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## Ethiopian President Melles Zenawi to the Chief Editor of Yemen Times:

# "If Yemen's political crisis turns violent, it will be much worse than in Somalia."

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

Ethiopian President Melles Zenawi is visibly concerned or even worried about Yemen. As soon as I walked in his office to interview him, he overwhelmed me with questions. "How is the situation in Yemen? Will you (Yemenis) work it out? What is the time frame? What are the chances of the differences turning violent?"

It was a clear signal of the concern and worry of the Ethiopian leadership, because, if anything goes, "It will be much worse than the scenario in Somalia." The Ethiopian leader also pointed out that the whole Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa will be affected if violence erupts in Yemen." He urged the Yemeni leaders to revert to reason, patience and wisdom. President Zenawi also called for a regional arrangement that brings together the Horn of Africa and the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, notably, Yemen. "You will recall in history, the area was a unified political entity." He was referring to the reign of the Sabaeans, when Marib and Axum were the twin pillars of the kingdom.

The Ethiopian President was endorsing an

earlier appeal by Eritrean President Asias Afewerke who had suggested a regional forum which will bring the countries of the lower Red Sea and Horn of Africa.

President Zenawi also disclosed that the transitional government which he heads has not been able to complete the long list of tasks assigned to it. "The two and a half years originally envisaged are over and a lot of the work still remains to be done. Hence the extension to finish the work," he said. He estimated the time needed to complete the remaining tasks to run till the end of 1994.

President Zenawi stated that there were certain differences regarding the current draft of the constitution, "although the majority of the people support it." The two main bones of contention relate to the rights of the nationalities within the country to self-autonomy, and even to secession, if they so choose. "People cannot be forced to become Ethiopians. They have to choose to be so. And our job is to make it attractive for all groups to remain within Ethiopia," he said. The other difference is about ownership/use of land.

Read full interview on pages 10+11



## Highest Form of Humanitarianism

How human are you? Which is more important to you - to be a better human being or a more religious person? How much do you care for others? Do you give any of your time/earnings to others? Have you ever asked yourself those questions? Are they relevant to you?


This week has been a moment of truth for some of the editors of the Yemen Times. The advent of Ramadhan was a good reminder to stop for a moment and ask the real questions. But the more important event which triggered this soul-searching process was a call from Deutag Drilling. Wolfgang Freiherr called-in to say they had money that was raised from a new year's party. "The whole international community, specially the oil companies, helped," he said.

The money, some YR 365,000, rounded off to YR 400,000 by Deutag Drilling, was handed over to the Missionaries of Charity, a Mother Theresa voluntary project. Yemen Times attended the few minutes in which Freiherr made out the check and handed it over to Sister Deanne, the head of the Home of the Destitutes and Invalids.


Yemen Times asked Sister Deanne if it could visit the home. We did on Friday, 11th February.

What we saw was overwhelming. We saw six Catholic nuns who have given their lives to serve human beings who need their care. Assisted by 22 workers and a few volunteers, especially from among the international community, they tend to the needs of 128 invalids and destitutes. What they do is superior to what any clergyman does. What they do is more useful than the preaching of all the holy men on this planet. What do they do is more meaningful than the rituals carried out in all churches, mosques, synagogues, or whatever. The human element comes out in the work of the nurses. They tirelessly care and nurse 128 mentally and physically disabled persons. Caring for these persons is one of the highest form of humanitarianism.

Fatma Rawah's report is on page 14



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Deferring the Day of Reckoning

The difficulties that plague our political system have nothing to do with signing documents, even if it were the 18th January Pact issued by the Dialogue Committee. It has much to do with the way our politicians behave themselves and look at the issues. The most troubling aspect of the attitude of our politicians is that nothing has changed and that it is 'business as usual.'

Well, many things have changed, and it is not business as usual. The whole world has moved away from regimes that adore one man or one party. Today's world is moving towards democratic systems based on institutions and popular participation. This is a world of law and order clearly marked by certain important values like tolerance, accountability, human rights, and individual rights and freedoms.

What I see happening in Yemen today is a deferral of the day of reckoning. Our politicians are unable to come to grips with the real issues that have been born out of the change. They still behave like the "good old days" (for them). The sooner they realize that their old role is no more, the sooner we can get on with building this society. But as long as they continue with their old tools, including their corrupt cronies, our society will be haunted by fears and crises.

Yes, they have now agreed to sign the 18th January Document on the 20th of February, but what good is that? As long as neither side is willing to budge, and more importantly, as long as they are not willing to change their ways, there is just more trouble ahead.

Just for the record, I think the YSP leadership has shown more ability to change than the PGC leadership. There are still many problems with the way certain top members of the YSP behave, but the dynamism and willingness to try to change are there. The problem is with the PGC leadership, which not only fell back on its traditional ways, but also created an alliance with a more traditional partner. It lives under the illusion that the religion-based partner, Islah, will come to its rescue when shove comes to push. I can't believe that the PGC does not see that the Islah has its own agenda, quite different from the PGC agenda.

The sooner that our leadership faces up to the needed adjustments, the sooner we will get out of the crises.

The Publisher  
عبد العزيز

### Tetra Pak Loses Its Land Cruiser

At 6:30 on Thursday, 10th February, Arne Mattsson, Managing Director of Tetra Pak, a locally registered company, was approached by two men who were flashing their guns. "They said 'keys, keys' and I handed them the keys," said Mr. Mattsson in a telephone call to the Yemen Times, some ten minutes after the incident.

Mr. and Mrs. Mattsson were shopping on Zubeiri Street, towards Hodeidah, in the middle of the city, when they were targeted by the hijackers.

The blue-plated land-cruiser is a 1992-toyota.

Yemen Times reported the incident to the authorities immediately after the call.

### 18th January Lobby Group Formed

A group of activists in Taiz have formed the 18th January Lobby Group. Made up of journalists, lawyers, unionists, and other intellectuals, the group has quickly expanded to include thousands in its membership. Moreover, the idea quickly spilled over to other cities, including Sanaa, Aden, Ibb and Hodeidah.

The purpose of the group is to push forward towards the full implementation of the resolutions incorporated in the document released by the Dialogue Committee on 18th January.

### The Story of the Ugandan Airplane

A Ugandan plane chartered by a British company was forced to land at Hodeidah airport. The Yemeni airforce and the Civil Aviation Authority stated that the plane did not have the permit to enter Yemeni airspace. Moreover, the airplane was carrying a shipment of military communications devices and dry-batteries used by the military. The consignment was destined for Aden.

The YSP leadership in Aden stated that the Aden branch of the Civil Aviation Authority had issued a permit for the plane to enter Yemeni airspace, and that the gadgets were meant for the army in the southern and eastern governorates.

The whole episode comes within the competition between the PGC and YSP to prepare militarily in case a showdown becomes inevitable. Both Sanaa and Aden have been secretly receiving military hardware to bolster their armies.

The victims in all of this are the Yemeni people.

### Health Conference Concluded

The First National Conference for Health Development was held in Sanaa during 6-9 February, 1994.

The conference, in which numerous specialized studies were presented, was termed as extremely successful by all sides.

Health Minister Dr. Najeb Ghanim said many of the ideas and proposals will be incorporated in the Ministry's plans.

### Dialogue Committee Calls for Ratification on 10th Ramadhan

The Dialogue Committee has concluded its sessions and agreed on a number of steps to guarantee and ensure the implementation of the 18th January resolutions. It has further decided that the ratification of the document by presidents or secretary-generals of the ruling parties will take place in Amman on Ramadhan 10th, which is the 20th of February.

The 13 points of guarantee are:

1. The Dialogue Committee is the party responsible for interpreting the meanings of the resolutions.

2. All signatories to this document shall abide by the literal meaning and spirit of the document, and they shall neither add nor delete any portions of it.

3. The members of the Dialogue Committee, especially those belonging to the ruling coalition parties, commit to enable the executive and legislative branches of authority to issue declarations of support and blessing for the document, in their first meeting which follows this date. They are also supposed to take steps in implementation in a way not contradictory to the resolutions.

4. The coalition partners pledge to support the legislative and executive branches of authority to perform their constitutional and legal duties, including their role in implementing the resolutions of the document.

5. All sides, especially the coalition partners, agree that through their positions in the state apparatus, in their parties, parliamentary blocs, and all other roles to implement all the decisions including constitutional, legal and procedural changes called for in the resolutions of the document.

6. The coalition partners pledge, following the ratification of the document, not to issue any orders, instructions, laws, or any procedures which hinder, block, weaken or delay the implementation of any item of the document.

7. All sides, but especially the ruling coalition partners, pledge to facilitate all constitutional amendments and legal changes necessary for the implementation as soon as possible, and to refrain from re-interpretation of the articles of the document in a way that will weaken their content or alter their meaning.

8. Any party whose members in the executive and legislative authorities do not fulfill the resolutions called for in the document is to be condemned by all sides and is considered outside the national consensus.

9. The first person in the person ratifies the document - whether called president or secretary-general. In case that is not possible, the very next person in the party hierarchy may ratify based on a written authorization from the first person.

10. The document, given that all sides have signed it, and it is supported by the people of Yemen, and blessed by the brothers and friends of Yemen, is now considered as owned by the people. The people shall defend the document in all peaceful means in case the implementation is shaky.

11. The Dialogue Committee shall remain in session until the ratification is achieved, and thereafter as well to ensure follow-up of implementation as called for by the document.

12. A specialized committee shall be formed to supervise the official media, and to block the transmission of any items that exacerbate the situation. The committee shall work under the supervision of the Dialogue Committee.

13. The Dialogue Committee calls on all sides to present any proposals that will help in the implementation. It also invites lists of names of individuals who will perform the tasks called for in the various committees.

The Dialogue Committee has called upon the people of Yemen to exercise the role required from them in a democracy by participating more fully in the political process of the nation. It has specially called on the parliament to play the supervisory role the people expect of it. Arrangements in Amman for this event are said to have been completed.

## YEMEN TIMES

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## CLINTON TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL JOBS CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH

President Bill Clinton will hold an international jobs summit in Detroit next month to tackle the global problem of persistently high unemployment, the White House has announced.

The 14-15 March conference will bring together economic, labor finance and industry ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized democracies the United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, France and Britain, press secretary Dee Dee Myers said in a statement.

A White House message sent to the other governments said Detroit was "a working city that has embraced change, met the challenges of technology, and lives and dies by international trade." "Holding the jobs conference in Detroit will send a message that we intend to confront the challenge of job creation and unemployment, not retreat to the economic structures of yesterday," the message said.

During a G-7 meeting last July in Tokyo, Clinton announced his intention to convene such a conference. He said then the G-7 officials would "search for the causes and possible answers for this stubbornly high unemployment."

"There are things each of us can do within our nation, and (if) we do it together, that will

help us not just to grow the economy but to ensure that economic growth means more jobs for Americans and more jobs for the world," he said.

Clinton originally hoped to hold the meeting last fall, but it got pushed into 1994 by the crush of other items on his first year agenda.

He said in July that leaders of other industrialized democracies "are as frustrated as I am that no matter what they seem to do for their economy, the jobs aren't coming along."

There has been some improvement in the US employment picture since then.

Clinton said in his Saturday radio address that the US economy had created 1.9 million new jobs in the past 12 months, adding more private sector jobs in one year than in the previous four years. "But we've got a lot more to do to achieve a lasting recovery that benefits every region of our country and every sector of our society," he said.

He said he plans to seek legislation to consolidate dozens of different job training programs to help "convert the unemployment system into a re-employment system into a re-employment system."

The US unemployment rate rose to 6.7% in January, but federal statisticians said it would have edged down if not for a change in the way the government counts Americans without jobs.

## SERBIANS BUCKLE UNDER IN FACE OF NATO THREATS

UN medical teams last week evacuated survivors of a bloody Sarajevo market-place shelling by Serbian heavy artillery that killed at least 68 civilians and wounded two hundred more.

Sarajevans bitterly mounted their dead, blaming both the Serb gunners ringing the Bosnian capital and the world community that has only threatened to intervene. The attack was the worst in the 22-month civil war.

Blood mingled with rainwater in pockmarks left by the 120mm mortar shell that slammed into the central market. Relatives of the dead left bouquet of red, orange, yellow and pink flowers.

The government declared a day of mourning, and the streets were deserted. In a soccer field-turned cemetery below the hospital, eight grave-diggers struggled to make room for the latest victims.

A US C-130 cargo plane arrived last week at Sarajevo airport for evacuating the wounded. The plane dropped off a 13-member team and then left for the Croatian port of Split to wait while the evacuation was organized.

At least 66 people were killed by the shell that exploded at midday among people searching for food and clothing at the market. Four huge armored personnel carriers from a Nordic battalion, marked with Red Crosses, waited at the entrance to the hospital's emergency room.

One UN official in Sarajevo said it was clear that the shell came from the northeast, which is Serb-controlled territory.

In Cairo, the Arab League urged concerted world action to stop Serbian attacks following the Serbs shelling of Sarajevo.

"The Arab League calls on the international community and the United Nations to immediately stop the massacres the Serbs enact

with no consideration for moral values," the statement said.

The Serbs are taking advantage of silence by international organizations and the siege on Bosnia-Herzegovina preventing arms from reaching Bosnians here, said the statement.

Bosnia also demanded the world's help, saying its people faced "slow-motion genocide."

Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and UN Ambassador Muhammed Sacirbey made the appeal on Israeli Radio last week. Silajdzic personally attended peace talks in Geneva on Thursday.

In Moscow, Russia said it was outraged by the mortar attack on Sarajevo market and said those who carried it out should be severely punished. But it said it would veto any Security Council resolution to mount air strikes against the Serbs. The Russians simply called for a swift investigation to determine who was responsible for the bombardment.

In Bonn, Germany made the strongest call yet for air strikes on Serbs and urged the United Nations to consider sending in NATO warplanes against the Serbs. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman, joining a chorus of international condemnation, blamed Serb forces for the mortar attack.

"The German government calls on the competent UN bodies to make decisions and take steps suited to stopping the responsible parties from further acts of violence against the civilian population," a spokesman said.

"The use of selective military measures has now been decided by NATO. The Serbs have been given an ultimatum to take out of Sarajevo and to a distance of not less than 20 kilometers from the periphery of the city all their heavy gear or risk air attacks. "If within ten days of this decision, the armaments are not moved out, the air strikes will begin," a Nato spokesman indicated. The deadline is for the 20th of February.

## AGREEMENT ON THE JERICHO-GAZA SELF RULE REACHED:

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin summoned the army command last week to trash out security arrangements for the Israeli-PLO peace accord against a backdrop of violent clashes between soldiers and PLO activists in Gaza.

Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip shot and wounded two Palestinians at a wake for Salim Muwafi, 24, a member of the militant Fatah Hawks killed on Thursday.

The Hawks, linked to Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO faction, called a three-day strike from yesterday Israel would keep hunting Fatah militants even as its negotiators urged PLO leaders to curb the activists.

"First we will continue to chase and hit them as much as possible. Second, we will call on Arafat and his friends .. to keep up their end of the deal," Gur told Israel Radio.

Although the Hawks are linked to the PLO, some dissident units have defended the group's instructions to stop attacks on Israelis under a September peace deal with Israel.

Peres met Arafat in Cairo on Monday. The two men signed a memorandum of understanding on the borders of the city of Jericho, the border crossing points and who commands them, and the patrol posts.

Peres told the media that there was considerable progress and that he wanted the understandings reached to be clearly defined.

"Most issues have been resolved although some details have to be ironed out. "The Cairo agreement marks a watershed in our talks," said Mr. Arafat.

Among the issues agreed upon were the structure and size of the Palestinian police force, economic matters and administrative organization of Palestinian self-government. Additional talks are scheduled for this week



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*A Glimpse at One of the Fountains of Learning in Yemen:*

# The Al-Hadawi Mosque in Sa'adah:

Starting with this issue, and on the occasion of Ramadan, the Yemen Times will run five reports on the most important mosques in Yemen. The reports will cover the Al-Hadawi Mosque of Sa'adah, Al-Mihdhar Mosque of Seiyoon in Hadhramaut, Al-Aidaros Mosque in Aden, Al-Ashrafiyyah Mosque in Taiz, and Al-Jami' Al-Kabeer in Sanaa. Here are, of course, many other important mosques, but these were chosen to give in-depth and vital information over the geographic range of the nation. As readers would readily realize, the mosque - as an institution - was a center of learning and theology, as well as a focal point in the lives of the Muslims. Notwithstanding



the degradation of the role of the mosques today, the mosques of Yemen played in the past an exceptional role in the socio-cultural and politico-religious fields, as well as in preserving the architectural heritage of the nation. Ali Bin Taleb of Yemen Times roamed the country, and filed reports on these institutions. We start this week with the famous mosque of Sa'adah.

**The origins:**  
The roots of the Zeidi sect can be traced back to the "Shia Disciples" who followed the fourth Caliph Ali Ibn Abi Talib, Prophet Mohammed's cousin and son in law. The Sayyids are descendants who related to Prophet Mohammed through Ali and Fatima. The Shia (literally followers) of Ali followed his sons and demanded to keep the reign (caliphate) within the lineage

of the Prophet, or within the Sayyid class. The Zeidi sect in Yemen is a branch of Islamic Shia, and gets its name from Imam Zaid bin Ali Zainul Aabideen. Zaid became a Caliph in Al-Koofa in Iraq. Zaid got into disagreements with the vast majority of the Shia. They renounced him, and at the end, only 288 men remained with him. Finally Imam Zaid was killed in 122 Hegira Calendar in one of the battles with the battles against the Amawi Caliph.

#### Zeidism in Yemen

A great grandson of Zeid and a direct grandson of Al-Qasim, Yahia chose Yemen to be the land of his refuge. So in 280 Hegira, he and a few of his companions established themselves in Sa'adah, where he was proclaimed an Imam. He quickly got more and more followers from among the Yemeni tribes. He died in the year 298 Hegira in Sada'a, only to start a line of ruling Zeidi Imams.

Today, the Zeidi sect is widespread in most of the northern governorates of the Yemeni Republic.

