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Eritrean President Afewerke:
“Yemen’s leaders must realize that their unification & democratization are difficult and demanding tasks which require far sight, great wisdom, patience and self restraint.”



Eritrean President Asiate Afewerke and the accompanying delegation concluded a four-day visit to Yemen on Tuesday, November 2nd. During the visit, Yemen Times Chief Editor carried out the following exclusive interview:

Q: Before your departure, could you please tell us what has been achieved in the visit?

A: I am sure you are aware that the overall consolidation of the strong and historic ties between the countries is in itself an important achievement. But more specifically, we have discussed cooperation in the fields of education, communication, transportation, economic, technical, security and other fields. We have signed several agreements towards that end.

Q: There was an Aden-leg to your visit. Was the purpose to intercede between the president and vice president?

A: I want to make two points in answering this question.

First, the peaceful unification of Yemen and the democratization process are extraordinary achievements unparalleled in any part of the Third World. Such great achievements are also intermingled with major risks and difficulties.

Second, I feel that any differences between any political forces in Yemen have to be resolved by the Yemenis themselves, even when some foreign mediation may help.

Let me conclude by saying that Yemen’s leaders must realize that their unification and democratization is a difficult and

demanding task which requires far sight, great wisdom, patience and self restraint.

I respect both the president and vice-president of Yemen, and I am sure they will sort out whatever difficulties exist in a responsible way.

Q: Eritrea has embarked on nation and state-building. How far have you come?

A: We have fought for some thirty years for our independence and now we are struggling to put together the institutions and other bodies required for the state. We have decided to follow the path of democratic evolution and a private-initiative-based economic system.

We have a long way to go, and that explains our interest in cooperation with Yemen.

Q: In your days as a revolutionary, you had proclaimed certain goals and ideals. Now as the leader of Eritrea, do you find you have changed?

A: Yes, immensely. Let me say that change is a normal part of living. As a young man and a revolutionary fighting for the freedom of my country, I believed in different ideals.

Today, all of us have changed. This change is not the result of any external pressure, but it is the result of true change within me and my colleagues.

Therefore, I declare that I cannot be asked to apply the beliefs of some twenty years ago. I have to say that I believed in those ideals and goals at the time, and I now sincerely believe in different ideals and goals.

I emphasize that these changes are the result of our personal evolution. With the years, we learn more, and we look at things from a different perspective. Change is a normal part of life. Having said that, let me mention that there are certain values and goals that do not change. These are related to the nation and its basic interests.

Q: What do you require from the region and world, in your country’s evolution?

A: Within the region, Eritrea and Yemen are the two countries most responsible for the security and safety of the southern Red Sea. The two countries, and others in the region, share in the responsibility for the Horn of Africa and Southwestern Asia.

At the international level, I hope the world community will help us in constructing our state. But, we are not asking for charity. We are asking the world community to help us better exploit our resources through a partnership that will yield benefits to both sides.

We in Eritrea are well-disposed to hard work, and we are willing to become a positive and active partner in our development process.

YEMEN TIMES: The Progress Continues

By the Publisher:

The spectacular progress of the Yemen Times continues with new steps - both at the equipment as well as the pagination and coverage of the paper.

The newspaper has just concluded a deal with DIWAN Science and Information of London to install a new network of computers, color image-setters, RIP Interface System, OPI Interface System, Film Chemical Processing Unit, and an advanced Cabling Network System.

By end of November, the new system will be functional, thus allowing the Yemen Times to plunge into advanced international circles as well as enabling the paper to process its pages cleanly, efficiently and promptly.

OSys (Abdullah Faris and Associates) who serve as Diwan’s Yemen Representatives say that the Diwan technology is bound to revolutionize the media industry in Yemen. They predict Diwan products to make a strong impact on Yemeni journalism. Regarding the pagination and contents, the paper seeks to introduce several new columns with articles in sports, women’s affairs, restaurants, cuisines and food, and environment/wildlife stories, as well as an entertainment corner.

Some of our successful current columns will be strengthened, especially those covering economic, business and market developments. Analysis will also be reinforced. The News-Makers column will be re-introduced in a new way.

Although these additions to the paper are planned to go into effect in 1994, interested writers and contributors are invited to contact the paper to make arrangements. The Yemen Times will need more writers and stringers. If your English is good, come over! With these new developments, the Yemen Times will have crossed into the world of modern journalism. It will lead Yemeni journalism into a new world.

It is ironic that all these improvements really do not involve large sums of money. They just requires hard work and lots of commitment. To conclude, I take this opportunity to thank our readers, subscribers and advertisement patrons, whose backing continues to be critical to us.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Taiz Grievances and Protecting Their Turf

When one accepts a public post, especially if it is a high one, one should relinquish his/her loyalty to his/her small group, clan, tribe, party, or whatever, and should feel responsible for the general welfare of the whole nation. That point is lost on our rulers.

Not only do our rulers not care about the whole nation, but their focus keeps getting narrower and narrower until they finally take care of only themselves. They care for their own personal turf or interests. As a result, they lose credibility. The people do not believe or trust them. Not only that, but these rulers also end up unable to rule because the people feel they do not represent them.

How is it that our rulers do not see this? How is it they are oblivious to what is going on. My belief is that they are fed with wrong information. This is particularly true of the relations of our rulers with the Taiz people. Many Taiz people feel they are treated as second class citizens by all parties, simply because they do not have brute (military) force behind them. Now, there is a drive to change that.

In Taiz two weeks back, people started getting jumpy. The regime and its advisors thought they have an answer to make them settle down. They sent out thousands of troops to man the streets and corners, and to add checkpoints at the entry/exit arteries to the city. That may have subdued the jumpy mood, for now. But it has also escalated the showdown. The talk in Taiz is that the next time the people want to express their grievances, they will bring with them the necessary "tools" to keep the soldiers in place. There will be bloodshed.

If the rulers, especially President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his people think they can frighten the people as they used to, by God, they are dead wrong. The people of Taiz are not prisoners held by the rulers of the former YAR or former PDRY. In my opinion, this regime's undoing will most probably come from Taiz, and the guns and soldiers the regime is sending down there will not be useful, let alone effective. The regime would do well to reconsider its tactics.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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Seminar on International Human Rights Law

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is organizing a one-week seminar on International Law on Human Rights. The seminar starts on the 20th in the Red Crescent office in Sanaa.

The YRCS has been active in sponsoring conferences, workshops, seminars, etc., on issues related to human rights and other aspects of civil society.

French Delegation Concludes Visit

A French parliamentary and business delegation have concluded a one-week visit to Yemen. The group visited Sanaa, Taiz and Aden and investigated the possibilities of more cooperation. They also met with senior government and business officials.

Qatari Information Minister Concludes Visit

The Minister of Information and Culture in Qatar, Dr. Hamad Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, concluded a four-day visit to Yemen on Tuesday, 2nd of November.

The Minister held talks with the Yemeni Ministers of Information and Culture, each separately, and discussed the possibilities of exchange of news items via the two countries' news agencies, as well as exchange of journalists and cultural events.

Symposium on Trauma and Common Malignant Diseases

Yesterday, Saturday, 6th November the First Yemeni Surgical Symposium on Trauma and Common Malignant Diseases is kicked at the Taj Sheba Hotel.

The four-day symposium is organized and sponsored by the Surgical Department at the Medical College of Sanaa University.

According to Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nashir, Chair of the Department, participants from Aden and Sanaa Universities as well as surgeons from all over the country are taking part. "In addition, we have guest professors from the USA and Germany," he said.

Second Taiz Popular Conference

Preparations for holding the 2nd Popular Taiz Conference are well underway.

A source told the Yemen Times that the main item on the agenda is to find a place for the governorate in the tug of war between the two poles - Sanaa and Aden.

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Yemen to Participate in the Festivities of the UAE National Day

The Republic of Yemen has received an invitation from the fraternal United Arab Emirates an invitation to participate in the national day celebrations. The Republic of Yemen has responded positively to the request, and is preparing to send a folkloric group.

The UAE national day is on the 2nd of December.

Yemeni-Syrian Talks on Cooperation in Tourism

Yemen and Syria have concluded three days of talks on cooperation in tourism and related industries. The Syrian side to the talks was headed by visiting Abdul-Razzaq Al-Qutaibni, Assistant to the Tourism Minister in Syria, while the Yemeni side was headed by Farouq Al-Hakeemi, Vice Minister of Tourism.

The talks centered on exchange of expertise and the joint marketing of Yemen and Syria as tourist destinations.

Environmental Talks in Aden

Mr. Abdullah Saeed Abdan, Deputy Minister of Planning and Development, Aden Office, chaired a meeting to discuss environmental issues especially with reference to Socotra. Attending the meeting were experts from UNDP, UNESCO, JEF, ROSTAS as well as local experts.

The group is presently visiting Socotra, Al-Mahara and other remote location who bio-climate is exposed to major changes.

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OPEC CALCULATIONS GO AWRY?

Opec members have looked in dismay as the market has chipped tens of millions of dollars off their daily revenue. They really are confounded this time, for they think they drew up a credible production agreement in September, and they believe they are adhering to it quite closely.

One senior Opec delegate commented on the recent price falls by saying, "It was against all expectation."

Another delegate said, "The belief within Opec and within the market at large is that if you look at the fundamentals - demand, supply, stocks - the market is in good shape." Nonetheless, prices are at their lowest since two days before the September Opec 25th meeting.

North Sea Brent prices crashed below the psychologically important \$16 per barrel level last week. The price for December delivery closed in London at \$15.80.

Opec took the unusual step of agreeing at the September meeting to a production agreement for six months, covering the entire northern winter season from October through March instead of the normal three months. It is to hold its required semi-annual ordinary meeting on November 23, which will have to handle administrative matters such as electing a president and setting a budget.

One question now is whether ministers might reopen the September accord and set a lower

ceiling for the first quarter, which they had hoped to avoid by fixing a six-month agreement.

The initial reaction appears to be that Opec thinks it has done its job of reaching an agreement designed to win adherence by members like Iran and calculated to draw oil company stocks down.

"The drawdown is expected to be no less than 500,000 barrels per day," one delegate said of the fourth quarter, adding that some expected it to be as high as 800,000 bdp.

"Stocks were similar to or less than last year," he added.

"It's fundamentally a very strong and a very tight market," he said, adding that he expected prices to start recovering by in the second half of November.

"The problem is not quota," another delegate said adding that the problem is the market. Venezuelen oil Minister Alirio Parra said last Friday, "Do not point a finger at Opec. Opec has a good agreement. The problem is not Opec excess."

Delegates are hoping the problem will go away and prices will recover by the next Opec meeting, but at least some acknowledge that if prices continue to drop, the conference may at a minimum have to discuss the situation.

"Nothing is impossible," one delegate commented, but he added that it was too early to predict what Opec might do.

JORDANIAN ELECTIONS FULLY UNDERWAY:

Jordanian candidates for parliament in tomorrow's elections are fully underway. Some 530 candidates are competing for the hearts and minds of the over one million registered voters.

Unfortunately, only three women are contesting, and there is very little chance any of them will win. According to one observer, "It is a race of men."

Yemen Times will field a complete report from Amman next week.

YEMENI PARLIAMENT PLEADS FOR SENSE:

Yesterday, Saturday, November 6th, the House of Representatives established a 17-person committee from all parties to look into the differences between the leaders of the PGC and YSP. On Friday, following three days of continued deliberations, the House issued a plea asking the politicians to be rational and seek the nation's high interests. New check-points were to be removed and the terrorists and assassins are to stand immediate trial.

DEADLY WINTER LOOMS FOR THOUSANDS IN BOSNIA ENCLAVE

Thousands of Bosnians face the risk of freezing to death this winter in a Bosnian enclave still menaced by Serb forces six months after being decreed a UN "Safe area," relief officials say. A report by the top UN humanitarian agency said conditions in Srebrenica were the worst of three east Bosnian enclaves because of severe refugee overcrowding and a lack of insulated shelter.

"The chief headache is not food but the terrible shelter conditions. People face the prospect of freezing to death this winter rather than starving to death," said a report issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"Many people will try to survive the winter in exposed, draughty and cold structures. The old and very young face a high risk of freezing to death," it said.

An estimated 44,000 people, most of them refugees from eastern towns overrun by the Serbs, are packed into Srebrenica, where 25,000 lived before the war.

Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorzde were designated UN-protected havens last spring to halt Serb artillery sieges.

A small number of peacekeeping soldiers and UN food and medical aid convoys reach all three pockets every week. But they are still sealed off and sporadically fired on by Serb forces.

"With (Srebrenica's) overcrowding.. there is

an environment of dependency and non-productivity, civil disorder, infrastructural destruction and potential for epidemia," the UNHCR report said.

Compounding Srebrenica's plight has been renewed Serb military pressure on the enclave.

UN sources said Serb forces infiltrated into Srebrenica's demilitarised zone on October 27th and three people were killed in clashes. They withdrew after the intervention of the small Canadian peacekeeping contingent in the enclave.

"This was the most serious incident in many weeks and indicates that the Serbs are intent on keeping up a permanent military drum-beat against the enclave," said a UN source who asked not to be identified.

"They want to keep up pressure in the hope of eventually driving Bosnians out of the region entirely."

The collapse of UN-mediated peace negotiations on Bosnia since the three enclaves were made "safe areas" has prevented any reconstruction after over a year under Serbian bombardment.

According to the report, Srebrenica was receiving 850 tons of food per week from UN aid convoys, the minimum to sustain the population through the sub-zero winter.

The report describes Srebrenica's population as "extremely frustrated and demoralised" and also bored, spending most days walking dazed up and down the streets.

US, CHINA TO START MILITARY EXCHANGE

The United States said last week it is resuming high-level military exchanges with China that were suspended after the bloody crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy effort.

Charles Freeman, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Regional Security Affairs, will be in Beijing for discussions with the People's Liberation Army officials, a US embassy statement said. Freeman will be the latest in a long line of US officials who have trooped to Beijing to try to iron out differences over human rights, trade and arms proliferation. Among the earlier arrivals were agriculture secretary Mike Espy and many top-level trade and human rights officials.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Jianmin said that the increased contacts were "conducive to the improvement and development of bilateral relations."

He also expressed hope that a meeting next month between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang - the first talk between the heads of state of the two

nations since Tiananmen - will give strained US-Chinese relations a boost.

For all the tough campaign talk against the communist Chinese government by candidate Clinton, the defence visit is another example of the more pragmatic policy he is actually practicing.

After the Tiananmen crackdown, contact between the US and China were conducted by attaches and on visits to Beijing by lower-level US defence officials.

"We believe, however, that the level of dialogue must be elevated to enable us to make progress on many issues of common concern," the US statement said. The embassy said that among the Tiananmen sanctions still in effect are a suspension of weapons deliveries and a ban on licences being issued for dual-use civilian technology items.

Freeman's talks will focus on security problems, international peacekeeping and US concerns about Chinese weapons exports, including reports sales of M-11 missile technology to Pakistan that violated an international arms control agreement.



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The Killing of the SSC: A Sad Day for Science!

Dr. Moustafa Y. Bahrn,
Nuclear and Particle
Physics Laboratory,
Sanaa University, and
Adjunct Assistant Professor
of Physics,
University of Oklahoma,
USA.

Recently, the American Government (both the House of Representatives and the Senate) voted down the continuation of funding for the Super-conducting Super-Collider (SSC) project. Funds have been approved to finance the "shut-down" process. The SSC is a multi-billion dollar, 87-kilometer circumference proton-proton collider located near Dallas, Texas. The SSC, started a couple years ago, is a next generation accelerator which was supposed to reach an energy level of 20 TeV. (A TeV is equivalent to one million million electronvolt, where an electronvolt is an energy unit equivalent to about 10000 degree Kelvin.) The temperature equivalent to that energy is about 200,000,000,000,000,000 degrees Kelvin. The SSC was supposed to further our knowledge many steps beyond current human possibilities. This project was as important as the Space Station or the exploration of Mars, if not more important. In addition to closing the story of Quarks and Leptons (the heavy and light, respectively, elementary constituents of matter) the SSC was going to open new frontiers for high energy physics and its related technologies by discovering as series of quaks and studying the Higgs Mechanism (In the unified theory of electroweak interaction, the particles generate masses via spontaneous breaking of its symmetry.). It is physics of high energies that has revolutionized our knowledge in the last few

decades. We now have a theory called the Standard Model of Particle Physics or simply the Standard Model (SM) that either predicts or is consistent will known facts. Yet, this theory is very complex and it contains too many free parameters. One of the biggest problems with SM is that it does not include the unification of the Gravitational Interaction as the Quantization of Gravity has proven to be almost impossible. Because of these facts among others, the SM is believed not to be the ultimate theory of every thing that we have been looking for. The SSC was going to shed more light in our search for such ultimate knowledge. By shutting down this window to the future, we are putting a dark cloud in front of our eyes. Who knows what could have been achieved? As nuclear and particle physicists, we consider the day the shut-down approved to be a very sad day for science and scientists around the globe. It is a sad day in our quest for better understanding of the world in which we live. Although I can understand the economic and financial underpinnings of the decision, a higher priority for the project would have justified its continuation. Huge amounts of money and other resources are wasted on wars, conflicts, corruption, and political nonsense. Would the project have been terminated if were to produce a new class of weaponry? I think not, and that is why the decision is a sad one. We do realize that this is not the end of the road for our research in this field, because there still are other important projects, specially the LHC at CERN in Geneva. The LHC, the European counterpart to the American SSC, is a 27.7 kilometer cir-

cumference accelerator with maximum energy of 7.7 TeV. It is scheduled to be completed before the end of this decade. Other smaller facilities are being planned or built. In addition, a large number number of non-accelerator laboratories, mostly deep underground facilities. We hope, some day, the Arab World will join the world effort in this heroic and fruitful work. Indeed, as Europe is poised to take the leading torch from the US, we Arabs need to join in. We in the Arabs have the funds, and are starting to have the experts. Here in Yemen, we have recently put together a small Nuclear and Particle Physics Laboratory with the help and collaboration of our colleagues and friends in the US and Europe. The purpose of this laboratory is to hopefully add some light, no matter how small, to that window to the future that the SSC was supposed to widen. We are asking all interested parties (in both the private and public sectors - local and international) to lend a helping hand by supporting our laboratory. Your support, however, small, will go a long way in enabling us succeed for the betterment of science and education in Yemen. It is ironic that with the killing of the SSC, more funds are released to smaller projects, like ours. We share the grief of our colleagues and friends in the US and around the world. We are mourning the killing of the SSC. On this occasion, we send our deep condolences to our friends and colleagues. Yet, our hope remains high that science will continue to flourish in this field, even in the USA. And we hope that one day, research in physics will lead to the discovery of the ultimate theory.

