



PRICE: 10 Riyals

February 27th through March 5th, 1994

Volume IV, Issue # 9

As Confusion, Frustration and Violence Increases in Yemen:

Will this Regime Last till 22/5/1994: The Next Unity Anniversary ?

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor, Yemen Times. Faces from Amman: In spite of King Hussain's best efforts, Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salim Al-Beedh looked grim!

The total casualties from the military clashes between the Al-Wahdah and Amaliqah forces in the Dathina, Abyan area are still unknown. But some two dozen men were reported killed and a much larger number hospitalized.

The incidents point to the precarious nature of the situation in Yemen. They also underline

the fact that the political leadership may not be in full control of the party and military rank and file. Army mobilization continues along the former YAR/PDRY border. The 18th January Pact is, for all practical purposes, paralyzed, as today January 27th, marks the end of the first week during which three different committees should have been set up to implement the reform. The names suggested were not agreed upon. The military option seems to be gaining the upper hand.



His Majesty King Hussain of Jordan has played an important role in diffusing the crisis and in breaking the psychological barrier between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh who met for the first time after an eight months break. (Please read details on the last page.) Yes, the two ALIs met in Amman, but they did not fully make-up. Even if they did, they no longer are in firm control because many party officials and military officers have

increasingly commanded a visible say in the way to handle the crisis and to manage the country.

What is blocking reconciliation? Three things. 1. The president and vice president have hurt each other so badly that they have developed personal animosities. All the embracing and kissing in Amman, which by the way was rather minimal given Arab standards in these things, could not wash away the personal grudges.

2. There are influential segments within the PGC and YSP who do not want the reforms, and to a lesser extent, the unity itself. The reason is that these people are bound to lose a lot of their (illegal) privileges if the reforms are implemented. Thus these segments are playing a visible role in escalating the tension between the two sides.

3. Leading Islah party members are opposed to any kind of rapprochement between the PGC and YSP. They think that it is in their interest to promote the in-fighting between the two senior parties, thus weakening both. In this line, Islah spiritual leader Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani has been going from one (northern) military camp to another pumping anti-YSP (and almost anti-reconciliation) fervor among the soldiers. No one can say if President Ali Abdullah Saleh condones such actions, or whether it is done without his consent.

As a result, Yemen is steadily moving towards chaos and violence. To salvage the situation, Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman have sent troops to serve as buffer between the two armies who are poised to go to war against each other.

COMMITTED TO THE SERVICE OF OUR CUSTOMERS



Highest Quality

Over 13,000 Buildings Sold Since 1977

Fastest Delivery

The leading Pre-Engineered Buildings Manufacturer in the Middle East !



From excavation to occupancy, no other system matches the Pre-Engineered Building System in speed and value

A Pleasure to do business with!

AGENT: Arwa Industry (Trading & Contracting) Phones: 23-6635, Fax: 01-25-1571

Area Sales Manager: Mr. Muhammad Al-Khudhairi, Phones: 23-6635, Fax: 23-5901

ALNASIM
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Tel: 270750 - Fax: 272576
Sana'a - R. of Yemen

First Class BUSINESS CARDS
العالمية Universal
General Sales Agent for: SAS, Thal, AA, Royal Jordanian, Yemenia
For information on tours, fares, assistance, etc., please call us:
275-028, 275-029, 275-030 | 275-129, 275-130

Arabian Horizons Tourism
Tel: (01) 275-366, 275-414, Tlx: 2487 • Fax (01) 275-415

ARAMEX INTERNATIONAL COURIER
We Hit Your Target Anywhere in the Globe
Sana'a - Tel: 243925 - Fax: 240794, Aden - Tel: 255683, 253952 - Taiz - Tel: 213489, Hodeidah - Tel: 218168-218675

BIT BAZARA TRAVEL & TOURISM
* TOUR OPERATORS
* Car Rental
* Hotel Reservations
* Package Tours for Groups/Individuals
Al-Zubairi Street, Near Hadda Crossing, Sanaa: Phone: 285-925/865; Tlx: 2598; Fax: 289-568

Now Open
Yemen Travel & Tours
GSA: KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
Phones: (01) 278-747/310; Fax: (01) 278-757
Zubairi Street, P.O.Box 1026, Sana'a-Yemen

الرفاعي للصرافة
خدمات متميزة - شارع جمال عبدالناصر - صنعاء
تلفون: ٧٩١٥١٦٤ (السيار), ٠١-٢٧٦٢٨٢
AL REFAI for Money Exchange
Excellent Services, Best Quotations
Gamal Abdul Nasser Street, Sanaa, Telephones: 7915164 (mobile), 01-276282

السفاري EL SOFFARY

ASHTAL TRAVEL & TOURISM
Tel: 272544/718 - 274206/7 266409 - 11 - Fax: 270400
GENERAL SALES AGENTS
TWA, swissair, AIR-INDIA, KOREAN AIR
P.O. Box (1501) Sana'a - Yemen

MAREB YEMEN INSURANCE CO.
Your Security
HEAD OFFICE: 150 Zubairi Street, P. O. Box 2284, Sanaa, Yemen
Phone: 206114, Fax: 206118, Tlx: 2789
BRANCH PHONES: Aden: 255668; Hodeidah: 217372; Taiz: 231143

WHY SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS!
Nias International Trading & Tourism
There's no better choice
Telephones: 273338, 275554, 276948
Fax: 273001; P.O.Box 2011, Sanaa.

OUR VIEWPOINT

3 YEARS AGO TODAY

On the 27th of February, 1991, the first copy of the Yemen Times came out. Four people were involved in producing it on one Macintosh SE 1/40 and another Macintosh IICx. We were working in a shack, under a roof of corrugated tin sheets, in one of the poorest sections of the city. Only three thousand copies were printed. We sold 521 copies. We gave away some 2000 copies. There were no advertisements.

Three years later, the picture is a totally different one. We have now a fully automated (computerized) system in which powerful quadras are producing a fully-finished newspaper through image-setters. We do color-separation in-house, and the film of the pages is produced through the most advanced technology in desk-top printing and publishing systems.

The newspaper is sold today all over the country in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Dhamar, Mukalla, Saadah, and many other small towns. Besides, we send large quantities to Ethiopia, Eritrea, Jordan, the UK and USA. In addition, mail subscribers from 54 countries receive the newspaper.

The newspaper is regularly quoted by news agencies, radio and television stations and other newspapers worldwide as it is the only source of current news on Yemen. Moreover, local Arabic newspapers reprint a translation of the lead stories in Yemen Times and other important articles almost on a weekly basis.

The staff of the Yemen Times has increased, as well. We have 18 persons on our payrolls. Although it is extremely hard to find qualified Yemenis who are fluent in English, good journalists, able to handle computers, and reliable in their work, we have through the years trained our own people. So today, we have first-class editors in economics, social issues, culture, politics, education, etc., in addition to the stringers.

What is responsible for this spectacular growth?

Hard work!

Yemen Times is an example of how much can be achieved through hard work and a sense of purpose. Very little money was needed up-front. Even today, the total capitalization of the newspaper is very small compared to other businesses. But there is a drive that yields long hours of hard work day in and day out, and there is its vision that translates hard work into meaningful achievements.

I have no qualms about boasting of the achievements of the Yemen Times. As a good capitalist, I think it is well earned, and we deserve to be proud of it, and openly say so.

I take this opportunity to salute the Yemen Times staff, and to thank our readers and patrons.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

A Yemeni Activist Writes to the UN Secretary General

A Yemeni activist has handed over last week a letter to UN Resident Representative Awni Al-Aani. The letter, addressed to the UN Secretary-General, requesting the UN to establish an International Court for trying leaders who abuse the human rights of their citizens. Mr. Mansour Ali Al-Homati, a lawyer, indicated that many Third World rulers have little respect for human rights and other inherent rights of their citizens. "It is the duty of the UN to seek to enforce respect for these rights," he wrote. Al-Homati also proposed the establishment of an "Honor Board" in which the names of distinguished leaders who serve their peoples and world peace and prosperity will be cited.

18th January Committee Institutionalized

On the 24th of February, the Preparatory Committee of the 18th January Document Committee held an open meeting for the founding members in Taiz. The broad guidelines for the objectives were approved, and the executive board was elected. The winners are:

1. Dr. Abdul-Qader Al-Junaid, Secretary General,
2. Dr. Ahmed Al-Sharif, Assistant Secretary-General,
3. Dr. Yassen A. Al-Qubati, Information Officer,
4. Dr. Faisal Al-Qirshi, External Relations Officer,
5. Mr. Farooq Abdo Kaid, Branches Officer,
6. Dr. Abdulwali Al-Amrani, Board Member,
7. Abdulwahid Bani Ghazi, Board member.

The 18th January Committee, formed in Taiz on January 30th, aims to activate and mobilize popular support for the implementation of the stipulations and resolution of the document issued by the Dialogue Committee. It has already established nucleus organizations all over the republic which educate the public and seek signatures of support. "So far, we have more than 5,300 signatures," said Dr. Yassen Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati, Information Officer of the Committee.

YSP Campaigns in the Region

The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) leadership is taking its case to the leaders of the region. Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the YSP, completed a whirlwind visit to several leaders in the region.

Al-Beedh launched his visit by stopping over in Cairo where he held long talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Then he flew over to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad. Then he went to Amman where he signed the 18th January Pact following lengthy talks with H.M. King Hussain. From there, Al-Beedh stopped over in Jeddah and Riyadh. He was given the full red carpet welcome by the Saudi Royal Family. King Fahd and 22 senior princes were at hand to welcome the vice president. The next stop was in Muscat, where he held talks with H.M. Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed. The final stop was in Asmara where the vice president exchanged notes with Eritrean leader Asias Afewerke.

Assistant Secretary-General Salim Saleh Mohammed has also visited Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates following his return from Amman.

The Sanaa rulers are upset by what they see as a YSP effort to mobilize and galvanize efforts within the Arab forum against them in what could be the next round of in-fighting. Moreover, the PGC leadership is dismayed by YSP politicians' maneuvers to distance themselves from the country's position on the Gulf Crisis, in a clear bid to win sympathy and support among the rulers of the Gulf states.

Yemen Trading & Construction Co. Ltd

introduces:

the latest in personal facsimile machines:
Simple, Reliable, Cost-Effective

- * Halftone (16-level gray scale)
- * Fine Mode
- * G3 Compatibility (9600 bps)
- * Copy Function
- * Contrast Control Switch (dark, normal, light)
- * TTI
- * Automatic Reception
- * Redialing
- * Shorthand Dialing
- * On-Hook Dialing
- * Voice Communication
- * Activity Report
- * Acoustic Alarm
- * Alarm Lamp.



Yemen Trading & Construction Co. Ltd.
Sanaa: Phones: 207157, 77958, 71554; Fax: 209522;
Hodeidah Phone: 218640; Aden Phone: 243527.

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY

We are looking for qualified individuals to join YHOC in the following position:

* Communications Engineer *

Candidates must have a 4 year Communications or related Technical degree, and have a minimum of 3 years related work experience.

* Communications Technician *

Candidate must have a 2-year electronics certificate/diploma and have a minimum of four year experience installing and repairing radio telephone and microwave equipment.

All candidates must be YEMENI NATIONALS

If you meet the above requirements, please forward your resume and a photograph to:

Yemen Hunt Oil Company,
Attn: Personnel Department,
P. O. Box 481, Sanaa,
Republic of Yemen

YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



Post Office Box: 2579 Sanaa, Republic of Yemen
Telephones +967 (1) 268.661/2
Facsimile # +967 (1) 268.663
Aden Office: +967 (2) 345.653

Editorial Board:

Chief Editor	Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Economic Editor	Ameen Nouisser
Social Editor	Ms. Fatmah S. Rawah
Educational Editor	Ms. Samira Bin Daair
Cultural Editor	Saad Salah Khalis
Press Review Editor	Bashar G. Askar
French Editor	Jerome Bernard
Tid Bits Corner	Ms. Susan Sanganee
Aden Editors	Shaher Mus'abain
	Ms. Ibtisam Qudar
Sanaa Editors	Ismail Al-Ghabri
	Al-Izzi Asselwi
	Ms. Sarra S. Ginedabi

Administrative Personnel

Yahia Yusuf. Al-Hodeidi, Public Relations
Ridha. Al-Saqqaf, Accounts
Office Staff: Abdul-Hakeem and Radhwan Al-Saqqaf
Publisher: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Horizons Printing & Publishing, Tel: 612844. Fax: 612845. P.O.Box: 12503.
الإفلاق للطباعة والنشر. تليفون: ٦١٢٨٤٤ - فاكس: ٦١٢٨٤٥ - ص.ب: ١٢٥٠٣

Laser Graphic Design & Technical Support by:

DIWAN - Abdulla Paris & Associates, Inc. Sanaa, (01) 240316

بشرى سارة لمرضى القلب

إفتتح الطبيب الماهر
الدكتور محمد بامشموس

دكتوراه في طب القلب من
فلورنسا بإيطاليا
عيادته في شارع حده ،
بجانب مختبرات الهلال،
بصنعاء

للحجز ، إتصلوا برقم
(٢٦٥٦٥٦)

خدمات متميزه وأمينه

The Unique Ramadhan and Idd Package Plus

Get to see Sana'a city with
easy access to the military museum,
Sana'a museum, Bab al Yemen and
many more.

Our special offer includes

- Two nights and 3 days
- Check in and check out any time of the day.
- Two special dinners at the Golden Peacock.
- Discount on laundry and local calls.
- Special Taj goodies and surprises in the room.
- Upgrade to a suite (If available).

Come enjoy an exciting weekend or weekday
Yr 6,250 per person in double room

Applicable

- To all Yemeni citizens, and foreigners holding a valid resident visa in Yemen
- Till the end of Idd 1994

Win a free ticket to London
and a two night stay at
the St James Court - London

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL
For reservations and enquiries
Tel: 272372 Ext: 5/122

Askar Ali Hossain:

"We are not happy with the way YHOC has been managed."

The Republic of Yemen has witnessed a lot of give and take in the issue of exploitation of the gas reserves in Marib/Al-Jawf. According to the original PSA between Hunt and the government of Yemen, Hunt has a priority in the exploitation of the gas, provided it reaches an agreement with the Yemeni authorities. Many people in government have not been happy with the way Yemen Hunt Oil Company has been doing the work. That explains part of the enthusiasm as well as support expressed for Enron Europe.

One of the people who is not particularly happy with Hunt is Mr. Askar Ali Hossain Althahiri, Chairman of the Technical Consultative Bureau of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources. He does not hide his interest in awarding the deal to Enron. But, he realizes it is not just in his hands. In today's Yemen, opinion makers are at least as important as decision-makers in guiding the country's policies. Hence his appeal to the Yemen Times.

Ameen Nouisser, Economic Editor of the Yemen Times, filed the following interview.

Q: Let us start with the gas project. Where do we stand today?

A: Let me say that the Enron offer we have at hand is better than the Hunt/Exxon offer. I have heard of a revised Hunt/Exxon offer, but I have not seen it yet. My preference today, objectively speaking, is with the Enron offer. But this is not final. We are willing to look into any new or revised offer from either or any third company.

Q: But you have signed a letter of understanding with Enron. What does that give to the company?

A: We have not signed an agreement with Enron. We have simply agreed that Enron will carry out a study of the feasibility of the project. It does not commit us to go ahead with Enron. There are five agreements that need to be signed to give any company the right to exploit the gas. This is a giant project and I don't expect either Hunt/Exxon or Enron to go through with it by themselves. They will need partners. Enron is already talking to a number of potential partners.

Q: You have a negative attitude towards Hunt. What seems to be the problem?

A: I have many reservations about the way Hunt has been managing the oil project, so far. Let me give you examples:

1. When the company wants to make purchases or procurement, it does it on its own, the way it wishes. It has even resisted bringing a representative of the Yemeni government to participate in decision-making, even though the money is Yemeni. In other words, they (Hunt) does what it pleases with Yemeni money. When we raise the issue, they say, "But aah, the Production Sharing Agreement does not say that." What they should know is that if either partner feels shut out, the partnership does not last.

By the way, we have inquired in Egypt, Syria, Oman and other countries.

This Hunt arrangement is unheard of and unacceptable. 2. The agreement we signed following the unification gives the country to raise prices by 10%. We apply this with all other companies, but Hunt resists this.

3. Yemenization of senior personnel has not happened at Hunt. In spite of the long period of their operations here, they do not have one Yemeni in senior management. Other more recent companies already have a Yemeni as the second or third man in the company's local office. With Hunt, this is not the case.

4. Look, Hunt has been with us for ten years. It has not cared even to construct its own offices. It has rented premises and villas, enclosed by a huge compound, and that is it. It all seems so transient.

5. Hunt offers \$100,000 per year for social services and projects. Many other companies have been building roads, constructing schools, and doing all kinds of things for the local populations. Hunt is happy to sit on the \$100,000 it gives to the government towards social assistance in Yemen.

6. Hunt pumps any quantity of oil it wants. They do not even coordinate with us on the optimal volume of oil being produced.

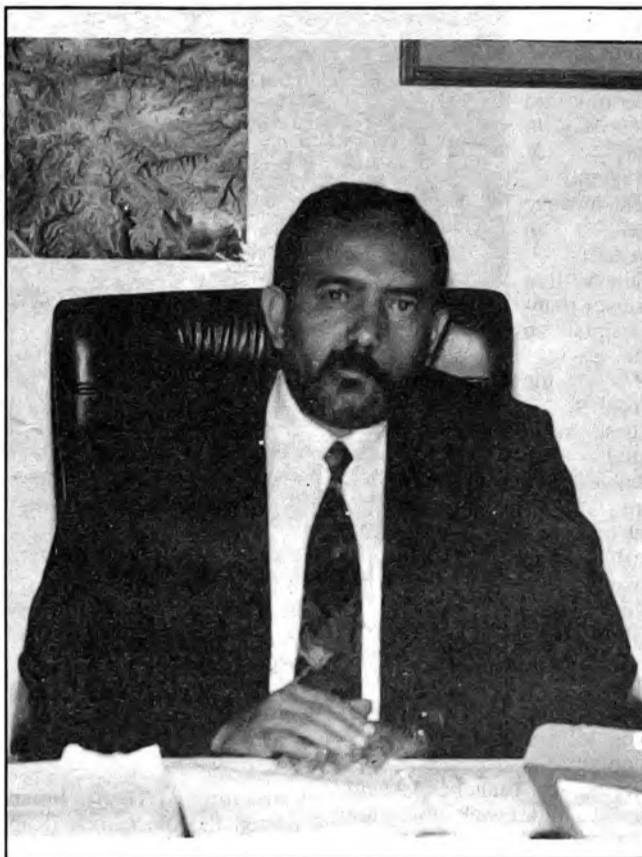
In short, we are fed up with the way Hunt falls back on the original PSA and does not come forward with any new ideas or arrangements that make both sides happy. That is why we are not very keen on repeating the experiment.

Q: But, the basic question is, can you by-pass Hunt on the gas deal?

A: I think we can. But the best solution would be to bring all these companies together. I hope we can bring Hunt, Exxon, Enron, Total, etc., in one big joint venture.

Q: Let us talk about the overall oil picture. First, the safety of oil companies and their personnel. What have you done in this regard?

A: We had a project for establishing a special unit for



the security and safety of oil companies. Unfortunately the political crisis has paralyzed these efforts.

Yet, the Minister (of Oil and Mineral Resources) already has established a special squad to cover the Hadhramaut/Al-Maharah region. He selected a group of people from among the locals, some men from the army, still others from the security and police forces and out of them he created a new unit charged with the security of the oil companies working in the two governorates. The direct beneficiaries from this squad are CanadianOxy, Clyde, Total, Lazmo, Nimr, Arco, and British Gas.

On the basis of this experiment, a similar squad will be set up in the Shabwah-Mareb region.

These squads are specially trained people, who have a special uniform, and who are specially-armed. They have effective telecommunications systems. They have abilities in defending persons and physical assets, and they can engage in various hand-to-hand combat. Finally, they are trained in civil defence efforts such as fire-fighting and first-aid.

Q: Let us talk about the hopeful among the oil exploration efforts. What is new in this regard?

A: We have several hopefuls. For example Clyde has hit oil. According to preliminary estimates, each well can produce between 500-1000 bpd of oil in its Masila-like formation. It also made discoveries up north in a different structure. So, we expect Clyde to be able to produce a decent amount of oil.

Then, there is Total in East Shabwah. They too have struck oil and they are now developing the field, and we anticipate they will come to us with good news soon.

The Jannah field has also proven to contain commercial quantities of oil. We expect development of this field during 1994, so that exploitation will start during 1995. More work is being done in this field.