#### Al-Hadawi's Mosque:

It is Imam Al-Hadi is the man who is actually credited, for establishing Zeidism in Yemen. He built the institution that is going to be the center for all his and his followers' activities - the mosque. The Al-Hadi Mosque or the Al-Hadawi Mosque became a center of learning where lessons in Islamic religion, according to the Zeidi sect, are given up to the present time. The mosque is considered today as an architectural masterpiece which tells the history of the last 1000 years. Its library of manuscripts and old books are especially useful in this respect. In the year 941 Hegira, Imam Sharafudeen enlarged the mosque and renovated it.

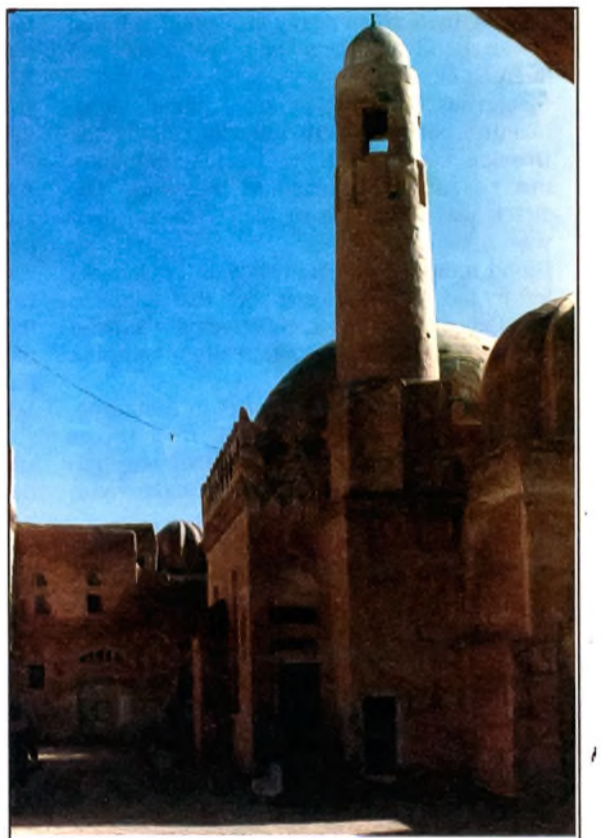
The mosque's school has graduated many a theologian and scholar. Various level ulemas (religious leaders) And theologians give daily lessons in the mosque, and on Fridays, senior ulema. give lessons and preach to larger audiences.

I met al-Haj Mohammed Al-Yarimi who came from Yarim in Ibb and today holds a senior position among the clergies of the mosque. He came to the mosque as a student fourteen years ago, and has stayed on.

The mosque can house upto 400 worshippers at any one time. Its spacious interior is supported by its many pillars. The inside is decorated by many carpets and beautiful calligraphy using phrases from the Quran. The wooden doors of the mosque also reflect the refined artisan qualities of

Yemen's past. The most interesting part of the inside is the *mihrab* or altar. Its decoration is extremely attractive. If you visit Sa'adah, make the Al-Hadawi Mosque

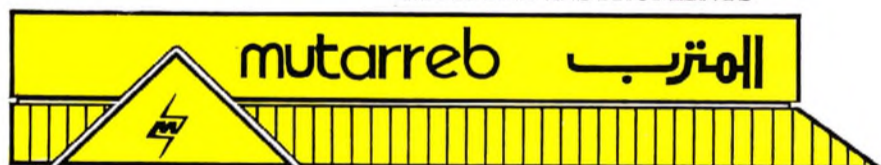
one of your destinations. Centrally-located, it is one of the major landmarks of Sa'adah city. For the devout Zeidis, it is enshrined and revered as their most holiest place.



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## Sheraton Sanaa Hotel Gets New Blood at the Top Management Level

The Sheraton Sanaa Hotel has received a strong dose of new blood, at the top management level.

Last week, Mr. Francesco Borrello, an Italian national, took over as General Manager of the hotel. Among the recent newcomers at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel are Manfred Verdick, Food & Beverages Manager, Nigel R. Taylor, Chief Engineer, and Guenter Breyeor, Executive Chef.

According to Sharif Hanafi, Sales Manager, the hotel is unfolding new services and new food delights. "Our guests and visitors will see the difference very quickly," he said.



A working meeting of the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel top management



Francesco Borrello



Manfred Verdick



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### YEMENI UNITY AS AN EXPERIMENT USEFUL FOR OTHERS

Yemeni unification represents a politico-economic structure which offers a model for the others, particularly in the Middle East region. For it will stabilize peace for the whole Arab region and the African Horn. This means that there are political/economic strategies being prepared for Yemen as a country having all the strategic potential which might serve the political international trends in Yemen. What evaluated Yemen in the eyes of the others is this democratic pursuit as a principle in the life of the Yemeni people. It is a point to note that there should be a confession of the political national figures in the opposition for without the opposition there is no democracy in a sense. The opposition ought to have a censorship on the executive authority's work. It is not a mistake to take what is best from the two previous systems in the North or in the South. To be perfect in our experiment, we should follow the scientific progress basing on the principle that man is a social value and those who exert deserve promotion/equal chances without any racial, tribal, military discrimination for sound exclusive development depend on the principle of equal chances for all. Stemming from this approach, we can secure building up a sound social/economic project leading to integrity of society. The prospect of these trends, social behaviors, economic development will sure create a social unity and this trend has been practiced in Germany post-unification particularly in East Germany to be on the same standard of the people living in West Germany. Such a conflict is a political/scientific one aiming at the progress of the nation. As for us in Yemen, what happened was to distribute positions, funds, lands and even Yemen. The victim was the people, democracy and the international reputation of Yemen. All this happened because of the authority's crisis reaching the crisis to the point of internationalizing phase post the emerge of a possible collide between the two previous systems. But, the Document of the Dialogue Committee was approved by national consensus parade representing credibility. The Document emerged to embody the aspirations of the people and it also represented all the visions in Yemen. The faults/ deviations of the Yemeni experiment in unification gave the Koreans an ideal example to avoid such shortfalls in future when working in their own reunification. Accordingly, they think that a sound unification should be proceeded on scientific gradual foundations and there should be studies for such great projects. The Koreans think that the governmental authorities of the previous regimes do not serve the project of unification and there should be a replacement before signing on such an achievement for they are the causes of all the crises.

By: Saleh Bin Mohammad Al-Kuleibi,  
Back Page Editorial,  
*Al-Haq*, Sanaa,  
5/2/1994.

### JUST A QUESTION!

Is the crisis in our country, is a deadly disease being imposed on us by circumstances or has it become a goal to split the country and kill one of the great dreams of the Arab

nation? It is a bewildering question indeed, and it has began to worry all Yemeni unitarians. If the answer is that it is a disease, then there is a remedy to all diseases, even those accumulated and carried over from the two regimes of the past. We can also immunize against the causes of such diseases. However, if the crisis reflects a goal to split the country, which is being pursued by the enemies of the unification from within the country, the Document of the Dialogue Committee will not be except a temporary sedative which might reduce the pain but without any effect on the tumor of fragmentation of the country. It is necessary that all sides start addressing the situations head on by hastening to sign the Document and start implementation of its resolutions as soon as possible. What we require is harmony in society which will grant the leaders testimonial that they are really patriots. During the period of signing and the substantial implementation of the Document, it will be ideal to stop all mudslinging in the official and party media. There should also be an end to all political maneuvering, deception, and double-playing. More importantly, the politicians should shed off their false illusions; otherwise, we are all going to face a catastrophe.

By: Abdulla Al-Sufiani,  
*Al-Mithaq*, Sanaa,  
7/2/1994.

### TO AVOID STARVATION

The economic situation requires a serious and responsible tackling to get the country out of these deteriorating situation. Otherwise, starvation - particularly among the underclass - is coming without any doubt. This happens at a time when this country is undergoing major oil exploration efforts and big discoveries.

A study should be initiated by specialists under the supervision of the government in order to present the options and how to resolve the economic difficulties. It is important to capitalize on the qualified human-power at Yemen's disposal, and to use their experience and knowledge to find an outlet for our economic problem. For example, it is important to study the record of the banking activities, particularly, the performance of the Central Bank of Yemen. This will help us understand the monetary situation. Important early writings and studies by Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al-Attar, Mohammad Anam Ghalib and other Yemeni economists will help us make time-series comparisons.

There are, of course, the new professors and researchers at Sanaa and Aden universities, and many among the private companies such as the Hayel Saeed Anam group. The economic agenda should not come through with temporary remedies, but should address the nuts and bolts of the situation and offer basic solutions. The attitude of throwing the blame of scapegoats, as the monetary authorities are now doing by blaming the money changers and merchants for all the economic troubles must come to an end. The state and government officials should bear their responsibilities to the full, and must present a workable plan to tackle the economic situation. They should specially clarify the following points:-

1- What is the amount of the

hard currency required by the economy?

2- What is the amount of the hard currency available?

3- What are the sources of the hard currency in the country? Are those sources stable or volatile?

4- Are the monetary system and policy in the country responsible for this deterioration in the economy?

5- Who benefits from this volatility in the dollar's prices? Who benefits from the big difference between the bank rate and the black (open) market rate?

6- Why has the monetary and economic authorities kept silent until the economic situation deteriorated this far? We are in need of a solution to get us out of this bad situation.

By: Hassan Al-Qadhi,  
*Al-Shoura*, Sanaa,  
6/2/1994.

### RESCUE THE DOCUMENT BEFORE IT TURNS INTO NOTHING

The Dialogue Committee made up of representatives of the ruling coalition political parties, the opposition, and certain public personalities has achieved great results in the the Document it released. The problem is that such a document might not see light at all in terms of implementation. There are, unfortunately, influential forces which block its implementation.

The Document represents a fourth revolution if we all abide by it. It is equivalent to the three preceding revolutions - the 26th of September, the 14th of October, and the 22nd of May. The question in point is whether those influential forces are ready to abandon their illegal interests and past practices? Are they capable of seeing light, logic and reason.

The stormy crisis which prevails in the country today is a crisis between the ruler and the people, and the unification itself is at stake. It seems that the influential forces in the PGC do not understand the drive and intentions of the YSP. Therefore, the people responded to the YSP program and stood by it against the excesses of the corrupt elements of society. We thank the Almighty God for the full and active participation of all sides in drafting the Document. This will make all sides shoulder responsibility in its implementation.

I believe that there will be more procrastination in the implementation phase, and more foot dragging, of what they agreed upon. One aspect of this foot-dragging is the repeated demand that the leadership of the YSP comes back to Sanaa. This is, of course, a trap for the leaderships, and everybody can see through it.

I am not going to ask one question: Why don't the rulers of Sanaa start arresting the criminals who terrorized and killed so many people? How do they need the YSP leadership in this job? I am afraid that they might make the return of the YSP leadership to Sanaa as a precondition for implementation. But, I am optimistic that the Arab and foreign mediators are aware of everything. Great individuals are measured by their deeds and not through by the position they occupy.

Finally, I call on our people to embrace the Document and push for its implementation.

By: Ali Al-Amiri,  
*Al-Shararah*, Hadhramaut.

### GOOD INTENTIONS ARE OKAY, BUT CAUTION IS NECESSARY

Some of the PGC and Islah statements refer to the YSP terms/demands for securing the implementation of the document of the Dialogue Committee with irritation. Some of them claim the the YSP is trying to push the wheel of time back to pre-22nd May, 1990. Though they all welcomed the Document without reservation for the sake of unity - as they say - the truth is that they still regard the Document as a YSP document containing its demands and terms.

One of their writers even said that the Document contained expressions from the YSP language. In fact, the document is prepared by all sides together, including the YSP, but it does not belong to the YSP alone. The Document represents a great achievement and an important step in resolving the crisis. It is the result of hard and arduous efforts and endeavors and long hours of dialogue.

What now remains is the application, and not how the document which was signed by all sides come about. We think that there is some bad luck awaiting us in the process of implementation. So all sides should be ready for any possibilities.

In this regard, I suggest that all who have concern for Yemen to study the following realities carefully:

1- The signing of the Document came at a time when relations among our politicians reached their lowest. That was a time when we Yemenis felt that we are going to lose everything. The nation was on the brink of civil war. But the Dialogue Committee persevered, and it came out with the solution.

2- With the pitch of (presidential) speeches ever rising high during his stay in Taiz, calm dialogue was proceeding in Aden. Though Islah and PGC were exchanging roles - each time one of them taking the headline - they both knew they had no choice but to proceed with the dialogue.

I hereby hail and salute both Dr. Abdul Kareem Al-Iryani and Mr. Abdul Wahab Al-Anisi for their statesmanship and the way they led their parties in the dialogue.

3- Then there was another game. There were efforts to involve the parliament in the

crisis so as to affect its progress. Believe it or not, the parliament blocs of Islah and PGC directed the parliament to send a message to the prime minister and the ministers to stop their participation in the dialogue committee in Aden and come back to Sanaa. That step came while the committee was about to finalize its task.

4- With the announcement of the Document, the president called the leadership of the YSP to come to Sanaa even before taking any steps to correct the situation such as dissolving the republican guards and merging them with the army, as called for by the document.

5- Many accusations were directed towards the person of the prime minister by the newspapers of the PGC. Then they demand him to come to Sanaa to exercise his duties. Remember, he was personally subjected to terrorism - his home was bombed and he was personally stopped on the streets of Sanaa by the military police and harassed.

6- Meanwhile, the campaign of terror against the YSP did not stop.

Those who are concerned for the future of Yemen, what do they conclude from all of this. What we fear is deception, intrigue, new escalations in the assassination efforts. If such policies persist, no one is going to blame the YSP if it takes strong action. We worry about engulfing the nation in another catastrophe.

Editorial  
*Excerpts from Editorial*,  
*Al-Mustaqbal*, Sanaa,  
6/2/1994.

### A CORRECT BEGINNING AND A LAUNCHING POINT

In my personal experience, I have never seen the Yemeni people agree in such wholehearted manner as they have agreed on the Document of the Dialogue Committee. It was a turning point for our anxieties and worries about the future of our country.

We have seen the unreserved support and backing of the people - in all regions and class - to the document. The people want to correct the conditions which have taken a heavy toll in their lives. The standard of living has fallen, the quality of life has deteriorated, and the security level has dropped below acceptable levels. These developments

have eroded much of the glamour associated with the 22nd of May 1990, and the 27th April 1993.

With the 18th of January 1994 document, we have a correct beginning and a new launching point. It represents a safety valve for our continued progress towards a brighter future. That is why, it is imperative that all Yemenis, no matter where they come from or what they do, they should join hands and push forward for the implementation of the resolutions of the document.

Among our political forces, there are no losers, they are all victorious as they have helped protect the nation and its supreme goals.

So, let us all get on with the implementation.

By: Abdul-Wahid Thabit,  
Back-Page Editorial,  
*Al-Gumhuriyah*, Taiz,  
10/2/1994.

### SANAA The EVER BRAVE AND DEFIANT

This week, the nation celebrated the 26th anniversary of the lifting of the 70-day siege of Sanaa. This anniversary brings back memories of the inevitable victory of the right against the wrong, and it also embodies the symbols of breaking our isolation and interacting with the world.

No one can deny the brave and defiant attitude of this city, Sanaa against all forms of oppression - military, economic or even rumors. This city stands defiantly against them all.

The city also embodies the soul of national integration and the dynamism for change and progress. It is after all, the launching pad for Yemen.

The event of the 70-day Siege also conjures images of the flocks of sons of this nation who responded to the call of Sanaa. We remember their willingness to die for their capital city.

These days, with the crisis at hand, may be we should remember the sacrifices of our martyrs, and we should remember the children of Yemen will not let Sanaa down. Let us save the nation from the agonies and miseries and let us all behave responsibly. Let us protect our unity, and democracy and work for development.

Editorial,  
*Al-Thawrah*, Sanaa,  
11/2/1994.

### YEMEN TIMES OPENS ITS ADEN OFFICE FOR BUSINESS

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(٠٢) ٣٤٥-٦٥٣



## DO WE HAVE A DETENTE OR ARE WE GOING TO MOVE FROM ONE CRISIS TO ANOTHER?

Although the Document of Commitment/Agreement has received a unanimous welcome from the whole of the Yemeni people, our coexistence in these situations gives us a sound pointer that the crises might have a beginning but no ending. Therefore, the Document represents only the first step in our strive launching toward a new born state of institutions, law, system, justice, equality, stabilization so as to operate the wheel of development/construction and all will go in accord of the aspiration of the people. It is time to see an ending to the phenomenon of chaos, frivolity and corruption. Our rulers are the ones who create the crises for us and then they impose a sort of coexistence with them as if being our fate and that we can not rid of them easily. We can say that our rulers shoulder all the responsibilities of what happens to us. It is not a matter of containing the crises before occurring. Our fault lies in believing that those who are creative in destruction can be creative in reform and preachers in spreading the principles of dignity, loyalty, chastity with abilities of combatting vice. The Document was the outcome of efforts represented in the members of the committee dialogue who all performed their roles perfectly each from his position and on his way. In



fact, the Document blew in us a new soul making us feel that there are some individuals who move to impede the implementation of the Document. By this way submitting it to new dialogues aiming to empty it from its contents and amending its drafting to serve the dreams/aspirations of them. Such a move will put us before legitimate wonders. The importance of the Document lies in its real trends and comprising of the coalition and the opposition. In addition, it acquired the support of the whole nation in and out. Those who bet on failing the dialogue and dragging our people to fighting gained nothing. The Document diagnosed the lapses, excesses and loopholes which worry us all. All in all, it put an end to all our agonies giving us a new hope in reforming our situations. It is to be mentioned that we awoke from our sound sleep and began to / discriminate

between the ones who want our destruction and the ones who work for our welfare and prosperity. Our people will regard the commitment to implementation of the Document as a sign of prejudice to the side of his interests responding to his will/aspirations. What we require is a powerful system capable of coexisting with the new changes in our world. We ought to understand that despotism serves no one. Time has changed and safeguarding unity requires hard work for the sake of the homeland. Any postponement/procrastination will lead the nation to fall in the bog of chaos and corruption. Those who dream to return to the past should realize that life has changed and the homeland is not a hostage in their hands. There is no justification for any new tensions and it is refused by all. We are not going to accept half solutions. Do the rulers realize this Western/American concern of the crisis? Do they understand what all this support means? It is nice to see others having concern in our internal affairs and endeavoring to resolve the crisis peacefully. Yes, it is not for our own sake but they have their own interests in the South or in the North.