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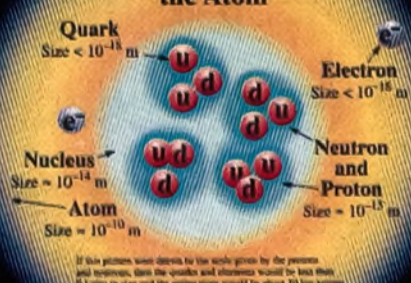
Standard Model of FUNDAMENTAL PARTICLES AND INTERACTIONS

FERMIONS

matter constituents
spin = 1/2, 3/2, 5/2, ...

Leptons spin = 1/2			Quarks spin = 1/2		
Flavor	Mass GeV/c ²	Electric charge	Flavor	Approx. Mass GeV/c ²	Electric charge
ν_e electron neutrino	$< 2 \times 10^{-6}$	0	u up	4×10^{-3}	2/3
e electron	5.1×10^{-4}	-1	d down	7×10^{-3}	-1/3
ν_μ muon neutrino	$< 3 \times 10^{-4}$	0	c charm	1.5	2/3
μ muon	0.106	-1	s strange	0.15	-1/3
ν_τ tau neutrino	$< 4 \times 10^{-3}$	0	t top (not yet observed)	> 89	2/3
τ tau	1.784	-1	b bottom	4.7	-1/3

Structure within the Atom



BOSONS

force carriers
spin = 0, 1, 2, ...

Unified Electroweak spin = 1	Mass GeV/c ²	Electric charge	Strong or color spin = 1	Mass GeV/c ²	Electric charge
γ photon	0	0	g gluon	0	0
W^-	80.6	-1			
W^+	80.6	+1			
Z^0	91.16	0			

PROPERTIES OF THE INTERACTIONS

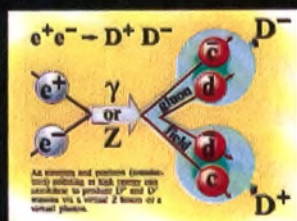
Sample Fermionic Hadrons				
Baryons qq _i q _j and Antibaryons $\bar{q}\bar{q}\bar{q}$				
Symbol	Name	Quark content	Mass GeV/c ²	Spin
p	proton	uud	0.938	1/2
\bar{p}	anti-proton	$\bar{u}\bar{u}\bar{d}$	0.938	1/2
n	neutron	udd	0.940	1/2
Λ	lambda	uds	1.116	1/2
Ω^-	omega	sss	1.672	3/2

Property	Interaction	Weak (Electroweak)		Strong	
		Gravitational	Electromagnetic	Fundamental	Residual
Acts on:		Mass - Energy	Flavor	Color charge	Residual Strong Interaction Note
Particles experiencing:		All	Quarks, Leptons	Quarks, Gluons	Hadrons
Particles mediating:		Graviton (not yet observed)	$W^+ W^- Z^0$	γ	Gluons, Mesons
Strength for two u quarks at:		10^{-41}	0.8	1	25
for two protons in nucleus		10^{-41}	10^{-4}	1	60
		10^{-36}	10^{-7}	1	Not applicable to hadrons

Sample Bosonic Hadrons					
Mesons q \bar{q}					
Symbol	Name	Quark content	Electric charge	Mass GeV/c ²	Spin
π^+	pion	u \bar{d}	+1	0.140	0
K^-	kaon	s \bar{u}	-1	0.494	0
ρ^+	rho	u \bar{d}	+1	0.770	1
D^+	D	c \bar{d}	+1	1.869	0
η_c	eta-c	c \bar{c}	0	2.980	0

Matter and Antimatter

For every particle there is an antiparticle, which is identical in mass and spin, but opposite in charge. Matter and antimatter annihilate each other when they meet, producing energy in the form of photons.



Contemporary Physics Education Project

This project was funded by the British Council and the Science and Technology Research Council. It was a joint effort of the British Council, the Science and Technology Research Council, and the American Nuclear Energy Society. The project was a collaboration between the British Council, the Science and Technology Research Council, and the American Nuclear Energy Society.

Analysis of the Evolution of the Seat of World Power: **A WORLD IN TRANSITION**

"THE COLD WAR IS OVER."

This is the popular phrase used since 1989 to describe the passage we have made from one world, one reality, to another. But the world since 1945 was only highlighted, not defined, by the U.S. - Soviet competition, and the end of that competition is only one aspect of the conflict and one point on the wider compass of world change.

The first and essential recognition we must come to is that we are in the midst of a world in transition, a historical bridging time. The one we live in today is not the new world. We have departed from a reality that held us for fifty years, but the defining forms, the spirit of the age, and the power relationships of the new world can today only be glimpsed.

The second recognition involves re-examining, for a moment, the defining essence of the world we are leaving. If it was not simply the cold war, then what was it? Are we losing more than just the "evil empire?"

The dominant metaphor undergirding the postwar world was America's vision of a universal world culture of a belief system in its own image. The Soviet enemy was integral to sustaining the energy and authority with which the United States pursued this vision, and the willingness of those threatened by the Soviet idea and its power to accede to an American vision.

In effect, this American effort was a pulse within the historical rhythm of humankind, between the convergence and divergence of cultures. The United States actively promoted cultural convergence for fifty years through the framework of a cosmopolitan political-military-economic association called the "Free World," and the institutional symbolism of the United Nations. How did it work out?

Humankind has evolved as a galaxy of separate groups that crafted their own separate realities. History is really the process of mingling and fusing these groups' realities into larger and larger worlds. The American effort to assert a universal culture has not been the first, although our sense of the known world finally includes all people on earth.

The question regarding earlier pulses toward universalism is how these surges lost force, and why cultures brought together under the same tent finally departed, to go their own way. The ancient Greek effort to build a universal culture is worth revisiting from this vantage.

THE FIRST UNIVERSAL SURGE

To many, the classical Greeks are still the chosen lineage for Western civilization. Their world was built from the shards of the Indo-European migrations that ended the Bronze Age and created the terms of a new

world. They came as a mosaic of separate tribal societies in the Aegean area. As tribes evolved into states, fierce rivalries and competition marked their intercourse. Spartans were Spartans; but they were also, increasingly, Greeks. The central theme of the Iliad - a pre-classical work - came to be interpreted as a united Greek effort against Troy. The Persian invasions fulfilled the mandate of homeric Myth - briefly.

However politically disunited - and this is important to remember when looking at modern Europe - the Greeks by the time of their classical era, in the fifth century B.C., had become a cultural unity. The reality of Hellas was informed by a shared civilization, which anthropologists call culture area. The Greek states had shaped a complete world for themselves. Everyone else was *barbaroi*, speaking the language of sheep (bar-bar). This etymology cuts a good yardstick to measure culture area: us versus them, the alien and the familiar as different species of human. When looking at modern communities of like societies, look at how they draw the us-them distinction.

The Greek states were finally united under the rod of Macedon, situated, ironically, at the cultural margins of Greek civilization. As an enforced political-military unit, Greece conquered Persia, creating a cosmopolitan Mediterranean culture that laid the foundation for an embracing Roman imperial system.

In this transformation, the world of the Greek societies was stretched and rent. When the Greeks conquered Persia's already polyglot empire, their formerly stable and self-contained reality was exploded.

The Greek culture area was now not just a distinct reality, a world among several; it was the world (almost!). It was the first imagining of a universal culture, encompassing the *oikoumene* - the known civilized world - itself. Now Greeks ruled barbarians, barbarians became Hellenized, and a new cosmopolitan reality was created.

From polis (tribe-nation) to megalopolis (culture area) to cosmopolis (a universal culture), this has been a repeated evolution among human *oikoumene*. By encompassing all of the major culture areas of their known world from Spain and the pillars of Hercules to beyond the Ganges Basin, the Greeks for a brief time created a cultural overlay across their known world. The Roman political system, although it encouraged greater cultural integration, was really only one of several major culture areas - Palestine, Yemen, India, China, Sassanian Persia with which it had significant intercourse. Rome, however, went much further than the Greeks in actually integrating disparate Mediterranean culture areas into a legal and administrative framework that became an

enduring benchmark advancing the vision of a universal culture.

But the first real world culture area was built by the Empire of Islam. It is here that the element of socio-cultural unity most stressed, and their world was unified under the banner of one religion, one set of beliefs, and even one language.

Here again, the *oikoumene*, ironically, bedouins from the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula, shared their truth and knowledge with the disparate tribes.

Since then, the only other example of a world culture is what is evolving today - at the end of the 20th century. It will probably be the main outstanding feature of the

coming century. AMERICA'S SURGE

What we see in late antiquity is a cultural interplay we too have felt in this century. The United States grew to maturity as a self-separated society, with Canada, as a kind of North American culture area quite removed from Europe's reality. The two great wars together changed the physical and philosophic terms of America's world - its reality. After 1945 it embraced the world, and proselytized it. It sought to create a world culture in its own image, a U.S. global culture.

Simply America's traditional reality was transformed within a very few years from

one that celebrated its purity and self-sufficiency to one that championed its cross-cultural blending and interdependence.

In seeking a universal culture, the United States was blessed by two unusual factors: the uniqueness of its cultural appeal, and appeal to free choice and popular sovereignty, and the steadfast assistance of its adversary, the Soviet Union. The Soviets provided Manichaeic-like legitimacy to American push for a universal system.

The United States was also, at World War II's end, the dominant world economy with a truly global military presence. Thus, as in Early Hellenistic times, Americans

(like the Greeks) were the world; and the world (for a very brief, heady time) became the US.

America's assertion of a global culture in its own image - the first truly ecumenical effort - would not have so succeeded had it not eschewed traditional forms of empire, and had it not had so clearly an authoritarian enemy against which to measure the good. The contention here, however, is that at its moment of great victory, that pulse is ending. America has asserted its idea and its ethos has set a global standard in may legal, political, and economic arenas.

But the aggressiveness of the missionary impulse is gone. It has been eroding ..

Continues on page 16

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INTERVIEW WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION?

Following are excerpts from an interview with Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education.

Q: Without doubt you are aware of the shortcomings which exist in the educational system of our country. How do you evaluate the education situation?

A: In fact, the responsibility is a great one and the tasks cannot be achieved without the cooperation of all sides. The Ministry achieved little during the transitional period. Politics played a role in its educational programs.

Q: In the early days of your functions as minister, you held a number of meetings, conferences and field visits. What is the outcome of all these efforts?

A: For me, the meetings represented an attempt to get to know the real issues and shortcomings. In addition, I wanted to create a team spirit by working together. Every person's job is important to make the final product. Moreover, I expressed the necessity of moving away of political considerations as far as possible in order to rescue education from its current problems.

The education meetings affirmed the necessity of laying down clear rules, by-laws and regulations in order to assess and organize the work in various fields. In my opinion, this is only the beginning for any real reform.

Q: What are the details of your program?

A: We have refined and focussed our goals as a starting point. The next step is to put the right person at the right post. In our ministry, there are many individuals who are capable and qualified and can thus contribute to the educational process. Unfortunately, however, the ministry found itself marginalized or cornered by narrow minded people.

Q: Let me ask you a direct question. Is there any interference in your work? Do you have a free hand in guiding your ministry?

A: I think the citizens expect a lot from this government. Within the overall government program and plan of action presented to parliament, each minister is authorized to implement the plans related to his work. We work on this basis and push for reform. It is true that there are "mediations and recommendations" - which I do not see as interferences and which are things known in our society. But, I stress that these don't have any effect on my decision. I won't accept any patronage from any body or any open or implied decision on my behalf, with which I don't agree. In my office, within the mandate of the government program, I am the decision maker. I won't accept to be a tool for any organization or individual.

Q: The resolution to levy user charge or school fees is a wise one. How do you propose to implement it?

A: Much depends on the conscience of the employees and the adherence of all parties in implementing the decision on a sound basis.

Q: In your list of priorities, which comes first, the teacher or the textbook?

A: As the teacher is the backbone of the educational

process, he/she is the first on our list of priorities. Our goal is to build a new generation capable of pushing forward the development process, and this can't be achieved without good teachers.

We will try to proceed to qualify and develop the teachers by laying down the by-laws that regulate their relations with the ministry. As for textbooks, they too are high on list of priorities. We have already achieved a lot by printing many textbooks from the beginning of the school year.

By: Abdul-Khabeer Saeed Mahyoob, Al-Shumookh, Taiz, 25/10/1993

THE YSP AND ISLAH: Standpoints!

It is true that the YSP (Yemeni Socialist Party) and ISLAH (Yemeni Congregation for Reform) are partners in the tripartite coalition along with the Peoples' General Congress [PGC]. But their relations are still unstable. The coalition government brings the YSP and ISLAH people face to face at many levels - in the Presidential Council, in parliament, in the cabinet, etc.

Interaction between the two sides really requires more coordination to achieve better cooperation in order to steer the states' affairs in the right direction. It is important to have more dialogue between the two parties in their search for the means to work together leading to a better understanding and cooperation. It is not required from one to swallow the other, work to liquidate it, or simply ignore its presence. Their participation in one ruling coalition authority requires them to achieve a minimum level of agreement. Both parties should not permit their differences to impede their coordination. In this regard, we ought to acknowledge two facts:

First, the coalition arrangements which brought the two sides together were not based on proper plans and studies. Second, the two sides do not really know each other sufficiently.

I can say that it is possible for the two parties to coordinate their efforts and cooperate, at least, to reduce tension and conflict. Some may say that such a statement is optimistic, others may even say it is an illusion. It is important to take such criticism into consideration.

But, we really can show that the two parties - until very recently - never got into direct and open dialogue. Even the formal meetings between them proceeded in complete secrecy. I don't deny that some secret meetings are inevitable, and they may have given the two sides the first real taste of what the other is like.

The point is, however, that YSP and Islah really have to try to work together and to correct their information about each other as a first step towards creating a better environment for dialogue and eventual cooperation. Despite a pile of differences between them, a serious approach and respect for commitments could create a foundation for credibility.

If both parties see each other as foes, I am satisfied fully that the YSP is in need of such an open foe, and this is much better than other "partners." It is important to state that it was the YSP that suggested Islah's representation in the Presidential Council for it reflects the power balance and reflects

the structure of the coalition partnership. We still need more time to understand each other in order not to become victims of misunderstanding or political deceit.

By: The Chief Editor, Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa, 31/10/1993

A FUTURE VISION OF A UNIFIED YEMEN!

we have been raising the concept of local administration which gives local societies the right to self-government within the general political framework of the Republic of Yemen. But the authoritarians refuse such proposals/outlooks and even accuse us of treason, for these people understand unification as having more power to themselves. Thus, they are jeopardizing the dream of the Yemeni people and one of our greatest achievements.

Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh who signed the unity agreement accepted to become the second man in authority. By doing so, he showed his altruistic nature and the mentality that rules his party. Today with great sorrow, he says: "The citizens in the southern/eastern regions don't ask for the return of the check-points, but they ask to build a wall at the border point. Those words fall heavy on our souls and hearts?"

After the 1989 agreement of Aden, I remember confirming on the unity as a civilizational project and that such a kind of achievement won't be stable without the participation of progressive forces. Salvaging the situation lies in four alternatives:

First: We must develop a practical, feasible, democratic and national vision to rearrange the unity on new foundations. We ought to acknowledge that we are still dealing with the institutions of two states. What we require is a re-construction.

Second: We ought to accept the authority of the two states on the regions which they had controlled as a base for federal unity founded on local authority while there is central control over such affairs as foreign policy, armed forces, etc.

Third: Splitting into two states within an agreement.

Fourth: To block one or the other part to try to impose its will on the other part by force.

As for me, I prefer the first alternative. But, we need a national public media to impose the vision on the various forces. This is what the Federation Patriotic Forces (FPF) endeavor to do in order to rescue Yemen from any division or civil war. Let us heed the voice of wisdom in order to avoid any calamity.

By Dr. Mohammad Abdul Malik Al-Mutawakkel Al-Haq, Sanaa, 31/10/1993

DO NOT ADD TO OUR FRUSTRATION

Without immediately exposing those who committed violence, intimidation, chaos, assassinations, etc., our society will continue to feel unsafe. Any development process needs safety and security to prosper. There is no development or investment without stability. In a democracy based on a pluralist system, the authority is not required to just issue statements denouncing violence. It has to bring the culprits to justice. As we know, the authority in any state is the only decision-maker. And

when there is a problem in society, it should be tackled. The authority's task is to protect the lives, assets and properties of the citizens. Combatting crimes/terrorism is a duty towards our unity, democracy.

We ask the authorities to define the problems and to bear full responsibility in addressing them. Protecting the lives of the people is a clear priority. We should feel safe and secure in our homes and this is a right for all.

By: Editorial, Al-Shoura, Sanaa, 31/10/1993.

SECURITY, SAFETY FIRST

The attempt of the lives of the sons of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary General of the Socialist Party on the 29th of October, 1993, in Aden has complicated the situation in the country, even further. The process of physical liquidation, against whoever it is, is a serious escalation of the tension thus exposing the homeland to jeopardy. Whatever the motives might be behind the attempt, the outcome reveals a great lapse in our security system. We are in need of a wise and effective tackling of all acts of terrorism. It is self-evident that our cities and villages have witnessed a lot of killings and assassinations during the past three years and there were various motives behind them. The aim is to shake our trust in the safety and security as well as the authorities. There might be a political, tribal and personal vengeance or gain behind all those crimes. But in general, the deteriorating security situation has become the core of the whole problem.

There is an interactive relationship between the safety of the citizen and the homeland. The tradition of

people carrying arms inside our cities is another cause of the violence. The political leadership with its executive, legislative, judicial institutions bear responsibility for all that occurs. We have called attention repeatedly to the conspiracies against our country. We also confirm that the indifference and irresponsible attitude of our officials has worsened lately leading to shortcomings in our economy, security, political structure, etc., all part of a plot aiming to split our country. We denounce all acts of terrorism and place the blame on the authorities for the consequences of the crisis.

By: Political Editorial, Al-Gamaheer, Sanaa, 1/11/1993.

NEW WORLD ORDER AND NEW VISION ?