Q: What are the major disappointments?

A: I can say the major disappointment was the Shabwah (Nimr) Block. We had expected that a large volume would be produced, but this has fallen to a trickle. Today, some 5,500 bpd of oil is being produced from this block.

Of course, you know that Petrocanada has relinquished its concession, and left the country.

Chevron has drilled two wells with no encouraging results. They have three more to go.

Shell has been granted an extension on its exploration effort. Shell, by the way, introduced a new seismic technique which other companies are finding more useful and effective.

These are among the few disappointments in Yemen's oil exploration effort.

Q: What does it take to get extension on concession agreements?

A: Given the political and economic conditions of the country, we will be happy to grant any company doing exploration work an extension on its term.

All they have to do is simply ask, and we will be happy to oblige.

Q: You are hoping to use the various bits and pieces of information on oil exploration to create a comprehensive picture of the country's oil potential. What is the plan?

A: Yes, we plan to put together a package of information on a comprehensive basis. By piecing the data together, it would be easy to take decisions in the future.

Towards this end, we are planning an international conference on oil in Yemen in October this year. Experts in the field, oil company executives, and academicians will participate.

We hope to come out of the conference with a guide book on the country's oil possibilities.

I think the fields that are not presently viable may become viable if the operator changes and if more information regarding the overall geologic structure is made available.

Q: Are you hopeful about the oil prospects?

A: Yes, very much so. I think oil companies are also re-studying the country and its potential.

Once the political crisis is behind us, we anticipate another surge in the oil exploration effort.

IFTAR BUFFET AT THE TAJ

Happenings at the Taj Sheba

Traditional Arabic and Oriental

specialities - from starters to desserts.

The Ideal way to break the fast, with your family and friends.

Daily at the 
Bilquis Coffee Shop at sunset

Take away Arabic and Oriental snacks

available from 3pm onwards.




Taj SHEBA HOTEL
for reservations call: 272372.
Ext: 131/132

AL-ASHRAFIYYAH MOSQUE & SCHOOL: Tall Witnesses to a Great Kingdom

The Al-Rasulid dynasty was established in Yemen immediately after the Ayubides lost their rule which had lasted for 98 years. The Founder of the Rasulid state Nooruddin Bin Rasul, following his annihilation of the Ayubides in 626 A.H.(1228 A.D.), chose Taiz as the capital for his kingdom that was destined to flourish and prosper for over two centuries. The family of Bani Rasul ruled Yemen up to 858 A.H. (1453 A.D.). The Rasulid era was the last state ruling over a unified Yemen. They were famous as builders. They built mosques, schools, roads, bridges, government buildings, etc. They were great patrons of the students of learning whom they supported.

One of the great rulers of the Rasulid dynasty was King Al-Mudhafar the Second. He built Al-Mudhafar Mosque in Taiz which is still seen as a superb artistic and architectural creation. Another great ruler, King Al-Ashraf Ismail, who lived between 761 and 803 A.H. and who assumed power in 778 A.H. at the age of 18 years, became well reputed for his generosity, love of knowledge and sciences. During his reign, he encouraged men of letters and religious teachers. He financed many important research

"Sadat-Al-Kawn" or Masters of the Universe. The book was about Yemen - at the time a prosperous nation. The King was also keenly interested in agriculture and financed the renovation of several water reservoirs that had fallen into ruin. He also ordered the planting of all kinds of trees including rice which was introduced into Yemen for the first time by him.

The King built Al-Ashraf Water Basin in Taiz, the Al-Ashrafiyyah Mosque, and the Al-Ashrafiyyah School are among the most outstanding remains of his era. This great Al-Ashrafiyyah mosque and school were built in 800 A.H. during the later days of King Ismail Al-Ashraf's reign. He appointed a number of clergymen, researchers and teachers to preach/teach the people according to the teachings of Imam Al-Shafee.

The school contained a very large and well-equipped library with a variety of books and important religious and scientific references, most of which are still well preserved until this day. He built a water canal to direct the flow of water from neighboring Mount Sabir in order to supply the mosque and school with their water requirement. The mosque and school's basic buildings still remain intact in their

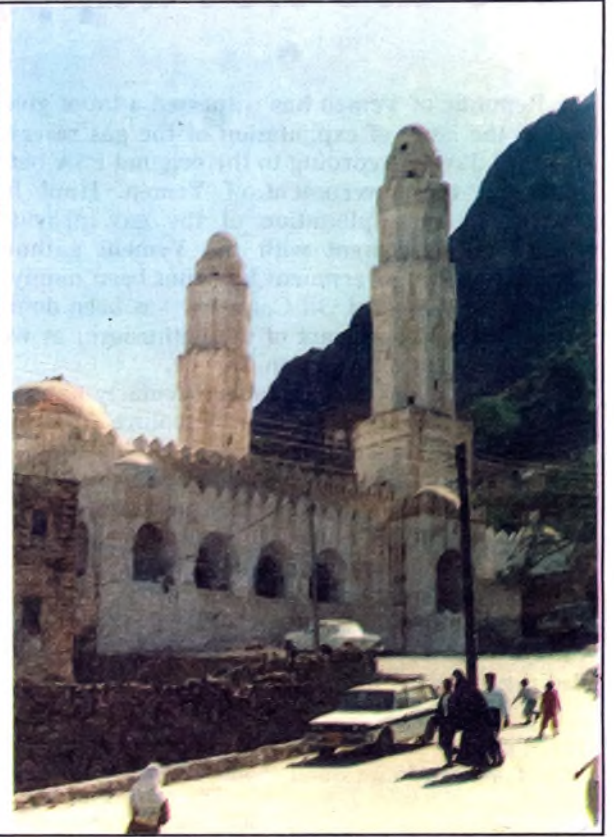
towards the sky, some 35 meters high, are 2 minarets.

Some 115 stairs take the muezzin everyday to call for prayers. The mosque has an eastern gallery that houses manuscripts on the Sayings of the Prophet.

These were filed on shelves that are built into the walls like niches in the old style. The western gallery was allocated to teachings on Islamic theology, its

origins and branches. Again here bookshelves are annexed to the walls.

The western/northern sections were used as guest-houses for visiting scholars. Inside of the school there lie the tombs of Al-Ashraf, Al-Mujahid, Almatibia Kings and some of their family members.

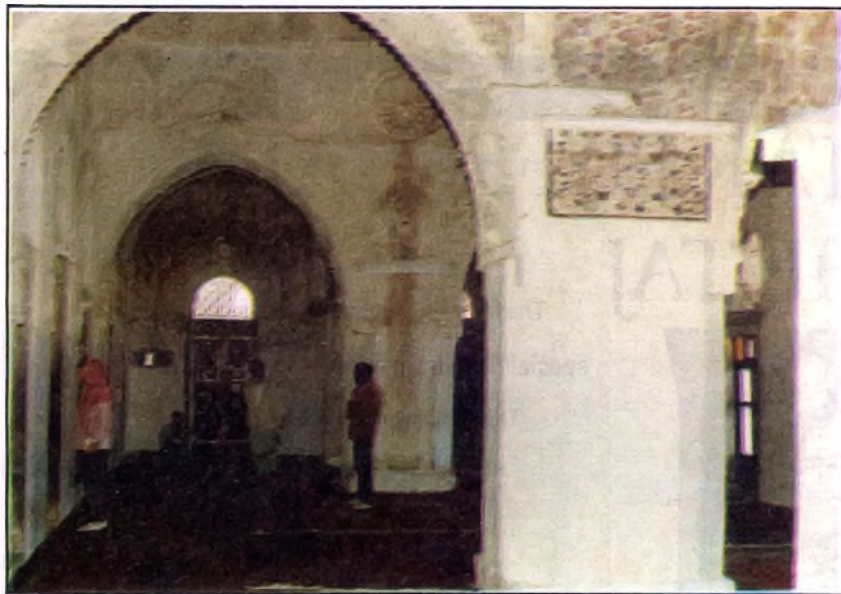


destruction. The Imam ordered the place locked up while he was searching for hidden treasures, which he was told were tucked away in some of the chambers and walls. He tore down certain walls in his search for the treasures. Only the highest parts of the walls and the Dome escaped his destructive hands.

The Imam did manage to find some valuable gold and silver coins and other small relics, but that was it. In his frustration, the Imam ordered his men to put a layer of gypsum to cover all the wall decorations and calligraphy. In 1981, the National Heritage Committee undertook the task of repairing the school and mosque. It spent

one million riyals annually for a few years during the 1980s, but that was not enough to carry out substantial repairs and renovations. Therefore, more work needs to be done today to preserve this important historic masterpiece.

By: Ali Bin Talib,
Yemen Times.



The school still looks intact from the outer facade, still retaining its past splendour of six centuries lying at the northern foot of Jabal Sabir overlooking the city of Taiz. The inside of the buildings exhibit a splendour of a rich past. The calligraphy

works such as Al-Fairuzabadi's dictionary called, "Al-Qamoos Al-Muheet" which can be considered to be a comprehensive dictionary. This researcher, who was later appointed as the Chief Judge, also wrote another book -

original structure.

It looks like the school was the more important of the two connected projects. On the northern side of the school lies the mosque. The mosque has a big Dome carried by four upper stone posts and emerging from under them and piercing

and beautiful scriptures decorating the ceilings and walls of the mosque and school are still clear.

During the reign of Imam Ahmed Bin Yahya Hamid-ul-Deen, (1948-62), the school was subjected to

mutarreb

for modern living

suppliers of: OFFICE AUTOMATION
AIR CONDITIONERS
ELECTRICAL HOUSE APPLIANCES
ELECTRONIC APPARATUS
AUDIO VISUAL
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



You are always welcome!
mutarreb SHOWROOM
79 Haddah Street. Tel/Fax 7911263



CanadianOxy Supports Health Care NGO

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd., decided to support the Free Health Care for Creative Individuals (FHCCI), a local Non-Governmental Organization. Dr. Essam Zaghloul, Executive Director of the CanadianOxy's Sanaa Office, personally handed over a check to Dr. Nizar Ghanem, founder of the FHCCI, last week.



The FHCCI, with branches in the main cities, provides free health services to poets, literary persons, journalists, artists and other member of creative professions. The idea is the brain-child of Dr. Ghanem, who is also the dynamo behind the project. "The FHCCI has applied to several oil companies and foreign donors for assistance in order to meet expenses," Dr. Ghanem said.

The Property Centre Sues UK Newspapers on Defamation of Charater

"We are considering suing the Daily Mail and the Reuters News Service for malicious efforts to implicate us in the on-going investigations at the British Embassy in Sanaa," disclosed Mr. Habib Ishaq, Chairman and owner of the Property Centre. Mr. Ishaq was referring to news reports which mentioned the name of the Property Center in the Scotland Yard investigations on personnel of the British Embassy in Sanaa. The Property Centre had provided housing and landscaping services to the embassy and some of its personnel. "We had official

dealings through standard bidding practices. We later heard that there were some internal complications at the embassy. In any case, our business with the British Embassy is actually very small and does not exceed three or four contracts," stated Mr. Ishaq. "The Property Centre was annoyed that its name came up in the Scotland Yard investigations, but it was really disturbed by insinuations of malpractice by certain newspapers," stressed Mr. Ishaq. George Shamat, the General Manager of the Property Centre, is equally annoyed. Look if some in-fighting in

the UK embassy should lead to investigations, we do not want to be dragged into it. We have done nothing wrong." He blames certain sources which he refused to specify for the efforts at character defamation. "We have books open to any authorities to look into. But we do not like backstabbing," he said. Mr. Ishaq plans to fly to London in a few days to personally attend to this matter. He will then decide if he wants to go ahead with the law-suit or not. "I think it is a serious matter to drag the name of decent companies into this problem," he said with dismay.

Arab Embassies Celebrate National Day

The fraternal Kingdom of Morocco will celebrate the 33rd anniversary of "Coronation Day" on the 3rd of March, 1994. Many world observers and historians have described King Hassan II's reign as one of stability, relative prosperity and a certain degree of personal freedom. This is especially true if Morocco is compared to many Third World nations. The country enjoys steady economic progress, political liberalization, and a flexible social evolution.



King Hassan of Morocco

On this occasion, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Drissi, Ambassador of Morocco in Yemen, is throwing a dinner reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel. A long list of high dignitaries, diplomats, and Yemeni officials and businessmen are invited. Yemen Times takes this opportunity to express its hearty congratulations to the fraternal people of Morocco, and to the Moroccan community in Yemen. At another level, the fraternal people of Kuwait have celebrated their national on February 25th. H.E. the Kuwaiti Charge d'Affair in



The Emir of Kuwait

Yemen, Mr. Mansoor Al-Awadhi, used this auspicious occasion to host a major dinner reception at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel. This is the first time the Kuwait embassy in Sanaa celebrates the national day of Kuwait in Yemen. As one observer put it, "Let us hope this is an indicator of a return to normalcy." Distinguished guests from the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, journalists and intellectuals, as well as businessmen attended the event.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah used the occasion to indicate he was working for the return of friendly relations between Yemen and Kuwait, in particular, and the Gulf states, in general. On the same occasion, H.E. Mansoor Al-Awadhi, stated that there has been considerable evolution in the Yemeni position vis-avis the Gulf states, and that it was helping move towards improved relations. He said he was working towards such a goal.

YEMEN TIMES Advertisement Price Card : 1994

Cost of Advertisement by Size	Price
One Square Centimeter	YR. 100
9 x 10 cms	7,000
10 x 14 cms.	9,000
A Quarter Page (15 X 21)	14,000
A Half Page (21 X 30 cms)	20,000
A Full Page (30 x 43 cms)	32,000

COLOR ADVERTISEMENTS:

- 1. SPOT Color: Add 25% to above rates**
- 2. FULL Colors: Add 40% to above rates**

DISCOUNTS ON ABOVE RATES:

- 10% Discount on 4 Consecutive Repeats,**
- 20% Discount on 8 Consecutive Repeats,**
- 30% Discount on 16 Consecutive Repeats,**
- 40% Discount on 24 Consecutive Repeats,**
- 50% Discount on 52 Consecutive Repeats,**

- 1. Lay-out and Design is done Free of charge by Yemen Times**
- 2. Please confirm order by Wednesday to make sure advertisement is printed on following Sunday.**
- 3. All payments are to be made in favor of Yemen Times by crossed checks.**
- 4. Please ask for "Marketing Department" for assistance with your advertisements.**

NEWS FLASH!!!

A PACKAGE

13th MARCH until 18th MARCH 1994
INVITATION FOR ALL FAMILIES IN YEMEN!

RECREATION FACILITIES

SWIMMING POOL FACILITIES

TENNIS COURT FREE OF CHARGE

SINGLE (3 Nights)
YR. 11,900

DOUBLE (3 Nights)
YR. 12,900

3 NIGHTS

3 BUFFET BREAKFAST

* WELCOME DRINKS UPON ARRIVAL

* FRUIT BASKET ON ARRIVAL

* 10% DISCOUNT ON LAUNDRY AND VALLET

* COMPLIMENTARY COURTESY BUS - 6TIMES TO AND FROM TOWN

CONDITIONS:

- PACKAGE WILL BE APPLICABLE FOR FOREIGNERS HOLDING A VALID RESIDENT VISA. • MAXIMUM 3 ADULTS IN ONE ROOM
- CHECK-IN TIME 11AM • LATE CHECK-OUT 6 PM FREE OF CHARGE.



Sheraton Sana'a
HOTEL

Sheraton

OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU

P.O. BOX 2467 SANA'A, YEMEN R. TLX. 2222 or 2644 SHSAN YE PHONE 237500-8 FAX 251521

THE DOCUMENT AND THE CRISIS

Despite the signing of the (18th January) Document in Amman through the kind offices of the Jordanian government, the Yemeni masses received the event with indifference and a visible cold shrugs. The reason is that the people are overwhelmed with rising prices, economic recession and other problems in their daily lives. The other point is that the citizens are fed up with the crises, committees, documents, etc., which are implemented. It is self-evident that even those who don't understand much about politics know that the coalition parties have little love or patriotism for the homeland or their fellow citizens.

Any new positive development is more than offset by a bigger setback because of the atmosphere of distrust and lack of credibility. The official media and the coalition parties' media also add a lot of agony, confusion and create suspicions. The destabilizing and irresponsible behavior of the ruling parties makes citizens expect everything, including the bizarre, to happen. New disruptions of the political, military, security balances will lead to more deterioration. Those assuming power in Yemen are capable of doing anything and signing the document means nothing to them.

The signing process may signal the starting of a new phase, but the importance is not in the signing of the papers but in the implementation. The crisis should not be presented as being resolved by the signing of the papers. Can we expect implementation? In my opinion, whatever the guarantees, it is difficult to implement the pact because we are asking those who were brought up on breaking the laws to uphold this pact.

I believe the only guarantee lies in the acceptance of all side of the need to build a modern state. Without a new approach and mentality, we can't expect implementation of the Document and will not be able to look forward to a bright future for Yemen.

By: **Abdullah Al-Khawlani**,
Viewpoint,
Al-Wahdawi, Sanaa,
15/2/1994.

YEMEN'S DILEMMA: TO WHOM DOES THE FUTURE BELONG?

The dilemma which the ruling tripartite coalition faces is one which we all face in this country. And by extension, perhaps it is the dilemma of the whole Arab World. It is the predicament which Arab rulers and Arab political parties face under the new democratic transformations which is forced on them these days. The crisis lies in employing the same old methods/techniques without taking the changes into consideration. The problem in itself is a crisis of communication among the parties themselves and between them and society. Of course, the absence of communication will lead to a

state of confrontation. The dilemma which the political parties live through these days is related to their own vision of their role and their own very future. These parties believe that they know what is good for their societies and they know the right way to lead the people. They attribute the fact that they have been unable to do so in the past to a vast array of excuses, for none of which they are responsible.

The political legitimacy of the Arab parties is based on the concept of getting rid of the foreigner occupiers. What emerged is the idea of a party to lead the "struggle." Thus, the ruling parties, with the possible exception of a small minority, are unprepared to deal with society or with the other parties without being opinionated. They are, by the very way they were created, anathema to the concept of democracy and an alternative point of view. The parties are still led by their veterans who were moulded under the old systems.

The performance of the parties at the political level failed drastically. This is clear from the inefficiency of the coalition partnership which has taken us down the road of the crisis. All the parties - leftists or rightists - are but the outcome of the yester-years. There were many challenges on the way in the march of our political movement since the 1948 revolution.

Is the current coalition government capable of applying the dictates of the Document? Is the parliament in its current structure capable of performing the tasks authorized by the constitution, particularly in introducing the required constitutional amendments? Will all these reforms pass without any resistance from the elements of corruption who are everywhere in the authority? How are they going to deal with the issue of terrorism particularly if the trials reveal the involvement of senior individuals in some of those position?

In my opinion, the coalition partners won't be able to implement the Document. The government won't be able to put an end to corruption because some of the corrupt elements are inside the government itself. We should ask who can lead into the future. We should prepare ourselves to enter a new phase, with new ideas to overcome all the distress of the past for the sake of Yemen and to avoid Yemen act of violence. The homeland is for all.

By: **Marwan Abdulla Abdul Wahab Numan**,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
16/2/1994.

DEMOCRACY AND THE POWER CRISIS

Institutionalism is a new trend in the philosophical/political thought of building a state. It is based on a chain of administrative institutions controlling all of the national resources. It should be stable and not affected by the political changes. The institutions of the state should be

an integrated system with a balance of power between the state and the society. When there are no institutions or they are weak, there will be no democracy. A modern state is based on the following:

1- Specifying and organizing the authorities/specialities legally for all the authorities clearly without any interference.

2- A modern state governs and organizes the work of the institutions within regulations, by-laws. Any institution should work according to the rules and regulations.

3- There should be a wide network of apparatuses specialized in follow-up, supervision, censorship, coordination to prevent any kind of intervention.

4- There should be a clear/practical separation between the positions of those at the top levels of the authority and those in the apparatuses.

5- The political positions are limited from the deputy ministers up to the leadership.

5- The apparatuses which are not political are stable and they should keep on with their work regularly. Any change of the political positions has nothing to do with their job.

6- Any post should take into consideration efficiency, qualifications and competence. There should be an avoidance of tribalism, regionalism, partisanship.

7- The armed forces, security apparatuses, judicial, diplomats should be impartial. The authority crisis in Yemen has to do with the absence of the state, a state of system/law and institutions. There are regions where the state has no power. The state's power doesn't exceed the limits of the central cities and towns.

