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Hunt Offers Project Return of US\$ 46 Billion Compared to Enron's US\$ 33 Billion:

The Fight Over the Marib Gas Exploitation Rights

The Hunt/Exxon/Yukong group is fighting back. You can call it the new year offensive. Ray L. Hunt, Chairman and CEO of Hunt Oil Company, gave a clear warning to Enron Europe, which has been vying to strike a deal with the Yemeni authorities to obtain the right to exploit the gas reserves in Marib Al-Jawf area.

A January 7th press release to the international media states: "He (Ray Hunt) has advised Enron of the existing gas rights of Hunt/Exxon/Yukong under the Marib Production Sharing Agreement (PSA)." The statement stresses that the gas is subject to the PSA between the Government of Yemen and the Hunt/Exxon/Yukong partners.

Mr. Karl Swenson, President of Exxon Yemen Inc., told the Yemen Times, "the Hunt/Exxon/Yukong group has legal right to the exploitation of the gas according to conditions to be agreed upon with the Yemeni government. "The Hunt/Exxon/Yukong is ready to take all measures to protect their rights," he warned.

According to a press statement released to the local press on January 14th, it was reported that



there have been several stories in the media which were not fully accurate.

There are eight specific points which the statement pointed to as misrepresentations. They contest that there were errors and mis-

information in the media reports on the offer of the third party (Enron).

Senior representatives from Hunt and partners (picture above) spent almost ten days in Sanaa to hammer out an agreement with

the Yemeni government. The offer they presented, they say, is better than the Enron offer, as it could provide the Yemeni government up to US \$ 46 billion in revenue over the next 30 years..

More details on page 7

As Vice President Al-Beedh Remains Entrenched :

President Saleh Calls for a March on Aden



AL-JANAD MOSQUE IN TAIZ: Where a Deal Was Supposed to Have Been Struck Last Week

Al-Izzy Asselwi, Yemen Times.

Well, it didn't happen last week at Al-Janad in Taiz. Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh did not make it. He remains entrenched in Aden waiting for President Ali

Abdullah Saleh to start implementing the YSP 18 reform points to which he agreed.

But Ali Abdullah Saleh has been busy gaining converts, and he has succeeded in making considerable headway.

The Ulemas have issued their

statement, basically accusing Mr. Al-Beedh of intransigence. They said that he should have come to talk about what it exactly wants. The president was also able to convince many of the intellectuals that he has changed and that he is willing to make the

necessary sacrifices in order to safeguard the unity and democratization of Yemen. "I am even willing to resign from my post as president if that were to salvage the situation," he said. His ditch has appealed to many Yemenis and foreigners who see him as having shown much flexibility. He also has won the hearts of many of the middle class in Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Hajjah, Al-Baidha and other governorates. His supporters say they also have sympathizers in Hadhramaut, Shabwah, Abyan and Aden. In the meanwhile, there has been a flurry of international mediation to halt the deterioration in the situation..

The Omani Foreign Minister, the Jordanian Sharif Zaid Bin Shakir, the heads of the diplomatic missions in Yemen, the US ambassador in Sanaa, etc. were among the people who shuttled between Taiz (where President Ali Abdullah Saleh spent last week), and Aden where Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh remains entrenched. Result: Still no deal.

More details on page 18.

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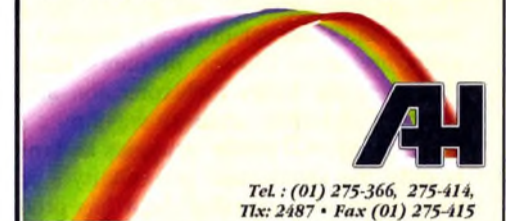
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OUR VIEWPOINT

GUARDIANS OF THOUGHT Limits on Freedom of Expression

The on-going debates about the limits of freedom of the press and its relationship with the national interest has taken a menacing twist last week. The officials at the Ministry of Information are advancing the argument that for the sake of national unity, the press should exercise self-restraint voluntarily, or the Ministry will make the media see light.

The apparent intensity of public debate and the variety and sheer quantity of publications in Yemen today create an illusion of unrestricted discourse. However, the limits on expression are defined in complex and often arbitrary ways by a government beset by internal power struggles and intolerance. It is only the intellectual community's resistance to state-imposed censorship that has produced some relaxation of control since the unification agreement of May 20th, 1990.

The parameters of what is permitted and what is not tend to shift quickly, in response to pressures within the ruling movement. There are several things the ruling cliques do to limit freedom of expression:

1. The ruling political parties produce a plethora of newspapers and engage them in a lot of bickering and lies to the extent that the public loses confidence in all newspapers.

2. The Ministry of Information has swarmed the independent media with so many court cases that it is forcing them to "see light." Many newspapers which do not possess the resources and/or stamina have succumbed to the wishes of the ministry lest they should be sued, for whatever reasons.

3. The government ministries have been selective in giving business to the private media. These include subscriptions, advertisements, and various other jobs. Government business is dispensed with an eye to the position of the various newspapers vis-a-vis different issues.

Of course, television and radio are monopolized by the state and people perceived as belonging to the opposition.

A true democracy is based on tolerance, especially of different points of view. Yemeni officials can prove to be democratic by showing their tolerance and respect for freedom of the person. The Ministry of Information should not claim to be the guardian of thought. A democratic society does not need one.

The Author
عبدالله بن يحيى

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Bakeel Council Holds Meeting

The Unified Council of Bakeel Tribes held an expanded meeting of its members in Dhooran, Aanis, during 12-13/1/1994.

The Council discussed the current political crisis, and the possible role of the Bakeel tribes, which are searching for an effective role to play in the affairs of the country.

According to Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Miqdad, Member of the Supreme Committee of the Council and the Grand Sheikh of the Anis tribe, the Bakeel tribes feel they have been shut out by other tribal groupings (read Hashed tribes).

Prof. Hassan Visits Yemen

Professor S.B. Hassan, Chief Editor of the famous Pakistani monthly, Investment & Marketing, concluded on Thursday, 13th January, a three-day visit to Sanaa. It was a fact-finding mission, which will lead to a short survey on Yemen to be published in the magazine.

"My visit is a fore-runner to an extended one, and I hope to come back and do an extended survey on Yemen," he told the Yemen Times.

Governorates Hold Meetings

As anticipated by the Yemen Times, the Taiz Gathering served as a fore-runner to many other gatherings in various governorates. Last week, Hodeidah governorate held its meeting, while this week, the Al-Baidha Gathering is scheduled.

All governorates have emphasized their steadfast commitment to a unified Yemen, although they called for more decentralization and local government.

US Congressional Staffers Visit Yemen:

Two Americans of Arab extract - Dr. George T. Cody and Jay C. Ghazal, were on a visit to Yemen during which they met with Yemeni parliament members, their assistants, and various intellectuals and public figures. They shared their long experience in parliament with the Yemenis who are learning the workings of parliamentary democracy.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Visits Yemen

Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ali Alatas, arrives in Sanaa on Friday, January 21st, at the head of an Indonesian delegation.

Mr. Alatas, who is of Yemeni (Hadhrami) origin, will spend five days in Yemen during which he will meet with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Foreign Minister Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah - both in Sanaa; Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh, and Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas - both in Aden; in addition to numerous other officials.

Alatas is also scheduled to visit Hadhramaut, the region of his ancestors.

This Alatas visit to Yemen is the first Indonesian visit of this level, and it is expected to further strengthen the understanding and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Since the accreditation of Indonesia's first ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Ahmed Noor, exactly one year ago, relations between the two countries have steadily improved.

Seminar on TB

The National TB Project and the Japanese aid agency, JICA, are together kicking off today, Sunday, January 16th, a three day (16-18/1/1994) seminar on tuberculosis in Yemen.

According to Adil Al-Khalid, Public Relations Manager of the National TB Project, the seminar aims to achieve a wider coordination among the institutions working in this field.

Dialogue Committee Extends Deadline of Report

The Dialogue Committee which is discussing the ways and means to exit from the current crisis has issued a statement saying it would not be able to complete its report and proposals by the 10th of January, as previously decided. The now Committee says it will complete its report by the 18th.

The Committee's report is expected to outline the foundations for establishing a modern state, which is the declared ultimate target for all the parties.

Strike at the Military Hospital Is Over

The Military Hospital in Sanaa was on strike for six days (Sunday through Friday (10-15/1/1994). The strike was triggered when Lt-Colonel Aamer Al-Jayifi, Commander of Security Affairs at the Military Police Force, slapped Dr. Sulaiman of the Military Hospital for refusing to give him a medical report stating that he needed medical treatment abroad.

All the hospital staff banded together to get retribution for this flagrant misbehavior.

The problem was finally resolved when the military man presented his apologies to the doctors through a well-known tribal arrangement.

For what it is worth, the hospital is now open again.

Hostages Are Out

Peter Jackson of the UK and George Hawkins of Canada were both freed at noon on Thursday, January 14th, following twelve days of abduction.

Both men, who work for Yemen Hunt Oil Company, were abducted by the Khowlan tribe while on duty, inspecting the pipeline through which the Marib oil is exported.

The kidnappers of the Khowlan tribe has received a water-well drilling rig to dig five water wells, and a firm commitment to build three schools in their region. It is also said that a "philanthropist" has provided them with money to pay for guarding the pipeline.

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PRETORIA, TEC IN TUG OF WAR

The south African government and the multi-party transitional council squared up for a test of strength over the council's demand for police to be deployed in Zulu chief Buthelezi's violence-hit homeland. Law and order ministry spokesman Craig Kotze said last week the government would probably ignore the demand.

The Transitional National Council (TEC), dominated by the African National Congress and its allies, said last month that national police should protect lives and property in four areas in northern Natal, and two more in self-governing Kwazulu.

The issue is the first real test of strength between the National Party Government and the TEC, set up in December to give blacks a voice as South Africa moves towards democracy. The government says the TEC is an advisory body but the council says it has executive powers over crucial areas in the run-up to South Africa's first all-race election on April 27.

Pretoria created 10 nominally independent or autonomous homelands under its racial segregation policy of apartheid. They are due to disappear after the April elections.

The TEC demanded action after Police Commissioner General Johan Van Der Merwe reported that the main cause of unrest in northern Natal was the power struggle between the ANC and Inkatha. The police report said Inkatha had launched a campaign to drive ANC members from some areas and more violence was likely in the run-up to the elections.

More than 13,000 people have been killed in political violence since President F.W. De Klerk began to dismantle apartheid and legalized black opposition groups in 1990.

Kotze said Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel was considering the TEC demand for national police deployment. "It is unlikely that whatever action is taken will take the form that TEC is demanding. This is sort of thing could be worked out between the south African and Kwazulu police," he added.

VICTORY IN THE WIND AS SYDNEY BATTLES ON AGAINST INFERNO

Australia's killer firestorms appeared to be on the run last week as weary firefighters took advantage of patchy rain, cooperative winds and cooler weather to push the flames away from populated areas of Sydney. But authorities stopped short of declaring victory.

"Everything is under control but the fires are not out," said Phil Koperberg, director of the New South Wales bushfire services department. "The difference could depend on a quick change of temperature and wind."

As more than 100 fires continued to burn in New South Wales, frantic fire crews under took massive tactical burning operations to deprive the fires of fuel before the weather turned.

The fires, which have killed four people and forced tens of thousands to evacuate their homes, have now destroyed 190 houses and seriously damaged more than 100 others, mainly in Sydney's heavily wooded northern and southern suburbs.

Police said about 100 people had been admitted to hospitals with various injuries, while hundreds of others had been treated on scene by ambulance crews.

Officials have said, "Only the heroic efforts of up to 10,000 firefighters battling the monster fires - most of them deliberately lit - have kept the number of destroyed homes from reaching into the thousands.

Small factories, petrol stations, shops, schools and churches have also been destroyed in the fires, which have burned 600,000 hectares in the past eight days.

Eleven people have been arrested on arson charges.

Early estimates of the damage to residential and commercial properties were about Aus-

tralian \$100 million (US\$ 69 million), the Insurance Council of Australia said.

The fierce blazes have been stoked by the highly volatile oils of the eucalyptus tree, which vaporize under intense radiative heat as the fire approaches and explode, with flames sometimes towering as high as 70 meters.

As one resident of the fire-raged Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, put it last week, "The wind was on fire. I have spent the last 12 hours trying to work out how to describe what happened it is the only way."

Prime Minister Paul Keating, who surveyed the damage around Sydney last week, said the government would treble previously announced payments to the 1,000 or so people made homeless by the fires to A\$2,000 (US\$1,370) per family.

"It will be graded on the size of families, so families with more children will receive more rather than less," Keating said.

Meanwhile, from the downtown Opera House and famous Bondi Beach in the south to shopping malls in the west and swank cafes in the north, one word is on nearly everyone's lips - fire.

"Everyone is talking about the fires. It's touched the city people even though the fires are in the suburbs," said Marty Nezval, 25, a lifeguard at Sydney's Bondi Beach.

Bondi's usually white sand was littered yesterday with ashes washed up from the surf.

A light rain, which gave firefighters a slight reprieve, was welcomed by beachgoers who typically loathe even the faintest sign of showers.

"It's the peak of the holiday season but everyone is happy it's raining," Nezval said. But at last, the fire-fighters did conquer the inferno!

PLO, JORDAN CONCLUDE ECONOMIC ACCORD

Jordan and the PLO, after days of debate and months of rising tension, signed an economic pact last week that called for coordination of policy and cleared the way for resumption of banking in the occupied West Bank.

"This a very good agreement and the beginning of a new phase of practical cooperation and coordination," said Jawad Al-Anani, Jordan's minister of information and prime ministry affairs who had been pressing the PLO to sign the accord.

The agreement covered a broad range of economic activities, Anani said, but the first result would likely be the reopening of the West Bank branches of Jordanian banks that have been closed since Israel captured the area in 1967.

Jordan and Israel had already signed an agreement on reopening the banks but King Hussein delayed implementation at the request of the PLO.

The PLO-Jordanian talks followed warnings by the King that Jordan would set its own course in Middle East peace talks unless the PLO finalized the economy accord that had been under discussion since October.

The document was signed by Deputy Prime Minister Said Al-Tell and Farouq Kaddoumi - co-chairmen of the PLO-Jordanian Coop-

eration Committee that had produced little since its formation last summer.

Anani said the accord met "the level of our ambitions" while being realistic about what can be implemented between Jordan and Palestinian areas that remain under Israeli control.

"In terms of economic cooperation it has been rather comprehensive in the sense that it has covered almost all economic activities which will be implemented as the peace process progresses as the opportunity allows." "And in terms of priorities, we think that reopening of bank branches in the West Bank is the thing that we can readily and immediately embark on."

Eight Jordanian banks operated 26 branches in the West Bank prior to the 1967 war, when Jordan lost the area to Israel. all the banks are believed anxious to resume operations.

The one million Palestinians of the West Bank are served only by the Cairo-Amman Bank, under Israeli imposed restrictions that prevent most activities outside of taking deposits.

a joint Jordanian-PLO committee is to coordinate financial policy in the occupied territories, Anani said, but it was not immediately clear how policy of the Jordanian central bank would be controlled. Its monetary policy could have a key impact on the West Bank.



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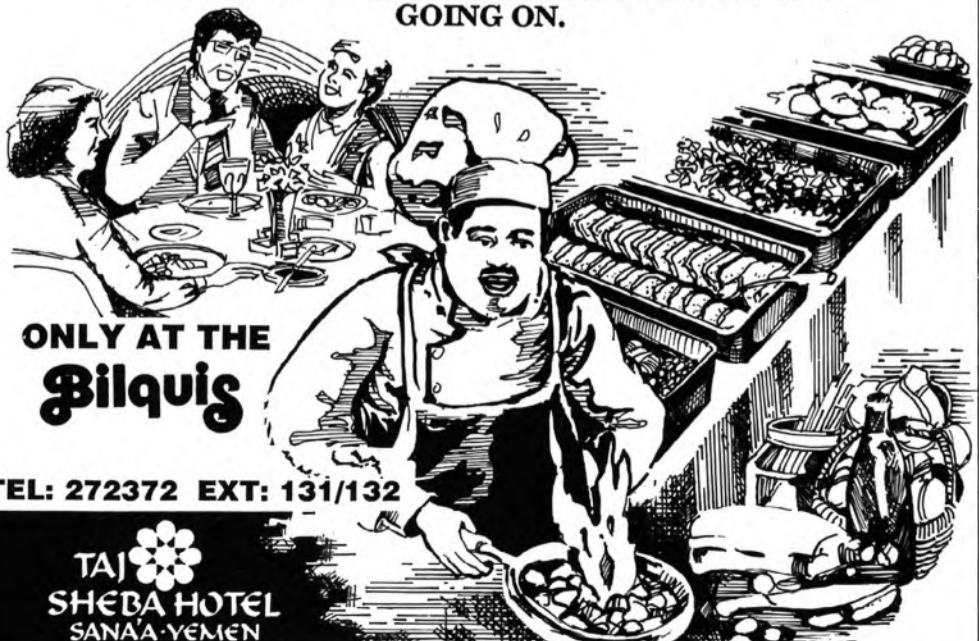
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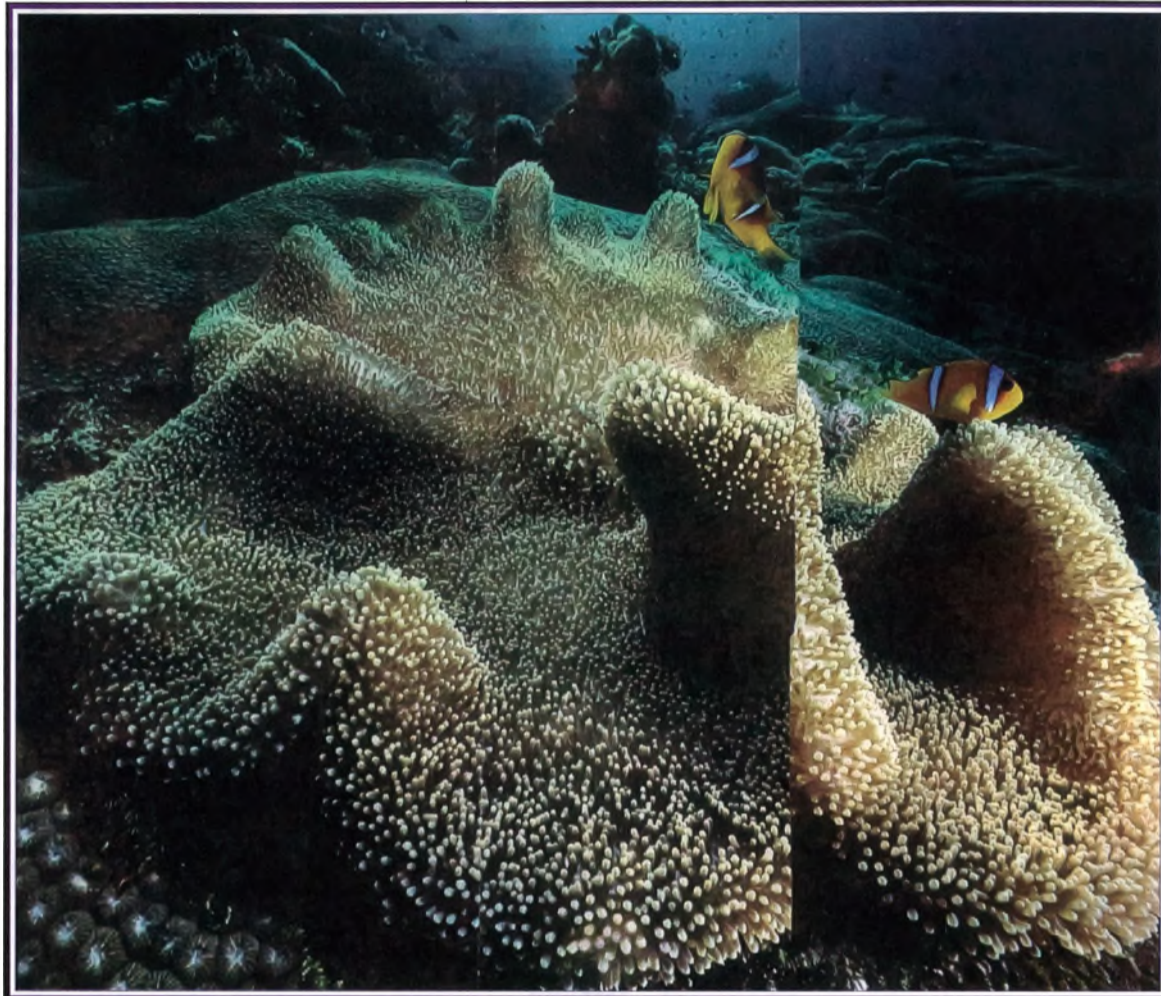
Life in Yemen's Seas

By: Dr. Derek Harvey,
Yemen's Ornithological
Society, Sanaa.

