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• November 21st through 27th, 1993

Volume III, Issue# 46 •

As the 13th December Deadline for Israeli Withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho Draws Nearer

## The Red Berets Prepare Go to Gaza & Jericho

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi, Yemen Times.

The first shipment leaves here in ten days. All in all, 420 men are getting ready to go to Jordan from where they will receive their posting to Gaza and Jericho as part of the police force. "In final count, some one thousand men from among the Palestinian forces in Yemen will join others in making up the police force of the new Palestinian entity," explained Mr. Yahia Rabah, the Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa. "They include regular ground police and security forces, sea patrol units, and air police," the ambassador explained.

A Yemen Times team paid two trips to the Sabrah training camp, some 35 kilometers south of Sanaa, which is one of several Palestinian military camps inside Yemen. The Yemen Times was kindly invited to attend and observe the daily drills.



Daily drills are of two types, explained the camp deputy commander, Colonel Abdul-Razzaq. The first kind is made up of theoretical lessons for groups of thirty. Again the lessons are of two kind. The first kind has to do with laws and rights and various procedures which has to be observed in inspection, making arrest, interrogation, etc. "The legal dimension is constantly stressed because the system we hope to put in place is going to

be based on the values of democracy, multi-party politics and a strict adherence to human rights," the deputy commander added. The second kind of lessons include how to react to different situations, what kind of "tools" to use, etc. "For example, how to interact with a demonstration? what do you do if it turns violent? We teach them how to interact with those and other situation," he indicated.

The second type of training is field work. Physical exercise is the most visible component of this training. But there is also training on how to use light arms. The agreement stipulates that the Palestinian force may only use light arms. Big stuff is out. We attended a session in which the officer in charge was explaining how to use these arms.

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## STONE & BRONZE AGE DISCOVERIES

Dr. Ahmed Ba-Taya, Director-General at the Antiquities Department, disclosed that the Aden discoveries earlier this year date back to the Stone and Bronze ages. According to the preliminary investigations, the dwellings and tombs found in Bir Fadhle in Aden are part of another city buried beneath the present city of Aden.

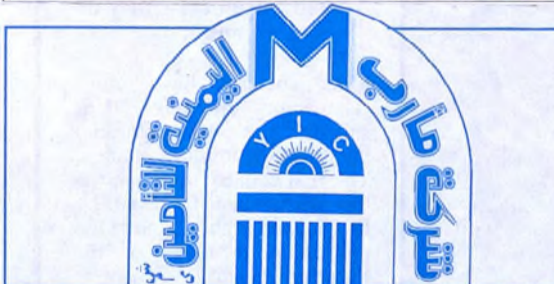
"We have always known that the history of Aden goes back to ancient times. The British have made, in 1943, similar discoveries. We are now working on assessing the value the find and the best line of action to pursue," he pointed out.

The antiquities people are also baffled as to what to do regarding the historic sites that lie along the road to be constructed in 1994, between Safer and Al-Howrah.

"Along this route, there are at least eighty settlements of historic and archaeological significance. We are now studying the optimal course the road has to take in order to save as much of the historic sites as possible," he said.

Most of the region, extending from Al-Jawf through Marib, Shabwah, and into Hadhramaut, has been the seat of many kingdoms in Yemen's past. The most famous among these are Maean, Sheba, Himyar, Qataban, Hadhramaut, and others. Other areas where new discoveries are made are in Wadi Hadhramaut, and in the coastal stretch from Bir Ali to Shihre. Many local and international teams are working to preserve and document these archaeological discoveries before they are swept away by the tide of Modernization.

Read more details on page 4



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Reading Into the International Communiques on Yemen

Over the last two weeks, in reaction to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Yemen, several countries issued communiques and statements. It is not a mere coincidence that Yemen should be the theme of a special statement issued by the governments of several countries in such a short while.

First of all, let me say that these countries are considered friendly to Yemen. Therefore, their reaction comes because of real worries about what is going on and what could happen to Yemen.

Second, I think the statements and communiques should be seen as proof of support to Yemen, especially since the countries which issued the statements include the USA, Germany, Russia, France, Oman, among others. The statements unanimously expressed support for the democratization of the country, and for the territorial integrity of unified Yemen.

Third, the communiques should be seen as warnings, or as efforts to ring the bells of alarm.

Therefore, it is my understanding that these countries have decided to show a higher profile in their interaction with what is going on in Yemen. That means, they felt the need to tell the Yemeni people and politicians of their concern with what is happening, and to tell the Yemenis they would like to see this crisis resolved in a peaceful way.

Now, I hope that the two ALIs and their people understand the message of the communiques clearly. They have been, so far, mis-reading the message by trying to make this communique or that appear as if it were supporting one side against the other in the internal tug of war.

The world community cannot really influence the ALI decisions, at this stage, and the foreigners are content with the communiques, for now. But if push comes to shove, I am sure the two ALIs realize they will not be the only ones to call the shots, at least not till the end. It is therefore, in their very selfish interest not to let 'push come to shove.' It is of course, in the national interest of Yemen, as well.

The country is going through considerable hardships because of the frivolity of our incompetent politicians and their proteges. The worry is that if one idiot fires the first shot, nobody can control the barrage that follows.

I sincerely wish the leadership that created the unification and democratization of Yemen, will not fall into the gutters by plunging the country into the destruction of a civil war.

*The Publisher*  
عبد العزيز

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### Austrian Vice Foreign Minister in Sanaa

Austria's Vice Foreign Minister concluded a 3-day visit to Yemen on Tuesday, November 16th. Yemen and Austria have limited relations.

### FPF's Press Conference

The Federation of Patriotic Forces held a press conference on Sunday, November 14th, in Sanaa.

The FPF leadership explained the crisis of the regime and how the struggle for power has taken an illegal and immoral twist in the competition.

"We are tired of this squabbling and the subsequent threat to the safety of the people and the unity of the nation," Sheikh Sinan said.

### Salim Saleh Mohammed Meets Ali Nasser Mohammed

Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the YSP, met last week in Damascus with Ali Nasser Mohammed, president of the former PDRY. Salim Saleh Mohammed, who is in Damascus, ostensibly to meet with Syrian authorities, is trying to heal the rift between the former Yemeni president and the YSP. It is worth mentioning that former President Ali Nasser Mohammed, who continues to enjoy considerable popularity and some military support in Yemen, left the country following the January 1986 bloody violence.

### Military Committee Headed by Ali Selah

The Minister of Defence, Brigadier Haitham Qassim Taher, appointed Colonel Ali Mohammed Selah, Vice Chief of Staff, to head a military committee to return all military presence, and checkpoints to their pre-crisis conditions.

The resolution also calls on the committee to immediately go out and supervise the reversal of the military developments immediately. The committee, which is presently on the road, is supposed to present its report to the minister by November 24th.

### World Supports Unity of Yemen

Many countries have issued statements stressing their support for the territorial integrity and unity of Yemen. The first country to do so was the USA, then followed by Russia, and France, among the permanent members of the Security Council.

At another level, several of Yemen's neighbors expressed a similar position.

### The Verbal Instructions of the Central Bank

Many of the managers of the commercial banks are getting upset with the increasingly irresponsible behavior of the Central Bank of Yemen.

The CBY sees itself in competition with the commercial banks in securing hard currency in the local market and allows itself to give facilities it forbids the banks from doing so.

One of the last problems is the instruction of the CBY to the banks to freeze any credit facilities. Any written instructions? No, just verbal.

### AIDS Seminar Concluded

As part of the joint efforts of the Ministry of Health and the National Committee for AIDS Victims to help raise awareness to the AIDS problem, a two-day seminar was held in Sanaa during 16-17/11/1993. The seminar, to which 25 journalists were invited, aimed at providing documents and detailed descriptions of the problem and how it must be tackled.

The first AIDS seminar was held in Taiz, while a fourth one is planned in Aden during 1994. The third one has already started yesterday, Saturday, in Sanaa - for women.

### Nasserite Party Holds Its Congress

On Tuesday, November 23rd, the Tanzeem Al-Sha'abi Al-Wahdawi An-Nasseri, holds its Eighth Congress in Sanaa. The Congress, to which 400 delegates are invited including well-known Arab, but especially Egyptian, personalities - will last for five days.

### Arab Lawyers Union Sends Delegation

The Arab Lawyers Union has sent a delegation made up of two outstanding personalities, Dr. Yahia Al-Jamali (Egypt) and Dr. Ameen Madani Makki (Sudan). The purpose, according to Mr. Al-Jamali is to express our anxiety over recent developments and to declare support for continued democratization of unified Yemen.

The delegation is scheduled to see Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament, today, Sunday. They will leave Sanaa, tomorrow, on Monday.

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**NAFTA SEEN AS NO QUICK CURE**

Hopes that the North American Free Trade Agreement will stem the tide of illegal immigrants to the United States from Mexico may take years to realise, immigration experts say. Passage of the historic US-Mexico-Canada trade pact, on which Congress voted yes on Thursday, November 18th, will in the short term increase the surge of Mexicans entering America in search of economic opportunity, some analysts predicted.

US and Mexican leaders have said Nafta will ultimately cut the flow of Mexicans across the US border.

Immigration officials believe Mexicans account for most of the estimated 200,000 - 300,000 undocumented immigrants entering America yearly.

US Attorney General Janet Reno told reporters last week that Nafta was the only viable solution to illegal immigration.

Mexico's President, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, told British television interviewer David Frost recently that "Nafta will allow us to reduce migration from Mexico to the US." Economists agree, saying that a strengthening of the Mexican economy by Nafta should ultimately reduce immigration from Mexico, but not necessarily soon. A study by economist Philip Martin of the University of California at Davis concluded that Nafta will reduce Mexican emigration after the year 2000.

Immigration analyst Donald Huddle at Houston's Rice University said cutting migration might take 15 to 20 years.

Analysts said that Nafta's elimination of tariffs will initially deal a harsh blow to Mexico's inefficient, labor-intensive agriculture industry.

"This is one industry (where employment is going to be drastically reduced," said economist Nelson Pedrozo of the University of California's Economic Forecast Group. "So it has the potential of actually increasing the immigration."

University of Texas immigration specialist Rodolfo de La Garza said that joblessness may also extend to the Mexican service sector and the small historically protected industries.

Analysts said that until Mexico can start replacing the lost jobs, dislocated workers will head north, further pressuring the overcrowded US agricultural job market and spilling into US cities.

The newly elected Canadian government headed by Jean Chretien said that it wanted to renegotiate some components of the treaty before it will endorse it. This, plus the fact that the US and Mexican Senates still have to vote on the treaty, means that Presidents Clinton and Salinas still have some work to do before they can ease off pressure on Nafta. In the end, the benefits from Nafta will enable all sides to see light and vote for it, according to a White House aide.

**The AIDEED Triumph:**

Well, the UN rescinded on Tuesday, November its decision to hunt-down Mr. Mohammed Farah Aideed. To the contrary, UN representatives have been holding meetings with him to discuss the most appropriate course of action for war-torn and hungry Somalia. After his men have killed more than seventy UN soldiers and officers, General Aideed, by far the strongest among the Somali war-lords and clan leaders, is now seen as the next ruler of Somalia, partly thanks to the propping up he got from the UN and the USA.

On Friday, November 19th, Aideed supporters - estimated at tens of thousands, filled up one of the large spaces in the outskirts of Mogadishu and chanted his name over and over. In an emotional address, he called on all Somali clans to get together and agree on a new start at nation-building. His calls fell on deaf ears.

At another level, the UN Security Council decided to renew its peace-keeping mission in Somalia for another six months - until May 31st, 1994. But the nationality mix, as well as the objectives will be quite different. Several key countries, notably the USA and France are pulling out their troops, latest, by end of March 1994.

Dr. Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary-General, has gone through lots of pains to block "deserting Somalia." He has proposed to the Security Council three different alternatives in approaches to handle the Somalia case. At the same time, he is urging many nations to send soldiers to replace the out-going troops. Most of the new-comers are going to be from Third World countries, and especially from Africa.

Efforts to disarm groups of thugs and bandits have not succeeded. Maybe, General Aideed will be better able to disarm the thugs if he is the head of state.

**Crackdown on "Afghan" Algerians:**

Security forces sealed off large chunks of central Algiers last week and rounded up about 200 people in swoops centered on a fundamentalist area. Algiers radio said the operation took several hours in Belcourt, where shops were shut and armed forces searched several homes.

Belcourt is known to be a stronghold of the so-called "Afghans - hardline fundamentalists who trained or fought with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan before the Soviet pullout, and are now battling Algerian authorities.

The operation was the latest in a series of swoops on fundamentalists who are blamed by officials for violence in which more than 1,600 persons have been in the last two years. The violence started after the authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election in which the fundamentalists' party had taken a huge first-round lead.

Similar raids were carried out in other cities to crack down on fundamentalists.

At another level, a French magistrate in Paris has opened investigations into possible crimes by four suspected Algerian fundamentalists arrested as part of a nationwide crackdown. The suspects were arrested during a roundup of 88 suspected sympathizers on the banned Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) last week. Police have released the rest of the activists after a brief questioning.

The four men - Moussa Kraouche, Abdelhaq Boudjaadar, Larbi Beddiaf, and Mohammed Djeflal - are accused for carrying various arms and ammunition.

It is well noted that Algiers and Paris exchange information on fundamentalists and on their activities.

At the same time, diplomatic sources in Paris have indicated that France was discreetly pressing Bonn and Washington to use their legislation to control the activities of the "Afghan" Algerians.

Some success has already been achieved.

**Bhutto has an Enormous Agenda Laid Out for Her**

Pakistan Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, take up her post well fortified and strong enough to address the nation's problems. Even then, her tasks are enormous.

The rapidly deteriorating situation in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir have added to Bhutto's long list of tasks. Although temporarily under control, the events sparked by the Indian army siege of Hazratbal mosque have had a crippling effect on the state.

India continues to resist any meaningful negotiations on the Jammu and Kashmir situation, while Pakistan is trapped to go along and provide as much discreet support as possible. "The issue is like a time-bomb which go off at any time, and plunge the region into renewed violence and turmoil," according to an observer.

Yet, Mrs. Bhutto has a good chance of addressing this, as well as the internal economic situation of Pakistan. Her candidate, Mr. Farooq Leghari, has won as Pakistan's new president.

Empowered to dissolve parliament, the president is one of the informal triumvirate, with the prime minister and army chief, that runs the country. With the victory of Leghari, Mrs. Bhutto has more or less ensured her government, Pakistan's third in five years, has a better chance of completing its five-year term.

Leghari, 53, is Bhutto's most trusted confidant and a protege of her late father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister.

Many observers are giving Benazir Bhutto a better than average chance of succeeding in addressing the difficulties. "If anybody can do the job, she can," said an ambassador.



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# 80 STONE/BRONZE-AGE SETTLEMENTS DISCOVERED

By: Ali Bin Taleb,  
Yemen Times.

They are working on the Safer-Howrah highway. They have across some prehistoric sites and dwellings. "Along the road, some eighty settlements were discovered which date back to the Stone Age and the Bronze Age," explained Dr. Ahmed Bin Ahmed Ba-Taye', General Manager of Antiquities.

The Indian company which carried out the technical study for the road brought the matter to the attention of the Yemeni authorities. The east-west highway which runs at a latitude of around 15.5 degree north of the equator, extends from Safer, cuts through Ramlat Assaba'atain, into Al-Karb and into the town of Shabwah, some 150 kilometers north the capital of the governorate, Ataq. From there, it extends further east until the town of Howrah which is on the road to Seiyoun.

As much as the highway is a vital economic and political

link, it is also going to require sacrifices in some of the country's ancient relics. "Therefore, our job is to save as much of our country's history, actually human history, before the tarmac is laid down," Dr. Ba-Taye explained.



Earlier, the German team, has discovered over 300 burial sites along the Maseela-Al-Shihre pipeline route, of which forty were saved. These date back to some four-to-three thousand years before Christ.

The German expedition, which carries out its field work during October to March every year. This year, they started their work at the site of Al-Mahjam Mosque in Al-Zaydiyyah in the northern Tihama region. They have just concluded their work there, and are moving to the site of the Moon God - Al-Maqah - in Sarwah area, eastern Sanaa governorate. In January 1994, the expedition will move to the Barran Temple which is a major landmark in the Sabaean heritage in Marib.

The French expedition has focussed most of its efforts in Shabwah governorate, but especially in Shabwah town, the first capital of ancient Hadhramaut state, and in Baihan and Nesab. Supplemented with their work in Wadi Dhora', the French team issued this year a thick volume on their findings.