Some of the regions are within the power of the tribes and the shickhs are a source of power, security, protection for their individuals from the state and the other tribes. When there is no state, there is no equality among the citizens. The other point is this spreading of corruption in the state's apparatuses and that is because of lack of law/system. The unification came about in order to create a change in the life of the people and it is not just a merger but this collided with the attempt of imposing a certain mentality on the Southerners. What happened pre-unification is that chaos, deception and cunning prevailed in our lives.

By **Abdul Jabar Saeed**,
Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa,
20/2/1994.

THIS IS THE STARTING POINT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In order to return to the natural environment, the rulers and the citizens are in need of reviewing their calculation during the next phase and deal with each other in a new spirit of trust-worthy/credibility and good intentions. They require a new language in their political speech, statements and interviews. Any irresponsible speech or interview will not serve the cause of the Yemeni people in over-

coming this ordeal of the Yemeni people. The old techniques in dealing won't help finding solutions for the plight of Yemen. Of course, we don't mean oppressing people, prevention of expressing opinions or giving a stoppage to any criticism. I think this is the duty of the press and the official media to tackle the worsened situations. But, criticism has nothing to do with insults/humiliation. It is noticeable that the past period witnessed such a kind of squabbles and those who don't respect the ideas of the others are unable to tackle the issues. What some try to do is to work out how to complicate/poison the ideas and the situations. The world is aware that our country is on the road of correction. The correction of the information speech should precede all the other matters. On this occasion, I remembered the Chinese philosopher Confucius who said, when asked what he would do if he were to assume power, "What is important is the correction of the language. In reality, it is the core of wisdom. When societies decline, language declines too. The use of language during situations becomes weak. The words of crisis takes an exploitative twist used to express double meanings."

In recent months, talking about unification meant separation and talking about democracy meant dictatorship. The reference to co-existence meant violence and intolerance. People began to manipulate words in a frivolous way. What we require is a reconsideration of the language we use, for language is something sublime. The Arabic language was and still is one of the best languages in expressing ideas and concepts. But our manipulations empty the language from its meaning. The Arabs lost half of their history in acquiring the new idioms and expressions in politics, economics, sociology and lost the other half while differing about the meanings of those expressions. We can say that a major part of the differences among the Arabs revolve around terms.

By
Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makalih,
Al-Thawra, Sanaa,
22/2/1994.

YEMENI WISDOM WAS VICTORIOUS ONCE AGAIN

During the crises which appeared in our history, the Yemeni mentality proved its stability and understanding. All the historical events confirm that the political leaders possessed a stable mentality, patience, responsibility in tackling the crises. What the enemies bet on was the destruction of Yemen turning its lands to fields of battles. It is important that we learned a lot of lessons from history. From our crisis, we have learned how to deal with the issues of the homeland and how to deal with each other in patience/wisdom. It is within our power to keep safe the homeland from any intrusion. We also knew the capability of our leaders in taking the right decision at a right time. Any difference could be resolved through peaceful dialogue to avoid any possible catastrophe. This historical meeting in Amman represents a victory for Yemen and it is also a victory for the Yemeni wisdom. It is really an experiment for our credibility. Now it is our role to abide by the Document.

By the political Editor,
Al-Mithak, Sanaa,
22/2/1994.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS CREDIBILITY

Our people witnessed together with the Arab nation and the rest of the world the process of the ceremonies of signing on the Document of Commitment/Agreement as a leading point in getting Yemen out of its crisis. The signing ceremony was done under the patronage of King Hussain. Amid hopes of a detente Mr. Ali Salem Al-Beedh surprised the audience in his speech by mentioning the crisis. Such a pessimism that the implementation will face obstacles by the coalition parties. All hoped to freeze such points aiming at a final solution. King Hussain's speech was impressive and reflected the king's wisdom and concern on the Yemeni unification. The president's speech was promising and optimistic in many senses. Observers see that now the political leadership and all the other forces are before a practical testing of credibility whether they are adherent to unification/democracy or not and this will sure be seen through implementation of the Document.

Front Page Editorial,
Al-Hadaf Al-Arabi, Sanaa,
12/2/1994.

تعازينا الحاره

تتقدم الصديقات والزميلات بأحر التعازي والمواساة

(للأخت الفاضله فوزية السلفي)

وكافة آل السلفي بوفاة والدتها المغفور له

الحاج محمد احمد السلفي

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

عنهم :

عزيزه محمد السقاف

It's someone very special who gets this close to you.

Omega constellation gold/steel ladies' watch.
Scratch-resistant sapphire crystal.
Water-resistant. Swiss made since 1848.



Ω
OMEGA
The sign of excellence

SWISS WATCHES UNION AGENCY
HEAD OFFICE BRANCH OFFICE
Tel: 04/226329 - Taiz Tel: 01/272827- Sana'a

وكالة اتحاد الساعات السويسرية
SWISS WATCHES UNION AGENCY

Sudan : Civil War Intensifies as the Government Troops Embark on a Major Offensive, and the Opposition Calls for an Embargo

The new offensive of the Sudanese government against the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan entered its fourth week, forcing tens of thousands Sudanese refugees to cross the border into neighboring Uganda.

According to relief workers in Nairobi, the offensive started with sustained air bombardment which inflicted heavy casualties among the people around the towns of Mandry and Maridi, who were already victimized by the war and hunger.

Observers in Sudan and neighboring countries agreed that this was the largest offensive and the best prepared for in a long time. "Ever since the eleven years old civil war in Southern Sudan began, we have not seen such an offensive," stated one old timer from the south Sudan.

Although the government army usually launches its offensive during the dry season - December to April - annually, it seems that the current attack is aimed at uprooting the separatist movement of the southern Sudan through a decisive military victory.

The army of the government has the goal of dislodging the SPLA, once and for all, by forcing it out of its last strongholds near the Zairean and Ugandan border. Such a goal is quite feasible, given the exceptional weakness of the SPLA because of the fragmentation and divisions within its factions which are exhausted by tribal fighting and severe lack of supplies.

Relief sources confirmed that another wave of this major offensive is already under way close to Ethiopia's border. This second offensive aims to deprive the SPLA from access to any foreign border in order to besiege the SPLA in a very bad logistical situation.

Politically the Khartoum government has a lot to gain from the offensive. In the face of tremendous political and economic problems, coupled with increasing regional and international isolation and accusations of hosting and encouraging Muslim fundamental terrorism, the Khartoum government has a lot to gain from diversion of attention to its offensive.

Under such circumstances, any progress in fulfilling its five year old promise of annihilating the rebel movement will boost the regime a lot internally and any "victories" will feed its propaganda machinery to convince the starving people

that there were visible returns to their sacrifices. They could also be asked to make more tightening of the belt in order "to defeat the 'infidels' and the foreign conspiracies.

Another important asset is the very practical reason of going to the negotiation table - if it becomes inevitable - with a strong military showing on the ground.

Meanwhile the international community - though overwhelmed with the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis - is still able to pay some attention to the tragedy of Sudan.

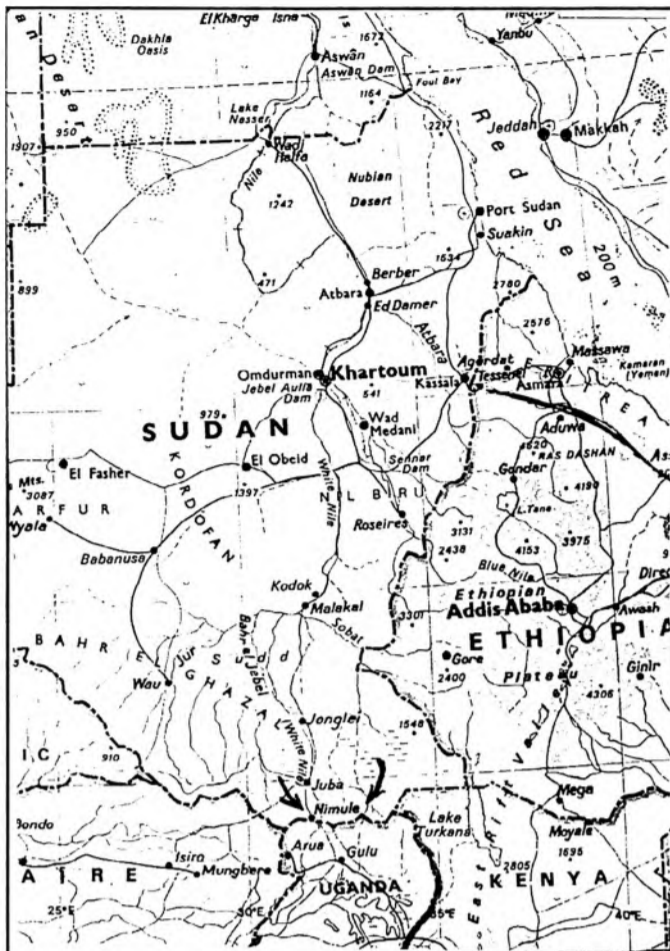
American Ambassador to Sudan, Mr. Donald Peterson, on departure from Nairobi, Kenya, paid a two day visit to Kaya and Nimule - two small towns in the SPLA held area southern Sudan. Despite strong protests from the Khartoum government, Mr. Peterson held a press conference in Nairobi and stressed the US call for an immediate cease-fire and an end to the war and blood shed in Sudan. He also called for emergency food and medical supplies to help the war victims.

The visit to the battleground symbolized yet the strongest American and Western support for an immediate end to the war and to work for a negotiated solution to the conflict between the fighting parties in Sudan. Many observers believe that the US government wanted to pass a message to the Khartoum government indicating that it will not idly watch by as the Sudanese authorities mount a new offensive.

On a parallel tune, Britain showed a similar gesture by inviting the Sudanese opposition - both Northern and Southern parties and groups to a three day hearing session at the House of Lords during January 16-19, 1994.

The meeting of the Sudanese opposition in London, the first of its kind for a long time, tackled two issues. The first is the controversial issue of self determination demanded by Southerners, especially the SPLA. The issue divided the Northerners among themselves on the one hand, and the Southerners and Northerners on the other. Nevertheless, the opposition managed to remain united at the minimum level by postponing decision on this issue to future meetings.

The second issue focussed on the campaign against the regime in Khartoum. The opposition unanimously adopted a document called the "London Declaration" addressing the international



community to take effective measures against the regime of Khartoum because "the National Islamic Front regime in the Sudan poses a real threat to the regional and international security and stability." The declaration claimed that the Khartoum government was hosting and encouraging fundamentalist terrorism by exporting such beliefs to neighboring countries. It also blamed the government for the intensification of war in Southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains which led to the killing and displacement of hundreds of thousand of citizens. The London Declaration called upon the international community to support the Sudanese peoples in "our struggle against the dictatorship of the National Islamic Front and to regain democracy, peace and respect for human rights in the Sudan." It also called

upon the UN Security Council to adopt tough measures against the Khartoum government including the imposition of an embargo on arms and oil supplies. The declaration finally demanded that certain areas be assigned as no military flying zones and to establish "tranquility corridors" in war areas to allow transport of food supplies to the war victims. Most of opposition leaders were not very satisfied with the results of the London meeting particularly with the differences regarding the "right to self determination for the southerners, but they expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached in the measures needed to be taken by the world community. Meanwhile the government drive to dislodge the SPLA successfully continues.

By: Mohamed A/Hamid,
Yemen Times.

Aideed Offers the Olive Branch

Somali strongman and clan leader Mohammed Farah Aideed offered to meet his rival, Mohammed Ali Mahdi, in an effort to shore up differences and work together in bringing sense to the situation in Mogadishu. Aideed blamed all of Somalia's difficulties on the UN and its "strange policies." As yet, there is no reply from the Mahdi camp regarding this invitation for talks. The two men have steadily worked to eliminate the other side and come out victorious in the clan-based civil war that has plagued Somalia and caused comprehensive destruction.

Meanwhile, many nationalities, including the Germans, Belgians, Italians, and Turks have pulled out their contingencies from the UNOSOM, the UN force in Somalia. By the end of March, the American, British and other Western forces will be pulling out.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has been working overtime to replace the Western forces with troops from African and Muslim countries. As the response has been minimal because many countries are avoiding to get embroiled in the Somali quagmire.

At another level, new trouble has erupted in the northern part of Somalia, where Mohamed Ibrahim Egal has declared himself president of a new country called Somaliland. A militia force has taken control of the Hargeisa airport and have delayed the departure of 13 British workers with the UK company Rimfire. The company was under a UN contract in mine disposal efforts.

To complicate the situation further, about 200 local employees of Rimfire, who have been on strike over the last months, have blockaded the company camp claiming they have been cheated out of their pay. They also demanded a pay-raise from \$200 to \$1000 per month.

Egal, eager to gain popular local sympathy, came out on the side of the employees. "They (Rimfire) finished their contract here, but they don't have the grace to leave peacefully," he said from his Hargeisa stronghold.

As UN troops leave Somalia, many observers believe the chances of renewed fighting are getting higher. However, UNHCR sources say it is quite all around except in Mogadishu where there are sporadic clashes.

ERITREA: Alert to Trouble from Islamic Fundamentalism

The tension between Eritrea and neighboring Sudan has been brought under control, for now, thanks to the special relations between Asmara and Khartoum. According to Eritrean diplomatic sources, "This trouble will come back again, and we will have to face it. There is a feeling the government in Khartoum is not in full control."

Many waves of fundamentalist Muslims have been trying to install an Islamic state in Eritrea which is inhabited 50-50 by Christians and Muslims, neither side of which wants funda-

mentalist religious system or philosophy.

"We captured 'volunteers' from as far away as Morocco and we don't know what they want," the source told the Yemen Times. "These militias flow in from the Sudan, and we hope our brothers in Khartoum will help us control the situation," the source added.

Neighboring Ethiopia has also shown similar apprehensions. Islam is used by politicians who want to take over political power in a regional network that has troubled many Muslim societies.

Re-Structuring Ethiopian Airlines

A debt of over \$300 million, is forcing Ethiopian Airlines, one of black Africa's top and oldest flagship airlines, to the brink of collapse. The airline, launched half a century ago by the US giant Trans World Airlines (TWA) has a large schedule of international flights and some of the best connections. Even then, according to Defence Minister Siye Abraha, chairman of the airlines' board, "A two-year structural policy change is needed to save the airline

from disaster."

International competition has forced the airline to incur massive market losses over the last few years. Siye said, "The airline has lost over 20% of its market to the German airline, Lufthansa, which now runs three flights into Addis Ababa, the capital, every week."

A major asset of the company is its highly trained technical personnel. Although the airline has lost some of these to other

airlines during the rule of Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, it still retains a large body of efficient and able technicians. The airline chairman paid tribute to the hard of the technicians saying they had ensured the survival of the airline so far."

The re-structuring involves major shuffling at the management level, re-routing certain sectors, and reductions in the allowances and allocations of station managers abroad.



ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES BOEING 767 EXTENDED RANGE

MANILA ORDERS SEIZURE OF FIREARMS

The government of the Philippines ordered the seizure of firearms it issued to the Cordillera People's Liberation Army should the CPLA fail to turn them over within this month, according to senior superintendent Aguana of the cordillera Philippines National Police Command.

Reports said the PNP has given the CPLA members in Kalinga 15 days within which they will turn over 15 days within which they turn over 15 high-powered firearms issued to them in their fight against insurgents. Intelligence reports reaching Camp Crame in Manila said that some CPLA troops have sold their firearms.

On the firearms taken by the CPLA from captured communist guerrillas, Aguana said that these may be allowed provided the present holders undergo training for their integration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

After their training, Aguana said, they can be re-issued their firearms, subject to certain conditions. One of these, he said, is that these firearms will not be used in case of "tribal wars" between and among tribes in the province.

In a related development, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has vowed to look into three days of skirmishes between its rival Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and military-backed security guards of a logging company operating in three Maguindanao towns in southern Philippines.

In a press statement, Muslimen Sema, MNLF secretary-general, said the joint cease-fire committee of the current MNLF-RP peace panels included volatile regions like Buldon, Barira, and Matanog towns which are included in the agenda for discussion and possible action.

Earlier, MILF Vice Chairman Al Haj Murad had warned of widespread violence in Mindanao if the government did not stop military offensive on the MILF central headquarters at Camp Abubakar in Buldon. Murad claimed that military offensive was launched to uproot the MILF camp in order to pave way for the Cotabato timberland Company Inc. (CTCI) to penetrate the dense forests surrounding the rebel headquarters.

The offensive, according to Murad, have been carried out without let up since January 27 by army troopers.

The government in Manila has been gradually expanding its control of the remote regions.

GREECE SLAMS DOOR ON MACEDONIA

Greece last week went ahead with its decision to slap an economic embargo against the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, an action that led to angry reactions from its European union partners.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, furious over Western recognition of the tiny republic, said he took the decision on Wednesday (February 16th) in order to pressure Greece's northern neighbor into making concessions in a dispute over its name, flag and constitution.

He also shut down Greece's consulate in Skopje, the Macedonian capital. The decision called for Greece to close its northern port of Salonica to all goods destined for the Macedonian capital, except for food and medicine.

"We want this crisis to be an opportunity to solve the problem," foreign undersecretary George Papandreu, the premier's son, in a press conference with reporters in Athens last week. He added that "new measures may be taken" if Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov doesn't make a goodwill gesture to Greece. He did not elaborate.

Nearly all the republic's trade flows through Salonica, located 70 km south of the border, and customs officials said the finance ministry instructed frontier posts to stop all goods except for food and medicine.

Macedonia receives about 65% of its crude oil products from Greece. Officials there said its reserves can last for about two months and local media said 40,000 tons of already purchased oil were stuck in Salonica. Reports from Skopje said long lines were already forming at gasoline stations.

Greece claims Macedonia has designs on its northern province, also called Macedonia, and says these claims are reflected in Macedonia's name, flag and symbols. Athens says they are historically Greek and must be changed. Greece currently holds the European Union's presidency. It has downplayed the wave of angry reactions of its European partners. Similarly, it has not reacted to the American displeasure over the decision by Athens.

"The Greek decision is not good for European unity and it is not good for the (EU) family spirit," said EU Commission spokesman Bruno Dethomas in Brussels. "We have asked for clarifications."

NIGERIAN RULER TRIES AN ECONOMIC ABOUT-TURN

Nigeria's recently installed government is trying the easy route to popularity challenging the International Monetary Fund (IMF). General Sani Abacha has turned usual practice on its head by revaluing instead of devaluing the currency, shifting the Naira from the level of 40 to the dollar set by the previous regime of General Ibrahim Babangida to 22 to the dollar.

The move is rare in the recent economic history of developing countries. Once a currency is devalued, it almost always remains so, because it helps cut balance of payments deficits.

The Abacha government has also reintroduced exchange controls and import licensing, both abandoned by Babangida.

In so doing, Abacha is trying old techniques in economic management instead of continuing down the deregulated or liberal path. It is a high-risk strategy, because the IMF and other international and bilateral "donors" will not be happy. But adopting the IMF line also carries a high risk domestically as Babangida discovered.

Although Babangida tried to sell an IMF-baked Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) as his government's, the truth was soon discovered. SAP quickly became a sarcastic term which by playing on the literal meaning of the word "sap," suggested the Program was draining away the lifeblood of the economy. SAP was a major contributor to the transformation of Babangida from an ardently admired to a detested ruler.

Abacha also had the example of neighboring Ghana to consider. Supporters of Ghana's Provisional National Defence Council were split down the middle after the "revolutionary" government of Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings began an IMF-sponsored series of devaluations. Between April 1993 and January 1994, the cedi moved from 1.75 to the dollar to 845 to the dollar.

Caught between the devil of domestic discontent and the deep blue sea of donor disapproval, Abacha decided that his fellow Nigerians provide the immediate threat.

His chosen system of controls can work - if they are administered fairly and efficiently. It is a big "if." In particular, the criteria for granting import licenses must not be compromised in favor of people who pay bribes or who are otherwise favored by the government.

SAUDI STRESS ON LIGHT CRUDE TO BOOST INCOME

Saudi Arabia, buffeted by economic woes and low oil prices, plans to increase production of high-priced light crude oil to maximize petroleum revenues, the Middle East Economic Survey reported last week.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer, but like other producers, it is facing a severe financial crunch caused by a slump in oil prices from \$18 a barrel at the beginning of 1993 to around \$10.50 at year-end.

Oil revenues fell by around 20% and this, on top of the costs of the 1991 Gulf war, has forced the government to slash spending and reschedule payments of \$9.2 billion to five major US arms suppliers due over the next two years.

Mees quoted unidentified sources as saying that over the next five years, the state-run Saudi Aramco oil company aims to boost production of light crudes to 77 to 79% of total output.

Over this period, the authoritative oil industry newsletter said, over-production will rise from 7.8 million barrels a day in 1994 to 8.4 million barrels in 1998.

