

The Taiz Gathering:

"If the Sana/Aden rulers decide to fight it off, we will have no part in it."

Al-Izzy Asselwi, Yemen Times.

You can say the Taiz Gathering of 23rd December, and the formation of a Preparatory Committee to create a pan-Taiz forum is the watershed that marks a new beginning in the political evolution of Yemen towards local government and a decentralized system in which people in various regions take their destiny in their own hands, and have a stronger say regarding how their regions will function. The Taiz Gathering, which brought together religious scholars/ulema, businessmen and entrepreneurs, military/security officers, politicians, the lecturers at Aden/Sanaa/Taiz universities, senior government officials, unionists, community leaders and executive members of NGOs, etc. - about 1650 persons all in all - was the culmination point of two months of preparations. By working to shed off the near-total tutelage of central government, the Taiz Gathering triggered an avalanche leading the regions to take more charge over their affairs. The independent Taiz stand from Sanaa and Aden taken vis-a-vis the political complications will definitely be echoed in many other regional capitals.

More details on page 5



Accidental Fire Destroys Factories in Taiz

INSIDE
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"It raged for seven hours - from 3:45 a.m. until it finally died out around 11:00 a.m. It destroyed the Egg-trays plant as well as the Polythelene warehouse," explained Mr. Muneer Ahmed Hayel Saeed, General Manager of the National Company for Sponge & Plastic Industry, Ltd. Investigations showed it was an electric accident, a short in the wires. No lives were lost, and the dozen or so people hospitalized because of smoke inhalation. But the financial loss, in the hundreds of millions, is enormous. "We have yet to assess the damage," said Muneer. "In a few months, a new replacement plant will be constructed."

Read more details on p. 15

As the Clergymen of Yemen Aspire for a Political Role:

They Propose a Meeting of 2 ALIs in Taiz

By: Renaud Detalle, Researcher on Yemeni Democratization, French Center for Yemeni Studies.

"We propose to the president and vice president a joint meeting with the ulema within two weeks of date to be held at Al-Janad Mosque, in Taiz," the clergymen of Yemen proposed following a four-day meeting. About three hundred theologians, clergymen and judges from all over the country - representing the Association of the Clergymen of Yemen - met during 20-23/12/1993 to discuss the political crisis and the ensuing possibility of fragmentation and civil war. Qadhi Ismail Al-Hajji, Chairman of the Supreme Court and President of the Association, highlighted the dangers to which the country is exposed because of differences among our politicians. "We are gathered here today to analyze the situation and discuss the possible role of the ulema. Our country faces a grave danger, and we cannot simply remain as silent observers," he said. A number of clergymen and judges spoke about the importance of the unity of the country, and insisted that no person or group has the right to dismantle it simply to satisfy their hunger for more

power. One after another, the ulema spoke passionately of the deteriorating standard of living of the people while the rulers are busy with their ambitions. The message was clear: The politicians better shape up or else the ulemas will go to the people and preach to them to rise up against these politicians who have proven themselves incapable of ruling justly. It will be remembered that the ulema still exercise significant influence among Yemen's traditional populace. Often, the clergymen, feeling they have long been out of touch with political reality, discussed how they should intervene. A few were reluctant to enter into the political arena at all, but the majority was only divided over how to go about it. This dilemma ended by forming a core group to work out alternatives and prepare resolutions. Other than the call to the urgent joint meeting with the 2 ALIs, the resolutions were, however, more tame than the outbursts of speeches given by the ulema. They called for reconciliation among the politicians, without accusing any side for the crisis. They also urged the military not to be dragged into the tinder-box. They finally urged the media to be more responsible in its coverage.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The 1994 Resolutions

At the beginning of every year, the Westerners have a beautiful tradition of assessing their achievements during the out-going year and then setting out goals for the new year. This practice, which is performed at the national as well as at the personal/individual level, allows them to at least think ahead, and then prioritize their activities.

We in Yemen could benefit a lot if we were to internalize this behavior. We - as a society as well as individuals - could set goals and work to achieve them. Let me limit this editorial to what we could strive for as a nation. Now, what could be important for us as a society. I can think of a few goals:

1. With God's grace, we could dislodge some of our politicians. Some of our officials are really a burden to all of us. Some people could disagree about who to knock off, but I am sure most would agree on shedding off people like the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Information, the Governor of the Central Bank and others who have proven to be obedient slaves to the politicians, even when the national interests and proper evolution of our system require them to say, "No!" These men do not have it in them to say "No" to their masters and that is a liability in a democracy. Under dictatorships and authoritarian regimes, to be an obedient civil servant is an asset. In a free society, it is a liability.

2. With God's grace, we could have a government headed by a man who has guts and who can take decisive measures to rectify situations before they get out of hand. Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas is a master-politician who Yemen can do without. Yemen does not need people who have take so many considerations into account to the extent that they are unable to do anything.

3. Once and for all, let us to draw a line between the purse of the ruling politicians and the state coffers. We must make it near-impossible for corrupt officials to mis-use government funds and resources by putting them to personal use.

Is it possible to introduce this habit at the end of every year in which people take stock of the past year and plan for the new year?

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

Highway Men Face Hardships

The Ministry of Interior has stepped up its efforts to reign in the highway robbers. Over this last week, in six different actions, fourteen highway robbers have been arrested and two were killed.

One soldier has also been killed and half a dozen injured in several shoot-outs with the highway robbers. These were concentrated in Aanis, Jahran and Al-Hadaa, as well as near the foothills once you hit the Tihama about 80 kilometers from Hodeidah city.

The Ministry of Interior has just received an infusion of money and military gear, including three helicopters to improve its chances of success in the on-going fight.

Italian Trade Delegation in Yemen

A high-level Italian delegation has concluded a one-week visit to Yemen during which it has met with senior Yemeni officials and key businessmen. The Italians are interested in investing in Yemen in various sectors, as well as in marketing Yemeni oil.

Curriculum Seminar Concluded

A three-day seminar on curriculum development was jointly organized by the Ministry of Education and USAID.

During 21-23/12/1993, 120 experts from Yemen, Jordan and USAID, studied the needed improvements in the educational programs and curricula, and the steps needed to achieve them.

The seminar concluded by proposing the formation of a Supreme Committee to study the needed reforms and improvements in the school curricula.

ABC Boss Leaves Sanaa

Mr. Abdullah Ammar Al-Saudi, Executive President of the Manamah-based Arab Banking Corporation left Sanaa on Thursday, 23rd December following a few days of visit.

The ABC boss and the accompanying delegation were in Sanaa trying to collect a lot of overdue payments with the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development and its guarantor, the Central Bank of Yemen.

The ABC was also studying new business prospects, and its fruitful association with the Yemen Commercial Bank.

All Systems Go for Census

On Friday, December 24th, 1993, 1990 persons left Sanaa on their way to the various districts of the republic to take their positions for the start of the national census campaign. "For twenty one days, these persons will complete the numbering and marking of the zones already concluded for the houses and buildings," explained a source at the Central Statistical Organization.

These individuals will also train the locally-recruited assistants in the first census for unified Yemen. The cost of the census is expected to border on half a billion Riyals, which is seen as a good investment for the information it will generate. Now, people estimate the population between 12-14 million.



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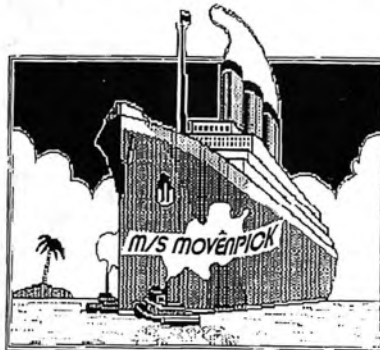
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President Saleh Receives Key Segments of Society

President Ali Abdullah Saleh continues to receive large crowds of leading members of society. This week, he received the ulema and clergymen who had just completed their conference. Similarly, the president received the leading members of the Taiz Gathering. In both meetings, the president gave a briefing of the situation, and asked for advice. He went out of his to show flexibility and "the need to discuss any differences we may have."

Presidential Council Orders Not to Make Any Military Movements and Promotions

The Presidential Council met on Thursday December 23rd to discuss the recent military movements. The session was attended by three members, the two YSP members have stayed away.

The topic of discussion was triggered by the YSP decision to move out the Military Police forces which was stationed in Aden. PGC people see this move as one more indicator of the YSP drive to disengage. YSP people say that since the YSP has called for removing military presence from Yemeni cities, it was just normal to start doing so in Aden and the other cities under YSP grip.

The tug of war between the PGC and YSP has taken a new twist recently as the hide and seek game has taken a serious tumble. Relations are further strained and the prospects of further deteriorations were becoming stronger.

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Pakistan Cracks Down on Defaulters:

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has ordered the take over of all business establishments, companies and industries which owe more than one million rupees in loans or unpaid taxes.

"The campaign to collect outstanding loans and taxes has begun and already several businessmen have been arrested. Official sources estimate that Rs. 60 billion in loans, and Rs. 17 billion in unpaid taxes were recoverable. To dodge payment, many businessmen have filed cases with tribunals, thus compelling the government to ease up on its efforts which were stepped up recently. Already, there are 70,000 cases pending in several appellate

tribunals, and if these cases are heard on a daily basis, it would take six years to clear the backlog only. By then, the fresh backlog would be even larger. Hence the government's offer to settle for lower amounts than owed out of court.

It is simple and easy to file a case - get a stay order, avoid payments and stay put. It takes years to get a case decided in lower courts because of the heavy load of work.

An additional complication is in the government take-over of private companies. Although the initial steps - the raid plus the examination of the accounts - are rather simple to administer, the subsequent steps are complicating and have baffled officials.

Reynolds Warns of Tough Steps Against the IRA if it Rejects Plan:

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds warned last week that he will order tougher measures against the IRA if it rejects a British-Irish peace plan and resumes full scale violence. However, Reynolds indicated that the British and Irish governments may reward the IRA with amnesties for jailed guerrillas if the outlawed organization joins in peace talks on Northern Ireland.

"Ireland would also life a ban on broadcast interviews with members of the IRA and its political support, Sinn Fein," he added.

While Reynolds stepped up pressure on the Catholic-based IRA to end its violent campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland, British Prime Minister John Major reiterated assurances that London would not abandon the province's pro-British Protestant majority.

The British and Irish prime ministers have

agreed on the possibility of unifying the island if the protestants so chose. Some Irish newspapers tried to imply that a joint authority would be a logical sequel to the agreement. John Major was quick to refute that. "Joint (British-Irish) authority was not suggested," he said.

The IRA commanders have embarked on a long process of consultation about the Major-Reynolds plan to try to end 25 years of violence in Northern Ireland. Hundreds of convicted guerrillas have also been temporarily released over the Christmas-New Year holidays. The plan provides that the IRA and Sinn Fein can join exploratory talks with the British and Irish governments and main Northern Ireland parties with three months of declaring a ceasefire.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams derided Britain's attitude of saying it was up to the majority to decide and said it should push toward change - which he did not specify.

Abiola Renews Claim to Nigeria Presidency

Mashood Abiola has renewed his claim to the Nigerian presidency and dismissed speculation he had cut a deal with the new military rulers. In a statement published in newspapers last week, Abiola said he still seeks recognition of annulled June presidential elections despite recent political change in the country.

Abiola, a multimillionaire businessman, is widely believed to have won the June 12th elections annulled by former military ruler

Ibrahim Babangida. Babangida stepped down in August, handing power to an interim government which made way last month for new military strongman General Sani Abacha.

Abacha, on November 18, a day after taking power, banned political parties and dissolved elected institutions, scuttling a seven-year-old democratization program.

There has been little opposition to the new military rulers whose mainly civilian cabinet includes some key allies of Abiola, including his runningmate, Baba Gana Kingibe.



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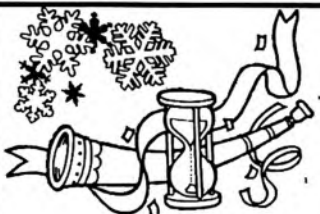
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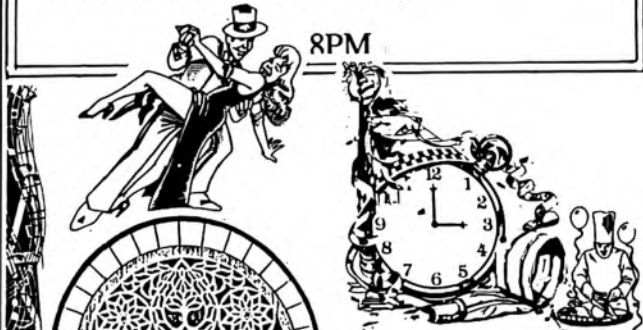
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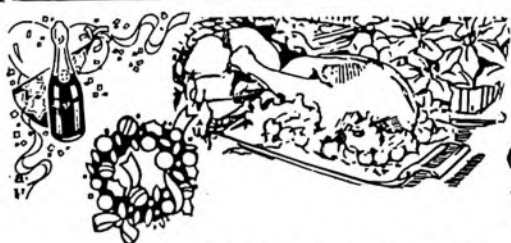


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Dr. Derek Harvey,
Yemeni Ornithological Society

A year ago, driving back to Haddah from Bait Bows, along the rough road through the Wadi, early in the morning. I met a fox. He looked at me, I looked at him, and we each went about our business. A little further along the road, a hare stepped out and sat in the sun. Both animals were beautiful, living their private lives near to me, and seeing them gave me intense pleasure, and a lift to the day.

Last month, I was again driving down the same stretch of road, at about the same time of day. But I saw no fox and no hare. I saw only piles of stones, half dug ditches, half built houses, and above all, rubbish everywhere. The boundaries of Sanaa are being expanded fast by building schemes, by "urban development," extending into and altering the countryside.

This must happen as populations grow and business prospers in the capitals of all countries. But there is a right and a wrong way to expand. There are many problems which must be thought through first, and building development must be controlled and carefully planned, so that it takes account of the needs, not only of those with enough money to build lovely big country houses, but also of those whose lives are affected by those buildings.

How are we planning water supplies for Sanaa? Where are we putting the drains so that they are not a health hazard? What are we doing about future power requirements? Should we put new electricity cables above ground, on poles and pylons, or underground where they are out of sight? All these are questions that have to be asked, and answered, before development becomes an unsightly sprawl, eating up the land and



destroying its natural beauty, its resources, and its wildlife.

Therefore, it is good news that Sanaa is currently revising and updating its Master Plan. Experts are looking at the City and its needs over the next 20 years.

What is even better news, is that the planners have asked an environmental expert to advise on wildlife in the City, how it affects the environment, and how the environment affects it, and how the Master Plan can take account of the needs of Sanaa's wildlife and protect it.