By:  
Abdul-Rab Alwan Al-Masani,  
Sanaa.

## TID BITS CORNER

By: Susan Sanganee

\* It is very necessary for our leaders and senior politicians to pay attention to what happens to the projects they inaugurate. We see many officials laying down the foundation stones to many projects which are never implemented. In fact, politicians take rounds in laying down the foundation stone to the same project, and rumors has it that the foundation of a few projects was laid down a dozen times.

There is also the need to check the progress of projects which have been inaugurated by senior officials. For example, much fanfare was made, costly ceremonies were held, and we saw a lot of noise regarding the tree-planting project in the Nukum Hill park (near Sheraton Sanaa Hotel). Visit the place today and you will readily see what happened to the project.

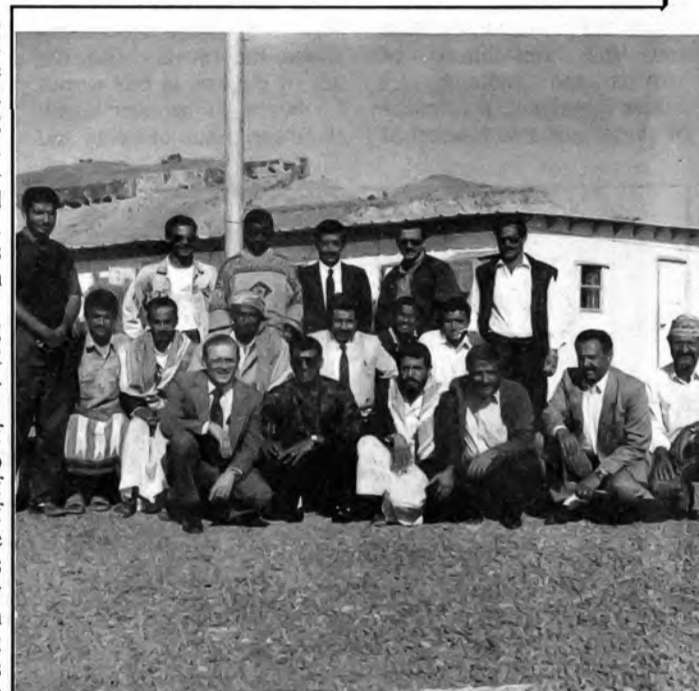
\* Speaking about parks, the Yemen Times team needed to take a group picture. The choice was to do it in one of the parks nears trees and flowers. Can you believe the group went from one place to another and could not find the trees and flowers that are supposed to be in parks?. Many individuals, especially the senior officials who can afford to employ gardeners, have their private gardens and trees and flowers. That is why the people in charge are concerned with the public parks, because they have their own private parks. This is very unbecoming of our cities, especially the capital.

\* The television channels -0 both 1 and 2 - bombard us with reruns that are dull and old. A case in point is the children's cartoons. It is clear that the TV authorities underestimate the intelligence and taste of our youngsters. I think they should reconsider their programs.

\* Ramadhan is the month of good-doing. Poor people take advantage of the soft hearted Muslims and go on a begging spree. It is good to see that there is a certain degree of redistribution of incomes and wealth during this blessed month. However, what is happening at street intersections is ridiculous. Drivers have to worry about bumping some of these beggars as they roam carelessly from one car to another.

## YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY GRADUATES ANOTHER BATCH OF TRAINEES

On Thursday February 10th, 1994, Yemen Hunt Oil Company celebrated the graduation of its second class of trainees from among the currently employed staff. The program includes a 4-month intensive English and technical course in Sana'a. Of the group, 19 persons completed their program successfully. Tom Wilson, the Training Manager at YHOC, was at hand to hand over the certificates and do the honors. "This is the second class of employees to undergo retraining with the aim of promotion on the ladder of responsibilities in the company," he said. "It is company policy to steadily replace expatriates with locals, and we have training programs for new recruits as well as for currently employed people," he added.



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# Making Sense out of Life between the "Doing" and "Being"

By Samira Ali BinDaair,  
Yemen Times.

A whole world divides "doing" and "being", as the day gets cut up into several slices of doing in this rushed tumble of life. Humans in modern settings often give the impression of being "Action Giants, running to accomplish the simple and the complex, and dissolving at the end of the day into the timelessness of time like spoonfuls of sugar in strong black tea.

Only a hair's breadth separates Doing and Being. Yet it is only the lucky few who do manage to see the line. This is part of the indictment of so called high-powered living.

When I was a child (a lifetime ago) running across fields freely, doing and being often mingled. I could never articulate the difference between what I had to accomplish and the joys of the moment.

Time was waiting for iftar (the meal to break the fasting) in Ramadhan after a difficult day of fasting, or henna decorations and endless sweets at Eid time. It was the joy of anticipation and the anti-climax of arrivals and endings. I neither possessed a calendar of events nor a stop-watch. I

lived life by the ear and the heart.

When I went to college, Time was the difference between opting to see a good play and studying for tedious exams and life was all about philosophical wrangles and spending your last penny on a piano recital and then starving for days. Whenever I happened to be in a busy place, like waiting for the bus or train, I would look at the different people rushing to and from and wonder at what they were rushing to and what kind of lives they led through their expressions and demeanor - like a Peeping Tom. Some looked pinched and harried as if waiting for a particular moment in order to start living; some dreamy and smiling and yet others opaque and expressionless as if their main aim in life was just to rush without a particular destination. I could still spend hours sitting in the fields in what to some must seem like a hedonistic sin; listening to the bees hum and birds sing, dreaming about the future and conjuring up all the exciting vistas that lay ahead.

Now that I have irrevocably joined the rat-race like the rest of the rats in this world, I begin to wonder again about the issue of being and

doing. For many years I became only intermittently aware of the fact that I was turning into a classic Action Giant, but perhaps not quite: I never knew whether I was doing or being in the hassle of getting my children ready for school in order to finally plop myself in my office chair just barely on time. When most people around me thought lovingly of routine as the savior of their sanity and tool for security; I would often want to rebel against it. But seeing that the waiting list for trips to the moon was long, I would resignedly go back to my routine of doing. Like the rest of this earth's population, I manifested the self-inflicted curse of always doing something. Sometimes it was the collection of doing aiming at some noble end - but sometimes getting caught in-between without a clear vision of the product.

Alas, how many potential literary pieces were nipped in the bud, because the ideas always came at inopportune moments. Time quite often was the many tasks one must accomplish in the interminable process of doing. I have often wondered, if it was not the "being" in between the "doings" that has been responsible for preserving my ever-threatened

sanity since. For those moments of being have been my anchor enabling me to survive the various echelons of doing in order to just be. Nothing very profound, for I am neither a philosopher nor a mystic. Just simple things like looking at the stars and creating mental mosaics or breaking into a run in order to catch the fading hues of sunset and just escaping into myself for a breather when life proved too much to handle.

In the last three years or so, I have particularly felt like SuperWoman or Bionic woman or whatever they call them in the cartoons; meaning the lady who moves adroitly and swiftly in every situation, in order to juggle through life's many demands. I never seemed to have the luxury of meandering for long, when my one thought often was to get things done on time.

Quite often it became "never mind I will make it up to the children next weekend If only I can get this done, as I became inundated with a lot that was meaningless in the final analysis. I even forgot to resolve to make it up to myself some time for missing the rainbow or listening to a favorite piece of music. I had begun to realize that the fine balance in

between being and doing I had always preserved was beginning to crazily tilt towards postponing life to a time frame that did not exist in any calendar. Somehow I had always believed happiness not to be a static state of being but a continuous process of living in the sporadic joys of moments. I know it is the fashion these days to be always on the run and to look busy which has become the hallmark of success and some kind of empty status symbol. No doubt, single-minded dedication to a particular task or on a large-scale is sometimes necessary in order to accomplish important things, as long as there is a meaning and purpose to one's actions and the end results are clear.

Of course we need a lot of hard work, particularly in this country, but all I am saying is that we also need a sense of balance in life, between being and doing and between aimless chores which we hide behind to escape ourselves and actions that are part of a meaningful scheme of things. Ivan Illich, in his typical de-establishing trend, offers interesting alternatives in the concept of speed control in "tools of Conviviality". At face value it sounds anti-progress, but

perhaps there is a lot of sense in applying it in our own lives at the individual level, and it can systematize itself to become a new world order.

Then there would be no need for the mad rush in our world to "catch up", because there would be no speed lags between people and countries. Perhaps Einstein's Theory of Relativity can also apply to speed since it applies to motion.

Well, to round it off, I am happy after all the years of hard work to just be and to have a little respite and to opt out of the rat race. I don't know how long it will last as long I can have my little escapes into the timeless realm of "being" so as I can reflect on and give meaning to the "doings".

But destiny has it that I should not enjoy a long respite. I have been trapped by the Yemen Times. Now that I am more or less part of the privileged kingdom of Yemen Times, can I ask the Chief Editor to allow me my little frivolities, to take the sting off the seriousness of Politics and News in his Newspaper.

One more thing, I thank you, Dr. AbdulAziz Al-Saqqaf, for publishing this piece unedited.

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## Yemen Embarks on Environmental Effort

By:  
Yahya Al-Hodeidi &  
Sarrah S. Ginedabi,  
Yemen Times.

Elizabeth Monosofski, from Brazil, an Environmental Specialist at the World Bank, is at the moment seconded to with the Government of Yemen. Her mandate is the preparation of the National Environmental Action Plan, which is financed by the World Bank.

"The goal of this plan is basically to identify what are the actions that need to be taken to protect nature and the natural resources of Yemen, to preserve the landscape and to use the natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations," she pointed out.

The plan is the product of a lot of hard work and a large team. Since the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit on the relations between the environment and development, all the countries have realized the need for each to develop a national strategy to deal with environmental issues.

The government of Yemen, as other nations in the world, is committed to a visible role in protecting the environment. Fortunately we are not alone in this endeavor. The first work done in this respect was supported by the UN agency UNDP [United Nations Development Program]. With the EPC, they prepared a very comprehensive frame work document, which identified many of the environmental problems facing Yemen presently us, as well as those that might affect us in the future. Among all the problems discussed the government of Yemen requested and received the support of the World Bank and UNDP, to prepare an environmental strategy and select the issues that are critical in Yemen to develop an ecologically sound environment. Several issues were identified in the first phase, now we are completing the second phase which is to have the EPC, who has visited Yemen many times during the last year, along with the Ministry of Planning work closely with the line Ministries involved in order to put together a proposal which will indicate priority areas and the actions that need to be taken. She insist this was a collective effort, which included; the teams of the World Bank, the UNDP, the EPC and the Ministry of Planning all in collaboration with the line Ministries. They have been working on this project for about a year.

Their strategy paper points to the need of being selective. They can't deal with all problems at the same time, so they are focusing on problems listed below that need immediate attention:

The first one is WATER:-

Yemen is a country which is facing the scarcity of water. There are few sources, and those few are becoming polluted and over utilized. The careful use of water is fundamental for the future of Yemen. The World Bank has been supporting a number of water projects, and they will continue to do so, but more is needed. It is important to have a broader view of the water resources management issues and get a concerted effort in this area. The environmental action plan will look into this issue with international cooperation.

The second area which we think is important to focus on is the URBAN ENVIRONMENT. Yemen is going through through a very important process of urbanization. The cities are growing at a very high rate, much bigger than the average population growth of the whole country. Urbanization is an inevitable process, as cities grow and people leave the country and move to the city. Urbanization is a global affair and the international community is fervently addressing the problems associated with it. This process of urbanization happens when countries grow and modernize. There needs to be sufficient environmental services provided for the public, such as clean water, sewage treatment plants and consistent garbage collection. Industrial pollution whether it is the dumping of chemicals or volatile substances into our water supply or contamination of our air supply by improper burning of certain materials. It is important to preserve our cultural heritage in Yemen. We are coming to the point of no return, where we won't be able to clean-up our environment. Everyone can help. For example, walk or drive a few extra meters to the dumpster instead of just throwing your garbage out of the window or throwing it on the ground.

The third area which needs attention is THE AREA OF LAND CONSERVATION: Yemen has lived on a very special terraced agriculture that has sustained the population for thousand of years. This is a patrimony and it is

important not only for land conservation, but also for water conservation. Given the slow rate of growth and rapid rate in which trees are being cut down Yemen faces turning into a desert.

The fourth area of concentration is THE COASTAL ZONE AND THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:

The fishing industry is a very important economic resource. Yemen has some of the most beautiful and bountiful live coral reefs in the Red Sea, and unique in the world. Yemen has coastal plains which are areas in which some agriculture is being developed. Yemen has the new refineries in the coastal zone also ports that can handle large oil tankers and also large reservoirs for the storage of oil. Proper management of the Coastal Zone insure that Managing this will allow to use all these resources in the best way, allowing them to be degraded might cost a lot for the Yemeni society, so this is the port area we must look at. The fifth area is called THE INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING: A mechanism has to be created for coordination and the tackling of these problems in each line ministry and to strengthen the environmental institutions. The national environmental action plan is looking at all these issues and will then move into the next phase. The next phase being looking at initiatives which are the most effective in addressing all these problems and in realizing the potential for development in Yemen. This is a challenge for the Yemeni society as a whole, to manage them wisely. The environment is not only the natural resources, but it's the place where people live and where cultural development can grow. Therefore the preservation of environment is the responsibility of everybody and is a challenge for every person in the country.

The World Bank is very honored to participate in this effort with the Republic of Yemen and they put a very high priority on environmental issues and management and they are willing to support the government of Yemen in this major task. That of which is to protect the environment for the future generations.

This strategy is being finalized with the EPC environmental protection country and ministry of planning, and this will probably be translated into Arabic, to make the discussion of this strategy easy.

## Israeli Company Opens a New Channel to Talk to "God" Or Is It Simply Talking to a Wall?

The fax from the young woman looked more like an advertisement: "Lord, let me meet a nice man to share my life with, a sensitive person who likes nature, rock climbing, dogs and spicy food."

But Ingrid Hanson of USA was not writing to just anyone. She sent her letter to God, at his usual address: The Wailing Wall, Jerusalem. Moreover, the Lord received it on his special fax number - 612222, given Him by the Israeli telecommunications company, Bezek.

The company's marketing director launched the experiment a year ago, this week. The idea is to put people worldwide in touch with "God" without going to the trouble of making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Every day since, Bezek has been receiving an average of 120 messages from all over the world. "The majority come from Christians, and particularly from the USA. But some messages come from Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, etc.," says the head of Bezek's public relations department, Ms. Lili David, who is in charge of the Wailing Wall fax.

The messages are written in all languages. Once a message arrives, Lili cuts it out, folds it and puts it in a linen bag which when full is sent by courier to the wall.

The courier then places each message, printed on weather-resistant paper, in the cracks between the stones of the Wailing Wall, as Jews have done since the 16th century. The wall, 28 meters long, is what remains of the Second Temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

Over the years, tens of thousands of similar notes have been inserted in the Wall by Jews hopeful that their wishes will be granted. Lili David, 28, says the watchword is discretion, because it is a personal matter between individuals and God.

Over the months, the volume of messages has increased. Therefore, the company has decided to install another number. Moreover, some writers and journalists have expressed interest in writing books about the subject.

Thus, the second fax will be for messages whose senders do not mind that others read them. The element of privacy is the determining factor in terms of which number to use, with the old number, the one above, for private messages.

The messages vary enormously. Some are amusing or strange, others are sad or happy. People write to God on any subject, and for any reason: To help them give up smoking, to find a job, to find a spouse, etc. Many punters send copies of their lottery tickets to God, asking

for help to win. Lili fears that God might respond favorably to one of the punters. "In that case, we would have trouble finding space in the Wall, given the expected rise in the number of requests," she says.

The most common titles used are: "Dear God, Dear Sir, Dear Lord." Many simply say, "Hi there!" Many of the letters start with the Jewish word for peace, "Shalom." "Hello" and "How are you," are equally used. Most letters end with "I love you," or "I believe in you." Still others throw in a final reminder. They conclude with "Don't forget now!"

Whatever the results of the religious aspects of the whole affair, the business aspects have shown good results. The Israeli company is happy with the profits.

### Talking to a Wall?

An American tourist, baffled by the persistent pleading of a Jewish person in front of the Wailing Wall, approaches and asks:

- A - What are you doing?
- J - I am asking God to grant my wishes.
- A - How long have you been doing this?
- J - Many years now.
- A - Any response.
- J - Oh No. Man, it is like talking to a wall.
- A - But aren't you?

No offense meant!

### EUROGUARD WATER FILTER PURIFIER

One glass of water looks very much like another. Which is why it's impossible to differentiate between the glass that contains safe drinking water and the one that has disease causing bacteria and viruses. It is a fact that there are inherent limitations to filters, tap attachments and chemical treatments. Even boiling is an expensive and time consuming process. So how do you ensure your drinking water is safe? By using Euroguard water filter purifier. It works simply and effectively, purifying water in three stages:

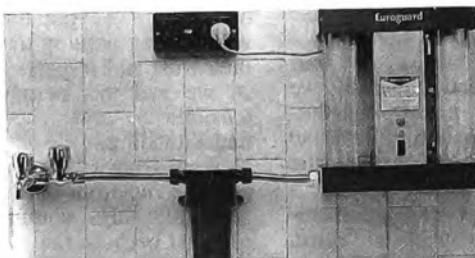
- It filters physical impurities like dirt, dust and sediments.
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What's more, Euroguard's unique Electronic Monitoring System monitors the purification process and stops the flow of water if the purification is inadequate.

Euroguard is the water purification system which gives you clear, safe drinking water at the flick of switch. Euroguard is easily installed in home, office, restaurant, hospitals and any place you require. Get the confidence of good health now.