The current differential between Arabian light and Arabian heavy is about \$2 a barrel. That rises to \$2.50 a barrel between Arabian extra light and Arabian heavy.

But the difference can be as much as \$4 or more, depending on markets trends.

Mees noted that the Aramco figures "should be viewed with all the necessary caveats."

"Saudi Aramco normally updates its five-year forecasts twice a year. The latest forecasts... are obviously subject to revision and change in the light of subsequent developments. Nor does the prevention of such scenarios mean that they will necessarily be followed to the letter in practice."

"However, the general policy approach of maximizing light crude output at the expense of heavy is clearly of paramount interest to refiners worldwide," Mees noted.

In spite of cut-backs on various expenditures, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has just concluded a deal according to which it will purchase \$6 billion worth of American planes. Other Saudi deals are also in the pipeline, primarily with American and European suppliers. The highly-politicized deals have shut out Japanese exporters, although even the Europeans are not happy.



Rothmans
KING SIZE

THE BEST TOBACCO MONEY CAN BUY

ROTHMANS OF PALL MALL LONDON EST. 1890

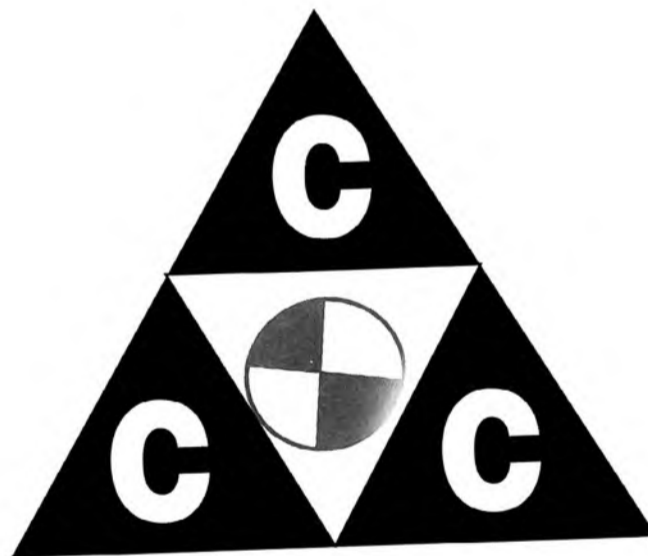
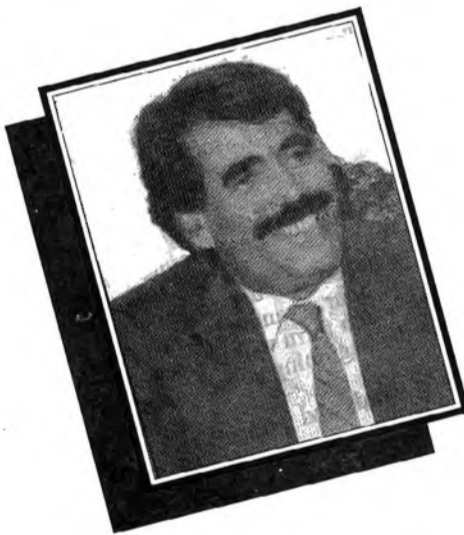
FLYER TYPED

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

R1 216EO

شركة إتحاد المقاولين العالمية

تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات
الى الشعب اليمني وقيادته السياسية
بمناسبة التوقيع على إتفاقية العهد والاتفاق
وتتمنى النجاح في المضي قدماً في التطبيق الكامل



CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS (International) Co
presents its heart-felt congratulations and felicitations
on the signing and ratification of the 18th January Pact
by the political leadership of the country
and wishes success in the implementation thereof.



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

IN DEFENCE OF IDEALISM

I would like to respond to the letter by Majid Hashim Abdul-Hamid Ali which appeared in Yemen Times issue #8 of 20/2/1994 responding to my letter on Idealism. I would like to clarify a few points.

First of all, I cannot see myself as someone who fits your description of idealism as "someone who lacks the courage to acknowledge the dark side of life" or "living in a fantasy world.... closing my eyes when the sun sets." The sun has set so often upon me that my very survival is due to my refusal to give up, believing that the sun would rise again as it always does. Call this idealism.. optimism, or perhaps courage to face life headlong despite the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (now it is my turn to quote from your literature class!)

There are many ways of looking at the issue of idealism and as I stated in my previous letter it is subject to many interpretations. Certainly being an Idealist is not synonymous with believing in Utopia, for Utopia by its very nature suggests that it is an impossible dream. On the other hand, an ideal is an image of possibilities. People who pursue an ideal have a vision of something better and therefore they aim to achieve the ideal. I thought it was clear from my argument that in order to wish to change reality, one should be acquainted with that reality... For how else would one change something one does not know, logically speaking?

I see the bitter realities in Yemen every day, be it in the miserable situation of street children, or villages without the most basic amenities of life or the extreme corruption that seems to override commitment to the Nation and to society.

So far so good, I am a Realist... "par excellence". When do I become an Idealist? It is when I pledge to myself to try and do what little I can in order to change things and improve the situation for the general benefit of society, and to refuse to participate in anything that goes against this principle.

The reason for holding this idealistic position, is my belief that things can be changed for the better, albeit with a lot of hard work and commitment. My friends the realists tell me that it is useless to try and change anything because nothing will ever change. If at the time when men were striking stones to make fire they had heard my realistic friends talk and believed them, I am afraid we would still be hunting for food in the jungle. No, I am not at all apologetic for being an Idealist if this is what it amounts to. I do not wish to be the kind of Realist I see around me who would sell everything, including national interests, or even their own grandmothers for a few dollars!

Ever heard of the story of the half empty and half full glass? Some people would always see the glass as half full and others as half empty. Let me tell you, the ones who see the glass as half full see possibilities of filling the glass to the brim. Those who see it as half empty are the people who wait with dread for the water to ebb away and their pessimism throws them into inaction. Human civilizations thrived because there were people who believed they could fill the glass. Give me the active and courageous Idealists who will always fight to change the situation any time! For far from closing their eyes to the sunset, they challenge

the sun itself in order to rise again with the sheer force of their spirit and beliefs.

In this context I believe you also missed the point in the argument of the Chief Editor and his point about a strong moral fibre holding a society together. If you read history you will realise that the decay in morals always led to the fall of civilizations. Moreover, your asking the chief Editor "to renounce his idealistic moral virtues and start bothering about our daily realistic vices" suggests that you do not read Yemen Times regularly, otherwise you would have realized that the whole paper orientates towards portraying the realities of Yemen and exposing the vices you mentioned. No one has done this to the extreme degree that Dr. AbdulAziz Al Saqqaf himself has. Does this make him an Idealist who does not see reality? I think perhaps he is a courageous man of spirit who digs beneath the surface in order to expose realities with the aim of improving the situation. Whether he is an idealist or realist does not really matter in the final analysis.

After all, terms and nomenclature are only for convenience's sake but life and its realities are so much more complex. There is no simple black and white in life anymore than a human being can be simply described by one major epithet. After all that is what makes life interesting. Our only hope is in the new generation of Yemen and in smart young men like you helping straighten the messed up the world we live in. So keep up the good work!

Samira Bin Daair
Yemen Times

FIGHTING QAT

I have perused the article entitled "Qat: A Problem of Yemen" written by Mr. Saad Salah Khalis and published in "Yemen Times" on 12th December 1993.

The officials themselves are qat addicts and for that reason, they never treat qat as a problem. To the contrary, they see it as a source revenue. Thus, the authorities should not be counted upon in any campaigns to be launched against this widespread plants.

In my opinion, volunteers from the people who believe in fighting qat are the only true rescuers from this pernicious drug. In Sana'a, I believe, a peaceful demonstration directed at the qat markets chanting anti-qat slogans can be organized as a first step. Such a demonstration would attract attention in other areas and might lead to good and responsible reaction. No doubt, fighting qat is a tough task, but it must be fought if Yemen is to get rid of the destructive plant.

I need not mention the offensive remarks by visitors who witness the state of qat chewers.

I believe an anti-qat campaign is essential in order that qat-growers and sellers may better understand the damage they are doing and to switch to an alternative source of income.

By: Mohammed Abdul Bari
Al Saqqaf,
Taiz.

THANKS DEUTAG

How much foreigners care for this destitute nation? Passionate love for one's country means not only to love the rivers, mountains, etc., but also its people.

As history shows, the greatest asset of any country is its nation.

On Feb 13, 1994 I have read a dramatic thing on the Yemen Times, a German man called Wolfgang from the DEUTAG Drilling Co. as Fatma Rawah articulates in her article about the donation of the company for the Yemeni destitutes. Many people admire and appreciate what has been done.

DEUTAG is an excellent example for the Ministry of Social Affairs and for other benevolent organizations. It is the highest form of education in humanitarianism. To minimize the suffering of the destitutes, the Ministry of Social Affairs and philanthropist organizations must help the homeless, disabled and destitutes. We can reduce their agony and misery. Remember, so little can go so far in this endeavor.

The conditions of the poor in this country are outrageous and they need our help.

If Ministry of Social Affairs, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other philanthropic companies can follow the example of DEUTAG. Meanwhile, thanks Deutag.

By: Hassen Sherif
Sana'a.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST YEMENI PASSPORT HOLDERS BY RUSSIAN AIRLINE.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to light a problem afflicting Yemeni travellers using Russian Airline especially from Aden to East Africa.

The staff of the airline refuse to confirm travellers with Yemeni passports because they had pay for the ticket in rials. The reason that they refuse to book Yemen passport holders is to leave room for people with foreign passports. The incredible thing is that; even when the foreigners pay in dollars, the airline people write the fare on the ticket as 4,900 rials instead of the US Dollars 300 paid to them. This is a daylight robbery which is done by the Yemeni staff members in conjunction with their Russian counterparts.

This is unfair to the Yemeni citizens. It is a discrimination! If you hold a Yemeni passport you will always be on the waiting list, and keep praying you are not on a full flight.

It is also unfair to foreigners who pay 300 US Dollars and 1,050 rials per trip, and receive a ticket which reads they have paid 4900 rials.

A. Abdrabo,
Aden.

CRITICIZING THE YEMEN TIMES

I give below four comments based on Yemen times and its chief Editor:

Criticism #1:

I've often read articles in the Yemen Times concerning "Women and the Veil" and many other issues regarding women's freedom in Yemen. But so far, all the articles have been written by males. If women were so concerned about their freedom, surely they would not be so apathetic as not to put in a word for themselves. Why should it be males who try to make females speak with male voices? Don't you think it is time for women to be more explicit about how they feel about the issues under discussion? In other words, even an anonymous letter consisting of only one or two phrases would do!!

Criticism #2:

I have often wondered if Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, being the Chief Editor of Yemen Times, has any other hobbies or interests other than politics and economics. Until now I've not read a single piece by him on any other issue beyond our daily politics, or something related to the economy. So Dr. Abdulaziz, how about shifting your status from Chief Editor to the Political or Economic Editor?

Criticism #3:

I think in your Yemen Times dated January 16th issue, you had introduced on a new feature of "Events of the Week in Pictures." If I am not mistaken, you had proposed to continue it. Now I am eager to know what happened to the proposal, since neither the January 23rd issue nor in the

January 30th has that new feature.

Criticism #4

I've often wondered how much trouble job-seekers have to undergo in their search on each and every corner of your paper looking for vacancies and job advertisements. Why can't it simply advertise all of its vacancies on one page in the classified section, like all the other sane papers?

And now that I've mentioned advertisements, I wish to suggest that your paper's name be changed from the Yemen Times to the Yemeni Advertisement Times, since more than half of your paper is stuffed with them!!

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

Clarifications from the Editor:

Answer to Criticism #1:

Several women have actually written about the veil. The veil is a social issue which concerns both males and females, evidently more the females. Whoever wishes can write about it.

Answer to Criticism #2:

I write about the subjects I think are important. At the moment, I think the political crisis and the economic difficulties are the most pressing issues in our lives today. That is why I probably write in these themes more than others. Most readers seem to agree that those two fields are important. Of course, you will note that other editors write about other themes. We regularly run educational, social, cultural, etc., stories.

Answer to Criticism #3:

Yes, we had proposed to start a feature on major international events in pictures. The output of that feature requires some sophisticated machines. Our RIP went out of order, and we are fixing it. The support and maintenance for computers and other gadgets is not adequate, as you may well know. Once, the machines are fixed, we hope to resume that feature.

Answer to Criticism #4:

We are a private newspaper, and most of our income is from advertisements. Without them, each copy of the Yemen Times would cost about 60 rials. Advertisers subsidize the readers. You should be grateful for that.

Thank you for reading the paper.

WHAT DOES FASTING MEAN?

Literally, fasting is defined in Islam as abstaining from eating food, drinking liquids, and avoiding sexual intercourse from dawn until sunset. Fasting, therefore, means doing without the physical pleasures for a whole month - Ramadhan, the ninth month of the Islamic year. But if we restrict the meaning of fasting to this literal sense, we would be sadly mistaken.

Fasting means to remember to control one's desires and to become a better human being. First and foremost among the requirement for proper fasting is to become a good citizen. Thus, when fasting, one is not supposed to lie, cheat or deceive others. One is supposed to work harder than usual, not to sleep through-out the day, and party at night. Fasting is supposed to free us from our worldly drive of rat-race to make more money in any way we can. In addition it is supposed to free us from our bad habits such as smoking or chewing qat.

Most important of all, fasting is a trial or a test for us to feel the sting of hunger and need. This way, we are supposed to sympathize with the poor and understand what it means to do without sufficient food or other basic needs in life.

Fasting should train us to be honest because one of the components of proper fasting is to refuse to submit to temptations. During Ramadhan, we are supposed to visit relatives and friends. That makes us think of people who are alone, and possibly lonely in their homes. The over-riding force in fasting is self-restraint. We have to be honest in doing the right thing in the right way at the right time. Honesty in judgement, in evaluation and in decisions of all types. The person who fasts knows that he/she is under the watchful eyes of God, and his/her own conscience.

Finally, I will say without hesitation that if we don't learn to tell the truth, and be honest in whatever we do, there is no need to fast. Fasting does not mean abstaining from food and then do all kinds of mischief. We should understand the true meaning of fasting. We should remember the saying of the prophet, "A fasting person will gain nothing from his/her fasting except be hungry or thirsty if he/she fails to absorb the full and true meaning of fasting." That means becoming a better human being.

Mohammed Ghannam,
Taiz.

مرکز شهاب لطب الأسنان

SHEHAB DENTAL CENTER for modern dental therapy

Zubairy Street, in front on Mareb Insurance Company
P. O. Box 667, Sanaa, Republic of Yemen
Phone: (01) 205580

MUSLIM WOMEN & THE VEIL

By: Adel Ben-Harbara, Sanaa.

Many tokens signify values in society and become charged with meaning, a meaning that may signify different things to various members of society and observers alike. The veil is a case in point.

The veil stirs strong emotions among Middle Easterners. In my opinion, the veil has become a symbol of the enslavement of half of humanity in the Middle East. Thousands of words are written about the veil, but they do little to help understand our Middle Eastern cultures. Nor do they help change the status of women in the Middle East. The veil, and all enveloping garments that inevitably accompany it, are the only outward evidence of a cultural pattern that is deep-rooted in Middle Eastern societies.

The veil bears many messages and tells us many things about life in Middle Eastern societies. But most men do not admit this; on the contrary, they claim that one purpose of the veil is to guard the women's honor and chastity.

The veil and purdah are symbols of restriction. A respectable woman wearing a veil on a public street is signaling, Hands OFF! Don't touch me or come near me.

A Cowboy once said, "If you deform a cowboy's hat, he'll likely deform you." In the same way, a man who approaches a veiled woman is asking for trouble. Not only the concerned women, but her family, is also shamed, and serious consequences may result. It is clear that honor is an important aspect of our social structure. Most acts involving honor are likely to affect the existing social peace and equilibrium.

Veiling and seclusion of women is supposed to guard against any defamation of character or honor. It usually is also related to the social status of men.

Historically, only the women of the rich were secluded, as their honor was prized and valued more. Poor men could not always seclude or veil their women because they were needed to toil. They work in the fields, in cottage industries, and they serve in the homes. So they can't be veiled. Besides, their chastity is perceived as less holy.

Delta village women in Egypt, South Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and the Sudan have never been veiled, nor have the Barber Women of North Africa. But this lack of veiling placed poor women in an ambiguous situation in relation to strange men.

Thus, the veil has come to indicate status and wealth. It also points to the degree of religiousness.

There is probably no issue that has so unfavorably influenced the Western world's view of Islam or more pre-occupied lawmakers in Muslim countries than the status of women.

The Quranic vision of women is both liberating and constraining, both uplifting and degrading. In an Islamic society, women are treated like possessions, taken and put aside like trinkets, often held in conditions of the worst abuse. On the other hand Islam ensures women's right to property, and encourages men to treat women with kindness and generosity.

The Quranic verse that sanctions the barriers between men and women is called the Sura of the hijab (curtain): "Prophet, enjoin your wives, your daughters and the wives of true believers to draw their veils proper, so that they may be recognized and not molested." "Allah is forgiving and merciful."

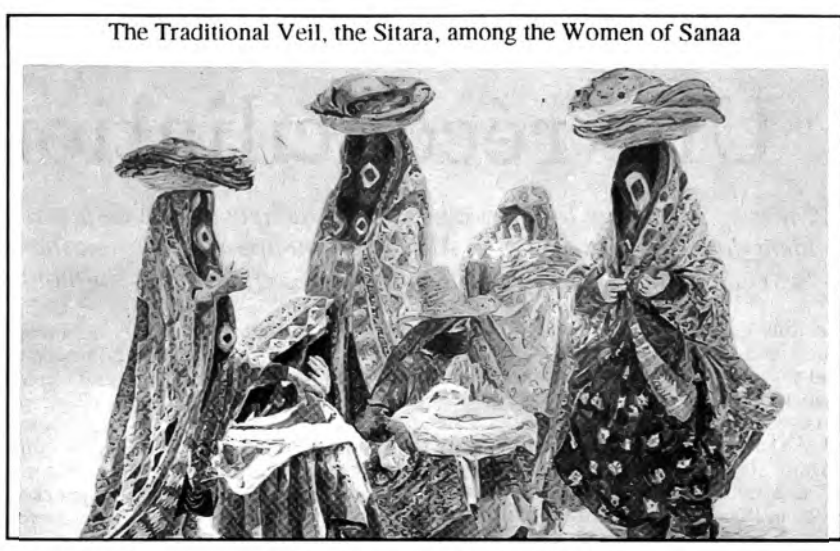
Purdah delineates private space, and distinguishes between the public and private sectors of society, as does traditional architecture of the region. Old Middle Eastern houses do not have picture window facing the street, not walks leading invitingly to front doors. Family life is hidden from strangers; behind blank walls may lay courtyards, yards and gardens, refuge from the heat, the cold, the bustle of the outside world. The world of non-kin that is not to be trusted. Outsiders are pointedly excluded.

Even within the household, among her closest relatives, a traditional Muslim women veils before those kinsmen whom she should legally marry. If her maternal of paternal male cousins, or her brothers in-law, come to call, she covers her head, or perhaps her whole face; to do otherwise would be shameful.

Middle Eastern societies are greatly concerned with honor and shame, rather than with individual guilt. The honor of the Middle Eastern extended family, its ancestors and its descendants, is the highest social value. The mistakes of grandparents are indeed passed on to the children. Men and women always remain members of their natal families.

Marriage is a legal contract, but a fragile one that is often broken. The ties between brothers and sisters, mother and child and father and child are life long and enduring. The larger family is the group to which the individual belongs and to which the individual owes responsibility in exchange for the social and economic security that the family group provides.

Male honor and female honor are both involved in the honor of the family, but each is expressed differently. The honor of a man, "Sharaf", is a public matter which involves bravery, hospitality, and piety. It may be lost, but it may also be regained. The honor of a woman, "Ard", is a private matter involving only one thing, her sexual chastity. Once lost, it cannot be regained. If the loss of female honor remains only



privately known, a rebuke and perhaps a revealing may be all that takes place. But if the loss of female honor becomes public knowledge, the other members of the family may feel bound to cleanse the family name.

In extreme cases, the cleansing may require the death of the offending female member. In some middle East countries such killings are not criminal offenses. Suspended sentences are often given, and the newspapers in Cairo and Baghdad frequently carry sad stories of runaway sisters "gone bad." Revenge is taken upon them, in the name of family honor, by their brothers or cousins. Another thing that is significant about women and marriage is that in most countries, the women or girls getting married had to be virgin. Female chastity is thought of very highly.