Yemen is a land of enormous geographical diversity, from the mountainous highlands which rise to above three thousand meters above sea level, through the steep falls to the gentler slopes and the foothills of the western ramparts, and to the hot, dry rainless deserts of the north-east. On the other sides, the slopes give way to the humid sea-level plains along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and all the way to the Arabian Sea.

Each region has its own ecological system, its own animals and plants, and its own characteristic of birds. In short, each region has its own "feel."

In addition, Yemen has a long and rich coastline, with very special sealife, among the coral reefs and shallow waters off the beaches. From the Suez Canal in the north, all the way down the Red Sea to Bab al-Mandab - the southern gateway of the Red Sea, and then extending in a north-easterly direction over a thousand kilometers, there



are spectacular reefs and shallow shoals, running out from the beaches to plunge suddenly and steeply down-

wards to the seabed, some thousands of feet below. The same is true of the coastal stretch along the

Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. So rich are these coastal waters, that they provide home for literally hundreds of species of fish which feed on the corals, the plankton and the other marine organisms which flourish and thrive in the warm, clear sea.

In many parts of the world, the corals and their surroundings make up a complex and finely balanced natural world, in which plants and fish are dependent on each other for their survival. When the coral is healthy, all the creatures that live in and around it are healthy too. When the coral is sick, then the whole complex balance breaks down, and fish and plants die. In recent years, many coral seas have been destroyed, and many more threatened, as a result of pollution of many kinds. In areas where rivers flow into the sea, city effluent and industrial waste is carried down in the river water, and

divers, can so damage the natural balance of the marine environment that it is destroyed.

In the coastal waters of Yemen, there is still time to stop this from happening. There are no rivers flowing into the Red Sea, so industrial waste is not a problem. But there are very many large ships steaming up and down from the Suez Canal all the time. International marine law already exists to forbid ships to discharge waste from their tanks in coastal waters, and it is the job of the government to enforce the law.

Most of the important and exciting coral seas in the world are now protected, so that fishing, diving and boating are controlled. Yemen has some of the most beautiful, and, as yet, unsoiled coral seas. These must be protected for the future, as marine national parks. People should be encouraged to visit these parks, to go out in boats and see the wonderful forests of

the chemicals it contains destroy the delicate structure of the coral which dies. In areas through which ships steam, waste oil from their engines can kill all sorts of marine organisms - from plankton at the bottom of the food chain, to large fish and whole areas of coral. In areas where man chooses to go for rest and recreation, disturbance from outboard motors, killing of fish by spear fishing, and the destruction of coral from scuba

coral and the riot of color of the fish that live in them, and to dive and snorkel so that they can see more of the wonders of the seas.

But there needs to be a framework of rules, and park wardens to protect the wildlife of these sea parks from over-usage. The wardens would guide people to the most interesting areas, show them how to see and enjoy the sights of fish and coral, and teach visitors about the ways in which all the animals and plants live together and depend on each other.

Such national parks have three very important roles. They protect the wildlife of the coasts, and thus ensure fresh fish is always available for food for the people. They provide a place where people can go to study and learn more about the natural world we live in, and they attract tourists from all over the world, who bring with them hard currency which Yemen badly needs.

Many other countries, from Kenya to Australia, and from Egypt to the Caribbean, already have protected marine parks, thus the natural riches of the seas are no longer threatened, and where visitors from all over the world come to look and enjoy the magic of the corals.

Yemen could very easily have similar marine parks too, and join the enlightened places that are realizing that they must protect their natural heritage if it is to survive the huge pressures that man is putting on it. Along the coasts of the Tihama and the shoreline from Aden to Oman, Yemen must protect the seas and stop any destructive steps that endanger the place with pollution.

Yemen is very rich in its wildlife heritage, and deserves to have policies and laws that protect that heritage for future generations. Let us pray that these hopes can become realities before it is too late.

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THIRD WORLD'S HARD TREADMILL GAINING AGAINST DEMOCRACY

BACKGROUND:

The crippling trap of the Third World's treadmill of war, tribal and sectarian strife, poverty, famine and disease is gaining ground against waning Western pressure for democracy.

Half a decade since many Third World countries began dismantling one-party systems after many decades in power, Western-style democracy has filed in much of the world's poorest countries.

Since "people power" revolts toppled communism in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, demands for democracy have ousted or weakened many military and one-party governments in Africa, South Asia and Latin America.

Western countries in turn embraced the interventionist strategy of demanding better economic management and pluralist democracy as firm pre-conditions for aid - the lifeblood for the world's poorest nations. But deep economic and political problems have raged on and some Western donors are having to decide whether to stick to their demands or give aid to stave off isolationism or chaos.

Western powers, having seen the collapse of communism as their opportunity to spread democracy, saw hopes for a peaceful democratic revolution across the world diverted into helping grapple with the chronic problems there and new ones both at home and in the former communist states.

They now stress the need for the developing countries to help themselves and through reform to provide the resources to foster democracy.

AFRICA:

"It would seem Third World countries failed to obtain the correct formula for democracy," said an African diplomat in Kenya, where donors ended a two-year aid suspension in November after some progress in political structure and human rights record.

"Pluralism appears not to have been the real solution to its history of uncertainty and chaos," added the diplomat. Even South Africa, Africa's richest nation and seen as a new test case for democracy, faces a rocky road in the new year.

Its first all-race elections are set for April 27 but the runup is plagued by violence most between supporters of the African National Congress and Zulu based Inkatha Freedom Party.

In Rwanda, a broad-based transitional government was supposed to have been formed last week under peace accords to end three years of tribal-based civil war before pluralist elections scheduled for 1995. It did not happen. A bloody failed coup in the small central African state of Burundi that killed president Melchior Ndadaye in October. In Burundi the army revolt killed more than 50,000 people and 750,000 were forced to flee.

The annulment of the Nigerian presidential elections of June paved the way for a return to power by troops. The opposition continues to challenge the persistence of military dictatorship and gun battles

which erupted in June between government and opposition supporters are still going on.

Western pressure has failed to force Zaire's president Mobutu Sese Seko to call multi-party elections or step down. He is still entrenched, and the West has started looking the other side, and leave him alone.

From Benin to Zambia, more than a dozen states in the last five years have ended a monolithic hold on power by individuals or parties that claimed to represent a majority in the struggle for independence but then turned to plunder national resources.

But political experts said in many of those countries, the wave of pluralism failed to heal endemic corruption, bad management of state utilities and tribal hatred linked to graft.

In Zambia, the main donors have complained of rising corruption by top government figures after the departure of president Kenneth Kaunda in 1991.

In Cameroon, President Paul Biya's supporters play a tribal card and urge Biya's Beti people to fight an opposition which they say is dominated by northern and western tribes.

Nairobi University political scientists said only African semi democratic nations under strong army leaders so far thrive.

They pointed to partial political and economic success in the Ivory Coast, Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, the Congo, Zimbabwe and Cameroon compared decline or stagnation elsewhere.

They also said non-party dictatorships, such as Uganda where President Yoweri Museveni has called non-party elections next year.

Civil wars in Liberia, Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique and Angola have destroyed agriculture, transport and communications and fuelled lawlessness and famine which killed millions of people.

Civil strife in the continent has forced millions into exile abroad and many, mostly poor Africans, have been driven from their homes and internally displaced in their own countries.

The continent is also weighed down by an external debt of some \$270 billion and much of its agriculture-based economies have floundered because of depressed global commodity prices.

While democracy falters, Africa's population flourishes which is set to explode to 900 million people by the year 2000 from the present 700 million despite the ravages of an Aids epidemic.

MIDDLE EAST:

Many countries in the Middle East have taken steps to come in line with the democratization process that prevailed in the world over the last few years.

The Republic of Yemen started a democratic process, and it held parliamentary elections on April 27th, 1993.

The short-lived euphoria that followed the elections quickly gave way frustration. The ruling coalition partners rigged the elections in their favor, with the intention of continuing in power. But they were unable to work together,

and a puppet parliament could not do anything to reconcile them and salvage the situation. The state has also taken steady measures to curb freedom of the press.

In Algeria, Islamic fundamentalists won the first round of elections, before the military moved in to cancel the elections. The reason cited for this decision was the intention of the fundamentalists to do away with democracy once they reach power.

There is no sign that the traditional dictatorships of the Arab World are ready to give way to anything different. Libya's strongman, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, has shown a great power of endurance and the ability to survive in turbulence, and in spite of increasing world hostility, isolation and blockade.

President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria does business as usual, and the West, especially the USA, works closely with him on the Middle East peace process.

Iraq's Saddam Hussain is still in charge of his country, and continues to consolidate his power. Some progress has been made in the Gulf States. Kuwait, in spite of all the shortcomings, held parliamentary elections and now has a functioning congress. The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have both put in place a hand-picked parliament. Some time in the future, they may have elected parliaments.

Morocco probably offers the most hopeful case of all Arab countries. It carried out fair and clean elections which brought the opposition people to government. This is probably the only case of democratic and peaceful transfer of authority in the Arab World.

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LATIN AMERICA:

Many of the democracies of Latin America are undergoing severe complications as charges of corruption and law-breaking are brought against top officials, thus rocking the system.

In Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and other countries, the courts have found top politicians guilty of embezzlement, mis-use of authority and fraud. In addition, so-called democracies have failed to attend to the basic needs of the majority of the population as they cater primarily to the needs of the influential groups and individuals. The most recent case of frustration with the system is Mexico, where the Ciapas Indians have revolted against the central government because of the economic hardships.

CONCLUSION:

The concepts and ideals of democracy, pluralism and other freedoms are universal values which are acceptable to any people. But they have to be promoted in the real sense, not with the intention of giving the West hegemony and influence over the Third World.

Moreover, the steps towards political and economic liberalization have to be taken within the overall perspective of achieving development that will attend to the needs of the majority of the population. Only thus democracy will be saved and safeguarded.

Multilateral Talks on Middle East Peace Make Steady

Arms control was the focal point of a get together of specialists, military personnel and other persons - about 150 in total. The people met in Delphi, Greece to discuss the confidence building measures required to enable the new peace process to blossom and bear fruit. Participants have come from many of the countries of the Middle East. Also attending were several European and American specialists.

Dr. Fred Axelgard, senior official at the US State Department and charged with the multi-lateral non-official talks among the Arabs and Israelis, spoke to the Yemen Times on the purpose of these meetings.

"The idea is to build confidence between the two sides. We have to create channels of contact at the intellectual level as well as at the level of decision-makers. We hope this will evolve into more contact at the people's level," he said.

There have been five plenary work-groups meeting to discuss possibilities of cooperation in various sectors including water resources, arms control and security, economic development, environment, and refugees.

"When the famous peace hand-shake took place in Washington last September, we were not prepared. We would like to prepare the ground work so that when peace agreements are finalized, the basic preparations



are already completed.

The Delphi meeting is to be followed by meetings in Qatar, Oman, Morocco and Egypt. Earlier meetings have been held in Egypt and Tunisia, as well as in other parts of the world.

The meetings aim to discuss issues that would need to be agreed upon - first at the intellectual and theoretical levels, then at the legal and practical levels.

"The main thing is to show people the important benefits of peace," Dr. Axelgard insisted. By now, all sides already see the benefits of peace, and they also see the risks of a confrontation.

"These meetings aim to

create a context in which issues can be identified, analyzed and discussed seriously and in a businesslike manner," he said.

Although the issues are still at the discussion level, and no measures are taken towards implementation, it is still critical to prepare the ground work for future agreements.

We are addressing the issues within the framework of two baskets: the first being conceptual, and the second operational. In a year's time, I would expect to have succeeded in defining the range of issues and the conceptual framework," the American official concluded.

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CONCERN AND LACK OF CONCERN

It is our duty to confront the current issues in a high spirit which shows commitment to unity, democracy and the interests of the people. We should exert all efforts to construct the homeland with all possible means. It is within our power to face the challenges that face our people and to overcome all impediments. It is in this light that the president and members of the presidential council have taken a responsible position vis-a-vis the deteriorating economic situation from which the country has been suffering since the beginning of the crisis.

It is time for the presidential council to bear its full constitutional responsibilities and this means putting the cabinet in front of its responsibilities. It is clear that Lt.-General Ali Abdulla Saleh was aware of the deterioration of the situation, and thus he played his role in mobilizing the means to control the situation which has become a source of grave concern to the PGC. The unity and safety of the country are at stake, and we should not give any chance to our enemies to attain their goals. We are sorry to say that the continuation of the crisis and its escalation do not serve the unification/ and reconciliation efforts or the gains of the revolution and the aspirations of the Yemeni people.

We acknowledge that our participation in the political dialogue aims to discard the re-partition of the country. In response to the initiative of the Ulema, the president went to Al-Janad Mosque in Taiz and patiently waited for the other side to show up. But there was no response. Not only that, but there was an escalation in the tense situation because of army movements.

Such actions are, in essence, an announcement of the other side's refusal of the peace attempts and of the efforts to bridge the rift between the two sides. There is a difference between the one who goes to Al-Ganad with the hope of ending the crisis and the one mobilizes the army and refuses reconciliation. We in the PGC will work with all the patriots to strengthen the march of unification, democracy and prosperity. Based on these goals, we will attain a bright future.

By: Editor-in-chief,
Al-Mithaq, Sanaa,
10/1/1994

LESSONS FROM THE CRISIS

The lessons to be learned are a lot if we want to benefit from the crisis.

The first lesson is that people may have divergent opinions and that we should be accustomed to such situations and accept their peaceful resolution.

Second, we should possess the approach and mentality as to how to deal with various kinds of problems/difficulties and the means of overcoming them. In other words, the tools with which to handle our differences of opinion.

Other lessons are related to legitimacy, the coalition government, the parliamentary

elections. The parliament gave the coalition government its vote of confidence, then collided with it and this shouldn't have happened.

The method of electing the presidential council and the early preparations to achieve constitutional amendments have to do with the crisis because the process reflected the inability of the coalition to work together and the lack of sufficient understanding. To the contrary, the crisis was first witnessed inside the presidential council which had its impact on the government. It was not clear to our politicians that coalition means ruling through resolutions reached together by the partners. Any loophole in or by-passing of the coalition means a crisis and a political shortcoming. We notice in the Western democracies that a resignation of a minister from the coalition government will cause a crisis. Therefore, reconciliation at all political levels among the authorities which govern the coalition serves the process of political stability.

The other lesson is that the press was blamed for the fallout from the crisis. As for our unity, the crisis gave a great lesson which is that unity is an eternal fate of our people. We have also seen that there is readiness to make sacrifices and concessions for the sake of unity which is still in its first stages and it will take time for it to develop roots.

But, the crisis raised a debate regarding the appropriate system of the state whether to be a federation, local government or administrative and financial decentralization. Such a debate is a starting point toward political stability and to combat intimidation. The implementation of the 18 points will surely lead to building a state system based on law and order. We hope then to start the march of development in Yemen.

By: Yaseen Al-Masudi,
Al-Shoura, Sanaa,
11/1/1994.

THE CALENDAR

The Chinese calendar gives names to the years. For example, the year 1990/1991 was the year of the dragon. 1991/92 was the year of the monkey. This is the year of the dog.

In Yemen the years also have names. (although several years are lumped together). The names are given according to on-going circumstances and the aspirations which emerge from the agonies and sufferings of the people.

With the deep food crisis during the Second World War, the Yemenis called those years the years of starvation. During the war between the forces of the Imam and the British colonial forces, when the British aircrafts raided the north, they called those years the years of the air raids. Similarly you have the years of smallpox, the years of the measles, etc.

It seems that the year 1994 will bear the name "the year of crisis, flue, agony, hike of prices, and suffocation." This is the year of sick - real difficulties in everything: the state budget, laws, cost of

living, and all the way including the journalists' articles who are also sick. The dramatic devaluation of the local currency against the dollar was another sickness which brought with it a hike of prices and disappearance of foodstuff from the market. I am sure that a good understanding of the situation will help avoid us many problems.

By:
Qassim Ahmad Abdulrab,
Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa,
9/1/1994.

THE DIALOGUE AND THE OPPOSITION

(Excerpts of the article)

When the crisis reached its climax of tension/difference, the rulers thought that the solution lies in making concessions in favor of the people and the unity. After three years of irresponsibility and indifference, the situation peaked at its level these days. With the crisis, all the constitutional institutions of the state have become semi-paralyzed and thus when the crisis emerged, the influential people were obliged to turn to the opposition and independent social figures so as to get out of the crisis.

Then came the participation of the opposition in the broad-based national dialogue in Sanaa and Aden aiming to reach a solution for the whole crisis for good. We advise those who have involved themselves in this masked chess game (between the PGC and YSP leaderships) to try to get out of it.

Instead of distribution of posts, portfolios and roles, the responsible figures should have realized fully that Yemen's interests are above all other interests. The invitation for the opposition to participate in the discussions will not wipe out the reality of their long stay in power. They now try to appear as democrats in their views. But it seems that they only try to gain time to restore their credibility and trust and they aim to blame the opposition for any negative outcomes of the crisis.

By Saleh Bin Mohammad Alkulaibi,
Al-Haq, Sanaa,
8/1/1994.

DIALOGUE ONCE AGAIN

Dialogue is a democratic means for reaching the goals under a system of political pluralism. Some think that dialogue is there for the sake of dialogue itself, because they believe the decision maker will go on with his decisions as usual. Others think that dialogue is aimed at stopping the deterioration in the situation at all levels and to restore a kind of credibility and trust among the coalition partners.