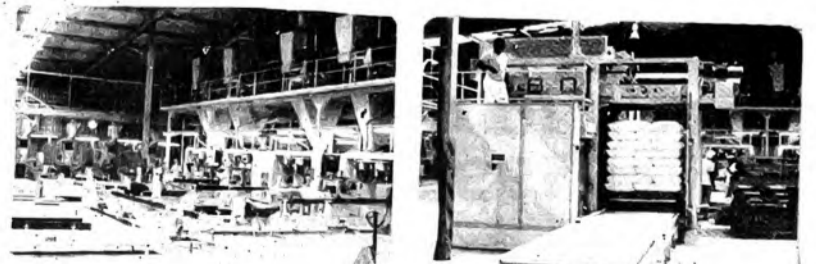
For free demonstration contact

ESHAK TRADING STORES, P.O. Box 226, SANA'A, YEMEN, HEAD OFFICE:  
TAIZ STREET PHONE: (009671) 245790, FAX: (009671) 247119 / 211789.



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

Sanaa: Phone: 240702-240952; Tlx: 2780; Facsimile: 263-086; Address: P.O.Box 2528.  
Hodeidah: Phone: 3-232460; Tlx: 5661; Facsimile: 211551; Address: P.O.Box 4015.  
Khartoum: Phone: 74569/74610/74562; Tlx: 22369; Fax: 74561; Address: P.O.B. 1926  
Port Sudan: Phone: 2630, 2979, 4465; Telex: 70071; Address: P.O.Box 160.



صنعاء ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٣ : فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : تليفون: ٢٧٨٠ : نايجل يمن فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : ص ب: ٢٥٢٨  
الحدية ت: ٣٢٤٦٠/٣ : فاكس: ٢١١٥٥١ : ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ : فاكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ : ص ب: ١٩٣٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ : فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ : ص ب: ١٦٠



Ethiopian President Melles Zeinawi in an Exclusive Interview with the Yemen Times:

"Our task is not finished."

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

He was already in the room in which we were to carry out the interview in Congress Hall in Addis Ababa. It was 12:30 noon. He was nicely and elegantly dressed, although not in expensive attire.

the people approve of the current draft. Perhaps the most important difference concerns the issue of nationality within this country. We have over 80 different nationalities in the country, each with its own language. It is the opinion of main parties in this country that we need to allow people to use their own languages and to manage their local affairs.

is also a social and political one. The vast majority of the peasants, especially in the southern part of the country supported the 1974 land reform (nationalization of feudal estates), because they had been serfs on the

Q: Your Excellency, the legal period which brought you to power as part of the transitional government is over. There has been an extension until elections are

Q: You personally, and your country, played a visible role in trying to resolve the Somali civil war. Could you give us details on your involvement and how far the peace talks have come

applies to all nationalities, including the Somali population in Ethiopia. We have over two million Somalis in Ethiopia. It is up to them to choose whether to be Ethiopians or not. Because of this approach, and the trust we put in our people, and the right they have to decide for themselves, we have nothing to fear from the State of Somalia. The experience of the past two and a half years has confirmed that our approach and our calculations are right. We have increasingly gained the trust and support of our people, whatever nationality they belong to. Not only that, but we felt we had a stake in helping stabilize neigh-

fortunately, the UN, and the main component forces, changed their attitude only recently - after the damage has been done, and so it is not easy to put the package back. There were also misconceptions among the Somali factions. One faction thought that it would be given the reign of power on a silver plate by external forces. Another faction thought it could prevail militarily and decide the power-sharing structure. Still other factions had other illusions. Peace was not possible until these illusions are corrected. Now we feel, the various factions have realized the limitations of their past attitudes. So

and the crimes that certain individuals have committed, there are two ways of dealing with it. We can - like the way it is done in some Latin American countries - look the other way and imagine the atrocities have not taken place, or that the problem never existed. Or we can - like the way it was done in Germany - come to grips with the problem, face it head on, and get it over with. We are going the German way. The past cannot be laid to rest unless fully accounted for. We are going to deal with the past by righting the wrongs. Now, when we speak of righting the wrongs, we mean to go about it in a

the Ethiopian community in Yemen. I am happy Mr. Awadh Said Ba-Aamer, the Chairman of the Yemeni Community is sitting in with us in this meeting. What is your vision of the bilateral relations? A: I'm glad that you raised that issue. It is an issue that the transitional government has given much importance and a high priority. As you rightly said, we share a lot of things with Yemen. Unfortunately, relations in the recent past have not been as strong as they could have been. That is partly because both sides are overwhelmed by their internal re-arrangements. We now feel that we are in a better

lency, are following the internal political difficulties in Yemen. May I ask what your reading is on what is going on in Yemen? A: I am afraid I'm not that

the loss will not be limited to Yemen only, but to all of us in the Horn of Africa as well as the Arabian Peninsula. Complications and violence in Yemen will lead to a much worse scenario

reason why we shouldn't strengthen our ties in all fields. In many ways, Yemen could be considered as a part of the Horn of Africa. I support what Eritrean

perhaps more homogenous than in Ethiopia where about 80 different languages and different cultures coexist. The lesson you could use is probably related to Ethiopia's past. In the past, people tried to create an Ethiopian identity by assimilation (read, Amharization). Sub-groups were pushing into abandoning their own names, languages, religions, cultures, etc., and take on different ones in order to "belong." That form of forceful assimilation is dangerous and does not lead towards social, cultural and political harmony. That is why today, we say that people have the freedom to use

Ethiopians have to be Ethiopians by their free choice, not because they are forced to be!

land. Therefore, you can realize the degree of held. And you just said, today? A: Perhaps I can start by

Yemen and Ethiopia share a long history and a special relationship. We want to revitalize this relationship!

qualified to comment in any meaningful sense, but I understand that there some than Somalia. So I hope the problem will be sorted out as early as possible - not President Asias Afewerke called for. B t first, each country has to sort out its



college when he decided to quit and join the struggle. A humble person, he says he likes to associate with the people, with the peasants. "I hate imposters," he responded when asked about the thing he hated most. Above all, the Ethiopian President comes through as a refined intellectual. The full text of the interview with the Ethiopian President Melles Zeinawi follows:

anybody - and should not force anybody - to be Ethiopian. The right and feeling of being an Ethiopian is made by free will. Some people believe this is a recipe for disintegration. We believe this is a means of preserving this country. The majority of the population supports the view that the way in which past policies have handled the nationality issue did not work. Hence the new

support for the land reform in 1974, and the majority oppose the denationalization of the land. We want to retain the democratic elements of the reform which is fully supported by the vast majority of the peasants in this country. Some would have us change the policy and move towards the free selling and buying of land. That is strongly opposed by the vast majority in the

process peacefully. How much time do you need? A: Initially it appears to us that we were over enthusiastic regarding how much can be done in the Transitional Period. We underestimated the tasks. We thought the tasks will be completed in two or two and a half years. But given the long list of tasks to be completed, the time ran out before the tasks were completed. And because it is the Constituent Assembly which interprets the charter, it decreed that the present government finishes its tasks, hence the extension. The plan is that we will have the elections for the Constituent Assembly in the next three or four months, and hopefully we will have a new constitution before the end of the summer. We expect the timetable to the next elections to be set soon thereafter. We expect the reform and construction program - and the package of our tasks - would be over before the end of 1994.

explaining our relations with Somalia. The bilateral relations (Ethiopian-Somali relations) have not been exactly ideal in the past. It is related in many to the way we handled the issue of nationality, especially regarding Ethiopia's Somali population (in the Ogaden). We believe that nothing was done to gain their confidence and sense of belonging to Ethiopia. The Ethiopian system in the past always worried about the ambitions of Somalia and its designs regarding Ethiopia's Somalis. The direct result of this policy was that the Ethiopian system could not trust its own Somali population, while doing nothing to gain their trust and respect. And so we had this permanent tension and misunderstanding. Now, we have this charter pull the rug from under the feet of this continuous mistrust because the charter simply says that any Ethiopian has to believe in being an Ethiopian and that he/she is not going to be forced to be Ethiopian. That

boring Somalia. We felt the need for economic, social, political, etc. exchange and cooperation. That can only be done if we have a counterpart in Somalia. Thus, we have a vast interest in trying to help Somalia recover. Based on this new logic and approach, we embarked on efforts to help Somalia overcome its current difficulties. After long talks with the various factions in Somalia, we had an agreement here in March 1993. The implementation of the agreement is left up to the Somali people, and was to be handled by UNOSOM. We were more or less out of the picture for the implementation. But the implementation hit a snag for various reasons. The UN policy in Somalia perceived the possibility of a decisive military solution to the problem. We were of the opinion that the United Nations should work for the solution of the conflict peacefully. We pursue this line in many forums. Unfortunately,

now peace is possible. A meeting was called in Nairobi recently to operationalize the agreement and we believe that it has since been satisfactorily operationalized. political reconciliation has been created and the peace process, with a combination of social economic agenda would allow a comprehensive rehabilitation of the Somali society. But I don't think there will be a quick fix, as it is going to take time. But I do believe they have taken the right direction. Q: Ethiopia is trying - as you rightly indicated - to chart a new course. That means overcoming the past with all its mistakes. Is Ethiopia today ready to overcome its past without trying to be vengeful about it, or is it going to let that past haunt it. I mean we read about continued imprisonment and various forms of reprisals against people associated with the Menghistu regime, or even the Haile Sellassie system? A: To overcome the past

proper and legal way - not through personal vendetta or through kangaroo courts, but through proper courts. We deal with the issues according to internationally acceptable norms and in the presence of international observers. The process has already started, and the courts are looking into these cases. Those who were not involved in crimes, even if they were part of the previous regime, have nothing to fear. But those who terrorized our people have to pay. We will not allow the shadow of the past to dominate our present or future, but the wrongs will have to be righted. By the way, a number of leading members of the former regime are now advisors in the government. You can see it is not a blanket drive to get whoever was in the previous government.

position than at any time in the past to forge stronger ties. Yemen is a very close neighbor and a friendly one. We want to push for a closer relationship with Yemen. We believe that there is an under-current of similar opinion on a part of Yemeni officials. The social, cultural and historic relations also allow for stronger economic and commercial relations. I am happy to note that more Yemeni products are coming to Ethiopia, and that some 62 major investments in Ethiopia are presently being undertaken/planned by Yemenis. Q: The peoples of Yemen and Ethiopia share a long history. They share a special connection through the Yemeni community in Ethiopia, and

difficulties in related to the speedy re-unification of the south and north Yemen. We believe that this problem has come at a sad time, when Yemen was beginning to utilize its natural resources, and when the country was on the verge of achieving meaningful economic development. If Yemen overcomes its problems peacefully, the only for the interest of the Yemeni people, but for the interests of many others. And I believe Yemenis have it in them to achieve this. Q: Recently Eritrean President Asias Afewerke called for a regional association that would bring Yemen, Ethiopia, Eritria, Djibouti, etc. together. The vision is for a regional

internal problems. Meanwhile, we can develop this idea and convert it into a concrete proposal which each side can analyze and study. There are infinite opportunities for very close ties at all levels. This approach will direct our efforts towards our mutual interest. I see Yemen as out bridge to the Arab World and beyond, and we can serve as Yemen's bridge to Africa. It is a good idea that gives a lot of hope. Q: You have experimented with a decentralized system. It has been working for almost three years now. We in Yemen are moving towards something similar. What are the lessons we can learn from your experience? A: First, we can jot down the differences. Unlike Ethiopia, all Yemenis speak the same language and share the same cultural and religious values. You are one nationality, whereas Ethiopia has some eighty distinct nationalities. So to some extent, the social configuration of Yemen is

with local identity in local affairs, and even to develop them as Amhara or Oromo or Tigraie, etc., and to be Ethiopian at the same time. I will say we felt that should not be forced to abandon their local identity in order to belong. We believe that devolution of power, to decentralize, also has a lot of other advantages. It plays the important role of taking the heat out of the so called national (regions) issue. By devolving power to the regions, we are making democracy relevant to the majority of population. The people should feel they have a say in whatever decision the nation takes. If they feel the decision has emanated from them, then they support it. In the case of Yemen, it appears that some sort of decentralization, however limited it might be, could help overcome some of the problems of Yemeni society is now facing. I understand that the political leaders of Yemen are moving towards that direction and I think it is the right direction.

I expect our tasks and duties will take us until the end of 1994 to complete.

Q: Ethiopia is drafting its constitution. There are supporters and opponents to the current draft of the constitution. What are the points of differences? A: Each group sees the constitution draft from its angle, but the majority of

approach based on free choice of association within Ethiopia. So my expectation is that this idea will be supported. The other issue is related to land ownership and use. Land in this country is not only an economic issue, but

country. There are other smaller issues, as well. In most cases, the difference is between a small - yet vocal - group, and the majority of the population. Whatever the case, we want to play out the process peacefully and democratically.

We will overcome our past by facing it head-on, and righting the wrongs that have been done!

Q: I am sure, Your Excellency,



# LE TEMPS DU YEMEN

The French Pages

ECONOMIE

## La fièvre des "kochks" s'est emparée d'Aden

Les socialistes ont décidé de libéraliser le commerce dans les anciens gouvernorats du Sud. Depuis quelques jours, la population dépose par dizaines de milliers des demandes d'autorisation pour ouvrir un magasin. A Aden, les habitants n'ont plus qu'un mot à la bouche, "kochk": kiosque en arabe.

La ville, à la dérive depuis l'unification, semble revivre, dynamisée par les chantiers engagés par le gouverneur, Saleh Al-Sayeli.

La ville a la fièvre. Les habitants d'Aden n'ont plus qu'un mot à la bouche depuis quelques jours: "kochk", kiosque en arabe. Tous les matins, ils sont des dizaines à s'agglutiner devant les grilles du bâtiment où siège le gouverneur, tendant vers les militaires perchés sur un mur des papiers blancs. Ce sont leurs demandes d'autorisation pour ouvrir un magasin. A l'extérieur, des écrivains publics ont aidé certains à écrire en langage administratif ces demandes.

Au début du mois, les socialistes, qui sont aux commandes des gouvernorats du Sud, ont décidé de libéraliser le commerce. Ils sont aujourd'hui submergés par le succès de leur initiative. Certains Adenis les soupçonnent de démagogie. Ce programme de libéralisation du

commerce intervient trois ans et demi après l'unification, en pleine crise politique avec le nord.

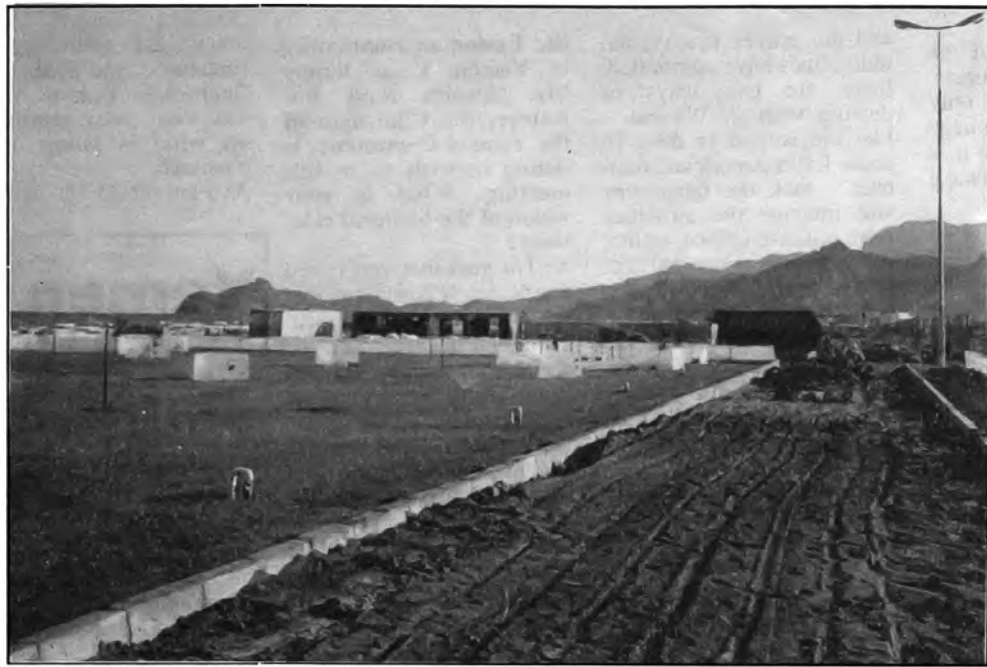
A l'intérieur du bâtiment, une secrétaire épuisée par cette agitation s'exclame: "il va bientôt y avoir autant de demandes que d'habitants dans les gouvernorats du Sud". Chaque famille a souvent déposé plus d'une demande. Quelques uns ont l'idée de revendre les autorisations obtenues. Cette foire d'empoigne ravit certains Yéménites: "Cela fait 25 ans que le Yémen du Sud est paralysé, enfin ça bouge", dit l'un d'eux. Marquée par plus de vingt ans de régime communiste, l'économie des gouvernorats du Sud pourrait être dynamisée par le développement du commerce.

Dans le bureau de l'adjoint du

gouverneur, des jeunes militaires âgés de seize ans à peine et chaussés de sandales montent la garde. Ils repoussent les intrus qui veulent se glisser dans la pièce. Il y a là des officiers et des hommes d'affaires avec leurs téléphones sans fil qui attendent une entrevue ou un papier à signer. L'adjoint du gouverneur tamponne et signe à la chaîne les demandes d'autorisation d'ouverture de "kochks" qui lui sont amenées par liasses par les militaires. Le gouverneur, Saleh Al-Sayeli, nommé l'an dernier, est devenu l'homme fort de la ville. Réputé pour être un homme à poigne, il était ministre de l'Intérieur de l'ancien Yémen du Sud avant l'unification.