They also did some work in Hazm Al-Jawf and Khowlan. The Italians are more into the interpretations of the drawings and writings of the



ages. The Italians have been instrumental in a better understanding of the ancient kingdoms by reading the writings, drawings, and manuscripts of the Qataban kingdom with emphasis on Baraqish. "This year, financial constraints have made it impossible for the Italian team to

come back. We hope to see them next year," he said. A Canadian group, associated with the Ontario Museum, is carrying out work related to the Islamic period. "They have been working on Zabid and its place in the history of the country and the region," Dr. Ba-Taye' explained. There is also a Russian team which has left behind a wealth of information on the history of Wadi Hadhramaut, especially the Raidon area, and the coastal stretch around Qana, near Bir Ali.

For the first time since the Republic, an American team is doing archaeological work. They have concentrated their efforts so far at the Seera peninsula, off Aden city, where some ancient tombs have been discovered. "This

team is associated with Chicago University, whereas another one, associated with New York University, is doing work in central Hadhramaut," he said.

The Americans are also looking at regions which have been least surveyed, such as Abyan, Al-Baidha and Lahej. But the most startling discovery was made by a soldier who was watering a tree in the quarter of Beer Fadhle in Aden city. "The discovery is of a city or settlement seven feet deep under the present city. We found bells, household utensils, coins, bronze ornaments, and of course, human bones. It is not the first time we find such things in Aden city. We will carry out excavations with all parties," he concluded.



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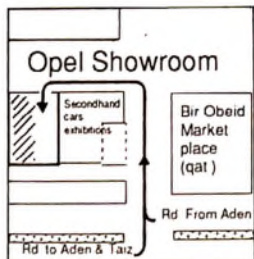
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*A Worldnet Dialogue Sheds Light on the Political Role of Arab Women*

# CHANGING ROLE OF ARAB WOMEN IN POLITICS

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

On October 26th, several women from Yemen and Jordan participated in the WORLDNET Dialogue, under the theme, "Arab Women in Politics." Headquartered in Washington DC, the program's guest speaker was Dr. Haalah Maqsoud, herself an Arab from Lebanon and presently a professor at George Mason University.

From the start, it was clear this was going to be a very interesting dialogue.

Dr. Maqsoud set the pace and direction of the dialogue by pointing to the following:

1. Progress in the status of women and in social life are not be reflected in presence for women in politics.
2. Often, wherever women enjoy a higher political profile, this does not mean a better social standing.
3. Without a strong and progressive civil society, women cannot expect to advance in politics.
4. The status of Arab

women is the result of centuries of accumulation in values and beliefs which have created the present realities.

5. In certain societies, token women are brought to high positions in the system without giving them real power. This is what she referred to as cosmetics.

6. Women must build alliances to advance their case. There were many questions and comments put forth by many women who have become symbols of the drive of Arab women to a more equal arrangement in the power structure.

"Many women see Islam as the main determining factor for the status and role of women. How do you see it," asked Dr. Raoofah Hassan.

"Yes, but Islam is not anti-women. It is the men who interpret it that way so as to monopolize power. Look, today, there are six women in the world who are at the head of governments. Three of them are in Muslim countries (Turkey, Bangladesh, and Pakistan)," indicated Dr. Maqsoud.

Toujan Faisal, the first and only female member of the Jordanian parliament, stressed that unless women make headway in attaining a minimum of political power, there will not be much progress at the social, economic, cultural and other fields. "We have to drive head-on to attain a partnership in decision-making in the power structure," she said.

Najat Al-Shami, lawyer, and Dr. Waheebah Fara', associate professor at Sanaa University, were disturbed by what they see as the selfish approach of men. "If men need the votes and support of women, they urge them to come out and participate. If women compete against men, then all kinds of obstacles are placed in their way by those same men," explained Ms. Al-Shami. "Take the role of the conservative party (Islah) in the last Yemeni elections. They even issued a 'fatwa' (religious explanation) to state that women have a duty to go and vote (under their 'guidance')."

This attitude is prevalent all over the Arab/Muslim world," Dr. Fara' stated.

Danya Al-Mufti, a Jordanian female candidate to parliament who did not make this time, asked, "Who are the people likely to vote for a female candidate?"

"I think it is primarily other women, provided they are not under the over-riding influence of men who are using them for their own end," explained Muna Bashraheel, one of two women who made it to the Yemeni parliament last April.

"Young people, unionized workers, and intellectuals and bureaucrats also voted for me," stated Muna.

Radhiyyah Shamsheer, a female candidate who got second place in the constituency in which she was contesting, agreed. "We should develop our own voter base. The experience was immensely useful in interacting with a man-dominated system," she added.

Dr. Maqsoud intervened. "Although I agree that women have to build a distinct voter-base, I am sure some of them are men. It is important for women to cultivate the vote and

support of those men who are more enlightened and are willing to help. These men could prove more supportive than many women. What I am saying is that, from their own base, women should build alliances," Maqsoud said.

Salwa Nasser, from Jordan, wanted to know how the two Yemeni women won. Was it by direct competition or in a quota system?"

Bashraheel explained that it was a free-for-all competition. "I was one of eighteen candidates in the constituency. There is no quota system in the Yemeni system," she added.

Ikhlas Al-Qirshy from Yemeni television had her doubts about how high Arab women can rise in politics. "Is the parliament the limit?" she asked.

"Technically, it is not. but even in advanced societies, women have not been the real decision-makers.

Let me point out that our generation is really the first one to go out on the job market and build careers. So the history of evolution for Arab women is really very short. This explains why we are still saddled with all the traditional social and household obligations and duties.

"The participation of Arab women in politics is a process that will take time. Therefore, the presence of Arab women in politics will take a very long time before it can attain anywhere near the level of men's presence."

All agreed that conditions have improved dramatically over the last few decades, although the pace of improvement varies from country to country, and from region to region within the same country.

"The key part in all of this is that when women participate in national events, they should participate as women. This means they have to create a bloc or a mobilization group. In Algeria, women joined men in the struggle for independence. Once that was over, they could not translate their contribution into substantive gains. I am afraid the same may happen again with the Palestinian women," lamented Dr. Maqsoud. "It is therefore essential for women to project an independent identity among the pressure groups and to interact on this basis."

Already signs of this bloc can be seen in many societies,

## Hindlish: A New Language Is Born

An English tourist was baffled to hear two Indians talking recently in a busy Delhi bus. "I am ekdum sorry, yaar," said one to the other. The Englishman scratched his head to unravel the meaning of ekdum (very) and yaar (friend). He should not have.

The language those two Indians were speaking was not English, but Hindlish (Hindi plus English). Spoken across towns and cities of India, and to a lesser degree in neighboring Pakistan, as well as among overseas Indians, Hindlish is the fastest growing patois of the sub-continent. It owes its origins to Hindi films and film magazines produced mainly in Bombay, India's film city. Both use Hindlish in their scripts and writings.

With the growing popularity of Hindi films and magazines in neighboring Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and in the Arab states, especially the Gulf region, Hindlish has already become a transnational language.

Through literal translation of many Indian expressions, novelists such as Mulk Raj Anand have enriched the English vocabulary. Anand claims to have contributed more than 50 words to the Oxford Dictionary's supplement of words from the Indian subcontinent. Already more than 300 words of Indian origin are listed in the Oxford Dictionary. For this, the ever growing tribe of Indians writing in English language has been mainly responsible.

In his novels, Anand tried to Indianize English and has distinguished his "pigeon" English which "soared to the skies" from "pidgin" English which "wallowed in the gutter."

Says Raja Rao, another eminent Indian novelist writing in English: "As long as we are truly Indian .... we shall have the English language with us and amongst us .... as one of our own, of our caste, our creed, out sect and of our tradition."

With the growing popularity of Indian authors such as Anita Desai, R.K. Narayan, C.V. Desai, Manohar Malgoankar, Indo-English expressions have reached an international audience. But unlike these writers who contributed to literary English, Hindlish grew up in the film studios and back lanes of

Bombay. It emerged as a tool of communication among the 150,000 people working in the world's biggest film industry.

Today, Hindlish has become a brash, young parvenu which has found acceptance among millions of Indians. One can not escape noticing it wherever one goes - in coffee houses, college campuses, buses, trains, and social gatherings. What gave Hindlish a big push and made it a respectable slang is its use in English-language film magazines.

Breezy, pungent and evocative as Hindlish is, its words have also invaded the political and advertising arena. Such words as Tamashas (political events staged by rulers to divert attention from economic hardships) and Hangamas (noisy exchange of debates among politicians) are examples of words freely used by the public with they talk about politics in English. Other Hindlish political lexicon include Bak-bak (chatter), Kahanis (lies), Chalu cheez (liberated female), Rokda (money), etc.

And in advertising, mostly done in English to promote consumerism among India's 200 million middle class, words like Asli (pure, authentic) and Nakli (impure, copy) are frequently used.

Linguists find nothing abnormal in the mixing of Hindi and English, arguing that both belong to the Indo-European language family. In fact, as long lost cousins, they have remained in touch for centuries via their Arabic and Greek connections. That explains why words like camphor, musk, and opal became part of the English language.

The greatest interchange of words between the two languages began during the British colonial rule when words like Shikari, ghee, khaki, chit, pundit, nawab and maharaja became part of the standard English. And now Hindlish is continuing the tradition, albeit in the reverse, Indianizing English.

As the contribution of Hindlish to the timber and tone of Indo-English writings grows, so is acceptance of its words and expressions into the ever-growing English lexicon. "Only then," says film critic S.D. Sharma, tongue in cheek, "we'll have some maza (fun)."

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### YEMEN AND THE POLITICAL CRISIS?

There are only two options for Yemen:

Either there is a reconciliation leading to a modern state or getting embroiled in a civil war which might divide the nation into various entities.

The Yemeni people have not specified their position on the crisis, and the rulers in this country got used to take resolutions without returning to the citizens even during this so-called democratic period. The two leaders - Ali Abdulla Saleh and Ali Salem Al-Beedh possess military garrisons and political parties beholden to them.

Therefore, if the two men can't agree, war is a real possibility although both the president and the vice president say otherwise. Ironically, it is those two men who signed the unification agreement and accepted democracy as the choice for our political system. The war option will bring total destruction and a re-division of the geographic, political, economic map of the Republic. It is difficult for both the men in both camps to even think of what is waiting for them. But, I confirm that a civil war will destroy everything.

What about dialogue and construction of the state? All the chips are down now. The YSP believes that it has become the victim of the trust of its general secretary Ali Salem Al-Beedh in president Ali Abdulla Saleh. Thus, Al-Beedh found himself facing an accusing finger from his own party, and therefore he shoulders that responsibility alone. That is why he often tried to cut himself off and to seclusion, the last one having started on 19 August. He says he will not come out of his seclusion until the necessary preparations for building a modern state are there.

Although, the situation is critical and complicated, a democratic dialogue is still possible in order to reach solutions regarding the 18-point demand of the YSP. The difficulties faced in implementing the 18-point demand do not exceed the embarrassment which the PGC/ISLAH feel because they will be seen as submitting to the YSP. At first, it seems that a unified political bloc has been formed by the PGC and Islah against the YSP. This is a point which embarrassed Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani and Yaseen Abdulaziz (the two top leaders of the "Islamic Brotherhood") inside Islah party, and they see this political stand as one imposed by Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar in favor of the president's party (due to tribal affiliation). This also explains Islah's refusal to accept the principle of local administration though it has been one of the major points of its electoral promises. Yet, Islah also knows (and turns a blind eye) to the dozens of crimes, smuggling of liquor and other violations of the law which cause instability, insecurity and harms our democracy.

Dialogue is feasible and accepted, but to start by saying the YSP is responsible for all the current crisis is wrong. Yet, refusal of dialogue means a calamity. The YSP is part of the Yemen and if it asks for an implementation of the 18 points, there is nothing

wrong with that. In fact, there is a wide-ranging and deep sympathy among the people for this demand. Moreover, no one can say that Ali Salem Al-Beedh is after personal/partisan gains. What the YSP demands can be regarded as part of the overall aspiration of the Yemeni people. Are there citizens who don't want local administration? Are there people who don't want security, safety, justice, equality and law and order? All raise the same slogans, then why do some groups describe the others as out-bidders? All in all, what we require is dialogue to rescue the homeland from bloodshed and civil war.

By: **Abdulhabeeb Salim Mukbil**  
*Sawt Al-Ommal*, Aden,  
11/11/1993.

### WHAT DOES THE YEMENI SOCIALIST PARTY WANT?

Some people thought that the YSP will face the same fate as that of the regimes in the socialist camp. Others thought the party's role would become less effective. A third group thought that the party accepted unification to get out of its burdens of its past experiment and thus save itself from collapse. Therefore, merger with the North was put as a saving device. A fourth analysis states that the party was on the verge of being broken-up and splintered leaving the field for others. A fifth group alleged that it will resort to using military power which is under its control to re-partition the country or impose a balance for the two former countries in order to keep a position for itself. What ever the basis for their conclusions, all these groups agreed that the YSP will no longer play a key political role. They even convinced themselves that there is no use in negotiating, let alone accepting YSP demands whether they are legitimate or not.

With this background, one can understand the political positions of the YSP's unification partner, and in a broader sense, its partners in the coalition government. Based on these conclusions, which were either blunders in assessment or wishful thinking, the "partners" pursued policies and tactics which might help hasten the collapse of the YSP. They were betting the collapse was imminent and they began to attack relentlessly. Many prominent members of the YSP became targets to these attacks. In a short time, the YSP was counting more than 150 martyrs assassinated in daylight, and in our cities, especially the capital city.

There was another parallel tactic - offers of privileges, bribes and other temptations to some of the leadership members of the party. The idea was either to disgrace them or to entice them to leave the party.

Yet, the expected results did not happen. The calculations were faulty and the attempts failed. The truth is that the style of physical liquidation and containment is not possible. None of the parties can cancel the others from the political, social, economic map. They try to make us believe that YSP is still yearning to the past and

they think the others will believe them if they throw such accusations.

They forget the world is not the same world. Things have changed and the only tool for interaction is dialogue. It is high time for them to understand the new world order, and this is what the YSP wants from them.

I think the analysis has two aspects:

a) The vital transformation through which the YSP has been undergoing since the 1986 bloody events must be stressed.

b) The basic transformation in the world.

The YSP thus, depends on democracy, respect for pluralism and moving away from totalitarianism and despotism.

These conclusions are arrived at by the YSP following long debates and deep soul-searching. The problem is that the other side has yet to undergo a similar transformation in order to live by the new rules of the game.

The YSP avoids any attempt at cancelling the role of others. That is why from the very beginning, the party expressed its refusal to the attempts to employ majority in the parliament to return once again to totalitarianism. Instead of using the tripartite coalition to effectively steer the country, some try to use it as a pressure on the YSP.

Excerpts from Editorial,  
*Al-Mustaqbal*, Sanaa,  
14/11/1993.

### WHY INTELLECTUALS HAVE NO ROLE IN CRISIS RESOLVING?

The coalition government is unable to carry out its activities which it promised to the people. There is no government in the democratic world that assumes power through the legitimate channels which slackens from doing its duties as our government. It is to be noted that our government has stopped from all the activities which might serve progress. To the contrary, the ministers and officials in various offices devote themselves to special partisan tasks and marginal matters.

This behavior is not something peculiar to our country, for the developing countries are known to strive for the sake of reaching constitutional legitimacy. But the moment they assume power, they begin to step back a thousand steps. Experience shows that they just want to snatch any form of legitimacy, and that they are ready to stand against their ideals and programs once they got what they wanted. They are ready to resolve things through military coup or violence instead of resorting to legitimate and democratic ways. In Yemen, the situation is different. We are ready to bet on democracy. The truth is that the moment we finished with the elections, certain circles found themselves unable to deal with the new reality for they are used to the past.

It is worth mentioning that since 27th of April elections, the country has been going from crisis to crisis and the events show that whenever we get out of one difficulty, we enter into a new one. What happened in Algeria, Haiti, Burundi can be called a coup against democracy and legitimacy. What are we going to call our crisis? Is it

a coup against unity, or democracy or is it a world coup against us? Has the world any interest if Yemen changes its path? I don't think the world wants to cause us any harm since we haven't caused harm to any one. But the problem lies in the intellectuals standpoint in such a critical juncture in our history.

Our intellectuals are passive and their standpoint resembles that of the veterans. Where are they all who swore to defend the revolution, unity and democracy? Why do they all disappear and have no role to play in the crisis? The absence of the role of intellectuals/veterans in the political crisis is bewildering. We require a role.

By: **Ahmed Ismail Al-Akwaa**  
*22 May*, Sanaa,  
10/11/1993.

### SAVE THE HOMETLAND. OTHERWISE!!

Some of the officials in the tripartite coalition repeat in their statements and speeches over and over - that they believe in democracy, pluralism, peaceful transfer of authority, etc. They allege that they are honest and frank in deepening and universalizing these concepts. They even complain against corruption and the corrupt, and they say they are very ready to protect democracy/unity from any mishap.

