



# YEMEN TIMES



**INSIDE**

• April 10 through 16th, 1994

Volume IV, Issue No. 15 •

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## Even as the Guns Fell Silent Again,

# Dhamar Residents Restless

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi, and  
Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times

Two days after the sudden Ba-Suhaib camp shelling of the Northern military camps (Republican Guard and Central Security) the town regained quiet, but the situation remains tense and strained. Two days after the 6th of April incidents, the Yemen Times, the only newspaper to be on site, visited Dhamar on Friday along with members of parliament and the military committee.

Although there was a lot of hardware being paraded - tanks along the streets, artillery and anti-aircraft guns, as well as bazookas and machine guns - the situation was calm. But the heavily armed people and soldiers pose a serious threat to the peace of the city. Small groups of soldiers from the two sides continue to patrol the streets and surroundings of their respective camps while the PGC/Israh and YSP forces remain in full alert. Both president Ali Abdulla Salih and vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh jointly inter-

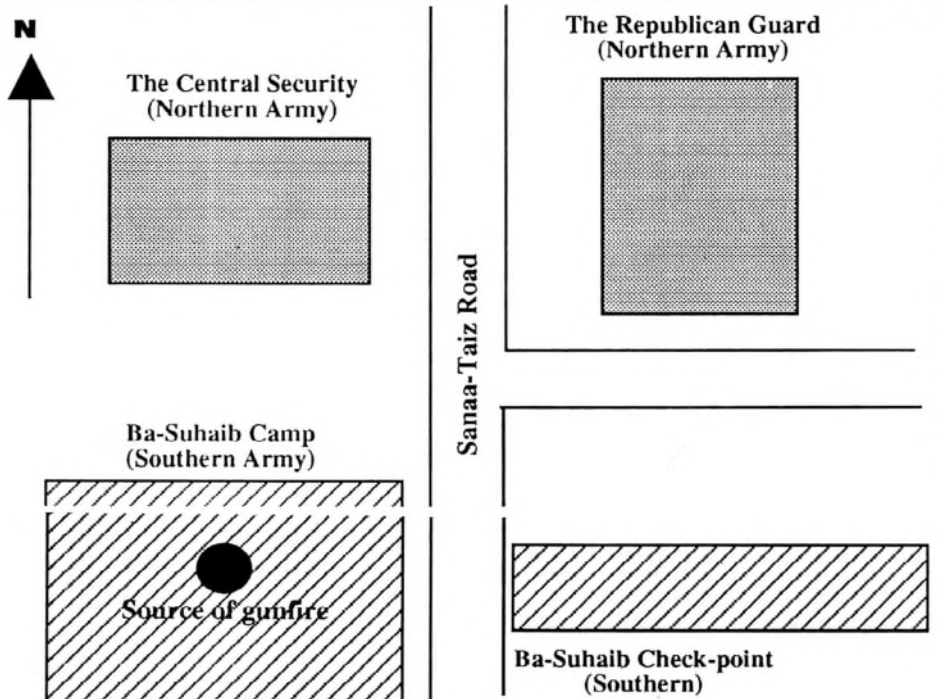
vened to contain the events and bring the situation under control. That was in a rare example of coordination in months between the two men, thus giving credence that the two men are actually coordinating their moves in the crisis. Residents of the town who were frightening to death by the sound of the shelling, are still in panic and the atmosphere is very tense. "You can't rule out the possibility of a new break-out of violence in the city," one shop-keeper told the Yemen Times. He has taken away most of the



precious goods and has emptied his warehouse. He said he was ready to leave the city immediately if the security situation deteriorates. "Some families have already started to leave the town," the residents say. Colonel Ali Mohamed Salah, Deputy Chief of Staff and the head of the Military Committee told the Yemen Times that as the basic reason for all these complications is the political crises. "As long as politicians cannot resolve their differences, a military confrontation cannot be ruled out," he said. The incidents were triggered by a car which passed in front of the Ba-Suhaib camp and opened fire. The military committee is trying to find out the identity and motives of those who opened fire on the guards of the Ba-Suhaib camp. "We are also trying to return all forces to their original positions before this sad incident. Colonel Selah anxiously pointed out that Dhamar city was being turned into an arsenal as PGC, YSP and Israh are actively engaged in arming their members and supporters with all kinds of arms. "We have no mandate to collect arms or to address irregular armed forces," he sadly in a subdued tone.

More details on page 8

Map of Central Dhamar City Showing Location of Main Military Camps



## One More Time Mediating Between ALIs:

The capital of the republic has bid welcome yesterday, Saturday, April 9th, to the president of Eritrea, His Excellency Mr. Asias Afworq.

The Eritrean official is giving one more shot to the efforts of intermediation between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh. The two men have been quarreling over the amangement of the country since August 19th when Al-Beedh returned to Aden and would not budge. Earlier intermediation were handled by His Majesty King Hussain of Jordan and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of the Sultanate of Oman. Neither effort was successful in resolving the Yemeni crisis although they were instrumental in diffusing the tension.

In addition, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is trying his hand at resolving the Yemeni crisis. In no other case in modern history is there evidence in which political leaders have acted in such a childish manner. The two ALIs have been unable to even honor what they agree to, and they themselves are steadily being pawned by the men



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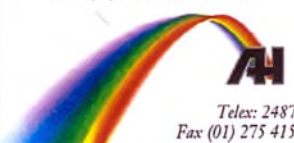
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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### What Happens to Yemenis as They Grow Up

The other day I came across half a dozen little boys and girls in my neighborhood. They ranged between 6-10 years of age. As we talked, we struck a cordial cord, and the conversation went on for over half an hour.

I came out deeply impressed by our young ones. They are as promising as any kids in a hopeful society. They were aware of what was going on, they were ambitious in that each of them took it for granted they will continue their education, and that they will be become professionals.

"What do you want to do?" I asked.

"I want to be an engineer."

"I want to be a (medical) doctor."

"I want to be a university professor."

"I want to be a lawyer."

"I want to be a businessman."

Those were some of the answers that I received. I asked about politics. The little guys immediately told me there was trouble between Sanaa and Aden. They know about the two ALIs. I was shocked. They must be watching a lot of television, and their folks may be talking about the political crisis a lot in front of their kids.

I asked about school. Again I was shocked. The little fellows talk about irresponsibility on the part of their teachers and school administrators. They mention things like, "We had a class, and the teacher did not come."

It is very informative and insightful to talk to our future generations. The next time you meet little kids, go ahead start a conversation and you will be surprised as to how much they know.

It gave me a great hope that our young people are so promising. Then, all of a sudden reality dawned on me, as I walked into adult life. As I met my grown-up friends, I could not help but think, "Were these adults as good as my new small friends when they were young? What happened to them as they were growing? Why are the adults so lacking, when the little ones show so much promise?"

These are questions which warrant deep studying from our sociologists, educationists, psychologists, etc.

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### Enron President in Yemen

Ms. Rebecca Mark, President of Enron Development, arrives here on Tuesday evening, April 12th. According to Yemen Times sources, the Enron official is trying to reach agreement with the General Gas Corporation regarding a number of details which will lead to the final contracts for the exploitation of the Marib gas.

### Yemen to Transmit TV Programs via Arabsat

Parliament has approved last week an agreement which would allow the Republic of Yemen to transmit television programs through the Arabsat network. The required funds have already been paid, according to a ministry of information source.

There are two committees busy at work to prepare for the launching of the Yemeni TV channel, scheduled to start in 1996. The first committee looks into policy matters, and the second into technical issues and preparations of programs for transmission.

### Air France to Start a Second Frequency

Air France is planning to start a second service into Sanaa, Yemen Times learned. Airline specialists believe that a second frequency will help bolster the sector, which is a drain on the French Airline. Among the foreign airlines operating in Yemen, Air France is probably the least profitable.

### Cabinet Meets in Taiz

The Council of Ministers has met this week for two consecutive days in Taiz. The meetings in Taiz, which took place on Wednesday and Thursday (6+7th April) come as a compromise in the eternal tug of war between Sanaa and Aden.

The Dialogue Committee had earlier agreed to hold initial cabinet meetings in Aden, then make a transition to Taiz, before the government finally moves to Sanaa, the nation's capital.

While the location of the meeting has a great symbolic and psychological significance, the cabinet has actually made headway in addressing real issues in the implementation of the January 18th Document (known officially as the Commitment and Agreement Pact).

### Japanese Aid to Help Clean-Up Aden

Notes concerning grant assistance for the project for the Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Aden City were exchanged on April 5th between Japanese ambassador in Sanaa Mr. Susumu Akiyama, and the Vice Minister for Planning and Development Dr. Mutahhar Al-Saedi.

According to the notes, the Japanese government will provide 536 million Yens (about US\$ 5 million) which will be used for the purchase of equipment for garbage collection, for final disposal site and for maintenance and operation of the project. The municipality of Aden has taken charge of the resources of the assistance grant.

### Ba-Sindiwah in Teheran

Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, Foreign Minister, has visited Teheran at the head of a delegation. Their mission is to "explain" the Yemeni political crisis, and seeking Iranian sympathy for the position of the People's General Congress (PGC) vis-a-vis the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

This effort has expanded the ring of countries for whose sympathy and support the PGC and YSP have been competing. The race, so far, had been limited to this side of the Gulf coast. Now, the PGC has moved to the other side of the coast.

### Yemenia Marketing Conference Underway

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council, kicks off today, Sunday 10th April, 1994, the Yemenia Sales and Marketing Conference which takes place at the Sheraton Hotel.

According to Amin Al-Haimi Marketing Manager of the Airline, 27 Yemenia station managers are flying in for the event which is supposed to draw up the marketing strategy for the coming year. He also pointed out all that local and international sales agents of the airline from 105 cities worldwide will attend the three-day workshop.

This is a regular event through which the airline tries to keep in tone with market trends and in touch with customer needs. Read more details on the conference on page 4.

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Mohammed Al-Madani:

"We are trying to secure the best possible deal for Yemen."

The Marib gas exploitation project is probably the largest single investment ever undertaken in the history of Yemen. Its total costs are expected to reach several billion US dollars.

It is also a project on which the nation pins a lot of hope - as a source of foreign exchange, as a source of revenue for the state, as a source of employment, as a source of cheap energy for industrialization, and as a source of an important impetus for economic growth. It is finally the center of heated debate and argument - at the internal level, as well as among the competing international companies seeking to wrench out the concession rights.

To shed light on this project, Yemen Times reporter Al-Izzy Asselwi interviewed Mr. Mohammed Al-Madani, General Manager of the General Gas Corporation. A soft-spoken man, Mr. Al-Madani is an engineer by training, and has been involved in the energy sector since 1980. He has been working on the gas project since 1988, when he first opened negotiations with the Yemen Hunt Oil Company team regarding potential exploitation of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

If anybody knows about the gas project, it is Mr. Al-Madani.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: Can you give us some background regarding the gas project?**

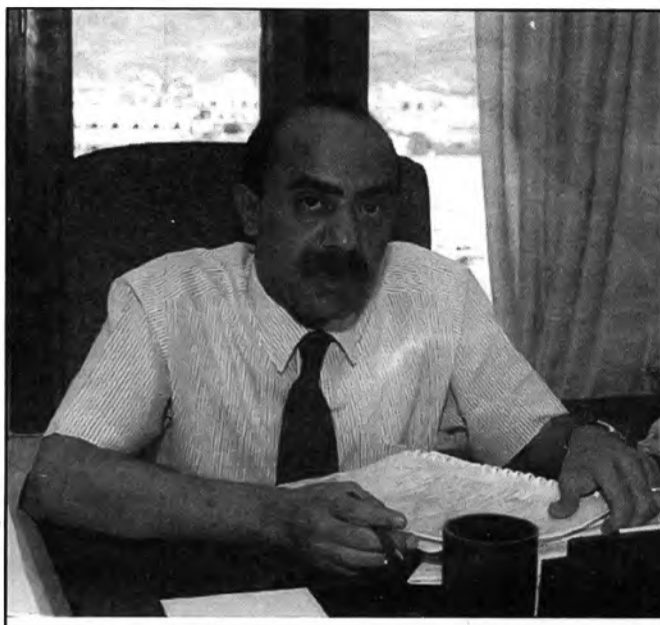
**A:** In June 1988, we opened negotiations with Hunt on the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for household consumption purpose. The LNG relaunched by parliament in 1990 (after unity) leading to the signing of the gas protocol between the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and Hunt in 1991.

Since that time we have been trying to obtain acceptable offers from various contractors, notably Hunt, for the exploitation of the gas resource. You are aware, of course, that we have hard data on the reserves of gas available, and they are well beyond the needed volume for commercial exploitation for local consumption and exports.

The political situation in the country and the rapid and continuous changes after the unity also resulted in delays in negotiating and finalizing an agreement. It was until August 1993 that the first decision came from the Supreme Council for Economics, Investments and Oil. The Enron offer was preferred to the Hunt one, and by November 1993, we signed a one-year Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Enron. The idea is to finalize the implementation agreements with Enron within a year of the signing of the MOU. This means, we are about halfway in time for finalizing the four agreements for exploitation of the gas.

**Q: What does the MOU give Enron?**

**A:** Well, the MOU is the initial step towards a firm commitment on both sides. It gives Enron the commitment from our side not to talk to any other company except Enron on the LNG project in Yemen. The MOU includes certain guidelines, including the commercial terms. It includes the parameters for negotiations between the two



parties until November 1994 in order to strike a deal. If we conclude the deal, then implementation starts immediately, if we fail to reach an agreement, then each side is free to review other options or to start re-negotiations.

**Q: How does Hunt fit in all of this?**

**A:** The Hunt/ Exxon/Yukong team started from the misconception that we had no right to talk to others regarding the gas project. They claim that they are the only company with the right to exploit the Marib gas. Thus they tried to obstruct our efforts to reach out to other companies. We had preferred the Hunt group to come up with an acceptable offer, but they did not. So, we went with Enron. I hope that problem is now over. I would like to use this forum to invite the Hunt group to try to join in with Enron and whoever is with it to create a unified proposal because this is a giant project and there is room for everybody.

**Q: But our previous production sharing agreement, does it give Hunt any rights on gas?**

**A:** Yes it gives Hunt and its partners the right to exploitation of the gas if the government agrees to that. But that does not leave the government stuck to Hunt.

**Q: Aren't you asking for trouble? If these giant companies come together, what makes you sure Yemen will get a good deal?**

**A:** We are inviting them to work together in the project in order to combine the capabilities and skills of all companies together in one big deal. But this will be according to the terms and conditions accepted by the Yemeni government. We have hired international consultants with long experiences in the field. These include companies like Arthur D. Little (UK), Noridine Ait-Laoussine (Algeria/Switzerland) and Robert Pietrowski (USA). We have a historic responsibility on our shoulders, as this is the largest project in the history of Yemen. We are trying to avoid the mistakes committed by other countries. We are trying to secure the best possible deal for Yemen.

**Q: Let us shed some light on the basic data of the project, how much is the proven commercial reserve of gas in Yemen?**

**A:** Let me specify the figures

needed by the project, rather than what is available. Reserves can change over time.

The export-oriented component of the project needs 7.5 trillion cubic feet (TCF); and the local consumption component will need about one TCF, during the life-time of the project. In other words, the whole requirement of the project is less than 9 TCF and this is the proven commercial gas reserves are much more than that. Any additional, new discoveries and reserves will be used to expand/extend the project,

**Q: What are the major components of the project as it is envisioned now?**

**A:** There are two major components - the export component and the local consumption part. Each component has its infrastructure and facilities. Given the government's difficult financial circumstances, we have tied the two components. That is to say that the company which wins the export component of the project will have to finance the domestic consumption part and deduct the expenses as cost recovery later.

**Q: Have there been any changes in the lay-out of the project, say like the routes of pipelines?**

**A:** The project has not yet taken final shape, but there are basic components which are rather well known.

The export-oriented component involves a pipeline that goes to the sea - either at Aden or Hodeidah. A decision on that has not yet been taken given the political complications.

(Editor's note: Logically and economically, the pipeline should head southwards to Aden. But the nightmare of re-partitioning the country is forcing a reconsideration of its route towards Hodeidah.)

The gas liquefaction facilities will cost roughly 1.5 to 2 billion dollars, because of the huge investments. Our export strategy is based on FOB (free on board). The domestic pipeline will come to Sanaa, which is the largest consumption center.

**Q: We have often been told that the Enron deal is superior to the Hunt deal. Could you give us tangible examples.**

**A:** The most basic example the total revenue to the government. In the Enron deal, the government could potentially collect almost US\$30 billion, while in the Hunt deal, the total is US\$17 billion.

Enron offers to construct the domestic gas consumption part

of the project (read, the Safir-Sanaa gas pipeline) - at an estimated cost of US\$ 30 million - as a part of the national gas pipeline network and will supply the gas free of charge for the first phase of the project. The company will also make a signature bonus payment of US\$ 20 million.

Hunt, on the other hand, offers to construct the pipeline and rent it to the government.

Enron commits to buy the gas upfront itself. We will not worry about marketing. I think they plan to use it in their own project in India.

Hunt says it will seek market arrangements once it has firmly secured the deal in its hands.

The Enron offer commits to Yemenize the whole manpower within a period of five years. That means, through a training and replacement program, everybody, including the project manager, will be Yemeni in five years. The Hunt offer does not have a clause to match this.

Finally, by bringing in other companies, Yemen will have diversified its business. You know we are now deeply involved with Hunt and its partners. If we add the gas deal to the same company, we will be putting too many eggs in one basket. By bringing in another company, or another group of companies, we will be more able to work with all of them - old and new - in the best interests of the country.

**Q: Given the various projects in gas coming up worldwide, do you anticipate marketing difficulties?**

**A:** That is a most important

issue and it is also a major difference between Enron and Hunt offers. As I have explained earlier, Hunt will start looking for markets after the final signing of the agreement, while Enron has ready markets for Yemeni gas. Enron has signed an agreement with India to build a huge gas power plant and it is considering Yemeni gas to fuel that power plant.

If we go with Enron, I do not see much trouble in this regard.

**Q: How far have you come with Enron?**

**A:** We are still negotiating with them. We do have a deadline at the end of November, which may be extended for two or three months, if deemed necessary.

The president of Enron Development is arriving here next week. She wants the Yemeni government to confirm it will go ahead with the project and that it will be ready to export the gas by 1998, and we expect to have another meeting with Enron at the end of April in Sanaa. The negotiating committee of MOMR will discuss various issues with them.

**Q: Do you have any other offers from companies other than Hunt and Enron?**

**A:** We have made many contacts in the past, but we are now concentrating on the Enron proposal. We obviously have many contacts and connections.

**Q: Are you planning to bring in local companies in the project?**

**A:** Yes, we definitely plan that although we do not have specific plans. There are two levels to

this kind of participation:

a) We hold the option to go for 30% of the total investment in the project. We and any other government or private companies will chip in to fill this percentage.

b) We also have the local component (domestic consumption of gas) which will be a purely local business.

**Q: On the macroeconomics level how do you evaluate this project and its impact on the Yemeni economy?**

**A:** It will for sure push our economy forward to new thresholds. I said earlier this is the largest project ever in the history of Yemen.

For the first five years, the government income will be limited to only from 100 to 150 million dollars annually because most of the income will go towards cost recovery. But the revenue will gradually rise to 300 and 400 and then up to a billion dollars annually. The employment and spin-off effect of the project are, of course, enormous, although we do not have any specific calculations.

**Q: When will exports begin?**

**A:** If things go according to plan, by 1998 we should start exports. The project is planned to last for 30 years.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I would like to thank Yemen Times for being keen to update the public on this important project and for protecting its credibility by presenting all sides to the issues.

I call on all Yemeni citizens to help us secure the best possible deal for the country.

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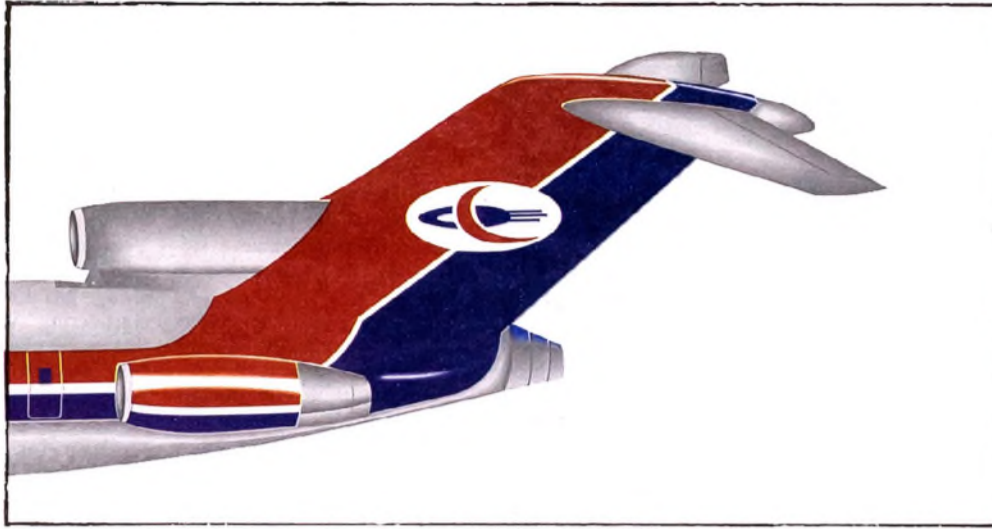
## YEMENIA Unveils a New Marketing Strategy

Even with the difficult political times the Republic of Yemen has been undergoing, Yemen Airways (Yemenia) has achieved a 24.3% increase in revenue in 1993 over 1992. The total sales in 1993 was YR 1.7 billion, and the airline carried 387,990 passengers on board its 5,782 international flights.

Over three quarters of the revenue was generated by the nearby sectors, especially Saudi Arabia. This sector achieved a 19% growth rate, while the Gulf sector witnessed a 1.4% increase. Unfortunately, the European and outer periphery of Middle Eastern countries saw a new decrease in business. While the European markets fell by 4% in 1993 (compared to 1992), the African and Middle Eastern markets fell by 8.6%.

These statistics are the basis for a major marketing address the commercial manager of Yemenia,

Mr. Abdullah Al-Kibsi, gives today. It is believed sector service and routing of the airline will see major changes based on these statistics. "It is clear that some new routes, like Beirut, will be introduced, while certain existing routes, like Amman, will be strengthened. Other routes may be reduced and even cancelled," said to a leading



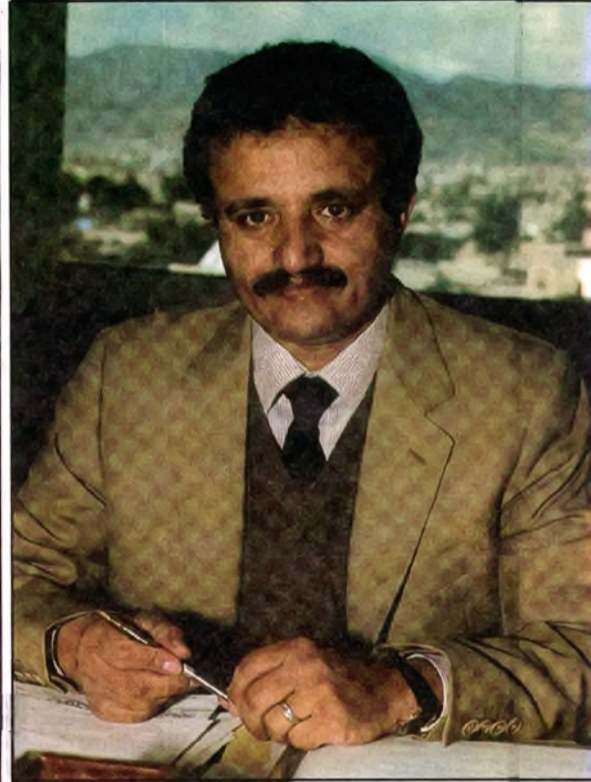
sales agent in Sanaa.

The Yemenia Chairman, Mr. Ahmed Kaid Barakat, has been strict regarding the timetables and schedules of departures and arrivals. "Reliability and punctuality are keys factor to the modern passenger," he said.

Mr. Ameen Al-Haimi, Marketing manager of the airlines, is using this opportunity to expand the competitiveness of the company. The only way to survive in this deadly competition is by meeting the needs of our passengers and giving them full satisfaction," he said.

Yemen Times will run a full report on the three-day conference in next week's issue.

By: Samira Bin Daair,  
Yemen Times.



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# PEOPLE TO BE THE FOCUS IN UN'S 50th YEAR

When US President Bill Clinton visited the UN-Assembly last September, he stressed in his speech that "the first words of the UN Charter are not 'we the governments' but 'we the peoples of the United Nations'."

Clinton's point will be the focus of activities planned by the 184-member organization as it celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. The official theme is: "We, the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World."

Richard Butler chairman of the UN committee in charge of organizing celebrations stated in an interview, "The way in which society has developed demands that we do just as much for the welfare of people, maybe more, than for the security of states." Butler is Australia's ambassador to the UN.

His remarks are in sharp contrast to a recent statement by UN Under-Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto, who indicated the UN would not seek to implement binding Security Council resolutions relating to Asia for example regarding the Kashmir civil war problem unless specific governments in the region request the UN's help.

Asked whether the two points of view could be reconciled, Butler said, "If we could sum up in one single sentence the challenge of the 50th anniversary, it's to make sure that people count just as much

under the UN Charter as do states. It is true that the UN is an organization of sovereign states," Butler added. "But the goals and purposes of the principles of the UN Charter are just as much directed at the welfare of the people as to states."

Butler indicated that these guiding principles provide the unifying theme for several UN conferences that will highlight the 50th anniversary year. The conferences include the world Summit on Social Development, and the World Conference on women, which he said would chart the course for a solution of peoples' problems. The World Summit on Social Development will serve as a "basket for a host of other issues such as population, environment and rights of women," the ambassador said. The summit will take place in Copenhagen in March 1995.

According to Butler, the summit would make social issues central to the planing of international organizations and national governments. "The conference is expected to result in effective strategies for social integration, alleviation and reduction of poverty, and enhancement of productive employment," he noted. "People want a decent standard of living above all, and they want to enjoy it in a framework of peace."

The Fourth World Conference on Women in scheduled to place in Beijing in September

1995. Butler said it will be a special feature of the UN 50th anniversary year. This Conference is expected to make proposals to end gender-based discrimination; increase the percentage of women in decision-making roles; and focus on women's rights in the 21st century.

Apart from these two events that will take place in 1995, Butler includes the activities related to three other UN conferences in the context of the UN anniversary. The conferences include the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September 1994; the 1993 UN Human Rights Conference in Vienna; and the 1992 Rio Summit on Environment and Development.

Butler also puts forward the "Agenda for Development" report being prepared by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as a milestone. "Agenda for Development" will follow the Secretary-General's 1992 "Agenda for Peace" report has emphasized preventative diplomacy in resolving international conflicts.

Asked to compare the UN's anniversary in 1985 to the 50th anniversary in 1995, Butler said: "There is about a light year's difference.... The 40th anniversary took place while the Cold War was still on maybe not as desperately as in some early times, but still under the shadow of the Cold

War."

"Relations on a global basis were nowhere near as co-operative as they are now. That, together with the enormous sense of global interdependence that has taken place makes the 50th anniversary completely different. We can address problems of human security, just as much as we have to address problems of the security of states."

"The 50th anniversary comes at a time when we have an unprecedented opportunity to make real the objectives that were agreed upon at San Francisco (1945 meeting of the UN Conference on International organization at which the UN charter was signed)," Butler elaborated.

"The UN Charter is an extraordinary document that was very much shaped by a conflict in which tens of millions of people died. The 50th anniversary comes at the end of another conflict the Cold War.

Asked to identify the specific ways in which this anniversary would be celebrated, Butler said that national committees had been formed to co-ordinate activities in their respective countries. The main focus of the proposed activities are education, multimedia activities spotlight the UN, and program for children and youth.

Regarding educational programs for the 50th anniversary, projects include the

development and distribution of supplementary educational materials highlighting important global issues.

Butler said the materials would be easy to adapt in different languages, and to different cultures. The educational materials will include software, audio/video materials, publications and flags.

In talking about celebrations for the UN's 50th birthday, the 52 year-old Butler said with a smile, "At age 50, everyone deserves a birthday party." An all-star popular musical commemorative event will be broadcast internationally during the week of 24 October, 1995.

Butler also indicated that a drafting group has been established by his committee to prepare a declaration to be presented at a commemorative session of the General Assembly on United Nations Day, 24th October over next year.

Multimedia activities include a six-part documentary production entitled "Under the Blue Flag." The film will be aired around the world, and will examine the principal tasks facing the organization.

There will also be a series of radio programs, and a world-wide campaign with posters in city streets, public service announcements, and advertisements in buses, subways and airline terminals.

Activities for children includes the "Global Citizen Card"

project for children aged from five to ten, to promote a sense of membership in the world community. Children will be able to obtain the cards by mail or telephone. A traveling exhibition for children will feature interactive software programs focusing on issues such as peace, environmental preservation and human rights. Butler said his committee wants to emphasize to people, especially to children, that the UN is a part of the fabric of everyday life in modern society.

"How many people realize that when they go to post a letter, they can only do so because of the rules of the Universal Postal Union?" Butler said, "When they use a plane, the airline has to follow the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization."

"The radio waves of the world are regulated by the International Telecommunications Union," Butler said. The Food and Agriculture Organization UN affiliate based in Rome, "does research that affects the production of the food we eat, and the World Health Organization has done important work in fighting diseases such as malaria, smallpox and Aids.

"Aids provides a good example," he added. "It is laughable to think that the Aids virus or an environmental catastrophe, for example, will stop at a national boundary. Global Co-operation is the answer."

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## SECURITY PRECEDES FAITH

There is no choice but to overcome this deteriorating political situation that is warning of a bloody eruption unless we start to urgently implement the Document of Pledge and Accord.

The Document provides a common ground for all the political parties to work, coordinate and cooperate. It is evident that the Document - given the concepts and steps it calls for in order to build a modern state - does not allow more maneuvers and deceptions aimed at emptying it from all its contents.

What is required is a serious and direct tackling of the crisis to reduce the pain and close the file of the crisis for good. What is important is to start the implementation through taking the steps that lead to the stabilization of the situation.

We believe that security and safety ought to be first priority and they are the real foundation for creating the suitable circumstances which lead to interaction of the constitutional institutions and bridge the rift among all forces in the political scene.

It is time to protect the unity and put an end to attempts to annex, and marginalize others. The creation of political stability will enable us to correct the march forward, and this is not possible to achieve without the efforts of all parties in unifying their wills to stand up against intimidation, sabotage, violence and other forms of lawlessness.

The arresting of criminals and terrorists represents a good starting point to get out of the crisis and all its difficulties. It is self-evident that arresting the law-breakers doesn't require all the squabbling and procrastination which the present practices. Evidence reveals that those forces protecting the terrorists and law-breakers are against the interests of the nation.

In reality, the issue of terrorism has become an accurate indicator whether our politicians are serious about implementation of the document or not. It is a truth that security precedes faith.

Editorial  
Aden, Aden  
2/4/1994

## YEMEN IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL

The Yemenis are experiencing a critical turning point in their history and it is noticeable that such a crisis has not occurred in this part of the peninsula whether during the divisionalization period or the periods of the unification. The situation requires that all the citizens get rid of this egoism (interests), tribalism, favoritism, partisan, regionalism.

It is time to assess the situation and decide what to do to rescue the homeland from a catastrophe.

Yemen is the responsibility of all the citizens and when Yemen is affected, the wounds will affect the next generation. It is a summons to every honest, loyal, thoughtful citizen to wake up from this deep sleep. It is time to say: No to fighting! No to partitioning the homeland! Yes, to peace and a bright future! Yes to the Document! Yemen does not belong to any political party or tribe. Yemen belongs to all the Yemenis and no one has any right to employ the armed forces to serve his own interests/authority.

You should not be dragged to the concepts of divisionalization, fighting and destruction of the country. The democratic practices and sit-in protests are the duty of all the patriots all over the country.

By Zaid Ali Hagar,  
Al-Balagh, Sanaa,  
29/3/1994.

## THE CRISIS AND THE DOCUMENT

One of the positive sides to the crisis is this open criticism of the circumstances and bringing everything out in the open. Yet, also one of the outstanding features of the crisis is that there is no clear vision in dealing with the causes of the crisis.

Those who deny the existence of the crisis haven't got a clear idea of the causes and reasons, and they are either confused or intentionally unwilling to see the facts. In fact, some of these people are adventurous, they hinder the modernization process, and they are pushing the nation to turmoil.

It is worth mentioning that there are others who are well aware of the crisis and its causes, and they have the vision, ideas and ability to tackle it, but unfortunately they are blocked by others and are not allowed to contribute to a solution. Without being overzealous, we can confirm that the YSP has a project for interaction to rescue the homeland and the citizens from a catastrophe.

Interacting with the Document forms a foundation for all to work clearly without imposing or ignoring others. Some of the ignorant and backward people think that the Document will lead to a catastrophe for the country. Those are the ones who are unable to interact with the march of history and the transformation of political life and they see in the Document something beyond the needs of Yemen. Then, what is required?

The reality is that we are living a crisis of a special kind in the region. Yes, we have a Document but the problem is how to transform it into a reality. Thus, the crisis will remain since it is a play or toy of political circles. The public is betting unanimously in the implementation of the Document.

What are the steps to be taken? That is the question which requires the good offices and initiatives of all good Yemenis in leading us out of the crisis. The crisis will remain the main issue of every citizen at all times until it is resolved.

By: Hashim Abdulaziz,  
Al-Thawri, Sanaa,  
31/3/1.

## WHERE ARE THEY LEADING US?

Last week witnessed a grave setback to the efforts which were exerted by the Dialogue Committee of the political parties on the way of re-unifying the constitutional and executive institutions and restoring the situation to its normalcy between the two major ruling parties. It was a sound national step that the Dialogue Committee had taken after consultations with the relevant bodies in the conflict. They took a resolution to hold cabinet meetings first in Aden, then in Taiz and finally to come over to Sanaa. They have decided to work together as one team and lay down the foundations for tackling the current situation. The Committee even sched-

uled within its resolutions a timetable for holding the meetings of the parliament and the presidential council. This is what we have heard through the media.

Those resolutions had their good psychological impact on the citizens who waited for a long time for any harmony among the politicians and for a restoration of credibility and stability.

The other initiative was the meeting of the parliament in a response to the Dialogue Committee's demands. What remains is for the presidential council to meet, notwithstanding the absence of Mr. Salem Salch Mohammed, who was supposed to come to Sanaa for the meeting.

The new momentum forms a starting point towards getting over the difficulties of lack of credibility and trust. Due to the already bad situation, the citizens are depressed and frustrated and they are hoping for something positive to happen rather soon. The citizens keep on asking, "Where are our leaders taking us?"

By: The Political Editor  
Al-Haq, Sanaa,  
3/4/1994

## THE PLIGHT & SUFFERING INCREASES

The crisis has taken its toll on a great number of citizens. Many middle-class class people have been pushed to the low-income class, while many from the low-income group have been pushed to begging. These are people from different ages, sexes, geographic and tribal backgrounds. Now you can see beggars at almost every intersection in our cities. You see them everywhere.

Of course, the pain and suffering of the people is due to many things including unemployment, poverty, devaluation of the local currency, hike in prices, diseases and other ills that started to expand and take major dimensions.

The suffering expanded to spread into new areas such as the security sphere and there is fear of fighting and lawlessness. The military deterioration is also something known to the people. How much money was spent on purchasing all the weapons?

What we require is construction and development and not guns that bring destruction and bloodshed.

In reality one of the first steps in arresting the deteriorations is arresting those accused of crimes, violence, terrorism. Instead of fighting, why not arresting the criminals and exposing them to trials. The interest of the people requires a sound tackling of the crisis.

By Hassan Al-Qadhi  
Al-Shoura, Sanaa  
3/4/1994

## THE HIDDEN FORCES AND ITS ROLE IN THE CRISIS

I claim that there is a hidden force behind the crisis moving us towards self-destruction and our case something different from what happened Somalia and Lebanon. It will lead Yemen toward a catastrophe that humanity has never witnessed before.

The manipulation of the crisis, after only hours of the signing of the document in Amman, confirms definitely that there is such a hidden force that endeavors to cause harm to the rulers and the people of Yemen. There is other evidence of the existence of such a force or forces and it is represented in this continuous deterioration in the military and negotiation arrangements.

Locals complain that the role of the hidden forces has exceeded its limits. People are especially perplexed by the dramatic cycles of optimism and despair that repeat themselves. Optimism during the morning is followed by pessimism in the evening and so on. The citizens' nerves have been taxed to the limit.

What is the reason behind these premeditated actions? What does this hidden force want? Who is benefiting from what is happening? When we review the list of possibilities and see who will benefit from the situations, we reach the conclusion that the ones who benefit from the current status quo are behind the crisis. The citizens have paid a heavy price in the form of the deterioration of living standards, lower quality of life, etc. In the case of a military showdown, the citizen will again be the victim as well as capegoat for the problems.

It seems that all the mediation efforts have come to a deadlock. Regardless of the standpoints of the optimists and pessimists, the situation continuously adds to the frustration and tension.

It is within the hands of the ruling coalition parties to reveal to the people the source of tension and the role of the hidden powers who drive the homeland to a catastrophe.

The question which worries me is whether all the power centers support unity, democracy and the Document of Pledge and Accord? If they all do, then Yemen will be experiencing a critical turning point in our history. The situation requires that all citizens get rid of any egoist tendencies and personal interests, tribalism, favoritism, partisanism, regionalism, etc.

It is time to assess the situation and decide what to do to rescue the homeland from a catastrophe.

Yemen is the responsibility of all the citizens and when Yemen is in trouble, the wounds will affect the next generation. It is a call to every honest and thoughtful citizen to wake up from this deep sleep. It is time to say: No to fighting! No to partitioning the homeland! Yes, to peace and a bright future! Yes to the Document!

By Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqalith,  
Al-Thawra, Sanaa,  
5/4/1994.

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غردقة - شرم الشيخ  
السعر ١٤٠٣ دولار

٢) اليونان - ١٥ يوم  
أثينا-وكريت  
السعر ١٧٥٩ دولار  
السعر ١٧٥٩ دولار

٣) سنغفورة ١٤/٢١ يوم  
سنغفورة - كوالالمبور  
السعر ٢٢٠٢ دولار  
٢٥٥٢ دولار

٤) تايلاند - ١٧ يوم  
بانكوك - بتايا  
السعر ٢١٠٩ ريال  
لمزيد من المعلومات

الرجاء الاتصال ٢٧٥٠٢٨  
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### SUDANESE MINISTER SLAMS US ENVOY

Sudan hit back sharply at the US ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, who accused Khartoum of not doing enough to end civil strife in the south of the country. Albright criticized the Sudanese government's conduct of the war, as well as Khartoum's human rights record, while visiting Ethiopia after a trip to Sudan last week during which she met President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir. She said Khartoum obstructed the delivery of relief assistance to the south, where the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army is fighting government forces, and said Sudan risked isolation if it did not improve its human rights record and stopped sponsoring international terrorism.

In response, Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu-Saleh said the ambassador's comments were completely untrue and were not going to help the dialogue between Sudan and the United States. The minister told state radio Omdurman that the Sudanese government and people had done all they could to end the conflict in the South through negotiations. Abu-Saleh charged that it was others who made it difficult to achieve peace because of the support for the rebels.

Abu-Saleh expressed astonishment at Albright's charges on relief aid.

"As the United States envoy to the United Nations, Mrs. Albright should have known that the Sudan government reached two agreements with two UN officials in 1992 for the delivery of relief aid to southern Sudan," the minister said. He added that the aid lifeline that the Sudanese government had permitted to operate was considered a model for other countries in similar situations.

The United Nations itself last year praised Sudan for its role in ensuring the delivery of relief to southern Sudan's legend support for terrorism. Sudan had requested proof of its involvement in international terrorism but had received none.

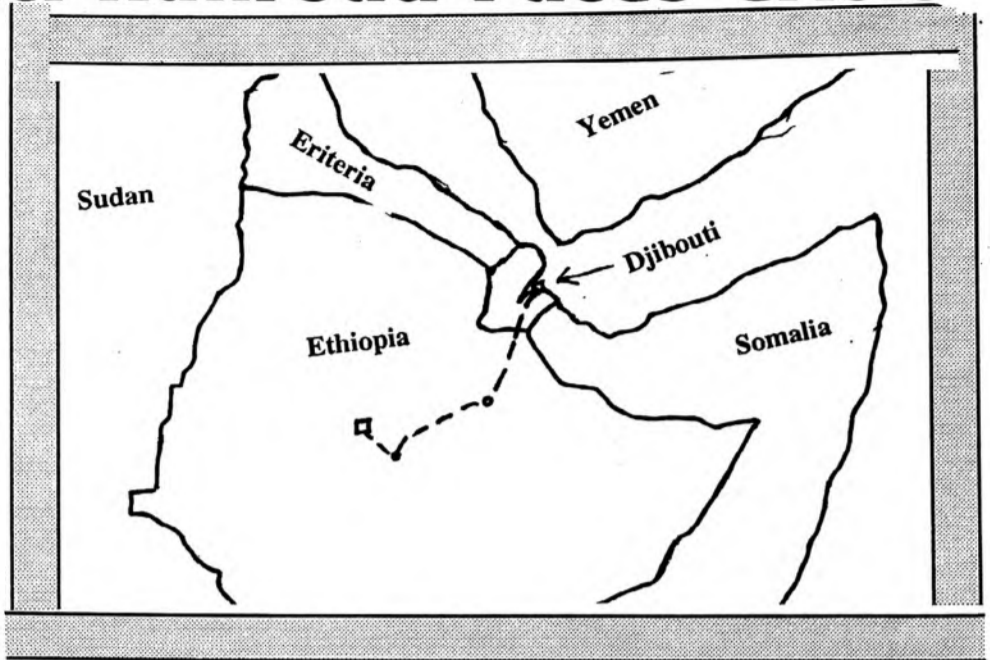
It would have helped the credibility of the American official had she raised those issues while she was in the Sudan, according to observers. She, however, gave the Sudanese government high marks while she was in Khartoum, and unleashed her criticism only after she left the county.

## The Djibouti Railroad Faces Crisis

It was ninety years ago when the French installed the railroad connecting Djibouti to the hinterland of Ethiopia. But now the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Company has now fallen on hard times. The majority of its locomotives are out of order and left to languish in various stations. "In Dire Dawa alone, we have 25 locomotives lying aside because of the lack of spare parts," explained Ato Mitike Tsegaye, head of the commercial and transport department. In total some 151 compartments are sitting idle.

The major problem is that the 42 million (about US\$ 6 million) annual earnings are just not enough to meet the needs of the company and repair and maintenance costs required. Therefore, the joint board of the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Company is meeting this week in Djibouti to re-structure the tariff rates for passengers and cargo in order to increase the revenue of the company.

The railroad plays a vital role in the economic well-being of the two countries.



## Danger to Freedom of the Press

The Horn of Africa has witnessed a gross violation of human rights and freedom of the press, over the last week. Two respectable newspapers were shut down and many of their editors were put behind bars - ironically by orders of the courts in Ethiopia and the Sudan. While the laws were observed theoretically, there has been much damage done to the spirit of freedom and far the cause of democracy, especially in Ethiopia which is trying very hard to overcome a dictatorial past and move into the fold of free nations. In the Sudan, the government arrested last week closed down the only independent newspaper in the

country and jailed the publisher, Mr. Mahgoub, a member of parliament, and four of the editors. The newspaper, Irwe, had exposed recently irregular financial transactions by Mr. Siddeeg Al-Turabi, son of Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi the spiritual leader of the Islamic movement in the Sudan, and the godfather of the regime itself. A statement issued by the presidency in Khartoum charged the paper of working to "slander and belittle the most dear values of the nation and to undermine the Jihad of the Sudanese Army and demoralize its fight against the separatists in the south." The government's prosecutor also charged the

newspaper of printing "baseless reports on the alleged corruption among government officials, which is part of a foreign conspiracy to overthrow the regime." The Yemen Times has written a letter to President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, asking him to quash the sentence and order the immediate release of the publisher and editors of a sister newspaper. In neighboring Ethiopia, a similar fate has hit the publisher and chief editor of Ethiopis, a private and independent newspaper. A court has found the newspaper guilty of of "spreading unfounded news of war, national discord and instability." The publisher, Ato

Eskinder Desta was later released and cleared of the charges, while Ato Teferra Asmare, the Chief Editor, was sentenced to two years of prison. The decision deals a serious blow to the democratization and freedom of the press in Ethiopia. The Yemen Times has written to Ethiopian president Melles Zenawi asking him to quash the sentence and order the release of the chief editor and other journalists. The spirit of freedom of the press and democracy should not be killed by using the trappings of the judicial system and judges who are still beholden to politicians and eager to please them.

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## INDIA TO EMERGE AS SPACE POWER INDIA TO EMERGE AS SPACE POWER

India will become a major power by the turn of the century and is set to complete commercially in the international space market, the Department of Space (DoS) says in its annual report, released last week.

According to the report, the country is on the threshold of achieving self reliance in the launch vehicle technology. In the process, a strong technical manpower base has been created and research and development infrastructure built up.

The 1993-94 report says the close partnership of the space industry with the public and private and joint sectors has enabled the Indian industry to meet the production demands for space products and "services in a timely and cost-effective way. With this infrastructure, the country will be able to compete commercially in the international market.

"India is determined to forge ahead by enhancing and sustaining the space services resisting any external pressure that may come in the way," the report says.

The report says that during the last decade, the country's space program has made an enviable progress and transitioned from the experimental to the operational phase. Indigenous space segment for communication, television, meteorology, disaster warnings and natural resources management has been established through the Insat (Indian national satellite) and IRS (Indian Remote Sensing Satellite).

The report, which gave a detailed account of the space department functioning, noticed that during 1993-94, agreements had been renewed with space agencies like CNES of France and the European Space Agency. Bilateral talks have been continuing with many other international space agencies to review the progress on the joint programs as well as for identifying new areas for cooperation.

The report said that there has been a significant progress in the commercial exploita-

tion of the space capabilities developed by the country.

Several representatives of international space agencies and industries have visited the DoS centers as well as Indian industries and held discussions on entering into commercial collaboration in space-related technologies.

The report also took stock of the situation which marred some of the ambitious space programs. It noted that a national-level failure analysis committee (FAC) which analyzed the flight data of PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) -DI, found that the failure to place the IRS-IE satellite into the specified orbit was primarily caused by an implementation error in the pitch control loop of the digital auto pilot software in the guidance and control processor which occurs only when the control command exceeds the specified maximum value.

The disturbances experienced in the second and third stages caused the above present limit to be exceeded. And the FAC has concluded that there are no serious lacunae in the design of the vehicle, the report observed.

The second developmental launch of the PSLV, after incorporating the necessary modifications, is scheduled to take place during the second half of the current year.

The report pointed out that the two Indian remote sensing satellites IRS-IA and IRS-IB launched in 1988 and 1991 respectively, are providing operational space services in the field of remote sensing.

Further progress has been made in the development of the second generation satellites in the IRS series IRS-IC and IRS-ID, which will have better spatial and spectral resolutions, stereo viewing and on board recording facility.

The IRS-IC is scheduled for launch during 1994-95 and the IRS-ID is scheduled for 1996-97.

## Japanese Prime Minister Resigns

Mr. Morihiro Hosokawa, Prime Minister of Japan, tendered his resignation on Friday, April 8th. Mr. Hosokawa was subject a lot of investigations regarding a 100 million Yen (about US\$ 1 million) loan he got in 1982. Although admitting no wrongdoing, he decided to resign to let the matter rest.

The Hosokawa government is only eight months old, and had embarked on a major reform effort. Tendering his resignation, the prime minister apologized to the people of Japan for not being able to complete the reform process his government had unleashed.

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Continues from page 1:

# Dhamar Residents Restless

Colonel Ali Selah also expressed his frustration at having to run from one site to another to control military clashes and stop them from spreading. At the same time, the military committee's efforts seem to be undermined by reckless politicians who seek to achieve the upper hand in the military balance between the two sides.

"My nightmare is that one of these days, we will be unable to control one of these incidents and the nation will suffer as a result. We live in a daily fear of something going wrong at any time anywhere - in Amran, Khowlan, anywhere. The threat to peace and security is real. Very real," he repeated.

If this issue is not addressed adequately and fully by the political leadership, it will undoubtedly lead to most regrettable results," he said.

At 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6th, warplanes passed over the Ba-Suhaib camp repeatedly. There was no pre-arrangement for this to happen.

At 3:00 p.m., on the same day, a car carrying three soldiers from the Ba-Suhaib camp was headed south towards Aden. The men



Colonel Ali Othrub

were on leave. The car was stopped at gun-point at Bait-Al-Kowmani, by a truckload of soldiers from the Central Security Force, and ordered to return. The soldiers returned to their Ba-Suhaib camp and told their colleagues what happened to them.

Then late in the afternoon, the guards posted at the main entrance of the Ba-Suhaib camp were the target of sniper shooting. The vehicle from which the shots were being fired was not identified and it fled.

The response from Ba-

Suhaib was massive. The men mounted their heavy guns, and for a full hour, they shelled the neighboring Security Force (Al-Amn Al-Markazi) and the National Guards Force (Al-Haras Al-Jumhuri).

There were no casualties in lives, although there was some material damage. The psychological terror was the main result.

Colonel Ali Othrub, Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee in parliament and head of the fact finding parliamentary

mission, was in Dhamar to investigate the clashes. He told the Yemen Times that more investigations were needed before assigning blame on any one party for what happened. He disclosed that his committee will visit the pre-unity border areas as well as Abyen and Shebwa governorates. He did express disappointment at the way things were evolving. "Why should something like this happen," he asked.

The Yemen Times then moved to the Ba-Suhaib

camp where it interviewed Colonel Thabit Muthanna Gawas, the Commande, who is cousin of Haitham Qassim Taher, the Minister of Defence. He told Yemen Times that his camp was a target of more than four provocative and aggressive actions on that day. "First, there was the low and uncleared military overflying of the camp, then my men are shot at by soldiers wearing civilian clothing in Bait Al-Komani, and two of them were wounded, then vehicles open fire on the guards of my camp. What did they expect us to do. We fired back in self defence. You will also see that we have targeted only military camps of the other side. No civilian installation or residence was our target, he said. Gunfire was returned from certain rooftops and we fired at them. If civilians don't want to be targeted, they should not let the other side use their homes to shoot at us," he said.

The Ba-Suhaib soldiers are stationed two camps in addition to the check-point they man. (Please refer to the map on page 1). The two northern camps are immediately to their north. On the political side, Lt-

General Ali Abdulla Saleh pointed out in his interview live on the BBC that Vice President Ali Al-Beedh and himself intervened personally to prevent a further escalation of the military showdown.

At another level, the Salah meeting seems to have at least opened direct contact between the 2 ALIs. Yemen Times learned that the president was informed on the visit of Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the YSP to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The relative neglect to which the Dialogue Committee has fallen is a further indicator that the two ALIs may rather work out their differences themselves than let-in others come to share their power with them.

The Dhamar incident proves two seemingly contradictory things. On the one hand, it points to the extremely precarious nature of the security situation. Any idiot can start the guns roaring. On the other hand, it shows the ability of the PGC and YSP to contain any uncontrolled action by their men if they are sincerely willing to do so.



## Queen of Sheba Replicated: Yemeni Women Want to be more than Housewives

By Fatma Rawah,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.

It was almost a year ago when Catherine Sheridan contacted me for the first time telling me that she was writing on the interesting topic of the 'Queen of Sheba'. Catherine is now doing a Postgraduate Degree in French Literature at the University College of Dublin (in French Department).

Catherine spent quite a lot of time in the country as her husband is working here; and she decided to use this opportunity of collecting some data on her research topic. The focus of her research topic relates to the Queen of Sheba as portrayed in art and literature through the centuries.

Catherine also undertook some field site trips to different places in Yemen like Marib where the pillars of the Sabaean Kingdom are still observed until today. She also visited Museums here in Yemen as well as outside the country, where some archaeological artifacts on Yemen are housed. We hope to read her full report on this research in two months time; which will be after completion of her dissertation on this subject (which will be in French but Catherine hopes to translate it later on into English as she informed me)

In order to get some information on how the Queen of Sheba is viewed in the Yemeni Society today; especially by women, Catherine contacted Yemen Times and a meeting was arranged with a few Yemeni women, who talked to Catherine on the subject.

One of the major questions Catherine asked was; "Does such a powerful female act as a role model for modern Yemeni women?"

"What I'm really interested to know, is how the queen of Sheba is perceived today by the society in Yemen," started Catherine.

It was remarkable the way Samira Bin Daair answered immediately without giving a second thought to the question. "I will give you my answer" As legend has it, Bilquis, the Queen of Sheba did a good job, and she was famed for her wise rule, and so she set an example of female rule at its best. Moreover, Yemeni history is full of females who have excelled in public life, like Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed and several others. I think that women are more sensitive to the needs of society, as mothers, partners, etc., and men are messing up things as evidenced from our recent history. I think it is time women were given more opportunities in public life.....they will probably do a better job....I am neither a feminist nor am I politically inclined, but for those who would like to enter public life, the opportunity should be there....I just feel that women are naturally more socially concerned."

In reality people in Yemen don't talk much about the Queen of Sheba; the way she is mentioned in other countries especially in the western countries. This does not mean people don't esteem her. In fact it is universally believed that she was a distinguished ruler in this part of the world during her time. It is just dif-

icult to understand why people in Yemen don't talk much about her. Even in the school texts, she is not mentioned in great detail. The reason could be that her Kingdom was a long time before Islam, and all the historical records in Yemen after Islam are better preserved. However, not enough archaeological excavations have been done to cover that era, and thus not enough is yet known about the Queen of Sheba.

Amat-Al-Aleem AlSousowa told Catherine: "On my side I don't feel that we care that much about her, although we appreciate very much what she has done and what she has achieved for her people. We believe she was the best during her time but for us we are not as obsessed with her as is the west". However, I am sure that many people in this country both women and men are very proud of the Queen of sheba as she is a part of our culture and history."

Other people believe that the Queen of Sheba was the ruler of Ethiopia or she was the ruler of both countries. It is a bit confusing here; because some of the writings about her were found in Himyaritic. This was known as a Sabaean language which was used in Yemen a long time ago before Islam. The language is a bit similar to the Amharic which is used now in Ethiopia.

Dr. Wahiba Fara' then tried to explain this fact according to her own knowledge. "I can say that she was the Queen of Yemen as her kingdom is expressed in the books; that she ruled a powerful trading nation and she had a tough army. Moreover she was well-respected by her people. That explanation very well fits the description of Yemeni people, physically. Even today if you go into the villages the qabayil (tribesmen) you will find that they are very strong people and they still have a great respect to the ladies, but due to the centuries of ignorance things have changed. Another fact is that before our country was invaded by other cultures from our neighbor countries such as the Turks who brought the veil, women were free in; trading, communications, and their ideas were considered to guide the society."

There is another fact that not only Queen of Sheba ruled Yemen, after her there were other queens who were powerful and intelligent as well. Not only rulers there were even scholars and religious females who ruled Yemen even after Islam, such as Queen Arwa.

Another point which Dr. Wahiba mentioned on the fact that Queen Sheba was the ruler of Yemen and not Ethiopia is that; during the time of the Queen of Sheba it is not mentioned that there were a good civilization in the parts of Ethiopia.

"What is the aspiration of Yemen today?" That was also one of Catherine's questions. "If women are given a chance in public life I'm sure they will prove to be good and might do it again," said Samira.

Many centuries passed since those days when women were involved in public activities and Yemeni women proved to be powerful and intelligent. Different cultures from different visitors are involved in our country and change completely the behaviors of the

natives. It will take years again for Yemen to back in the old good days!

Sometimes people misjudge the Islamic rules where women and men should be given the same rights such as in education, ..... etc. for example many families in Yemen they care for boys education more than for their girls.

"It is wrong even in the Islamic religion when people think that women should be excluded. I can not deny that women do not achieve, there others who have good opportunities but if they have more chances on freedom of participation in different activities they could have achieve more," said Amat.

"In general speaking, most of our rules and taboos are given women a great freedom and chances, the reason that people do not follow that, is because of a lot of traditions involved and because men control the situation and they interpret the things the way they want. If we have to abide by what Islam says in fact we will have a lot more to gain." Said Dr. Azza Ghanim.

## Family Planning and Other Women Issues Dominate International Population conference

United Nations with the Vatican and feminists were getting ready to do battle as the United Nations debated last week how the world should quadruple spending on family panning and massive women's health and education programs.

Delegates from world governments, lobbied by hundreds of populations, women, health and church groups, meet on a draft declaration in advance of major international conference on population and development, scheduled for Cairo on 5 September.

Decisions not reached in preparatory conference over the next three weeks will be deferred to Cairo. The declaration aims at what some planners call a "kinder, gentler," approach to population control, emphasizing the right of women to have access to contraceptive information, health care and education and setting no coercive quotas.

"If we respond to women and take care of their needs, demographic issues will take care of themselves," said Nafis Sadik, the outspoken executive director of the UN Population Fund and Secretary-General for the conference.

the aim of the conference is to draw up a plan of action that would stabilize the world's population, now 5.7 billion, at 7.27 billion people in the year 2015.

Otherwise the UN projects 12.5 billion people by the year 2050. That will require considerable social change and \$10 billion by the year 2000. Rich nations are to increase assistance to developing states from \$ billion to \$4 billion.

With the election of President Bill Clinton, the United States has reversed its policy towards UN population programs and wants to contribute \$1.2 billion by the turn of the century while Japan has pledged \$1 billion.

The monies are to go for three basic programs:

- \* Universal access to family planning services, information and advice on all aspects of fertility, with each country setting its national goals.

- \* Primary health care for women and infants, with attention paid to spacing pregnancies and post-natal care.

- \* Basic education for all girls by the year 2015 and equal enrollment in secondary schools.

Sadik, a Pakistani physician, saw Pope John Paul II two weeks ago in an attempt to find some common language. But the pope ended their session with a statement attacking the conference for allowing birth control programs and highlighting women rather than only the nuclear family.

It would be improper, he said, "to formulate population issues in terms of individual 'sexual and reproductive rights', or even in terms of 'women's rights'."

The Vatican, which will send about seven people to New York this week, is opposed to all contraceptive devices and to abortion under all circumstances. Its main allies at the conference are some Islamic fundamentalist groups and conservative Arab states in the Gulf.

In response Sadik said: "I told him there are 1 billion Catholics and 4.6 billion others in the world and the United Nations has to cater to all of those groups."

while the church's contraceptive policies are largely ignored in most industrial

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# ARAB BANK GROUP

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## Balance Sheet as of 31 December 1993 and 1992

	1993 US\$ ('000)	1992 US\$ ('000)
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and due from banks	7,865,574	8,041,862
Securities and investments	1,531,832	1,364,267
Loans and advances	4,313,880	4,227,449
Customers' liability on acceptances	130,658	160,727
Investments in associated companies	335,293	335,744
Premises and equipment	84,949	77,045
Accrued interest receivable	68,278	72,601
Other assets	83,297	94,541
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>14,413,761</b>	<b>14,374,236</b>
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	3,719,960	3,498,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,133,721</b>	<b>17,872,825</b>

	1993 J.D. ('000)	1992 J.D. ('000)
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Deposits and other accounts	13,143,135	13,148,269
Acceptances	130,658	160,727
Accrued interest payable	53,344	49,859
Proposed dividends	25,553	22,430
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>13,352,690</b>	<b>13,381,285</b>
<b>Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Capital	139,246	139,246
Statutory reserve	111,677	99,558
Voluntary reserve	148,871	127,571
General reserve	672,406	635,414
Reserves with associated companies	214,211	202,882
Retained earnings	2,714	2,778
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,289,125</b>	<b>1,207,449</b>
Translation adjustments	(228,054)	(214,498)
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>1,061,071</b>	<b>992,951</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>14,413,761</b>	<b>14,374,236</b>
Guarantees and letters of credit	3,719,960	3,498,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,133,721</b>	<b>17,872,825</b>

### Profit and Loss Statement for the years ended 31 December 1993 and 1992

	1993 US\$ ('000)	1992 US\$ ('000)
<b>Revenue</b>		
Interest revenue	690,916	729,766
Less: Interest expense	450,523	507,598
Net interest revenue	240,393	222,168
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	79,138	71,330
Foreign exchange trading	24,452	19,367
Other revenue	70,117	71,527
Total non-interest revenue	173,707	162,224
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>414,100</b>	<b>384,392</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and staff benefits	101,944	91,925
Depreciation of premises and equipment	9,944	11,693
Other expenses and provisions	136,955	120,980
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>248,843</b>	<b>224,598</b>
Net income before income taxes	165,257	159,794
Income taxes	58,028	53,422
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>107,229</b>	<b>106,372</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>		
Net income	107,229	106,372
Retained earnings brought forward	2,778	3,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,007</b>	<b>110,090</b>
To statutory reserve	12,119	10,818
To voluntary reserve	21,300	12,445
To general reserve	36,992	44,192
To reserves with associated companies	11,329	17,427
Proposed cash dividends	25,475	22,350
Directors' remunerations	78	80
<b>Retained Earnings Carried Forward</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>2,778</b>

### Statement of Sources and Applications for Funds for the years ended 31 December 1993 and 1992

	1993 US\$ ('000)	1992 US\$ ('000)
<b>Funds Provided</b>		
Net income	107,229	106,372
Depreciation of premises and equipment	9,944	11,693
<b>Total funds provided from operations</b>	<b>117,173</b>	<b>118,065</b>
Decrease in:		
Cash and due from banks	176,288	630,936
Loans and advances	- - - -	55,839
Investments in associated companies	451	- - - -
Other assets	15,567	36,103
<b>Total funds provided from changes in assets and liabilities</b>	<b>192,306</b>	<b>722,878</b>
<b>Total Funds Provided</b>	<b>309,479</b>	<b>840,943</b>
<b>Funds Applied</b>		
Dividends and remunerations paid	22,430	19,305
Translation adjustments	13,556	43,915
Increase in:		
Securities and investments	167,565	422,709
Loans and advances	86,431	- - - -
Investments in associated companies	- - - -	49,120
Premises and equipment	17,848	11,834
Decrease in:		
Deposits and other accounts	1,649	294,060
<b>Total Funds Applied</b>	<b>309,479</b>	<b>840,943</b>

#### Auditors' Report

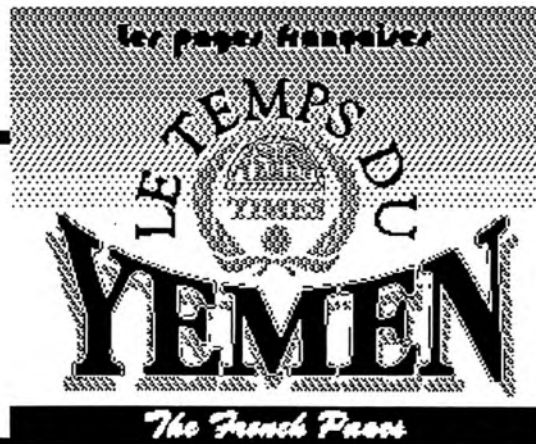
To the Shareholders of Arab Bank.  
We have audited the consolidated balance sheet of Arab Bank Group, as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the related consolidated statement of income and consolidated statement of sources and applications of funds for the years then ended. Our audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Included in the financial statements are amounts relating to a sister company and certain subsidiaries audited by other auditors whose reports we have reviewed.

In our opinion, based upon our examination and the reports of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Bank Group as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then ended, in conformity with International Accounting Standards.

Saba & Co.  
Amman, Jordan, January 24, 1994

### Sister Institutions, Subsidiaries & Associated Companies

Arab Bank	Percentage of Ownership
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. - Zurich, Geneva	100 %
Arab Australia Ltd. - Sydney	100 %
Arab Bank (Austria) AG. - Vienna	100 %
Arab Bank AG. - Frankfurt / Germany	100 %
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A. - Geneva	100 %
Arab Tunisian Bank - Tunis	64 %
Arab Bank Maroc - Morocco	50 %
Oman Arab Bank - Oman	49 %
Arab National Bank - Saudi Arabia	40 %



## ENLEVEMENTS

## Cinq otages étrangers aux mains des Khawlans

Neuf jours après l'enlèvement des trois Hollandais, c'est au tour de deux Chinois d'avoir été pris en otages dimanche dernier. Les ravisseurs appartiennent à la tribu des Khawlans, comme dans le cas des Hollandais, mais les revendications sont différentes. Les deux Chinois travaillaient sur un projet de route entre Mareb et Jihana (à 50 kilomètres au sud-est de Sanaa). Les ravisseurs exigent l'arrêt définitif de la construction de la route. En février dernier, trois techniciens chinois travaillant sur le même projet, avaient été séquestrés une dizaine de jours.

Dans le cas des Hollandais, les négociations avec le clan des Jahms sont difficiles. Le ministre de l'Intérieur, Yahya Al-Moutawakil s'est pourtant refusé à parler de "négociations" avec les ravisseurs. "Il n'y a pas de négociations en cours et il n'y en a jamais eu, mais il y a des pres-

sions exercées par le gouvernement en collaboration étroite avec les citoyens" des régions concernées, a-t-il affirmé lundi dernier, ajoutant que les otages devaient être libérés "dans les trois prochains jours". Le ministre a haussé le ton pour mieux masquer son impuissance dans des régions du Yémen où l'Etat n'exerce pas son autorité. Inquiets sur leur sort, les trois otages hollandais ont demandé au gouvernement yéménite de ne pas utiliser la force militaire pour tenter de les libérer.

## Les ravisseurs refusent les promesses

Le chef des ravisseurs, Cheikh Moubarak a indiqué qu'il refusait toute promesse d'un quelconque médiateur, car le gouvernement n'avait pas respecté les engagements pris pour faire libérer Haynes Mahoney, le diplomate américain enlevé en novembre dernier par le même clan des Jahms. Les ravisseurs réclament toujours des redevances sur des installations pétrolières construites sur leur territoire, l'emploi de 200 membres de la tribu pour assurer la sécurité des installations et l'électrification de la région, l'une des plus peuplées du gouvernorat de Mareb.

## Conférence

Le Centre culturel français de Sanaa propose samedi 16 avril à 16 h la deuxième conférence sur l'Histoire de la gastronomie française avec pour thème: "Des festins médiévaux au service à la russe". Cette conférence donnée par Catherine Leduc sera en français.

## YEMEN

## L'économie souffre de la crise

La crise politique a accentué les difficultés économiques du Yémen. Au-delà des effets de l'unification et de la crise du Golfe, la crise économique s'explique surtout par une économie plus consommatrice que productrice. Nous vous proposons un rappel historique ci-dessous et l'avis de deux experts, Mohamed Al-Zubeiri et Issam El-Zaim.

Frappé de plein fouet par une crise économique qui risque de menacer durablement le développement du pays, le Yémen dispose de peu de marge de manoeuvre pour en sortir. Ce sont les fondements de l'économie du pays, plus consommatrice que productrice, qui sont facteurs de déséquilibre.

Après la révolution de 1962 et la guerre civile de huit ans, le Yémen du Nord est confronté à une hémorragie migratoire qui le prive brutalement d'une partie de la main d'oeuvre nécessaire à une agriculture peu mécanisée. Mais l'émigration dans les pays du Golfe permet au Yémen de s'approprier des bribes de la rente pétrolière. Le pays devient très dépendant des transferts des émigrés qui entraînent un accroissement rapide des importations. Par ailleurs, l'Etat est très dépendant des aides extérieures, qui lui permettent de développer les infrastructures.

Au Yémen du Sud, les années après l'indépendance proclamée en 1967 sont celles de la collectivisation des moyens de production et de la planification centralisée. Le régime, qui met en place les nationalisations et la réforme agraire, bénéficie aussi d'importantes aides exté-

rieures. Mais ces efforts s'accompagnent d'un déclin marqué de la productivité et de la production agricole. L'émigration, moins importante qu'au Nord, permet aussi d'accroître les revenus.

## Recul de l'émigration

Au début des années 1980, les deux Yémen sont confrontés à une crise économique qui s'explique par le recul de l'émigration et montre la fragilité de leur système économique. En 1983, le Nord gèle les salaires, limite les importations et les dépenses publiques et dévalue le ryal. Ces mesures contribuent à réduire les déficits mais se traduisent aussi par des effets de pénurie dans l'approvisionnement en matières premières et en biens d'équipement.

A la fin des années 1980, les deux Yémen opèrent un mouvement de libéralisation. Au Nord, il s'exprime par le relâchement des mesures d'ajustement et de rigueur. A partir de 1988, le Nord commence à percevoir des recettes d'exportation pétrolière. A partir de 1989-90, le gouvernement introduit une série

de mesures destinées à contrôler l'évolution de la consommation et à réduire la demande intérieure. Le ryal est à nouveau dévalué.

Au Sud, la guerre civile de 1986, la baisse de l'aide soviétique conduisent à une remise en cause des choix faits dans les années 1970. Un processus de "correction des erreurs commises", d'assouplissement du régime de collectivisation, de privatisation et de désengagement de l'Etat commence. La monnaie, le dinar, est dévaluée afin d'attirer les capitaux arabes. Pourtant l'endettement atteint, à la veille de l'unification, 197 % du PNB (Produit national brut).

L'unification en 1990 fait du Yémen un pays de 14 millions d'habitants, renforce son potentiel pétrolier et démultiplie son marché intérieur. En 1991, le ryal est adopté comme monnaie unique après une période de cohabitation entre le ryal et le dinar. L'unification a oeuvré dans le sens d'étendre au Sud le modèle d'économie libérale qui dominait au Nord. Les terres agricoles sont décollectivisées, les coopératives rendues autonomes. Les restructurations ont un coût social élevé au sud: flambée des prix, dégradation du pouvoir d'achat.

La crise du Golfe, en 1990-1991, entraîne le retour de milliers d'émigrés au pays. L'économie yéménite voit ainsi se réduire des trois-quarts environ une de ses principales sources de devises. Le Yémen a aussi perdu un exutoire important pour sa force de travail. La crise entraîne aussi une réduction brutale de l'aide occidentale et des pays du Golfe. La conséquence: en 1990 et 1991, le PIB recule d'environ 4 %. La dette extérieure atteint en 1991, 7,6 milliards de dollars. Au rythme actuel, il faudrait treize années d'exportations pour la rembourser. Cependant plus de la moitié de cette dette a été contractée à l'égard de l'ex-URSS, avec laquelle un moratoire a été signé. A partir d'août 1992, le ryal s'effondre sur le marché parallèle des changes.

La crise du Golfe en remettant en cause l'ensemble des sources de revenu extérieur du pays a menacé la survie d'une économie plus consommatrice que productrice. Elle a montré la fragilité d'une économie trop dépendante de l'extérieur.

Source: L'Economie du Yémen: quelle sortie de la crise ? par Blandine Destremau, Cahier du GRENAME, n°11, 1993, Paris.



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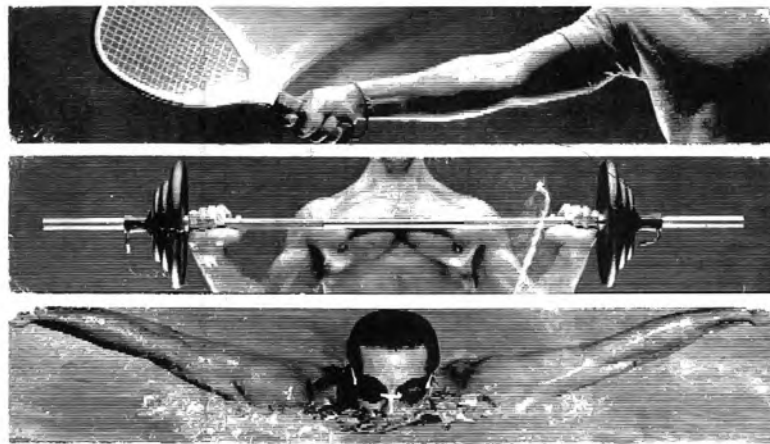
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YEMEN-ECONOMIE (SUITE)

INTERVIEW: Issam El-Zaim, Expert en économie au Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement à Sanaa.

## "Il faut que les Yéménites consomment moins"

**Yemen Times: Comment expliquez-vous la crise que traverse le Yémen actuellement ?**

**Issam El-Zaim:** Le Yémen est tout d'abord confronté à une crise structurelle. L'économie supporte un lourd héritage dû à des siècles d'immobilisme. On observe ainsi un retard dans l'éducation, une insuffisance des infrastructures, un marché peu développé. Il y a un déficit d'épargne et d'investissement et une productivité basse.

**YT: Le pays, qui a bénéficié pendant des années des transferts des émigrés yéménites installés en Arabie saoudite notamment, n'a-t-il pas été durement touché par la chute de ces transferts liée à l'expulsion des émigrés après la crise du Golfe ?**

**Issam El-Zaim:** Si, mais selon moi, les hommes d'affaires yéménites installés dans le Golfe ont pris le relais. Ils font recycler leur argent dans le marché parallèle des changes au Yémen. Ce sont des transferts invisibles. Le marché parallèle est alimenté, beaucoup plus qu'on ne le pense, par des sources extérieures. Cet argent se dirige vers des activités à profit élevé: construction de villas luxueuses, importations de voitures et de produits sophistiqués. Cet argent ne va pas à l'investissement et l'Etat ne perçoit pas de taxes sur ce marché non enregistré.

**YT: Cela explique-t-il le déficit du budget de l'Etat ?**

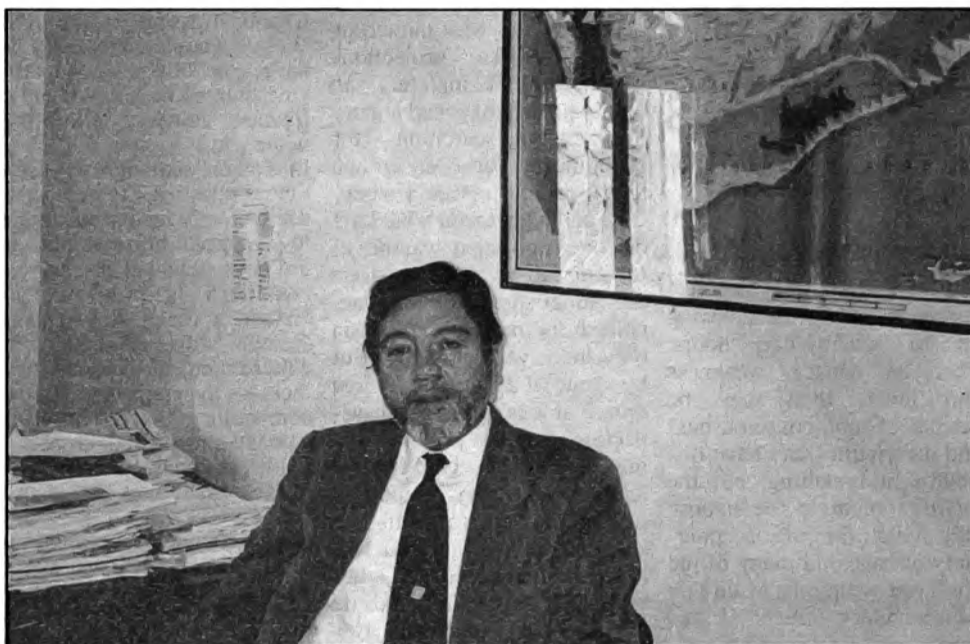
**Issam El-Zaim:** Oui, à l'heure actuelle, le déficit budgétaire a surtout pour origine ce marché non enregistré. Le déficit budgétaire dépasse 30 % du produit intérieur brut. Les salaires de la fonction publique pèsent beaucoup sur le budget de l'Etat et expliquent le déficit.

**YT: Les revenus du pétrole n'allègent-ils pas ce déficit ?**

**Issam El-Zaim:** Si, mais il a fallu attendre octobre dernier pour voir la production augmenter sensiblement. Elle était à la fin de l'an dernier d'environ 320 000 barils par jour et les perspectives pour cette année sont modestes, seulement 30 000 b/j supplémentaires. La faiblesse des cours du brut actuellement (environ 13 dollars le baril) diminue d'autant les revenus de l'Etat yéménite. Le problème c'est qu'une grande partie de cette production pétrolière est absorbée par le marché local. En outre, cette consommation ne sert pas au développement de la production (agriculture et industrie) mais va au transport privé. Hors, le prix de l'essence à la pompe est trop bas. Il faudrait l'augmenter pour que l'Etat perçoive plus de revenus et que les gens consomment moins, ce qui dégagerait un surplus destiné à l'exportation.

**YT: La crise politique n'a-t-elle pas un effet négatif sur l'économie ?**

**Issam El-Zaim:** L'économie yéménite est confrontée à une crise conjoncturelle due à la



Issam El-Zaim.

crise politique. Les investisseurs hésitent à investir même dans le secteur du pétrole. L'économie ne fonctionne plus normalement. L'inflation l'an dernier a été plus élevée que prévue. Elle a atteint finalement 100 %. L'Etat fait fonctionner la planche à billets. Avec la crise, le pays dépend encore plus du marché non enregistré. S'il n'existait pas, ce serait une catastrophe. Si les prix augmentent davantage, si le rial continue à baisser, il y a un risque d'instabilité sociale. Les catégories de population urbaines et notamment les classes moyennes seront les plus touchées.

**YT: Selon vous, il faut mettre en place un programme de réformes.**

**Issam El-Zaim:** Je suis partisan d'un échelonnement des réformes sur plusieurs années et non pas d'une thérapie de choc. Il faut modérer la hausse de la consommation en comprimant les importations. Il faut également réduire le déficit budgétaire en l'accompagnant d'une stratégie de développement de la production afin d'éviter toute récession. Certes il faut réduire le nombre de fonctionnaires, mais avant il faut avoir défini un programme

de recyclage des personnes libérées dans l'économie productive. Auparavant, il faut définir les secteurs à développer. C'est une opération complexe qui nécessite un débat national. Pour le moment, celui-ci est insuffisant. Selon moi, le secteur privé est incapable de réaliser le développement économique car il manque de sources d'investissement, de compétences et d'une stratégie commerciale définie. L'investissement étranger est pour l'instant insuffisant. La participation de l'Etat au développement de secteurs susceptibles d'assurer la croissance et où le secteur privé ne peut

intervenir me paraît la solution. Pour permettre ce programme de réformes, il faut beaucoup d'argent. L'aide bilatérale et multilatérale est insuffisante. Elle s'élevait à 243 millions de dollars en 1992, il en faudrait trois fois plus.

**YT: Pensez-vous que la Zone franche d'Aden a de l'avenir ?**

**Issam El-Zaim:** Aden bénéficie d'une localisation privilégiée mais ce projet arrive un peu tardivement alors que d'autres zones franches se sont développées dans la région, notamment dans le Golfe. L'avantage d'Aden, c'est que les bateaux n'ont pas besoin d'entrer dans le Golfe persique, une zone à risque. En outre, la force de travail à Aden est formée et compétente et moins chère qu'à Dubaï par exemple où la main d'œuvre est importée. Depuis l'an dernier, la volonté politique s'est affirmée pour réaliser ce projet de zone franche. Il y a deux mois, un protocole a été signé entre les autorités de la zone franche d'Aden et des investisseurs yéménites émigrés, qui se sont engagés à investir 150 millions de dollars dans la première phase de développement du port. Le PNUD finance une étude pour définir la stratégie de développement du port et identifier le type d'industries dans lesquelles Aden peut se spécialiser.

*Propos recueillis par Jérôme BERNARD*

CRISE POLITIQUE

## Echec d'une rencontre

*Ali Abdallah Saleh et Ali Salem Al-Bid se sont rencontrés dimanche dernier au sultanat d'Oman.*

*Leurs retrouvailles ont été un échec et les deux hommes sont repartis plus fâchés que jamais.*

Après Amman en février, la deuxième tentative de réconciliation des frères ennemis yéménites au sultanat d'Oman aura été un nouvel échec. Le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh et le vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid se sont rencontrés dimanche 3 avril dans la soirée à Salalah, à mille kilomètres au sud de la capitale Mascate, en présence du sultan Qabous. Le chef de file des sudistes a réitéré une demande faite par le Premier ministre socialiste Haïdar Al-Attas au médiateur égyptien: que les unités sudistes installées dans des casernes du nord et les unités nordistes installées au sud après l'unité regagnent leurs territoires respectifs. Le Président Saleh a refusé de prendre en compte cette demande, "à visées sécessionnistes", selon un responsable nordiste. Lundi dernier, à l'annonce de l'échec de la rencontre, plus de quarante députés ont entamé un sit-in de protestation dans l'enceinte du parlement à Sanaa, pour manifester leur attachement à l'unité du pays.

### Saleh est reparti furieux

Ali Abdallah Saleh est donc reparti furieux. Celui que beaucoup considèrent comme un fin tacticien politique, ayant réussi à se maintenir au pouvoir depuis 1978, ne maîtrise plus la situation depuis le déclenchement de la crise politique il y a sept mois. Les socialistes ne cessent de le mettre devant le fait accompli.

Dans le cas de la rencontre de Salalah, les nordistes dépités ont quand même voulu y voir un signe positif. "En elle-même, la rencontre est un pas positif, même si les résultats ne sont pas positifs pour le moment", a expliqué Yahya Al-Moutawakil, ministre de l'Intérieur (CPG). Le raisonnement paraît un peu fumeux.

Découragés, les Omanais, par l'intermédiaire de leur ministre des Affaires étrangères Youssef Ben Alaoui Ben Abdallah, ont indiqué que leur pays pourrait se retirer de la commission conjointe omano-jordanienne chargée de faire appliquer le volet militaire de l'accord de réconciliation inter-yéménite signé le 20 février dernier à Amman, en Jordanie. Selon un membre du Comité central du parti socialiste, Ahmed Abdallah Saleh, "le sultanat d'Oman, la Jordanie, les Emirats arabes unis et l'Egypte ont proposé aux deux dirigeants yéménites d'opter pour une structure confédérale ou fédérale après l'échec de l'unité, en raison de la méfiance et du manque de confiance entre les deux partenaires". Mais les nordistes refusent officiellement toute idée de fédération car selon eux, cela implique une législation locale, qui remettrait en cause la légitimité du parlement national. "Le Congrès populaire général a refusé toutes les initiatives arabes et s'obstine à vouloir déclencher un affrontement armé que nous rejetons", a accusé Ahmed Abdallah Saleh.

Il est vrai que les nordistes reconnaissent leur isolement diplomatique. Pour essayer d'en sortir, le Président Saleh s'est rendu au Qatar après sa visite au sultanat d'Oman. Le Qatar doit faire face, comme le Yémen à un litige frontalier avec l'Arabie saoudite.

### Le Conseil présidentiel ne s'est pas réuni

Deux jours après l'échec de la rencontre de Salalah, une réunion du Conseil présidentiel prévue mardi dernier a été une nouvelle fois annulée, en raison du "refus" du numéro deux du PSY, Salem Saleh, d'y participer, les socialistes affirmant qu'il n'avait pas reçu "d'invitation". La semaine précédente, l'adjoint d'Ali Salem Al-Bid avait déjà boycotté une réunion du Conseil présidentiel. Mardi dernier, les socialistes ont accusé les nordistes d'avoir "déployé dans la région d'Al-Bayda les troupes que la commission militaire avait obligées à se retirer vers Rada". Selon un responsable socialiste "cette grave escalade militaire a eu lieu au moment de la rencontre" au sultanat d'Oman. Tout cela a été formellement démenti par les nordistes. Mercredi, un sérieux accrochage a eu lieu à Dhahar entre nordistes et sudistes installés dans une caserne près de la ville. Pourtant, Ali Salem Al-Bid tenait des propos optimistes quelques heures avant la rencontre de Salalah. "Je dis main-

tenant que l'unité est sauve et n'est pas en danger. La question de l'unité a été résolue par le document que nous avons signé à Amman en février", a-t-il déclaré dimanche dernier au cours d'une conférence de presse à Abou Dhabi, où il était en visite pour la première fois depuis la crise du Golfe. "Mais la sécurité est notre priorité", a-t-il ajouté.

### Taëz capitale temporaire ?

Refusant de céder aux revendications des nordistes qui réclament le retour des dirigeants socialistes à Sanaa, le vice-Président a proposé que le gouvernement se réunisse ailleurs jusqu'à ce que la capitale devienne "sûre". Il a proposé d'utiliser "Taëz ou une autre ville comme capitale pendant cinq mois pour assurer la mise en oeuvre de l'accord". Mercredi dernier, le gouvernement s'est réuni dans la ville.

Les socialistes considèrent la capitale Sanaa comme le fief des tribus qui peuvent tout se permettre, les dirigeants qui leur sont liés fermant les yeux sur leurs agissements. Malgré la loi sur la réglementation du port d'armes dans les villes votée en juin 1992 au moment de la vague d'attentats contre des dirigeants socialistes, les hommes en armes circulent sans problème. Depuis quelques mois, les vols de voitures et les agressions se sont multipliés dans la capitale.

J.B.

ASSOCIATION DE LA LANGUE FRANCAISE

## Voyage entre francophones

*L'association des étudiants en français de l'Université de Sanaa a organisé jeudi dernier un voyage dans la région de Wadi Dhar.*

Ahmad Al-Asbahi ne savait plus où donner de la tête ce jeudi matin. Il lui avait fallu plusieurs jours de préparation avec ses camarades de l'Association de la langue française pour organiser ce voyage à Wadi Dhar. Environ 90 personnes étaient présentes au rendez-vous à 8h30, la plupart étudiants au département de français de l'Université de Sanaa ou au Centre culturel français, mais aussi des enseignants et quelques Français.

### Usines Crush et Shamlan

Première étape, les usines de Crush et de Shamlan dans la banlieue de Sanaa. Les voyageurs ont pu découvrir la chaîne de fabrication de leur soda et leur eau minérale préférés dans deux usines très mécanisées. Chez Crush, les bouteilles en verre sont lavées, frottées avant d'être remplies du liquide sucré. Au bout de la chaîne, une femme assise, le dos calé par des cartons, regarde défiler les bouteilles afin de détecter tout défaut de fabrication. A l'usine Shamlan, les procédés de fabrication ne sont guère différents. Mais ici, les bouteilles sont fabriquées sur place. Les voyageurs ont pu regarder avec intérêt cette fabrication. Une pâte bleu coule, sa chute irrésistible est arrêtée en cours par un moule métallique qui vient l'emprisonner. En quelques

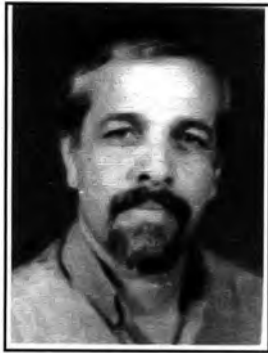
secondes, la pâte devient bouteille et part courir sur le circuit rejoindre ses camarades qui se suivent en rangs serrés. Parfois le mouvement s'accélère et les bouteilles ont un peu le tournis. Bientôt c'est la fin, elles sont remplies d'eau filtrée et puisée non loin de là. Il ne reste plus qu'à mettre les bouchons et à les ranger dans des cartons au sigle Shamlan.

Après ce parcours éducatif, l'Association de la langue française a proposé aux voyageurs une visite culturelle au Palais du Rocher à Wadi Dhar, une découverte pour beaucoup d'étudiants, qui n'étaient jamais entrés dans le palais de l'imam. Il est 12h et la faim commence à tanner les estomacs. Ahmad et ses amis ont tout prévu. Toute la troupe vient se reposer dans un verger de Wadi Dhar. Quelques uns se mettent à la cuisine, coiffés d'une toque de cuisinier. Brochettes et frites, tel est le menu. Quelques étudiants partent acheter une boîte de qat pour l'après-midi. L'Association de la langue française a trouvé un endroit idéal pour qater dans la vallée verdoyante. On marche un peu et on grimpe sur les rochers. L'après-midi touche à sa fin, une tombola a été organisée, faisant quelques heureux. L'un des étudiants repart un peu dépité. Il a gagné un calendrier mais il vient de s'apercevoir que c'était celui de l'année 1993.

J.B.

## Poisonous Fishes in the Red Sea

Laith A.JAL-Hassan,  
Dept. of Marine Science,  
College of Science,  
University of Sana'a



A group of fish which the visitor to the Red Sea reef should be more aware of than sharks are the few species of poisonous fish. A surprising amount of misinformation seems to have developed around the topic. The poisonous species with which we need to be concerned are the lion fish, the scorpion fish, the stone fish, and some kind of cat fish.

The commonest of these species in the Red Sea is the lion fish or chicken fish. This species has a multiplicity of common names, also being known as the zebrafish, turkfish, featherfish, firefish or butterfly cod. It is, as can be seen, a very unusual and attractive fish. The danger lies in the venom which is carried in a fleshy integument at the base of each of the thirteen dorsal spines. This arrangement is essentially a defense one designed to injure large predators who may otherwise try to snap up the fish, which is a slow moving species and otherwise

The injection of lionfish venom causes effects lasting up to seventy-two hours. There is nausea, weakness and fever, then may be periods of semi consciousness and the victim may have difficulty in breathing. but the main problem is the intense pain which the poison apparently causes, and many of the observed symptoms Main fact be secondary effects of this pain.

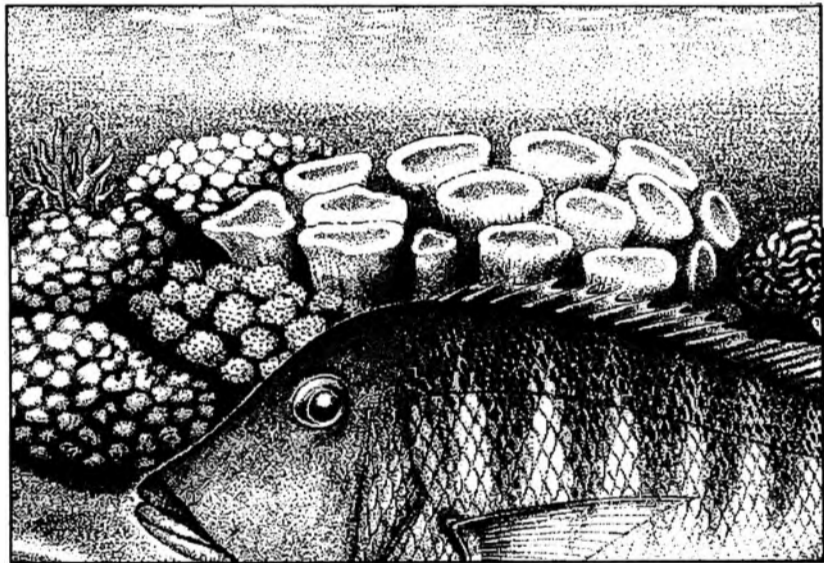
After up to seventy-two hours the patient gradually recovers. Apparently even light contact with the dorsal spines may cause significant pain and itching lasting for about thirty minutes, so care needs to be exercised when closing in for a photograph. Lionfish are known as an extremely interesting species, both as regards

an encrusted stone. The mimicry is perfect down to the finest detail, the skin being covered with numerous filamentous-like projections which look completely an untidy growth of green algae. Snorkellers searching for shells have even been known to try and turn over a stonefish, and been taken a back on discovering that it was alive! In order to resemble a stone the stonefish has largely sacrificed its mobility and can only move very clumsily. But by virtue of a surprisingly age mouth it can gulp in unsuspecting smaller prey, which may even have come specifically to take over beside this welcoming rock. Being a sluggish mover the stonefish is clearly in need of other means of protection and its dorsal, anal and pelvic fins are equipped with spines and poison glands, thirteen on dorsal fin, three on the anal, and two on each pelvic fin. Moreover, the toxin is considered to be most poisonous in any fish, and if received in sufficient quantity can prove lethal, if medical treatment is not given within a very short time. The effects of the toxin are broadly similar to those of

lionfish toxin, except that the effects are more severe, the pain excruciating and local tissue destruction occurs around the wound.

The venom is apparently an unstable protein, the breakdown of which may be promoted by heat and by potassium permanganate, external appli-

cation of both of which are recommended for treatment of such a wound. An anti-serum, of uncertain effectiveness, may also be obtained for injection from specialist suppliers, and it would certainly be sensible for diving expeditions to include phials of this in their medical kit. But the most important defence against the stonefish is to prevent injury. The great risk is that of treading on one accidentally when wading in shallow water near the top of the reef; this zone, with its numerous algal-covered rocks and stones, is the habitat which they prefer. It is to guard against this risk that tennis shoes, sneakers or other thick soled foot-cover should always be worn when wading on the reef, while, when diving, slipper-type flippers or thick-soled diving boots should always be used. Finally, care should be taken when snorkelling in shallow water not to rest one's hand on any algal-covered stone of a particular size without just glancing at it, to check that it is not a stonefish.



comparatively easily caught. Thus, the chief risk is that a visitor to the reef may be attracted by lion fish and think that he can catch one with his bare hands, and thus suffer multiple spine wounds. However, the lion fish may also take offensive action against either predators or humans which are bothering it or appear to be about to do so. They rush briefly forward, at the same time twisting over, so as to try to jab the predator with the dorsal spines. Particularly in the Gulf of Aqaba, where lionfish are especially common, they seem to be inclined to show this aggressive behavior, and several divers have been slightly injured in this way. But such behavior is not generally observed with central Red Sea. Why this difference should occur is not known; it may be a genetically determined regional difference, or it may be that in the Gulf of Aqaba, where much more diving has so far taken place, the lionfish have learnt from experience that divers are likely to pester them.

their form and their behavior. They are cunning predators of smaller fish. On the one hand, when waiting still in mid-water, the frilled shape and irregular banding of the lionfish may lead to their being mistaken for floating piece of seaweed; small fishes may fail to notice the danger, or may even try to seek shelter within the apparent fronds of the algae. On the other hand, the lionfish can extend its wide pectoral fins well out from its side and use them like a pair of arms, or two nets, to show one or more small fishes into a corner on the reef and capture them. Both form and coloration also serve to protect the fish. Lionfish scarcely represent a danger to the snorkeller or diver, once forewarned not to chase them. But a cousin, the stonefish probably represents the danger on the reef with which the visitor should be most concerned. The stonefish is a predator which has taken the strategy of disguise and ambush to its ultimate limit. It is bottom-dwelling fish which has developed an extraordinary resemblance to

## CHEMICAL PESTICIDES INCINERATION AT AL-MOKHA

BY: Dr. Ali Awadh Salem  
Environmental Editor  
Yemen Times.

Chemical pesticides are treated as hazardous Wastes when their validity has expired. These have - no doubt - a negative impact on the environment in general, and on living biomass (plants, animals, micro-organisms, human being, etc.)

In Yemen, although the use of chemical pesticides goes back to at least 1950, its intensive use is a very recent phenomenon. According to available information, expired pesticides are now allocated in very bad and hazardous conditions in governorates such as Taiz, Hodeidah, Lahej, Abyan and Hadramaut. German aid to Yemen in the field of Agriculture and in projects of plant protection includes the support of chemical pesticides for combating and controlling pests which damage plants and crops. The case of pesticides is considered a hot issue in the House of Representatives and in discussions all over the country. The reason is that word dangerous chemicals are piled up in Taiz and that there are plans to burn these. The uproar has gone out of control.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, stated in front of all members in the House of Representatives, that an incinerator was agreed upon having it burn almost 16 tons of the expired pesticides ( known as Di-methioate) and it cost more than 1.6 million DM, as an aid from the German government. For more than 18 months, the issue of the incinerator between Yemen and German official agencies and the intersectorial ministries such as Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Environment Protection Council (EPC), Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning etc., as well as International Organizations such as FAO, and others were coor-

inated. The proposal of the incinerator was disseminated to relevant governmental bodies by the Ministry of Planning and Development, which was chairing the intersectorial ministries committee for the pesticides and the incinerator problem in Yemen.

From environmental point of view, the incinerator wastes and residues are a consideration, especially not to be dumped and disposed of in the marine environment. That was one of the important conditions that the EPC mentioned to the Ministry of Planning and Development, when comments on using the incinerator were asked. Also, other parameters were mentioned as well, how to safely use any hazardous chemicals, without having any adverse effect on the natural environment.

It is known that pesticides were present in the Northern and Southern governorates since The Immam and British era. Therefore, the problem of disposing the expired quantities was a recent one since unification. Now when this issue was brought out by the media and when members of Parliament considered the case as one of the important issues, people started to look to this issue as severe case. In the next issue the concept of using pesticides will be addressed and its impact on the environment will be discussed.

There are efforts not to use the incinerator here in Yemen, this was supported with the action and instructions of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Mr. Sadiq Abu-Rass. An official stated in the MOA&WR. But it seems that pressure was introduced at the meetings of the committee and indirectly made the government accept having the incinerator in Yemen.

Of course, the German contingent did stress this issue and that Yemen has to use the incinerator after its agreement, because that is federal money being spent.

More concern on these issues will be covered next week.

## YEMEN TIMES CONSERVATION GROUP MEETING

The first meeting of the YTCG took place at 5:00 p.m in the Yemen times offices. The YTCG members are as follows:

1. Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Honorary President.
2. Dr. Derek Harvey, Chairman.
3. Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, Group Leader.
4. Mrs. Martino Smith, member
5. Dr. Fawzia Hamid, member
6. Mr. Nabil Obadi, member
7. Dr. Omar Al-Sagheir, member
8. Prof. M.M. AL-Safadi member
9. Mr. Leith Al-Hassan, member
10. Ms. Rehab Azazi, member.

The meeting was kicked off by Prof. Al-Saqqaf, who welcomed the group, and explained that the Yemen Times spearheads one major study each year. "The themes are chosen on the basis of the issues and their pertinence to Yemen's socio-economic transformation. We just finished a study on children which was the theme of 1993. For 1994, we chose the environmental concern as a theme for our research," he said. We have to respond to the rising public interest in conservation and environmental issues, and we have to help guide and mobilize public opinion on the matter. The Yemen Times has published a series of articles on the environment, and has allocated a page to articles in this field. In fact, we now have an environmental editor on our editorial board," he added.

Dr. Derek Harvey then presented pertinent information and some thoughts about the possibilities

and needs. He gave an overall view of the situation and what could be done. "This is a case where so little can go so far," he said.

Dr. Ali Awadh Salem, who is the Environmental editor at the Yemen Times and team-leader, then introduced the members of the group, and suggested that each person focus on a certain aspect of the work in the project. He suggested that any projects chosen should be of practical value, within the known budget figures, and should aim at involving the public, rather than government organizations. He then invited ideas from all presents. After a brain storming session which was enthusiastically joined by everybody, a number of ideas emerged.

The emphasis should be on educational projects at a local level in the community, which would inform ordinary people of the importance and relevance of conservation to their lives. Only by doing so, it was felt, would we be able to enlist their interest and support. It was also agreed the group should concentrate on wildlife conservation, as the wider environmental issues were already being addressed by various government departments.

The group agreed that this activity and the YTCG could and should become the authoritative N.G.O. for Wildlife Conservation issues, and be an ongoing, expert-Yemeni body, to advise and review conservation needs and projects, after the Yemen Times project is completed. It was agreed that the next meeting should be at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, in the Yemen Times Offices.

### تهانينا

نتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للأستاذ / يحيى عبد الجليل محمود

قنصل السفارة السودانية بصنعاء وذلك بمناسبة عقد قرانه على

الانسة / بثينة عباس إبراهيم عبد الغفور متمنين لهما حياة سعيدة وبالرفاء والبنين .

### المهنئون

صلاح شفيق همام - عبد الوهاب محمد عبد الوهاب

يوسف علي محمد - محمد محبوب

رشاد مصطفى عبد الغفور - أحمد شفيق أحمد - عبد الرحمن حسين قسم الله .

# HOW TO MANAGE YOUR BOSS

A compatible relationship with your superior is essential to being effective in your job. To many the phrase managing your boss may sound unusual or suspicious. Because of the traditional top-down emphasis in organizations, it is not obvious why you need to manage relationships upward-unless, of course, you would do so for personal or political reasons. But in using the expression managing your boss, we are not referring to political maneuvering or apple polishing. Rather, we are using the term to mean the process of consciously working with your superior to obtain the best possible results for you, your boss, and the company. Recent studies suggest that effective managers take time and effort to manage not only relationships with their subordinates but also those with their bosses. In managing a situation of mutual dependence among fallible human beings requires the following: That you have a good under-

standing of the other person and yourself, especially regarding strengths, weaknesses, work styles, and needs. That you use this information to develop and

meets the most critical needs of the other person. And that is essentially what we have found highly effective managers doing. Managing your boss requires that you

minimum, you need to appreciate your boss's goals and pressures, his or her strengths and weaknesses. What are your boss's organizational and personal objectives, and what are the pressures on him. What are your boss's long suits and blind spots? What is his preferred style of working? People who work effectively with their bosses pay attention to clues in their boss's behavior. This is a work in progress. The boss is only one half of the relationship. You are the other half. Devel-

## Exhibit

**Managing the relationship with your boss**  
**Make sure you understand your boss and his context, including:**  
**His goals and objectives**  
**The pressures on him**  
**His strengths, weaknesses, blind spots**  
**Assess yourself and your needs, including:**  
**Your own strengths and weaknesses**  
**Your personal style**  
**Your predisposition toward dependence on authority figures**  
**Develop and maintain a relationship that:**  
**Fits both your needs and styles**  
**Is characterized by mutual expectations**  
**Keeps your boss informed**  
**Is based on dependability and honesty**  
**Selectively uses your boss time and resources**

manage a healthy working relationship-one which is compatible with both persons work styles and assets, is characterized by mutual expectations, and

gain an understanding of both the boss and his context as well as your own situation and needs. All managers do this to some degree, but many are not thorough enough. At a

oping an effective working relationship requires, then, that you know your own needs, strengths and weaknesses, and personal style. Altering predispositions toward authority is difficult, but not impossible. Above all else, a good working relationship with a boss accommodates differences in work style. Subordinates can adjust their styles in response to their boss's preferred method for receiving information. Some bosses like to get information in report form so that they can read and study it. Others work better with information and reports presented in person so that they can ask questions. Other adjustments can be made according to a boss's decision-making style. Some bosses prefer to be involved in decisions and problems as they arise. These are high-involvement managers who like to keep their hands on the pulse of the operation. Other bosses prefer to delegate-they don't want to be involved they expect you to come to them with major problems and inform them of important changes. The subordinate who passively assumes that he or she knows what the boss expects is in for trouble. Expectations can be both broad and as well as specific. Developing a workable set of mutual expectations also requires that you communicate your own expectations to the boss, find out if they are realistic and influence your boss to accept them. Being able to influence your boss to value your expectations can be particularly important if the boss is an overachiever. How much information a boss needs to know about how the people who work for him are doing will vary significantly depending on the boss's style and how much confidence he has in them. It goes without saying that workers must be dependable and honest. To have an effective workplace and a viable company, good relationships need to be established and nurtured.

## Verma Concludes Successful Visit in Yemen

Mr. Verma, Managing Director of The Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation Ltd, which is a state government undertaking, has visited Sanaa last week. His company is engaged in the construction of bridges.

Q: Have you been in Yemen before? And are there any changes you have observed?  
 A: Yes, I was here earlier when this project was first undertaken. As far as our own activities are concerned. I



"We have built bridges in several countries including Yemen. Our company suffered immensely because of the Gulf War as we had a lot of business in Iraq. Verma said. Iraq appreciated our efforts but unfortunately, after the war we were unable to return because of the international blockade. We build very prestigious bridges of using the latest technology and modern design. This is our first time in Yemen. country and I very much appreciate the support and patronage. We have been receiving from all quarters.  
 Q: Would you please elaborate about the projects you are currently working on in Yemen? When did it begin?  
 A: The project that we are working on is the strengthening and reconstruction of the bridge near Haradh. This bridge was built in 1982 by another company. Soon after construction, some time in 1985, it started showing signs of distress. It was felt that it was necessary that it should be strengthened and reconstructed. The Ministry of Construction secured some aid from the World Bank to finish this project. It was put up for bidding and we participated in this opportunity. The amount quoted by us was 44 million YR. This will illustrate our sincerity in quoting the least possible price, to cover our expenses and making a little profit without losing quality.

don't see much change but for the fluctuation in the exchange rate for the local currency.  
 Q: How do you see the government responding to your activities and what kind of cooperation are you receiving?  
 A: The government is cooperating and if not for the support we have been getting we would not be able to do the job. There have been no problems.  
 Q: When do you expect to finish the project?  
 A: We expect to finish by the end of next month.  
 Q: Are there any further comments you would like to make to the Ministry, the Yemeni people or to the people who are working on the project?  
 A: The people in the project worked Sundays and holidays so the project could be completed in the least possible time. They are enthusiastic but all of them are without families and naturally feel homesick. Some of them have been here for almost two years. We had the facilities to bring them here once. We are grateful to the Yemeni people for the support. Yemen has a rich cultural heritage and is one of the ancient civilizations, like us and people that have ancient civilization are more open and less inhibited so in this we found we are alike. We did not feel like aliens.  
 By: Ameen Nouisser,  
 Economic Editor,  
 Yemen Times.

### Bekanntmachung fuer Deutsche zur Wahl zum Europaischen Parlament

Am 12. Juni 1994 findet die Wahl der Abgeordneten des Europaischen Parlamentes aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland statt.

Deutsche, die ausserhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und dort keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, koennen bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Fuer ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u.a. Voraussetzung, dass sie

1.1. seit mindestens drei Monaten in den uebrigen Mitgliedsstaaten der Europaischen Gemeinschaft eine Wohnung innehaben oder sich mindestens seit dieser Zeit dort gewoehnlich aufhalten (auf die Dreimonatsfrist wird ein unmittelbar vorausgehender Aufenthalt in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angerechnet)

oder

1.2.

a) in Gebieten der uebrigen Mitgliedsstaaten des Europarates leben

oder

b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltage seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Bemerkung: zu beruecksichtigen ist auch eine fruhere Wohnung oder ein fruherer Aufenthalt in dem in Art. 3 des Einigungsvertrages genannten Gebiet (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thueringen zzgl. des Gebietes des fruheren Berlin (Ost))) nicht mehr als zehn Jahre verstrichen sind, und vor ihrem Fortzug nach dem 23. Mai 1949 aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Bemerkung: wie oben) gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewoehnlich aufgehalten haben;

2. in ein Waehlerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 23. Mai 1994 oder spaeter bei der zustaendigen Gemeindebegeoerde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden  
 ( Para. 17 Abs. I der Europawahlordnung).

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## FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

By: Christine Clark  
Yemen Times



**Culture Shock (ca.1960):** A sense of confusion and uncertainty sometimes with feelings of anxiety that may affect people exposed to an alien culture without adequate preparation. (Websters)

After living in the Middle-East for approximately 4 years, you'd think that I still wouldn't have culture shock. Although I've become accustomed to a lot of the ways of life here in Yemen I still find myself shaking my head in wonder. During my college years, among the cult classics was Alvin Toffler novel Culture Shock. In it he expressed the feelings you get when you are in unfamiliar territory. To me it not only means going from one country to another, but also how you might feel just travelling from one region to another in the same country. This is not as overwhelming as even though you might find some different customs, foods or different dialects, language is usually a common thread. Also being exposed to different strata in your own society and not knowing which fork to use (or what to do if there is not one available). Before I came to the Mid-East I had travelled in several countries. Through reading/television I thought I knew something of this part of the world. I also spoke with people that had lived in this area so I thought I was prepared. Well the adage about you don't know until

you've been there not only applies to emotional trauma but also to being in a place where you are not acquainted with. What a tremendous shock I got. My senses were assailed with the different sights, sounds and the smell was unfamiliar. These things one can not only get used to, but enjoy and savor. But it is the idiosyncrasies (we all have them) and distinct way of life that takes time to get used to, sometimes you never do. Two good examples in Yemen are the practice of blowing horns and the driving habits. Believe me, there is no right or wrong, good or bad in this, I am not presenting a value judgement. Several years ago there was a study done at Harvard University that examined the amount of space or area that people from different countries preferred. It stated that the British prefer about 12 in. of space. Whereas most other Western cultures demanded around 8 in. Many of the Oriental cultures and, what I have personally found to be true, the Arab cultures, do not expect nor feel uncomfortable with very close interaction. There are of course other factors such as lack of space or overpopulation. I find that here people have no compunction about crowding at the grocery store counter or blocking a doorway and only moving only a little so that you that you have to squeeze by. This is not because I am a woman, it happens to men as well. I also try to wait for my turn but many times I find that if I don't become self-assertive I'll probably be late to wherever I am going. Bokkra doesn't necessarily mean tomorrow but can mean two days from now. In the U.S. men generally do not express friendship or in greeting each other by hugging or kissing cheeks nor do they hold hands. Unless of course you happen to be in San Francisco. Since I was not brought up as a Muslim there are certain traditions that I am not used to particularly in the customs

shared between men and women. This is usually where I shake my head in wonder. I've known of arranged marriages and while not the rule at all, have known people who were expected by their families to marry a certain person. In several countries it has become common practice to live together before tying the knot. I asked a colleague if he knew his wife before they were married or if he had even seen her before. He told me that he spoke with her for about half an hour before eventually getting married to her and that until they were married he had not seen her. It's difficult for me to imagine this. As for the woman suppose the man she marries is not good to her it isn't always easy to end the marriage. I do not have too many friends who have not been divorced at least once. In earlier times I can understand the practice of taking more than one wife for procreation. I realize that this tradition is changing and I've been asked, why should people divorce when a man can have two wives and take care of both of them? I see a double standard between men and women in several areas, but from what I understand most people brought up in this society do not see it as such. In conversation with women who have lived or been educated outside of the Arab world, I wondered if they felt culture shock upon returning to their native lands. Almost all expressed that even though they enjoyed having certain freedoms in other countries they were raised with certain beliefs and preferred adhering to them. But almost all express the desire to return to the places they had visited. Naturally there are other ideas, beliefs and ways of doing things. As long as lines of communication are kept open, not to mention an open mind, we find different points of view and ways of life only serve to enhance our own.

## Al-Baraddoni Receives Al-Awais Prize

Saad Salah Khalis  
Cultural Editor,  
Yemen Times.

A group of distinguished Arab cultural personalities gathered in Dubai on March 24, to receive officially the "Sultan Al-Awais" literary prizes, the results of which were already announced a few months back. The new aspect of this prize, awarded in the UAE, is that it has finally become an independent body, after being an subsidiary of Emirates' union of writers. The prize is gaining increasing attention all around the area due to the quality of names awarded the prize so far.

Many believe that "Sultan Al-Awais" prize is developing steadily to become the "Arab Nobel" provided that it can surpass made-up "cultural border lines" as it still confined to the Arab "Meshreq" (the eastern part of the Arab world), and cross over to the "Maghreb" (the western part thereof) where literary movement has its distinguished names. The second important factor that this prize has to consider in order to survive, is to keep away from political influences which form the most destructive factor of any literary project. In this occasion, the prize of poetry was awarded to the veteran Yemeni poet Abdulla Al-Beraddoni, the prize of novel and the short story was divided between Sulaiman Fiadh and Sanallah Ibrahim of Egypt. The prize of literary criticism was awarded to Dr. Abdul-

Qadir Al-Qatt of Egypt and Dr. Yumna Al-Aced of Lebanon, and that of his general literary and cultural achievement to Nizar Qabbany of Syria. Al-Beraddoni is the poet of Yemen (some Arab critics believe that he is the "only" real poet in Yemen), he also one of its major thinkers and



historians of many controversial ideas. Al-Beraddoni is also a poetic stylist that keeps a unique methodology where modernity is melted into the classical Arab "Qasida", in other words, he uses the old language for new meanings. He was once described as the poet who lives all literary times once in a time, keeping connection to the ancient and the current poetry. He is using the classical forms, but his poems are always vivid, lively and ever renewing. Back in 1980, Abdulla Beraddoni was asked about his style and his awareness of the modern poetic forms, and why does he stick to the old ways, the man modestly replied that

this may be one of his own deficiencies or of the time we are living in, as the classical form of poetry still has its overwhelming presence in shaping the poet's conceptual expression. About the modern poetry and the "poetic prose", he said that it isn't important whether the poem is shaped in classical, rhymed or prose-like form, the important thing is that it can invent its own poetic "garments" and keep them.

He is then a poetic liberal never falls in the pit of useless literary conflicts in which his contemporary and later generations of poets are involved in. It is a rarity to see a classical poet of half a century old classical experience to hold such respect to the "prose-poem" such as Al-Beraddoni, who openly admitted the poetic potential thereof and uniqueness of some of its poems.

Throughout all his poetic experience, he felt free to pick up his own forms that suits his forms expression. With that his language jumped from the personal level to the public one, the fact which simply identifies the real poet.

Al-Beraddoni and all others surely deserve the prizes they have got, the prizes that seem away from any non-literary standards. Not being offered by a ruler or any governmental organizations, all Arab writers are expecting further development and exclusiveness of the prize and its sphere of evaluation, to become an Arab Nobel shortly.



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# The Agony of Being An Unmarried Woman!

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

In more than one occasion, people have called for controls over dowries, the amounts would-be husbands pay to win their brides and to finance the costs of the marriage celebrations. Some observers believe an exaggerated dowry is behind the postponement of many marriages, and they have called for curbs on dowries to enable more young men to get married, and thus allow society to overcome spinsterhood which has become a disturbingly widespread phenomenon in our community.

This is not a new problem, although it has gone way out of proportion these days. Since the earliest times of our history, we can see cases of lavish dowries being showered by the males on their lovers. It is a way for the men to show interest and love, it is also a declaration of their intention to become partners and start a home and family. But, it is illogical that the size of the dowry should be the major reason for preventing young people from getting married.

have made up my mind to lead an independent life and to spend my income the way I liked without interference from anybody."

But Nadia has many second thoughts, and she is worried about her youthful years which are fast slipping away. Samia feels the same way. Samia told me light-heartedly that she and her other friends were about to form a "Spinster's Society" - with the notorious acronym SS. "One of the rules would be membership for life," she joked. But that is really a telling joke as it sheds light on the frustration of these young women. They believe they have missed the boat.

Despite the happy face she tried to put on, I thought she looked sad.

It is really ironic - these young women are beautiful, successful in their careers, well-educated, and each has stashed away a good sum of money from their own earnings.

"I have completely dismissed the idea of getting married and I am used to loneliness," said Lateefah. I asked, "Is that true? Suppose tomorrow someone suitable knocks on your door?" "Several men have asked me to share

to the Yemen Times to announce our interest and we openly state our desire in marriage. I think all of us here are ready to marry men who are already married. And if a man is capable of handling more than one wife, I have no problem with that." Fowzia snapped, "Do not make fun of it." Samira insisted she was serious.

She referred to the efforts of voluntary associations in certain Arab societies (the Gulf) where there are many unmarried women. These associations even knocked on doors of already married women and asked them if they will consent to their husbands taking a second, third, and a maximum of fourth wife (as allowed in Islamic Sharia). That approach did not work. Most of the already wives put up against the associations and resisted sharing their husbands with other women, even if it were to resolve the most critical world problem.

"The government should pass a law forcing men to marry more than one wife until the number of unmarried women falls down to an acceptable level. Those men who refuse to take a second or third wife should be prosecuted and penalized until they positively respond to the government decision," Buthaina suggested mockingly. There was laughter all over the room.

Samira supported the idea. "I request you to announce on my behalf that I call for polygamy to ensure that every woman gets a partner (even if part-time)." To drive the point home, she suggested taking a vote on the spot. Those who object to marrying an already married man, please speak up. All participants were silent. There you have it.



Marriage was, continues to be, and will remain the main form of bond between adult males and females in creating homes and raising families, regardless of expensive dowries. But the high cost of dowries and marriage expenses have become one of the main reasons why young people cannot get married in spite of their interest to do so. There are, of course, many other reasons which have made spinsterhood invade our community and become widespread among various classes, especially the rich families.

Marriage is an important institution in its own right, but it becomes more important in conservative societies like ours because extra-marital male-female relations are not tolerated. So what happens to the ever-growing class of young men and women who are unable to get married. I would like to let a group of young women speak to the reader directly. I recently arranged a get-together of a few young women who spoke of the issues related to marriage.

"I graduated from the University ten years ago," said Nadia, who is still unmarried although she is in her thirties. I put a direct question to her: "Why have you not married till now?" She replied, "This is my destiny."

There were two factors that worked against Nadia getting married.

First, she is an educated woman. One of our social values is that the husband cannot be inferior to the wife in many things, including in education. So, the number of candidates for Nadia's hand immediately falls down as most of the males of this country are not university graduates.

Second, she is a career woman. Most Yemeni husbands want a wife who will stay at home and take care of her husband. So, women are often put in front of a cruel choice - to start a career or to start a home.

Nadia chose to start a career, hoping that someday, a husband will come along. He has not come, so far. Many young women go to work because they need the additional income. Others do it because they do not want to stay idle at home. Many are willing to give up work if the right man comes along. The problem is that by going to work, they become stigmatized.

Nadia, however, refused to give up her work. "Many persons had sought my hand in marriage, but I rejected all of them. They ask me to give up my job, and I strongly reject that. Now, I

with them the long journey of life, but I rejected all of them because their educational standards were far less than mine. My repeated rejections discouraged others from proposing to me. I do thank Allah because I am completely released from the nuisance of children and the domination of a husband," she explained.

Commenting on this, Buthaina said, "Frankly speaking, I do regret all the days and years which I have spent alone. This was mainly because of my obstinacy. I always used to view those who propose to me according to their academic qualifications. Also, my family thinks we are the best people ever created by God and most of the young men who proposed to me were seen as below standard and were rejected by them. I am now in my forties now and I have little hope of getting married."

Another lady in the group, Sameera, said that she was in a different situation. "I am ready to marry the 'first' man who knocks on my door." "But please tell me why you rejected those who proposed to you in the past, if any?"

"It was sheer foolishness on my part. I followed blindly in the footsteps of my friends who rejected those who proposed to them. because of this or that reason. As a result, I am going to stand against them now. All the women who pretend to be selective are all liars. They are all dying to get married. Nobody is knocking on our doors, any more. That is the problem."

That was a very strong statement. She repeated, "Just go and fetch me a groom and I will take him." This attitude is very logical and acceptable, especially after these women's long and bitter experience with loneliness. I wondered about the dowry and if they would ask for a high one. "Just bring me the groom and I will finance the dowry and other expenses. I will pay him the dowry if he will marry me."

"You don't know the meaning of loneliness and aging," she said as if murmuring to herself. "I see my youthful years slip away without sharing my life with a partner."

Fowziya, who was very quiet most of the time, said that the problem was not just the dowry. "First there is the sheer population statistics. Males are just fewer than females. Then polygamy is a shrinking phenomenon in our society, though I would have to think twice about being the second or third wife to an already married man." Samira interrupted by saying, "Listen to me, we have given our names

"Most of us are in our late 20s and early 30s. Some of us are even in our late 30s and early 40s, and we are still virgin. Can you imagine that?" she added.

I left the meeting convinced that dowries are not the only cause of the spinsterhood which has become a visible feature of our society.

But is polygamy the answer to the problem?

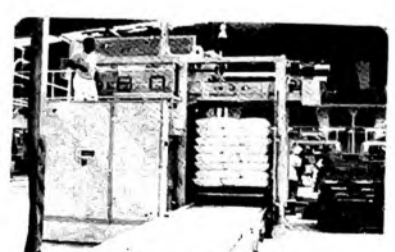
I agree there are more females than males. Then there is also the higher rate of mortality among males than among females because of accidents, wars, etc. Women also live longer than men. In short, there is a disequilibrium. But what is the answer?

The answer may not be found in the logic that prevails in Western countries. Already aware of the fact that polygamy is illegal in the West, young women ruffled out looking towards the West for an answer to this social problem. "Men in the West can officially have one only wife, but they would have unofficial relations (affairs) with quite a few. The difference between the official and the unofficial relations is a ceremony whose high-water mark is the "I do, I do" expression. The position of the Yemeni women is straight forward. "I would rather be the second wife of a man than his play-girl," one of them summed it up.



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الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
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**Science & Technology**

By: Ibrahim AlKibsi

**THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION  
AND ITS EFFECTS IN YEMEN**



This topic is so significant that it ought to be discussed elaborately and the necessary research be conducted in order that it is dealt with in a solid manner. Interested persons will need, therefore, a lot more than the few hundred words in this article. The present article is neither an explanation nor a description of computer capabilities, it is also not a scientific attempt to investigate accomplishments in this field. It is a mere summary to clarify aspects of the shortcomings in our country through a personal field study that indicates an enormous misconception by the public and the inadequate level of awareness.

**THE PROFESSIONALS:**

As may be guessed, the number of local cadres engaged with computers and those that have any significant qualifications in this field is rather small. This can be attributed to lack of encouragement of students to promote their talents, and the absence of opportunities once they have done their studies. Others look at this field with dread as one of the newest and most difficult branches of science. If these circumstances and attitudes persist, the nation is bound to lag behind yet in another field.

It could be observed that many of the employees involved in this field in the various institutions do not have any in-depth understanding of computers. They have either attended short training programs or otherwise graduated from universities with no particular scientific capabilities. Therefore, these employees are incapable of accomplishing the required tasks, which compels the agencies and institutions to resort to foreign expertise that entails very high expenses. The local cadres are not properly cared for in terms of the necessary training and financial remunerations.

Even the small number of Yemenis who have high qualifications do not get the proper opportunities in their own country. So, they reluctantly leave for abroad, where they can earn a better livelihood - part of the brain-drain phenomenon which Yemen has increasingly witnessed in the recent past. Had the state shown interest in local cadre through the agency whose main mandate is the promotion of research and science (neither of which, by the way, it does) these highly trained Yemenis would not have left their homeland.

Some of our immigrants have assumed an effective role in the field of upgrading, developing and elaborating of Arabic computer software and are shown the appreciation they deserve throughout the world. But not in the country they belong to.

Education is a basic and necessary requirement for the promotion of talent. It should be directed in such a way that all subjects are taught to the pupils and students generate interest among them. Additionally all the necessary teaching aids and tools should be provided including qualified teachers and other educational means.

Learning is to be a goal for each person to promote his/her educational and scientific standards, and not a means through which to seek a promotion or an increase of salary.

**COMPANIES AND INSTITUTES:**

Whoever observes the numerous companies that engage in the field of computers may get the impression that we have entered that world of technology. But, with a little scrutiny, it will be found that most of those companies are not involved in genuine scientific research. The majority of these companies deal with computers in a way that resembles retail and wholesale of foodstuffs, without any knowledge of the basic principle.

Moreover, most of them deal with the same hardware without any diversification or updating in order to offer the ideal solutions to the local market needs. Their only objective is to make as much profit in the least possible time. There are many projects, for which the computers were procured long ago, but remain inoperative until today. What is the cause of this? Why Does this happen? What is lacking? What is lacking is efficiency, faithfulness, honesty or and proper supervision.

There are also many institutes that have widely spread without any control measures. If such measures existed, what is the reason then for the persistence of inadequacies and lack of progress in this field? We do have many companies and institutes, but they are all mostly paralyzed because they are controlled and managed by the wrong people. That is the major reason for the shortcomings in this case.

**DATA AND AVAILABILITY:**

Among the problems that hamper the progress of scientific learning is the lack of data, on a regular basis. We have no newspapers, magazines, television and broadcasting scientific programs, no data banks that can generate up-to-date data and make them available to the public. One businessman told me last week that an international expert spent more than two weeks to get basic data on our agriculture sector, and could not find any. The same is true of all sectors. What is the reason for the scarcity of such data? Our information media are providing ample technical, sports, and narrative data at very humble prices. As a matter of fact, we do have access to certain data, which come to us in the form of manuals and T.V. materials. But these are rather old, sporadic and unconnected. Can we pool these data and structure them so that they become useful? Yes, we can!

**EFFECTS OF THESE SHORTCOMINGS:**

The backwardness of education in our country, the disbursement of huge amounts unnecessarily are contrasted sharply to the lack of funds for good research that helps find solutions that serve the required by society. Complete reliance on expatriate personnel. All these effects lead to the collapse of scientific standards, which are then difficult to reconstruct. The loss becomes much greater as time passes. All that we hope for is to be able to benefit from the possibilities and potential available to us. We will need every bit of resource to help the nation move forward.

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As seen in the picture, the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel General Manager, Mr. Francesco Borrello (left), awards Mr. Al Girsh (right), the President's award plaque which was received from the Sheraton headquarters.

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## Sanaa University: Growth in Numbers

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

Sanaa University's student population is fast approaching the 100,000 mark. It is a bad omen, as there isn't much teaching going on, at least not in all the colleges.

The standard of education has steadily fallen since the university first opened in 1971. "It is amazing. We start big and strong, and we shrink with time. Our experience in many things says this is the pattern of our evolution," said a frustrated Sanaa University professor.

The quality of instruction has fallen dramatically. Books and reference material are no longer available. Many colleges have terminated their subscriptions to journals and periodicals, some of which are extremely crucial.

The university produces very little research and the professors do no serious study at all. Some lecturers do not even show up for classes.

In terms of student body, the numbers are growing in a frightening way. In this school year, 1993/94, Sanaa University admitted 20,254 new students. Add to this body, the 7,000 of so last-year students who are stuck in the first year, it means that the university has over 27,000 freshmen. This is a totally unacceptable and unworkable number.

But it seems that the answer is not really to turn off the secondary graduates, but to offer more alternatives. For example, why not start another university in Sanaa, and why not push hard for regional universities, like in Taiz, Ibb, Lahej, Mukalla and Hodeidah, where population densities warrant the estab-

lishment of universities. Steps towards creating these new universities have to be taken today.

The total number of secondary graduates last year, and who are expected to apply in August, is over 40,000. Neither morally nor politically is it acceptable to turn back these people. They need new alternatives.

Aden University is unable to absorb many students. Its total student population is less than 10,000, and it will hardly admit more than 3,000 new students next year.

The Sanaa University Branch at Taiz is swelling beyond recognition. It is already larger than the word branch would justify. Its size is larger than a full-fledged university, and yet, there are only three colleges in Taiz - Education, Arts and Sciences.

In just a year, Sanaa University will celebrate its 25th birthday. By then, it will definitely have reached the level of 100,000 students. This size is neither manageable nor even desirable.

To add insult to injury, a good 40% of these students are admitted in a system of absentee enrollment. That means they do not go to classes, they only go to take exams. While this system may relieve the university from the burdens of classes and teachers and other requirements in the lecturing process, it also produces less than average students.

Unless admission to Sanaa University is more selective the credibility and accreditation of the school are at stake. Over the last 14 years of my association with Sanaa University, I have sadly watched its standards fall.

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### Statistics of Growth of Student Population

College of:	1971	1981	1986	1991	1992	1993	1994
Law/Sharia	47	1487	4836	8193	8844	12462	14523
Arts	12	1002	1599	3636	6232	6092	9204
Sciences	5	476	651	866	1176	1158	1668
Education	---	714	2164	6472	6556	6749	8008
Economics	---	1337	4767	6181	7310	7834	10925
Engineering	---	---	438	1563	1633	1531	1763
Medicine	---	---	245	1618	1916	2161	3089
Agriculture	---	---	354	664	785	679	1006
Taiz Branches	---	---	862	2005	5645	7418	10044
Ibb Branches	---	---	---	426	821	1626	3278
Hodeidah Br.	---	---	---	666	1145	2975	3658
Other Branches	---	---	---	326	603	2965	3890
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5172</b>	<b>15916</b>	<b>32616</b>	<b>42666</b>	<b>53650</b>	<b>71056</b>

**Interesting Data:** Percent of Female Enrollment to Total = 14.3%, ranging from the highest in Medicine (34%) and Arts (29%) and the lowest in Engineering (6%). Total foreign student population represents 1.8%.

**Sources:** Compiled by Yemen Times from difference sources including Registrar's Office at Sanaa University.

**Note:** Number are given for student population in cumulative form

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