This is enlightened planning, and just what should happen everywhere change is taking place.

All cities and towns have a surprisingly rich wildlife, much of which people never see. There are at least thirty species of birds to be seen in the city of Sanaa alone, in addition, of course, to a large variety of animals and plants.

Foxes and scavengers, such as Ravens and Kites, help to keep down the population of rats and mice which abound wherever there is rubbish: and we certainly have plenty of rubbish everywhere.

Other birds, like swifts and swallows, and many species of bat that live in the roofs of deserted town buildings or in the ceilings of caves of the neighboring mountains, all eat insects and keep down the population of mosquitoes and other flying insects. There are also rodents, squirrel-like creatures which live among the shrubs and mountainsides. They too play a major role in the clean-up process, as well as in preserving the ecological and biological balance dictated by nature.

So, we need to be sure that in our future planned cities, space is deliberately left so that our animal and plant life can enjoy living there too. We depend on them as they depend on us, and with a little thought, we can both benefit.

Let us have parks, which provide trees and shrubs, and peace and quiet, where we can take our families to relax, and where animals and birds can make their homes and find food.

Let us plant trees along the roadsides where birds can perch and rest, and which will make our streets beautiful.

Let us have ponds, even lakes, in our parks, where animals and birds can come to drink, and children can see them and enjoy their beauty.

And above all, let us get to grips with the appalling problem of our rubbish disposal, so that our streets are clean and free of infected mess, and we can show as much enlightenment and forward thinking as Planning Committee that is now looking at how to live in harmony with the world around us.

Then, indeed, we can claim that we are civilized, and that we are making it possible to live in a true harmony with our environment. Then the cities of tomorrow will be a place to be proud of, where mankind and nature thrive side by side.

There is an abundance of wildlife in Yemeni cities - ranging from birds to animals of prey, to plants - all of which need to be part of our environment.

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The Taiz Documents

The culmination point to two months of preparations was the gathering of 1,650 men and women from Taiz Governorate on 23/12/1993. The purpose, as declared in the documents, was to study the current political crisis, the military mobilization build-up by the PGC and YSP in Taiz governorate, and the position of the people of Taiz in this regard.

The PGC has sent re-enforcements in men and hardware. Some 5,000 new soldiers were sent to the governorate. A lot of new hardware was also shipped into Taiz by the PGC. At the same time, the YSP has dispatched to the governorate most of its senior members who are of Taiz origin. The number that was ploughed in over the last one month is estimated at 4000 persons. They also brought in military gear.

By bringing together people of different political inclinations, the gathering marks an attitude of making affiliation to the province supersede membership in political parties. The priorities were clear.

"Yemen's interests are above the interests of Taiz, but the Taiz interests are above the interests of the political parties," it was repeatedly declared.

The three working papers of the conference stressed the sad reality of Yemeni politics. In the face of this, the people of Taiz cannot stand by idly as the country is gradually be segmented and as certain governorates are being prepared to become battlefields. Thus they want to block the mobilization and recruitment of at least the Taiz people in the conflict. The mood of the gathering was, "If the PGC and YSP leaderships want to fight it out, let them do with their own men and in their own backyards." That position is driven by the conviction that the crisis is really the result of a power struggle among the politicians.

The Taiz Gathering also represents the psychological rebellion of provincial capitals against the traditional seats of power.

The following three documents were released at the gathering. (Yemen Times translation):

1. The Oath Charter

Praise be to the Lord who has urged humanity to come together and not to pull in different ways violently. And peace be upon the Prophet Mohammed who has decreed that the lives and property are sacred and should not be violated.

We the children of Taiz - of different sectors, political inclinations, and intellectual and social backgrounds - agree to this oath charter, based on our commitment to the teachings of Islam as our main guidance, and pledge to commit to the following principals:

1. To nurture and bring together the children of this province, to unify their stand, and to fight any calls for discrimination that divide them, and any calls that divide them from their brethren in the unified Yemeni homeland.

2. To protect lives, property and fidelity, and not to revert to violence (among us) whatever the causes or reasons may be.

3. To adhere to the goals of the Yemeni Revolution, unity, democracy, and the peaceful transfer of power, to shun (and fight against) violence and terrorism in all their forms.

4. To guard the Republic of Yemen which was declared on 22nd May 1990, and to adhere

to its constitution and protection its territorial integrity. We shall oppose any efforts to tamper with it, retreat from it, or break its legal entity as recognized internationally.

5. To adhere to constitutional legitimacy and peaceful transfer of authority, and to refuse the use of military power to overthrow the system, or the use of the army in any extra-constitutional purposes.

6. To adhere to democracy, and to refuse any efforts to separate it from the unity; refuse any efforts to prohibit political pluralism or its progress; and refuse any violation of rights and liberties guaranteed by the Sharia and stipulated in the constitution.

7. To adhere to democratic dialogue in resolving the political crisis, and to oppose violence and terrorism in whatever form, or their use in changing the social fabric or a means to resolve differences in opinion or political postures. We oppose unitary dominance of a certain party or tribe in Yemen.

These are the principals agreed upon by the people of Taiz, and we pledge to undertake their implementation individually and collectively.

Issued by the Expanded Gathering of Taiz on 23/12/1993.

2. The Political Statement

Our people have been looking forward to a forum that will bring the people of Taiz together, irrespective of their political affiliation of social background or professional line. Our purpose is to participate in the well-being of the nation as citizens of Yemen sharing responsibility for saving the country from the potential danger facing it.

If the unification of Yemen represented a major accomplishment for our Yemeni people, it was for the Taiz people a savior from conditions that have separated families along artificial borders, and from a status in which they were pulled in two different directions because they happened to be at the border. Thus, unity has come to repair family relations, it brought psychological relief, as well as an opportunity to build a meaningful nation based on democracy, justice, equality, and law and order.

No wonder, therefore, that the people of Taiz should be most committed to the unity of Yemen. Thus, they have come together to formulate a unified stand regarding the political crisis, so that divisions in political vision may not become division of Yemen.

Therefore, we pledge to the following principals:

1. To adhere to the goals of the Yemeni Revolution, unity, democracy, and the peaceful transfer of power, to shun (and fight against) violence and terrorism in all their forms.

2. To guard the Republic of Yemen which was declared on 22nd May 1990, and to adhere to its constitution and protection its territorial integrity.

We shall oppose any efforts to tamper with it, retreat from it, or break its legal entity as recognized internationally.

3. To adhere to constitutional legitimacy and peaceful transfer of authority, and to refuse the use of military power to overthrow the system, or the use of the army in any extra-constitutional purposes.

4. To adhere to democracy, and to refuse any efforts to separate it from the unity; refuse any efforts to prohibit political pluralism or its progress; and refuse any violation of rights and liberties guaranteed by the Sharia and stipulated in the constitution.

5. To adhere to democratic dialogue in resolving the political crisis, and to oppose violence and terrorism in whatever form, or their use in changing the social fabric or a means to resolve differences in opinion or political postures. We oppose unitary dominance of a certain party or tribe in Yemen.

Therefore, any proposals to remedy the situation should not be limited to emotionalization and/or raising slogans, but should re-prioritize the functions of the state - at the local and central levels - and should re-structure it in a way that strengthens national harmony and safeguards the joint interests of individuals and society at the same time.

Only thus will political belonging to the nation would become something more tangible than emotional outbursts which have been manipulated because of the shortcomings of the state in protecting the minimum level of the people's interests in creating new inter-relations among the individuals and regions to consolidate national unity and cohesion.

We see it as the responsibility of all Yemenis to correct the imbalances in our society which requires expanding popular participation in the system, to deepen democratic behavior with full adherence to constitutional legitimacy, peaceful transfer of power and to stop violence and terrorism.

We demand, therefore:

1. The government to fulfill its program according to which it got the vote of confidence and the comments of Parliament thereof, based on the constitution.

2. The continuation of the dialogue among the coalition partners joined by the forces outside the government in finding clear and practical solutions to the crisis.

3. The removal of all military and paramilitary and militia forces and all other forms of militarization from the cities, and to implement the demand of the parliament to remove the new military installations in what used to be border regions between the former YAR and PDY. At the same time, the army must be unified, re-structured and redistributed according to its functions and to remove all narrow loyalties within the army so as to make it all loyal to the nation.

4. The correction of the economic, administrative, security and judicial disequilibrium; to fight corruption in all its forms; and to adopt a comprehensive economic policy that will achieve a balanced economic development in all regions through an optimal allocation of resources and stable conditions based on institution-building and law and order which will deepen democracy, social justice, and equality among the citizens of the nation.

5. The establishment of local government through free elections of the governors and district managers, and to enact the law for this purpose urgently so as to guaranteed a wider participation by transferring of administrative and financial powers to the elected local authorities.

Any attempts to pull Taiz into the spheres of either of forces will be fruitless, as our position is based on the points highlighted above.

Issued by the Expanded Gathering of Taiz on 23/12/1993.

3. Committee Report:

Following the parliamentary elections of April 27, 1993, many of the Taiz deputies got together and discussed the deplorable conditions of the governorate. These meetings continued until the crisis of water supply to Taiz forced an urgent action.

The inability of the government to find a solution to this problem and the subsequent burdens on the residents of Taiz city, has compelled various individuals to urge for action. The World Bank, which had allocated \$35 million for this project threatened to withdraw the financing if the government could not initiate even preliminary steps to implement the project.

Although a three-man team (Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, Minister of Planning & Development, Dr. Mahmood Abdul-Wahab, Member of the Presidium of the House, and Mr. Sadiq Ameen Abu Ras, Minister of Agriculture) was formed to attend to this problem, no solution was in sight.

At the same time, the fencing off of the Taiz University project to start construction of well as the unwillingness of the government to start the construction of the colleges hit a snag as quarrel over ownership of the land persisted.

So these two issues made it necessary to form a preparatory committee was formed with Dr. Abdul Wahab Mahmood as Chairman, Sultan Al-Barakani as Rapporteur, and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf as President of the Secretariat.

AS the committee was discussing the development projects need of the governorate, the political crisis was forcing itself on all Yemenis. So the committee decided to interact with and help in looking for solutions. The logical step was to prepare for an expanded gathering of leading individuals from Taiz.

Over a period of two months, the committee discussed in a balanced and objective way, all the issues that confront the nation, and it discussed possible solutions. It is in this light that we have evolved the two documents that are presented today along with this report.

Issued by the Expanded Gathering of Taiz on 23/12/1993.

In the afternoon of 23/12/1993, about one hundred leading Taiz personalities met at the house of Mr. Abdul-Kareem Abdullah to sign a document establishing a pan-Taiz voluntary association. A Preparatory committee was formed to lay down the ground rules for its establishment.



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WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

I would like to acknowledge that I am mixed up with this crisis to the point that I can't understand what I hear about it. You know the crisis has paralyzed the whole society and up to-date, we haven't reached any solution. Our people have become hostages waiting for someone to free them.

I acknowledge once again that my understanding of the crisis is limited and I don't realize what considerations our rulers have. We hear and read everyday about those who allege that they protect unification of the homeland. In that case, where does the crisis lie? What does it mean? And who is threatening it if both sides are so committed to the protection of unified Yemen. If there is one side which demands reforms to correct the situation, then which is the side that doesn't want reforms?

Both sides have their own understandings of what they announce. There might be one side which demands to correct the situation through political outbidding and the other side may be responding with more promise about reforms.

We don't understand what is going on. They announce something and in reality they do something else. We hope all of them to be honest and frank in what they say and do, then there will be no crisis. What is lacking is trust and credibility, and it is this which we are searching for and unable to find.

Is there a premeditated effort to make the people forget their real problems by overwhelming them with illusory problems? I don't understand why some people on purpose make us wander in a vacuum and up to when? Our people are fed up and they are being suffocated.

Let's be sympathetic with our people. All this talk about dialogue and exchange of ideas is comical. Why don't they (the big guys) hasten to sit around a table to tackle all problems amicably without any procrastination or postponement. Before anything else, our people demand you to bear two things in mind:-

1- The unification ought to be above outbiddings and manipulation with it.

2- Any agreement should be fair. Agreement should be for the sake of the nation and not for the sake of your parties/ persons.

Political parties are a means to compete for the welfare, security, safety and stability. Then, there will remain no problem. Let's be optimists and we are all waiting for an end to this problem.

By: Ali Bin Abdullah Al-Wasee
Al-Sahwa, Sanaa
16/12/1993

SHORTCOMINGS IN THE YEMENI ECONOMY

The process of development depends on a number of factors in order to reach a tangible evolution. These factors which help development are: security, safety, stability and clarity of vision in planning. Every plan should be accompanied by an organized financial support which comes from a lot of sources including specialized banks/companies.

Now let's take the Korean experiment as an example of success. The state in Korea started to finance a lot of companies and such a support turned them into giant companies. In Europe the state built/established big projects and then handed them to the private sector. In America things are different for the private sector controls the whole American industry except the infrastructure. The same is true with the Japanese experiment where there are companies possessing the mines, transportation, and other industries. The state only under-takes its sponsorship through guidance and knowledge. In some countries, due to their natural resources and wealth have marched half of the way whereas others stagnated like our country.

Our state tried to build/establish big factories such as cement, textile, and other factories, but it was unable to manage them. The management of those corporations is faulty because of connection to some individual interests. In my opinion, there won't be any tangible development without relying on a policy which takes qualification into account. It is necessary for the state to think seriously about selling its factories and using the funds available to establish great projects like steel and iron factories.

In brief, the state should bear responsibilities for establishing large projects and then sell them to the private sector. Thus, the private sector will replace the state and the state will only direct and give guidance. In my opinion, why shouldn't the state hand over the Mareb Dam to the private sector right now. Some will not understand such a point fully, but those who do know that it is just the basis of development. I would like to hear ideas to what I have presented.

By: Mahfooth Salem Shammakh,
Atanmiya, Sanaa
14/12/1993

FEDERATION IS A SIN IN POST-MERGER UNIFICATION

It seems that some people under certain circumstances contend they are part of the national struggle until the time comes when they reveal their real feelings and interests. The current political crisis confirms that the country has become a scapegoat in the hands of those alleging patriotism. What happened is that the outcome of the elections brought a third partner into the system and gave a decided majority to the PGC. As a result, there appeared a crisis, calls for local rule, federation. It is a pity that all this happens in our post-unification Yemen. We feel pain to see that all this happens under the banner of democracy and unity.

It seems that our rulers are very detached from the people and are not aware of what is happening to the people.

Back Page Editorial
Al-Raay Al-Aam, Sanaa
14/12/1993

THE CONSUMPTION TRIO: A SHOP, A VEHICLE, & A BUILDING!