The reality is different, however. The actions of these officials contradict their words. They have no faith in democracy, and instead of protecting these ideals, they are ready to step on them. It is worth mentioning that believers in democracy do not by-pass it or employ it for their own personal ends. Democracy is not mere speeches and slogans. Democracy is a way of life, and our rulers should

understand its meaning. We don't want to go back to the past or try to open its pages. We have accepted everything and abided ourselves by keeping silent and not to bring out the skeletons of the past.

But manipulating the constitution is a grave fault. It is our duty to criticize any of the mistaken practices. What is going on these days is far away from democratic practices. Democracy requires all to avoid squabbles and it is time to overcome all their differences. The conflict will lead to dividing the country into small entities. The current political crisis is not something new, but the whole issue is an accumulation from the past. The leaders still think that the homeland belongs to them alone and they don't want anyone to share with them in decision-making.

Editorial  
*Al-Haq*, Sanaa,  
14/11/1993

### ALL THE BETS WILL FAIL

I am sure all the bets of our enemies to split the country and us into small entities. The Yemenis are ready to teach those enemies lessons in cooperation, coordination and unification. And surely we will overcome all the hardships through our reliance and upholding of the national common grounds. We are sure all the wicked plans of the enemies will fail in achieving anything for we have decided our own choice. The unique method which the Yemenis tackle their problems come through democratic dialogue as the only means for reaching to safe shores. Those who have tried to interfere in our affairs gained nothing but frustration. The Yemenis are well known for their resili-

ence and high morals, values and wisdom. We are not ready to forsake the high interests of our homeland for those who blackmail us or bet on our failure.

Some think that it is easy to purchase the conscience of the people. We hereby, confirm that it is hard to achieve their diabolic goals, whatever the temptations.

It is self-evident that democracy and unity are regarded as common ground among all factions and groups of Yemen. Since we adhere to democracy, no conspirator will be able to pierce through or cause any harm.

By: **The political Editor**,  
*26 September*, Sanaa,  
18/11/1993

### THE THIRD WORLD AND POLITICS

One of the outstanding shortcomings of Third World governments is the preponderant dominance of politics over all other considerations. Politics does not serve economic development for it works to arouse trouble. We need to free our mind from the mistaken conceptions of democracy or its practices. A number of democratic experiments in the Third World failed due to hardliners' outlooks, and the ensuing political turmoil and absence of dialogue and tolerance. The parties and organizations in the Third World care only for ideological and theoretical aspects. When contradictions occur, what is going to happen to the economy? No progress or development is going to take place. How can we have development without stability, security or safety? Politics is what the Third World suffers from.

By: **Editorial**  
*Al-Gumhuriyyah*, Taiz,  
17/11/1993



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Continued from page 1

# The Red Berets Prepare to Go to Gaza & Jericho

According to Captain Bushra, In Charge of Military Morale, the training is proceeding in good pace. "We will make the deadline," she said confidently.

It is known, of course, that the Israeli forces will start their withdrawal on the 13th of December. By then, the advance Palestinian contingents must have arrived. By March 1994 when Israel is scheduled to have completed its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian forces must be fully in place. The troops leaving Yemen, a total of some one thousand



Palestinian Ambassador in Sanaa, Yahia Rabah

men, will be supplemented by other men from Jordan and Egypt.

Commenting about the possibility of inter-Palestinian conflicts, Mr. Yahia Rabah insisted that it is remote and unlikely that that will happen. "We have not suffered this long to start fighting among ourselves, whatever the reasons."

Many of the commanders agree. Irrespective of the differences, there will not be internal violence, if at least to prove that we deserve our home country, and that we can manage our affairs, many assured.

Are the Palestinian forces in Yemen happy with the deal.



A lesson on light arms

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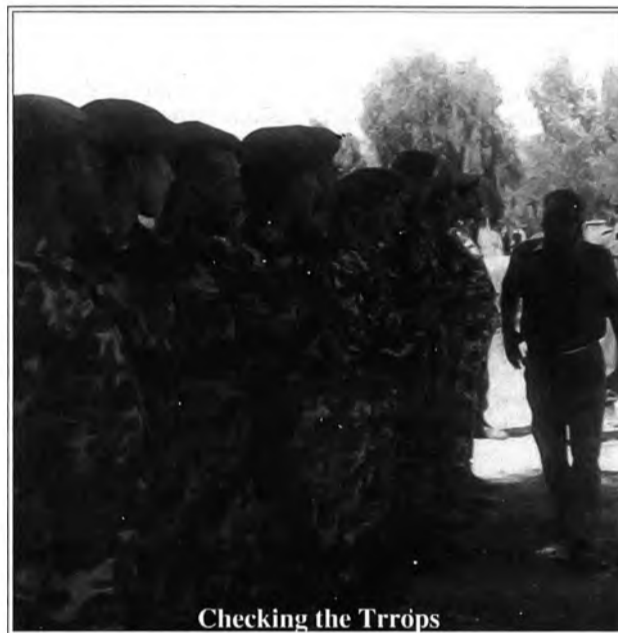
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Checking the Troops

"Yes and No."

Yes, because it offers some hope of starting their own nation. It is the beginning of something.

"No, because it offers too little. We have not fought for so long just for this."

But the majority are willing to follow PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, whom they respectfully call, the Commander.

One final note on the Palestinian diaspora is worth mentioning. According to the ambassador, technically, all Palestinians have the right of return. But, actually we would like to regulate the flow on the basis of the absorption capacity of the land and the economy.

Next month will witness the beginning of the Return!

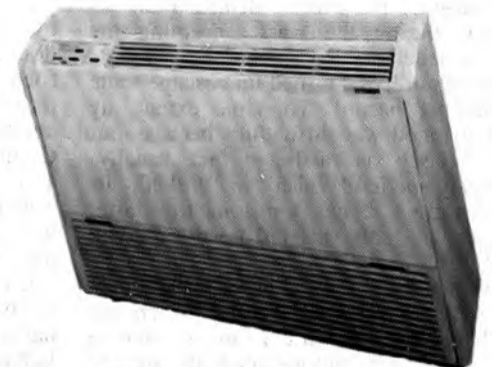
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# LANGUAGES AND "What is in a NAME?"

Adapted and Abridged by:  
Educational Editor Yemen Times, from  
an article by Roger Welsch,  
*The World and I*, January 1992.

Navajo is language of verbs. The tongue is full of verbs. In Navajo everything is fluid, moving, doing, acting, changin! Lakota is a language of adjective. In it we hear attributes without even knowing the substance. The Lakota word for god is Wakonda, meaning "great, mysterious...." Don't bother to ask "Great mysterious what." That is not the way Lakota works.

Arabic is a language full of prepositions and conjunctions. So if a sentence runs half a page, or even a full page. Not to worry! That is the way it should be.

English, on the other hand, is a language of nouns. Names. We name everything. "What is this thing?" we ask, not "What is this thing like?" or "How does this object behave?" First of all, above all, we want to know its name. Kevin Costner's hero in the movie *Dances with Wolves* begins his exploration of the Lakota language by wanting to know the name of that beast we call a buffalo (and others call bison), and the Lakota, of course, consider him mad.

Many of our nouns (the word comes from the Latin nomen, for name) are often arbitrary and conventional. Mark Twain liked to mock the popular notion that our language is logical while all others are little more than gibberish by depicting Adam and Eve wrestling with the problem of assigning English nouns to everything. Adam, he would say, named the giraffe "giraffe" because it looks like a giraffe. We call a giraffe a giraffe, in short, because we call it a giraffe. It is our traditional label for that particular creature. Not everyone's. Just ours. In our society, we all understand that traditional name and in language, that's what counts.

Germans call what we call a tree a 'baum.' That sounds natural enough to them. The French call it 'arbre.' The Arabs call it 'shajar.' That botanical organism answers equally well to all its thousands of names around the linguistic world. To everyone it looks equally like a 'tree,' 'baum,' 'arbre' or 'shajar'.

The way in which we name ourselves or, more precisely, the ways in which we name our children (or our parents named us) and what those names mean to us and others is not a simple matter. Unlike plain old nouns, our proper nouns are a good deal more than arbitrary convention.

Our family names are often not much more than vestigial, like our appendix. Their historical meanings are interesting but no longer of any real importance to most of us unless, for example, you are of Iraqi descent and suddenly find your nation of residence at war with your country of heritage. Then your proud name can become a liability.

## Family Names

I am familiar with that process because my own heritage is German, and people have lived in this country while we had two wars with Germany. To some extent, my German family avoided the worst of the troubles because they were Germans from Russia.. To some extent they used confusion about their origins to avoid identification as Germans during the wars, accepting the mistaken label of "Rooshens." But then of course the cold War turned that escape route into another hazard. To some extent my family avoided war difficulties because our name 'Welsch' is easily, in fact, usually-mistakenly spelled 'Welsh' or 'Welch' - its English variants. It has been some time, after all, since we have suffered hostilities with the English.

Welsh meant, a few hundred years ago, 'stranger,' or 'foreigner' (as did Welch and 'Welsh'). Now it doesn't. To me, it is only a name. The origins and meanings of 'Baker,' 'French,' 'Johnson,' and 'Whitehead' are obvious enough, but the origins and meanings of 'Fletcher' (arrow maker), 'Carter' (wagon maker), and 'Turner' (lathersman) are now as obscure as the occupations they once identified.

In America many names came to us from other languages, and that disjunction has therefore obscured the otherwise interesting meanings of such names as 'Meyer' and all

its variations (farmer), 'Nielsen' (son of Niel), and 'Obemiller' (upstream miller). Our family names have also come from landmarks and geographic features - Hightower, Greenwood, Rivers, and, often, from our work: Smith, Eisenhower, Ferris (all variations on blacksmith).

All too often those in power have used names as a means to control their subjects. Some language historians theorize (a troublesome suggestion, to be sure) that florid Jewish names with German roots were cruel sardonic: Rosenbaum (rose tree), Blumberg (flower mountain), Susskind (sweet child), and Sheen (handsome), for example.

Examples of this nominal misrepresentation are found within some American Indian groups. It has usually been possible for members to keep their native tribal names, though often in anglicized forms - Benalli is a common example among the Navajo. Other Native Americans have wound up with English translations of their native names, with varying degrees of faithfulness to the original: Iron Shell, Fool Bull, Crazy Horse, Least Heat Moon. Early visits by French traders and trappers provided auspicious name-borrowing opportunities, leaving Indian families with names like Saunsoci (sic), LaFleche, Bourdeaux.

The predominant names among the Omaha - Sheridan, Stabler, Philips, Canby, Turner - were assigned by Presbyterian missionaries. They could not, or would not, pronounce the Omaha language names given by their charges, so they assigned English traditional names to the Indians. In a recent interview, a long-term prisoner of war in Vietnam said that one of the most effective ways by which the North Vietnamese humiliated and degraded prisoners was to call them by Vietnamese names. Some of the names given the Omaha Stabler, Canby, Philips, and Sheridan were ironically, the names of several U.S. military officers active in the western Indian wars.

It is not surprising that most conversations on the Omaha Reservation now include an exchange of Omaha names. When I speak to an Omaha relative or friend on the telephone, there is certain to be an explicit question somewhere along the line about my own Omaha name not out of convenience or curiosity, but by way of insisting that I remember that important part of me.

## Formal and Informal Use

A tree may not care what it is called slipperly elm or box elder, but we humans take our names seriously. The ways in which others deal with our names say a good deal about our relationships. In America we are quick to use first names.

"Governor Nelson, may I introduce you to Professor Rogger Welsch."

"Glad to know you, Roger."

"Glad to meet you, Ben."

We imagine this to be the natural, decent way to conduct our affairs, this instant friendship and immediate openness.

This approach could strike people of other cultures as brusque or even rude. In Germanic society, until recently, one used first names and familiar forms of address (in German, there are two forms of the second person pronoun, *du* for people you address by first name, *Sie* for more formal relationships) only with "two or three best friends, you dog, your wife, and God." In reaction to that stiff formality, however, the children of many young, progressive Germans now address even their parents on a first-name basis.

The idea of nominal familiarity does not, however, always work in two directions. It has been noticed in American society that often the wealthy and powerful "talk down" to the poor and weak by using their first names. I learned quickly among the Omaha Indians that formal address - "Mr. Sheridan," "Mr. Gilpin" - is the rule. Too hasty a use of a first name by whites is perceived as social statement, even though the statement may not be the intent or even apparent to a non-Indian.

I have seen goodwill non-Indians engage in conversation with Omaha in which the Omaha continue to use the titles Mr. and Mrs. to maintain a respectful distance while the non-Indians unconsciously but insis-

tently address their new friends by first names, trying to achieve the familiarity they want, or need.

In such encounters the Indians are left with the feeling that they are being spoken down to, and even where all indications are that the two new acquaintances might be friends, the conversation ends with discomfort, if not antagonism. The white senses an uncomfortable distance in the formal address; the Indian is offended by abrupt familiarity.

This has been the custom in some parts of the southeast, where whites address blacks by their first names but expect blacks to address them with formal title. Hortense Powdermaker reported in her research that sometimes blacks in the South cleverly gave their children names like "Mizlou" or "Missbet," thereby requiring whites to use terms of respect whether they want or not.

Nicknames too can carry a load well beyond status. We call them nicknames, one etymology has it, because, like "Old Nick," they are substitutes for names that we prefer not to say at all: "Speak of the Devil and he shall appear" is not just a pleasant greeting for someone who shows up just at the moment you are speaking about him, but literally an injunction against the naming of powerful and therefore dangerous spirits like Satan. If you call Satan's name, the belief has it, he might just respond and actually appear. So let's speak of him instead by a code name - "Nick" or "the Old One," or "the Dark One."

The ancient prohibition against speaking the Lord's name in vain was therefore not merely a matter of respect but of safety as well. It's better not to mess with such potent entities. For example, one of the few dangerous animals on the European continent was the bear, and for the same reason uneasy woodsmen considered it dangerous to speak of that creature by name he might just appear at the mention.

Better to call him "bruin" "the brown one," and be safe.

Similarly, we maintain an uneasiness about giving our own names out too freely, as if with them we give out some part of ourselves. Why do we answer our telephones "hello," which says nothing more than "Someone is here?" Wouldn't it make sense to say our name - "Welsch" - a response that actually conveys a piece of information? Why do I feel so uneasy when secretaries respond to my request to speak to the boss, "May I ask who is calling?" And conversely, why do they ask? Almost certainly to tell me that the boss will consider whether or not I am someone worth talking to, an immediate pronouncement of the boss's view of our relative status. An American frontier folk song popular in the western "territories" asked

*What was your name in the States?*

*Was it Johnson or Thompson or Bates?*

*Did you murder your wife and fly for your life?*

*Say, what was your name in the States?*

## The Essence of What We Are

In the film *High Plains Drifter*, a young boy asks the tough hero played by Clint Eastwood, "What did you say your name was, Mister?" to which Eastwood growls, "Didn't say." Not all who went west were morally idealistic pioneers seeking to build a better life for themselves and those of us to follow. Many of those migrating westward were escaping the law of the East and preferred generic nicknames to their potentially incriminating legal names. Kid, Virginian, Tex, Slim, and Duckbill were some favorites. In the Old West it was proper and polite to ask, "What name you traveling under?" but downright dangerous to ask, "What's your name?"

The need to ask names, on the other hand, may at times be a pathology. An occasional symptom of Huntington chorea, Woody Guthrie's disease, is a preoccupation with names, and perhaps that obsession was manifested in Guthrie's songs. "What were their names..." he asked. "The men who went down on the good *Reuben James*? "All they would call them would be 'Deportees,' Guthrie sang in another song, then providing a chorus of names. He did not just call America "Your land and my land," but

listed its component parts, its names "from California to the New York island, from the redwood forest to the gulf Stream waters."

Organization structures can influence the most private corners of people's lives by determining the process of giving names. Most religions, and some political organizations, clearly show preferences for names considered acceptable for children. Iceland forbids family names, requiring that its citizens follow the ancient Scandinavian system of naming according to lineage - Nielsen, Svensen, Gunlesdottir.

The lower classes of American society often strive to give their children distinction through highly idiosyncratic names - Jaleel, Harlean, Telma, Tamilla. Parents give children certain names as a way to make a social statement. Muslims who supported Saddam against the West gave birth to a rash of "Saddams" and American blacks adopted quasi-African or distinctly Arabic Islamic names by way of protesting what they perceive as "slave names." Performers (Lynyrd Skynyrd, Beatles, Byrds, k.d. lang) strive for individuality and name recognition by playing name games.