Granted the difficulty lies in extracting the decision makers' final agreement and consent. Yet, what is important is to push the dialogue to the state of practicality in order to put an end to all the deterioration. It is known that any dialogue should aim at laying down the foundations to restore confidence and start constructing Yemen on new rules. Therefore, we can say that dialogue aims to achieve political, social, economic,

cultural, educational revolution in united and democratic Yemen. For the sake of Yemen, let's get rid of all the troubles and differences that were created by confusion. We want the decision makers to put an end to all the rumors and squabbles by abiding to the national common grounds.

Editorial,
Al-Gamaheer, Sanaa,
10/1/1994.

WHO HAS AN ANSWER?

The question that forces itself in any discussion these days is about the crisis. Many ask, "Is there a solution for the crisis?" Whenever there is a dialogue or a meeting, all ask about the crisis and when it is going to be resolved. We have no other worry save this problem for no endeavor is greater than the project of unification.

Each member of the coalition parties bears responsibility and must realize the jeopardy of the current situation. The crisis has prolonged itself and its difficulties are reflected on the cost of living, and lack of security and stability.

The politicians have forgotten to worry about poverty and pains during the years of partition and the subsequent transitional period. The people don't expect miracles from our leadership, they just ask them to solve their differences and then talk about rights/duties.

Any prolongation of the crisis will lead to a complete loss of rights and with it everything will be lost.

What is the solution to this crisis? Who has the ability to offer a solution? When? How? We think the coalition parties have the master key to the solution and preserve the unification.

No one side can deal with the crisis alone for it is a great task/responsibility. All sides claim to be in favor of dialogue and for resolving it peacefully. All the people are with unification and we confirm that referring to the people is the only solution.

Editorial,
Al-Thawra, Sanaa,
13/1/1994.

A MARCH

I think only very few people know about the ties of respect and love that bind these two men. I am referring to Ali Salem Al-Beedh and Ali Abdulla Saleh. Between these two men there is a lot of respect, love, purity and understanding which people don't know for the following reasons:-

1- The unification was achieved fantastically and their resolution was ideal and with harmony.

2- The assumption is that there is a difference and this is something natural in life. Any good relationship is viable to change and this is the march of life.

Alsaqifa difference was not between mobs and mobs. The difference was in the framework of those apostles of God who were blessed by God.

The difference reached its climax among those who the Holy Quran unified them. The difference between the two Ali's comes within the normal interaction of people who work together.

It is our duty to make things clear for the mobs that differ-

ences are natural among members of the same family, let alone political partners. We ask both Ali's to clarify things to the people and state that the outcome will be acceptable to both sides. We require from both men not to blame each other as Yemen is in need of them, both.

I call on President Saleh to head a peaceful march comprising a large number of the best Yemenis to go to Aden to prove that there is no enmity between them, and thus to wipe out all the doomsday clouds.

By Mohammad Al-Nahari,
Al-Gumhuryah, Taiz,
13/1/1994.

AN UNNECESSARY ESCALATION

We cannot understand the rhetoric that has allowed an escalation of the crisis which has been characteristic of the PGC leadership's activities lately. These actions divert us from the dialogue being carried out at the moment, and push us towards military confrontation and other complications. We can literally say that

such actions are national treason and reckless.

Attempts to mislead the partners away from the proper guidelines for politics by sending out a barrage of untrue accusations and by drawing up a wrong picture of the other side, are all responsible for the tense situation.

These efforts do not help the dialogue committee in its efforts to strike a solution. We believe that the initiation of these steps are not accidental, especially the waving of the military alternative to the dialogue. The language of force and blackmail - which have been the main features of the new PGC discourse. To reach its goals, the PGC has worked very hard to enlist the support of the theologians and have them issue a religious explanation in favor of the use of force. It has also sought to exploit many people with good intentions to reach its goals. We understand the game and implications which are disastrous for Yemen.

Editorial,
Al-Thawry, Sanaa,
13/1/1994.

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A newly-constructed Super Deluxe Two-Storey plus large basement VILLA located in the diplomatic quarter, Djibouti Street is available for immediate rent.

The excellent location, practical design and layout, and exceptional quality material makes this villa an ideal choice for expatriates.

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DETAILED HUNT-EXXON-YUKONG RESPONSE TO MEDIA INACCURANCIES REGARDING YEMEN'S GAS PROPOSAL

Last week witnessed the visit of two high-level delegations to Sanaa. The Enron delegation wanted to conclude a deal according to which it will have the right to exploit the Marib/Al-Jawf gas reserves. At the same time, an Exxon-Hunt delegation was in town to remind the Yemeni authorities that they have not relinquished their rights to the gas. Moreover, they are upset that the Enron proposal is presented to the Yemeni public with a number of flaws.

"We are here to point to the misrepresentations, and to show the Yemeni authorities that we are willing to offer a better deal," the Hunt/Exxon/Yukong group reported. Their points of view are as follows:

Quote:
Hunt and Exxon have made a gas proposal to the Republic of Yemen which provides for:

1. A liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project of five million tons per year wherein Marib gas would be converted from gaseous form into liquid state and be transported to various export markets around the world.

2. A domestic gas project to bring gas to power plants in Marib and Sana'a.

3. A domestic LPG pipeline to bring liquid products to Sana'a.

4. In addition, Hunt and Exxon have stated they would include an LPG export project if sufficient LPG exists in Yemen to support an LPG export project.

Hunt and Exxon are greatly concerned about reports in the local Yemeni media that have seriously misrepresented their Gas PSA proposal, misstated the facts and, most importantly, and have significantly understated the economic benefits to Yemen. This attachment is intended to correct these errors of fact, set the record straight, and increase understanding of our proposal and its benefits to the people of Yemen.

Misrepresentation No. 1

1. The Hunt-Exxon Proposal only provides

\$17 Billion to the Government versus \$33 Billion from a proposal by another party.

The Facts:

- The benefits to the Government of the Hunt/Exxon offer are considerably more than \$17 billion. They are approximately \$46 billion over a 30-year period if prices increase at 1% in real terms, as follows:

- \$36 billion from LNG and Domestic Gas; plus
- \$10 billion from LPG Export, based on sufficient supplies of LPG

A 1% year real price growth is less than the projections of most energy analysts.

- Even under the more conservative assumption of 0% real price growth (prices rise with inflation only), benefits to the Government would be approximately \$33 billion.

- Benefits to the Government could be substantially higher if additional gas discoveries support expansion of the LNG Project. The chances of additional gas discoveries will be much greater after granting of a Gas PSA to Hunt/Exxon, because it would provide new economic incentives to the Marib PSA-holder to specifically explore for gas.

Misrepresentation No. 2

The Hunt-Exxon Project would require outside financing, and Yemen would have to pay the interest charge associated with this financing.

The Facts:

- Financing is a normal part of all LNG Projects, and represents a true cost.

- The Hunt-Exxon proposal does not include recovery of interest on field investments, nor on 25% of the plant-related investment. Of the remaining 75% of plant investment, 60% of the interest charges are paid by Hunt-Exxon under the PSA mechanism, and only 40% (of the 75%) is borne by the government.

In effect, the contractor pays over 70% of all financing charges.

- Interest is a true cost of any LNG project. The Hunt-Exxon proposal clearly sets out the basis for sharing this cost. Alternative project structures that do not disclose this nevertheless have this cost and recover it through other, undisclosed means.

Misrepresentation No. 3

Under the Hunt-Exxon proposal, Yemen would be involved in purchasing LNG ships at a cost of \$250 MM each.

The Facts:

- Yemen would not be involved in LNG ship purchases.

- All LNG requires transport in special-purpose LNG ships.

- Hunt-Exxon would make all required shipping arrangements. Ship purchases are not contemplated, but rather the payment of a shipping fee to third parties under a long-term charter arrangement. The government would not be responsible for paying these fees.

- All LNG projects entail the payment of shipping costs. The shipping fees under the Hunt/Exxon proposal would be held to a minimum revenue would be available for Government sharing.

Misrepresentation No. 4

Hunt and Exxon have proposed that gas must be sold at the purchaser's delivery port, instead of in Yemen (FOB) as the Government prefers.

The Facts:

- Hunt and Exxon are primarily concerned that they and the government of Yemen receive the maximum value for the gas achievable in the marketplace, whether this be a CIF (delivered) sale or an FOB (Yemen) sale.

- Most LNG today is sold on a delivered CIF basis and many purchasers are not familiar with the shipping arrangements needed to have the LNG delivered. Requiring that only an FOB sale can be made could lower the value of Yemen LNG by unnecessarily limiting the available universe of purchasers.

- Because of Yemen's distance from the final market, it is more difficult to assess LNG market value with an FOB sale than a CIF sale. This increases the risk to the Government of the purchaser not passing back to Yemen for sharing all the value available in the marketplace.

- While Hunt/Exxon believe that a delivered CIF sale provides the greatest value to both the Government and the Contractor, they have indicated their willingness to consider other structures.

Misrepresentation No. 5

Domestic gas projects are separate investment that Yemen must pay for.

The Facts:

- No investment is required on the part of the Government for the domestic projects, or for any of the projects proposed by Hunt/Exxon.

- All investments in the domestic projects will be made by Hunt/Exxon, with provision for the participation of Yemeni investors. All domestic gas and LPG transported would be the property of the Government, with the investors compensated by means of a transportation fee.

- Upon approval of the Marib Gas PSA, these projects would be implemented immediately to bring gas and LPG to power plants and Sana'a.

Misrepresentation No. 6

Hunt/Exxon do not include an LPG Export project in their proposal.

The Facts:

- Hunt-Exxon have stated that they would be pleased to include a separate LPG export project in their proposal if sufficient LPG supplies are available in Yemen to support an export project.

- Currently the incremental volumes of Marib LPG available for export after fulfilling domestic LPG requirements would not support a separate LPG export project.

Demand(30-years)	Million Barrels
- 1.2 MM ton/year LPG Export	410
- Yemen Domestic LPG	209
Total	619
Marib LPG Supply (Existing Operations)	150
Other LPG Supply Required (Unidentified)	469

- If the Government elects to use alternative sources of LPG for the domestic market or provide other volumes for export, Hunt-Exxon would include an LPG export project in their proposal.

- In the meantime, Hunt-Exxon are respecting the Government's desire to primarily utilize the Marib LPG for the domestic market pending confirmation of the availability of alternative LPG sources.

Misrepresentation No. 7

Hunt only has experience operating oil fields.

The Facts:

- It is completely erroneous to assert that the "Hunt proposal" is backed only by a company with experience "Operating oil fields". This proposal is made by Hunt Exxon and a group of Korean petroleum companies led by Yukong. These companies clearly possess the track record, the financial capability, and the technical, commercial and marketing skills necessary to ensure the success of an LNG project.

- Hunt oil Company is a major independent producer and marketer of oil and gas. In Yemen, it daily produces over 1.6 Billion cubic feet of gas a day.

- Exxon is one of the world's largest international petroleum companies. Each day it sells almost 6 billion cubic feet of gas. It is a leading marketer and producer of gas in Europe, North America, the Far East, and Australia. Exxon helped establish the U.S. and international gas industries, and was a pioneer in commercializing LNG.

- The Yukong Group plays a major role in the Asian petroleum market, particularly Korea, potentially an important market for a Yemen LNG project.

Misrepresentation No. 8

The Marib PSA expires in 2005. Hunt/Exxon will give the project to a subcontractor.

The Facts:

- In undertaking and LNG project, Hunt/Exxon/Yukong would be making a major long-term commitment to Yemen.

The new Marib Gas PSA under discussions with the Government would extend for a long term to allow for the full development of Marib gas reserves.

Hunt-Exxon would not "give the project" to a subcontractor in 2005.

Unquote:

**حليب الهناء
بالهناء والشفاء**



AL-HANA MILK
The family's favorite milk

For your tea, coffee,
and for your early morning drink.
You can also use it to prepare various recipes

FINAL COMMENTS:

The Hunt/Exxon/Yukong declare a strong commitment to the \$5.4 billion Yemen Gas Project. Karl Swenson, President of Exxon Yemen Inc., declares that if the group gets the government's "Go-ahead" signal today, it would ensure gas production for domestic consumption within less than two years.

If the export component is found viable, it would come on stream by as early as 1998.

In the final analysis, the Hunt/Exxon/Yukong delegation assured the Yemeni authorities that their offer would be better any other offer they have received.

TRADITION, MODERNIZATION AND THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Abdullah Dhaifani,
Education Editor,
Yemen Times.

Education and culture can be defined in many and varied ways. In relating the two, we might define education as a process of "enculturation" of the young through traditionally inherited and contemporarily extended values, beliefs and attitudes, as well as accumulated knowledge and skills.

Education is an agent of cultural transmission, while culture constitutes an essential part of educational content. Both are a means and an end to the development of peoples and societies.

In the the Middle Eastern and Asian regions, education is being emphasized as a "vital force of development" and culture as an essential means of integrated development. "Development has increasingly been understood as a multi-dimensional and complex process involving economic, political, social and cultural/psychological aspect.

The UNDP Human Development Report: 1993, writes of "development of the people, for the people by the people." This people-centered approach marries well with the interpretation of the relationship between educational and culture in the Mlim, Confucian and Buddhist traditional context. These cultures, for example,

laid greater emphasis on the spiritual rather than material well-being of human life. In China, education and culture have always gone hand in hand; an educated person was said to be a "cultured" person and vice versa.

Education was long highly valued and perceived by An and Middle Eastern parents as the main road to upward social mobility. Classic Confucian doctrine, for example, underlines that those who labor with their brains should govern, while those who labor with their brown should be governed. In the same way, Islam elevates the learned to the status of prophets.

Education was interpreted as learning to appropriately handle essentially hierarchical interpersonal relationships. Filial piety to parents and its extended loyalty to the ruler was regarded as the supreme moral standard.

Confucianism, Buddhism, Islam and the other religions of the Asbia/Middle East regions emphasized that the student should first learn to be a member of society, well behaved, according to socially accepted norms, before learning factual knowledge. Thus, the teaching of ethical values is not only an integral part of education, but one of its highest priorities.

Social or collective interests were considered more important than individual concerns, and there were

strong religious traditions on most cultures of the region.

In many countries, religion is taught in formal courses at schools. Where religion does not feature openly as a class course, religious values are explicitly, or implicitly transmitted to the young. In addition to the role of schools in perpetuation of "religious" values, they are transmitted from one generation to another through family traditions and values, as well as through the larger context of society.

The colonization of many nations in this part of the world also had a pervasive negative impact on educational and cultural system. It tried to divorce education from indigenous cultures, to neglect vocational and technical education, and saw the languages of the colonisers, in most cases, imposed as the language of instruction.

However, the colonial administration also had a positive impact. It introduced modern education structures, advanced scientific knowledge and technological know-how and most importantly, introduced western ideas of democracy, liberty, justice and other humanistic values and links to the international knowledge network. More recently, new social circumstances have shaken traditional knowledge value systems in Asia, as in all other parts of the world. Conflicts of traditional

versus modern cultures are observed daily in families, schools and society at large. The values of the young in the Middle Eastern and Asian societies are becoming more individualistic, materialists, pragmatic and future oriented.

Tradition, for better or for worse, are often despised and discarded in the name of "modernization."

Coca-cola, Mcdonalds and blue jeans are becoming increasingly fashionable all over the place. While universal science knowledge and applied technical know-how remain an essential part of school curricula, humanistic values education and international education have been inappropriate and inadequate in many ways. One of the eternal complaints of traditional parents focus on the way the youngsters dress. Another aspect regarding looks refers to hair-cuts. All in all, there seems to be a rising level of generational gap, thus giving way to more fundmentalistic tendencies.

The so-called "crisis in human values" and education is due to a number of factors. Externally widespread, simplistic notions spread the idea that "tradition" is antagonistic to "modernization" and increasing material wealth has eased the way of life, not to mention the impact of the profit-oriented market economy and the continued influences of colonial legacy.

Internally, there are dif-

ficulties to change the structure and philosophy of curricula, and to compile relevant text books and other educational materials.

Nonetheless, educational systems are able to teach both traditional and modern values to young people. These values are not mutually exclusive, indeed, if they were appropriately interpreted they could complement each other.

For example, ancient Confucian, Muslim and other values of work ethics, family unity, social cohesion and humanism would still function in present-day society. It should be considered part of the duty of the school to advise the young about this complementarity.

How can our youth be expected to understand their cultural roots without proper education? Most Asian nations are striving hard to achieve socio-economic development. One of their main concern remains, however, the preservation of their cultural identity and cherished traditional values.

Thus the question one might well ask is not if, but how can the educational system in the region today provide an adequate balance between the acquisition of traditional values (cultural identity) and that of universal knowledge and values?

This is the main issue facing planners and decision makers in this part of the world. It is, indeed, a major dilemma.

Coming shortly to Yemen:

Electronica

We make it work

We will be operating countrywide
from 1st February 1994



The advertisement features a hand holding a pack of Rothmans King Size cigarettes. The pack is white with a dark band at the bottom that reads "Rothmans KING SIZE". Above the pack, a large, ornate crest with a crown and the letter 'R' is visible. The word "Rothmans" is written in a large, elegant script font, with "KING SIZE" in a smaller, bold font below it. The background is dark and textured.

**THE BEST TOBACCO
MONEY CAN BUY**

ROTHMANS OF PALL MALL LONDON EST. 1890

PLAYERS' APPOINTMENT
FILTER TIPPED

R1.216EO

"1994 † WILL NOT BE A SMOOTH RIDE."

Bad news. Clairvoyants around the world agree: whatever the problems of 1993, the year 1994 could prove even more difficult. From Europe to Africa to Asia to the Americas, the theme appears in the predictions of astrologers, holy men, numerologists, whatever their method of seeing the future: 1994 is not going to be a smooth ride. "Its' going to continue to be a period of political upheavals, geophysical changes and economic uncertainties," said US astrologer Bernice Bede Osol, whose forecasts are published in more than 500 regional newspapers. "Europe is going to continue to lag behind," says Francois-Charles Rambert, who organizes an annual Clairvoyants' Salon in Paris, predicting unemployment and the economy as particular problem areas. On the Indian subcontinent, war is going to break out yet again between India and Pakistan in October, according to New Delhi star astrologer Partho Bhat-tacharya. Last year may have seen the mounting tragedy of former Yugoslavia, the death of tens of thousands in India's worst earthquake for decades, and the world economy only painfully beginning to pull itself from recession. But 1994, according to most, could prove even worse. In Singapore, astrologer George Koh specifies that the months of April and October will be particularly bad, with air disasters in

China and the United States. US President Bill Clinton, after ending 1993 on a difficult note, "is going to have his political problems," says Bede Osol. "Months ago, I predicted that something in his past would come out and conk him in the head. "This could blow up into something major. This will come out of his past, have to do with his integrity," she said, as allegations of extramarital liaisons showed signs of blowing up into a full-blown political scandal. "He's not going to get away with this as easy as he did during his election campaign," she added. "It will repeatedly come back to haunt him." In Europe and the former communist bloc countries, social upheavals could well be set to continue. Polish astrologer Noemi Waldemar Pawlak not to give in to "fanaticism," warning that his political career could soon be at risk if he does. "The main challenge he faces is from the dogmatic ideologues. If he can prove himself a reasonable man, he will succeed," he says. In Bulgaria, medium Guina Andreeva predicts a bitter winter and new legislative elections. In a more specific prediction, medium Nadka Radeva says President Zheleo Zhelev is going to have a car crash. Leading Greek astrologer Costa Lefakis says the triangle of Jupiter and Saturn will be in Scorpio, and in

Pisces towards the end of the year. This will "open the way for social changes," he says. On the political scene he sees frustration for presidential aspirants Michel Rochard, Giscard D'Estain and Raymond Barre, hoping to replace ailing President Francois Mitterrand as head of state. Prime Minister Edouard Balladur could have a slightly better year than most, Rambert predicts. "Balladur is the one with a presidential future," he says. African southsayers are not giving better possibilities in their predictions for 1994. Malian holy man Abou Samasi predicts "economic stalemate" and "antipathy to foreigners" as key problems for the year ahead. The African seer Affoua Konvo from Ivory Coast is more comprehensive in his gloom. He sees "no signs of hope for 1994, with enormous financial difficulties and signs of unrest." Among the rare positive predictions for the coming year is one from Bede Osol, on Russia: "Things will start to improve and they will formulate some better plans. The country will find some ways to stabilize itself," she says. On a more personal note, she predicts possible good news from Britain's most famous estranged couple the prince and princess of Wales. Whatever the predictions of the fortune tellers, it is people who make the future. The decisions taken by all of us will determine the coming history.

