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As the Spectre of Civil War in Yemen Looms in the Air :

The Current Leadership's Long Overdue Good Bye !

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

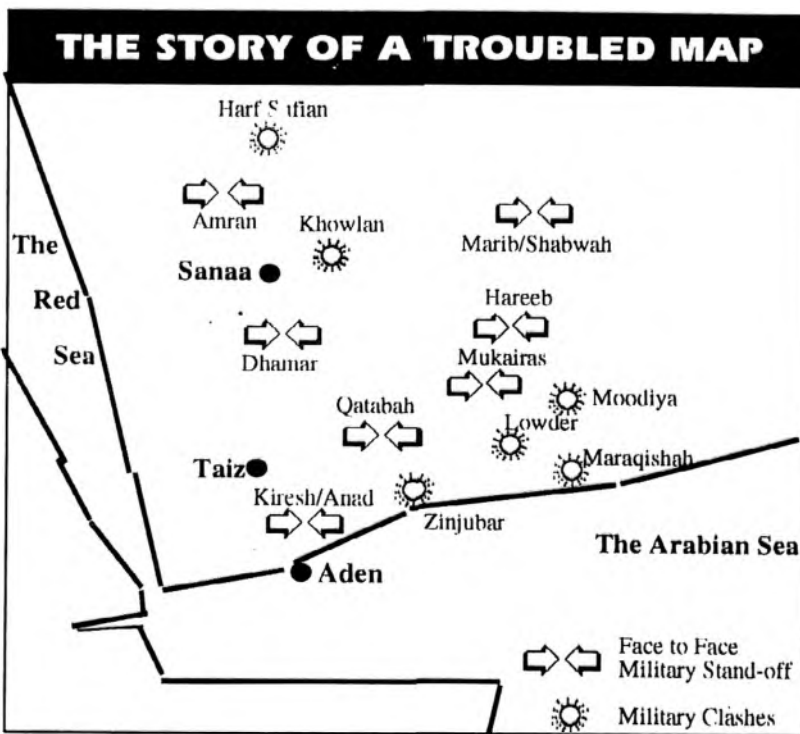
The confusion persists, and so does the agony. Most Yemenis are troubled by what damage the politicians could do to the country. Even as the Jordanian and Omani military delegations have succeeded in disengaging the Northern and Southern armies apart, at several potential clash points, the two armies continue their stand off and ready to pull the trigger. Amran, Dhamar, Marib/Shabwah, Hareeb, Mukairas, Qatabah and Kires/Anad represent potential military confrontation points. Clashes have actually taken place in Harf Sufian, Khowlan, Moodiya, Lowder, Maraqishah and Zinjubar.

Involved are four armies: The regular army loyal to president Ali Abdullah Saleh and his

brothers and cousins, the southern army loyal to the YSP leadership, especially the Yafa/Dhalah forces, the rag tag contingents of what remains of the Ali Nasser Mohammed army, and the tribal-Mujahideen clusters that pledge allegiance to Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar and his partner, Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani, and others.

All these forces have been involved in the recent clashes in which some 200 Yemenis were killed or injured. More casualties are expected as heavier gear is expected to be brought into play by the military on both sides.

The Dialogue Committee is, by now, unable to do much that is meaningful. The resignation of Sheikh Mujahid Abu Shawarib and Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum a few days ago, disgusted by the attitude of both sides, has further weakened the com-



mittee. Whatever hope there is for a peaceful co-existence now hinges on the expanded military committee. It has achieved some results, but not enough.

So, who can intervene to make our politicians see light?

A respected diplomat in Sanaa told me, "Do not count on anybody risking their prestige to help you reconcile. After what you have done to King Hussain, no body will touch you!"

Is there a sufficiently strong internal force to help bring the various Yemeni war-lords and warring factions come together. None. This sad situation is the result of the abuse of authority of those in charge. "You cannot trust

them and they have no respect for their word," stated one senior Yemeni opposition official. "I was in a meeting with a top official, and he would look me straight in the eye and tell me all kinds of lies and give promises he does not intend to keep. He knew that I knew he was lying. But he was still doing it relying on my good nature and on his ability to intimidate me into keeping quiet."

The current leadership - PGC, YSP and Islah - have all got to go. They will go one way or the other, but one wishes they do care enough for Yemen to leave peacefully. There can be agreement that those who relinquish power peacefully would be absolved of all their crimes.

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Indeed, Nabors Drilling is one of the companies serving the oil sector which has proven to be socially responsible towards the people who live in the area where the company works.

On the occasion of upcoming departure of Kathie Kirby, the Yemen Times takes this opportunity to salute the woman and the company for their kind heart.

Details on page 15

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OUR VIEWPOINT

HAPPY EID AL FITR

The people of Yemen are celebrating Eid-Al-Fitr later this week. Literally speaking, it means the Holiday following the Ramdhan Fast. But Eid Al-Fitr has acquired great significance because of the following reasons:

First, it is the time to buy new clothes for children and family. In poor societies where clothings are purchased only on special occasions, this is an important chance. Children and family look forward to getting their new clothes.

Second, during the final days of Ramadhan and upto Eid Al-Fitr, all Muslims are required to pay out their Zakat. In a poor society like ours, this is an important mechanism for the redistribution of income and wealth. Of course, the amount paid out per head is small, but as everybody is supposed to pay out, it does add up.

Third, Eid Al-Fitr is an occasion for re-unions. Family get-togethers are an integral part of this holiday. That is why adults and children visit relatives, not seen in a long time. Lonely old folks are excited by Eid Al-Fitr because it brings back life to them.

Fourth, this is an occasion for people to call on friends, especially the less fortunate ones. Thus, citizens use this opportunity to visit friends who are sick in hospitals, or friends who are in prisons or any other such place.

On this important holiday, I hope that our politicians will find it in themselves to rise up above the petty squabbles and narrow interests and follow the needs of the nation. We hope that they will see light and take the necessary measures to shore up and salvage the situation.

So, when you meet the next person around who hails you by saying, "Eid Mubarak," please remember to answer "Alaina wa alaikum." Some may add in their salutations, "Kullu aam wa antum bikhair."

On this happy occasion, I send my greetings and congratulations to all our readers wishing a merry holiday season.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

TOTAL Denies Rumors of Suspending Its Activities

TOTAL YEMEN has issued a press release categorically denying the rumors published in local newspapers over the last week-end which alleged that the company had decided to suspend its operations in Yemen.

It is known that TOTAL is the operator of two blocks - East Shabwah and Jannah. The company has drilled fifteen exploration wells in each block which have led to several oil and gas discoveries.

Concerning the East Shabwah block, a new seismic campaign is underway with the purpose of assessing the extension of the Kharir field, and to define new areas for further exploration.

In the Jannah block, further drilling is proceeding together with development of the Halewah field. Both fields have yielded encouraging results.

Classical Dinner at the Taj Sheba Hotel

Meriel Harvey told the Yemen Times that the next in the popular series of classical music recitals and dinnert will be held on March 28th and 29th at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The concert will consist of a recital of piano and clarinet music, played by two famous London musicians.

Scott Mitchell performs extensively in the UK and overseas. In 1990, he was awarded the Lisa Fuschova Prize for best chamber music pianist, having previously won the Eric Rice Memorial Prize for best accompanist.

Duncan Prescott is a musician of technical virtuosity and an accomplished jazz musician. He won the Myra Hess and English-Speaking Union scholarships.

The concerts are generously sponsored by Lufthansa, Cable & Wireless, the Taj Sheba Hotel, and UNIVERSAL Travel & Tourism.

18th January Association Keeps Up the Drive

Dr. Abdul-Qader Al-Junaid, Secretary-General of the 18th January Association, told the Yemen Times that over 8,000 persons have signed the petition demanding the implementation of the 18th January Pact. "We also plan to hold seminars and lectures in order to mobilize public opinion and bring pressure to bear on the politicians to implement the accord," he said.

Al-Jumhuri Hospital Officially Inaugurated

Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sanaa was officially inaugurated yesterday, Saturday 5th March. Credit in completing the work, in the most part, goes to Dr. Nageeb Ghanim, the Minister of Health.

The hospital, which was out of service for over six years because of disagreements between the contractor and the government has now concretely materialized.

Intellectuals Declare Sit-in Until Crisis Is Resolved

Several dozens of intellectuals and university lecturers have declared a sit-in until politicians stop their mud-slinging over the media and military mobilization. The intellectuals who gather daily at the Faculty of Science, also demand that the politicians implement the 18th January pact.

The intellectuals are trying to mobilize public opinion to bring pressure to bear on the politicians.

New UNHCR Resident Representative in Sanaa

Rolf Guldberg arrived in Sanaa on Wednesday March 2nd to take over as Acting Resident Representative of the UNHCR in Yemen. The Norwegian Guldberg replaces Tunisia's Tawfik Ouannes who left last month.

"I am here temporarily until a permanent representative is sent to Yemen," Rolf said. Even then, his mission may not be as temporary as he thinks because arrangements for a permanent representative are not even in the pipeline.

Guldberg had served in various parts of the Middle East region,

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خدمات متميزة وأمينه

Education Minister A. Al-Qirby:

"We'll cover 100% of our textbook needs next year."

Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, is an old hand in the education field. He has been on the teaching staff at Sanaa University for over 15 years. He had served as Dean of the Faculty of Science, then helped found and lead the Faculty of Medicine, and finally served as Provost. Friends and foes alike admit that he is a hard working man who is given to long hours of diligence and perseverance.

A technician, Dr. Al-Qirby has also acquired a sharp sense of the political realities, and has been able to balance his technical/professional career with the political necessity of acquiring a solid backing from a leading force in the give and take of life. He is today a member of the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress.

Abubakar, 51, a native of Al-Baidha, was raised and educated in Aden. He pursued his university education in medicine. He graduated from Edinburgh in 1968. Then he practised in Chicago for one year. Then he returned to serve in Yemen for a year and a half, before he returned to London for higher studies. After he became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, he left for Canada where he worked and studied for five years. After becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, he and his family came back to Yemen. He first joined the Ministry of Health before he moved to Sanaa University.

Many people believe that what will make or break a modern Yemen is the educational system. Yet, Yemeni education is plagued with spectacular inefficiencies and it has become a highly politicized affair. The struggle is fiercest among the modernists and traditionalists in this sector, with the traditionalists clearly gaining the upper hand. Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Al-Qirby in his home in Sanaa last week.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you give us an overall picture of the education sector?

A: The Ministry of Education is the second largest institution in government. The Ministry has 125,000 teachers working in 12,000 schools scattered all over the republic. There are some 2.5 million pupils and students enrolled in these schools. Some 10% of our teachers are expatriates, mostly from Egypt, Syria, Sudan and Jordan.

The Ministry has initiated a Yemenization program of teachers a few years ago. As a result, the number of foreign teachers has fallen from 50,000 to only 12,000 this year. We are the moment, recruiting foreign teachers only in our secondary schools. All the basic level education (grades 1-9) is done by Yemeni teachers.

Q: What is happening with the curriculum?

A: Before unity, there were two different educational curricula in the former North and South Yemen. Since unity, there were efforts to unify the curricula of the school-system.

This has proven to be a difficult process given the major differences in objectives and approaches. There was an urge for a quick fix to resolve these problems. Sometimes, the better of the two textbooks was chosen, but more often, the two texts were simply merged into a larger textbook, although some parts were deleted. Neither approach is satisfactory, and there are language, content, and other discrepancies to be resolved.

This is why, we have now embarked on a new effort to unify the curricula. We have started with the curricula of grades 1-3. We already have a core body of experts who are qualified in curriculum development, supported by international donors.

We hope to elaborate the curricula for grades 1-12 in collaboration with the Educational Research Center which is actively involved with us in this work. In my opinion, proper curriculum development is the cornerstone of a good and sound educational system.

Q: Are there any philosophical problems that hinder the unification of curricula?

A: There are certain political considerations that come into play when the curricula are being developed. For example, when we come to history-writing, there are a number of interpretations to the same incident, and the different political parties want to explain those events from their own perspective. Therefore, in a country that was divided and governed by different philosophies, one has to produce a text-book that is acceptable to both sides. In other words, we cannot allow the textbooks to reflect badly on either of the two former systems. There is also the additional consideration of regional politics, such as relations with our neighbors. Unfortunately, textbooks were used in the past for the purpose of indoctrination. Politics played an important role in text-book writing, as people felt they should put their political views in the textbooks so that the young people will be indoctrinated and polarized.

This is unfortunate as the role of education is not really to mould the mental framework of young people, but to train them to think logically and objectively. Our aim is provide the tools to analyze information based on facts and truth.

There is another aspect to text-book writing. For example, there is a lot of controversy regarding the role of religion. At least there are



difference in aims and methodology religious instruction should be taught in schools. There are those who insist that in the early years (like primary education), only religion - nothing else - should be taught. But there are those who think that religion should not be a major responsibility of the school system (read, the state). They see this as the responsibility of other segments of society, such as the home or the mosque, etc. I think the truth is in-between those two positions. There should be a balance between those two attitudes. I think we have to discuss this issue openly and reach agreement over the dose of religion and its orientation in our schools. Fortunately, Yemen is a nation of one religion, Islam, and we do not have problems of minorities or different religions. Moreover, we are a society which shares a culture of abiding by the teachings of Islam. So, I do not expect anyone to object to teaching Islam in our schools, but the differences are related to its role in education. We should work together to strike a balanced curriculum that produces effective and productive citizens. The school system should work for an out-put the graduation of people who are well-equipped to become good citizens; who are able to contribute to the well-being of society.

Q: There were problems regarding shortages of textbooks. What has been done in this regard?

A: The problem of textbooks is related to financial limitations, printing facilities and distribution networks. However, last year, due to the expansion of the printing facilities, we were able to provide 75% of all the textbook requirements for our schools. This is a major achievement given that we only covered 20% of the books only four years ago. Given the new expansion in our printing facilities, we

shall be able to cover 100% of our textbook requirements for the year 1994/95. We also hope that there will not be a delay in delivery and distribution of these books to the schools which are scattered in high mountains and remote locations. There are many small logistical problems associated with the distribution of books. There is also the addi-

tional issue of getting the material ready for printing. Sometimes it is the input for the printing process, and often it is making the text itself ready for publication that is the problem.

The Ministry is now putting together an editorial board or team of writers who will write and coordinate the completion of the textbooks so that they are given to the printers in good time.

In the meanwhile, we are pushing a recycling system in which we ask schools to retrieve textbooks from pupils and students so that they may be used by the newcomers. This is not working very well so far because of mis-use and mis-handling. The change in the texts also makes this policy an unrealistic one at this moment.

Q: We seem to have an eternal problem of an adequate supply of qualified teachers. Do you see a solution?

A: If I go back to history, let me state that enrollment in the Faculty of Education, which produces teachers, was very low in the 1980s. That was mainly because teachers were not well-paid. As remuneration for teachers improved, and new programs and branches of Colleges of Education were introduced, the numbers of students in

education started increasing rapidly. We have today about 30,000 students who are learning to become teachers. Unfortunately, the growth was merely in quantity and not in quality. Both the universities of Sanaa and Aden and the Ministry of Education are working to improve quality. The Ministry, for example, has introduced a two-year post-secondary program to train teachers.

The Ministry is planning to abandon, starting next year, the compulsory service of secondary graduates who teach instead of doing military service. The aim in the past was to avoid bringing in foreign teachers to bridge the gap or shortage. Last year, we took-in 14,000 such teachers. Unfortunately this has led to the lowering of the quality of teaching in our schools.

Q: How much political pressure is brought to bear on your ministry?

A: Politics should not be a factor when considering individuals for certain posts or when taking decisions. Merits and qualifications should be the main criteria in these decisions. If the political parties are really keen on change, they should not interfere in our decisions.


Continues on page 19

Happenings at the Taj Sheba



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Zabid: An Islamic medieval town Faces the Dangers of "Modernization"

By:
Mohammed Omer Daha'a,
Faculty of Education,
Zabid, Sanaa University.

UNESCO's decision to list the old town of Zabid among the historical cities and as part of international human heritage is still drawing world and Yemeni attention to this city.

important factors in the growth and prosperity of the city.

The well-known Arab traveler Ibn Battuta visited Zabid and wrote, "One of the foundations of Yemen is a large town with many palm trees and abundant supply of water and impressive buildings. Indeed, Zabid is the most elegant and beautiful town in Yemen. Its people

tions, ceramics and the famous Tihama handicrafts. Zabid is best remembered for the large number of scholars it produced and for the precious manuscripts which have been preserved at its libraries in the various branches of science, law, art, religion, mathematics and astronomy.

All These characteristics make Zabid one of the most



Zabid, capital of Yemen more than once, deserves the international recognition it was given recently. It is a unique city which testifies to a glorious part of Yemeni history and a civilization that was rich in many aspects.

Zabid flourished during the early Islamic centuries. It soon became an important center for Islamic scholarship and theology. Yemenis boast that Zabid University was one of the first centers of learning in the world.

The city got a major boost in its growth in the third century H (9th century A.D.) when the Abbasid governor of Yemen, Ziad, declared himself independent and created his own kingdom. He chose Zabid as his capital.

The fertile agricultural land in the hinterland of the town, the abundant supply of water from Wadi Zabid, proximity to the Red Sea, were all

are of friendly nature, polite and pleasant. Their women are extremely beautiful."

So much for Ibn Battuta's impressions. Today, Zabid appears to its visitor as a mediaeval Arabian-Islamic town, which is fighting for its very survival.

The main historical building, the Great Mosque, once the destination of students from all over the Islamic world, is in shambles. Abu Musa Al-Ashaeri, one of the disciples of the Prophet Muhammad, was once a teacher there. The magnificent fortresses, the lofty four gates which used to be the only entry/exit points of this encircled city, and the houses made of sun-dried clay bricks, are all in bad shape. Yet, they still retain their attractiveness in their variety of forms as well as uniformity of building materials and color. Visitors of Zabid can also enjoy its unique Arabesque, inscrip-

attractive Yemeni towns. Unfortunately, the town was neglected to an extent that threatens all of its heritage. The infrastructure is also non-existent, although an average of three hundred foreign tourists stop to visit the town daily. With so little investments, so much can be done to help the economy of the town as well as the neighboring regions. This is a case of so little that can go so far in helping out.

Citizens of Zabid, as well as all Yemenis, look forward to a re-awakening Zabid. But this cannot happen unless all sides join hands.

UNESCO has done its bit by declaring the city an international heritage, and starting an international fund-raising campaign to restore and preserve the old city. Will the Yemeni government come in with its share of attention and investment? Only time will tell!

Al-Aidaros Mosque: Aden's Historic Landmark

By: Ali Bin Taleb,
Yemen Times.