In the naming of my own children, I tried to be aware of what effect initials might have. Chris Oscar Welsch, for example would have yielded C.O.W., while Chris Edward Welsch yielded a relatively harmless acrostic. Even though I know all too well my father's problem in having to go through life without a middle name, an omission form makers simply will not abide, I indulged myself in naming one of my own children Antonia Emily Celestine Welsch, thus ensuring that for the rest of her life, she will have to deal with the problem of not enough space on job applications and sweepstakes forms.

Was it in the Reader's Digest that I once read about the poor soul R.B. Jones, who was given not names but initials by his inconsiderate parents? The story goes that Mr. Jones upon entering the military service filled out his enlistment forms "R (only) Jones," to avoid confusion, only to find that for the next four years he was officially and inescapably stuck with the name "Ronly Bonly Jones."

How much crazier is the current custom of inflicting cute, trendy names on children - Justin, Corey, Muffy, Kristal, Brandy - as if the children will never run for Congress or manage an accounting firm! And God help the child who is victimized by trendy parents who are also socially conscious and hyphenate, as the verb goes. In twenty or thirty years we are almost certain to have to fund a separate court system to handle the flood of legal name changes correcting the nominal madness of the last quarter of the twentieth century.

Thirty years ago, when hyphenated names were a rarity in this country, I once railed to an undergraduate course about the works of the German poetess Annette von Droste-Huelshof and how much I envied her roccoco name. I spoke to the class with passion about the beauty of hyphenated names, their elegance, their aristocratic air. I lamented that in America, men have only one name with no chance for change, unlike a woman who could have another name through marriage. I had by then been adopted into the Omaha tribe, and I complained that I had a fine and proud Omaha name - but one without a hyphen.

Then, to my surprise, a student in the back row, an athlete who hadn't said ten words in two months, raised his hand "Yes?" I said pointing to him.

"Uh, Professor Welsch," he asked. "Doesn't 'son-of-a-bitch' have hyphens in it?"

Names are more than labels, more than conveniences. Names are substance, the essence of what we are. They give us information; they reveal secrets. If we can get the star's autograph - his name! - we have a part of him right here in our hands. We can eat a chicken or a cow, but not one we have given a name, because the name carries with it an understanding, an assurance of soul "What's in a name? Everything. A name is not a substitute for a reality; it is the reality itself." Maybe that is why, the Prophet Muhammad insisted one of the duties parents have towards their children is to give them a name with which they can be proud.



**PICTURES TAKEN FROM THE OPENING AND CONCLUDING CEREMONIES OF THE ETHIO INTER EXPO HELD IN ADDIS ABABA DURING 27/10 - 7/11/1993. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED THAT THE HAYEL SAEED GROUP OF COMPANIES HAVE WON FIRST PRIZE AS WELL AS FIRST PLACE FOR BEST DISPLAY.**

**The Seven Companies of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group which Participated in the Exhibition Are:**







## Letters to the Editor

### IS IT A DEMOCRACY OR A JOKE?

The word democracy is abused and tortured by the politicians in our beloved Yemen. The sad thing is that such abuse of democracy is carried out by those who preach us about democracy and democratic systems. It is really a shame to still be unable to comprehend the true value and meaning of democracy.

Democracy does not mean chaos or lawlessness. It doesn't mean that the rulers, in their eternal search for more powers, expose the people to insecurity in order to accept that the politicians exercise more powers.

What is happening here is not what Thomas Jefferson meant in his description of a democratic system.

The wealth of this country is stolen by a small group of officials and officers due to the absence of accountability and the rule of the law. There is in Yemen today a family system of rule in which the top man assigns to his brothers, cousins and other relatives top positions in government and the army. Ours is certainly not a democracy.

To have a society in which Yemeni citizens are categorized as second or third class citizens in their own land because of their tribal affiliation or place of birth is absurd. Yet, it is practised in 'democratic Yemen.'

It is a big joke to bombard people everyday with tens of mottoes on democracy while they behave as if they own the country.

The Yemeni people are not going to remain idle if this joke continues. It may become necessary to dislodge this system of "democracy" for a better and more sincere system. I think the time has come to have such "democratic harassment" stopped.

By: Dr. M.K. Hamdany,  
Sanaa.

### MUTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Values, culture, views and beliefs are different and variable among societies. Yet, there are shared and widely accepted values, especially in regard to issues that bring joy or pain to others.

I think the main point to ponder is to avoid extremes. Extremism, in either direction, is the source of much agony to our world. Imagine a veiled woman - fully wrapped up inside a sack-like garment. I know many women who are not happy with the draped shape. On the other hand, imagine another female in short pants walking in congested streets with much of her private parts exposed.

I think the acceptable action or behavior lies somewhere in-between those two extremes. Bilateral consideration is an important criterion. If the two sides involved in any action stop and think about what annoys or pleases the other side, then there would be less reason for conflict.

The best level of co-existence is based on the proper consideration of the needs of others, which leads to a behavior that preserves the dignity of all sides.

By: Ahmednur Sheikh Ali,  
Sana'a.

### RELATIONS BETWEEN TRIBES, STATE & COMPANIES

Let us talk about relations between tribes (I will focus on the Marib-Shabwa tribes) and companies which are exploring for oil and gas for our country.

Our country lacks security especially given the actions of tribes which usually cause problems for oil companies. The foreigners feel unsafe because they get little or no help from the military and police.

For example a few days ago, an oil company, Nabors, was caught in a problem between two tribes - Bel-harith and Abeedah. Nabors finished its activities in the Bel-harith area and was moving to the Abeedah area. The Bel-harith tribe did not want the company to employ any of the Abeedah people to work for it, while the Abeedah tribe did not want any of the Bel-harith people to work for it. Both insisted to have their people employed.

The company was forced to stop the activities for fifteen days. That was at the beginning of this month.

The question is: "Why don't the military and security forces intervene to correct such situations?"

Then there is that other problem of hijacking cars and threatening people to give up their cars and belongings at gun-point.

We need from the state a solution to these problems for the benefit of our country!

By: Saleh Ahmed Sapolan,  
Marib.

### CONSPIRING AGAINST THE UNITY



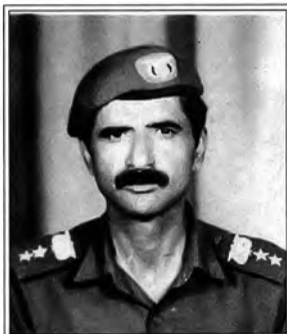
We have followed over the last weeks the efforts to create trouble for this country. Since the first day of our Revolution, there were efforts to break our republic and to stop our progress.

All decent Yemenis should join hands in stopping these efforts and in safeguarding our homeland and the Revolution. We should all be on the alert for conspiracies, and we should be ready to sacrifice for the nation.

I am sure, in this way, we'll overcome our problems.

Col. Ali Mansoor Al-Fadhli,  
Ministry of Defence, Sanaa

### YOUTH DISINTEGRATION



To be civilized is good, but to copy and imitate others is sad. The way our country is evolving, the acquisition of foreign habits brings a bad omen for our country, and we can already see the danger to our Youth.

The youngsters usually walk the streets simply to disturb others. Yemen became a country which has street boys. Civilization to most of our young people is wearing new fashions, drinking alcohol, dancing with Michael Jackson, etc. This problem is shared by all parents.

How can we stop this trend of westernization and fight against its probable results. It's necessary to renew religious fervor and consciousness among the youth, guide them to keep their culture and fight Western ways.

I am surprised at the way we have peacefully and quietly acquiesced to the corrupting influence of the West. I am sure this is part of their diabolic plan. To make us join the bandwagon the Sheitan (Satan).

Civilization does not mean to submerge ourselves in mud of western vices or to wear the latest fashions which western companies ship to us.

The youth of Yemen are its future. We should defend them against deviation. At the same time, our youth must also defend the Islamic cultures, fight disintegration, and honor this country's values by making them paramount over the globe:

By: Mohammad Khalid  
Rashid El Wisabi,  
Hodeidah.

### I AGREE, BUT ...

I would like to comment on the article written by Tasneen H.A. Nabee in your issue No. 45 dated 14th October, regarding the life and rights of Yemen women.

First, let me say that I fully support her in her views. Second, I would like to point to one important fact which was left out by Tasneem.

The fact is that qat chewing sessions (in the long afternoon hours) by men and women make them leave their children on the roads. Sometimes, these children are very young. Left on their own, the children create mischief and havoc, and maybe even accidents, while their parents are enjoying their chew!

By: Huzeifa H. Nabijec,  
Aged 12, Pakistani School,  
Sanaa.

### TEACHERS: THE MISSING RIGHTS AND POTENTIAL ROLE

It is educationally reported that the child's mind when first entering school is not yet fully formed. In other words, there is a strong role for teachers in helping shape how our generation thinks. Hence a competent and well-trained teacher - with his/her own artistic brush - lets out the talent, faculties and professional skills of the pupils.

Undoubtedly, the teacher's task with a paternal spirit is like that of a painter who knows how to use his artistic tools proficiently to draw the portrait. If the picture is marvelous, then the job is well-done, if it is ugly, then the job is not well-done.

On this basis, I would like to conclude that a teacher who performs his educational duty in a good way contributes to the building, and developing of minds, and by extension, the country. On the other hand, a teacher who fails in doing his/her task, contributes in a negative way.

Having said that, let me indicate that teaching is a hard, tiring and demanding job. It is also something that has to do with the personality and motivation of each individual. Therefore, performance in teaching is different from one teacher to another. It is this specific aspect of this profession that makes it necessary for the Ministry of Education to pay a close look at the variations in the performances to determine additional/extra remunerations.

Without asking for extra remuneration for the excellent performers, let me say that teachers, in general, live under wretched conditions in this country. They are among the lowest paid employees of the state.

I think if our senior officials love Yemen, they would bear their responsibility and improve the lot of teachers. This would help the teachers love their profession their pupils and students, and exert great efforts in fulfilling their work.

If our officials are altruistic, then they will treat all the teachers responsibility, fairly and humanly. They are supposed to show interest in solving the problems of teachers problems, and help in easing them without any procrastination.

I am quite confident that Dr. Abubakir Al-Kirbi, Education Minister, who is reputed to be a direct person, well-qualified for running the affairs of the Ministry, full of dynamism, and conscious of all educational issues in particular, he will not spare any effort or time to attend to the pressing needs and demands of the teachers. Here are some of them:

1 - Teachers are regarded as effective tools in achieving reform in the Yemeni society. This is, however, closely and logically, associated with improving the teachers' standard of living by giving them their rights as dictated by the law.

2 - Teachers need to be trained and retrained according to master plans and long-term programs, within a framework of a clear philosophy of education as stipulated in the General Law of Education, approved by the Yemeni parliament, but as yet un-enacted.

3 - Equal opportunity should be given to all qualified and experienced teachers towards promotions and better positions on the basis of sound foundations and precise criteria, irrespective of any other consideration.

4 - Some appointees for school administrations and educational guidance are not qualified, but randomly and whimsically selected to fill in vacancies.

5 - Qualifications and experience were not accurately taken into consideration when the teachers' pay scale was previously amended. Accordingly, we plead for a reconsideration.

6 - To co-ordinate with other relevant authorities to overcome any delay in the payment of monthly salaries whatever the justification.

7 - To embark gradually on revamping the structure of education in Sanaa and the governorates. In addition to re-staffing the hierarchy by putting the right person in the right place, and to apply the principle of reward and punishment.

In the long run, we are quite certain that our able minister will do his best to tackle the teachers' grievances and to put end to the agonies. We see in him a beam of hope for obtaining our legitimate rights.

We are waiting for a decisive step shortly.

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**Mubarak Bamahmoud:**

**“Exxon has come to Yemen and it is taking over the Sunoil Block.”**  
**“Total is finalizing arrangements to exploit its East Shabwah discoveries.”**  
**“The law discriminates against Yemeni companies in oil business.”**

The oil sector holds the hope for Yemen to find solutions to its foreign exchange problems, it at least in the short and medium terms. The person who is directly charged with this sector is Engineer Mubarak Omar Bamahmoud, Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Board.

Mr. Bamahmoud is oil geologist who graduated in 1976 from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Following his BA, he has done additional work in many countries including the London School of Economics, UN programs, and several short workshops and intensive training. The Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf went to speak to him about the oil sector and the most recent developments in this field.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: Has the CanadianOxy production level stabilized?**

**A:** Yes, it has just stabilized around 120,000 bpd. Of course, you will note this is not the maximum quantity they can produce, it is the optimal quantity, give current information on reserves and structures. Let me add that this quantity

is being produced from a gathering system that links mainly three fields. There are seven more fields, albeit, smaller, which are being developed.

Moreover, some more exploration is also underway. I expect, and also hope, the CanadianOxy production will rise rapidly.

**Q: We also heard of new discoveries at Total's East Shabwah Block, which is next door to the Maseela Block.**

**A:** Yes, Total has made an important discovery in the East Shabwah Block. The tentative reserve quantity in this block is put at 180 million barrels. This number may change depending on additional information.

Total is presently negotiating with CanadianOxy regarding the fees for linking up on their pipe. I hope they reach agreement soon so that Total starts development and quick exploitation.

**Q: How about Clyde? We hear they also have come up with interesting results.**

**A:** Yes, they have encouraging results, but we will have to wait and see. In general, I can say that the structure where they are drilling is the same as that of



the CanadianOxy structure. After all, they are neighbors, and they are drilling on the other side of the block. I think Total and Clyde will generate the next round of exciting news.

**Q: But you also have some disappointments from other circles - Elf, Occidental, Chevron, Sunoil, Nimir just to name a few.**

**A:** Of course, I am not saying it is all rosy, but the

rate of successful effort has been high. Yes, those companies are not as successful as we'd wish them to be. Since you mentioned those companies, let me comment on some of them.

company that also wants to sign up for one of the blocks. At the moment, blocks 13 and 15 are under serious negotiation.

**Q: Is it time you changed approach? I mean you now have a vast database, which could be coordinated in order to enable you attract a different breed of oil companies.**

**A:** That is right, and that is exactly what we are doing. We have contracted a British firm to prepare a report on the overall data available to us from all these exploration and development efforts. We expect the first draft of the report to be presented by the end of this month.

But you are right in that we need a change in approach, and possibly a change in strategy.

We are engaged at the moment - inhouse, in a major re-studying of the options open to us on the basis of the changing climate as well as available data to determine the best course of action.

mon never comes to Yemen as most of the sub-contractors are foreign companies. So the benefits to Yemen are meager.

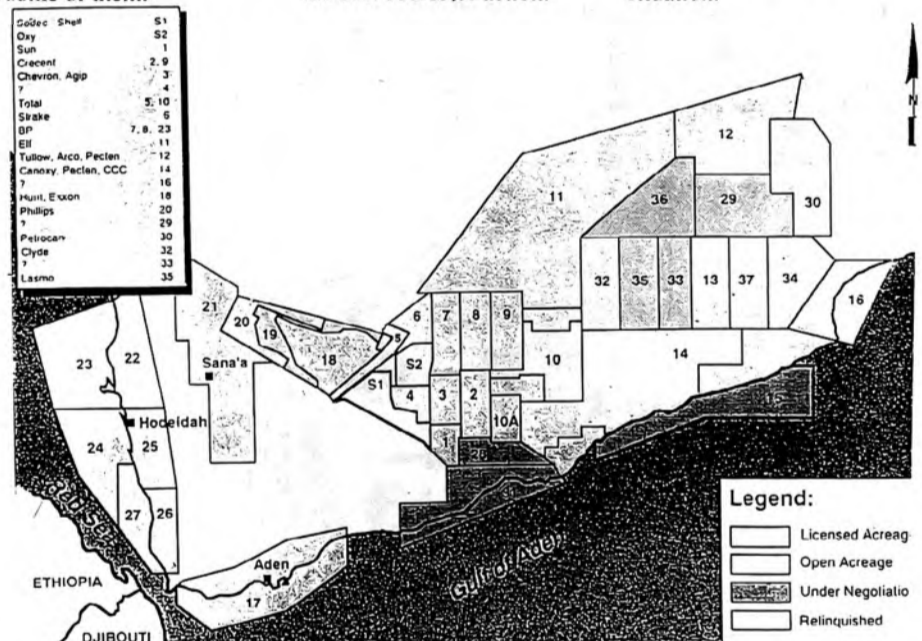
It may be of interest to note here that the Yemeni law actually discriminate against the local contractor or sub-contractor. For example, Yemeni companies have to pay taxes on their payroll, foreign companies don't; Yemeni companies have to pay customs duty, foreign companies don't; Yemeni companies have to pay business profit tax, foreign companies don't.

In other words, over and above the visible advantages enjoyed by foreign companies, Yemeni laws give them a further advantage.