Those who visit Yemen are astonished to see all the shops in our cities, especially the capital. I have always wondered why all the shops have blue-color doors. Are all those Yemenis businessmen? What a surprise! Wherever you go, you see a shop. All our streets are lined-up with shops. Some of those who visit only the capital city miss seeing the shops of the countryside and the rows of shops along the roads connecting our cities. That also leaves me wondering about this Yemeni spendthrift habit. Take for example the luxury and fancy vehicles. These are not practical due to their high gas-consumption levels and expensive spare parts. Besides, such fancy and big vehicles are also not practical in our narrow streets. The other thing which attracts the visitors' attention is the fancy and expensive buildings with rocks and which are costly. The best way to describe the Yemenis is that they merely are consumers. This trio consumption habit is a burden to Yemen.

Resident in Yemen will see some other aspects of our personality. The diplomats who thought it impossible to achieve unification given all the considerations which normally would have blocked Yemen's unity in May, 1990.

In these days, most diplomats are agonizing to find out the how/when the Yemenis will overcome the crisis? In Yemen, things proceed not on logical basis, with a peculiarity, which may be referred to as the "Yemeni touch."

At the economic level, the law of supply and demand does not function in our markets. We go to bed with a certain price level,

and then wake up at another. Some times the prices go up suddenly and yet, the demand persists.

By Yaseen Al-Masudi
Al-Hadaf Al-Arabi, Sanaa
15/12/1993

WHOM DOES OUR SEPARATION SERVE?

Let's think objectively away from political outbidding and fabrication of rumors leading to conflicts and partition. Let's ask ourselves: "Who has an interest in separation?" Does the YSP or its leadership headed by Mr. Ali Salem Al-Beedh have any interest in separation? Let me give the disadvantages of separation to the YSP and its leadership:

1- Unification is one of our significant achievements which awarded the party a high local, Arab and international reputation. Thus, the party shouldn't lose such respect whatever the pain or suffering might be.

2- Our ideology stresses unification and this step has reaffirmed our conviction in our principles during our long struggle. The YSP never differentiated between the North or the South. As we sacrificed in Radfan, we also sacrificed in the mountains of Al-Mahabisha. Imagine what a fault we commit when we ignore the sacrifices of our martyrs.

3- With unification, we gained a lot and lost nothing as the price of unification was a hundred of our martyrs of our cadres. Under conditions of division, we sacrificed hundreds of martyrs. Through our adherence to democracy and unification, we gained sympathy at all levels. If we raise the slogan of separation, we will lose all respect and sympathy of the Yemeni people.

4- Our party is a unitarian party in its structure and leadership, and any separatist call will affect the party as a whole psychologically and might lead to its own splitting. Then, we won't be able to face the enemies of our party. The battle will become fierce and all will be mobilized against us. We will be unable to make sure who is with us and who is against us. When the party weakens, all will move to stab it.

5- Unification gave the party protection against interior conflicts and even helped the party unite itself against its foes. Partition with all its reactions/tensions will create an environment for backward forces/regional conflicts to strive and assume authority inside the party. Any conflict will hit the current leadership. With the absence of unification, we will find ourselves weak. Then, we will give an opportunity to the ambitious forces to establish new Sultanates.

6- What will we gain from separation? Those who say the Southern regions are wealthy and ought to invest their funds for the benefit of the region are talking nonsense. They don't realize that all those funds will be spent on weapons/wars. Thus, we lose the wealth, man, safety, security and stability. The real protection of wealth is adherence to unity and to struggle to a better future. Let's provide in the regions under our influence a model for the respect for law and order, and a system based on justice. We want no more than the application of the laws and the constitution and then no one will blame us for anything.

7- Through experience, we know that the private sector has an important role in the development process and no development can be achieved without giving it a chance to participate under safe, secure and stable conditions. Let's realize partition will deprive the country from investment.

Thus, we see how the YSP looks at the issue of unity and it sees that separation is against its interests and the interests of all the Southern governorates.

By Dr. Mohammad Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakkil,
Al-Haq, Sanaa
19/12/1993.

FIGHTING TERRORISM TAKES FIRST PRIORITY

The Opposition Bloc had earlier submitted a charter among the political forces in order to get out of the current crisis. The Federation of Patriotic Forces also presented a proposal for stabilizing the situation.

All those are important efforts which deserve to be studied and hopefully implemented. But there are priorities in the things to be tackled, and standing united to oppose terrorism, violence and other forms of lawlessness is top priority.

The continued distribution of arms, encouraging or tolerating violence, etc., are all efforts that do not help building a modern state. How can we agree on any charter or program if none of us can feel safe or secure.

The first condition for a stable system and a modern Yemen based on institutions and a civil society is to make sure people feel safe and secure.

Therefore, any efforts to resolve the crisis should start by bring to justice the murderers who assassinate people and destroy our security and peace. By initiating an open trial of these murderers we will contribute to the construction of modern Yemen.

When we refer to stable conditions, we are also referring to the standard of living and the general welfare of the public. We hope these issues will be incorporated in any proposal to resolve the crisis. That is unless there is fear and intimidation of the murderers and the people who stand behind them. But we are certain that the Opposition Bloc and the PPF leaderships are not the type to be intimidated.

Editorial,
Sawt Al-Ommal, Aden
23/12/1993.

THE DAILY SEQUEL OF TERROR

Not one day passes by without news of the death and injury of dozens of people because of traffic accidents. The accidents

of vehicles continue to claim a rising number of lives and our tears and agonies over the death or disability of loved ones have not stopped the sequel.

The toll is indeed high. In 1992, there 9283 reported accidents and 1309 deaths, thousands of injuries, and a damages valued at YR. 11 million. The corresponding numbers for this year, until the end of last month, were 7553 accidents, 1159 deaths, and YR. 14.3 million in damages.

Why? Scholars say people who mistreat their cars and abuse the power of driving suffer from an inferiority complex and bring out while driving. Others point to the sad condition of cars which should be allowed on the roads. Others blame the absence of laws regulating the pedestrian rights.

By: Abdul-Haleem Saif,
Al-Thawrah, Sanaa
24/12/1993.

TO CLEAN-UP THE HABITS OF THE DAYS OF DIVISION

Our people are closely and with hope following the negotiations and dialogue going on in Sanaa these days. The hope is that they will lead to the establishment of a modern state with modern tools (institutions) in order to achieve the proper results (development, democracy and stability.)

It goes without saying that the 18 points presented by our party - the YSP - represent the corner-stone in establishing a modern state for which we have struggled for so long.

The Yemeni people have sacrificed many children to achieve a stable and prosperous Yemen, where justice, equal rights for all citizens and democracy prevail. We refuse the life of oppression and hegemony, whatever the type.

We ask for the rights of citizens in which every individual has the chance to participate in the decision-making process, which can be achieved through a local government which offers wide-ranging powers to locally-

elected officials. Our citizens need to enjoy a secure and safe life which is not hindered by political terrorism, lawlessness, corruption and militarization of our cities.

The Yemeni people also link these aspirations with the economic prosperity which have become beyond reach because of the absence of any meaningful policies of the state machinery.

We hope that the factors conducive to the success of the current political dialogue will be there so that we can intelligently overcome the crisis and its complications. We are waiting for the state of law and order which we expected after the 22 May 1990 agreement. Therefore, let us all join hands in cleaning up all the bad habits of the divided past, and embark on a new beginning.

Editorial,
Al-Jadeed, Abyan
21/12/1993.

A CODE OF HONOR

There is no doubt that the call for reduced heated exchange in the media is a positive development in that the different sides will not be psyched up by bad reporting. The war of words will inevitably lead to disaster, especially for the people.

At another level, this step also protects the integrity of decent journalism on the one hand, and the element of public opinion, which was so belittled by the war of words, on the other. My fear here is that the call will be headed only on a temporary basis, and that the war of words will be resumed.

My fear, I believe is justified in that there is no code of honor or any other guideline which shapes the behavior of "journalists." So, Al-Thawri, as a mature newspaper, has the right to pose the question of code of honor for journalism. Will someone heed?

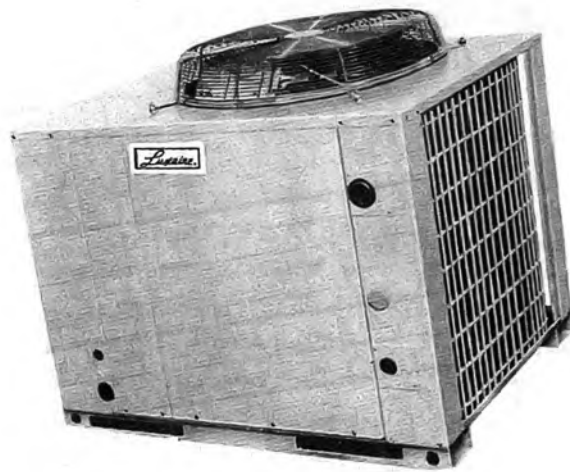
By: Hashim Abdulaziz,
Al-Thawri, Sanaa
23/12/1993.

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...THE REASON FOR LOVING



EVERY SEASON

WATER RESOURCES POLICY FOR YEMEN

By: Mukarram Hossain
Agricultural Economist
FAO, Sanaa.

INTRODUCTION:

Compared to any other country in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen is endowed with more ground water, though not plentiful, which has been harnessed from the immemorial for its agriculture. Rainfed agriculture mostly exists in the limited area along the wadis, mountain base and at the catchment areas where terrace cultivation is possible. Ground water is regarded as the easy and only dependable source for all users of all sectors (domestic, agriculture, industry, municipal and tourism). The competition was not so acute in earlier days, but with the high population growth (estimated 3.1% per annum), industrial development, urbanization and migration of population the sectoral demands for water have increased tremendously. As a result and due to the absence of any comprehensive national water policy in the country, sporadic water resources developments have taken place both in the public and the private sectors based on the narrower sectoral objectives. So far, water has been treated as free gift of nature and was harnessed recklessly leading to the current inefficient, inequitable use. The country, therefore, needs immediately a coherent, comprehensive National Water Resources Policy to rationalize its water use in all sectors and save the country from foreseeable catastrophe entailed from the water shortage exhaustion of the resource.



PROBLEMS:

The problems in the water sector can be viewed in the following perspectives.

- a- Absence of comprehensive water resources policy for developing and regulating the country's overall water resources, and fragmented institutional framework having low or no capacity for implementing water use laws.
 - b- Fragmented institutional responsibilities hinder central planning and management of the resource.
 - c- Inadequate attention to integrated management, utilization and protection of the national water resources for sustainable economic use.
 - d- Over tapping of ground water in agriculture and the use of wasteful traditional irrigation methods.
 - e- Degradation of water resources due to pollution, intrusion of sea water in coastal aquifers, inadequate watershed management, land and water conservation.
- In earlier days, water supply situation in Yemen was not so acute, and environmental degradation was not a big concern because of the low population and smaller requirement of total agricultural production. Traditionally, water resources management programs

evolved through the years depending on the sporadic development had taken place by creating isolated and independent institutions. This coupled with the recent increase over harnessed depleting the water level up to 7. m annually in some aquifers. This has adversely affected the agroecosystem and is responsible for the degradation of environment in general.

Water resources development in agriculture has primarily meant installation of more tubewells and construction of dams for irrigation. Farmers, therefore, were provided pumps and engines at a subsidized rate, instead of assisting them in establishing water saving appropriate irrigation technologies. This has led to reckless installation of tubewells in the farm areas without considering its future consequences. As a result, many tubewells were found to dry up even after 3 to 4 years of installation incurring a huge financial losses to the farmers as well as degradation of environment.

Water shortages, resulting from degradation of sources, due to contaminations from industrial and municipal wastes and intrusion of sea water in some coastal aquifers are the results of over exploitation of ground water. In certain cases, such degradation have reached the level of major health problems. Water could not bring sustainable benefits to the people because of such over exploitation. It, therefore, become emergent for the country to declare its water resource as the public good, and centrally manage its development based on the

sectoral demands, importance and sustainable use for economic, health and environmental development.

Although Yemen has adopted a new population strategy (1992), the population growth will continue to be the highest in the world. Moreover, due to industrial and tourism development concentration of population will continue to be increased in the urban centers resulting in an increased demand for water and the need for recycling waste water from domestic and industrial sources for irrigation. People's continued efforts for achieving higher standard of living is also associated with the increased per capita demand for improving hygienic, nutritional, recreational standard and other uses.

GOVERNMENT STRATEGY:

The government has finally recognized the urgency for intervening the formulating an integrated, coherent and comprehensive water resources policy and institutional framework to manage and regulate its use, allocation (based on scarcity and economic value) and protect the resources from environmental degradation. FAO assisted the government in this exercise through a project funded from TCP (Technical cooperation Program). The project involved a multi-disciplinary team consisting of 25 Yemeni specialists worked in nine groups for 20 weeks, as participatory process, under the supervision of an international consultant. The team includes specialists from the ministry of agriculture and water resources

(MAWR), ministry of petroleum and mineral Resources, ministry of health, ministry of housing and urban planning, Environmental Protection Council, private sectors and the universities of Sanaa and Aden.

The policy issues drawn from the Yemeni socio-economic and political context were then presented and discussed in an open forum of the Yemeni specialists and representatives from the donor communities. Finally, a workshop on the National Water Resources Policy, participated by the national and international experts, has been organized from 13-15 December 1993 by MAWR sponsored by FAO to discuss and finalize the national water resources policy issues, e.g., legislation, institutional framework based on the recommendations put forward by the expert participants. It is expected that the draft policy will soon be submitted to Council of Ministers for their concurrence followed by parliament's approval.

CONCLUSION:

Since individual water user's objectives are based on profit motives, their interests often clash with the national objectives of sustainable use. The effective implementation of the water resources policies thus greatly depends on the establishment of strong water laws, institutional framework and government's clear cut policy decisions in the following subject areas:

- a- Regulation of the use of surface and ground water by introducing direct or indirect water charges particularly in areas of its inefficient use.

b- Protection of water resources degradation from municipal and industrial wastes, sea water intrusion and underground sewage disposal in major cities.

c- Improvement of water use efficiency by introducing water saving irrigation technologies, and recycling of waste water for irrigation and other suitable use.

d- Review of agricultural policy on irrigated and rainfed farming for sustainable water use.

e- Introduction of better management and conservation practices in the upper watersheds and allocation of water for the catchment areas.

f- Establishment of strong water use regulations and reorganization of the prevailing fragmented institutional frameworks under one umbrella conducive for national as well as community based water resource development and policy implementation.

Integrated water resources management for sustainable use would entail comprehensive approach for national water resources planning closely associated with the national policy objectives pertaining to economic efficiency, equity, environment and strategies for dealing with water quality, uncertainty of supplies (with associated risks), water treatment for its reuse and other special area of emphasis.