The vision and approach to international issues have differed since the emergence of a new world order at the aftermath of the fall of the Communist Bloc. In this new world order, it seems that there are intentions and plans that are detrimental to the future of the poor countries. Some still think that the new system might bring solutions to all their problems. I am afraid these are in a for shock, not a surprise.

There is an inability to understand that the new order allows fewer countries to control the world using new techniques, approaches and concepts, which is reminiscent of the colonial era. That is why I expect a great disorder in the world's new order.

The USA has become the only superpower in the world and this means overwhelming despotism and dictating of terms.

When any developing state wants to pursue its own policy, the new system interferes through different channels. Do you realize

how many countries are under siege or blockade today just because they have differences with the USA?

The system tries to control the developing countries by imposing its vision on them without taking their special circumstances. The imposition of the free market policy at the expense of the public sector is a case in point.

By: Saeed Al-Ma'amari, Al-Gumhuriyah, Taiz, 2/11/1993

WE SHOULDN'T POSTPONE OUR PROBLEMS TO THE FUTURE GENERATION

We have lots of hope and aspiration when we talk about future generations, but the reality is that we are burdening such future. What have we achieved since the revolution? Our problems require patience and understanding. What are required is a true national awakening so as to stop all rumors being spread regarding our future.

The challenges that face the unity state should make us all adopt policies/procedures that will help overcome the complicated issues. In fact, there are some tangible developments in our society but the states apparatus is partly paralyzed.

We are slow in implementing of the development process. There is a shortcoming in almost all levels of the state and such a circumstance might lead to more frustration.

There are a lot of problems which might shake our society if we don't tackle them on the spot. Some of the problems even shake the respect of the state.

We confirm repeatedly the need to modernize our society, but we don't have the right tools to proceed.

By: Dr. Abdul Rahman Haddad, Al-Thawrah, Sana'a, 4/11/1993.



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Within the Efforts to Preserve the Old City of Sanaa:

Al-Qala'ah and the City

By:
David Warburton,
Director,
American Institute for Yemeni
Studies, Sanaa.

In July, the American Institute for Yemeni Studies started a series of lectures on the Old City of Sana'a in the context of their monthly lecture series.

In the first lecture, David Warburton (resident director of the Institute) spoke about the archaeology of the Old City of Sana'a and the history of the city.

In the second, Abdallah Hadhrami of the General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY) discussed the principles of Sana'ani architecture.

In the third, at the end of October, Dr. Raoufa Hassan and Mr. Jacques Feiner (the architect with the Swiss Mission in the Old City) gave some perspective on the future of the Old City of Sana'a.

It is generally assumed that the oldest part of the Old City is the area of the Qala'ah and the adjacent area where the cathedral was erected along the tinsmiths' souk. It is known that the Grand Mosque was erected in the garden of the palace of the Persian governor, and it is generally believed that this was the famous Ghamdan Palace mentioned by the Yemeni historian Abul-Hassan Al-Hamdani.

If our understanding of the texts is correct, the ancient Ghamdan will be found underneath the hill just east of the mosque. This would imply that the hill to the north of the mosque around the carpenters' and smiths' souk was not the Ghamdan it is popularly assumed, and it is possible that the residences of the Abbasid governors will be found here.

The Qala'ah itself appears to be set on a stone outcropping, with the upper - eastern - part a citadel, and the lower part a type of town. This means that the Qala'ah corresponds to the classic Greek "Acropolis," which literally signified a city built on a pinnacle.

Although the Qala'ah is called the Ghamdan, it is not the Ghamdan. This does not mean however that it was not related to the Himyarites, but as far as we know, the earliest traces yet seen by scholars in the Qala'ah date back to only the end of the first millennium A.D.

This is, of course, much later than one would expect, and proper archaeological research would probably indicate that the Qala'ah dates to the beginnings of the history of Azal, as Sana'a was known earlier.

It is interesting that Sana'a itself seems to imply a well defended place, and thus, the Qala'ah will most definitely have been an important element in the urban structure of Sana'a from the beginning.

The Cathedral was clearly built into a thriving city, and it was generally assumed that the city of Sana'a was concentrated in the Southeast corner of the present Old City. A pit sunk into the courtyard of the Imam Ali Mosque last year obliged us to revise our impressions, as the sections revealed that that part of the Old City was occupied long

before the Islamic period, and that this was a residential area from the beginning of the Islamic period. This discovery definitely changes our perspective on the urban growth of the Old City.

At the same time, tradition holds that the mosque was built on the site of the house where Ali ibn abi Talib stayed when he came to Sana'a to convert Yemen to Islam. The six meters of deposits indicate that a house could well have stood there at that time. But the scholarly community assumes that the mosque dates to roughly the 13th century A.D. Nothing indicates that the mosque as it stands today was built before about the 17th century A.D., and it may in fact have been erected at the same time as the Samsarat Mohammad bin Hassan, in 1651. It will only be possible to gain more information about the history of Sana'a through further archaeological work.

Mr. Hadhrami's presentation was a masterly overview of the types of architecture in the Old City, and the dates assigned to each type of architecture. Without drawings and slides it is impossible to do justice to his lecture.

Dr. Raoufa's main point was to discuss the popular support in the Old City itself, for the preservation of the traditional way of life in the Old City. She also brought up the proposals for transforming the arsenal at the Qala'ah into a cultural center and a tourist attraction.

The Chairman of the Presidential Council, Lt-General Ali Abdallah Salah, has earlier suggested that it would be possible to remove the military from the Qala'ah, and thus, one of the oldest parts of Sana'a, with intact architecture dating back almost a thousand years could become the focal point of a new - peaceful period in Sana'a.

Mr. Feiner gave a detailed presentation of his proposal for preserving the architecture and quality of life in the Old City.

He explained that most of the traditional Islamic cities are disappearing due to pressure from outside, and that Sana'a was exposed to considerable outside pressure which would threaten it in the long term. The fact that the walls of Sana'a were still basically present (either as intact walls or as buildings placed where the walls formerly stood), meant that until now, the Old City had been basically preserved both architecturally and socially.

Islamic cities are characterized not only by typical architecture, but also by clear divisions separating residential and commercial quarters. In Sana'a both the architecture and the urban layout provocatively express the differences, with the souk buildings traditionally low, and residential houses are mainly tall structures; streets leading into residential areas are frequently "dead-end" alleys, while the souks all align thoroughfares.

In Sana'a, these traditions are slowly being broken down. In areas exposed to commercial penetration, gutted houses where only the lowest story is still in use - as a store (dukkan) - reveal the levelling tendencies of commercialization. At the same time, Sana'a's alleys have become more permeable, and

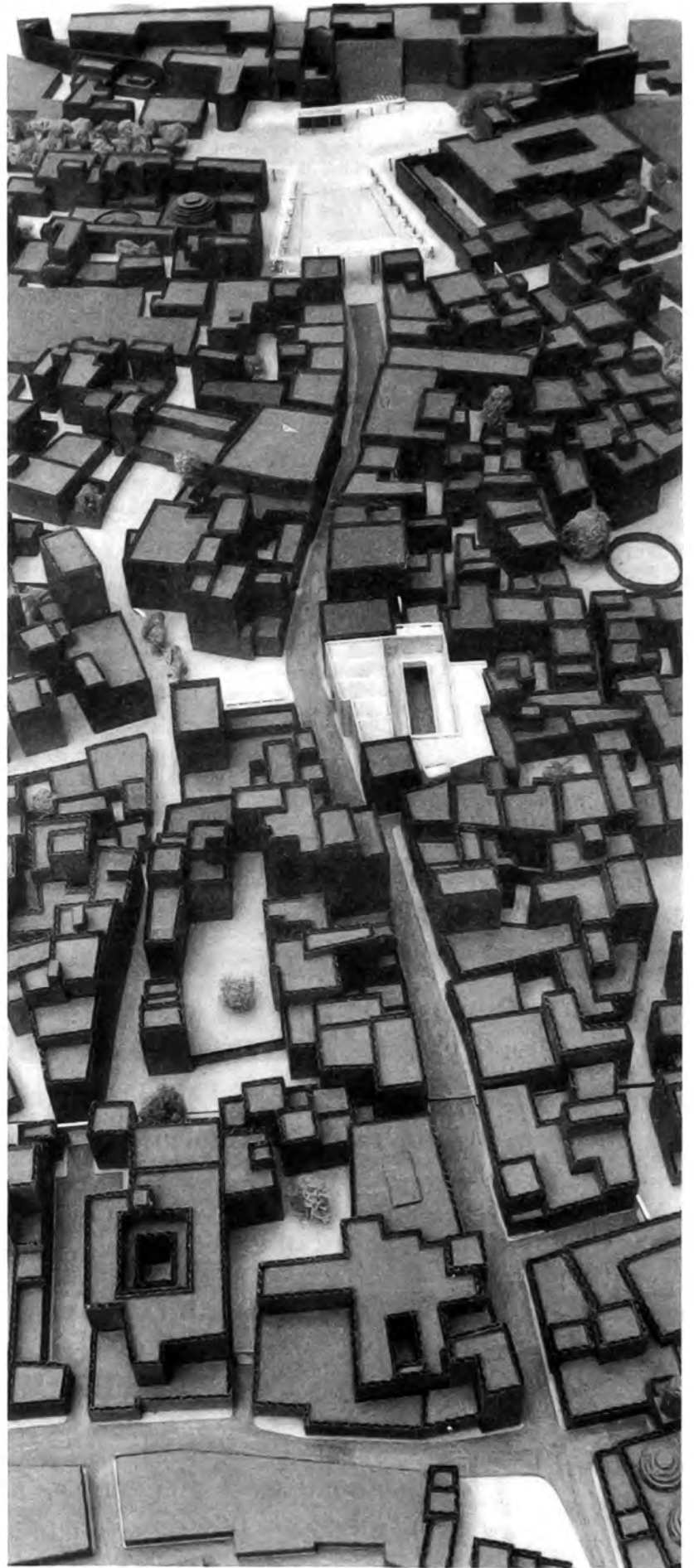
more active. This is partially due to the fact that Sana'a's alleys are wider than those of other traditional Islamic cities, but aids in providing access to small vehicles and motorbikes.

Mr. Feiner distinguishes between two processes whereby the residential quarters are affected. One is dukkanization, where isolated single shops appear in the ground floor of residential houses. These shops generally cater to the needs of the neighborhood population. The second process is soukization, where the street level rooms of entire streets in residential areas are transformed into a continuous series of dukkans: in other words they have assumed both the appearance and function of the souk. Soukization is rampant along streets linking the ancient gates of Sana'a with the central souk. Where this has an impact on residential areas, it is a major threat. Intense economic activity and traffic will lower the quality of life, and drive the residents away. Mr. Feiner also pointed out what would happen were the wadi Sayilah to be paved and transformed into a major urban thoroughfare. This would inevitably result in the soukization of the western part of the Old City, as it would be cut off from the core of the Old City, and become more like the adjacent area around al-Tahrir square. At the same time, the attractiveness of the souk al-Milh would be diminished. The destabilization of the topographic, social and architectural fabric of the Old City would effectively imply the death of the Old City as a living social organism.

Mr. Feiner proposes a simple unified project consisting of a series of measures focusing on the Maidan al-Qala'ah. The main issue of this project is to establish the Maidan al-Qala'ah as the second main access to the Souk al-Milh, while leaving the social fabric intact. He advocates the establishment of a day-time pedestrian zone, permitting deliveries by truck during the night. He also suggested that attractive commercial galleries could be fitted into collapsing dukkans. Pedestrian flows could easily move between the city and the Qala'ah, with parking available at the Maidan al-Qala'ah. This would re-establish the historic link between the Old City and the Qala'ah.

Should the 62 historic buildings in the Qala'ah be made open to the public, as President Salah has suggested could be done, they could be used for cultural and touristic purposes, making the Qala'ah a cultural centre, and reestablishing its role as an integral part of the city. And also potentially withdrawing some of the commercial pressures on the Old City. The Qala'ah would then be transformed from a military arsenal to a stronghold of Yemeni heritage and Arab culture at the pinnacle of the last well preserved Arabo-Islamic city.

The Old City of Sana'a does not merely consist of unique buildings, but it also preserves a way of life which is seriously threatened by modern developments. If certain modern services, such as commerce and traffic patterns could be moved



This is a photograph of Mr. Feiner's model of the Maidan al-Qala'ah, with the Qala'ah itself at the top of the picture, shows the street leading into the main souk and the Commercial Gallery on the right hand side.

away from the Old City and towards the suburbs, this would also alleviate the pressure. It would be a mistake to attempt to construct a thoroughfare in the middle of the Old City through the Wadi Sayilah, because this would not alleviate traffic, but draw in even more.

The original idea behind the UNESCO project for the preservation of the Old City was the realization that attempting to preserve individual monuments was not a suitable measure, if the entire monumental context was lost around certain buildings.

In Sana'a, it is not merely the architecture, but the social fabric that can and should be preserved. The projects supported by UNESCO and GOPHCY, can only achieve this aim if those outside the city understand the problems of both architecture and people.

If the preservation projects envisaged by specialists are implemented, one of the oldest cities of the world will have the unique chance of preserving its soul and still march forward into the 21st century. Sana'a deserves the chance to keep its identity and yet achieve progress.



"I need a husband!"

By: Anonymous Writer,
Taiz.

Susan, in Arabic the name is pronounced as Sowsan (but you will bet your life it is not her real name) works as a teacher in a Taiz girls' school. She takes her job seriously and could be seen promptly arriving each morning for work, one hour late. Well, of course, she sleeps half an hour more than her alarm. It is this half hour of extra sleep that she calls her "beauty sleep." Then she pastes a new face on, puts on a layer of lipstick, and sprays all around her an exciting and arousing perfume. If the beauty, partly hidden because of the "stupid" veil, does not attract attention, her philosophy is that the scent would do it.

She does all this in the hope that some 'unlucky' creature would become spellbound by her hypnotic beauty (and smell) and marry her off. However, the record is not in her favor. Of the two dozen or so female teachers at her school, only five are married. The rest are waiting for "Godot."

Once at school, she does not really have classes to teach. She is one of those referred to generally as "administration staff" - meaning disguised unemployment. So she floats around from office to office before she roosts in the teachers' lounge and start her daily routine of gossip.

This has become an important part of living.

Besides, she never polishes her nails at home because there is always time for this time-consuming chore at the school. After all, she has to do something to earn her salary!

She simply adores the other teachers when they form a ring around her waiting impatiently for her to spill out the latest gossip. She could be seen daily "entertaining" her fellow co-workers. The only time Susan would interrupt her busy schedule is if a male walks into a school. Alas, often it is a father who has to approach the school regarding something that has to do with his daughter's schooling. Even then, married or not, father or not, if the man has the correct credentials, why not - he is a potential ...

One fine morning, a good looking man approached Susan's chatter-place.

"Good morning Madame," he started.

"Aaaanisah (Miss), if you please," she interrupted.

"Pardon me, Miss, is the principal here?"

That is often the moment she feels the urge to get involved. The thin veil hiding her caked mascara almost 'inadvertently' falls down, as she hurriedly gets busy to hold it up. This has become a well-perfected routine.

"May I ask who wishes to her?"

The conversation can take one of two decided directions at this stage. It could be interesting, and thus Susan warms up to the dialogue. Or it could simply be hopeless so she decides to "laisse tomber."

The situation I am discussing here is not an imaginary one. It is a real one.

Many young women, good looking and all, are unable to find suitable husbands. At the same time, society does not offer mechanisms for women to do something about it.

In Yemen, a woman has to wait until someone knocks at her door. If nobody doesn't knock, it is just her bad luck. She can nothing about it.

I know many friends who worry about each passing day, "because they get older and the train of marriage may pass by." With the years, the chances fall lower and lower.

The average age for female marriage in cities is around 20 years. Some are married a little bit earlier, others a couple of years later. But when a woman reaches thirty and she has not yet married, there is trouble. Once she moves on in her 30s, the issue of marriage becomes an obsession that torments many women.

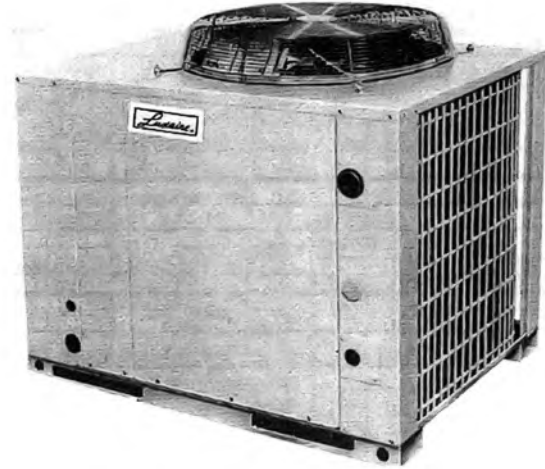
Society has yet to find an answer for this problem. before it is too late!

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CRUSADE TO SAVE RHINOS

Seven white farmers are fighting to save Zimbabwe's dwindling herds of black rhinos from armed poachers who slaughter the animals for their highly priced horns. "If we fail here, then Zimbabwe can say goodbye to its rhinos," said Myles Hilton Barber, one of the farmers who established the Bubiana conservancy in a southern savannah dotted by rocky hills.

"We are doing a service for the country almost for nothing," Barber said. "One only hopes what we are doing is politically acceptable and our farms will not be taken over."

Barber said poachers were responsible for a steep drop in the number of black rhinos in Zimbabwe.

"We have seen how poachers have decimated the 3,000 black rhinos that we had in the 1980s - the biggest black rhino herd in the world - to only 250 now," he said.

Poachers sell black rhino horns at exorbitant prices in the Far East, where they are ground into a powder which buyers believe to be an aphrodisiac. Some of the horns are also sold to Yemenis and Omanis who use them to make the handle of their daggers.

Armed with little more than bravado, walkie-talkies and little help from their friends, the farmers launched their pioneering rescue plan three months ago. There are now more than 40 black rhinos at Bubian.

The conservancy is one of five established by white commercial farmers around Zimbabwe to try to save the black rhinos, listed as endangered species by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites). The rhinos at Bubiana were caught in Gonarezhou National Park, near the border with Mozambique, and transported hundreds of kilometers, thanks to financial aid from the world wide fund for nature and local and foreign conservation bodies.

"Since we brought them here, the rhinos are breeding very well. We had had four calves but the threat of poachers looms ever more," Barber said grimly, although he noted they had not yet clashed with poachers.