It is a sad situation in which the local companies face an unfair competition.

**Q: Why don't you do something about this?**

**A:** You think I make Yemeni laws. My duty and role ends by shedding light on the situation.



The most important news among those five is that Exxon is picking up 85% of the Sunoil Block One concession, and it will take over as operator.

Nimir's hopes for a major strike have been dashed, unfortunately, and they are now producing only 7,000 bpd from their Shabwah Block.

Occidental has drilled the five wells in its contract and did not strike it big. We hope additional study of the block will yield better results.

**Q: How many blocks are still up for grabs, and who is asking to come in?**

**A:** We have now twelve blocks that are available, and there are 24 companies that are interesting in coming in, as you say.

These are from a vast array of backgrounds. We hope some of the companies already with us, like CanadianOxy, will pick up an additional block. By the way, there is a second Indonesian

**Q: How much Yemenization has taken place in the oil sector, so far?**

**A:** There are two levels of Yemenization that we can talk about.

First, regarding the human-power that shoulders the responsibility of this sector, very little has been doing, although there is some progress. Most of the employment generated by the oil sector is at the level of manual workers or clerical staff. Most of the technical and decision-making staff is still foreign. The percentage of the payroll collected by Yemenis is insignificant.

Second, at the level of Yemeni companies joining in the business in this sector, again, we can talk of very little, although some companies did make in-roads. These are the service companies working catering, transportation, ware-housing and some construction work. Although the oil companies spend hundreds of millions in Yemen every year, this

**Q: What was all the fuss regarding the Saudi letters to oil companies?**

**A:** Everybody by now knows the story. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent letters, almost like threats, to oil companies working in Yemen. Honestly, I think it was nothing more than a scare tactic.

For all practical purposes, the letters were ignored.

**Q: But the Total camp was attacked?**

**A:** Yes, but it was the garrison of the guards, not the camp itself, that was attacked by certain tribes. It is true one of the helicopters was shot at. Again I can say it was part of a scare tactic.

**Q: How do you feel about the future and oil?**

**A:** I am optimistic and I have reason to be. I think the oil sector is going to be an important supporting factor in the country's development process. This is already a reality.

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**La "Garonne" à Hoddeidah**

Le bâtiment français de soutien mobile "Garonne" devrait accoster à 8h le 23 novembre dans le port d'Hoddeidah. Ce bâtiment est destiné à assurer le maintien en condition opérationnelle des forces navales françaises stationnées Outre-Mer, ou opérant loin de leur bases. La "Garonne" est un bâtiment atelier pour l'entretien et la réparation de tous types de navires de la Marine Nationale (coque, machine, armes, transmissions...).

**180 marins sur le navire**

Lancée en 1964, elle a été successivement affectée à Mururoa, aux Antilles-Guyane, en Nouvelle-Calédonie. Onzième navire français à porter le nom d'un fleuve hexagonal, la "Garonne" effectue très régulièrement des missions dans l'Océan Indien. L'équipage est composé de près de 180 marins et le navire fait 106 mètres de long. La "Garonne", dont le commandant est le capitaine de frégate Jean-Luc Rouzeau, devrait larguer les amarres dans la matinée du 27 novembre après cette escale de routine de quatre jours. Pendant le séjour du bâtiment français dans le port d'Hoddeidah, il sera possible de le visiter.

**CRISE**

**Vers l'apaisement**

*Le Président Saleh se dit prêt à discuter le programme de réformes du PSY. Cette attitude plus conciliante s'ajoute aux mesures gouvernementales destinées à désarmer la crise. Mais l'attentat manqué contre le fils aîné du Président n'est pas fait pour atténuer la tension politique.*

L'attentat auquel a échappé le fils aîné du vice-Président, Adnane Al-Bid, à Aden dimanche dernier tombe au mauvais moment, alors que la tension politique semblait décroître dans le pays. Adnane Al-Bid, directeur des investigations criminelles dans l'ancienne capitale du Sud, se trouvait à son domicile dans le quartier de Tawahi, lors d'une attaque menée à l'arme automatique par un groupe de Yéménites, qui ont été arrêtés. C'est le deuxième attentat perpétré contre des membres de la famille du vice-Président. Le 29 octobre, deux autres fils d'Ali Al-Bid, Nayef et Yanouf, avaient échappé à un attentat à Aden, qui avait coûté la vie au neveu du vice-Président.

**Conseil des ministres à Aden**

Pourtant les dirigeants yéménites jouaient depuis quelques jours la carte de l'apaisement. Le Président Saleh avait accompli un geste de bonne volonté en autorisant la tenue il y a plus d'une semaine d'un conseil des ministres à Aden. Il est vrai que dans l'accord d'unification, il était prévu que le conseil des

ministres se réunisse l'été à Sanaa et l'hiver à Aden. En fait, ce point n'avait jamais été mis en pratique. Lors de ce conseil des ministres exceptionnel à Aden, le gouvernement a annoncé une série d'initiatives de nature à désamorcer la crise. Le gouvernement s'est ainsi prononcé pour le "démantèlement" dans les principales zones urbaines "des arsenaux militaires non nécessaires" au maintien de la sécurité. Le gouvernement a chargé les ministres de la Défense et de l'Intérieur, Haïtham Kassem et Yahya Al-Moutawakil, de procéder, dans un délai de deux semaines, à un inventaire des équipements militaires en place dans les villes, notamment à Sanaa, pour procéder à leur redéploiement dans des zones moins sensibles. Le vice-Président considère que les armements et munitions sont entreposés en surnombre dans les villes du nord, ce qui représente à ses yeux un grave problème pour la sécurité et la stabilité du pays. Le gouvernement yéménite a également chargé le ministre de l'Intérieur de hâter les procédures visant à la comparution devant la justice des auteurs présumés d'attentats politiques qui ont visé plusieurs

cadres du PSY depuis l'unification. Le gouvernement a enfin annoncé la mise en place d'un comité ministériel pour favoriser l'ouverture d'un "dialogue sérieux", entre Ali Al-Bid et Ali Saleh.

**Les frères du Président**

Toutes ces mesures répondent en partie aux exigences du vice-Président. D'autre part, le Président Saleh s'est dit prêt à "discuter de tous les points" du programme de réforme d'Al-Bid. Cependant, la clé du problème est le pouvoir dévolu par les frères du Président Saleh au sein de l'armée de l'ancien Yémen du Nord. Quand Al-Attas affirme que certains des auteurs des attentats contre les cadres du PSY étaient "des militaires ou des éléments affiliés à l'armée", il visait directement l'entourage du Président.

Dans la crise, l'Israh joue profil bas, même si son chef de file, Cheikh Al-Ahmar, président du Parlement, a récemment rendu responsable le PSY de la crise politique. "Ce n'est pas à l'Israh de trouver une solution à une crise dont les racines remontent à l'unification. C'est au CPG et au PSY de se débrouiller", affirme Fares Al-Saqqaf, responsable de l'information du parti religieux dans une déclaration manuscrite. Il avait tout fait jusque-là pour éviter les questions, recon-

naissant finalement un certain malaise de son parti. Les mouvements d'opposition, notamment le FFP (Fédération des forces patriotiques dont le chef de file est Cheikh Sinan Abou Louhoum) proche des socialistes, affirment que l'Israh est à la botte du CPG et que ces deux partis ne font qu'un. La recomposition du paysage politique yéménite est sur les rails.

**J.B.**

**Etats-Unis-Yémen:**

Margaret Dean, chef de la division "Péninsule arabe" au département d'Etat américain, était la semaine dernière au Yémen, où elle a eu des entretiens avec plusieurs hommes politiques yéménites sur la crise que traverse actuellement le pays. Récemment, Washington avait exprimé son inquiétude face aux développements de la crise dans le pays. "Il doit y avoir une solution pacifique à tous les problèmes politiques par le dialogue entre les protagonistes", avait indiqué le porte-parole du département d'Etat Michael McCurry.

**Egypte-Yémen:**

Le ministre yéménite des Affaires étrangères, Mohamed Saleh Basindwa, s'est rendu au Caire la semaine dernière pour une visite de trois jours. Ses entretiens devaient porter sur les relations interarabes, la situation dans la Corne de l'Afrique et les efforts de paix au Proche-Orient.

**LIBYE**

**Bras de fer**

Les Occidentaux ont engagé un nouveau bras de fer avec la Libye, accusée de complicité dans deux attentats contre des avions civils. Ils lui ont donné jusqu'au 1er décembre pour répondre aux demandes des justes américaine, britannique et française avant l'imposition de nouvelles sanctions décidées par le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. Celui-ci exige que la Libye livre à la justice écossaise deux suspects libyens impliqués dans l'attentat contre un avion de la Pan Am qui avait fait 270 morts à Lockerbie, en Ecosse en 1988 et qu'elle coopère avec la justice française dans l'enquête sur l'explosion en vol d'un DC-10 d'UTA qui avait fait 170 morts en 1989 au-dessus du Niger.

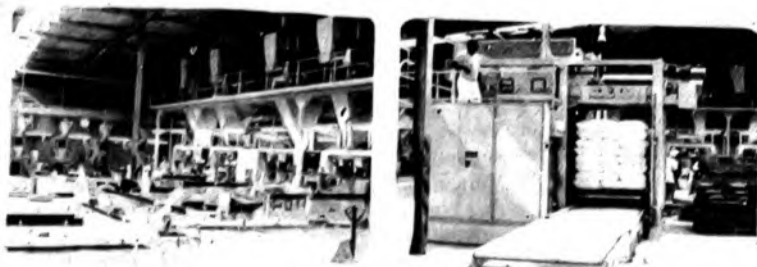
A moins que Tripoli, déjà soumis à un embargo militaire et aérien, ne se conforme d'ici là aux exigences de l'ONU, la résolution 833 prévoit à partir du 1er décembre le gel de certains avoirs libyens à l'étranger et un embargo sur les biens liés à l'industrie pétrolière. Le gel des avoirs ne concernera pas toutefois les fonds résultant de la vente de pétrole ou de produits agricoles par la Libye.

Cependant les trois pays occidentaux sont confrontés à une hostilité croissante de pays du Tiers Monde qui estiment que la Libye a fait des compromis et que son refus de faire extradier ses ressortissants est conforme à la pratique internationale.



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

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صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ تليفون: ٢٧٨٠ ماجيل بين فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨  
الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ماجيل بين فاكس: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ فاكس: ٧٤٥٦١ تليفون: ٧٤٥٦٩/٧٤٦١٠/٧٤٥٦٢ ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ ماجيل بين ص ب: ١٦٠

**ENVIRONNEMENT**

**Une mission de l'UNESCO à Socotra**

*Une équipe de Yéménites et de membres de l'UNESCO du Caire sont allés à Socotra au début du mois pour réfléchir au développement de l'île en respectant un environnement naturel exceptionnel.*

Emmenée par le Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, directeur d'EPC (Conseil pour la protection de l'environnement), une équipe du bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour les sciences et les technologies basé au Caire s'est rendu au début du mois de novembre dans l'île de Socotra. Ils étaient accompagnés par huit Yéménites. Leur séjour sur l'île a duré huit jours, puis ils sont allés deux jours à Aden, où ils ont rencontré des officiels yéménites. L'objet de leur visite était de réfléchir au développement futur de l'île en respectant l'environnement naturel de Socotra qui est exceptionnel. "Vous vous rendez compte, il y a 230 espèces de plantes spécifiques à Socotra", précise Pierre Monsarrat, consultant en écologie et en biotechnologie à l'UNESCO.

Ce voyage s'inscrit en effet dans le Programme sur l'homme et la biosphère (MAB) lancé en 1971 par l'UNESCO pour promouvoir les relations harmonieuses entre les populations et leur environnement dans le monde entier. Les réserves de la biosphère sont la clé de voûte de ce programme.



En raison des mauvaises conditions météorologiques, Socotra est isolée pendant plusieurs mois de l'année.

"elles constituent un réseau mondial de sites qui se prêtent au lancement de recherches menées en coopération", explique la brochure de l'UNESCO. En France, la Camargue et les Cévennes par exemple ont été déclarées réserves de biosphère.

"A Socotra, nous pensons qu'il vaut mieux créer des petits zones où la biodiversité sera préservée, car les terrains

appartiennent aux tribus", explique Govert Visser, expert en sciences environnementales à l'UNESCO. Pour l'instant, les habitants de Socotra, qui vivent dans une grande pauvreté, ne perturbent guère l'environnement, mais l'avenir sera peut-être différent. "L'idéal serait de créer un centre de recherche sur l'île", conclut le Dr. Ali d'EPC.



EXPEDITION SCIENTIFIQUE

# Ardoukoba mission les îles Hanish

Pendant près d'un mois, une mission scientifique franco-yéménite est allée étudier les fonds marins des îles Hanish, au large de Khawkha sur la mer Rouge. La mission, organisée par l'association française Ardoukoba, vient de se terminer. Les scientifiques vont repartir les sacs remplis d'échantillons qui seront analysés plus tard en laboratoire.

Paysage lunaire fait de roches volcaniques noires et de sable blanc corallien, la grande Hanish est loin d'être hospitalière. C'est dans cette île qui a reçu la visite il y a quelques dizaines d'années d'Henry de Monfreid, l'« écrivain-corsaire » (lire ci-dessous) que l'expédition scientifique Auracéa a planté ses tentes. Montée par l'association française Ardoukoba, cette expédition a été organisée en coopération avec l'université de Sanaa et le Centre des sciences marines d'Aden. Les six scientifiques français, venus du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle à Paris et de l'INSERM (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale), et les quatre scientifiques yéménites ont débarqué début novembre à bord de deux boutres de

pêcheurs loués pour l'occasion. L'objectif de l'expédition est d'étudier pendant trois semaines les fonds marins de cette île située à 45 kilomètres au large de Khawkha, petit port de pêche au bord de la mer Rouge.

## Tout a été apporté par bateau

Tout a été apporté par bateau, du groupe électrogène, aux bidons remplis d'eau potable. Une organisation assurée par Benoît, Sylvie et Nathalie, avec, pour la logistique, l'aide de Michel Percot, l'un des propriétaires de l'agence de tourisme BTA, et qui est un peu à l'origine de cette mission au Yémen. Régulièrement les boutres font la navette jusqu'à Khawkha pour ramener des produits frais. Le

petit port est à cinq heures et demie de bateau et la mer n'est pas toujours très bonne. Même si le matériel de plongée et les zodiacs ont été prêtés par les fabricants, la mission Auracéa s'est vite trouvée confrontée à un problème de budget, les tarifs réclamés relevant souvent du racket. La grande tente louée pour abriter le matériel scientifique a coûté 30 000 rials. Pourtant, déchirée à divers endroits, elle est quasiment inutilisable.

La mission a été financée grâce à deux sponsors, l'objectif de l'association Ardoukoba est en effet de trouver des entreprises mécènes pour financer des expéditions scientifiques. Daniel Jouvance, entreprise qui fabrique des cosmétiques à base d'algues,

soutient l'association depuis quelques années. Elle a participé au deux précédentes expéditions en Tunisie. La première avait eu lieu à Djibouti et c'est à un volcan de ce pays que l'association doit son nom. Pour l'expédition aux îles Hanish, Total a apporté son concours, ce qui a permis à Auracéa de respirer financièrement. 24h/24, l'équipe sur l'île est en contact radio avec la compagnie pétrolière à Sanaa.

## Les Yéménites apprennent à plonger

Les scientifiques yéménites apprennent à plonger avec des bouteilles. Alain, qui dirige la mission scientifique, Régis et Jean-Patrick, deux plongeurs français, sont là pour les aider, ainsi qu'un plongeur yéménite qui a appris en Arabie Saoudite Alain, médecin et moniteur de plongée, est également venu en renfort. "C'est la première fois pour nous et c'est très utile car cela nous permet de ramasser des échantillons", explique Mohammed Abdullah Saïd d'Aden. Dans une malle métallique, le Dr. Mohammed Abou Bakr de Sanaa a rangé quelques échantillons. Il en montre un: "Cela doit être un isopode, un type de crustacé, mais il faut que je vérifie en laboratoire". Tout le travail réalisé par l'expédition sera en double pour l'université de Sanaa.

Les tentes ont été alignées au fond de la plage de sable blanc, à la limite de la roche noire volcanique. Un chemin a été dégagé à travers la bande de sable couverte de débris de coraux. Dans la grande tente qui s'effondre à moitié, Philippe et Bernard regardent le produit de leur plongée de ce matin. Dans un seau bleu gisent des éponges de toutes les couleurs. Tous les deux travaillent à l'INSERM sur les produits naturels d'origine marine qui ont un intérêt dans la pharmacologie ou dans l'agrochimie. Leur recherche consiste en quelque sorte à trouver dans la mer des composés pour fabriquer de nouveaux médicaments.