### Le gouverneur a pris en main la ville

Saleh Al-Sayeli a décidé de prendre en main le destin de la ville et d'ignorer Sanaa. Depuis quelques semaines, il ne fait plus transférer le produit des impôts et des taxes locales vers la capitale du pays. Il a lancé plusieurs chantiers destinés à embellir la ville et à attirer les investisseurs étrangers. Au siège du gouvernorat, il existe d'ailleurs un département chargé de l'embellissement de la ville. Ainsi, des aires de jeux pour les enfants sont en construction dans le quartier de Maalla, le réseau routier de la ville, en piteux état, est en rénovation. Mais surtout, le plus spectaculaire, une grande promenade est créée le long de la plage d'Abyan dans le quartier de Khormaksar. Des ouvriers s'affairent à planter de la



Le gouverneur d'Aden veut embellir la ville. Cette promenade construite au bord de la mer est l'un de ces projets.

pelouse et des arbres, des toboggans ont été prévus pour les enfants. Les chantiers, qui devraient emporter le suffrage de la population, ont l'avantage d'être visibles et de marquer la volonté politique des socialistes de ne plus laisser Aden partir à la dérive.

L'ambiance dans la ville est donc différente. Il y a quelques mois, les habitants ne cessent d'accuser les gens du nord de les oublier. Aujourd'hui, Sanaa les préoccupe moins. Ils savent désormais que le pouvoir est revenu à Aden. Soudés jusqu'à derrière les socialistes qui étaient les seuls à les défendre, les habitants du Sud recom-

mencent à les critiquer: "Les gens oublient qu'ils ont été au pouvoir pendant vingt ans et sont en grande partie responsables de la situation d'Aden", déclare un Adeni.

### Confiance retrouvée pour la brasserie

D'autres se montrent plus satisfaits de ce retour en force des anciens dirigeants de la République démocratique du Yémen. Ainsi, Ali Norman, le directeur de la brasserie, qui produit la fameuse bière d'Aden, la Seera. Nous l'avions rencontré en juillet inquiet pour l'avenir de

son entreprise. L'Israh était devenu le deuxième parti en sièges au parlement après les élections législatives d'avril et demandait la fermeture de la brasserie, "un défi à la loi de Dieu", selon les islamistes.

"Je pense aujourd'hui que la plupart des régions au Yémen ne vont pas revenir vers le sous-développement", déclare Ali Norman. Souriant, il fait remarquer que quand il sort de son bureau, il n'a plus qu'un pistolet. En juillet, il était accompagné d'un homme armé d'une kalachnikov. Aden se réveille.

Jérôme BERNARD

### Le français en pointe à Aden

Les initiatives concernant la langue française se multiplient à Aden. La télévision de l'ancienne capitale du Sud a décidé de créer un magazine hebdomadaire en français, "Fenêtres sur le monde". Le service en français de la télévision, dirigé par Hassan Matar doit se charger de cette émission d'actualités yéménites, internationales et culturelles dont le premier numéro est prévu mardi 15 février. Pendant le Ramadan, le rendez-vous est fixé tous les mardi, ensuite, ce sera le dimanche.

Pendant le Ramadan, le Centre culturel français d'Aden, installé depuis deux

mois dans la "Maison Rimbaud" à Crater, va proposer des soirées débats à partir de documents scientifiques et culturels. La première soirée devait se dérouler hier. Le thème: "Arthur Rimbaud, une biographie", un film documentaire de Richard Dindo. La deuxième soirée est prévue pour demain lundi 14 février et jeudi 17 février avec pour thème "La bête sous la Manche", un reportage sur la construction du tunnel sous la Manche.

Pour plus de renseignements, s'adresser à la "Maison Rimbaud", à Crater.

### CENTRE CULTUREL FRANÇAIS DE SANAA

#### Ciné-club

Programme du 15 février au 8 mars. Les séances pendant le Ramadan ont lieu à 22h45. Il n'y aura pas de ciné-club mardi 15 mars.

Mardi 15 février

#### L'Amour, l'après-midi

Un film d'Eric Rohmer. Entre sa femme Hélène et son travail, Frédéric mène une vie bien réglée. Chloé, une ancienne camarade aux moeurs libres, ressurgit pour y apporter quelque fantaisie.

Mardi 22 février

#### Le Roi et l'Oiseau

Un film de Paul Grimault. Un roi règne en despote sur le royaume de Takicardie. Seul un oiseau ose le défier.

Mardi 1er mars

#### Trois Hommes et un couffin

Un film de Coline Serreau. Trois hommes se voient confier un bébé. A eux de s'en occuper.

Mardi 8 mars

#### L'Autre

Un film de Bernard Giraudeau. Un petit village au pied d'une colline. Un jeune homme disparaît au cours d'un tremblement de terre. Le vieux Simm est persuadé qu'il est vivant.

### RELIGION

## Le mois de Ramadan

Quatrième pilier de l'Islam, le Ramadan est sans doute l'acte religieux le plus important pour les musulmans. Pendant un mois, ils s'abstiennent de manger, de boire, de fumer, d'avoir des relations sexuelles, de mâcher du qat au Yémen, du lever au coucher du soleil. Cette année le Ramadan a commencé le 11 février. Nous rappelons ci-dessous l'origine de ce mois sacré et publions un article de Najib Banabila.

Pendant un mois, les musulmans dans le monde entier vont s'abstenir de manger, de boire, de fumer, d'avoir des relations sexuelles et de mâcher du qat au Yémen, du lever au coucher du soleil. Le mois sacré de Ramadan est le neuvième mois du calendrier lunaire islamique. L'acte de jeûner pendant ce mois est l'un des cinq piliers de l'Islam, avec la profession de foi en un dieu unique, la prière rituelle, le pèlerinage à la Mecque, et l'aumône légale.

### Une origine préislamique

L'origine du jeûne du Ramadan remonte à la période préislamique (avant 622 du calendrier chrétien). Certains spécialistes de l'Islam pensent que les influences judéo-chrétiennes qui avaient, avant Mahomet, encouragé à chercher la foi en un dieu unique en adoptant un mode de vie d'ascète, ont marqué profondément le Prophète. Il avait ordonné au début à ses disciples de jeûner le jour de

l'Expiation (Ashura), le 10 de Muharram, le premier mois de l'année musulmane. Puis le Prophète a modifié cette tradition en étendant cette pratique aux 29 jours du mois de Ramadan.

Ce mois a été choisi, à l'origine, parce que l'on pensait que c'est à ce moment de l'année que "le Coran a été envoyé sur terre", ou plus précisément que la première Révélation est survenue pendant le Leilat al Qadr (Nuit du pouvoir), identifiée comme étant celle du 27 de Ramadan. Le Ramadan est une période d'expiation des péchés et de pardon. La tradition musulmane dit que, pendant ce mois, les portes du Paradis restent ouvertes, celles de l'Enfer fermées, et que les diables sont enchaînés. Ceux qui observent le jeûne avec foi obtiendront la rémission de tous leurs péchés. La période de jeûne commence le lendemain de la nuit où apparaît le premier croissant de la nouvelle lune, au début du mois de Ramadan. Cette année, le jeûne a commencé le 11 février.

Concernant le "jeûne" du mois de Ramadan, il est bon d'évoquer brièvement quelques aspects généraux sur ce mois béni. En effet, c'est durant ce mois que le Livre Saint a été révélé et il est d'usage, pour ceux qui savent lire, de lire à cette occasion le Coran en totalité.

Le Ramadan est donc une fontaine qui nous abreuve spirituellement. Dans la plupart des pays musulmans on fête les nuits de Ramadan par des prières surrogatoires, des festins, des causeries et les invitations des proches et des amis se prolongent dans une atmosphère quasi magique.

Rappelons que le "jeûne" est une institution spirituelle et institutionnelle très antique que d'autres religions pratiquent avec des aspects différents. Tel est le cas du judaïsme, du christianisme, de l'hindouisme et même des Peaux-Rouges, les Indiens d'Amérique !

### Splendeur du Ramadan

par Najib Banabila\*

Des recherches modernes démontrent que le "jeûne" existe dans toute la nature: plantes et animaux y puisent des grands bienfaits et s'en trouvent régénérés.

D'après le professeur Hamidullah dans son livre "Pourquoi jeûner ?" (Editions Tougi, 1983), il fait remarquer que le "jeûne" s'effectue dans l'intérêt du "jeûneur". Il faut entendre par là un "mieux être" du jeûneur.

### Abstinence totale des besoins naturels

Il faut comprendre par "jeûne" l'abstinence totale des besoins naturels (comme manger et boire) ou factice (comme se droguer, fumer ou mâcher du chewing-gum). Quant à l'acte sexuel il est licite la nuit du "jeûne". Le "jeûne" a lieu dès l'aube jusqu'au coucher du soleil. Il ne concerne pas les malades, les

voyageurs, les femmes enceintes, les nourrices, les enfants avant la puberté ni les vieillards.

D'une manière générale, l'inobservance du "jeûne" oblige le fidèle récalcitrant, si toutefois son revenu le permet, à nourrir au moins un pauvre, soit, sur les bases des calculs de la Banque mondiale en 1990, 1500 rials environ ou plus savamment 30 dollars PPA (parité du pouvoir d'achat) de 1985, qui constitue la mesure du seuil inférieur de pauvreté.

Apprécions donc dans l'Islam autant la valeur spirituelle du mois de Ramadan que son humanisme.

\* Najib Banabila est haut fonctionnaire des Nations Unies d'origine yéménite. Il tient à préciser que ses opinions ne reflètent pas nécessairement celles du secrétariat de l'ONU.



CRISE POLITIQUE

# Les rapports s'enveniment entre les nordistes et les sudistes

La tension est montée d'un cran la semaine dernière entre partisans du Président Saleh et ceux du vice-Président Al-Bid. Alors que les deux parties ont reporté sine die la cérémonie de signature de l'accord du 18 janvier, elles s'accusent à nouveau de se préparer à la guerre civile. La réconciliation nationale s'éloigne à grands pas.

La réconciliation nationale n'est pas pour demain. La cérémonie de signature de l'accord du 18 janvier qui devait se dérouler le 6 février à Amman en Jordanie a été reportée sine die. Selon le Président Saleh, c'est en raison "des nouvelles conditions posées par le parti socialiste". Malgré consolation, le comité de dialogue a réussi à s'entendre sur le lieu de la cérémonie. Il a officiellement désigné Amman.

## Mouvements de troupes

Selon des participants du comité, l'un des différends concerne le nombre des signataires de l'accord. Contrairement au CPG, le parti du Président Saleh, le PSY, parti du vice-Président Ali Al-Bid, souhaite le paraphe de toutes les forces politiques du pays et la garantie des Etats arabes et étrangers qui ont mené des médiations dans la crise. L'idée d'un référendum sur l'accord, défendue par certains partis de

l'opposition, a été reprise mercredi par le vice-Président. "Au cas où certains mettraient en doute l'accord, nous appellerons à le soumettre à un référendum populaire", a-t-il déclaré. Les socialistes ont tout intérêt à un tel référendum sur un texte qui leur est largement favorable. La majorité de la population yéménite souhaite en effet la réconciliation entre les deux frères ennemis.

Mais Ali Salem Al-Bid a émis des doutes sur la disposition de son rival du nord, le Président Saleh, à appliquer l'accord. Il a affirmé qu'"au cas où il ne serait pas mis en oeuvre, le PSY s'adresserait aux forces nationales pour trouver les moyens de le concrétiser".

Alors que les négociations marquent le pas, les rapports entre le sud et le nord du Yémen se sont envenimés la semaine dernière. Nordistes et sudistes s'accusent à nouveau mutuellement de déployer des troupes sur l'ancienne frontière du pays unifié. Jeudi 3 février, le PSY a annoncé que l'armée sudiste avait saisi une car-

gaison de 40 missiles anti-aériens en provenance du nord, affirmant qu'elle était destinée à renforcer les positions de l'armée nordiste dans le sud du pays.

Quelques heures plus tard, le CPG a accusé à son tour l'armée sudiste de concentrer des troupes dans l'ancienne région frontalière de Shabwah. Le colonel Ali Mohammed Salah, rapporteur du comité chargé d'enquêter sur les mouvements de troupes, a implicitement confirmé vendredi 4 février la poursuite de ces mouvements. De retour d'une tournée d'inspection dans le nord et le sud, il a déclaré que "la crise politique a touché les unités militaires" et il a appelé à "la signature et la mise en application rapide" de l'accord de réconciliation.

Nouveau rebondissement dimanche 6 février. Les autorités nordistes ont annoncé avoir intercepté un avion cargo ougandais transportant des "batteries et du matériel de transmission" destinés au sud du Yémen. L'avion été inter-

cepté au-dessus d'Hoddeidah, sa cargaison saisie et l'équipage arrêté. La cargaison contestée était composée de 65 748 batteries à usage militaire, 15 appareils de transmission et trois caisses de diverses pièces de rechange. Sa valeur serait estimée à environ 16 millions de dollars. Le CPG a accusé les sudistes de se préparer à la guerre civile. "L'entrée illégale d'un avion cargo bourré d'équipements militaires destinés au sud du Yémen entre dans le cadre des préparatifs de guerre du PSY", a estimé un responsable du parti du Président.

## "Acte de piraterie" selon le PSY

L'avion qui assurait une liaison entre Londres et Aden via Athènes, avait été affrété par la compagnie yéménite Al-Yemda. Le responsable de l'aéroport d'Hoddeidah a dénoncé cette interception. Selon lui, l'avion disposait d'une autorisation délivrée par les autorités de l'aéroport d'Aden,

"qui en avait informé au préalable l'aviation civile à Sanaa et Hoddeidah". "C'est un acte grave qui menace la navigation aérienne au Yémen et porte atteinte à la réputation du pays", a-t-il ajouté. Les sudistes, par l'intermédiaire du ministre de la Défense Haïtham Qassem ont dénoncé cet "acte de piraterie" et a exigé "le transfert immédiat vers Aden" de l'avion et le jugement des auteurs de l'interception.

Mardi soir, l'appareil, un Boeing 707, était autorisé à redécoller pour regagner l'Ouganda via Asmara, la capitale de l'Erythrée. Au préalable, les forces armées nordistes ont confisqué la cargaison.

Le même jour, le ministre de la Défense a appelé au retrait des forces nordistes et sudistes de l'ancienne frontière. "Le manque de confiance (entre sudistes et nordistes) a entravé jusqu'ici la mise en oeuvre de plusieurs projets destinés à unifier l'armée", a-t-il déclaré au quotidien saoudien Acharq Al-Awsat.

(avec AFP)

PROCHE-ORIENT

## Accord partiel au Caire

Israël et l'OLP ont signé mercredi dernier au Caire un premier accord détaillé sur la mise en oeuvre de l'autonomie à Gaza et Jéricho, ouvrant la voie au retrait israélien de ces territoires occupés en 1967. Cette percée sur les questions de sécurité, les plus ardues, a été réalisée après quatre mois de négociations en Norvège, en France et en Suisse, ainsi qu'en Egypte où la dernière session marathon avait commencé lundi dernier. "Je peux dire maintenant que la Palestine a effectué son retour sur la carte du Proche-Orient", a affirmé le chef de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat, qui a signé l'accord avec le ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, Shimon Peres. Le texte a été signé sur une table installée à la dernière minute, il avait été paraphé peu auparavant, page par page et carte par carte par le directeur du département économique de l'OLP Abou Alaa et le directeur général du ministère israélien des Affaires étrangères, Uri Savir.

Le document, qui porte essentiellement sur le contrôle des points de passage entre les territoires autonomes et les pays arabes voisins (Egypte et Jordanie) est la première application concrète de la Déclaration de principes signée le 13 septembre dernier à Washington. La superficie de la zone de Jéricho reste encore à fixer et d'autres réunions doivent se dérouler pour régler les questions économiques et le problème du transfert des pouvoirs civils aux Palestiniens. Selon le Président égyptien, Hosni Moubarak, le document sur les questions de sécurité "élimine plusieurs obstacles sur le chemin de la paix et ouvre la voie à la signature d'un accord global sur l'autonomie à Gaza et à Jéricho".

ENLEVEMENT

# Règlement de compte tribal autour de trois otages français

En enlevant trois touristes français dimanche 23 janvier sur la route entre Saada et Sanaa, les ravisseurs ont voulu dénoncer la modification du tracé d'une route qui devait passer par leurs villages. Cette affaire qui implique le cheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar, président du parlement et grand chef tribal, est compliquée, semble-t-il, par la crise politique que traverse le Yémen.

L'enlèvement de trois touristes français il y a trois semaines au nord de Sanaa n'est pas comme les autres. Il implique cette fois-ci directement un des plus hauts personnages de l'Etat, le cheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar, président du parlement mais surtout chef de la confédération des tribus Hashed.

## Les otages sont bien traités

La tribu des ravisseurs, les Ahnoum, l'accuse d'avoir modifié le tracé d'une route qui devait passer par leurs villages, dans la région de Madan (voir carte ci-contre). Cette route devait permettre de désenclaver leur région et d'écouler leur production agricole. Ce changement de tracé a été fait en faveur d'une tribu rivale, ce qui a exacerbé le conflit entre les deux. La tribu des Ahnoum, qui appartient à la grande confédération tribale des Bakils, est encerclée par des tribus qui font partie de la puissante confédération des Hashed.

Henri Heslot et son épouse, un couple de septuagénaires professeurs d'agronomie à la retraite, et Brigitte Fontaine, une cardiologue de 42 ans originaire de Nancy, ont été enlevés dimanche 23 janvier alors qu'ils revenaient de Saada vers Sanaa. Comme d'habitude dans ce genre de prise d'otages, les trois Français sont bien traités et constituent seulement un moyen de pression dans une affaire locale. Ils sont séquestrés dans un village près d'Al-Madan, à six heures de route de Sanaa, dont quatre heures de pistes. Le village est très difficile d'accès. Les femmes du village sont ainsi obligées de faire deux kilomètres à pieds pour aller chercher de l'eau. Les

trois Français vivent dans une des maisons du chef des ravisseurs. Ils dorment tous les trois dans une pièce très exiguë sur des matelas. Dans la journée, ils peuvent aller dans le mafraj où ils regardent la télévision et écoutent la radio. Les ravisseurs ont des stocks de nourriture importants et les otages sont bien nourris. La salle de bain est très rudimentaire et les otages n'ont pas de vêtements de rechange. Tous les deux jours, on lave leurs vêtements. Les otages ne sont pas libres de leurs mouvements. Même dans la maison, ils sont accompagnés dans leurs déplacements et pour se promener dans le village, ils doivent demander une autorisation. Tous les soirs, Mmes Heslot et Fontaine sont invitées à rendre visite aux femmes de la maison qui vivent à l'étage en-dessous, pour prendre le thé.

