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Abdulaziz Abdulghani Cuts the Ribbon Announcing a New Milestone in the Progress of Yemen Times:

Yemen Times Installs New System and Machines



Thursday was a big day for the Yemen Times. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council, at the head of a large number of ministers, ambassadors, senior officials, journalists and intellectuals, inaugurated the new system and machines of the newspaper.

"We have taken it upon ourselves to lead the Yemeni media into the 21st century," said a beaming Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher and Chief Editor of the Yemen Times. Indeed, the Yemen Times today uses as sophisticated machines and programs as any newspaper worldwide. What is left is to train the personnel to use and manage the new machines, and DIWAN Science and Information Technology - London, the supplier of the machines and programs, are taking care of that.

Abdullah Faris, Owner and Technical Manager of Arab Digital Agency and Yemen representative of DIWAN, stated that his office is responsible for the training and maintenance requirements. The initial dose of training, as well as the installation was done by Mr. Hani Lazim, DIWAN's Technical Support Director. Hani flew in from London and spent the week in Yemen for this purpose.

The new system will allow the Yemen Times to do all the work necessary to produce the newspaper in-house, except the running-off. The appletalk and ethernet system offer together a complete network through the information flows starting with the initial

draft of news stories and other articles, until they come out on film in the format of a page ready for run-off.

"I am happy to inaugurate the new premises and system of the Yemen Times," said Mr. Abdulghani. "I am also happy that this particular leads the Yemeni media towards

automation and modernization," he added.

A leading European nation ambassador asked whether the paper is now ready to convert into a daily. The Yemen Times answer was, "Yes." But the ambassador and other readers will have to wait till 1995 for that.

Pictures of the event on page 16

Heavy Rains Cause Flash-Floods in Sanaa



It was sudden. It was quick. And it was overwhelming. On Monday, March 14th, it was suddenly raining cats and dogs in Sanaa. It was like

a hailstorm. Starting at around 3:00 p.m., it starting pouring and it would not let up. By the time it was over, a solid two hours later, the streets of Sanaa were over-flooded. The inadequate draining system was further strained as the rain-water flooded the main streets and destroyed a lot of property.

Eight buildings fell down, and numerous homes in As-Saadi and Nuqum quarters were damaged. Three dozen cars lay stranded in the flood, while three cars were overturned.

The rain was a blessing. It replenished the underground water reservoirs, and it provided abundant water for the farmers. But the blessing could have been maximized if the drainage system of Sanaa city were more adequate.

With help from the community, most of the houses that were affected by the torrential rains were under repair, by last week-end. Unless more heavy rains come, the situation for the low-income Sanaa families are, for now, under control.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Over 100 Persons Shot over Eid Al-Fitr Holidays By Accident.

Yemenis, especially in the northern tribal areas, carry guns and various kinds of light-arms. The fire shots in the air during holidays, weddings, when receiving guests, on births, and other happy occasions. This habit continues to take a heavy toll in terms of human life, as accidental killings abound.

Over the Eid Al-Fitr holidays, it is estimated that as many as 100 persons have been accidentally shot while people play with or show-off their toys. The cost to the individuals involved, and to society as a whole is enormous. Most of the victims die, others are maimed, and the luckiest are scarred for life.

Why? Just because some people want to continue to carry and use guns and pistols.

The nation has enacted a law regulating the carrying and use of personal arms, but this has not been enforced. Given the tense conditions, break-down of security, and the overall crisis atmosphere, there is very little chance for enforcing the law.

Therefore, it is imperative that the educational and media institutions take a major role in alerting the people of the dangers of mis-use of fire-arms. In many homes, children endanger their own lives and those of others because the guns are nearby. Even adults have inflicted harm on others because of the mis-use of guns.

Let me use an example of one village, and its pains because of the accidental shootings. In Bait Faris in Bani Sabaa, Al-Qafr Distreict, Ibb governorate, a boy kills his father and maims his younger brother when his klashnikov swirled our of control. In the same village, a person kills his 17-year friend while toying with a pistol.

It is imperative that our society teaches itself the dangers of carrying and mis-using arms - not that arms are properly used in any case. But, this is an issue we have to face and handle because the loss is enormous and uncalled for.

The Publisher
S. S. A. S.

Workshop on NGOs

The Yemeni Center for Studies and Research is co-organizing a two-day workshop on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Yemen. Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Chairman of the Economic Research and Studies Department, disclosed that the workshop will focus on the obstacles facing Yemeni NGOs and their potential role and contribution in a democratic setting.

Participating in the program, which takes place during 29-30 March, 1994, are many unions, syndicates, associations and other voluntary organizations. Co-sponsoring the workshop are IDRC and Cida, both of Canada.

Iraqis Off-Limits in Aden

Many Iraqi citizens who live and work in Yemen had the unpleasant surprise of being held-up at check-points as they travelled south. Many Iraqis - with their children and families - were planning to spend the Eid Al-Fitr holidays in Aden, but that was not to happen. Some were actually sent on business by the companies for which they work.

Most were either turned back, or held up for several hours. They were told they would have to go through scrutiny and interrogation.

The problem has its roots in the position taken by Baghdad vis-a-vis the conflict between the PGC (Ali Abdullah Saleh) and YSP (Ali Salim Al-Beedh). Baghdad has come out strongly on the side of the PGC, including, it is rumored, sending Iraqi elite pilots and paratroopers to "help out." Even then, the action of the YSP authorities is a reminder of the authoritarian behavior in which soldiers and officers take various kinds of decisions against civilians. By the way, most of the Iraqis in Yemen, have nothing to do with the Baghdad regime.

Shabwah Stand-Off Diffused

The military stand-off between YSP and PGC forces in the city of Attaq was diffused, thanks to the immediate intervention of the Military Committee.

The YSP, accusing the PGC of gaining ground by sending in arms to the governorate, put pressure on the governor and Director-General of Security. According to Sanaa official media, they were actually asked to leave. The two men refused stood their ground leading to a tense situation.

The two men mobilized troops and supporters and resisted the attempts to dislodge them. The YSP forces backed down on their demands as the Military Committee forced the return of the armies to their original positions.

It will be noted that Shabwah is basically a YSP territory as the PGC has no military capability in the governorate. The PGC wants to change this situation and it wants to link up with Abyan, thus bisecting the former PDRY into two blocks.

New Free Clinic in Dhamar

Dr. Nizar Ghanem, founder of the series of clinics which provide free medical care for literary persons, artists and other creative people, supervised the establishment of a new clinic in Dhamar city. The Chairman of the local development council kicked off the ceremonies.

"Canoxy financed this fourth center," Dr. Ghanem said.

YHOC Yemenization Program in Full Swing

Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) sources indicate they have 95 full-time students in their training program at this moment. Brushing aside any allegations of neglect on Yemenization, the company indicated it has 1074 Yemeni employees who represent 77% of its entire staff. Commenting on the level of Yemeni staff's participation in decision-making, the source added that 221 Yemeni employees received promotions last year (1993), and that 176 Yemeni employees are in professional or highly skilled jobs. In 1993, 33 Yemenis replaced foreigners in high-skill jobs.

Sheikh Zindani Accuses Zionists and Jews for Yemen's Troubles

Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani, Member of the Presidential Council and Spiritual Leader of the Islah Party, accused international Zionism and Jewry and blamed them for the troubles of Yemen. "There is an international conspiracy against Muslims and Arabs, and we in Yemen are an early victim," he said speaking to an army brigades in Sanaa. Sheikh Zindani also warned the soldiers against re-partitioning the country and civil war. He finally described the infighting within the Yemeni Socialist Party, and how that reflected itself on the crisis menacing the nation. "We told them to wait for their Secretary-General in order to tie up all loose ends. They said the 'YSP is an institution, and he (secretary-general) is just one of us and has to abide by the decisions we take.' Of course it did not happen like that," he said.

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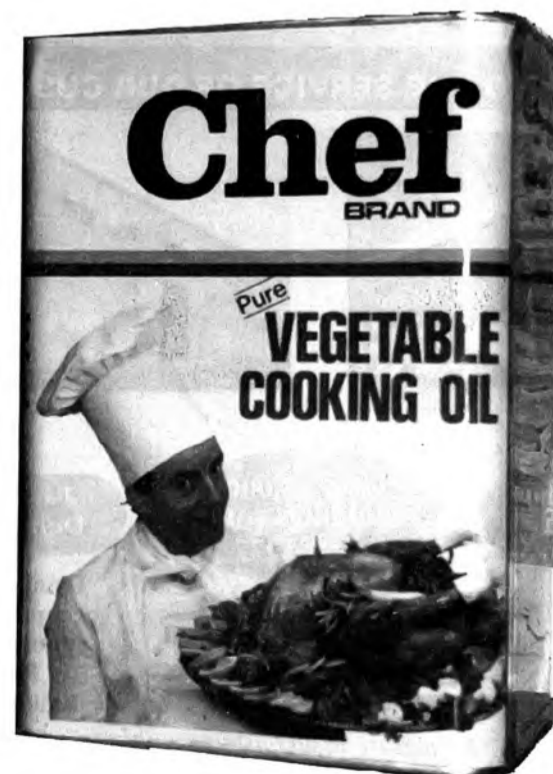
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Rashid Al-Kaf:

“The oil service industry needs new guidelines to standardize the companies and their services.”

One of the agonizing aspects of the oil sector is that it is so exclusively foreign. Most of the investment amounts end up being repatriated as foreign companies do the work.

The Yemen Company for Investments in Oil and Minerals (YCIOM) was created to act as a catalyst in the Yemenization process. Yemen Times Economic Editor Amin Nouisser filed the following interview with Mr. Rashid Al-Kaf, the Chairman of the YCIOM. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: What do you think about the current situation?

A: To start with, let me express my hope of progress and prosperity for our country. The current crisis has brought with it considerable pain and negative effects at all levels of life - economic, social, cultural, political, military, etc. The crisis created a lot of frustration for many reasons. We hope to get the country out of this crisis through the vision of modernization.

Accordingly, like all other Yemenis, I worry about the fate of our country, and how to resolve the persistent political differences.

Q: What has been the impact of the crisis on the oil sector?

A: Fortunately, the impact on oil sector because most of the oil-related activities are handled by foreigners and foreign companies. Most of these proceed according to contracts and agreements which govern their operations. But, even here, there are frustrations and obstacles as represented by the lawlessness, hijacking, kidnapping and other ills.

Q: Recently, there has been a lot of talk regarding the exploitation of the natural gas. As a person knowledgeable on this matter, what is your evaluation?

A: Let me start by saying that the natural gas is the future of Yemen and it is much more important than oil or other mineral resources up to date. The government was very slow in taking the decision about exploiting gas in the past. Lately it addressed the issue and comparing the Hunt and Enron offers, it chose the better one which is the Enron offer. I don't know if there is a revised Hunt offer, in which case a re-scrutiny of the offers could be warranted.

When we talk about gas exploitation, we are referring to Marib, Al-Jawf, And Janna fields. We should remember, these regions are governed by a number of contracts. As for Hunt, Exxon and Yukong, let me point out that their contracts have gone through a number of amendments.

In fact, the issue of gas in Marib faced a lot of complications and prolonged discussions. I am in agreement with the decision of the Supreme Committee for Oil and Investments in preferring the Enron offer. I know, there had been a number of efforts to convince Hunt, Exxon, Yukong group to adjust/amend their offer. They were granted a number of opportunities, but the said companies did not

introduce anything important concerning their offer.

I have learned they talk about contractual historic rights in the exploitation of gas in Marib Al-Jawf region. I leave that to the lawyers. From the economic/financial point of view, they haven't introduced anything tangible. Accordingly, the state is now endeavoring to conclude a deal with Enron but the door is still open for Hunt, Exxon and others to enter. By the way, Exxon is a giant company and its participation in the gas investment is of great value to Yemen.

Q: Do you think that according to the original PSA, the Hunt, Exxon, Yukong have any legal right to gas exploitation?

A: Let me mention that there are many minutes of negotiations and agreement between the two sides that indicate that possession of the gas belongs to the state of Yemen, and there is no question about that. But Hunt and its partners have a priority if and when their bids equal those of others. The Ministry of Oil and the Supreme Committee endeavored to grant this right of priority to Hunt given its knowledge of the site and its work in Marib.

Q: There is an Exxon delegation visiting Yemen these days and there is talk about an amended offer being presented. Is the door still open?

A: Personally, I prefer a solution in which all the major contenders participate. The project is a gigantic one, and if Enron, Exxon, Hunt, Total and others joint hands, it would be a superb solution. The expenditures of the project are huge, the marketing task difficult, and the consequences for Yemen enormous. These are all the more reason to encourage these companies to come together.

Q: Do you think the signed memo of understanding with Enron gives it any rights at the exclusion of others?

A: As far as I know, the letter of understanding gives Enron no rights, and it does not take away from our ability to decide either way. The state only gave its consent to study the feasibility of the project and other aspects. We have until November to make up our mind on this issue.

Q: There are Yemeni parties involved in the project. Is the Yemeni Company for Investments in Oil and Minerals involved, or will it be involved?

A: Our role can be summed up in two points: First, the memo of understanding with Enron granted the government a right to keep up to 30% of the ownership. As things proceed, we will try to coordinate with the Yemeni Gas Corporation to take a stake in that.

Second, the gas project involves to a small extent the gas reserves in Janna region. As you know, we are partners in the Janna field.

Q: We have learned that the



Yemeni Economic Corporation (formerly the Military Economic Corporation) will be given exclusive rights for distribution of the gas in all its domestic use as part of the Enron project. What is your comment?

A: I think the YEC is getting involved in the internal distribution of gas. But such a responsibility should really fall on other corporations such as the Yemen Petroleum Company or the Yemen Gas Corporation. Actually, I would rather have it all done by the private sector. If the Yemen Economic Corporation wants to get involved, it might consider participating in the industrialization process.

Q: Are you not missing the point. You know the YEC is financially incapable of making investments. The only way it can reap profits is by granting it an agency commission or exclusive rights.

A: In my opinion, the state's institutions should not take part in such activities. They should leave them to the private sector. As government companies, we should rise above such deeds. We ought to take a leading role.

Q: Let us move on. How much ground have you covered in establishing service companies in the oil sector?

A: Our criteria for establishing new companies is economic viability. We have established some companies which proved to some extent capable in marketing its services. Let me say that the oil industry servicing sector is in near chaos in Yemen. We suggested to the government to work out guidelines. Like in the construction industry, we have guidelines to classify contractors into categories. In the same way, we could classify the oil industry services companies. Unfortunately, so far there is no response. Part of this is due to the paralysis that has hit the government agencies due to the crisis.

I can say that the services sector is still unprogrammed and unplanned and faces a lot of headaches.

Yes, we have seen some limited Yemenization of the companies in this sector. But we still have a long way to go. Unfortunately, a great part of oil expenditure still goes to foreign companies and what

Yemen retains is so little.

Q: Would you kindly give us some examples about the successful companies whether belonging to your company or to the private sector?

A: In Attaq, we built a base for provisions, supplies and oil services and also built a company for specialized transportation. All proved to be profitable. Some Yemeni investors in the private sector also were successful. In a sense, the investors in the public and private sector began to understand the realities of oil services.

Q: All in all, is your company is profitable?

A: Yes, it is. We are able to manage our own affairs whether through our participation in Janna or through the services we offer to others. Each year, we achieve a surplus.

Q: What are the projects you are now considering?

A: Our concern now is to put the Janna field into production. We are now studying the ideal steps for production. We have many meetings with the partners to address this issue of productivity. We have an idea of establishing a joint company for production with a unified board in which representatives of our company, the state and the partners sit on an equal bases to manage the process of production.

Thus, the Yemeni side will have the right of taking a decision for the first time and we don't want to follow the examples of Marib or that of Maseelah.

Q: What are the problems which you are trying to avoid in the experiences of the other two companies?

A: I hear a lot of complaints regarding the process of production due to lack of experience or insufficient competence or other things. Yes, there are a lot of problems and we can't say that we are ideal in our work. We will try to take what is best from management of joint companies in the Gulf states, Egypt, Far

East, and apply them with adaptation to the Yemeni reality.

Anyway, we hope to start production in Janna next year.

Q: How much do you expect to produce?

A: We will start with 12,000 bpd, to increase to 22,000 bpd and then up to 33000 bpd during the first year. The reason for starting small is that we don't want to burn the gas. We also want to guarantee the production of gas for a prolonged period of time so as not to lose the pressure in the oil fields. These details are all now under study, and the figures I gave you may change depending on new data, and thus new considerations and decisions.

Q: Will this be pumped through the Hunt pipeline?

A: Such an option is under study. We have a consulting firm working with us on this matter. From the strategic point of view, however, I think it is in the interest to want to connect the Marib and Shabwa pipelines. It gives the country flexibility, as it can continue to pump from both fields by diverting the flow, if need arises.

Thus, we want to connect the Safer and Shabwa pipelines to make it possible to pump in either direction. This is important for security and strategic reasons.

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Yemeni Music, Diverse and Rich Origins

By Mohamed Abdulhamid,
Managing Editor,
Yemen Times

The American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) hosted a lovely Ramadhan night session on Yemeni Music attended by many Yemenis and foreigners. A number of prominent Yemeni singers and musicians played the lude (Oud). This was followed by an interesting discussion on the Yemeni music Yemen. Dr. Nizar Ghanim, a medical doctor with strong interest in Yemeni culture and literature who published more than five books, has special interest in Yemeni music in particular and wrote a book on Yemeni music to be published soon by an American university, was the main contributor to the discussion at AIYS. Yemen Times later interviewed Dr. Nizar here is the excerpts:



Q: In AIYS session you have stressed an interesting theme which seems to be suitable to start with in this interview. Why do you think most Westerners have an impression that the Yemeni music is rather monotonous?

A: That could be explained in a direct and an indirect way; the direct approach is that there is that Yemeni music as a part of Arabian music has got a peculiar dimension which is not there in the western music, which is called in Arab music terminology the "Quarter Tone" this tone is shared only by Arab, Persian and Turkish Music. That is not to say that it is not possible to acquire or produce the quarter tone through western musical instruments but it is rather something of oriental culture and traditions. This dimension of Yemeni and Arabian music is a key to understand both them.

The indirect way is that the a few westerners had a real access to all Varieties of Yemeni music or to explain it properly, we are not good in exposing the 'diversity and richness of our music, form classic to modern, rural, urban, highlands, coastal and Saharan form Hadhramout to Saada and Marib to Lahej.

Tasting only one variety of this rich blend, some people conclude to that our music in monotonous but in fact it is not.

Furthermore, it is vital to note that stressing the uniqueness of Yemeni music does not mean that there are no shred or common scales between Yemeni and western music, for instance the famous Arabian Nihawound Magam is C minor in the modern western scale, while Agem Magam is C major and so on but we are more towards the quarter tone mode which gives the shape for our music.

Q: What are the main characteristics of Yemeni music?