## Des coraux blanchis

Bernard s'intéresse plus particulièrement aux invertébrés marins, notamment les ascidies. "Dans le milieu marin, les invertébrés arrivent à se défendre contre les prédateurs et les salissures marines. Ils ont des moyens de défense, mécanique, physique et chimique. Ce sont les substances chimiques qu'ils peuvent dégager qui m'intéressent. En laboratoire, j'étudie ensuite si ces substances sont actives, avec l'idée plus tard de fabriquer des antibiotiques ou des anti-tumoraux", explique-t-il. Actuellement Bernard travaille en laboratoire sur un composé tiré d'une ascidie récoltée en Guadeloupe.

Philippe, lui, s'intéresse plus particulièrement aux éponges. Il travaille avec Danielle. Ils viennent tous les deux de la station marine de l'INSERM à Villefranche-sur-Mer près de Nice. Danielle s'intéresse ici aux algues. Avec ses boîtes de Pétri, elle essaie de réaliser sur place des tests sur les algues et les éponges ramassées. "En découvrant que telle éponge est très



Un scientifique yéménite se prépare à plonger.

active, cela nous permet de ramasser beaucoup, au lieu d'attendre les tests en laboratoire en France", explique-t-elle. Danielle étudie aussi les toxines marines. Elle a ainsi découvert une soeur de la *caulerpa taxifolia*, cette algue verte d'origine tropicale qui a envahi la Méditerranée: "Celle-ci est toute petite et ressemble énormément à celle que l'on trouve en Méditerranée. Nous ferons des tests en laboratoire pour évaluer la quantité de toxines".

## Deux films ont été tournés

Mireille est la spécialiste du corail au sein de l'équipe. Elle est venue aux îles Hanish pour étudier les différentes espèces et leur richesse. Dans des bassines, le corail cerveau côtoie le corail de feu (il brûle si on le touche) et le corail champignon. Mireille a ramassé des coraux complètement blanchis, ce qui est un signe de dégradation. Les coraux sont en effet habités par des algues avec lesquelles ils vivent en symbiose et qui leur donnent une couleur verdâtre. Les algues leur fournissent l'énergie nécessaire à la croissance du squelette. Pour expli-

quer l'existence de ces coraux blanchis, Mireille pense à un type d'étoiles de mer qui les mange et peut faire des ravages.

Nicolas, quant à lui, est le spécialiste des poissons. Il n'a pas terminé ses études. L'objet de sa thèse est de créer une base de données permettant de classer les connaissances sur les poissons. Ici, aux îles Hanish, il peut tester ses prototypes de bases de données. Il ramène également une collection pour le Muséum d'Histoire naturelle. Fixés dans le formol puis dans l'alcool, ces poissons servent ensuite de référence. Alain, le directeur de la mission, est lui aussi du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle de Paris. Ses recherches sur les micro-algues ont un intérêt cosmétologique.

Cette première scientifique vient de se terminer. Pendant toute la mission, deux films ont été tournés. Le premier sur la vie de l'expédition sur l'île. Le deuxième est tourné par Claude Rives, spécialisé dans la production de films sous-marins. Ardoukoba pourrait bientôt revenir au Yémen, direction l'île de Socotra. Mais ce n'est encore qu'un projet.

Jérôme BERNARD



Le boutre de pêcheurs a permis d'apporter tout le matériel sur cette île désertique.

## "La grande île de fer et de lave"

Extrait d'"Aventures en mer Rouge" d'Henry de Monfreid

Henry de Monfreid (1879-1974), appelé l'« écrivain-corsaire », a quitté la France à 32 ans pour se lancer à l'aventure. Pendant de longues années, il va boulinguer en mer Rouge, du Yémen à Djibouti, en passant par l'Éthiopie et Aden. Nous publions un extrait de ses "Aventures en mer Rouge", où il raconte sa découverte de l'île de la Grande Hanish.

Cependant, la montagne Hanish grandit toujours; celle-là a bien vaincu la mer. Avant d'y parvenir, une arête volcanique s'étend comme une muraille. Ce sont des scories noires avec des cônes rougeâtres creusés en cratères. J'ai l'impression d'être sur une planète en formation à un âge où la vie n'était pas encore organisée. Sur la mer, pas une voile et sur la grande île de fer et de lave, rien qui révèle la présence d'un être vivant.

De grands fleuves de lave noire dévalent des hauteurs et s'étalent sur le sable blanc des plages étroites avant de plonger dans la mer. Ces plages blanches font un contraste inattendu sur ce fond noir et rouge sombre. On se demande d'où il peut venir. En l'examinant, on voit que c'est une poudre de madrépore: le ressac brise les coraux de la côte et rejette leurs débris triturés et brisés.

Nous tournons la pointe ouest de la grande île Hanish. Derrière ce rempart protecteur, nous trouvons une mer calme. Mais des paquets de vent d'une extraordinaire violence tombent des hauteurs qui nous surplombent; on les voit arriver enlevant à la surface une poussière d'eau. Il faut tout amener sous peine d'être démanté ou chaviré instantanément. Ces tourbillons dangereux m'obligent à m'éloigner un peu vers le large pour gagner notre mouil-

lage au centre de l'île. Quand je suis en face de la plage blanche qui en indique la place, je mets le cap dessus au plus près. Sous cette allure les risées tombant de la montagne sont moins dangereuses, car on a le temps de faire tête au vent. On risque de déchirer sa voilure, tout au plus.

Nous devons porter une ancre à terre, tant les fonds tombent rapidement; à dix mètres de terre il y a déjà plus de 50 mètres de profondeur puis ce sont des abîmes noirs où l'on n'a pas sonde. La mer est là très calme, un léger ressac vient mourir sur le sable à longs intervalles. Mais deux ou trois fois par minute, une trombe de vent s'abat dans la baie, elle passe en quelques secondes; il semble que le mât va plier sous le choc et un sifflement emplit l'air. Puis, brusquement, calme absolu.

Je suis tout pénétré du décor fantastique qui se dresse devant moi, dominé que je suis par un énorme cône de plusieurs centaines de mètres, entouré de champs de scories hérissés de pointes irrégulières. Des veines de sable blanc tranchent sur toute cette noirceur; ce sont des torrents creusés par les pluies, où le sable de corail, emporté par le vent jusque sur les hauteurs, a été ramené par l'eau des rares pluies. On aperçoit quelques palmiers aux formes étranges dressant leurs bras ramifiés au milieu de cette solitude.

Continuellement le vent, dont nous sommes abrités, vibre sur les hauteurs en passant sur ce chaos. Il en résulte une sorte de ronflement imprécis entremêlé de sifflements étouffés. C'est bien la musique la plus terrifiante qu'on puisse imaginer pour ce décor infernal. Quelques rares nuages, déchirés aux sommets des volcans éteints, repartent en lambeaux emportés vers le nord.



## BOOMING BUSINESS IN BULLETPROOF LIMOUSINES

Bulldozers from Germany are in demand all over the world, as sales are no longer confined to pop stars and presidents.

Captains of industry and customers in Eastern Europe and the Middle East are queuing up to buy cars with reinforced steel doors and bulletproof glass at a time when ethnic unrest, political instability, religious dissent, and violent crime are on the rise.

"Buying an armored limousine is the same thing as signing up for life insurance. It is not something one likes doing, but it is just in case something happens," says Rainmer Haberland, head of sales at Trasco in Bremen.

The coachbuilding company began making bulletproof cars in 1986, after customers demanded them. Around 40% of the 250 vehicles produced every year which leave the Trasco works have special security features.

The trend is an upward one and the highly mechanized firm plans to boost its workforce from the present 120 employees to around 300 by the mid 1990s.

"It was an illusion to imagine that the collapse of the Iron Curtain would lead to peace on earth," says Haberland. On the contrary, national tensions have increased and crime has exploded, boosting demand for fortresses on four wheels.

Burkhard Seppelt, managing director of H+S vehicle assembly in Lehrte near Hanover confirms the trend. "During the Gulf Crisis, we couldn't build cars fast enough to satisfy demand," he said.

Seppelt, in the security business for the last 18 years, sees the trade as a seismograph of tension worldwide. "If a boss is assassinated, we could have 15 cars standing in the yard and they would all be sold straight away."

An important sales argument is not only the quality of the steel or the thickness of the armored glass, but often the delivery time of a particular model. If a person believes to be on a target list, or that he (she?) is on a new police list of people estimated to be in particular danger, he or she wants an armored limousine fast.

"Wickedly quick delivery time is our best weapon for clinching sales," explains Haberland of Trasco. There are often lengthy waiting lists for bulletproof vehicles offered by the regular car industry. "During a seven-month delivery period, a person on the danger list can be dead six times over."

The security business is discreet. Special mountings for bulletproof glass and panes treated in such a way that even infrared gunsights cannot reveal who is behind them are among the industry's best kept secrets. The identity of the customer is equally confidential.

The owner of an armored limousine does not want the world to know he/she is afraid. "When people ask who is on our books, we can only cite Pope John Paul II as one of our customers," said Seppelt. The pontiff serves as a good testimonial since he is neutral and has survived several attacks on his armored cars.

Bremen-based Trasco boasts it built the vehicle used by the Pope on his trip to Poland. The car is now used by Polish President Lech Walesa.

The Yemeni president also has quite a few of these cars. On one occasion, a Yemen Times reporter counted 228 armored vehicles in the presidential caravan of cars.

An indication that the security needs of customers are not exaggerated is the fact that new panes or armored glass are among the most frequently ordered spare parts.

Customers can choose between five different types of models. The very cautious customers can choose a limousine with chunky steel plates and bulletproof glass more than four centimeters thick. A shield in the roof can withstand the force of two grenades exploding while hard plastic wheels ensure that the car can still travel on 50 km. even if the tyres have been shot to pieces.

The standard chassis and braking system must be redesigned since the average beefed-up limousine weighs around a ton more than its vulnerable equivalent.

Shooting ranges and exercise areas of the German Bundeswehr armed forces are used for field trials to ensure the armored limousines live up to their specifications.

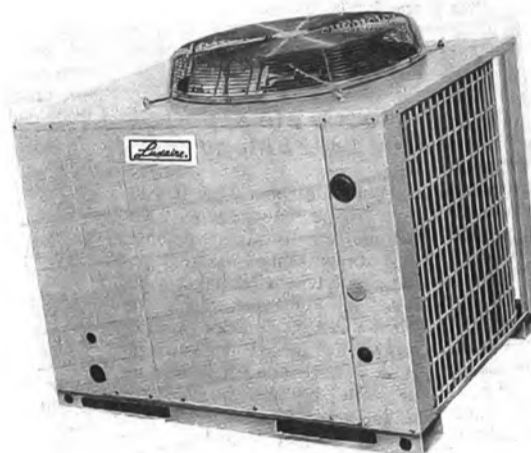
The manufacturers offer driving courses to the drivers of the customers so that they can learn to cope with the demands of steering the heavy limousines.

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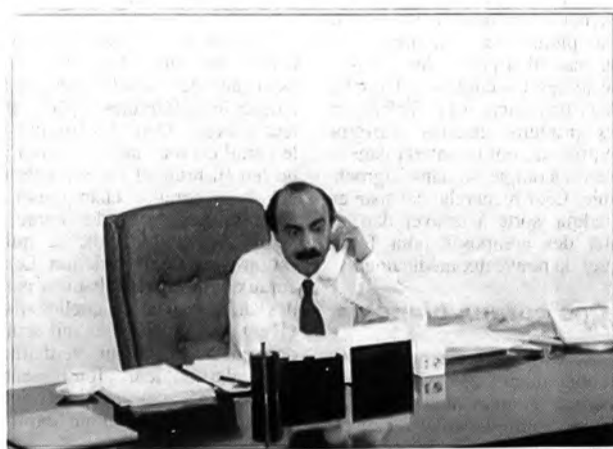
## Establishment of the General Gas Corporation

Yes, the decree establishing the General Gas Corporation (GGC) has been fully signed on the 15th of November, although it has yet to be publicized. This step comes within the drive of the government to expedite the exploitation of the country's gas reserves, now estimated at 20 trillion cubic feet.

"I would like to make one correction to your story of last week," said Mohammed A. Almadani, GGC General Manager. The letter of intent between Enron Europe Limited and ourselves was not signed two weeks back, but it was signed on November 11th."

Mr. Almadani explained that there has been extensive debate over the strategy to follow regarding exploitation of the gas. "Should we tap the resource in order to help in the development of the country, or should we leave it alone as an option for the next generation? Finally we decided that we can start with the exploitation and the project's revenues will extend into the next generation," he said.

The GGC is now working on a comprehensive master plan for the development and exploitation of the Marib-Shabwah gas reserve. "We are working on a full-fledged study to intelligently decide on the optimal course of



action. We are negotiating the details of the project with Enron. If we agree, we will conclude a deal next year (1994)," he pointed out. The investments will then be carried out during the 1995-99 period. First export is planned for 1999.

"The pipeline carrying the gas will go south - into Aden. We also plan another pipeline that comes into Sanaa to feed domestic users. This domestic consumption gas-pipe will, at a later stage, proceed to Hodeidah, and still later, to Taiz - all three being major consumption points."

Talk with CCC about these pipelines are under way, and it is very likely that CCC will pick up the job. Yemen's experience with

CCC has been excellent.

The GGC has taken an option on building the transport vessel, but it will not order one. "We are going to start our export on a fob (free on board) Aden basis. At a later stage we could shift to cif (cost, insurance, freight), if we discover that as a better option."

The GGC, in coordination with Enron, is contracting out three independent studies - the first studies the financing options, the second studies technical engineering aspects and the third marketing potential. By mid-1994, all these should be available in order for the GGC to enter into a contractual arrangement with whom the Yemeni government chooses.



# Partners :Media & Relief Agencies

Despite concern about the images of the helpless and starving continually projected in the western media, the efforts of the media are still required to raise badly-needed money and awareness for humanitarian relief and assistance.

A new book, *Disaster, Relief and the Media* by Jonathan Benthall, director of Britain's Royal Anthropological Institute, editor of *Anthropology Today* and an adviser to the Save the Children Fund, examines the relationship between the media and problems in the developing world.

On television, the story of disaster in a distant place - often a small and wretched Third World country - is like a folk tale. It has a villain, though misfortune can play this part if there is no obviously malign human.

It has a donor who provides food, medicine or other magical agent to overcome the disaster. And finally, it has a price to reward the hero when a happy ending is achieved.

An Indian peasant once remarked that the drought

from which he was suffering "may be too big a problem for God, but maybe Oxfam can do something about it."

This analysis of disaster-as-folk-tale is the most striking feature of the book. One important point it makes is that a disaster has to be on television if an emergency aid agency is to raise money to fight it. Most agencies need media coverage to touch the heads and pockets of the public, and to help influence governments.

Perceived humanitarian needs are increasing. More countries, including Eastern Europe, are open to journalists and relief agencies.

Paul-Henri Morard, of the International Red Cross, says he cannot understand why the media report one disaster rather than another. In 1991, he tried in vain to stir interest in 350,000 exhausted Ethiopian soldiers walking to Addis Ababa, as poignant a retreat as Napoleon's from Moscow.

Another important point is that the image of resourceful white men rushing to the aid of needy black men is not one that relief agencies wish

to project. That shy away from that message, but that is the way it comes out.

Contrary to popular perception in Europe, most people in Asia and Africa cope well with their problems, at least in peacetime. Peter Adamson, who writes UN Children's fund (Unicef) reports, commonly speaks to 16 and 17 year-olds in British schools. He asks them what percentage of the world's children are visibly malnourished. The usual answer given to him ranges between 50 and 72%, whereas the true answer ranges between 1 and 2%.

Benthall, however, also recognizes the danger of presenting too re-assuring a picture of Africa at a time when it faces devastating problems, including Aids. He sees television, with its strong hold on its audience from childhood, as having a unique ability to tell people about other countries. The number of stories in a TV news bulletin may be few, but not all are dictated by the day's event, he argues. Some are optional and TV editors could be persuaded

to include Africa coverage among the options.

Benthall points out that George Alagiah, of BBC, is able to draw attention to Third World emergencies by translating them into language of the scoop.

Concerning the media outside Britain, he quotes the argument of Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen in their book, *The Political Economy of Hunger*, that the free press in India helps prevent famine by making it too politically expensive for the government not to act in time.

In the same book, however, the Madras-based journalist Narasimhan Ram argues that Indian journalism is so prone to sensationalism and dilettantism that, while quite successful in preventing open starvation, it is less competent in supplying the sustained analysis necessary to understand and ease deprivation.

Benthall describes how British, French and Swiss journalists publicized the plight of besieged Biafra in the Nigerian civil war.