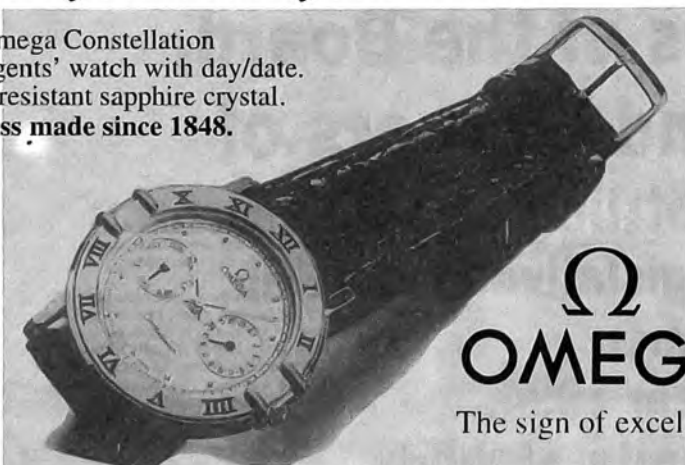
An immediate action plan is badly needed, especially for Yemeni cities, like Sanaa and Taiz, where there already exists an acute water problem. Will that happen? Only time will tell, although it is a big risk to wait to find out.

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عبد الرحمن سالم شماخ

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ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان.
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

د/ عبد العزيز السقاف

د/ محمد بامشموس

جمال المترب وعبدالله زيد الحضار

جميع أعضاء جمعية حضرموت الخيرية



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

An Open Letter to President Clinton

Mr. President:

I would like to start my letter with warm greetings from the land of Happy Arabia to the friendly American people and US administration, especially on this holiday season.

I would also like to express my appreciation for your interest in and support for the political evolution and democratization process of Yemen which is moving towards a free, pluralist society which observes human rights and respects the general liberties especially freedom of association, of the press and of expression.

But the cost of this transformation - at the financial, psychological and logistical levels is enormous and much more than our limited abilities can handle. Therefore, I personally expected - along with the enormous moral support we got from you and the Free World, I thought some tangible assistance was going to come to help safeguard the evolution process from any mishaps complicated by economic hardships. Even after trade was liberalized, bureaucracy reduced, privatization initiated, and the reign of the economy passed on to the market, very little economic progress is expected based on our own resources. Add to this the new burdens on Yemen for having to contribute in the overall security of the region, especially the international waterways along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Mr. President:

The statement issued by the State Department on Yemen's transformation was warmly received by Yemenis in all sectors. Your interest in our evolution and in the welfare of the our people came out clearly in that statement, which stressed the need for continued improvements and more popular participation in the

system within a unified Yemen - a demand of all Yemenis.

But the economic situation is so critical it may jeopardize all these political and social changes. The minimum of living standard must be made available to the citizens if they are expected to support the new system.

Not only does our country suffer economic hardships because of our limited resources, but also because of the undeclared war waged on us by some of our neighbors. Such a war has made us suffer at the economic, psychological and other levels. Our national cohesion was thus subjected to a serious strain.

This strain is steadily rising, and if push comes to shove, the complications will not be limited to just one place or country, but they will engulf the whole region. Thus the interests of the countries of the region, as well as international interests will be jeopardized because of this folly.

Mr. President:

Let me be a little bit more frank in putting what I have to say. Yemen is surrounded by neighbors who have some misgivings about their relations with it. The strained relations are not just a passive situation, but the other side is trying hard to make us bleed as a price for the country's position on the Gulf War.

Let me repeat that Yemen's official position on the Gulf Crisis was neutral and non-aligned, although the popular feelings were different. The people did go out on demonstrations. As a free country, we cannot and should not force a certain opinion on the public, or take away their right to express their opinion.

Our neighbors seized this excuse to wage a war on Yemen. They took steps

against the Yemenis working in their countries, and they have stepped up their efforts to strangle the people and system of Yemen.

Mr. President:

We are a people who love freedom and peace, and we are a patient people, poor as we are. Yet, I think we deserve the cooperation and respect of the world community for our ideals.

I feel the US administration is candid in its support of Yemen. Therefore, may I ask you:

1. To take all the necessary measures to clear-up the situation between Yemen and her neighbors, especially in light that one million Yemeni immigrants who had participated in the development and construction of these nations.
2. To coordinate with Congress for an immediate infusion of financial assistance to shore-up the economic situation in Yemen.
3. To use your good offices with Europe, particularly Germany, to provide an immediate cash aid to help remedy the situation.
4. To use your good offices with Japan to do the same.

I believe you are serious in trying to promote world peace in all corners, and we are one of its strategic corners. Your young and dynamic leadership has generated the admiration of our people, especially in light of your election campaign which stressed your support for human rights and opposition for discrimination and fanatic and fundamentalist policies. I hope you will positively respond to my appeals.

Yemeni citizen:

Talal Rasheed Al-Rajawi,
Chief Editor,
Al-Yemen Al-Saeed

Rebuttal: LANGUAGES AND "WHAT IS IN A NAME?"

In Yemen Times issue 46, on November 21st, page 8 was allotted to an article entitled "Languages and what is in a Name?" which was on abridgement of an earlier article by Roger Welsch in the *World and I* of January 1992.

Abundant in its examples as it was, the article suffered from real artificiality and lack of any sort of linguistic orientation.

It is started with a strange classification of languages, a classification which is neither logical nor accurate. It says:

- Navajo is a language of verbs ...

- 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, we want to know its name...

I wonder on what bases R. Welsch built his claims. All he did was that he gave some single examples to justify these claims, without realizing that one can find hundreds of counter examples.

As a matter of fact, I was really embarrassed to see Welsch's article adapted and abridged by our beloved newspaper, in spite of the prejudice one can smell in it. It unjustifiably implies that English is a language of nouns! To Welsch, then, English is by nature more

meaningful than Arabic; it makes more sense!

According to him, Arabic goes in a vicious circle: one merely fills one's sentence with prepositions and conjunctions without conveying one's ideas straightforward! One may also make the sentence unnecessarily long, simply because Arabic is full of conjunctions!

I wonder whether Welsch consulted any book on linguistics or grammar before making these claims. It is in fact unanimously agreed that parts of speech in all languages are either content words or function words.

Content words comprise what are usually called in English nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. They make more than 99% of the words of any language; Arabic is, of course, not an exception. Function words, on the other hand, comprise of articles (a, an, the), personal pronouns (she, us, his, theirs, etc.). Other pronouns (relatives like who and interrogatives like who...?) conjunctions (and, or, ...), prepositions (from, into,...) are also part of it.

Is it fair then to accuse Arabic of being inferior to English (and even to Navajo!) by filling its sentences with function words? Personally I wish I knew Welsch's address! I would have told him that English has got for sure more prepositions than Arabic! Every language can be proud of its richness in words in general and in specific parts of speech in particular. But to claim that one may not worry "if a sentence (in

Arabic) runs half a page or even a full page (on the ground that) that is the way it should be" clearly reflects academic blindness.

Moreover, the article ends in a strange conclusion concerning names that stand against all familiar conceptions and opinions:

"Names are more than labels, more than conveniences. Names are substance, the essence of what we are. They give us information: they reveal secrets... The name carries with it an understanding .. What is a name? Everything. A name is not a substitute for a reality; it is the reality itself."

A name, in fact, is simply a label. It normally conveys no information about the person or object. Like nouns in language, names are usually haphazardly chosen. If nouns in general and proper names in particular stood on logic, language would lose its main feature as a means of communication; it would lose its flexibility.

Let us take Welsch's example itself: it is a tree in English, Baum in German, arbre in French and Shajara in Arabic. Which of them is the most suitable or the most logical one? Then, what can we deduce about Aristotle, Napoleon, Joyce and Hitler from their names? Where is that "reality itself?"

Finally, I cannot deny the interest one finds in reading this article as it is rich in its examples and vivid in its exposition.

By: Majeed El-Mashta,
Language Center,



عام سعيد وكل سنة وأنتم بخير

يتقدم رئيس وأعضاء مجلس إدارة

المؤسسة الوطنية لتعبئة المياه الغازية - عدن

وكوادرها وموظفيها وعمالها بأمنياتهم الصادقة ومشاعرهم العطرة

لشعبنا اليمني الأبي وقيادته السياسية والتشريعية والحكومة

أملين أن يكون العام (١٩٩٤) عام أمن وإستقرار وتقدم ورخاء لوطننا الغالي

**The Chairman and Members of the Board,
the Management, Staff, and Workers of
The National Corporation for Water Bottling and Soft Drinks**
present to the people, political and legislative leadership
and government of Yemen

their best wishes for the year 1994.

**We hope this year will bring security, stability,
progress and prosperity to our homeland.**



THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 1994

The cause of meeting the most basic needs of all children must now be taken up with a new determination, both for its own sake and as an essential step towards resolving the problems of poverty, population growth, and environmental deterioration.

THE UNTOLD STORY

The world may be seeing the beginning of the final offensive against some of the most common and dangerous diseases of childhood, says this year's *State of the World's Children 1994* report from UNICEF. "Five diseases still kill over 8 million children every year, many times more than are killed in all the world's wars and famines," said the organization's Executive Director, James P. Grant, "yet progress against the major child killers of the modern world is largely an untold story."

Child deaths from measles, for example, have been cut from 2.5 million a year in the early 1980s to about one million today. The toll of diarrhoeal disease is down from 4 million to less than 3 million a year. Whooping cough victims have fallen from 700,000 to 400,000, and the number of infants killed by tetanus has been reduced from 1 million a year to just over half a million.

Much of this progress is a result of the decade-long effort to reach the target of 80% child immunization in the developing world - an effort that Grant describes as "undoubtedly one of the greatest public health achievements of this or any other century."

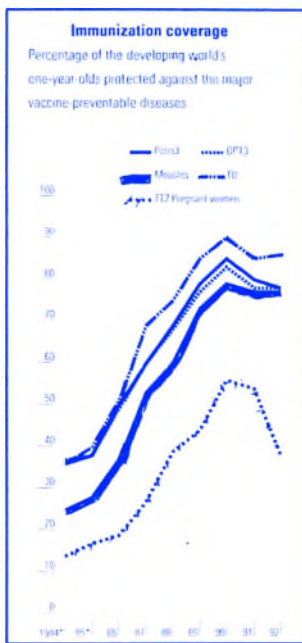
Disabilities Are Down

Also in retreat are some of the most common causes of childhood disability - the viruses and the micronutrient deficiencies which annually leave hundreds of thousands of children deaf, blind, mentally retarded, or paralyzed. The number of children being crippled by polio, for example, has fallen from about half a million a year in 1980 to an estimated 140,000 in 1992.

The *State of the World's Children 1994* also reports continued progress in family planning. More than half of the developing world's married women are now using some form of birth control, and the average number of births per woman is down from 6 to 3.7 in only one generation.

These successes are cited as examples of progress towards the goals adopted by political leaders at the 1990 world Summit for Children. The goals for the year 2000 include control of the major childhood diseases, a halving of child malnutrition, safe water for all communities, basic health care and education for all children, and universally available family planning services.

About 90% of the developing world's children live in countries that have drawn up national plans for achieving these goals. "With the exception of those countries most



severely affected by political turbulence or economic decline," says Grant, "all of these goals are practical and affordable."

Most developing countries are trying to reach some of the goals by the end of 1995 - including a 95% reduction in measles deaths, the elimination of neonatal tetanus, an 80% use rate for the oral rehydration technique that can prevent most deaths from diarrhoeal disease, the eradication of polio in certain countries, and an end to the disabilities caused by micronutrient deficiencies.

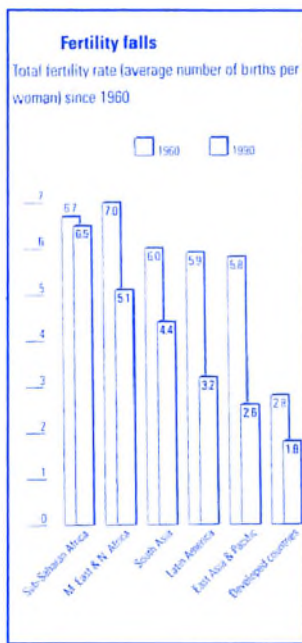
Promises and Progress

In some of these areas, UNICEF reports on promises being made good. Progress against measles is particularly significant. Deaths are down by almost 90% compared to pre-immunization levels, and the annual number of non-fatal cases of the disease - a major cause of malnutrition and disability - has been brought down from about 75 million to about 25 million.

The gains made in immunization have, in the main, been sustained or improved, and the year 2000 goal of 90% coverage has already been reached by 18 developing countries including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Polio-free Zones

The goal of eliminating iodine deficiency is also coming within reach. Lack of iodine in the diet impairs the mental and physical development of at least 50 million children in the developing world and causes over 100,000 a year to be born as cretins. Twenty-four countries have now launched national salt iodization programs, including China, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan - home to nearly half the developing world's children. The results are already becoming apparent: Bhutan, Bolivia, and Ecuador are close to the point of preventing any new cases of iodine deficiency disorders, including cretinism. Polio eradication hangs in the balance. There have been no new cases in the western hemisphere for two years, and polio-free zones are now also being created in Africa and the Middle East. But immunization levels have



fallen slightly recently in some countries, and Yemen is one of them.

Some countries have also made enormous but little recognized efforts towards the safe water goal. About 80% of the rural population of Bangladesh and India now have safe drinking water within relatively easy reach.

3 million Die of Pneumonia

In other areas, the UNICEF report shows that progress is too slow.

Pneumonia, in particular, remains virtually untouched despite killing over 3 million children each year.

Pilot studies in a dozen nations have shown that deaths can be reduced by up to 50% if community health workers are trained to use antibiotics. But although 60 countries have drawn up plans against pneumonia, "there is as yet little sign of action on the necessary scale," indicates the report.

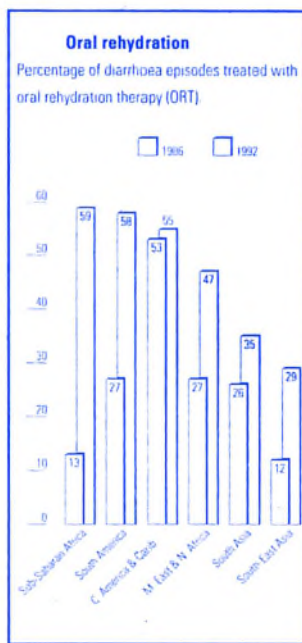
"Costly, useless drugs continue to be marketed in every village and neighborhood in the developing world," says Grant, "yet the inexpensive antibiotics that are required to attack the biggest single killer of the world's children are not being made available to those who need them."