The veil provided a great sense of protection from drying eyes, dust, heat, flies. Some French ladies who visited Istanbul in the 16th century were so impressed by the ability of the all enveloping garments to keep dresses clean of mud, and manure, and to keep women from being attacked by persisting men, that they tried, unsuccessfully, to introduce them into French fashion. However, greater importance for many women reared in traditional cultures is the degree to which their sense of personal identity is tied to the use of the veil.

The requirement of the veil in countries like Morocco, Libya, Algeria, which have recently established their independence from colonial dominance, is seen by some Middle eastern and Western scholars as an attempt by men to reassert their Muslim identity and reestablish their roles as head of families. The presence of the veil is a sign that the males of the household are once again able to assume the resumption that was disturbed or usurped by foreign colonial powers.

But veiled women are seldom seen in Egypt or in many parts of Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, southern Yemen and the Sudan. Some respectable housewives have abandoned the veil in some of these Middle Eastern countries, and some prostitutes have put it on. They indicate their availability by manipulating

the veil flirtatiously, but as Burton pointed out more that a century ago, prostitutes were not the first to discover the veil's seductiveness. Like women's garments in the West, the veil can be sturdy, utilitarian, and forbidding or it can be filling and decorative, hinting at the charms beneath it.

The veil is the outward sign of a complex reality. Observers are often deceived by the absence of the sign, and fail to see that, in most Middle Eastern societies, basic attitudes are unchanged. Women who have taken off the veil continue to play the old roles within the family, and chastity remains crucial. A women's behavior is still the key to her honor and the reputation of her family.

An English woman film director, after several months in Morocco, said in an inter-

view, "The business about the veil is nonsense. We all have our veils, between ourselves and other people. That is not what the Middle East is about. The question is what veils are used for and by whom." The veil triggers the world reactions simply

because it is the dramatic, visible sign of vexing questions. Questions that are still being debated, problems that have still not been resolved, and a point of contention in Middle East with the Western. Any casual traveler in Muslim countries may recognize that what is true of women in one country is not true of those in another. The differences are based more on economics, education, and local custom than on religious doctrine. The robed and veiled Afghan village woman following meekly behind her husband has little in common with the woman in a blouse and skirt who runs the tourist information office at Tunis Airport. In Egypt, the universities are coeducational. In Saudi Arabia, men and women are educated separately, and female students see male

instructors through closed-circuit television.

Given the biological differences between male and women, how are the sexes to be treated equitably? If males fear woman and have a complex regarding sex issues which drive them to seek to control and seclude women, how can they be assuaged? Until Middle Easterners come to term with this basic issue, the veil will continue to exist in the East.

The existence of the veil or lack of it should not be a means to breach a woman's rights, subjecting her to many kinds of harassment. Nor is it a symbol of her chastity and integrity. In my opinion, there is no difference between men and women. As the editor of the Yemen Times once said, it is a genetic accident whether a person is born male or female. Both are equally productive members of society. Men should not oppress women in the name of religion or culture.

In the city of Sana'a, if a female walks on the street, she is subjected to constant abuse. If she stops and waits for transportation, she is categorized as a prostitute who wants to be picked up. If she rides in a taxi, she is subjected to every kind of suspicion. If she unveils her face and joins the work force, she is labeled as a person who is "available."

Thus, we find she is targeted by her co-workers who make many and continuous unwanted advances.

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.

صنعا ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ تليكس: ٢٧٨٠ ناچيل يمن فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة ت: ٣/٢٢٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سنجان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠



SPECTACLE

Musique celtique

La musique traditionnelle de l'extrême ouest de l'Europe devrait l'espace d'un soir charmer les oreilles yéménites. C'est une première au Yémen. Le groupe français "Tryptique" fera revivre lundi 7 mars à Sanaa le patrimoine celtique, cette culture du "Finistère" de l'Europe, de l'Ecosse à la Galice en passant par la Bretagne. Le trio de musiciens, Jacky et Patrick Molard, et Jacques Pellen vient de Bretagne. Chacun apporte sa touche d'inspiration. Jacky au violon et à la mandoline, signe les arrangements et les compositions du groupe. Il s'est initié à la musique au contact de sonneurs et chanteurs bretons et de musiciens irlandais.

Cornemuse, blinlou khox et flûte

Patrick, son frère, joue de la cornemuse, du binlou khox et de la flûte. Il est considéré comme l'un des meilleurs spécialistes de la cornemuse écossaise en Europe. De 1971 à 1972 il a séjourné en Ecosse pour y recevoir l'enseignement des prestigieux Robert Brown et Robert Nicol, musiciens personnels de la reine Elizabeth. Il est devenu ensuite musicien professionnel dans le groupe d'Alan Stivell. Le troisième larron de "Tryptique", Jacques Pellen est guitariste et cherche à mélanger jazz et musique celtique. C'est la première fois que le trio se produit dans un pays arabe. Ils vont rester une semaine au Yémen et en profiteront pour rencontrer des musiciens yéménites afin de partager leurs expériences.

"Tryptique" se produira le 7 mars à 21h30 au Centre culturel yéménite, près du siège de la police judiciaire. La soirée est organisée par le Centre culturel français avec le soutien d'Air France et de la Compagnie générale de géophysique.

CRISE POLITIQUE

Une réconciliation d'un jour

Dimanche 20 février à Amman, les trois chefs de file de la coalition au pouvoir, le Président Ali Saleh, le vice-Président Ali Al-Bid et le président du parlement Abdallah Al-Ahmar ont apposé leur signature à l'accord du 18 janvier. La réconciliation fut de courte durée. Le lendemain, des unités militaires sudistes et nordistes s'affrontaient près de l'ancienne frontière entre les deux Yémen.

La réconciliation n'aura duré que quelques heures entre les partisans du Président Saleh et ceux du vice-Président Al-Bid. Au lendemain de la signature à Amman dimanche 20 février de l'accord élaboré le 18 janvier par le comité de dialogue, des unités militaires nordistes et sudistes se sont affrontées près de l'ancienne frontière entre les deux Yémen faisant plusieurs morts.

L'accolade, il est vrai, n'avait guère été chaleureuse entre les deux joutes, ce n'est semble-t-il pas avec la joie au cœur. Le vice-Président a montré une certaine réticence.

Yasser Arafat présent

Les deux hommes venaient d'apposer leur signature au document de 32 pages dans la salle du trône du palais de Raghadan en présence du souverain jordanien, du secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, Esmat Abdel Maguib, du ministre omanais des Affaires étrangères, Youssef Ben Alaoui et de Yasser Arafat, chef de file de l'OLP, et plusieurs personnalités yéménites. Amman s'était mise aux couleurs du Yémen. Des drapeaux yéménites et jordaniens et des banderoles flottaient desant: "Amman capitale de l'union et non de la désunion", "réussissez votre réconciliation, votre union est une force pour la Nation arabe".

L'accord signé par les deux dirigeants prévoit une réduction du déploiement militaire

dans le pays, la fusion des armées du nord et du sud, une décentralisation administrative et économique et des mesures pour endiguer la vague d'assassinats qui a visé surtout des responsables sudistes. Le document avait auparavant été contresigné par 35 personnalités yéménites, dont le cheikh Al-Ahmar.

Jusqu'au dernier moment, la présence du président du parlement et chef de file du parti islamiste Islah, n'était pas acquise. Il réclamait encore la veille davantage de garanties pour l'application de l'accord de réconciliation, estimant que celles qui avaient été décidées par le comité de dialogue étaient insuffisantes pour mettre fin à la crise politique. Le chef de file de l'Islah réclame notamment une clause invitant les Yéménites "à s'opposer à tout acte visant à entraver l'action des institutions constitutionnelles, ce qui devrait être considéré comme une violation de la légitimité constitutionnelle". La veille de la signature, cheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar était en Arabie saoudite pour y effectuer le petit pèlerinage. Il s'est décidé à venir à Amman, craignant sans doute d'être marginalisé. Mais il a ajouté en bas de sa signature "à condition de mettre fin à la crise". Finalement, seul cheikh Zendani, membre du Conseil présidentiel et leader au sein de l'Islah, manquait à l'appel.

Dans un discours prononcé avant la signature, le roi Hussein de Jordanie a estimé qu'il s'agissait d'un "début positif pour le règlement des différends entre arabes et par les arabes eux-mêmes". Il a regretté que la crise du Golfe n'ait pas pu être résolue par les arabes, sans intervention étrangère. La Jordanie a préféré conférer un caractère exclusivement arabe à la cérémonie de signature, alors que le Président yéménite souhaitait inviter un officiel américain.

Dans leurs discours, le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid se sont engagés à appliquer l'accord de réconciliation. Le Président a remercié, outre le roi Hussein, "les Etats-Unis et l'Union européenne" pour leurs efforts visant à rapprocher les protagonistes dans la crise. Le vice-Président, d'humeur plus sombre, a rappelé avoir encore "présentes à l'esprit les images des martyrs", citant notamment son neveu tué en octobre dans un attentat.

Al-Bid ne veut pas regagner Sanaa

La cérémonie de signature ne s'est donc pas déroulée dans un climat de franche réconciliation. L'existence du document de garanties mis au point par le comité de dialogue montre bien, selon certains, la méfiance des Yéménites quant à la capacité de leurs dirigeants à en finir avec la crise. Les divergences entre les nordistes et les sudistes existent toujours. "La nature du régime d'Ali Abdallah Saleh ne va pas changer du jour au lendemain et le Président devra faire la preuve de sa capacité à imposer à un entourage parfois réticent les réformes", a déclaré récemment un responsable socialiste.

Il n'a fallu qu'une journée pour que la réconciliation de façade se lézarde. Le lendemain de la cérémonie, deux affrontements ont opposé des unités nordistes et sudistes et ont fait sept morts dans le sud du Yémen. Le premier s'est déroulé à La wdar, à environ 100km au nord-est d'Aden. Les heurts ont opposé pendant plusieurs heures des forces nordistes à une unité sudiste, Al-Wahda, qui s'était déplacée dimanche de Mukalla pour renforcer la présence militaire sudiste dans le secteur. Quatre soldats ont été tués et une vingtaine blessés. Le deuxième affrontement s'est

produit à Zinjibar, chef-lieu du gouvernorat d'Abyan. Des éléments nordistes ont pris d'assaut un bâtiment administratif occupé par des combattants sudistes. Trois soldats ont été tués. Les deux parties se sont accusées mutuellement d'être responsable des accrochages. Le même jour à Amman, les dirigeants yéménites avaient une réunion de travail en présence du roi Hussein portant notamment sur les modalités de l'application de l'accord. Sans succès. Ali Salem Al-Bid a de nouveau refusé de regagner Sanaa et a exigé au préalable l'arrestation et le jugement des auteurs des attentats politiques qui ont visé notamment des cadres du PSY. L'application de l'accord est donc de plus en plus aléatoire.

Les affrontements militaires se sont poursuivis mardi. Quinze soldats appartenant à une unité militaire sudiste ont été tués dans un accrochage avec une unité nordiste. Selon un responsable sudiste, ils sont tombés dans une embuscade préparée par la brigade nordiste d'Al-Amaliqa, stationnée dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan. Dans cette atmosphère tendue, les sudistes estiment que le Yémen "est désormais en état de guerre non déclarée".

Les partisans d'Al-Bid sont apparemment décidés à appliquer le plus vite possible l'accord signé dans ce qu'ils considèrent comme leur territoire, les gouvernorats de l'ex-Yémen du sud. Ainsi, quelques jours avant la signature, le gouverneur d'Aden, Saleh Al-Sayeli, a donné l'ordre aux forces de sécurité nordistes stationnées dans le camp de Radfan, près de l'aéroport d'Aden, tout proche du centre-ville, de se redéployer dans un autre camp situé à une dizaine de kilomètres de la capitale de l'ex-Yémen du Sud. Ayant refusé, sur ordre de Sanaa, le camp de Radfan a été encerclé par les troupes sudistes qui ont

coupé l'eau et l'électricité. Un soldat a été tué. Les sudistes ont déclaré soupçonner "ces forces de planifier l'assassinat du vice-Président".

La rupture est complète entre les sudistes et les nordistes. Ces derniers n'ont pas apprécié l'offensive diplomatique menée par les socialistes dans les pays du Golfe au lendemain de la cérémonie de signature. Mohamed Basindwa, ministre yéménite des Affaires étrangères a dénoncé cette "initiative personnelle témoignant d'une tendance sécessionniste".

Al-Bid reçu par le roi Fahd

Ali Salem Al-Bid a en effet été reçu mardi dernier par le roi Fahd d'Arabie Saoudite, qui l'a qualifié d'"homme d'importance" sur l'échiquier yéménite. Un camouflet pour Ali Abdallah Saleh, qui depuis la guerre du Golfe (janvier-février 1991), où le Yémen avait adopté une position jugée favorable à l'Irak, tente vainement de renouer avec le puissant voisin du nord. Le vice-Président s'est aussi rendu à Oman, où il a été reçu par le sultan Qabous, tandis que Saleh Saleh, membre du Conseil présidentiel et adjoint d'Al-Bid au PSY, remettait un message de sa part à l'émir du Koweït, cheikh Jaber Al-Sabah, ce qui marque le premier contact officiel public entre les autorités koweïtiennes et les dirigeants yéménites depuis la guerre du Golfe. Saleh Saleh est également allé aux Emirats arabes unis, où il a rencontré cheikh Zayed. Ces déplacements sudistes, qui ont suscité un réel écho médiatique dans les monarchies du Golfe, font craindre à Sanaa un isolement diplomatique. Entre Saleh et Al-Bid, l'Arabie Saoudite et le Koweït ont semble-t-il fait leur choix.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

Découvrir le Yémen à quinze ans

Mathilde Renoux a remporté un concours organisé par le magazine français Okapi et MSF. Le prix: un voyage de quinze jours au Yémen pour ramener un reportage sur l'activité de l'ONG française dans le pays.

A "quatorze ans et demi", Mathilde Renoux fait beaucoup d'envieux. Cette collégienne française, qui habite dans la banlieue de Lille, est arrivée en tête d'un concours organisé par le magazine Okapi destiné aux dix-quinze ans et l'organisation humanitaire Médecins Sans Frontières. La récompense, c'est un voyage de quinze jours au Yémen pour visiter les missions de MSF dans le pays et en ramener un reportage.

Elle était ces jours-ci à Sanaa avant de gagner Taëz pour aller visiter la mission de Dhi Sufal, puis Aden, où elle ira au camp de Somaliens d'Al-Koud. Elle est accompagnée dans son périple par Marc Beynié, un journaliste d'Okapi. Le concours consistait à réaliser un

reportage sur un des deux thèmes proposés: la pauvreté dans les pays riches ou la vie dans les bidonvilles dans les pays du Tiers-Monde. Mathilde a choisi le premier sujet et l'a présenté sous la forme d'un journal de quatre pages. Elle a récolté beaucoup d'informations auprès de la Croix Rouge, le Secours Catholique, ATD Quart Monde. Elle a rencontré des gens démunis et a reçu des lettres de volontaires travaillant dans des pays aussi différents que Taïwan, les Etats-Unis, la Suisse...

C'est la troisième édition du concours par Okapi et MSF. Les précédents gagnants sont allés au Malawi et en Guinée. Le prochain devrait se rendre au Guatemala.

BOSNIE

Les Serbes se plient à l'ultimatum de l'OTAN

Les Occidentaux avaient fixé à lundi 21 février 0h l'ultimatum pour le retrait de toutes les armes serbes autour de Sarajevo. La menace de frappes aériennes a pour l'instant réussi.

La menace des frappes aériennes sur les positions serbes autour de Sarajevo par l'OTAN a pour l'instant réussi. Les Serbes se sont pliés aux exigences de l'OTAN de retirer leurs armes lourdes de Sarajevo. Les Occidentaux ont donc renoncé à mettre en pratique leur menace après l'ultimatum fixé à lundi 21 février à 0h. Bill Clinton, le Président américain a cependant évité le mot de succès, et a appelé à la vigilance.

La population de la capitale bosniaque assiégée, lassée de trop d'espoirs déçus, reste sceptique. Beaucoup de musulmans ne sont pas satisfaits du gel d'une situation qui ne leur est pas favorable. "Je n'ai de toutes façons jamais cru qu'ils allaient bombarder les Serbes", assure une habitante de Sarajevo. "Et

aujourd'hui, j'ai même plutôt davantage peur qu'avant, car notre armée a dû rendre ses armes. Les Serbes sont toujours là. Et les Casques bleus ont déjà largement prouvé qu'ils n'étaient en aucune façon une garantie pour notre sécurité", ajoute-t-elle.

Les Russes au premier plan

Le commandement des Casques Bleus a pourtant prévenu lundi que la zone d'exclusion des 20 kilomètres, où la majeure partie des canons serbes est désormais sous contrôle de la FORPROJNU, sera passée au crible.

A Belgrade, la capitale de la Serbie, la population était man-

ifestement soulagée de l'absence de frappes aériennes. Ce soulagement va de pair avec un fort sentiment de reconnaissance envers la Russie, considérée comme l'un des acteurs majeurs qui a permis d'éloigner la menace d'une intervention de l'OTAN. Les Russes ont confirmé leur volonté de jouer les tous premiers rôles en annonçant l'envoi de 400 parachutistes supplémentaires à Sarajevo. Ils ont l'intention de placer leurs troupes en tampon entre les belligérants, première étape vers la réalisation de leur propre plan de paix qui prévoit de faire passer la capitale bosniaque sous contrôle de l'ONU. En obtenant de la part des Serbes jeudi 17 février la promesse qu'ils retireraient leurs armes lourdes en échange de

l'arrivée de Casques bleus russes, Moscou a offert à ses alliés serbes de Bosnie une occasion inespérée de sortir de leur bras de fer avec l'OTAN sans perdre la face. Moscou a profité de cette victoire diplomatique pour se redonner l'image d'une grande puissance.

L'OTAN, elle-même y a trouvé son compte, pouvant ainsi se targuer d'avoir fait plier les Serbes, en s'épargnant le risque d'escalade des frappes aériennes. L'OTAN pourrait être tentée de renouveler son succès de Sarajevo dans d'autres zones de Bosnie, comme Tuzla, Srebrenica ou Mostar. Mais pour l'instant, l'organisation souhaite se concentrer sur Sarajevo.

VIEUX METIERS

L'artisanat de la cornaline, une tradition qui remonte à l'Antiquité sudarabique

Trois chercheurs français* ont publié récemment un article sur la fabrication de la cornaline au Yémen. De Sanaa à Gudam en passant par Al-Safa, ils sont partis à la recherche d'une tradition artisanale qui survit tant bien que mal.

D'un geste mécanique, le vieil homme frotte ses morceaux de cornalines sur une pierre humide pour leur donner la forme voulue. Ali Abou Taleb a installé son atelier dans le caravansérail Al-Nahas dans la vieille ville de Sanaa.

Pierre semi-précieuse

Aujourd'hui au Yémen, il ne reste plus que quelques ateliers qui fabriquent des cornalines. Ils produisent essentiellement des chatons de bagues pour hommes. Roche généralement d'origine volcanique appartenant à la famille des calcédoines, la cornaline est une pierre semi-précieuse, translucide, dont la couleur varie de l'orangé au rouge. C'est l'une des roches les plus dures à travailler après les rubis et les diamants. Une fois débarras-

sées de certaines impuretés avec un marteau, les cornalines sont chauffées pour leur faire perdre leur humidité et pour améliorer le travail de taille et de polissage. La taille est pratiquée à l'aide d'un petit marteau en fer pointu. Le polissage est ensuite effectué à la main sur quatre meules successives en pierre de nature différente. La cornaline est collée au bout d'un petit bâtonnet en bois. Les trois premières meules permettent l'abrasion de la pierre, la quatrième assure le lustrage qui donne son brillant à la cornaline.

Malgré la concurrence de la production de Khambat en Inde, meilleure marché, la cornaline du Yémen continue à être très prisée en Irak, en Iran, en Syrie et dans les pays du Golfe. Sa valeur symbolique explique cet engouement en Orient: "Celui qui porte une bague en

cornaline, connaîtra toujours la faveur divine et la joie", aurait dit le Prophète Mohammed. Dans la médecine traditionnelle, certaines cornalines étaient investies du pouvoir d'arrêter les hémorragies et d'extraire le poison. Dans le traité de médecine du roi rasulide Al-Muzaffar qui régna au XIII^{ème} siècle sur une grande partie du Yémen, il est rapporté que la cornaline d'un rouge éclatant a la propriété de blanchir les dents, d'éliminer le tartre et les caries. Portée en bague, elle stoppe les hémorragies, diminue les règles trop abondantes, développe le courage contre l'ennemi, accroît l'acuité visuelle et élimine les palpitations du cœur. Aujourd'hui, les raisons de la forte demande de cornaline yéménite dans les pays du Golfe s'expliqueraient par son pouvoir supposé aphrodisiaque chez les hommes. Il suffirait que l'homme la place sous langue durant l'acte sexuel.