"We fear that even giving the figures of the rhinos that we have here could spur the poachers to invade our farms. It would appear the poachers want to kill all rhinos, even those whose horns have been removed, in the hope that their stock piles of rhino horns will sell at even higher prices."

Cities has imposed a world-wide ban on trading in rhino horns and elephant tusks.

The farmers keep a constant vigil, helped by 35 black guards who are issued with automatic rifles, as they patrol 126,000 hectares.

We need a helicopter to increase patrols, more guards and radios to help us. I think the government can do more in this line," Barber said.

Earlier this year, the department was forced to depend on funding from aid agencies for its anti-poaching campaign after its \$6.2 million cash ran out.

Peter Abbot, another farmer at Bubiana, said rhino poachers were protected by corrupt senior government officials.

"People in official positions in this country are involved," he said, declining to elaborate. "It is the involvement of these people that helps poachers evade the law." The government has always denied the charge.

At Bubiana the farmers, who still keep hundreds of beef cattle, have also taken charge of 50 elephants and a sprinkling of buffalos and other wild animals. They hope soon to have some cheetah from South Africa.

The farmers have built several lodges, which when completed in about 5 years' time will have 60 beds, in a bid to woo ecology-minded foreign tourists.

"This is a long-term project, it's not for us but for our children," Abbot's wife Lyn, said. "We hope that in 10 years' time and beyond the income from the exclusive tourists coming here will make it self-supporting."

In a bid to gain support from tens of thousands of poor blacks living in arid areas nearby, the Bubiana farmers have also begun to build dams and small industries to help promote economic growth in the remote outpost.

DIANA AND CAMILLA FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

The two women in the life of the Prince of Wales are fighting for survival. One to stay in his life, and one to stay in the royal family.

The Princess of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles are trying to maintain their position with every means they know how.

Having spent six months apart Prince Charles is now back in close contact with Camilla - despite a backlash after the extent of their relationship was disclosed earlier this year. It is believed they agreed not to meet until the furor over the revelations have calmed down.

Friends have now revealed the prince and Camilla speak to each other regularly on the phone, as they used to, and believe the couple still meet secretly at the homes of confidantes.

Prince Charles is known to sometimes drive to addresses in both London and the country at short notice. He is always accompanied by detectives but, while they always know his destination, they often do not know who he is seeing.

Camilla, 46, has lost weight and started chain smoking since tapes revealing her royal relationship were published in January. She is currently on a special "stress-free" holidays in the Himalayas organized by one of the prince's gurus, Dr. Mosaraf Ali.

With her are some of Charles's close friends. The £2,000 fortnight will include mountain walks and classes in

yoga, meditation, massage and relaxation techniques.

Camilla has left her husband, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, and their two teenage children behind.

Camilla's brother-in-law, London restaurateur Simon Parker Bowles said her outgoing nature and physical appearance had suffered since the revelations.

"Anyone who is under that sort of pressure is bound to be affected," he said. "Camilla has toned down her formerly hectic social life."

Family friend Lord Patrick Beresford added, "It would be absolutely unnatural if it had not had some effect. But she does not let it show. She manages to be her cheerful self whenever I see her."

Meanwhile, the Princess of Wales consoled herself with a little "retail therapy" shopping at the exclusive Monolo Blahnik shoe shop, in Chelsea, west London. More importantly, she had a private meeting the prime minister at Kensington Palace after he requested an audience.

It is believed Mr. Major advised - and warned - the princess about her position and future before flying later in the day to Cyprus, where he had talks with the queen.

The meeting with Diana came three days after the disclosure that the princess now regrets allowing friends to reveal details of her unhappiness as Prince Charles's wife.

It implied a possible change of heart. A senior adviser to royal household said, "Any

alterations in the princess's current status would have obvious constitutional implications and the prime minister would wish to discuss them with the queen.

John Barnes, a leading lecturer in government at the London School of Economics said, "Since the initiative came from Downing Street there may be something he wants to warn or advise Diana about."

The princess has been working hard and keeping up her role as a career.

"It is possible Mr. Major is acting as an intermediary but it is more likely he wants a conversation maybe asking for reassurance about her intentions."

Royal author Brian Hoey, said: "As far as I know the princess and John Major have not had a one-to one meeting before. This is very unusual."

Divorce may have been discussed. But a royal adviser added, "Both the palace and the princess, through her solicitors, have emphatically denied that the couple are planning a divorce."

He said that the government would be "deeply alarmed" if speculation about the princess being received into the Roman Catholic Church before seeking an annulment turned out to be true.

Former art minister Lord Gowrie called on princess Diana at Kensington Palace.

"Maybe they are trying to keep Diana sweet so that she remains loyal to the royal family."

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On payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$1000 or Stg. PGS 660 by cash, or certified cheque, or banker's draft.

6. Applications for tender documents should also be accompanied by a statement of the tenderer's experience and qualifications to undertake this project.
7. Applications from Local Agents must be accompanied by specific written authorization from their principals mentioning this project.
8. Tenders should be addressed to:

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PUBLIC ELECTRICITY CORPORATION,
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SANAA - REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TELEX: 2879 OR 2880, FAX: 967-1-263115

and deposited in the PEC head office in Sanaa before 12:00 noon on 15th December 1993 at which time the Tenders will be opened in the presence of Tenderers and their representatives.

المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء صنعا - الجمهورية اليمنية مشروع المحطة الغازية الإسعافية بطاقة ٨٠-١٠٠ ميغاوات دعوة لتقديم عروض المناقصه

١) تدعو المؤسسة الراغبين في التقدم لهذه المناقصة من الشركات المصنعة والمقاوله ذات الخبرة لتوريد وتركيب واختبار محطة ترينينات غازية بقدرة ٨٠ إلى ١٠٠ ميغاوات بالموقع كتوسيع لمحطة الديزل في ذهبان بصنعا، وذلك على أساس تسليم مفتاح.

٢) المحطة ستشمل وحدتين أو ثلاث وحدات تعمل بوقود الديزل وقابلة للتحويل للعمل على الغاز الطبيعي بما في ذلك معدات تعبئة الوقود والمعدات المساعدة للمحطة والأعمال المدنية والمباني للمحطة لمفتاح ٣٣ ك.ف الجديدة.

٣) كذلك سيشمل المشروع تعزيز شبكة توزيع ٣٣ ك.ف في صنعا بإنشاء أربعة خطوط ٣٣ ك.ف هوائية وكابلات أرضية وأجهزة مساعدة لمحطات تحويل ١١/٣٣ ك.ف.

٤) على الراغبين في التقدم للمناقصة تقديم عروض تمويل للمشروع مرفقة بعطاءاتهم.

٥) يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصة بتقديم طلب خطي خلال الفترة من (٨) إلى (٢٢) نوفمبر إلى الشركة الإستشارية «يوبانك بريس» حسب العنوان في نص الإعلان باللغة الإنجليزية المنشور هنا وبدفع مبلغ ألف دولار أو (٦٦٠) جنيه إسترليني لا ترد ويكون الدفع نقدا أو بصك معتمد أو بتحويل بنكي.

٦) طلبات شراء وثائق المناقصة يجب أن تكون مصحوبة بوثائق التأهيل التي تؤكد خبرة ومقدرة الشركة على تنفيذ المشروع.

٧) الطلبات من الوكلاء المحليين يجب أن تكون مدعومة بتفويض خطي من موكلهم يشار فيه إلى هذا المشروع.

٨) تقدم العطاءات إلى العنوان التالي:

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عناية المدير العام المهندس/ أحمد حسن العيني ،

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تلکس (٢٨٧٩) أو (٢٨٨٠) ، فاكس (٢٦٣١١٥ - ١ - ٩٦٧)

ويجب تسليم العطاءات إلى مكتب المدير العام قبل الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً يوم ١٩٩٣/١٢/١٥ وهو الموعد الذي سيتم فيه فتح المضاريف بحضور المتقدمين أو من

يمثلهم.



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

OUR FLYING AMBASSADOR

Red, white and black are the colors of the Yemeni flag, which, of course, was raised high by the Yemeni leaders on May 22nd, 1990. His excellency president Ali Abdallah Saleh kissed the flag just before hoisting it high very proudly with much love and peace for the Yemen people.

The Yemen embassies and consulates all over the world also raised the flag of unified Yemen happily declaring to the world our achievement.

I would like to remind all decent Yemenis that our unification has given us new status among the world nations, especially in the recent political turmoil all over the world leading to military confrontation and aggressive behavior. YEMENIA - the national carrier is our ambassador to the world. Therefore the blue strip on Yemenia needs to go black to represent the real Yemeni flag. Or is the carrier's flag a different one?

We should always stand together to promote peace in our country!

Jamal A. Z., Sana'a.

DOLLARIZATION!

Inflation has destroyed our local currency till the end, to the extent that the riyal has come to mean nothing even in its own country.

Things are made worse by those greedy merchants who insist on doing business in dollars and they refuse the Riyal. Housing landlords, travel agencies, big hotels started the dollarization. Today, even the service offices, professional artists, and even taxi drivers demand dollars.

If these developments were hidden, it might not have been so cruel on our psychological welfare, but the dollarization process is taking place openly. The government must do something about it, otherwise no one will accept riyals.

My problem is that government officials already know this very well. Therefore, why is it they do not do something about it?

Khalid Al-Yabari, Sana'a.

U.N.H.C.R. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SOMALI REFUGEES

"Come back tomorrow, come the day after, come next week, come after ten days, come back next month." These are some of the answers of the U.N.H.C.R people to the Somali refugee students.

Weeks and months pass by as more postponements and procrastinations are practised on the thirty or so Somali refugee students who were given scholarships by the U.N.H.C.R., thus taking responsibility for each students' educational, health and living expenses.

The UNHCR office is supposed to perform all the administrative requirements of the students. Instead the UNHCR people just sit in their office and send the poor students to cope for themselves.

Where is the sympathy for the students?

This attitude on the part of the UNHCR officials towards Somali refugee students has forced many to drop off from schools and forget the whole idea of education all together.

As a member of the Somali refugee student group, I need to have clear and true answers. Is the UNHCR administrative system incapable of helping or are they deliberately doing this to frustrate the poor refugee students who are supported by world community?

As for me, I personally processed the paperwork, got myself an admission to a local community college and completed everything. Then I discovered new difficulties as the UNHCR failed to pay my tuition, as promised. They even refuse to pay our living, book, transportation and other allowances. Each time, they give different reasons and excuses such as, "Geneva has not yet authorized," "The manager is not here today," and so on.

We don't even know how much we are entitled to. We asked one of the UNHCR officials and he five thousand to six hundred rials. The question is, then, how did he figure out the amount if they did not receive their allocations?

Therefore, we hereby ask the Yemeni government and the other United Nations bodies to help us with this problem.

Our thanks to the Yemen government for the warm welcoming of the Somali refugees. Our special thanks to the Federal Republic of Germany for the educational fund aid to Somali refugee students in Yemen.

Finally, we are not complaining against the UNHCR, we just want them to heed our appeals.

Hassan Ahmed, Somali refugee student in Sana'a.

BEGGARS

As I leave my residence I always take shortcuts and alleyways to Bab-Al-Yaman, in a deliberate attempt to avoid the major highways. I feel overwhelmed when I see in each intersection crowds of beggars.

It is an everyday scene to witness beggars standing all the time under the scorching heat of the sun asking drivers (and their passengers) for money. Besides, what makes me very irritated is that the number is increasing day after day, so that one cannot walk through the streets without being approached once or twice by these people. The number of begging children is especially pitiful.

One cannot imagine the extent to which society has neglected its responsibilities towards these creatures. The results of this situation are far-reaching. Society no longer appreciates the suffering of these poor beggars. It is a humanitarian nightmare. We need a serious and practical step to halt the sufferings of these people and provide an alternative source of income to those who fall back on begging as the source of income.

It is true that, due to the economic crisis in our country, the unemployment level is very high and therefore finding a job could be difficult. That is the more reason for us to help.

Many families find it difficult to survive, and thus fall apart. Broken homes has become a rising problem in Yemen. Children on the streets is a direct result of this situation.

Money becomes inevitably the obsession which drives many individuals. We have lost much of our compassion and feeling of oneness. As a result, there is a visible absence of social justice and communal caring. Yemenis' increasingly worship money and thus are unable to feel for others, especially the less fortunate ones, as they used to.

Begging has destroyed our moral values. Who will stand up and stop this phenomenon? I really wonder whether our government is concerned at all. Nevertheless, government alone cannot do anything. The private sector can help a lot in resolving this problem.

In conclusion, I think it is time to stop the injustice and the negligence we have shown towards those who are poor. Those in power are more responsible than others. We should feel for those who among us who live in pain suffering.

Moneer H. Seif Al-Areeqi, Sanaa.

THE PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIANS IN YEMEN

Migration of Yemenis is a phenomenon that dates back to ancient times. Migrants have been the source of sustenance to the people of Yemen.

Many waves of Yemenis have migrated to Ethiopia, where they were received with a warm welcome and a lot of friendship. They lived freely in Ethiopia, intermarried and attained social prominence.

But the irony is that when the Yemenis and their children returned to Yemen, they were not well treated. The treatment is even worse to Ethiopians who have migrated to Yemen.

At present, several Ethiopian migrants are in Yemeni prisons. They are treated in Nazi-like manners and subjected to inhuman hardships. Ethiopian women are raped, robbed and humiliated. The men are flogged and tortured. It is ironic that Yemeni human rights organizations denounce the atrocities in former Yugoslavia, they are blind to what is going on here in Sanaa.

Yemen and Ethiopia have signed various agreements which govern the way they treat each others' citizens, yet the Yemeni side does not adhere to them.

Is this the way Yemen pays back Ethiopian hospitality? Is this the way neighbors treat each other? Is this the way a democratic country which observes human rights treats refugees and immigrants?

Muhammad Al-Himyari, Sanaa.

COME BACK, AGAIN

The following story, my first encounter with American English, points to some of the difficulties of writing in foreign languages. Idioms, slang and colloquialism are even more problematic.

A Chinese I was invited by an American family to share with them a Thanksgiving dinner in Illinois. According to schedule, we arrived at 3:00 pm. I forgot to ring the bell, and simply knocked at the door. As I waited, the minutes ticked away. No one answered the door. I wondered whether I was at the right address.

After three minutes, my Chinese friend pointed to the door bell which I pressed.

The host promptly opened the door. "How do you do?" he inquired. "I do well!" I answered.

Soon, we were introduced to the hostess. She too wanted to know how we did. Of course, we did well, at least until the door bell situation.

At eight we were ready to go. We were looking for our coats and hats. "You want your wraps, don't you?" the host asked. "We have no wraps," I retorted. His wife intervened, "He means your your coats and hats."

We were quickly escorted to the door, and the host exclaimed, "Oh boys, we've enjoyed your company very much. Come back, again."

On the way back, my Chinese friend and I did not realize we were not supposed to come back. My friend said, "When I was in China, I was told if I did not understand something, and whenever in doubt what Americans mean, I should go and ask."

So we decided to go back and ask. "Gr-r-r-r-r" the door bell went. The lady opened the door and was surprised to see us. "Have you forgotten something?" she asked.

"No but you asked us to come back, and we did not know when!" "Sorry boys. That is the American way of saying 'Good bye'."

In my country, when we want to say 'Good-bye' we say 'Go in peace', I explained.

"In that case, 'Go home in peace,'" she said as politely as she could, as she showed us out.

Thanking them again, we hastened home! See what I mean about idioms and foreign languages.

Ahmed Al-Ruayni, Sanaa.

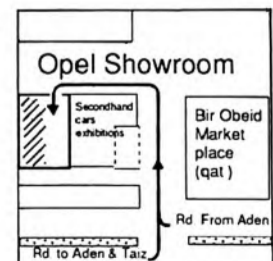
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Colonel Al-Barawy:

“We now issue a new identity card all over unified Yemen.”

One of the important cornerstones of any modern society is the availability of a complete civil registry statistics of its population. For a country like Yemen, where births, deaths, marriages and other events are not officially recorded, the task of the General Authority for Civil Registry (GACR) is, indeed, an enormous one. To shed more light on this and related issues, Yemen Times correspondent Ismail Al-Ghabri interviewed Colonel Abdul-Rahman Al-Barawy, General Manager of the GACR. Excerpts follow:

Q: Could you give us an overview of your mandate in the GACR?

A: Of course, any modern society requires statistics about its population. That, in general, is our mandate. We are responsible for collecting data on the population, and the changes that occur in its distribution and structure. It is a big job, especially given our resources.

Q: One of the main tasks of the GACR is to issue identity cards for Yemenis. How is that coming?

A: Yes, we issue identity cards which are proof of Yemeni nationality. In a society that lacks basic documents, we try very hard to verify the applicant is a Yemeni, and then issue the ID. We have reduced the bureaucratic requirements to the minimum, for this purpose. Even then, you must have seen the long lines (of people processing their IDs) in front of our office.

I am happy to inform you that we now issue a new identity card for all citizens all over unified Yemen.

Q: What are you doing to reduce the long lines in front of your offices?

A: I have already mentioned that we have reduced paperwork to the bare minimum. We have also opened new offices to issue the IDs. Here in Sanaa, for example, we have opened five branches. It is the same all over the country where population densities are high.

Q: How do you handle naturalized Yemenis?

A: The law is clear on this point. The requirements are ten years of continued residence in Yemen, and a good conduct report during this period.

We have quite a few cases of Arab brothers/sisters and foreign spouses who are naturalized, and we treat according to the law.

Q: Let us go back to the new ID. Could you tell us more about it?

A: This is an ID which has been designed and executed according to international standards. We have made extremely difficult to forge one of these.

You will note that the GACR issues about 100,000 IDs each year, and has, so far, issued some 2.9 million ID cards. These will now be gradually replaced by the new ID. During the replacement process, we are trying to check if the people who carry the Yemeni IDs actually have the right to do so.

data is now computerized. Therefore, we can issue a replacement automatically, while cancelling the old one. It is really a simple process.

Q: Foreign born Yemenis, the so-called muwalladeen have had difficulties in the past getting IDs. What have you done to solve their problem?

A: Yes, in the past there have been many cases of abuse. But we now have minimized the complications and we try to rectify the situation.

Q: How do you plan future steps in this field?