Thus, almost three million children continue to die each year from diarrhoeal disease, even though most could be saved by the simple technique of oral rehydration therapy. "If the victims were the sons and daughters of better-off or more influential parents," says Grant, "Then it is difficult to imagine them dying at such a rate 25 years after the discovery of an effective and low-cost remedy."

The goal of a basic education for every child is threatened by high drop-out rates. Over 90% of the developing world's children start primary school, but less than two thirds stay at school for even four years.

The Price of Failure

The total extra cost of reaching all of the year 2000 goals is estimated at approximately \$25 billion a year. "This is a small price to pay," says Grant, "for a program that would protect the lives and the normal growth of the great majority of the developing world's children - with



all that this would mean for their nations' futures."

"The reason these problems are not being more rapidly overcome is not because the task is too difficult or too expensive, it is because it is not being given sufficient priority. And that is because those affected are almost exclusively the poorest and least politically influential people on earth."

At present, only about 10% of government spending in the developing world - and only about 10% of all international aid for development is directly devoted to the basics - adequate food, safe water, basic health care, primary education, and family planning. "The proportion should rise quickly to 20% of government expenditures and 20% of aid," says Grant.

Issues which are long term, and of primary interest to the poor, have always perched precariously on national and international agendas, but the UNICEF report argues that if the very worst aspects of poverty continue to be ignored, then they will cause increasing problems of social division, political instability, environmental degradation, and the gradual dwindling of the present opportunity for progress towards democracy.

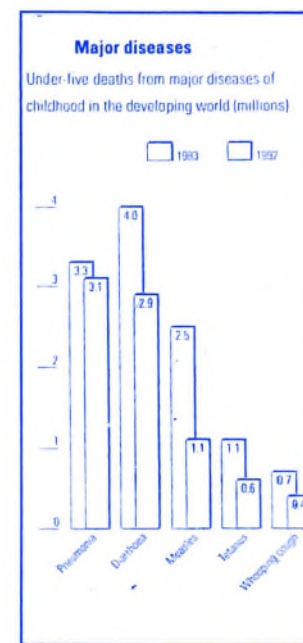
"From the consequences of such a failure," says the report, "no country - north or south, rich or poor - would be immune."

THE WORLDS OF DIFFERENCE

Every region of the world is now experiencing a slowdown in population growth. But what will happen in the years immediately ahead will determine whether total world population eventually stabilizes at 10 billion or 20 billion.

About half of all married couples in the developing world are now using some form of family planning - up from less than 10% in the 1960s. As a result, the average number of births per woman has declined from 6 to less than 4 in only one generation. "The speed of this change is unprecedented in demographic history."

Drawing on a mass of evidence from recent years, the UNICEF 1994 report shows that family planning is strongly associated with



improvements in the health, nutrition and education of both women and children. It can also bring down the toll of unsafe abortion which kills an estimated 100,000 young women every year. "Even if there were no such thing as a population problem, the rapid spread of family planning would still constitute one of the most significant contributions to human well-being of recent years."

Quadrupling

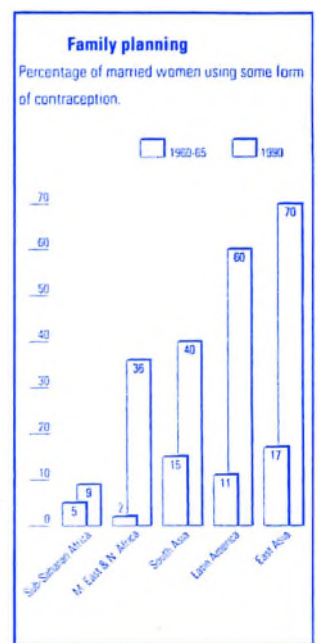
But, there still is such a thing as a population problem. If present trends continue, the numbers of the world's poor will quadruple within one lifetime. Over the next 40 years, the population of sub-Saharan Africa, the world's poorest region is projected to rise from 640 million to more than 1.6 billion. The population of Asia will rise from just over 3 billion to over 5 billion.

Most of this increase is inevitable, because those who will bring it about are already born and growing towards their child-bearing years. The real question is whether the worldwide trend towards smaller families can be speeded up still further. If so, then world population might level off at around 10 billion people in about 100 years time. If not, then it will carry on growing for at least 50 years longer, by which time there will be closer to 20 billion people. "This difference - roughly equivalent to double the entire population of the world in 1993 - may well be sufficient to determine success or failure in managing the human transition to a sustainable future."

Unmet Needs

Despite recent progress, there is still today a large unmet need for family planning. Surveys show that at least one pregnancy in five in the developing world is unwanted. In total, there are an estimated 120 million women in the developing world who do not want any more children but who are not using any effective means of contraception.

In real terms, international support for family planning has not increased for approximately 20 years. The extra amount needed to make services available to all couples by the end of the



century would be approximately \$3 to \$5 billion a year - roughly a doubling of present spending. Family planning currently accounts for less than half of 1% of government budgets in the developing world, and less than 1.5% of all aid from governments in the industrialized world.

Meeting existing demand for family planning will not be enough. Slowing population growth to manageable levels will ultimately depend upon the kind of social changes which lead ever larger numbers of people to opt for smaller families. Chief among those changes are improvements in child health and improvements in the education of girls.

Educating Girls

Where child health remains poor and death rates high, parents tend to insure by having more children than they actually want. "Deploying all today's means to drastically lower child death rates would be a significant step towards slower population growth," says Grant.

Economic insecurity also makes large families attractive for support in illness or old age. Similarly, lack of labor-saving technologies, from water-pipes and hand-pumps to fuel-efficient stoves and mills for grinding grain, makes large numbers of children desirable as a source of help in fields and homes.

The education of girls, in particular, has been shown to be one of the most basic determinants of fertility decline. Educated women usually have more opportunities, and are more likely to discuss and decide with their partners how many children to have and when. "They are also more likely to marry late, to postpone the first pregnancy, to leave more time between births, and to have fewer children in total."

Not all the factors are quantifiable. "In very poor societies, children may be one of the few sources of joy and pride, of change and hope, in lives that are often monotonous, hard, and resigned."

Yes, remarkable progress was made over the last decade against many threats to children. Yet, more needs to be done. Do we have the vision and courage for it?

Your 1994 Yemen Times Calendar

January 1994

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November 1994

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December 1994

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ECOLE FRANCAISE

Fête de Noël

Les petites filles avaient mis les robes à volants et une touche de maquillage, les petits garçons avaient sorti le pantalon noir et la chemise blanche. Ce n'était pas un cocktail mondain pour moins de dix ans, mais la "Fête de Noël" organisée par les élèves de l'Ecole française de Sanaa samedi 18 décembre, à la veille des vacances. Sur une estrade en bois installée dans la cour de l'école, les apprentis artistes ont pu faire une démonstration de leur talent. De la maternelle au secondaire, ils ont chanté, joué de la flûte, présenté des sketches et des petites pièces de théâtre. Les parents-spectateurs ont ainsi écouté l'histoire de "Gibus, le bon hibou des bois" racontée par les élèves de cour préparatoire, un intermède musical à la guitare joué par Nadim, ils ont repris avec les élèves, mais du bout des lèvres, quelques classiques du répertoire français, "J'ai du bon tabac", "A la claire fontaine", et ont ri au sketch des Inconnus "Made in Japan" interprété par Aymeric. Enfin, le père Noël est arrivé sur son âne, distribuant un cadeau à chacun des élèves. L'après-midi s'est terminé par un goûter. Rendez-vous l'année prochaine pour une autre fête de Noël.

CRISE POLITIQUE

Le dialogue à reculons

Les dirigeants yéménites ont trouvé leur bouc émissaire: la presse. La museler ne résoudra pourtant pas la crise.

Les partisans du Président Saleh et ceux du vice-Président Al-Bid semblent s'être mis d'accord sur une chose: faire traîner le "dialogue national". Ils s'étaient fixés la date du samedi 18 décembre pour reprendre leurs discussions. Mais un imprévu a encore provoqué du retard. Cette fois-ci, c'est un incident visant le convoi du Premier ministre qui a servi de prétexte. Haïdar Al Attas, qui venait d'Aden, a été momentanément empêché vendredi 17 décembre d'entrer à Sanaa par des militaires nordistes. C'est après de nombreux contacts avec des responsables à Sanaa que le convoi a été autorisé à pénétrer dans la capitale.

Le dialogue a finalement repris lundi dernier. Premier point d'accord: les adversaires ont décidé mardi l'arrêt des campagnes de presse. Le Président Saleh avait déclaré la veille l'arrêt unilatéral de la campagne de presse du CPG contre le PSY: "J'appelle aussi le parti Al Islah, notre partenaire dans la coalition tripartite, et les autres partis et organisations politiques ainsi

que la presse indépendante, à arrêter leurs campagnes qui nuisent à l'unité nationale". Accuser les journalistes a toujours été la solution de facilité utilisée même dans les régimes les plus démocratiques. Le gouvernement yéménite n'a donc pas failli à la règle.

Immobilisme du gouvernement

Museler la presse ne résoudra pourtant pas la crise politique. De même, mettre en prison les changeurs du marché libre pour stopper la dégradation brutale du ryal par rapport à la monnaie américaine est une mesure inefficace. L'économie yéménite va mal et la dévaluation de la monnaie yéménite par rapport au dollar ne fait que refléter la crise économique. Ces mesures donnent cependant l'impression que le gouvernement fait quelque chose. Englué dans la crise politique, il a pourtant du mal à masquer son immobilisme.

J.B.

Mort en Syrie

Suicide ou assassinat, le mystère demeure autour du décès du neveu de l'ancien président de l'ex-Yémen du Sud, Ali Nasser Mohammed, renversé en 1986 et réfugié en Syrie. Ce dernier a récemment entrepris une médiation entre les dirigeants nordistes et sudistes pour tenter de résoudre la crise politique que traverse le Yémen. Son neveu, Hadi Ahmed Nasser, a été retrouvé mort à Lattaquié en Syrie mercredi 15 décembre. Présent d'abord comme un assassinat, le ministre syrien de l'Intérieur, Mohammed Harba a déclaré quelques jours après qu'il s'agissait d'un suicide. "L'enquête a conclu que Hadi Ahmed Nasser s'est suicidé en utilisant un revolver et il ne s'agit pas d'un crime", a précisé le ministre. Le neveu de l'ancien président a été inhumé dans son village natal d'Om Goz, dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan. Plus de 20 000 personnes, dont de hauts responsables du PSY, étaient présentes à l'enterrement.

AVENTURE

Queen Sheba Trophy la route de l'encens

Prévu pour octobre 1994, ce rallye découverte s'est donné un objectif culturel: donner un coup de projecteur sur un pays chargé d'histoire.

"C'est un projet qui peut contribuer au développement des relations bilatérales entre la France et le Yémen et d'autre part aider à valoriser l'image du Yémen", c'est en ces termes que Mohammed Saïd Al-Attar, vice-Premier ministre et ministre de l'Industrie à apporter son soutien aux organisateurs du Queen Sheba Trophy. Ils sont deux Français et un Yéménite venus vendre ces jours-ci leur projet au Yémen, deux représentants du Queen Sheba Trophy Organisation, Christian Riehl et Sadek Al-Saar, et Maurice Imbert du groupe Saatchi and Saatchi France, une des plus grandes entreprises de communication en Europe.

Rallye découverte

Le vice-Premier ministre a fait remarquer que si le projet voyait le jour, il serait souhaitable que le rallye automobile soit placé sous l'autorité d'un comité interministériel. Les organisateurs pensent que le rallye pourra se faire en octobre 1994. Quinze jours pendant lesquels une trentaine d'équipages parcourront 4000 km de Mareb à l'Hadramout jusqu'en

Tihama. Des équipages qui rouleront sur la même voiture. L'objectif souhaité n'est pas la vitesse mais la découverte d'un pays au patrimoine culturel et archéologique très riche. Le slogan du rallye est la route de l'encens. "L'ambition est de réaliser une opération de très grande envergure, support de communication pour des grands groupes internationaux et coup de projecteur sur un pays mythique mais encore peu connu", explique Christian Riehl du Queen Sheba Organisation. Les équipages seraient composés de cadres et de clients des grandes compagnies participantes.

Déjà quelques entreprises au Yémen se sont engagées dans l'aventure. La compagnie aérienne Yemenia est ainsi le premier partenaire du projet. L'agence de tourisme Dar Saam Tours participe à l'organisation et la chaîne Taj Sheba est aussi de l'aventure.

Saatchi and Saatchi France va réaliser en janvier-février prochain une brochure, document de présentation sur le Yémen. Tirée à 50 000 exemplaires, elle sera diffusée sur un réseau mondial.



YALI

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TRIBUNE LIBRE

Conte démocratique

Par Mohamed Al-Kharbi

Quelque part dans le monde vaste et rond, il y a un pays plein d'enfants très méchants qui veulent établir un système très humain... très moderne. Ils ont beau essayer de le réaliser, les coeurs pleins de haine n'arrivent pas à se mettre d'accord.

Le pays pleure et pleure, et le ciel, très en colère, commence sérieusement à menacer. Il pleut du feu et des pierres. Mais les enfants mécontents restent indifférents. Ils réclament des guerres et des cendres. Des enfants très "socialistes" qui aspirent à construire des châteaux marxistes dans un espace vide sans origine!...

D'autres enfants très "congruistes" qui ont le pouvoir et le gèrent arbitrairement!... D'autres enfants très "idéologues" qui jouent partout pour gagner le néant et le tout!...

Et d'autres enfants, comme des "marionnettes" qui veulent manger et rêver et n'ont pas d'autre souci!...

Ca suffit les enfants! Vous devez stopper ce jeu dangereux nuisant à la démocratie et puis être très gentils pour connaître les dimensions significatives de cette notion nouvelle et effective. Ensuite entamer des discussions fructueuses à la lumière de l'intérêt capital et spirituel de ce pays étranger à vous!

Essayez de distinguer la différence entre dire et faire, compétence et performance, et plus exactement entre histoire et historicité. Soyez bons et charmants. Laissez ce

jeu aux grands. Oui mes petits enfants, Dieu aime les "bons" enfants les plus "savants". L'ignorance est l'ennemie de la sagesse et de la science. Au revoir "démocratie"! Les enfants vont dormir en rêvant de toi à l'infini! Peut-être à l'aube du printemps, il y aura un enfant courageux avec toutes les qualités pour sauver ce pays instable et enseigner la vraie démocratie aux enfants du monde entier, leur faire apprendre tant de choses très jolies.

"Qu'est ce que c'est ? ... Amour, Fidélité, Justice, Fraternité, Egalité, Liberté... puis franchise, patience, confiance, fermeté, respect..."

Mais les bases élémentaires pour construire un vrai système, et aboutir aux autres secrets de cette existence. S'aimer pour l'amour de la paix euphorique et magique. A tâtons, à tâtons, vers la solution ultramoderne mes petits enfants! N'oubliez pas de vous aimer, de vous entendre, et encore de vous aimer "franchement", vous aimer pour résoudre les conflits fraternels et surtout vous aimer pour que le pays voit le jour... sûrement un jour... après tant d'obscurité en l'absence d'une réelle volonté.

A moi! à moi!... Les chiens enragés aboient... les caravanes marchent au hasard et dépassent les traces des hommes barbares et sauvages... et il ne reste qu'une trace oh! ... la démocratie!

Mohamed Al Kharbi travaille au bureau d'information au Conseil de la Présidence à Sanaa.

En Bref

La mortalité infantile au Yémen: Dans l'"Etat du monde des enfants 1994" que vient de publier l'UNICEF, on apprend que le taux de mortalité chez les enfants de moins de cinq ans au Yémen est de 177 pour mille en 1992. Ce taux a été divisé par deux depuis 1960. Il était alors de 378 pour mille. Le Yémen reste cependant parmi les pays où la mortalité des enfants en bas âge est la plus élevée. C'est au Niger qu'elle est la plus forte, 320 pour mille, suivi par l'Angola, 292 pour mille. A l'inverse, l'Irlande et le Japon sont en tête, avec un taux de mortalité de 6 pour mille chez les enfants de moins de cinq ans.

Yémen/Arabie Saoudite: La réunion d'experts saoudiens et yéménites sur le différend frontalier, prévue lundi dernier à Sanaa, a été reportée à la "mi-janvier prochain à la demande du Yémen", a annoncé l'Arabie Saoudite. Sanaa aurait demandé ce report en raison de "problème de santé" du chef de la délégation yéménite, Jaafar Ba Saleh, directeur adjoint de la présidence. Les discussions frontalières entre les deux pays ont démarré il y a plus d'un an, sans réaliser de progrès.

Deux morts et trois blessés dans une fusillade: Deux personnes, dont un policier, ont été tuées et trois blessées mardi dernier au Yémen au cours d'une fusillade entre les forces de l'ordre et des hommes armés qui venaient de voler deux véhicules. L'incident est survenu sur la route Sanaa-Hoddeidah. Les bandits ont ouvert le feu sur la police qui, appuyée par des hélicoptères de l'armée de l'air, a lancé une vaste opération pour leur arrestation.

Janvier

- **11 au 18 janvier:** une délégation de deux sénateurs français, Bernard Barbier et Roger Chénaut, et un conseiller de la Mairie de Paris en visite au Yémen.
- **24 janvier:** le Var, bâtiment de la Marine nationale française fait une escale de courtoisie à Hoddeidah.
- **24 janvier:** un homme d'affaires canadien, Mike Schmitz, est enlevé par les hommes d'une tribu de Dhamar. Il est libéré le 15 février.
- **25 janvier:** le CPG annonce qu'il n'est plus question d'envisager une fusion ou des listes communes avec le PSY pour les élections législatives d'avril.
- **29 janvier:** pour la première fois depuis la crise du Golfe, un ministre saoudien vient en visite au Yémen.

Février

- **2 février:** le chef présumé du Jihad islamique au Yémen, Rachid Al-Oumaichi, accusé d'être à l'origine des attentats à la bombe contre deux hôtels à Aden en décembre, a été tué lors d'un accrochage avec la police et l'armée dans le gouvernorat de Lahej.
- **5 et 8 février:** pluies torrentielles dans les gouvernorats d'Aden, Lahej et Abyan qui provoquent des inondations. Plus de 12 personnes auraient péri et plus de 560 habitations auraient été détruites.
- **6 février:** un expert japonais en irrigation est relâché après quatre jours de séquestration par une tribu de la région de Dhinn à 70 km à l'est de Sanaa.
- **14 février:** reprise des contacts officiels entre les Emirats arabes unis et le Yémen.
- **15 au 19 février:** semaine culturelle et gastronomique française organisée par le Centre culturel français à Sanaa.
- **18 février:** manifestation à Sanaa contre l'embargo auquel est soumis l'Irak. 2 à 3000 personnes manifestent.
- **20 février:** visite du ministre du Pétrole yéménite en Arabie Saoudite.

Mars

- Les autorités yéménites décident d'interdire la consommation de qat dans tous les aéroports du pays et sur les vols des compagnies nationales et étrangères desservant le Yémen.
- Amnesty international dénonce le meurtre de 15 manifestants et de nombreuses tortures lors des manifestations de décembre dernier au Yémen.
- La date du 27 avril pour les élections législatives est confirmée officiellement par le Conseil de la Présidence. Les élections étaient prévues initialement le 22 novembre 1992.
- Vote au Parlement de la loi instituant les zones franches.

Avril

- **1er avril:** six employés de Total Yémen enlevés pendant près de douze heures par la tribu des Bani Al-Harith sur un site de forage de la province de Shabwa.
- **6 au 8 avril:** Ali Salem Al-Bid, vice-Président en visite au sultanat d'Oman. C'est la première fois qu'un membre du Conseil présidentiel se rend dans une monarchie du Golfe depuis la crise du Golfe.
- La Haute Commission électorale fait paraître le chiffre définitif des candidatures enregistrées pour les élections du 27 avril: 4814 pour 301 circonscriptions.
- **13 avril:** explosion d'une bombe à Sanaa près de la résidence d'Abdelrahman Al-Jifri, président de la Ligue des Fils du Yémen.
- La compagnie pétrolière Total annonce avoir découvert du pétrole sur la structure de Kharir.

L'année 1993 au Yémen

Trois ans après l'unification, l'année 1993 a marqué la fin de la période de transition pour le Yémen. Les élections législatives en avril ont concrétisé l'évolution démocratique dans laquelle il s'est engagé. Mais la crise politique depuis août menace sérieusement l'unité du pays. L'avenir du Yémen semble aujourd'hui incertain.

Des électeurs et des électrices attendant sagement devant les bureaux de vote dès les premières heures de la matinée. Les élections législatives du 27 avril ont mobilisé la population yéménite, tout du moins celle qui s'était inscrite sur les listes électorales. La majorité des Yéménites est en effet restée chez elle notamment les femmes.

Mais les résultats des élections ont été quelque peu biaisés par les tractations entre les partis. Pour éviter toute mauvaise surprise, le CPG du Président Saleh, le PSY du vice-Président Al-Bid et l'Islah du Cheikh Al-Ahmar, avaient verrouillé le scrutin. La répartition des sièges dans le pays n'a fait que confirmer cette impression, le PSY contrôlant les gouvernorats du sud, le CPG ceux du nord et l'Islah faisant une percée dans les régions d'Ibb et de Taëz.

Les bouleversements à la tête de l'Etat n'ont pas été à la hauteur des désirs de la population. Quatorze nouveaux ministres ont fait leur entrée dans le nouveau gouvernement Al-Attas, dont six islamistes. Ceux-ci sont apparus comme la nouvelle force politique du pays, devenant le deuxième parti au Parlement devant le PSY. Décrochant le poste de président du Parlement, en la personne de son chef de file, Cheikh Al-Ahmar, l'Islah s'est installé peu à peu aux postes de commande. En octobre, le parti islamiste a obtenu un siège au Conseil présidentiel, en la personne de Cheikh Zendani, un des durs du



Les élections législatives du 27 avril ont connu une forte participation de la population à Sanaa.

parti. La stratégie de l'Islah est cependant de rester discret. Le parti islamiste ne semble pas désireux d'occuper tout de suite le pouvoir. Cette discrétion apparaît d'autant plus visible depuis le début de la crise politique en août dernier. L'Islah préfère laisser s'affronter le CPG et le PSY.

Le parti socialiste, qui avait accusé le coup à la suite de son semi-échec aux élections, s'est rebiffé depuis, habilement mené par son chef de file, Ali Salem Al-Bid, le vice-Président. Ce qui est apparu au départ comme une nouvelle bouderie s'est

transformé en une remise en cause de la politique du Président Saleh. Ali Salem Al-Bid, retranché à Aden depuis le 19 août, a réussi à rassembler autour de lui les ministres socialistes qui flirtaient un peu trop à son goût avec le Président, mais aussi à fédérer les opposants nordistes à Ali Abdallah Saleh, notamment Cheikh Sinan Abou Louhoum, chef de file des tribus Bakil.

Plus généralement, la rébellion menée par Al-Bid apparaît comme une remise en cause du système Saleh, celui qu'il a construit depuis qu'il au pouvoir en

1978 avec ses frères qui contrôlent l'ancienne armée du Nord. L'Islah lié au Président par des liens tribaux le soutient dans cette affaire, craignant d'être entraîné dans sa chute. Nordistes et Sudistes campent sur leurs positions malgré les appels au dialogue, l'unité du pays semble de plus en plus menacée. Une séparation de fait est en train de s'installer, le Sud voulant profiter des richesses pétrolières qui se trouvent dans son sous-sol.

Jérôme BERNARD



Le chef d'Etat français, François Mitterrand au Yémen.

- **9 juillet:** Mohammed Haitham, ministre des Affaires sociales et du Travail décède d'une crise cardiaque. Il est remplacé par Mohammed Ali Al-Batani.

- **14 juillet:** En Israël, le directeur du département de l'immigration de l'Agence juive déclare que 246 juifs yéménites sont arrivés "secrètement" en Israël au cours des douze derniers mois.

- **18 juillet:** visite au Yémen du ministre des Affaires étrangères du Qatar, premier responsable qatariote à visiter le Yémen depuis la crise du Golfe.

- Le général Abdallah Hussein Al-Béchiri, chef d'état-major des forces armées yéménites, présente sa démission pour protester contre la politique du ministre de la Défense Haitham Tahar Kassem (PSY).

- **18 juillet:** évocation de six prisonniers islamistes en instance de jugement dans l'affaire des deux attentats à la bombe en décembre 1992 à Aden.

Août

- **15 au 19 août:** réunion à Taëz de la commission saoudo-yéménite chargée de trouver un règlement au conflit frontalier entre les deux pays.

- **19 août:** Ali Salem Al-Bid, vice-Président ne revient pas à Sanaa et se retranche à Aden. Début de la crise politique.

Septembre

- **11 au 17 septembre:** visite de 9 sénateurs français au Yémen.

- Un nouveau chef d'état-major est nommé, le colonel Abdel Malek Al Sayyani.

- Dégradation du ryal par rapport au dollar. Pendant plusieurs mois le ryal était resté stable à 1 dollar=46 rials.

- Le FADES, un fonds arabe basé au Koweït accorde un prêt au Yémen.

- **23 septembre:** Coup d'envoi de l'extraction du brut du champ de Massila. Production: 120 000 barils par jour.

- **29 septembre:** inauguration dans le port d'Aden d'un nouveau terminal pour containers.

Octobre

- **2 au 4 octobre:** visite du sultan Qabous d'Oman au Yémen.

- Election d'un nouveau Conseil présidentiel pour mettre fin à la période d'incertitude. Le CPG et le PSY n'ont pas réussi à s'entendre sur les amendements à apporter à la Constitution. Entrée de Cheikh Zendani (Islah) au Conseil présidentiel.

- **16 octobre:** Ali Al-Bid est absent lors de la prestation de serment devant le Parlement du nouveau Conseil présidentiel où il a été élu vice-Président.

- Sixième rencontre des experts saoudiens et yéménites à Ryad pour le règlement du litige frontalier.

- **18 et 19 octobre:** visite de François Mitterrand au Yémen.

- Deux journalistes britanniques libérés après trois semaines de garde à vue à Sanaa. Ils étaient soupçonnés d'avoir tenté d'obtenir des "documents confidentiels" et d'avoir "filmé sans autorisation".

- Visite du président roumain Ion Iliescu au Yémen.

- **26 octobre:** le ryal passe la barre des 60 rials pour un dollar. Manifestations à Taëz. Autoritairement, le gouvernement ramène le cours à 55 rials.

- **29 octobre:** attentat manqué contre deux fils du vice-Président Al-Bid à Aden. Son neveu est tué.

- **29 octobre:** délégation d'industriels français et délégation RPR (parti au pouvoir en France) en visite au Yémen.

Novembre

- **1er novembre:** un avion Sukhoï yéménite s'écrase près d'Aden.

- Visite du président érythréen, Issaias Afeworki au Yémen.

- **10 novembre:** le Parlement demande au Président Saleh de mettre fin aux mouvements de troupes dans le pays.

- **11 novembre:** le conseil des ministres se déroule exceptionnellement à Aden. Des mesures gouvernementales sont prises pour désamorcer la crise.

- **14 novembre:** attentat manqué contre le fils aîné du vice-Président Al-Bid à Aden.

- **18 novembre:** incident à Radfan entre militaires du nord et la population: 5 morts.

- **22 novembre:** les trois partis au pouvoir se mettent d'accord pour entamer un "dialogue national".

- Le comité de crise commun au Parlement et au Conseil des ministres forme un comité technique chargé d'encadrer la presse.

- **23 novembre:** le bâtiment français la Garonne fait escale à Hoddeidah.

- **23 novembre:** émission de la première carte d'identité "unifiée".

- **25 novembre au 1er décembre:** enlèvement d'un diplomate américain par une tribu de Mareb.

- **27 novembre:** congrès constitutif de l'UNF, Union des Forces nationales, parti d'opposition mené par Cheikh Sinan Abou Louhoum.

- **27 novembre:** Salem Saleh, membre du Conseil présidentiel, lance l'idée du fédéralisme. Le "dialogue national" prévu le 28 novembre est reporté sine die.

Décembre

- **4 décembre:** début du "dialogue national" à Sanaa entre les trois partis au pouvoir et les partis d'opposition. Il est aussitôt arrêté.

- **5 décembre:** le Président Saleh annonce qu'il accepte le plan de réformes en 18 points du PSY.



ALARM BELLS SOUND FOR SHIP OF THE DESERT

Its biggest enemy is the motor engine. Drought, urbanization and the decline of the nomadic way of life in many parts have also done their share to send its fortunes into a tailspin. Yet, animal experts agree, the camel is one of the most useful and underrated animals known to mankind. And, with desertification and global warming posing an ever greater threat, efforts should be stepped up, they say, not just to secure its future, but to fully exploit the potential of this most remarkable of animals.

At the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, officials have sounded the alarm. They warn that precious breeds of camels may be lost at a time when more attention should be paid to an animal that could prove a lifeline to communities, especially those in arid conditions where the raising of crops and the rearing of livestock is difficult.

"Camels are extremely well adapted to harsh environments where other domestic animals would be unable to survive," said Beate Scherf, of the FAO's animal genetic resources unit. "Some ethnic groups depend on the camel for their own survival. Conservation is extremely important. More efforts must be made to ensure we don't lose valuable genetic resources."