Dans cette affaire, le cheikh Al-Ahmar est décidé à ne pas céder, son pouvoir étant remis en cause. Il a menacé de représailles les ravisseurs. Selon ses partisans, le ravitaillement du village où sont séquestrés les trois touristes a été arrêté il y a deux semaines. Des hommes de tribus encerclent le territoire des Ahnoums et ont décidé d'en interdire totalement les accès pour obtenir la reddition des ravisseurs. En fait, le ravitaillement du village serait toujours assuré.

Les négociations marquant le pas, les autorités yéménites ont fait savoir il y a deux semaines aux ravisseurs qu'elles étaient prêtes à prendre en compte leurs revendications. Une lettre signée par Abdel Wahab Al-Anisi et Moujahid Abou Chawareb, tous deux vice-Premier ministres et membres de la confédération des Bakils,



La région où sont séquestrés les otages français est indiquée d'une flèche.

leur a été envoyée. Depuis, les délégations se sont succédées à Al-Madan. Samedi 5 février, un accord semblait sur le point d'être conclu entre des représentants du gouvernement et les ravisseurs. Cet accord prévoyait le maintien du tracé initial de la route mais la construction d'une bretelle asphaltée pour relier le territoire des Ahnoum à cette route. Cependant, le même jour, le Président Saleh avertissait les ravisseurs qu'ils ne resteraient pas impunis. "L'Etat ne tolérera jamais de tels actes, dont les auteurs seront punis tôt ou tard". Malheureusement l'Etat yéménite paraît bien impuissant dans cette affaire, comme dans la plupart des

affaires d'enlèvements d'étrangers au Yémen. Depuis deux ans, ces enlèvements se sont multipliés dans le pays, le plus souvent dans la région de Maareb. Les revendications sont strictement locales: construction d'infrastructures, obtention de travail pour les membres des tribus ou sommes d'argent.

Dans cette affaire, même si un accord a été mis au point, les Ahnoums ont demandé des garanties sérieuses. Le gouvernement aurait-il un peu trop mis sur les divergences qui se développeraient au sein des Ahnoum quant à la poursuite de leur action. Beaucoup de Yéménites considèrent que le fait de détenir des femmes et des per-

sonnes âgées est contraire au "code d'honneur" des hommes de tribu. Les autorités yéménites ont donc souvent fait preuve d'optimisme et ont annoncé régulièrement la libération très prochaine des otages. En vain.

## Le recours à la force envisagé

Jeudi 10 février, les trois touristes français n'étaient toujours pas libérés. Le ministre de l'Intérieur, Yahya Al-Moutawakil, avait déclaré la veille que la crise politique que traverse le Yémen retardait la libération des otages. Selon lui, "certains (parmi les ravisseurs) veulent libérer les otages immédiatement, alors que d'autres, plus intransigeants, refusent, en raison de leur mécontentement sur la gestion de la crise par le gouvernement". L'option militaire contre les ravisseurs est encore possible selon le ministre, même s'il a déclaré espérer ne pas recourir à une action militaire pour libérer les otages.

J.B.

**Séquestration pendant 24h de trois responsables du PNUD:** Trois responsables du bureau du PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement) à Sanaa, une Slovaque, une Japonaise et une Yéménite, ont été enlevées vendredi 4 février et relâchées le lendemain. Elles ont été enlevées à Khawlan, dans la banlieue de Sanaa alors qu'elles se rendaient en voiture à Taëz. Leurs ravisseurs entendaient faire pression sur le gouvernement pour faire aboutir des revendications matérielles.

## En Bref

**Echec d'un détournement d'avion à Djibouti:** Un boeing 737 de la compagnie Ethiopian Airlines qui effectuait une liaison intérieure a été détourné mercredi après-midi sur Djibouti par deux pirates des airs. Après des tractations de près de quatre heures, les ravisseurs se sont finalement rendus aux autorités djiboutiennes et ont libéré les 105 passagers et huit membres d'équipage. Les deux pirates de l'air, Ethiopiens d'origine Amharas, ont obtenu l'assurance de bénéficier de l'asile politique.

**Cérémonie de promotion pour 1200 policiers palestiniens:** Une cérémonie de promotion de près de 1200 policiers palestiniens s'est déroulée mercredi dans la caserne de l'Armée de libération de la Palestine à Zarka, près d'Amman en Jordanie. L'OLP a prévu de reconverter des contingents de l'ALP déployés dans plusieurs pays arabes pour former le noyau de la police palestinienne après le retrait israélien de la bande de Gaza et de la région de Jéricho.

## A nos lecteurs

Nous vous prions de nous excuser pour l'incident technique survenu dans les pages françaises du Yémen Times la semaine dernière. L'article de la page 13 n'était pas celui qui était prévu.



# Do You Have a Heart to Help?

By: Fatma Rawah,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.

## The Donation:

DEUTAG, the oldest drilling company in the world having started in 1888, is also among the first oil companies in Yemen. They first set up shop in 1953.

But that is not our story. It has become a tradition at DEUTAG to be concerned with the condition of the host people, and try to help the less fortunate ones in society. "We have been doing this all over the world wherever we work. So, we figured we want to do it here too," explains Wolfgang Freiherr, Administrative and Financial Manager. On the occasion of new year, the company organized a party at the Sheraton, and all the proceeds were announced to go the Missionaries of Charity, officially known as Home of



the Destitutes and Invalid. This is managed by the nuns from the Mother Theresa organization.

During this new year's party, some YR 365,000 was collected. Deutag decided to chip in to round off the amount to YR 400,000. The money was passed on to Sister Deanne on Thursday, February 10th. Many persons have helped in this effort. Notable among these are Mrs. Ingelise From and Mrs. Barbara D'mitrienko, both committee members of the International Women Association.

## The Mother Theresa Sisters in Yemen:

The Mother Theresa nuns work in over 400 homes in 92 countries. Here in Yemen, the nuns have first started in 1973, with a home in Hodeidah. Today,

the sisters manage four homes in Yemen - in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, and Hodeidah.

The government of Yemen provide the money to pay for the rent of the homes, the utilities and other expenses. Some of the expenses are met by contribution from the head office of the Mother Theresa establishment. Additional resources are also available through donations from philanthropists - individuals and companies. Here in Yemen, the international community has been very helpful. The German Embassy had financed the repair of the roof of the Sanaa home last year. Unfortunately, the work, done through the Local Council of Sanaa, was not well done, and the roof is already leaking. International oil companies, such as Hunt, have been very supportive. Foreign individuals are also very helpful. The Philippines community in Sanaa has regularly provided volunteers.



Notable among these is Dr. Ignacio V. Alvizo working in the Industrial Bank of Yemen Small Enterprise Development Unit, as a Senior Management Adviser Project Team Leader. He goes to the home regularly to fix the wheel-chairs, and any other gadgets and tools. Melie Lorilla and Lovella Lleses are two loving Filipinas who devote a lot of time to the disabled children. Every Friday morning, they spend several hours to help the sisters in the chores, and to play with the children. They also wash and food them. Melie works in the Sabecn Hospital, while Lovella works in Sada Medical Records Department at the AlSalam Hospital but she visits the place whenever she is in Sana'a. "We come here to help and support in whatever way we can," said Lovella. Melie has been coming to the home every Friday morning for the last two years. "I look forward to Fridays to come and give part of my time, part of me, to

the physical and mentally disabled people in the home," she says.

## The Home for Destitutes and Invalids in Sanaa

Sister Deanne, from India, along with five other sisters from India, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, represent the core force in the home. They organize and manage the home. "We have no other interest in life. I have been serving Jesus, my Lord, for the last 24 years," explained Sister Deanne. The home takes care of 128

persons - ages varying from little infants to very old persons, of both sexes. Admission to the home is ordinarily through the Ministry of Social Affairs. "Many of the children need special care," said Sister M. Angelica from the Philippines, who has been serving in the Sanaa home for over six years. Many of the children are picked up from street alleys or simply from in front of the gate of the home. Many of the families and parents don't even come back to visit their children.

There are also older residents of the home. These are old persons who have nobody to care for them. The country does not have an old-age home, and so the Home for Destitutes and Invalids fills-in the gap. Finally, there are the crippled and physically and mentally disabled individuals. They are the most difficult to handle among the residents.

The daily chores of the home starts with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Then, there is the cleaning work - of the residents as well as of lodgings. Then they start making the beds and attending to the chores. Then, they all go out for playing. Those who can't, remain in-doors and engage in music listening and some dancing. Then, more washing and lunch-time. Some residents have medication. Afternoons are a free program. In the evening, there is washing again, and it is supper time. By

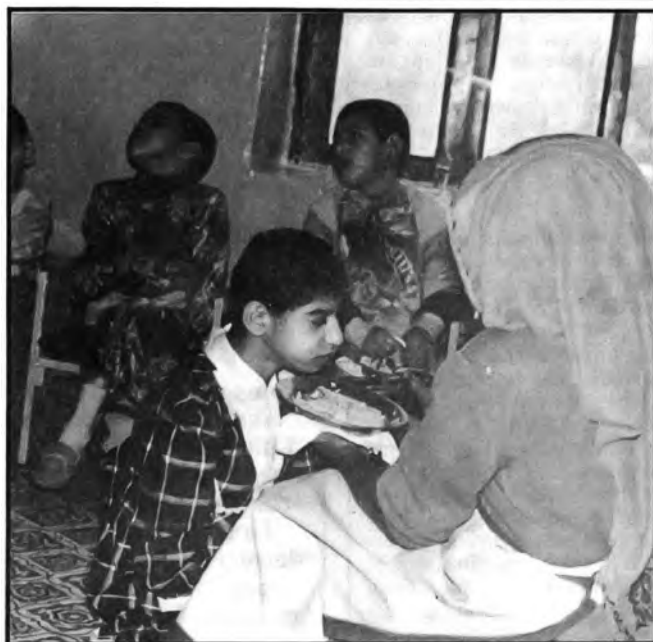
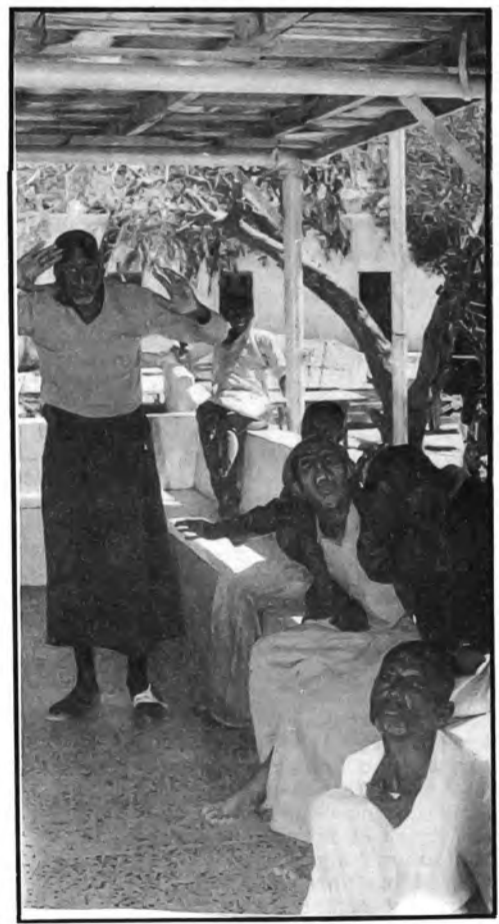
5:00 p.m., the home is quiet, as all get prepared to go to bed. The nurses, and their 22 local aides wash the residents at least once a day. The place is indeed clean.

## Can You Help?

The home needs all the help it can get. The government could help by establishing a closer coordination with the home. To start with, the officials could visit the place and show interest. So far, no official, not even one, not even from the Ministry of Social Affairs, has visited the home. This says a lot about our officials.

Then the private sector could help. The Hayel Saeed Anam group is already financing the construction of a large new home in Taiz. But how about the businessmen of Sanaa making a contribution? For example, why hasn't Al-Haj Hussain Al-Watary, a multi-millionaire and the Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, ever done something for the poor? There are local businessmen who could be mobilized in this effort.

Then there is the international community. The oil companies, and the various investors and traders who need to be mobilized. Any assistance given to the Mother Theresa group is probably the best-placed in terms of cost-effectiveness and direct assistance to the needy members of society.





Ahmed Kaid Berakat:

# “Yemenia is a commercial company which should operate along those lines.”

**Yemen Airways, YEMENIA, is presently undergoing many dramatic changes. Its administrative system is being re-structured, its fleet is being augmented, its passenger service is being improved, its catering facilities are being enhanced, and in general, it is gearing up for a new launch.**

**To obtain a clearer picture of the airline and the change it is witnessing, Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times went to speak to Mr. Ahmed Kaid Berakat, the Chairman.**

**Excerpts of the interview follow:**

**Q: You have just completed your first year, and now you have started your second year as chairman of YEMENIA. Taking stock of this, what do you think you have achieved in the first year?**

**A:** This is an embarrassing question. It is very hard to assess oneself.

However, let me give a summary of what Yemenia in general has done over the last year. Let me in general, say that the past period has been a year of putting Yemenia back in the right track. It was a time for returning things to normal based on my understanding that this is a commercial company which must be economically viable. On this basis, I will mention a few things we have done.

When I took over, Yemenia was fair play to anybody who wanted to get free tickets. Sometimes half of the passengers were on free or courtesy tickets. In addition, ordinary and even discounted tickets were being upgraded to first class whimsically. So I put my foot down, and told everybody that is a commercial airline and it is supposed to make profits. As a result, we now refuse orders for anybody to give free tickets, except for the airline's general interests.

Second, all day visitors would come here (head office) to chat, use the phone, order coffee/tea, and spend the time. Many would barge into the chairman's office and the offices of the other top management of the company. Now, this is no more. Whoever wants to visit has to have an appointment, and specify the purpose of the visit.

Our maintenance department was in bad shape. We were plagued with technical problems leading to long hours of delays. We changed the technical department's people, and we completed a total over-haul of all the four airlines. That was done in Jordan, and they are now considered as good as new. That is why our airplanes now almost keep up the schedule of departures and arrivals.

Our representatives abroad have all been changed. We have now appointed station and region managers who will contribute to the marketing efforts of the airline, as well as improve passenger service.

Here at head office, we have reshuffled our internal audit and finance departments so that we can follow closely what is going on, and how we are doing. We have sent personnel in both departments for training, and we are completing contracts to hire seven experts in the field from Indian and Pakistan to help out in these efforts.

Our planning department is being strengthened. When we first asked for statistics, the planning department could not give us basic data like number of passengers per sector or route. Now we have data going back to 1985 on which to base our decisions.

Then there are the efforts to expand the fleet by bring in new aircrafts. This is something that will be finalized during this year, as we are now putting the last touches on the project.

**Q: There is information that you have done some work to operationalize the Catering Facility?**

**A:** Yes. The Catering facility was built in a very modern way. Yemenia invested over \$3 million on the project which is located near the airport. The facility and equipment are able to handle all the food and beverages needs of our passengers and crews as well as those of other airlines flying into Sanaa. Lufthansa, as a consultant to us, has done the feasibility study regarding how to operationalize this facility, and KLM has completed the work with the needed survey to start it.

We have asked for offers to manage the facility, and we required the offers to come in three packages or forms: as a management contract, as a profit-sharing arrangement, and as direct personnel employment contracts. We have received offers from the Taj Group of India, P & O of Australia, and KLM. Within two weeks decision will be taken in this regard.

**Q: How has the coming of new airlines, like KLM, BA, Gulf Air, etc. affected your business?**

**A:** Of course, we are a free market society and we do not expect anybody to exercise any form of monopoly. Our job is to compete with other airlines by offering quality service. This is rather difficult because these are giant airlines with better facilities. It is even more difficult when the Civil Aviation Authority starts giving these airlines special privileges. Let me mention two cases in point:

1. The Civil Aviation



Authority has granted British Airways the right to stop in both Aden and Sanaa in one flight. This is not fair. We do not mind BA to fly to Sanaa, and independently fly to Aden, but it cannot pick up/drop passengers in Sanaa and Aden in one flight. Both Yemenia and Alyemda fly between Sanaa or Aden into London. BA can do the same, but not combine them. We worry that Air France, Lufthansa, KLM, Gulf Air, etc., will ask for the same!

2. The Civil Aviation Authority has just granted Egypt Air to fly from here into Asmara and then to Egypt. This has killed our Asmara route. This is not fair competition. The Egyptian authorities would not allow us to enjoy any special rights in our business with them. We are already at a disadvantage by competing against larger airlines. But to go ahead and given them additional privileges is really mind-boggling.

Therefore, we are pressuring the Civil Aviation authority to rescind its special grants and get back to normal dealing patterns. I am hopeful in this regard because the Ministry of Transportation has come on our side. The Ministry has asked for a fair competition in the market, and has demanded that no foreign airlines enjoys privileges not made available to the national carriers.

**Q: Some of your sectors and routes are losing money steadily. Why do you continue to run them?**

**A:** Yes, some of our sectors and routes - specially in Europe - are losing, but we keep them because of many reasons. First there is the psychological reason. If you terminate certain routes, you lose a lot of prestige. Second, we hope that the performance on these routes will improve. We have already invested heavily in developing these routes, and

we expect they will start paying off. Third, we are the flag carriers of the nation, along with Alyemda. Certain other considerations also come into play.

Even then, however, the winter schedule, and even the summer schedule, will show certain de-emphasizing and re-emphasizing of some of the sectors.

**Q: There is an uneasy relationship between Yemenia and Alyemda. Both are national airlines which should coordinate your efforts to provide a better service to passengers in Yemen, especially in the face of stiff foreign competition. To what do you attribute this uneasy relationship?**

**A:** In the aftermath of the unification of the country, there was a good and clean cooperation between the two national airlines. There were even efforts to merge the two airlines to give them strength and viability in competing with foreign airlines. But as the days passed, and relations between the two ruling parties soured, our relations were affected. In other words, politics spilled over into our business. Whether we like it or not, as two professional national airline companies, we have to combine our efforts and start rebuilding channels of communications and trust. This will require freedom of decision on our parts in order to act only on the basis of the professional considerations of the business.

**Q: You are a joint venture between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Again there is an uneasy relationship with Saudi Arabia. What are your comments on this matter?**

**A:** Let me first mention that Saudia has a 49% stake in Yemenia, and our partnership over the last fifteen years has been fruitful and mutually beneficial.

Having said that, let me describe the attitude and approach of the Yemeni side as a major blunder in our relations. We have made it impossible for the Saudi partner to continue with us, and we are unable to disengage.

It is ironic that at a time when this country was calling for new investments and joint ventures, we in this company were trying to break an old and working partnership. That was very unfortunate, because we really had a good experience in our association of Saudia. As an official of the Yemeni government, I am but obliged to apply the policies of my government, but I am trying to see and explain the Saudi point so that we can handle the issues properly.

Today, the Saudi side insists on dis-engagement. It wants to complete the evaluation of the company, and to pay them their share in it. That means dissolving the company.

At the moment, I have received green light from the Yemeni authorities to see if I can work out an arrangement that will preserve the partnership and the company. But I think this has come a bit too late, and the matter has now to be resolved at a much higher level, given the complications, and the external considerations involved.

**Q: Do you think Saudia will resume its flights into Sanaa?**

**A:** Of course, I cannot speak for them, but I hope they will, and I have a feeling they will soon return to the Yemeni market.

**Q: There are many oil companies operating in remote regions of the country. They need small planes to make field visits. Has your airline been able to respond to this market need?**

**A:** It is unfortunate that we have responded so far. I would like myself to know why it is we have not capitalized on this market need. I see small companies reaping profits. In any case, this issue is under consideration and we hope to come up with a good answer.

**Q: We see you have hired a new batch of hostesses. Is there any progress on making Yemeni hostesses serve?**

**A:** Yes, we have just hired a new batch of hostesses from Egypt, Syria and Morocco. Unfortunately, we don't have a special institute to train hostesses in Yemen. Most countries, including Jordan, Tunisia and the three I have mentioned earlier have specialized training programs. Yemenia, in collaboration with Alyemda and others, hope to be able to start such an institute in the future.

**Q: Yemenia was badly hurt by the accumulation of arrears with the government. Have you been paid your dues?**

**A:** Yes, the Yemeni government owes us a lot of money. We have reached an arrangement for re-scheduling the payments so that gradually the amounts are paid. A few installments have already been paid.

It is a headache that has been allowed to grow over time, but we are trying to tackle it in the best way.

**Q: How have the recent kidnapping and hijacking events affected you?**

**A:** Of course we have been negatively affected. Let mention that the Yemenia station manager in Germany has sent to me a copy of a circular by the German government asking their citizens not to travel to Yemen. We have been receiving cancellations of many groups of tourists from Europe. You know France, Germany, Italy and others send large numbers of tourists to Yemen.

Aside from the business implications, let me say that these kidnappings and hijackings are illegal and immoral. I do not understand how we have suddenly become involved in these things. They are truly alien to our culture and our way of doing things.

In any case, I would like to stress that we have badly hit by these developments.

**Q: How do you interact with people who work in head office. We heard you are too strict?**

**A:** That is not true. They are just comparing my attitude to the carelessness and lawlessness that had prevailed. I believe in discipline. If people don't meet up to their responsibilities, they better vacate their post. In that sense, I am strict with people who do not fulfill their duties. I am not interested in excuses.

At the same time, let me stress that I have never missed an opportunity to honor and remunerate hard working people. Whenever, I am alerted of the efforts any person, I make it a point to reward him/her.

I expect our well-paid employees to live up to their responsibilities and duties. That is all.

**Q: Any final comment?**

**A:** I would like to stress one more time that this is a company which is interested in making profits. The only way we can do that is by getting back in shape and offering our customers the service they deserve, and for which they have paid. All my efforts fall within this framework, nothing more, nothing less. I hope people understand this and help us in our endeavors.



## THE MOST PROMINENT FRENCH PRIZE FOR AN ARAB WRITER

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

In a big tribute to Arab literature that the Goncourt Literary Prize - sometimes identified as the French Nobel - was awarded for 1993 to the Lebanese novelist Amin Maalouf. The novel which tipped the balance in favor of Maalouf was "The Rock of Tanios" or "Le Rocher de Tanios" as its title appears on the cover of the French book, published by Grasset.

Amin Maalouf is also a reputed journalist and historian writing in French as well as Arabic. Three of his Arabic maserpieces are "The Crusades as Seen by Arabs" (1983), "Leon the African" (1986), and "Samarqand" (1988).

Awarding the Goncourt to an Arab writer stirred a lot of controversy among Arab critics - always obsessed with the theory of conspiracy.

Some openly claim that the award was for the French language and literature rather than to Maalouf and his Arab background, as he is a French national now residing in Paris, writing in French and publishing in France. Thus the prize is mainly given to honor the Francophonie culture and to radiating the French language that is still used as a tool of expression in various cultures. These critics point that a few years back the same prize was awarded to AL-Tahir bin Jellon from Morocco.

The second group of critics claim that Goncourt is just as politicized as the Nobel, and that France only wanted to honor Lebanese Christians and to insure its association with Lebanon and its highly Francized culture.

The third group thinks that the prize was honestly aimed to honor a brilliant writer with outstanding human values, and that Maalouf was quite worthy of it.

Personally, I side with the last group, knowing full well that Maalouf does express himself in Arabic just as well.

In fact, Maalouf's works are a splendid mixture. His style is based on utilizing history and his own imagination to form an epic-like atmosphere where his characters live and interact with actual historical events. Even while bonded to the historic conditions which prevail in our times, and which Maalouf understands quite well, his characters nevertheless do fly high to stand for universal and everlasting values.

Medieval Arab/Islamic history is Maalouf's favorite theme, which he uses to create an east-west interrelation. He describes his own novel about the crusades as the real account of the conflict that built the psyche of contemporary Arab and western worlds, and still defines their mutual relations until today. That novel covers a period of around two hundred years starting from the fall of Jerusalem to the crusaders (around 1098-99 AD) until their departure in 1292.

"Leon the African" is also a rewarding account of a man who is really a mixture of Arab, Roman and Gothic cultures. Born in the glorious Granada, he tours Fez, Egypt and Europe, watching the growth of Ottoman power,



falls in love and then hatred, and eventually turns to Christianity to end in the service of the Pope. This epic covers a period from 1488 to 1526 AD. In "Samarqand", we find two histories combined; the orient (mainly Turkish and Persian) at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries through an American researcher who comes to the area trying to detect the original manuscript of "Ruba'iyat Al-Khayyam."

Becoming obsessed with the subject, the novel takes him (and us) to live in that rich period of Omer Al-Khayyam himself (1048-113 AD) where the lives of three most distinguished, highly influential yet most controversial personalities of that time are revealed. In addition to Al-Khayyam himself, the poet who loves women, wine, and poetry as well as philosophy, astrology and wisdom, comes through as a man who equally hates politics and its intrigues. Then there is the fearful "Hassan Al-Sabah" the reputed leader of "Al-Hashashin" (or the assassins) of the Ismaeli sect. And finally there is the famous Seljuqi wazir "Nidham Al-Mulk".

The tale of those three friends of totally different characters form the picture of one of the most interesting periods of Islamic history. Eventually, the American manages to find the required manuscript just to lose it in the famous catastrophe of the "Titanic" in 1912.

The novel which granted Amin Maalouf the Goncourt is a history of a small Lebanese village called "Kefr Obceida" near the great rock of Tanios, named after Tanios the son of this village. Tanios' mother "Lamyia" was the most beautiful woman in the village ruled by Al-Sheikh who employed her as a maid. Nobody was really sure who was Tanios' real father, was it Gerios the farmer, was the person whose name appears on the papers, or was it the sheikh who wouldn't miss any beautiful girl in the village, let alone Lamyia.

Lamyia here is a symbol of the great mountain of Lebanon that all are fighting to take control of. The conflicts of that little village are copies of the larger conflicts of that period (the twenties and thirties of the 19th century), where the sheikh chooses the side of the British against the French, thus raising the level of conflict and the stakes.

In "The rock of Tanios", Maalouf yearns for his homeland, for coexistence among religions, for the values of love and giving, and for the peaceful glory of his country that kept bleeding for so long.

It is good to feel that we, as Arabs, still have a literature that is read all over the world and capable of getting prizes no matter in which language it was written. We must all be proud of Amin Maalouf's accomplishment, and wait for more accomplishments.

This occasion takes us back to 1988, when Najib Mahfoudh of Egypt was awarded the Nobel prize. Back then, many who are not accustomed to success raised their voices high to cry about the "Zionist driven prize as a reward for Mahfoudh's peace supporting stands." They reminded the population of Arab readers of his officially confiscated novel of "Awlad Haratnn" (Children of our Quarter). They described the book as a heretic account trying to make fun of holy religious stories, to the extent of describing him as the Arab Selman Rushdie.

The occasion also reminds us of AL-Tahir bin Jellon, who received the Goncourt a few years back. Many accused him of being a Francophonized alien that has no ability to express in his mother tongue. They forgot that it is a merit rather than a demerit for any writer to have the ability to express so well in another tongue.

Those are all but signs of the inferiority complex that our psyche deeply struggles with, either in dealing with foreign cultures or with our own. Why is Arab success seen as a conspiracy that has certain hideous aims is something I have never understood. I do know the psychological status of "Think inferior, be inferior." Our literary and cultural production remained in the shadows of global neglect for ages, while other nations jumped vigorously into the front lines of human culture.

Amin Maalouf's prize is a reminder to all of us that we can write for the whole world, and that we can write our vision in the world's living languages. That means we should drop the deeply rooted apathy and self-pity which form our thoughts. People like Maalouf and Mahfoudh managed to cross that barrier, and so have hundreds of unknown soldiers here and there, working in various

fields of knowledge all around the world. What remains is to make this positive aspect in our lives a general pattern in our society as a whole.

But could that be achieved with all the alienation caused by severe dictatorships that kept building our people's minds and leading them in what can be called "the herd mentality," that treats our people as a flock of sheep which need to be protected from the wolves. But who are really the wolves? Aren't they the politicians who claim to be protecting us.

Literature has no other option than to join the parade and glorify the historic superman or to commit suicide in an unequal battle. For that reason writers such as Mahfoudh, Maalouf and bin Jellon as far as the Arabs are concerned, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Niroda and George Amado as third world samples, have managed to tear the veil of isolation to break into the wide fields of globalism; they have managed to beat the dictator inside their own minds, as well as the herd attitude, so their talent exploded and their leading positions in human culture.

In all such occasions, where an Arab or a third world writer is awarded a world class prize, I wonder how much talent is there buried under heaps of ignorance, backwardness and cultural illiteracy, and remain under the shadows of monocultural thought and the rule of police and intelligence regimes. Of the long association between the cultural efforts and journalistic work,

it is crucial we produce our environment can produce many more poets and writers than soldiers and warriors. The amount of literary material in an ideal under-pressure societies such as ours, which is not published due to the strict censorship of the state and the self-censorship built through the ages of fear and oppression. I remember one poetry contest for youth where thousands of participants produced a poetry of very promising technical and literary standards. To guess how many of them became known poets, it is not difficult to conclude that they were no more than two or three, and not the best of them.

Now, as the century is approaching its end, Arab and Third World citizens are getting more and more eager to occupy their worthy positions in the map of civilization. Mahfoudh's, Bin Jellon and Maalouf's prizes are hopefully the beginning for more major achievements in fields other than literature such as science and technology, provided that our intellectuals, scientists and other future fighters initiate their battle against symbols of backwardness first, overcome the self-censorship based on fear and terror (The inner policeman as called by some fox), defeat the dictators that have grown like palm trees deep in our societies' consciousness and accept the fact that the world is enough for all races, religions, cultures and thoughts to live and coexist, then we might have more Nobels and Goncourts.

It is worth mentioning that all Arab prizes laureates were one way or another fought and attacked by many active parties of relative cultural societies. Mahfoudh was even accused of being an Israeli spy by some fanatics, but the man stood firmly for his history and literature and we saw him last month leading the peaceful demonstration of writers, artists and intellectuals in the streets of Cairo towards Parliament in protest of the pressure on cultural production influenced by fundamentalist fanatics.

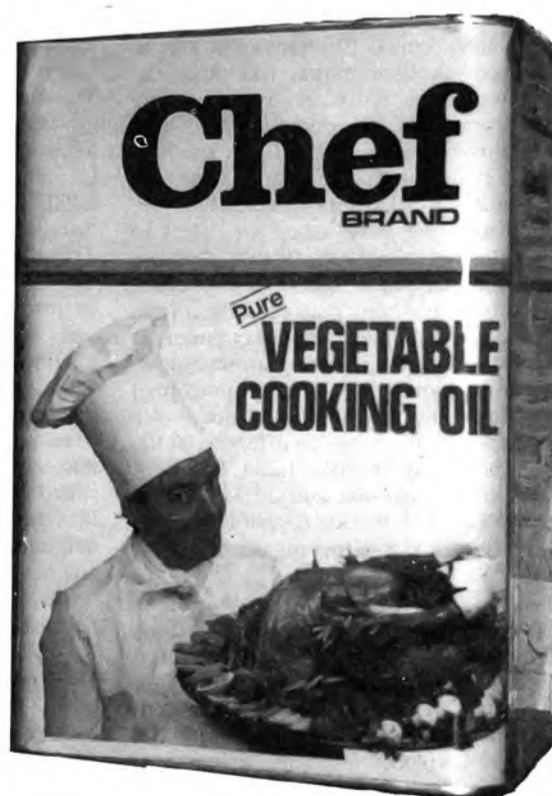
Maalouf was accused of being a part of French conspiracy to revive the French role in Lebanon through Lebanese Christians, judging by some characters of his novels that had publically unacceptable religious tendencies, as they claim.

But, whether they like it or not, the free thought of progress and enlightenment has scored another point against the black forces of back-street assassinations and black lists. Men like Amin Maalouf who took the liberty to use all literary and historic tools available to create a fine literature that gained worldly honor, help defeat the odds in both sides of the fence - the Arab side and the Western side.

We take pride in the accomplishments of this group of cultural creators. Maalouf after bin Jellon, became another exception in the modern dismal history of the Arab World.

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# HADHRAMAUT: A Rich History and a Promising Future

By: Ali Bin Taleb,  
Yemen Times.

## Introduction:

Across a shoreline which stretches for about 300 kilometers, the waves of the Arabian Sea touch the coasts of Hadhramaut. And from the soft sandy beaches, across the sturdy mountains and all the way into the desert of Rub-al-Khali, some 700 kilometers extends the governorate of Hadhramaut. Wadi Hadhramaut in the

seven districts. The wadi has 125 villages. It borders Almahara, Shabwa and Marib, whereas, within Yemen, and borders the Sultanate of Oman in the east, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the north.

The Wadi extends in a spiral shape in an east-west direction over 300 kilometers with a width of 20-15 kilometers. The average elevation is about 650 meters ranging from sea-level to over 1000 meters. Its climate ranges

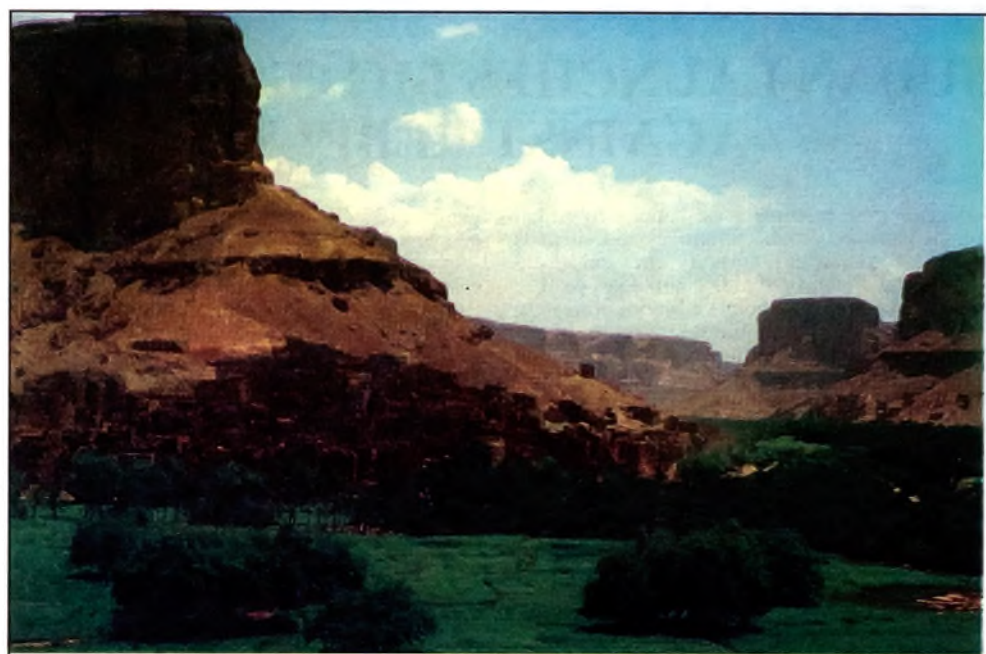
of Erum and Rukba provides evidence of settlements that go back in history to the stone age. In fact, some results go so far as to claim that the beginnings of man were in the Wadi of Hadhramaut, some million years ago. The exhibits at Seiyoon Museum reveal the human settlements, of the ancient civilizations. The abundance of water makes it plausible that life should flourish in this part of the world.

At a distance of 120 kilometers west of Seiyoon city, there lies the grave of Prophet Hood at the foot of the mountain. In the month of Shaaban, people visit the grave of the Prophet Hood and the town gains temporary life, while for the rest of the year the place remains lifeless. There is also a present a small water spring in the area which is believed to be the remnant of Al-Hafeef river which used to flow there centuries ago.

A quick glance at the history of the region will show that the Kingdom of Hadhramaut with its ancient capital city, Shabwah, was mentioned in the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament under the name of Hadhrameet. There are also several references in the Sabaeen, Himyarite, Kinda and other chronicles of Hadhramaut. Among the famous rulers of Hadhramaut is Wael Bin Hajr Al-Hadhrami who ruled at the time of the Prophet Muhammad. It is noteworthy that Hadhramaut is repeatedly mentioned in the Holy Quran under the name Al-Ahkaf.