BACKGROUND:

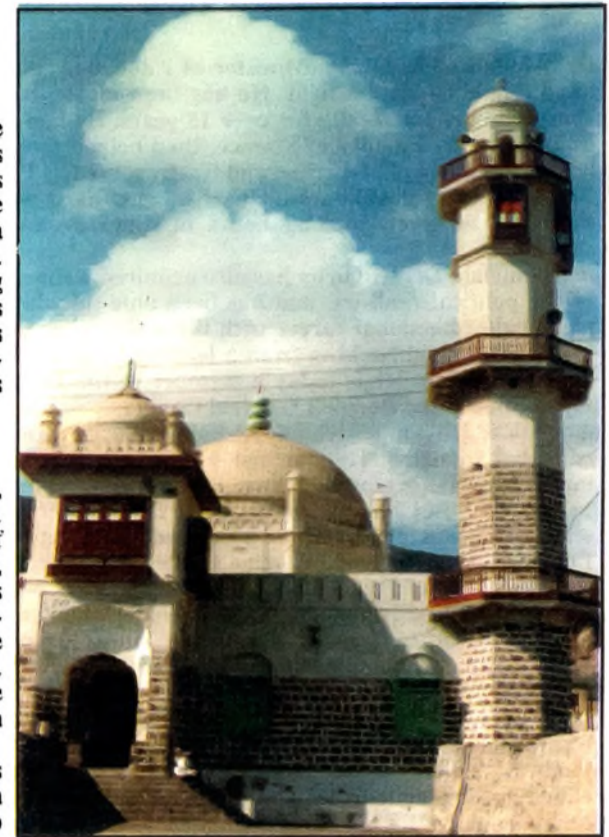
In the south-west of Aden lies the historic mosque of Al-Aidaros which was built some five centuries back. This is regarded as one of the unique buildings in the region and a historic landmark of the city of Aden. The mosque has given the living quarter around it the same name as the mosque. People from various areas come to visit the shrine of Al-Aidaros and pray begging for God's mercy.

AL-AIDAROOS THE MAN:

Zain Al-Aidaros was born in Tarim, Hadhramaut in 851 Hegira Calendar. His family was famous for its love of knowledge, Islamic jurisprudence, and social service. But two persons had the greatest impact on the personality of young Aidaros. These are his father and Sheikh Saad. Whenever young Zain was in a state of confusion, he spent long hours in seclusion in the mosque.

Since his early childhood, he was involved in spiritual meditation which elevated the young boy to sublime levels and strengthened his soul and gave him self-control.

This great man used to leave his home every night - together with his cousin Abdul Rahman Bin Ali - to the wilderness of Tarim for seclusion and prayers. One of his companions for more than thirty years narrated that he had never seen him sleep more than three hours a day.



The decorations at the entrance facing the main door and leading to the shrine are extremely attractive, and have the flavor of the sub-continent. No wonder, because the mosque was built by one of the Indian Muslim merchants a few months before the sheikh's death as a sign of high esteem and respect the sheikh commanded among the

Muslims of the

time. During the month of Shawal, next month, people from every where converge on the mosque on the annual visit to the pious man's shrine. This has become a tradition among the people of Aden, Hadhramaut and other regions. With time, it was converted into a festival as families gather around



and inside this holy place. The rituals associated with the occasion have grown more detailed and complicated. Indeed, Al-Aidaros Mosque has become an important landmark of Aden.

His religious approach and methodology depended on knowledge, science, and deep thinking and meditation. To understand the logic of the universe, and the purpose behind human creation, he would revert to the old books and reason out for himself. To achieve his goals, he employed the technique of tolerance, long hours of observation, and meticulous details regarding the meaning of things. Even with his long hours of meditation, he was known for his social nature, hospitality and generosity particularly with the common people and the poor. He spent the first 38 years of his life in Hadhramaut and the last 24 years in Aden. He has left fond memories in both regions of the country.

AL-AIDAROOS THE MOSQUE

The mosque started as a burial site or tomb of Sheikh Aidaros, and some of his sons and grandsons. The tombs occupy one prominent section of the mosque, parallel to the altar.

The main feature of the mosque is its large dome with beautiful interior decorations. Inside, there are beautiful artistic and colorful decorations, paintings, and calligraphy. To the west of the dome, there is a large building with wooden posts brought from India. This is an extension, where on Fridays, worshippers spill over. On the Eastern side of the mosque, stands a beautiful stony minaret with a small dome next to it.



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Now That Ramadhan Is Leaving, What were the Lessons?

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times.



It is well known that fasting in the month of Ramadhan is one of main duties Islam lays down for its followers. Some scholars consider these duties as pillars on which the structure of Islam is built. It is known that Ramadhan fasting ranks on a par with prayers and Zakat in its importance as an Islamic duty. Indeed, it enjoys a special status, since it can only be fulfilled through abstinence, rather than through a positive action. For this reason, Allah is quoted by the prophet as saying, "Every thing humans do is for themselves, but fasting is done for Me and I reward for it accordingly." Islam is a religion with a keen sense of social values, reflected in a serious moral code which all Muslims are supposed to observe. Good manners, hard work, politeness, kindness to others, and keeping away from actions which are not conducive to good social relations are all parts of the Islamic code of conduct.

There are, therefore, certain aspects of morals and manners which are associated with fasting. The prophet says, "Fasting is a shield. Let no one who is fasting commit any obscenity or foolishness. If anyone tries to engage a fasting person in an unbecoming situation, let him/her resist by saying - I am fasting; I am fasting." The prophet gives fasting a very apt description when he considers it as a shield, protecting the person who fasts from wrong-doing. The Arabic term used here also connotes a fence which is a means of protection. Indeed, fasting provides protection in more ways than one, since fasting weakens the body, it also weakens physical desires. This makes the fasting person more able to resist any temptations of the flesh. This is a passive way of protection which can be easily observed. The urge and temptation to fulfill physical desires, are weakened through fasting, which points to the protective aspect of this unique act of worship. The other protective effect of fasting is that Allah rewards fasting very generously. It is well known that Allah rewards any good

action by at least ten times its value. God rewards humans even more, corresponding to their piety and service to others. God's bounty is limitless. Such rewards are especially applicable to persons who fast. Imam Malek narrates, "Every action a human being does shall be rewarded in multiplicity; a good action by ten times its value, and up to 700 times, and even more as Allah may wish. Allah says: With the exception of fasting which belongs to me, and I reward it accordingly. What is very clear here is that the exception is made in order to stress the greater reward of fasting."

That is confirmed by a Qur'anic verse which states: "The steadfast shall be given their reward." Most scholars interpret the term "the steadfast" used in this verse to refer to those who fast. For fasting can only be offered if a person has strong faith. Another lesson learned from fasting is that it increases social cohesion among human beings. It particularly helps the well-to-do appreciate the plight of the less fortunate ones in society. That is why alms-giving, visit of relatives, charity efforts, and philanthropic actions rise in Ramadhan. We can clearly see the positive impact of these things on society's well-being. One clear asset is the reduction of tension and class struggle within the community. Many scientists and medical doctors have explained in great length the benefits of keeping away from food, and re-structuring our food-intake. Fasting allows this to take place, and thus helps improve the health of the body. Actually, the Prophet has said, "Fast, and your health shall improve." This is due to the fact that fasting means abstinence from eating and drinking and paying a closer attention to when to

eat and what type of food to eat.

There is another aspect to fasting. Fasting also means stopping smoking. For addicts this is a big sacrifice. From sun-rise to sunset, they cannot smoke. In the initial days, this hard, but it becomes easier with the days. What this also means is that smokers get a chance to break with this habit. I have seen many smokers who have used Ramadhan to give up smoking.

The person who fasts is supposed to behave in a very decent and correct way. This is emphasized over and over. "God does not need your abstinence from eating and drinking if you are to commit all kinds of wrong-doing. Fasting is primarily about being up-right," states the prophet. That means, the person who fasts should not engage in back-biting, lying, cheating, deceiving, etc. Not only are we supposed to refrain from wrong-doing, but we are supposed to fulfill our obligations. That means being prompt, punctual, doing our work, etc.

How much of that have we done in our fasting this month?

There are many lesson that are to be drawn from fasting in Ramadhan. Most of these are in abstract form, and their reward is with God in the here-after. But quite a few of these are practical and they help straighten our lives here on earth. The code of conduct or behavior is a visible aspect of the practical implications of fasting.

It is sufficient for our purpose here to state that in a situation like the one described earlier, and in which a fasting person resists being drawn into a quarrel or heated arguments by saying, "I am fasting," he or she states to the other party in clear terms that he/she is observing a special code of conduct. This serves as a reminder to show humility and thus refrain from boasting or any egotistic behavior. These teaching have helped reduce disputes and conflicts among individuals.

Indeed, the lessons of Ramadhan are many and effective. The point is, however, how much of the lessons have we learned this, and how ready are we to absorb more lessons from

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Asteroids May Have Played Key Role in Origin of Life

Asteroids and comets hitting earth billions of years ago could have intermittently thawed its frozen ocean, causing reactions that gave rise to the first living organisms, researchers say. The theory contradicts the widely accepted view that the atmosphere of early earth was rich in carbon dioxide, forming a heat trapping blanket that prevented the oceans from freezing. Jeffrey Bada and Stanley Miller, scientists at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), outlined their theory at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science last month. Scientists have debated for decades why the earth did not become a permanently frozen planet early in its history. Climate models show that of the

atmosphere of the early earth was the same as today's a decrease of only a few per cent in the sun's luminosity would cause the oceans to freeze and global surface temperatures to drop to minus 40 degrees Celsius. Yet solar evolution models indicate that the young sun was 20 to 30 per cent less luminous than today, the researchers said. To overcome this paradox, scientists have proposed that the atmosphere must have contained a high concentration of carbon dioxide that kept the planet warm and stopped the oceans freezing. But a carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere would have prevented organic material from being synthesized on earth, the scientists said. Bada, Miller and another researcher Charles Bigham

theories that the top 300 meters of the early ocean was frozen. They argue that the impact of extraterrestrial objects such as meteorites and asteroids with diameters of about 96 km would have enough energy to melt the ocean's frozen surface. The group suggests that the ocean probably thawed and then refroze in between a series of impacts. "Such freeze-melt cycles could have played an important role in the beginnings of life by trapping material deposited from an asteroid or comet in the waters beneath the ice," Bada said. In that way, materials important for the synthesis of organic molecules required for the origin of life were not lost to the atmosphere, where they would have been destroyed.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In an article published in the seventh issue of Al-Hiwar weekly newspaper, I had expressed my views regarding local rule. The paper introduced me as one of the senior members of Islah whereas I am not. I just expressed my personal opinion on the subject and I faced a lot of denunciations as a result.

Let me start by saying I am not against the concept of local rule, but I don't really encourage it. A quick analysis of the situation of the former YAR and PDRY will show the great differences between the two previous systems. In the South (former PDRY), there was a suffocating centralization while in the North (former YAR), there was a decentralization to the point of lawlessness. The problem of the unified country lies in the lack of a modern state.

What is important in all of this is the existence of a state with laws and systems which will resolve our problems. But enforcing a system of decentralization before the very existence of a state is something I cannot comprehend and I see it as putting the cart before the horse.

First, it is necessary to build a modern state with institutions.

Then, comes the process of moving to local rule. There was a kind of decentralized rule when the local cooperative councils were active in the Northern part of the homeland. As for local rule which they demand, it does not differ from a federal system which is being put for discussion by some, and it was refused unanimously.

The federal system does not suit our country for we are one people with one language/religion. Federation suits a country with various ethnic groups and with different languages. I don't know why some are insisting on a federation? I think it is the ambition of some rulers who try to form a government of local rule to run in line with their desires and goals.

Federation is an attempt to split the country, whereas its citizens though say unification has not yet begun. But, real unity is here to stay whether some continue to rule or not.

What we are afraid of is your intervention and attempts to subvert the unification to serve the rulers' purposes. In my opinion, the federal system and local rule which they call for serves their own purposes. When will this country know stability and loyal people who think of the interests of the people? When will this frivolity stop?

By:
Ali Bin Abdulla Al-Wasee,
Al-Sahwa, Sanaa,
24/2/1994.

A CHATTER-BOX

I have been wishing all the time to see Al-Ayyam become a daily newspaper to provide our people with news of the country. We read some insignificant news items in the government newspapers. Besides, most of the news is old. Either we have heard it from foreign sources or it was broadcast to us through local TV. So it does not relevant anymore.

Most of the news that circulates is about ceremonials, congratulations, condolences and other trivial things. What bothers me more than any other thing is that the people may not get to know about the events happening in the country because the official media is censoring it.

That is why we haven't heard nor read anything about the work of the Dialogue Committee in the official papers. Unfortunately therefore, we are forced to trace the news of our country from foreign sources. For a country which claims freedom of press, so much occurs and our people are kept in the dark.

Our history is full of

evidence as to how authority tries many times to destroy every bright spot of the state of affairs.

It is amazing also that all the correspondents of news agencies and newspapers that come to Yemen to interview our senior officials distribute the stories worldwide. We have no objection to spreading news about our country, but what we object to is this sense of exaggeration and sensationalism. We have a legitimate right to know the truth about the events happening in our country. What is important is that there is a crisis in our country and our people are suffering because of it. People are tired, starved, deprived of their rights in leading a decent life, etc.. We want the official media to spread the news regarding the implementation of the 18th January Document.

By:
Abdu Hussein Ahmad,
Back Page Editorial,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
23/2/1994.



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UNIFICATION IS ACHIEVED. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT?

On 22nd May, 1994, Yemeni Unification was achieved during the reign of the two leaders Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salem Al-Beedh and they were the last of the leaders during the reign of division.

The two men were able to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles which stood in the path of unification. They completed what was started by the first veterans many years ago. Many factors helped them achieve this dream. The period witnessed international changes and transformations at all levels. Even the Arab world witnessed major change. The two Ali's became great in the eyes of all the Arabs for they put Yemeni unity above all other considerations.

But, what happened in the last few months and is still happening harmed all sides. The crisis turned into an economic and social nightmare. And the losers are our people. Now the citizens realize that the two Ali's are responsible for the whole agony. Their differences caused a lot of troubles to the nation.

The citizens began to blame the two men and hold them responsible for the suffering and pain. In the past few months, some thought Ali Abdullah Saleh was mistaken and that Ali Salem Al-Beedh was right and vice versa. Now the nation blames them equally for they are together responsible for the whole crisis. We don't want them to end up like that. They have still more time to do something good for the people. We want them to think with the same mentality of those bright days of unification. We ask them to correct the situation before it is too late.

By Sadiq Ahmad Aljirash,
Report Page,
Al-Gamaher, Sanaa,
28/2/1994.

THE MASSACRE

The massacre of the Palestinians in Hebron inside the Al-Ibrahim Mosque by the Zionists is a new evidence of the lawless violence of Zionists. Their endless crimes have received one more illustration. Such a thing would not have happened if the Arabs had been united or even had a minimum consolidation.

The massacre and slaughter of dozens of people who were praying is not only a provocation against the Arabs and Muslim worlds, but it is a clear message that the Arabs have become so weak, due to their divisions and strife, that they are even unable to mount a unified outcry.

That bloody action occurred because we have abandoned our principles, morals and values. Israel committed the crime due to the deterioration in the Arab world. It realized that the Arabs have become conflicting groups and tribes able to enter violent clashes over trivial things. Israel was able to employ all the weapons of genocide to liquidate the Palestinians in the occupied lands.

Meanwhile, it creates new factors of conflict and fragmentation inside our countries. It does so because we have abandoned our principles. It is able to plant and nurture the seeds of division among us.

Based on the current weakness of the Arabs, Israel tries to impose peace according to its own vision, regardless of the interests of our nation. We are at the receiving end, and have been all along. The point is whether the Arabs are able to put their differences aside or not in order to address the bigger danger - Israel. Are they ready to start again and unite, in order to stand against the aggression of Israel?

This is just a question which seeks to find an answer.

By: Editorial
Inside Page
Al-Gumhuryah, Taiz
1/3/1994.

"THE YSP IS CREATING A STATE IN ADEN."

"The YSP is now busy establishing a state in Aden," said the Sanaa University Professor and Chief Editor of the Yemen Times.

It was a unique opportunity for me as a journalist to follow the proceedings of the trial in which the President of the Republic sued the Professor for slander. I told myself if the court doesn't pass judgement in favor of the President, then this case is going to be a landmark in the history of this country. As it came out, the Southern Sanaa Court did rule out in favor of the professor and against the president.

Since then, I have been meaning to sit down with this outspoken man, who aggressively points fingers at the rulers of this country. Last week, I was thinking of interviewing Dr. Saqqaf. I told my chief editor, Mr. Ahmad Al-Shara'abi, I might not control the direction the interview takes and he might end up pointing his fingers at us (PGC). Mr. Al-Shara'abi replied: "Write down what (independent) people say about the crisis and shed light on the whole cause of every aspect of it. We in the PGC are fed up with bearing that we alone are responsible for the difficulties. They (YSP) share with us power, but we are the only

ones to take the blame. We are fed up with their double role. In the future we will be more careful. Go ahead with Dr. Saqqaf's interview. Following are some excerpts of my conversation with Professor Saqqaf:

Quote:

Q: Four months ago, I remember talking to you about the crisis. Your reply was: "The 18 points of the YSP are needed by the country and that the President must accept them. And I think he will." What do you think today?

A: I think the efforts then were to get back Mr. (Ali Salim) Al-Beedh from his seclusion and back to Sanaa. Today, the efforts are oriented towards preserving the union. I hold the president responsible for the deterioration in the situation. It is necessary for the President to work on implementing the 18 points and the 10th January accord to avoid partitioning the country.

Q: I have changed my work from Al-Mustaqbal (YSP mouthpiece) to Al-Mithaq (PGC mouthpiece). Have you changed? Has the situation changed?

A: Change is a normal part of life. I just hope people change to the better. The negotiations

today are about demarcation and de facto border creation. The negotiation today is between two separate states, rather than between segments within one state

Q: How do you mean? I don't understand?

A: What is going on now is the construction of a new state in Aden.

Q: You mean by the YSP?

A: Yes, by the YSP.

Q: Have we reached to the point of separation?

A: I am telling you what I think I see. As a citizen I hold the President responsible for this deterioration. I advise the President and the Vice President not to believe all that is being reported to them. I further urge them to sack any of their aides who feed them wrong information. If they find out that any of their aides has mis-informed them, they should get rid of them. We cannot afford our top people taking decisions based on wrong information.

Q: What is your impression of what happened in Amman?

A: Really, I think the Vice President should have arrived early enough to give King Hussain a better chance to succeed in his mediation. The Vice President's plane touched down at Amman airport less than two hours before the signing ceremony of the document. That did not give

time to work on his differences with the president. I am not at all happy with the behavior of the Yemeni delegates and their companions. It was rather humiliating.

Q: What about the visits of the YSP leadership to various Arab capitals following the signing of the document?

A: I don't know how those visits were arranged and who was involved. In my opinion, the visits represents mobilization or preparations to gain friends for the YSP and support for its view points. I believe the visits are aimed at gaining friends in case there is a showdown with Sanaa.