Autrefois un cadeau royal

L'utilisation de cette pierre semi-précieuse est très ancienne. Quelques indices attestent la présence de perles en cornaline dans des tombes sudarabiques. Il y a plusieurs siècles, les objets en cornaline représentaient des biens de prestige offerts par les dirigeants du Yémen aux autres souverains. De nos jours, ce n'est plus un cadeau royal.

Les sources de cornaline yéménite sont actuellement limitées à la région montagneuse d'Anis au nord-ouest de Dhamar. La pierre yéménite se présente naturellement sous une couleur déjà rouge et orangée, proche de la couleur des objets finis alors que sa concurrente indienne est plutôt jaune. L'extraction est actuelle-

ment concentrée autour du village de Gudam. Elle est pratiquée par les paysans, qui après les récoltes deviennent mineurs pendant les saisons d'automne-hiver. Les puits d'extraction sont creusés sur quelques mètres de profondeur, cinq à six mètres maximum. Le travail étant très dur, la production est de l'ordre de quelques kilos par mois. L'extraction de la cornaline, pénible et aléatoire semble avoir été réservée pendant longtemps aux paysans sans terre.

Le prix en fonction de la qualité

Les lieux d'extraction et de fabrication sont bien différenciés aujourd'hui, ce qui n'a pas toujours été le cas autrefois. Il n'existe plus maintenant que deux marchands de matière première, l'un d'eux, le plus important, habite à Al-Masaba, village voisin d'Al-Gudam. Ils commercialisent la quasi-totalité de la cornaline extraite dans le secteur. La valeur marchande de la pierre brute est fonction de sa qualité et non de son poids. Couleur, transparence et homogénéité déterminent les prix.

Il existe deux lieux de fabrication de la cornaline yéménite: Sanaa et Al-Safa dans le wadi Sira à 20 km de la capitale. La majorité des polisseurs habite à Al-Safa. C'est dans cette région qu'est extrait l'onix yéménite et les roches utilisées comme meules dans le travail de la cornaline. Les artisans d'Al-Safa sont issus de familles d'agriculteurs. Plusieurs d'entre eux ne pratiquent que cette activité. Il est dit que le polissage de la cornaline a été importé à Al-Safa il y a plusieurs siècles par une famille d'artisans venue d'Anis.

A Sanaa, trois artisans continuent cette activité. Ils travaillent dans le samsarat Al-Nahas



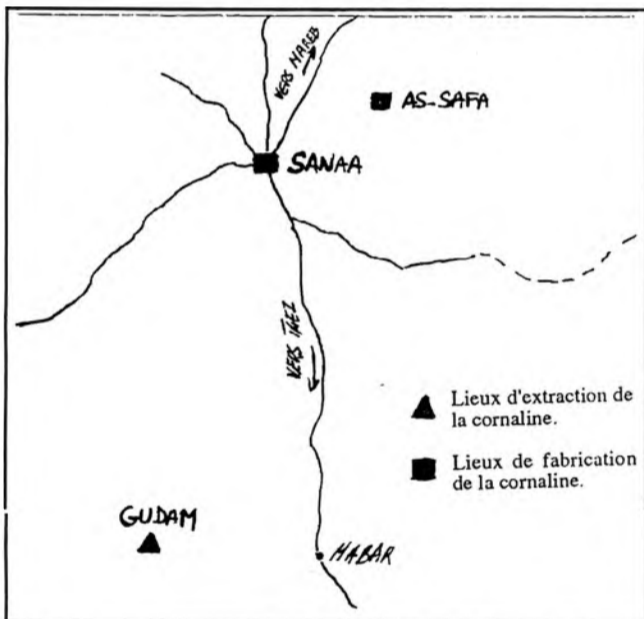
Dans le samsarat Al-Nahas, un caravansérail de la vieille ville de Sanaa, Ali Abou Taleb continue à tailler et à polir des cornalines.

dans la vieille ville de Sanaa. Autrefois, les anciens polisseurs travaillaient à domicile, ils appartenaient à la frange pauvre des groupes de statut supérieur, descendants du Prophète, sayyid, ou juges religieux, qadis. La profession de polisseur possédait donc un statut élevé dans l'échelle hiérarchique.

Jadis, l'exportation de la cornaline yéménite transitait par La Mecque notamment lors du grand pèlerinage. Aujourd'hui, les commerçants n'attendent plus cet événement pour commercer et ils se rendent en Irak, particulièrement à Najaf et

Karbala, les deux villes saintes du chiisme, en Syrie et dans les pays du Golfe. Ils sont peu nombreux, moins d'une dizaine et le gros commerce est entre les mains de marchands arabes, irakiens notamment, qui viennent s'approvisionner au Yémen.

*Article signé par Marie-Louise Inizan du CNRS, Mohamed Jazim et Franck Mermier du Centre français d'Etudes yéménites, et publié dans la revue semestrielle française, Techniques et Culture, numéro 20.



Carte des lieux d'extraction et de fabrication de la cornaline au Yémen.

EXPOSITION

Shawkat Al-Rubaï

Le Centre national d'art, installé au samsarat Al-Mansurah dans la vieille ville de Sanaa, accueille depuis hier une exposition du peintre irakien Shawkat Al-Rubaï. Celui-ci expose 45 de ses oeuvres, couvrant une période allant de 1960 à 1990. Son style d'abord réaliste néo-socialiste a évolué vers un style expressionniste abstrait. Tout au long de sa vie artistique, le peintre irakien fut fortement impressionné par les scènes de sa région natale et particulièrement par son village. Les couleurs de sa palette sont celles de sa région et ses paysages reflètent son attachement à cette terre. Son tableau le plus connu, "Le Jeu de la guerre", a été réalisé en 1975 et est exposé actuellement au musée de Bagdad.

Très intéressé par l'oeuvre du peintre français Paul Cézanne, il en a même écrit un livre. Shawkat Al-Rubaï est en effet aussi critique d'art. Il a publié quatorze livres sur l'histoire de l'art. Invité par le ministère yéménite de la Culture, c'est la première fois qu'il vient au Yémen. Les amateurs de peinture ont jusqu'au 12 mars pour se rendre au samsarat Al-Mansourah.

1991-1994

Le Yemen Times fête son troisième anniversaire

Le premier numéro du seul hebdomadaire yéménite en langue anglaise a été lancé le 27 février 1991, il y a exactement trois ans. Années de croissance pour le Yemen Times, qui depuis deux ans accueillent deux pages en français.

"Quand la crise du Golfe a commencé, j'étais en Jordanie. Je me suis aperçu que la position yéménite était mal présentée. Aussi j'ai décidé de lancer un journal en anglais pour expliquer mon pays aux étrangers". Le Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf fête aujourd'hui les trois ans de son hebdomadaire. Le Yemen Times, seul journal yéménite en langue anglaise, a été lancé le 27 février 1991. "Au début, nous soutenions le gouvernement, aujourd'hui nous sommes dans l'opposition", précise-t-il.

Professeur de finances à l'Université de Sanaa, le Dr. Abdulaziz a commencé avec 2000 dollars en poche, deux ordinateurs, et trois employés. "Nos bureaux étaient dans le quartier de Hassabah. Nous n'avions ni eau, ni téléphone, et étions installés dans un baraquement au toit en tôle ondulée". Aujourd'hui, il est fier de montrer ses bureaux flambant neuf rue Hadda. Entre-temps, le Yemen Times avait migré vers la place Tahrir, puis

près de la rue Khartoum. Depuis le début de l'année 1994, une quinzaine de personnes travaillent pour le Yemen Times. Le journal composé de huit pages au lancement s'est étoffé pour passer à seize pages à partir de septembre 1991. Depuis la fin de l'année 1991, il accueille deux pages françaises. Aujourd'hui, l'hebdomadaire est passé à vingt pages, l'introduction de la couleur depuis septembre dernier s'est faite grâce au matériel ultramoderne de l'imprimerie Horizons Printing, qui se trouve route de Taëz.

Les pages françaises créées fin 1991

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf a commencé avec une petite expérience dans le journalisme. Il a en effet participé au lancement du journal en anglais sur la télévision yéménite. Il se rappelle exactement le nombre de numéros vendus pour la

première édition du Yemen Times: "521", dit-il. Aujourd'hui, il estime qu'il vend plusieurs milliers de numéros pour chaque édition.

Yahya Al-Hodeidi, qui s'occupe de la mise en page des pages anglaises, a participé depuis le début à cette aventure. "Je travaillais dans une compagnie informatique quand M. Al-Saqqaf est venu me chercher. En entrant au Yemen Times, je voulais devenir journaliste".

Le Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf est satisfait de la croissance continue de son hebdomadaire depuis trois ans. Selon lui, la deuxième année a été la plus cruciale pour l'avenir du journal. L'année qui vient devrait être une année de consolidation après les gros investissements en matériels de bureaux et en outil informatique. Mais pour 1995, le propriétaire du Yemen Times a des projets en tête. Il voudrait réaliser un quotidien de huit pages. Pour cela, il lui faut améliorer la distribution du Yemen Times.

En Bref

Le Yémen réduit de 5 % sa production pétrolière: Le ministre yéménite du Pétrole Saleh Abou Bakr Hussainou a affirmé que son pays a réduit de 5 % sa production pétrolière pour soutenir les cours du brut. "En dépit de la faiblesse de notre production, nous l'avons réduite de 5 % pour soutenir les pays dont l'économie souffre de la chute des prix du brut", a-t-il déclaré la semaine dernière. Le Yémen produit actuellement environ 320 000 barils par jour et envisage d'augmenter sa production au cours des prochaines années. Le sultanat d'Oman avait annoncé une réduction de 5 % de sa production à partir de janvier. Le ministre omanais du Pétrole avait effectué fin décembre une tournée dans huit pays non-OPEP dont le Yémen, pour les inciter à réduire leur production.

Assassinat de deux cadres du CPG: Deux cadres du parti du Président Saleh, le CPG (Congrès populaire général), ont été assassinés mardi 15 février près de Sanaa, dans le village de Bani Al-Hareth. Abdel Al-Sarfi et Mahdi Choubayh ont été tués, selon le CPG, "par une bande d'assassins professionnels à la solde d'un mouvement politique adepte de la violence". Le Parti du Président exhorte les autorités à "obliger le parti auquel appartiennent les assassins à

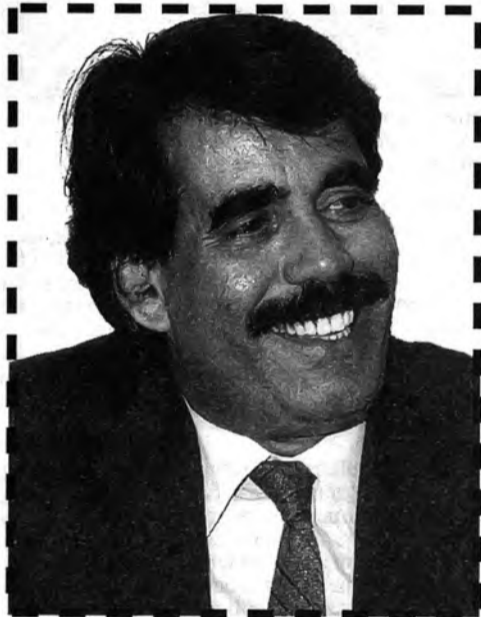
les remettre à la justice et à dévoiler leur complot". Le CPG a également invité ses membres à la "vigilance".

Libération de trois Chinois enlevés au Yémen: Les trois techniciens chinois, qui avaient été enlevés le 12 février au nord de Sanaa, ont été libérés lundi dernier par leurs ravisseurs, sans intervention de la police et "sans condition". Les trois hommes travaillaient sur une route en construction entre les villes de Jahana et Mareb. Les ravisseurs exigeaient l'annulation de condamnations à mort prononcées à leur encontre par un tribunal yéménite et l'arrêt de la construction de la route.

Attentats contre le train Le Caire-Assouan en Egypte: Samedi 19 février, à 1h30 du matin, le train Le Caire-Assouan en Egypte a été attaqué alors qu'il traversait la province d'Assiout. Quatre personnes ont été blessées dont deux touristes, une Taïwanaise et une Polonaise. L'attentat a été revendiqué par l'organisation intégriste clandestine, Jamaa Islamiya, précisant qu'il s'agit de la "vengeance rapide" de cette organisation après la condamnation à mort de trois militaires intégristes, impliqués dans une tentative d'assassinat du Président Hosni Moubarak.

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

تزف أحر التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبي
 وقيادتنا السياسية التنفيذية والتشريعية
 بمناسبة التوقيع على إتفاقية العهد والإتفاق
 وترجو من الله العلي القدير أن يأخذ بيد قادتنا في تحقيق التطبيق الكامل
 لبنود الإتفاقية إنه سميع مجيب



The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies
 rejoices with the Yemeni people
 on the occasion of signing and ratification
 of the 18th January Pact
 by our political leadership and we urge
 a swift and comprehensive implementation thereof.

In the UNDP Secretary-General's Speech:

"The UNDP spearheads a new anti-desertification campaign."

The deterioration of land resources in the world's arid and semi-arid regions is one of the gravest problems our planet and its people face. Desertification - broadly defined, is one of the principal barriers to sustainable food security and sustainable livelihoods in our world today. It is not a future global threat; it is a devastating day-to-day local reality. If we want to provide sustainable food security and sustainable livelihood for the world's expanding populations, we must not merely attack desertification; we must not merely halt desertification; we must reverse desertification.

A central development objective, fundamental to all else, is sustainable food security. At the very center of concern about development must be a concern with food, agriculture, and people. In the developing countries, an estimated 13-18 million people, mostly children, die from hunger, malnutrition, and poverty-related causes each year. That is about 40,000 people a day, or 1,700 people an hour. One billion people - 20% of the global population - live in households too poor to obtain the food necessary for sustaining normal work, and half a billion live in households too poor to obtain the food needed for minimal activity. One child in three is underweight by age five. As the *Bellagio Declaration on Overcoming Hunger in the 1990's* states, "In a world of potential food plenty, we have collectively failed more than one billion of our people."

But today's failure may be but a prologue to a much larger failure in the future. Today, the average person among the 4 billion in the developing countries consumes about 2,500 calories of food each day. The average person consumes 3,400 calories per day in Western Europe and more than 3,600 in the United States. If the world's people are to have a nutritionally adequate diet, world food output must at least triple over the next half century, given likely population increases. It will be difficult enough to achieve this expansion under favorable circumstances, and conditions may be far from favorable.

For example, according to recent estimates by the world's leading soil scientists, an area of about 1.2 billion hectares about the size of China and India combined - has experienced moderate to extreme soil deterioration since World War II as a result of human activities. Over three-fourths of that deterioration has occurred with other environmental threats to the agricultural resource base, such as loss of water and generic resources, loss of cultural resources, and climate change, both local and global. The situation is disturbing indeed.

From this perspective, the goal of achieving sustainable food security in the decades ahead emerges as one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced. Food output must be tripled, and people must have the income to buy it. The erosion of the resource base due to desertification and other factors must be halted and even reversed. Failure on any of these fronts will yield to an unprecedented world tragedy. The world must join hands and efforts to seeing that this future tragedy does not occur, and that today's tragedy is addressed successfully. The world has the potential to do something of re-

mendous importance; something of historical significance. From the abstract words and concepts with which research laboratories and institutes and universities must emerge policies and actions; and from those actions must come results, real results for real people. It can happen; it must happen. We must make it happen for the billion people who inhabit areas prone to drought and desertification.

The countries most severely affected are among the poorest countries, with the lowest rankings on the Human Development Index. Within these countries, the people touched are the poorest and most marginalized. For their sake, we must make it happen, for failure to deal with desertification will accelerate the vicious cycle of expanding poverty, environmental degradation, and mounting population pressures, leading to more emergency situations of famine and relief.

At UNDP, we are moving to strengthen our capacity to help countries address the challenge of desertification. We have recently developed a new system-wide strategy and approach for UNDP on the issue. As you may know, much of UNDP's efforts to date concerning desertification has been principally through UNSO to create a major anti-desertification campaign.

We want to support development of country strategies and policies for combating drought and desertification; to integrate such strategies and policies into the overall sustainable human development plans; and to help countries mobilize resources in support of these plans and design projects that implement them.

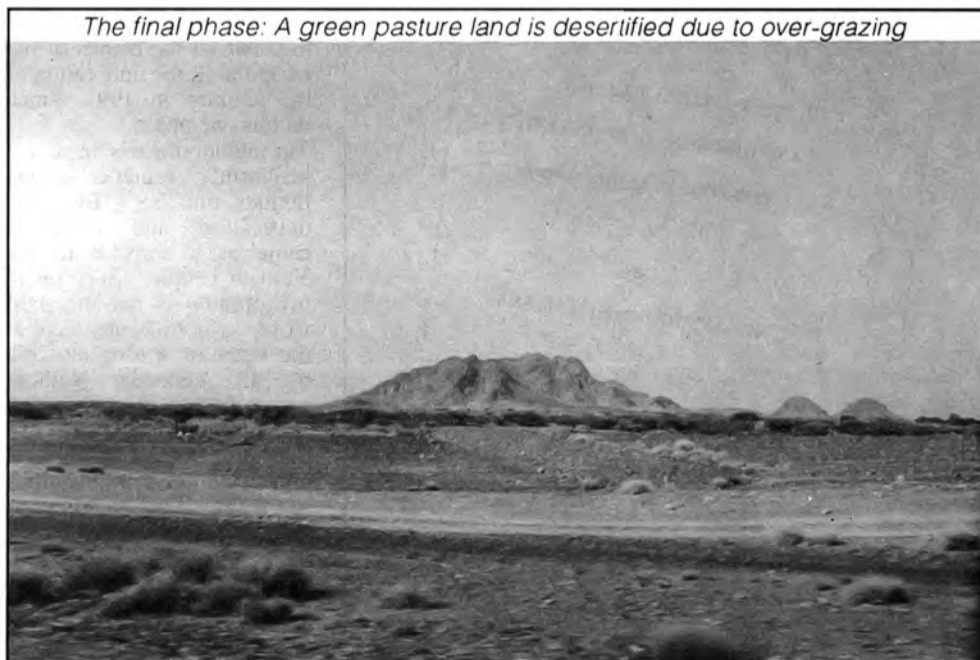
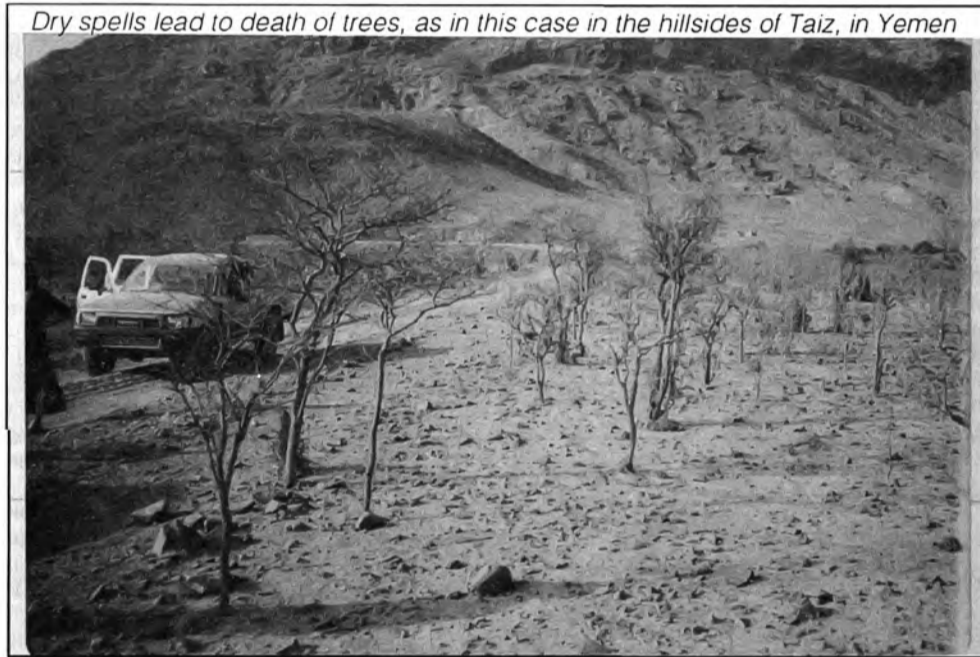
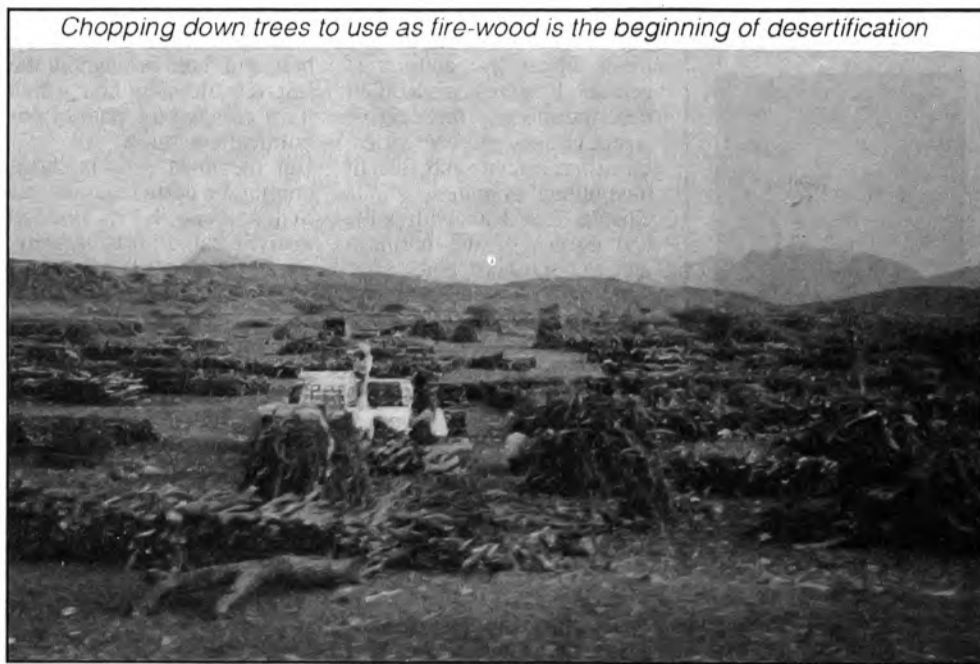
We want to help strengthen local community institutions involved in resources of women and the use of indigenous knowledge in planning and implementation.