A: In the future, we hope to do many things that will help us get better results. Let me give specific examples:

1. In January, 1994, there will be a census. We are involved and we are sure this will give us a boost in our work.
2. We have approached the schools and asked them to demand birth certificates



We will be working closely with organizations that have large clusters of people such as schools, universities, army units, government offices, etc. What we hope to do is work out a schedule according to which we take our team and equipment to their locations, and start replacing the old cards with the new IDs. This is a future plan that will help us achieve better results in a short time.

What I am saying is that we are linking up with the various authorities whose work helps us in our tasks. In the final analysis, however, the kind of

resources available to us will determine how far we can go in our efforts.

Q: How do you control non-Yemenis who are here illegally?

A: This is a critical point because we are a society that suffers from unemployment and some of these illegal residents take the jobs from Yemenis.

First, let me say this is not something that falls under our domain directly. ~Other bodies at the Ministry of Interior (such as the Immigration and Passports office) and the Ministry of Labor are responsible for this.

Second, we try to help by making sure that only Yemenis get the local ID.



But this is really a big problem which even advanced countries could not resolve.

Besides, there are many humanitarian and economic aspects which should be considered when interacting with this situation.

Q: Are you a major source of revenue for the state treasury?

A: I think we are. I wish the Ministry of Finance would take the task we do to provide the funds necessary for us.




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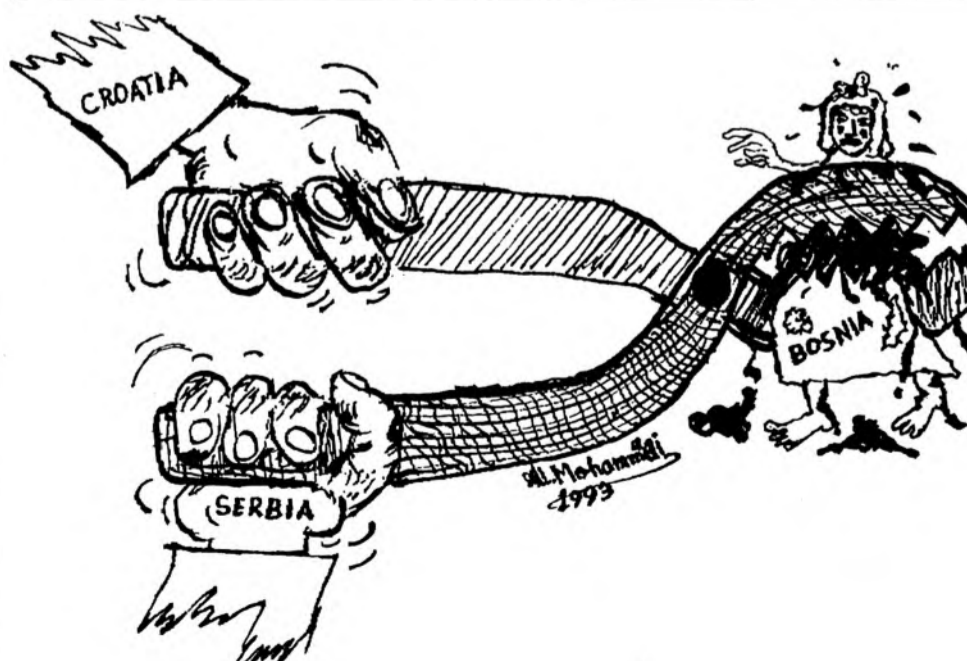
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I would like to point that we also have the international ID card which is useful for Yemenis who travel in foreign countries. Since it is bi-lingual and executed according to international specifications, it is proof of identity any where in the world.

Q: What happens in case an ID is lost?

A: You will note that all the

and IDs before they accept new students. This is especially true of new enrollments in Grade 1.

3. We have approached hospitals and asked them to fill out temporary birth certificates for new-borns. Although only 10% of all new-borns are born in hospitals, this would still help. We have also asked hospitals to issue death certificates.



POLITIQUE ET ECONOMIE

Délégations françaises en visite au Yémen

Un groupe d'industriels français est venu étudier la semaine dernière les possibilités d'investissements au Yémen. Ils étaient accompagnés d'une délégation RPR, le parti gaulliste actuellement au pouvoir en France. Leur voyage était organisé par l'ADRAF, l'Association pour le développement des relations arabo-françaises, association française très active au Yémen.

Moins de quinze jours après la visite officielle du Président français, François Mitterrand, au Yémen, deux délégations françaises ont débarqué samedi 30 octobre à Sanaa. La première délégation était composée d'industriels français: la société Dumez, entreprise de travaux publics, intéressée par la zone franche d'Aden, Castel SA, qui travaille notamment dans le commerce du riz, la Banque marocaine pour le commerce et l'industrie, du groupe BNP (Banque nationale de Paris), Photowatt, qui vend des panneaux solaires, et LOHR, spécialisée dans le matériel de transport lourd hors gabarit.

Un projet de panneaux solaires

"Nous sommes persuadés que des régions reculées du Yémen qui ne seront pas alimentées en électricité avant longtemps, peuvent avoir besoin de panneaux solaires pour s'alimenter en énergie. Mais il faut une volonté poli-

tique pour mettre en place un tel projet", nous a expliqué Robert de Franclieu de Photowatt.

La deuxième délégation était politique puisque composée de membres du RPR (Rassemblement pour la République), le parti gaulliste actuellement au pouvoir en France. La présence des deux délégations au même moment n'est "que le fruit du hasard", précise Ahmed Chaker, président de l'ADRAF, l'association qui a eu l'initiative de ce voyage. L'ADRAF (Association pour le développement des relations arabo-françaises) s'intéresse particulièrement au Yémen. "Je suis en effet Français d'origine yéménite, explique Ahmed Chaker, et j'essaie d'être un intermédiaire entre la France et le Yémen". Très fortuné, Ahmed Chaker s'est fait connaître du public français au moment de l'affaire du Brest Armorique, un club de football breton auquel il était lié.

Les deux délégations ont notamment rencontré le

Premier ministre Haïdar Al Attas, le vice-Premier ministre et ministre de l'Industrie, Mohammed Saïd Al-Attar. Une entrevue avec le Président Saleh était prévue. Les délégations françaises devaient également se rendre à Aden, où Ali Salem Al-Bid devait les recevoir.

Convergences entre le CPG et le RPR

Certains affirment que la présence de la délégation RPR est liée à une visite au Yémen, dans les mois qui viennent, de Jacques Chirac, chef de file du parti gaulliste et candidat aux élections présidentielles de 1995. "Ce n'est pas l'objectif de notre mission", explique Richard Cazenave, conseiller de Jacques Chirac et membre de la délégation, mais cela nous ferait plaisir qu'elle débouche sur un tel voyage. Nous pensons en effet que le Yémen est un pays d'avenir". La délégation RPR a privilégié les rencontres avec des membres du CPG, "avec lequel nous avons une convergence idéologique forte, mais en aucun cas, ce n'est un choix partisan". Et Claude Roland, secrétaire national du parti gaulliste et membre de la délégation, de conclure: "le RPR veut reprendre la politique arabe du général De Gaulle".

J.B.

Les délégations

La délégation ADRAF (Association pour le Développement des Relations Arabo-Françaises):

- Ahmed Chaker, Président de l'ADRAF.
- Jean-Michel Baudoïn, conseiller.
- Stéphane Volant, conseiller.

La délégation RPR (Rassemblement pour la République):

- Richard Cazenave, député, délégué général aux Affaires étrangères du RPR, conseiller de Jacques Chirac.
- Claude Roland, secrétaire national du RPR.
- Michel Katz, chargé de mission auprès de Richard Cazenave.

La délégation d'hommes d'affaires français:

- Eugène Raoux, conseiller du président de Castel SA.
- Christian Prot, vice-président de Dumez.
- Omar Alkalal, vice-Pdg de la Banque marocaine pour le commerce et l'industrie, du groupe BNP.
- Robert de Franclieu, directeur général de Photowatt SA.
- Jean-Claude Lemaire, directeur export vers le Moyen-Orient de LOHR.

Course destination monde

Marie-Julie Dallaire est une jeune fille pressée. Cette Québécoise à la chevelure rousse s'est donnée pour objectif de visiter dix-sept pays en six mois, dont le Yémen où elle se trouve ces jours-ci. Elle participe à la "Course destination monde", version canadienne de la fameuse "Course autour du monde", diffusée sur les écrans français il y a une dizaine d'années. D'ailleurs l'organisateur de la "Course destination monde", Jean-Louis Boudou, est un ancien participant de la l'ancienne version française. Cette année, huit candidats, cinq filles et trois garçons, s'affrontent caméra vidéo au poing, envoyant leurs reportages des quatre coins du monde. Marie-Julie Dallaire est partie de sa terre natale le 14 août et ne la retrouvera que le 16 février prochain. Entre-temps, elle sera passée par l'Italie, l'ex-Yougoslavie, la Tchecoslovaquie, la France, le Sénégal, le Burkina-Faso, la Côte d'Ivoire, l'Ethiopie, le Yémen, le Bouthan, l'Inde, la Thaïlande, le Vietnam, la Chine, la Papouasie, les Etats-Unis et le Mexique (ou peut-être Haïti). Au Yémen, elle est partie à la recherche des arbres à encens dans l'Hadramaout. Elle compte également faire un sujet sur Sanaa. La sélection des candidats a été sévère, 325 dossiers au départ, 40 qui ont passé une entrevue, 15 choisis pour tourner deux films pendant un mois et finalement 8 heureux élus. Marie-Julie, qui a fait des études de cinéma, espère remporter le premier prix: un an de réalisation à l'Office national du film du Canada à Montréal. Pour l'instant, elle a toutes ses chances, elle est en tête de la course.

SPECTACLE

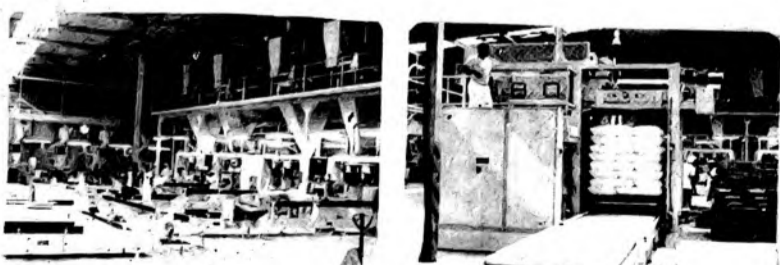
Quatuor de Saxophones

Des centaines de spectateurs sont venus jeudi 28 octobre pour écouter le quatuor de saxophones de Versailles, dans la salle de concert du Centre culturel yéménite à Sanaa. Ce concert était organisé par le Centre culturel français et clôturait une tournée dans de nombreux pays du Moyen-Orient (Émirats Arabes Unis, Koweït, Qatar, Bahrein, Arabie Saoudite). Les quatre jeunes saxophonistes, Claude, Guy, Michel et Dany, se sont rencontrés en 1982 au conservatoire de Versailles. L'enchaînement de leur spectacle, rempli d'humour, était bâti selon la logique d'un rythme d'écoute plutôt que d'un choix d'auteurs, de style ou d'époque. Le public a pu reconnaître l'Aria de Bach, le Boléro de Ravel, la Panthère rose. Ils se sont également inspirés du conte musical Pierre et le Loup de Prokofiev pour aider le public à reconnaître les différents instruments. Le saxophone so-prano était ainsi associé à l'oiseau. Les quatre saxophonistes ont agréablement associé la musique, les images, les idées, les mots, le mime, en jouant avec l'espace et le mouvement. Ils sont également émerveillés par leur dynamisme et leur technicité musicale.



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REUNION DE JOURNALISTES A SANAA

Réflexion sur la presse arabe

Réunis lundi et mardi dernier à l'initiative du Centre régional pour les pays arabes, membre de l'Organisation Internationale des Journalistes, des journalistes arabes ont réfléchi sur leurs conditions de travail.

Pour préparer le comité exécutif de l'OIJ (Organisation Internationale des Journalistes) en décembre prochain à Barcelone, Gérard Gatnot, secrétaire général de l'organisation, a décidé de rencontrer des représentants des journalistes arabes. La réunion avait lieu lundi et mardi dernier dans les locaux de l'antenne de l'OIJ pour le Proche-Orient, le Centre régional pour les pays arabes installé à Sanaa et dirigé par Mahbube Ali.

"Je suis venu voir quelles sont les demandes des journalistes arabes", précise Gérard Gatnot. Ils sont une dizaine de représentants des journalistes à avoir répondu à l'appel. Venus de Syrie, du Liban, d'Irak et de Palestine, ils ont réfléchi pendant ces deux jours à la possibilité de mettre en place des cours de journalisme pour les Palestiniens et également à une grande réunion des 21 organisations arabes membres de l'OIJ pour mettre à plat tous les problèmes de la profession

dans les pays arabes. L'Algérie était également à l'ordre du jour. Dans ce pays, sept journalistes ont été assassinés en cinq mois. Lundi soir, Gérard Gatnot a remis le prix international de l'OIJ à Melhem Karame, président de l'Ordre des Journalistes du Liban, en récompense de l'ensemble de son activité. Cette année, l'OIJ a aussi remis un prix à une équipe de journalistes haïtiens. Mercredi, le secrétaire général de l'organisation s'est rendu à Aden, où il devait rencontrer le vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid.

Une organisation concurrente

Dans la péninsule arabe, seuls le Qatar, Oman et l'Arabie Saoudite ne sont pas membres de l'OIJ, mais les deux premiers se montrent intéressés. La Tunisie, quant à elle, appartient à la FIJ (Fédération Internationale des Journalistes), l'organisation concurrente de l'OIJ. Cette division est issue

de la guerre froide. En 1954, la FIJ était créée à Bruxelles à l'instigation des Américains et des Britanniques qui estimaient que l'OIJ était à la botte des Soviétiques. Il est vrai que les journalistes des démocraties populaires ont eu pendant longtemps une grande influence au sein de l'organisation. En France, seul le syndicat des journalistes CGT, proche du parti communiste, est membre de l'association. Depuis 1972, les deux organisations concurrentes ont entamé un rapprochement et envisagent de se réunir. Après la chute du mur de Berlin, l'OIJ a modifié sa stratégie: son magazine trimestriel ne s'appelle plus "Le journaliste démocratique" mais "Le monde des journalistes", un titre plus neutre.

L'OIJ, très présente en Amérique Latine et en Afrique, a de l'argent. A Prague, où se trouve son siège, elle possède des entreprises de communication, d'édition, de transport, deux restaurants. Une source de revenus appréciable.

CRISE

La tension politique s'accroît

L'attentat qui visait les deux fils du vice-Président Al-Bid vendredi 29 octobre et qui a tué son neveu a fait monter d'un cran la tension politique dans le pays. Dimanche dernier, plusieurs dizaines de milliers de manifestants ont défilé à Aden à l'occasion des obsèques, scandant des slogans hostiles aux "terroristes" et "ennemis du PSY".

Le Yémen semble s'installer durablement dans une grave crise politique. Ali Salem Al-Bid est pour l'instant bien décidé à rester à Aden, malgré les multiples médiations destinées à le ramener à Sanaa. Retranché dans la capitale du sud depuis le 19 août, il proteste contre la gestion des affaires publiques et réclame l'arrestation et le jugement des auteurs des attentats dans lesquels ont péri au moins une dizaine de responsables du PSY depuis plusieurs mois.

La semaine dernière, une délégation de représentants des tribus, conduite par le chef des tribus Bakil, Sinan Abou Lou-houm, s'est rendue à Aden pour le rencontrer. Les chefs des tribus ont également créé un comité pour "participer à tout débat national destiné à régler les divergences actuelles".

Cheikh al-Ahmar accuse le PSY

De son côté, le président du Parlement, Cheikh Al-Ahmar, a durci le ton. Il a estimé dans une interview publiée mercredi dernier dans le quotidien arabe Al-Hayat édité à Londres que "le PSY est à l'origine de la crise politique" et que le règlement de celle-ci doit commencer par le retour d'Ali Al-Bid à Sanaa. Le président Saleh, quant à lui, a rejeté une des conditions posées par le vice-président, à savoir le retrait des camps militaires des

villes: "Il y a des camps militaires dans toutes les villes du monde. Pourquoi donc en exclure les villes yéménites?"

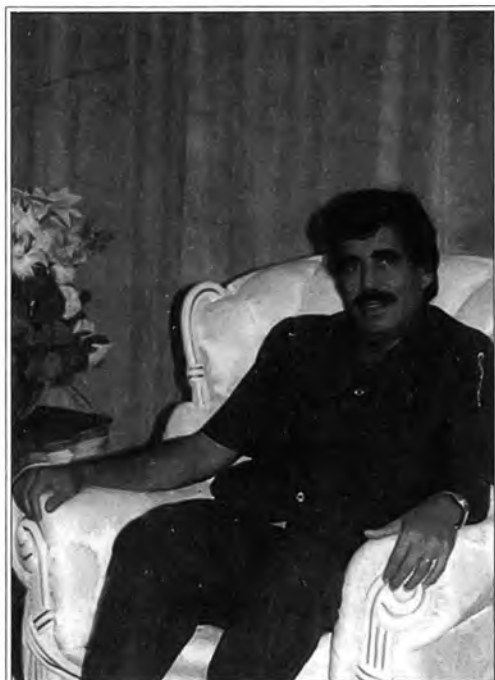
La tension est montée d'un cran dans le pays après l'attentat qui visait les deux fils du vice-président et qui a tué son neveu vendredi 29 octobre. L'attentat a eu lieu tôt le matin, dans le quartier de Mansourah, à Aden. Des hommes ont ouvert le feu sur deux fils d'Ali Salem Al-Bid, Nayef et Yanouf, respectivement âgés de 24 et 22 ans. Ils ont eu la vie sauve en se réfugiant

derrière un véhicule en stationnement. Mais leur cousin Kamel Abdel Al-Hamed, atteint de "plus de 30 balles", a été tué sur le coup.

L'attentat est une nouvelle phase dans l'escalade des crises et menace "de déstabiliser le pays et d'y semer le terrorisme et la désunion", a estimé le parti socialiste yéménite. "Il s'agit d'un message politique adressé à M. Al-Bid en raison du durcissement de sa position", a expliqué un responsable du PSY. Il a révélé

que le fils aîné du vice-président, Adnane, avait reçu deux jours avant l'attentat des menaces téléphoniques anonymes.