Q: What do you think of what is going on in Aden?

A: I already told you Aden wants to be treated in parity with Sanaa. It has taken off its loyalty and subservient role. Aden behaves like Sanaa.

Q: The people were surprised to see the army embroiled in violence recently. What is your opinion?

A: We have now entered a new phase in our "dialogue." Allow me to say that there is no more trust in the word of either side. The only alternative left to resolve our problems is, unfortunately, the military one.

By:
Hassan Mahjoub,
Al-Mithaq, Sanaa
28/2/1994

Finding a Solution to the agony

"I am deaf, I am blind, I am mute."

This saying is applicable because of the apprehension of our party (Attagummu Al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni) vis-a-vis the deterioration of the crisis, for we have been accustomed to interacting of political friction. We even warned of such a deterioration on the former borders. We require upholding logic and respect of the people who suffer.

The crisis is becoming bigger and bigger and our homeland is bleeding. Arrogance and irresponsibility began to take a new path leading the country to civil war and separation.

We have put all our potential to consolidate the unification and to safeguard it from any dangers. This historic achievement will remain our people's unique asset. The point is that the rulers put their interests above everything else. For the sake of their continuing to rule, they forsake everything. It is not strange that our brothers in the other parties (YSP) talk about their pledge to let the president rule for ten more years if he works to implement the articles of the 18th January Document.

We are sensitive toward the compromises among the components of the ruling coalition partners without any consideration to the bleeding wounds of the people. We were accus-

tomed to mediations during our in-fighting in those days and still during the unification period.

Now after the mediation, shaking hands, signing of the Document the politicians return to fighting. This time the fighting is different and the conflict is not on the borders of the two divisions. This time they try to threaten each other from inside by physical liquidation. Each side tries to buy supporters among the tribes to defend his case.

We warn them that the civil war won't be along Northern-Southern lines, as they may envisage. It will be another Lebanon or Somalia or even worse due to the density of our population and the level to which they are armed.

We warn them not to play with fire or depend on others whatever the intentions might be. They must learn that the enemies of unified Yemen are among us. It is important to realize that fighting in backward countries loses its political motivation. It turns to tribal/regional warfare and people lose track of what it is they are fighting about, thus prolonging the war.

Go back to the Document and you will find in it all you need.

Editorial,
Attagummu, Aden,
28/2/1994.

Assessing Operation "Restore Hope"

When they are gone and their camps are half-empty as they gradually replaced by troops of other nationalities. The American soldiers who came to Somalia are no more! The Horn Base, Hunter Base, Liberty Base are half empty. They were incongruous, misnaming military bases in Somalia; hard-edged names as consistent with a humanitarian mission as was the strategy that guided it. The desert camouflage fatigues the Americans are now gone from their heavily fortified positions in southern Mogadishu, replaced by the green uniforms of other nations.

US soldiers withdraw from Somalia, they leave behind a record of success and failure in trying to rescue the nation from famine andarchy, and put it on a path toward democracy.

For major success came early when US Marines arrived on

9th December, 1992, the UN estimated that 2 million Somalis might die in a devastating famine. More than 350,000 already were dead of starvation, disease and warfare among rival clan militias.

Within a month, more than 250,000 US servicemen and women, and 13,000 soldiers from 20 other nations had opened blocked sea and air ports in Mogadishu and in the southern city of Kismayu. Food convoys were rolling into the interior along roads once controlled by bandits and warlords - "Indian country," the Americans called it.

The famine already waning, was halted.

That triumph was soon obscured, however, as the humanitarian mission passed into the hands of the United Nations. It became a small-scale war that, ultimately, the American public could not stomach.

Most of the Americans are now gone. They abandoned the

streets months ago to young Somali toughs brandishing once-forbidden weapons.

One of the mistakes of the UN mission was to get off its original goal and go into areas in which it had neither the expertise, resources, nor manpower to achieve. The US forces, and then the UN forces, tried to play the local game by becoming one more militia group. They wanted to call the shots in Somalia, and thus replace the strongest warlord, Mohammed Farah Aideded.

The UN accused Mr. Aideded, a warlord who controlled the southern half of Mogadishu, of masterminding attacks on 5th June, 1993, that killed 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. It even put a price on his head.

That fiasco was abandoned when 18 Americans were killed in a battle with Aideded's militia on October 3-4. Today, the UN treats Aideded as a political leader with which it deals.

Somalia is arguably no closer to democracy today than when the

Americans arrived. Again, the UN is competing with Aideded to build a government. The UN pins its hopes on controlling the rising level of violence on recruiting and training an independent 10,000-member national police force. Many countries, including the US, have contributed money, ammunition, vehicles, and other equipment. But the success of this force will depend on its acceptance by the Somalis.

The American arrived with no thought of disarming Somalia or trying to build democratic institutions, goals that were deemed either impossible or impractical. But the US lent its vote to a Security Council resolution adding these tasks to the UN force, that took over from the US-led military coalition in May, 1993. Since then, the UN has lost 81 peacekeepers (25 Americans) and 329 (128 Americans) wounded.

Last month, the UN abandoned any idea of forcible disarmament of Somalis.

Ethiopia: Aborting an Airplane Hijack Attempt

An airplane hijacking attempt was aborted just ten minutes before take-off as the airplane crew noticed a passenger was acting in a strange way and alerted the airport security personnel.

Eighteen-year old Maskaram Aklilu was hiding a hand grenade in her underwear when she boarded the 737 Boeing airplane on its flight from Dire Dawa to Addis Abeba on Thursday March 3rd, 1994.

The motives behind the incident were reported as purely social and economic. Maskaram, it was reported in the preliminary investigations was frustrated and confused by her inability to continue her education or to find work. "I was planning to take the plane to London where I can find employment

and continue my education," she said giving the reasons for the attempted hijacking.

But that may not tell the full story. Her brother and two friends had hijacked a plane last year from Addis Ababa and they were overpowered in Nairobi, Kenya.

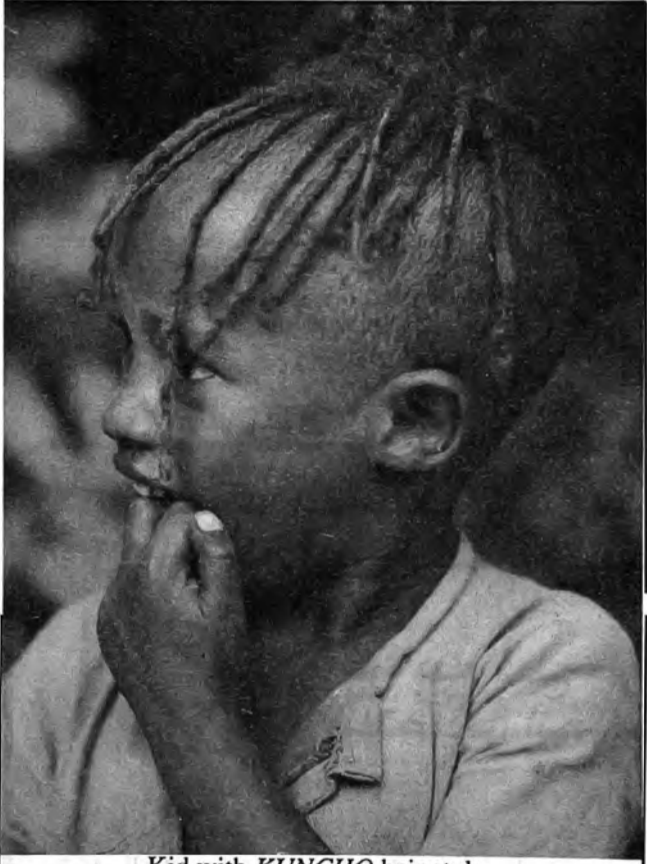
Maskaram comes from a small town called Jimma in south-western Ethiopia.

The flight scheduled for 9:00 a.m., took off on its normal route at 12:00 mid-day.

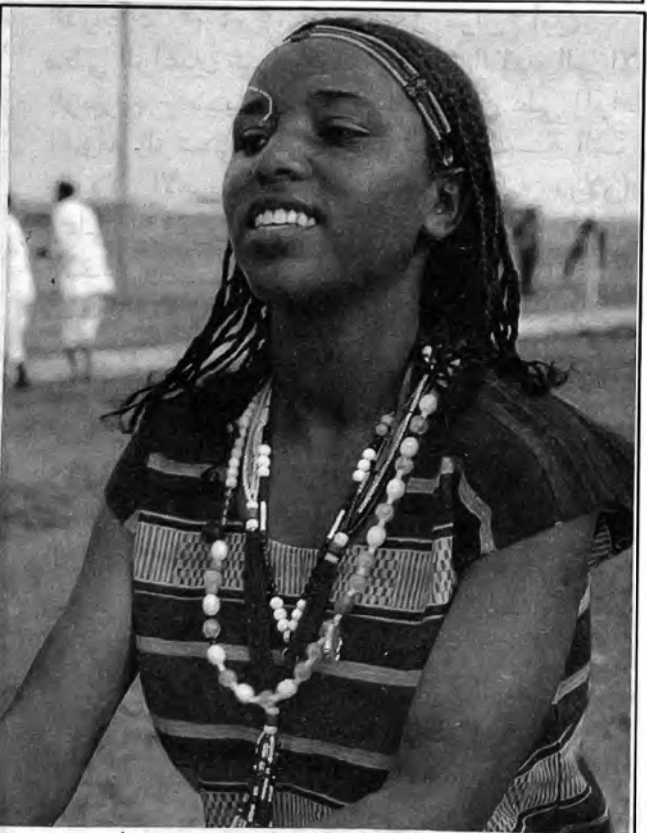
It is worth mentioning that Ethiopia is undergoing a major transformation and a serious soul-searching process in its effort to evolve a new meaning and system in managing the country. This has disoriented quite a few people, thus leading to illegal, and sometimes bizarre, behavior.

Faces from Ethiopia:


Ethiopia is increasingly become a favorite tourist destination. Beautiful country, a hospitable and polite people, and ancient and rich history are among the most important factors. Below are two faces from Ethiopia.



Kid with KUNCHO hair style:



A young woman from Arsi Region



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HOPE DESPITE HEBRON MASSACRE

Analysts say the 25th Friday Hebron massacre seems unlikely to destroy Middle East peace efforts. They say both Rabin and Arafat have to try to ensure that the massacre remains an isolated event and not the beginning of a new spiral of violence. US President Bill Clinton has invited the Israelis and Palestinians to Washington to tie up the remaining loose ends of their historic interim peace agreement within a relatively short time.

The United States, Israel and the PLO responded to the Hebron massacre of some 70 Palestinians by an Israeli settler on Friday 25th with a bold diplomatic attempt to turn tragedy into peace. Reacting quickly to the massacre, US President Bill Clinton invited the Israelis and Palestinians to Washington to tie up the remaining loose ends of their historic interim peace agreement within a relatively short time.

"Anxious to contain the violent fallout from the shooting and to prevent extremists on either side from capturing the initiative, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization were urged to begin implementation of the agreement they have made as rapidly as possible," Clinton said.

"No, it (the massacre) doesn't derail the peace process," said Richard Haass, a Middle East adviser to former president George Bush.

"Something of this sort was inevitable. Whenever moderates get busy making peace, radicals get busier trying to destroy it," said Haass, who is now with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "But once the emotions clear, the same realities remain for both sides," Analyst Judith Kipper of the Brookings Institution agreed. "It will not stop the peace process. Nothing is going to stop the peace process. This obviously a huge event. But if the parties handle it right, they can get over it," she said.

Analysts said both Rabin and Arafat had to try to ensure that the massacre remained an isolated event and not the beginning of a new spiral of violence.

In the initial spillover, at least 12 more Palestinians were shot dead in clashes with Israelis that erupted through the occupied territories after the shooting. Police also fired tears gas to disperse 120,000 Arabs who massed on Temple Mount in Jerusalem, but here were no reports of casualties there and the protest fizzled out. Arafat may have the tougher task restoring order to his shocked ranks. Operating from his far-off base in Tunis, he was already under pressure from hard-line fundamentalists who reject his peace deal with Israel, and he faced internal challenges from those who dislike his authoritarian leadership style.

Arafat said the whole Middle East peace process could backfire. He called PLO leaders to a crisis meeting in Tunis. "What has happened today in the mosque is real tragedy and will make a very negative backfire on the whole peace process," he told CNN television in an interview.

A close aide to Arafat said the shooting spelled doom for the PLO-Israel peace deal, negotiated in secret in Norway and signed with fanfare in Washington last September.

"What happened at Hebron is the last nail in the coffin for the Oslo accord," Jibril Rajub, Arafat's adviser for occupied territories affairs, said in Tunis. But the PLO leader may have little choice in the long run but to pursue peace with Israel. He has nailed his colors to the interim peace agreement and was seen around the word shaking hands with Rabin.

The agreement, which envisages an Israeli military withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, has been hard to complete. But the parties were getting close in intensive talks over recent weeks.

Paradoxically, Rabin may be strengthened by the massacre, which could weaken and isolate the militant settler movement in Israeli society.

Rabin was bound to come into confrontation at some point with die-hard settlers who believe they are commanded by God to preserve Israeli control over the West Bank.

Now the 120,000 settlers will find themselves reviled by large sections of Israeli society. This could increase Rabin's motivation to accelerate the showdown by trying to strike a final deal with the PLO as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the main Israeli shooter was follower of Kahane He was the middle of three children from a quite, close-knit orthodox Jewish family, educated at a private Jewish school, known around the New York neighborhood as "Benji".

On that Friday, friends and neighbors in the middle-class, Italian and Jewish Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn where he grew up recalled Benjamin Carl Goldstein as quite, aloof and deeply religious.

Goldstein, 38, was beaten to death on the same Friday after opening fire with an automatic rifle and grenades on rows of kneeling Muslim worshippers packed into a mosque in the occupied West Bank. At least 48 Muslims were cut down in the massacre.

"This is not the way to get rid of hate. I knew him as a child. They were a very nice family," said an old associate. "He was a very lonely person," said Bernice Greenberg, who lives six houses away from the house the Goldsteins lived in before they emigrated to Israel.

A Letter from the Vatican on Eid Al-Fitr

The Yemen Times received on its fax a copy of a letter signed by Francis Cardinal Arinze, President of the Inter-Religion Dialogue at the Pontificum Consilium (Vatican) in Rome. We are happy to run the full letter, which will be released on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, later this week:

Quote:

My Muslim Friends,

The feast of Id Al-Fitr is here again, a time for rejoicing. If life can be imagined as a pilgrimage towards God, religious feasts become moments of rest when we are invited to take stock, gather strength, and renew our determination to continue on the prescribed path. Please accept my sincere greetings and best wishes as you end the Ramadan fast and celebrate Id Al-Fitr.

This feast, we know, is a family event. Families will break the fast and celebrate the feast together. As you do so this year, I would like you to join with me in praising and glorifying God for the gift of the family.

In underline this family dimension because 1994 has been proclaimed by the United Nations as the International year of the Family. I would like to take the occasion of this message to reflect with you on the importance of the family, the dangers it faces today, and on what we can do together to uphold family values.

God, the Creator, associates human beings in the continuation of the human race. This is accomplished, according to the will of God, through marriage and the family. Thus, for us believers, the family is a sacred institution. The more a family acknowledges God as its origin and source, the happier it becomes. Happiness and harmony in the family are directly related to the authentic moral life of each of its members.

Created by God, the human person has a fundamental social dimension. This finds its first vital expression in the family which is the normal environment for the full flowering of personality. For the family is uniquely suited to reach and transmit cultural, ethical, social and religious values through which the individual becomes a mature human person.

It is in the family that the individual is first nourished with that divine love and compassion which the person in turn is invited to show towards others in striving to make the entire human race God's family on earth.

Family and society are closely inter-related. The family is a natural society which exists prior to the State or indeed prior to any other community. As a social reality, it forms the fundamental unit of society. Thus to strengthen the family means to strengthen society itself.

While we easily recognize the value of the family, we cannot ignore the reality around us. In some places, the very institution of the family, based on marriage, is being called into question. In many parts of the world, families are forced to live in situations of poverty which prevents them carrying out their role with dignity. We cannot but deplore the plight of children, born out of wedlock, and deprived of essential care and the indispensable element of parental love. Countless orphans, the many children in bonded labor, the disabled and the aged who suffer from neglect, all cry out for our help. Who will listen to their plea? What of the victims of violence in the family? What of the homeless, and those affected by war, by natural or man-made disasters? They too await help, and it will not be sufficient to point to the complicated nature of the causes of deprivation without taking concrete action. Is there not an opportunity here for cooperation between Muslims and Christians?

As believers in God, the Merciful and Compassionate, who cares for the weak and the downtrodden, let us pledge to work together to uphold family life. We could foster increased contacts between Christians and Muslims to exchange on family values. As members of the one human family, we could work in solidarity to help those in need. In so doing, we would be giving a human expression to divine compassion. Let us pray that God may assist us in this task, for nothing is impossible for the one who trusts in God.

Once again, I express to you warm greetings on the occasion of the Breaking of the Fast.

Signed: Francis Cardinal Arinze

Unquote

COOPERATIVE & AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK, HEAD OFFICE - SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

COTTON TENDER SALE'S ANNOUNCEMENT 1992/1993 SEASON'S CROP

1. THE COOPERATIVE & AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK, HAS THE PLEASURE TO INVITE INTERNATIONAL SEALED BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RAW COTTON KNOWN AS (ABIAN COTTON); VERITY: LONG STABLE; TYPE: K4 LAMBERT OF 1992/1993 SEASON'S CROP; CLASSIFIED UNDER THE FOLLOWING GRADES NUMBERS.: THREE; FOUR; FIVE AND SIX.

2. INTERESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION (DURING OFFICIAL WORKING HOURS) AT THE HEAD-OFFICE OF:
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COOPERATIVE & AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK
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SANA'A - REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
FAX: 00967-1-209570 OR 00967-1-203741
TEL. 00967-1-207817 OR 00967010203741

3. A COMPLETE SET OF SPECIFICATION DETAILS AND THE COTTON SAMPLES MAY BE PURCHASED BY ANY INTERESTED BIDDERS ON THE SUBMISSION OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF YEMENI RIALS: 5,000; OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN U.S.A. DOLLARS OF 250/-.

4. ALL BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY AND IN SEALED ENVELOPES AND ADDRESSED TO THE SELLER'S ABOVE ADDRESS. THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF BIDS MUST BE FIXED AT A MINIMUM FOR THURSDAY THE 28TH OF APRIL, 1994. ANY BID WHOSE VALIDITY IS LESS THAN THIS DATE WILL BE REJECTED BY THE SELLER.

5. ALL BIDS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SECURITY OF NOT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT (1%) OF THE BID AMOUNT IN THE FORM OF A BANK'S GUARANTEE; CERTIFIED CHEQUE OR CASH; ACCEPTABLE TO THE SELLER AND VALID FOR 45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF BID OPENING.

6. BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE ABOVE OFFICE ON OR BEFORE 10:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY THE 29TH OF MARCH, 1994 (WHICH IS THE LAST DAY FOR BID SUBMISSION).

7. BIDS WILL BE OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF BIDDERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WHO CHOOSE TO ATTEND AT 11:00 A.M. ON MARCH 29TH, 1994. AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي الإدارة العامة - صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية

إعلان عن بيع قطع طويل التيلة (للتصدير الخارجي)

يعلن بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي عن مناقصة دولية لبيع قطن خام طويل التيلة نوع لا ميرت ك ٤، ٥، ٦ محصول مزارع أبين.

فعلى الراغبين شراء كمية الأقطان التقدم الى الإدارة العامة صنعاء - شارع الزبيرى - مجمع البنوك - للحصول على المواصفات والعينات خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي نظير رسم قدره خمسة ألف ريال لا يرد أو ما يعادلها بالدولار الأمريكي (٢٥٠ مائتين وخمسين دولار).

وعلى الراغبين تقديم عطاءاتهم بالعملة الصعبة بظروف مختومة بالشمع الأحمر وسارية المفعول حتى يوم الخميس الموافق ٢٨ أبريل ١٩٩٤ م مرفق بتأمين إبتدائي بواقع ١٪ (واحد في المائة) من قيمة العطاء بموجب ضمان بنكي أو شيك مقبول الدفع أن نقد وساري المفعول لمدة ٤٥ يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.

علما أن آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات هو يوم الثلاثاء الموافق: ٢٩ مارس ١٩٩٤ م الساعة العاشرة صباحا وسيتم فتح المظاريف في نفس اليوم ٢٩ مارس ١٩٩٤ م الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحا في مقر الإدارة العامة وبحضور المشترين أو مندوبيهم.

ولزيد من المعلومات يمكن الإتصال ببنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي على العنوان التالي:

صنعاء - شارع الزبيرى - مجمع البنوك

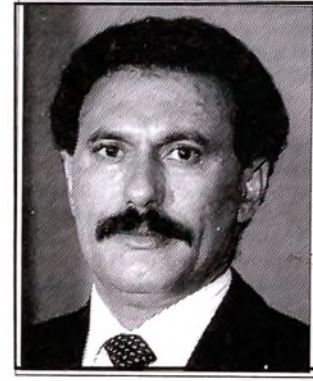
تليفون: ٢٠٧٨١٧

فاكس: ٢٠٣٧١٤

ص.ب: ٢٠١٥ ، ٢٨٥٠

توتال (اليمن)

تتقدم بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبي وقيادته السياسية بمناسبة خواتم شهر رمضان المبارك وحلول عيد الفطر السعيد أعاده الله من جديد وقد تحقق لليمن ما تطمح إليه من إستقرار وتقدم ورخاء.



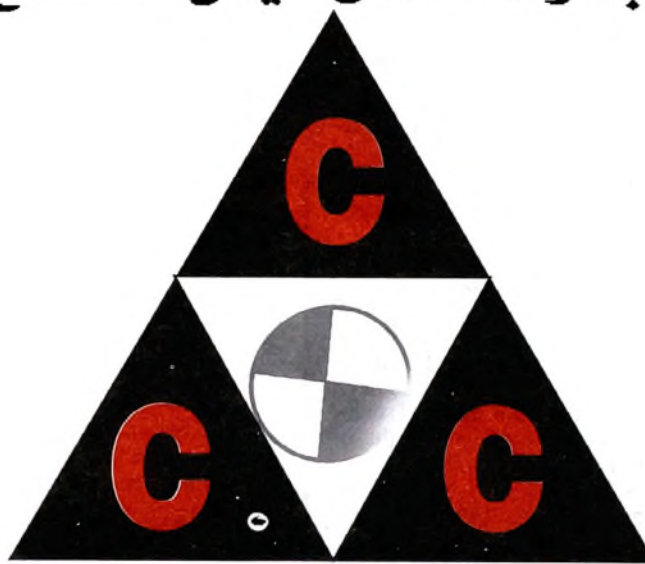
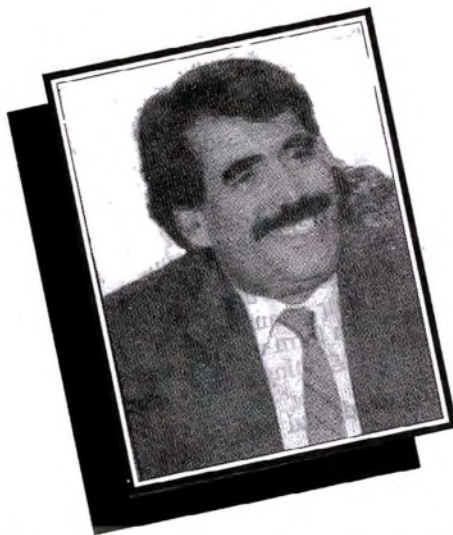
TOTAL (YEMEN)

presents its best wishes to the Yemeni people and its political leadership on the successful completion of Ramadhan and the coming of Eid Al-Fitr. We pray for Yemen more prosperity, progress and stability it aspires.

شركة إتحاد المقاولين العالمية

تشارك الشعب اليمني أفراحه

بمناسبة خواتم شهر رمضان المبارك وحلول عيد الفطر السعيد متمنية أن تأتي هذه المناسبة وقد تحقق لليمن ما تطمح إليه من رخاء وإنجازات.



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joins the Yemeni people in rejoicing on the final days of Ramadhan and in the celebrations of Eid Al-Fitr.

We wish Yemen more prosperity and achievements



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Rebuttal on Ewa's Creation Article

Dr. Ewa Wasilewska has dealt with a very delicate and sensitive topic, in the Yemen Times article adapted and abridged from The World and I, of February 1994. It is indeed a stupendous task to study and research the aspects of the very creation of the Universe and the presence of the Creator or Force behind this creation. When one indulges in the research of any topic, one must make sure that he/she studies the sources available thoroughly. Dr. Ewa is definitely not well versed in the teachings of the Qur'an.

Firstly she mentions in her article and I quote her "The God of Genesis and Quran finally rested on the seventh day, which He sanctified". There is not a single verse in the Quran where Allah Claims to have rested for a single minute let alone a day. In fact, in verse 255 of Chapter 2, which is also called the "Verse of Throne," Allah mentions His own attributes. "God! there is no god but He the living, the self-subsisting, Eternal NO SLUMBER CAN SEIZE HIM NOR SLEEP. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as He permitteth? He knoweth what (appareth to His creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He willeth. His Throne doth extend over the heavens and the earth. And HE FEELETH NO FATIGUE IN GUARDING AND PRESERVING THEM, for He is Most High The Supreme (in glory).

This verse clears any doubts one might have that Allah rested at any time. Furthermore there are 3 verses in the Quran where Allah mentions that He created the heavens and the earth and everything between them in six days, but there is no mention of the seventh day, whatsoever. Dr. Ewa's statement is possibly referring to the verse in the Bible where it says that God created the heavens and earth and everything between them in six days and then rested on the seventh.

Secondly, the six days of creation as mentioned in the Quran do not literally mean six as of our earthly days. In verse 5 of Chapter 32, it is written "The space whereof will be as a thousand years of your reckoning." And in verses of Chap. 70, it is said "The measure whereof is as fifty thousand years." Hence the Ulama interpret the creation of the heavens and earth to have lasted over a long period of our EARTHLY TIME. Which, by the way, is in close relation with the modern scientific estimates.

I urge the Yemen Times that it studies in advance any material that is to be printed, and making the necessary clarification if needed after the writer's analysis.

Nasser F. Adam Ali,
Sanaa.

Keep the Tea Brewing, Yemen Times

I read last week's editorial on the modest beginnings of "Yemen Times" with great interest. As an old friend of the chief editor, I know exactly what he was talking about. On the occasion of the anniversary of the Yemen Times, I would thus like to add a few words of my own, besides offering my warmest congratulations for the phenomenal growth and success of the Yemen Times.

I remember only too clearly the corrugated sheets that he mentioned in his editorial. I also remember the leaking roof which made him cover his two computers with plastic sheets on many a rainy day, and the rays of the sun on a hot day, which made his eyes squint and miss a few lines on the computer. I also recall the thread-bare carpet and the chairs that made heavy-weights like us sink right in and disappear as we sat!

In the middle of nowhere stood this shack with its imposing sign that said "YEMEN TIMES" in all its glory, the only indication of the great brain inside the run-down place. However, the best thing that I remember about the whole thing was the warmth and hospitality in reception that greeted one upon arrival, and which included an interesting conversation with the Chief Editor. The second prominent factor in Yemen Times in the good old days was the best cup of tea you could find in the whole Republic of Yemen, a specialty which could not be found in any embassy or organization in Sana'a (at least that was how I thought). It certainly served as a shockabsorber that made you entirely forget the physical surroundings as you listened to Dr. Saqqaf talking enthusiastically about the future of Yemen Times.

I can only say that looking back I am filled with admiration for Dr. Saqqaf whose efforts have paid off in such a short time. Yemen Times now plays a leading role as the only English paper in Yemen, with a wide circulation in Yemen as well as in other countries.

Now that I have said all this, I must also say how sad it made me feel when I visited the posh new surroundings not to find my old friend, Dr. Saqqaf (who is now a very busy man). I missed the nice cup of tea and cannot thus judge if the old standards are maintained or not. There was no warm reception this time because I did not find a single familiar face as I walked away quietly unnoticed. (In the old days there were only two of them) I am afraid this is the price we have to pay for success and sophistication. However, I repeat my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf for his well-deserved success and to Yemen Times.

Perhaps my letter will keep the kettle brewing for next time when I come around!

Guns Make Yemenis Men, Or Do They?

Ali Sharif, UNDP, Sanaa.

I would like to begin my letter by thanking the Yemen Times for giving their readers a space in their newspaper to exchange ideas on different matters. I would like to avail myself this chance to write about one of the bad habits of Yemenis - carrying guns in cities. Don't be shocked if you see a Yemeni carrying many types of weapons. Types may range from a sharp knife (jambiya) to a revolver, to a machine gun! It is a tradition of Yemen, we are told.

A complete man can only be recognized when he carries at least 30 kilograms of military hardware. At first look, you would think that every man is struggling to fight for the independence for his country. But the real reason behind this tradition is to gain adulthood and manliness.

However, a quick reflection on the impact of this phenomenon in Yemeni society shows it is the cause of a lot of problems. For example, many Yemenis knife each other or gun down each other on impulse of the moment. Why? Because the tools are handy.

Also the need for acquiring weapons has taken an escalating spiral, as people upgrade the deadliness and effectiveness of their hardware in comparison. One would ask why do people undergo the physical burden of carrying such heavy tools most of the day. Moreover carrying these things all the time must hinder doing any work. That is why the only work these people do is smuggling, hijacking and kidnapping.

Revenge is another problem which is very common in

Yemeni tribal society, because of the availability of arms.

Therefore every one takes the law in his own hands.

I think from the religious view point, all these actions are forbidden by Islam, as Islam invites people to respect work, and refrain from violence.

A comprehensive Yemeni security system can't be achieved given the circumstances existing today. However, there is necessity to ban arms carrying in our cities,

though there are sympathizers from different parties who encourage the carrying arms. Expenditures of some tribes on arms purchases has increased recently due to the political tension. Yet, we see reduced expenditures on medical care, education and other facilities.

It is very important to change the mentality of these tribes by promoting good campaign in the press, T.V., and other media.

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AN APPEAL TO THE EDUCATION MINISTER

Nobody can deny that Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, is the right person at the right post. It is many people's opinion that he is the most efficient person to serve minister of Education. To prove my point, I would like to indicate that when his appointment was announced, a lot of people were very happy, because they felt that he is capable of improving the educational system.

But unfortunately, we are surprised that he is faltering as he faces a Herculean task within the existing realities.

Ibb for example, the green governorate as they call it, has not yet seen any action from the savior of education, as we thought.

Ibb schools are not suitable or convenient for teaching. Al-Shab school in Shaban, 7 kilometers south of Ibb, is in an unimaginable situation. Although there are more than 3,000 students at this school - from primary to secondary levels - the school is a run-down building and suffers from shortage of everything - desks, chairs, chalk, blackboard, etc. Classes are overcrowded, windows are broken, no electricity, inefficient administration and careless teachers. It all leads to a bad educational output.

Can you believe that the students have not received their books yet. Just imagine how difficult it is for the students and for the teachers to carry out the teaching/learning process.

I hope my appeal will reach Dr. Al-Qirby as I have confidence in his positive reaction. I hope he will give instructions to the responsible persons in the governorate and take reasonable measures to help resolve our educational problems. We are interested in getting a proper education, which is our ticket to a better future. Will we be given the chance?

The question is, "Who is to blame?"

By: M. A. Molhi,
Ibb.

In the Name of God, What Is This?

Let me talk about how future doctors are trained in this country. I am, of course, referring to the College of Medicine.

Students suffer from shortage of books. I am not talking about laboratory work, autopsies and real training. I am talking about just books to read. There are not there. Many of us end up sending for books and reference material from abroad. We look for friends who are travelling abroad, e.g., Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, etc., and ask them to bring a list of books.

If you come from a poor family or live on a small budget, forget it. These books cost a bundle.

Our lecturers are another matter. They are busy with their private practice. Between their clinics, hospital duties, and qat chews, there is no more room for the students. One sort of asks about the ethics of these "doctors" and what kind of model they are passing over to us.

Now, I have one question: "Where is the administration of Sanaa University?" I know many people are asking this question, but I simply had to ask it as well.

In my opinion, Sanaa University is not really a university, in the serious meaning of the word. It is a bunch of nice buildings.

If I were you, I would not trust my health with the "graduates" of Sanaa University's Medical College, although I aspire to be one of them. I am sorry about this, but it is the way I feel.

By: Saleh Ahmed Kassim,
College of Medicine,
Sanaa University.



INVITATION TO CONTRACTORS TO SUBMIT PREBID QUALIFYING PROPOSALS FOR A GENERAL NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING SERVICES CONTRACT MASILA BLOCK, YEMEN REPUBLIC

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Limited ("Canadian Oxy"), a company involved in the exploration and development of oil and natural gas resources in Yemen, is currently inviting companies based in Yemen or the Middle East with experience in non-destructive testing to submit prebid-qualifying proposals for the development of a list of bidders for this work. Interested parties should contact Canadian Oxy Al-Arish office in Aden on or before 10th March, 1994 to obtain a copy of the prebid qualifying proposal.

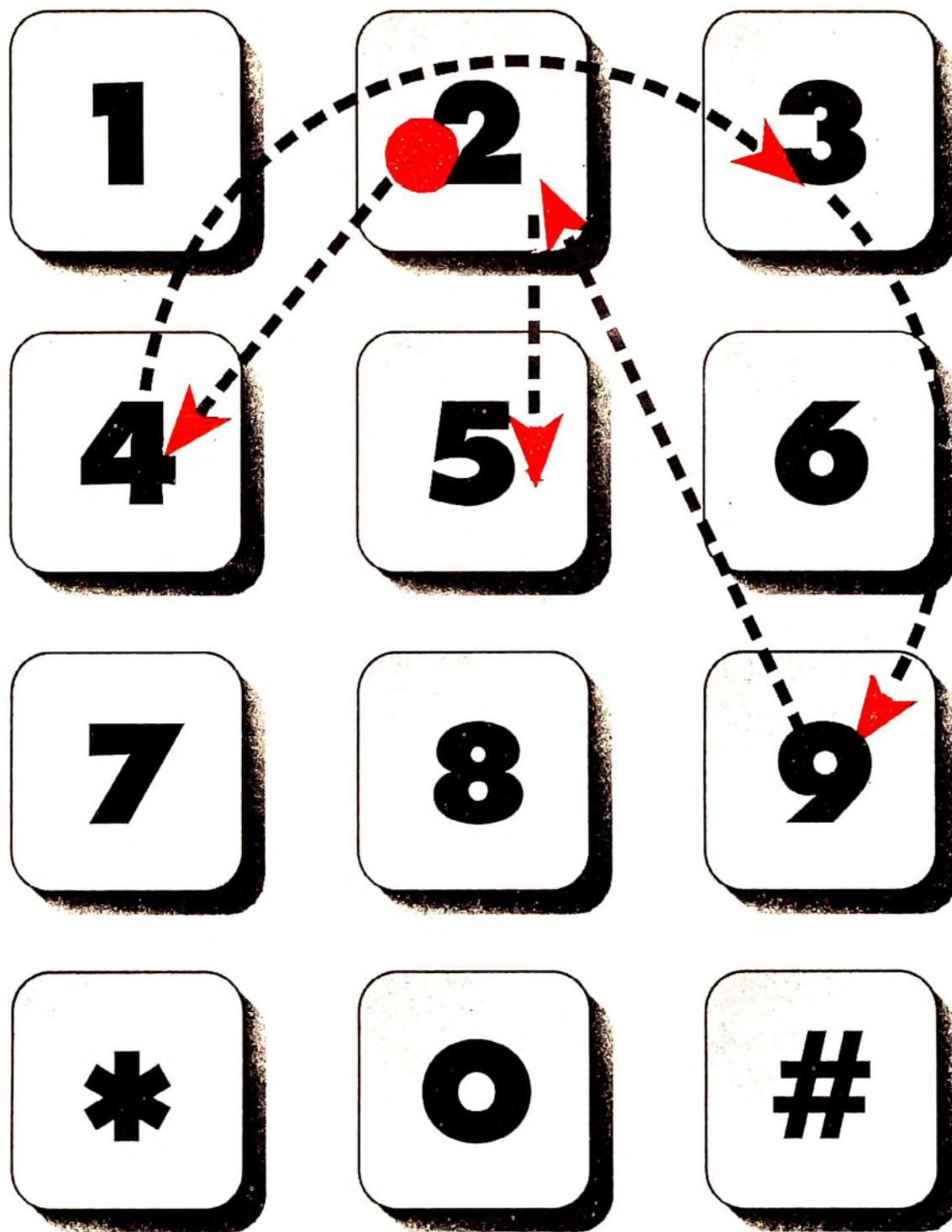
Those companies selected as bidders will receive a formal bid package for the non-destructive testing services contract. This contract will incorporate all of the general non-destructive testing services required by Canadian Oxy for its Masila Block operations.

Only those contractors who can demonstrate their ability to provide a full range of non-destructive testing services will be invited to submit a bid for the work. Canadian Oxy's prebid-qualifying proposal, the formal bid package, and the resulting contract will be in English.