Although overall numbers have increased over the past decade with an estimated 19 million camels worldwide, they have dropped sharply in some areas, due to a more industrial life, said Scherf. "They use the car now, so they don't need the camel any more."

In Africa, the camel's fortunes have declined along with those of the Tuareg tribes, under ever increasing pressure from national governments to remain within fixed borders, burdened by drought and war and harsher environment which have had crippling effects on both nomads and camels.

Yet, ironically, the nomadic lifestyle of the tribes who in the past guaranteed the survival of the camel is also one of the biggest obstacles in securing its future. Attempts to catalog the breeds, a vital first step on the road towards conservation, are being made more difficult by the fact that the nomads have little in the way of a written tradition, and are in any case always on the move.

"The problem is that the nomads almost certainly have a wealth of diversity of breeds, but no one has access to the nomads. No one knows how many camels they have, and most importantly what kinds," said Scherf. "For example the nomads in North Africa move through the Sahara desert, across borders that for them don't exist, making it impossible to keep track of them."

In a bid to chart the world's camel breeds, and the varieties most at risk, the FAO has embarked on a mammoth project, sending out questionnaires to all camel-keeping countries. "It is an enormous task," said Scherf, who is coordinating the global survey. "We are also considering taking samples of camel hair and blood to analyses for chromosomes. That would show us how distinct the breeds are from one another, so we can then decide which ones are at risk and which ones must be saved."

Hurdles encountered so far include the disconcerting fact

that different names are often used for the same breed within a given country. "The breed name may come from the animal's color, the same in the local language, the name of the ethnic group breeding the

dating back between 3,300 and 4,000 years. In what today are Syria and Iraq the camel was used for military purposes and was definitely known as early as 2,900 years ago. The proof is a statue found at Tell Halaf



animals or the region's name, such as the the name of an oasis," said Scherf.

Scherf laid the foundations for the for the survey by attempting a literary search of the camel, to find references to the animal that might provide clues to the size and thereabouts of present breeds and populations. "But compared with other livestock, little has been upon camels," she said. "What little has been written is mainly in Arabic, which makes it difficult for western researchers" said the German-born FAO official.

Although camel-owning tribes often keep detailed mental records of their animals' ancestry, they rarely commit them to paper. For example, the Raika camel-tribes of western Rajasthan in India know their camels' ancestors for eight generations and pass the knowledge on from father to son.

Yet the camel features prominently in ancient scriptures. Like the horse, the camel originates from North America. Its earliest ancestors lived around 50 million years ago, although at that stage the animal was no bigger than a rabbit. From there, the camel is thought to have migrated across the land bridge which is now the Bering Straits, into Asia, and from there into much of the Middle East and Africa. Researchers say that the camel was first domesticated about 4,000 years ago for meat and especially milk, probably in the southern Arabian Peninsula, in the Hadhramaut area, in what is now Yemen. This theory is partly based on classical literature. Two camels engravings have been found from the Temple of Hureidha and from Seiyun, both in the Hadhramaut area and thought to date back about 4,000 years.

With the emerging trade in spice, incense and salt, the camel quickly spread to Mesopotamia, Egypt, Western Arabia and the Arabian Gulf as it was discovered how useful it was for covering long distances with heavy loads, especially over difficult sandy terrain. History records that, some 3,000 years ago, the Queen of Sheba used camels to transport her luggage when she visited King Solomon. One hundred years earlier, the Midianites reportedly used camels when they invaded Palestine.

In Egypt, the oldest evidence of the camel relates to a cord made of camel hair found in tombs of the III or IV dynasty,

in Syria, dating from that period, which shows a rider astride a saddled camel. From here, the animal is believed to have spread to Asia Minor present-day Turkey and played an important role in the Battle of Sardis in 546 BC the sight and smell of camels being used by Cyrus to frighten the horses of Croesus of Lydia. to this day, horses have an in-built dislike of camels.

The camel was probably brought to India by the invasion of Alexander the Great, about 2,300 years ago, say historians. The first mention of the animal in North Africa was in 46 B.C when Caesar recorded the capture of 22 of them from the Nubian army. By the middle of the 4th century AD the camel has formed an important part of the economic system of much of North Africa, prized as pack animal, for riding, and for pulling ploughs and carts. About a thousand years ago, the use of the camel was given an even greater boost by the spread of Islam. Muslims were encouraged to settle the shores of North Africa by being given a piece of gold and a camel. When Arab invaders went to Spain, they took their camels a source of meat, milk and transport with them. They did the same when they moved into Sicily.

The bactrian camel which has two humps as opposed to the dromedary's one, and a shorter, stockier build, with a longer shaggier coat - was widespread in western central Asia by about 2,500 years ago say researchers. But its use declined as that of the dromedary increased, especially on the Silk route. As the dromedary became dominant, the bactrian was forced back into the colder regions, there the one-humped species could not survive. Today, the bactrian still thrives in the colder climates of southern Russia, Mongolia, eastern central Asia and China. The dromedary, which accounts for 90% of all camels, is found in 17 African and 18 Asian countries, mainly in areas with arid or semi-arid climates.

South America has four species of the same family, two of them wild - the guanaco and the vicuna - and two of them domestic the alpaca and the llama. Strangely, the countries which rear these animals have proved to be far more methodical in their records, partly because they have a longer tradition of fixed as

opposed to nomadic agricultural methods, say experts. "The South Americans are much more aware of the valuable resources they have," said Scherf. "In countries such as Argentina, Bolivia and

Peru, conservation programs have been in place since the 1960s."

Like the south American llamas and alpacas, bactrian camels are highly prized for their wool, although it is of a coarser quality. Dromedaries

are valued more for their milk, their meat and their work as pack, draught and riding animals, though their hairs used for coats and

blankets, often for export, and their skins for shoes or sandals as well as gourds for carrying water and milk. Among the nomadic tribes, hides are also used for making tents. And camel dung is collected and used as fuel. It has the same heating power as wood, yet smokes far less, important when fires have to be lit inside a tent when the temperature drops sharply at night. "The nomads survive on the camel. they use every bit," said Scherf. Some tribes even drink camel blood. It is rich in iron and vitamin D.

Camel milk is one of the most important products for both dromedary and bactrian-rearing countries. For some tribes, it is the almost exclusive source of protein and vitamins. Low in fat, high in protein and especially rich in vitamins A and D, it provides a nourishing food. The camel's high milk yield and long lactation period means there is always plenty to go round. In parts of Asia, camel milk is used to make ghee by separating and churning the cream for the milk. In Egypt, butter is made from camel milk.

But is the camel's legendary ability to go for long periods without water, and to convert the scrubbiest vegetation into energy for long journey, that makes it such a unique animal. The dromedary is a perfectly designed desert machine. It gait enables it to cover large distances over difficult terrain with little effort, its feet forming cushions that spread its weight over the sand. Its nostrils are slit-like and can be closed to form a virtually hermetic seal against dust and sand. Its highly mobile lips are able to choose the most succulent leaves from a tree of thorns. Its hump, once thought to be a water container, is now known to be an energy reserve of body fat, ready for conversion as the need arises.

A camel can easily go for two weeks without water - though cases have been recorded of up to 30 days. It may lose up to 3% of its body weight in dehydration, a process which would be fatal in other animals. This loss can be replenished in a matter of

minutes. a strong baggage camel can carry up to 800 kg for a short journey. a good riding camel can cover up to 120 km a day. Riding camels have three speeds, averaging about 12.8 kph. The usual fast speed is between 16 to 24 kph. The fastest speed is 40 kph though this can usually only be maintained for a few minutes. Many camel-rearing tribes breed special strains, according to the use to which the animal will be put. The Amar ar Beja tribe, which has its base in the coastal area of Sudan, differentiates between three categories of camel the *shallagea*, *aririt* and *matiat*, for carrying baggage, riding and racing respectively. Even in countries where the traditional uses of the camel are in decline, racing remains an important cultural function. the Bedouins of the Arabian peninsula, who developed the Arabian horse, employ similarly strict breeding techniques to produce riding camels. the northern Arabian Ruala Bedouins distinguish between thoroughbred and common camels. Most Bedouin tribes also breed for colour. Some prefer white camels, others fawn, other dark brown or black. Cataloging this wide diversity of breeds is vital if they are to be safeguarded, say experts. "Every nomadic group has a variety of different breeds for different purposes," said Scherf. "They breed them distinctly according to their purpose. We must do our best to make sure that as many as possible are preserved for the future," he concluded.

The Silver Lining of the Crisis

Since the beginning of the current political crisis, I have followed it closely, along with the majority of the Yemeni people. I have seen local mediators fail, and now I see foreigners involved, which is indeed shameful. I believe, with determination, we can resolve our problem. We are better off without foreign mediators.

I am confident that the Yemeni people who have achieved two exceptional revolutions over the last few years - that of peaceful reunification and that of democratization and free elections - can handle the current crisis. History says that in spite of our differences, when faced with factors that threaten Yemen and its welfare, our people come together and behave in a way that protects the welfare and interests of the nation.

We have among us a lot of decent people - reformers, economists, politicians, lawyers, etc., - who can work out a solution for our ills. They can come up with good answers and help stop the "racket" and thus overcome the crisis.

The Quran says, "You may hate something, and yet it is good for you." That may be the case in this crisis. There is, no doubt a silver lining to it. I believe the crisis will leave with several lessons which will help us in addressing our problems in the future.

The crisis has down-sized some of our politicians who were getting psyched up to

return to their old ways when everything centered around one person or a small group. The crisis has forced on us to appreciate the real meaning of dialogue and to use it as a tool in our relations and interaction.

The crisis has strengthened the quality of patience and tolerance in our politicians as well as in our people at large. We have learnt the virtue of listening with an open mind and heart.

Finally, the crisis has helped us look at some of the core problems head-on. We must address these issues.

Having said that, I think that the majority of the 14 million Yemenis are supportive of Yemeni unity and democracy. Of course, we need a secure and stable environment to start working on raising the standard of living of our people. In my opinion, a big part of the problem are the political parties which have yet to understand their true role or to appreciate their responsibility in creating a group spirit to manage the country.

**Amin Al-Husseini,
Sanaa University.**

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Fire Destroys Factories in Taiz

The fire raged for seven hours starting at 3:45 early morning on Saturday 18th December, and ate away a whole factory and a warehouse full of raw materials. There was no way it could be brought under control as the flames rose up to hundreds of feet and steadily expanded horizontally.

"We felt helpless. I personally showed up at the (Taiz) airport at 4:15 pleading to get the fire brigade moving. They insisted they needed an order

from their boss before they can switch on the trucks. By the time they got their orders and they arrived at the scene, it was already 6:30. One factory was gone." Those are the sad words of Muneer Ahmed Hayel Saeed the General Manager of the National Company for Sponge & Plastic Industry. Taiz city's fire brigade arrived another half an hour later.

One of the jokes of this incident is that some of the trucks came with less than

full loads of water. "They were half-empty, which is infuriating," said one of the witnesses.

Another funny part to this incident is that the people

yourself protection against fire. Insurance is good, but also get a private fire brigade.

Already, investors in Yemen are saddled with so many



who came to fight the fire kept on picking up stuff on their way out. Thus, attention of the owners was divided between fighting the fire and controlling the thieves.

What does it all mean to our industrialists? It means that one of the additional overheads is to get

overheads - to finance private electricity generation, private water wells, private disposal systems, private security, and now private fire brigades. When the state does not provide basic infrastructure, the cost of producing in Yemen increases with no chance to compete.



Thus the Hayel Saeed Anam group of companies is getting its own two fire trucks.

There is another implication to last week's fire. It burnt down the only plant in the country producing egg-trays. So, hold on to your trays as they will be hard to come.

The supply in the market is enough to cover two months, and two more months will be covered through re-use of old trays, and the trays brought in with imported eggs.

It will take about six months before the new egg-tray plant

will be operational. Thus, there is a two-months crunch in the demand for egg-trays. What about civil defence efforts in Taiz?

Of course, they are really non-existent. They did not even show up, in spite of repeated calls.

With all that, you can see the grace, patience and tolerance of the Hayel Saeed Anam management come through. "I would like to thank all those who have helped us bring the fire under control," concluded young Muneer.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

CREDIT CARDS ON THE VERGE OF REVOLUTION

The plain old credit card is on the verge of revolution, according to industry analysts. In the near future, the simple piece of plastic nestling in your wallet or purse will contain the power of a tiny computer and may even be a trendy fashion accessory. Cards incorporating microprocessor chips are coming into use in areas from banking to health care. They offer greater protection against fraud than simple magnetic stripe cards and can deliver a wide variety of services.

"The advantage of the smart card is that potentially it can hold a lot more information," said Gordon Clarke of business advisers Coopers and Lybrand's, who advised Britain's National Westminster Bank on the launch of its Mondex smart card. "And that information is more secure. A smart card holds data in the same way as a computer. Through the use of software you can control the access to the data more effectively," he said.

The decision by the world's leading bank card firms to agree on a common standard for smart cards should speed up the development of those markets, card makers and analysts say.

Visa International, Master Card International and Europay-Europe's leader in the card business said they would work together on compatibility standards based on work already carried out by the International Standard Organization, ISO. Visa International alone has 360 million cards in circulation worldwide.

"This announcement is very encouraging," said Diane Wetherington, President of AT&T Smart Cards, part of American Telephone and Telegraph. "It is a very positive move for the industry."

Smart cards are already in use for health care in Germany and the United States, carrying an individual's medical details and, in the case of Americans, health insurance information.

"The care provider can just upload the data on the card into their computer," said Mike Jacobs of AT&T Smart Card.

Electronic payment of employment, social security or retirement benefits is another use. Still others include pay phones, and pay TV, road toll and parking fees and entry cards for buildings. In finance, smart cards are being used for automated debit and credit transactions and "electronic purse" applications.

France's Gemplus SCA - the world's leading manufacturer of smart cards formed a joint venture in June with automated transaction, ATM, firm VeriFone Inc of California to develop and market SmartCash, an "electronic purse" product based on smart cards with stored currency values.