Les obsèques de Kamel Abdel Al-Hamed se sont transformées dimanche dernier à Aden en une manifestation de plusieurs dizaines de milliers de personnes en soutien à Ali Salem Al-Bid. Outre le vice-président, des membres du bureau politique et du comité central du PSY et des représentants de partis et d'organisations de masse participaient aux funérailles.



Ali Salem Al-Bid est retranché à Aden depuis le 19 août.

Slogans hostiles aux "ennemis" du PSY

Des responsables de la section locale à Aden du CPG ont également pris part aux obsèques. Cependant, aucun haut responsable du CPG ni de l'Isala ne s'était déplacé de Sanaa. Le Conseil présidentiel avait condamné la veille l'attentat, soulignant sa détermination à soutenir les efforts des services de sécurité pour arrêter et juger les criminels.

Les participants, venus des différentes provinces du sud et dont certains brandissaient des drapeaux du PSY (drapeau bleu frappé de l'étoile rouge) et des portraits d'Ali Al-Bid et de son neveu assassiné, ont scandé des slogans hostiles aux "terroristes" et "ennemis du PSY". "Celui qui protège les assassins, finance leurs actes et refuse de les livrer à la justice est le principal artisan de la sédition" au

Yémen, scandait la foule, sans toutefois citer nommément le commanditaire des actes de violence qui secouent depuis plusieurs mois le Yémen.

Certains analystes estiment que le vrai pouvoir à Sanaa est détenu par des grands officiers originaires des tribus, dont celles des Hached, et en particulier Mohammed Abdallah Saleh, frère du président et chef

de l'administration centrale de la sécurité. Récemment Ali Salem Al-Bid a affirmé s'être mis d'accord avec le président Saleh sur le "nécessité de substituer aux services de sûreté hérités des deux anciens Yémen un nouveau service, plus conforme aux orientations démocratiques du nouvel Etat". Peut-être un début de réconciliation. (avec AFP)

Rial: flux et reflux

Inexorablement, le rial se déprécie par rapport au dollar. Il y a un an, il s'échangeait sur le marché libre autour de 30 rials pour un dollar. Aujourd'hui, il a allégrement dépassé le seuil psychologique des 50 rials et des transactions ont été effectuées à 60 rials le 26 octobre. La flambée des principaux produits de consommation a provoqué des manifestations à Aden et à Taëz. Quelques dizaines de manifestants ont tenté mercredi 27 octobre d'incendier des boutiques de changeurs de devises par l'armée. Il y a bientôt un an, des émeutes avaient éclaté dans le pays, pour les mêmes raisons, provoquant une vive répression des forces de sécurité.

La brusque envolée du dollar fin octobre a plusieurs explications. Tout d'abord, elle ne serait que la conséquence de l'important déficit budgétaire du pays, qui représente 25 %

du PIB et qui est financé par la planche à billets. Plus conjoncturelle, une transaction de vente de rials yéménites à Djeddah n'aurait pas pu trouver de contrepartie. Or Djeddah, en Arabie Saoudite, est la place financière où se décide le taux du rial yéménite. Enfin, certains disent que le ministre du Commerce et de l'Approvisionnement aurait décidé de libéraliser très largement le politique de licences d'importations, ce qui aurait provoqué un bond dans la demande de devises.

Le gouvernement a demandé aux industriels et hommes d'affaires yéménites de ramener le cours à 55 rials pour un dollar et de fausses informations sur un investissement étranger dans le gaz ont été diffusées pour calmer les esprits. Malgré tout, ces jours derniers, le rial a recommencé à se déprécier par rapport à la monnaie américaine.

THESE

Docteur ès environnement

Ali Awadh Salem a reçu son diplôme de docteur es environnements en juin dernier aux Etats-Unis. C'est le premier Yéménite à avoir soutenu une thèse dans ce domaine. Après un séjour de plusieurs mois dans ce pays, il a retrouvé ses fonctions à Sanaa.

La défense de l'environnement pourrait bientôt acquérir ses lettres de noblesse au Yémen. La première thèse yéménite dans ce domaine a été soutenue il y a quelques mois aux Etats-Unis par le Dr. Ali Awadh Salem. "La remise de mon diplôme a eu lieu à Hawaï en juin, mais je suis resté ensuite quelques mois pour mettre la touche finale à ma thèse avec l'aide de mon professeur", explique ce dernier, qui est actuellement le directeur du Conseil pour la protection de l'Environnement, à Sanaa.

Diplômé aux Etats-Unis

Diplômé de la Kennedy Western University, en Californie, le Dr. Ali a commencé ses recherches il y a quatre ans, alors qu'il travaillait au Koweït. Membre du Koweït Institute for Scientific Research, il a vécu pendant plus de vingt ans dans ce pays, qu'il a dû quitter en raison de la crise du Golfe.

Sa thèse a pour titre "Evaluation de la toxicité de certains polluants sur l'environnement marin en utilisant une bactérie par bio-essai". Le projet n'est pas seulement théorique mais pratique. La méthode développée par le Dr. Ali consiste à prélever une bactérie vivant en milieu marin, la *Clostridium phosphorium*, et d'étudier ses réactions face à différentes sortes de polluants. Trois types de polluants ont été retenus: le mercure, qui représente les

métaux lourds, particulièrement néfastes pour l'environnement, le lindane, un pesticide, et un échantillon d'eaux usées. "Mon étude porte à la fois sur la pollution industrielle, agricole et humaine", explique le premier docteur ès environnements du Yémen. "J'ai utilisé trois techniques: la DOD, mesure de la diminution d'oxygène, le décompte des bactéries vivantes, et la méthode étudiant la turbidité", explique-t-il. Grâce aux réactions des bactéries, on peut connaître le degré de pollution d'un site.

L'avantage de cette méthode est qu'elle n'est pas chère et peut intéresser les pays en voie de développement. Les résultats sont obtenus en 24h. Avant de commencer cette recherche, le Dr. Ali avait introduit une nouvelle technique par bio-luminescence, alors qu'il était au Koweït.

Etude par bio-luminescence

Grâce à une batterie d'ordinateurs, il étudiait la luminescence d'une bactérie marine phosphorescente. Quand la bactérie commençait à mourir sous l'effet d'un polluant, sa luminescence diminuait peu à peu. Cette technologie très précise a l'inconvénient d'être beaucoup plus chère que la précédente. De retour du Koweït, le Dr. Ali n'a pas pu terminer cette recherche au Yémen.

Désormais docteur ès environnements, Ali Awadh Salem va pouvoir se consacrer pleinement au Conseil pour la



Le Dr. Ali Awadh Salem.

Protection de l'Environnement. "Notre principale tâche est de coordonner le travail des différents ministères dans tous les projets concernant l'environnement. Nous n'agissons pas directement. Nous proposons des concertations, des

études, une législation sur l'environnement", précise-t-il. "Les problèmes majeurs au Yémen sont notamment l'approvisionnement en eau et la désertification de la Tihama", conclut-il.

J.B.

En Bref

Un Sukhoï yéménite s'écrase près d'Aden: Un bombardier yéménite Sukhoï, de fabrication soviétique, s'est écrasé au sol mardi dernier, à Al-Hiswa, près d'Aden, alors qu'il effectuait un vol d'entraînement. Son pilote a réussi à avoir la vie sauve en s'éjectant de l'appareil, mais il a été légèrement blessé.

Visite du président érythréen: Le président érythréen Issaias Afeworki a effectué une visite de trois jours au Yémen la semaine dernière. Un accord de coopération dans le domaine de la sécurité entre ministères de l'Intérieur a été conclu à cette occasion. Au cours de son séjour, le président érythréen s'est rendu à Aden où il a rencontré le vice-président Al-Bid. Après le sultan Qabous, chef d'Etat omanais, François Mitterrand, le chef d'Etat français, Ion Iliescu, le président roumain, Is-saia Afeworki est le quatrième chef d'Etat étranger à visiter le Yémen en moins d'un mois.

Soutenance de mémoire: Sylvaine Camelin a soutenu récemment son mémoire de maîtrise d'ethnologie, intitulé "Etude d'une communauté de pêcheurs à Shihr, Yémen", à l'université de Nanterre, dans la région parisienne. Elle a reçu la note de 16/20 pour son travail. Sylvaine avait débarqué dans le petit port de l'Hadramout en novembre dernier et y était restée quatre mois et demi. Elle espère obtenir une bourse de DEA (Diplôme d'études approfondies) afin de pouvoir revenir au Yémen.

Reprise des vols de Gulf Air vers le Yémen: La compagnie régionale Gulf Air va reprendre le 4 décembre ses vols à destination du Yémen, après une interruption de plus

de trois ans en raison de l'attitude "pro-irakienne" de Sanaa lors de la crise du Golfe.

Départ des troupes françaises de Somalie: Plus de 1000 soldats français servant dans la force d'opération des Nations Unies en Somalie vont quitter le pays d'ici le 15 décembre. La France ne laissera qu'un contingent d'une centaine de soldats pour quelques mois encore afin de former des policiers somaliens. Les forces américaines doivent pour leur part quitter la Somalie d'ici la fin mars, suivies par les Allemands en avril. La Belgique a également décidé le départ de ses troupes de Somalie et si l'Italie retire les siennes, l'essentiel des forces de l'ONU en Somalie sera composée de troupes indiennes et pakistanaïses.

Tentative de coup d'Etat en Libye: Deux colonels de l'armée libyenne ont mené du 11 au 14 octobre, une tentative de coup d'Etat dans leur pays, selon le quotidien arabe Al-Hayat. Le colonel Hassan El-Kébir et El-Rifi Ali El-Chérif, proches du chef de l'Etat, le colonel Mouammar Kadhafi, auraient profité du malaise de la troupe laissée sans solde depuis plusieurs mois. La répression menée notamment par les "Phalanges de la sécurité" aurait fait au moins deux cents morts.

Nouveau disque de Cheb Khaled: Le roi du raï algérien Cheb Khaled revient avec un nouvel album "N'ssi N'ssi" ("oublie, oublie"), à peine un an après le succès de "Didi". Ce dernier s'est vendu à 500 000 exemplaires dans le monde. Cheb Khaled a connu la consécration en Inde et a été le premier chanteur algérien à jouer en Egypte.

Whale of a time

Centuries ago, we thought of whales very differently. Feared and awesome creatures, as large as the ships that pursued them, whales were once seen as ferocious hunters, a danger to anything that came near them. Seamen brought back terrifying Moby Dick-style tales, and the myth continued... But attitudes have changed. We now know whales are in fact gentle, placid mammals; far from being man-eating, they live on plankton known as krill, or on fish, and are rarely roused to attack man unless under attack themselves. Many whales have been shown to be curious and social creatures swimming peacefully with human divers even though they could effortlessly deliver fatal tail blows. They live and move in schools or two or more adults, staying close if one of them is sick, and calling to each other across hundreds of mile of ocean. Unless hunted, most whales outlive humans, and a mother will nurture her calf for three years or more. What is more, scientists believe whales to be highly intelligent creatures - the brain of a sperm whale is five times the size of human's, and the humpback whale is thought

tastic 144 tons. Singled out as the most profitable to hunt, it was slaughtered in the tens of thousands each year - peaking at 30,000 blue whales killed in a single season in the 1930s. It is now critically endangered, with less than 1% of its original numbers remaining in the Antarctic Ocean. As blue whales stocks crashed, whalers switched their attention to the next largest species, the fin whales, and so on down the chain. Today, only about 5% of the original fin whale population of nearly half a million animals are thought to be left. Humpbacks too were also heavily overhunted, with perhaps 25% remaining. Next came sei whales, similarly decimated, and finally sperm whales. Nobody paid much attention to the relatively tiny minke whale in the early days, and today it is the only whale species not yet in danger, with a population of around 700,000. There is no humane way to kill a whale. Whaling ships today have every imaginable form of sophisticated equipment; they are hi-tech floating factories for carving up, processing and storing their prey. But when it comes to



First, the sighted whale is shot with an explosive grenade harpoon, designed to enter the body of the whale and explode once inside, thus shattering the internal organs. Then the wounded whale, often still alive and suffering intensely, is winched towards the ship where it is pumped full of air to make sure it floats. If it struggles, it is harpooned again. If the whale is thrashing about in its agony, it is shot with a rifle aimed at the brain, often repeatedly until it appears at last to have given up.

In June, seven years after a total worldwide ban on killing whales for profit, Norway defiantly relaunched its whaling ships. It took them just one month to kill 160 minke whales, most of which will end up on Japanese dinner tables.

to have the most complex and sophisticated communication system after human speech. Whaling took off big-time in the Victorian era, when the carcasses were used to make everything from alcohol and machine oil to lipstick and piano keys. One whale catch was worth a great deal of money as every scrap was utilized. The hunt was dangerous and the equipment used was basic, so the number of whales killed was relatively small until early this century. Then, in the 1920s, the first of the modern whaling ships set sail for the Antarctic, and the slaughter began in earnest. The blue whale is the largest of the great whales, measuring to 30 meters in length and weighing up to a fan-

astrophic 144 tons. Singled out as the most profitable to hunt, it was slaughtered in the tens of thousands each year - peaking at 30,000 blue whales killed in a single season in the 1930s. It is now critically endangered, with less than 1% of its original numbers remaining in the Antarctic Ocean. As blue whales stocks crashed, whalers switched their attention to the next largest species, the fin whales, and so on down the chain. Today, only about 5% of the original fin whale population of nearly half a million animals are thought to be left. Humpbacks too were also heavily overhunted, with perhaps 25% remaining. Next came sei whales, similarly decimated, and finally sperm whales. Nobody paid much attention to the relatively tiny minke whale in the early days, and today it is the only whale species not yet in danger, with a population of around 700,000. There is no humane way to kill a whale. Whaling ships today have every imaginable form of sophisticated equipment; they are hi-tech floating factories for carving up, processing and storing their prey. But when it comes to

authorities, this process is supposed to take about seven to ten minutes, but the reality proves different. In 1992, an eye witness reporting for the Daily Express stated that the death of a pregnant female whale, having been harpooned, shot repeatedly and pumped full of air, she clung to life for a full hour before finally giving up. What becomes of the whale once it is dead? Today, the world does not need whale products - the old uses for the oil, blubber and bone have been replaced by synthetic materials. Nevertheless, one whale catch can be worth up to \$150,000 according to the Norwegian Whalers' Association. (It is more appropriate to call it the Anti-Whale Association.) And why? Because whale meat has become a luxury food, particularly in Japan. Last year, one kilogram of whale meat fetched more than \$300 in Tokyo's department stores! Thus, all whales hunted in 1993 will end up on someone's dinner table. When whaling resumed after WW2, it was realized that an international body was needed to regulate whale stocks, if certain species were not to become extinct - which would mean the end of the industry. In 1949, the International Whaling Commission was founded, which annually set such broad limits that the catastrophic over-exploitation continued through the 1960s and 1970s. In 1986, in response to world pressure from conservationists, the IWC declared a complete ban on

commercial whaling of all species. So, how come the whaling nations have managed to kill almost 14,000 whales since 1986? There are loopholes. Any country that disagrees with its limit can appeal. Japan lodged an objection to the IWC decision, and meanwhile killed over 5,000 whales in the first two years of the ban. Japan's quota is 330 whales per year, and Norway's is 136. Both, of course, are liable to be well-exceeded. In addition, the IWC still allows a quota of whales to be slaughtered for 'scientific' research. Greenpeace, who have been campaigning for 20 years, say the danger to whales from other factors is increasing too. Apart from the danger of entanglement in fishing gear, toxic pollution of the seas weakens whales' immune systems and makes reproduction difficult. At the same time, the ozone hole over the Antarctic is affecting the plankton level. Whales reproduce slowly and populations take a long time to recover - numbers of the blue whale have hardly increased at all, despite 25 years of total protection from whaling. In May this year, Norway suddenly announced that, despite the IWC ban, it is going to start killing whales for profit, once again. It announced it will kill 800 whales this year, although the number was subsequently dropped by them to 300. But one month since the resumption of whaling, Norwegians have 160 whales. Norway is the founder of

modern whaling, and that nation has killed more whales than any other country. Since 1900, Norway has slaughtered a massive 350,000 whales. More than 100,000 minke whales have been killed in Norwegian coastal whaling operations since the 1930s, reducing the population by about 70%. Norway has always objected to the ban, and has killed almost 1,000 whales since it was introduced. The Norwegian authorities claim that the ban is unrealistic, that whaling is a traditional industry, and that it must be allowed to continue to aid the economy. They also maintain that minke whales are plentiful and must be "culled" to restore the "balance" in the oceans to protect commercial fishing, and that they (the Norwegians) were helping mother nature through good environmental management. Norway's defiance puts conservation issues worldwide in jeopardy. If it is allowed to break international agreements, what is to stop other nations like Japan or Iceland doing the same thing. Why should ivory traders heed their ban and not start slaughtering elephants? Norway is one of the richest countries in the world, and does not really need the whaling industry for economic survival. Norwegian fishermen, on average, already earn two and a half times the normal wage in Norway. The only reason they are going after whales is the astronomical price its meat fetches. But whale meat is no longer

a subsistence food, or a vital nutritional source for small communities. Whaling is only undertaken by wealthy and affluent nations at the moment - and the only reason for killing a whale is to sell its meat at grossly inflated prices. The Norwegians claim that the whales are theirs to do with what they like - but as whales migrate thousands of miles, through many coastal waters, who is to say who they belong to? Conservationists argue that whales protected in British waters will fall prey to Norwegian whalers when passing through their seas. In fact, public interest in these amazing creatures is now so high that whale watching has developed into a \$300 million tourist industry and as such are far more profitable than killing whales. Finally, how can such cruelty be condoned? The killing of whales has been condemned as "inhumane and unacceptable" even for scientific purposes. The Japanese government claims that we should treat whales with the same attitude as domestic livestock. In many countries, humane killing regulations require that the animal be rendered unconscious before being killed. But that is really mixing up the issues. As John Gummer, former British Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister, said, "I would not allow a farmer to throw a harpoon at a cow and allow it to run through five fields before it was killed." Will you help give the whales a chance?

Businessman Amin Al-Aswady Offers: **Suggestions for Helping the Situation**

Amin Abdul-Rahman Al-Aswady is a self-made man. Born in Hugarriah and raised in Aden, Amin's business, at the moment, is in Hodeidah and Sanaa. The Yemen Times interviewed him at his office in Sanaa.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you share with our readers information on the beginnings your business career?