TIT BITS CORNER

By: Susan Sanganee

- * It is pleasing to see new modern traffic lights operating in Sana'a. No doubt, there will be some chaos until motorists become familiar with the new "traffic lane" system. For further future development in our traffic system,, it would be a useful idea to consider "NO WAITING" and "NO PARKING" zones.
- * Instead of throwing rubbish on the pavements of the main roads in Sana'a and other towns, thus giving a bad reputation to our cities. Could we start a system according to which shopkeepers to take charge of cleaning the area in front of their shops. Their rubbish could be put in a dust bin with lid to be emptied when the rubbish collecting truck comes around. Dustbins are re-usable whereas plastic bags are not and expensive.
- * School holidays are expected soon and due to lack of playgrounds And other facilities in our cities, it will not be surprising to find our young ones playing on the roads. Charitable Societies can find some alternatives for young ones to keep them occupied. They can build playgrounds in certain areas and these do not cost a lot.
- * It is depressing to see plastic bags and containers everywhere. Since there are a number of newspapers published, these newspapers can be used as small bags, instead of plastic containers. One can also use glass containers and other re-usable products.
- * Thanks to the Mayor of Sana'a city , Mr. Hussein Al-Maswari for his efforts to bring modernization to our capital city by installing new traffic lights. Oddly enough, "kabilis" or tribesmen have adapted more quickly to this system than the modern persons who work for the government, police force and white number plates motorists who often jump lights and criss across from one lane to another. Our Minister of Interior, Mr. Yahia Al-Mutawakkil can help our Mayor if he instructs all drivers of police cars to strictly comply with the traffic lights and speed limits. As the saying goes "Charity begins at home." Drivers of company cars and embassy vehicles can set an example regarding respect for law and order. Mr. Mayor, it may be feasible to enforce places for picking up or dropping off passengers by taxis and dabbabs (small buses).
- * For the present economic crisis, a friend, who is also a housewife beleaguered by rising prices, suggested that since our Minister of Supply and Trade Dr. Abdul Rahman Bafadel is committed to the "free market system," he must lift all import restrictions immediately for all items except agriculture produce and let the market forces of supply and demand prevail.

YEMEN'S SOCOTRA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, M.Sc., Ph.D - U.S.A Environment Specialist

In Yemen, there are many valuable and important ecosystems both land (terrestrial) and marine. Such natural habitats are vulnerable and they are menaced by pollution and man-made technologies as well as to natural deterioration. Nowadays, the urge to protect the environment and to embark on sustainable development strategies is an essential requirement. To cope with these new needs and developments, the approach has been to stress health environment.

Socotra Island, is one of the last refuges of nature where human action has yet to make a significant mark. It is home to very rare trees and animals which are not found in any other part of the world. Socotra Island with an area of 3110 square kilometers, is the largest island of an archipelago in the Indian ocean . Of the 750 world endangered plant species, some 350 species indigenous to the island. Yet, they are threatened by natural and man-made problems.

UNESCO through its program of Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) nominated Socotra to be one of the biosphere reserve areas and a biodiversity natural conservation region seen as of high value. Hence, the decision to make the island a human natural heritage.

Biosphere reserves are intended to become models of how we should live with nature. It is not an exclusive sanctuary or a museum, but it is a place for proper co-existence between man and nature. They are multi-purpose protected areas established to conserve species and natural communities, and to find ways to exploit the environment without degrading it.

Research and monitoring in biosphere reserves will tell us much that we need to know about how ecosystems work, how we are changing them, and how we should adapt our practices to maintain those ecosystems, and the societies that depend on them, healthy.



The Dragon Blood Tree - Found only in Socotra

What is a Biosphere Reserve?

The biosphere is that part of the earth's crust, waters, and atmosphere that supports life, and is rapidly changing. We human beings, dominant among the biosphere's myriad species, are altering the environment on which all life depends, and many societies, threaten the very resources on which they are based. Solutions for mitigating excessive tropical deforestation, desertification atmospheric pollution the "greenhouse effect," and other environmental problems call for sensible cooperation.

A biosphere reserve is a unique category of protected area deducted to helping discover the solutions. Combining both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, it serves a wide range of protected area functions, as part of a planetary information sharing network.

A biosphere reserve is a land or coastal/marine area in which people are an integral component, and which is managed for objec-

tives ranging from complete protection to intensive yet sustainable production. Each biosphere reserve conserves examples of characteristic ecosystems of one of the world's natural regions.

It is a place where government decision-makers, scientists managers and local people cooperate in developing a model program for managing land and water to meet human needs while conserving natural processes and biological resources.

Why do Yemen and other countries need Biosphere reserves?

1. Yemen and other countries need biosphere reserves in order to conserve biological resources, e.g. Socotra Island. Each biosphere reserve protects many of the plant and animal species found in the natural region it represents, as well as the natural communities of which those species are a part. This maintains genetic resources to meet our future needs and undisturbed ecosystems for reference and study.

2. To learn from traditional forms of land use. That's to say, endogenous peoples in many parts of the world have developed stable, sometimes centuries old resource, use systems that can be of immune values to modern resource management.

Biosphere reserves help such people maintain their traditions and improve their economic well-being through us of culturally and environmentally appropriate technologies.

3. To learn how natural systems work. Research is to be conducted on the functioning of minimally disturbed natural communities.

4. To improve management of natural resources. Research to find land-use practices that improve human well-being without degrading the environment is a central purpose of biosphere reserves.

5. To cooperate in solving natural resource problems. This sums up the purpose of biosphere reserves, and of the man and biosphere (MAB) program itself.

Managers, local officials, government leaders, scientists, the people who live on the land all must work together to find appropriate ways to live with the environment.

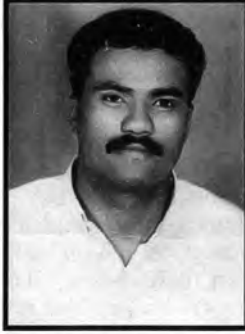
As part of a global network, biosphere reserves encourage international participation in their activities. Through cooperation, people from many regions can learn from each other in solving shared problems.

Finally, "Biosphere reserves" is an international designation made by the UNESCO on the basis of nominations submitted by more than 110 countries participating in its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program. This program was launched in 1971 to provide the knowledge, skills and human values that will help support relationships between people and their environments throughout the world.

The Socotra sanctuary or reserve is going to be Yemen's contribution to world efforts in preserving and safeguarding our world. Any contribution and assistance rendered by the Yemeni authorities and people will be of extreme importance.

Letters to the Editor
Letters to the Editor
Letters to the Editor
DON'T ASK ME HOW?

By: Fuad Al-Aswady,
Taiz.



I live in a dead picture,
But in a living dream.
Fights my wakefulness,
Scatters my thoughts,
Sprinkles the night's hurts.
But don't ask me how?

Alas where is my lost fate,
It lies in a white paper,
hidden in a dark box,
tied to a short chain.
And again don't ask me how?

Show me your eyes,
I want to see how they shine,
even under the cool sunset light.
Show me your lips,
I want to touch their warmth,
even in the serene and quiet night.
Bring me close to your heart,
I want to hear its gentle beats,
Like sea waves in a calm moment.
And now it is time to ask me how!

I am, unconsciously, responding to my fate,
neither troubled by the present,
Nor fixed on the past. JUST
Looking straight into the future,
Daring the danger, and still
Waiting for the coming summer
To pick up a FLOWER.
But don't ask me how?

**ONE MORE REBUTTAL
ON WOMEN:
THE FEMALE IS DEPRIVED**

Males and females play a critical part in population planning and development of a country because they are partners and they represent the two pillars of social and economic relations. The structure of society and its evolution is based on the interaction between the two genders. Therefore, any calls to cancel either's role, or to give one hegemony over the other will lead to an unbalanced situation creating complications.

Thinking of women as second class beings or of low status restricts their participation in public life and negatively affects society as women's share and contribution in helping the development of the country is reduced. This also affects the education and health of the children.

There are some men who still believe that women are second class citizens and that men, as first class citizens, are destined by divine wisdom to take care of them. Why? Let me tell those who say that this is the position of Islam that they have mis-understood Islam and that they are doing Islam a dis-service. What they are saying is contrary to the Islamic values as Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him), said, "Women are sisters of men." The key factor in breaking through this gender bias, is education.

In a 1990 statistics published UNESCO, it was shown that the illiteracy rate for women in developing countries stood at 46.0%. But alas, in Yemen it stood at 71% compared to only 45% for men. Education is the source of many benefits either through providing knowledge and information, raising consciousness and overall perception, and above all, education makes people more productive in the socio-economic development.

In the same way as men, women also stand to gain more autonomy in the home, control over resources, and increase their say in family decisions. This is a healthy situation as the family can benefit from the exchange of ideas. It is not surprising, for example, that a survey in different settings found that women with seven or more years of education tend to marry - on average - four years later and have 2-3 fewer children than women with no education.

An immediate benefit of education would be better access to employment opportunities for women and a higher income for the family as a whole. Increasing women's productivity helps raise the overall output of society, because their paralysis has deprived society from the output of part of the population.

Economic plans suffer from the low value given to women's work, because much of it takes place in the non-wage economy. The value of unpaid labor provided by women (for example, household chores) has been estimated at US\$ one trillion annually. In subsistence economies, women usually cover between 40-100% of a family's work, and a substantial of the agriculture and livestock work in the farming regions.

The history of Yemen tells of great women in public life. Therefore, we Yemenis have more reason to respect women and their contribution to society.

By: Saleh Al-Suraihi
Yemen Embassy - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Two Comments on Derek Harvey's Articles on the Environment
1. HARVEY'S PRIORITIES ARE WRONG!

I would like to comment on the series of articles by Dr. Derek Harvey on the environment, but more specifically the article of 26th December, 1993, on 'City wildlife'

Derek Harvey has done it again. I think the whole approach is too idealistic and possibly naive and it time for him to renounce his fantasies about living "in a true harmony with our environment." Instead of worrying about the plant and animal species, he should start bothering about how to help the human race survive and avoid extinction?

It is conspicuous enough that environmental problems such as the 'green house' effect, the 'ozone layer' and 'urban development' have not been solved worldwide. It is so simple to say that the problem can be solved by creating parks, growing trees, and so on.

As Rachel Carson notes in her Silent Spring: "...what we have to face is not an occasional dose of poison which has accidentally got into some article of food, but a persistent and continuous poisoning of the whole human environment."

This is an ubiquitous problem which has been present ever since the beginning of civilization. But the only difference is that our ancestors were oblivious to the damage being done. Our modern accomplishments are responsible for aggravating these problems and it is this modern technology itself that is making us aware of its hazards. But why so late?

Simple: because of man's lack of foresight and patience, which are regarded as a barricade against further progress. So as long as man's innovative an inventive mind keeps on advancing into a hi-tech world, I think this problem will never be solved because more man-made contaminations keep on leaking out of our laboratories. As the famous author, Clancy

Carlie, says in his novel Spore Seven, "Scientists create things because it can be done, that is why they don't care if it's good or bad. It's an old scientific axiom: if something can be done, somebody somewhere will do it!"

Even when a most humane scientist thinks he/she can invent the doomsday weapon, he/she will just go ahead and create it. Yes, I agree that our own modern accomplishments are going to destroy our own beloved planet. But what can be done?

It is human nature to survive and acquire dominance over all other living organisms the will to survive and the drive to reign all alone!

Was man aware of the ozone layer problem when he had so successfully boasted the invention of the automobile? Did he ever think of the damage of DDT that could caused damage to thousands of living organisms? Who knows what our scientists will discover?

We have to stop worrying about the reasons for the extinction of natural life and instead start bothering about the main reasons for the extinction of ethnic virtues in today's modern man. How can one ever bother about trees and animals amidst such immense suffering and death of our fellow human brothers?

I think it's time for the environmentalists to renounce their susceptible claustrophobia in nature, and start directing their worries upon the possibility of the extinction of humanity. The key word for today's world is "survival" - ours. Therefore, the problem becomes one of priorities.

So how about abandoning all of our future hopes of a perfect positive utopia?

Majid Hashim Abdul Hamid,
M.A.O. School,
Taiz.

2. YOU GOT IT RIGHT HARVEY!

Dr. Derek Harvey has been rightly alerting to our problems especially those related to environmental degradation.

There is especially the article on city wildlife and urban problems. The problems of living in cities are becoming more numerous and more urgent. The major problems which are critical are the threatened environment, traffic, and reckless construction.

In most countries, factories and industrial facilities are often located in or nearby the major overcrowded cities. The gaseous wastes released through the chimneys add to the problems of the shrinking ozone layers. Besides, the denizens become more susceptible to contracting various infections, lung cancer, and other side-effects resulting from acid rain. Furthermore, the solid chemical wastes buried underground or dumped in rivers or streams of water can destroy any sign of life on earth. They can even deteriorate the fertility of the soil and poison the crops.

The unorganized traffic systems put people face-to-face with jeopardy and death. Highways are well-constructed in only a few cities while the rest suffer from the narrowness of roads, deficiency of raw materials, and the lack of a different electric supply to satisfy the needs. Even the countries which have made great steps by utilizing nuclear power to generate electricity fear sudden technical errors which may end

in horrible disasters. The noise of growing traffic has proved to be the main cause of various diseases including heart problems.

The line-ministries neglect the demand of the people for reform. Building roads, putting up traffic signs, tree-planting, assigning parks and green spots, and organizing city life in general. These are the issues, I believe, to which Dr. Harvey was pointing. He was alerting to the possible occurrence of catastrophe due to the sharp, perpetual increase in the rate of accidents.

Random building also represent an obstacle to well-organized civil services. Clusters of tall cement of buildings are placed improperly and in such a way that they're inconvenient to the needs of networks of projects such as water pipes, electricity and telephone cables, and the construction of roads. In addition, they are an eye-sore.

In such a situation the establishment of large supermarkets, schools, general libraries, and stores which will meet the daily requirements of citizens will be impossible in the absence of properly divided city-sectors and zones.

In short, these problems will persist as long as there's no feeling of responsibility, foresight and cooperation between government administration and the citizens.

Anwar Hussein Mohammad,
Taiz.

تعازينا الحارة

نتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة للأخ العزيز

((يوسف احمد طاهر المريقي))

((عبدالعزيز سيف المريقي))

بوفاة قريبتهما أسكنها الله فسيح جناته
وألهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان وإنا
لله وإنا إليه راجعون

منتسبو شركة الشرق الأوسط للملاحة
عنهم الأستاذ/ عبدالواسع هائل سعيد
منتسبو صحيفة يمن تايمز
عنهم د/عبدالعزيز السقاف

تعازينا الحارة

نتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة بوفاة الأخ

((محمد سعيد شمان المشرقي))

أسكنه الله فسيح جناته
وألهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله
وإنا إليه راجعون

د/عبدالعزيز السقاف
أمين نويصر المشرقي
نائد سلام المشرقي
وجميع الصحفيين

**THE CONCEPT OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

It is known that the basic function and aim of any administration is to facilitate and regulate ways of working in different places. Thus, the kind of administration set up in any establishment plays a great role in the performance of the establishment. Production can be increased in a short time with less efforts., if you have a good administration. The opposite is also true.

Since administration occupies such a crucial place, it is essential for us to ensure that Yemen gets the best kind available so as our country can attain development fast.

Unfortunately, exactly the contrary happens in Yemen. Administration in the true sense is non-existent in most ministries, and in the Ministry of Education in particular. My sense of duty urged me to write about the horrifying situation in this particular ministry. Actually, the administration in this ministry is incapable of playing its ordinary role in the society as we aspire. The educational level of our students is deteriorating. Yemeni teachers are dropping out. Shall we ask ourselves "why"?

Better address the question to the Ministry of Education which has been converted into a place where corrupt and inefficient people gather. Teachers who are supposed to be in charge of raising our future generations are treated unfairly and very badly. They are driven to frustration from the very first day they start to work with the ministry. Some spend weeks, or even months doing nothing more than just searching for stupid signatures.

We teachers are fated to pass through a horrifying, devilish and dull routine. The ministry which was supposed to be on our side and look after our interests, becomes the main source of our demoralization and disappointment. "Come back tomorrow" is something we hear all the time.

Malpractice, carelessness, negligence and favoritism spread their web everywhere.

If we are serious about rehabilitating Yemen we should start the first step from this strategic sector. It is important to get rid of those lazy and incompetent employees. It is also a must to replace the piles of files and neglected papers with small computers. Bureaucratic procedures should be avoided, and teachers should be treated as human beings, with due respect and right.

This is the real beginning in creating a civilized Yemen.

Jamal Saleh T. Al-Qadery,
Sanaa.

CCC President Saeed Khoury:

“CCC owes it to Yemen to help it develop.”

Consolidated Contractors (International) Company (CCC) is one of the most active foreign companies in the Republic of Yemen. It has carried out the construction of many academic and government buildings, oil installations and facilities, oil pipelines, road projects, etc. The CCC is also a giant company by regional and international standards. According to *Engineering News Record* magazine, CCC is the 26th largest engineering / contracting firm in the world, and the seventh largest firm among those doing business in the Middle East, and the largest among Arab companies.

One of two architects who have built this company over the years is Saeed Khoury, president of the company. During his visit to Athens last week, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, visited Mr. Khoury at the CCC headquarters. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: As we begin the new year, how did your company do during 1993?

A: Let me start by wishing you, your paper which we receive here in Greece, and the Yemeni people a happy new year.

In spite of the many problems, 1993, was a good year for CCC. Our turnover for 1993 was over a billion US dollars. To be exact, it was US\$ 1,263.4 million. Our profits were the highest in 1992, and then our profits for 1993 were even higher. We have even higher hopes for 1994. We are sure that the future holds bright possibilities for CCC as well as the region.

Q: You mean you were not affected by the fallout of the Gulf War?