A photographer, Romano

Cagnoni, documented every aspect from the worst atrocities to the populations's achievement in maintaining civilized life. In Britain, a *Daily Express* journalist was first with photographs of starving Biafran children, but his editor spiked them thinking the public would not be interested. The only trump card of the Biafran leaders was the martyrdom of their people. Typical image were of small, skeletal children holding up wasted hands for help.

The Biafra war led a French doctor, Bernard Kouchner, to found one of the most media-conscious agencies, Medecins Sans Frontieres (doctors without borders), which aimed to be even free of national boundaries.

Kouchner endorses la loi du tapage (the law of hype), seeing journalists and humanitarians as locked in partnership. He says it is necessary to popularize misfortunes. He sees the international intervention in Iraq to save the Kurds after the Gulf War as probably the first time that information saved people.

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# ETHNIC CONFLICT: THE NEW DANGER

Why are ethnic conflicts multiplying? And what can we do to contain them?

But what are ethnic groups: clans and sub-clans, tribes, linguistic, cultural, or religious groups? Some are called "nationalities". Some are called simply "minorities". Any of these words may be used to speak of ethnicity.

Such groups may, or may not, be territorial based. In many cases they are spread across the borders of one or more states. In other cases they are scattered among many different states, or regions, or around the world as a whole.

Every ethnic group has its elders, its wise leaders and its negotiators. Every group also has its advocates of violence. In the latter part of this century, we have seen the results in places as far apart as former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Burundi, Georgia. Ethnic groups are usually studied as oppressed minorities. Increasingly, they are seen as sources of social disintegration, violence and terror.

It has often been pointed out that we live in an age of warfare. There have been more wars in this century more than in the 18th and 19th centuries combined.

In the 40 years before the Second World War, 88 wars were recorded. Since the end of that world conflict, 127 wars have taken place. Most of the 127 have involved ethnic conflict. Most led to some form of cold war intervention.

Why have there been so many of these conflicts?

It is because, fundamentally, the international state system has not performed in a satisfactory way on three key issues: equity, legitimacy and identity.

The gap between the rich and poor parts of the world has not been effectively closed. As a result, populations migrate to escape poverty and oppression. When strange groups suddenly confront each other, there is little time to build trust. The tensions created often lead to violence.

When a state fails to satisfy an ethnic group's need for political legitimacy, and respect for its human rights, violence often is regarded as the only way out. Faced with globalization and alienation, individuals withdraw to their familiar ethnic world. There they find identity and psychological comfort. But there they also may come to resent, resist, or rebel against the outside world which seems so impersonal and complex.

The cold war held down these tendencies toward ethnic upheaval. Each super-power applied pressure, to keep populations under their influence from erupting in violence. And each super-power made it clear to the other that a change in the status quo could escalate into a nuclear confrontation.

The cold war is over. Today we look at a different landscape. Ethnic conflict now generates new and vicious

forms of violence. Appalling barbarity, cruelty, human rights violations and crimes of war have taken place.

What is the United Nations to do? When the UN was founded, the world accepted the principle of non-intervention in "civil war" - and any conflict within the borders of a state could be considered as civil war.

Today, we face a new question: is ethnic conflict a threat to international peace and security?

The United Nations and its member states face serious contradictions:

- The foundation-stone of international security has been the state. Respect for its sovereignty and integrity are crucial to common progress. Yet, when states are devastated by ethnic or other internal strife, how can outsiders step in without derogating the sovereignty of the state they hope to save?

- Now that the global ideological contest is over, what interest do powerful states have in the wars of the weak? States frequently make their choices on grounds of national interest. But how, short of direct foreign threat, can leaders convince their people of the need to take action?

- And the revival of the United Nations has brought us face-to-face with a factor only dimly perceived before: that the state may feel itself in rivalry with multi-lateralism. So soon after an age when powerful states acted much as they wished, the very fact of cooperation may seem a limitation on their freedom of action.

All ethnic conflict is deplorable, but not all ethnic conflict threatens world peace. The United Nations cannot and should not try to solve every such problem.

But ethnic conflict can cause a body politic to fail. It can cause a state to collapse.

When ethnic conflict erupts, should the world organization of states be concerned? What should the United Nations do? I see four categories for action: education, economics, human rights, military.

There is the role of education. The UN can help states understand that diverse cultural patterns require recognition. This in turn, requires a willingness to negotiate with and among such groups. Negotiations take time. They also require a long-term view of the future through education, information and diplomacy. The UN can encourage the simple virtue of patience.

And the UN supports non-governmental organizations which give expression to the variety of groups around the world. There were 200 NGOs at the start of this century. There are over 18,000 today. They link groups to governments and peoples to peoples around the world. They are a powerful new force for education, co-operation and conflict prevention.

The United Nations also has a vital economic role. Devel-

opment in all its aspects may be the most pressing item on world agenda. The human dimension of development is crucial. We must never neglect it, yet we must also recognize that it can only be achieved through sound economic practice.

In this era of ethnic revival, we must ensure that marginal populations are not overlooked in the progress of a state toward development. The UN must be on the side of the underdog. As an inter-governmental organization, the UN cannot impose its views on member states, but must use persuasion, consensus-building and collective action. To be lasting and effective, such effort must be comprehensive.

And in the wake of conflict, the United Nations has a role in peace-building. It can identify and support measures to build confidence and common interest among parties to a conflict.

Education and economic actions are long-term measures. The United Nations can also take more immediate action to deal with ethnic conflict.

Human rights are essential. Before conflict breaks out, an effecting human rights environment, backed by international support, can ease tension and forestall violence.

When conflict has broken out, urgent steps to provide human rights for oppressed populations must be part of any comprehensive effort to restore stability. And when conflict has been halted, strong measures are needed to call to account those who have systematically deprived others of human rights.

Such an effort is critical to building a solid foundation for peace in the future.

Finally, the United Nations, under the Charter, has an inescapable military role. Meeting the new challenge of ethnic conflict will require the full range of techniques.

These include:

- Peace-Keeping as it has been created over recent decades: when a ceasefire has been agreed and parties to a conflict desire a UN presence.

- Preventive deployment, not only to discourage cross-border hostilities, but also in situations of crisis within a country. Such action could alleviate suffering, maintain security, and create conditions in which negotiations can take place.

- Observers to deter violence, build confidence and monitor agreed arrangements between groups.

- And peace enforcement operations. If peaceful efforts fail, the concept of collective security contained in the charter calls for military action to maintain or restore international peace and security. But when such actions are taken, member states must be aware of the dangers involved. And they should be prepared to stand up to the consequences and to stay the course.

During the cold war, when the entire world's future

seemed at stake, any event in any part of the world was considered worthy of super-power actions. The public was ready, or could be persuaded to pay the price financial and military for global security.

With the end of the cold war, that readiness has drastically declined among both peoples and their leaders.

Ethnic conflict poses as great a danger to common world security as did the cold war. The character of the challenge and the time frame involved are not the same but the treat to security is no less real. No country today, and particularly multi-ethnic countries, can afford to ignore ethnic conflict.

The state, for all its flaws and excesses, is the foundation-stone of international order. The United Nations is the creation and instrument of its member states.

If failed states are not the concern of those who would be leaders in world affairs, then over time the entire fabric of international society could weaken. No one act will be enough to tear it apart. But over time the foundation of the only global structure we have could be damaged beyond repair.

We must not be deterred by failure. But neither should we accept it as permanent. Most important for the future, we must understand

the values, the ideals and the institutions which have been passed down to us.

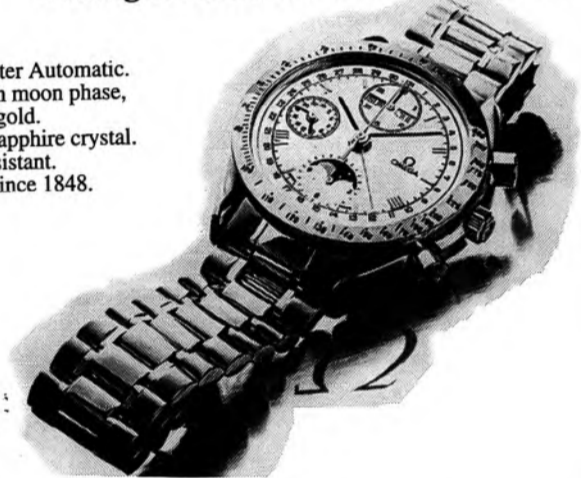
Ethnic conflict is a new reality. It is a new form of danger for the world community. It is only one of a range of new global issues which we cannot afford to ignore.

The United Nations is an indispensable mechanism for achieving a more stable, secure and successful world. It will serve humanity well if we use it well. I am convinced that we can and we will work together.

The above is the edited text of Boutros-Ghali's speech at a Washington seminar recently.

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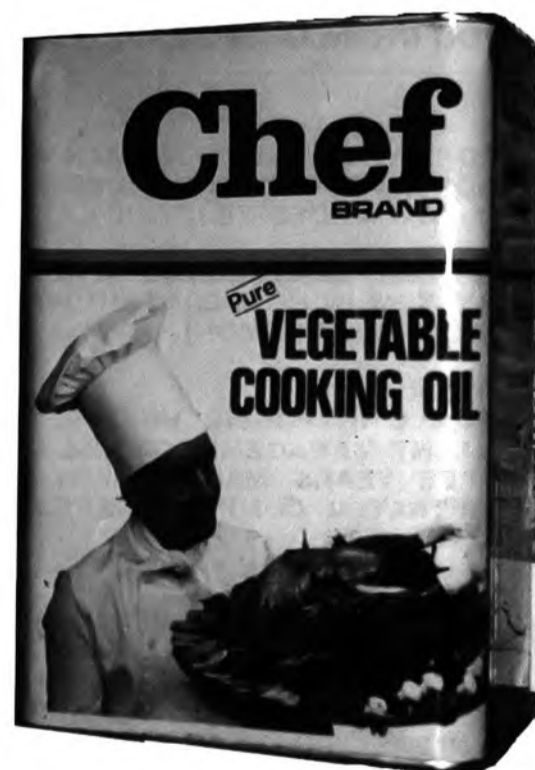
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# THE CURSE: ARAB INTELLECTUALS FIGHT AGAINST THE BLACKMAIL OF POLITICIZED RELIGION

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



Ten top Algerian writers and journalists were brutally killed in the course of this year, in what looks like the second phase of war initiated by fundamentalists against progressive thought in that violence-torn spot of Arab north Africa.

One of would-be-assassinated figures was chosen to fight back trying to prove that the pen can stand up for what it believes in. In today's Algeria, machine guns and night daggers turned to be the major dialogue tool in the hands of those (religious Muslim groups) who claim to have the authority to kill in the name of Allah and on his behalf.

Rashid Maimoni, 48, Economics Professor, announced there would be confrontation following the long silence and voluntary self-exile when he first issued his 1992 explosive book "Barbarism in General, Fundamatalism in Particular." The six thousand copies were sold-out almost instantly, despite the reluctance of many Algerian bookshops to exhibit the book out of fear of retaliation by "those" groups.

In presenting the book, Maimoni said he "wanted to show the people how a fundamentalist state would look like, and that he has a message to deliver to the Algerian people."

This year, Maimoni fires his second bullet. This time through his new novel "The Curse," published three months ago and achieved considerable circulation and generated substantial revenue in addition to the controversy and debate it created among intellectuals and observers.

"The Curse" is a real story, based on the capture of the Mustafa Hospital in Algiers by hard-line fundamentalists. That was during the general strike of June 1991.

During the occupation that lasted three days, the occupants prohibited the entry of male doctors and assistants into the female ward. The hardliners also wanted to lay their hands on the files.

Qadir, the hero of the story, manages to smuggle out the files to a safe place, aided by a veteran of the liberation war. Qadir is eventually caught and executed by his own brother, Hussein, who turned to fundamentalism after being expelled from his government job. Hussein believes that Qadir has an affair with his wife, because he saw his brother "talking" to his wife twice. Thus the writer identifies social and sexual frustrations among the reasons for the growth of terrorism, in addition to poverty.

The leader of the group that occupied the hospital is Al Mussaali, a driver of an ambulance car whose performance was poorly rated by the hospital in view of his negligence and disturbed personality. Another main character in

the novel is Nasser, a Trotskyian who turns to religious fundamentalism in his desperate search for a constant ideology to follow. He discovers that his martyred father was not killed by French occupation forces as he was told and as was publically announced, but rather was executed by one of his comrades in the resistance and who belonged to the Si Mursi religious chapter. This revelation became major ideological frustration. Maimoni insists that his characters are not imaginary nor cartoon-styled, they are real people. He thinks that fundamentalism, of whatever color, exhausts the human soul and enslaves its followers by brain-washing them and turning them into fascist radicals who pursue a destructive role in society. Government is not innocent in Maimoni's view, as the Soviet-style regime built in Algeria after liberation played a major role in creating the reactionary movement of armed violence based on fundamentalism. He is desperately crying for the people to see how so inhuman the fundamentalists are when they justify burning schools and ambulance cars under vague banners and slogan. He gives a list of telling, though, bloody examples of the "inhuman" actions of the so-called religious people. One such example is the slaughtering of the famous writer, Mohammed Bu Khuzba, in front of his own daughter. The West - that obscure factor in the whole tragedy - is totally silent regarding the systematic liquidation of distinguished writers who are killed. Economic interests can make Western governments turn a blind eye to any atrocity.

Maimoni compares this silence and neglect to that big campaign initiated by the Western media regarding Salman Rushdie who became a living martyr while the elite Algerian authors are slaughtered in cold blood. No one came to their rescue, and no one even pointed to the calamity. Accumulated mistakes of the government is an additional reasons behind the emergence of radical and violent fundamentalism, according to Maimoni. The book is a cry to all active intellectual forces to save the day before it is too late. We can distinguish between four groups of intellectuals in terms of their interaction with politicized religion, or religious parties.

The first group of Arab writers decided to stand up defiantly in opposition to the blackmail and intimidation of power-hungry groups cloaked in religious disguise. They increasingly have become the target of attacks by religious political parties. The second group has chosen the easy way out. Many writers and authors have decided to ride the tide by trying to convince the "religious terrorists" that they are no less believers. They do not actively support the fundamentalists, but they give them lip-service.

A still third group chose to do nothing. This group is composed of those who are sitting on the fence, waiting to see in favor of which side the wind blows in order to take their position.

Finally, the fourth group shamefully took the side of the dagger justifying those acts under various pretexts. This group of opportunists found it in their best (selfish) interests to go along with religious dogma that serves as a base for political power.

The scenario repeats itself in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and now, Yemen.

Politicized religious fundamentalism is losing ground as it is running out of steam. Pakistan is an example, where people have rejected the oversimplification of religious mullahs.

But the real devastation of Islamic politics was in Afghanistan. Many sides joined hands to fight the so-called "jihad" in the name of Islam. Today, those same power-hungry factions are pitted against each other. Afganistan is an example of what agony such religion-based dogma can bring. In Egypt, fundamentalists have started calling for dialogue after so much loss to the country. In Yemen, the Islah has already joined the system and it has begun reaping the benefits. Just last week, it formally collected YR 10 million as contribution from the state budget to the party.

Our people are used to living under different regimes and are now trying to digest the new wave of bearded and turbanned officials.

Many intellectuals - along with singers, actors, artists, painters, etc. - and all other creative individuals can expect trouble if the people raising the banners of religious dogma in order to reach power are able to do so. Our mission is to build a modern nation. But how can that be built?

We all know it takes the right system with the right combination of values to build a modern state. Scientific research and objective attitudes are an integral part of this process - neither of which are held in esteem by the religious circles. A certain degree of truthfulness and decency are necessary - again not strong points with the fundamentalists.

From Algeria's case, the lessons are clear - it is vital that we take a stand before the swordsmen cuts off our heads.



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# THE TRANSITION TO DEATH

The following is a letter written by Professor James Sweid Nestby, a former teacher at Sanaa University's English Department, to one of his Yemeni friends and former student.

I was nearing that point in life, ironically, when I would quit teaching and return to my farm, Timbertop Ponds. Just two days before the discovery of the tumor, I had accumulated the cash to make an offer on the last of my farm mortgages. I had been looking forward to dream of retiring to Timbertop Ponds in the next year or two to fish, raise trees, research, write, publish, and during the winters, to traverse more of the world. That cash, however went to pay for my hospitalization in Taipei.

Up until that point, Taiwan was working out marvelously. I was appointed as a regular faculty member at the rank of full professor, starting this fall of 1992. Such ironies abound in regard to may being struck down by cancer at this point in life. I would like to say that recent test show that the radiation treatments have diminished the troublesome flap. That is a double-edged sword, of course, since both tumor and radiation are killing my heart.