A: I started my career as an employee in the Medical Office, and later in the Electricity Department. In both I was an active unionist. During this time, I was also the editorial secretary of Sawt Al-Ommal newspaper in Aden.

At the time, we were idealist and we worked wholeheartedly in politics together with such leading personalities as Abdullah Al-ASnaj, Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, Mohammed Salim Ali and others.

I remember an incidence which tells many things. At one stage, on one of my visits to London, I participated in a demonstration against the British government. We were demanding independence.

In Aden, the representative of the British government summoned and asked me to explain my viewpoint. "How is it that you are official in Her Majesty's government and yet you demonstrate against her?" he said. He gave me time to answer him. I did not bother to give an answer, but it shows the very tolerant nature of the "colonial" authorities.

I think I was the last unionist to leave Aden before independence. I think I left five days prior to the official declaration of independence.

I was smuggled out on board of the cargo plane carrying qat to Yemen via Djibouti.

Djibouti at the time was a French colony, and I was refused admission. So I continued on board the same plane to Addis Ababa.

After lengthy debates, I was taken in Ethiopia as a guest of the government. I stayed for two months, and then flew to Syria.

It was in Syria that I first shed off my ideals. It was like a something was covering my eye sight. I began to see things rather differently.

From there I visited Iraq, Egypt, and finally Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, today.

Q: But how did you get into commercial enterprise?

A: Following the November 5th events in Yemen that I returned to the homeland. I settled in Hodeidah and started trading in construction material - mainly wood concrete steel and cement.

I found out that southeast Asia, especially Malaysia and Singapore have made headway in this field. So, in 1970, I went there and stayed for two months, learning all

there is to be learned.

A year later, 1971, my first shipment of wood (planks) arrived from Singapore. It was the beginning of a long relationship.

In 1972, my brother Abdul-Kareem, left Aden to join me. He took charge of the management of our business, and I was involved in our external relations and deal-making.

In a short while, we were supplying the whole nation with almost 75% of its needs of construction material.

I get bemused when I recall how we exposed our lives to danger for high ideals which were sometimes almost naive. And we achieved very little. And how now, through self-serving commercial business, we have helped construct the country, create jobs, build homes, and advance the standard of living of our people. It is ironic.

Q: Let us talk about your businesses today.

A: Of course, you know that during the 1980s, many people who are not traders were able to obtain privileges from the authorities and take over our businesses. Therefore, two things happened. We lost our dominant role in imports of construction material, and today we only represented about 10% of the market. Second, we ourselves diversified. We are now involved in many activities, other than simple trade.

We hold a 32.5% share in the Yemen-Kuwait Bank. This bank holds 30% in Aman Insurance Company, and we directly own another 10% in the insurance company. We are now finalizing steps for a major investment in the Aden Free Zone., although this project has hit a snag.

Q: What do you mean hit a snag?

A: Well, we wanted to start a major warehousing system in Aden. After having paid the required amounts, the relevant authorities have given us the land, and we were going to begin. But all of a sudden, certain tribes came and they said the land belongs to them.

The officials leave you on your own to fend for yourself with the tribes.



But, as a person I feel an obligation to Aden, and I will not allow this situation to discourage me.

Q: What is your assessment of the overall economic situation?

A: First, let me say that what we hear from our officials over the radio, television or newspapers is quite different from what exists on the ground. So, we cannot trust what is being said through the media.

Second, the officials don't seem to appreciate the need for stability. Look at the market rate of the US dollar. It jumped from YR 49 top the dollar to almost YR 62, and then fell back to 55, all in less than one week. This steep zig-zag does not help good planning.

This has to change. We need a government that makes rational decisions based on good planning. That way it becomes helpful, not the way it now behaves.

Q: Do you have any concrete suggestions to make to help improve the situation?

A: Of course, there are specialists who can study the situation and make detailed proposals. Even then, I have a few suggestions to make.

1. I have already referred to the need for rational decisions based on good planning.

2. I think that the attitude of the government (and by extension society) towards

merchants and businessmen has to change. We are seen as people who are not patriotic, and sometimes even as people who are not decent. I can tell that in Yemen there are far more upright businessmen than government officials, who are themselves branding us as such.

3. I believe that the laws enacted by parliament are

good. But these laws are then supplemented by the explanations and readings of the line ministries, This complicates everything and creates a lot of bureaucracy. Why do we need the minister or his deputy to issue his readings of the law. This is often used by these people to simply enrich themselves. "Pay up or they will read whatever in the law."

If we need more details, put it in the law, but do not give any person the monopoly right to interpret the law.

4. The job of our officials, especially the senior ones, is to build confidence in the system and in the country. Confidence is the number one requirement for economic well-being. If people believe this country is doing well, they will invest in it, hold on to its currency, give it higher credit facilities and other factors that allow economic prosperity.

5. Finally, the system must make an example of some of the most famous corrupt people in government. It is imperative, to regain a certain degree of confidence in the system, to bring to trial

some of the crooks. I remember having needed to go to the Ministry of Supply and Trade. Useless and corrupt bureaucrats made me feel I was not worth a penny and humiliated everybody who dealt with them. I don't know how how has come about, but it is unacceptable.

Q: Could you explain this last point?

A: I think the mentality that prevails in this country is that a bureaucrat is more loyal to this country than the ordinary citizen. That is why he is seen scolding and humiliating people all around. Of course, we know most bureaucrats are actually crooks.

Q: What is the one thing that would go the longest way to help, on the part of the government?

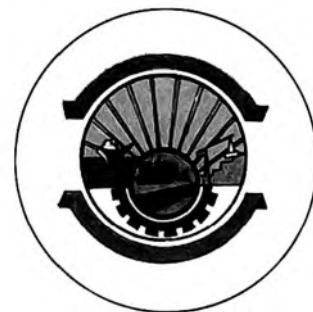
A: I can't over-emphasize the need for reform. Part of this is really bringing some credibility to the system. This can be done on an immediate basis by full enforcement of law and by punishing corrupt persons and law-breakers.

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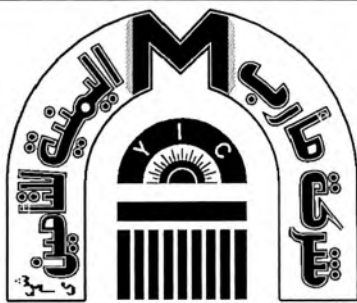
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Continued from page 5

A WORLD IN TRANSITION

It has been eroding for years, from two directions. One angle of attack has come from other culture areas. Several important culture areas saw America's universalist mission as a seamless welding to European imperialism, a perception abetted by U.S. subordination of anticolonialism to the containment of the Soviet empire. The rise of the Third World was less an ideological response to the Cold War than a reassertion of culture areas subordinated by Europe in the nineteenth century.

By the 1970s America's universal vision has shrunk to a "known world" called "the West" - Japan and Korea, Australasia, Western Europe, and North America have become the contemporary version of Rome's Mediterranean world.

It was, however, held together by the Soviet threat. But that would be too negative for the Americans to believe. They preferred a positive progress: cultural convergence. The mythology of universalism had built a belief that Europe and Japan had become like the US, that they were also "democracies," and free market economies, having the same trade, regulatory, and tax policies. Most persuasive was the image of likeness. Did not the Japanese love baseball? Did not the Germans love Western movies? Did not the whole group like slick cars, fast foods and rock music?

In truth, however, Japanese and European politics are very different from their American counterparts - both in their working style and substance, and indeed in their very premises. Americans would rebel at the kind of elite influence and state authority found in most allied governments. And how would Americans respond to the existential notion that political authority reposes in the state, and not the people? These differences do not necessitate conflict. They merely should underscore that Europe and Japan represent different realities: They are other culture areas. The Hellenistic-like melange of cultures that Americans led, managed, and inspired were not integrated by the presence of American troops, entrepreneurs, and tourists into a single cultural unit. Now that the need for political-military alliance is gone, these culture areas are free to chart their own courses.

Why should they wish to? Why should the Americans remain as warrior chieftain, binding the oikoumene, even when the "need" is gone? What will happen to the world if the American role is gone? Like the Mediterranean world after Rome, will restive" tribes and barbarians" foment war and chaos? Can the European Community or Japan take over?

And what of America's postwar pledge: the commitment since 1942 to the banner "We are the world"? Is that vision itself now coming to an end? Was the

quest for a global culture in the American image of a world of different hues, of varied native garb, but of varied ideas of polity (democracy), economic philosophy (the free market) and society (free choice of association) - dependent on the continuing presence of the Soviet rival as its dispensation? Or has the US missionary work of fifty years so succeeded that the postwar progress of cultural convergence will at least continue?

These questions begin to close on the central issue: Is the postwar pulse toward a universal culture over?

CULTURE AREA RE-EMERGENCE

The answer has three parts; the decline of the American missionary impulse, the collapse of the Communist idea, and the rise of other cultures and cultural communities, especially Europe and China and Japan. All of these developments reinforce each other.

Europe. Western Europe represents a classic culture area, as defined by anthropologists. Its familial ties were created by Rome and have somehow survived the shocks and traumas of barbarian invasions, century after century. By the ninth century, Europe was beginning to develop real cultural coherence. Although riven in two by the Reformation, Europe has been culturally restitched in the twentieth century.

Europe's great wars should be seen as intramural jockeying, even as economic relations became more and more enmeshed. The era of American suzerainty after 1945 served the decisive purpose of forcing an end to the divisive rituals of war within Europe, and encouraging economic integration as an evolutionary path toward political unity.

And it worked. The European Community (EC) took thirty years to build its federating institutions, and now they are up and working. Europe is on its way to becoming a true federation of pledged states, and political and military union will follow economic stitching.

Europe - as the EC - is well on its way to coherence as a world power. The process of economic integration, moreover, heightens its sense of collective identity as distinct from both the United States and Japan. The making of an economic bloc means that Europeans begin to look at the United States and Japan as separate strategic competitors rather than as allies. Without the Soviet dispensation, there are no longer so many obvious and overriding mutual interests. The new vital interests are economic and here, the interests of Europe, North America and Japan diverge. Just look at the example of the recent collapse of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

China and Japan. China and Japan are a culture area although uniquely isolated for a long time, and still not understood, let alone appreciated, in much of the world. Japan accepted American dominance in 1945; it had no choice. Japan bowed to America's cultural will and seemed to take on U.S. cultural values and institutions.

But it resisted them as well. Japan adopted the forms insisted on by the United States such as a democratic constitution and a free market, while retaining its own cherished patterns of relationships in society. Furthermore, Japan found ways to turn its dependence on the United States into economic advantage. Its elite pursued single-minded policies - at the expense of its own people's well-being and free choice to give Japan the sinews of power.

And how they succeeded! By the end of the 1980s, Japan had become a world power in economic term on the same level as the United States and Western Europe. Vulnerable as it is, Japan seeks to preserve its economic advantage and its free security.

China took a different course. Invasions from the West as well as from neighboring Japan, have forced it to look inside. It managed to isolate itself, tighten the belt, and emerge as a colossal economic and military giant. With more self-confidence, China is beginning to open up to the world. It is interacting, even with the leading world power - USA - at its own terms, and the Americans feel unable to do anything about it.

There is a twist to all of this. China has started opening channels with its neighbors, notably Japan. It is this partnership that has the greatest chance of making this culture area a leader in the 21st century.

At the same time, cultural movements within Japan, combined with increasing American resistance, is pushing Japan to a moment of decision. There is no longer a reason for strategic dependency on the United States, and continuing that dependency puts Japan at the mercy of American demands in economic competition - demands to which the new world power has increasing difficulty submitting. Japan is feeling a renewed sense of confidence and power. It has also just begun, in close partnership with China - a new imperial era, signaling perhaps that the time has come for China-Japan culture area to again seek its own destiny.

The Soviet Union. Lenin created not so much an imperial order rooted in ideology as he used an idea to assert an alternative culture. The Soviet Union was less an empire that artificial culture area, an idea, as it were, made flesh: a working, living heresy of European civilization and religion.

And now it not longer lives. The artifice survived as long as it has sufficient believers, and now no one believes. In the wake of its death, the institutions continue to operate. Those in power believe no more than those oppressed; but they want to survive, and that means preserving their power.

That desperate clutching is unfolding, even as President Boris Yeltsin is trying to building a new system - around himself.

He might even succeed for a while, although it is more likely he will build another dependency state. There is as of now, no replacement ethos for the ersatz culture area once called the USSR. There is reemerging nationalism, tribalism and racism, but there is no ruling idea.

The Gorbachev-Yeltsin movement, unfortunately, has no internal and authentic ideas. It resembles the traditional moves by Russian elites to become European or Western by imitating Euro-fashion.

Having said that, it is neither realistic nor accurate to discard the potential of Russia. If the Russian society is regrouped around one over-riding idea, it is very likely that Russia will re-emerge as an important cultural and power center.

WHAT AWAITS US IN THE NEW WORLD?

The world should not await a new cosmopolitan surge anytime soon. This will be the business of the 21st century. Ultimately, the next pulse of the cosmopolitan must await the next great clash of culture areas. The re-emergence of Europe, China and Japan, and Russia as world powers, and the long-term relative decline of the USA, will be critical factors in shaping the new world.

There are four aspects that need to be looked into.

1. Competition:

In the long siege against the former USSR, the allies began to believe that they were in fact one culture: an Atlantic Community, or with Japan and Australia, a Free World. Now, Europe's integration is in fact creating a

separatist movement in the form of an economic bloc; the USA has responded by building its own North American (NAFTA) bloc, and Japan and China are working on something.

These are visible manifestations of the counter-trend. Yet, for a short while, the old collegiality of allies will persist, as will the formal language and ritual gatherings (e.g., economic summits). The context can be very loosely compared to that of the European Concert of 1815. There, the last great coalition against Napoleon attempted to make an enduring order out of their association by exigency. For ten years, the European concert met periodically, and then just petered out. The victory had forever changed the terms of association.

It was a new world with with new interests to be pursued and defended. Deeper divisions between yesterday's allies surfaced quickly.

The fade-out for the Grand Alliance of the Cold War will most probably follow that kind of course.

2. Collegiality:

Former allies and new competitors will share some agenda items, most certainly a mutual stake in the global environment. They will also share certain interests in the Third World, and may in fact come together to "guide" the Third World countries, in order to "save it from its own actions." At the moment this is happening through the UN mechanism. But this will quickly give way to arrangements worked out by the various leading power centers, outside the UN.

But, sooner or later, and possibly sooner than later, divergent interests will push the old friends to different courses. This kind of competitive flare-up, where economic tussles lead to more serious antagonism, will be the real concern.

3. Dissonances:

The breadth of divergence among former allies will be the most worrisome question.

Conflict among regional powers will be a minor problem, as each power will probably be given a free

hand in tackling issues concerning regions in its "sphere of influence."

The intensity of competition eludes prediction. The world is currently feeling the first impact of a revolution in how to shape the new world. It is driven by a "take-off" in information management, comparable to the take-off conditions which drove the industrial revolution.

4. Cultural Convergence:

The force today is away from convergence, away from the organizing power that has decreed the cosmopolitan. We face a time of rich cultural interaction - call it conflict - and the outcome of this new mingling will be a new equation for humanity. Much of the Third World will be marginal to the cultural convergence process. This is another source of tension as cultural imperialism is evoked once again.

CONCLUSION

It has been the dictate of history that the seat of civilization should move from one location to another. The beginnings were on river banks and around dams and lakes. It all started along the Nile, Euphrates and Tigris, Ganges, etc. Then it moved to larger waters.

World civilization moved to the Mediterranean (Greece and Rome), and later the Muslims moved it - partly - to the Indian Ocean. Then came the Euro-American civilization centered around the Atlantic Ocean. World civilization is moving to a larger ocean, with the North American, Far Eastern and Australasian connection around the Pacific Ocean.

Many people accept this logic and extend the coming human civilization to include part of space as its core seat. In the meanwhile, competition among the "tribes" or nations of the world to lead the transformation will continue.

By: Abridged and adopted by Yemen Times Staff from an article by Michael Vlahos in a segment entitled: The 21st Century: Prospects for Global Community.

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The Louvre Celebrates 200th Anniversary

In mid-November, it will be 200 years since French revolutionaries flung open the doors of the Louvre palace, displaying the confiscated royal arts like trophies of a bitter class war.

That was on November 18th, 1793. After four years of bloodletting, and only the second year of the republic, it was time to speed the healing. France's first democratic leaders believed the creation of a museum would do the job, and they decreed the public would have access to the royal collections. Thus access to art, education and culture became a birthright, not a privilege. Also thus, the Louvre celebrates its bicentennial in a few days in the spirit and aura of its republican ancestors.

A 12-year overhaul - the most ambitious of President Francois Mitterrand's architectural projects - has turned the former medieval fortress-turned-palace into a grandiose, high-tech setting for its 30,000 treasures. But the work will only be finished in 1997, by which the area of the museum would have doubled to 60,000 square meters.

Once a cold, dusty elite preserve, the new Grand Louvre promises distinctive delights for the expected eight million connoisseurs and casual tourists who will stroll through its doors every year.

"The Louvre is unique because it is a museum in a palace," says Jean Lebrat, head of the Grand Louvre Building Authority. "It is not just the 'Mona Lisa', one of its many treasures. It is an enormous, perfectly harmonious ensemble of sculpted facades, courtyards, gardens, sweeping marble staircases and gilded ceilings," he added.

Lebrat remembers his first visit to the Louvre in the aftermath of the WW II. "The atmosphere was heavy, oppressive and even frightening for a boy of 11," he recalls. "The Mona Lisa was displayed on an easel - people didn't worry much about theft in those days."

The Milanese architect, Italo Rota, designed the decor for the new rooms. "Because the Louvre is not just an ordinary museum, it was important to preserve elements which stand as witnesses of the past and integrating them into the plan," Rota explains.

The two most important elements to him were rhythm and light. Along the long itinerary through the museum, he has planned various architectural and scenic interruptions to catch the visitor's interest again. Designed by Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, the new Louvre is twice as big as the old one, with 20% more works on display.

With the long-awaited opening of the Richelieu wing, the center-piece of the upcoming bicentennial festivities, the museum becomes a bright, user-friendly complex spanning 600,000 square feet. Home to the Finance

Ministry and off-limits to the public for more than a century, the wing will be a regal showcase for tapestries, objets d'arts and sculpture, much of it on show for the first time.