For more information call:

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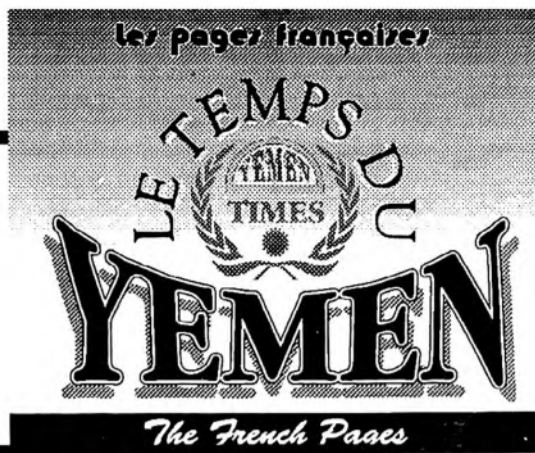
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En Bref

Réserves pétrolières d'Abou Dhabi: Les réserves pétrolières prouvées d'Abou Dhabi, le premier producteur de la fédération des Emirats arabes, ont dépassé fin 1992 les 92 milliards de barils, le double de leur niveau de 1982. La production d'Abou Dhabi pour l'année 1992 a été estimée à 2 millions de barils par jour en moyenne. Abou Dhabi assure l'essentiel de la production pétrolière des Emirats.

Attentat dans une église au Liban: Neuf Libanais ont été tués et 55 autres blessés dimanche dernier dans une église maronite au nord de Beyrouth, dans un attentat à l'explosif sans précédent. La charge explosive était reliée à deux obus de mortier et commandée par une minuterie. Elle avait été disposée sous une petite table à quelques mètres de l'autel. Une deuxième charge, encore plus meurtrière avec cinq obus de mortier, mais qui n'a pas explosé, avait été disposée en face, dans un orgue-harmonium. C'est la première fois qu'un lieu de culte est la cible d'un attentat aveugle au Liban. Les responsables libanais ont aussitôt fait le lien entre cet attentat et la tuerie d'Hebron, en Cisjordanie occupée. L'attentat intervient trois mois avant la première visite d'un pape au Liban.

La "maladie du Golfe": La "maladie du Golfe", dont souffrent des milliers de combattants américains de l'Opération Tempête du Désert, pourrait provenir de toxines chimiques, vient d'indiquer un expert américain devant une commission scientifique chargée d'étudier ce mal mystérieux. Des milliers de militaires, ayant participé à l'opération alliée contre l'Irak, souffrent de difficultés respiratoires, de troubles cardiaques, de fatigue anormale et de pertes de mémoire. Selon l'expert, certains combattants présentent les mêmes symptômes que des civils atteints d'hyper-sensibilité chimique.

Le destin du Yémen ne tient qu'à un fil. Partagés entre la logique de paix et la logique de guerre, sudistes et nordistes se sont-ils décidés à privilégier la première solution. La mission militaire jordano-omanaise, qui est arrivée vendredi 25 février à Sanaa, a mis au point un plan d'action en cinq points pour apaiser la tension. Et les dirigeants yéménites des deux bords ont donné leur accord pour l'application de ce plan.

Cette mission composée de dix militaires jordaniens et de onze omanais, propose aux troupes nordistes et sudistes de "revenir à leurs positions d'avant les affrontements" de lundi 21 février, au lendemain de la signature de "l'accord de réconciliation" à Amman. Elle demande ensuite "la restitution par chaque partie du matériel militaire saisi dans le camp opposé et la libération des soldats retenus de part et d'autre".

Arrêt des campagnes de presse

La troisième proposition appelle au "démantèlement des barrages militaires" érigés par les deux parties ces derniers jours, la quatrième demande "l'arrêt des campagnes de presse" et la cinquième prévoit "l'interdiction de nouveaux mouvements de troupes".

Les Yéménites ont tenté de trouver eux-mêmes une solution. Ainsi, le comité de dialogue a repris ses travaux après quelques jours d'interruption. Il a décidé de créer trois commissions pour mettre fin à la tension. La première sera chargée de surveiller les mouvements de troupes et obtenir le retour des unités dans leurs casernes. La deuxième devra surveiller et prévenir d'éventuels manifesta-

tions et accrochages dans la population civile. Enfin, la troisième commission sera chargée de la question des médias. Cette décision du comité de dialogue est intervenue en début de semaine dernière, après l'annonce par le ministre de la Défense de "l'échec de la commission militaire yéménite".

Depuis le 21 février, la situation militaire était tendue, même si nordistes et sudistes ne semblaient pas prêts à s'engager dans un affrontement direct. Les accrochages militaires, qui ont commencé au lendemain de la signature de "l'accord de réconciliation", se sont poursuivis tout au long de la semaine dernière. Selon les nordistes, le PSY avait amassé des troupes et des armes lourdes près de l'ancienne frontière et ses forces se préparaient à envahir et occuper la ville stratégique de Qataba (voir carte ci-contre), dont l'occupation permet d'entrer dans la ville d'Ibb. Les nordistes ont aussi accusé les sudistes d'armer des miliciens du parti socialiste et de se doter en matériel, notamment en uniformes militaires, tentes, couvertures et même en avions de combat achetés à la Bulgarie.

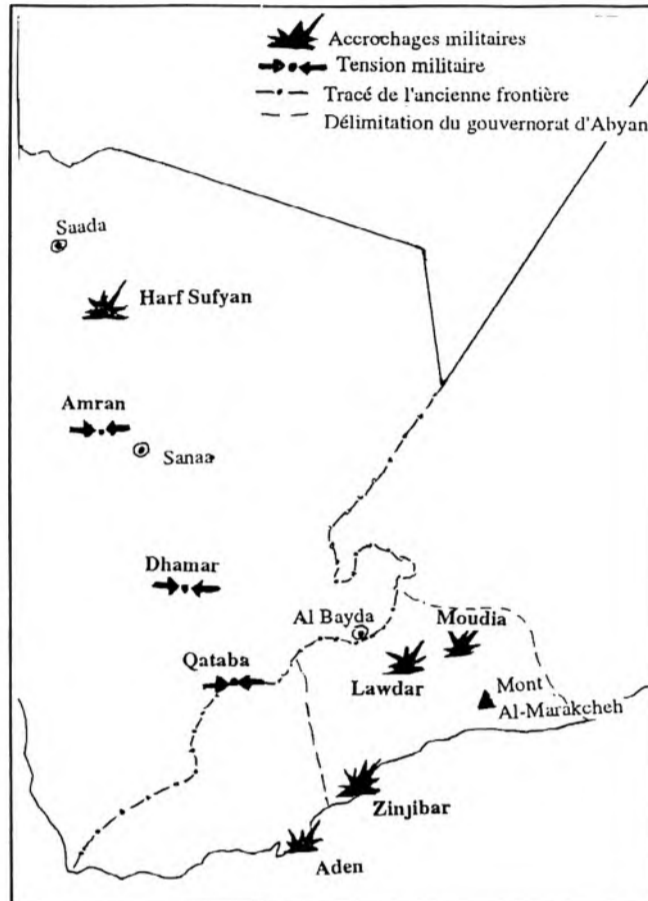
Vétérans d'Afghanistan

Les sudistes n'ont pas été en reste. Selon eux, des forces armées nordistes ont attaqué dimanche dernier à Harf Sufyan, au nord de Sanaa, un camp de l'armée sudiste, fidèle à l'ancien président de l'ex-Yémen du sud, Ali Nasser Mohamed, qui vit à Damas depuis son éviction en 1986. Ils étaient aidés, selon eux, par des éléments armés de la tribu des Hashed. Des membres de la tribu des Sufyans, Bakils proches des sudistes, auraient

CRISE POLITIQUE

Le Yémen entre guerre et paix

La mission militaire jordano-omanaise a obtenu l'accord des sudistes et des nordistes pour appliquer son plan destiné à apaiser la tension. Depuis le 21 février, les accrochages militaires, notamment dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan, ont fait environ trente morts.



Carte des tensions militaires entre les nordistes et les sudistes depuis le 21 février.

été mêlés à l'accrochage. Six d'entre eux auraient été tués et vingt autres blessés dans des affrontements avec les forces nordistes. Les partisans d'Ali Salem Al-Bid ont également accusé les nordistes d'encercler les unités sudistes stationnées à Amran et à Dhamar, ce que les nordistes ont démenti. Les sudistes ont également affirmé que plusieurs vétérans arabes d'Afghanistan, qui combattaient aux côtés des forces nordistes, ont été capturés par les sudistes

lors des affrontements dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan. Selon eux, ils sont entraînés dans un camp situé sur le mont d'Al-Marakcheh, à l'est du gouvernorat. Les sudistes continuent à accuser un riche homme d'affaires saoudien Ossama Ben Laden, installé à Khartoum de financer ce camp d'entraînement. Les affrontements entre la brigade nordiste Al-Amalika et la sudiste Al-Wehda se sont poursuivis la semaine dernière dans le gou-

vernorat d'Abyan. Les sudistes ont accusé les nordistes d'avoir lancé une offensive lundi dernier contre la division 36 de la brigade d'Al-Wehda et la population civile dans la localité de Moudia.

Mardi dernier, la tendance était plutôt à l'apaisement. La mission militaire de médiation jordano-omanaise a annoncé ce jour-là que les nordistes et les sudistes ont accepté d'observer un cessez-le feu dans la région de Moudia. Une équipe relevant de la mission restera sur le terrain pour superviser l'arrêt des combats et le retour des forces à leurs casernes. La mission a en outre chargé une équipe de s'installer dans le triangle Ibb-Lahej-Taëz pour superviser le retour des troupes à leurs anciennes positions.

Saleh prêt à démissionner

De son côté, le Président Saleh s'est déclaré mardi prêt à "quitter le pouvoir" si cela permettait de mettre fin à la crise politique et militaire. "Il vaut mieux pour les dirigeants de quitter le pouvoir et de faire des sacrifices pour préserver l'unité de quatorze millions de Yéménites que de se disputer le pouvoir", a-t-il déclaré devant des responsables du ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Défense à Sanaa. Le Président avait déjà fait une semblable proposition. Sans suite. Le président du parlement cheikh Al-Ahmar, quant à lui, a demandé aux partisans du Président Saleh et à ceux du vice-Président Al-Bid de "cesser de jouer avec le feu". Cette neutralité du chef de file de l'Islah n'est pourtant qu'apparente. Ses liens étroits avec le système mis en place par Ali Abdallah Saleh et son entourage sont connus.

J.B.

PROCHE-ORIENT

Le massacre d'Hebron menace les négociations de paix

52 Palestiniens ont été tués vendredi 25 février dans un lieu saint d'Hebron par un colon israélien. L'OLP a décidé de suspendre les négociations de paix avec Israël sur l'autonomie de Gaza et Jéricho.

L'émotion était trop grande pour pouvoir poursuivre les négociations de paix. Après le massacre d'Hebron, l'OLP a décidé de suspendre sa participation aux discussions sur l'autonomie de Gaza et Jéricho avec Israël.

Le Tombeau des Patriarches

Vendredi 25 février, cinquante-deux Palestiniens ont été tués dans un lieu saint d'Hebron, dans les territoires occupés, par un colon juif. Baruch Goldstein, 35 ans, habitant de la colonie de Kyriat Arba, bastion des extrémistes juifs anti-arabes, est entré dans le Tombeau des Patriarches habillé de son uniforme d'officier de réserve et a ouvert le feu avec son fusil d'assaut

sur des dizaines de fidèles réunis pour la prière de l'aube, en ce mois de jeûne musulman. Il est décédé à l'issue du massacre.

Convoqué à Tunis, le Comité exécutif de l'OLP a décidé lundi de maintenir la suspension des négociations avec Israël, décidée après la tuerie. La Syrie, le Liban et la Jordanie ont aussi suspendu leurs pourparlers avec Israël, en signe de solidarité. Sur le terrain, des affrontements entre l'armée et les manifestants ont éclaté faisant plusieurs morts.

Les Palestiniens réclament le désarmement des colons juifs et l'inscription à l'ordre du jour de la phase actuelle des négociations du problème des implantations juives dans les territoires occupés. Les concessions faites par Israël, augmentation des effectifs de la police pales-

tinienne à Gaza et Jéricho, puis acceptation d'une présence civile internationale, restent "en deçà des exigences" de l'OLP. L'organisation palestinienne a cependant décidé de dépêcher à Washington des émissaires spéciaux pour y discuter des modalités d'une reprise des négociations dans la capitale américaine. L'OLP tente de faire du massacre d'Hebron un détonateur pour précipiter le retrait israélien et hâter la conclusion d'un accord avec Israël sur la mise en vigueur de l'autonomie à Gaza et Jéricho.

Vibrant appel d'Yitzhak Rabin

Le Premier ministre israélien a lancé un vibrant appel aux Palestiniens les invitant à revenir à la table des négociations "malgré le sang et les

larmes". "Nous vaincrons et amènerons la paix, pour nous et nos enfants, il n'y a pas d'autre voie", a déclaré Yitzhak Rabin. Le gouvernement israélien a décidé de punir des extrémistes juifs. Il a décidé de les désarmer et de créer une commission d'enquête gouvernementale sur la tuerie. Il a aussi décidé de limiter la liberté de mouvement de certains activistes et d'en placer d'autres en détention administrative.

Dans un geste d'apaisement, Israël a décidé de libérer de 800 à 1000 détenus Palestiniens. Mais cette mesure a été accueillie fraîchement par les dirigeants des territoires occupés qui la considèrent "insuffisante". Plus de dix mille Palestiniens sont détenus par Israël.

(avec AFP)

BOSNIE

L'OTAN abat quatre avions serbes

Une semaine après l'expiration de l'ultimatum contre l'artillerie serbe, les Occidentaux ont frappé.

Pour la première fois de son histoire, l'Alliance atlantique a fait usage de la force en abattant lundi quatre avions serbes au-dessus de la Bosnie-Herzégovine. L'amiral américain Jeremy Michael Boorda, commandant en chef des forces de l'OTAN pour l'Europe du sud a déclaré: "Nous avons fait ce que nous avons toujours dit que nous ferions".

Une patrouille de l'OTAN, qui depuis le mois d'avril 1993 fait respecter une interdiction de survol de la Bosnie, a repéré très tôt lundi dernier sur ses radars des appareils en vol, au sud-est de Banja-Luka. Les avions serbes étaient en pleine mission de bombardement lorsqu'ils ont été abattus, a révélé l'amiral américain. Leur objectif était une usine d'armements près de Vitez, en Bosnie centrale. Les avions serbes auraient eu le temps de larguer huit bombes qui

auraient touché un dépôt de carburant et un hôpital.

Une semaine après l'expiration de son ultimatum contre l'artillerie serbe, l'OTAN a montré qu'elle n'entendait pas se laisser intimider par ce qui ressemble fort à un test des Serbes. C'est en effet la première fois que des avions se risquent à voler au-dessus de la Bosnie depuis le début de l'opération Deny Flight (Interdiction de survol) lancée le 5 avril 1993, a affirmé l'amiral américain. Des hélicoptères croates ou serbes bosniaques ont certes violé par centaines de fois l'espace aérien bosniaque, mais jamais aucun avion ne s'y est risqué.

La fermeté a donc payé selon l'OTAN, qui se félicite de la réaction des Russes, qui ont approuvé implicitement l'intervention.

ENERGIE

La compagnie pétrolière TOTAL menace de suspendre ses activités au Yémen

La compagnie pétrolière française a annoncé à ses employés à Sanaa qu'elle avait décidé d'arrêter pendant un an ses activités au Yémen. Coup de bluff pour faire pression sur les autorités yéménites ?

La nouvelle a couru comme une traînée de poudre dans la communauté française à Sanaa: "TOTAL s'en va". La compagnie pétrolière française a annoncé jeudi 24 février à ses employés qu'elle avait décidé de suspendre ses activités au Yémen pendant un an. Les employés partiraient en deux vagues prévues fin mars et fin juin, une représentation de quelques personnes étant maintenue à Sanaa.

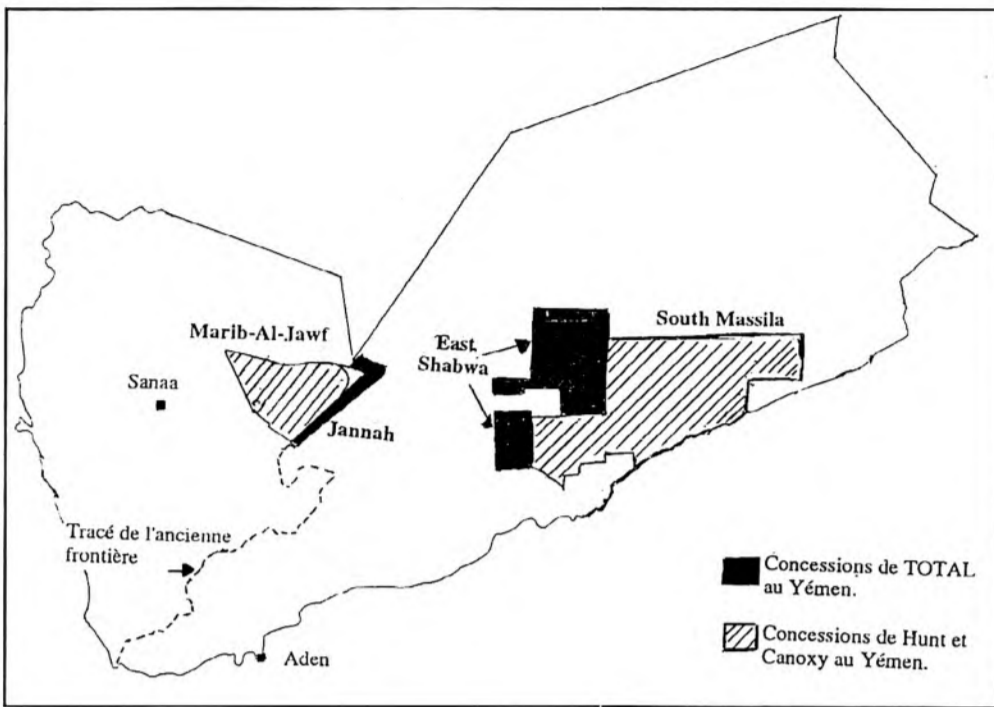
Démenti de la direction à Paris

Quatre jours après, la direction à Paris démentait l'information. Elle rappelait que TOTAL opère deux permis d'exploration au Yémen, à Shabwa-Est dans l'Hadramaout et à Jannah dans la région de Mareb, à proximité de l'ancienne frontière entre les deux Yémen (voir carte ci-contre). La compagnie pétrolière française y a trouvé du pétrole, pour une production évaluée à environ 70 000 barils par jour. Pour confirmer sa volonté de rester au Yémen, le

communiqué de la direction à Paris fait remarquer qu'à Shabwa-Est, une campagne de prospection sismique "est sur le point d'être lancée" afin de préciser l'extension du gisement de Kharir et de définir de nouvelles zones à forer. Sur le permis de Jannah, un quinzième puits est en cours. Les opérations de forage se poursuivront avec le développement du gisement d'Halewah "dès que les modalités pratiques actuellement étudiées avec les autorités yéménites et ses partenaires seront finalisées", précise le communiqué.

A Sanaa, on parle d'un coup de bluff de la compagnie française pour faire pression sur les autorités yéménites. Les négociations pour la mise en place de raccordements des sites de TOTAL aux oléoducs existants, ceux de Hunt et de Canoxy, n'avancent pas. Le ministère du Pétrole est aux abonnés absents en raison de la crise politique.

De toute façon, le mythe du Yémen nouveau pays de l'or noir est bien fini. La produc-



Les concessions de TOTAL se trouvent dans les territoires qui composaient l'ex-Yémen du Sud. Comme on peut le voir sur la carte, les concessions de Jannah et d'East Shabwa jouxtent celles de Hunt (Marib-Al-Jawf) et de Canoxy (South Massila), où est extrait l'essentiel du pétrole yéménite.

tion actuelle s'élève à 320 000 barils par jour, extraite pour l'essentiel par les compagnies Hunt et Canoxy. La baisse des cours mondiaux du brut et

l'insécurité permanente au Yémen n'encouragent pas les compagnies à rester.

Alors, vrai-faux départ de la compagnie française ? La direc-

tion de TOTAL à Sanaa refuse de faire tout commentaire. Il est vrai que la communication n'a jamais été le fort du groupe pétrolier français. **J.B.**

Rivalités autour du gaz

Le gaz de Mareb attire les convoitises. La compagnie américaine Enron et le consortium américano-sud-coréen qui regroupe les firmes américaines Hunt et Exxon, ainsi que la firme sud-coréenne Yukong, se battent pour remporter un projet de gaz naturel liquéfié de cinq milliards de dollars au Yémen. La lutte est compliquée par la crise politique, selon MEES (Middle East Economic Survey). Enron a en effet été sélectionnée pour entrer dans la compétition par le Premier ministre Haïdar Al-Attas et le ministre du Pétrole Saleh Ben Hussainou, tous les deux sudistes. Enron projette de construire un gazoduc reliant les champs de Mareb et du Jawf, à Ras Omran, dans le sud, où un terminal et une usine de liquéfaction devront être bâtis sur le littoral du Golfe d'Aden. Le consortium américano-sud-coréen, qui exploite les concessions de Mareb-Jawf, propose en revanche de bâtir un terminal et une usine sur le littoral de la mer Rouge, dans le nord. Un projet qui a les faveurs des nordistes. Les réserves prouvées de gaz dans les concessions de Mareb-Jawf sont estimées à 450 milliards de mètres cubes. La production actuelle de gaz du Yémen dépasse 57 millions de mètres cubes par jour.

ENVIRONNEMENT

Protéger les coraux de la pollution

Avec l'aide des Nations Unies, les autorités yéménites veulent lutter contre la pollution qui menace les récifs coraliens au bord de la mer Rouge et du Golfe d'Aden. Le projet qui doit être lancé cette année doit permettre de dresser un état des lieux et de former des techniciens spécialisés.

"Les récifs coraliens le long des côtes yéménites sont menacés par la pollution, notamment dans la région de Bab Al-Mandeb", affirme le Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, conseiller technique pour l'environnement au ministère yéménite de la Santé. Les routes maritimes qui passent au large du Yémen sont en effet encombrées de cargos et de tankers pétroliers.

La pollution est visible sur la côte près de Mokha, dans la Tihama. Des résidus de pétrole salissent les plages. A Hoddeidah, les habitants, le vendredi, viennent se baigner dans une eau grasse peu attirante. L'oléoduc qui transporte le pétrole produit par la compagnie américaine Hunt à Mareb débouche tout près à Al-Salif et les règles élémentaires pour la protection de l'environnement ne sont pas respectées. Seule la compagnie pétrolière canadienne Canoxy a un volet environnemental dans sa politique au Yémen. Le parlement yéménite a voté une loi l'an dernier qui permet la protection de l'environnement marin. Mais les autorités manquent de pouvoir pour l'imposer.

Premier projet environnement

Lors de la mission scientifique franco-yéménite Ardoukoba en novembre dernier aux îles Hanish, au large de Khawkha, la spécialiste du corail, Mireille, avait ramassé des coraux blanchis, signe de dégradation. Elle pensait à un type d'étoiles de mer qui peut faire des ravages dans les récifs coraliens, mais elle n'écartait pas la pollution comme cause de la destruction des coraux. La destruction des récifs cora-



Pêcheurs yéménites en mer Rouge.

liens a des effets négatifs sur la variété et la quantité de poissons, qui ont besoin de ces récifs pour vivre. Le Yémen, avec ses 2500 km de côtes, est très riche en poissons, une richesse qui n'a pas encore été exploitée de manière intensive.

Aussi, il y a trois ans, le Dr. Ali, qui dirigeait alors le Conseil pour la protection de l'Environnement (EPC), a proposé de réaliser une étude sur la protection de l'écosystème des récifs coraliens. L'objectif est de dresser un état des lieux, qui fait cruellement défaut au Yémen. Le Dr. Ali Awadh a de l'expérience en ce qui concerne la pollution de l'environnement marin. Alors qu'il travaillait à l'Institut koweïtien pour la recherche scientifique, il a étudié la marée noire qui a

touché le littoral koweïtien pendant la guerre Iran-Irak. "En protégeant les récifs coraliens de la pollution, nous assurons le développement touristique du littoral yéménite, qui ne peut se faire que sur des plages non polluées", explique-t-il.

Coordination avec l'Egypte

Le projet devrait voir le jour cette année. Soumis au PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement) à Sanaa, il a obtenu le soutien du GEF (Global Environmental Facility), un fonds des Nations Unies destiné à apporter une aide aux pays en voie de développement en matière d'environnement. Ce sera le premier projet soutenu par le

GEF au Yémen. Pour un montant de 2,8 millions de dollars, ce projet devrait durer trois ans.

Il doit se dérouler à Hoddeidah, où il existe déjà un laboratoire de recherche sur le milieu marin. Des équipements vont être fournis à ce laboratoire et la formation de Yéménites à la surveillance va être organisée à travers séminaires et ateliers.

Le projet, dans lequel intervient le ministre yéménite de la Pêche, se fera en coordination avec l'Egypte qui est aussi concernée par la protection de ses côtes à vocation touristique. Il y aura donc des séminaires communs entre techniciens des deux pays, sous la houlette du Programme pour l'environnement de la Ligue arabe. **J.B.**

LIVRES

Les Coeurs bronzés la passion littéraire

Jean Moncelon* a lu le livre que vient de faire paraître Sylvain Fourcassié, conseiller culturel à l'ambassade France. Histoire d'une passion: la littérature.

Les Coeurs Bronzés, Sylvain Fourcassié, Scandéditions, 118p., 80FF.

L'objet de la littérature est de communiquer une passion. Le second roman de Sylvain Fourcassié, *Les Coeurs Bronzés*, invite à partager celle d'un anarchiste catalan, rescapé de la guerre d'Espagne et des camps d'internement: la passion libertaire.

Des journées révolutionnaires de juillet 36 au Barcelone post-moderne - qui provoque la nausée comme un film d'Almodovar - des derniers vestiges du passé libertaire de la capitale catalane, engloutis dans les Grands Travaux des I.O., à ces "pharmacies nickelées", imaginées par "les dieux du design de la cité", qui tiennent lieu de bistrot, *Les Coeurs Bronzés* sont d'abord une traversée des souvenirs (de ceux que se transmettent encore à Saint-Nazaire une poignée d'anarcho-syndicalistes) ainsi qu'un hommage à la fidélité de ces hommes et de ces femmes dont la foi en la fraternité humaine fut si intense qu'on se demande comment elle a pu naître en plein XXe siècle, depuis 2000 ans que l'Histoire se répète. A moins justement qu'il s'agisse du Retour du Même (Cf. l'"agonie" de Camillo Berneri: "Je veille sur vous" - et sa profession de foi: "C'est l'unique chose entièrement belle, plus absolue que l'amour et plus vraie que la réalité elle-même, que de travailler pour tous").

Si la nostalgie est absente des *Coeurs Bronzés*, y compris à travers les propos lucides du vieil anarchiste démasquant la réalité contemporaine, technocratique, et avare, comme il se

doit, une singulière émotion trahit le désarroi de l'auteur dès qu'il s'agit de sa passion personnelle: la passion littéraire.

Sylvain Fourcassié, en effet, a le sens de la citation intelligente (Cioran, Leiris, Scuteinaire) et trop le goût des pélerinages littéraires pour ne pas sentir sa passion dangereusement menacée par la post-modernité. Qu'on imagine la librairie José Corti transformée un beau jour en fast food (déjà le vieux couple de libraires a disparu dont le fils était mort à 20 ans, pendant la Libération de Paris, - et les étudiants en Lettres des années 90 ont d'autres préoccupations que Walpole, Novalis ou Jean-Paul).

Le désert gagne du terrain

D'où la question qui se pose à la lecture des *Coeurs Bronzés*: combien d'années de liberté reste-t-il encore à l'amoureux des "traces" laissées par les poètes (l'atelier de Balthus, par exemple, dans la Cour de Rohan, ou le Palais Royal d'un certain Klossowski) ? De Barcelone à Berlin, on le sait, l'affaire est entendue. Il restait Paris, où désormais, de la même manière que l'Histoire a rangé la passion libertaire parmi les idées d'un âge révolu, le désert à son tour gagne inexorablement sur la passion littéraire.

Et c'est bien cela qui ne laisse pas d'inquiéter l'auteur, au bout du compte, et tous ceux qui partagent sa passion.

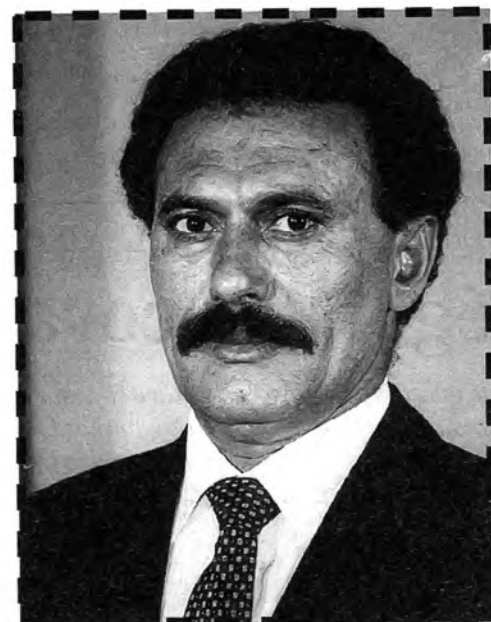
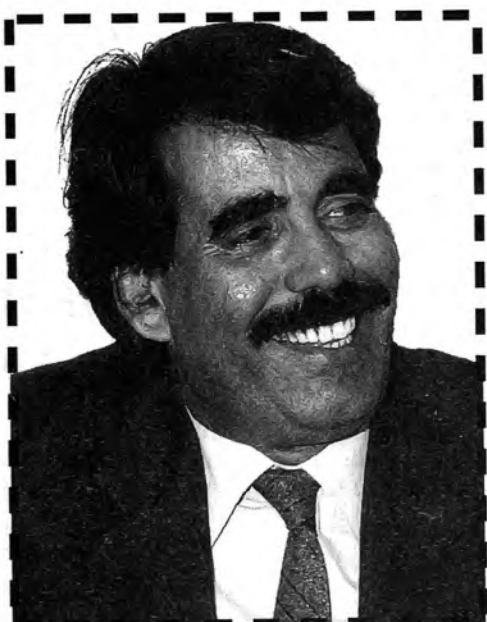
*Jean Moncelon est directeur du département de français de l'université de Sanaa.

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY

A Pioneer in Yemen's Oil Industry

presents its best wishes to the people of Yemen,
the political leadership, and government
on the successful completion of the Ramadhan fasting, and
on the celebrations of EID AL-FITR

We wish Yemen all the best on this occasion!



شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

شركة رائدة في الصناعة النفطية اليمنية

تتقدم بأزكى التحيات وأعطر التهاني
إلى الشعب اليمني الأبى والقيادة السياسية والحكومة
بمناسبة إكمال فريضة الصوم في هذا الشهر الفضيل
وبمناسبة حلول عيد الفطر المبارك

أعاده الله على اليمن بمزيد من الخير والرخاء

Saudi Zamil Group Eyes Yemeni Market

Saudi Arabia's Zamil Group is a regional giant and leader in the steel construction industry. Founded in 1977 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, it pioneered the industry of steel construction in the region.

Mr. Muhammad Al-Khudairi, an Iraqi native who graduated from the USA, has a long and versatile experience in the steel construction business in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and USA. Today he leads the Zamil team in Yemen.

"The company is expanding its market. We have a keen interest to penetrate and develop the Yemeni potential. Already, our Yemeni annual sales is in the region of \$4,000,000. We want to still expand this potential," Al-Khudairi said.

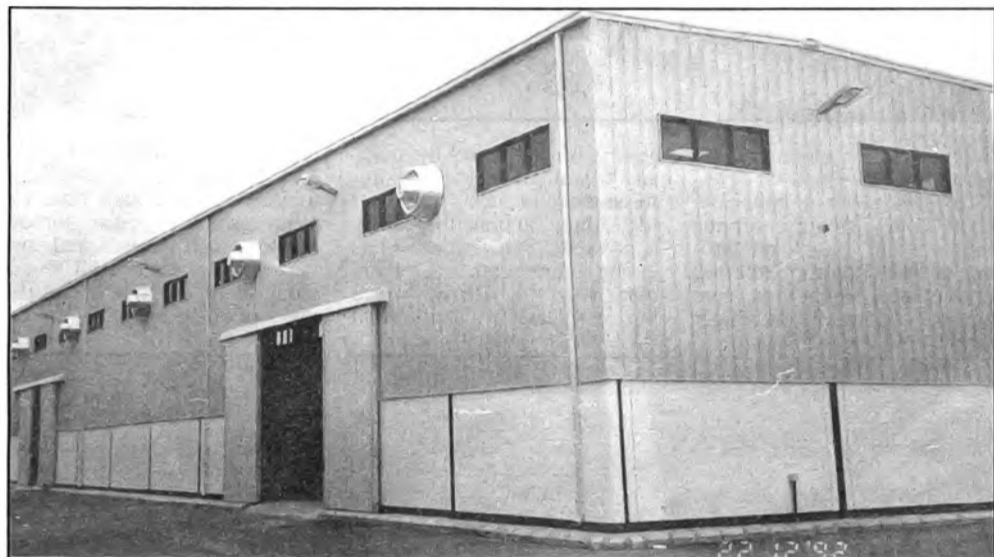
The company is active in most Yemeni cities, and it has done work for the government as well as private enterprise.



also looking into many small projects such as gas stations and other small projects," Al-Khudairi added.

There is a great potential for business in Yemen, which needs large steel buildings. "We are receiving more and more inquiries from both the private and public sectors in Yemen, and we are seriously considering opening a branch

code word," emphasizes Al-Khudairi. A highly qualified corps of engineers designs the projects based on the highest world standards. Then, the best equipment including the most modern automatic welding machines along with quality control systems, take over the execution. That insures the best quality production. "But the



"The hangers for the air force, which we have executed here in Sanaa, is one of the largest in the region," the Zamil official disclosed. Among their other notable projects are: the showrooms and maintenance workshops of the Mercedes agency in Sanaa, the steel building of the Proctor and Gamble for soap and shampoo factory in Taiz, the ice factory and the warehouses for the Mogbily and Alhubaishi company in Hodeidah, the construction of a red bricks factory in Aden, and many more. The company is now finalizing negotiations to construct oil-related facilities in Hadramaut. "In addition, we are

in Aden. People come to us because we are a leader in the field, and because they know of our high quality service," he said. The company's services start with consultancy studies and the efforts to draw up plans and designs, and amending them as needed by the clients. Following extensive consultations with customers on the proposed building, the company offers its wide-ranging experience and knowledge to work out the most appropriate lay-out. Many considerations come into play, including possible future expansions as well as cost effectiveness and cost efficiency. "Quality is Zamil's distinctive

main advantage of dealing with Zamil is its record delivery time. Buildings are made ready for occupancy and business in record time, often much earlier than the contract period. In addition, there is the after construction maintenance and repair service which gives our clients an exceptional ease of mind," explained the Zamil Area Manager in Yemen. No wonder, therefore, that Zamil, in its rather short history, has carried out over 13000 steel construction projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times.

NABORS' COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

By Yemen Times Staff.

Kathie Kirby, has spearheaded the Nabors effort at community development programs. During her almost thirty months of service with the company, she has coordinated the financing and organizing of various health, educational, road, water well and other projects.

"I have lived in many countries in the Middle East but none where I have been able to tour remote and beautiful areas like Yemen," she says. Nabors Yemen asked Kathie Kirby to coordinate its community service social program. Money was raised through personal contribution from the Nabors (foreign) staff to assist in the development process of the local communities where the company worked.

Through the years, the company was able to make a real contribution to the well-being of the people, as well as to local development. The following listing gives the main projects:

1. The Attaq Clinic: Considerable input was made to refurbishing the Attaq Clinic, which badly needed many small things. Attaq, the capital of Shabwah, is also the

thousand refugees on board the first ship, the Gobwein. wells, three water wells were drilled in Abyan to enable the UNHCR to construct a camp to cater for the large influx of Somali Refugees into the southern area of Yemen. When the Somali refugee ship beached near Aden, Nabors supplied emergency financial aid to the UNHCR for putting the camp together, to provide cooking equipment and some basic food supplies for the two

contribution is happily acknowledged. Because there is no school for girls, the Al Gurzi family have opened their house and courtyard to educate the girls in the village of Bin Yumain. They expected some twenty to thirty girls, but they are now overwhelmed with over 400 girls (and women) from the village as well as from the whole area surrounding it. A



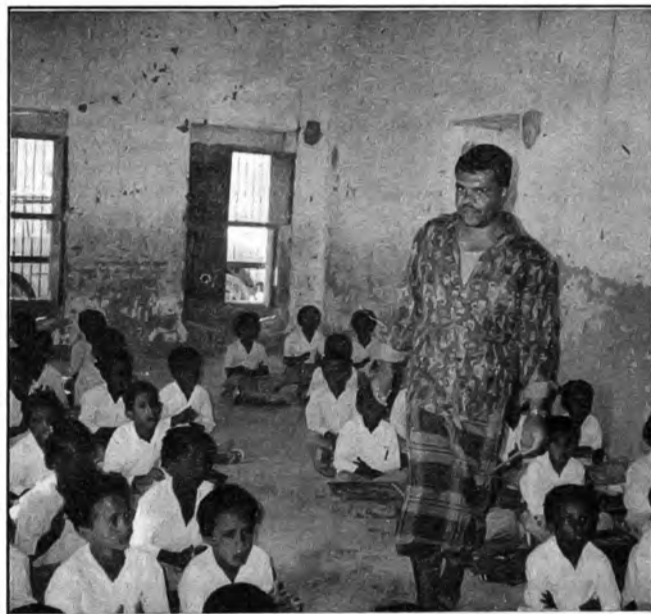
thousand refugees on board the first ship, the Gobwein.

4. Education: Some 300 school desks were donated to the schools within the Shabwah area.

In Mukulla, school supplies were provided including exercise books, text books, pencils, erasers, rulers, geometrical instruments and visual aids such as wall maps and charts. Some of the most beautiful areas of Yemen include the

vast majority of the school equipment was given to this family to distribute among the girls and women. "I feel this is a marvelous idea, and we should support local philanthropists," Kathie notes.

5. Helping the Disabled: The Mother Teresa home in Aden was opened during the two years the program was running. "We were able to assist financially in the first couple of months," said Mrs. Kirby.



In Sana'a, a new laundry was built to make the everyday care easier for the Mother Teresa Home easier. Nabors financed the rewiring of the home and renovation of the two bathrooms. "During the period when the Russian Circus was in town, we took the handicapped children and adults to the circus which performed in the outside courtyard, giving much enjoyment to everyone, us included," Kathie recalls.

Nabors Yemen received a personal letter of thank you from Mother Teresa for the work given to her homes. In Marib, not far from the Hunt CPU, near Nabors' Alif base, money was given to enable our local employees build a mosque.

"As I am leaving Yemen shortly, I would like to thank the oil companies and Zimex who have made my travels to these areas possible. I also would like to thank all the Nabors personnel, who have gone out of their way to assist me, particularly Glen Worm, Alan Goync, Mike Dixon, Billy Spencer, Duane Linklater and David Kotch. Without the assistance of these Nabors Personnel, many of the projects would have been impossible to achieve. I would also like to thank Phil Day who initiated the idea and asked me to co-ordinate it. My gratitude also goes to Abdulaziz Al-Ariqi for his support in Shabwah. He gave up much of his time in Attaq." But foremost, Kathie remembers the "kind hospitality I received from the local people in whose contact I came. That is something I will never forget."

largest population center in the governorate. From the company base in Shabwah, Kathie Kirby often travelled to the clinic. At first, paint and cleaning equipment was supplied. Then financial help was given for cleaning and repairs. Then machine purchases were made. An ECG machine was one of the main equipment supplied. Finally, sterilizers, certain medicines and medical supplies were purchased.

2. Water Wells: A number of water wells were drilled in the Shabwah Governorate. Where to drill was always a problem, as tribal and personal interests always intervened. That is why, unfortunately, some of the wells were dry.

3. Refugee Assistance: In addition to the Shabwah

Wadi Sah. School supplies was given to the villages in Sah, Wadi El-Ein and Wadi Idim. In Wadi Hadramaut, school supplies have been distributed to Thukmayn, Duhur and Tarim.

In Wadi Bana, south of Marib, unfortunately the schools were closed; so the books and supplies were left with the Mamoor of the village. In Masilla, where Nabors has a base camp, supplies were distributed to the village of Bin Yumain. There is a primary school for 300 children as well as a boarding school for roughly 150-200 bedouin boys. Money was given to the boarding school to enable them to buy dry food supplies for these boys, to assist the village in reducing the financial strain in looking after them while they are in school. The assistance of Canadian Occidental in this

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Motoring with Mohammed An Entertaining Tour In Yemen

By: Saad Salah Khalis
Cultural Editor

An interesting account on Yemen is the subject of a book published in the USA. It wasn't compiled by an archaeologist, nor a historian, not even by one of those Yemenology specialists who used to be the only ones to write about Yemen. It was rather edited by a simple man, like me and you, a professional traveler who never thought seriously about visiting Yemen, but he was destined to, and so it was.

Eric Hansen, now lives in Northern California, has traveled extensively in North Africa, Middle East, Far East, South Pacific and Australia for more than seven years. That rich experience was demonstrated in his two books; "Strangers in the Forest: On foot across Borneo" and of course "Motoring with Mohammed: Journeys to Yemen and the Red Sea", our book for this week.

The book is published in paperback by Vintage Books, a division of Random House Inc., New York in 240 pages, under the series of travel/adventure.

To describe the book that was based on real experience, I can borrow the expression used by Diane Ackerman, critic of the New York Times, who described "Motoring with Mohammed" as being "Picaresque, Beguiling and great fun".

It all started in 1978, when Hansen and a group of westerners, composed of a French and an American couple, making the total of five have decided to take the Red sea route from the

Maldives to Athens aboard the sporting yacht "Clea". Fun, adventure and test of the newly bought yacht were their motives for this extraordinary trip and route.

The trip started joyfully until crossing Bab Al-Mandab strait into the Red Sea when the problems started. Storms and turbulent waters rocked the tiny yacht around, and what seemed to be fun started to run out of control. The "Clea" finally shipwrecked on the desert island of Uqban, setting the start of an unexpected journey to a country they never planned or even thought of visiting, the country that formed for Eric Hansen a new experience that was destined to go on for eleven years to come.

In the beginning of his book, Hansen admits that he never intended to visit Yemen based on what he heard thereabout, "although it was tempting enough" he agrees. He heard that this is a country of an entire male population addicted to a narcotic leaf called "qat", and that men there wore skirts, and there is an intertribal warfare going on for more than 1500 years, and that brides are sold for twenty times the average yearly income...etc. The image has definitely changed after that accident which marked the start of a special relation with this country that forced him to pay another two visits thereto in 1988 and 1990. He found the country to be of a magnificent landscape that contained cities of dream-like architectural splendor, terrifying yet uncommonly beautiful mountain passes, endless sand dunes. A country so steeped in custom and conflicts, but so seductive that you can't help but fall in love with.

Back to the shipwreck, the

group set itself on the island that seemed totally unpopulated. They established a camp out of their well equipped yacht with all cooking and other logistic accessories where water quotas were assigned for each member to be sufficient for a considerable period. It was all fun in the beginning, as they sat there waiting for the rescue they believed will inevitably come, discovering colorful aspects of the wild life in the island. But the time started running, nobody came, no rescue effort, no one to talk to, and when the fun was over they started to discover that they were lost in the middle of nowhere.

The sense of survival eventually led them to a bright idea, that is defaulting the light-house they had found on the far side of the island in expectation that somebody might discover the fault and come to repair. They used to dismantle the light nightly and return it to normal in the mornings, keeping guard of the light house in succession in case somebody or a ship would approach to investigate. But that was useless, as nobody came. And in that stage the group had started to feel desperate. For two weeks nothing happened, until blue sails suddenly appeared in the wide sea, an unexpected rescue had come at last. Eritrean smugglers had appeared on one of their mid-stations, a heavenly rescue that had no relation to their attempts on the lighthouse. The Eritrean smugglers who turned to be kind and civilized transferred the group to Kamaran islands, but before that, Hansen had buried a bag

now he is transferring it to Hansen, who shall convey it to anyone in need he may face the same problem in the future. Hansen admits that this was his first lesson in life from Yemen. During his stay in Sanaa and Hodeidah, Eric Hansen gave vivid images of life. His remarks are impressive and deep. The relationship between the author and the country is established early in the book.

Eric Hansen comes back after ten years where he was buried his journals, to be received at the airport by Mohammed, the guide and driver in his long journey across Yemen in search for his treasure. Mohammed was sent by Hansen's old acquaintance, the manager of Yemenia. But how did the manager know of his arrival, Hansen never knew. Yet, this is Yemen, the most unpredictable, obscure and seductive place in the world.

He then tours Yemen, following an unsuccessful attempt to reach Uqban which required a special permit. He made numerous attempts and received many promises, but all in vain. He was then to discover that in Yemen "There was no real news, but several versions of the rumor of which you can pick the one you like."

During his travels he climbs mountains, meet people, jog through unsurpassable routes to discover the hidden magnificence of this little known corner of Arabia.

He gives a satirical image of the western community in Sanaa which lives in another world totally separated from its surroundings, meeting all kinds of foreigners, encountering a tribe in Mareb. Down in the desert, up in the mountains, rolling by the sea side, he falls in love with Yemen.

He gets the chance to discover how tolerant Islam is, and how it really bonds the people around here. He witnesses the death and burial of a local woman in a mountain village. Watching the rituals, he admits that he really felt sad for his late grand-mother for the first time, in the real sense of the word. He finally feels desperate and decides to fly home, convincing himself of totally forgetting the journals as he was never fated to recover them, and the whole idea was silly after all. But, "It Was Written" as he declares in the last chapter of his book. He meets the Yemeni Ambassador in Washington DC in an exhibition, gets to know him, and the man promises him of possible arrangement. The man keeps his word, arranges the permits, and Hansen is back to Yemen for the third time. He gets to Uqban through Al-Luhaya, and starts looking for his eleven years old hiding place. For his surprise, and after all this time, he finds his treasures sound and safe and intact.

The book ends with a highly interesting trip, to an extraordinary country of the past with extraordinary people. The adventure through the past and the difficult transformation of present Yemen, and despite its being an adventure book after all, it does touch the depths of Yemeni character, utilizing acute observation and faculties of its author to make it a fun to read. Hansen's remarks are impressively accurate in many aspects and his feeling for this country seems genuine.

To end this review, I would like to quote from the San Francisco Chronicle, which described the book as "A first-rate piece of entertainment and a disarmingly

KLM and Northwest's World Business Class Offers New Options for More Comfortable Traveling

By: Mohamed Abdulhamid,
Yemen Times

Royal Dutch Airlines KLM introduced its new World business Class, which will be introduced jointly by KLM and North East air lines and scheduled to be applied in cross Atlantic and far east flights as from March 18, 1994, in a presentation held at Taj Sheba

expressed his appreciation for the good business done by the travel agencies in Sana'a and stressed that the remarkable success made by KLM Yemen last year, in a rather discouraging conditions, would have not been achieved without their hard work and commitment. The regional manager reconfirmed that KLM will continue to coop-

plus pillows and blankets specially developed for maximum comfort for passenger. "Regarding choice," he said, "the main improvement introduced is the individual entertainment system at every seat that gives more selection of movies and entertainment options, along with varied menu selections of leisurely served day meals and quick



Hotel Tuesday, February 28, 1994.

"The new World Business Class is a genuine service improvement based on providing more comfort, offering more choice, and giving more control to the passenger

and pay them their due commissions fully.

Mr. Ajay Tandon, the newly appointed Sales and Marketing representative, then introduced the new world business class in details, and

efficiently served night meals, for long time flights passengers to give them enough time to sleep, with at least three options main courses and the best worlds wines, all these along with the newly developed route dedicated services



without any increase in his ticket cost" said Ibrahim A. Elkhoolani, the regional manager of KLM in Yemen opening the presentation attended by travel agencies representatives, air travel businessmen and press.

Mr. Alkholani added, "The market is getting increasingly competitive, integrated and attractive services is the only way to remain profitably in a market where competition is some times tainted with unfair and unclean practices." He

explained that KLM is the first airline which dared to cancel the First and Royal classes and set to improve the traditional Business classes into world business classes based on the idea of providing the passenger more comfort, choice and control.

Mr. Tandon explained that comfort aspects of improvements included introduction of larger and comfortable seats with 50% increase in leg room and seat recline and new adjustable cushioned leg rest

such as translation services, national dishes of the destination countries, news paper and magazines in all languages, the passenger in World Business Class will also receive a special gift of a blue delft house which feature old Dutch house front "

Finally Mr. Tandon explained that all these improvement which applied now only in the World Business Class in cross Atlantic and Far East flights, will soon be applied in the all flights in the near future.



*Motoring
with
Mohammed*
*Journeys to Yemen
and the Red Sea*
Eric Hansen

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Sleeping in Business Class: A brief history.



1968

1978

1982

1985

1989

1990

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The Comfort Of Increased Space

Those who travel regularly between continents know that nothing can replace the comfort of rest and relaxation. With that in mind, KLM and Northwest have increased by nearly 50% your personal space, providing increased comfort...whether you choose to work, relax or stretch out and sleep.

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The first priority for comfort is always the seat. World Business Class has increased by nearly 50% both legroom and recline - providing more room than virtually any other world-wide airline. That's nearly a foot more space between you and the seat in front of you and 3" additional seat recline.

Your comfort is complete with a carefully designed adjustable leg-rest, contour pillows and blankets



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With a multi-channel, in-flight entertainment system at every seat, you enjoy more control and more choice than you've ever had. From first-run feature films to classic music performances to comedy.

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World Business Class menus offer a range of meal choices reflecting your international tastes. Many flights feature dishes developed by world renowned chefs, such as Nobu Matsuhisa, Wally Malouf and José Guerrecio.

To complement your meal, you may select from the world's finest wines and exclusive champagnes, such as



Mumm Cordon Rouge aboard KLM and Perrier-Jouët Belle Époque aboard Northwest. Daytime meals are served in a leisurely manner, while night-time service is efficient and quick so you have more time to relax and sleep.

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World Business Class service reflects your flight destination.

On many flights to and from Asia you'll find we speak the language of your destination.



And, you'll enjoy multilingual in-flight movies and, often, local newspapers and magazines. You may also select one of our Asian specialties on the menu, or from a variety of western meals.



Our Thanks For Flying!

We'd like to give you a special thanks for traveling World Business Class.

On flights operated by Northwest, beginning in April, you'll receive a complimentary compact disc from the World Business Class Collector's Series, and on KLM-operated flights, collectable Delft Blue houses containing Dutch Bob 'longuevenner' suit.



So you see, KLM and Northwest created World Business Class with passenger preferences in mind. Your preferences. It offers you a combination of Comfort, Choice and Control that has no equal in the sky.

For reservations and information call your local travel agent, Northwest or KLM.

The contents of this report were accurate as of 2/1/94 and may be subject to change. As of 3/2/94, these services will be available exclusively on all KLM Boeing 747 and MD-11 aircraft and all Northwest Boeing 747 aircraft (except the individual entertainment system, but may not be available on other aircraft types).

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...so good you can sleep through it.

Today KLM and Northwest Airlines are erecting a new landmark in the history of their partnership and breaking new ground in the global aviation landscape. This day sees the presentation of our new product for the business traveler. A new product with a new name: **World Business Class.**

This spring, the new product will be introduced on board international KLM and Northwest flights system-wide. The initiative for flying a joint product on our aircraft started last summer. Both of us were convinced of the need to reconfigure and upgrade our business class products, we needed it together.

World Business Class represents a completely new approach to meeting the needs and desires of the international business traveler. More than ever before, today's international business traveler demands superior value - which the traveler defines as first class quality at a business class.

World Business Class is a joint product jointly thought through by teams drawn from both our companies - KLM and Northwest. This is a landmark we have set in world aviation history. Never before have two airlines, one from Europe and one from the United States, presented one and the same product.

Till late in the seventies, air travel offered a choice of two classes. KLM was the first to set a new trend by introducing a new, third, class which became known as Business Class. At that time KLM proved its ability to recognize and implement the wishes of business travelers. KLM was the first airline to fly three classes on its route network. But the air travel market is subject to strong twists and turns in customer preference. World Business Class is based on three themes: **Comfort, Choice and Control.**

Enhancing passenger comfort was our first consideration. World Business Class seats have been painstakingly designed to allow

maximum relaxation and sleep if passengers feel the need. All the seats are provided with a foot rest. All our World Business Class seats are provided with a **Personal Video System.** Passengers can select their viewing according to their own wishes. The programs offered on the seven channels - whether newscasts, documentaries, films or music programs - are frequently updated. Outbound and home-bound flights will be provided with different programming. No frequent travelers need be disappointed because they have already seen it on their outbound trip.

Passengers will be able to choose from a **bigger range of menus.** Asian cuisine will feature on our Far Eastern routes, for example. However, we are introducing a new meals service lasting no longer than an hour on night-time flights of less than seven hours. This will allow our business travelers to enjoy as long a rest as possible.

A quality airline product is distinguished by **attentive service** on the ground, before and

after flight. We have analyzed this with care, upgrading it where needed. Business travelers can use our **dedicated lounges** already at many airports across the world. KLM has kept one of the most delightful elements of its former Royal Class service, namely the blue Delftware porcelain canal houses presented as a **gift to passengers.** This highly valued collectors' item has currently grown to a range of no less than sixty different models.

On Northwest aircraft, passengers will be able to select a **compact disc** from a range of six produced by the famous American label, Capitol Record. The new KLM and Northwest World Business Class is, **"So good you can sleep through it".** We at KLM and Northwest Airlines are fully confident that we shall be presenting our passengers with a quality product. One which gives business travelers value for their money.

And for our competitors, we would say just this: **"We challenge you. Try us, fly as!"**

Colonel Ali Al-Jayifi: "Our presence here blocks the separatist plans of the YSP."

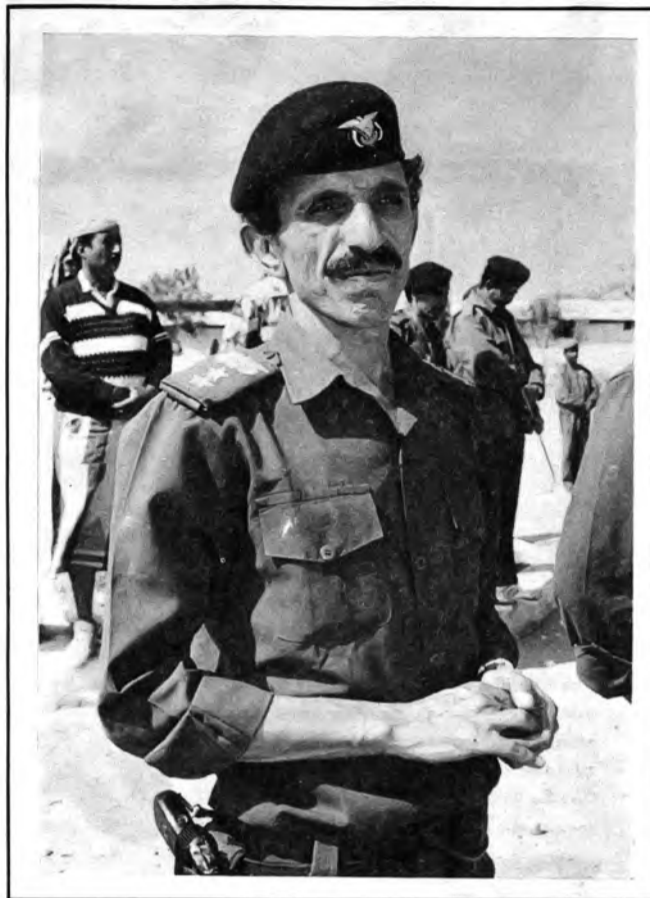
By: Shafer Musa'abain
and Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Aden Bureau, and
Yahia Y. Al-Hodeidi,
Sanaa Office.