I lost control of my life three months ago. I will not regain it, this control over my life, because cancer has me.

Called "malignant pericardial mesothelioma," a cancerous tumor has invaded my heart and lungs. Since this cancer is incurable and, therefore, terminal, my death

will occur soon, perhaps within weeks and almost certainly within months.

No one knows where or when my cancer started. Looking back, symptoms most obviously manifested themselves during January 1991 for a week or so with severe, crushing chest pains. The Adventist Hospital in Taipei diagnosed these as "nonspecific chest pains," subsiding for a year, in January 1992 these pains recurred in my chest. Additional symptoms manifested themselves as well, such as blood in my sputum, a shortness of breaths, and an inability to sleep in any position other than my back.

Numerous trips over several months to the Adventist Hospital in Taipei nonetheless produced test results showing everything was okay with my health. Even the results of an excruciating bronchoscopy with a biopsy came out okay though as cancerous tumor was clearly present (in retrospect) in the lungs. Earlier, in January 1991, an E.K.G. at at Adventist Hospital revealed a normal heart though cancer was clearly present (in retrospect) in my heart.

Only in mid-May 1992, while undergoing an echocardiogram, was the tumor on my heart discovered. It was tentatively identified as "benign atrial myxoma." That is the most common type of heart tumor, and the easiest to remove surgically. While upset when confronted with cancer, I was encouraged by the initial prognosis that nearly everyone survives removal of such a tumor. The Adventist Hospital immediately referred me to

the much larger and more modern National Taiwan University Hospital where I was interred for the last four weeks of the spring semester. The university hospital agenda included countless tests and two operations. The Second operation, an open-heart biopsy, revealed that far from being the benign tumor originally diagnosed, mine was a malignant and very rare tumorous cancer in an advanced stage of development. A further complication involved the growth of a "flap" from the tumor which covered the right atrium, blocking my heart's intake of blood. This inhibited circulation and produced an irregular heartbeat that did not fit any of the standard medical classifications. The new heart-sound was honorifically dubbed "The Nestby Plop."

At this point, I returned to America for further treatment. My mother Eleanor brought me home from China and is providing a comfortable room in her home for the remainder of my life. My siblings - Gloria, Roger, and Susan - provide ideal family support and care. Certainly I am lucky to have such a safe haven when so many others suffering similar disabilities are left entirely to the mercy of the state or, as impersonal, to the ravages of Nature.

Perhaps the most discouraging point in this experience was when I learned that a heart and lung transplant would not be possible for cancer such as mine. This was accompanied by the conclusion that debulking - surgically removing the tumor was impossible since the

cancer was too far advanced. These admissions confirmed in concrete that there is no known cure for this cancer of mine. The best that can be offered medically is palliative treatment, an attempt to prolong my life and enhance the quality of my remaining months. So, while seeking physical relief. I am inquisitively preparing for the least exalted, in our culture, one-time-only adventure life offers: the transition to death. Every other week this summer has thus been spent in hospital for combination radiation and chemotherapy treatments. Treatments are administered at Lutheran General Hospital in Chicago. Apparently, mesothelioma is found only in a few hundred people each year in the United States. In nearly eighty per cent of the cases, mesothelioma is linked to asbestos exposure.

I am among that odd twenty percent with no known cause. A further oddity is that the number of cases like mine which originate in the heart and lungs is only a dozen or two per year. With such small numbers, there has been relatively scanty research conducted. Though pioneering research has enhanced knowledge about mesothelioma, it has produced neither a cure nor a program of palliation to keep the average patient alive more than a few months.

The programs of treatment I am undergoing is a joint effort on the part of the University of Chicago Hospitals and Lutheran General Hospital. The two oncologists with whom I am associated at Lutheran General

Hospital Drs. Brian Samuels and Jacob Bitran, are both on the faculty at the University of Chicago. My other medical doctors at Lutheran include Paul Schabinger, radiologist, Leslie Brookfield, cardiologist, and John Tomkovik, resident.

I recall with satisfaction the day this team of mine started fighting back against my uninvited intruder! It was Tuesday, 30 June 1992. Dr. Samuels started the chemotherapy with 5-FU (fluorouracil), hydroxyurea, and carboplatin, and Dr. Schabinger began the twice daily radiation of the heart and lungs which occurred for five days every other week throughout the summer.

The immediate problem remains the "flap" it is dangerous, the most life-threatening symptom. A stoppage of the blood flow between heart and lungs pulmonary embolism may result if the flap disintegrates or breaks off and enter the blood stream. The radiation treatments, therefore, are attempt to shrink the flap and inhibit the growth of the tumor.

One hundred per cent of mesothelioma cases are fatal. Not an encouraging statistic, this. Nor is the statistic that a mere one in five patients so much as experience a reaction to the administration of chemotherapy such as I am receiving. And if it does occur, the only known reaction is palliative.

The best that can be hoped for is that when chemotherapy and radiation treatments are effective, the median survival time reaches approximately ten months, fifteen if the cancer is caught early enough to be operable.

My cancer was already advanced when belatedly diagnosed. Even my complete physical examination in March 1991 at Carle Clinic in Champaign, Illinois, showed no signs of this cancer. Surgery, therefore, was never an option.

Should I be among the fortunate one in five on whom the chemotherapy has an affect (it is still too early to tell whether or not this is happening), and should I also be a "median" case, I deduce that I might therefore have another six months to live, Maximum, given to deduction than am I. The hesitancy of our physicians to tell the truth as they see it is probably largely due to the throat-cutting legalism in which, in general, the system of American health non-care levels.

Strange, perhaps, but I cannot shake the mindset that my body is too healthy to have cancer! I am still a strapping 6' 2" though recently a trimmer 210 pounds. I travelled Mainland China and Southeast Asia extensively during the summer of 1991 and unrelated to any excuse that I had cancer was wolloped repeatedly in ping pong. Sure, I know two of my three hospital roommates this summer passed away, also afflicted with cancer, and that the third is confined to bed.

But me, I am lucky. I remain healthy enough, momentarily no doubt, to have terminal cancer and still be active so long as I do not accentuate or strain myself. The recent surgical incision of a nodule in my left shoulder

Continues Next Page

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Continued from preceding page:

has lessened the number of times I am subjected to intravenous (I.V) needless injected into my forearms. More importantly, the norport grants me mobility. I simply carry around a clever invention called an infuser; it is the size of a stick of dynamite with a three-foot fuse on it. Outwardly, except for the hobbling and the swelling that comes and goes with bouts of gout and retention of fluids, my physical defects are difficult to spot.

Most of my symptoms, as well as the chemotherapy and radiation side effect, are internal. Thankfully, many of these problems have been alleviated, at least in part by medications. For the curious, these problems include chronic shortness of breath, swelling from the feet through the abdomen, knotty spleen and distended liver, blood in the sputum, lesions on the lungs, pains in arms and shoulder, cramps in arms and legs, constrictions in the chest, jolts from the flap covering or entering the heart valve, burning trachea and heartburn, coughing from nagging congestion, night sweats, nosebleeds, nausea and gout. Contrary to physical appearances, my limitations are extreme: to bathe or walk up a flight of stairs is usually a painful exertion.

Another symptom is that the right side of my heart is double its normal size. Now and again, people have graciously mentioned that I have a big heart, but I doubt they meant so literally. Strange, but when young I used to say that, if I lived long enough to die a natural death, death would be because of my heart. "You have a weak heart?" was the usual response. "No," I would say, "but it will be my heart that kills me." How I knew that I have no idea.

It should be no surprise that earlier in the summer I endured a period of depression. Even horses live longer, I whined. My anger and despair, my thumping and railing, lasted several weeks. I kicked at inanimate objects and screamed at humanity: I shook my fist at nature and quarrelled with an unresponsive God.

Thoreau on his deathbed, it is rumored, responded to "Have you made peace with God?" by saying that he did not realize that they had ever quarrelled. I have quarrelled with God and to no avail except to fulfill my need to try every hopeful avenue to a longer future in this life.

Just beyond the present moment, after all, forever takes over from this grand detour called life. Though I remain convinced a Creator should damn well exist, our Creator is surely impersonal.

To be sure, I also ponder organized spiritual and religious alternatives ranging from Catholic blessings to Christian Science. Friends offer traditional Chinese medicine as well as miracle cures such as the bark of the yew tree.

The two extreme alternatives, of course, are to do nothing and die an agonizing death within weeks, or to commit suicide and die a quick death within minutes.

None of these alternatives satisfies me. I have by default, therefore, opted for reliance on the medical science of our era to extend this life for a brief period. Mine is now a regimen of x-rays, echocardiograms, E.K.G.'s, M.R.I.'s, C.A.T. Scans, bronchoscopies, urinalyses, stool samples, and while in hospital, daily blood tests.

Yet, my period of depression was not long-standing. To conclude it, I presented my concerns to my family. Though they did not wish to hear, I spoke of my acceptance of the fact that I was going to die, and that my death would come soon. I added, however, that I would attempt to mention my impending death as infrequently as possible in their presence and that henceforth, I would do everything possible to live, and, for their sake, that included attempting to overcome awareness that I would die of this disease.

Though some of us die natural deaths relatively young, we cannot all be "superb meteors" like Jack London. But we can take to heart his profession that the proper function of man is to live, not to exist." Yet, unlike London, I have striven with no apology to prolong my days of lucidity and enjoyment.

I do not intend to die a pessimist. Life must be terminal.

Life, after all is said and done, is fatal, whether or not we are granted in full that fabled three score and ten. And I am grateful. The Fates did wait 44 years. And just maybe, I will get as far as two score and five. For most of those years, I had as much freedom or movement, freedom of action and freedom of thought as any American might enjoy.

Looking positively at my life, as of 10th August 1992 -- two weeks ago, I am continuing on borrowed time. When I left the hospital in Taipei, I was given a maximum of sixty days to live. In Chicago, American doctors are literally "making time" for me!

My gratefulness for assistance, professional and personal, is abundant. Doctors Lee, Chu, and Lyn at Taiwan National University in Taipei diagnosed my disease. David Miller, a personable American medical exchange student from Duke University, along with the kind nurses, aids, and technicians in Taipei made my month in their hospital peppier than it would have been otherwise.

Chengchi National University faculty, students and administrators helped me through the millennial bureaucracies of the Chinese, and literally held my hand during the difficult stretches. Specially, I am grateful to Ruth Martin, Rey Bianchi, Patrician Sut, Louise Wang, Hsi tsai Wang,, Francis Yu, Burt King, Yuen-mei Yin, Gary Sosa, Rachel Juan, Bob Thistlewaite, Hui-chen Chan, Ken Kesner, Katherine Bezak, David Blundell, Michael Cheng, Frances Zuo, Brian and Loraine, David and Gerry, Chauncey, Chang, Chen, Euginia, Dorothy, Chao-ming, Rosa, Lea, Albert, Claire, Minjji, Phillip, Caroline, Judy, Winifred, Joyce (graduate), Ms. Sah, Sophia, Daisy, Joyce (graduate student), Pamela, Camel, Fanny, James, Jerry, my many other undergraduates students and many, many others such as friends in Taipei. Generous faculty and student donations assisted in paying for my hospitalization and for shipping my belongings to the States.

Once stateside, I was blessed with encouraging visits by close friends, uncles, aunts and cousins from across the country. Other friends phone regularly. It is wonderful, this generosity and humanity of friends and family.

I have had little time this summer to write or to do much more than survive three surgeries and grapple with the bureaucracies in an on-going attempt to get medicare coverage for the starwar costs of operations and treatments.

I am saddened by the thought that for the first time in 19 years of teaching around the world, I am not preparing to enter the classroom in September. Instead, I am using my rare patches of free time to read and research some favorite topics.

I realize that these experiences may not be not new to some (people) who may have lost loved ones to cancer or other terminal illnesses. These passages simply relate some of the adventures in living and dying that I have experienced. One of these nearby today's, my heart will fail and, despite my considerable mental efforts to the contrary, my body will commit suicide by cancer.

Thus will end for me our grand adventure called life.

Until then, this is indeed a fine season to be alive.

#### Chief Editor's Note:

**I have personally known James Nesteby as a good friend and a colleague at Sanaa University. I do not know if he has passed away since he has written those words. I pray to the Almighty God to have mercy on his soul and to grant him His blessings.**



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*As Power Centers Vie for Influence, They Start a New Technique:*

# Exchange of Communiqués

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Professor of Finance,  
Yemen Times.



Issuing press statements has become the most visible way to communicate among the various power blocs in the country. This has replaced direct and discreet dialogue at almost all levels. It could be seen as an extension of the press interviews of the president and vice president, but this time, the statements are the product of a joint effort by a larger crowd, not just one person. Let us take last week's crop. First, there is the statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) to

explain their point of view regarding its reading of the crisis and its interpretation of the positions of the various actors in the power struggle. Although this document is "limited circulation", the goal of issuing is achieved by making sure it gets to the other parties.

Then the People's General Congress (PGC) issued its own definition of the problem. Again for "limited circulation." And again, goal is achieved. Then came the statement of Federation of Patriotic Forces along with a press conference. This was followed by the National Opposition Bloc statement. Both statements squarely blamed the selfish attitude of the ruling coalition for the crisis. Then came the statement of the House of Representatives which was read out by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and the Head of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (the Islah). This

was followed by the government's statement read out by Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas. The Islah has been keeping a low profile throughout the crisis. Though, partly leaning to the PGC position, the Islah has been able to work out a clear position in the current problems. Therefore, it has yet to issue even one statement on the matter. With all these statements and communiqués, what does all this mean? First, it means that direct and face to face communication and dialogue has broken down. No more Committee of Four or Committee of Nine, or whatever. Second, it also means each side feels an urge to express its point of view. But then, the Parliament has issued a statement requesting all politicians to stop mudslinging by giving interviews to local and international journalists. Hence, the second best is to issue statements and communiqués. Third, mobilization to win the hearts and minds of the people continues a free-for-all competition is underway. How effective is this tool? First, any of the statements and appeals have lost their value. Whoever is committed to any one of the power blocs has done so for strong - often personal - reasons. Therefore, the chance of winning over more sympathizers and supporters is slim. Second, the newspapers and political posturing through the media have lost their credibility. Thus, any statements published in the media is often not relevant. Third, most Yemenis are just tired of egotistic politicians who advance their personal ambitions at the expense of the long-term interests of the nation. Where do we go from here? Unless there is a clear and full agreement in the power structure, there will be more statements. But, according to one observer, it is better to exchange words than bullets.



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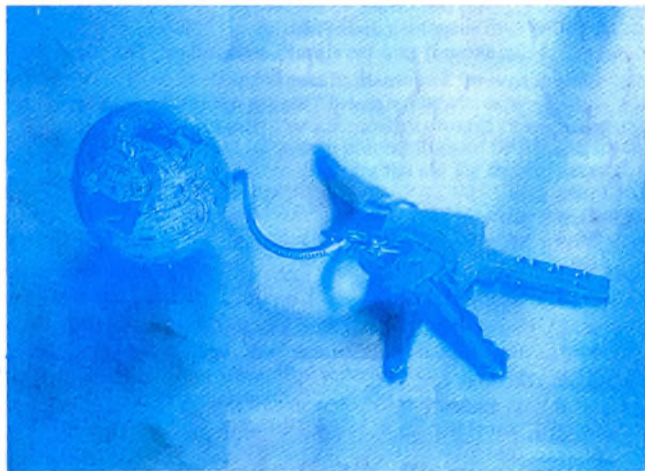


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## THE SPECTRE OF VIOLENCE

The feeling of anxiety and scare has reached an unprecedented level in Yemen these days. Everybody is talking of the possible military clash between the various political groups. Military movements have been reported in the capital city, Sanaa, as well as in Aden. But the more ominous steps are the large-scale deployment in what was formerly the border states - Al-Baidha, Ibb and Taiz. The Selahaddeen And Al-Anad contingents from the former PDRY army, and the Amaliqah and Al-Kibsi contingents of the former YAR army are being readied for a showdown. There have also been reports of limited military action in the Radfan area, in Lahej governorate, as well as in Shabwah, both border states from the side of the former PDRY. The showdown is coming closer, unless wisdom reigns.

Many of the countries "friendly" to Yemen have sent signals of alarm. The USA, France, Russia, Germany, Oman, among others, have expressed their anxiety over the recent complications, and have stated support for unified Yemen. As much as those statements are expressions of support, they are also warnings to our politicians "not to be stupid and drag the country into civil war." The Yemeni people are waiting anxiously for signs of solutions to the current crisis. The leaders have nothing in mind but their own selfish hunger for power. The chances for a military showdown are rising everyday. Many sides are intervening to help control the situation. But unless the top people see light, Yemen could be engulfed in a devastating civil war.