A: Of course, we were negatively affected as most of our business was in the region. But as the leading company in the region, and because we attracted most of the qualified (Palestinian and Jordanian) personnel that left Kuwait, we were able to bounce back quickly, as we captured a good portion of the post-war construction business.

Q: What are your main fields of business?

A: In the past, we used to do a lot of civil engineering and other related works. Oil related business represented only 20%. But over the last two years, the ratios were reversed. Oil-related activities now account for 80% of our business. Although there are



logical reasons for this development, we are working to diversify and broaden the scope of the business.

Q: What about the prospects of new business in Yemen?



A: We are looking into several options. The main ones are the following:

1. The Gas Project: We are in constant contact with Enron Europe who are now carrying out studies for the optimal exploitation of the enormous gas reserves in the Marib/Al-Jawf basin. By the way, Enron has decided to speed up the periods required for studying and preparing the project. I suspect, if everything goes according to plan, we should start in the implementation of the project by the beginning of next year.
2. Road Projects: We have a number of possibilities including major highways between Yemen and Oman, and from Safer to Sciyun and a shorter distance between Al-Rayyan and Mukallah.
3. Several other construction projects whether industrial, administrative, academic, etc.
4. Other projects like the Sanaa Emergency Sub-Station in Madbah which we will construct. We will even arrange partial financing.
5. A major hospital in Aden. Again here, we are willing to provide financing.

We are willing to even invest in various projects in the country. We will put up the initial capital required to launch a project, and once it is successful, make arrangements for the transfer of ownership to local investors,

and we ourselves would move on to other projects.

We are interested in doing this, not just out of courtesy, but because we feel that Yemen was where we started. It was our initial launching ground. From there we grew into the giant company that we are today. In other words, we feel we owe Yemen something, and we are trying to contribute to its development.

Of course, as a business firm, we will always look at things from a business point of view. But we will go out of our way to accommodate local needs.

Q: How do you assess the local political conditions?

A: I think that both the PGC and YSP are right based on their own perspectives. Take the PGC. As a party well-versed in the tribal background of Yemen, it knows it has to undertake the transformation process on a gradual and piecemeal basis. It cannot rush things and the situation may backfire. Then take the YSP. This is a party that inherited a sense of respect for law and order from the British, and later

strengthened by the discipline of a communist system. So, the YSP people value law and order and system-building.

What I am saying is that both sides are right in their own way.

Therefore, in my opinion, it is not a matter of who is wrong and who is right, it is a matter of how to shore up things and evolve a modern state based on the values that Yemen has taken on - multi-party politics, freedom of the press, human rights, etc. Above all, of course, socio-economic development has to take place.

Q: You personally know both ALIs, and you know their parties. How do you explain their inability to work together?

A: What is happening now between the PGC and YSP leaderships is indeed very unfortunate. Let me venture and say that there are other parties which are not interested in seeing the two sides meet and agree.

Remember, I know from first-hand experience which has happened in Lebanon when the Lebanese and Palestinian sides were fed disinformation with the purpose of pushing the two sides farther and farther apart. The same is most probably true in Yemen's circumstances today.

I have to say that there is not much substance that divides the two sides. The difference is only in approach and pace. I am sure the two sides are both patriotic and have Yemen's interests at heart. I am not saying, however, that there are no issues over which they differ. There are a few issues that need to be discussed and agreed upon.

Let me say here that the Yemenis have a responsibility, not only to themselves, but also to the whole Arab nation.

Yemeni unity came to give some hope to Arab solidarity and unity. It came at a time when there is a lot of frustra-

tion and disappointment. Therefore, the failure of the Yemeni experiment would really throw away any hope for Arab nationhood.

Q: Do you have any suggestions as to how to resolve this matter?

A: Of course, the Yemenis know better as to how to address this matter. But, if the PGC and YSP leaderships need the input of their brothers and friends, so be it.

I think that it is possible to agree on an intermediation team to bridge the gap between the two sides and to avoid any accidental and unnecessary complications.

Q: Any final word?

A: I assure you Yemen's future prospects are good. All you need is to manage your affairs a little bit better. And, of course, I am assuming you will overcome the crisis peacefully.

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LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

The French Pages

CRISE POLITIQUE

Un dialogue qui n'avance pas

La situation au Yémen ne cesse de se détériorer depuis le début de l'année. Alors que la crise économique et monétaire frappe durement la population, les partisans du Président Saleh perdent patience et le "comité du dialogue" fait du sur place. L'opposition a préféré se retirer des négociations.

Les partis de l'opposition qui participaient depuis début décembre aux débats du "comité du dialogue" se sont retirés mercredi dernier des réunions en dénonçant leur "manque de sérieux". "Nous avons promis (au peuple) d'élaborer un document jetant les bases d'un Etat stable et organisé. Nous avons patienté et déployé d'intenses efforts pour atteindre cet objectif", ont-ils déclaré dans un communiqué. Mais selon eux, la rédaction du document a buté sur des "réserves émises par certains partis de la coalition au pouvoir".

La question de l'armée

Réuni depuis début janvier à Aden, le "comité du dialogue" avait recommandé vendredi 7 janvier le démantèlement de tous les camps militaires ou paramilitaires dans les villes. Il appelait aussi à la tenue d'une conférence de réconciliation pour l'adoption d'une déclaration qui aurait force de loi et il avait approuvé "la décision du gouvernement d'expulser les étrangers qui ne respectent pas la loi yéménite", en référence aux intégristes islamiques arabes opérant au Yémen sous la protection des tribus locales. Selon un responsable du PSY, les terroristes qui ont commis les attentats contre les cadres du PSY "sont protégés directement par des cheikhs de tribus au nord du pays et sont libres de circuler à leur guise, y compris à Sanaa".

Enfin, le "comité du dialogue" avait recommandé la fusion des forces armées "dans un délai de quatre mois". Cette question est l'un des principaux points de désaccord entre nordistes et sudistes. Une réunion d'experts militaires du Nord et du Sud, tenue fin décembre à Aden pour étudier cette fusion s'est achevée sur un désaccord. Les sudistes demandent notamment le départ des frères du Président Saleh qui commandent l'armée du nord et la dissolution de la garde républicaine du chef de l'Etat, un corps d'élite estimé à quelques 30 000 hommes dotés d'armes lourdes et encadrés par des officiers de la garde prétorienne du président irakien Saddam Hussein.

Toutes ces recommandations du comité n'ont pas eu beaucoup d'effets. Le dialogue semble marquer le pas et le Président Saleh et ses partisans perdent de plus en plus patience. Le Président s'est déclaré mercredi prêt à démissionner et à laisser la présidence au numéro deux, Ali Salem Al-Bid. "Que Ali Salem Al-Bid ou le parti socialiste yéménite viennent (au pouvoir), si c'est là le problème", a-t-il dit lors d'un meeting à Ibb. Une idée déjà lancée le mois dernier par le vice-Président, qui proposait que le Président Saleh et lui-même se retirent de la scène politique. Ali Abdallah Saleh ne cesse, pour sa part, de répéter qu'il est toujours disposé au dialogue et qu'il a déjà multiplié les concessions en acceptant le programme de

réformes socialiste. Mais pour le PSY, cet engagement doit connaître au moins un début d'application.

Le ton du Président apparemment conciliant fait suite à des discours beaucoup plus sévères à l'égard des socialistes. Il a ainsi engagé une campagne de mobilisation de l'opinion qu'il a invitée à se prononcer dans le conflit qui l'oppose avec Ali Salem Al-Bid. C'est au cours d'un rassemblement organisé lundi dernier à Taëz qu'il a demandé au "peuple de désigner sans complaisance le fautif". Certains membres du CPG, le parti du Président, commencent quant à eux à évoquer la possibilité que le parlement écarte les dirigeants sudistes. Ils les accusent de bloquer les institutions de l'Etat.

Le Président accuse le 1er ministre

Il y a plusieurs jours, le Président avait rendu son Premier ministre socialiste Haïdar Al-Attas "responsable" de la détérioration économique du pays. Le Président lui impute "la responsabilité historique de la dégradation de la situation économique, de la hausse des prix et la chute du ryal (...), ce qui a provoqué des difficultés d'approvisionnement du marché en produits de première nécessité". "L'inaction du gouvernement constitue une violation de la responsabilité constitutionnelle et nationale qui lui a été confiée" par le parlement, a

ajouté le chef de l'Etat. Le Président Saleh a dressé un bilan négatif de l'action du gouvernement qu'il a accusé de "laxisme", relevant "une montée de l'inflation et du chômage". Ali Salem Al-Bid a estimé que le Président cherchait "un bouc émissaire pour tenter de camoufler les raisons de la détérioration économique" dans le pays. Lundi dernier, à Taëz, Ali Abdallah Saleh a à nouveau critiqué Al-Attas, l'accusant de n'avoir toujours pas présenté de budget pour les exercices 1993 et 1994. Il l'a implicitement soupçonné de "semer le désordre" dans le pays.

Le chef de l'Etat a tenu ces propos très durs au lendemain de l'échec d'une rencontre qui devait avoir lieu dimanche 9 janvier avec Ali Al-Bid dans la localité d'Al-Janad, près de Taëz, à l'initiative d'un groupe de chefs religieux yéménites (oulémas). Ali Salem Al-Bid n'est finalement pas venu estimer que la rencontre était prématurée tant que le programme de réformes qu'il préconise n'aura pas été entamé.

Il réclame en outre des engagements de la part du Président pour la sécurité des responsables socialistes, dont 154 ont été victimes d'attentats au cours des trois dernières années, selon le PSY. La veille de la rencontre le domicile du vice-Président à Aden avait essuyé des coups de feu. Pas de quoi se réunir dans la sérénité. De plus, les attentats contre des membres du PSY se poursuivent. Deux cadres du PSY ont

été abattus par balles le 4 janvier dernier par des inconnus dans la région de Dhala, près de Lahej, à 70km au nord d'Aden. Ali Muthanna et Saleh Ben Mohammed, ont été pris dans une embuscade alors qu'ils circulaient à bord de leur véhicule. Un autre cadre du parti, Abdel Karim Saleh Al-Jihmi a été tué par balle samedi 8 janvier par des inconnus à Sanaa.

La situation économique et monétaire qui frappe de plus en plus durement la population ajoute à la crise politique les risques d'une explosion sociale. Des manifestations contre la hausse des prix ont éclaté mardi 4 janvier à Taëz et se sont propagées à Hoddeidah et à Sanaa. Elles ont été immédiatement dispersées. Mais la chute du ryal ne cesse de s'accroître par rapport à la monnaie américaine, entraînant une forte hausse des prix, la plupart des produits de consommation étant importés. Jeudi 30 décembre, la monnaie yéménite s'échangeait au taux de 66 rials pour un dollar. Elle s'échangeait il y a dix jours à 84 rials pour un dollar. Depuis, les boutiques des changeurs du marché libre ont été à nouveau fermées. Le cours du ryal a été suspendu. Pourtant les autorités yéménites n'ont aucun moyen d'enrayer cette chute, la banque centrale ne disposant que de très peu de devises étrangères, et notamment de dollars, pour intervenir sur le marché.

La Chambre de commerce et de l'industrie a mis en garde le

gouvernement contre les risques de "débordement" dans le pays si des mesures n'étaient pas prises pour raffermir le ryal et assurer l'approvisionnement du marché en produits de première nécessité. Dans une lettre ouverte adressée aux dirigeants yéménites, elle a averti que "la grave dégradation du pouvoir d'achat au Yémen peut conduire à la famine, qui pourrait amener la subversion".

Tentatives de médiations

Les initiatives extérieures pour résoudre la crise politique continuent cependant. L'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, Arthur Hugues, a été reçu mardi dernier à Aden par Ali Salem Al-Bid. Le même jour, la Ligue arabe a offert ses bons offices. Cette offre a été faite par le secrétaire général de la Ligue Esamat Abdel Méguid lors d'un entretien téléphonique avec le chef de l'Etat. D'autre part, un émissaire jordanien a remis lundi dernier des messages du roi Hussein aux deux Ali pour tenter de réconcilier les deux hommes. L'émissaire jordanien avait accompli début décembre une mission similaire, sans succès. Le sultan Qabous d'Oman s'est déclaré prêt à apporter son aide. Quant à l'Arabie Saoudite et au Koweït, le Président Saleh les a accusés, selon le PSY, d'être complices du parti socialiste pour torpiller l'unité yéménite.

J.B.

HUNT

Enlèvements près de Mareb

Neuf employés de la compagnie pétrolière américaine Hunt ont été enlevés au début du mois par une tribu de la région de Mareb. Quatre ont été libérés. Les autres attendent.

Quatre employés yéménites de la compagnie pétrolière américaine Hunt Oil, enlevés le 4 janvier dernier, ont été libérés par leurs ravisseurs, après quelques jours de détention. Mais cinq de leurs camarades, dont un Britannique et un Canadien étaient toujours jeudi dernier entre les mains des hommes de la tribu des Khawlan, dans la région de Mareb.

Tribu des Khawlan

Les employés de la Hunt ont été enlevés par un groupe d'hommes armés qui les avait empêchés de décoller en hélicoptère d'un site, où ils venaient de vérifier une fuite dans une station de pompage. L'objectif des ravisseurs est de faire pression sur les autorités yéménites en vue d'obtenir des redevances financières. L'enlèvement a été revendiqué par Cheikh Ahmed Chudaik.

Trois Yéménites ont volontairement voulu rester en cap-

tivité pour tenir compagnie à leurs collègues, Peter Jackson, le Britannique, et George Hawkins, le Canadien. Ils sont séquestrés à Al-Ayamania, près d'Oued Marhab dans la région de Mareb.

Le gouvernement en retrait

Le gouvernement, comme d'habitude dans ce genre d'affaire, reste en retrait. Les négociations sont menées au nom du gouvernement yéménite par des notables dont cheikh Mohamed Ben Joubair, membre de la tribu des Khawlan. L'enlèvement des employés de Hunt, le premier depuis le début de l'année, suit celui de Haynes Mahoney, diplomate américain enlevé pendant une semaine fin novembre par la tribu des Jahms. Il était aussi détenu dans la région de Mareb. Les Jahms comme les Khawlan appartiennent à la confédération des Bakils.

(AFP)

CINEMA

Un cinéaste arabe veut filmer le Yémen

Michel Al-Khalifi, cinéaste palestinien naturalisé belge, est venu récemment au Yémen pour préparer un film sur la vie du célèbre écrivain arabe Imrou Al-Gaïsse. Rencontre.

Raconter la vie du célèbre écrivain arabe Imrou Al-Gaïsse, c'est avec cette idée en tête que Michel Al-Khalifi a débarqué au Yémen il y a quelques mois. Ce cinéaste palestinien naturalisé belge a rencontré des Yéménites amoureux du cinéma. Il a l'intention d'en faire travailler quelques uns avec son équipe. Il est vrai que pour l'instant la production cinématographique au Yémen est quasiment inexistante. Michel Al-Khalifi a donc fait quelques exercices pratiques avec ces amateurs du grand écran.

C'est la deuxième visite du cinéaste palestinien au Yémen. Il était venu il y a quelque temps pour participer à un congrès d'intellectuels arabes de soutien à l'Intifada, la guerre des pierres palestinienne. Il ne connaît pour l'instant que la capitale Sanaa. "Ce qui me frappe au Yémen c'est le lien très fort qui existe entre l'homme et son environnement. J'aime les gestes simples du vendeur de poivre. La modernité n'a pas encore détruit ce lien. L'homme yéménite vit à la fois dans le passé et dans le

présent". "Lors de ma première visite au Yémen, j'ai été surpris par ce pays. Cela me rappelait la Palestine quand j'étais petit, la même ambiance", ajoute-t-il.

Michel Al-Khalifi est né à Nasrah en Palestine. Il a fait ses premières années d'études là-bas, puis il est parti en Belgique pour étudier la mise en scène théâtrale et la mise en scène télévisée. Il a écrit une thèse sur "L'art et la littérature en Palestine entre 1950 et 1976". Michel Al-Khalifi admire particulièrement le cinéaste indien Satia Jete Ratie.

Un film qui parle des femmes

Depuis, il s'est lancé dans la réalisation. D'abord trois documentaires sur son pays d'origine, puis des films, "Maloul fête la destruction en 1987", "Les Noces de Jalil", "L'Hymne des Pierres". Son film le plus connu est peut-être "La Mémoire fertile", tourné en 1987. "Avant d'écrire le scénario de ce film, j'ai lu toute la poésie palestinienne". "C'est le premier film arabe qui

parle de la femme arabe et uniquement d'elle", explique-t-il. Il n'y a en effet que des rôles de femme dans ce film. C'est aussi la première fois qu'un film arabe décrit de manière aussi concrète la vie quotidienne. "Jusqu'à là, le cinéma ne s'intéressait qu'à la politique. J'ai redonné dans mon film sa vraie place à l'être humain, à l'expression de sa vie intérieure", estime Michel Al-Khalifi. Il pense que "La Mémoire fertile" a marqué une nouvelle étape dans le cinéma arabe. Présenté à Carthage en Tunisie, ce fut une vraie surprise.

Plus généralement sur le cinéma, le cinéaste palestinien aimerait que le public ait la possibilité de voir de véritables oeuvres artistiques et pas seulement des films commerciaux. "Le public doit avoir le droit de choisir".

Michel Al-Khalifi a beaucoup de projets en cours. Il prépare aussi un film sur la Palestine occupée et un film à capitaux français contre le racisme.

Amat Al-Salam
AL-CHAMY

En Bref

Mort de cinq officiers yéménites: Cinq officiers yéménites ont trouvé la mort mardi 4 janvier dans un "accident mystérieux" à Radfan, ville proche de l'ancienne frontière entre les deux ex-Yémen. Les cinq officiers appartenaient à des contingents de l'armée stationnée dans la province de Lahej, au nord d'Aden.

Le chef de la diplomatie koweïtienne prochainement au Yémen: Le ministre koweïtien des Affaires étrangères Cheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah se rendra "prochainement" au Yémen "lorsque la crise sera réglée", a-t-il déclaré à la presse qatarite il y a un peu plus d'une semaine. Le Koweït a rompu tout contact avec le Yémen, qu'il accuse d'avoir adopté une attitude favorable à l'Irak durant la crise du Golfe.

Ambassade du Yémen à Beyrouth: L'ambassade du Yémen à Beyrouth a affirmé avoir réussi à maîtriser lundi 10 janvier l'un des trois hommes qui tentaient de pénétrer de force dans la chancellerie aux cris d'"Allah Akbar". Les gardiens résidant à l'ambassade sont parvenus à déjouer leur tentative et ont arrêté l'un des assaillants, alors que les deux autres ont réussi à s'enfuir à bord d'une voiture qui les attendait dans les parages. L'homme arrêté, Nazir Saïd Aait, est un Yéménite entré illégalement au Liban.

RECENSEMENT

Le Yémen veut tout savoir sur sa population

Le grand recensement de la population du Yémen unifié commence le 21 janvier prochain. Quand les résultats seront dépouillés, le pays connaîtra alors exactement le nombre de ses habitants.

L'Organisation centrale pour la statistique (OCS) en a décidé ainsi: le recensement de la population aura pour référence la date de minuit dans la nuit du 21 au 22 janvier 1994. A cette date exacte, les autorités yéménites souhaitent connaître le nombre de personnes vivant sur leur sol. La naissance d'un enfant à minuit passé d'une minute ne sera pas comptabilisée. Une partie des opérations de recensement va se dérouler pendant dix jours à partir du 21 janvier. Les gens devront donc se rappeler des personnes vivant sous leur toit à la date fixée.

Recensement aussi des étrangers

Les étrangers résidant au Yémen sont aussi concernés par ce recensement. Des enquêteurs vont venir les voir pour remplir un questionnaire, qui est composé de 55 caractéristiques. Pour réaliser ce travail de base, ils seront plus de 12 000 enquêteurs à sillonner les routes yéménites chacun devant s'occuper de 200 maisons pendant les dix jours. Sans expérience, ils ont été recrutés parmi les étudiants des universités de Sanaa et d'Aden. "Tous seront payés pour ce travail", précise Salim Bin Human, vice-président de l'Organisation centrale pour la statistique, "avec un bonus pour ceux qui feront leurs

enquêtes dans les régions difficiles, comme Saada ou Al-Mahra".

Le recensement a plusieurs objectifs. Tout d'abord connaître la distribution de la population en fonction du sexe, de l'âge, de la nationalité, de l'activité socio-économique. Ensuite, obtenir des indices pour préparer le futur plan quinquennal 1996-2000 et récolter de la matière statistique utile pour mettre en place les politiques et les programmes gouvernementaux. Enfin, obtenir les informations nécessaires à la délimitation des circonscriptions électorales, pour que les élections législatives soient plus justes.

Pour obtenir toutes ces informations, le questionnaire cité plus haut ne suffira pas. Ce questionnaire concernant la population est certes "le plus important", au dire du vice-président de l'OCS, mais les autorités yéménites ont prévu deux autres questionnaires sur l'habitat et l'activité économique. Deux mille enquêteurs ont déjà commencé à sillonner le terrain depuis le 25 décembre pour les faire remplir. Ils ont plus d'expérience que les 12000 cités plus haut. Ils viennent des départements statistiques des différents ministères. Pendant trois semaines, ils ont dû visiter 1200 maisons chacun. Leur travail a consisté à savoir combien de maisons sont utili-

sées comme lieu d'habitation, combien de personnes y vivent, leur sexe. Dans les campagnes, ils se sont intéressés au nombre d'exploitations agricoles, leur taille, le nombre de propriétaires, la quantité de bétail. L'autre questionnaire ne concerne que les bâtiments qui ne sont pas utilisés comme lieu d'habitation: les usines, les écoles, les hôpitaux.

Le projet doit coûter 400 millions de rials et l'Organisation centrale pour la statistique a obtenu l'assistance du FNUAP (Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population), des Hollandais, des Américains de USAID et de l'UNESCWA (United Nations economical and social cooperation for western Asia).

Le recensement se termine le 31 janvier

Pour superviser le travail sur le terrain, l'OCS a recruté 18 directeurs, chargés du bon déroulement des opérations dans chaque gouvernorat. Ils sont épaulés par 33 autres personnes réparties dans chaque gouvernorat en fonction de la taille de ceux-ci. Tous sont des employés de l'Organisation centrale pour la statistique à Sanaa et de sa branche à Aden. A un niveau inférieur, des directeurs adjoints, au nombre de 320, sont à la tête

des opérations de recensement au niveau de chaque district. Ils ont été recrutés parmi les gens qui avaient déjà participé aux précédents recensements au Nord et au Sud. En tout, 15 000 personnes travaillent ou vont travailler pour ce recensement. Les enquêteurs sans expérience ont suivi juste avant de se lancer sur le terrain une session de formation d'environ une semaine. La récolte des informations doit se terminer le 31 janvier prochain, si tout va bien.

Plusieurs mois de dépouillement

Le travail de dépouillement commencera ensuite et devrait durer de un à deux ans. Pour ce recensement, deux centres de collecte de données vont être ouverts à Hoddeidah et à Mukallah. Ils viendront s'ajouter aux bureaux d'Aden et de Sanaa. Des recensements ont déjà été réalisés avant l'unification dans les deux anciens Yémen. C'était en 1986 pour le Nord et en 1988 pour le Sud. Leur analyse vient à peine d'être terminée et le problème est qu'il est très difficile d'utiliser ces données au niveau du Yémen unifié. Les questionnaires étaient différents, l'environnement politique et social aussi.

Jérôme BERNARD

Droit de réponse

Nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre jugement une photocopie de l'article paru dans les pages françaises du Yemen Times (le 2 janvier 1994 Vol IV / 01), intitulé "La francophonie à l'honneur". Ceci pour plusieurs raisons. Tout d'abord, en le lisant, nous ne trouvons aucune relation entre l'ensemble de l'article et le dernier paragraphe qui parle de "l'élection du comité de l'Association de la Langue française (ALF) du Département de français de l'Université de Sanaa". Dans le paragraphe cité, nous avons trouvé plusieurs incohérences. D'abord les élections ont eu lieu la veille de la réception organisée par son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de France et non pas "il y a quelques jours" comme il apparaît dans l'article. Puis Mlle Najwa Al-Junaid était élue membre du comité et non pas "présidente" comme l'article l'annonce. Il est vrai qu'elle a obtenu la majorité des voix, c'est pour cela qu'elle devait présider la première réunion pour les membres. Dans cette réunion, les membres, entre eux, désignent à l'unanimité le président permanent (qui n'est pas forcément celui qui a obtenu la majorité des voix) et les autres responsables. En plus, selon sa réponse personnelle, Najwa avait déjà l'intention d'être responsable culturel. Elle ajoute que c'est étonnant que le journaliste qui a rédigé cet article (sans sa signature en plus) a annoncé les nouvelles écrites sans la rencontrer personnellement (pour une interview par exemple).

Aussi, il faut se demander: comment l'écrivain de cet article a-t-il jugé que "le mouvement de libération de la femme ne semble pourtant pas encore très actif au Yémen". (A remarquer: "la libération" comme un sujet vaste et la généralisation "au Yémen"! Ici, il faut préciser qu'il ne s'est pas écoulé que quelques jours depuis la naissance de l'Association et nous invitons donc ce journaliste, qui apparemment n'a pas assisté à l'événement de "l'élection du comité de l'ALF", à visiter le

département de français de la Faculté des Lettres afin qu'il puisse juger du travail que nous avons déjà accompli. De plus, et surtout, nous avons pris une décision pendant la première réunion; c'est que la présidence de chaque réunion doit être occupée alternativement par les membres selon les principes suivants: a) la participation égale de la femme, et b) le travail de groupe pour l'intérêt général de tous les francophones.

Bref, la seule information correcte c'est qu'il y a bien trois jeunes filles élues sur cinq membres dans l'Association, mais qui a parlé de la "discrimination" sinon ce journaliste tout seul qui voulait donner son avis comme on donne une opinion dans la conclusion d'un essai. Nous nous demandons aussi: les électeurs n'étaient-ils pas des étudiants...et des étudiants?

Nous croyons au sérieux de votre journal et nous espérons y trouver toujours des informations objectives.

Un autre point dont il n'a pas été fait mention dans l'article du discours prononcé par un des étudiants, au nom de tous les francophones pour remercier S.E. M. l'ambassadeur, en confirmant les bonnes relations entre le Yémen et la France.

Enfin sur quelle source repose cette affirmation que les jeunes filles francophones sont "majoritaires" et plus nombreuses que les garçons?

Nous pensons donc, après une lecture détaillée de cette partie de l'article, que: ou bien le journaliste qui a rédigé cet article a avancé beaucoup d'affirmations sans les vérifier auparavant, faisant prévaloir tout d'abord son avis personnel, ou bien il n'était pas bien informé, ou finalement qu'il n'a pas pu se servir des sources qu'il avait.

Pour finir, si vous voulez, M. le responsable des pages françaises, l'analyse des articles parus dans votre journal, voudriez-vous publier notre lettre dans votre prochain numéro du Yemen Times?

L'Association de la Langue française.

RELIGION

Le voyage nocturne

par Jean Moncelon*

Le 9 janvier dernier était jour férié au Yémen. Jean Moncelon explique ci-dessous le sens de cette fête importante dans le calendrier musulman.

Une nuit, peu avant l'Hégire (622), guidé par l'ange Gabriel, le prophète de l'Islam fut transporté miraculeusement de la Mecque à Jérusalem, sur l'emplacement du Temple. C'est l'Isra'. Puis, à la suite de l'Archange, il fut élevé de ciel en ciel jusqu'à atteindre le "jububier de la limite" qui marque l'extrémité du monde créé. Al Mi'râj est le nom de cette ascension. Ces deux épisodes constituent ce qu'on appelle le Voyage nocturne de Mohammed, ils sont célébrés dans tout le monde musulman, le 27 du mois de Rajab (- cette année le 9 janvier).

Le Coran évoque brièvement ce voyage nocturne, dans la sourate XVII, qui en porte le nom: "Gloire à celui qui a fait voyager son serviteur (=Mohammed) de la Mosquée sacrée à la Mosquée très éloignée dont nous avons béni l'enceinte, et ceci pour lui montrer certains de nos Signes"

(1). A quoi s'ajoutent les versets suivants, qui se rapportent au Mi'râj: "Il l'a vu en vérité, une autre fois, à côté du jububier de la limite/ auprès duquel se trouve le Jardin de la Demeure;/ au moment où le jububier était enveloppé par ce qui le couvrait" (LIII, 13-16).

Cependant, la tradition a suppléé à ce manque d'informations. Ainsi apprend-t-on que le Prophète accomplit son voyage sur le dos d'un animal mystérieux - ailé - nommé Burâq, auquel il suffisait de fixer un point à l'horizon pour l'atteindre

à la vitesse de l'éclair. Il est souvent représenté portant une tête de femme - on pense alors aux cavales de Parménide - et une queue de paon. Mais Bukhari le décrit plus sobrement comme "plus petit qu'une mule, plus grand qu'un âne". Une seule certitude: son origine céleste.

Jérusalem Lieu Saint de l'Islam

A Jérusalem, le Dôme du Rocher commémore l'ascension du Prophète - jusqu'en son architecture, la base cubique symbolisant la terre, la coupole le Ciel et l'octogone intermédiaire le Mi'râj lui-même. A l'autre extrémité du mont du Temple se trouve la mosquée Al-Aqçâ (=la très éloignée). On comprend dès lors que cet espace où fut transporté le Prophète soit devenu un des quatre Lieux Saints de l'Islam.

C'est depuis le Rocher que Mohammed commence son Ascension. En s'élevant il traverse les sept Cieux. Au quatrième il rencontre le prophète Enoch - qui fut lui aussi élevé à travers les sphères célestes. Il voit également Moïse. Au septième et dernier, Abraham, l'Ami de Dieu, l'accueille et se réjouit. Le Père de tous les croyants se tient adossé à la Mosquée des Anges, laquelle selon la tradition, est placée sous le trône divin et exactement au-dessus de la Ka'bah, et de la Mosquée sacrée, à la Mecque.

Cette géographie dans l'espace céleste, où l'on reconnaît Jérusalem, la Mosquée des Anges et la Mecque, dessine un triangle dont la configuration est éminemment sacrée.

Parvenu à la Limite extrême, le Prophète se trouve face au jububier, "le plus près de l'au-delà de l'être". Car, au-delà, il n'est plus que Dieu - inaccessible. "Son regard, rapporte le Coran, ne dévia pas et ne fut pas abusé. Il a vu les plus grands Signes de son Seigneur" (LIII, 17-18).

C'est là, enfin, que Dieu ordonna que les musulmans prient cinquante fois par jour. Toutefois, lors de la descente, Moïse suggéra au Prophète de s'en retourner auprès de son Seigneur, qui accepta de ramener à cinq le nombre des prières quotidiennes.

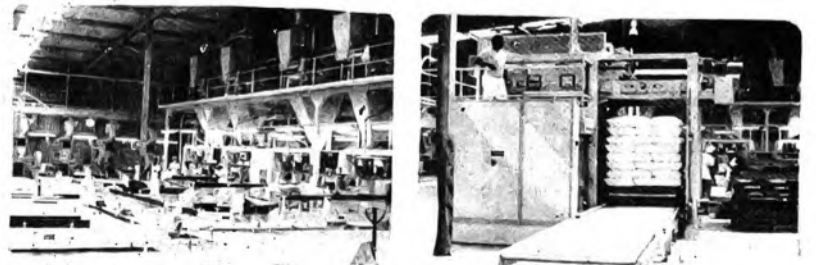
Le Voyage nocturne appartient à la tradition prophétique la plus achevée et confirme assurément Mohammed dans sa vocation d'Envoyé de Dieu parmi les prophètes. Certains musulmans ont cherché à renouveler cette "expérience extatique" - c'est une audace, qui donne pourtant la mesure des Signes - des "secrets" divins - que le prophète de l'Islam fut appelé à contempler au terme de son ascension nocturne.

* Jean Moncelon est docteur d'Etat en philosophie. Il est actuellement directeur du département de français à l'université de Sanaa.



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صنعاً ت : ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٣ : تليكس : ٢٧٨٠ ناچيل يمن فاكسميل : ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب : ٢٥٢٨
 الحديدة ت : ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ : تليكس : ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل : ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب : ٤٠١٥
 الخرطوم ت : ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ : تليكس : ٢٢٣٦٩ سيجان فاكسميل : ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب : ١٩٣٦
 بورسودان ت : ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ : تليكس : ٧٠٠٧١ بارن ص ب : ١٦٠

RAISING CHILDREN: The Most Important Task of Society

The first teachers of a child are his parents. Raising children is perhaps one of the most important jobs that people ever undertake. Parents sometimes feel that they are unprepared to answer their children's questions. The rapidly changing world has put immense pressure on parents to cope up with raising their children in the best possible way. In order to do so, parents need to be aware of the environment, the surrounding and the needs of their children. What Maria Montessori said, that "a child is a spiritual embryo" she meant that children do not only have physical, social, mental and emotional needs, but also has spiritual needs which the people who care for children must look into.

The child, in an educated and morally aware society is seen as a potential adult or as the seed of a potential tree. The child's soul comes to the world like a clean slate.

On this slate will be written the impressions and experiences the child gathers during his childhood. These impressions will determine in his/her adult life how he/she would react to the various situations.

Some of the things we can do towards building a rewarding relationship with our children are:

Listen to them: We should spend quite sometime with our children, to listen and acknowledge their emotions and thoughts.

Accept them as they are: We should not expect them to be images of ourselves, but accept them as individuals.

Care for them: We should be supportive and help them to help themselves.

Understand them: We should be sensitive to what our child is going through, without stepping over or taking over. We can do this by assisting them in the way they want.

Be consistent and straight forward with them: We should be honest with them and let them know where they stand with us regarding our beliefs and values.

It has been found through research that through the use of positive statements; children can be taught to think positively, at an early stage. A positive statement is like planting seeds in fertile soil which will take roots and bear flowers and fruits. If we reinforce negative statements such as 'you are lazy,' it will definitely backfire. By doing that we are planting seeds deep in the child's soul and child will come to believe in that about himself. As parents we would want to

give our children the feelings of being beautiful and valuable - a feeling that they will believe and value throughout their lives.

In other words, parents are the very first teachers that children encounter. Their education is a foundation upon which all other teachings will rest. The role of parents as children start going to school. Parents continue to assume a significant role in children's lives well into adolescence and adulthood. Many of the values, attitudes, dispositions and interests that children possess are adopted from parents. The family has the greatest influence on a child's education; the parent-child interaction acting as determining factor.

In a study of relations between family background and reading ability, it was found that the home background factor emerged as the most important factor, related to reading achievement.

It was reported that significant results were gained from extra reading practice at home. Moral and religious education offered by parents ensures that the children develop into adults and deal constructively with the problems within their children a good reading practice at home.

Parents might decide to set two to three hours every week to impart this education. If this is not possible, half an hour in the evening before they go to bed; would be ideal for moral and religious education to be effective. This must be a time of closeness and care. It is a time when children sense that their parents are staring something very special with them; a time, when parents and children can enter into a dialogue. During this time, various interesting activities can be initiated.

Through these dialogues, children should be made to realize that their best friend is within themselves.

We can help our children to find this inner friend by cultivating the love of solitude. Our children will treasure and draw strength from this gift throughout their lives.

The trend these days is early socialization. These early experiences are excellent if parents balance them with the child's needs to be alone. Deep within every human being is a strong desire for stillness and aloneness.

This state of consciousness can only be reached when we care at peace within themselves. With family life, there needs to be a certain amount of flexibility, certainty, creativity, humor and to be alone and meditate.

By nature, children love prayers. Some children, like to pray in company of their parents. While others like to pray on their own. Children are more receptive at night, before going to bed. The thoughts, feelings and impressions that children have while going to bed grow within them while they are asleep.

Bedtime is very effective for conveying moral and spiritual truths to a child in heart to heart way. It is also a time to communicate our love to children. These bedtime experiences can have profound effect on children for their whole life. When parents spend a little extra time to helping their children, they drift off to a sweet sleep, it can establish a valuable life time pattern.

Spending this extra time at night with a child often involves some sacrifice for the parents. A child's bedtime can often be the busiest time of a day for the parents.

The mother might be exhausted from caring for children all day and father working away from home. It can be so tempting to send the children off to bed in order to get all of our work done. Keeping the commitment to spending time with our children before bedtime is a way of communicating to them that we are really

care and love them.

To sum up, I present below a schedule for parents of young children so that they spend their prime time with their children to fulfill their children's basic needs.

* Wake up early in the morning and exchange courtesies and words of encouragement.

* Breakfast (remembering the significance of cleanliness, importance of time, and to be prepared.)

* Take children to school or at least see them off.

* Learn and play with friends.

* Eat lunch with your children and engage in extended informal talk.

* Share rest time with children, especially in the afternoons.

* Join in playtime and/or nature walk/discussions.

* Watching TV together.

* Help the children in their homework and other assignments.

* Dinner - family time.

* Bedtime - a moral story narrated by a parent. Incidences of outings, holidays, birthdays would confirm and extend familiar experience. The main thing is to be together and share experiences with your children.

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

NEW SCIENTIFIC REVELATIONS WITH A BEARING ON YOUR HEALTH

1. Too Much Fat May Spur the Recurrence of Cancer:

If you have had breast cancer surgery, eating too much fat may spur a recurrence of the cancer. That's what a new Swedish study of 220 women finds.

Specifically, investigators found that fat was dangerous to women with cancers that were estrogen dependent that is, tumors with lots of receptors for the hormone estrogen. Most apt to provoke a return of such cancers was saturated animal fat found in cheese, meat and butter.

Women who ate the most saturated animal fat were 20% more likely to suffer a return of the breast tumor than those who ate the least saturated fat.

Fat did not affect the recurrence of tumors with few or no estrogen receptors. The theory is high-fat diets boost blood estrogen which feeds the growth of estrogen which feeds the growth of estrogen-dependent breast tumors.

Whether eating too much fat brings on breast cancer in the first place is unclear, say experts. But Norman F. Boyd, of the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto, says the new study shows that fat can prod the growth of an existing tumor. Thus, after breast-cancer surgery, switching to a low fat diet may slash a woman's odds of a second bout with cancer.

2. Longevity Tea:

Drink tea, live longer. That's the message in a new Norwegian study of 20,000 persons. Death rates were lower among those who drink at least a cup of tea a day, government investigator concluded. Further, they found that tea pushed down blood cholesterol, and the more tea consumed, the lower the cholesterol than men drinking less than a cup of tea a day. Cholesterol in five-cup-a-day female tea drinker was done six points.

Tea also appeared to reduce systolic blood pressure slightly.

The same good news comes from Japan. A study of 1,306 men found that Asian green tea also depresses cholesterol. Men who drank nine or more small Japanese-size cups of green tea a day had eight points lower cholesterol than men drinking no tea or less than two cups daily.

Previous research has shown that drinking tea discourages artery clogging and heart disease, but this is some of the first findings to show that tea specifically fights cholesterol.

Doctors Rave for Vitamin E:

In the past, doctors have been reluctant to advocate taking vitamins. But that is dramatically changing, according to Medical Tribune, a newspaper for physicians.

The publication recently reported Harvard studies suggesting that megadoses of vitamin E (100 IU daily) can prevent or delay heart disease and asked physician-readers their views on taking vitamin E supplements. Overwhelmingly, doctor-respondents said they favored taking vitamins E and other vitamins. Eight of ten said they took vitamin E supplements themselves and recommended them to patients. The usual dose: 100 IU a day, more than three times the current recommended dietary allowance.

Many said they were swayed by new evidence showing that vitamin E is an antioxidant that helps prevent artery clogging and heart disease.

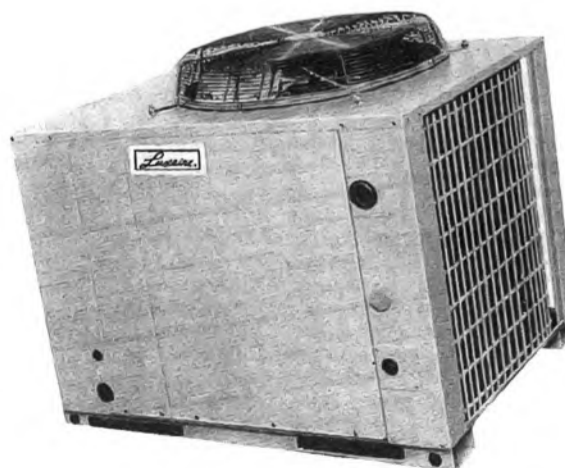
The new Harvard study of 130,000 men and women reported that daily doses of 100IU or more of vitamin E taken for at least two years reduced heart risk 46% in women and 26% in men.

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EVERY SEASON



PETROM Plans to Come Back to Yemen!

Yesterday, Saturday, 15th January, a two-man Petrom (Romanian Oil Corporation) delegation left the country following a one-week visit. Marius-Dan Velescu, Director of Exploration Division, and Florin Ciocancelea, Deputy Director, were here to sound the market and decide on the next steps that will return Petrom to the Yemeni market.

"You will recall that it was Romanian companies among the first to discover oil in Yemen. You see the oil tanks in Sanaa, they were built by a Romanian company," explained Tache Panait, the Charge d'Affaires of Romania in Sanaa.

Yes, the delegation has come to feel the market, investigate the possibilities, and decide whether they want to come in as sub-contractors, contractors, or service providers.

"We have held meetings with senior officials in the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, as well as with senior persons in various oil companies, including Hunt, Total, Nabors, Lasmo, Clyde, Mayfair, British Gas, and others.

"We have already appointed a good local agent, Saihout for Trading & Petroleum Services, and we plan to send from Bucharest officials who will create a per-

manent representation for the company in Yemen," indicated Florin Ciocancelea. Petrom, is the old RomPetrol which has a history of 137 years in the oil business. It has drilled more than 600,000 meters of on and off-shore wells, laid down 1,600 kilometers of pipeline for gathering and transport of crude, and work experience in many countries. The company boasts 30,000 high-level specialists in the oil and related business.

Romania as a nation has always been at the forefront of the oil business. It boasts the first refinery in Europe which was built in 1896, and Bucharest was the first country in Europe to light its street lamps with kerosene.

Here in Yemen, the Romanians had made some headway, but left the country some fifteen years ago.

Conditions, then, were not opportune. Today, they want to come back.

"We are investigating the possibility of contracting a block concession. We will be sending a team of experts to enter into negotiations with the governments, and to make a study of the data available on the various blocks," stated Velescu.

"As a result of the visit of President Ion Iliescu to Yemen in October, we have



From left to right: Tache Panait, Florin Ciocancelea, Constantin Zvanca, Marius-Dan Velescu, Mahmood Al-Adeemy

been receiving lots of enquiries from prospective business partners on the options and opportunities open between Yemen and Romania," stated Constantin Zvanca, the Commercial Counsellor at the Romania embassy in Sanaa. He added that the two countries have complementary economic conditions, which allows stronger cooperation.

"Romania and Yemen have always enjoyed good relations," interjected Mr. Panait. But since the

Romanian Revolution of 1989, and Yemeni unity of 1990, new conditions for developing bilateral cooperation, and the opportunities for a mutually beneficial business relationship has become boundless. "We just have to pin down the opportunities and work hard on them," the Romanian diplomat added.

Already, many of the senior officials in the oil sectors are people who were trained in Romania. "I have met a deputy minister, a number

of director-generals and other mid-level bureaucrats who were trained in Romania," disclosed the visiting Petrom officials. This has facilitated their visit as well as prospects for renewed business.

Speaking about conditions back at home, the Romanians expressed optimism, in spite of the economic hardships. Romania suffered greatly because of the international and regional complications, following its 1989 revolution.

"For example, we lost over US\$ 3 billion because of the Gulf War. We suffered another US\$7 billion because of the war in the former Yugoslavia. Our former major trading partner, the Comecon, has fallen apart. The list of burdens imposed on Romania by world developments goes on and on," explained Mr. Panait.

Even then, the economic reforms and new steps taken to re-align the economy, are already helping the situation improve. "We are restructuring our priorities. We have to be part and parcel of Europe. We have to integrate politically, economically, socially, culturally. That is first priority. Then we have to develop special relations within the region, the Mediterranean, and the Arab World. Our president and other officials have repeatedly emphasized this re-prioritizing necessity," the Romanian Charge d'Affaires pointed out.

Petrom is a state monopoly company, which, however, is now working along market rules and guidelines. It is trying to expand on its current 25 onshore and one offshore subsidiaries, by adding Yemen to its new interests.

To the Yemeni side, these efforts are highly welcomed, and they encourage Petrom to have its office here.

SOMALI INGENUITY ALLOWS ADJUSTMENT TO NEW CONDITIONS

Somalia is the only country in the world with a flourishing bureaucracy, but no government.

Any Somali knows that if you want to leave the country, there's no point lining up for a passport at the bullet-scarred former immigration office. The new bureaucrats are across town working out of stalls at the Bakahara market. And, just like in the old days, it takes five of them to approve a single passport, complete with stamps, seals and signatures. They'll back-date it to 1990, before the fall of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre plunged Somalia into civil strife.

It would all be illegal if there were any laws to be broken or any lawmakers to write them. As it is, inventive private citizens have swarmed enthusiastically into the void left by the demise of the Somalia state. While 35,000 world soldiers under the UN umbrella and diplomats from 29 countries struggle to rebuild the structures of society, the Somalis themselves have found ways big and small altruistic and corrupt, to put their own culture and "system" in order again.

Life is still unnervingly violent in this East African country, where as many as 350,000 people are thought to have died from hunger, illness and war in 1992. But controlled chaos has replaced absolute anarchy in a grassroots recovery that could never have been perceived in a UN conference room.

"There are many Somalis who want to travel abroad. If we didn't open a passport office, how could they do it?" explained Mohammed, a 24-year-old former finance ministry secretary with a mischievous entrepreneurial flair. "We're just doing what the government was doing before."

Well, almost.

In fact, Mohammed deals in black passports plundered from the immigration office and works in cahoots with four young visionaries who each stole one of the four required passport stamps. Their price \$20 for vacation travelers, and \$30 for those shopping for diplomatic immunity.

"We've been living in a disaster area for three years and everything has collapsed around us," said Mohammed, who confided his secrets on the condition his full name not be published. "People knew that if they didn't get out and start working, they wouldn't survive."

Signs of Somali adaptability are everywhere, from superbly functioning camel markets to informal neighborhood courts to bus drivers who run regular routes in vehicles stolen from the state. The evidence so far is that markets blossom in the absence of government regulation, while corruption thrives just as much in the absence of government officials.

One of the most obvious targets for looters in 1991 was the Somali central bank, which provided the country's money supply under Siad Barre. In a normal country, that would have been the death knell for the local currency, since money is only as valuable as the government or rather the economy that backs it. Yet in Somalia, there seems to be an unwritten agreement that shillings of one sort or another will continue to be accepted despite the fact that no agency exists to print new bills and no bank exists to distribute them.

In southern Mogadishu, the turf of clan leader Mohammed Farrah Aidede, the exchange rate for old shilling notes is set by a few big dealers in the Bakahara market. In northern

Mogadishu, the stronghold of Aidede's main rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammed. People use new shillings that had been ordered by the Siad Barre government but were looted before they could be distributed. The constant danger presented by marauding gunmen has left deep scars on the way Somalis pull their lives together.

Many Mogadishu, neighborhood groups have formed security patrols or hired their own mercenaries to fend off looters.

In other areas, including the fertile agricultural zone between the Jubba and Shabele rivers southwest of the capital, bandits themselves have organized syndicates that extract "taxes" in exchange for protection. Most people have learned to survive and earn a living despite rampant thievery and sporadic inter-clan violence.

"It was very difficult to distribute camels during the fighting," said Musa Sudi Yalahow, a clan elder in the Medina district of southern Mogadishu. "Only those carrying heavy weapons could get their livestock to market."

For the moment, however, the clan militias are quite. And camel dealers again walk their herds as far as 280 miles to the Garasbaley livestock market, a pungent, dusty lot on Ali Mahdi territory where 300 camels might change hands in a day. The dealers and herders team up to pay guards and corral rustlers who try to fence stolen camels. To avoid trouble and keep the camel supply flowing smoothly, Aidede's supporters have their own market across town.

The danger remains, however, and herders complain that UN troops won't let them keep enough guns to protect their animals. Yet business continues to prosper because there is no

other choice.

"What else am I going to do?" asked one dealer, Hussein Issa Nour, 50, who was beaten with a rifle and robbed of \$60 while escorting his herd in late December. "I have to earn my daily bread."

The United Nations is a major influence in the re-ordering of society, and Somalis have become masters at manipulating foreigners for their own ends. Since foreign soldiers arrived in force a year ago, 400 Somali charities and self-help groups have cropped up in Mogadishu, most with English names designed to attract Western aid. The tailoring association of the physically disabled of Somalia, for example, was formed in 1983 as a cooperative with seed money from Oxfam, a British charity. The tailors share materials and machines, then jointly sell the clothing they produce.

During the war, looters stole most of their sewing machines, their generator and the roof off their workshop. The German branch of the Caritas Aid group has built a new roof, and the tailors are just waiting for a UN generator to power up production again.

"We're physically disabled and yet, we want to work to take care of ourselves - that's what we were doing before the war," said Abdullahi Jasma Roble, 28, whose malformed legs force him to crawl along the ground with flip-flop sandals on his hands.

Other institutions have re-emerged independent of the United Nations which has been trying to spawn local governing councils while resurrecting the judicial system by rebuilding the police and courts. What is happening in Somalia is true evidence of the entrepreneurial nature and spirit of the Somali people.

DOWNTOWN DRIVE AT A PRICE

The cost of driving into downtown Singapore during business hours went up last week in the latest step in a long and largely successful - campaign against traffic jams. Owners of private cars no pay 3 Singapore dollars (US\$1.88) for a permit covering the restricted 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. period. Licenses for part of the day are available and a range of other fees apply to trucks and motorcycles.

Previously, they could enter the central business district free from 10:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

the latest measure is a stopgap until a custom-made electronic road pricing system is installed.

ERP detector mounted on roads are to electronically deduct fees from a stored-value card in a black box on each passing vehicle. Motorists are to be charged for using the roads as they are for using water or electricity. Until ERP, however, drivers must cope with paper permits stuck on their windshields under the "area licensing scheme."

Until the mid-way streets, special bus lanes, staggered offices hours and increased vehicle taxes brought only limited relief.

A policy change in 1975 was simple: Make people pay through the nose to own cars. In policy change in 1975 was simple: Make people pay through the nose to own cars. In more polite official terms, it called for restraint on "the growth of private car ownership by the higher road and related taxes and the area

licensing scheme."

As originally set up, access to the business district was restricted on weekday mornings. ALS was later extended to the evening rush hour and now will be in force through the day.

Overhead warning signs stretch across streets leading downtown and guards are on duty to spot check for permits.

Communications Minister Mah Bow Tan told reporters that the whole-day ALS "will mean additional cost of some motorists and will not be welcomed."

But the benefits to the economy and to all road users in terms of congestion-free roads ... will far outweigh these costs."

Mah said traffic congestion would have been much worse without the ALS since the number of vehicles increased from 280,378 in 1975 to 582,828 last year.

But as they are understood in gridlocked Bangkok, this city-state of 3 million people has no serious traffic jams. Thanks to stiff fees and other disincentives imposed over the years, however, owning a car is costly.

The fees start even before the car is purchased since buyers must bid for a "certificate of entitlement" to own one in the first place. Certificates for larger models now cost more than 60,000 Singapore dollars (\$ 37,500). A Rolls-Royce in Britain or a Cadillac in the United States now cost less to buy and put on the road than a Honda Civic in Singapore.

A Glimpse Behind the Facade:

THE PARIS CITY HALL

In the past, there used to be a large, gently sloping shore of fine sand in this place. Hence its old name of "La Greve" ("shore", in French). All kinds of boats, which formed the river traffic, used to come here to load and unload.

The old age and importance of this river traffic is attested by an altar dedicated to Jupiter and going back to the reign of Emperor Tiberius. The Altar was discovered in about 1160 when the first foundations for Notre Dame Cathedral were being dug and there is a river boat engraved on it. This Altar, known as "des nautes", provides the origin for the Paris crest.

"La Greve" was a real bustling town center. It was a kind of forum where merchants, the masters of guilds, and workers, offering their skills and seeking employment, met. Entertainment was performed there, royal decisions proclaimed and important executions carried out.

In 1357, Etienne Marcel, who was at the time, the merchant provost, bought the "house with the pillars" in this place, on the very location of the present city hall. It was intended for meetings among the town's administrators.

In 1533, Francois I (often known in English as "Francis I") decided to give the town a city hall worthy of the capital. He appointed two architects: an Italian Dominico da Cortona, known as Il Boccador owing to his magnificent red beard, and a Frenchman, Pierre Chambiges. Il Boccador was tall, wide, light and refined. The work, which began that same year, was only completed in 1628, in the reign of Louis XIII. For two centuries, it did not undergo any alterations but, with use, it proved to be too cramped.

In 1853, Prefect Rambuteau had two corner pavilions built,

linked by a gallery to the main facade. Shortly afterwards, Prefect Haussmann, a protege of Emperor Napoleon III who turned the medieval town into a modern city such as we know it today set up his offices there until 1870.

The Hotel de Ville was the scene of many historical events: the 1789 Revolution (it was here that Louis XVI accepted the tricolour cockade, with the red and blue of the city of Paris and the white of the royalty); the 1848 Revolution, with the famous speech by the poet Alphonse de Lamartine; the proclamation of the 3rd Republic after the fall of Sedan on 4th September 1870, and finally, the poignant appearance of General de Gaulle declaring "Paris liberated....." on 24th August 1944. Naturally there are plenty of pathetic or crazy anecdotes related to the history of the townhall, too.

But, in May 1871, Paris lived through the worst excesses of the insurrection of the Commune. Women agitators set fire to a number of monuments and public buildings.

The townhall burned for a week. The archives of the city and the artistic treasures which were there were thus destroyed. It was an irreparable loss. Even the ruins of the building could not be saved.

The government decided to reconstruct the building exactly as it was before and put the architects Ballu and Deperthes in charge of the task. Whereas it had taken nearly a hundred years to build the original, eight years were enough to make a strictly identical copy thanks to Il Boccador's plans. Its dual function of being the seat of the municipal administration and a place for big official receptions was maintained.

The inauguration took place in 1882, but the internal fittings

and decoration which were carried out by famous artists, took several years more. For the inside too, care was taken to make sure that it was an exact copy of the former townhall.

However, the paintings and the sculptures followed the pedagogical concerns of the 3rd Republic and the aesthetic criteria of the period.

That is why the historical painter, J.P. Laurens, recounted the important moments in the history of Paris, on the walls, while G. Bertrand covered other walls with the virtues of agriculture and of the harvest.

The supremacy of Arts, Sciences and Literature were exalted on the walls of the Arcades room and the Salle des Fetes (receptions room) was inspired by allegories of dance (Morot). Music (Gervex), and Perfumes and Flowers (Ferrie), all of this being enhanced by the hieratic, studied paleness of Puvis de Chavannes' compositions. Hence the Renaissance style rather oddly contrasts with the academic and republican splendors of the late 19th century.

The city was then administered by a Prefect who lived in city hall. Paris was the only city in France run by a civil servant appointed by the government.

In 1975, a law was passed, making it a town like any other and thus giving it the right to elect a mayor by universal suffrage, a function which Jacques Chirac has held since then.

Tourists should note that the platform of the "Hotel de Ville Metro station deserves a visit. all the way along both sides, numerous suitably enlarged documents give a very accurate idea of the history of Paris City Hall throughout the ages.

THE FUGITIVE: Cinema 93

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

As it was for decades, with few exceptions, the US cinema industry dominated the world market in 1993, whether in terms of quantity, quality or revenue. Such dominance is quite natural due to the technological superiority, long experience, financial prowess, colorfulness and the huge supporting institutions.

Over the years, Hollywood have employed our dreams and visions, creating heroes and ideals, forming the legendary seventh art that imprinted the commutative consciousness of people throughout the world over the last three quarters of this century.

The year 1993 was exceptional given the quality of the products, compared to many previous years.

Talking of revenues, Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" (covered by an earlier Yemen Times report) was the track leader with a spectacular turnover of over 330 million dollars, followed by Andrew Davis' masterpiece "The Fugitive" with a turnover of around \$178 million.

I am not sure about Yemeni spectators, but for many Arabs (such as Iraqis, Egyptians, Lebanese, etc) as well as Americans and Europeans the film "Fugitive" does ring a bell. It is a highly interesting story shown as a TV series on Arab TVs in late sixties and early seventies.

The story, written Dr. Richard Kemble and played by David Johnson (in the earlier version), revolves around a reputed surgeon who is accused of murdering his wife. He suddenly becomes a fugitive who is wanted by the law. The surgeon tries to avoid being captured in a breath-taking chase. A federal marshall takes up the case as a holy mission, and leads the hunt of the surgeon. While trying to avoid being captured, the innocent fugitive tries to find the real killer.

The 1993 movie version by Andrew Davis was played by Harrison Ford (very well known for his Indiana Jones character in a serial of Spielberg's movies) as Dr. Kemble and Tommie Lee Jones as inspector Gerard. Dr. Kemble's manages to escape from a prisoners' bus after being declared guilty and condemned to death by the state court. There was a confusion in the bus given the battle

between convicts and guards. Only Dr. Kemble and a black prisoner manage to get out and begin the escape. But from the start, we realize that Dr. Kemble is not the criminal type. We see him trying to save the life of a wounded guard, risking his own.

He goes on running and saving lives, chased by a brutal detective who openly declares when they finally met in a water tunnel that he didn't care whether Kemble was innocent or not, he has to bust him anyway. "I have a duty to carry out!"

The relentless chase goes on until Kemble manages to find out who the real killer was. Alas, he also discovers that he was the target, and his wife got in the way and was accidentally killed instead. The reason for the assassination attempt was Dr. Kemble's knowledge of and rejection to pass medicine to a certain company that makes a yearly turnover of 7.5 billion dollars.

There is a human touch all over the film. Morality and high ideals are the hero's motto in his escape effort. The shortcomings of the legal and justice systems and their enforcement agencies become glaring as the movie goes on. Then there are other issues: private versus public justice, the meaning of duty and orders, the human factor in dispensing justice, etc..

The two hours of action really summarize over one hundred TV episodes, ranging in a major way from place and time in attractive ways that made the "Fugitive" one of the most interesting films of the year.

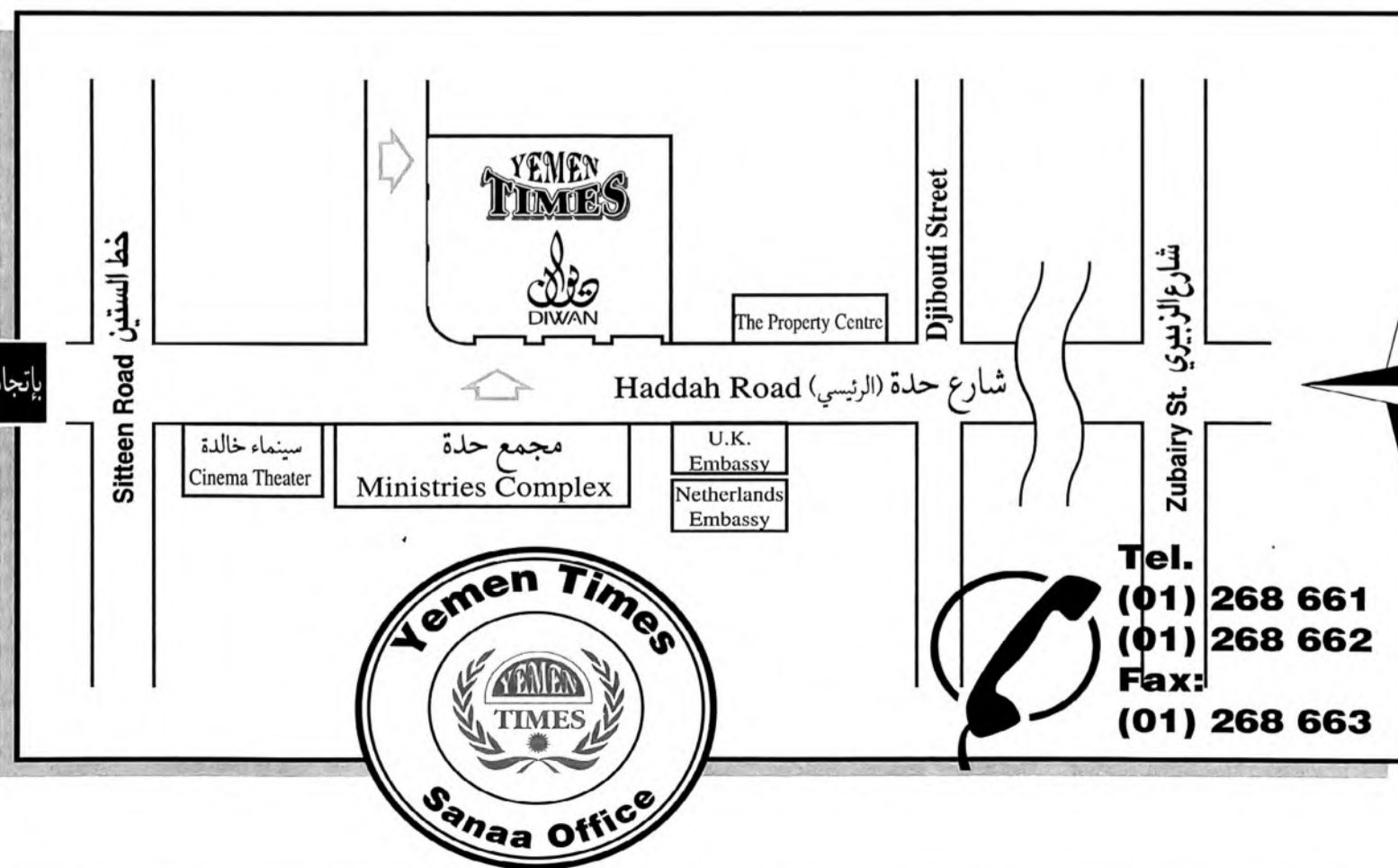
Now, as Academy awards (known as Oscars) are due in a few weeks, one sincerely wishes that the "Fugitive" would get the credit and proper attention it deserves.

I have another wish. Is it time for more efforts in Yemen to build a local cinema industry. There are many talents around, and they need patrons and training to refine their abilities. The cinema industry is a big business and acting is a glorious profession based on creative imagination that enhances all senses and knowledge for all generations. And to those who worry about its dangers, culturally and otherwise, I would say let's enjoy its merits first. And join the civilized world. Then we will control its negative influence and tame it to our circumstances.

Back to our film, which is available on video tapes, if you have not seen it, go ahead and hunt for it today. It is well worth your time.

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Starting with this week, the Yemen Times will present its readers with Events of the Week in Pictures

The Presidents of the USA, Russia and the Ukraine Sign Documents to de-Nuclearize the Ukraine and Regulate their Own Nuclear Hardware



Bill and Hillary Charm Moscovites. According to one reporter, Mr. Clinton could win elections if they were to be held in Moscow.



For the first time in the Bosnian conflict, planes strike Muslim cit-



Israeli Soldiers Bombarded Palestinian homes Said to Harbor Anti-Peace Agitators. They killed Four Persons.



Mexicans Demonstrate Against the Government's Action in Ciapas, while Soldiers (below) are increasing sent to the beleaguered Province to Remain on Stand-by. The Mexican authorities Are Trying to Pacify the Public and the World.



Fire Menaces Sydney in Australia for over one week.



Scenes from the Trial of Lorena Bobbitt





Continued from Page 1:

Yemen's Current Political Crisis

Many of the diplomats who say the president and vice president were shocked at the wide sea separating them. "We came back with a high level of apprehension about what could happen," stated one of them. Even then, efforts to bridge the gap continue with the hope that the two ALIs and their supporters will see light.

While the YSP leadership is steadily creating a new reality in the former PDRY, in general, and in Aden, in particular, the PGC leadership is pushing forcefully for a decisive step towards protecting the unity of the country.

So far, all the domestic political and social forces have failed to bring the two sides together. One last step is the popular peaceful march to which the president has called. The basic idea is to gather as many people, preferably, with a visible presence for independents and social figures, in Taiz. From there, a long caravan of people would start the ride to Aden.

Although the stress is on the word peaceful, this decision could quickly lead to complications and the situation could easily get out of hand. Violence could break out, a scenario for which both sides have been preparing for quite some time.

By choosing the march on Aden, the president may have chosen the place of confrontation, however peaceful he may like it to be.

At another level, preparations are underway for regional gatherings to specify their vision and view point regarding the crisis. Although the gatherings of the governorates are more or less inclined to support the president, the tribal gatherings have a lot of bones to pick with him.

The military forces continue to be the wild card in the whole episode. One person joked that the country does not have one army, but potentially a dozen of them. Thus, no single man or group could muster the allegiance of the majority of the armed and security forces, although each group, including the president and vice president, have core forces on which they can rely.

International sympathy is being strongly sought by the two sides. The media as well as diplomatic channels are exploited to mobilize worldwide understanding and support.

Everybody is waiting to see who makes the first move to break the stalemate. A stand-off practically means the president will steadily lose control over the southern governorates, thus putting pressure on him to make the first move. Many Yemenis, including those who may not support the president, are unhappy with the de facto re-partitioning of the country. Maybe the best decision the president can take would be to introduce serious reforms in the parts he controls.

Medicine Tries a New Route

Few approaches in biotechnology's continuing quest to produce safer and more potent drugs have been as tantalizing as antisense, which offers the promise of specific action by halting disease at the genetic level. This year, the first antisense compounds should complete human trials, which could lead to commercial drugs by mid-1995.

The public companies that are developing antisense products include Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc of La Jolla, California, Genta Inc. of San Diego and Gilead Sciences Inc of Foster City, California. Privately held companies in the field include Lynx Therapeutics Inc. of Foster City, Hyberdon Inc of Worcester, the Microprobe Therapeutics Corp, of Garden Grove, California, and the Triplex Pharmaceutical Corp of Woodlands, Texas.

Molecules of antisense compounds, which are brewed in chemistry labs, are believed to halt disease by blocking the production of harmful proteins by diseased human cells.

But in the journey from concept to therapy, antisense has faced a series of daunting scientific and technological hurdles, not the least being the difficulty of showing that a particular compound actually works by the antisense mechanism and not some other unintended and less specific action.

While the first antisense drug entered human clinical trials in late 1991, data will not

begin to appear until late 1994 that will establish whether the compound is safe and effective.

But a recent report by Mehta and Isaly, a pharmaceuticals research firm, said that numerous animal studies, which will soon be published in scientific journals, indicate that antisense technology is progressing much more rapidly than had been believed.

In blocking harmful proteins, antisense molecules seek out a specific portion of a diseased cell's genetic code as contained in the cell's in a two-stranded form known as a double helix, sends information out to the body of the cell to produce proteins. When a disease is present, a cell can produce harmful proteins.

The protein-producing information is conveyed via a single stranded messenger, RNA, also known as the "sense" strand.

Strand-like antisense molecules, which form a mirror image of the sense strand, bind to the RNA and thereby block its ability to produce the protein.

Isis Pharmaceuticals has been the most aggressive in moving compounds to human trials.

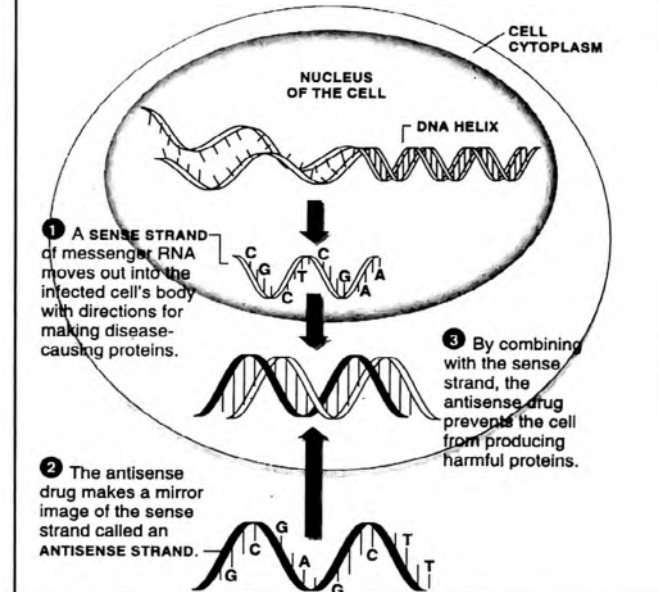
Its drug for the treatment of the papilloma virus, which causes genital warts, is in the second of three stages of human trials that food and Drug administration requires before considering new drugs. And Isis has just begun human trials on a drug to

treat cytomegalovirus retinitis, a degenerative eye disease that strikes AIDS patients. by mid-1994 it hopes to begin trials of a drug to treat inflammation. So far, Lynx Therapeutics

is the only other biotech company to have begun human trials of an antisense compound. Lynx is pursuing a treatment for myelogenous leukemia, a bone-marrow cancer.

Making Sense of Antisense

Antisense agents are designed to seek out and impede the functioning of a diseased cell's messenger RNA, which carries basic directions for the production of disease-causing proteins.



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Foreign Minister of Indonesia

on his historic visit to the Republic of Yemen.

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Catalog

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IMPORTANT Numbers

EMBASSIES & Consulates

- Emergency Police 199
Accident (Traffic) 194
Fire Brigade 191
Water Problems 171
Electricity Problems 177
Telephone Enquiries 118
Aljumhury 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

- SANAA :**
1. Embassies:
Afghanistan 217691
Algeria 209688/89
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 243439/40
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:**
Austria 266725
Belgium 205925/863
Canada 208814
Danish Trade Office 243433
Denmark (Taiz) 04-215171/2
Finland 207018/20/21
Greece 272218
Spain 209360
Sweden 207595/470
Switzerland 203534
- 3. International Organizations:**
FAO 207331/607
UNDP 215503
UNHCR 204963
UNICEF 231256/7/8
WHO 252213/204

- ADEN Consulates :**
China 233113
Ethiopia (Commercial) 231333
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
Russian (FR) 232792/232625
Saudi Arabia 232760/32520
Slovak 233630/232101
Somalia 241421/101
U.K. 232711/12/13
FAO Branch 233722/232140

- AIR LINES**
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Air India 272544
Alitalia 273655
Alyemda (HO, Aden) 231339
Alyemda (Sana'a) 203637
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British Airways (Aden) 243475
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Ethiopian Airlines 272437
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Iraqi Airlines 240091/240909
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Korean Airlines 272548
Kuwait Airlines 272503/4
Lufthansa 272583
Pakistan Int'l 240909/091
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- * Good knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic.
- * Secondary (high) school completion certificate.
- * Diploma in Management in Accounting an advantage.
- * Candidates must be computer-literate and preferably skilled in use of Word-Perfect, Lotus, etc. Ability to learn and apply UNICEF Computer applications essential.
- * Five years progressively responsible experience with United Nations or with international organization/s in the field of administration, personnel and finance.

Applicants should be Yemeni nationals under the age of 45 years.

Please apply by February 12th, 1994, with CV to:

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While the post is based in Sanaa, the work involves frequent travel within Yemen. Candidates should have the following attributes, qualifications and experience:

- * Fluent spoken and written English and Arabic.
- * Freedom to travel independently.
- * University degree in communications, journalism, public relations, or health education. University training or practical experience in women's issues and/or girl's education will be an advantage.
- * Two years progressive experience in information and communications work related to social development at national and international levels.
- * Knowledge of computer systems and applications, training in social development with emphasis on women's issues, and good managerial skills.

Applicants should be Yemeni nationals under the age of 25 years.

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Fighting the Kidnappers!

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Sanaa University.

There have been repeated incidents of kidnapping over the last few months. Most of the times, the persons who are kidnapped (the hostages) have nothing to do with the demands which the kidnapper presents. Lately, the victims of abduction have been foreigners.

Mind you, we are not talking of hijacking of cars - itself a very serious crime, but we are talking about the more serious crime of kidnapping.

The government has been unable to react to the situations of kidnapping for three divergent reasons:

First, it does not want to take military action against the kidnappers out of fear for the safety of the hostages. Even the embassies of the hostages urge peaceful negotiations lest the kidnappers harm the victims.

Second, the government does not want to negotiate with the kidnappers, whom it refers to as terrorists. Thus, most of the times, the intermediation efforts are carried out by people from the same tribe as

the kidnappers, who are from the outset, therefore, sympathetic to them and their "cause." Even then, the government has had not alternative avenue.

Finally, the government has no instrument at its disposal for future action against the kidnappers. Often it is bound by the arrangements made by the intermediation for the release of the hostages - one condition of which is always not to pursue the kidnappers for their action. There is law that explicitly states that kidnapping is a major crime, and the penalty for which is specified under the law.

I would like to propose here for the government to initiate steps to enact a law specifically oriented towards punishing kidnappers and hijackers. We need a law that states the gravity of these crimes, and the punishments they entail.

This will show, at least theoretically, that the government is serious about addressing this matter. I know that many other laws which are already on the books are not enforced, but that should not stop us from establishing

the legal framework for handling the rising level of kidnapping and hijacking.

There are two more things which the government can do to help!

1. It can forget its appeasement policy towards kidnappers and hijackers. Over the last few months, the government may have obliged it to pursue the policy of pleasing and/or accommodating the law-breakers. It should note, however, that history says appeasement has never worked, and it is not going to work for us. It means that the Ministry of Interior has to be strengthened, and its financial, personnel and equipment needs have to be provided for in order for the it to enforce the law in an effective way.

2. The government officials do not stand on a higher moral ground in their negotiations with the kidnappers and hijackers. Both parties appear, to the observer, as thugs who have been robbing the public - each in its own way. To gain the moral upper hand, government officials have to be reigned in and the corrupt ones must be put on trial.

What can the local and international private sector do?

There are two things which the private sector can do:

1. Private security systems will have to be established. Many countries have these facilities and they are effective. It involves special training, tools, and action. Jordan provides a fantastic model in this field.

2. Foreigners are often abducted because they are a soft target - no tribal reprisal or revenge is anticipated. There is also the fringe benefit of the local and international media coverage and uproar associated with the event.


The embassies, oil companies, aid agencies, etc. could establish a database which could be used to penalize tribes which are involved in kidnapping and hijacking. For example, donor countries can say, "We will not finance any development projects in the regions of tribes involved in kidnapping." That is a form of reprisal.

All in all, we must all join hands to fight against this disturbing phenomenon which is illegal, immoral, and above all, inhuman.



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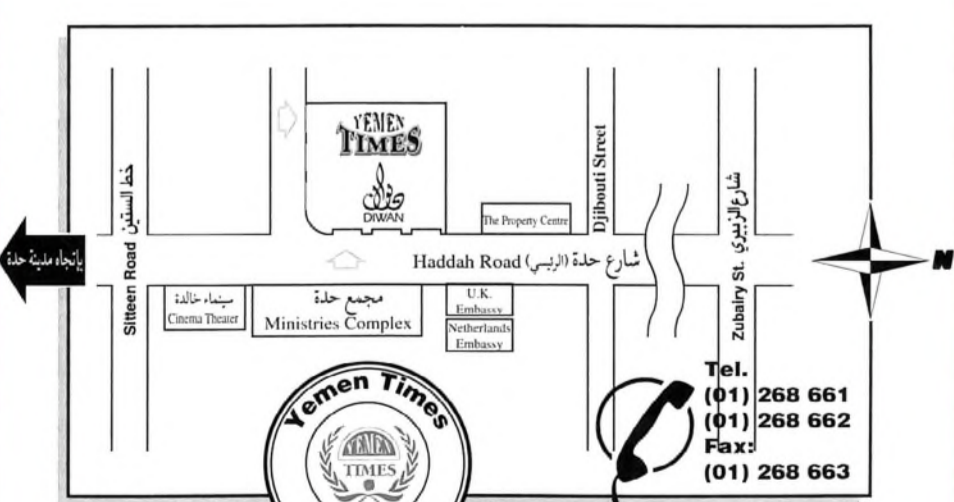
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