Staff Colonel Ali Al-Jayifi, Commander of the Amaliqah forces in Abyan, strongly criticized the disinformation campaign to which his forces were exposed over the recent past. "Look, the Al-Wahdah forces have come from Mukallah, some 600 kilometers to this governorate. Why? What is the purpose? Then, why are additional forces brought in from Aden, again to this governorate. What they want is to dislodge the Amaliqah forces because they have become an obstacle to the YSP's intention to declare separation from the Yemeni union."

Colonel Al-Jayifi was bitter about the refusal of the "Southern forces to comply with the orders of the Military Committee which seeks to disengage the forces. They (Southern Forces) received orders to return to their pre-19th August positions. They moved a few kilometers, and stopped. How can we trust them? They only want us to disappear so that there is nothing to stop them from seceding."

Colonel Al-Jayifi complained that Southern forces hinder his wounded men from getting medical care.

Colonel Salim As-Saidi, Commander of the Popular Militia Forces in Abyan (supplementing the Southern forces) has a different story to tell. He insists that the Amaliqah forces behave in a very inconsiderate way



towards the citizens. "If you look around, you will see that the Amaliqah are putting together check-points all over the place. They walk into markets and into citizens carrying heavy arms, even machines guns and RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades). They push people around. We are fed up with their behavior," he said. He also indicated that the Amaliqah forces are blocking normal military ammunition and other supplies, "because they want to continue to have the upper hand in the military balance," he said.

The situation continues to be tense, in spite of a temporary reprieve because of the role of the Military Committee and the limited disengagement it achieved.

There are several points of potential clash between the northern and southern forces as their guns are pointed to each other in a threatening stand-off. The citizens of the region are frightened by the possibilities of open warfare. The demand that all soldiers go away, though no one is listening to them. They can only pray that the politicians and officers will not make a foolish decision.

Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Diseases: Common Diseases in Yemen.

By: Dr. Mohamed A.
Bamshmus,
Cardiologist

Acute rheumatic fever (RF) is an inflammatory disease which occurs as a delayed non-supportive squall to upper respiratory tract infections caused by bacteria (group A streptococci). RF was a commonly seen disease in the western countries in the first half of our century, but its incidence in the last three decades fell to a very low level. In contrast in the developing countries RF is responsible for almost half of cardiovascular diseases and the leading cases of cardiovascular death. It has been suggested that the high incidence of RF in the developing countries is due to: a) poor socio-economic conditions; b) increased urbanization; c) overcrowding and substandard housing which are the major environmental factors because that promote interpersonal spread of infection. All these explain to us why RF is a common disease in our country.

Unfortunately, in Yemen there are not till now proper statistical data about RF, but we can presume that the incidence and prevalence of RF is very high.

Pediatrician know a lot about this as they are the first ones to observe this disease in children. In fact RF appears most commonly between the age 5 and 15 when the group A streptococcal infections incidence is highest. During epidemics of streptococcal infections only 3% of individuals who suffer from sore throat develop acute RF.

It is widely accepted that group A streptococcal infection triggers the pathologic process of RF. There are suf-

ficient data that prove the etio-pathogenetic relationship and of group A streptococcal infections to RF.

There is a constellations of clinical and laboratory findings associated with RF. The usual manifestation of the disease affects the central nervous system, the skin, but specially the joints and the heart.

The RF arthritis affects mainly the big joints and it is of migratory nature and does not usually lead to chronic arthritis. But even if the name RF is related to the involvement of the joints it is heart that is more significant sit of characteristic involvement.

There is an aphorism that states that licks the joints and bit the heart, when there is cardiac involvement we can use the term

"rheumatic heart disease".

There are severe cases of cardiac involvement during rheumatic heart disease that of a potentially fatal course. Much more commonly the natural history of cardiac involvement during RF is a chronic one with a gradual deterioration of cardiac function accentuated when there are recurrence of rheumatic infections.

That is because it must pass sufficient time for the developing of cardiac valve's fibrosis so that they can not open the close properly. When cardiac valves are highly damaged there is the repercussion on the lungs and other parts of the body.

I am really sad to say that many of the rheumatic heart disease patients (some of them very young malignant mitral stenosis), whom I see as cardiologist, come to me when there is little to do for them with medical treatment.

Fortunately to some of these patients, when the heart is not severely damaged, it is possible to try surgical treatment to replace cardiac valves.

The surgical treatment in Yemen is almost absent so the patient has to travel abroad, costing him and his family discomfort and lots of money and the country lot of hard currency.

Even with Satisfactory surgical treatment (possible only in qualified cardiac centers) patient must use costly medicament for all his life and undergo periodical laboratory tests. Then what should we do to prevent or to better treat the this disease that is highly present among us and has significant economic impact on our national economy:

1) It is necessary to improve housing and environmental conditions that help the diffusion of the disease.

2) To establish inside and out the hospitals centers equipped with trained sanitarians and with appropriate equipment to diagnose the disease, to quantify its gravity, and more important to follow-up the patient.

3) To promote and educational program to teach the people the necessity to be observed by medical doctors as soon as they begin to feel sick, and not when little can be done to help them.

4) The patient must believe medical doctors when he is told to use medical treatment for several years of his life (e.g. penicillin) if not for his entire life, the patient has to understand that it is for his safety that he has to be routinely followed up in appropriate centers and to use prophylactic antibiotics before dental procedure or any kind of surgery

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE CORAL REEFS OF THE RED SEA (1)

By: Laith A. J. Al-Hassan
Department of Marine Service,
College of Science, Sana'a University.

Coral reefs are widely scattered in warm tropical sea around the globe. Their distribution is limited by a number of factors. Corals cannot tolerate a water temperature in winter lower than 18.5 degrees centigrade, and on a map of the world all the thriving coral reefs are nicely contained within a live indicating where water temperature reach this critical point. also corals are unable to withstand more than minimal amounts of sedimentation; silt and sediment carried in the water and settling on the sea bed clog the mouths and arms of the corals and prevent its feeding and breathing. Thus corals do not thrive in shallow sandy seas or where rivers bring much particulars matter into the ocean. Nor are corals able to tolerate much dilution of the sea water in which they live, dilution which occurs near coasts when rivers add large amounts of fresh water to the coastal seas.

In all these respects the Red Sea provides an ideal environment for coral. The sun beats down in the cloudless desert sky warming the sea to a temperature strictly above that which might normally be expected at such latitudes. In fact the reefs at the north end of the Red Sea are the most northerly fully developed reefs in the world. Despite its narrow shape, the Red Sea is surprisingly deep; thus the amount of sediment derived from the sea bed and suspended in the water is kept to a minimum. And while the almost rainless conditions produce an arid environment on land there is almost no freshwater to run off into the sea, and save at the actual point where occasional khors and wadis cross the beach, the sea waters remain undiluted even near the shore.

The suitability of different parts of the tropical seas for coral-reef growth varies considerably. The main coral-reef areas of the world, in addition to the Red Sea, are those lying north-east areas of Australia and the adjacent islands, the islands of the West-pacific, the East Indies, East Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean.

In comparing the Red Sea reefs with those of the other areas of the Indo-Pacific perhaps the most important point to make is that although they do share many species with the reefs of the Indian Ocean and to a lesser extent with those of the Pacific, each area within the Indo-Pacific does have some species which are unique (technically described as endemic) to that area. However, the tendency to produce endemic or unique species has been particularly within the red sea, no doubt because of its almost enclosed situation, nearly isolated from the rest of the Indian Ocean, and to some extent because of the slightly different environmental conditions of warmer waters and slightly increased which occur there. Thus within the different major groups of animals it has variously been estimated that the proportion of species occurring in the Red Sea which are endemic or unique to that sea ranges between 10 and 20%. At the same time, within particular smaller groups which are either more liable to form new species, or for which scientists have been more inclined to separate off different species, the proportion of endemic may rise as high as 50%. Thus for example among shellfish, the well-known cowries and among fishes that butterfly fishes have both been considered to have over 40% of species endemic to the Red Sea and the adjacent part of the Indian Ocean.

Coral reef vary considerably in the exact form which they may take, both when, as it were con-

sidered in cross-section, and also when viewed in plan from above. The different forms vary in the types of location in which they may be typically found. Charles Darwin, the founder of modern evolutionary biology, was with his ever active mind amongst the first to consider the nature of coral reefs and he recognized there main classes of reef; fringing reefs; barrier reefs and atolls.

The description of coral reefs along the coasts of the Red Sea is of course enormously complex and can only be seen by reference to detailed charts. Essentially there is little coral growth either in the Gulf of Suez in the north-west of the Red Sea, or in its extreme south say south of Massawa, the main part for Ethiopia, or of Hodeidah. In these two areas conditions are generally too shallow and sedimentary for luxuriant coral growth. In the coastal waters of most of the rest of the Red Sea, however, well developed coral reefs are to be found. Off most stretches of shore there are well-established fringing reefs, and these extend into the Gulf of Aqaba, just about as far as Aqaba and Eilat at the head of the Gulf. The fringing reef is broken by the series of creeks which occur on both sides of the Red Sea. The development of the fringing reefs is also limited or even suppressed within the small and large shallow bays which occur at various points along the coast, for example in Saudi Arabia in the bay in which Jeddah is situated and the various bays to the north of Yanbu, in Egypt with foul By, or in Sudan with Dunganab Bay and the are of Aqiq.

Corals create coral reefs; but what sort of animals are corals? to the uninitiated this may not be at all clear. To those less familiar with living coral reefs the idea of coral brings to mind the bleached white coral skeletons of different shapes, sculpted branches and domes, to be

obtained from tourists souvenir or aquarium shops, not only in coral areas but throughout much of the world. Sometimes, it is not even realized that there are the remains of a living animals; they are thought of as fossils or stones created by the sea as reefs accumulate. And even to the aquarium or the visitor to the reefs, familiar with living coral, the exact nature of the animal may not be really clear, since in most cases the living coral has much the same form as does that dead skeletons, but instead of being white it is colored in shades of pink, blue, green, mauve or brown. Of an animal there may be no sign. The shrub-like form of many corals, thin lack of movement, and the absence of any apparent animal life certainly confused many people. Until a few hundred years ago writers about such things confidently believed that corals were plants. Even when the animal nature of corals was established, it was uncertain what sort of animals corals were. Sometimes they were referred to as coral insects; perhaps it was thought that corals were like ant-hills or terminate mounds. At other times they were classified with starfish and the like. But in the last two hundred years or so the time nature of corals has been clearly established. They are in fact close relative of the sea - anemones, and they fall in the biological group known as the coelenterates, a group within which are also placed, surprising though it may seem at first, the jelly fishes.

The corals about which we have been talking so far, that is those with sizable white calcareous skeletons, may be more precisely defined as the hard corals. there are many different forms and species of the, but all have the white limy skeleton. There are also to be found on coral reefs the soft corals, black corals, and sea - fans or gorgonians (sometimes called Jan corals).



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WHAT IS A COMPUTER?
 If you put the question of "What is a computer?" you would probably get many different answers, depending on the person you are addressing the question to.
 The computer is a human made tool to ease rotund work loads and to save time. In many ways, computer is not any different than a calculator, typewriter, file cabinet, a fax machine, or a VCR set that we use on a daily basis. Unlike most tools or appliances, computer has a distinct ability to combining several activities in one box and demand from its user some knowledge and understanding of its nature. Another aspect of computer work is that it needs both hardware and a software in order to function properly.
 Computers appear in almost all fields of human endeavor, wherever data are collected and analyzed. Furthermore, the development of inexpensive microcomputers, more and more individual are buying and operating their own computer. For these reason, certain mathematical topics related to the computers and information science, logic circuits, and the basic understand of computer is now more widely needed to be known.
 Several basic facts of computer always remain the same regardless of the size, brand name, or the type computer ever made. For example, a computer activities are limited to input-process-output. Unit recent decades, a word "Hardware" apply for different purpose and reason. In computer a computer world, when referencing a tangible part of a computer, it is called "hardware".
 The tree steps, input-process-output, are performed by three different devices called input, process, and an output devices. While TV set looking screen and a printer serve as input/output devices, a CPU (Central Processing System) functions as a processing device.
 In the same token, until the last few decades, a word software was not even an English word. Again, in computer world, referencing things make the computer work and an intangible part always called software. Of course, software also has its own breaks downs. For example while programming languages, operating systems, and application software are part of the software, but the defer may aspects. The details similarity and differences of those software aspects will be explained in the future. the best example to explain this is that DOS is an operating systems, world Perfect is an application software, and Pascal is a programming language.
 Computers are more often called personal, mini, main frame, and super computer. These are the level and the type of computer, but shouldn't be confused with brand names. For example there is an IBM personal computer, a DIGITAL mini-computer, an HP main-frame, and a super

computer with any name. the best analogy to describe the differences and similarity of these type is that to see them as a small personal car, a mini-bus, a very large school-bus and train. the bottom line is that all of them are means of transportation.
 Personal computers usually used by a single user that is why they called personal. In recent years several personal computers are connected and shared computer resources a like local area networking programs, however, regardless of how powerful they become, personal computer always categorized a personal computers. Most people seems to believes IBM and compatibles are only personal computer, however, Macintosh computers also personal computer, too. Also, whether the computer is a notebook, laptop, desk-top, with any trade brand name, it's a personal computer. Mini-computer in business long before personal computers are introduced. In most cases people who are using a mini-computer have no control over the central processing taker of computer. Users always left with Dump terminals and most of processing devices are kept as well as monitored by designated individuals. Mini-computer were designed to server up 50 or more users connected together and share computer resources.
 Like the over-lap seen between networked powerful PCs and mini-computers, there is also similarities and overlapping between smaller mainframes and powerful Mini-computers. Main-frames generally used to serve more 100 users and usually they have large database. the main differences between mini and mainframes are used by large government offices, colleges, big corporations, banks, as well as libraries.
 Super computers are used mainly in the high scientific research environment. the best example of to name for their use in NASA . so far, no other country have developed or even uses these advanced computer, but than the United States of America. do not expect to see Super-computer for a while in Yemen.
 A computer can crunch numbers in a fraction of the time that would take a human; some tasks that computers do impossible for humans. But even children can handle the basics such recognizing faces better than the most advances computer. a computer software and hardware functioning with millions of instruction called computer programs.
 A person who write computer programs called a programmer uses languages like assembly, third or fourth generation languages to manipulate machine languages. Different aspects of computer languages will be discussed as we get deeper with the subject. However, a person who installed your WordPerfect program, the person shows you how to use Lotus 1-2-3, or even the person who published a publication using desk-top publishing does not necessary be a programmer.

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Continues from page 3:

Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby...

Q: The ministry has many complications in running and managing the educational system. What seems to be the problem?
A: You will appreciate that most of the difficulties are accumulations from the past, some of them from the distant past. Yet, we should all participate in solving the bottlenecks. To do this, a fresh look needs to be made towards education.
 If we want to build an educational system that will contribute to the development process promptly and in a cost-effective way. Some of the difficulties related to planning, and others are concerned with implementation. Neither planning nor implementation should be affected by politics. Let me give you an example. According to need, a school may be planned in area one, and politicians may find it more expedient to move the school to another location. This has created an imbalance. This also applies to a number of other issues, and I have used schools as an example.

Q: Do you think sufficient resources are allocated to education in the budget?
A: I think we do get more than 16% of the total government expenditures. The issue is not really resources, but managing the resources.

Q: What percentage of school-age children go to school?
A: I do not have an accurate figure, but my estimate is around 50-60%.

Q: What do you think of private schooling?
A: I am supportive of the idea, as long as it within agreed parameters. The government cannot alone shoulder the responsibility, and the community should play a role.

Q: What has been done for schools of immigrant Yemeni communities?
A: We have a strong commitment to our Yemeni immigrants and we are working to make the youngsters get a minimum dose of Yemeni education and culture so that their integration into Yemeni society becomes easy once they return.
 We accredit these schools, we provide textbooks, teachers, and we even contribute to the running of these schools financially. These schools are in the USA, Britain, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, etc. Our role is to strengthen those aspects of the curriculum which may be weak in our opinion. rather than duplicating them. I pledge to continue to support them and do whatever we can for them.



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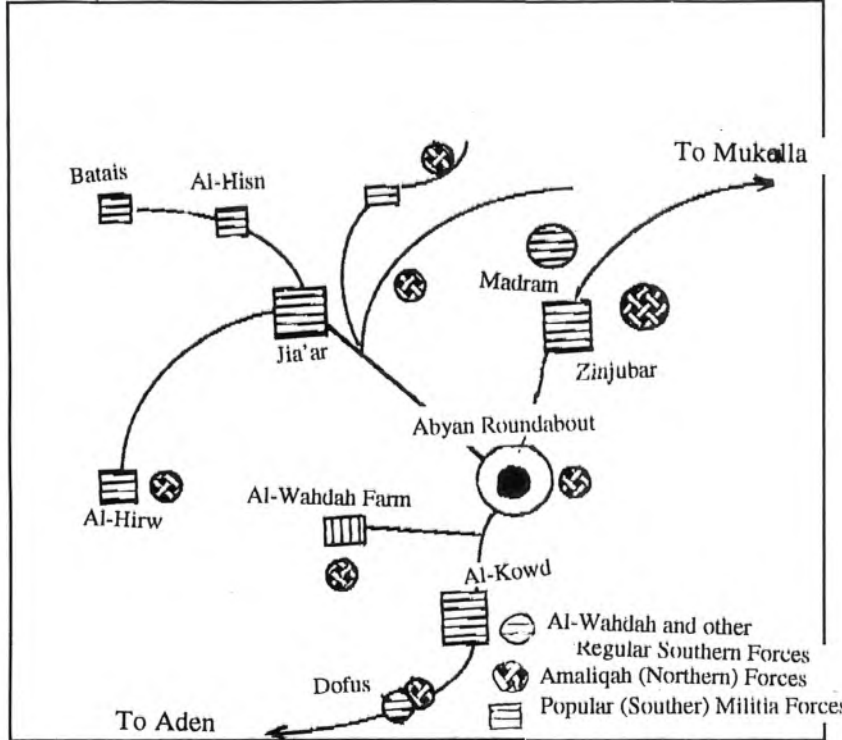
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Analysis

Northern and Southern Forces Still Poised Against Each Other !

By: Shaher Musa'abain and Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Aden Bureau, and Yahia Yusuf Al-Hodeidi, Sanaa Office, Yemen Times.

The fighting that started in Wadi Dofus in Abyan governorates has subsided. But the danger of renewed confrontation is still high as the two armies (northern and southern) continue to face each other at several locations as the map shows. We have spoken to all the key commanders in the region, and we conclude that the tension persists, especially in light of the refusal of the various contingencies to obey the orders of the Military Committee and return to their pre-19th August positions. Many commanders still want to receive



orders through traditional channels and from traditional sources. The two sides continue to accuse each other of wrong-doing, and they each claim to be working to preserve unity.

The main losers are the people of Yemen who suffer at the hands of both sides. Many citizens would rather have both armies leave their region. "We want them all - PGC and YSP soldiers - to leave us alone," one old woman angrily shouted. Her sentiments were echoed over and over by other citizens.

Read full story on page 18.

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