



من صلب فورد

# YEMEN TIMES



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PACKARD

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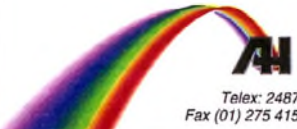
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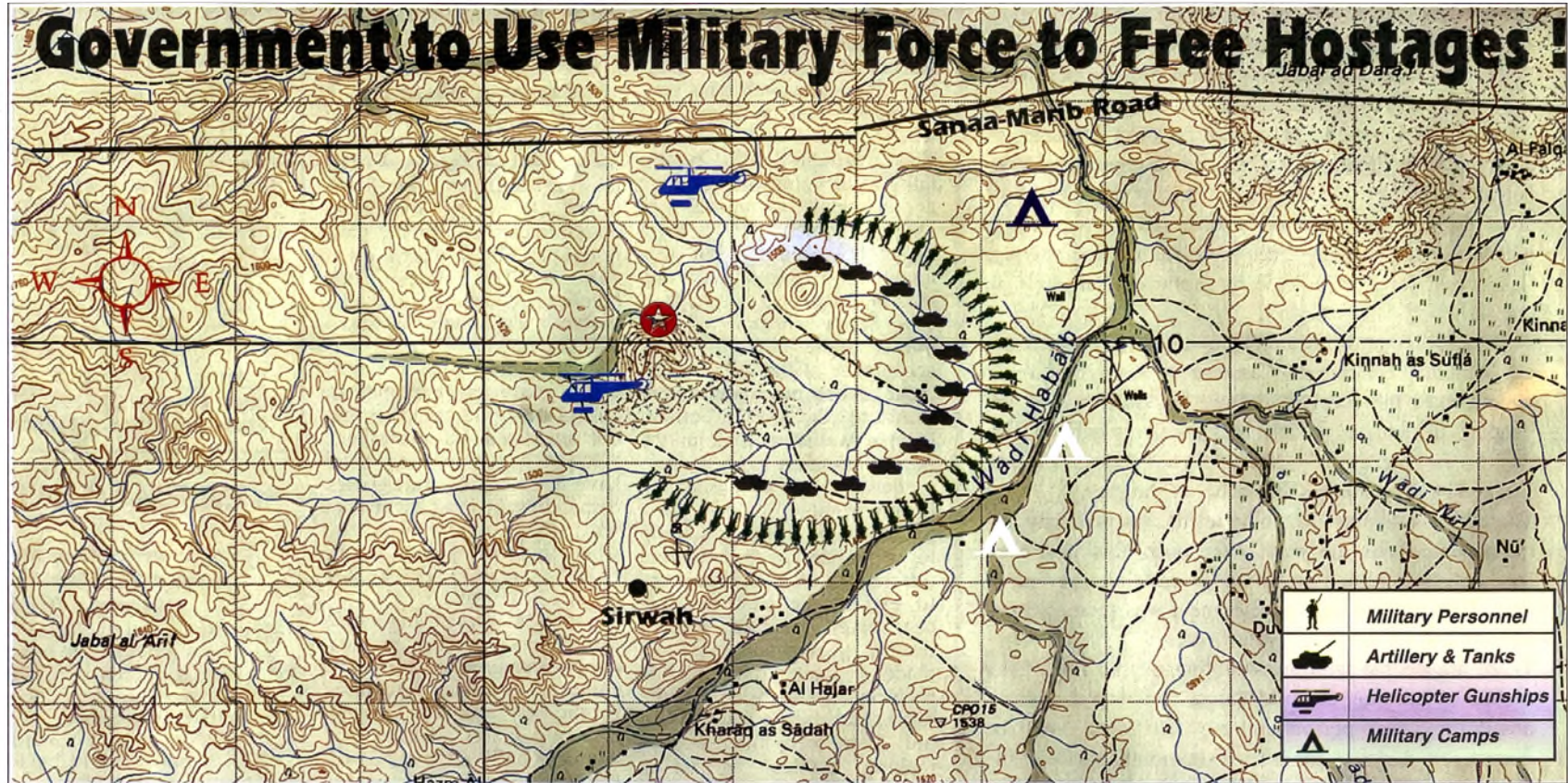
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By: Yemen Times Staff:

Today marks the lapse of one full month since the three Dutchmen were kidnapped by the Zayidi clan of Khawlān tribe since March 25th. They were supposed to have released, on Wednesday, April 20th. It didn't happen. So the Ministry of Interior mobilized about 2000 men from the army to open up the road blocks on the Marib road, and to seal off the Bait Al-Zayidi area. They continue to lay siege to the area. (Please refer to map above.)

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Zayidi and some 100 of his men face the possible attack on them and their villages. If they peacefully hand over the three Dutchmen, the army will open negotiations and lift the blockade. The final deadline for such a deal was yesterday, Saturday, April 23rd. The tribal leaders, failed to achieve the release of the hostages.

For a few hours, it looked like a confrontation was inevitable. A few of the tribesmen have taken up positions on the peaks of mountains and at locations controlling the passes. They readied their bazookas and were poised to fire.

Minister Al-Mutawakkel stood his ground, and issued an ultimatum. "Release the hostages or the soldiers will advance." A compromise was reached according to which two more days were given to release the hostages. The new deadline now is Tuesday, after tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Dutch community in Sanaa is gearing up to celebrate its national day at the end of this month. The ambassador has invited friends to a reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The hope is the hostages will join in to celebrate their country's national day as free people.

The Minister of Interior says he does not want to use violence, if he can resolve the problem peacefully. But if he concludes that force is necessary to end the deadlock, he will use it. We will have to wait for the next few days to see how events unfold.

## "It Is So Horrible!"

Ali Al-Khashib and Abdulrab Al-Udaini - two Yemeni relief workers and stringers for the Yemen Times - have been on their way to Bosnia Herzegovina for the last five weeks. They got stuck at several points and finally faxed back their first message from the Croatian border. In their fax to Yemen Times, they reported lengthily on the tragic situation of the Muslim refugees in Croatia and the feeble attempts of the world community in correcting the situation in Bosnia, which they described as so horrible.

The Croatian authorities called-in to the Yemen Times office to verify if the two were associated with the paper. Even then, the duo's luck ran out because the UN suddenly ordered even reporters off limits. "The only way we could get into Bosnia now is through Italy, but the Italian authorities denied us visas to enter Italy from Croatia," they wrote.

Not disheartened at all, the two dare-devils will cross the border on foot, if necessary. Their task could be drastically reduced if the Bosnian-Croatian federation agreement comes into effect, as this is expected to happen soon.

Yemen Times promises its readers details of the situation from the field in Bosnia Herzegovina. Read on page (8) details on the fighting in Bosnia.

UNHCR to Yemen Times:

## "Conditions in Ethiopia & Eritrea are stable enough for refugees to return."

Yemen Times approached Mr. Rolf Guldberg, In Terim Representative of the UNHCR in Yemen, on the basis of complaints we received from refugees in Yemen. The full story on UNHCR efforts in Yemen will be released next week. Meanwhile, Mr. Rolf Guldberg told the Yemen Times that his agency is no longer able to provide for the Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in Yemen because "the conditions which had forced their departure from their native countries are no longer there." According to the UNHCR official, except in specific and few cases, the situation in both Ethiopia and Eritrea has stabilized and it is safe for those who had departed to return, if they so choose.

Mr. Guldberg, who was speaking in an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, to be published next week, also indicated that his organization is not interested in encouraging either pull or push factors. He also cited financial constraints in being unable to meet all the demands of refugees.

## German, UK & US Envoys to Yemen

H.E. Mr. Helmut Schaefer, German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, arrives in Sanaa on May 3rd. The Yemeni foreign ministry, through our embassy in Bonn has sent out an invitation based on which the German official's visit is scheduled. Meanwhile, the Yemeni-German mid-year consultations regarding German assistance to Yemen will be underway later this week. It will be noted that Germany is Yemen's largest aid partner. Then, a large British energy mission - the first of its kind to Yemen - is scheduled to arrive here on May 8th. During the three-day visit, the 15-person delegation will visit both Sanaa and Aden. Finally, Robert Pelletreau, US Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East, is expected to land in Sanaa in late May or early June. Purpose according to Yemen Times sources: to check out things and to talk on bilateral relations. Yemen's political crisis, which has loomed large over the horizon recently, will naturally feature highly during the said trips.

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## Where Are Our Officials?

Living in Sanaa has become a highly taxing affair. At any one time, there is a shortage of one thing or another. Sometimes there is no cooking gas. At other times, there is no petrol and long lines of cars can be seen queuing in front of petrol stations. Homes suffer from shortages of drinking water. Every night, there is a regulated black-out as electricity is cut off from this or that neighborhood. Of course there are no jobs, and the security is inadequate. Consumer prices have been rising sharply. Last week, food prices rose by a phenomenal 30% in one shot!