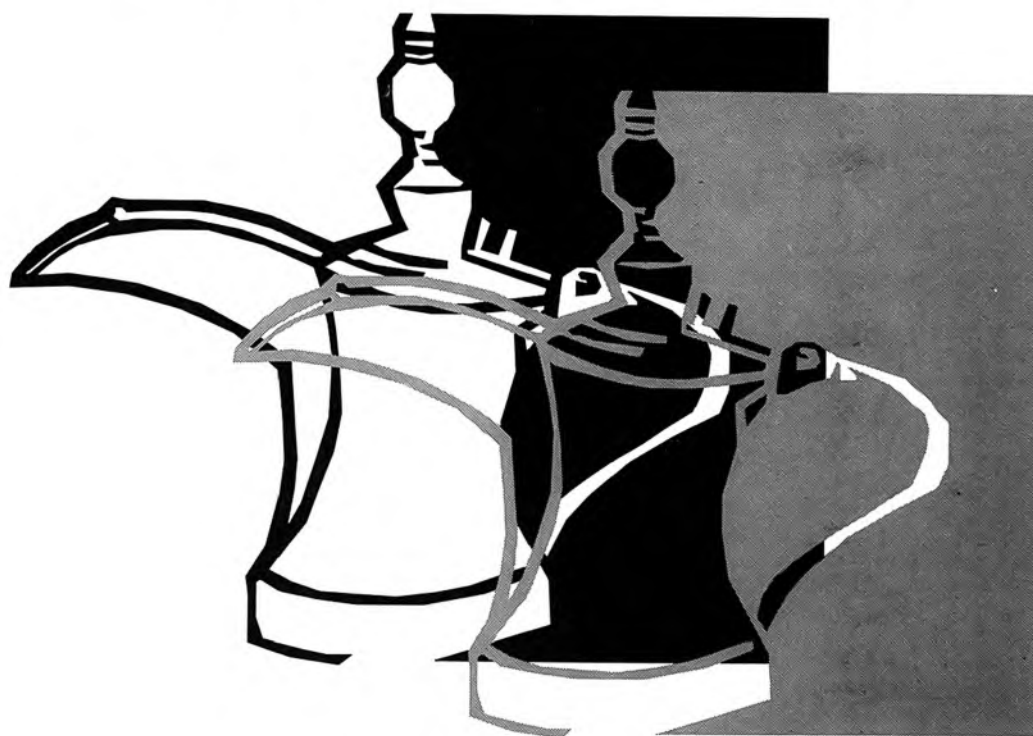
These firms foresee the cards being used instead of cash in everything from supermarkets and restaurants to the office vending machine, said Alin Calvo, Gemplus corporate communications director.

Chemical Bank of New York, the third largest US bank, has agreed to begin trials with AT&T's Smart Card both as an automated transaction card and for electronic purse use.

"In the longer term smart cards might make the ATM more functional than it is today," AT&T's Jacobs said.

You might be able to buy theater or airline tickets over the ATM or carry out stock transactions. This is because the smart card is more secure and can store some of these transactions.

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SUPERIORITY OF THE MIND

Thank God Averroism Is Back

By: Saad Salah Khalis
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times.



Averros or Averhos or more correctly, Ibn Rushd (1126? - 1198) and his thoughts and philosophy are being thoroughly reviewed and revived in several places and schools. In this very period of world wide fever of political, ethnic and religious fundamentalism that is trying to re-arrange the world ethnically and geographically, and even trying to rewrite history, it is amazing that the more practical Averroism should take hold.

Seeking to revive symbols of enlightenment, various occasions concerning Averros were observed and celebrated in the world lately. The first was the coming out of a special volume in memory of Averros in Cairo, where works of major Arab thinkers and philosophers were gathered and reviewed. The second was in The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where a center for "Averros" studies was established. Its first achievement was publishing his books in three languages, i.e. English, Arabic and Hebrew.

In Europe, a campaign is being initiated to re-discover this great Arab philosopher who fought for supremacy of the mind, enlightenment and reason.

In this age of total civilizational apostasy, where the books of spirits, djinnes, demons and sorcery have found dominance over books of logic, science and philosophy, it is of extreme importance to revive the symbols of the Arab intellectual uprising, among whom Averros stands tall. Averros is an Arab Muslim thinker and philosopher who rose up and contributed to the glorious days of Andalusia. He was the leader in the fierce wars between the mind, logic and modernization - on the one hand - and fundamentalist symbols of that age backed by autocratic rulers - on the other hand. He never feared being accused of atheism and blasphemy or the possible oppression of the state. His glorious discussions with Al Gazali, the major symbol of the opposing side, are valuable documents of philosophy and history. He fought against the boastful religious ideologists (who also were the political theorists of those times).

Averros worked to reach the truth, eventually triggering the whole European enlightenment movement which started in the thirteenth century when conflict over the ideas of Averros reached their peak. Those who agreed with Averros were deprived by all religious authorities of many privilege. It took Europe five centuries of struggle to admit the great conclusions of Averros, that is, "There is no power over the mind except the mind itself."

Some of his works were found in languages other than Arabic, such as Hebrew or Latin. Partly this is

because they were widely translated into the languages which were prevalent in Europe at the time. It is worth mentioning, for example, that Frederick the 2nd, Emperor of Germany in the 12th century, ordered the translation of Averros' works to aid in his fight against feudal lords during his modernization campaign. The second reason for the loss of Arabic originals of the Averros books is that they were burned when he was sent to exile.

Averros (Ibn Rushd) fought fundamentalism and the symbols who represented it such as Al-Gazali. In return he was accused of blasphemy and sacrilege, thus setting an ill reputed custom still highly used by religious demagogues upto our times. And we can clearly note the current trend of thought in the Arab & Islamic worlds - Al-Gazali's books can be found anywhere with ease, while Ibn Rushd's are rarities.

Interest in Ibn Rushd in Israel was a source of controversy, some fighting it because he was from a Jewish family that was converted to Islam. Others, especially those from the secular schools, praise the ideas and thoughts of Averros highly, which they see as a tool in their growing confrontation with Jewish fundamentalism. Some try to identify Averros as just an "explainer" for Aristotle, but thorough research clearly identifies him as a thinker of great originality, and as the first, or rather major builder of the bridge between Arab and Western cultures.

The concept of "Oriental Tyranny," of Hegel is believed to be based on the oppression to which Ibn Rushd was subjected. Yet, most serious researchers believe that the stories about reasons behind the Averros' oppression are secondary to that one main reason - his opposition to those who claim to have monopoly of truth, who were and continue to be the absolute rulers and thinkers of the Orient.

Our rulers and religious leaders banded together and became untouchable symbols of worship putting the mind into centuries-old freezing conditions.

Ibn Rushd has become a rallying point all around the world for a growing effort to curb and control the wave of fundamentalism - whether Islamic, Judaic, Christian, Hindu, or any other religion. Fundamentalists do not spare any means including mental and physical terrorism, to reach their goal - to make everybody else copies of themselves.

So, let us start the year 1994 with a resolution to re-direct and re-focus our efforts.

Let us start by opening the brightest files of our history, the files of enlightenment, of scientific thought, and of our great contribution to human civilization.

Let us work against blind and egocentric fundamentalists who practice self-beating and who destroy many beautiful aspects of our history and ourselves.

Let us work in order to raise the morale of our coming generations and make them proud of our great philosophers like Ibn Rushd and what he stood for.

Let us glorify the only power capable of changing history. The power of the mind.

"WEEKLY TIT BITS" by Susan Sanganee

* Slip of tongue at the Yemen Times, in its issue No. 47 of December 4, 1993, under Local News, page, for the introduction of two new services by the Yemen Commercial Bank, the Yemen Times attributed this to the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The bank expected correction in the next issue.

Since this was not forthcoming from the publisher, WEEKLY TIT BITS, on behalf of Yemen Times, apologizes for the mistake.

* The Yemen Times does it again. In its issue No. 49 of December 12, 1993, under News Makers, page 8, write up on Ms. Georgina Simpson appeared against Dr. Barry Mapstone's photograph. WEEKLY TIT BITS apologizes to both Ms. Simpson and Dr. Mapstone.

* The world over, weather forecasts are given by means of maps and appropriate signs, temperatures are given in written strips so that people with hearing problem may get consolation by reading. Would the TV consider this?

* Post Office Boxes all over the world are placed for the convenience and easy access at all times to holders. Surely Minister of Communications could apply such methods in Yemen without giving excuse of "Rented Places."

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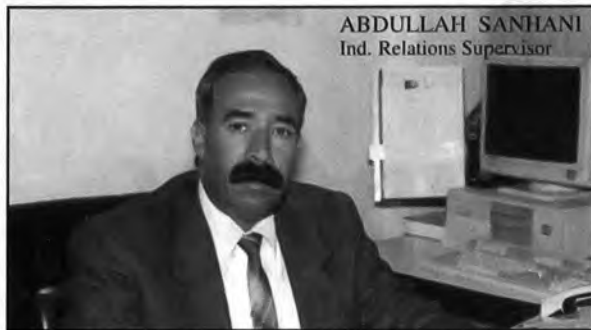
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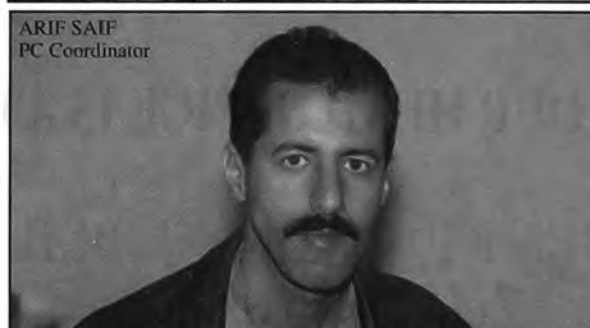
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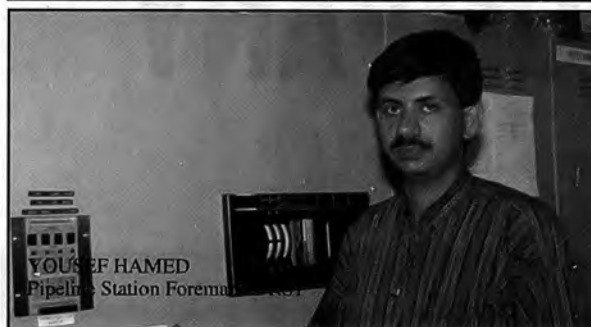
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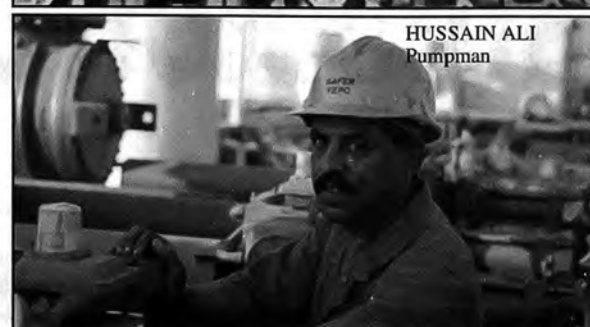
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CS+ Plant Operator



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Pipeline Station Foreman



HUSSAIN ALI
Pumpman



SHAMS MOHAMMED
Line Operating Engineer II

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Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumphury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61

Insurance Companies:	
Y.I. & ReInsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance: Sanaa	206112/14
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General: Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co.	01-272890-2
Aman Insurance Co.	01-209452



EMBASSIES & Consulates

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1. Embassies:

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Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	275995/7
Germany	216756/757, 266873/4
Hungary	216250, 216679
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	206945/948
Iraq	216682/790
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	216701/736
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2
Syria	247750/52
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	215985

2. Honorary Consulates:

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Belgium	205925/865
Canada	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
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Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534

3. International Organizations:

FAO	207331/607
UNDP	215505
UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204

ADEN Consulates :

China	233115
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335
France	223129/090
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
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Saudi Arabia	232760/232526
Slovak	233630/232101
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13
FAO Branch	233722/232146

AIR LINES

Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways (Sanaa)	248151/2
British Airways (Aden)	243475
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909
KLM	272546-9
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	205865
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543

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Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

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Taj Sheba	272372/3
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
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Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
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Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
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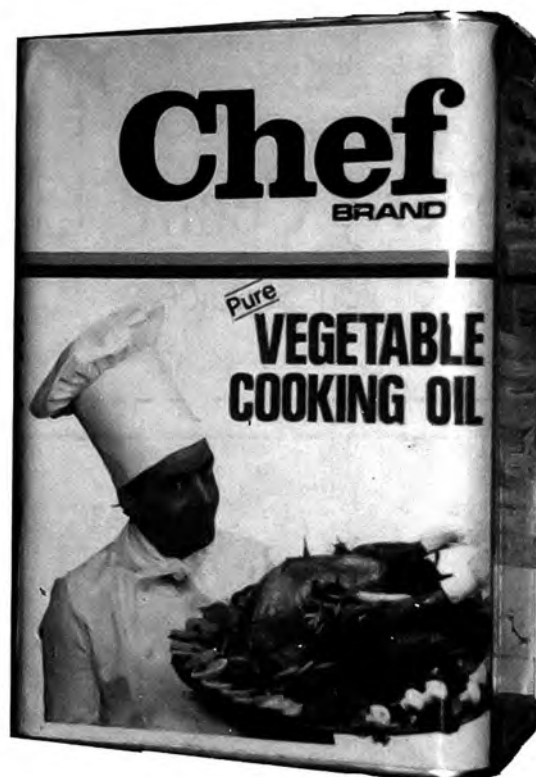
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Analysis

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Sanaa University

Blaming the Messenger for the Message!

Efforts to Curb Press Freedom

There is an increasing urge to blame the media for the political crisis now strangling the politicians. The government has come out lashing at the sensationalism of "irresponsible journalists who have aggravated the situation." The Dialogue Committee has issued a statement urging the media to show "sufficient consideration for the national interests." The parliament has called for "punishing newspapers that have crossed the line and thus jeopardized the welfare of the nation." The political leaders have expressed their anguish and deep concern over what the newspapers write. Now the Ministry of Information is "working on new guidelines for the press." It all smacks of an unhealthy

environment in which the politicians are getting ready to throw the blame for their disagreements and differences on the media. It shows their irritation for having the view of the other side aired with equal opportunity. It, in short, shows the lack of tolerance of our leaders to any thing that is different from what they say. As a result, journalists have met last week to discuss this new development, and another meeting is set for tomorrow, Monday, 27th December. "We have to work jointly and strongly against this crazy accusation. We will expose their shortcomings as well as their efforts to throw the blame on us," said Abdul-Bari Taher, Chairman of the Journalists' Syndicate and the

leading personality behind the counter-attack. "Yes, some journalists have sometimes been out of line and sensational. But these are 'employed' by the politicians," he said. It is a glaring fact that our politicians have been unable to work together. The "difference in opinion" between the PGC and YSP leadership are not the result of newspaper reports. To the contrary, their differences and the sway they have over certain newspapers have polarized the local media. "So, if any side has any complaints to lodge, it is really the media who should complain against the role of the politicians in obstructing its proper functioning and in creating conflicts among

journalists," adds the boss of the Journalists Syndicate. Whatever the shortcomings of the current environment, freedom of the press needs to be strengthened and refined rather than curbed. As long as there is a ministry of information, which sees its main role as "guiding" the press and "reigning in" those who don't see things they way it does, there will always be a danger to our freedom of the press.

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