There are two ways of going about it, one way to say that music is melody and rhythm the other way is music as composition of sound produced by musical instruments and human voice modulation (the vocal course) in this context Yemeni music hired from the Arabian music the indispensable role of vocal component (the songs or poems) in away that made of pure music and solo music a rare phenomenon in Yemeni music specially the traditional music, because

music is actually composed to accompany singing of lyrics weather they are in colloquial or classic language so the development of music was and still closely tied to the development of poems and lyrics.

wrote a lot on music and singing in Yemen, According to Alhamdani Mohamed Abubakar Al-Farisi, a musician and musicologist lived in the Rasoulide (Rasouli state) has written several books on music, most famous among them his book titled " Marifat Alalhan " " The knowledge of Melodies ". The American Arabist Dr. Daniel Farisco is known to be very much interested in Al-Farisi inscriptions and helped me a lot in my book on Yemeni music, his work on them revealed that there was even a special market (Souk) for musical instruments in Taiz for the sale of both Yemeni made and imported musical instrument, the fact which indicates a great role and development in music at that time, at this point it worth

The other aspect that characterize the Yemeni music is that its has unique rhythms which is not shared even by the rest of Arabian music like the lovely Sanaani rythm of 11/12 (eleven over twelve while some popular rhythms of Arabian music such the well known (Ashra Baladi) rhythm is not there in Yemeni music .The third and most important characteristic of Yemeni music is its diversity in source and origins which gave it special richness.

Q : What are these origins and waves contribute to the development of Yemeni music?

A : The origins of Yemeni music is deep rooted in the history and there is vivid evidence that music and singers used to play an important role in the early pre-Islamic era. Thanks to the historian Dr. Yousif Mohamed Abdulla with whom I am working now in the researching Yemeni music history, his studies revealed that a number of rep-

mentioning that indigenous four strings Yemeni musical instrument called Gampouz which existed up to early decades of this century has been substituted by the present Lude (Oud) which entered the country early in this century, this very peculiar Yemeni instrument traveled with them as far as East Africa and Indonesia, unfortunately only a few Gambouzes are kept now in the national museum and some personal collections.

The famous poet Ibn Sharafeddin has also pumped a new blood into in Yemeni music and song by introducing a new version of poetry which used a midway language between classic and colloquial tongue.

Q: Dr. Nazar you seem too much fond of history, what about the modern and contemporary currents of Yemeni music?

A : It is always difficult to separate arts, music and songs from history and politics and only in this context we can understand a new a turning

glove at that time and composed a different type of music based on the ritual songs of Lahej peasants adding a new trend in Yemeni music and poetry come to be called later the Laji Music, Even though Algomondan has not played his music and songs publicly but his involvement in this area, to the extent that he established the famous Al-Husseini gardens in Aden for that purpose, have helped a lot in slacking the social stigma against music.

Tihama area has Also its characteristic tone in Yemeni music by is pentatonic music (five scale music) which is of rather African temper with its hot and swift rhythms, but it is its proximity to Africa only that gives the Tihami music this unique temper, it is in fact also deep rooted in old religious Sofi rhythms which is still existing there as a part of religious rituals practiced up to date, pentatonic rhythms are found in Hadhramout as well. Another strong ingredient come from Hadhramout which is extremely rich in its folklore and folk songs. Mohamed Goma'a Khan a Yemeni descended from a Pakistani father developed the songs based on local Hadhrami dances and songs which was originally influenced by Indian music and became one of the most popular Yemeni singers.

The introductions of gramophone and wax disks, early forties

made a turning point in the development of Yemeni music adding the factor of listening to music without the physical availability of the musician and taking music into homes and private lives beyond the fence of any ban or social stigma, even a new vigorous local business of gramophone records companies started in Aden such Gafar-Phone and Audiophone and a number of other companies owned by Yemeni businessmen who were in an active competition with companies in Bombay and Bahrain which took to recording of Yemeni songs.

One of the main contributors to the Yemeni music after That is Abubaker Hussein Al-Mihdhar the poet and the musician who has composed the best and the cream of the most popular Yemeni singer Abu Baker Salim Balfagih.

The late Ahmed ben Ahmed Qasim who died last year has also open a new track in Yemeni music and established what was - mistakenly - called Adeni music and songs only



Islamic tombs in Yemen have referred respectfully to number of male and female musicians and singers, there is five of these inscriptions in the national museum alone. Later in the Islamic era the well known historian Alhamdani

point development in Yemeni music caused by the crack down of Imam Yahya on music, musician and singers in the early decades of this century which led to the led to a wide migration of singers and musician to Aden most prominent among them are the two famous singers Al_Attar and AL-Antari. Although Sanaani songs and music brought by those has become very popular in Aden, a good portion of our musical traditions was lost and the inferiority social stigma against the singers and musician has mainly developed at that era. Algomondan Ahmed Fadel the brother of the price of Lahej picked the

because it appeared first in Aden. Being the first Yemeni to have the opportunity to study music in modern music academy in Egypt, Ben Qasim returned to Aden to introduce the orchestra and music composed. modern and romantic poetry on well studied basis and free from the narrow limits of local folklore and enriched with the experience of booming music movement in Cairo where he studied music. this trend was followed by a great number of singers and musician and I think the correct name for it Modern Yemeni Music

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OPENING OF NEW CANADA DRY FACILITY

On Sunday, March 27th, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry will officially inaugurate the plastic one-way packaging plant for soft drink bottles. Mr. Showqi Shamsan, General manager of the National beverages Company - Canada Dry Sanaa, said "The multi-million Riyal investment indicates our confidence in the future of Yemen." He added that the new bottles are safe and easy to handle.

Ambassador Faizur Rasool Arif:

“World conscience must take cognizance of the agony of the Kashmiri people.”

Today Pakistan is commemorating the day, when forty years ago, the Muslims of South Asia, under the able and inspiring leadership of the Founder of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah laid the foundation stone of Pakistan. It was on March 23, 1940 in the historical city of Lahore, that the Muslim League adopted, the Pakistan Resolution enshrining the resolve of the Muslims of South Asia to achieve a separate homeland for themselves based on the theory that the Muslims of the subcontinent formed a separate nation distinct from other religious communities, specially the majority Hindu community.

This consciousness of a distinct nationhood was embedded not only in religious beliefs but also in history, culture sociological set up and structures and ethical vision and values. The Muslims of the sub-continent, as any other nation of the world, wished to create and establish a society and a polity that would ensure that they would be able to live their lives in accordance with their cherished values and beliefs. This would not have been possible in a political entity overwhelmingly dominated in numbers by non-Muslims. The strains and stresses of a continuous and perpetual conflict and confrontation would have, in time, rent asunder the fragile structures of such a body-politic. The realization of the genuine national aspirations of the Muslims of the sub-continent and their destiny lay only in separate statehood.

This vision of the destiny of the Muslims of the sub-continent was prophetically and eloquently articulated by the great poet-philosopher, Allama Dr. Mohammad Iqbal as early as 1930.

Having formally proclaimed the separate nationhood of the Muslims of the sub-continent in the Pakistan Resolution on 23rd March, 1940, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah led the march to separate statehood with historic success and after seven years of struggle and sacrifices, Pakistan was born on 14th August, 1947. The first country in the world created in the name of Islam.

Since its creation, Pakistan has traversed a long and tortuous distance. Pakistani and its valourous people have faced and overcome many challenges. It started from scratch with almost non-existent resources required by

a modern government and state. But its main resource was its motivated and determined people driven by the ideals of the Pakistan movement - the popular struggle for the creation of Pakistan. And they were blessed with a wise and dynamic leader the Quaid-e-Azam. Today, despite its modest means and limited resources, Pakistan has achieved satisfactory progress in economic, social, educational and technological fields and is proud to be among the vanguard of Muslim countries.

Pakistani is moving forward, surely and steadily, on the road to achieving the ideals of a modern and progressive Islamic state

from poverty, ignorance and disease, ensuring dignity of human beings, enlightenment, progress and advancement. Prime Minister Bhutto's social and economic principles strive to achieve the great objectives of the Pakistan Movement and the goals of a progressive modern state. The government is committed to make Pakistan a liberal, market propelled economy and a vibrant hub of agricultural and industrial growth in the region. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has declared that her government's policies aim at providing opportunity to all investors to invest and have stakes in the industrialization of the country. Her

new world order. But unfortunately the fall of the Berlin wall did not usher in a new era of hope and peace. The past two years have witnessed conflicts raging across the globe. Instead of democracy, the hydra of fascism and extremism is raising its head in almost all parts of the world. Many states continues to pursue policies of domination, persecution, suppression and even genocide. Pakistan stands for equality, justice and honesty in inter-state relations: Pakistan believes in and has been endeavoring for peaceful resolution of all regional and bilateral disputes. Pakistan has always been

wishes of the Kashmiri people i.e., the recognition of their right to self-determination.

Since January 1990 the Kashmiri Muslims' struggle for determining their own destiny has been subjected to massive repression. More than 40 thousand of them have been martyred, thousands tortured and maimed. Large scale rape has been used systematically as an instrument of suppression. More than 30 thousand Kashmiris languish in prisons.

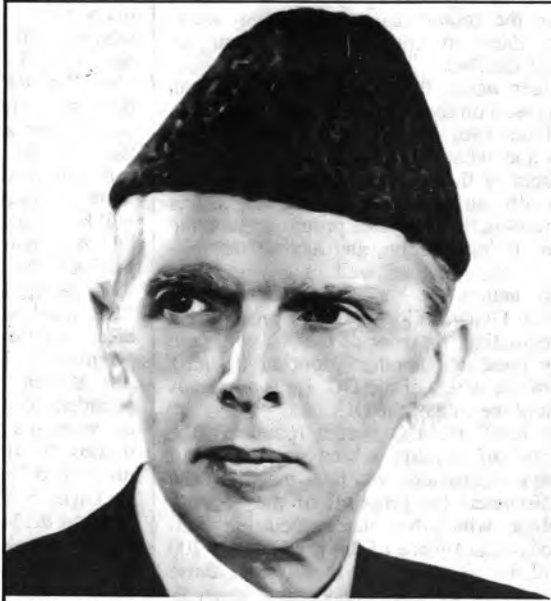
The magnitude of this "Human Rights disaster", as the Asia Watch 1993 report aptly described the situation in Kashmir, is not fully known to the international community. It has, however, been

subsequently by the international community through the UN Security Council.

The conscience of the world community must take cognizance of the agony to which the people of Kashmir are subjected. The world community must act to put a stop to such brutalities wherever perpetrated.

The Muslim world must join hands at least at the political level to overcome the challenges facing it including Kashmir, Palestine and Bosnia Herzegovina.

Non-proliferation is one of the main concerns of the world today. Pakistan is firmly committed towards establishing an equitable and non-discriminatory non-



Father of the Nation: Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah



Farooq Ahmed Khan Laghari, President of Pakistan



Mohtrama Benazir Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

based on the principles of democracy, human rights, individual liberties and social justice.

Pakistan's ability to overcome its recent internal difficulties through a political process shows that democratic traditions are taking firm roots. The fact that Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto had the privilege of becoming the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country in 1988 testifies to the modernity of Pakistan's political system. Her second coming as Prime Minister of Pakistan is a tribute to her enlightened leadership as well as a testimony to the dynamism of Pakistan's democracy.

The policies and program of Prime Minister Mohtrama Benazir's government aim at the establishment of a society free

concept of public-private partnership for promoting free economy is the cornerstone of the government's economic policy. She envisions Pakistan's future as a society where social and economic development is achieved, technological base is expanded and dignity of the laborer and the peasant is upheld. Pakistan's foreign policy embodies the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and fully upholds the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Conference and other intentional and regional bodies of which it is a member.

With the end of cold war, mankind had hoped for a better

prepared to discuss the core issue of Kashmir with India the resolution of which is key to peace in the region. During the last 45 years, we have had long standing discussions on the issue directly with India or through the UN Security Council as well as through the Commonwealth Summit. Pakistan has the political will to reach a solution.

Pakistan's position on this issue is based on the sincerity of the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Our position calls for the implementation of the UN Resolutions which require an expression of the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Simla Agreement is in perfect accord with the above position.

The central point is that the solution must be based on the

documented by reputed Human Rights Organizations such as Amnesty, Asia Watch, International Council of Jurists and some journalist who have had the opportunity of being in the traffic valley.

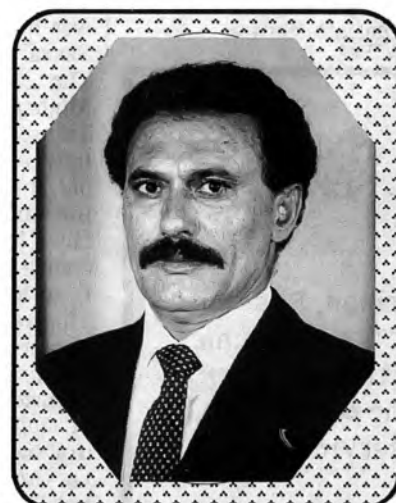
Pakistan will not abandon the people of Kashmir in their struggle and would continue its moral, diplomatic and political support for their Right to Self-determination. It may be emphasized her the struggle of the people of Kashmir is not a typical post cold-war conflict between ethnicity and state. It is a struggle for achieving the right of choice recognized 47 years ago by the United Kingdom as an outgoing colonial power as well as by India and Pakistan as newly emerging states in the sub-continent and

proliferation regime in South Asia. Pakistan would welcome and cooperate on any proposal and initiative put forward by any quarter for achieving this cherished goal.

Pakistan-Yemen ties are embedded in history, culture and religion. During the past few years meaningful cooperation as well as economic and commercial links between the two fraternal countries have significantly expanded. It is gratifying that a large number of Yemeni students are studying in Pakistan. The Pakistan School in Sana'a, with more than 900 Yemeni children, is also serving the cause of education in Yemen. The fraternal ties between the two countries will grow stronger and deeper in the years ahead.

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YSP Positions: Preparing for Implementing the 18th January Pact

"I do not care to be courageous if it serves the interests of Yemen that I become a coward." Those are the exact words of Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). Imagine, he was saying that to the top brass of the military, with whom he should show courage and resolve. But the man was making a point, not missed by the keen observers. It is not a question of being coward or courageous, it is a question of being responsible and concerned for the welfare of the nation. It is not a question of being hasty and reckless, but it is a question of being wise and judicious. It is normal that people have differences, but we should not allow those differences to drive us to suicide and disaster. That is why this YSP position needs to be evaluated in terms of its patriotic and nationalistic content, especially as it is now coupled by the YSP decision to stop all media campaigns from one side - its side. Those two positions also allow the normalization of conditions, and they allow starting the implementing of the 18th January Pact. We can say that the military deterioration goes against the national consensus and a clear violation of the interests of the people of Yemen. The pains unleashed by the crisis require immediate action to reduce the pressure on society. Thus, the national consensus embodied in the Pact calls for the construction of a modern state based on the history and potential of the nation through active implementation, not only through words and signatures on paper. I can say that the YSP attitudes do not reflect the drive to simply reduce the tension, but to actually create the atmosphere necessary to go ahead with the implementation phase. Our party (YSP) does not see the pact as simply a joint platform on which all the political forces stand, but as its own program of action within the stipulations of the document, for building a better future. Our party, in the position it has taken, does not reflect a political behavior, but reflects the national and vital interests of our Yemeni people - something which stands for its very existence.

By: Hashem Abdulaziz,
Al-Thawry, Sanaa,
10/3/1994.

YSP Forces Continue to Siege Northern CSF Forces in Aden

The information that we received from Aden confirm that various forces of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) continue - for seven weeks now - to enforce a siege on the Central Security Forces (CSF), one of the forces transferred from Sanaa and stationed at Al-Masharee' in Aden, in the aftermath of the unification agreement, on May 22nd, 1990. Tanks, artillery and other armors continue to surround the CSF camp. In a telephone conversation with Colonel Sharaf Al-Mowshiki, Commander of the Aden CSF, he disclosed that they were being bullied, in spite of the presence of the military committee in Aden at the time. Among the new measures taken were to re-enforce the troops encircling the CSF camp from the south with 18 new brigades, based on the newly-fabricated lies that the CSF men are dispersing in the area and that they are taking up new positions. The commander added that Aden Governor Saleh Munassar Al-Siyaly was putting a lot of pressure on the CSF commander and personnel by issuing against them wide-ranging accusations, all of which are lies. One of the new accusations is that the CSF has been invading the privacy of the neighboring homes and residences. But this simply a fabrication because of the simple fact that there are no homes and residences neighboring the camp, which is isolated from any urban center. "These accusations aim to confuse the military committee and frustrate its efforts, on the one hand, and to give justification for the YSP siege and any other potential action, on the other hand," he said. Al-Mowshiki disclosed that he has sent cables to the Chief of Staff and Minister of Interior asking for an investigation into the allegations and demanded that a committee visit the camp to find out the truth. The colonel also urged the parliament to initiate an investigation into the matter and tell the people the truth. The commander of the Aden CSF concluded by saying that his men can no longer take the abuse they have been exposed to at the hands of the YSP forces, especially from the Al-Solaban Camp in Khormaksar.

Special to 22 May Newspaper,
22nd May, Sanaa,
9/3/1994.

Efforts to Limit Role of DC

A heated debate took place in the Dialogue Committee (DC) in its session yesterday, starting with the items on the meeting's agenda. Some members were surprised by changes proposed by the chairman of the committee, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and its rapporteur, Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif, as they are different from the ones agreed upon in the last meeting of the committee. The members of the DC representing the parties outside the ruling coalition insisted that any new items may be added to the agenda without omitting the items agreed upon earlier. The new issues suggested on the agenda tend to divert the attention of the DC from the basic points regarding implementation to marginal issues such as looking for offices for the DC and completing the authorization formalities and procedures of the military committee. In this regard, the opposition parties plan to send out letters to the countries participating in the military committee warning them from being involved in the fragmentation of Yemen, while welcoming them to contribute in the implementation of the Pact. On the other hand, the original items on the agenda focussed on the issues and steps needed to implement the 18th January Pact, and to determine who and what blocks the implementation. The members of the committee representing the opposition also suggesting endorsing the sit-ins and other non-violent forms of protest against the delay in the implementation, and against the militarization of the crisis as well as any steps to fragment the nation. The People's General Congress had presented a proposal regulating the work of the DC, while the Islah party presented another proposal defining the scope of the duties of the DC. Both proposals aimed to limit the role of the DC. At another level, the DC started reviewing the works of the information sub-committee and it will complete discussions in a later meeting. The DC also discussed the proposal of the security sub-committee which has determined the total security body-guard force of the president at 700 men, that of the vice president at 400 men, those of the members of the presidential council, speaker of parliament and prime minister at 50 men each, and those of the ministers and senior officials at 10-20 men each.

Al-Wahdawi, Sanaa,
8/3/1994.