The question that is repeated by everyone is: "Where are our officials?" Often the answer is a flagrant reply which takes the form of: "They are oblivious to the people's difficulties because they are overwhelmed with their own bickering." Many times the conclusion reached by the people is that "There is no state!"

There are attempts to encircle the capital city by tribesmen. From the east and north, this has been accomplished, although not for a sustained period of time. Last week, a new development was seen as tribes tried to seal off the south-eastern artery.

There are people who are counting on the fall of the regime by bringing chaos to Sanaa. This is a dangerous possibility. One person told me that Sanaa could be thrown into darkness for at least six months if one of the electric towers coming from Dhamar was brought down. The city has only one source of electric supply.

The precarious nature of our capital city is frightening, especially given the tense situation among politicians and their supporters. I hope the officials are listening as we call on them to take immediate action to protect the towers that supply Sanaa with electricity, and that they will take action to bring sense to the whole situation.

Not only is the credibility of the system and the rulers, but their very survival is at stake. For their own good, they should take action to stop the lawlessness.

*The Publisher*  
*[Signature]*

## Saudi Interest in Resuming Border Talks with Yemen

The Monarch of Saudi Arabia, HM King Fahd, sent a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh expressing interest in resuming the border talks. The letter was delivered by Saudi Education Minister Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Khuwaiter who paid a one-day visit to Sanaa last week.

The Yemeni-Saudi border talks were being managed by a technical committee of experts, which had held a series of meetings, but was unable to achieve anything meaningful.

The Saudi position on the border issue was to force acceptance of the 1934 agreement and to base new extensions to the border on it. Yemen wants to look at the border situation from a comprehensive view based on historic rights.

Saudi Arabia has been hoping to capitalize on the internal differences of Yemen and try to extract the best possible deal given a weak Yemeni central government. It had made separate overtures to both Sanaa and Aden. To the Saudi surprise, neither Sanaa nor Aden were interested in making a deal in which Yemeni vital rights were undermined.

## Oil Sector Brings Guest Speaker

The Republic of Yemen Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers is holding a meeting at the Taj Sheba Hotel, Sanaa, on Wednesday, 27 April 1994. The guest speaker is Dr. Ralph Veatch, who resides in Tulsa Oklahoma, and is a Distinguished SPE Lecturer. His presentation will be on "New Applications in Hydraulic Fracturing Design and Analysis." The sponsor is Sperry-Sun.

The agenda of the meeting is set as follows

- 6:30-7:00 p.m.: Social,
- 7:00-8:00 p.m.: Speaker,
- 8:00-9:00 p.m.: Dinner.

For more information, contact YHOC's Ken Savage. Phone 216080, x 2376.

## British Catalogue Exhibition in Sanaa and Aden

The British Embassy in Sanaa has announced that a Card Catalogue Exhibition of the British construction industry products will take place in Sanaa (27-28 April) and in Aden (2nd of May). The Sanaa part will take place at the Chamber of Commerce building and will be kicked off by the Minister of Trade and Supply, while the Aden part will take place at the Aden Movenpick Hotel and will be kicked off by the Governor of Aden.

Some 150 British firms are participating in the card catalogue exhibition.

## Final Examination in Public Schools

According to a time-table approved by the Minister of Education, most Yemeni government schools will have held final exams for their students by the end of current April. Already the primary schools have completed such exams, while preparatory and secondary schools will hold

them this and next weeks. The period May through August is summer holidays. Given the extraordinary length of the summer holidays, it is disturbing that nobody, in government or outside it has plans for extra-curricular activities in which will keep our children busy.

## So Your Mobile Bleeps Again

The whole mobile system of the republic was interrupted for a few days, last week. The reason: the Pulse Code Modulator (PCM) at the Telecommunications Public Corporation (TPC), which owns 51% of TeleYemen - the balance being owned by Britain's Cable and Wireless - was down.

The government has not officially given any explanation, and in turn, the company has not informed its customers. "Outraged customers out there have been calling TeleYemen demanding at least to be told what the problem was and when it was going to be fixed," said one TeleYemen official last week.

For the few days during which service was interrupted, customers entertained lots of damage. "I carried it with me for the first two days, hoping it would come back to life. But later on, I left it at home," explained one disgruntled customer.

TeleYemen is in a funny situation today. It has not been offered any explanation on the issue by the TPC. And yet, it is nudged to urge Cable and Wireless to put up new money for the additional geographic investments needed to implement the expansion of the system.

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**Mohamed Jaghman:**

**"Because of its geologic formation, Yemen is prone to earthquakes."**

The Republic of Yemen lies on the Great Rift, a formation which has created an the Red Sea, the Al-Ghor valley separating Jordan from Palestina and the lowlands which harbor a number of lakes and valleys in East Africa. This whole area, Yemen included, has been geologically active. Over the years, Yemen has seen many volcanic actions as well as earthquakes. The table on this page gives the major earthquakes in the history of Yemen. Next week will mark the fourth anniversary of the last earthquake that hit Yemen - the Al-Udain earthquake.



The government had set up, in the aftermath of the December 13th, 1982 earthquake, a Supreme Council for the Reconstruction of the Earthquake Affected Areas (SCREAA). Engineer Mohamed Hussain Jaghman was in charge of that council. To shed some light on earthquakes, and what was done by the SCREAA, Yemen Times stringer Ibrahim Al-Kibsi interviewed Mr. Jaghman. Jaghman received his basic (primary + preparatory) education in Sanaa. He completed his high school in Beirut and started studying Agricultural Economics at the American University of Beirut. He later followed that by an MA in Management from the University of Prague.

Before taking up his post as Member of the Board and General Manager of the SCREAA, Eng. Jaghman was Minister of Housing and Municipalities. Excerpts of the interview:

**Q:** The SCREAA was formed to help overcome the damage done by the Dhamar 1982 earthquake. Could you give us an idea of the damage?

**A:** Yes. Let me first start by saying that I was part of the team that arrived on site within two hours of the earthquake. I saw first hand the damage done.

The casualties of that earthquake were 2502 persons dead, some 4800 persons injured, and it affected 1072 villages and hamlets. The total number of persons affected was 265,300 persons. In terms of livestock, 572 cows, 1646 sheep and goats, 23 camels and 122 donkeys were killed. In final count, some 14,000 homes, 561 mosques, 131 water projects, 78 schools, and 19 government buildings were affected. The total financial loss was estimated at over YR 2 billion.

**Q:** Could you share with us how the SCREAA efforts were organized?

**A:** We first started with efforts to save lives and help in emergency plans to reduce the suffering of the people affected. Therefore, our initial task was to provide medical care and check against any epidemics, offer shelter and food, and remove the debris. Very soon, our efforts took

the form of a more long-term assistance affair. We started taking statistics of who lost what, and what could be done to help out. And that is how the reconstruction effort was undertaken. On December 31st, 1982, a republican decree establishing the SCREAA was issued. Another decree established the executive office which I headed.

**Q:** Given that we had no previous experience, how did you determine your approach?

**A:** We very quickly determined that there were at least three levels of reconstruction. There were homes which were completely demolished and families were in make-shift tents or other temporary shelters. These needed new homes.

Then there are those who refused to leave their villages and were with relatives, and they were interested in rebuilding their former homes. This was the Self-help component of the reconstruction effort.

Finally, there are those whose homes needed repairs. In other words, people were grouped along three categories. By far, the first group was the largest, as we built 11434 new homes. We co-financed with the owners the reconstruction of 1521 homes, and helped repair 1888 homes.

In addition, of course, we also rebuilt schools, mosques, roads, water wells, medical centers, government administration buildings and many other projects.

**Q:** How was the reconstruction financed?

**A:** The high level of commitment on the part of the Yemeni people and government was remarkable. The response of the international community was also excellent. That is a lot was done to alleviate the suffering of the people.

Regarding the financing of the reconstruction effort, let me give the contribution in terms

of the new homes built, as follows:

- 1. Yemeni government and people: 5425 homes;
- 2. Saudi Arabia 2864 homes,
- 3. Kuwait 1361 homes,
- 4. Emirates 968 homes,
- 5. Oman 479 homes,
- 6. Others 337 homes.
- TOTAL 11434 homes**

The Self-help component of the project as well as the repair efforts were financed through the proceeds of a commodity loan by the American Government, a Dutch grant, an assistance from the EEC, and a UNDP/UNCDF grant.

I would like to mention here the important role of the Yemeni people, and especially the immigrants who furnished generous contributions. Please also note that the government employees paid, and continue to pay, a monthly contribution earmarked for the reconstruction efforts.

Therefore, we were able finance many physical infrastructure projects.

When the project was concluded about one and a half years ago, there was a credit balance of some YR 800 million in its account.

**Q:** You had established a seismic station to collect data on earthquakes. Whatever happened to that project?

**A:** Yes, we set up a main station in Dhamar, and 24 sub-stations scattered all over the republic. The purpose of these stations is to detect land movement and to alert to possible problems.

The idea is to build a data base to help us determine the kind of engineering and construction material to use in our buildings, dams, highways, oil installations, etc; to develop an earthquake code, and to distribute the country into zones accordingly.

You will have to remember that, because of Yemen's geologic formation, it is prone to earthquakes. These stations are today part of the Mineral Exploration Board.

**Q:** Whatever happened to the executive office of the reconstruction council?

**A:** As I said, it was shut down one and a half years ago. I wish we had decided differently. We may not need a reconstruction council, but some kind of a relief or catastrophe management office is really necessary. You have earthquakes, floods, volcanic action, or even man-made catastrophes. We need an emergency management office.

We have developed the human and physical infrastructure, as well as the administrative capacity for such work. Why throw it away?

**Q:** Many people are surprised that such success was achieved by this project although it worked with unruly tribesmen on a daily-contact basis. Did you not find any difficulties from the tribes and their demands?

**A:** At the initial stages, yes, we faced some difficulties. Our tribes' demands are directly related to how straight you deal. If they conclude you are working strictly by the book, and you apply the laws irrespective of the person you are dealing with, then they leave you alone. They even help you in your work. They know you are straight. But if you zigzag, then their demands start flowing.

**Details of Earthquakes that Hit Yemen**

Location	Year	Casualty
1. Marib Earthquake	742	Destroyed the Dam
2. Sanaa Earthquake	1072	50 persons killed
3. Aden Earthquake	1154	About 300 killed
4. Saadah Earthquake	1644+1647	About 620 killed
5. Dhamar Earthquake	1657	About 64 killed
6. Hodeidah Earthquake	1789	About 12 killed
7. Dhamar Earthquake	1909	About 300 killed
8. Saadah Earthquake	1941	About 1200 killed
9. Saadah Earthquake	1957	About 107 killed
10. Dhamar Earthquake	1982	2502 persons killed
11. Al-Udain Earthquake	1991	26 persons killed

**Q:** From your experience in such calamity circumstances, did you find Yemenis to have the ability to be compassionate and help out those in need?

**A:** I do not want to exaggerate, but the answer is yes. I have seen people going out of their way to help those in need. Let me quickly say that this part of human nature and nothing unique to Yemenis.

**Q:** When you regrouped the various recipients of new homes, have you considered the tribal affiliation of our people by bringing people of different tribal backgrounds into new residential units together?


**A:** That was indeed one of the considerations. We applied it - within limits.

**Q:** What is your time estimate of the next earthquake to hit Yemen?

**A:** Of course, you know science is yet unable to predict when and where the next earthquake will hit. Even then, I suspect we will have trouble some time at the turn of the century.

The main thing is to minimize the damage. The first step in this direction is to help develop proper guidelines for the way we build our homes and other buildings. You see, now we are constructing large buildings, like hospitals and universities that harbor hundreds and thousands of people. We also construct large dams, deep wells, and giant facilities. How and where we build them is of enormous significance.

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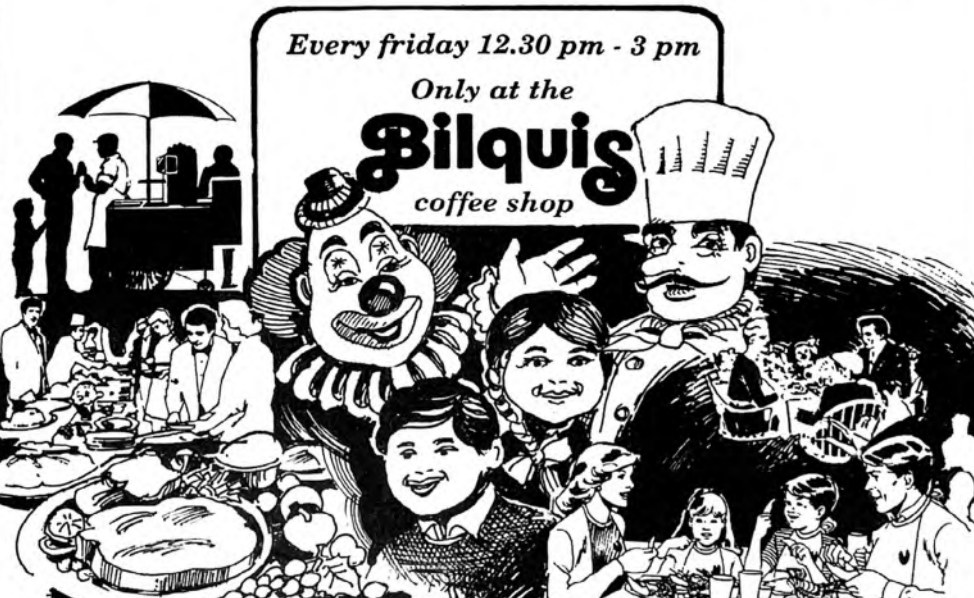
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# How to Help Unmarried Women?

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times

I first approached Khadija, a woman who was married some 50 years ago, and asked

few clothing and ornaments. The chest also had a few utensils, some pillows, linen, and two carpets. I later learned that my parents and the groom had made a list

of 300 riyals and that it was about the average in those days. She explained that this was used to furnish a 3 room flat and that the money was not enough, so her father paid the difference. She said, "I would like to raise a point based on my experience in the West. Why do we insist that the home be furnished in totality upon marriage. Why can't the groom furnish the home gradually, based on the needs of the new family and its financial resources?"

According to Fatin, it is not imperative that a woman move into a fully furnished new house upon her marriage. Again according to Fatin, this leads to a financial burden on the newly-wed couple. And as it is the man who shoulders the financial burden, he begins to see his wife as the source of his troubles, and thus trouble arises.

This is also true regarding the ornaments a bride demands. She should be contented with the basic minimum, and with time - as the family's resources improve - the husband can buy a lot of jewelry for his wife.

She called on parents to demand a reasonable dowry and not to plant the seeds of trouble for the newly-weds. As Fatin was talking, I was looking at the faces of the other women who were listening and asked, "Which of you after being married for so many years have retained the same furniture which you had started out with?" All of them said they have changed their furnishings at least once. And most of them have received additional jewelry - often more expensive in value than the initial ornaments they started with upon marriage.

As we were talking about the initial investment in putting together the furnishings of the new home, a paradoxical conclusion was reached. While the dowry, which finances such initial investment, is the stumbling block for would-be grooms, the furnishings of the new home are not preserved by the bride. She uses the nearest excuse to get rid of it and replace it: Why? Because she had little say in it!

"Each one of us has redecorated her home over the

years. This proves the triviality of insistence on the dowry and the furnishing of the bridal home."

All this suggests that there is no point in insisting on buying expensive furniture beyond the means of the father and the groom. The dowry demanded should be used to furnish the home in a way that meets the basic requirements of starting a normal marital life.

That logic, while theoretically sound, stumbles against a number of socio-cultural values. Sena'a, one of the ladies, while agreeing with the logic, pointed out that families are under pressure to keep up with others. Parents often compare what has been paid for their daughter's hand with that compared to other brides. She said, "There is extreme pressure on parents to show that they value their daughter by demanding a high sum as dowry. If the parent are liberal and resist such pressure, the uncles, aunts, cousins, and even the neighbors apply the pressure. The meddling in other's affairs is a standard part of our lives," she said.

That is true. In addition, there is the constant comparison with others in the neighborhood. "You can't compare us with the West. In the West, people barely know their neighbors. Here, we know their most private stories," she added.

Immediately, I sensed there was a generational gap. The

older and married women can see the need for holding down expenses in order not to overburden the newly-wed couple with financial obligations and debts due to the marriage. This is especially true if we talk about the current level of dowry paid by grooms to the parents of their brides.

Faiqa joined in the discussion by announcing that the dowry paid to the bride is determined according to the prevailing prices in the market. She pointed out that dowries today are in the range of 200,000 to 300,000 riyals, and often even more. "The dowry cannot be reduced unless prices come down or people agree to forgo these things. She said with a little vision and determination and firmness, brides can do without a lot of the things purchased for their new homes - if they want to keep down the dowries," Sena'a said.

That would require a change in social attitudes.

Women in this country are said to out-number men,

which is another factor why there are many unmarried women. Faiqa added that the damage to unmarried women gets more acute as they grow older.

Unmarried women quickly find themselves the target of slander and abuse. Their chastity is often questioned, due to no fault of theirs. In addition, they end up leading a lonely life. But the worst part of it is that an unmarried woman is never seen as an independent persons who can take of herself. First the father, then the brothers and cousins, and finally the nephews and even grandchildren take charge of these women's lives.

To alleviate the suffering of Yemeni women, we have to find immediate and practical solutions to the phenomenon of high dowries. We should also work to change society's attitude towards unmarried women.

## Chief Editor's Note:

The Yemen Times has been interviewing unmarried women and discussing the responsible factors. We have reported many cases of women who would like to be married. As a result, we received phone calls as well as written requests from men who would like us to introduce them to those women.

We do not see ourselves as playing this role. We are journalists writing about important phenomena in our society, but cannot become match-makers.

I hope those who contacted us will understand. Thank you!



her the amount of dowry paid to her by Ahmed, her husband. "Oh, that is an old story. Why do you want to know?" I told her that I was comparing the amount of dowries paid yester-years to those being paid today. She then stated that she was barely 12 years old and was still playing in the streets when my husband asked my father for my hand in marriage. In fact, I was upset by this engagement, after which my father prevented me from playing and ordered my mother to veil me and keep me indoors on the basis that I had then become a 'mature woman' on the evidence that a man had proposed to me. I asked her: "How much did the bride-groom pay as dowry?" "Thirty gold guineas in cash, (a guinea was equivalent to five silver riyals). My father took the money and bought a wooden chest which has a

the new home needed, and the dowry money was estimated accordingly." Unfortunately, fathers often end up putting up money from their end as the dowry money cannot cover all things and many things are often forgotten to be put on the list.

Khadija went on to explain, "My father purchased most of the goods for my new home, and he had added an amount equal to the dowry money so as to be able to buy all the things needed," she said.

From this conversation, I realized that dowry money was fixed according to need of the new home and is therefore based on the prevailing level of prices at the time.

To substantiate this point, I met other ladies who had been married for long periods of time. I met a woman named Fatin who has been married for some twenty years. She said that her husband, Ibrahim, had paid 25,000



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**Gina Paminto'an:**

# "Please treat us like human beings."

By: Nabil Al-Yusufi, and  
Ridha Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times.

We would like to start this story by expressing gratitude to Dr. Salem Banajeh, the General manager of the Sabeen Hospital, for having allowed us full freedom to carry out our investigations inside the hospital. We also appreciate his invitation to us to sit in some of the meetings with the nurses.

It was around 5:00 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, April 16th, at the Sabeen Hospital in Sanaa when it all started. He was getting more and more annoyed at her seeming lack of care and negligence. The patient - a woman - was in pain and bleeding. He was the guard posted at the door of the gynecology section. He felt he had to do something. He pressed on the nurse to come to the help of the woman. The nurse was trying to explain she had a delivery at hand. She had called another nurse to come and help with the bleeding patient.

The situation quickly got out of hand. The Yemeni guard and the Philippina nurse were shouting at each other, each accusing the other of various things. Soon, push came to shove as the shouting turned into a hand-to-hand combat. The end-result: nurse Gine Paminto'an came out with various bruises.

The situation quickly snowballed. The seventy or so Philippina nurses, plus the few Indians went on strike. "We are not safe here. Any one of us could get beat up, and nothing would be done about it," some of them insisted.

Gina demanded the dismissal of the management of the hospital, altogether.

Dr. Salem Banajeh tried to pacify the rebellious nurses. He and several other officials assured the nurses the guard will be reprimanded. He also called on the nurses to elect three or four nurses to represent them in negotiations with the hospital management in presenting their grievances. In addition, he promised to change the whole lot of guards. Finally, he offered to solve any other complaints the nurses had, provided they returned to work immediately.

The nurses listed several other complaints. There has been repeated harassment by the hospital guards and some members of the administration. "They don't treat us as human beings," one of them said.

Another one pointed to the repeated assault on their privacy by the Central Security soldiers. They live close by. "As we go in and out of our hostel, the soldiers

keep making advances and passes at us. They sometimes even squeeze this or that part of our body as we pass by," some reported.

Then there is the money problem. The hospital does not pay their salaries on time. The salaries of the last three months were still pending. When we were there, a representative of the Ministry of Finance arrived stating that he was carrying payment for the pending period. The contracts of most nurses will expire in less than three months, and they have two months' leave salaries payable. The hospital is unable to sort out their financial dues because of the bureaucratization involved.

Dr. Banajeh has made good on his promise to change the whole lot of guards, and he has seen to it that the guard who attacked the nurse was punished.

But he also has a few complaints of his own to make. He is upset that the nurses are demanding a change of management. "That is none of their business. As a matter of policy, we are going to select more professional nurses once the contract of these nurses expire," he said. He was referring to the complaints he had received on the behavior of the nurses.

"One of the major problems is that the nurses want their boy-friends to some to the hostel. We cannot explain this request to the guards and to society. I wish the nurses would respect the local values more, and act accordingly," he added.

Things have returned to normal at the hospital. The nurses learnt the power of acting together as one block. This is something the hospital management is unhappy about. We shall report of any developments in this matter.



Dr. Banajeh Discusses with the Nurses how to Resolve the Problem



The Nurses Listen to the Hospital Management, but They Are Not Convinced. Then They Have a Few Things to Tell the Management.

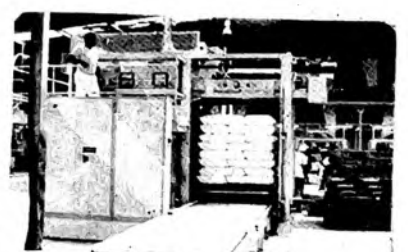
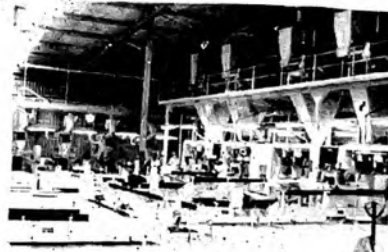


Gina Talks to Nabil about the Problem



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الحدیده ت: ٣/٢٢٢٦٠ فاكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو حجة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦١ فاكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سنجان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦  
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ فاكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠



## this week's major headlines

### Al-Shoura Newspaper, 17/4/1994

- \* The situation between the state and the tribes has become tense.
- \* Authorization for the islah to continue its blasting actions.
- \* The countdown for confrontation.
- \* continuation of sit-in protests all over, the republic.

### Al-Mithaq Newspaper, 18/4/1994

- \* president saleh: "we knew ahead of time that the unity will be the target of conspiracies."
- \* The government has spent YR 19 billion and collected in revenue only YR. 12.5 billion in th southern govern-orates.
- \* Al-Beedh: "The document is the only solution to take yemen to a safe shore."
- \* Military campaigns in amran to remove tribal raod-blocks.

### Al-Thawry Newspaper, 21/4/1994

- \* Abu Luhum escapes a murder attempt in Sanhan.
- \* The foreign ministry recalls the charge d' affair in warsaw.
- \* Drugs distributed in the (somali refugee camp) in Abyan.
- \* Why did the intermediation of the president fail.

### Al-Islah Newspaper, 18/4/1994

- \* A new confrontation between the YSP and the people of Lahej.
- \* Examination results of the Technical Secondary School in Taiz.
- \* Heated struggle among the various blocs in the separatist party (YSP).
- \* al-islah newspaper issues its 100th edition.

### Al-Jabhah Newspaper, 19/4/1994

- \* Al-Attas seeks political asylum in United States of America
- \* An attempt at the life of Al-Siyali because he plundered citizens' properties.
- \* Shaikhan Al-hibshi offers his expertise in cessionism.

### Al-Wahdawi Newspaper, 19/4/1994

- \* Aqlan Al-Rashidi's debts cause a lot of harm to the people.

### Attagummu Newspaper, 18/4/1994

- \* The tribes of the ocialist (party) and the crisis of gas and petrol.
- \* Investment in the oil sector hasn't been affected by the crisis.

### Al-Umma Newspaper, 16/4/1994

- \* Ahmad Mohammad Al-Ahami: my appearance in a meeting with Abdullah Abdul-Aalim was nots something done on purpose and the case of the weapons is but a fabrication.

### Al-Wifaq Newspaper, 15/4/1994

- \* Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum: "the key to resolving the crisis is in the hands of the president and he knows how to go about it. he has a kind of flexibility which mr. Ali Aalem Al-Beedh doesn't have.

### Al-Wahdah Newspaper, 20/4/1994

- \* the president to Al-Baidha people: "We will never go back to division days whatever the cost."
- \* The vice president to radio bbc: "the document isa new format for democracy."
- \* abu luhum: "bakeel is not a tool for those who want to harm unity."

### Samples of the Answers of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh on the BBC Radio Interview:

The answers of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh on Thursday, April 14th, 1994 were, like the questions, themselves looking for answers.

As an example, what is the relationship between the following question and answer:

#### Question:

"Shifting the crisis from Yemen to the outside world, and pulling the rug from under the Dialogue Committee are criticisms laid out by many circles. What is your comment?"

#### Answer:

I hope that Yemen becomes the forum for Arab harmony, and for them to come together to do good deeds. Such a process could see its beginnings in helping Yemen overcome its crisis. We know the concern of our Arab brothers and the rest of the world is based on our civilizational project. We declared on the 22nd of May (1990) a national democratic program which has its supporters and sympathizers.

"But at the same time, another alternative project or program was presented. It is the program of fundamentalists and politicized Islam. This project aims to return Yemen/ Arab World to medieval times.

"Now, I think that the Arabs are heeding our call in coming in to help us achieve our civilizational project which is a pillar to the democratic Arab project..."

This was his answer.. Let us analyze this answer and see what it means:

1. He is talking of a national democratic project - announced on May 22nd, 1994 -which has an Arab horizon or framework.
2. Those who oppose his project are those who promote the Islamic or fundamentalist project, according to him. He feels this alternative project will take the Arab World back to medieval times.
3. He thinks Arab intervention in our affairs is something good, and it is a brotherly intervention.

Now, let us compare between the Al-Beedh project and the Islamic project:

The main features of the Al-Beedh project are:

- Refusal to accept political influence based on democratic (election) results;
- Marginalization of constitutional institutions;
- Importing arms and weapons of destruction to resolve the crisis (Remember the plane).
- Calling for federal/confederal systems to replace the union;
- Promoting sectarian, regional and other discriminational feelings;
- Mobilizing the secret service apparatus (Defence Forces) in all streets and quarters;
- Setting up a free zone within the public sector;
- Establishing warm relations with countries that oppose the dreams of the Arab people;
- Encouraging the Beer Factory in Aden and the construction of other similar factories;
- Promoting male-female mixing places and prostitution and opposing decent clothings (of women), and blocking such values as assisting the needy;
- Converting the nation to a base for new colonialism;
- Murdering political opponents;
- Poisoning water wells, blowing up roads, and violating privacies;
- Preparing new schedules for violent bloodshed such as 1969, 1978, 1981 and 1986;
- Universalizing abuse in Al-Beedh and Al-Siyaly prisons;
- Encouraging children to take the Lord's name in vain;
- Working to dismantle the southern governorates/districts;
- Standing behind the USA in its blockade of Sudan, Iraq and Libya and encouraging it to strike them;
- To declare belief in democracy and yet standing by those who struck it down in Algeria/Tunisia.

That is the project of Al-Beedh which has been promoted in the media. It definitely is contrary to our project which accepts election results, refuses violence and terrorism, fights against torture, opposes prostitution and drugs, stands firmly against sectarian or other form of discrimination. We oppose any other form but unity for Yemen, and we do not tolerate puppets and those slaves who serve foreign masters.

Our Islamic project pushes for an independent Yemen free from cultural hegemony, economic dependence and social decadence. We push for a free and democratic Yemen that stands on an equal footing with other nations, not one that is beholden to foreigners.

So which project is better?

By: Saeed Thabit Saeed,

Al-Islah, 18/4/1994,

Taiz.

### The Solution is by Adhering to the National Consensus

It is certain that the upcoming meeting of Cairo between the President and his deputy is undoubtedly going to take place soon unless something unexpected happens, in which case, the crisis will deepen and both sides will lose an opportunity for reconciliation. With the importance of the Amman/Salah meetings, it is noted that the Cairo meeting will be a watershed and a remarkable chance to work out a solution. The previous two meetings were but preparations.

In addition, pressure is being exerted to normalize the relations between the YSP and PGC, which will hopefully lead to the implementation of the Document of Pledge and Accord.

Yemen Times sources confirm that the core issues of the next meeting will be the concept of federation as a system for the homeland. The main point of disagreement is the sharing of power. Outside forces might help to make this coming meeting a success.

One of the difficulties facing the meeting in Cairo is the security/military issue, which hampers progress in the political negotiations. This explains the Abyan incident, only hours after the signing the Document in Amman and was repeated in the Dhamar incident after the re-unification of the cabinet for the first time in Taiz.

Accordingly, such things shouldn't be allowed to happen. Of course there are those who do not want to see the crisis come to an end and are exerting their own pressures, with or without strong military back-up. We have to watch out for them.

By: The political Observer,

Al-Shoura, Sanaa,

17/4/1994 .

### Under the Sceptre of Separation

We all know that life in an ignorant or backward society is confused. But one day, people will wake up and will understand what is really happening. We find oppression by the rulers, without consideration to the constitution or the wishes of the majority. We realize that this type of regime will eventually fall, but it may not do so until it makes us starve, fight each other, and bring chaos. The politicians go on with their plans for separation. It is not something strange for they possess all the potential to deliberate on such decisions, based on new designs and preparation. We in the Altagummu Alwahdawi ought to state our position since we are Unitarians.

Do you want us to really speak the truth?

We feel separation not because of the Sanaa-Aden split, but because they agreed upon the Document and because the dream of the people which was thought to have been achieved by them was not realized. It seems that the leaders who participated in the unification process regretted what they had achieved because they discovered it was not to their liking. Oddly, it is also their dream to separate, which again will not bring things to their liking.

We know that the Yemenis in whom they arouse feelings of tribal, regional, and ethnic affiliations, are unaware of what is going to happen to them.

We think it is a crime to go back to the pre-22 May, 1990, for it will be a step backwards not forward. It is a shame to live under the sceptre of separation.

#### Editorial,

Al-Tagummu, Aden,

18/4/1994.

### Opposition & Dialogue Committee Have Common Goals:

The national opposition bloc decided not to respond to the call of Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council, and Mr. Abdul Wahab Al-Anisi, Deputy Premier, to the members of the Dialogue Committee to meet in Sanaa on 19th of April. This call coincided with the proposal of the national opposition bloc which comprises the only opposition out of the coalition aiming to reach a unified standpoint in dealing with the techniques being practiced by the authority parties to impede the dialogue.

Meanwhile part of the meeting will be devoted to discussions of the current situation and the role of the dialogue committee in solving the crisis and laying down a follow-up/supervision committee to implement the Document.

The opposition bloc expressed its astonishment at the ruling parties and their efforts to impede the work of the Dialogue Committee by activating it whenever they wanted to or freeze it whenever

they desired. It is worth mentioning that after the Amman meeting, the formation of a committee to prepare a program of tasks was agreed upon by all sides. But the work of the committee was hindered. Another issue is the formation of a sub-committee to look into the constitutional amendments called for by the Document of Pledge and Accord. committee which was invented by some to impede the dialogue at the time when all agreed that the formation of such a committee is within the right of the Dialogue Committee only.

Some of the political media expect in the next week to witness a kind of political activity of the Dialogue Committee after a period of undesired idleness because things getting in the way of the work of the committee.

#### Front Page ,

Al-Wahdawi, Sanaa,

19/4/1994.

### "Yes, We Are the Party of Unity."

Through-out its history, from its very inception in the womb the Pan-Arab movement, the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) dedicated itself to the cause of unity. It was and continues to be one of the main national issues at the head of its struggle agenda. The YSP has made big sacrifices to promote the cause of unity as the sole criterion for authenticity of any political action for the whole national Yemeni movement.

We sincerely believe that such a party with all this history of commitment to unity doesn't need to announce its national approach or to look for evidence of its commitment to unity and its efforts to safeguard the nation from fragmentation and backwardness. Our party is pushing towards the horizons of the future, to the heart of a new era to the point of civilized interaction with the world.

Proudly we state that the the YSP is unionist in its formation and development, it is unionist in its approach and orientation, its unionist in its objectives and goals, and it is unionist in its aspirations and plans. The unity of Yemen has never been the subject of mere political maneuvers based on short sighted goals or an attempt to export its own crisis by escaping from it. Holding up the flag of unity high, we propose the sincere and noble end of the YSP as an integral part of its conscience.

The hysteric commotions being made by the leaders of PGC against the YSP is a clear indication that they are extremely unbalanced and bankrupt in their dealing with the YSP. We see one flank of the PGC accusing the YSP as anti-unionist while another flank is holding the YSP responsible for enforcing a pre-mature amalgamation or unity on the country. This contradiction is a clear evidence of their inconsistency.

Our party wants to confirm that we consider the accusations of Dr. AbdulKarim Al-Iryani as a badge of honor for YSP. He says that the YSP is responsible for the premature unity at a time when the PGC was demanding what was much less than a confederation.

This is a new factor that makes the cause of defending and maintaining the Yemeni unity as the responsibility of the YSP above all other national and patriotic forces. It is also our task, more than others, to stand up to the reactionist conspiracies and plots of separatists.

Our Party is also very well aware that those who have never accepted unity as a strategic goal and historic necessity are using it only as a tactical tool to use for resolving their internal problems and troubles.

Yes, we are the unitarians, and we are the makers of the document (of Pledge and Accord), and we are the ones who follow the national consensus. And we are the ones most able to represent the unity of the nation. We shall persevere in the implementation of the document.

Let all take heed. We are the unitarians who shall be its first and last protectors. And we are the forces of democracy. But who are you?

#### Editorial,

Al-Thawry, Sanaa,

21/4/1994.

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## SUDAN: Central Government Cornered

The Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) led by Colonel John Garang concluded its first general conference since in 1983, when it was founded. The conference issued a declaration to establish the "New Sudan State" in the SPLA held areas. The declaration stressed the determination to continue armed struggle against the central government to realize the right to self determination for the *New Sudan*. It also called for the establishment of a civil administration separate from the military administration. It said independent legislative and judiciary organs will be set up. John Garang, in a statement on the occasion, said he guaranteed general amnesty to all those who deserted the SPLA or committed any anti-SPLA actions. His statement comes in an attempt to reclaim thousands of men who had left the movement. The declaration also indicated the intention of utilizing all the resources of the *New Sudan* for the purpose of the military effort. Commenting on the declaration a spokesman for the Khartoum government termed the step as mere propaganda aimed at enhancing the morale of a defeated and scattered SPLA guerrilla movement. The source added that such a declaration would have some meaning if it were made in the late eighties when SPLA was in control of most of the Southern region. "Today, the government of Khartoum controls most of the southern part of the country, and the SPLA itself is limited to small isolated pockets near the Ugandan border." Political observers also point to the highly demoralized SPLA, and say that the action may have come out of desperation and frustration given the remarkable recent successes of the central government. It finally shows the separatist tendency of



the SPLA.

The Khartoum government spokesman further described the declaration as nonsense and said it aimed at diverting attention of the public, specially in the south, from the overwhelming acceptance by the people of the new federal system which divides southern Sudan into ten federal regions.

Nevertheless, a number of Sudanese observers abroad expressed fear the step might be a prelude to the separation of the South, specially since the SPLA started receiving considerable supplies of arms recently from different sources. The observers

also expressed concern that the continued international isolation of Khartoum may help weaken it and thus make the secession of the South easier.

In another development, press reports speak of massive demonstrations in Wad Madeni, capital of the Central Region, and the second largest city in the Sudan. The casualties in the demonstrations, which centered around the Gezira University, led the death of three persons at the hands of riot-control police. A number of commercial enterprises, including a bank branch, were damaged.

Independent sources confirmed the demonstrations. The anti-government demonstrations were triggered by economic hardships, especially the recent spiralling in the price level, according to observers.

The Khartoum government has accused the opposition of inciting the protests and demonstrations. It has also decided to close down the Gezira University and a number of high schools and institutes. The conditions remains tense, and the more events could unfold in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, the government is trying to bring the situation under its control by working to improve the people's standard of living.

## ETHIOPIA: Getting Ready for Democratic Change

Ethiopia seems geared to plunge into elections, come the 5th of June. Already the candidates - whether independents or affiliated to parties - have filed their candidatures. The Commission supervising the elections is now working on a methodology to give the various candidates access to the official media to air their programs and views. It is also working on the campaign elections.

"This is the first time we are having free elections, so there is considerable apprehension. Yet, it is going on more smoothly than we ever expected," said a senior member of the commission, Journalists and observers are going to be invited to witness the elections.

At another level, the Commission charged with drafting the constitution has finished its job. The chairman of the commission, Mr. Kifle Wodajo, paid a visit to President Meles Zenawi and handed over a copy of the draft constitution. Mr. Wodajo stated to the ENA (Ethiopian News Agency) that his team referred extensively to the experiences of other countries, parts of which were incorporated in the document.

The constitution, a copy of which was obtained by Yemen Times indicates it is the result of a lot of compromises and mutual concessions as both the center and the regions worked to accommodate the aspirations of each other. The document also places especial emphasis on human rights and basic liberties.

There were several issues of heated debate. Disagreement continues over land ownership, the

right of self-determination (of various national groups) up to secession, and the role of the Amharic language. Some differences also prevailed over such issues as a fair system of revenue-sharing between the central and regional governments, judicial independence, and the mechanism for a two-way influence in the local and central government apparatus.

Then there is the issue of religion. The Church of Ethiopia and the Muslim community each want to preserve their influence and role in society. Thus, the religious institutions did get full exemption from taxes of their estates, and respect and protection of their ownership. But the church and mosque could not force an article which prohibits promulgation of laws that contradict religious laws, although the constitution draft does include an article which prohibits infringing on or limiting of freedom of belief.

The draft rules out any national religion, and separates state and religion. "While the system guarantees equality of beliefs, religion is a private matter," according to the draft constitution.

The issue of the Amharic language is a thorny one, especially since some of the nationalities, including the largest one - the Oromo - have just converted to the Latin script, and away from the Amharic script. "Ethnic (local) languages will be used in the educational system, while Amharic and English will be taught additionally as nationwide languages, the draft constitution stipulates.

## Birr Trouble

There has been a run on the Birr, which is the currency of Ethiopia, and still in use in Eritrea. The difficult economic situation of Ethiopia, and the chronic deficit in the balance of payments have forced a sequel devaluation of the currency.

Early this month, the National Bank of Ethiopia (central bank) announced a minor devaluation raising the exchange rate of the US dollar from 5 birr to 5.13 birr. The cosmetic action of the NBE is not seen as a sufficient measure to shore-up the birr. A black-market for foreign exchange is in full bloom, where the dollar can fetch as much as 7.5 birr.

NBE Governor Mr. Leikun Berhanu said that the devaluation of the birr was part of the country's monetary policy aimed at speeding up the structural adjustment program. One aspect of the new monetary policy is the auctioning of foreign exchange which was initiated almost a year ago, in May 1993.

The price levels, and hence the cost of living, in both Ethiopia and Eritrea are expected to be affected, notwithstanding the assurances of the governor to the contrary. Both countries already import significant portions of their consumption and investment goods.

However, the silver lining to the devaluation is that Ethiopian/Eritrean products will now be relatively cheaper to foreign countries. Thus, exports from those countries to the rest of the world could increase, depending on their elasticities of supply.

## SOMALIA: Bad News Continues

Sudanese ambassador to Somalia Mr. Mohammed Hassan Abdulbagi was kidnapped in the capital Mogadishu. Eye witnesses said that Mr. Abdulbagi, 50, was driving from his office to the nearby Nasser Habloud Hotel when three armed men stopped him and led him under gun-point to their car and left. The kidnapers are believed to be militia men of the Hawadeli tribe who are involved in a fierce fight against militias from the rival Habergeder tribe. A number of prominent Somalis expressed surprise at this incident as the Sudanese Embassy and community in Somalia are known for their good relations with all factions. The Sudanese embassy has started its contacts to secure the release of the ambassador, and reports from Khartoum talk about a large ransom amount demanded by the kidnapers.

On the other hand, a spokesman for the US administration expressed concern regarding the expansion of the on-going fighting between Hawadli and Habergeder to control the airport road in Mogadishu, and warned against the continuation of the fighting or an expansion of the violence which will jeopardize the peace process in the country.

The US official told the press that his country will not intervene in the fighting as long as the airport road remained open and accessible to US and the UN officials and humanitarian agencies providing help to Somalis. He also expressed hope that the national reconciliation meeting scheduled for April 26 will be held at the fixed date to push forward the peace process, despite the fighting in the capital Mogadishu.

### تعازينا الحارة

نتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة للأخ العزيز

الأستاذ عصام سعيد سالم

رئيس تحرير مجلة «صم بم» الكاريكاتيرية

بوفاة والده أسكنه الله فسيح جناته وإننا لله وإننا إليه راجعون

الأسفون:

د/عبدالعزيز السقاف

الأستاذ سمير راجع

الأستاذ إسماعيل الغابري

### Republic of Yemen, Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank Head Office, Sanaa

#### SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT COTTON TENDER 1992/93 SEASON'S CROP (FOR EXPORT PURPOSES)

1. The Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank has the pleasure to announce an open tender to sell a quantity of raw cotton of the 1992/93 season's crop, known as Abyan Cotton, with the following details:

Variety: Long Staple,

Type: Lambert K4

Classified under the grades: Three, Four, Five & Six.

2. All agencies and companies interested in purchasing the above raw cotton quantity can obtain the tender specifications and cotton samples (free of charge) during officer hours at the head-office of:

The Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank,  
Zubeiri Street, Specialized Banks' Complex  
P. O. Box No. 2015 or 2850  
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen  
Fax No. (00967-1-203714 or 00967-1-209570)  
Tel. No. (00967-1-207813 or 00967-1-207817)  
Telex No.: 2544 CACBANK YE

3. Interested purchasers must quote their bid prices in USA dollars and deliver them in sealed envelopes. The validity of the bids must remain operative up to Thursday, 12th of May, 1994.

4. Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 11:00 a.m. of Monday the 9th of May, 1994, when the bids will be opened in the presence of the purchasers or their representatives.

Further information may be obtained at the above CACB head office address.

### الجمهورية اليمنية بنك التسليف التعاوني الزراعي الإدارة العامة

#### إعادة إعلان للمرة الثانية عن بيع قطن طويل التيلة (للتصدير الخارجي)

يعلن بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي

عن بيع قطن خام طويل التيلة نوع الأمبرت ك ٤ محصول الموسم الزراعي ٩٢/٩٣ حسب الدرجات ٣، ٤، ٥، ٦ محصول مزارع أبين.

فعلى الجهات الراغبة بشراء كمية الأقطان التقدم الى الإدارة العام - صنعاء - شارع الزبيري - مجمع البنوك..

للحصول على المواصفات والعينات خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي، وعلى الراغبين بالشراء تقديم عطاءاتهم بالدولار الأمريكي ويظروف مختومة بالشمع الأحمر وسارية المفعول حتى يوم الخميس الموافق ١٢/٥/٩٤ الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً...

سيتم فتح المظاريف بنفس اليوم الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً في مقر الإدارة العامة بحضور المشتريين أو مندوبيهم.

لمزيد من المعلومات يرجى الإتصال ببنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي - الإدارة العامة - على العنوان التالي:

مبنى مجمع البنوك - شارع الزبيري - صنعاء

تلفون ٢٠٧٨١٣

فاكس ٢٠٣٧١٤

ص.ب. ٢٠١٥ - ٢٨٥٠

والله ولي التوفيق،،،



## FAO Warns Near East Food Security is Worsening

At least six Near East countries fell victim to the trend of declining food security in the developing world, according to documents made available in Cairo last week by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FAO, in a study prepared for its Committee on World Food Security, found food security deteriorated by more than 2% in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Yemen, during the years 1991-93. The Organization used its new Aggregate Household Food Security Index to measure availability and stability of food supplies, as well as household access to food. The index ranks countries from 100, representing a state of complete risk free food security to zero, or complete famine.

In a written statement released before the planning session of the Committee on World Food Security in Rome, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said, "In keeping with FAO's long tradition of being a global center of excellence in matters related to food and agriculture, the new FAO Aggregate Household Food Security Index gives the world an additional instrument to use in the battle against hunger and under nutrition. It will allow us when used in conjunction with other early warning indicators,

to spot emerging trends that will alert us to developing food problems so that individual nations and the world community may take action to prevent the occurrence of a serious food shortage or distribution problem. Food security in the Near East, while not critical, needs improvement. There are about 24 million people; in the region who are chronically undernourished."

Libya and Turkey, though dropping more than 2%, retained high food security ratings. A high rating is one of 85 or better. Lebanon, while keeping a high food security rating for the 1991-93 period, appeared headed for a medium score of 79.5 in 1993.

Jordan and Morocco lost high food security ratings obtained between 1988 and 1991. Jordan fell to an estimated 1993 rating of 55.7, while Morocco fell to 64.

Provisionally, Iraq dropped from high to medium food security and Yemen fell from a medium of over the 1988-90 period to low in 1993.

Of the Near East countries studied, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia retained high food security ratings. Bumper wheat crops helped Egypt score an estimated 91.2 on FAO's provisional food security index for 1993.

FAO reviewed cereal crop pro-

duction as an important element ensuring food security. It reported that output of cereal crops in the Maghreb declined by about 7% in 1993 from the previous year, with coarse grains falling 10% and wheat by 5%.

In Algeria, unfavorable weather reduced wheat output

1992.

In Egypt wheat production increased by about 4% to a record 4.8 million tons.

Over the last two years a number of Near East countries have introduced new initiatives which will influence future food production and supplies. Algeria raised support prices

in several Near East countries, including Iran and Iraq. Syria took measures for the parastatal unit (HOBBOB) to market a larger share of domestic wheat production. An additional bonus was given to encourage delivery in bulk.

At the same time, minimum producer prices of wheat and barley were frozen in Jordan in order to contain the cost of subsidies. The price of wheat was also frozen in Saudi Arabia where over-production continues to pose a problem.

The FAO report cited some economic reforms expected to influence future food supplies: In Egypt, where private sector imports of wheat flour were fully liberalized, bakeries were permitted to produce bread of varying weights and prices. The price of 82% extraction flour used to make baladi bread, the principal bread in the Egyptian diet, has not been liberalized and remains heavily subsidized.

Egypt no longer controls their price of rice and that commodity is expected to be removed from the ration by 1994.

In 1993, Iraq's public rationing system increased monthly

rations of all basic foodstuffs, including wheat flour and rice. FAO estimates the ration in Iraq provides only about 50% of the average national daily dietary energy supplies that were available in 1987-89. Thus, the food and nutrition situation in the country continues to deteriorate.

Iran partially deregulated the imports of wheat and flour for use in the food industry, except for baking bread. Jordan lifted quotas and restrictions on the imports of long-grain, parboiled and Basmati rice in small packages.

Tunisia increased the retail price of couscous, semolina and bread by about 5%. The government followed up by providing larger grants to programs helping the underprivileged in Tunisian society.

The FAO report calculated that 75% of the 93 developing countries surveyed globally suffered some deterioration in food security status in 1993 compared to the previous year. Thirty-four of 48 countries with low or critical levels of food security at some time between 1988 and 1993 were in sub-Saharan Africa.

\* JORDAN, MOROCCO AND YEMEN GET LOW FOOD SECURITY RATINGS;  
\* EGYPT, LEBANON, LIBYA AND TURKEY KEEP HIGH RATINGS;  
\* EGYPT PRODUCES RECORD WHEAT CROP OF 4.8 M TONS.

by about 400,000 tons, while in Morocco the 1993 harvest was only 42% of the normal level. That left it virtually unchanged from the previous year's drought-reduced crop of 1.6 million tons.

FAO said output was one-quarter higher than average in Tunisia, although it was about 300,000 tons lower than the 1.6 million tons harvested in

for grains. Morocco withdrew subsidies for all seeds. Many varieties of certified seeds are no longer subject to price control.

Support, or guaranteed purchase prices, were increased

## WHY GORAZDE IS IMPORTANT TO SERBS

For Serbs, Gorazde's capture would enable them to more easily link their holdings in eastern and south western Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is the last major prize along the Drina River, which forms part of the border between Bosnia and Serbia, the dominant republic in Yugoslavia. The mostly Bosnian district, (50kms) southeast of Sarajevo, had been under Serb siege for most of the two-year war. It lies just north of the river and stretches along a narrow valley with mountains on both sides. Before the war, the district had a population of 37,500-70% Bosnian and the remainder mostly Serb. The region's population has since swollen to 65,000 as refugees from other areas captured by the Serbs poured in. Along with five other Bosnian-held regions, it was declared a UN "safe area" in May 1993. The others are Sarajevo, Bihac in the northwest, Tuzla in the north and Srebrenica and Zepa in the east. It took until June, 1993 to get the first eight UN military observers to Gorazde. Upon arrival, they reported considerable destruction. On 15 August, 1992 the first UN aid convoy reached Gorazde, those with the convoys told of children being operated on for shrapnel wounds without Anesthetics and hundreds of people bursting into tears when they saw the aid trucks. Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said then he was pulling back 1,000 Serb fighters from Gorazde. But the siege did not end and convoys have gotten in only sporadically. Most food aid is dropped by air, UN officials say. NATO jets scrambled to bomb Serb tanks before they advanced into Gorazde on Saturday but veered away after failing to pinpoint targets - not before one was shot down by a missile. A UN chronology of the day's events in the besieged enclave described dramatic, fast-moving developments: UN commanders hurriedly calling in air raids to protect civilians, pilots struggling to find their prey in bad weather, tank slipping in and out of woods to shake off aerial pursuers and the Serbs denying they even owned tanks. UN military spokesman Major Rob said the air raid was shelved because of bad weather but the warning to Serb forces not to attack Gorazde or be bombed by NATO remained in effect. "This is a standing ultimatum. the Serbs have been told not to advance or fire on the town or they will be hit," Annink told reporters. In the chronology released by the UN Gorazde at 1 PM (3 PM Oman time), prompting an urgent message by UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi to headquarters in New York. Akasha speaks of shelling, thousands of civilians and a dozen UN military observers under direct fire, the Serb's detention of 150 UN soldiers around Sarajevo and the United Nation's need to restore its credibility. Serb commander-in-chief Malefic denies in a message to UNPROFOR at 1.57 PM that his forces are pounding Gorazde, blaming the shelling on Bosnians trying to provoke NATO air raids. Akashi calls Serb political chief