"The objets d'arts department is getting a major face-lift. "Today there is just a jumble of stuff, you can't see anything. It looks like my grandmother's attic than a museum gallery," explained Lebrat.

Pei's biggest challenge was reducing seven stories of offices to three floors with high ceilings, without damaging the stone facade or weakening its foundations. "We built backwards, from top to bottom, using the support of the new structure to stabilize the facades during the demolition phase," said architect

marked galleries (many often closed to the public) jammed with yellowed paintings hung floor to ceiling, will hardly recognize the new one.

A restored roof-boasts skylights equipped with reflector blades. Glass-topped galleries and courtyards sport metal grills that reflect soft light from damaging centuries-old canvases.

"There is need for artificial light to warm up the color given by daylight because indoor natural light is colder and the rooms sometimes seem gloomy and dark," Rustow said. "The innovation is that the



Stephen Rustow, head of Pei's Paris office. "This was revolutionary."

Pei also worked closely with Louvre director Michel Laclotte in defining the re-organization, the most elaborate ever in the museum's history.

The Louvre's famed Khorsabad horses, which date to the 8th century B.C., get spectacular lodgings in a ground-floor courtyard designed to evoke their original context: The exterior walls of an Assyrian palace. The 26-ton bulls were installed last year and they are currently being walled-in.

One floor up, the gilded Salon Napoleon III opens with an ensemble of 19th-century Empire furniture in mint condition; the office of generations of finance ministers has been turned into a tea salon with outdoor terraces overlooking the pyramid.

The top floor - the most breath-taking according to insiders - includes a 135-foot gallery for Ruben's portraits depicting the life of Marie de Medicis along with three portraits taken out of storage at Versailles and hung for the first time.

Another must for visitors are the 12 monumental tapestries by Maxmillien, hunting scenes so large they have not been hung together since they were created for the Luxembourg Palace exactly two centuries ago.

Visitors who remember the old Louvre as an eerie stretch of dark, poorly

artificial light has been rendered invisible."

Items are identified clearly and explained. Historical and biographical information abounds, available on plastic sheets printed in several languages.

"Lost in the Louvre," a byword of tourists over the years, will be history. Exits, elevators, escalators, restaurants, even restrooms are indicated clearly.

Galleries are conceived with sweeping views over the Seine, the courtyards and the gleaming, glass pyramid rising between them.

Inaugurated in 1989, after bitter controversy, the 70-foot triangular entrance has become the pride of Paris. "There was such opposition to the pyramid that I can remember going to dinner parties and being afraid to tell people I worked at the Louvre," recalls Laclotte, who has overseen the vast re-organization from its inception.

The critics spared no adjectives, warning the pyramid would turn the Louvre into "an annex to Disneyland," "a cultural drugstore resembling an airport" and "repository for dog poop." But Mitterrand prevailed and Pei's pure, classic design has won over most of its foes.

The last phase of renovations, also to be unveiled in ten days, includes the Carousel project - a bold commercial venture designed to connect the Louvre to the bustling Rue de Rivoli. Cars and tour buses will park in an under-

ground garage adjacent to an 80-boutique gallery illuminated by a diamond-shaped, inverted pyramid.

"Pei has used light to bring together the different aspects of the project," Lebrat said. "There is tremendous feeling of

volume. You would never know when you were underground."

A permanent home for fashion shows, a state-of-the-art research laboratory and auditorium, all tucked below street level stretching from the Pyramid to the Tuileries gardens, complete the picture.

Lebrat said the shopping gallery has cafes, bookstores, and other museum-related goods and services, but "no fast food joints." Despite Pei's sleek modernity, visitors bask in the Louvre's colorful history that began in 1200 when King Philippe Auguste feared invasion from his Norman enemies.

Two centuries later and twice-embellished, it housed Charles V's rare manuscripts, priceless jewels and tapestries; Francois I later added paintings by Titian, Raphael and Da Vinci. But, it was his successor, Henri IV who was to involuntarily launch the idea of what the future purpose of the Louvre was to be, by exhibiting his ancient marbles in the Caryatides room. A century later, Louis XIV placed his collection of painting there, before removing them to Versailles.

However, it was Napoleon's demand for "tribute" in art from his far-flung conquests, including the pink Carousel Arch of Triumph hauled in from Italy, that made the Louvre the wonder it is today.

Besides the base of the medieval dungeon laid bare

under the pyramid, two massive stone walls from Charles V's 14th-century castle - unearthed during recent excavations - line the new lobby leading from Carousel to the pyramid.

"We have re-established the historical links," Lebrat said. "We wanted to show that what happened here tells the history of Paris and the history of the nation."

The Louvre these days is getting geared to the exceptional bicentennial celebrations - something spectacular with lots of sound and light.

The transformation of the Louvre, to be completed in 1997, will have cost French

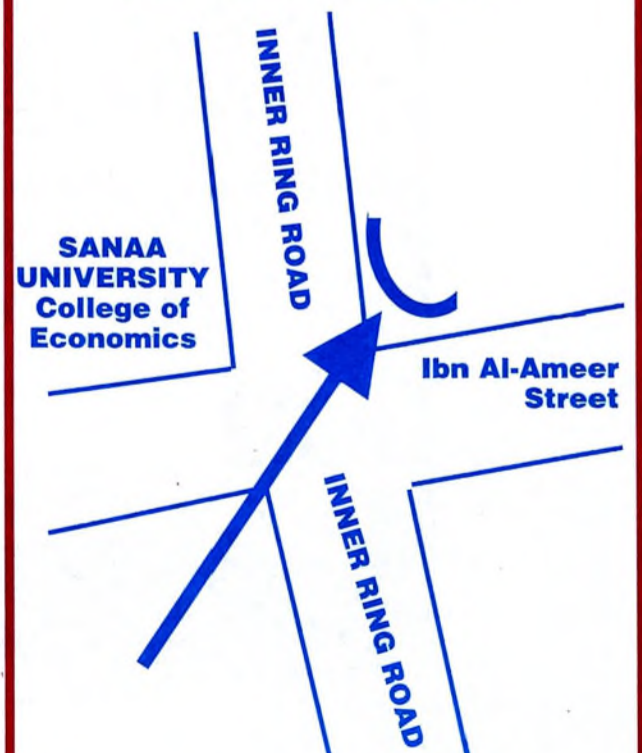
taxpayers some US \$ 2.5 billion.

Other capitals - London, Berlin, Washington, etc., house their art collections in buildings especially designed for the purpose. Paris is different. It presents its collections in the most sumptuous setting: The Palace of the Kings of France, or "Notre chasteau du Louvre," as Francois I used to call it.

With the dawning of the third millennium, one of the most beautiful museums in the world will resplendently welcome its visitors.

If you visit Paris, make sure to make the Louvre one of your stop-points.

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WEDLOCK: A FAR CRY

By: Ismail Al-Gabri,
Yemen Times



Many men and women of marriage age are not able to fulfill this social function - as stipulated by Islamic Sharia - because of the sky rocketting financial costs: dowry, gifts and high costs involved in lavish wedding. As a result of this, the number of unmarried women increases with nobody asking for their hands. It is the responsibility of society to find a remedy for the sad state of affairs. In our society today there are many girls in who are deprived of the opportunity of enjoying wedlock because of the exorbitant demands imposed by their parents or guardians on young men wishing to marry them.

Unable to meet these demands, these young men simply run away, swearing "not to return to that house again." This situation does not affect the would-be-brides alone, but also has a lasting impact on would-be-grooms, as well.

I have previously written on this topic, although I did not cover all relevant points. But after taking some special interest in the issue, I am obliged due to more information, to focus on the subject again as it is a matter of great interest to society as a whole. Besides my chief editor just loves articles that tackle social problems.

"Get off the politics, and get on the social issues," he often repeats.

Many young men and women must have spent hours and long nights pondering over the topic of marriage - both privately and in public. The young women almost always play a passive role, waiting for the many to take the first, and all the steps in the process. If a woman shows interest, she is shamed by society and by our social values.

Thus the steps come from the young man who wants or plans to embark on new phase of life.

For the man, marriage is a big step - not only in terms of the amount of money involved, as it is indeed a large investment, but also in terms of the change in his life. Therefore, wisdom and foresight should be employed in choosing a suitable partner. Success or failure of the marriage depends on the selection of the partner. While the right choice can ensure a long and happy marriage, a wrong decision can ruin

it. Every young man and woman should show great patience in reaching a correct decision.

This is the most critical step. The second step relates to the dowry demands of the father. The young men have many complaints to make. Many of them are new graduates of either secondary or university level. They may be employed with meager salaries; or even be looking for a job. They may also still be dependents on their parents, or they work, they may be supporting their parents.

The financial aspect of marriage is probably the biggest problem. It takes a few years of saving to gather enough money would take it for a person to pay for the dowry or lavish festivities.

But at the other level, there are many girls who are married off at a very early age. This creates a contradiction within the social structure of the society. Some women stay at home for long before they are married, while very young girls are married off at an early age.

My main concern, in this article, is, however, the forced celibacy of men and women. There are no numbers or statistics, but I am sure the numbers are rising, and this bodes a bad omen for the future of our social relations. Immediate action is needed.

ISLAM WATCHES

By: Gene Eshleman,
USA

The recent crisis in the Gulf, the breakdown of the Soviet Union, Israel's shift from intransigence about the occupied territories, India's constraint of the Kashmiri separatist movement and the mistreatment of Muslims in Burma and Bosnia Herzegovina reverberates through Islamic countries.

Political debate in Middle Eastern countries links these events to their future. As the Soviet threat died, a new challenge presents itself to the Islamic world. Middle East governments (primarily Saudi Arabia) are preoccupied with their Islamic credentials and overseeing their domestic Islamic movements.

Recent events emphasize the importance of this issue in the Middle East. Military crackdown in Algeria denied the fundamentalist Islamic movement an electoral victory. The Islamic movement came to power in Afghanistan at the point of a gun - an American one.

In Saudi Arabia, King Fahd's proclamation of basic changes in his government including a consultative council is calculated to appease fundamentalist Muslims in his country. The idea is more to Islamic principles than desires of the West for more general form of government.

These events are not the result of a coordinated Islamic World effort. There is no orthodox Muslim

religion no a world class Islamic leader powerful enough to order such a movement. However, the significance of the events listed above are not lost on governments in the Gulf.

The tiff between Jordan's King Hussein and Gulf governments that supported the military emancipation of Kuwait has resulted in a competition for paying the repair of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock: Islam's third most important place of worship after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. This competition is to appease fundamentalists as the modern Saudis and Jordanians are no noted for their love of architecture.

Ascension of strong fundamentalist movements in the Middle East and elsewhere leaves most non-Muslims troubled and uncertain. Conflicting messages reach the outside world from Islamic leaders. Last year, the National Islamic Front Leader Hassan Tourabi of Sudan (Africa's largest country) toured Western capitals and told businessmen and politicians that they have nothing to fear from an Islamic movement that backs free market economics and social stability.

Other Islamic leaders declared that they must resist the West that is seeking to introduce secularism and exploitative capitalism. A similar statement was made recently by Prince Khaled al Faisal, son of the late and venerated King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, the Arab country most friendly with the West. These statements

demonstrate that there is no pan Islamic or even national coordination of any Islamic movements. I don't know whether we planned it that way, or that's just the way things are going. We are lucky, so far.

Events in Bosnia are fluid. No lines of battle, stable fronts or coordinated action takes place in the guerrilla type war waged there. It is a Muslim vs. Christian conflict we don't want any part of. Wags says that if there was oil involved, we would have troops on the ground now. Unfortunately for the Bosnians, there is no oil in their land.

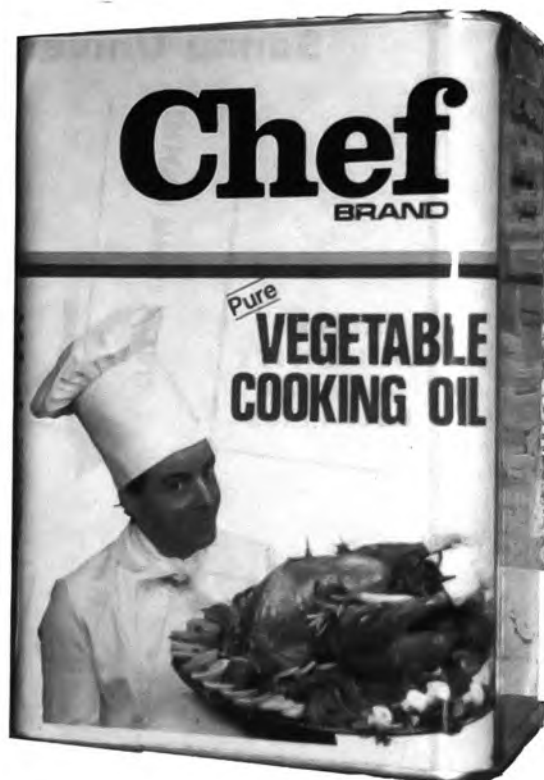
However, the Middle East could turn their gaze more fully on the plight of the Muslims there. At present, it is a sidelong glance. Some arms were furnished via Croatia to bolster resistance against the Serbs. If we don't play our cards right on this one, we may find the Middle East restricting oil exports to the West thus forcing our support against Serbia.

The Serbs are a valiant, Christians people. They resisted the Turkish invasions of their lands and crippled the Turkish invasions of Christian Europe. In World War II, the Serb Chetnik resistance fighters held down dozens of German divisions badly needed by Hitler to pursue his war against the Allies. Marshal Tito was a Serb, strongly backed by the Allies and somewhat by the West after the war.

We must walk carefully. more than traditional Balkan war is at stake here.

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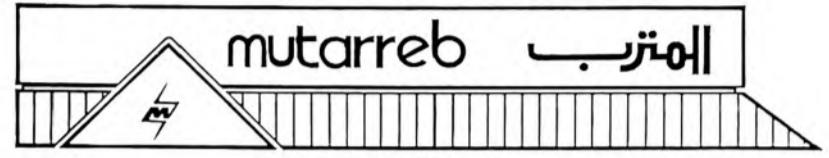


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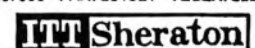
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Professor of Finance,
Yemen Times.

History will be very nasty to the decade of 1983-93 when it speaks of the greed and corruption that permeated the system. Even within the business community, it has become fashionable to decry the excesses of the regime over the last decade. The archetypally brash, yet dumb and half-literate, are now the prevalent species of the state. The unrestrained "go-get-it" ethos which has governed the behavior of our ruling cliques over the last decade will have lasting effects on our morals, economic efficiency, as well as the socio-economic class structure. The damage done to our society is going to be felt well into the 21st century.

Yet, there is a rising demand to question the mentality that has prevailed, and to force it to give way to something more meaningful, responsible and thoughtful. Thus, as Yemen struggles with the hangover - most notably the most serious economic hardships since the Republic was born: record numbers of commercial and personal bankruptcies, a steady depreciation of the currency, one million unemployed Yemenis, two million homeless, three million malnourished and a consequently frustrated and angry public - the country is also struggling to put together a system to replace the current tribo-military-based structure. The outcry is so strong that the artificial consumption-based growth of the recent past already seems to belong

to another lifetime. For many victims, the ruin of the "decade of greed and corruption" will be with them for many years to come. Indeed, for the really unlucky ones, it will follow them to their graves. The truth is that the period was not just a decade of greed: it was an era of gross, and large-scale fraud and corruption. It was a time when the regime itself supervised the way the laws were broken and public money forfeited. Therefore, abuse and misuse of authority and public funds became commonplace, and were practiced openly - facilitated by a regime that itself became the embodiment of corruption and greed. The rulers and their proteges in the military, civil service and commercial circles have acted in a selfish way with

the sole purpose of owning more cars, more furniture, more houses, more and larger bank accounts, etc. They were intent on sucking out as much profit as possible on an immediate basis. They have used many tools and techniques - legal and illegal - to transfer money from state coffers as well as from the general public to themselves. In most cases, they have bank accounts abroad, and the outflow of foreign exchange they caused became a normal part of our economic structure. They used their influence to institutionalize wide-spread corruption to an extent that even foreign governments no more trust the officials who represent the Yemeni government. In a rising number of cases, foreign funds are not released until the foreign side is satisfied at least some of the money will go to the purpose intended for. Now, as public demand for accountability is stronger, some officials, including at the top, continue to shrug off their shoulders, and ignore the demands or give them lip service. They offer a public that no longer trusts them a lot of promises and lectures. In fact, when certain circles and individuals work to expose the corruption and fraud in the system, these individuals are quickly branded by the cronies of the system as agents to foreign governments, or any other accusation they can level out and will fit the situation. At the same time, government funds are used to buy more proteges, and to win them over to the corrupt side and the cycle continues. This situation has led many to believe that the system is trying very hard to create a majority of corrupt officials, and thus, avoid any form of retribution or accountability. Thus, the local press has coined the phrase "the majority or legitimacy of corruption."

Very senior officials in the state apparatus, military and security forces are open partners to big business families, they are "shareholders" in large enterprises



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or at least they have a cut. The mentality of ripping off any available resources has made acquiring money in any way a fair play and an accepted norm of self-enrichment. The presidential office itself is known to siphon off part of the country's inflow of foreign exchange and make it available to the regime's needs. Of course, its siphoning off of large chunks of Riyals is common information. The government, a weak and helpless creature, is unable to control events, and has often been a by-stander. The judicial system, has been cutting off the hands of laymen who steal to make ends meet, while "white collar crimes" of much higher proportions and much more menacing to society, are exempt from judicial attention. Up to date, not one corrupt official/officer has been brought to trial, let alone convicted. The reason: they are protected by the regime because they have acted on its "orders" while the judiciary is cutting off the hands of simple thieves. The House of Represen-

tatives has been tamed by the ruling clique, and has become an obedient animal. The opposition is constantly "invaded" and divided from within as government money is used to marginalize its effects. The ruling people's press, including the official media, is much more powerful and is able to cast doubt on whatever the independent newspapers publish. White collar crimes in Yemen are more dangerous and harmful than the blue collar/street crimes. The increasingly rampant and large-scale fraud and corruption among the ruling groups ruined the economy and social relations of our people. The end result may be catastrophic for the regime, and possibly for all of us. It is likely that the December 9th incidents that rocked the country will have a sequel, but at a more dangerous level. The rulers can help diffuse the situation by making their cronies stop the abuse, if they can. They can also redirect the state of affairs to the meaningful goal of modern state-building.

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