Dr. Kazimi Hails the President

Dr. Ahmed Al-Kazimi, Chairman of the Yemeni Organization for the Defence of Rights and Liberties (YODRL), welcomed the decision of Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, which ordered the release of 1400 prisoners from jails in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Mukalla, Ibb, Dhamar, Hajjah, Al-Mahweet, and Al-Baidha. The release was ordered for criminals who have completed half their sentences, and who are paroled because of good behavior in prison. The decision was taken on the occasion of the final days of Ramadhan and the up-coming celebrations of Eid Al-Fitr. In a statement to Sawt Al-Ommal, Dr. Al-Kazimi said, "We hail this decision and see it a step in the right direction. It also comes within the framework of the promises made by the president in our meeting with him in October 1993." He also said that he had wished the president took an additional step by involving the YODRL in a field survey of the prisons to determine those prisoners who have completed their sentences and who are still held up on procedures, or those who need special care - medical or psychological. The YODRL chairman also wondered if the decision included prisoners of conscience (political prisoners) such as Mansoor Rajih. "If that is the case, this decision will be a landmark and it can be termed as decisive and positive. We hope more prisoners, especially those of conscience, will be released," he said. Dr. Al-Kazimi also expressed gratitude for the president for ordering improvements in the facilities caring for persons with mental disorders. "The need for more and better such facilities is clear and these facilities are as indicator of our progress," he added. The human rights activist also appealed to the president to deliver on his promise to improve on the women's prisons which are in disgraceful conditions. He also pointed to the need for centers for juvenile delinquents. "These are all part of the package on which we agreed with the president. We hail the steps he has taken so far, and we urge him to complete the rest," he added. Regarding the popular non-violent campaigns such as the sit-ins, Dr. Al-Kazimi praised these efforts and described them as genuine efforts in leading to popular participation in public affairs. "They are part of our democratization efforts, and they serve the supreme interests of Yemen."

Sawt Al-Ommal, Aden,
10/3/1994.

The War on Governors

Following the crusade against the governors of Hadhramaut and Lahej, now comes the turn of the Shabwah governor. If it were not for the elections which removed the Abyan governor and brought him to parliament, he would have suffered from the same fate. Actually, he did, even in absentia. Why is this happening? What is its relations with unity or the 18th January Pact? Or is it an application of local government wherever "Our arms shall reach" (A Quote from Ali Salim Al-Beedh)? We face attacks, rebuttals, and counter-attacks through communiques which try to justify certain actions, and which pile accusations against the other side. But the basic question boils down to something objective. Who and which party has the legal right to make these decisions? This is the most basic question

to lay down the foundations for a state governed by law and order. Who has the right to remove the governors? The laws of any state do not allow the removal of legally appointed governors in this way. Civil societies do not approve of vulgar mock-trials on the streets, and our unity forbids attacking someone just because he/she is from the other side. Let us come back to the issue of local government. How are we going to establish local government? By the orders of the party or by the wishes of the people. We do face a major challenge in co-existence and democratic practices. The path of unity, co-existence, democracy and the wishes of the Yemeni people are clear.

Editorial,
Al-Thawrah, Sanaa,
18/3/1994.

The Pains of My Kid & the Ruthlessness of the Minister

I hate to be writing about personal things, and I refrain from using space on Al-Ayyam newspaper for such things, because all the space on the paper should be allocated to discuss issues of general concern. Our role is to expose those evil persons who grab power and oppress the public in their pursuit of their private interests. This article is also the result of my daily agony watching my son, Mohammed, limp and cry of the pains in his left leg. It all started on 29/7/1990 when the minister's car over-ran my kid while he was in front of my house in Sanaa.

The car of Minister Saleh Muthanna, then Minister of Transportation, destroyed the little body of my nine-year old. It gave him skull and leg fractures, several wounds. His left eye was also damaged. I rushed my kid to Al-Thawrah hospital where he was given basic care for four days, during which the Minister did not care to visit or send a word of apology or to show he cared. On August 2nd, I sent my kid to Dubai. When I came back, I was surprised the Minister has re-possessed his car and released the driver from jail. This is against the law, and against the precautions regarding the safety and well-being of the victims

of accidents. Six months later, the boy was in Jeddah for additional medical care. The iron rod in his left leg was removed, and now he has eye-glasses for his left eye. I approached the minister demanding at least pay my expenses which ran into YR 300,000 (US\$ 17000 at the time). But he simply did not care. Last month, the Minister surprised me by getting me a pay order signed by the Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council, Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh for YR 100,000. I returned the pay order through Prime Minister Haidar Al-Attas and I enclosed a letter thanking Mr. Al-Beedh for his kind attention, and explained the whole story including my demands. I now ask, is this the equal citizenship that we all work for and they talk about. Or is it that persons like me who have no tribal, regional/sectarian or party support are destined for this kind of abuse, because their only support comes from the law, which is absent and will never be enforced in the foreseeable future given these obstacles.

By: Hisham Ba-Shraheel,
Chief Editor,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
16/3/1994.



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As Khartoum Tries to Hold Bill at Bay

Five East African Presidents Meet in Nairobi to Discuss Putting an End to Civil War in Sudan.

Five East African heads of state held a summit meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, last week in a laborious endeavor to put an end to the eleven-year old bloody civil war in southern Sudan.

The presidents of the Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda, opened their meetings on Thursday, 17th March, in a tense atmosphere exacerbated by pressures of the intensifying war in southern Sudan, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands people and sent millions to refugee and displaced camps. The world community which has been keenly following events unfold in the southern Sudan, watches the meeting anxiously as almost the only way out of the political situation. The government of Sudan has recently launched a successful military offensive. Over the last two months, it has almost annihilated a fragmented opposition. According to a source in Khartoum, now that the "separatist movement is down-sized militarily, it is time for a political solution."

No specific agenda for the meeting, to which two leaders of the southern rebel movement (John Garang and Riak Meshar) were invited on stand-by and/or

observer status, had been disclosed. The broad goal is, of course, finding a solution to the war in Sudan.

The major stumbling block is the interpretation of the right to self determination for the people of southern Sudan. The government of Khartoum is willing or even eager to discuss any form of local government or federation, provided the end-result safeguards the territorial integrity of a unified Sudan. Most of the southerners see this as satisfying their ambitions. But a few vocal and well-armed cricles demand total and complete separation from the Khartoum government.

Many of the governments of the region are weary of the concept of self-determination leading to secession, as they themselves face a similar predicament. Ethiopia and Kenya are two countries which have large minorities which are watching how their government behave in order to capitalize on that position and apply it to their claims.

As one observer noted, the defeated military position of the southerners and their low morales do not give much leverage to the demands of secession, either.

Given the edge the Sudanese government enjoys against the southern movements, it was puzzling to see Khartoum take such a conciliatory and flexible stand. The reasons were soon clarified.

The Sudanese government does not want to give the Bill Clinton administration an excuse to mount any more pressure and campaign by using the southern Sudan problem as a pretext.

The government in Khartoum has already declared and clearly stated it will give the maximum it can to accomodate the southerners. "We are willing to go as far as a confederal state in which the Southern part of the country will be able to form its local government and manage its affairs," stated Dr. Ali Al-Haj, the pointman on the Southern issue. So what the northerners came to discuss was the extent of autonomy to be granted to the local authorities, and relations between regional authorities and the central government.

The government of Khartoum, was also represented by a very level delegation led by President Omer AL-Bashir and includes the parliament speaker Mohamed Alamin Khalifa and Dr. Ali Alhaj the leader of government delegation in previous talks, in order to enable it make hard decisions on the spot. Unfortunately, the southern leaders were too divided among themselves to capilize on the opportunity.

As one northern delegate commented, "They (Southern rebel leaders) can't take decisions because they are instructed to keep this issue alive."

Some of the leaders of the region have used the occasion to file complaints with the Sudanese leaders regarding growing Islamic extremism in the region. Sudanese relations with Eritrea and Ethiopia have soured up a bit because of the alleged infiltration of militant Islamic groups into the two neighboring countries which have populations which are about 50% Muslim. Both Eritrea and Ethiopia have asked the Sudan to help curb Islamic fundamentalist activities which are directed against their respective governments. The leaders of Sudan, while denying any connections with such activities, have agreed to work to control such elements in the region.

At the same time, the Sudanese government complained that Kenya is offering and facilitating logistic and other assistance to the separatist southern movements.

Uganda enjoys a relatively good relationship with the Sudan, although these two neighbors too may have difficulties in the near future given the heavy burden of Sudanese refugees who are affecting the fragile ethnic balance in Northern Uganda, thus causing potential political problems, in addition to the economic burden.

The United States government has already made many gestures of dismay at the Khartoum government. Recently, senior White House officials described the separatist demands of Southerners, as "not surprising." US diplomats working in Khartoum have openly supported the Southern movements, to the irritation of their host government.

Somali Leaders Hold Summit

Somali strongman General Mohammed Farah Aideed and self-proclaimed president Ali Mahdi met in Nairobi last week to patch up things and work together in guiding their nation in the period following the final and total withdrawal of Western UN forces.

The two rival leaders met for the first time in over a year, and discussed coordination of the peace efforts under the auspices of the UN. Mr. Ali Mahdi, who headed a meeting of twelve factions in Cairo last month, stated that Egypt, Ethiopia and Kenya was playing constructive roles in bringing the Somali factions together. "We are going to meet again in Cairo and Addis Ababa to finalize our agreements about a peaceful transition," said General Adam Abdullah Noor, Chairman of the Somali National Front, representing the twelve factions.

The two Somali leaders held two more tete-a-tete meetings before they turned over discussions to their assistants to iron out the details. The talks are expected to take a few weeks before anything tangible can be arrived at.

At another level, more UN troops were leaving the country. Some 250 South Koreans, who were working in the engineering corps of the UN force (UNISOM), left Somalia on their way back home. The Koreans have been helping with road construction and other needs since their arrival seven months ago on July 30th, 1993. Other UN forces have also left the country. The deadline for the last Americans to leave Mogadishu is March 25th, 1994.

Meanwhile, the UN has warned Kenyan authorities against the possibility of cholera disease which it says exists among the Somali refugees fleeing towards Kenya. A UN medical source reported that forty cases of cholera were discovered in the Lamora region of Somalia, bordering on Kenya. Further sources indicated that over one hundred persons have already died of this deadly disease in Mogadishu alone, since it was first discovered less than a month ago, on February 28th. Treatment is difficult, if possible at all, under the current conditions of Somalia.

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ROTHMANS OF PALL MALL LONDON, EST. 1890

ITALIANS TO SHUFFLE THE CARDS NEXT WEEK

Italy has had 52 governments since the end of World War II, but a close look at the 52 cards in this constantly shuffling deck shows the same faces appearing over and over again.

Now, as a result of a series of massive corruption scandals, not only will the cards be changing for the 27-28 March elections, there will be an entirely new game.

For two years, headlines and television broadcasts have bombarded the public with daily revelations about scandals and dirty dealings that have reached the highest echelons of business and politics.

More than 3,000 Italians leaders have been implicated in large-scale bribery and kickback schemes, nicknamed Tangentopoli (bribe city), that have cost tax-payers billions of dollars or trillions of liras.

Outraged voters are preparing for the chance to show exactly how they feel.

They have already shown they want change: last April, 83% of voters in a referendum, approved a change in the election system from proportional representation to majority voting.

"The proportional system gave certain political parties much more power than they deserved," explains historian Alberto Ponsi of the University of Florence.

For 46 years, government has been dominated by the Christian Democrats who, since 1962, have been allied with the Socialists.

The leaders of the two parties are the faces that have continued to appear in government - names like former prime ministers Giulio Andreotti, Amintore Fanfani, Bettino Craxi and Arnaldo Forlani.

Since the eruption of the corruption scandal and the disgrace of the old political leadership, popular support for the Christian Democrats appears to have been cut in half and the Socialists have practically disappeared.

The Christian Democrats have split into the Popular and the Democratic Christian Center. The Socialists have changed their emblem from a carnation to a rose.

In dissolving parliament and calling for new elections, President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro said that it no longer represented the people of Italy.

Parliament was elected less than a year ago, before the true extent of the corruption scandal was known.

The extent of the scandal is mind-boggling. The corruption is certainly the most readily visible, and with its influence well recognized in the current turmoil.

In 1992, Judge Giovanni Falcone, a popular anti-Mafia figure, was murdered in Sicily. Another anti-Mafia judge, Paolo Borsellino, was murdered shortly afterwards.

On the economic front, public spending policy has created a national debt equal to 110% of the gross national product, and provoked a financial crisis. Resentment of Italians in the industrialized north against their tax money supporting the underdeveloped south led to the establishment of a new political party, the Milan-based Northern League. It grew rapidly, presenting itself as a federalist movement working to divide the country into more autonomous parts.

However, the League, which is led by populist Umberto Bossi, has backed down on its

separatist pledge and seems to have lost momentum.

One motivation for the alliance of the Christian Democrat and Socialists was to present a solid front against the communists. The Communist Party, now re-named the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), stands to gain the most from the present turmoil.

PDS won five mayoral races in December, which was the first indicator of how voters were leaning. But the neo-fascist candidates of the Italian Social Movement led by Gianfranco Fini won 40% of the votes in Rome and Naples.

During the mayoral elections, a new force emerged on the political landscape - millionaire businessmen Silvio Berlusconi, supporting the neo-fascists for mayor of Rome. Owner of three of the country's six television channels as well as a chain of department stores, Berlusconi is offering himself as the center-right alternative.

His Forza Italia (Forward Italy) has gained widespread support and made an alliance with the Northern League, but the arrest of his brother Paolo on suspicion of corruption is an indicator that anyone in business or politics during the last 40 years is in danger of being tarred with the corruption brush.

Another rival to the PDS is Mario Segni, the former Christian Democrat who promoted the referendum to change the voting system and who has since formed an alliance called Pact for Italy.

The old guard politicians have played out their hands. The new deck does not guarantee stability, but at least promises a parliament filled with new faces.

BANDA'S DECISION TO RUN AGAIN BAFFLES MALAWIANS

It is ridiculous and unbelievable. But it is real. President Hastings Kamuzu Banda, believed to be in his 90s, is the ruling Malawi Congress Party's candidate for the country's first multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 19 May, 1994.

"He is our Life President and there is no way we could choose another person apart from him," said Malawi Congress Party (MCP) publicity secretary Hetherwick Ntuba soon after a special meeting of the party. "We came here to confirm him as our presidential candidate."

The move has stunned many Malawians, who have been devouring rumors that Banda had resigned as life president of the MCP.

According to news reports, Banda summoned his party's central executive committee in early February and told them he was packing up because of old age and ill health. Everybody was pleased with the decision. Officially 88, he underwent brain surgery in South Africa last October. Since then, he has made only one public appearance when he visited a home for the old in Blantyre city on Christmas Day. The National Consultative Council (NCC), the body overseeing the transition from one-party rule to multi-party democracy, repeatedly called for the appointment of an interim president but the MCP said the proposal was unacceptable because Banda would recover very quickly.

A three-man presidential council set up while he was in hospital became defunct in December under the pretext that Banda had made a full recovery.

The surprise announcement that Banda is carrying on again leaves potential successors still waiting in the wings.

Coming to the end of the road



- Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, President for Life
- Officially 88, but widely believed to be 96
- An "elder" of the Church of Scotland
- Practised as doctor in US, UK, Ghana
- Returned to Malawi 1958 to lead Malawi Congress Party



Walked 1,000 miles to South Africa, without money, spare clothes or identification, in search of further education

One front-runner is the Party's candidate for the vice-presidency, Gwanda Chakuamba, who has always displayed hunger for power. When the MCP was wooing him to leave the opposition - United Democratic Front (UDF) - he openly said he would do so only on condition that he was made prime minister.

As chairman of the presidential council he said that he was ruling the country because he was entrusted with the duty of receiving the presentation of credentials by diplomats. On his way to meetings he was escorted by police convoys with sirens blaring.

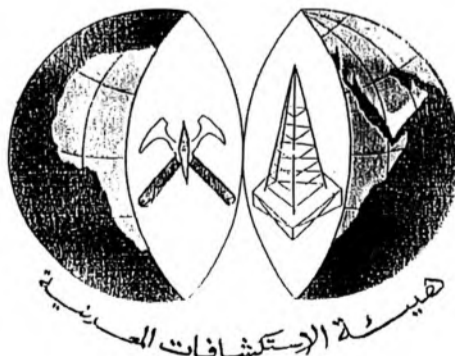
Another possible in External Affairs Minister Dr. Hetherwick Ntuba, but he is regarded as lacking political experience. A popular view is that the

fielding of Banda and Chakuamba is a cosmetic move and that the most likely successor is party treasurer John Tembo. He professes complete loyalty to Banda and has always denied any interest in political power, but the press believes he is eyeing the presidential seat with interest. Many see him as heir to the throne.

There is also a widespread view that Banda has been chosen in order to avoid an outbreak of fighting among ministers. However, another possible complication is looming. One of the proposals made at a recent three-day constitutional symposium was that the new constitution should stipulate that anyone running for presidency should have a clean past record and be between 35 and 75 years old.

MINERAL EXPLORATION BOARD

joins in the joys of celebrating the Eid Al-Fitr holidays, and takes the occasion to send heartfelt congratulations to the Yemeni people, the political leadership, and government.

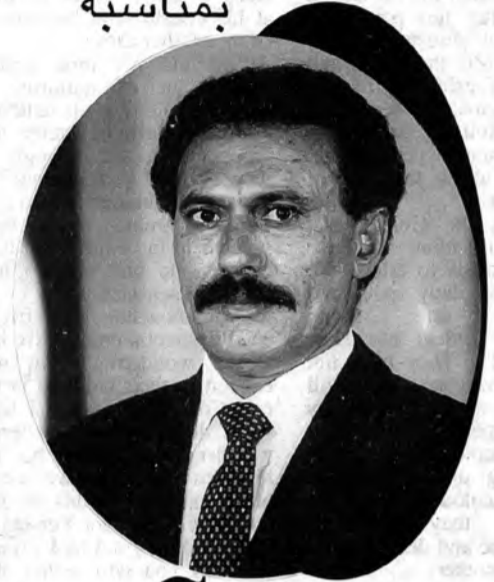


هيئة الاستكشافات المعدنية

يتقدم بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبدي وقيادته السياسية بمناسبة خواتم شهر رمضان المبارك وحلول عيد الفطر السعيد.

شركة فيرنت للخدمات البترولية المحدوده

تتقدم بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبي وقيادته السياسية
بمناسبة عيد الفطر السعيد .



FURNET Petroleum Services Co.

PARTICIPATES IN THE JOYS OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE ON THE CELEBRATIONS
OF EID AL-FITR MAY ALL HAVE MANY HAPPY RETURNS.

الشركة اليمنية للإمداد والتخزين المحدوده

تشارك الشعب اليمني أفراحه بمناسبة حلول عيد الفطر السعيد
متمنية أن تأتي هذه المناسبة وقد تحقق لليمن ما تطمح إليه من رخاء وإنجازات.



Yemen Logistics Supplies Co.

joins the Yemeni people in rejoicing on Eid Al-Fitr.
We wish Yemen more prosperity and achievements



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF YEMEN

JUST SAY NO!

As a Yemeni citizen who does not belong to any political party, I would like to state how I feel about the present situation. I am sure that my feelings are shared by the majority of Yemenis who are forced to helplessly watch events unfold as the country lies poised on the brink of disaster. I thus invite you, Mr. President, and Mr. Vice President, first as fellow-Yemenis, and second as officials, to fulfill your promise to the Yemeni people and safely take us on the road of development.

Since 1990, the Gulf Crisis, and the unification, we have gone from crisis to crisis. We are now completely exhausted emotionally after living through the ordeal of "They have agreed", "They have not agreed", "Maybe they will agree this time." Perfectly intelligent people are being turned into morons who naively keep hoping that events will take a miraculous turn to the better, as they vacillate between hope and despair from one day to another.

Please give us a break. At one time, we felt we were fighting for a cause, either against foreign occupation or the Imam, because we believed in the glorious dream of a better Yemen. Unfortunately, we have spent as much time fighting each other in the aftermath as we did in fighting oppression in the past. The Palestinians are fighting for a cause because their land has been usurped. The Bosnians are

fighting for self-defence and survival.

What cause indeed will the Yemenis be fighting for this time when brother takes up arms against brother? Or perhaps cousin in one army camp is given orders to shoot at his cousin who happens to be in another camp?

As parents you must realize that a lot of nurturing is required to bring up children. For the majority in Yemen, that process is a real struggle as they attempt to transcend the logistic difficulties of survival. Those parents who have succeeded in educating their children do not wish to lose them in a senseless war.

Do you know how many frightened Yemeni mothers have lain awake wondering what will happen to their children in the event of a civil war? I have spent long hours wondering whether we will all become refugees like those we see in other countries. Is this the fate you have chosen for Yemenis?

Please take a good look around you and you will realize that the road to development in Yemen is a real rough one even without your squabbling. There are villages in need of the most basic facilities. Even in the major towns, there are power cuts, water shortages, etc. There are damaged water reservoirs in need of repairs, the hydrological predictions of water resources are frightening, to say the least. Thousands of acres of agricultural land lie neglected. A rising number of

Yemenis now live below the subsistence level. The society is hit by one of the highest inflation rates in the world. The unemployment rate is shocking. The illiteracy rate is troubling and one of the highest in the developing world, and most schools are bare skeletons that pay lip-service to education!

Health care facilities are amongst the poorest in the world although we have a high level of Yemeni medical expertise. The security situation leaves much to be desired and the economy is in shambles. Do the two ALIs honestly think that we can afford to waste any more time and resources, let alone to become embroiled in military confrontations?

We had been promised democracy in Yemen as we happily took to the ballot boxes. The election process itself suffered from many irregularities, to say the least. Democracy is much more than having 150 newspapers, although freedom of speech is an important element. Real democracy is freedom from fear and want. Taking the example of Lebanon, one quickly realizes that the social repercussions of a civil war are irreparable. With time and money, the resilient Lebanese will be able to repair the physical infrastructure, but how do they wipe the scars of a civil war from a generation reared in an environment of sectarian strife, bitterness and militias?

We have trusted you with our lives, please do not betray us.

In your speeches, you keep appealing to "Al-Muwatineen Al-Shrafa" (the decent citizens) to exercise reason, but what is in the hands of decent Yemenis to do? It is in your hands as leaders who exercise direct control over bands of armed men, called armies. It is in your hands to change the situation.

What will it take to make you do that, Mr. President and Vice-President? A hunger strike, a mass sit-in in the streets, or turning ourselves into human shields as a buffer between your warring gangs? Whatever it takes, we will do it in order to save this country and before the nation gets caught in the cross-fire.

I as a Yemeni appeal to you to exercise reason. I appeal to your humanity and your love for Yemen to stop the skirmishes before they turn into a full-blown war in which everybody will be a loser!

I use the occasion of this holiday season to beseech you to consider the consequences of your selfish and power-hungry attitude. I sometimes wonder what other glory you want. Both have ruled for as long as anyone can remember. You are credited for unifying the country and introducing democracy and plurism. If anything goes wrong now, how will go down the history books? Definitely not in any positive way!

Samira Ali Bin Daair, Sanaa.

"Put the cash in my desk.... or squeeze it into my cigarette box, quick."

Those are words used by corrupt bureaucrats in many ministries, government offices and seaports around this country. Companies operating in Yemen have to go through a lot of paperwork regarding customs exemptions and many other formalities. Not only that, but they have to fight many obstacles on the way, to keep their work running. In Yemen's bureaucratic system, a lot of patience is needed to complete paper procedures.

One of the most common problems which companies have to combat is BRIBE. Why do we always have to pay for paperwork more than what is needed for the services rendered? What astonishes me even more is why do one need to pay bribes when the papers are 100% legal???

It is not just bribery....

But have you heard of POLICE BANDITS!!!

Let me tell you a story. After clearing a shipment, our truck was cruising back to Sana'a. We got to Zubeiry street, and suddenly our truck was attacked by police bandits who had a 1993 Toyota Land cruisers. We asked politely 'why are we being stopped?' They said 'Customs regulations'. "But our papers are in order," our driver answered. The bandits said we must follow them into the Customs Authority in Sana'a, to pay customs duty differentials. There was a two hour tug-of-war in the middle of the street.

You may say, impossible, but it is true.

My story may seem very far from reality, but that is what is happening when trucks enter Sana'a. Not because our police are patriotic, looking for smugglers, but because they are on the look-out for potential sources of bribes. Either you pay or your shipment doesn't move.

Until when do we have to put up with this kind of disgusting blackmail? Will we always have to pay bribes to police bandits in this country?

We hope in the near future to establish an association, with the help of Yemeni and foreign companies and businessmen to stop these thieves. We will call it, "THE ANTI-BUREAUCRATIC/BANDITS ASSOCIATION." I am positive that if we all cooperate and just say 'NO' more of our paper work will be handled smoothly without bribes. Let us hope so!

By: Mohamed Malah, TRADE-CONNECT, Sana'a.

Note: TRADE CONNECT has successfully resisted paying bribes. Its customers have written stating it costed them less to clear their goods through TRADE-CONNECT.

Dismayed with the Deterioration in the Conditions of Yemen

I am writing to express my appreciation for the journalism of the Yemen Times and its editors. They remind me of great journalists such as Mohammed Al-Tabiyi and Fikri Abaza. Mohammed Al-Tabiyi, you may not recall, is the man who foresaw what would happen after Stalin. What he said would happen did happen, almost to the word, a few years later. I would also like to remember Fikri Abaza, that first-class journalist with great integrity.

As for the Yemen Times, I think it is going on the right track, although I would urge you to consider sports article, especially in the Arab countries.

Here in Addis Ababa, the Yemeni community was extremely happy with the coverage, and your support. They deserve your support and assistance.

But let mention a few things about the way our tribalized and self-centered politicians in the north and south are destroying our unity and nation. These people cannot be called statesmen, by any stretch of imagination. They see the suffering of the people, and yet they are absorbed in their own petty interests and schemes.

Moreover, the country is targeted by many of its neighbors, because of its position during the Gulf Crisis. I remember a senior dignitary from the Gulf visiting Ethiopia saying he would like to see Yemen become like Somalia. He was just sick.

But we deserve these sad conditions because we have humiliated ourselves. One leadership is tribal and cannot see that its responsibility goes beyond its immediate kins. The other leadership is self-centered, and has already caused much harm in the past, and wants to present itself as the savior of Yemen today. It is funny that the third largest bloc seems to be the worst of the three, and they are waiting in the wings.

Our people are paying for the mistakes of inept politicians. If we let them do this to us, we deserve it.

By: Nasser Saad Al-Felahi, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Askar Got It Wrong

I would like to comment on the interview carried by Yemen Times (Issue No. 9, Vol. IV, of February 27th) with Askar Ali Hossain, Chairman of the Technical Consultative Bureau of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources. I think Askar has got it wrong on many counts. Allow me to give examples:

1. Most of the people who were sent to Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) to represent the Ministry has proven to be very disappointing, if at least at the professional level. I don't want to comment on their other behavior.

2. YHOC is an international company working under rigorous standards. Its foreign personnel are oil-industry experienced and well-qualified people. By comparison, the mostly inefficient and irresponsible Yemenis would have long ground the company to a halt if they were to take charge, as Askar wants.

I am not anti-Yemenization, but I don't think just being a Yemeni is sufficient reason to make people in charge of an oil operation. Besides, Yemenization should be based more on long-term service and experience by people who have been sweating it out, rather than by Ministry-sent "highly-recommended" new recruits.

3. YHOC has the most extensive training program in the country. In contrast, the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources itself has no training program to speak of. I think the Ministry would do good to utilize existing training program to raise the standard of qualification of the Yemeni personnel who will inevitably move up the ladder.

4. Mr. Askar says that YHOC contributes annually only US \$100,000 to social welfare programs through the Ministry. He says it is not enough. I ask, could Mr. Askar tell us which social welfare programs were financed by the Ministry in the Marib region using the some \$1,000,000 that have paid to it for this purpose by YHOC contributions over the last decade.

5. In terms of the management of the company, is it not true that YHOC management has been getting high marks through-out the previous association. How come a new reality has suddenly dawned on Mr. Askar?

By: Said Mukarram, YHOC Employee, Sanaa.



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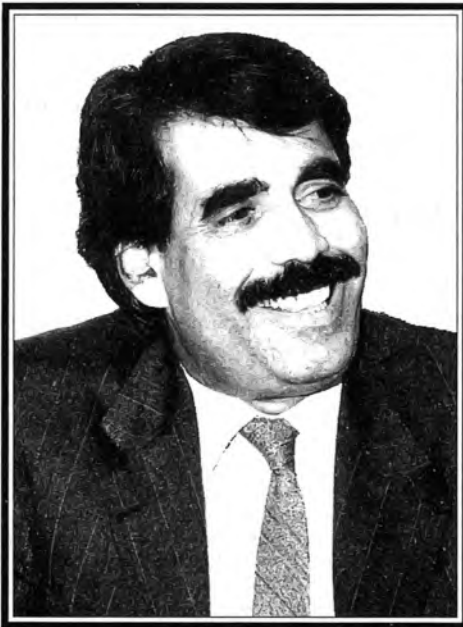


صناعة ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ تلسكس: ٢٧٨٠ ناچيل يمن فاكسميل: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص ب: ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تلسكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٩٦ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٩٢ تلسكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سبحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تلسكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

مجموعة شركات

شاهر عبد الحق وأخوانه

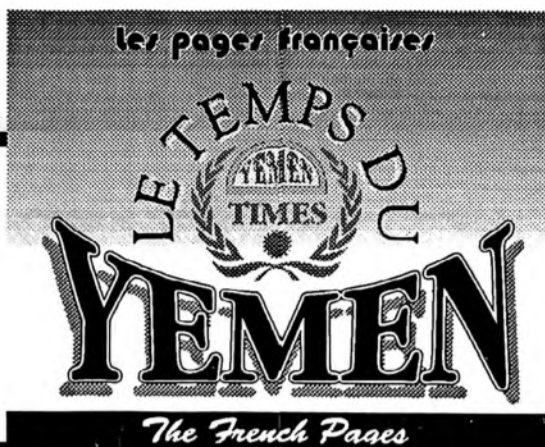
تتقدم بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني
والقيادة السياسية بمناسبة عيد الفطر المبارك
أعادة الله علينا وعلى الأمة الإسلامية بكل خير.



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PARTICIPATES IN THE JOYS OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE
ON THE CELEBRATIONS OF EID AL-FITR

WE ARE THE BUILDERS OF A NEW YEMEN.



The French Pages

UNIVERSITE

Diplôme de français

Le département de français de l'Université de Sanaa et le Centre culturel français organisent cette année, au mois de juin 1994, une session d'examen pour l'obtention du DELF (diplôme d'études de langue française).

La session est ouverte à tous les étudiants (CCF, cours libres, licence) et aux francophones.

Le DELF (DELF 1 et DELF 2) présente l'avantage d'être un diplôme français, reconnu dans tous les pays du monde. Le titulaire du DELF, par exemple, peut s'inscrire dans une université française ou francophone, sans examen. Il est prévu une seconde session en décembre 1994 (DELF 2). Enfin, les étudiants qui auront réussi les deux niveaux du DELF pourront présenter ensuite le DALF (diplôme approfondi de langue française), à la session de juin 1995.

Ce dernier diplôme autorise le titulaire à s'inscrire en France dans une université de son choix, au niveau licence, elle lui permet aussi dans certaines conditions d'enseigner le français à l'étranger, enfin, il s'agit d'un atout particulièrement important dans la recherche d'un emploi dans n'importe quelle entreprise française ou francophone.

Les étudiants et les francophones intéressés par la session de juin 1994 sont invités à s'inscrire avant le 1er mai, date limite, au Centre culturel français ou au département de français de l'Université de Sanaa. Frais d'inscription: 200 rials.

CENTRE CULTUREL

Ciné-club

Séances tous les mardi à 19h30.

Mardi 22 mars

Parole de fille

Un film de José Pinheiro, 1985, avec Alain Delon et Jacques Perrin.

Daniel Pratt, qui dirige une petite entreprise de pêche en Afrique, apprend que sa fille vient d'être tuée à Lyon. Il retourne en France, qu'il a quittée depuis dix ans au moment où il démissionne de la police après la mort de sa femme. Décidé à venger sa fille, il abat un à un les meurtriers.

Mardi 29 mars

L'Amoureuse

Un film de Jacques Doillon, 1983, avec Eva Ionesco, Marianne Cuau.

Il y a les bêtises que les jeunes filles font avec les jeunes gens, et il y a celles qu'elles font quand ils n'arrivent pas. Ces bêtises s'appellent galopades, rires idiots et confidences imprudentes: ce sont celles du premier jour et de la première nuit. Les bêtises du second jour s'appellent braquage, séquestration, et détournement de fiancé.

A noter que le dimanche, toutes les trois semaines, un film allemand sous-titré en français est projeté au Centre culturel français.

CRISE POLITIQUE

Les Yéménites retiennent leur souffle

Les fêtes de l'Aïd ont marqué une pause dans l'affrontement entre les nordistes et les sudistes. Mais rien n'est réglé. Les prochaines semaines seront cruciales pour l'avenir du pays.

Les fêtes de l'Aïd ont permis à la population d'oublier quelques jours les nuages noirs qui s'accumulent sur le Yémen. Les dirigeants ont fait une pause dans leurs invectives et le rial s'est stabilisé, s'échangeant au taux de 63 rials pour un dollar. La commission chargée d'appliquer le volet militaire de l'accord de réconciliation a fait état du désengagement des forces nordistes et sudistes. Les forces rivales, déployées dans le triangle Taëz-Lahej-Ibb et Bab Al-Mandeb, à Mareb et sur l'axe reliant la région de Shabwa au gouvernorat d'Abyan "se sont retirées sur leurs positions" d'avant le déclenchement des hostilités, a-t-elle déclaré dans un communiqué publié avant l'Aïd.

Un apaisement de courte durée, puisque les fêtes religieuses passées, le PSY a repris les hostilités. Décidés à ne pas laisser pourrir la situation, les socialistes continuent à vouloir se débarrasser des responsables

nordistes des gouvernorats du sud. Le commandant militaire et le représentant du PSY du gouvernorat de Shabwa ont ainsi donné l'ordre au gouverneur, le colonel Dirham Abdah Noman, et au directeur de la sûreté du gouvernorat, le colonel Ahmed Ali Mohsen, tous les deux nordistes, de "quitter leurs postes et de regagner Sanaa", a affirmé mercredi dernier le CPG. Après le refus des deux responsables d'obtempérer, des unités blindées de l'armée sudiste auraient encerclé le siège du gouvernorat et de la direction de la sûreté et bloqué les entrées de la ville d'Ataq, chef-lieu du gouvernorat.

Pourtant, les dirigeants sudistes et nordistes continuent à se déclarer les meilleurs défenseurs de l'unité. Mais plus personne ne croit guère à leurs bonnes intentions. L'ex-président sud-yéménite Ali Nasser Mohamed, en exil à Damas depuis 1986, a dénoncé

la responsabilité des dirigeants yéménites dans la détérioration de la situation: "Un plan de partage est en cours d'exécution au Yémen, qui avance désormais sur une voie incertaine". Il a exhorté les Yéménites à faire pression sur les autorités pour les amener à appliquer l'accord de réconciliation. La mobilisation populaire en faveur de l'unité continue. Près de 400 personnes ont organisé mardi dernier un sit-in dans deux villes du gouvernorat d'Abyan, Zinjibar et Gahar. Le sit-in était organisé par le Comité de défense des libertés et de la démocratie au Yémen, mouvement basé à Aden et créé après l'unification.

L'Egypte Intervient

De son côté, le comité de dialogue a repris du service. Il veut convoquer une réunion du Conseil des ministres à Aden, afin de mettre fin à la paralysie du gouvernement, qui ne tra-

veille plus depuis plusieurs mois.

Les efforts des pays étrangers se poursuivent afin d'éviter le pire. Vendredi 11 mars, le Président Saleh a été reçu à Abou Dhabi par cheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, le chef de l'Etat des Emirats arabes unis. C'était la première visite du président yéménite aux Emirats depuis le début de la crise du Golfe en août 1990. Elle ressemble un peu à un lot de consolation après la tournée diplomatique surprise du vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid et de son adjoint Salem Saleh dans les monarchies du Golfe au lendemain de la signature de l'accord à Amman. "Le Yémen a besoin des efforts des frères aux Emirats et de cheikh Zayed plus précisément", a déclaré Ali Abdallah Saleh.

Deux jours auparavant, le président yéménite s'était rendu au Caire où il avait évoqué avec le président égyptien Hosni Mubarak la crise au Yémen. Il avait également déclaré que le

Yémen était prêt à coopérer avec l'Egypte dans la lutte contre le terrorisme lié à l'intégrisme musulman. L'Egypte a proposé d'accueillir au Caire une rencontre de réconciliation entre les deux frères ennemis yéménites. L'Egypte craint qu'une poursuite du conflit entre le nord et le sud ne renforce les tribus du nord, qui selon Le Caire entretiennent des liens étroits avec les intégristes égyptiens.

J.B. (avec AFP)

Enlèvement de deux enfants d'un ministre: Deux fils du ministre de l'Agriculture Sadek Amine Abous Ras ont été enlevés il y a deux semaines à l'instigation d'un entrepreneur de la tribu Khawlan. Il entend faire pression sur le gouvernement dans une affaire liée à la construction d'un barrage à Taëz. Peu avant l'enlèvement, le ministre avait refusé une offre de cet entrepreneur pour la construction du barrage.

Le troisième homme

par Renaud Detalle*

Ali Nasser Mohamed, l'ancien Président de l'ex-Yémen du sud actuellement en exil à Damas, pourrait être l'homme de la réconciliation nationale, fort de sa bonne réputation au Nord comme au Sud et auprès des dirigeants arabes.

Les partisans du Président et du vice-Président tentent de remporter son soutien.

Certains commentateurs ainsi que de nombreux Yéménites se plaisent à réduire la crise actuelle à un duel entre les deux Ali. En réalité, l'inimitié profonde qui existe entre eux ne saurait faire oublier l'existence d'un troisième homme. Ce n'est pas le cheikh Abdallah, qui représente la même ligne que le Président, mais le plus célèbre exilé politique du Yémen, l'ancien Président de la République Populaire et Démocratique du Yémen jusqu'en 1986, Ali Nasser Mohamed.

Ce natif du gouvernorat d'Abyan avait entrepris d'assouplir la politique du régime sudiste en essayant d'améliorer les relations avec les pays de la Péninsule et d'inciter les sudistes exilés à revenir dans leur pays contre la promesse de ne pas entraver le retour d'un secteur privé. Il s'efforçait de renforcer son pouvoir personnel pour échapper aux diktats du bureau politique où la tendance dure emmenée par Abdalfattah Ismail (revenu de son exil moscovite en 1985) luttait contre ce "déviationnisme". Les événements de janvier 1986 marquent le terme d'un conflit larvé qui éclate dans toute la violence meurtrière d'une guerre civile où les oppositions politiques et de personne sont rapidement relayées par les solidarités tribales-régionales (l'axe Radfan-Dhala-Yafa' des radicaux contre Abyan et une partie des habitants de Chabwa fidèles au Président).

A l'issue de ces quelques jours de combats, Ali Nasser s'enfuit avec les siens au Nord où il reçoit le meilleur accueil, tant de la part du Président que du cheikh Abdallah. Au Sud, l'épuration est rapide, une nouvelle purge a lieu au Comité central et Ali Nasser et ses proches sont condamnés à mort. La tendance radicale

frappée par la mort de quatre de ses plus prestigieux dirigeants, dont Abdalfattah, adopte rapidement des réformes et une politique extérieure conciliante qui ressemblent fort à l'action du Président exilé et facilitent l'avènement de l'unité.

Après avoir soutenu quelques temps l'espoir de revenir par les armes au pouvoir, Ali Nasser renonce et part s'installer en Syrie. Ses troupes passent en partie sous l'autorité de la République Arabe du Yémen et nombre de ses fidèles sont intégrés dans la fonction publique yéménite. Dans les négociations préalables à l'unité, les dirigeants sudistes mirent leur veto à son retour au Yémen mais dès mai 1992 l'amnistie lui était accordée ainsi qu'aux autres condamnés à mort à condition de ne pas s'engager dans des activités politiques. Ses partisans purent quant à eux conserver ou obtenir des postes après l'unité, dont la présidence de la Haute Autorité des zones franches, des postes de vice-ministre et des facilités pour certains d'entre eux qui s'étaient lancés dans les affaires.

Des mémoires très attendues

Depuis l'unité, l'exilé de Damas est devenu un commentateur régulier de la vie politique du pays, en particulier dans le journal *Al-Ayyam* auquel il accorde de fréquents entretiens, même s'il ne manifeste pas l'intention d'y revenir, trop occupé qu'il est par la rédaction de mémoires très attendues. A moins qu'il ne préfère rester "en réserve de la République" pour revenir comme un sauveur de la Nation le jour où les dirigeants actuels se résoudront à quitter son pays. Le maréchal Sallal, premier Président au Nord après la révolution de 1962 et décédé il y a peu, dut aussi

quitter son pays, accablé d'insultes pour sa collaboration avec les Egyptiens, avant de revenir endosser le rôle de doyen de la République depuis le début des années 1980.

Dans les périodes de crise, il est devenu courant de citer le nom d'Ali Nasser pour occuper des fonctions importantes, ce fut le cas pour former un gouvernement après les législatives d'avril 1993. A cette occasion, deux de ses partisans furent élus au Sud sous l'étiquette CPG, d'autres, ralliés au PSY, triomphèrent dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan où l'on trouve également un élu indépendant réputé islamiste, ce qui pourrait expliquer, en sus du rôle du fils de l'ancien sultan Fadhli reconverti en "afghan arabe", la présence d'un camp terroriste dans cette région. Le nom d'Ali Nasser revint également lors des négociations préalables à la désignation d'un nouveau Conseil présidentiel en octobre 1993. Avec la prolongation de la crise politique, il est intervenu à plusieurs reprises afin d'encourager la réconciliation des parties adverses.

Dans la semaine précédant la signature de l'accord d'Amman l'ancien gouverneur d'Abyan jusqu'en 1986 fut, à nouveau désigné à cette même fonction par un décret du Premier ministre. Le gouverneur nommé après l'unité était un nordiste originaire de Dhamar, son poste, comme ceux des gouverneurs de Dhamar, Hajja et Saada étaient vacants depuis l'élection de leurs titulaires à la Chambre des députés. La crise politique mais aussi la nécessité d'attribuer quelques postes de gouverneurs au troisième partenaire de la coalition gouvernementale, le Rassemblement Yéménite pour la Réforme (Islah) avait gelé jusqu'alors toute décision.

Dans le cas d'Abyan, il semble que les socialistes et le Président aient chacun cherché à être

plus retors l'un que l'autre. L'initiative de redonner son poste à l'ancien gouverneur serait venue du Président ayant mis sa confiance dans un homme censé s'être rallié à lui après 1986. Loin d'embarrasser le PSY, cette proposition aurait rencontré l'accord des socialistes qui pensent avoir ramené l'ex-gouverneur au bercail socialiste. C'est pourquoi le Premier ministre prit la balle au bond en signant sans tarder le décret de nomination alors que le Président tentait de faire marche arrière. Cela lui est d'autant plus facile qu'il appartient au Conseil présidentiel d'agrée ces nominations. En droit la nomination effectuée par le Premier ministre est donc fragile si ce n'est illégale, mais le nouveau gouverneur n'a pas attendu pour aller occuper immédiatement ses fonctions et commencer à travailler malgré un décret d'annulation pris par le Président.

Bonne réputation au Nord et au Sud

Il est difficile de savoir si un lien quelconque existe entre cette nomination et l'éclatement des combats entre sudistes et nordistes dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan, le jour même de la cérémonie d'Amman. Ali Nasser s'était d'ailleurs déplacé dans cette ville pour l'occasion et avait accordé un entretien à la télévision yéménite. Le cheikh Abdallah l'avait salué ostensiblement alors qu'il refusait la main que lui tendait Salem Saleh Mohammed, deuxième membre socialiste du Conseil présidentiel.

Au plan militaire, la brigade Al-Wehda, cantonnée dans le Hadramaout, s'est déplacée vers Abyan et s'est heurtée aux habitants du district de Mudya qui auraient voulu profiter de l'occasion pour se venger de la répression menée par cette unité

lors des combats de 1986.

Dans les jours qui ont suivis c'est une unité de fidèles d'Ali Nasser, ne disposant pas d'armes lourdes, basée à Harf Sufyan (en territoire Bakil à mi-chemin entre Sanaa et Saada) qui a été attaquée par des troupes nordistes appuyées par des éléments tribaux Hached (Usaymat). Les malheureux sudistes n'ont du leur salut qu'à l'aide de tribus Bakil (Bani Nôf, Dhu Hussein, Dahm) qui ont facilité leur fuite à travers le Jawf et le désert, abandonnant derrière eux un certain nombre des leurs faits prisonniers. Dans un entretien avec l'hebdomadaire de la centrale syndicale, *Sawt Al-Ummal*, Ali Nasser a lancé un appel au calme et à la défense de l'unité dans le cadre d'une application de l'accord signé par tous les partis à Amman.

De tous ces événements, il ressort bien que l'un des enjeux de la crise actuelle est pour le PSY comme pour le CPG de remporter le soutien de l'ex-Président qui jouit d'une bonne réputation dans de nombreux secteurs de la population au Nord comme au Sud mais aussi auprès de dirigeants arabes. Sans se risquer à un pronostic on doit néanmoins souligner que le souvenir des affrontements de 1986, atténué par l'amnistie de 1992, ne saurait oblitérer complètement l'existence d'une culture politique commune entre tous les socialistes. Cette culture devrait rendre Ali Nasser plus favorable aux positions socialistes en matière d'autorité de l'Etat ou d'exercice du pouvoir. L'avenir dira ce qu'il en est et si une éventuelle alliance d'Ali Nasser avec le PSY est de nature à avoir un impact sur la situation.

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LITTÉRATURE

Le Yémen de Gérard de Nerval

par Jean Moncelon*

Né à Paris en 1855, l'écrivain français Gérard de Nerval, de son vrai nom Gérard Labrunie, avait deux ans quand sa mère mourut en Silésie. Une de ses premières entreprises littéraires fut la traduction du premier *Faust* de Goethe. Il vit à Paris, fréquente le "cénacle" de Victor Hugo et se mêle à la bohème artiste. Il tombe amoureux de Jenny Colon, cantatrice légère et comédienne, mais elle préfère bientôt à la romanesque idylle un mariage de raison avec un flûtiste de l'Opéra-Comique. Pour subvenir à ses besoins, Nerval écrit pour des journaux, des libraires, des directeurs de théâtre. Jenny reste dans son souvenir, avec sa cousine Sophie qu'il n'a pas conquise, comme une incarnation fragile de l'Éternel Féminin dont il poursuit la

Aucun écrivain français n'a été autant inspiré par le Yémen que Gérard de Nerval (1808-1855): un Yémen purement symbolique certes, mais de cette symbolique mystique à laquelle les visionnaires ont recours pour transcrire leurs expériences. Or, Nerval fut doué de certaines perceptions, qu'il prenait pour des rêves, et qu'on aurait tort d'imputer aux crises de délire qu'il connut à la fin de sa vie. Il y a, en effet, du Swedenborg dans Gérard de Nerval, à preuve ses *Mémoires*, ou du Jacob Boehme. Il y a aussi du Sohrawardi. Et si sa quête de l'au-delà s'est achevée tragiquement - il s'est suicidé à Paris, le 24 janvier 1855, dans un accès de folie, - ses visions n'en demeurent pas moins, d'un point de vue métaphysique, parfaitement conformes à la Tradition. C'est d'ailleurs le drame du XIX^{ème} siècle d'avoir entraîné les poètes, tel Hölderlin, et les philosophes sur des chemins où, privés de maîtres spirituels, ils ne pouvaient que se fourvoyer et finalement parodier le sens de leur vocation. Mais ceci est une autre histoire.

Nerval porta donc un intérêt marqué pour le Yémen en tant que monde de l'Ange, d'une part, en tant que patrie de la Reine de Saba, d'autre part. Avec une intuition très sûre, il put découvrir dans le ciel de sa destinée l'Etoile du Yémen (Suhayl): "Où vas-tu? me dit-il. - Vers l'Orient!" Et pendant qu'il m'accompagnait, je me mis à chercher dans le ciel une Etoile, que je croyais connaître, comme si elle avait quelque influence sur ma destinée" (*Aurélia*, I, 2). Naturellement, - comme font d'ailleurs les Rose+Croix, - il faut prendre le mot "Orient"

dans son sens métaphysique, qui est synonyme de "Yémen". L'écrivain, hélas, n'atteindra jamais le Yémen. En revanche, sa dévotion pour la Reine de Saba lui permettra d'approcher le mode de l'Ange, fût-ce sous les apparences d'une "descente aux enfers", ainsi qu'il nomme l'expérience décrite dans *Aurélia*. Mais déjà, des années auparavant, Nerval s'était épris de la fille des Hémiarites: "ELLE m'apparaissait radieuse, comme aux jours où Salomon l'admira (...). Elle venait me proposer l'éternelle énigme que le sage ne put résoudre (...). Qu'elle était belle! non pas plus belle cependant qu'une autre reine du matin, dont l'image tourmentait mes journées" (*Petits châteaux de Bohême*, III). Si l'on en croit Nerval, son projet était alors de composer un poème intitulé "La Reine de Saba", que Meyerbeer aurait mis en musique et dont le rôle principal eût été confié à celle qui avait, "comme l'immortelle Balkis, le don communiqué par la huppe miraculeuse": Jenny Colon. "J'aurais réuni ainsi, ajoute-t-il, dans un trait de flamme les deux moitiés de mon double amour" (id).

L'Orient, un remède à sa mélancolie

En 1842, Nerval entreprit un voyage en Orient qui devait le conduire en Égypte, puis au Levant, et s'achever en Turquie. On ne peut douter qu'il cherchait alors à se guérir de sa passion malheureuse pour Jenny Colon, à trouver en Orient un remède à sa mélancolie. Après un long séjour au Caire - où, soit dit entre parenthèses, il inaugura une manière d'orientalisme fort en avance sur son temps, - il se

prit d'amour pour une ravissante jeune fille, Saléma, dont la famille était druze et le père un akkal, un maître spirituel (le seul que Nerval devait rencontrer). Or, on ne devient pas druze et, pour prétendre à celle qu'il aimait, il imagina qu'en tant que fils de franc-maçon, "nourri dans l'horreur du meurtre d'Adoniram", il pouvait revendiquer son appartenance à la religion des Druzes. "Mon ami, dira-t-il, j'ai tout compris, tout deviné en un instant; mon rêve absurde devient ma vie, l'impossible s'est réalisé" (*Le voyage en Orient*, "Druzes et Maronites", IV, 6). De fait, l'akkal reconnut le bien-fondé de la filiation et accepta que Nerval fût initié. Il est vraisemblable que l'écrivain aurait fini ses jours en Syrie - à la manière de René Guénon, au Caire, un siècle plus tard, - si une fièvre soudaine ne l'avait contraint à quitter l'enseignement de son maître: l'initiation fut interrompue (et les fiançailles brisées).

De ce voyage en Orient, Nerval ramènera la matière d'un récit autobiographique, ainsi qu'une longue "Histoire de la reine du matin et de Salomon prince des génies", où il rapporte non seulement l'entrevue du Patriarche et de la Reine de Saba (cf. *Coran*, XXVII, 15-44), mais aussi la tragique destinée d'Adoniram, descendant de Tubal-Kain, architecte du Temple de Salomon, - ce Salomon dont la jalousie sera cause qu'Adoniram, devenu l'amant de la Balkis, sera lâchement assassiné, après avoir reconnu en la Reine sa soeur et son épouse. En plein Siècle des Lumières, certains cercles d'initiés invoqueront "la vengeance de

Hiram", pour justifier leur haine de la monarchie et des religions - ce qui deviendra cent ans plus tard la "mort de Dieu". Nerval, dont la vocation devait apparaître strictement religieuse - l'Éternellement-féminin, selon Goethe, - manqua de la sorte son initiation, à cause d'une pensée philosophique pervertie. Ainsi, de l'Ange, Nerval ne vit-il que son double parodique - "l'autre m'est hostile", - faite d'une perception véritable. Et il faudra l'expérience d'*Aurélia*, mais vécue dans la proximité de la folie, pour que l'interdit philosophique soit levé.

C'est, en effet, à l'occasion d'un second voyage en Orient, - l'Orient mystique, cette fois, - que l'écrivain parviendra à la vraie connaissance de la Reine de Saba. *Aurélia*, écrit en 1854, qui est la relation de ce "voyage", met en scène la succession des événements et des visions qui ont occupé Nerval durant les dernières années de son existence.

La reine Balkis, le double féminin

Après avoir affirmé sa révolte - "luttes contre le Dieu lui-même, avec les armes de la tradition et de la science", - Nerval s'effondre et reconnaît alors l'Ange: "C'était bien lui, ce frère mystique, qui s'éloignait de plus en plus de mon âme et qui m'avertissait en vain! Cet époux préféré, ce roi de gloire, c'est lui qui me juge et me condamne (...)" (*Aurélia*, II, 1). A cet instant, sa vocation se révèle, et le double féminin qu'il avait cherché vainement en Balkis emprunte ses traits à la Reine du Midi qui en est la face radieuse. C'est, en quelque sorte, l'envers de *La Flûte en-*



Gérard de Nerval.

chantée de Mozart. Après avoir haï les Rois, au nom de la philosophie des Lumières, Nerval succombe aux Reines qui incarnent l'Éternellement-féminin, lequel comme l'écrit Goethe, à la fin de son second *Faust*, "nous attire vers En-Haut". C'est alors l'évocation de la Reine "à la longue chevelure imprégnée des parfums de l'Yémen", ainsi que la huppe Hud-Hud: "Sur le pic le plus élevé des montagnes d'Yémen on distingue un (sic) cage dont le treillis se découpe sur le ciel. Un oiseau merveilleux y chante; - c'est le talisman des âges nouveaux" (*Aurélia*, fragments manuscrits). C'est enfin, pour Nerval, Suhayl qui se lève à l'horizon de sa destinée: "Une étoile a brillé tout à coup et m'a révélé le secret du monde et des mondes". Malheureusement, en 1854, il est trop tard pour l'écrivain qui,

livré aux maléfices de Pandora, va sombrer à nouveau. Et c'est pourquoi son drame reste celui d'une initiation manquée. Des Montagnes du Yémen, de ces horizons qui se succèdent à l'infini, et qui symbolisent les degrés de l'initiation, il n'aura connu que les apparences. En d'autres termes, le voile d'Isis, à peine soulevé, va retomber sur sa vie. Alors qu'il avait pénétré seul le mystère de la jeune fille qui est à la ressemblance de l'âme, le monde de l'Ange lui fut donc retiré - jusqu'à cette nuit de janvier, glaciale et désespérée, où l'Etoile du Yémen bascula derrière l'horizon ultime.

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En Bref

Une des plus grandes mosquées du Golfe à Abou Dhabi: Une des plus grandes mosquées de la région du Golfe et du Proche-Orient sera construite à Abou Dhabi, la capitale des Emirats arabes unis. Elle s'étendra sur 50 000 mètres carrés et pourra accueillir sept mille personnes. Ses six minarets atteindront chacun 11 mètres de hauteur et ses dômes 75 mètres.

Pétrole: La production des pays membres de l'OPEP a atteint en février 24,76 millions de barils par jour, supérieure de 240 000 bbl au plafond que le cartel s'était fixé pour le 1er trimestre 1994.

Djibouti, querelles internes au FRUD: Des contestations internes sont apparues au sein du Front pour la restauration de l'unité et de la démocratie (FRUD), mouvement de guérilla afar à Djibouti. Ougoureh Kifle Ahmed, un des responsables du mouvement, a annoncé lundi dernier dans un communiqué la dissolution du bureau politique dirigé par Ahmed Dini. Il accuse l'ancienne direction d'avoir commis des "erreurs impardonnables ayant engendré les déceptions et généralisé le ras-le-bol". Ahmed Dini a démenti tout changement de direction.

PROCHE-ORIENT

Une résolution qui tarde à être votée

Les Etats-Unis ont retardé de près de trois semaines le vote d'une résolution à l'ONU destinée à garantir la sécurité des Palestiniens dans les territoires occupés.

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU devait procéder à un vote vendredi dernier sur un projet de résolution concernant les territoires occupés par Israël. Après dix-neuf jours de résistance, les Etats-Unis ont accepté le principe du vote mais n'avaient pas déterminé comment ils voteront.