We want to help build capacity for disaster mitigation and preparedness, and to play an advocacy role for more systematic linkages between relief and long-term development activities;

We want to improve the information base on environment and natural resources for better decision-making through support for natural resources assessments, environmental information systems and promotion of environmental education and public awareness.

We want to bring together all the relevant UNDP initiatives - UNSO, Capacity 21, GEF, the SDN, the CDF, UNIFEM, not to mention our core program - into a concerted capability to attack desertification wherever it is severe. In all these areas, we want to work closely with UNEP, FAO, and other agencies. Anti-desertification action needs and deserves a broad coalition.

There is already a collaborative effort against desertification involving UNDP and UNEP. The UNDP/UNEP joint venture mechanism through UNSO, set up to implement the PACD, has been a unique, and in the view of many, a highly successful collaborative effort in international actions to combat desertification and drought, harnessing the comparative advantages of two key institutions and reinforcing the focus between environment and development. Our two organizations are currently closely studying how the UNDP/UNEP joint venture could be re-structured to take to



take into account, and respond effectively to the new dynamics on desertification that will emerge from the current INC-D process. This is in line with the special mandate assigned to UNDP and UNEP by Chapter 38 of Agenda 21. Needless to say, we at UNDP are also eager to do everything possible to promote more success in this field. I would like to share with you some thoughts on the operational aspects of fighting desertification. I hope that we can develop a truly global partnership to bring desertification under control, to move to sustainable manage-

ment of dryland areas, and to reclaim degraded arid lands. We need to be specific on objectives. I would recommend that a priority objective should be to reverse the desertification process in all countries where it is severe and to do so within a designated time frame. This global partnership would seek to reverse the process of desertification through a combination of policy initiative (both national and international), long-term planning to arrest land degradation, and the commitment of meaningful financial, technological, policy, and political support from countries in a position to provide

assistance. While focussed on curbing desertification, the partner would promote broad-based and environmentally sustainable development. Among other approaches, the partnership would seek to create economic opportunities that take pressure off the most fragile of dryland areas. The central mechanisms for arresting severe land degradation can be:

- 1) national desertification action programs, drawn up by the involved countries themselves (not by outside consultants); and
- 2) a new consortium of donor countries and multilateral agencies committed to pro-

viding major additional support through a process of country-by-country decisions.

A new generation of national action programs would specify what actions the country would take in a variety of sectors and policy areas in order to halt land degradation and address the underlying forces leading to desertification. Their development would involve extensive participation of NGOs, affected communities, women's groups, and grassroot organizations. It is critical that these action programs deal with the true underlying causes of desertification. They must attack the root causes. They must deal honestly and courageously with the question: "What is truly going to be required if we are going to reverse desertification in our country - required from us and required from others?"

Industrial country participants in the partnership would announce that they "stand ready" to assist developing countries experiencing severe desertification. Significant new and additional resources would be available to countries with qualifying action programs. The decision to participate in the new program would rest entirely with the affected developing countries.

To emphasize again each national program would specify targets for slowing and then reversing desertification over a period of 10 years or longer. The programs would be based on broad participation. They would focus on all key national and international policies bearing on land degradation. The understanding between developing countries and the donor consortium would provide a comprehensive range of economic and other support for the duration of the agreement, and not just financing of projects in a single sector.

UNDP efforts to date to support the negotiation process between the two sides have focussed on enhancing the participation of the most affected countries and by providing technical and financial assistance to these countries as well as to the INC-D secretariat.

Over the longer term UNDP is fully committed to providing support to the implementation process. UNDO has characteristics that make it well suited for this role, including our emphasis on national capacity-building; our partnership with governments, UN system agencies and the NGOs; our cross-cutting multi-sectoral approach and our profound interests in helping to solve the desertification problem.

UNDP will make available our global network of 131 country offices. We plan to broaden the UNSO fund into a fund to combat desertification wherever it is a serious barrier to sustainable human development, and we can dedicate this fund to the successful implementation of the new drive, providing the parties with convenient and simple funding mechanism. And we can offer our facilities and good offices to host the secretariat. In this context, UNDP can perhaps help facilitate the overall coordination and implementation of the emerging family of international conventions, thus helping to avoid confusion and missed opportunities associated with the proliferation of conventions and secretariats. Perhaps UNDP should establish a new facility or office which could serve to host a number of current and future conventions and secretariats.

A NEW BOOK ON YEMENI MODERN POLITICS

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

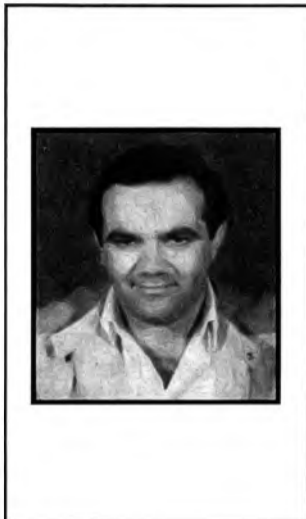
A new book on Yemeni modern politics was issued in Sanaa last month. The author, Ilham Mohammed Manca, is assistant lecturer in political science at the University of Sanaa. In her book, titled "Political Parties and Organizations in Yemen during 1948-1993: An Analytical Study," the author goes through history, evolution and ideologies of the various political parties and movements in the former YAR and PDRY, as well as the political evolution since unification. This book is published by the PGC in a paperback copy of around 330 pages.

The book is divided into five chapters. It states to be a objective research of Yemeni politics and social transformation in the period since the end of the WW2. The book gives a panoramic view of political life in Yemen.

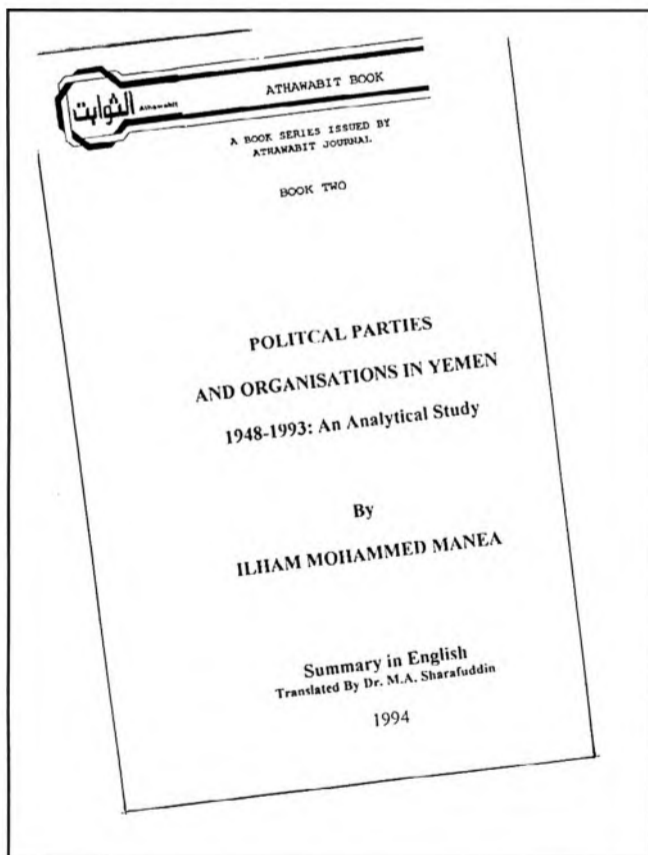
Starting from the thirties up to the present day, the author discusses the suitability of political pluralism system for Yemen. Ascending gradually from the basic definition of political party, she goes through the social and political functions and its structure and form of representation for various social classes and categories. She then exhibits various types of party systems prevailing in the world and their merits and demerits. She even uses addresses the experiment of the Third World and its unique political experience, although she doesn't go through enough details as she treats this aspect rather superficially without giving any examples. It would have been useful for such a serious research to include more examples.

In her introduction, the author rightly states that the conditions for success for a political pluralist system in developing countries are in making democracy and pluralist values and practices a part of, or rather the base of, the whole political and social structure of society. That means dropping the old ill-fated Third World models where pluralism meant some limited space for political opposition to express certain limited views, and utilizing that opposition as a safety valve to absorb and water down public frustration. In such regimes, the opposition remains in its assigned role forever, moving in a parallel line with the state, with no chance of meeting or intersecting. The opposition thus eventually turns into one of the tools of influence used by the rulers to consolidate the grip of the ruling regime. The author did give examples of this modality in her description of the political parties in both northern and southern Yemen.

The theoretical introduction was further expanded in chapter one, giving additional examples and vivid descriptions.



Chapter two is dedicated to the political movements, parties and organizations in the southern part of Yemen before independence in 1967. The author discusses at length the socio-economic structure of southern Yemen, the role of Aden and its historic and geographic significance, the British role in enforcing a certain political vision and structure, and the overall political situations in what was termed as "The Protectorates." She also tackled the social fabric and tribal structure and their role in the national political movement. She classifies the evolution of the political movement in the South into three historical periods:



- The first (1937-1950) is the period that preceded the pan-Arab current in Yemen.
- The second period (1951-63) witnessed the birth and dominance of pan-Arabism.
- The third period (1963-67) is one which the author calls "The period of alliances and fragmentation of the national movement.

Going through each period, she tries to describe in detail all political forces at play, their programs, goals, allies and foes.

Chapter three discusses the political life of the northern part of Yemen before the revolution of 1962, the effect

of its unique socio-economic structure and the peculiarities of each region and sub-region and their impact on the political life and interaction. It gives a detailed description of the active social classes and categories, the tribal system and role in the political system.

Chapter four deals with political parties of the northern and the southern parts after 1962 and 1967 successively. The emergence of the YSP and PGC is discussed, as well as the main features of their positions regarding the important national issues, particularly, Yemeni unity. The author also discusses other political parties and organizations of the period, their doctrines and attitudes towards the main national issues.

The conservative religion-based movement is also covered in this chapter. The author discusses the evolution of the Islamic political philosophy, especially the emergence of Al-Islah party and its relations to the Muslim Brotherhood. Here again, she brings out its positions towards the modern state, pluralism and unity.

The subject of chapter five is political pluralism in Yemen, where political parties and their main characteristics, programmes and doctrines are viewed. Then comes the

law regulating political parties and its main features. The book then goes through the recent elections and the parliament that came out of them.

The Appendices include law no 66 of 1991 regarding political parties and organizations and several other documents presented by various political forces in connection with the political evolution.

References used by the author vary in their importance. But one visible shortcoming is the low number of personal interviews with people who have left their

mark on the political evolution of the nation. The book also ignored the many conventions and congresses held here and there throughout the last few decades and which have affected the path of our political evolution.

But the most serious shortcoming or deficiency in this major work is its limited analytic nature. It is basically a compilation of documents and incidents, with minimal comments on them thus leaving the reader at a loss. Understanding many of the events becomes difficult, unless you are already a specialist on the subject, in which case, the book would be of little value. That is why I would prefer to call the book A Historic Narration or Account rather than An Analytical Study, as the cover page states.

One final drawback of the book is that it gives the perspective of the PGC on Yemen's recent history. Of course, the PGC is part of this history, and it is not possible to be fully objective and neutral. After all, it is the PGC which financed the research and the publishing of the book.

Even then, the book is a valuable reference to the ordinary reader. It gives a panoramic view of the political map of Yemen and its evolution over the last half a century. Maybe staying at that general level has forced a summary approach on the author.

In its main theme, the book divides the history of modern political evolution in Yemen in a way the system does. It treats everything prior to two cut-off dates (1962 in the north and 1967 in the south) in one lump. Then it lumps together all the events of the period until the unification of the country in 1991. Since then is one phase.

The author throws in a few insightful remarks. One famous one is: "Both the unification and pluralism came as a surprise to the Yemeni people." Surprise in my opinion is not the right word, as both issues were at the heart of a long struggle by all Yemenis. Nothing comes falling down from the skies and all events have their objective causes. But I agree with the implications of the statement.

It is true that in Yemen, as in many other Third World countries, democracy does face setbacks along its long path. Our traditions of dictatorship and authoritarian rule always get in the way. Our time honored social and tribal orders are yet another obstacle.

Nevertheless, Yemen has taken a step forward. Now it is upto all of us to make history by protecting our unity and democracy, and by allowing them to evolve properly. Unless we push forward, we will be trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty, instability and frustration. I hope when the next author compiles the political history of Yemen, he/she will have more positive and constructive stories to tell.

An Iraqi Artist's Abstract Art Is on Show in Sanaa

It was opened with a big bang, even while it was Ramadhan and the people were more on the lethargic side. The exhibition of the works of Iraqi Artist Shawkat Al-Roubai'y was kicked off yesterday Saturday (26/2/1994) in Samsarat Al-Mansourah in the old city of Sanaa. All fine arts lovers are invited to enjoy the exhibition of this reputed Iraqi artist.

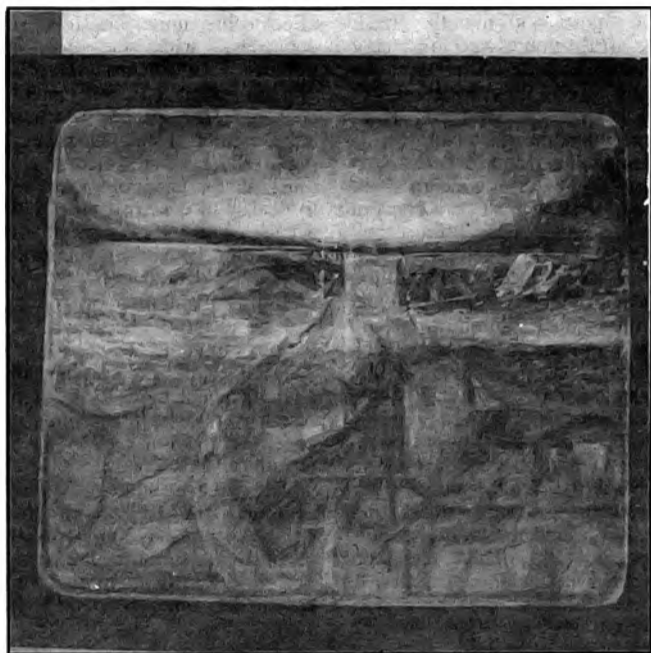
Mr. Alroubai'y, a well

now, of course, Yemen.

He was awarded many prizes and honors from different countries.

Mr. Alroubai'y is also a first-class. During the last two decades, he published eleven books on history and patterns of arts in Iraq and the Arab world. Many of these books are now used as text books in various institutes and colleges of fine arts.

His style as a painter is characterized by a high sense of



known name in the world of fine arts, is presently on a visit to Yemen by an invitation from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. He has been asked to give lectures and hold meetings in various literary and artistic circles. "We hope our aspiring young artists will learn from this experienced man. His style and lively art provide lots of lessons to our rising artists," a source at the ministry said.

Shawkat Al-Rubai'y, 54, was born in Amara, Iraq. He graduated from the College of Fine Arts in Baghdad in

color. He extensively uses shades and the gradual flow of brightness in his paintings. Many of these are now highly valued masterpieces hanging on the walls of museums.

Shawkat started his painting career as a realist. But he quickly moved into abstraction. "I now draw heavily on the Sumerian past of my country. You know, if you look at the small statues and paintings of the Sumerians, you can't help but appreciate their sense of color and light. You also see the relations between shade and form," he

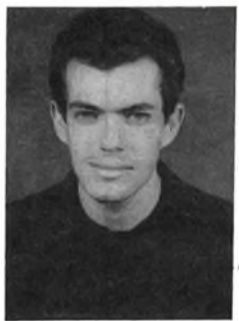


1962. His work was shown in numerous capitals in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Jordan, Cairo, Kuwait, Bahrain, UK, USA, Russia, Germany, Japan, Poland, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Greece, Holland, Indonesia, Italy and South Korea. And

told the Yemen Times. No description can do the artist justice. Go for yourself and see the real thing. Visit the exhibition and enjoy a highly rewarding experience.

By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Yemen Times.

On the 3rd Anniversary of YEMEN TIMES The people who make it happen !



THE ORIGINAL QUARTET

Yemen Times Environmental Project A pioneer NGO Activity.

By Dr. Ali A. Salem,
Environmental specialist

The Yemen Times initiative of launching a study project on the 'Protection of Yemen environment' is really a significant and successful approach. Such work will be the millstone for many activities and hard work to come. This initiative is a pioneer activity for function for NGOs in Yemen. Of course, this study project came to reality after a time, research and close -- look to the current situation of our environment. The vulnerable natural ecosystems full of beauty, unique and charm, are existing facts and figures beyond such approach.

Yemen natural heritage as stated by long series of articles written by Dr. Derek Harvey Medical Specialist and head of Yemen Ornithological Society (Sana'a), "Yemen has rich natural heritage which makes it a special and marvelous country," Dr. Harvey said. He also mentioned that "if we ignore the balance of the

ening the natural environment and its ecological balance, provided that an effective and solid national environmental strategy and dynamic work plan are lacking.

Part of Yemen natural heritage and its marvelous flora and fauna, are its wonderful beaches and beautiful extended coastlines of almost 2,500 kilometers along the

garbage and plastics scattered everywhere, sewage and improper sanitation, vehicle emissions from old motors, dust contamination, disposal of waste oil near garages, loose animal such as dogs, cats, rodent etc., improper roads (unpaved), that cause lung-diseases due to disturbance of sand particles, lack of trees along main



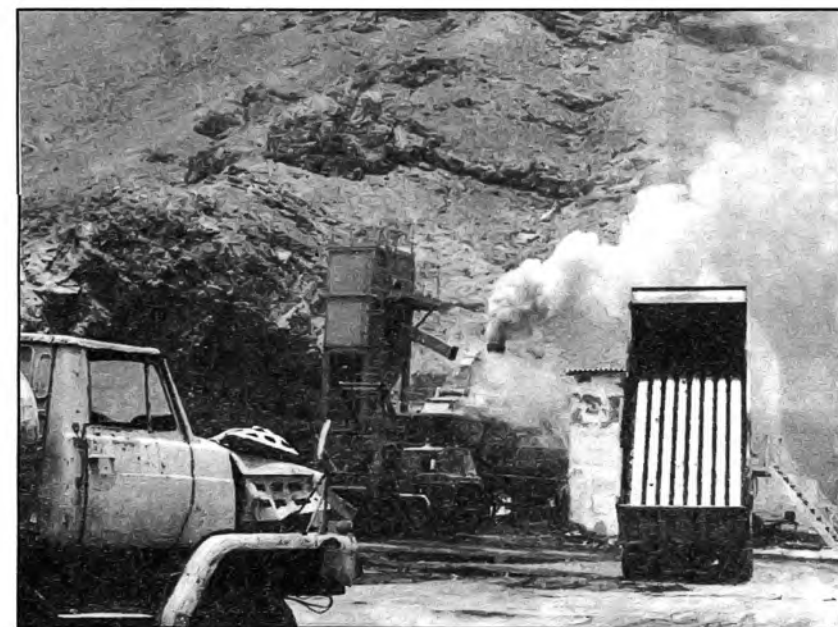
stretched mainland and 3 different marine environments i.e. southern part of the Red Sea; the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. Actually, the whole of the Yemen coastline provides wider feeding grounds for flocks of waders, in their tens of thousands, which fly south from northern Europe and

roads and at the sides of residential areas, lack of natural parks, and gardens as well as play grounds for children. Polluted beaches with tarballs, plastics and solid wastes and unsafe recreational areas. Also the spoilage of terraces at rural areas is another phase of our environmental damage by the

attitude of irresponsibility towards nature by most of the people.