## Immigration:

Any historian acquainted with the history of Wadi Hadhramaut will surely conclude that the region constantly exports waves of tribes which seek to immigrate in other parts of the world. The region saw lots of disturbances, uprisings, wars,



Wadi Dow'an Village in the Great Hadhramaut Valley

etc. were reflected in the general deterioration of social, cultural, economic life. Thus, the deteriorating situation of the region pushed the people out.

In the history of Hadhramaut, there are records of massive waves of migrations. In the pre-Islamic periods, these were numerous. With the coming of Islam, they joined the tribes that went outwards to universalize Islam. Even as recently as less than a thousand years ago, waves of Hadhramis immigrated to East Africa, the Sudan, India, and southeast Asia. Historical evidence shows that Yemen was the source of much manpower that settled in East Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia and India. The results of these waves of immigration can still be seen in the population structures of these countries. Those populations of Somalia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, and others, exhibit a high dose of Hadhrami blood mix. Ibn Batuta, the famous Arab explorer and traveller, mentioned a lot about the people of Hadhramaut throughout his visits to those countries around the year 1345 A. D.

All the immigrant waves were peaceful and they preached Islam and took with them the Arab culture and language. As a result, the peoples of these nations are Muslims today, and speak languages that have a high dose of Arabic vocabulary.

Even within the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, the Hadhramis migrated in the 19th century and settled there. We can truly say that immigration is an integral feature of Hadhramaut and its people.

## Unity of Hadhramaut

Throughout the reign of the Caliphs to the rise of the central Islamic state, up to the Umayyad and Abasside dynasties, the region of Hadhramaut was always one social, cultural and political entity.

The same was also true during the Rasulids and the Tahiris. Until the fifth century A.D., Hadhramaut was one of the emirates or wilayats of Yemen, which itself was part of the bigger Islamic caliphate - whether headquartered in Mecca, Damascus or Baghdad. Hadhramaut was subjected to several invasions in subsequent centuries from the rulers of Sanaa and then from the Wahabis of Nejd in 1807. There were several invasions from Portuguese warships at the shores of Hadhramaut for most of the sixteenth century. When a large part of the world came under British colonial rule and occupation, Hadhramaut began to undergo a similar fate. The British were already beginning to be entrenched in Aden starting from 1839.

In the later half of the 19th century, Hadhramaut was divided into two different local rule. The Kathiri State

was established in 1865 which was then known as the Interior of Hadhramaut and Seiyoon as its capital. At the same time, the Qu'aiti Sultanate was established in 1866, and it was known then as Coastal Hadhramaut, and Mukalla became its capital.

A series of internal strife were brought down lasted for decades until British hegemony brought them under its control. In 1945, the British enforced a new map which gave Hadhramaut its new boundaries. Today, Hadhramaut is one of the most important governorates of the Republic of Yemen.

## Abundant Resources:

In addition to a rich history, Hadhramaut today holds out the greatest potential for rapid economic development. The large oil discoveries by CanadianOxy at Masila is in Hadhramaut. Clyde and Total hold out a similar possibility. The high concentrate gold deposits are in Wadi Madan, again in Hadhramaut.

The large underground water reservoirs allow for extensive agricultural development. Tourism has a high potential, and fishing projects have already made a good start. Above all, the 600,000 Hadhramis, famous for their keen business mind, are among the greatest assets of Yemen.

With all these potentials, no wonder Hadhramaut is destined to play a major role in Yemen's future.



The Qathiri Sultan's Palace in Seiyoon

shape of a gigantic valley, bisects this great governorate and is home to the people of Hadhramaut Ad-Dakhil - Interior Hadhramaut, as contrasted to coastal Hadhramaut.

Human civilization in Wadi Hadhramaut dates back to thousands of years. During this long period of human settlement the valley witnessed the vicissitudes of life from starvation and aridity to successful agriculture and bountiful harvests. Peace, wars, and various forms of ups and downs have been part of the history of the place. That is why there are many relics/ruins in Wadi Hadhramaut bearing witness to great times and bad times. The relics show the patterns of cultural, social, and economic life. Wadi Hadhramaut still attracts delegations, researchers, tourists from all over the world.

from semi-equatorial temperatures which can rise to above 40 degrees centigrade in the summer, to a temperate climate which falls to 15 degrees centigrade.

## A Historic Glimpse:

Some of the geo-scientific theories state that the Seiyoon district's history dates back to ancient times. There are testimonials of ancient civilizations, especially in the fertile valleys. There is also a lot of evidence to support the fact that the area is rich in oil deposits which are the result of the decomposition of past living organisms. This has now been proven by the recent oil finds of the Masila oil fields. Today's dry valley is the riverbed of a great river that once flowed thousands of years ago. Hydraulic studies in the seventies affirmed the existence



The historic city of Shibam: The World's First Sky-Scrapers

of huge underground water reservoirs which can be an important element in agricultural development in the wadi. At about the same time, archaeological excavations and scientific surveys carried out by a Yemeni-Soviet mission at the region

tribal strifes, etc. which were responsible for the collective immigrations of large numbers of people. There were also periods of stabilization in the region which also led to similar results. The outcome of the local wars, mutinies, starvation,

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# Starting from this issue, the Yemen Times will publish on this page Articles covering the Horn of Africa

## SUDAN LAUNCHES BIG OFFENSIVE AGAINST REBELS

Sudanese government forces backed by tribal militias launched ground offensives and air raids on several rebel-held areas in the south, aid workers and diplomats said in Nairobi last week. Government warplanes bombed Maridi in western Equatorial province and the headquarters of the guerrilla Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Arapi, near the border with Uganda, also last week, it was reported. Ground fighting erupted in three rebel-held villages at the same time, it was learned.

The attacks were launched following an attack by irredentist gunmen on a mosque in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, killing 19 people and wounding 15.

Arapi is in the area where three huge camps house about 100,000 southerners - displaced by the decade long civil war - have taken refuge close to the border with Uganda.

The camps had been targeted but no casualties were reported in the air raid. UN officials said the air raid and rising tension since four people were killed in an attack on the refugee camps by

gunmen on Wednesday unleashed a flood of people towards the Ugandan border.

"Apparently people are on the move out of the camps - that's about 40,000 people," said Sally Burnheim of the UN operation lifeline Sudan (OLS) in Nairobi. People were also fleeing the nearby camp of Aswa, reports said. Government armed militias of the Mandari tribe carried out reprisal attacks on the western Equatorial town of Mundri from the north, and fighting with SPLA guerrillas was under way, UN aid workers said.

APLA commanders in Mundri were reported to have said they could hold the town but aid organizations working in the area were sending in a plane to evacuate their staff. The fate of 37,000 refugees in a camp called Kotobi near Mundri was unknown. Tribal warfare has led to mass slaughter on both sides over the last decades.

In Kajo Keji, an important rebel town close to the border and a center for the Christian church in southern Sudan, shots and loud explosions were heard to the east that day, aid workers said.

Fighting was also reported by rebels to have started in Aweil, a town in Bahr el Ghazal province on the railway line which the Khartoum army uses to supply its garrison at Wau. A government military train, however, got through to Wau and sources said 10,000 reinforcements arrived in the town ready for attack further south.

The dry season offensive, expected by diplomats for weeks, will have a serious impact on efforts by aid groups to deliver relief to around two million hungry people in the south.

The Khartoum government has been gaining the upper hand in its fight against secessionist forces, made up primarily from southern Sudan. The West has been pressuring the government of the Sudan, but given that the West has played most of its cards, it has very little ability to influence Khartoum, except through direct intervention.

## Worries that Aided May Renew Offensive Against UN Forces

With American forces out of Somalia soon, the UN Security Council scaled down the size of its troops and their mandate to take offensive action.

In a resolution adopted unanimously late on Feb. 4, the council whittled down the number of troops to a maximum of 22,000, although Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has said he expects he expects no more than 16,000 soldiers.

The resolution also abandons any attempt to forcibly disarm Somali factions responsible for hampering the distribution of famine relief supplies.

The UN operation had over 30,000 soldiers at its peak. Currently there are about 25,700 troops, among them about 4,000 Americans. Another 7,500 US personnel are offshore.

During the debate, several members spoke of an increase of banditry, a rise in malnutrition levels and a fear of new outbreaks of clan violence within the coming months.

With the Americans leaving by March 31, several NATO nations will also pull out. Remaining there will be Asian and African troops, many of them experienced in guerrilla warfare, but often lacking sophisticated equipment and support staff.

Czechoslovakia's ambassador, Karel Kovanda, said it was "so much wishful thinking," by the Council to believe that Somali factions would disarm voluntarily. Hewas council president last month when the resolution was being prepared.

but he said the United Nations had no choice but to stay "holding pattern" until a political solution was found "since anything else would be a recipe for a disaster."

US ambassador Madeleine Albright, nothing that the council hoped the operation could be completed by March 1995, said that Somalis must bear the responsibility for nation reconciliation and reconstruction themselves.

"Let me stress that the patience of the international community is not an exhaustible resource," she said.

The forcible disarmament of factions brought the United States and the United Nations into an open feud. US troops last summer masterminded operations in Mogadishu in a search for warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, whose supporters in June were accused of killed 25 Pakistani peace keepers.

When 18 US soldiers were killed on October 3, the United States announced it was pulling out and that its forces would no longer hunt for Aided or try to disarm the factions.

Subsequently, US officials began to mediate with Aided without the United Nations. The chief UN envoy, Jonathan Howe, a retired US rear admiral, will be leaving soon.

the operation in Somalia swung into high gear in December, 1992 when the United States sent troops to end starvation that had killed 350,000 people in clan warfare.

### CANADIAN EMBASSY

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### THE LAST HURRAH!

The EPLF, Eritrea's ruling party and the armed struggle movement which gained the country independence from Ethiopia, is holding its last congress as an armed front in the town of Naqfah, towards the Sudanese border. The congress which started on the 10th, is being held at Naqfah, because it was the town that never fell back to the Ethiopian forces," explained Mr. Mahmood Ali Jabrah, the Eritrean ambassador in Yemen. The ambassador who left for Eritrea to participate in the congress, said that the town is more like a cemetery. "It has been bombarded by airplanes, artillery and other weapons, but the town never yielded. It is a heroic town, and that is why it has the honor of hosting the last congress of the EPLF," Mr. Jabrah pointed out.

Eritrea is charting a course as an independent nation, with close ties to Ethiopia, Sudan and other countries in the region. President Asias Afewerke has called for a forum that brings the nations of the lower Red Sea together.

### DISCUSSING THE CONSTITUTION

Ethiopian nationalities and political parties are busy discussing the draft constitution that is being readied to go to parliament, known officially as the Constituent Assembly. The discussions are taking place at various levels, especially at the intellectual level.

The main two points of differences are whether the constitution should grant the various nationalities the right to secede from Ethiopia, and what to do about nationalized land.

The majority of the Ethiopians do wish to grant nationalities the right to self-determination, although not the right to secede, and the majority of the Ethiopians do not wish to denationalize the land, in spite of a new policy of economic liberalization. The nation is going through a deep soul-searching in its current transformation and re-structuring.

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Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
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<b>Yemeni Banks:</b>	
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Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6
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India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	243439/40
Iraq	216682/790
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WHO	252213/204

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## RAMADHAN: THE MONTH OF BLESSING HOW MUCH OF IT DO YOU KNOW?

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

Ramadhan is a great season for Muslims throughout the world. During this month, Muslims feel very close to Allah. "Only those who fast know from personal experience that to deprive oneself of the pleasure of eating and drinking when hungry. Thirsty and tired on a long day, does not make him bored or depressed. On the contrary, when he remembers that he is doing that solely to please Allah, he feels a sense of satisfaction which is very rare in human experience but it is also very real. He is particularly happy because he is able to overcome even the most processing of human desires which is closely interest wind with man's sense of survival when man can triumph over his strongest desires he become well trained in the art of placing duty before self-interest. He gains the sort of freedom to which every human being should aspire. It is freedom from being enslaved by desire.

Examples abound in the history of Islam of people who were so courageous that they stood out for the right they believed in the face of great personal danger to themselves and their families they come from all parts of the Muslim world. they belonged to different races, different traditions and different environments. they shared in common the fact that they had the same training to overcome though fasting the pressures of self-interest. when we examine this 30-day courts of training we find that it progresses in a very subtle and gradual way to the high level of its last ten days and reach its pinnacle with the night of power.

Fasting itself works on man and enhances his sense of duty. as he goes on from one day to another, the significance of this hard experience becomes clearer and clearer. Difficult as the task is, he is not bored within. He is after its great prize. when has been fasting a few days he is on the lookout for any thing which is certain to increase his reward from Allah.

We have been recommended by the prophet to spend much of the nights of Ramadhan in worship. People may be slow coming to act on this recommendation in the first few days. More of them do come every day to share in the blessing which are experienced by everyone who go thorough his fasting days with patience and stand up in worship for parts of the nights of Ramadhan. When two thirds of the month have gone by, a Muslim feels that he has been elevated very highly above his own standard 20 days earlier. for 20 days he has been in the company of sincere worshipers, and for 20 days he has been earning Allah's pleasure which makes his life blessed, although he may not physically aware of it those 20 days he has been in the company of sincere worshipers, and for 20 days he has been earning Allah's pleasure which makes his life blessed,

although he may not physically aware of it those 20 days have prepared him for a higher task, following the prophet's guidance. al-Bukhari relates a report by Aisha the prophet's wife who states: "when the last of 10 days (of Ramadhan) arrived, the prophet (peace be upon him) used to tighten his dress, stay up the whole night and wake up his household." This authentic Hadith stresses the fact that the last 10 days of Ramadhan are singled out for special significance.

Although we are recommended to spend a part of each night of Ramadan in prayer, which is known to all Muslims as taraweeh the prophet guidance suggests that we go into a stage of full mobilization, as it were, in the last 10 days of the month. The prophet used to do three things in those 10 days of Ramadhan. More over, one of these 10 nights is the night of power. It is the night when the revelation of the Qur'an started. Allah tells us in the Qur'an that "The night of power is better than a thousand months." to stay up on that night and to spend it in worship is to attain the best reward and Muslim hopes for. When we say that it is on that night that the revelation of the Qur'an started, we mean that the greatest event in human history took place on that night. It is the night when Allah chose to address man directly, giving him his message which ensures man's happiness in this world and in the life to come. It means that Allah in has great majesty turned to this insignificant creature, bestowing on him his greatest bounty: guidance which spares him all parts of trouble and shows him the path which leads him to heaven. Human beings cannot thank Allah enough for this blessing the last they could do is to commemorate that occasion by staying up the whole night in worship praising Allah and asking His forgiveness.

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• Analysis •

Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas:

**“We have not committed to either Hunt or Enron on the Gas.”**

By: Ameen Nouisser,  
Economic Editor,  
Yemen Times.

Mr. Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, Prime Minister, refuted that the government of Yemen has made a final commitment on the Marib gas. “The media reports that we are committed to Enron are wrong. We have received offers from both Enron and Hunt and we are studying them,” he said. There has been much development in the fight between the Hunt/Exxon/Yukong group, on the one hand, and Enron Europe, on the other, over the Marib/Al-Jawf gas. The Yemeni authorities have started repeating that there has not been a commitment to any company so far, and that the country was leaving its options open. That step by the Yemeni authorities to distance themselves from the Enron deal was just fine with Ray L. Hunt who made a whirlwind visit to Yemen. He leaves here today. Following meetings by Ray L. Hunt, Chairman of Yemen Hunt Oil Company, and Karl Swenson, President of Exxon Yemen, have spent the last few days in Yemen speaking



to various Yemeni officials. At the end of their visit, Ray Hunt issued a press release stating: “I have been in Yemen for the last several days for the purpose of continuing our discussions with the government concerning an LNG gas export project... “The gas proposal which we have made to the

government is a better proposal for Yemen than other proposals which, according to newspapers, have been made to the government.” The Ray Hunt press release also indicated that Hunt and its partners will present their offer again in a re-structured manner so that the Yemeni authorities can better

compare it to the other offer. It also indicated that a quick decision on the gas exploitation would be extremely important. Unlike the other offer, the Hunt people have secured marketing lines, especially in the Far East, and they have secured financing. Moreover, they (Hunt and its partners) already has all the technical knowledge and financial capability required to successfully and quickly complete both the domestic gas projects, and the LNG export gas project. They also enjoy a better general understanding of the site and the Yemeni side,” the report stated. Yemen Times has been contacted by the Enron to offer its point of view. The paper has also interviewed Ray Hunt extensively. We will publish the full story in next week's issue.



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**Abdullah Abdul-Aalem to Return to Yemen Shortly**

Colonel Abdullah Abdul-Aalem, former member of the Command Council and Commander of the Paratroop Forces, and who is in voluntary exile in Syria, told the Yemen Times that he plans to return to Yemen shortly. The decision of Mr. Abdul-Aalem, who enjoys considerable support among the people who sympathize with his colleague, the late President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, comes in response to the call made by Vice President Ali Salem Al-Beedh to all leaders of Yemen to return and contribute to the reconstruction of the new Yemen. Abdul-Aalem stated that the 18th January document issued by the Dialogue Committee represents a new contract among the people of Yemen. “It represents a cornerstone in building a modern Yemen,” he said. The Taiz-born Abdul-Aalem called on the political leadership of Yemen to mend fences and to rise up above the petty squabbles and to



lead the country to a new future. “We cannot hold the whole nation ransom to the whims and sick ambitions of a few individuals. Either they see light or move over,” he said. Colonel Abdullah Abdul-Aalem described the arrangements called for in the document as the best guarantees against future sectarian, tribal, regional or other forms of political struggle in the country. He concluded by thanking the fraternal and friendly colleagues for their role in helping diffuse the tension and differences among the leaders of the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. Colonel Abdullah Abdul-Aalem, one of the architects of the June 13th Movement, fled the country following the assassination of President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi. Both President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Ali Salem Al-Beedh invited him to return, and he has finally agreed.



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