L'armée complice des colons

Selon le représentant de l'OLP à l'ONU Nasser Al-Kidwa, les Etats-Unis ont préféré éviter un vote mardi ou mercredi derniers pendant la visite à Washington du premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Rabin. Jusqu'à présent, Washington avait lié son soutien au projet de résolution à un engagement ferme de la part de l'OLP à reprendre les négociations avec Israël, suspendues après le massacre d'Hébron. Cela fait plus de trois

semaines que la tuerie s'est produite et le vote du projet de résolution a été reporté à de multiples reprises à New-York. Le projet demande des mesures pour garantir la sécurité des civils palestiniens des territoires occupés, y compris par une présence internationale.

En Israël, les travaux de la commission d'enquête constituée après le massacre a révélé la connivence entre l'armée et les colons. "Un Arabe armé est forcément un terroriste, un juif armé est en situation d'auto-défense", a déclaré à la commission un officier. Non seulement il est interdit à l'armée israélienne de tirer sur des colons, mais il lui est même interdit de faire usage de gaz lacrymogène contre eux. En dépit d'exactions et d'avertissement de la part des colons, l'armée israélienne n'a pas cru qu'un colon juif puisse commettre un massacre et n'a pris aucune mesure préventive.

ANALYSE

De l'unité au Yémen

La Revue du Monde musulman et de la Méditerranée vient de faire paraître un dossier sur le Yémen et l'unité. Une mise en perspective nécessaire pour ceux qui veulent comprendre la crise politique actuelle.

Si l'unité yéménite a été proclamée officiellement le 22 mai 1990, elle s'inscrit dans un long processus historique dont les racines remontent à l'Antiquité préislamique. C'est ce qu'a voulu montrer le dernier numéro de la Revue du Monde musulman et de la Méditerranée qui a pour thème: "Yémen: passé et présent de l'unité". En cette période de crise politique et de menace sur l'unité du pays, ce numéro offre une mise en perspective utile pour ceux qui s'intéressent à l'avenir du pays.

Civilisation agraire

Le Yémen s'est ainsi toujours distingué dans la péninsule arabique par une forte densité de population et le développement d'une civilisation agraire originale, qui s'est maintenue de nos jours. A l'époque médiévale, l'extension du zaydisme parmi les tribus du nord et le développement d'un prospère Etat rasulide dans les régions méridionales ont façonné de

nombreux traits de l'identité culturelle yéménite. La lutte contre les Ottomans au début du 17^{ème} siècle permit aux imams de refaire l'unité à leur profit.

"Si l'unité entre les deux Yémen a pu se réaliser (en 1990) malgré les formidables problèmes politiques, économiques et sociaux qui semblent la remettre régulièrement en question, c'est parce que la société yéménite est traversée par de puissants courants d'intégration et d'homogénéisation", estime Michel Tuscherer dans son introduction à ce numéro consacré au Yémen. La musique, la danse, l'architecture sont l'expression de cette spécificité yéménite, fondement d'une véritable culture nationale identitaire.

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SOMALIE

Les Américains s'en vont

Les derniers soldats américains quittent la Somalie. Sans fanfare. Leur départ, quinze mois après leur très médiatique arrivée dans le cadre de l'opération "Restore Hope", semble laisser indifférente la capitale somalienne, Mogadiscio. La terrible déroute du 3 octobre, où les miliciens du général Aïdid ont tué dix-huit soldats américains dans le sud de Mogadiscio a marqué la fin véritable de l'engagement en Somalie des Américains. Pourtant, pour beaucoup de Somaliens, la solution des immenses problèmes de leur pays ne peut être qu'américaine. Les forces de l'Onclé Sam sont les seules qui comptent vraiment pour la population, en bien ou en mal. "Nous n'avons rien à attendre des autres pays", disent certains, ne manifestant que mépris pour les forces pakistanaises, indiennes, égyptiennes et malaisiennes appelées à jouer les premiers rôles dans l'Opération des Nations unies en Somalie (ONUSOM) après le départ en cours des Américains et des Occidentaux.



Gaining the Upper Hand in the Fight Against Malaria

Scientists have overcome two major obstacles in the struggle to develop a malaria vaccine to combat one of the world's most widespread diseases, which yearly kills up to one million children in Africa and causes from 300-500 million clinical cases, the United Nations development Program /World Bank/ World Health Organization Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), said today.

Despite more than 100 years of research, there is no effective vaccine to prevent malaria.

The vaccine, called "SPf66" and developed by Colombian scientist Manuel Patarroyo, has passed new human trials in a region of Africa with rampant malaria. Preliminary conclusions show that the vaccine induces a strong immune response against malaria without causing any harmful side effects. The development of an immune response is a necessary step for the human body's immune system to fight an invading disease.

The results of the Phase I/II trial of the SPf66 vaccine in Kilombero district, Tanzania, East Africa will be published on February 18 in the British Medical Journal Vaccine (volume 12 no. 4, pp 328-336; 1994).

These results gave the green light to proceed with the final phase of human tests, which are now underway. These tests will determine whether the SPf66 vaccine actually reduces the number of malaria attacks. The first result from this Phase III trial will be available by October. If these tests are successful, scientists hope that an effective vaccine could be available for wide scale use by the year 1998.

"The Tanzania test demonstrates that we are over half way to developing the first ever effective malaria vaccine", says Tore Godal, M.D., Director of TDR. "There are still big scientific hurdles to overcome, but we can push the search through to a conclusion, as long as the flow of research funds continues in these difficult economic times."

Malaria has been controlled in many areas of the world by the use of insecticides to kill the malaria-carrying mosquito or by the destruction of the mosquito habitat. These methods have not been practical or cost-effective across much of Africa or in regions of Latin America and Asia, making a vaccine the best alternative.

"Malaria is killing millions in Africa, and threatening economic development", says Tim Rothermel, director of the Division for Global and Interregional Programs of the United Nations development Program (UNDP), one of the chief founders of TDR and its vaccine research. "For the first time, we are putting the long years of vaccine development to the test in large-scale field trial in Africa."

THE SPf66 TRIALS

The SPf66 vaccine was first extensively tested on monkeys, and then on humans in Colombia, where it achieved a 22-77% reduction in malarial attacks, with the greatest reduction in the young and the very old. (A report on this trial as published in the medical journal Lancet, volume 341, pp 705-710; 1993). Scientists do not yet know why the vaccine is effective.

But the African trial is a much more severe test for the vaccine. A person in Kilombero, Tanzania, suffers an average 300 bites a year from malaria-infected mosquitoes (which carry the disease from person to person) -- and in the rainy seasons in February and May as many as 20-25 infected bites a night -- some 100 times the rate in Colombia. As a result, at any moment more than two out of three people in Kilombero are infected

with malaria parasites. Moreover, some 15-20% of the malaria parasites in the area already show resistance to the front-line drug to control malaria attacks, chloroquine.

Kilombero is no exception in Africa, where such malaria infection rates are common. The resulting widespread infection generally causes little trouble to the adults, who after repeated exposure as children have developed immunity, but in young, non-immune or only semi-immune children the disease is a killer.

The Phase I/II trials carried out with 45 Tanzanians were designed to establish whether in such conditions of intense malaria transmission the SPf66 vaccine may cause unacceptable reactions. Results show that it does not. The Phase III efficacy trial of the SPf66 vaccine is now well underway, and by October 1994 the scientists should know if the vaccine actually reduces the number or severity of malarial attack in a study group of more than 600 children aged 1-5 years. Children are most susceptible to being infected and killed by malaria.

SPf66 is also being tested in The Gambia (with results due in 1995), and Thailand also (1995), while two further trials are underway in Colombia.

"If the vaccine allows us to cut the rate of malaria attacks in half, and if that can be translated directly into a halving of death rates, success in the trial would offer hope of saving up to 500,000 African children's lives each year", says Dr. Godal. Additional studies could lead to a better understanding of which components of SPf66 create immune protection, and which, if any, hinder protection. Scientists could study blood samples from consenting, vaccinated individuals in which the vaccine was successful, and blood samples from individuals where the vaccine did not succeed and run tests to identify detailed differences in the immune response.

The SPf66 vaccine is a combination of synthetic peptides (compounds of two or more amino acids), which, if successful and mass produced, would be likely to be affordable. Professor Patarroyo predicts a price, using production facilities to be provided by the Colombian Government, that would fall within the higher range of costs at which other vaccines are made available to the Expanded Program on Immunization the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the

The Latest Published WHO Malaria Incidence Estimates

Africa south of the Sahara

270-480 million (estimated) clinical cases per year, including 140-280 million (estimated) cases in children under five years old. 1.4-2.8 million (estimated) deaths, including 1 million deaths in children under five years old.

Americas

2.2-5.6 million (estimated) clinical cases per year, including 1.1-2.8 million cases (50%) in Brazil.

Middle South Asia (including India)

2.6 million reported clinical cases per year, including 2.1 million cases (80%) in India.

Asia West of India

0.5 million reported clinical cases per year, including 0.3 million (60%) in Afghanistan.

Eastern Asia and Oceania

1 million reported clinical cases per year, of which 0.5 million (50%) in Thailand, Vietnam, and The Solomon Island.

Europe including Turkey and the former USSR

12,000 cases a year, mainly in Turkey.

World Health Organization (WHO) -- say less than US\$ 5 an injection. TDR is planning a meeting in mid-1995 to collate all the SPf66 results and decide a policy for the further development, or production and use of the vaccine.

ONE COMPONENT OF A GLOBAL VACCINE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

SPf66 may prove to be only one component of malaria vaccine strategy -- which itself will be only one component of a full-scale malaria control strategy. The Plasmodium falciparum "parasite" that causes malaria is in fact a population of parasites with an evolving gene pool. Any attack upon it must be maintained, as it is, for example, on influenza, by alternating vaccination approaches or by multiple attacks on several fronts.

These are at least five other promising vaccine possibilities besides SPf66, which are being readied for human testing in endemic countries; and 20 or more others are in development in laboratories all over the world. The most effective vaccine may be a combination of several of these components, including SPf66. The development of all other vaccine possibilities.

"To realize all the accumulated potential, we need a global collaboration among institutions working on malaria vaccine, so each can make its own special contribution", says Dr. Godal. In a step towards this global collaboration for the next phase of malaria vaccine development, TDR and other bodies, together accounting for a large part of world spending on malaria research, have drawn up a joint plan for the development and field testing of these candidates.

The US. National Institutes of Health, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the US. Navy are major participants in malaria research. Overall, American scientists account for about half the research effort to wards malaria vaccine and contribute significantly towards malaria vaccines and contribute significantly towards its molecular biological "leading edge".

Other major laboratories and research centers are supported by Australia, France, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and several other countries, including the malaria endemic countries themselves. Several major private pharmaceutical companies are also involved, and their contribution is essential.

Malaria vaccine now in development take a different approach than earlier attempts, which tried to completely destroy the parasites in their initial, rapid journey from the effective mosquito bite to the liver of the infected human. While this approach provided the essential research on which present efforts build, it has yet to produce an effective vaccine. However, recent development in this work, in particular candidate vaccines that parasites reach the liver, are showing promise.

Some of the new vaccine candidates -- including SPf66 -- act on the parasite later in its complicated cycle in the human body. Called anti-blood-stage vaccines, they act on the blood stages of the parasites to prevent them from multiplying in the body. Plasmodium falciparum, the most dangerous African malarial parasite multiplies tenfold in two days in an infected human. "Plasmodium falciparum is a 'microscopic murder'", says Lou Miller, M.D., chief of the Laboratory of Malaria Research at the US. National Institutes of Health. "This little creature has been, and remains the clearest single target for scientists interested in helping Africa".

Another group of vaccines is called "anti-transmission" which act by putting antibodies into a human's blood, which, when ingested by a feeding mosquito with male and female parasite cells, will stop the parasite from infecting the next person the mosquito bites. Further anti-disease vaccines are also under development. When malaria causes children to die, it is not directly due to the parasite, but appears to be due to factors released by the body and the clumping of red cells in the blood vessels of the brain. Anti-disease vaccines are aimed at preventing this consequence rather than directly attacking the parasite.

TDR has evaluated existing vaccine antigen candidates in terms of stage of development and promise, and prepared a strategy for their development for field testing. Besides SPf66, more than 20 malaria asexual blood-stage antigens deserve further development and eventual clinical and field trial, of which four fall in the first rank. They are known as AMA-1, EBA, MSP-1 and SERA. TDR is also promoting the development and field testing of the transmission blocking vaccine, Pfs25.

MALARIA INCIDENCE AND CONTROL

According to World Health Organization estimates, there are some 300-500 million clinical cases of malaria per year, 90% of them in Africa, and 1.5-3 million deaths, one million of them African children under five years of age. Of the 10% of clinical cases outside Africa, India alone accounts for 48% of cases, and Brazil (mainly from Amazon) accounts for 11%. Some 70% of cases outside Africa come from just seven countries: in decreasing order of incidence these

are India, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Colombia.

The emergence and spread of drug resistance by the malaria parasite is a serious threat to effective treatment, particularly in South-East Asia and Latin America. Complete or partial resistance to chloroquine, a very cheap drug which was previously the principal recommended treatment, has now spread to all endemic areas, including Africa -- although in some parts of Africa it is still a useful drug. New drugs have been introduced, but resistance even to these has developed at an alarming rate. Unaffected areas must be urgently protected from the spread and development of resistance.

Malaria control used to be based largely on house-spraying with DDT to kill mosquitoes, but in countries where transmission is very high -- and budgets most limited -- spraying has proved neither practical nor cost-effective. The Global Malaria Control Strategy adopted by governments and WHO in 1992 therefore emphasized the need for early diagnosis, appropriate treatment with anti-malarial drugs, and selected use of preventive measures, including mosquito control where it is effective and can lead to sustainable impact.

VACCINE RESEARCH: SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND & PROSPECTS

Malaria researcher around the world have identified more than 100 malaria antigens (molecules on the malaria parasite that stimulate the immune system). Field trials of several of these antigens in malaria regions are underway or planned, and groups are collaborating worldwide in an exponential expansion of knowledge.

The target antigens for vaccine design are produced by the several radically different stages of the malaria parasite.

The first parasite stages are the sporozoites, which collect in the saliva of an infected mosquito and are injected into the victim when the mosquito bites. Next are the liver stages, which are the forms taken by the parasite in liver cells, which are its first hiding place in a victim, where it begins in multiplication. Next are the blood stages, or merozoites, which burst out of the liver to invade red blood cells (where they live and cause disease, growing and multiplying by digesting hemoglobin).

Next come the parasite's sexual stages, or gametocytes, which are picked up by a pregnant female mosquito in her blood meal (which she takes to feed her eggs). The malaria sexual stages then combine in the mosquito, producing offspring that progress through several more stages until they turn up again as a new generation of sporozoites in the mosquito's salivary gland, ready to infect the next victim.

Vaccine experts consider that all of these stages present potential targets for vaccines, and that the most effective vaccine will target several at once by containing important antigens from several stages. These antigens would be chosen to stimulate the two fundamental components of the immune system: the B-lymphocytes, the white blood cells that make antibodies (protein molecules which the cells produce to tick and inactivate corresponding antigens); and the T-lymphocytes, white blood cells that acts as the "generals" of the immune system controlling the battle. Some T-cells even appear to turn traitor to the victim or over-react and assist the parasite in its action.

The first phase of malaria vaccine research concentrated on the sporozoite (which could be grown in mosquitoes) and on B-cell (antibody, or "normal") immunity. A second phase became possible in 1976 with the development of in vitro techniques to grow asexual blood stages of the parasite, and with the combination of immunology and molecular biology to define functional epitopes (structural components of an antigen molecule which is known to function as an antigenic determinant) of the parasite, and to reproduce them in bulk for experiment by the use of recombinant DNA technology or by direct peptide synthesis. This led to knowledge of many different protein sequences and studies on their immunogenicity. TDR identifies the following

antigens as deserving the most urgent development:

a) SPf66 is a formulation of a synthetic peptide and aluminum hydroxide. The peptide consists of three asexual blood-stage antigens (identified by their protective effect in monkeys) linked by one sporozoite antigen, "PNANP" (in which each letter identifies a particular amino acid). In fact, the sporozoite antigen is a multiple repeat of the sequence NANP which includes, many times, the sequence PNANP. Professor Patarroyo deliberately chose to use the sequence PNANP because that structure causes the composite SPf66 molecule to fold nicely into particularly immunogenic polypeptide shapes known as "beta-pleated sheets". One of the three blood stage antigens in SPf66 is derived from the MSP-1 blood stage antigen (see below), while the function of the others are as yet unidentified. Apart from tests in Monkeys, the formulation has already been field-tested in some 20,000 people in South America, and is now being tested in conditions of intense malaria transmission in Tanzania (in children aged 1-5 years), The Gambia (babies of 6-11 months), and Thailand (children aged 2-15 years), and further tested in Colombia. The Colombian Government has expressed an interest in steering up a production facility for peptide biological including SPf66. TDR will conduct a review of the results of the in mid-1995. If production and distribution were agreed, it would be take an estimated 3-8 years before a registered product could be available for routine use.

b) MSP-1 or "merozoite surface protein 1" is one of several antigenic merozoite proteins. A fragment of MSP-1 is involved in merozoite invasion of red blood cells. Monoclonal antibodies against MSP-1 block parasite growth in vitro, and monkeys immunized with the molecule are protected from infection. Negotiations are underway to produce sufficient amount (grams) of the MSP-1 antigen for vaccine trials. Plans for Phase I and Phase II trials will be completed later this year.

c) AMA-1 or "apical membrane antigen" is a molecular structure in the "rhoptry" organelle of the merozoite. Immunization with the antigen protects monkeys, and monoclonal antibodies against it block parasite of red blood cells or parasite growth in vitro. Assuming satisfactory pre-clinical development, field trials could begin in 1996.

d) SERA in one of several soluble antigens released when the multiplying merozoites burst out of an infected red blood cells exploding at once, and the resultant periodic release of compounds certainly contributes to the cyclical symptoms of chills, high fevers and drenching sweats of malaria. Recombinant form of SERA produced in yeast provided significant protection against Plasmodium falciparum in monkeys. Field trials of this antigen are planned.

e) EBA or "erythrocyte binding antigen" is a structure used by merozoites to bind to red cells (erythrocytes) before they make their forced entry to gorge on their foot, hemoglobin. Antibodies to this antigen block merozoite invasion. Trials could begin within four years.

f) Pfs 25 is an antigen found in the ookinete stage (part of the life cycle) of the parasite in the mosquito. Mosquito feeding experiments predict that antibodies to the antigen could block or reduce malaria transmission in endemic countries. Such a vaccine would not be of use for visitors. Since the antigen is not exposed in the parasite stage that affect man, it would not come under selective immune pressure, and thus it is possible the parasite would unable to develop resistance to a Pfs25 vaccine. However, for the same reason vaccination with Pfs 25 would not be "naturally boosted" by malaria infections, and more frequent and intensive vaccine schedules might be needed. Facilities for producing gram amount of the antigen should be in place by mid-1994, and a vaccine based on the Pfs 25 antigen should go into Phase I and Phase II trials in the United States of America and Kenya by 1995. Several additional transmission-blocking candidates are also under development.