So what is needed urgently to promote and protect such deterioration of our environment is a real motivation, solid, planned, and scientific approach, and that what Yemen Times took the initiative as NGO activity. So let us do something to make Yemen Environment

looks pretty and shine.



natural world, of which we are but one very recent part, then our very ingenuity and cleverness will destroy the world, and us with it."

This is quite a fact, of how nature is exposed to various harmful, illegal human practices and deterioration. The result is imbalance situation and improper conditions, that appear from time to time in the form of: Earth quakes, flood, snow-melting, climate change, ocean disturbance, atmospheric - local alternation etc.,

Yemen current situation in the field of environment faces quite much challenge and without a proper environmental planning for short and long-term considerations, as well as, integration of other sectors' components such as the concept of sustainable development. The challenge of Yemen today seeking for economical, social and Industrial development is threat-

Asia in the autumn, and enjoy the warmth, the seclusion and the large amount of food available in the marshes, beaches and low tide mud. This is what Dr. Harvey addressed in his excellent articles in Yemen Times, weeks ago.

If this is the case, beside the ultimate and magnificent feature of the biodiversity level at Socotra Island and al-Mahra governorate of Houf mountains, rich in this important natural heritage of mankind, as well as other areas of Yemen, then we can say that it is necessary to support and consolidate Yemen Times initiative of the study project for protecting Yemen natural heritage, and let us collaborate in such a manner in which people can help to plan and act in environmentally friendly ways.

Finally, we must not forget or try to ignore the fact that among our daily life in Yemen we all see and recognize,

THE LILLEHAMMER WINTER OLYMPICS Remembering Sarajevo

It was good that the world has not yet forgotten Sarajevo, the martyred city that hosted the winter olympics ten years back in 1984.

In the opening ceremony of Lillehammer (Norway) winter olympics, and in front of around 40,000 spectators, the head of the Norwegian olympic committee addressed the attendants and the whole world, saying "Amidst our celebrations, we shall not forget the agony of Sarajevo, the city that hosted the 1984 games. In this occasion we like to announce our sympathy with Sarajevo's people in its crisis." For the first time in olympic

BRAZIL GETS READY FOR THE WORLD CUP FINALS

Brazil, the most celebrated soccer country in the world, is getting ready for the coming soccer world cup finals in the USA starting next June.

To that respect, six preparatory matches are to be played by the Brazilian team against Argentina on March 23, Paris St. Germain on April 20, Iceland on May 4 and Canada on July 5. Another two matches against yet unidentified teams. Brazil is playing the finals in group 2, which also includes Russia, Sweden and

place due its minor international activity. Nigeria is the only third world team to rank against the top 15 in the world.

The classification goes as follows :-

1. Germany	58.93 pts
2. Brazil	58.41 pts
3. Holland	57.47 pts
4. Denmark	56.96 pts
5. Norway	56.95 pts
6. Spain	56.78 pts
7. Italy	56.72 pts
8. Switzerland	55.72 pts
9. Argentina	55.01 pts
10. Sweden	54.43 pts
11. Ireland	54.12 pts
12. England	53.89 pts
13. Russia	53.21 pts
14. France	52.02 pts
15. Nigeria	51.20 pts

QATARI-YEMANI SPORTS RELATIONS

The head of Qatari football association is expected to visit Sanaa after the Eid-Al-Fotr holidays to discuss mutual relations to enhance sporting relations between the 2 countries.

A RISE IN RUSSIAN REFS.

ALLOWANCES In an attempt to overcome corruption that

spread into sports fields, the Russian Football Federation has decided to increase the allowance of the football matches' referees up to 300\$ per game which is a high profit by Russian standards. The reason is said to be encountering the corruption and bribery that overwhelmed Russian sports where referees began to manipulate matches' results.



history, the attendants stood for a moment of silence for Sarajevo. The head of the International Olympic committee had urged the fighting parties of ex-Yugoslavia to drop arms and stop fighting. When the Bosnian delegation paraded the stadium, it has received a very warm welcome by the Norwegian attendants.

A lot have changed since the Sarajevo Olympics; There is no more Soviet Union, East Germany, Czechoslovakia or Yugoslavia. The world is not the same place anymore.

Back to the games that set a record in the number of participating nations and athletes, the table shows that until february 22, shows that Russia is still leading the gold rush with 10 gold medals, 6 silver and 3 bronze followed by Norway, USA and Germany.

Cameron.

It is worth mentioning that the Brazilian Football Association has promised the players of its national team a reward of 3.5 million \$ in case of their winning the coming world cup (June 17-July 17) in the USA. The average is therefore 500,000 \$ per game. Six million dollars were already assigned to cover the expenses of preparation and participation of the Brazilian team, which many believe is the most likely candidate to win the trophy.

FIFA CLASSIFIES WORLD TEAMS

International Football Association known as FIFA has recently issued its classification of the world football teams based on their recent results. Germany leads the trail while Italy has dropped to the seventh



تهانينا الحاره

يتقدم الأصدقاء والزلاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات
(للشباب عارف حسن الخولاني)

بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقد القران
فبالرفاه والبنين

المهنؤون:

أسرة «أسس»

أسرة «يمن تايمز»

أسرة «ديوان»

NOTE: The numbers of many quarters/zones of Sanaa have been changed. Your number may have also changed. If the number next to your company/embassy is wrong, please call us (268-661/2) for a correction.

IMPORTANT Numbers

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumbury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Insurance Companies:	
Y.I. & Reinsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance: Sanaa	206112/14
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General: Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co.	01-272890-2
Aman Insurance Co.	01-209452

EMBASSIES & Consulates

SANAA :		
1. Embassies:		
Afghanistan	217691	
Algeria	209688/89	
Bulgaria	208469	
China	275337/340	
Cuba	217304/5	
Czech Republic	247946	
Djibouti	245792/265469	
Egypt	275948/9	
Eritrea	209422	
Ethiopia	208833	
France	275995/7	
Germany	216756/757, 266873/4	
Hungary	216250, 216679	
India	241980/1/2	
Indonesia	217388	
Iran	243439/40	
Iraq	216682/790	
Italy	265616/73409/78846	
Japan	207356/208753	
Jordan	216701/736	
Korea (Dem)	232340	
Korea (Rep)	245959/60	
Kuwait	216317/319	
Lebanon	203959/733	
Libya	208815/6	
Mauritania	216770	
Morocco	247964	
Netherlands	215626/7/8	
Oman	208933/4	
Pakistan	248813/14	
Palestine	215404/5	
Poland	248362	
Qatar	217488/296	
Romania	215579	
Russia (FR)	78272/78275	
Saudi Arabia	240429/30	
Somalia	208864	
Sudan	265231/2	
Syria	414892	
Tunisia	240458/9	
Turkey	241395	
U.A.E	248777/78	
U.K.	215630/33	
U.S.A.	238842/52	
Vietnam	215985	
2. Honorary Consulates:		
Austria	266725	
Belgium	205925/865	
Canada	208814	
Danish Trade Office	243433	
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2	
Finland	207018/20/21	
Greece	272218	
Spain	209360	
Sweden	207595/470	
Switzerland	203534	
3. International Organizations:		
FAO	207331/607	
UNDP	215505	
UNHCR	204963	
UNICEF	231256/7/8	
WHO	252213/204	
ADEN Consulates :		
China	233115	
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335	
France	223129/090	
Germany	232162/233607	
India	233131	
Iran	231893/361	
Italy	232586/88	
Japan	232219/233282	
Libya	233611	
Oman	233433/460	
Palestine	232340/232717	
Russian (FR)	232792/232625	
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526	
Slovak	233630/232101	
Somalia	241421/101	
U.K.	232711/1/2/13.	
FAO Branch	233722/232146	

AIR LINES

Air France	272895/6	Universal Travel	275028-30
Air India	272544	Bazara Travel/Tourism	78093/270879
Alitalia	273655	Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339	Al-Nasim Travel	270750
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637	Yemenia Branches:	
Austrian Airlines	272432	Abdul-Mughni	274803/4
British Airways (Sanaa)	248151/2	Haddah	204538/550
British Airways (Aden)	243475	Shauob	250833
Cathay Pacific	271803	Zubeiry	260834/5
Egypt Air	275061	Head Office	232381-9
Ethiopian Airlines	272437	Reservations	250800/1
Gulf Air	265274/75, 265374	Airport	250868/831
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909		
KLM	278747		
Korean Airlines	272548		
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4		
Lufthansa	272583		
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091		
Royal Jordanian	275314/028		
Russian Airlines	74930		
Sabena	205865		
Sudan Airways	272503-5		
Swiss Air	272547		
Syrian Airways	272543		

COURIERS

Aramex / Sana'a	243.925
Aramex / Aden	255.683
Aramex / Taiz	213.489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218.168
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

HOTELS

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Biquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
Mukalla (0952)	
Hadhramaut	2060



Science & Technology

Edited by Adel Ben-Harhara

By Adel Ben-Harhara

This is a first article on science and technology which will be followed by thousands of words, on weekly basis, about medicine, computers, space, communications, industry, and the environment. The main purposes of this column and its editor is to encourage people to contribute more to science and technology related skills/knowledge, to point out the disasters we unleash on nature and ourselves, and to raise the level of understanding of science and technology in our society.

As we can see, thousands of our people are suffering from several illness and diseases, mainly due to the lack of basic knowledge of health and hygiene. We are severely littering our cities, because we have very little knowledge of re-cycling and of polluting our environment. Very many of us have very little knowledge of proper nutrition, clean water and air, physical exercise, and birth control. We are using several tools like computers, fax machine, mobile phones, many other devices, and vehicles, but very few of us have proper knowledge of these tools.

We can distill the many meanings of the word "science" to two. It both the method by which knowledge is gained and the knowledge that results from the process of consolidation of facts, theories, and methods collected in current text. Although it would be clearer to use different words for "scientific process" and "scientific knowledge," a sharp distinction cannot always be made between the process and its result.

In general, technology can be defined a body of knowledge about the production of goods and services. Unlike science, which aims at understanding reality, technology is intended to put knowledge into practice to "alert and control the material conditions of life" or to "create a reality according to our design." Scientists study the chemical, geological, and health effects of hazardous waste; technologists are concerned with methods in later chapters. Ambiguities between science and technology have occasionally had major effects on public policy. Because technological applications must flow scientific breakthroughs.

Both science and technology have affected society and government for thousands of years, but that relationship has never been

more important that it is today. Technological progress has become an expected way of life, yet at the same time technology disasters such as the loss of the space shuttle Challenger and the melt down of the soviet nuclear power plant at Chernobyl are reminders of theological limitations.

In spite of several short comings, research and development have continued to grow because of widespread recognition that scientific and technological progress is crucial for economic and military security. Further more researchers are continually making advances that raise new questions about the fundamental rights of life, death, property, privacy, and so on, questions that increasingly dominate headlines and political agendas.

Some books on science and technology policy contribute to our understanding by offering detailed analyses of particular policies. Others examine the implications of science and technology for democratic government and a free society. Understanding science and technology policy and finding ways to improve the relationship between knowledge and government depend on recognizing these limitations and trend treating them as opportunities.

The range of articles that support, use, or emphasize sciences and technology is too board for a succinct general theory about how they are made. Any issue of a daily news paper or an evening television newscast will include information about problems and opportunities that follow from science and technology, such as high-technology industries, space weapons, artificial hearts, environmental pollution, and nuclear power.

Research and development is used as synonym for national security, investment, and jobs; yet, as computers, lasers, and other innovations become more commonplace, our gaps in understanding seem to threaten our ability to deliberately shape the future.

Because the words "science and technology" often evoke images of sterile laboratories and complex machines, we may tend to think of them as relatively recent phenomena, products of the Industrial Revolution. Primitive humans, however, observed and recorded natural events such as lunar cycles and animal habits, but technology began with the first use of a tool.

GENUINE SOLEX

Abdo Fara Ali Stores in Sanaa and Taiz announce the arrival of the genuine SOLEX high security locks.

We welcome you to try our double locks. You will sleep in complete satisfaction. Your cars are fully protected with SOLEX locks.

More information:

Taiz: (04) 218-164
Sanaa: (01) 223-856

تمن
محلات عبده فارع علي
للتجارة العامة

عن وصول أول دفعة من مفاتيح

سولكس

ضمان وأمان وحماية
لجميع أنواع السيارات
علما أنها لأول مرة تصل إلى
اليمن وبها كل مواصفات
الحماية الفعالة من السرقات
وبأسعار منافسة في اليمن.

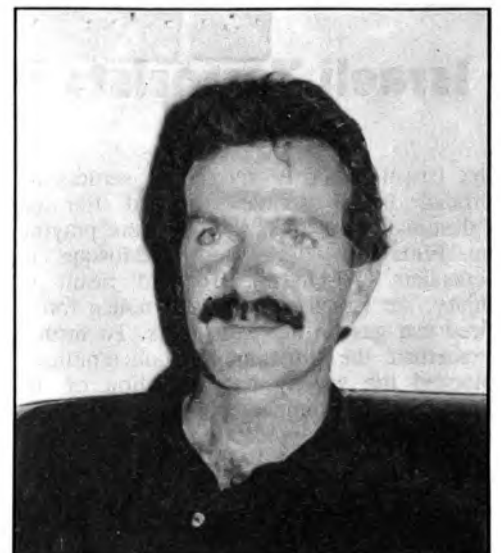
لمزيد من المعلومات إتصلوا بنا على
المركز الرئيسي
تعز تلفون: ٢١٨١٦٤ الحويان
الفرع صنعاء تلفون: ٢٢٣٨٥٦ شعوب

VISITORS OF YEMEN TIMES THIS WEEK

The Yemen Times would like to report the courtesy/business visits of the following distinguished visitors.

P. Radhakrishnan,
Resident Manager,
Taj Sheba Hotel

Riehl Christian,
Manager/Owner,
Queen Sheba Trophy Organization






TeleYemen Mobile
Reliable Telecommunications
An Ingredient for Success.

تيليمون

For more details, please contact our customer services:
Sanaa 7915000, Aden 7920106, Taiz 7924000, Hodeidah 7910142, Mukalla 7951000

Great Times, Great Taster.



National Beverages Co.
CANADA DRY SANAA
Tel: 340-371, Fax: 340-376

Interview:
The Education Minister
Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby
on Educational Issues.

Social Service:
Cathie Kirby Talks
about Nabors' Efforts to
Help Local Communities.

Features:
Ali Bin Taleb on Aden's
Al-Aidaroos Mosque.

Marine Life:
A New Series on
Yemeni Marine Life.

Health:
Dr. Mohammed Ba-
Moshmoos on Heart
Diseases in Yemen.

PLUS
OUR PERMANENT
FEATURES



Agip
motor oils

Fax: 01-209534
Phones: 207003, 206950

Thank God the King & Sultan Have Not Given Up On Yemen

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

They were expecting some seventy persons. They were flooded by 416 persons. Thus the Jordanians faced logistic problems in hotel rooms, transportation facilities, office space and negotiation rooms, etc. As one Jordanian host musingly quipped, "Now I understand the Yemeni crisis better. You agree on something, and then something else happens."

The number of Yemenis joining the hand-wagon headed for Amman swelled and swelled as friends were added on to the list of invitees. There was one visible exception. Somebody in Sanaa took the pain to delete the name Yemen Times from the list. No sweat, Yemen Times paid its way to Amman, and the Jordanian side graciously included us on their list of guests, and no thanks to the Yemeni authorities.

On final count, seven planes that touched down in Amman carrying Yemenis, including sons, families and other dependents. As the "delegates" arrived at the Hotel Intercontinental, one of the top hotels in Amman, there was a lot of shouting because many people did not have hotel reservations. One can only imagine the patience and grace of the Jordanian officials as they pacified the little boys from Yemen. Finally, they filled up all the rooms of the Jordan Intercontinental and the spill-over of 24 persons were sent to Amra Hotel.



Jordanian plans and protocol arrangements were beasty disrupted and altered by Yemeni lawlessness. In the final analysis, the Jordanians conceded to do whatever the Yemenis wanted, and only hoped the Yemenis would agree among themselves. Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh delayed his arrival twice. When his plane did touch down at Queen Alia Airport, that was less than two hours before the signing time of the document. That did not allow any time for the Jordanian Monarch to work on reconciling the two sides. But the King's patience and perseverance saved the day. His wisdom and experience were visible in the way he handled the Yemeni leaders. He brought the two ALIs and their top aides to a round table and started working on them. He even managed to bring in

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar. They all signed the 18th January Pact. The king asked the Yemeni politicians to consider the impact of their "irresponsibility" on their own people, and on the whole Arab nation. He insisted that the signing was fine, but that the implementation of the agreement was more important. For all practical purposes, the Yemeni politicians have let down the king. They have acted very irresponsibly. But King Hussain has yet to give up on Yemen. He has now sent Jordanian officers (to be supplemented by Omanis) to monitor military mobilizations and actions. They will also serve as buffer between the armies of the former YAR and PDRY in certain selected points. Meanwhile, President Ali Abdullah Saleh is trying to

find out what the YSP leadership was upto in the recent trips to various Arab capitals. He has called up Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and has sent a letter to the Saudi Monarch. According to most Yemenis, the best thing for the PGC, YSP and Islah leaderships to do is to prepare for their exit from power, without further exposing the country to more violence or fragmentation. The clouds of tension and confusion have now returned as the last hope, the Dialogue Committee seems to have lost prestige and credibility. It is unable to do, and does not have much clout. The people of Yemen want their unity and they need the reforms. The politicians are unable to translate those wishes into policies and decisions. To the contrary, the politicians are embroiled in their own schemes and programs and are exposing the nation to great dangers.

Israeli Terrorists Massacre Worshipers

Six Israeli terrorists, termed as settlers by official Israeli sources, opened fire on Palestinian worshipers as they were praying on Friday in the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (Al-Qudse). To add insult to injury, the Israeli military and police force, fired tear-gas on the worshipers. To further exacerbate the situation, the police/military blocked the speedy hospitalization of the injured and wounded persons under the pretext of security precautions.

As a result, some 72 persons were killed and over 300 wounded. The incident raised the issue of security of the Palestinian people, one more time. The world outcry and outrage was watered-down by the Israeli authorities. They claim the terrorists were under severe mental and psychological pressure. Any peace efforts must involve the disarming and dislodging of the settlers in the colonies scattered all over the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY (S.A.L.)



Construction of Mechanical & Heavy Civil Projects

- Petrochemical plants and refineries.
- Heavy and light industrial plants.
- Power and desalination plants.
- Water treatment plants, reservoirs and distribution systems.
- Sewage treatment plants and collection networks.
- Oil fields ancillary installations.
- Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- Air purification for industry.
- Fuel and water storage tanks.
- Offshore structures and underwater works.
- Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths and refinery terminals.
- Airports.
- Roads, highways, bridges and fly-overs.
- High quality buildings, hotels, hospitals, universities, and sport complexes.
- Prefabricated accommodation and office facilities.

SANAA:
Phone: (967-1) 275.281
(967-1) 272676
Fax: (967-1) 272.713
Telex: 2720 CCICYE
P. O Box: 16110
Sana'a, Yemen

ADEN:
Phone: (967-2) 377.328
(967-2) 377.294
Fax: (967-2) 20318
Telex: 2247YD CCCSAL
P.O. Box: 3015
Aden, Yemen

**IMMEDIATELY
Special Offer**

**5 VILLAS
AVAILABLE**

The Villas are newly renovated and equipped with the following

- Satellite dish
- Back up electricity generator.
- Pressure pump.
- Security Guards.
- Full maintenance contract for one year.

What's more

Pay 7 months rent and get a 12 months contract for the first year.
pay 9 months rent and get a 12 months contract for the second year

The Property Centre
Will lift the wait off your shoulders

Sana'a -Tel: 2(5714 Fax 245301 Aden - Maalla St. Tel/Fax: 243392:

