as with voluntary organizations.

The German Red Cross, which in the past has itself been accused it has covered up blood contamination scandals, has decided to scrutinize blood donors. Red Cross official Erhard Seifried denied any cover up, but said that in the future blood donors would be more carefully selected.

Manila Kidnapping Problem:

A new kidnap gang, made up of soldiers appears to be operational in Manila, according to reports. The main targets - Filipinos of Chinese origin and the most affluent class in the country.

Colonel Panfilo Lacson said last week that the gang is believed to be responsible for the kidnapping of at least four Chinese-Filipinos since May. He said he expected to step up its activities in advance of the Christmas/New Year season.

Vice President Joseph Estrada, Chairman of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, confirmed the Lacson statement, but said he

was confident his agents could capture those responsible.

Filipino-Chinese have been the primary victims of the kidnap wave that began in the Manila area in 1991. The kidnapping is carried out to extort ransom money for the safe return of the hostage. The kidnappings tapered off after the killing of Alfredo de Leon, leader of the Red Scorpio gang.

Sources in the Chinese-Filipino community say that the kidnappings apparently have resumed in recent months. As a result, most affluent individuals have a multiple of bodyguards. They have also limited their movements within the city.



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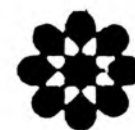
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Water Rights and the Legal Ownership of Water in the Middle East: "THE NEXT WAR MAY BE OVER WATER"

The recent Israeli-PLO peace accord may finally have given the world hope that reconciliation in the Middle East is at hand.

However, of the many obstacles still confronting the peacemakers, one of the most important and frequently overlooked is the question of the use and control of water.

It is more valuable than gold. Water and who ultimately controls its flow - has been from Biblical times to the present the source of much bitter regional conflict.

Not long ago Jordan's King Hussein predicted that the next war in the Middle East would break out not over oil - as was the case in the Gulf War but over water.

The water issue is tricky because it touches directly on the question of survival and economic development, one observer noted. Water is the principal resource shared between Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

On this issue, all experts agree on one thing - the available resources are inadequate, and that they are shrinking in relation to the anticipated needs of the region.

The region's population - growing at a rate of over 3% a year, is one of the highest in the world, according to UN sources. Observers point out that

there is a severe overuse of unreplaceable resources, and many countries do not have the financial resources to fund research and development of alternative water technologies.

But the approaching crisis may finally have received the attention it needs. Not only is the water issue on the negotiation table, but one of the earliest advocates of water conservation and regional negotiation over its use is UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Senior Egyptian diplomats privately said that not only did Ghali's appointment boost the collective pride of the Arabs, but he has used his office to draw global attention to this increasingly dangerous situation.

Ghali has long recognized this threat to the security and livelihood of individual nations in the region. "He first coined the expression 'the next war in the Middle East will be over water,'" explained a senior diplomat with the Egyptian Embassy in Washington. "This expression is now used by many regional experts, but he (Ghali) was the first one to recognise the strategic importance of this resource."

Over 50% of the total population of the Middle East and North Africa depends either on water from rivers which cross an international boundary before reaching

them, or upon desalinated water and water drawn from deep wells.

Two-thirds of all Arabs depend upon river water which flows to them from non-Arab countries, while another 24% live in areas with no surface streams at all, according to Dr John Kolars of the University of Michigan.

This leaves the door to conflict wide open, particularly among states that have a history of hostilities with their neighbors.

In the Arab-Israeli conflict, for example, between 30 to 60% of Israel's water supply lies beneath the West Bank in two aquifers - the Yarkon-Taninim and the Gilboa Bayt Sheyan. Israeli settlers use 83% of the available water, despite the 10 to 1 ratio of Arabs to Jews.

With Israeli population growing with each day's arrival of Jewish immigrants, the country's current water supplies will not be able to meet the nation's rapidly growing needs.

The Israeli government is well-aware of the critical situation developing within its borders.

When Israel's borders were established by Britain and France after World War I, the Zionists were given access to but not direct control over several rivers that flow the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Realising the seriousness of potential water shortages, the new Israeli government nationalised the country's water resources and rationed their use. This practice continues today, an Israeli government spokeswoman said.

The United States has tried for decades to persuade the Israelis to agree to the Unity Dam project. This involves building a dam on the Yarmuk River, a tributary of the Jordan, that would ensure desperately needed water for the Jordan Valley. However, the dam would also give Syria and Jordan control of 3% of Israel's water supply - an unacceptable situation for Israel.

"The water crisis is fully upon us, and nothing - not border disputes, political aspirations or security arrangements - is more important than securing the elemental conditions of human survival," said Richard Armitage, chief US State Department negotiator for the project.

Some Arab officials have accused the Israelis of pursuing new water sources through military means. Clovis Maksoud, former ambassador to the Arab League said the Israelis use their control of the Golan Heights to secure some 400 million cubic meters of water a year from the Mount Hermon basin.

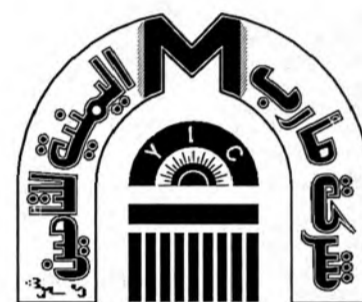
Maksoud said the Israelis have since 1967 diverted the Jordan River as well as Lebanon's Litani River - within the southern Israeli demilitarised zone and have placed strict limits on Palestinian use of West Bank water resources.

Syria too has a history of involvement in water related conflicts.

In 1975, the Syrians and Iraqis nearly went to war because Syria reduced the flow of the Euphrates River in order to fill its largest dam. Similarly, in the mid-1980s, Turkey accused Syria of plotting to blow up Turkey's giant Ataturk Dam project, also on the Euphrates.

Dr. Joyce Starr, a specialist on the Middle East and water security issues, used her organisation - The Global Water Summit Initiative to coordinate a multi-nation meeting which convened in Istanbul last spring.

"We (the Arabs) cannot attend such a conference if Israel participates," Maksoud said. "How can the Arabs discuss what water resources belong to whom if we do not know where Israel's borders begin and end?" Maksoud urged that such conferences can be meaningful only after a final peace between the Arabs and Israelis is achieved.



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POLITICAL COLLECT AND DEVELOPMENT

It is self-evident that the political conflict has affected the local economy, with a visible impact on the local currency. It is important to know that rumors can destroy the confidence in an economy, and thus lead to calamity. No one can deny that there are a number of factors responsible for the fluctuation of prices and the rate of exchange. Yet, the conflict between the political leaders and the departure of senior officials from the capital city lead to tension. The present situation has its a devastating impact on our political and social life.

We have noticed that the absence of the vice president caused an increase in the price of the Dollar against our local currency. It is worth mentioning that the business circles have often repeated the effects of those conflicts and political differences on our economy. Unfortunately, all sides ignored our calls since political gains over-ride everything in our life. We don't want to interfere in politics for we are not politicians, but, we are concerned about the impact of politics on economic well-being and the development process.

Our people expected to reap a lot of prosperity to in the post-unification period. They hoped that democracy, pluralism, and the peaceful transfer of authority would lead to stability, and institution-building in a modern state. They thought that all the turmoil and nightmare of military conflicts are over. The transitional period caused much harm and damage to our local economy, as the currency fell in value and the rate of inflation soared.

Then, we hoped that the elections would sort out everything, including all the conflicts among the political forces by creating a new situation of stability. Since we have agreed to let the ballot box decide regarding who takes charge, we felt that a solution was at hand. Yet the current difficulties show that we have yet to accept this mechanism. The senior officials ought to realize that they have not done anything for the people. The unemployment rate is very high, the cost of living continues to rise, poverty and corruption are rampant, and the level of frustration is killing morale of the people. All (three parties) are responsible since they are ruling together. What our people require is a decent standard of living. That means controlling the rise of prices. This cannot be achieved through speeches and empty slogans. It can only be achieved through hard work and a good vision of the development requirements. Such steps requires trust and stability, and to allow the technicians to get on with the job. It also requires confidence in our political and economic situation. The belief/faith in democracy has brought Benazer Bhutto back to power in Pakistan. Let's make our benchmark our democracy.

By: The Chief Editor
Al-Tanmiah, Sanaa,
19/10/1993

THE OPPOSITION ANNOUNCES ITS SUPPORT FOR ALI SALIM AL-BEEDH

The people's struggle against corruption has characterized our escalating confrontation

and tug of war. The YSP demands have grown popular roots and have created a base among the masses. Regardless of the attempts of the Islah and PGC to contain the crisis, the media has repeatedly shown that the problems are still unsolved.

It is now clear that the demands of the YSP led by Ali Salem Al-Beedh have turned into a formula around which people are mobilized, and especially the opposition bloc. In fact, for the 18 points began to grow in all levels including among civilians, militarymen, tribes, social organizations, unions and public figures who are influential in Yemen.

What is happening now is a real confrontation between the forces of progress and the forces of stagnation. As for the opposition parties, they have announced their support and backing for the demands of Al-Beedh. That is why the representatives of the opposition signed a 16-point demand that coincides to a great extent with the 18-point demands of the YSP. The urgent demands to solve the crisis are all oriented to restore legitimacy to the executive, legislative and judicial authorities granting each the full and independent powers to work without the intervention of the presidential council in their affairs.

By: The Political Editor,
Sowt-Al-Yemen, Sanaa,
12/10/1993

ALL OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE

The media lately created an environment of worry, fear and anxiety among the citizens. This is particularly those sensational articles which threw blame on the ruling parties especially during the transitional period. The real frustration comes now for both the president and vice president who talk about combatting corruption, implementing new reforms including the merger of the armed forces, as well as other packages.

Yet, the YSP/PGC kept on diagnosing the causes of the crisis and frustration. Instead of tackling the lapses and shortcomings, both parties started to blame each other. All are looking for an excuse as well as an option to get out of this crisis.

We want to say that all the problems require patience, and profound research into the deep root-causes. Above all, they require a political will to address the issues. But how are we going to muster the political will and to accomplish all these points in such a situation of doubt?

It is already gratifying that the three partners accepted to work in a coalition as a mechanism to co-exist. It is self-evident that a number of party leaders talk about the crisis as if it were a game and that they had no role in them. To the contrary, some of them were makers of the events. They share in the responsibility at all levels. We don't deny that the national situation requires immediate attention, and it is our duty not to waste any time or opportunity in building our future. From this view-point, we ought to do everything that will restore good will and trust between the president and vice president. Let us all shoulder our responsibilities toward the nation and contribute to its development.

By:
Dr. Abu-Baker Al-Qirby
Al-Mithaq, Sanaa,
25/10/1993

THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

We have learned lately through the press that the Arab League organization will introduce a draft asking to be granted a seat in the Security Council. The news in itself arouses a lot of questions among the Arabs. The Arab League was founded in 1945.

The first question relates to what the organization has accomplished all those years. The League now includes 23 states which means that the bloc can become a great nation in terms of area and population. The League's charter states that all its resolutions ought to be based on a consensus. This is convenient for the states who disagree with any resolution they don't like. Hence, the ineffectiveness.

What we see also is a mass of slogans coming out of this organization - talking about consolidation of the fraternal spirit, collective economic projects, etc., but it is all talk. There is no coordination concerning any real joint effort in education or otherwise. The sudden military uprising/mutinies and political chaos form a factor of frustration among member-states.

By contrast, have a look at the map of Europe and the Common European Market established of many ethnic groups, a multiple of languages and sects. What the Europeans achieved is unbelievable: reaching to an elected unified parliament. When we go deep into the causes that allowed those prospects, we realize that democracy has played a leading role in all those achievements. Now let us put it this way: "Is the League ready for such a seat in the Security Council? Does it deserve it?" To be supportive of and sympathetic to the League in one thing. But this is not sufficient. Japan and Germany are more qualified to occupy such a seat.

By:
Mohamad Bin Al-Wazeer
Al-Shoura, Sanaa,
24/10/1993

SEARCHING FOR A SOLUTION IN A WASTE BASKET!

Each week one notices the horror and the daily faltering of expectations. Pessimism has taken over our country. There are rumors that insist that we are about to return to pre-unification conditions. This time, the two sides announced their differences by issuing a list of points. Each side dreams of implementing whatever it wishes according to its method and approach.

Instead of using the same, old traditional mediation, the opposition bloc should start doing something different. Note that the elements who are leading the opposition are members in one of the partners of the ruling coalition.

While the opposition parties were busy talking about how to coordinate their efforts, it was clear that the ruling coalition was getting poised to swallow part of the opposition.

Now dialogue among the three partners has suddenly stopped and this has given the opposition parties a breathing room. Not only that, but they have gone on the offensive by fabricating rumors about the conflict. With the rising tension, a Kuwaiti paper started to spread its poison around by

praising the South and encouraging divisions. Some of the rumors were characterized by a humanitarian approach. These talked about the need to save our people from unnecessary bloodshed. Some stories say that it is better to step into unification gradually. They also see that division is much easier than the application of the constitution. Some search for a solution in how to split the homeland. It is our duty to determine on a settlement for the crisis.

By: Omar Al-Gawi,
Al-Tagammu, Aden,
25/10/1993

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

The economic circumstance deteriorate by the day, the Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party is still in Aden, the Secretary-General of the People's General Congress continues to receive waves of people carrying congratulations, and the opposition forces create new blocs with the aim of putting pressure to stop the ruling coalition within limits. We wonder what the future holds for Yemen, and by that we mean all Yemenis. How will the majority interact with the minority which rules it and has taken charge of everything?

Will they await daily for the speeches and statements of this or that, or for the TV and press interviews? All waiting for a relaxation of the tension knowing full well that the rulers are responsible for their agony and misery, as well as for the abuse and misuse of public funds. Or will the frustrated people by-pass this tri-partite mockery and take real steps to correct the situation and stop the people who are playing with their lives.

By:
Abdullah H. As-Sayyani,
Al-Ummah, Sanaa,
28/10/1993.

COMMUNIQUE ON THE YEMENI-SAUDI BORDER TALKS

Yesterday afternoon (Thursday October 28th), the Yemeni delegation to the Yemeni-Saudi Border Talks headed by Dr. Ja'afar Saeed Ba-Saleh, returned to Sanaa following the completion of the Sixth Round of the talks held during 25-28/10/1993. The following communique was issued:

The Saudi-Yemeni Joint Experts Committee carried out its Sixth Round in Riyadh during 25-28/10/1993. The Committee discussed the procedures and arrangements for the border talks, and decided to resume further talks on 20/12/1993. The Seventh Round of the talks shall be held in Sanaa. The Yemeni delegation left Riyadh and was seen off by the Saudi delegation and the Yemeni ambassador in Riyadh, Mr. Ghalib Ali Jameel.

The Yemeni delegation thanked the Saudi authorities for their hospitality and kindness.

Al-Thawrah, Sanaa,
29/10/1993.

SABA NEWS AGENCY BLOCKS DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS ON VICE PRESIDENT

Sabaa News Agency blocked the distribution of a news item on the interview carried out with Vice President Ali Salim Al-beedh with the Egyptian newspaper, Al-Ahram.

The Agency had distributed the news item, but later on sent cables to all official media instructing not to use it. Mr. Ahmed Al-Hubaishi, Chief Editor of the official *Al-Wahdah* newspaper, called Mr. Yahia Al-Showkani, General Manager of the Agency, to inquire. "The Agency since its establishment twenty years ago has traditionally only circulated the interviews of the president, and not the vice president," he said. He then went on to shower insults on persons who "came to us from Aden."

Al-Hubaishi explained that the Agency was born on the 22nd of May and not twenty years and that ... Before he could complete, Yahia Al-Showkani has slammed the telephone in his face.
Sawt Al-Ommal, Aden,
28/10/1993.

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"How is your pet, today?"

Pets, or companion animals as they are technically referred to, are part of a more refined form of living. It is advanced and well-to-do families and societies that can afford them. Here in Yemen, pets have become an increasingly visible phenomenon. Yet, medical care for them is virtually non-existent. In the whole republic, there is just one veterinary surgeon for companion animals. Yemen Times went to speak to Dr. Omer S. Alhaddad. Here are excerpts from the interview:



Q: Is there any special training needed to care for pets or would a normal vet do?

A: Of course, special training is necessary. For example, I graduated as a regular vet from the University of Khartoum. Then I worked for almost fifteen years in Aden, attending to the health needs of animals in general. Then I did a special course in the Royal Veterinary College of London University. I graduated with an M.Sc., and then I continued for one more year of additional research work in animal health.

Then, I returned in 1990 to Yemen, this time to Sanaa. Dr. Martin Gregory, financed by the British Government as part of its ODA program in Yemen, a specialist in animal health. I was his counter-part, and in more than way, his successor, for the better of two years. At the Ministry of Agriculture (the Livestock Department). and at the

private clinic for treating pets, I have continued his work.

So, as you can see, attending to the health care need of pets, requires specialized qualifications.

Q: In your opinion, what is the number of families who have pets?

A: I cannot give you an exact number because there are no statistics. But I can say there are, in Sanaa alone, several thousands.

Q: Would you say they are all foreigners?

A: I do not know exactly, but from the number of pets and guardians referred to me, I can say some 95% are foreigners. The number of Yemeni families is very low, although it is evidently rising as the society grows in affluence.

Q: What kind of pets are we talking about?

A: By far, the majority are cats. I would say cats represents some 55% of the total. Dogs are number two and they represent about 25%. All other pets make up the balance of 20%. This last category includes birds (such as parrots, canaries), horses, goldfish and even monkeys.

Q: What kind of services are demanded for the pets?

A: The main service is vaccination of the animals. Felines (cats) and canines (dogs) are subject to certain diseases, which may also be contagious to human beings. We are talking of rabies, distemper, leptospirosis, etc. The second main service we provide is treatment of external and internal infections, especially parasites. We take care of worms and



other problems that may also be contagious.

The third category of service is the sterilization of animals - both males and females. This really means stopping the reproduction function of the animals. Many times this means removal of the organs. We also provide emergency care for pets which suddenly fall sick or which are involved in an accident, of whatever kind.

Finally, we do check-ups and issue certificates. This is required when travelling.

Q: What kind of money are we talking about?

A: The charges vary depending on the service. For ordinary check-up, it is around YR 250. In case of operations, the cost varies, but it is generally around three or four thousand riyals per operation.

The vaccination cost also varies, depending on the type of vaccine. In any case, the costs are within a reasonable range.

Q: How are arrangements made to attend to the needs of your clients?

A: usually, clients call and get an appointment. Thus they come with their pets. In cases of emergencies and special needs, I make house-calls.

In general, I do not see many cases. On average, I see a few pets a week.

Q: Any advice?

A: I would like to stress that Yemen is one of the countries in which certain diseases such as rabies exist. Therefore, it is imperative that pet owners give their animals the necessary shots, and make sure that they are checked once in a while.

Note:

As a service to our readers, the numbers of Dr. Omer Alhaddad are:

01-213055 (at home),
01-250982/71 (office).

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الحديدة ت: ٣/٢٢٢٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورتسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

OBESSSION WITH MATH?

The Educational Editor,
Yemen Times.

Our life is full of numerical sequences: hours, days, weeks, months, years, etc. Then there are the daily use of money, in numbers, the age, weights, distances, etc. And there are, of course, the sequence of the numbers themselves.

Numbers are so much second-nature to us that many parents are obsessed to have their children learn numbers and about numbers, as early as possible. I remember drilling the multiplication tables into my little son's head. I was perplexed to find that my son found numbers difficult. I was determined to "help" him, and my worries subsided with time, although that experience became the basis for long-standing confusion and concern with me.

I have also seen parents trying to teach toddlers to count. They figure if the child can "say his/her numbers up to ten" he has got it. Saying "one, two, three,..." is not counting. It is nothing but a meaningless chant, exercising a child's slowly improving capacity for rote learning. Such forceful feeding of chanting numbers does very little for his/her understanding of mathematical concepts, until he/she comes to understand those words as names for values, and to understand the relationship of those values to each other.

For example, knowing that four comes after three is not useful by itself at all. Even knowing that four means one more than three is only useful once a child understands what "more" and



"less" mean, and the relationship between the values of one, three and four. The real meaning is understanding that there are three values - one, three and four. In other words, that there are three different things.

All the understanding of number concepts and values has to start with the things themselves rather than with the number-names.

Your 3-year old, helping you set the table, puts out a dinner roll for Daddy, one for Mommy, and one for him/herself. But that does not mean he/she knows there are "three" people and that each needs "one" dinner roll.

Even if the little fellow can touch each roll in turn while saying "one, two, three.." it does not necessarily mean he is counting them. It will take months of experimenting with

real objects, singly and in groups, before the child can come to grips with the concept behind the name. It will be some time before the little boy or girl comes to find the value of "three" vis-a-vis "four." To be able to realize that four comes after three, and that it refers to that extra dinner roll that is needed this evening because his/her friend is coming to dinner.

One a child is really interested in numbers (and not number-names), you will see him/her not just counting, but also "adding," "taking away," and even "splitting up." Children will even do fractions, sooner than you think. Have you seen children splitting a pie or a doughnut?

Math is only symbols that represent reality. Let that reality come first for your child, and math will follow.

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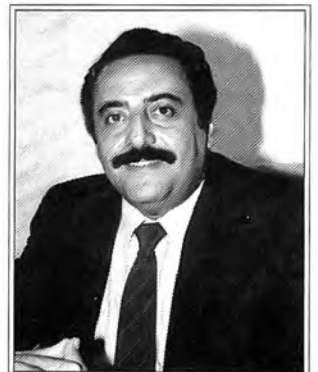
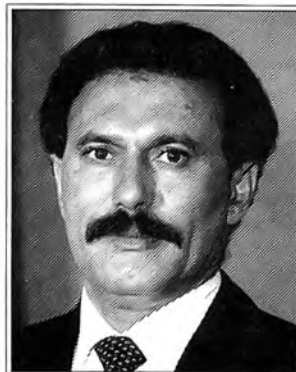
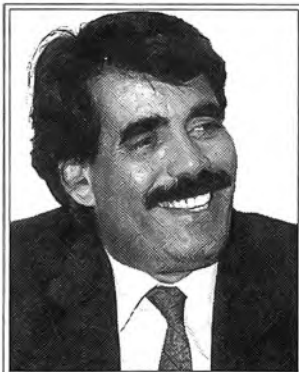
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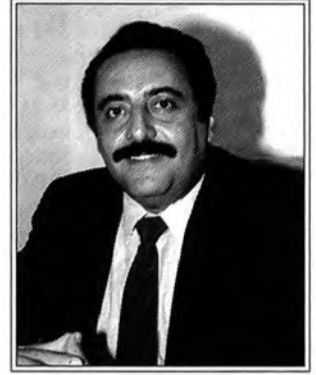
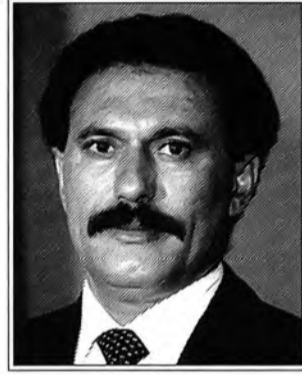
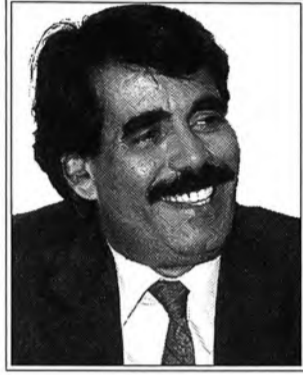
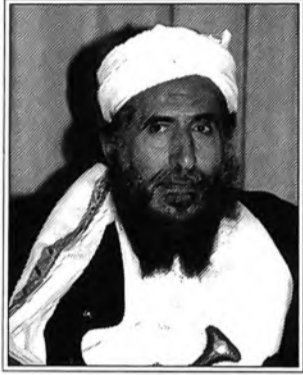
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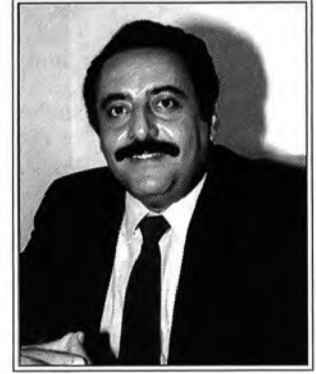
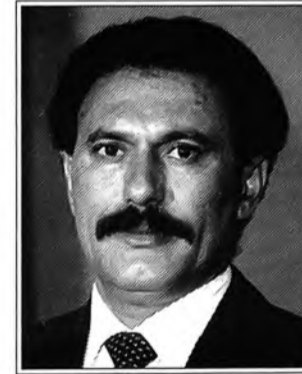
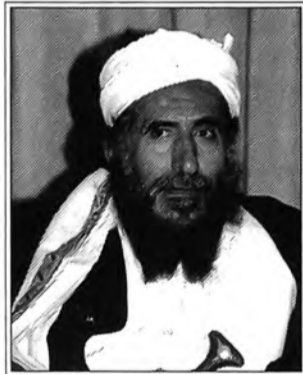
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Letters to the Editor

Yemen Needs Patriots

By linking the events of the past few weeks, we can remind ourselves of the sufferings and terrible conditions nowadays. These conditions reflect what was going on during Imamic and British rule. Although there are differences between the two periods, but both of them represent the tendency of the rulers and their proteges to exploit and loot the wealth of country for their own gain.

But then again, these conditions should also remind us of all those patriots who freed our country from the despotism of the Imam and the colonial rule of the British. The martyrs are a direct cause for creating a new Yemen. They nurtured the 26th September and 14th October revolutions with their own lives, and thus they brought about welfare and prosperity for all. They are the symbol of freedom and self-sacrifice.

Years later, and especially these days, the country needs new patriots - people who are willing to sacrifice even their own lives for the advancement of the nation.

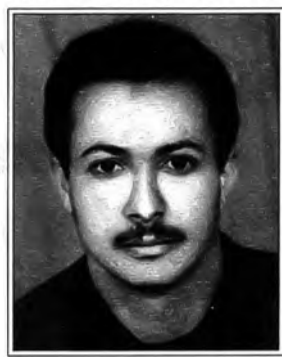
Yemen under the current regime achieved many important things, but the glitter of those achievements started to fade away. Unfortunately, our country is stuck today in deep trouble which frustrates all our ambitions and dreams.

After we achieved our reunification and put together a democratizing system, we are once again in a situation of deprivation. Corruption is a fire which destroys everything in its way. Corruption and mismanagement are the source of our frustration and outrage. Our leaders shower us with many promises, and that is all we get - promises. Many things are ruined by corruption, especially our financial and administrative affairs. The continuation of corruption creates a multitude of problems.

Financial corruption is prevalent in many government institutions. Many bureaucrats openly ask for bribes, and they even negotiate the amounts involved. You can see low and medium-income bureaucrats spending money lavishly. They build houses that cost millions, they furnish their homes with expensive electronic gadgets and high-quality furniture and fixture, they drive costly cars, and their daily qat purchase is in the thousands. How can they afford it? Of course, they can't afford such expenses, unless they steal, and that they do openly.

The absence of a clean conscience, and the total lack of accountability has increased and complicated the problems. Not only are we visibly lacking in patriotic feeling and concern for the general welfare of the nation, individual Yemenis work today in a selfish and self-centered drive to simply make more money, at whatever cost.

It is the duty of those who are in power to first give a



good model, and second to push ahead with steps to penalize any person who breaks the law. Unfortunately, our senior leaders neither offer a good role model nor take steps to stop the crooks. They can't, because birds of the same feather flock together. Most of them are concerned with how to rise up the ranks, secure a luxurious living, and simply ignore the agony and suffering of those who live in poverty.

This carelessness in using government money for self-enrichment is the main obstacle in the way of our development. Not only that the officials are using the money for their personal 'needs', but they use it in a bad way. That is why our country is paralyzed because of the infections.

The failure of our administration is due to another disease - favoritism. People are appointed to jobs, not because they deserve to, but because they are related to some big shot. Although there are many competent persons, these are often marginalized. Sometimes they are just left unemployed. In a country that is in need of its qualified children, can you imagine that there are several PhD roaming the streets because no one would allow them to work. Of course, what can we expect from the inefficient and unqualified people in high posts? They try to keep out all competent people because they are afraid these will expose their inabilities.

We are badly in need of a good plan to prepare for the future. As it is clear, some jobs have unqualified employees, who work only for their personal gain. Consequently, they do not concern themselves with the difficulties of the nation. We have many problems which require our immediate attention. Take the university students and graduates as an example. Several thousands Yemenis, many of them university and secondary graduates, are unemployed. There is no interest in this. Learning has no goal, and frustration is mounting.

To conclude, I believe that the lack of patriotism is the main cause for our ills. We need people who are concerned with the public welfare of society as a whole. We need patriots, like those who lit the glory of the Revolution.

The curtains must be opened once more to allow the patriots to come in and remove this regime and its ills.

By: Moneer Hassan Al-Areqi, Sanaa.

Your Piece on Economic Policy and Experience

I really enjoyed reading your article on economic, on the last page on Yemen Times Issue No. 39 of October 3rd. Without sounding patronizing, your articles are always well-written, with a clever blend of the profound and the commonplace; but this particular one, I felt there was something left unsaid... does that ring a bell? Let me specify:

1. I entirely agree that liberalization as a trend in the Arab World requires clarification. However, you have not dealt with the issue in enough detail to show the implications of adopting this in the Yemeni context. We have seen the effects of the kind of liberalization the West is talking about applied to Egypt with all the repercussions. The reason is that the "prerequisites" that made it succeed in the West did not obtain there. The whole history of economic evolution in the West from Adam Smith to the present has not recorded an instance of liberalization of a full laissez-faire type. Though economic reforms within the framework of the "optimal efficiency model" did mean giving free reign to individual initiative and market forces, it was deliberated within a subtle system of checks and balances. The situation was also supported by an efficient infrastructure, which made regulated free trade possible. But in the Arab World, where people are fond of making sweeping statements, and naively seek "panaceas" to cure all ills, without defining the particular disease requiring treatment, the tendency is to blame a scapegoat for all the problems, and hence the blind faith in one simple solution. And in this instance, Japan and all other success stories are quoted without understanding the other factors which have made them succeed. This is where your informed elaboration would have been helpful. In the Yemeni context, already trade is so free, that the opposite may be required. Although I don't like to use the word "controls", government intervention is required in the sense that they should assume responsibility for guiding economic activities towards more efficiency. Liberalization will only mean more liberal chaos at present.

2. It does not seem that there was much choice in the Gulf countries for example, in the way things unfolded, so as to make the loss of the golden chance as you said. Forget Rostow's "take off". The Western experience of scientific technological and economic advance is historically unique in the modern age; and a series of extraordinary circumstances enabled them to proceed and follow that sequence, of which Rostow's take off and "stages of growth" is a part. And I tend to agree with Ragnar Nurkse that the problem in these countries is how to break out of the equilibrium of stagnation and start on a "cumulative upward process. This constant recourse to Western models of development can sometimes blind us to the realities.

By: Samira Bin Da'ar, UNFPA, Sanaa.

The Concept of Privacy

Privacy, I think, is a very sacred concept in the "moral" dictionary of the Yemeni psyche and social order. It is invaded only under extreme circumstances. In fact, I feel, the need for privacy is a human feeling that is respected in all societies across the board.

Religions have supported this need, and social values and traditions have evolved to sanctify and safeguard this element.

However, politics has thrown this concept into a lot of confusion. On the one hand, dictatorships and totalitarian systems have invaded the privacy of their citizens in order to be able to better control them. So we see them open mail, bug telephone lines, and even follow certain individuals like their shadows.

In democratic systems, there is another form of invasion of privacy. When is a private life public? It is often seen that the private business of an individual is exposed, and many times in a mean way. There must be a line drawn in order to safeguard and protect the privacy of individuals, even of celebrities and public officials.

Public scrutiny of the morals and values of individuals is a necessary component of trusting officials who run our government, but there must be a balance in the way we go about it.

This is a hard question. Now, let me relate all this to Yemen. We started when the state apparatus simply devoured the privacy of its citizens. Then now comes the endless gossip and rumors about the private lives of our officials and public figures. Qat sessions are a fertile ground for such business. It gives the whole concept of public scrutiny of the life of an official or public figure a Yemeni touch.

Of course, we are just starting with our democratization process, therefore, we are still learning. But we better learn fast, especially regarding the private lives of individuals.

By: Saleh Al-Suraihi, Yemeni Embassy, Ethiopia.

Letters to the Editor

From the Diary of a Yemeni Schoolgirl

I wake up in the morning and it is another day for school. I wish I could sleep longer, but they tell me school is important. Can I not become a scientist without going to school? For that is my dream!

I carry my heavy schoolbag and start my day. It is an Arabic lesson. Yesterday, my mother corrected my grammar, but my teacher tells me it is wrong. Whom am I to believe? Tomorrow I have an exam, and I am so confused.

When I was little, I liked to collect insects to put in my scrap-book. I was so involved in these little things, that my father, who is a well-educated man, bought me a small microscope, on my 8th birthday. Since then, I have been able to make closer looks at my insects. The other day, I saw the funny shape inside my brother's broken tooth. I regularly see the rainbows in a lock of hair that I cut off my head.

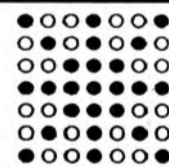
I am into chemistry, as well. Even though I am twelve, my mother insists that chemicals are dangerous. That is why I cannot do any of my experiments alone, either of my parents has to be with me. This is problematic as it is not as often as I want to that I can find them available for this purpose. At the same time, I cannot do much in terms of experiments at the school lab as there isn't much over there, except for a bunsen burner, a few chemicals, and a bunch of empty tubes and bottles.

I have many books on how to do experiments. I read them with interest and try to apply the formulas. My mother calls these my "messy recipes." I have plenty of them under my bed. These include formulas to make window cleaners, stain removers, color mixers, etc. I often hide away, many times in the little garden behind our house, and start experimenting. Usually I try to help, like picking up my father's stained shirt and working to remove the stain. "All of a sudden you hear my mother calling, "Manaal, where are you? What are you doing?" There is worry in her voice. Oh, Oh. It is too late, this shirt is gone! Mother finds me, looks at the shirt, concludes no remedy is possible, frowns at me. Often I give her a faint smile, although my tears are about to fall. She returns my smile and then gives me a hug.

My work is not saving much money. Actually, mother's often heard expression is: "The amount of soda and vinegar you used is enough to buy two large bottles of stain remover from the grocery."

My father tells me I can become anything I want if I work hard at it. He believes in hard work. Of course a little bit of luck and some ingenuity would go a long way to help.

My brother uses my books freely, and I don't mind. He is into fossils and rocks. Me, I like to be a scientist. I get involved with my books and experiments to such an extent that I often jump off half-way. I just remembered the pile of homework. Is there no end to homework and to studying? Do I really need school to become a scientist?



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Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum: "Bakeel is re-grouping itself to take its proper place in the political spectrum."

Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum is one of the well-known public figures of Yemen. He comes from a family that has long struggled against the Imam in the North and British rule in the South. He himself was imprisoned several times and in various locations. He has participated in the Republic under various capacities including the posts of minister as well as governor.

Today, he is a power-broker in the delicate political set-up of Yemen. He is seen as grouping the Bakeel tribes in order to command a place in the evolving power structure. As a non-Hashed tribesman (he Abu Luhums are from Nihm) and as a person who grew up in Ibb, and spent a long time in Taiz, Aden, Sanaa and abroad, he is also accepted by the groups outside the main power forces. Finally Sheikh Sinan has just been elected as Chairman of the Federation of Patriotic Forces (FPF) which is projecting itself as a mediation and reference organ for the system.

Ameen Nouisser of Yemen Times interviewed Sheikh Sinan at his home, last week. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: You have been involved in politics for the better of five decades now, could you brief us on that and what are the names of your associates that come to your mind?

A: Of course, you know that my family struggle against the Imam starts with my father, who is a well-known person in our history. In the early 1950s, the Imam demanded from my father that he hand me over as a pawn or guarantee that he will not give him trouble. I was one of ten children of key sheikhs who were brought to Sanaa in Dar Al-Sa'adah palace. I remember Al-Habbari and Aal Namran from among them. Along with Az-Zayidi, Duwaid, Al-Ghader, and others, we fled to Baihan, and from there to Aden. I remember we were received by Hamood Sa'adan and Mohamed Ahmed Shamlan, and others. As a result, our two houses in Ibb were destroyed by orders of the Imam.

Later on, I was coordinating with other patriots like Abdullah As-Sallal, Hassan Al-Amri, and Hamood Al-Jayifi who represented the army, Qadhi Abdul-Salam Sabrah represented the civilians, Nadeem Ali Al-Rowaishan and myself represented the tribes in our meetings and plots.

I also remember Abdul-Rahman Al-Junaid from Dhi Sufaal. Our task was to distribute supplies, ammunition and information to the Taiz and Ibb cells of our anti-Imam movement. I remember Sultan Ahmed Omer, Ali Shuwair, Mohammed Al-Habbari, Mohsen Radman, Abdullah Dhaiban.

Then we participated in the Revolution and supported it whole-heartedly, as everybody knows.

In any case, over the last five years, I have been gathering my documents and memoirs. I have completed 387 pages, and I hope to finalize the documents as soon as possible.

Q: You have been involved in mediation for a long time and among numerous rulers.

Could you tell us a little bit about your mediation role?

A: Everybody knows that I have playing the role of pacifiers and mediation. Most rulers accept me as a honest and fair intermediary. For example, I intervened between Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani and Hassan Al-Amri (late 1960s and early 1970s). Then, I was involved in the mediation between the late President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi and Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar. I was also involved in the mediation in the pre-unification regimes of the former YAR and PDRY. And I have twice between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh. But this thing now is really ridiculous.

Today I am the President of the Federation of Patriotic Forces, which is not exactly an opposition bloc, but it is a national force that has put together a sixteen-point demand which the ruling coalition is asked to look into and implement, for the sake of the welfare of the nation. Often my task is to bring the parties together and help them objectively respond to

the grievances put forth by the other side.

Q: What is core difference between the leaders of the PGC and YSP this time?

A: Well, some of the grievances have been forwarded in demands approved by each side. The YSP has an 18-point demand, and the PGC has responded by a 19-point demand. Let us come to today.

In addition, each side has used the official media to send various accusations to the other party.

I am unable to give any details of this, at this stage. You know I am an old man and I have a heart problem. I did not want to involve myself with the complications, but the president of the republic insisted that I intervene in order to help salvage the situation.

Q: How do you assess the political situation?

A: The political situation of Yemen is very troubling. The situation could easily go out of hand, but we hope with the wisdom and patience of the parties involved, we shall overcome this problem.

You will note that there are outside forces actively at play in this problem. I hope they do not succeed in their designs on Yemen.

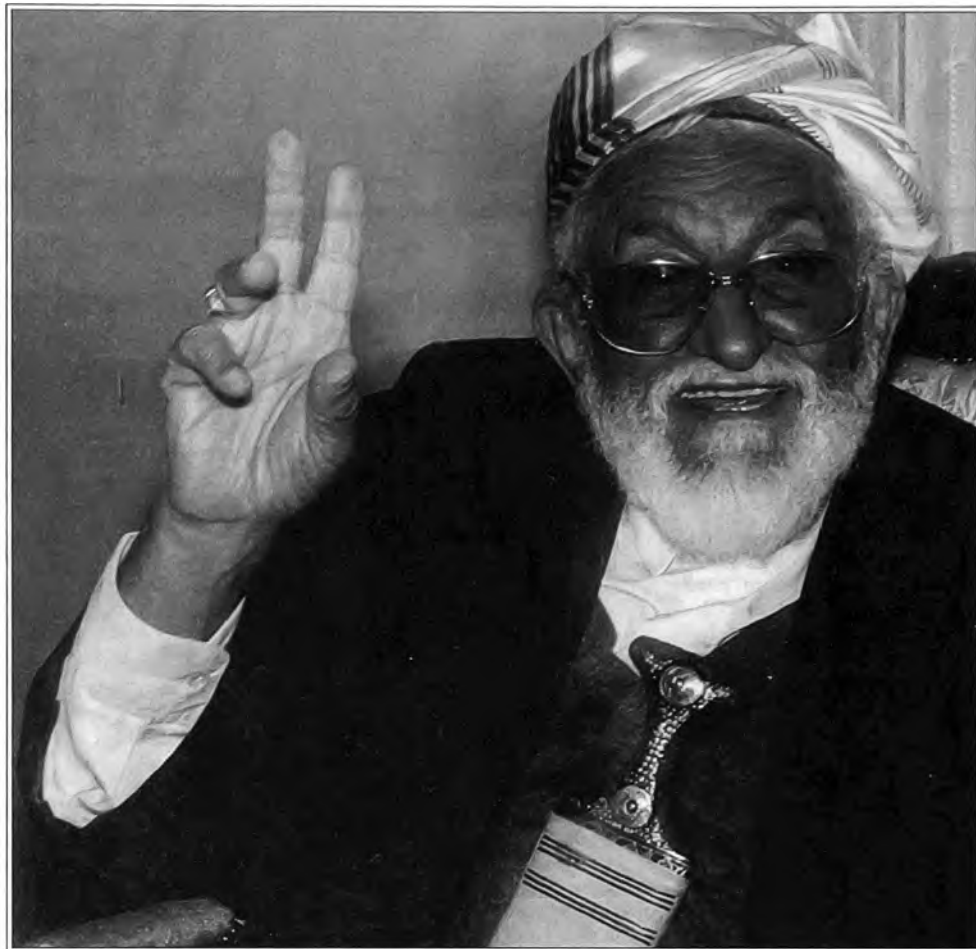
The economic situation is the core of the problem in my opinion. The standard of living of our citizens has fallen rapidly over the last few years. This is unsatisfactory and gives a bad omen.

At the political level, we have competition for spheres of influence and power. That is the over-riding phenomenon in the relations between the two sides. It is funny but this competition also exists within each party, including their third partner.

Q: Who is to blame for this situation, in your opinion?

A: I don't want to pin the blame on any one individual or group, but they are all responsible, together. I would say the rulers are to blame.

Each side will readily admit that there are mistakes and that the situation has to be remedied, and urgently. Unfortunately, they do not do anything tangible to help correct those mistakes. They need to be pushed.



Q: How do you see the problems can be resolved?

A: All sides agree that the problem is too grave to be left neglected. Our welfare, our safety, our democracy, our unity is at stake. I worry that some idiot would start something which nobody can control.

I think that some steps to correct the major imbalances in the distribution of economy and political/military power have to be rectified.

Also, we have to allow new blood to participate in the management of the affairs of the country. That is a basic demand for the survival and progress of the nation.

Q: You have recently established the the Bakeel Tribal Congregation. What is the purpose of this grouping?

A: First, let me mention that the Bakeel tribes extend from Sa'adah to Dhamar, and from Al-Jawf all the way to the coast. So, it is a large tribal grouping.

Second, the rule in post-unification Yemen was based on two parties (YSP and PGC). Today, it is three-legged (after the Islah) joined them. You will realize that a fourth leg is necessary to give it a stable base. In short, Bakeel wants to take its proper place in the power structure of the country.



Q: How do you envisage that happening?

A: We are coordinating with all the popular conferences such as the Saba Conference, the Taiz Conference, and others.

We have also created a presence in political activities at all levels. This means with the opposition as well as with the ruling coalition.

Finally, we are urging our tribes to coordinate and cooperate among themselves and to interact with the issues of national concern.

I think the larger role of Bakeel is already a fact, and I hope we make a positive contribution to the political evolution of the country.

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POLITIQUE

ENTRETIEN: Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri, président de la Ligue des Fils du Yémen

"Si ce régime continue dans la voie de la division, il y a une menace d'éclatement du pays"

Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri est président de la Ligue des Fils du Yémen, un parti composé d'intellectuels. La Ligue des Fils du Yémen fait partie du Bloc national des partis d'opposition et Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri est l'un des cinq membres d'un comité créé il y a quelques jours et destiné à dialoguer avec la coalition gouvernementale. Dans ce comité, on compte également Omar Al-Gaoui, chef de file du Rassemblement unioniste yéménite, Ahmad Al-Chamy du Haq, Abdel Qoudous, du Bloc unioniste nassérien et Abdallah Mahdy, chef de file de l'opposition parlementaire. Le Bloc national des partis d'opposition a proposé récemment un programme en 16 points, où il réclame une réforme de l'administration, la décentralisation, une armée unifiée et neutre, un comité national pour discuter des amendements constitutionnels et un nouveau gouvernement qui ne soit pas lié aux partis.

Yemen Times: Pensez-vous que le Bloc national des partis d'opposition pourrait servir de médiateur dans le conflit entre le CPG et le PSY ?

Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri: Non, tout simplement parce que nous sommes impliqués dans le conflit. Nous participons à la vie politique du pays. Nous ne pouvons donc pas être des médiateurs. Nous avons rencontré le Président Saleh, le vice-Président Al-Bid, le Président du Parlement Cheikh Al-Ahmar, mais en tant que représentants de l'opposition afin d'essayer de comprendre leurs divergences et de les aider à trouver une solution aux

problèmes du pays. Nous les avons appelés à discuter ensemble.

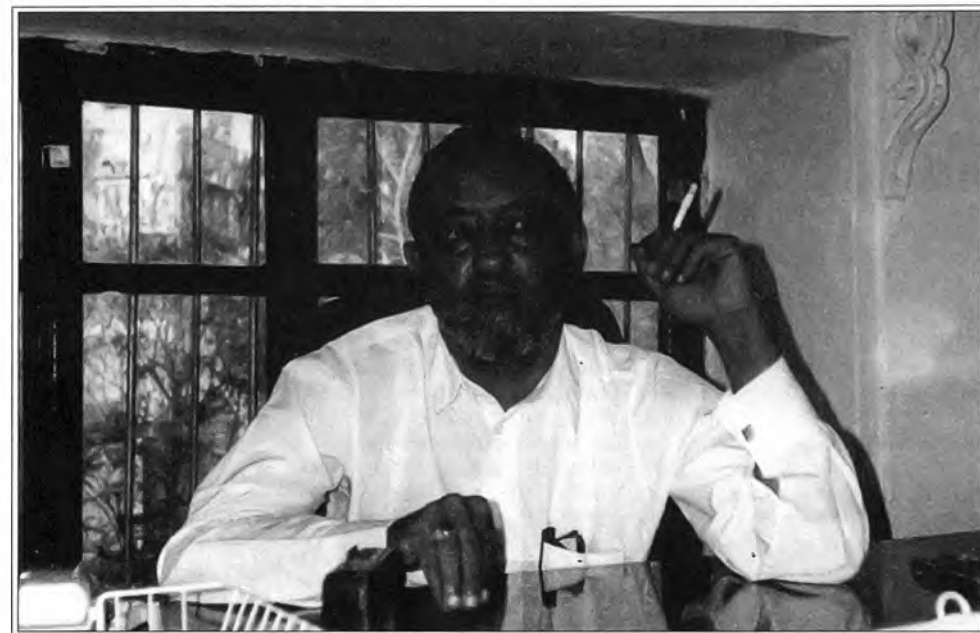
Notre programme en 16 points est une base de dialogue. Nous en avons déjà discuté avec des gens n'appartenant pas au Bloc national des partis d'opposition. Le programme en 18 points d'Ali Salem Al-Bid et celui en 19 points du CPG ont repris beaucoup de nos idées. La différence, c'est qu'ils ont les médias pour eux.

Nous avons décidé de créer un comité composé de cinq personnes. Certains voulaient dix, vingt personnes mais ce n'était pas raisonnable. Dans ce comité, il y a quatre membres du Bloc d'opposition et un membre de l'opposition parlementaire. Nous avons écrit officiellement samedi 23 octobre aux chefs des trois partis de la coalition gouvernementale, au Président, au vice-Président, au Président du Parlement. Omar Al-Gaoui est allé à Aden remettre cette lettre à Ali Salem Al-Bid.

YT: Dans votre programme en 16 points, vous réclamez un nouveau gouvernement. Pensez-vous que le Yémen a besoin d'un gouvernement d'unité nationale ?

M. Al-Jifri: Nous n'avons pas demandé un nouveau gouvernement, mais un gouvernement fort. Le Yémen a besoin d'un véritable Etat, d'un gouvernement centralisé. Il n'y a pas d'autre voie que l'unification et il nous faut un Etat fort.

YT: Certaines personnes disent que l'unité du Yémen est menacée. Qu'en pensez-vous ?



Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri.

M. Al-Jifri: Oui, si ce régime continue dans la voie qui est celle de la division, comme si les dirigeants étaient les propriétaires du pays, des gens, de l'air, du sable, il y a une menace sur l'unité du pays. Et le Yémen ne se divisera pas en deux mais en plusieurs parties. Ce sera une grande responsabilité aux yeux de l'histoire. Malheureusement, j'ai peur que les dirigeants ne soient pas capables de comprendre cela, pas capables de diriger le pays. Des deux côtés, ils considèrent que l'armée est leur propre armée, que la Banque centrale est leur propre banque privée, que la monnaie est leur monnaie. C'est une question de mentalité. Ils s'accrochent au pouvoir, mais ils ne sont pas capables d'assurer la stabilité du pays.

YT: N'est-ce pas difficile pour eux de changer leur mentalité alors qu'ils sont depuis des années au pouvoir ?

M. Al-Jifri: Ils continuent à se réclamer de la démocratie mais à aucun moment ils ne l'appliquent. A mon avis, ils ne croient pas dans la démocratie. Celui qui n'est pas capable d'instaurer la démocratie dans son parti, comment peut-il la promouvoir dans le pays. Les élections législatives l'ont démontré. Elles se sont déroulées dans le calme mais elles ont été entièrement arrangées par les gens actuellement au pouvoir. Ils ont ordonné à la Cour suprême de ne pas accepter les réclamations. Cela aurait prouvé qu'ils avaient tous fraudé.

YT: Pensez-vous qu'Ali Salem Al-Bid va bientôt rentrer à Sanaa ?

M. Al-Jifri: Je ne pense pas. S'il reste encore quelques semaines à Aden, il ne reviendra plus.

YT: Pensez-vous, comme Ali Salem Al-Bid, que quelque-chose doit être fait pour développer le sud du pays ?

M. Al-Jifri: Économiquement, tout le pays est mal en point. Le problème des gens du sud, c'est que leurs revenus sont uniquement composés de leurs salaires. Ils n'ont pas de propriétés privées. D'autre part, le responsable des difficultés du

sud, c'est le PSY, qui dirige jusqu'à maintenant cette partie du Yémen. Ce qui métonne dans les trois partis de coalition, c'est qu'ils critiquent la manière de diriger le pays, alors que ce sont eux qui gouvernent. Ils dénoncent tous la corruption au sein de l'appareil d'Etat. Et bien qu'ils s'en aillent !

YT: Pensez-vous que le conflit entre le CPG et le PSY est un problème personnel entre Ali Abdallah Saleh et Ali Salem Al-Bid ?

M. Al-Jifri: J'en suis persuadé, Ali Salem Al-Bid aime Ali Abdallah Saleh et vice-versa. Mais ils ne se font pas confiance. Ce n'est pas un problème de mentalité entre les gens du nord et ceux du sud, c'est plutôt un problème entre deux manières de diriger le pays, entre deux mentalités dictatoriales. La justice est absente de ce pays et c'est pourtant la clé de tout.

YT: Dans votre programme, vous dites que les médias officiels doivent être sous le contrôle d'une autorité indépendante. En quoi consisterait cette Autorité ?

M. Al-Jifri: Dans un pays démocratique, il n'y a pas de médias officiels, ni de ministère de l'Information. Notre idée est que les gens qui travaillent notamment à la télévision et à la radio élisent un Conseil qui préserve leur indépendance vis-à-vis des partis politiques.

Propos recueillis par Jérôme BERNARD

HOMMAGE

Makram Lamy quitte le Yémen

Le 5 novembre prochain, le gouvernement yéménite va faire ses adieux à l'un de ses plus précieux collaborateurs "onusiens" en la personne du numéro deux de la FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization). Makram Lamy quitte le Yémen pour une nouvelle mission au Liban, après plus de quatre années passées à Sana'a. Au plus haut niveau de l'Etat, de l'aveu de ceux qui l'ont côtoyé, cet ingénieur agronome de formation a séduit non seulement pour son efficacité et son professionnalisme mais aussi pour sa gentillesse et ses qualités humaines.

En qualité de vice-représentant de la FAO au Yémen, Makram Lamy qui a, la plupart du temps, officié en qualité de numéro un de cet organisme, a été le véritable artisan des nombreux projets d'aide des Nations-Unies au Yémen en matière de développement agricole, pour des montants d'environ 40 millions de dollars par an. On a pu apprécier récemment son dévouement à ce pays qu'il avoue aimer parti-



culièrement ainsi que l'efficacité de ses interventions lors de la campagne de lutte contre l'invasion des criquets pèlerins, à partir de cet été. Toutes les récoltes du Yémen étaient menacées et il a fallu, pour éviter la catastrophe, toute l'opiniâtreté et l'esprit d'initiative de Makram Lamy, rentré précipitamment de vacances, pour persuader les autorités de l'importance du danger et les convaincre d'autoriser le survol du territoire par deux hélicoptères venus spécialement

à sa demande d'Ethiopie pour larguer des insecticides sur la région de Mareb. Les experts yéménites et étrangers ont jugé ensuite la menace suffisamment importante pour maintenir l'état d'alerte jusqu'au mois de mai prochain.

En marge de ses missions, Makram Lamy a beaucoup investi de sa personne dans tous les projets qu'il a menés à bien. Ceux, nombreux, qui avaient l'habitude de se retrouver chez lui pour une partie de qat ou un repas, retiendront de cet homme qui a toujours aimé travailler dans l'ombre en raison d'une grande modestie, sa sympathie et son extrême gentillesse. Ceux qui comme moi ont la chance de se compter parmi ses amis n'oublieront jamais ce "Breton d'adoption" qui leur ouvre sa porte en toutes circonstances, dans la plus pure tradition d'accueil et de chaleur de ces gens de l'Orient.

Merci Makram, et bonne chance...

Emmanuel GIROUD

En Bref

Crise politique et médiation omanaise: "Je ne regagnerai pas Sanaa et je ne vais pas prêter serment", a déclaré Ali Al-Bid il y a quelques jours à un quotidien d'Aden. Ce refus intervient quelques jours après une médiation omanaise dans la crise politique au Yémen. Un émissaire omanais, Qaïs Al-Zawawi, vice-Premier ministre pour les Affaires financières et économiques, a rencontré le chef de l'Etat Ali Abdallah Saleh à Sanaa et le numéro deux du régime Ali Salem Al-Bid à Aden pour tenter de trouver une solution.

Litige frontalier avec l'Arabie Saoudite: Des experts saoudiens et yéménites se sont rencontrés à Ryad la semaine dernière pour une sixième réunion consacrée au règlement du conflit frontalier entre les deux pays. Les Saoudiens affirment que Ryad s'en tient à son plan proposé en septembre 1992 et qui ne remet pas en cause l'accord de Taëf. Le litige porte sur les provinces de Najran, Jizane et Aassir, sous contrôle saoudien, conformément à l'accord de Taëf. Sanaa, qui revendique ces provinces, affirme que l'accord a expiré fin septembre 1992 et s'oppose à sa reconduction.

"Le Jihad Islamique infiltré dans l'Israh": Anis Hassan Yahya, député et membre du bureau politique du PSY a affirmé récemment dans un journal des Emirats que des éléments du Jihad Islamique interdit au Yémen, se sont infiltrés dans l'Israh. Une source gouvernementale de Sanaa, avait accusé en janvier dernier la branche yéménite du Jihad d'être responsable de la série d'attentats à la bombe qui ont visé notamment des hôtels à Aden.

Pétrole-Yémen: Les concessions pétrolières ont rapporté au Yémen 546 millions de dollars depuis que la prospection a commencé dans ce pays en 1984, selon un journal paraissant à Abou Dhabi. L'exploitation a commencé avec l'entreprise américaine Hunt. Aujourd'hui plus de trente entreprises sont liées par 130 accords de concession avec le gouvernement yéménite. Les concessions portaient à la veille de l'unification sur un territoire de quelque 80 000 km². Elles ont triplé aujourd'hui, avec une surface estimée à 245 000 km², pas loin de la moitié de la superficie du pays.

Tentative avortée de détournement d'un avion Egypt Air: Un passager yéménite a tenté vendredi 22 octobre de détourner un Airbus A320 d'Egypt Air avec 109 passagers à bord, qui assurait un vol entre Le Caire et Sanaa. Le pirate, Ahmed Ali Abou Ali, qualifié de "détraqué", a brandi un couteau peu avant l'atterrissage à Sanaa et a exigé de l'équipage de l'avion de mettre cap sur Aden. L'équipage a réussi à le maîtriser. Il s'agit de la deuxième tentative de piraterie en moins de deux mois au Yémen. Fin août dernier, un ressortissant yéménite armé avait tenté de détourner sur Oman ou le Koweït un avion des lignes yéménites Yemda.

Deux journalistes britanniques libérés au Yémen: Les autorités yéménites ont remis en liberté deux journalistes britanniques soupçonnés d'avoir tenté d'obtenir des "documents confidentiels" et d'avoir "filmé sans autorisation", après trois semaines de garde à vue. Raymond Shillito et Abdillahi Hassan Mohammed, journalistes de la chaîne de télévision Channel Four, avaient été appréhendés le 3 octobre. Ils étaient arrivés le 29 septembre munis de visas de tourisme.

SPECTACLE

L'église des acrobates

Une troupe d'acrobates yéménites, formée aux méthodes du Cirque de Moscou, a pour salle d'entraînement une église désaffectée. C'est dans le quartier de Maalla, à Aden.

Roulades, sauts périlleux, l'église désaffectée du quartier de Maalla à Aden a de bien étranges locataires. Depuis une vingtaine d'années, une troupe d'acrobates a investi les lieux. C'était en 1970, peu de temps après le départ des Britanniques. Quelques officiers de la Royal Air Force et autres serviteurs de la Couronne britannique reposent dans le cimetière chrétien qui borde l'église abandonnée. Le presbytère, quant à lui, est occupé par un groupe de musique.

Des anges veillent sur les acrobates

Cordes et poulies descendent du plafond, qui est crevé par endroits. Après un échauffement d'une demi-heure, chaque artiste répète sa spécialité. Il y en a un qui fait un numéro de jonglage juché sur un demi-vélo. Près de l'autel, sur lequel veillent six anges peints de bleu et d'or, un autre acrobate donne des coups de pieds dans un sac de sable accroché au plafond.

Ahmed Salem Qassem, l'entraîneur surveille sa troupe et donne des conseils aux uns et aux autres. Un serveur un peu particulier monte sur une échelle. Dans sa bouche, il tient une barre de métal. Au bout de cette barre, un plateau sur lequel sont posés deux rangées de verres. Instant de concentration. L'exercice périlleux laisse



Après une demi-heure d'échauffement, chacun répète son numéro.

indifférents ses camarades, trop occupés à réussir leur propre numéro.

Ahmed Salem est l'entraîneur de cette troupe depuis onze ans. Avant, il était lui-même acrobate, équilibriste et jongleur. "Nous sommes la seule troupe d'acrobates de la péninsule arabique", explique-t-il. "Au Yémen, nous nous produisons uniquement à Aden. Autrement, nous sommes allés en Libye, en Ethiopie, à Abou Dhabi, au Koweït et même à

Moscou".

Les acrobates d'Aden ont de qui tenir. Pendant deux ans, en effet, huit d'entre eux et deux enseignants ont été formés à l'école du cirque de Moscou, dans la capitale soviétique.

Plus que deux femmes

"En tant qu'entraîneur je ne suis resté qu'un an. C'était en 1984", précise Ahmed

Salem. Depuis ils transmettent leur savoir à leurs camarades qui n'ont pas eu cette chance.

Dans la salle éclairée par des néons blafards et refroidie par une climatisation vieillotte, une jeune fille se prépare. Elles ne sont plus que deux femmes à appartenir à la troupe. "Avant l'unification, elles étaient six ou sept, mais aujourd'hui, passé l'âge de seize ans, leurs pères ne veulent plus qu'elles viennent", explique Ahmed. Pour

protéger symboliquement sa vertu, la jeune fille a couvert sa tête d'un voile noir et a enfilé par-dessus son survêtement une jupe de la même couleur. Pas très pratique pour réaliser des acrobaties. Un harnais de sécurité autour de la taille, elle se tient debout sur la tête d'un acrobate qui lentement grimpe les barreaux d'une échelle. Pour se maintenir en équilibre, elle a les bras en croix. Les garçons l'encouragent. Elle ne semble pas très sûre d'elle.

Une nouvelle salle d'entraînement

La troupe, dont les membres ont entre 13 et 35 ans, est également une école. Les jeunes qui sont attirés par ce métier passent un test d'aptitude puis sont intégrés. "Mais cet endroit où nous nous entraînons est trop exigü et dangereux", regrette Ahmed Salem. Il espère que l'an prochain il pourra enfin occuper le bâtiment construit en face de l'église depuis 1986. Il a été bâti spécialement pour la troupe, mais l'électricité n'a jamais été installée. Du matériel chinois doit également bientôt arriver. "Avec ce nouveau bâtiment, nous pourrions prendre des enfants très jeunes pour mieux les former". En attendant, Ahmed se contente de l'église, où "Dieu aide les acrobates à monter plus haut".

J.B.

SPORT AUTOMOBILE

Queen Sheba Trophy

Le projet de rallye automobile "Queen Sheba Trophy" prend de l'envergure. Nous vous en avons parlé dans nos colonnes (*Yemen Times* daté du 11 juillet). Aux inventeurs du projet, Christian Riehl et Tawfik Igmir, se sont adjoints récemment une agence française de conseil en publicité, Looping Communication, qui devient le maître d'oeuvre exclusif de l'organisation et de la logistique et Saatchi & Saatchi France (numéro 2 mondial de la communication), qui serait en charge de la commercialisation et de la médiatisation de cet événement.

A cette occasion, une équipe venue de France devait arriver vendredi 29 octobre à Sanaa pour officialiser avec le cabinet du Premier ministre le "Queen Sheba Trophy" et constituer le comité local "Queen Sheba Trophy Organisation". Sa visite devrait durer jusqu'au 5 novembre.

France-Palestine: Un accord de coopération vient d'être signé entre la France et l'OLP pour la création d'une télévision palestinienne. L'accord prévoit que France 2 apportera une aide dans l'organisation de structures administratives, juridiques et de production, ainsi que son soutien pour l'accès aux images d'information internationales.

CONFERENCE

Zaydisme et pouvoir politique

Nahida Coussonnet, chercheur au Centre français d'Etudes yéménites a donné une conférence au début de ce mois qui avait pour thème: L'imamat zaydite: structuration politique et légitimité religieuse.

Tendance chiite de l'Islam, le zaydisme apparaît en 740, après la mort de Zayd bin Ali Zayn al-Abidin, le petit-fils d'al-Husayn bin Ali bin Ali Talib. Il se distingue des autres courants chiites par sa volonté de restituer, l'épée à la main, le pouvoir aux descendants d'Ali et de Fatima, le gendre et la fille du Prophète, par leurs fils al-Hasan et al-Husayn sans prôner l'attente du retour d'un imam caché. C'est ainsi que se mit en place, en 864, le premier Etat zaydite dans les provinces du sud de la mer Caspienne.

Nahida Coussonnet, chercheur au Centre français d'Etudes yéménites, s'est intéressée aux relations entre le zaydisme et le pouvoir politique au Yémen du 9ème au 14ème siècle. Le zaydisme apparut en effet dans ce pays, en 897, dans la région des hauts plateaux, entre Sanaa et Saada. Cette région était relativement pauvre, habitée par une société tribale très hiérarchisée, dont la principale source de revenus était liée à l'agriculture. Les hommes des tribus devaient aussi parfois compter sur les razzias et le mercenariat. Pour résoudre leurs multiples conflits, les tribus avaient l'habitude de s'attacher les services d'une classe de lettrés faisant office de médiateurs et de juges-arbitres.

Au 9ème siècle, une grande confusion politique régnait dans cette région. La population à bout de force, semble avoir été disposée alors à se ranger sous l'égide d'un chef capable de se tenir au-dessus des partis. Des querelles

inter-tribales ame-nèrent certaines tribus de la région de Saada à rechercher un arbitrage leur donnant satisfaction. C'est ainsi que Yahya bin al-Husayn, le petit-fils d'al-Qasim al-Rassi le premier théoricien zaydite, fut sollicité pour être cet arbitre. Il arriva au Yémen en 897 avec une cinquantaine de compagnons, descendant comme lui du Prophète, les sayyids. Sous le titre d'al-Haddi ila-l-Haqq, il se proclama imam et jeta les bases de l'Etat zaydite du Yémen qui prit fin en 1962.

Une image d'invincibilité

Mais l'implantation du zaydisme auprès des tribus fut surtout favorisée par l'institution de la hijra. Ce terme recouvrait plusieurs sens et désignait notamment des enclaves territoriales neutres et inviolables où chaque grande famille de sayyids était protégée par un certain nombre de tribus et jouissait d'une immunité totale. Les hijras furent d'importants centres d'enseignement et de propagation de la doctrine zaydite. En cas de danger, elles étaient d'excellentes bases de repli stratégique. C'est à partir des hijras, que les imams zaydites ont infiltré la société tribale, et trouvé un grand écho parmi les parias de la société, séduits par le discours égalitaire zaydite.

Pour se proclamer imam zaydite, il fallait répondre à toute une série de critères bien définis. L'imam devait être musulman, de sexe masculin, descendant d'Ali et de Fatima

par leurs fils al-Hasan et al-Husayn, issu d'un pur lignage, adulte et majeur, libre, sain de corps et d'esprit, habile dans le maniement de l'épée et de la plume, capable d'interpréter les sources du droit. La figure de l'imam devint peu à peu mythique. Il apparut comme invincible.

Le prétendant à l'imamat devait s'auto-proclamer imam et recevoir l'assentiment de toute la communauté, c'est-à-dire l'allégeance de tous ses partisans. Il devait alors prendre les armes et se mettre en guerre contre les "infidèles", à savoir les non-zaydites et ceux qui quittaient le droit chemin zaydite. En principe, la fonction d'un imam n'était pas héréditaire mais la pratique fut souvent différente.

L'imam était soumis à une série d'obligations envers sa communauté. Il devait constamment se montrer le plus digne d'en assumer la direction. La communauté était elle aussi liée à l'imam par autant d'obligations.

Le pouvoir politique zaydite était fortement sacralisé. La figure charismatique de l'imam était constamment exaltée et la communauté se voyait continuellement rappeler son appartenance religieuse et son devoir communautaire. Les imams obligeaient de fait, continuellement, leurs partisans à leur renouveler leur fidélité.

Mais si le zaydisme a pu s'implanter si durablement au Yémen, c'est parce qu'il a su s'infiltrer à tous les niveaux de la société tribale. Les imams surent imposer une cohabitation musclée aux tribus qui assura la pérennité de leur système politique.

Outside it's Yemen.



Inside it's Far Eastern.



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Yemen's 2,500 Kilometer Coastline Offers Tremendous Opportunities and Some Risks Two Articles Examine the Issues:

Pollution and the Fish-Kill Phenomenon

By: Dr. Ali Awadh Salim,
General Manager,
Environmental Protection
Council.

The coastal areas of any nation are generally the most affected by pollution, because most of the waste that is generated in the interior is often discharged into the sea. The shoreline, and the immediate water/sea vicinity, therefore, are subjected to abuse and pollution. Yet, it is in this rather thin strip of water that over 90% of marine life exists.

The species most sensitive to degradation by man are those dependent on streams and estuaries for spawning and early-life feeding and those which dwell in the intertidal zone.

Marine life may be damaged by pollution and the consequences of other activities of man in a number of ways such as (1) destruction of habitat; (2) acute poisoning by toxic wasters; (3) adverse alteration of water quality; (4) sub-lethal effects of pollutants causing impairment of feeding, growth, migration, resistance to disease and parasites, and interference with reproduction; (5) bacteriological and viral contamination; (6) bio-accumulation of toxic metals and organic substances and (7) discoloration of the flesh by organic and/or metallic substances.

The economic effects of pollution and other environmental changes introduced by man on world fisheries are difficult to assess at the present time. However, the elimination of fish resources by sewage disposal alone can involve hundreds of millions of dollars per year worldwide. This can only be overcome through costly clean up of sewage and industrial waste disposal in contaminated areas, purification of aquaculture hatch by transplanting to clean areas, or artificial purification with ultra-violet light or chlorine in an installation designed for the purpose.

The rejection of fish products because of high metals content, e.g., mercury in fish - flesh, of high colorinated hydrocarbon concentration, e.g. DDT in mackerel can pose risk and hazard to fishermen and consumers. This is an economic burden on governments and society which may have to pay compensation to fishermen for their losses and to consumers for any effects.

It is obvious that in spite of the most aggressive conservation policies, backed by strong national legislation, many of the productive coastal areas of the world will be ultimately lost as good fishing areas. Unless factors of national importance, other than marine conservation, can reverse the current trends, the fisheries industry will suffer enormously. Preservation costs may turn up to be too high to support full-scale restoration, if the present trend persists for another decade.

Yet there is rising demand for protein worldwide will rise not diminish. Hence the

only recourse is mitigation with:

1) Intensification of fish propagation by enhancement techniques e.g. spawning and hatchery channels, in areas still unpolluted and generally unaltered by man, with a potential for higher fish production;

2) transplantation of desirable species into waters suitable for their propagation;

3) aquaculture efforts with protected water-quality in partially enclosed areas of the sea, or in enclosures with controlled seawater input;

4) environmental improvement, e.g. artificial reefs, in those area which could be attractive for fish, but at present are unproductive because of the nature of the sea-bottom, lack of food, and other factors.

We are lucky in Yemen in terms of the extent of the pollution of our shoreline. Yet, we have another major problem in dealing with our marine resources.

The phenomenon of fish-kill in Yemen is spread over many coastal areas from time-to-time.

Reports indicate that huge quantities of small fish can be seen killed covering a large area along the beaches of Yemen. Incidence of fish-kill were reported repeatedly the last few years, particularly, after the Gulf War. The events were especially intensive in the regions of Aden, Hodaidah, Mukalla, Shiher and Al-Mahara.

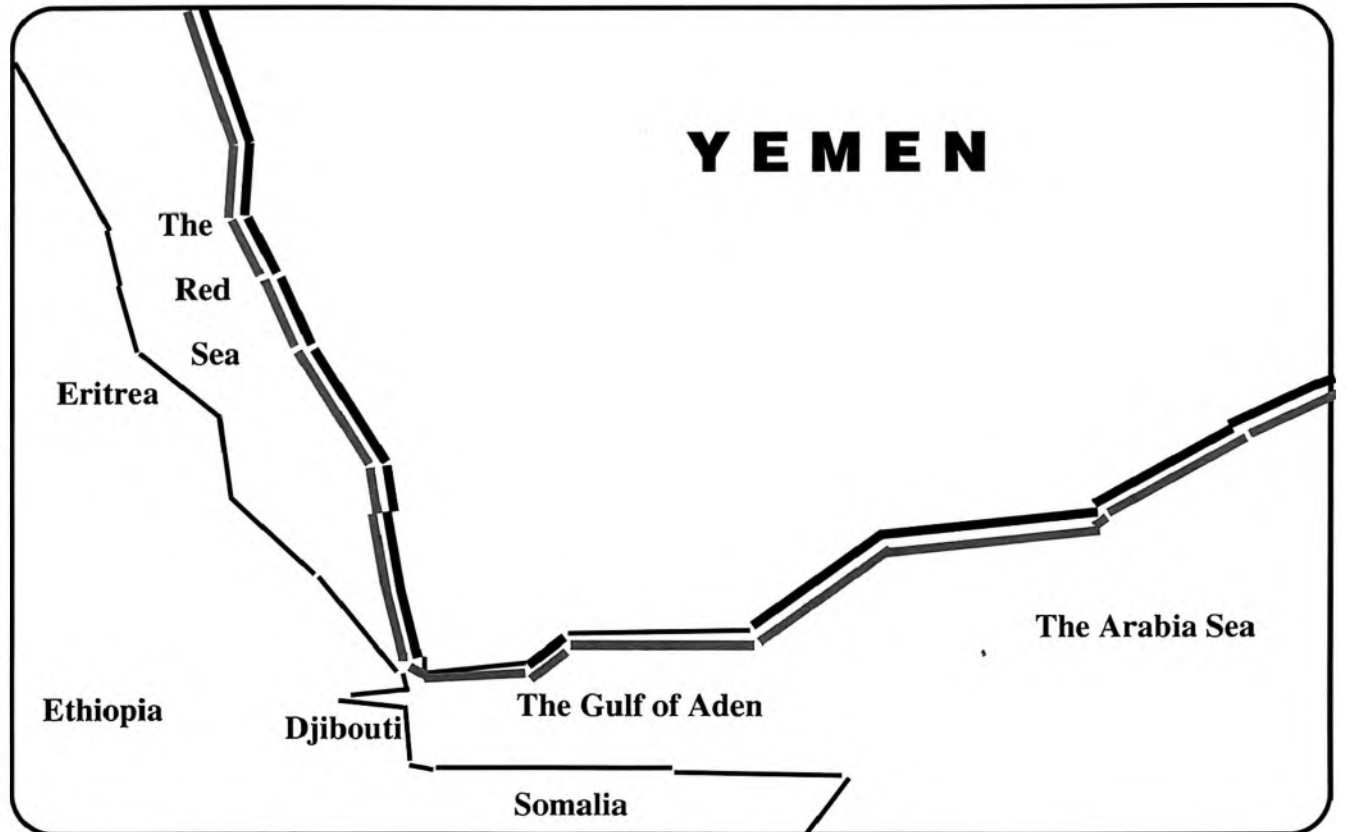
What exactly is meant by fish-kill? What is the scientific interpretation of such a phenomenon?

Fish-kill is the term scientists use to refer to the death of fish due to reasons other than the natural factors. Large quantities of fish are subjected to poison and then long durations of exposure. The poison first affects the organism through physiological stress and which is often reflected first in excitement and hype activity, followed by gasping and other distressful manifestations, and finally death.

The phenomenon of fish-kill varies from the natural death of fish in the ecosystem. However, there are many natural factors that may have the same impact; i.e., fish-kill. The sudden change of temperature, sea-cover, winds, variation and fluctuation in salinity, mortality during spawning, parasites, bacterial and viral infectious in the marine, etc.

Large-scale migration of certain fishes into confined coastal waters, where dense groups of fish populations become congested in limited space, may also lead to massive mortalities arising from disease, low oxygen from respiration and decay of fish and other aquatic organisms. Massive fish-kill also happens due to other factors still not clearly understood by man.

Pollutants may affect the general health of fish in any stages of its life cycle. The hatchability of the eggs can be seriously hampered by lack of substrate, such a gravel or vegetation, heavy



silt loads, erosion, oxygen depletion and toxic effluent. If the performance of vital functions is impaired by a pollutant, then the fish is more subject to natural hazards of the environment, such as predators and disease.

A pollutant may retard the exchange of dissolved oxygen across the gills and thereby affect the respiration. It appears that some fishes, due to a concentration of heavy metals, particularly mercury, even in small groups, have their equilibrium disturbed. A concentration of heavy metals, as low as 10 parts per billion (10ppb), in waters in which fish eggs are incubated, can lead to deformation of embryos, which again is a serious intervention in the life-cycle of the species.

Other factors must be considered in relation to sub-lethal harm done to fish-by pollutants. These include such things as mutagenesis arising from certain synthetic organic chemicals, as well as carcinogenesis associated with some compounds extracted or synthesized from petroleum.

A critical influence of these substances can occur in the brain and nervous system, exactly the same way methyl mercury affects humans, which manifests itself in neurophysiological symptoms of great significance for survival. The effect of complex mixtures on aquatic organisms are difficult to predict. Bio-assay tests must be applied directly in order to get some measure of the toxicity. Many industries discharge complex mixtures of both organic and inorganic material which are difficult to identify.

In the field of marine research and environmental studies, certain criteria for fish-kill in aquatic habitats, e.g. rivers, lakes, etc., have been established. The dimensions of such bodies of water, often with a width of 60 meters and depth of 2 meters, has been found to be a factor.

In Yemen, the issue deserves close studying.

There are at least three levels of fish-kill which can easily be distinguished. The first is a "Minor Fish-kill" situation which is not severe, and the number of fish that perish hovers around 100 fish. The second level is the "Moderate Fish-kill" in which the number of dead fish can rise up to a thousand. Finally, there is the major "Major Fish-kill" in which the volume of perished fish can rise to several thousands. The kind of poisoning and the degree of acuteness of toxicity is determined only in laboratories by biological assays, where the fish or other organisms are subjected to different concentrations of poison under controlled salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen for a specified time, usually 48 or 96 hours.

It is important for the field work of fish-kill survey to prepare a map for the area under study, indicating the exact spot where the fish kill was observed or recorded. The visual parameters at the studying area or site is very important.

In Yemen, the phenomenon is readily visible in many parts of our shoreline. Now it is time to investigate it, and to find practical and acceptable solutions to it.

Modernizing the Fishing Industry The Red Sea Co for Fisheries

To coincide with the September/October Revolution, the Red Sea Company for Shrimps and Fisheries inaugurated its new acquisition - four vessels that are highly automated.

"Each of the four vessels is 25.3 meters long and 6.4 meters wide. With a gross tonnage of 129 tons, a horsepower of 373, the four ships are out at sea collecting shrimps and fish," explained Mr. Ali Abdo Nagi, the General Manager of the company.

The vessels will not affect the local fishermen. "We are going deeper into sea, while the fishermen are often limited to short distances from the coast because of the kind of vessels and equipment they have," Mr. Nagi explained.

Yet, the vessels will add tremendously to the fish-catch of Yemen. Headquartered at Hodeidah, the company plans to study exports of the shrimps and fishes.

"Each of the vessels is equipped with 60 ton refrigeration capacity. They stay for about a month at sea,



collect the fish, clean it, pack, and prepare it for direct export," the General Manager said.

There are ten persons on board each ship, and following their one-month service at sea, they take their leave on land.

There is a lot of potential for improving Yemen's fish catch, and this can be an important foreign exchange earner for the country. If other companies join the Red Sea Company for Shrimps and Fisheries, a substantial part of the local demand for protein, as well as larger export quantities are possible.

More private businesses are invited to invest in the fish

One of the Four Vessels of the Red Sea Co for Shrimps and Fisheries



IRRESPONSIBLE FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES RUIN THE ECONOMY

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Professor of Finance,
Sanaa University.

Six weeks back, the Yemen Times ran a front-page story warning that the Dollar was approaching fifty Riyals in the free market. Now it is approaching sixty Riyals, and close observers of the market predict it will hit YR 100 before we kiss 1993 good bye. Unless!

Unless what? And what is all this about? This situation is the direct result of irresponsible fiscal and monetary policies.

1. Fiscal Irresponsibility:

The deficit in the government budget rose from YR. 11.96 billion in 1990, to YR. 16.1 billion in 1991, to YR. 32.87 billion in 1992, and is projected to exceed YR. 40 billion this year (1993).

The main problem with the way the Ministry of Finance handles its affairs is that it is primitive, and it is beholden to power centers. Any person or group of organization seen as influential will get the Ministry to authorize whatever payment it wishes, irrespective of how viable or cost-effective that payment is. Any person or group or organization that does not wield much power, cannot get money even if it is the most efficient in the whole country. In other words, the Ministry of Finance has become a highly politicized organ in its fiscal policy.

The same is true of revenues. If a person or group or organization is powerful, it is 'exempted' from the money it owes the government. If the person or group or organization is seen as weak, it is penalized and blackmailed into paying whatever the ministry's corrupt clerk wants.

In other words, the Minister of Finance has become the *BOOKIE* of society's influential people, starting with the president of the republic. The Minister is hardly interested in the general welfare of society or the well-being of the economy. His mandate is to please the big guy/s.

2. Monetary Irresponsibility:

The growth in the money supply has exceeded all limits. During the five years of 1988-1993, the money supply (M1) has grown by an average of over 22% per annum, whereas the economy has, at least over the last few years shrank.

As a result, the inflation rate has soared, and in some years exceeded 80%. The reason for this printing of fiat money is really dictated by the Ministry of Finance, which has been financing its deficit by borrowing from the Central Bank. Therefore, government borrowing from the Bank has accumulated to about YR 125 billion.

The Central Bank has been unable to resist the Ministry's endless drawing, and it has allowed itself to evolve into a visible subordinate position. The Bank has become subservient to the Ministry.

There is another aspect to the irresponsible behavior of the Bank. Whatever foreign exchange is generated by the economy, the Central Bank wanted to 'confiscate'. At one stage, the Central Bank almost forced the commercial banks to hand over the hard currency they got from their clients.

What did it do with it?

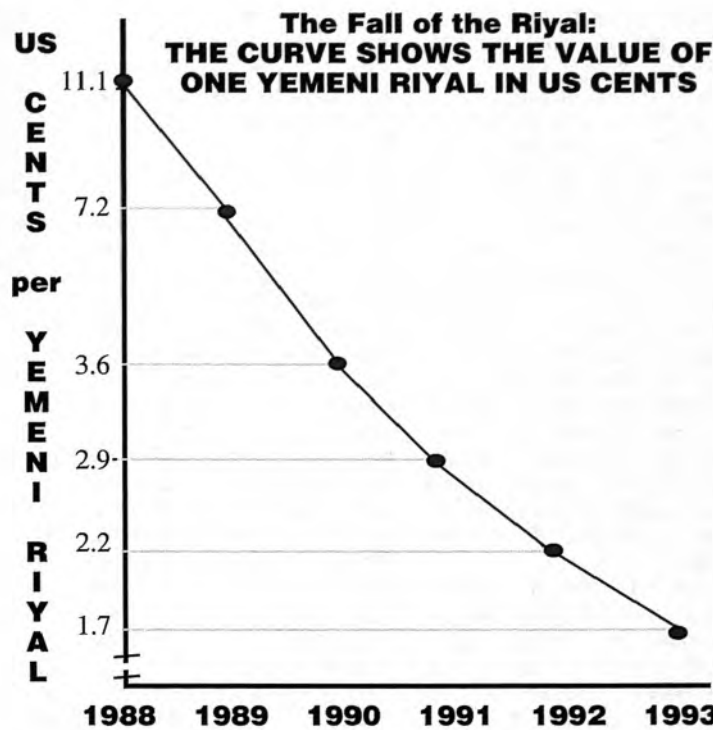
Like the Ministry of Finance, the CBY was eager to oblige the politicians and the influential people. It deprived the merchants and business people of the foreign exchange and offered it to the people with clout, who in turn shipped the money to the foreign accounts.


In both cases, the Ministry and the Bank, the people in charge of them behaved like weak employees who, for the sake of continuing on their jobs, were willing to forsake the principles and interest of the nation.

3. IMF/World Bank Mission:

In mid-November, an IMF/World Bank delegation is coming to Sanaa to review the economic system. All the dirty linen is going to come out. The country may also be forced to accept the first dose of adjustment - correcting the prices of gasoline, electric charge, and the removal of subsidies from certain products.

If this country is to undergo a serious reform, the hegemony of politicians from the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank has to be removed.




CONGRATULATIONS

On the occasion of the arrival of the newest member of the family, Mohammed, we extend our best wishes to the family of Khader Barhoush, and all relatives.

from all your friends, but especially from:
 Zainab and Nada Ali Al-Shariff

“The Al-Kod Center today provides technical advice and experienced personnel to all stations and centers in the republic.”

The Al-Kod Agricultural Research Center represents one of the most active research forums in the country, given its capabilities and potential. On this occasion, a field trip to Abyan has produced the following interview with the center director, Dr. Abubakar Salim Al-Muallim. Ali Bin Talib carried out the interview.

Q: Since unification, the Center has become part of a national network of research centers and stations under the umbrella of the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority. How has that affected your work?

A: Contrary to what you may think, our tasks have increased. We now provide the other stations and centers

with highly experienced and qualified personnel in order to help them in their work. This has allowed them to shorten the time-span it would otherwise have taken in progressing in their work. The major shortcoming, however, is that we lose some of our independence in decision-making.

Q: You are a technician as well as an administrator. Do you find there is a contradiction?

A: There is no contradiction, but it is true that often the administrator in me, for example, overwhelms and eclipses the technician. We have been groping with this question for a long time now. We have decided to appoint an assistant general manager for administrative and financial affairs. This



person is supposed to attend to such matters.

Q: How many people work at the center?

A: We have some 300,000 square meters on which we carry out our research and experimentation, in addition to lab work. Therefore, we have around 500 workers in various capacities.

Q: What is the main obstacle facing your work?

A: I think the complicated financial system is the main obstacle. The way the system works is that you have alloca-

tions, and there are revenues. They simply deduct the projected revenues from your allocations. Sometimes, the revenues do not materialize, at other times, you have a cash flow problem.

Q: The 300,000 m2 of land with the center, is it a government property, or a previously confiscated land?

A: The larger part is a previously confiscated land, and we have been ordered to return some one half to the previous owners. That will leave us with about 150,000 m2 at Al-Kod, and another

45,000 m2 plantation at Je'ar which is used for experimenting with cotton.

Q: How would you assess the state's interest in what you do?

A: I can tell you straight that promoting research is very low in the priority of the state. I do not feel that the state is really interested in any of our work. If this country is to make any real progress, attention must be given to research, especially in the fields that offer potential for real growth and development.

Q: How would assess your relations with head office, at Dhamar?

A: Of course, communication is easy, although, of course, there is a psychological and geographic distance.

In addition, the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA) is itself being established and is still in its infancy.

That is why, the steps taken by the General Manager of the AREA, Dr. Abdul-Wahid Othman Mukrid, in delegating powers to the centers and stations. I also believe that AREA will establish a technical board that will include in its membership all the managers of the research stations and centers.

Even then, the over-centralization in the management forces me personally to drive to Dhamar at least once a month.

Q: Any last message?

A: I would like to use this opportunity to indicate that each center, given its focus on a different agro-climatic region, needs to link up with regional and international centers which deal with the same climatic regions. Therefore, I urge all centers and stations to benefit from regional and international experiences. This is crucial for our development.

INSANALLY: "Commitment to Peace"

United Nations peacekeeping efforts cannot guarantee peace without greater emphasis being placed on creating stable economic and social conditions, notes Samuel Rudolf Insanally of Guyana, president of the recently convened UN General Assembly. In an interview shortly after being elected president of the 48th General Assembly, Insanally said he hopes the 184-nation institution will lay the groundwork for an "agenda for development" during his presidency.

The peacekeeping role of the UN has increased dramatically in the last few years. In May 1993, over 80,000 UN personnel were deployed in 13 peacekeeping operations around the world, including Somalia and the former Yugoslavia. In June last year, the UN Secretary-General indicated in a report entitled "Agenda for Peace" that the UN has a central role for the resolution and prevention of conflicts following the end of the Cold War.

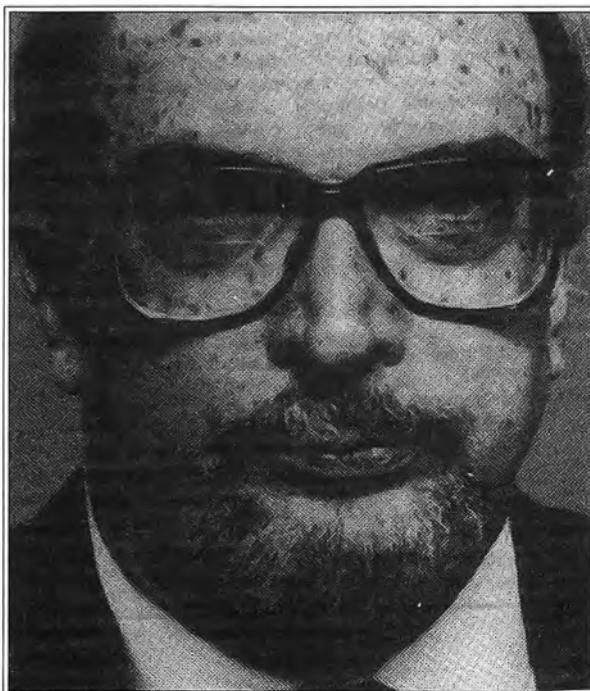
"Now is the time to translate the agenda for Peace into an agenda for development," said Insanally, who is also Guyana's Ambassador to the UN. He says it is time for peacekeeping to be "built upon and matched" by developmental matters. "This year will be crucial in terms of fleshing out the agenda," he added. Greater emphasis on devel-

opment must be implemented, particularly in what Insanally calls the "failed states" - countries that have not made significant progress in development for several decades. "Development is often essential for the elimination of sources of tension and potential conflict."

Insanally says the General Assembly and the international community have adopted a compartmentalized approach to critical issues of peace and development for too long. "These are different sides of the same coin," he explained. "They are interconnected."

As examples, Insanally says development is essential for implementation of the historic accord on Palestinian self-rule and for South African parliamentary decision providing blacks with a role in governing South Africa. When Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress called for lifting economic sanctions soon after the decision of the South African parliament, the UN and world governments responded by ending economic sanctions.

Insanally will serve as president of the General Assembly until September 1994. The assembly will meet in regular sessions from September to December and thereafter as necessary. Insanally was elected president unop-



posed. the presidency rotates among world regions - this year Latin America and the Caribbean nominated candidates for the position.

The new president is in a position to influence the work of the world body, which has more than 150 items on its agenda. The first three weeks will consist of general debate, with speeches made by top government officials on a wide variety of international issues. At least 25 heads of state are scheduled to address the assembly.

When asked to comment on the increasing role of the UN Security Council compared to that of the

General Assembly, Insanally said the two UN organs "cannot be at odds with one another." He added that in areas of peace and security, the General Assembly could complement the work of the Security Council.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security. "The UN Charter allows the General Assembly to take action in many areas. We need to step back and see how we can maintain balance among the various UN organs," Insanally said.

Environmental issues will also be a priority, particularly if they are linked to

development, during Insanally's presidency. "The link between the environment and development has already been established," he said. He added that the momentum of the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Brazil last year must be sustained. Insanally says some small island states are so vulnerable to environmental dangers that their very survival is at stake. "I am speaking as someone from the Caribbean," he said. "We need to encourage the good will of the developed countries to make the Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Barbados next year a success."

Attention to the Caribbean would not be to the neglect of other countries and other interests, Insanally assured. "There is the desertification problem of Africa and other problems in terms of development with the emergence of South Africa that we really need to focus on." Insanally says a summit of the General Assembly must take place to "interject some political dynamism" into solutions of economic and social problems.

"Many of our institutions are bogged down with rhetoric," he said. The UN declaration for international economic co-operation adopted in 1990 "remains a sterile document," he added, noting that he hopes that the 48th assembly will accel-

erate the pace of change. "Without encouraging confrontation with any organ or agency, I think the General Assembly, which is the paramount organ of the United Nations, can look at new ways of doing things," the new president said. "It is not business as usual. It is going to be an experimental year, and it is going to be an attempt to see how far international interdependence has reached."

Asked whether the high ideals and objectives for the Assembly were possible in light of allegations of UN waste, fraud, abuse and patronage made by a former top UN congress, Insanally said he would strive for "effective procedures to avoid extravagance or waste" and would strive to enhance the efficiency of the General Assembly.

Insanally has been Guyana's ambassador to Peru, Venezuela and Ecuador. As ambassador, he participated in the work of such organizations as the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; and the Latin American and the Latin American Economic System. As Deputy Permanent Representative of Guyana to the UN in 1972, he was active in the negotiation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

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VEGETARIANS STRIKE BACK

Adopted by:
Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times



It took that backslider Tolstoy five years to go vegetarian, while Shelley dithered far no more than a month. George Benard Shaw saw the light in the reading room of the British museum, reading Shelley. For Gail Turner, aged 14, Conversion took approximately 18 minutes last week, in the lecture room of Walton-le-Dale's pleasant high school near Preston in north-west England, during a visit from the Vegetarian Society.

"I'm going to start getting in the veggie-burgers tonight, I'm going to tell my mum," She said. "I just think it is really cruel. It is horrible, it is disgusting, it is not right." Why not? "They're alive, aren't they? They got feelings just like us, they've got nerves and ears and eyes and noses, they can

"dannii minogue's spaghetti neopolitana" - rather than repel them with emotive pleas on behalf of our dumb chums.

Children are less stirred by epicureanism, more affected by bloody evidence of tormented beasts. Every year, hundreds of schools are visited by missionaries from the Vegetarian Society, who show their video, then lead teenagers in a discussion on the inexcusability of meat-eating. Last week, Gellatley appeared in Walton-le-Dale at the invitation of Anne Wrigley, a home economics teacher. "The video is quite

to be receptive to the arguments for animal rights. "People are now familiar through popular television programs with an appreciation of the complexity of the emotional, psychological and social lives of other species in the wild," says Professor Ted Benton, a sociologist and author of a book on animal rights and social justice.

"It is now an almost universal cultural norm, particularly in the middle classes, for children to be brought up with animals as pets who they come to love and nurture as part of the family," he points out.

This intimate association with pet animals has coincided with the massive, but mostly unseen, objectification of animals by the meat processing industry.

In Preston, with a subdued audience of pet-lovers, Gellatley draws upon it straight away. Isn't it funny, she says, the way we eat some animals but get cross about



smell and see and hear - it's just unfair."

Once again, the Vegetarian Society's stimulating school video, *Food Without Fear*, had done its job.

"I view it as the most important work the Society does," says the Society's charity director, Juliet Gellatley, a personable young woman with the certitude of the true believer. "Teenagers are the future and they're the people who are still at an age where they can actively get involved... It's an age where you got to capture the enthusiasm and direct it to something useful."

the Society now has its eye on adults. A million lustrous leaflets, distributed to supermarkets and restaurants, are designed to seduce meat-eaters with easy celebrity recipes -

powerful," Anne Wrigley admitted. "Some schools are hesitant to use it, because they think it's a bit hard-hitting, but to me they watch a lot worse on the television." She would, she promised, be inviting representatives from the meat and fish industries to put their cases - "so it's not just one-sided."

Is there a butcher or fishmonger with the eloquence to dampen the emotional impact of *Food Without Fear*? The video concluded with an exemplary conversion of a teenager to the cause.

As it ends, with the challenge, "What about you? What are you going to do about it?" Gellatley springs up. Wrigley whispers, "Good propagandam."

Even before they saw the video, British children tend

eating others, like dogs? "They can all feel pain, they can all suffer?"

"How many people have a pet?" A lot of hands go up. "How many of you would eat your pet?" No hands. Gellatley persists, and asks, "Why?" Silence.

All they needed to say, perhaps, was that these animals were valued as pets an not livestock, and were not cows, sheep, or chicken, anyway!

I brought up this matter with a friend, just to check out what kind of reaction one would get in Yemen. "Get off it!" That was the blunt answer I got.

In Yemen, vegetarianism has a long way to go to leave its mark. Those people who don't eat meat don't do it simply because they can't afford it.

Yemenis, like many of their Arab cousins and, actually, most of the world, are carnivorous. Meat-eating is still seen as the ultimate in food eating. If you invite someone and do not serve meat or at least fish at the table, you have not lived up to that romantic notion of Arabian hospitality or generosity.

For now, therefore, vegetables will come second to meat. But think about it.

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محمد خالد حميد
نعمان رجب

Continued from Page 20:

Assessing the Big Three

C. The Urbanites & Elites:

The YSP has successfully projected itself as the party most keen on institution and state-building. It has pushed the concept of the rule of the law which is seen as more engrained in the YSP psyche than in either of the other two parties.

Thus, it has been able to gain the tacit and/or open support of the majority of the elites and urban dwellers. This also includes the bureaucrats.

The PGC also has a substantial following among the urbanites and segments of the elites, as well as a large chunk of the bureaucracy.

The Islah is least represented in this group.

Most Yemenis would readily tell you that the YSP is future-oriented, the PGC is present-oriented, and the Islah past-oriented. This is an over-simplification, but it gives a sense of the overall assessment of the public. When and if comes to push and shove, the position of the army is going to be crucial. Each of the three has its own army.