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Insight into Fish-Catch in Yemen, Sanaa Traffic Circulation, and Taiz Family Budget Expenditure Patterns

By: Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Faculty of Economics and Commerce,
Sanaa University.

One of the requirements for graduation at Sanaa University is that students write at least one substantial paper. Most do it in their final university year. I have been in charge of this in the economics faculty for some time now. Thus, over the last four months, I supervised some 100 senior students carry out field studies and surveys in various aspects of economic activities. Some of the results are extremely important as they give insight into the dynamics of the economy. The data base created is also useful for proper planning and decision-making. Starting with this issue, I will provide summaries of the findings of my students.

Paper 1:
"Fish-Catch in Yemen."

By: Ali Saleh Al-Maqaleh,
and Ahmed Dabwan Abdo

The Republic of Yemen has some 2000 kilometers of shoreline, in addition to the shores of 115 islands. In addition, its continental shelf offers 10,857 square kilometers plus the standard territorial waters and economic zone. What this translates to is a sustainable fish catch by natural growth of 450,000 tons every year. This could add at least YR 10 billion to the country's GDP, and could generate exports of up to \$300 million.

At the moment, the total fish-catch of Yemen hovers around 100,000 tons, or 22% of the potential. The total value of this catch was, in 1993, YR 1830 million. In the same year, total exports were 1,500 tons and some half a million cans of fish. This volume could be tripled with no additional investments or fish-catch, by simply improving packing.

Yemeni fish are wide-ranging in variety and size. According to experts, there are 300 fish varieties, and their growth potential is high. Because Yemen lies at the meeting point of large bodies (Red Sea and Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea), the variation in sea-level due to differences in evaporation/precipitation levels, an upwelling process exists. This allows plankton and other creatures to grow, on which fish can feed.

At the moment, 70% of the total fish-catch is done at the surface level, and 90% of the fish is caught in the first few kilometers from the shore. Better equipment (fishing vessels) would allow deeper and distant fishing.

Without getting into aquaculture or any other complicated process, the nation can reap the bounty of nature and natural fish growth by introducing simple measures. Domestic consumption demand and export market needs justify giving this sector priority in our development process.

Paper 2:
"Traffic Circulation in Sanaa City."

By: Malek Mohammed Hussain Al-Sobol.

As the city of Sanaa grows, one of the emerging headaches is traffic gridlocks and pollution. The city's population has grown from a mere 136,000 in 1975, to 465,000 in 1985, to 715,460 in 1991, and to an estimated one million today.

According to a survey carried out by the Sanaa Bureaus of the Ministry of Transportation and the Traffic Department, 3000 taxis cabs, 6500 small buses (dabbabs), and 320 buses have been licensed by the end of 1993 to operate in Sanaa city. The same source indicates that public transportation means make 207,000 trips, and private transportation means make 163,000 trips per day in Sanaa. For a small city with many clogged streets, that is a lot of traffic. That is why the study estimates that each driver wastes about 50 minutes every day in traffic jams or waiting for traffic lights.

A sample survey of passengers shows that Yemenis, especially the women, prefer to use taxis or private cars rather than public transportation. The cultural implications for women riding with strange men are still posing a problem. But the economic situation is already forcing a cultural change, because of the expenses involved.

Preliminary results show that each passenger pays daily about 30-40 Riyals on average on transportation. The range is high - from a mere ten riyals to over 300.

One of the main headaches of Sanaa traffic is the high rate of accidents. It is estimated that Sanaa accidents are about twice the national average, and about five times the world average. It is indeed a place where car insurance could come in handy.

Another negative effect is the high noise and air pollution. Many cars need fixing to lower their noise and air pollution, but the system does not yet exist.

Much could be achieved by pushing for an awareness campaign. The official media could introduce short programs to teach drivers and pedestrians about the rules and values that help make traffic flow more smooth.

Paper 3:
"Family Budgetary Expenditures Patterns in Hugarriah."
By: Abdul-Hakeem Ali Mohammed Al-Zuraiqi.

Based on a field survey, the families of Hugarriah have been divided into three classes - low-income families, middle-income, and high-income.

Low-income families are those whose annual income is less than YR 30,000, or YR 2,500 per month. This yields an annual per capita income of YR 5000 or some US\$ 83. (The calculation is based on six members per family at YR 60 = 1 US dollar).

This group spends most of its income (80%) on food, another 10% of medical treatment, 5% on education, 2% on transportation, and 3% on others.

Middle-income families are those whose annual income ranges between YR 30,000 and 100,000, or a maximum of YR 8,340 per month. This yields an annual per capita income of YR 16,670 or US\$ 278.

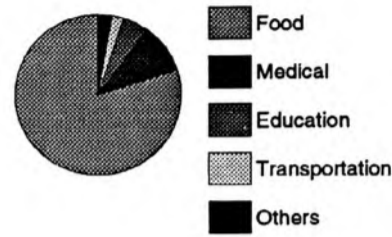
This group spends 62% of its income of food, another 15% on medical care, 8% on education, 4% on transportation, and 11% on other things.

The high income family is that which earns at least YR 180,000 per year, or YR 15,000 per month. This yields a per capita income of YR 30,000 or US\$ 500.

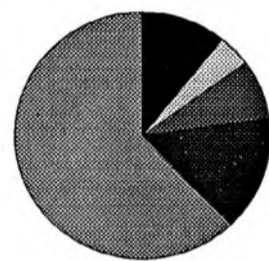
Even in this group, at least half the income goes to food purchases. The exact percent is 51%. But here, a good 20% goes to health needs, while 11% goes to education. Transportation picks up 7%. The balance of 12% goes to various other things. New items, such as electricity, travel come into the picture.

The amazing feature of this distribution is that saving does not feature in the family budget, even among the Maybe this explains why Yemen has a negative domestic savings rate. It means total consumption and investment is more than total domestic income.

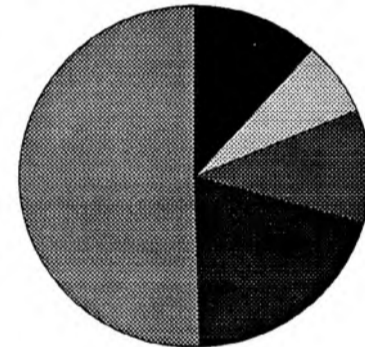
1. YR 30,000 Income Level



2. YR 100,000 Income Level



3. YR 180,000 Income Level



YEMENI PROFESSIONALS OUTLINE INVESTMENT PROJECT TO BOOST EDUCATION SECTOR!

Over 200 Yemeni private and public sector educational professionals approved in Washington last month the Planned Change Program, which is an outline for Yemen's \$49.7 million Education Sector Investment Project, making it one of the most innovative examples yet of the world Bank's efforts to achieve project participation by private sector representatives as well as government officials. Over the course of a year, Yemeni teachers, administrators, and officials of the Ministry of Education hammered out a program for improving secondary education, facilitating females' access to that educational level, and establishing a national community college system. The Planned Change Program agreed on by the Yemeni professionals, with the World Bank working as a catalyst, addresses current issues in Yemen's secondary and post-secondary education. Eight areas of change were identified, providing the basis for the design of education investment project. Class overcrowding, teacher performance, and curriculum development are examples of the problems identified by the Yemeni participants. Providing new classrooms and equipment, maintaining existing educational institutions, and setting up training modules for teachers are therefore among the priority programs supported under the project. Additional issues relate to improvement of school management through the training of principals, which will be strengthened in part by the establishment of an Educational Management Information System (MIS). The development of learning resources and evaluation processes is also planned as part of the overall

aim of improving students' learning achievements. One of the main thrusts of the project, however, is toward increasing female access to secondary education. Towards that end, plans call for the addition of new schools and classrooms, the development of home-based learning programs, and the organizing of a media campaign. Instituting career advancement opportunities for women teachers as counselors, principals and supervisors are also called for. Another important goal is the establishment of a nationwide community college system to help meet the increasing demand in Yemen for middle-level human-power. Two community colleges are to be established in Sana'a and Aden with the system's staffing needs met through the creation of a teacher education program. Commenting on the participatory nature of the project design, World Bank task manager Yogendra Saran said, "For the first time ever, the Yemeni professional community joined hands to outline an educational project aimed at addressing the problems and finding solutions to ensure better results in achieving educational objectives. The World Bank approved an International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$33 million in support of the project. The government of Yemen is providing \$8.7 million in co-financing, while another \$8 million will be forthcoming from the OPEC fund. The World Bank credit is extended for 40 years on standard IDA terms.

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Telling Pictures from the Inauguration of the Yemen Times New Office and Premises



PARKS...

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times.

I took my kids over the Eid Al-Fitr holidays to the parks and playgrounds where there are games and other things. The kids seemed to have a world of a time, and they enjoy the eid. But there are three major problems.

First, our cities have limited parks. Actually, in Sanaa, there are just two places you can go to. Therefore, these are awfully crowded. The cars and escorts (guards of the kids of important dudes) also add to the congestion.

Second, the costs are enormous. If you have half a dozen kids like I do, most Yemenis have more, then you better come with a bundle of Riyals.

Third, there are the wise guys who are in parks to annoy families. These young men are disrespectful to others and they are a menace.

With all those problems, the parks are full of laughter and merriness. The kids especially enjoy themselves immensely. Eid Mubarak, and may you all have many happy returns.



EID AL-FITR

MAY ALL HAVE MANY HAPPY RETURNS.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the United States of America seeks a qualified individual for the position of

Information Assistant

The Information, an employee of the United States Information Services (USIS), will have the following responsibilities:

- Compile a daily summary of the main news stories in the Yemeni press and TV;
- Write a weekly summary of the important commentary and editorials in the Yemeni press on current international events;
- Translate into English significant articles appearing in the Yemeni press;
- Develop wide contacts and relationships with the Yemeni media.

Applicants must have the following qualifications:

1. Excellent written and spoken English.
2. University degree in journalism, communications, literature, political science or related social sciences.
3. At least two years' experience working with or in the Yemeni media.

Applicants should submit their C.V. along a copy of this announcement to the Assistant Public Affairs Officers, USIS, in the YALI compound -- street #15, off of Baghdad Street.

For more information, please call 216-973/4

Continued from page 19

Science & Technology

each to perform can instantaneously switch from telling time to serving as calculators or video games. On a digital device, numbers and letters are shown in a liquid crystal display, or LCD, a sandwich made of a slice of transparent electrodes lay out in segmented pattern. In a charged segment the liquid crystal molecules lose their alignment, preventing light from reflecting off the bottom layer. The segment thus appears as a dark area; characters are formed by different combinations of charged and uncharged segments.

The most sophisticated systems, like smoke and heat sensors for fire protection, allow emergency calls to be sent at the touch of a button and set up a double defense against intruders. The microchips inside camera, with built-in instructions for running certain computer such as powerful tool is a versatile microprocessor the shapes its work according to instructions received from the user.

The central processing unit, as it is called, enables the computer to switch easily from playing an existing video game to rearrange the paragraphs in a business report. Each role is defined and controlled by a set of electronically coded instructions called program, or software.

Some computer users enjoy the challenge of writing their own programs, but most are content to choose from the thousands of software packages available on the market. With the help of different programs, personal computer users can track the performance of investment portfolios, organize tax records, store address list or drill themselves in French verbs.

They can bank, shop or run business from home. They can learn skills ranging from chess or bridge strategy to touch typing. By placing telephone calls to "data base" maintained by other computers, personal computer users can do various kinds of research, rifling through distant electronic index files without leaving home or office. The personal computer, in short, is a servant of innumerable talents, not the least of the being that it is simple enough to be used by a six-year-old.



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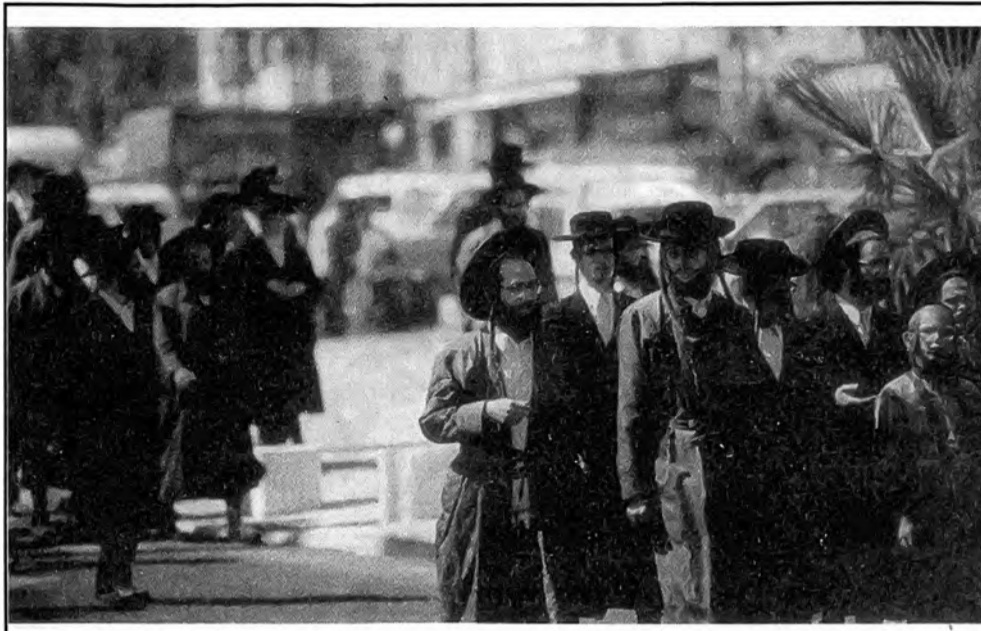
By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times.

It took me some time to organize my thoughts after the shocking massacre of Al-Khalil holy mosque in Al-Khalil (or Hebron as the rest of the world calls it) town of occupied Palestine. It wasn't the fearful number of people killed that shocked me, although it was big enough, but the image as a whole with all its frightening features of terror and hatred. Imagining hundreds of worshippers facing God, kneeling in full dedication to the Almighty when the rain of bullets comes swarming, shattering their heads and backs to pieces in a holocaust rarely compared to in modern history.

Before getting into the cultural side of the story, it is well worth going over the initial reactions that followed; Israeli prime minister said that he is ashamed of what happened and that the accident is isolated and was conducted by a lone insane man, an investigating committee was formed to investigate the "incident", a campaign of global condemnation was initiated, the West hurried to denounce the act, Arab governments came up shouting, angry demonstrations swarmed the streets of Arab capitals and occupied territories...etc. Baruch Goldstien (the murderer) did receive all kinds of descriptions; insane, maniac, fundamentalist, radical, religious fanatic, etc, but no western party whatsoever had the guts to call him terrorist, as if the term is totally confined to Arabs, and because of the bad impact this term has on the public conscious. Eventually, the Israeli investigation team came up with a shocking truth when a border police officer stated that the army or the police could do nothing to protect the victims, as they had orders not to shoot at settlers under whatever condi-

tions, even if the latter were shooting at them! The fact that leads us to a conclusion that violence up to its most extreme limits is officially protected. It was also rather surprising that the Israeli government reacted faster than the security council of the UN, as it eventually abandoned the fanatic "Kach" and "Kahane Lives" movements while the security council is until the date of writing these lines is hesitant to declare condemnation.

This entry to the highlights of the massacre to an article that wasn't intended to be politic, is necessary to analyze the cultural aspects of a crime that was described to be "isolated" and "individual", that took place in a time when peace negotiations are in a critical phase, and when all thoughts were directed to the dangers threaten the process by Arab or Muslim fundamentalists (even Arab intellect was misled to that direction). It doesn't require a genius to conclude that the political aim was to destroy the peace process, but the question is if the murder is really individual, isolated and insanely conducted? Let's go over some back information. Baruch Goldstien is an American Jew from Brooklyn immigrated to Israel 11 years ago, who is also an active member of "Kahane Lives" movement, the bastard infant of the notorious "Kach" movement that considers Arabs as lowly outsiders that must be thrown out of the holy land, they even discredit the state of Israel itself because it offers the right of citizenship to Arabs. Goldstien had openly stated a must to revenge his late symbol Mier Kahane who was claimed (but never proven) to be killed by an Arab. His background is strictly religious, in addition of being "polite and quite" as was claimed by his acquaintances. Settling in "Kryat Arba" settlement in Al-Khalil (Hebron) he practiced medicine, but his services were exclusively offered to



Jews. An interview with Baruch Goldstien accidentally made by an Unknown American documentary film director called "Tom Roberts" during the latter's survey of Jewish sectors in Brooklyn, New York may shed some light on this character. The "quite and polite" Goldstien says: Jewish people is like a herd of sheep living among 70 million wolves, the will of God will rule Israel, the wrong attitude of Israeli government is that it is acting as an ordinary state and nation not as an elite chosen by God, we are fooling ourselves by talking about coexistence with Arabs..they are a mixture of nationality and religion..if we don't expel them first they will do that to us later, the conduct of Israeli government is similar to that of some Jews who cooperated with the Nazis, Arabs are like an infection that should be fought as germs, he finally answered a question by the filmmaker about his profession and ideology saying that "there is a time to kill and a time to heal". He picked up a date that coincides with the first day of Purim, an occasion when Jews celebrate a military

victory and a revenge against their enemies, awkwardly enough it coincided with the first Saturday of the holy month of Ramadhan for Muslims, "the timing couldn't have been better" as Mike Guzosky, the leader of the American branch of "Kahane Lives" put it.

Some claim that Goldstien was killed by the furious terrorized Arab crowd, others claim that he committed suicide, a third group said that he wasn't even killed. Anyhow, a demonstration of his fellows took place where hundreds of "Kryat Arba" settlers and other sympathizers gathered in a ceremony shouting "we are all Goldstien", where the rabbi leading the gathering clearly announced that "A finger nail of a Jew worthes million Arab lives". Can we claim that the incident was "individual" and "isolated".

This takes us to the initial problem; violence when accompanied by ideological justification. Those sets of beliefs that are planted in the communal awareness of people, based on the sole and selfish right to exist and the demolishing of all other thoughts and beings. This build-up of an imaginary

world of no gray areas where your side of the truth is white and others' is totally black, and where civilization begins with that thought denying the civilizational and humanly existence of any other form thereof. Such ideologies, often built on religious or national myth and legend, lead to the destruction of others and ultimately to self-destruction.

That was the environment that Baruch Goldstien (or rather thousands Goldstiens) was raised in and thoughts forms that built his psyche. The teachings thousands of years old manipulated to be filled with hatred and disdain to all others forms of thought and existence, depriving even the transcendental religion off its moral values and messages. This is true especially for the settlers of western origins in the case of Israel, who arrive to that land filled with vague religious beliefs mixed with earlier colonial impressions of superiority. In their deep consciousness, the people of the lands they are to settle in are just another part of the virgin nature they are about to build, and those have to be treated as wild beasts to be confined or even destroyed in case of

resistance. This image can be easily traced in the multitude of cultural and artistic production of the Western civilization. This generations old load of belief is accompanied by a strict educational process that builds the fear of the others in the mind new settlers. They are taught to live in constant terror of being overwhelmed by their bloody neighbors at any moment, and as their lives go on, the machine gun becomes a part of the daily routine as food and drink. In that context, wars initiated against neighbors are always justified as a means of pre-protection. Radicalism is the ordinary infant of such education to the extent that surpasses even the patroning state, as in the case of Goldstien's massacre.

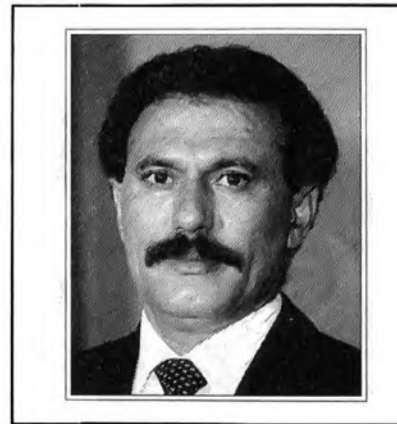
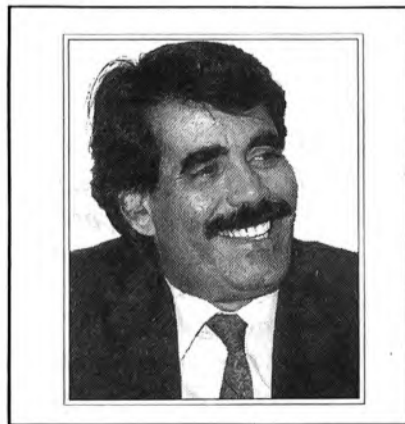
In such an environment, the newly arrived settlers shall justify their coming by showing utmost religious idealism manifested by the most extreme form of violence. The authorities reacted in similar violence, killing more and more Arabs, in an attempt to control the angry demonstrations that exploded throughout the occupied land, even in those parts occupied in 1948. So, more killing and killing went on with the pretext of protecting the "symbol" against destruction.

I am sure that humanity will sooner or later forget this horrible massacre, as Arabs who already had hundreds of holocausts have no guts to cry and weep for endless years, as the Jews are doing, to incriminate the whole world, nor do they have the power to stand against the notoriously vague accusation of being "anti-Semites" forgetting that they are more "Semites" than their Jewish "cousins".

Many people in the world, particularly in the West and even in Israel itself, now know who presents the real threat to peace and co-existence. And I do call on Arabs to keep that knowledge alive.

Yemen Free Zones Public Authority (YFZPA)

congratulates the Yemeni people on Eid Al-Fitr and best wishes of many happy returns.



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Electricity Problems	177
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Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
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Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
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National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
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Bank Indosuez	272801/3
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Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	275995/7
Germany	216756/757, 266873/4
Hungary	216250, 216679
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	243439/40
Iraq	216682/790
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	216701/736
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
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Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
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Somalia	208864
Sudan	265231/2
Syria	414892
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

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U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A.	238842/52
Vietnam	215985
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Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534

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UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204

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Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13
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Gulf Air	265274/75, 265374
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909
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Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
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Hadhramaut	2060

Tid Bits Corner

By Susan Sanganee

* Time and again, we see advertisements on "Vacancies" which appear in the local press. One bird told me that such advertisements are just for "formalities" in order to obtain work permits/entry visa for expatriates who have already been selected for the post. You can see in some advertisements that they can't possibly be thinking of a Yemeni candidate as requirements for long experiences and very high qualifications exclude Yemenis automatically. So what is the point?*

* Since as long ago as 1983, some 600 mid-level bureaucrats and low-income Sanaa families have been paying installments to the Housing Credit Bank in a housing project which the said Bank undertook to execute. Now those people offered a plot of land in the 26th September Township at Bait Bows, way in the southern peripheries of the city. But that is not the end of this long story. It is further reported that people with ties to our "beloved President", have taken ownership of these plots of land by force. If that were true, could the President restore the rights and "punish and punish his cousins?"

* It will definitely help if the present two separate systems of road tax and vehicle registration fees are combined into one system. This will allow the collection of the two taxes in one step.

By the way, could the traffic department introduce roadworthy examination of vehicles. Many cars should not be allowed on the roads. Unfortunately, many cars will not pass such an examination, but at least pedestrians will feel safe on the roads!

* = The Marketing Manager at Yemen Times is not happy with the question!

Science & Technology

By: Adel Ben-Harhara

THE LEGACY OF COMPUTERS

A computer is no different from a calculator, typewriter, file cabinet, or a FAX machine that we use on a daily basis. However, for many reasons, people are afraid of computers, as if it was a loaded gun. A computer can make numerical calculations in a fraction of the time that it would take a human being. But even children can handle the basic skills, such as recognizing faces, much better than the most advanced computer.

Human beings have always needed to count. In the dim millennia of prehistory, people had to make do with counting on their fingers or scratching marks on bones. By about 4,000 years ago, early civilizations developed sophisticated numbering systems to keep track of commercial transactions, astronomical cycles and other matters. Manual calculating tools appeared much later. And today, computations of prodigious complexity, as well as hosts of jobs apparently unrelated to numbers, are performed by sophisticated "electronic brains" called computers. Experts are quick to point out that a computer is not really a brain (or at least, some would add, not yet). Rather, it is simply another tool, another piece of machinery devised to reduce labor or extend our mastery of the world. For all its seeming brilliance, a modern computer's sole talent is to react with lightning speed to coded bursts of voltage.

The true brilliance is human: the genius of men and women who have found a way to translate a variety of information from the real world into the zeros and ones of the binary code, the logical and mathematical language tailor-made for computer's electronic circuitry.

Still, no other machine in history has so rapidly or so thoroughly changed the world. Computers have made possible such epic achievements as lunar landings and planetary probes, and they count for myriad everyday conveniences and benefits. They monitor anesthesia in hospital, help children learn to read in schools, create special effects for the movies. They have replaced or supplemented the typewriter in newsroom and adding machine in banks. They enhanced television reception, control telephone networks, and record the price of groceries at the supermarket check-out counter. In short, they are woven into the very fabric of modern life, making computer avoidance, if not computer ignorance, practically impossible.

Recent gains in computer power and versatility have come at a dizzying rate, spurred by the appearance in the early 1970s of a tiny technological miracle called the microprocessor. On this ship of silicon, smaller even than a baby's fingernail, reside hundreds of thousands of electronic components capable of out-performing the room-sized dinosaurs that had dominated the computer world only a few years before.

Despite the head-spinning pace of modern advances, the foundations of the computer revolution were built in slow and fitful fashion. A starting point was the development, more than 1,500 years ago, and probably in the Mediterranean world, of the abacus an arrangement of beads and rods used by merchants for counting and calculating. In arithmetical terms, the rods of an abacus act as place columns. Each bead on the ones rod is worth one, those on the 10s rod are worth 10 apiece, and so on. The abacus was so efficient that it soon spread far and wide, and in some lands it is still in use. Not until the 17th century, a time of great intellectual ferment, did it meet significant competition as a computation tool.

European thinkers of the era were fascinated by the challenge of dividing aids to calculation. Among the most resourceful was Jon Napier of Scotland, a theologian, mathematician and would-be-designer of military weapons who once tried to design a sort of death ray, a system of mirrors and lenses arranged to produce a lethal beam of concentrated sunlight. Of more lasting import was the publication in 1614 of his discovery of logarithms.

Although Napier's theory of logarithms would have enduring application, the bones were soon eclipsed by the slide rule and other types of calculators, most notably, a mechanical type pioneered by a brilliant Frenchman named Blaise Pascal. The son of a regional tax official, Pascal was only 19 when he began work on an adding machine in 1642; he was inspired in the attempt by the computational drudgery of his father's job. Before he died at the age of 39, he had earned a high place in history as a mathematician, physicist, writer and philosopher. One of today's computer programming languages is named in his honor. Though widely praised, the Pascaline, Pascal's first calculator, did not make Pascal rich. Nevertheless, his principle of interlocking wheels remained central to the operation of most adding machines for the next 300 years.

The Pascaline's most serious drawback was its convoluted method of performing any calculations other than simple addition. The first machine that could do subtraction, multiplication, and division easily was invented later in the century by a German genius whose imagination seemed to spawn no end of original ideas. Gottfried Leibniz was well embarked on his journey of learning. He spent his days reading through the books in his late father's library, mastering history, Latin, Greek and other subjects on his own.

The next great advance had nothing to do with numbers, initially, anyway. Throughout the 18th Century, French silk weavers had experimented with schemes for guiding their looms by perforated tape, punched cards or wooden drums. In all three systems, the presence or absence of holes created patterns in the fabric by controlling the way the yarns were raised or lowered. In 1804, Joseph Jacquard build a fully automated loom that could

handle enormously complicated design. The loom was programmed by mountain of punched cards, each card controlling a single throw of the shuttle. To produce a new pattern, the operator simply replaced one set of cards with another. But punched cards were destined to have their greatest impact in the programming of computers.

Of all the pre-20th Century thinkers and tinkerers who added something to the development of computing, the one who came closest to actually inventing a computer in the modern sense was an Englishman named Charles Babbage. Born into a wealthy family in 1791, Babbage earned fame for both the keenness of his mind and the crankiness of his personality. It was Babbage's great glory and lifelong frustration to have conceived the fundamental principles of the modern computer a century before the technology existed to build one. He spent many decades, much government money and a good deal of his private fortune in the attempt. Labor, health, money problems have beset Babbage's 1822 of Babbage Difference Engine and the 1833 of Analytical Engine.

Just 19 year after Babbage's death, one aspect of the analytical Engine pouched cards, appeared in a function machine. The machine was a statistical tabulator built by the American Hollerith to speed up the processing of returns for the 1890 U.S. census. The son of German immigrants, Hollerith was born in 1879 and worked with the US census office in Washington.

John Billings, a high-ranking census official and Hollerith's future father-in-law, suggested that the tabulation might be done with punched cards, and Hollerith spent the 1880s working to develop such a system. It is not known where Billings himself go the idea from Jacquard's loom, perhaps, or from watching railroad conductors punch tickets, but he was content to let Hollerith pursue it.

By 1890, Hollerith's tabulator bested several rivals to win the 1890 census contract and forge a new link in the chain of computer history. The cards in Hollerith's tabulator were in size of dollar bills. Each card had 12 rows of 20 holes to be punched for the data on age, sex, country of birth, number of children, occupation, marital status and everything else the census wanted to know about the U.S. population.

So swift was Hollerith's machine that a simple count was ready in six weeks, and a full statistical analysis in two and half years. He formed the Tabulating Machine Company to ease his invention to railroads, government offices, and even Tsarist Russia, which had decided that it, too, wanted a modern census.

The company was immediately successful; over the year, it passed through a number of mergers and name changes. The last came in 1924, five years before Hollerith died, and created the International Business Machines (IBM). Now, a century and half after Babbage's epic struggle with the Analytical Engine, IBM is a world leader in an industry that have brought to life his vision of "machine of the most general nature". Even Babbage's fertile mind could not have foreseen the forms that his dream machine would ultimately take.

Through the 20th Century magic of miniaturization, increasingly everyday objects and tools possess an kind of resident genie, a phenomenally some computing device call a microprocessor. Popularly known as a microprocessor is a far cry from clumsy electronic powerhouse composed of hundreds of thousands of microscopic electrical circuits etched on a tiny sliver of silicon.

Semiconductor companies sometimes spend millions of dollars developing a microprocessor design, but mass production may allow the chip to be sold for a few dollars. Other manufacturers then build the little wizards into enormous variety of products.

A microprocessor works by responding to electrical impulses that open and close its circuits thousands or millions of times per second. Each opening or closing represents a single unit of information, encoded in the digits zero or one of the binary system. The chi is thus a "digital" device, only interpreting information that is presented as individual bits, or binary digits, rather than perceiving it as a smooth, or "analog," continuum.

Like the dots and dashes of Morse code, the opened and closed circuits of a microprocessor can combine to spell out instructions for machines as diverse as automatic coffee makers and personal computers. so ubiquitous has the tiny digital genie become the millions of times a day, people take part in the computer revolution but act as mundane as making a telephone call, starting their cars, passing through a supermarket check-out counter, or merely checking the time on a wrist. But the miracle of the microchip has made that unlikely day possible, transforming the once-fallible wrists watch into a device that not only is extraordinary accurate, but also can take on all sorts of new roles.

Traditional watches use balance wheels, springs and gears to keep time. Electronic watches have replaced those innards with a microchip a quartz crystal and a battery. Thanks to these new parts, computerized watches never have to be wound, and they should be accurate to within three minutes a year (A traditional watch may lose three minutes a week).

In a computer-controlled watch, the microchip counts off the seconds and sends signals to the watch face, which may be either a traditional analog face or a new-style digital one. In the analog type, the signals more mechanical hands around the face to represent time as a continuous function. In the digital type, the microchip signals more mechanical hands around the face to represent time as a continuous function. In the digital types, the microchip signals electrodes that charge a liquid.

Astoundingly, that represents only a function of the chip's power. More than enough remains to enable

Continues on p. 17



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• Analysis •

April Seen As the Critical Month: An Assessment of How the Political Crisis Would Evolve

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

Why It Is Imminent:

Between here and May 22nd - and most probably during April - something has to give in the Yemeni political crisis. I believe the current situation cannot continue indefinitely for many reasons, the major ones being the following:

1. The YSP leadership has extracted as many concessions as it can from the Sanaa leadership. From here on, it can sit and wait for Sanaa to give in more, and it cannot accept the absence of identity of its own situation. The guys out in Aden are not part of the Sanaa system, and they do not have yet a clear-cut identity. This is not a comfortable situation for them. They will have to do something: either come back to the fold of Sanaa - say within a framework of new arrangements, or break away clearly. Moreover, the majority of the Yemeni population now believe the influential segment of the YSP is not interested in building a modern unified Yemen, they want to build their own state in the former PDRY.

2. The PGC leadership cannot continue to accept the lawlessness and chaos that have taken a dramatic toll on the system's legitimacy. The lack of control and frustration felt by the Sanaa rulers has to be replaced by something meaningful. At the same time, there is a growing sentiment among PGC circles is that the "appeasement" policy (Sanaa) has pursued towards Aden so far has proven to be counter-productive.

3. The military situation is getting precarious. Both Sanaa and Aden are involved in an arms race, which is truly pathetic because of the general poverty of the nation. Some estimates put the arms and ammunition purchases since August 1993 at \$200 million. Irrespective of "external financing" or donations of the recent arms, Yemen does not need to become an arms depot. The dangers and stakes are just too high.

According to analysts, the forces loyal to the PGC/Islah



enjoy a decided advantage over the forces loyal to the YSP. Some analysts give a 3 to 1 edge for the northerners.

This arms race cannot continue indefinitely.

4. The people of Yemen - more and more burdened by hardships - cannot take it any more. Therefore, a prolongation of the crisis may lead to civil unrest and violence, especially in light of the economic difficulties and security uncertainties.

For those and other reasons, something has to give in the very near future as either or both sides try to break the deadlock.

I think it will happen in April. Now what could happen? Let me share my thoughts by presenting three different scenarios.

1. Worst Case Scenario:

The worst of all possibilities for the country is the "War plus Fragmentation" scenario. This depends on what I term as the "Crazy Politicians" syndrome.

In this scenario, the hardliners in the YSP will push for open separation, which can only be achieved by defeating Sanaa. Hence the war, and possibly an extended civil war which will bring havoc to the whole nation.

Soon small power groups (clans) as in Somalia will carve out territories which they "govern." Eventually, the country is fragmented.

There is no return to re-partitioning the country as per the pre-unity YAR and PDRY status. The reason for this is that the people of Taiz/Ibb/Hodeidah, etc. are no longer going to accept hegemony of the less sophisticated northern tribes. And the people of

Hadhramaut/Aden, etc. will no longer accept the hegemony of the less sophisticated Dhala/Radfan/Yaffa tribes. All these regions are already positioning themselves to throw off the yoke of their "countrymen" if the present unity state does not work.

This scenario will probably lead to considerable instability in the region. It is envisaged that the splinter mini-states will have diverse patrons as they engage in endless squabbling and in-fighting. Some could also harbor all kinds of terrorist organizations.

2. Best Case Scenario:

In this scenario, our politicians will see light and agree to salvage the situation. It basically means a gradual replacement of the current politicians. The key aspect involves changing the current government based on an understanding among the ruling coalition partners. Or else this could be forced by the PGC by ordering the resignation of its members from the cabinet, thus bringing down the Al-Attas government.

This depends on what I term as the "Visionary Politicians" syndrome.

Then a new government is formed by a new YSP person (e.g., Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, Fadhle Mohsen, or any other person on whom all the partners agree.)

At least 50% of the old cabinet is replaced by technocrats. The old faces and those involved in the in-fighting and bickering are removed.

The new government gives legitimacy to the 18th January Document by adopting it as its program, which is approved by parliament.

Hopefully, the role of the presidency and presidential council will be steadily marginalized as a government of technocrats leads the nation to law, order and development.

The thrust of the new government will be characterized by three features:

a) The militarization process will be brought to an end by freezing all new purchases of arms and ammunition for the next five years.

b) Government posts as well as educational institutions will be depoliticized as the criteria

of merit takes precedence.
c) Local government system is evolved and applied.
As a result, the democratization process takes hold and the formation of a civil society gets underway.

3. Most Likely Scenario:

But I think neither of the two previous scenarios has a good chance of really happening. The reason is simple. Our politicians are not crazy, but, unfortunately, they are not visionary, either.

Lack of political will and the pressure brought to bear by internal and external forces against taking a "bold" step will bring the situation to a muddle. Thus, the politicians will opt for piece-meal solutions which are like temporary tranquilizer for a dangerous and growing ailment. The politicians will offer some solutions to the most pressing issues, thus only buying limited time.

Gradually, however, increased disenchantment creeps in, and in a few years, the crisis takes hold again. As the hardships continue and the country's economy falls to pieces, a leftist (military) coup d'etat

takes over, following a tremendous upheaval by the civilian population coupled a conviction to forego political pluralism, democracy, etc. Even the intellectuals and urban middle class will concede to this. The time envisaged for such a development is about two years.

Those are the possibilities that I see facing the evolution of the Yemeni crisis. The actions and decisions of the politicians and people, as well as external meddling, will have a strong effect regarding which of these possibilities becomes a reality.

The stakes for Yemen are very high. That is good reason for all of us to be involved in the management of the country. The urban elites, the middle class, merchants, intellectuals, and unionists are already pushing forward to have a say. The future of the nation. Certain army officers are also showing their restlessness as inept politicians push the country towards an unknown destiny. Various circles are forming in different places, just in case they need to steer of events in a certain direction.

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