By far, the most disciplined among the armed forces are the core forces called National Guards, loyal to the president. Then comes the YSP segment of the armed forces, followed by the army of the former YAR, and then followed by the militias and armed tribes.

Continued from Page 1

THEY HAVE AGREED...

Now, let us look at what they have agreed on:

First, they have agreed about the role and location of the army. "The army has been symbolically entrusted with the defence of the capital city since the September Revolution. That is the mental framework for the presence of the army in Sanaa. That is also the reason for neglecting the building of a proper police force," said Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, who leads the PGC team to the Tripartite C-9 talks. But they have agreed to dilute the preponderant dominance of certain tribes in the army, and to gradually reduce the presence of the armed forces in our major cities by re-locating them to outside the main cities.

The second point of agreement has to do with local administration. "In principle, we have agreed to apply financial and administrative decentralization. This means the delegation of authority to the governorates.

But regarding the election of local administrators, this has to be carried out on a gradual basis, and to try to apply it, first, on a selective basis and to start in certain provinces and then to universalize the process," Al-Iryani stated.

The third point of agreement is regarding the constitutional amendments. "There is consensus that amendments have to be processed, but we need to first set up and agree on the procedural arrangements with the House of Representatives. So, now we are working on the by-laws that will govern how the amendments will be pre-

sented and processed," he noted.

The fourth point of agreement is on embarking seriously on fiscal, monetary and administrative reform. "We have submitted our vision of the necessary reforms. An IMF/World Bank team is arriving here in mid-November to help us in the implementation thereof. I would like to insist that these reforms are ours, and the role of the international organizations is simply to help us achieve them," the Planning and Development Minister indicated.

What is this fiscal and monetary reform package? It is a structural adjustment that will seek to rectify budgetary deficits, exchange rate disequilibrium, and other changes. "These will be achieved in a four-to-five year program. We will start by reducing the number of exchange rates to only two, and hopefully working towards the market rate," Al-Iryani said.

The fifth point of agreement is related to the safety and security situation. The state will take firm and decisive action to sort out the crimes of the bandits that continue to break the law at various levels, and creating a major complication in the already tense relationship of the coalition partners. Over the last week alone, several incidents took place. In one instance, four Chinese engineers working on the Jihanah-Marib highways were kidnapped by tribesmen to get even with the government. On Friday morning, there was an ambush in Aden.

The sixth point is related to mud-slinging that has been going among the newspapers of the coalition partners and their surrogates. "We have agreed to put an end to this practice and start building more trust and good-will among the partners," he said. He also indicated that it has been a long time since he has read any of these newspapers.

The seventh point of agreement has to do with the structure of power. "We have agreed that a unified leadership is necessary if the country is to move forward in all these arrangements," he pointed out. This point also delineates the relations between the presidential council and the government as well as other bodies.

A visibly exhausted Al-Iryani pointed out that he was at the end of the rope regarding his participation in the inter-party negotiations. "I can tell you that the PGC's interaction with the YSP demands have exceeded the stage of accommodation, and can be described as submission."

Even then, Al-Iryani who said please don't call me the PGC troubleshooter or any other name, sounded optimistic. "Look, this document creates the necessary atmosphere for state-building, and to get out of the crisis. We have been overwhelmed by one crisis after another. I believe no crisis should stop us from getting on with state-building," he concluded.

Dr. Al-Iryani, hoping that this time they have really hammered in the last nail in the partnership, and in the



Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani

management of the system, indicated that he is washing his hands.

The document, which Dr. Al-Iryani describes as creating the essential atmosphere for ending the crisis, is expected to be signed today, Sunday, October 31st. At another level, Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman, President of the Secretariat of the YSP, said, "It is wrong to simplify the problem as a dispute between Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salim Al-Beedh, or even between the PGC and YSP. These conditions touch on the lives of all Yemenis and thus concern the whole population. It is up to every one of us to interact and work to resolve our problems

fully and meaningfully," he explained.

Dr. Noman also pointed out that the negotiated deal will be made available to the public in a short while. "We have to deal openly and for the welfare and progress of the whole country," the YSP representative concluded.

Given the new developments in Aden, and the killing of the nephew of Mr. Al-Beedh and the wounding of his son in an ambush, it is not likely that the vice president will come to Sanaa rather soon. Nonetheless, agreement to start all over again has been achieved. The Omani and Jordanian mediation, and the efforts of Federation of Patriotic Forces, have paid off.

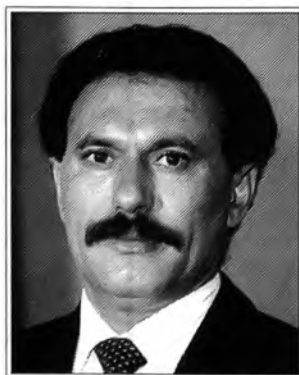
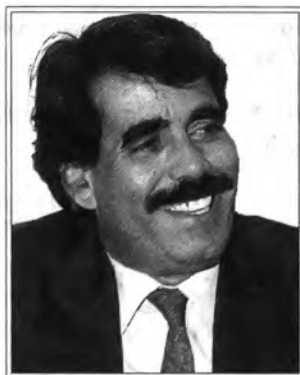
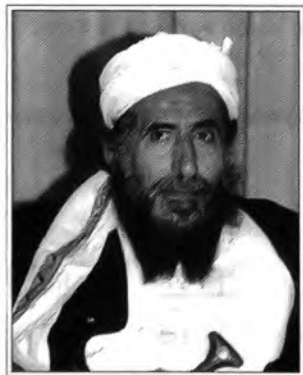
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YEMENI NEWS FROM ABROAD

1. From Oshiot Rechovot:
The Jewish Yemenis are being forced to undergo an acculturation process. Excerpts from an article in Machanah Haharedi Jerusalem, October 21st:

Quote: "Shmad" (Spiritual Genocide) is an unpleasant word to use, but it is happening to the Yemeni Jews in the name of modernization. In the Absorption Center at Oshiot Rechovot, there are about 150 Yemeni immigrants who have come from a place called Sa'adah in Yemen. These Yemeni immigrants with their modest wives are strict observers of the faith, and now live in an irreligious place.

Masoud and Salim Zareb are two brothers who immigrated with their families some months ago. In Rechovot, they are very depressed. "This is not what we expected. Is this the Holy Land. Why does anyone keep the Torah?" Many troubling questions.

The Yemeni Jews are forced to change their clothes, cut off their peyos (locks of hair), change their prayers and methods of worship, and change their whole life, including their names.

Already on the E Al flight which brought a fresh supply of Yemeni Jews from New York, change has started. An Israeli stewardess said in one of the newspapers recently, "There was a little boys-maong the Saadyah group, two and a half years old, blue eyes and curly hair. The Jewish Agency official flying with them called him "Ady".

In the name of Zionism, some people are destroying a tradition that dates back to 2000. The few Jewish Yemenis can add very little to Israel, but to Yemen, they represent a continuation of history and co-existence.

Could the Zionists please understand this.

2. From Addis Ababa:
Yemeni companies have been well represented in the Addis Ababa International Fair, kicked off on October 27th by Dr. Gedamu, Advisor to the Ethiopian President Melles Zeinawi. Ten Yemeni companies have been among the many world companies that established stands and booths to display their products. These are:

1. Yemen Company for Industries and Commerce,
2. Yemen Company for Ghee and Soap,
3. Yemen Company for Sponge and Plastic,
4. General Industries and Packages Co.
5. National Dairy and Food Company,
6. United Industries Co. (Rothmans),
7. Yemen Company for Plasticware,
8. Yemen United Company for Appliances,
9. Yemen United Manufacturing Company,
10. Red Sea Company for Detergents.

The majority of the companies are from the Hayel Saeed Group.

3. From Singapore:
A group of businessmen of Yemeni origin are putting together a team to visit Yemen in the early part of 1994. These are to be joined by their kins from Malaysia and Indonesia on

the trip, according to sources in Kuala Lumpur. Already, two delegations from Southeast Asia have visited Yemen for the purpose of investing in the Aden Free Zone, as well as in the oil sector.

It will be noted that the decedents of Yemeni immigrants to that part of the world today account for a significant number of the local population, but especially of the business community. Most of them are from Hadhramaut, although some come from other areas.

4. From London:
The British Yemeni Society was formally established in London last month. According to the election results, the officers of the Society are:

- W.D. Heber Percy: Chairman;
Michael Whittall: Vice Chairman
Society's Secretary: A.J.M. Lush,
Treasurer: C. Leslie;
Committee Members: J. Ellis Obe, Suleiman Ghanem, J.R. Grundun, J. Nash, J. Orchard, Dr. V. Porter, Ms. F. Stone, Ms. Shteila Weir.

The ambassadors of Yemen in London and of the UK in Sanaa serve as Honorary Presidents of the Society.

The purposes of the Society is to foster and promote closer understanding and cooperation as well as better relations between the two friendly countries.

CONDOLENCES

The Yemen Times Family sadly conveys its condolences to **Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party,** on the murder of his nephew in Mansoorah, Aden, by a gang of terrorists. We also hope Al-Beedh's son recovers from the wounds he received during the ambush.

تعازي ومواساة

تتقدم أسرة «يمن تايمز» بالتعازي والمواساة

للأستاذ علي سالم البيض نائب رئيس مجلس الرئاسة وأمين عام الحزب الاشتراكي اليمني بمقتل ابن أخته في حادثة الغدر والإرهاب التي استهدفتها مع الأسرة في المنصورة في عدن، كما نتمنى لنجل الأستاذ علي البيض الشفاء العاجل من الإصابات التي تعرض لها في نفس الحادثه.

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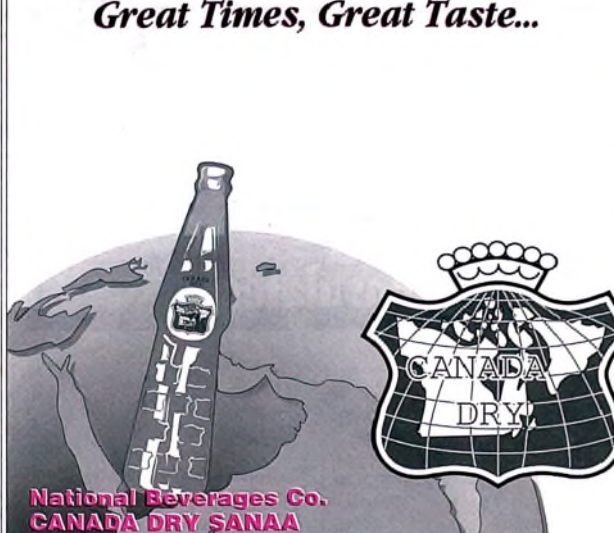
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Taking Stock of The Big Three: The PGC, YSP, Islah Assessed

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

The most frequently repeated question in this country today is: "What will happen if the president and vice president (and more generally the PGC and YSP) don't reach agreement on how to run this country?" There are several corollary questions that go with that question. "Will the vice president simply fade away? How and will the president be dislodged? What is the role of the army in bringing this 'conflict' to a close? Will this 'conflict' be resolved in a peaceful way? If it comes to a showdown, will it be along party lines, or along religious sect? What is the role of the foreign element in all of this?" Those are basic questions that haunt Yemenis everyday. The future of this country seems to be hanging on a thin thread because a few individuals have decided

to place their private ambitions and interests above everything else. Even if they agree this time, as the front page story of this edition suggest, disputes are bound to arise. Thus, if a power struggle were to open erupt, it is necessary to assess the worth of each of the big three (PGC, YSP and Islah). Where do we go from here? Let us take stock of the standing of the big parties and make comparisons along three major lines:

A: The World Image:
Over the last three years, the Yemen Socialist Party has successfully convinced many circles that it is not as bad they thought, or at least not as bad as it had been. For example, they have convinced the West that they are, today, socialist in the Scandinavian sense. In addition, it successfully projected itself as the only modernist party among the

big three. At both levels, the YSP has gained. At the same, the PGC has lost some of its glamor, mainly because of the corruption and inefficiency associated with it. The Islah has been pushing hard to distance itself from the Jihad or fundamentalist Islamic groups. For some time, the West has bought that, but now there may be a change in attitude.

B: Tribal/Merchant Sectors:
The YSP has made major inroads into the tribal structure of the "North". It has worked hard to show them it is neither communist nor godless. In fact, it has capitalized on the tribal rivalries of the North to build alliances. The PGC has developed much animosity with the tribes that had been neutral so far. The mistakes of its leading figures and the feeling of being excluded among the non-Hashed tribes


has made them, especially among the Arhab, Khowlan, Al-Hadaa, etc. tribes of Bakeel, has made them cooperate with the "enemies" of the PGC. The Islah has also made major inroads in Ibb and Taiz governorates where tribes have suffered at the hands of the YSP during its rule of the former of the PDRY. The YSP has successfully convinced the merchant and middle classes that its past ideas are long gone. It has projected itself as a reliable partner for them. Although there is increasing sympathy for the YSP among members of this class, they have yet to cross over. Up to-date, the merchant and business class is still affiliated with the PGC, and to a lesser extent with the Islah. In relation to three years ago, the YSP has made progress in this sector.

Continues on page 18



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**AUTOMATED RESERVATION SERVICES:
10th ANNIVERSARY**

Yemen Airways celebrated on the 23rd of August, 1993, the 10th anniversary of the Automated Reservation System. The system has greatly helped to improve the reservation service to the travelling public - both international and domestic. Yemenia is always in continuous progress. The company is working on the plan to introduce automated ticketing and departure control systems in the very near future.

Yemenia has made good progress on the project of modernizing its fleet and is at the moment negotiating with the various aircraft manufacturers. The company has also initiated a scheme of refurbishing the interior decoration of the existing fleet by changing seat covers, carpets, curtains, etc.

Yemenia will introduce the second frequency to Asmara and will expand its domestic route by introducing a weekly flight to Al-Gaydha with winter schedule, commencing on 31st October, 1993.

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