Radovan Karadzic, who says the bombardment is a Bosnian set-up and that UN observers are under pressure to convey false information. Akashi retorts that further Serb shelling of the town will "merit a call for close air support (limited to protecting UN personnel) or even air strikes from NATO." Karadzic "expresses concern about the escalating situation. He says that if need be, the BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) can shoot down 40 per cent of the NATO planes." Akashi demands and "immediate cessation of hostile acts" by the Serbs. But an hour later, at 3.20 PM Serb tanks are spotted closing in on Gorazde from the north and east. They begin firing into the town 15 minutes later. UNPROFOR'S command issues its first ultimatum a 3.39 PM to the Serbs - hold fire within 15 minutes or be bombed. BSA infantry start sallying from the edge of Gorazde into the town itself and foreign relief workers report minutes later that they have fled into bunkers to escape shell fire. UN peacekeeping commander-in-chief Lieutenant-General Bertrand de Lapresle impresses on Akashi, who had the final say, "the necessity to act now" before tanks reach residential area where air strikes would kill civilians as well. Serb forces ignore further attempts to contact them and at that point, 4 PM, Akashi flashes the green light to NATO jets circling overhead. Three tank rounds smash into Gorazde hospital seconds later, wounding a number of patients. A ground-attack aircraft designed to destroy tanks roars low overhead and several tanks scuttle into nearby woods for cover. Thick, low clouds frustrate a reconnaissance flight but Akashi relays firm orders to bomb whatever tanks are seen. A 4.40 PM, the Serbs again deny owning tanks but NATO aircraft press home their pursuit. Two US A-10 ground-attack planes, nicknamed "Warthogs" for their ungainly shape and huge cannon, and two British Sea Harriers, jump-jets fly into attack. The two A-10 are acting as guidance an cover for the Sea Harriers, which swoop down and try to lock on their quarries. On a third pass over the tanks a Serb surface-to-air missile hits a Harrier and the pilot ejects, 5 km southwest of the town in forested hills held by Bosnian-led government forces. Akashi calls Russian peace envoy Vitaly Churkin, who is with Karadzic. Churkin says the Serbs are still denying any ability to shell Gorazde and alleging that Bosnian troops have planted anti-tank mines to simulate detonation. Akashi informs Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic of measures to deter the Serbs, but the air strike operation is postponed because of clouds and poor visibility. The downed pilot makes radio contact with UNPROFOR to report he is hurt. At 6 p.m. he is rescued by Bosnian soldiers in the village of Baric and taken to safe quarters inside Gorazde. UN military officials later say he is rescued by NATO helicopter.

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By : Jaffer Jooman

Few people are aware that the UN provided technical assistance to the Colony of Aden before independence in 1967 though its office in Mogadishu. We would visit Mogadishu every year to discuss the nature and size of technical assistance with the Resident Representative, Mr. Habib Ahmed (Pakistani) and his deputy, Mr. Abdulateef Succar (Syrian). Every year we would request without fail UN support for a population census. It would be turned down every time because the UN would not want to get involved in a project of political dimension in a territory administered by a Colonial power. UN technical assistance was limited in the main to underground water resources, fisheries and agriculture.

UN flag was unfurled for the first time in this part of the world in 1968 when UNEPTA (United Nations Expanded Program for Technical Assistance), the precursor of UNDP, established its office at Tawahi in the building now housing the Navy. The ceremony was attended by local and foreign dignitaries, among them the late Mr. Mahmood Abdulla Osheish, Minister of Finance. Mr. Abdullatif Succar was the first UN Res. Rep. in southern Yemen.

UN assigned a mission in 1968 which became widely known as Sarfraz Mission, headed by Mr. Sarfraz H. Khan (Pakistani) who later became UNDP Res. Rep. in Jordan. The mission comprised of representatives of all UN specialized and non-specialized agencies (UNIDO was then a non-specialized

agency; UNICEF still is). The task of the mission was to identify urgently the needs of the newly independent country which had inherited huge socio-economic problems which were further compounded by four factors, namely, (a) the closure of the Suez Canal following the Arab-Israeli war of June, 1967.

The port of Aden was considered the second biggest in the British Commonwealth and, after the oil refinery in little Aden, the second biggest foreign exchange earner (b) the withdrawal of the British Military Base which used to pump about US \$ 100 Million into the economy every year; (c) the cessation of the British development and budgetary aid which caused a sharp decline in services and goods and (d) the mass exodus of expatriate personnel leaving many important institutions with little, if any, trained manpower. The national leadership was young, mostly drawn from the rural areas, inexperienced in the ways of the Government but devoutly and ardently committed to improve conditions for a prosperous future for the people. Considerable onus in those days lied on the civil service which was, for historical reasons, looked upon with suspicion. Hence the dismissal of about 150 civil servants - the cream and elite of the society - in 1968, an action which would further aggravate the country's problems and impede its rapid progress.

Following the recommendations of the Sarfraz Mission, UN allocated USD75,000/- (a peanut by today's standard, but a boon in those days, nev-

## Yemen and United Nations REMINISCENCE OF DAYS BYGONE

ertheless). That, however, was to be a start for more funds to be generated from the UN system, including IMF/IBRD. About 75% of the total allocation was geared to technical assistance (experts/fellowships) and 25% to supplies and equipment or capital development goods. Other UN agencies, among them FAO, WHO, UNICEF established office in Aden. They carried out their own appraisal of the country's situation and need and its development potentials. On the other hand the people themselves embarked on popular initiatives in constructing roads, health units, mosques, schools, sinking open shallow wells, digging irrigation canals. The initiatives would later influence Governments decision to launch the first national development plan in April 1971.

One of the very first actions initiated by the UN system was the provision of food aid by WP to the drought-stricken areas of the northern desert areas of Hadramaut Governorate and the establishment of the Institute of Health Manpower Development (IHMD) in February 1968 with WHO/UNICEF inputs. In April, 1969 the later Mr. Feisal Abdullatif Al-Shabi, Prime Minister paid an official visit to Kuwait on the invitation of the Amir. The visit would usher the begin-

ning of bilateral assistance from some Arab countries, notably Kuwait and Libya. While in Kuwait we visited the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and invited a delegation to visit the country. In June, 1969 Mr. Mohammed Abdulrehman Al-Sharekh, Deputy Director-General of the Fund made the visit thus paving the way for a long and durable cooperation with the Fund.

In October, 1969 UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) organized a seminar on major financial and technical cooperation for 5 deputy resident representatives who were to be promoted to Res. Rep. and 10 nationals from developing countries. 3 from Arab countries, to be groomed for appointment as deputy Res. Rep. Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdulghani, then Chairman of the Central Bank in what was called YAR (now member of the Presidential Council), a prominent economist from Syria and the writer attended the seminar which took them to the States, UK, the ex-Soviet Union, Plais des Nations in Geneva, GATT, OECD and the headquarters of all UN agencies of Europe. We stayed some time in southern Italy where conditions were not dissimilar to a developing third world country. The seminar broadened the outlook and

provided insight into the working of the UN system. The common topic raised was more funds for the development goods and less for technical assistance constituted an unnecessary burden on limited resources because the recipient government were required to provide transport (fuel, driver maintenance), office accommodation, secretarial assistance and counterparts who was not available to start with. In those days all UN technical assistance were tied to the availability in the field of a UN expert.

Until unification in May, 1990 there was only one international NGO operational in southern Yemen. That was RADDA BARNE - Swedish save The Children. After attending the annual IMF/IBRD meetings in Copenhagen in September, 1970 we were invited to pay an official visit to Sweden where we met with Mr. Michael Michanek, Secretary-General of SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) and presented to him a document consisting of a letter of intent in December, 1976 between Radda Barnen and the Government. Radda Barnen has been operational in southern Yemen since then. Its input has made tremendous impact on at least three main areas, namely, MCH/FP, nutrition and health manpower development. If families in main towns and cities have started to space pregnancies because they now feel secure that their children have a reasonable chance of survival, the change of attitude is due to the selfless and tireless efforts of Radda Barnen and the

devotion and dedication of Yemeni medical and health personnel. If the eastern and southern Governorates of Yemen have reached near self-sufficiency in trained health manpower, that credit is proudly shared by Radda Barnen which made generous contribution to health manpower development and the upgrading of the Institute. Following the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, Radda Barnen has established since 1990 specific programmes on the rights of the child. Radda Barnen is the first international organization to shift to community groups as its development partner.

Since unification, other international NGOs have established offices but a couple of them are more management consultants/contractors who, unlike RADDA BARNEN, levy management fee for their overhead costs. I have my own doubts about the usefulness of such management consultants/contractors in our set up where in development terms each Riyal counts. I know to my certain knowledge of a project where the beneficiaries were deprived of a basic need because part of the allotted fund was defrayed for salary, care hire and per diem for a private visit to sana'a and back. This has prompted a group of Yemeni intellectuals to attempt to form a national NGO to assist emerging community groups in

At the start of 1994 the Maritime Training Center (MTC) in Tawahi, Aden, can look back on a year which has seen a substantial increase in the level of its activity. The Center began its training program in 1989, under the Yemen Ports and Shipping Corporation and has, since that time, provided training for marine sector staff. During 1991, responsibility for the Center was taken over by Yemen Ports Authority. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has supported the Center since its beginning and has continued its assistance through 1992. The MTC is now planning, during 1994, to extend the technical range and raise the academic level of the training which it can offer.

Each year, since opening in 1989, the Center has increased staff skills, the range of course offered and the number of persons trained. By the end of 1992, a total over 840 persons had received training at the MTC, attending 74 courses lasting between one week and six months. MTC instructors have now been trained in a wide range of subjects, and have gained valuable experience in teaching these subjects. This has enabled them to transfer these new skills to trainees in Yemen, a process which will be continued over the coming years. Pollution control, Ship Chartering, Port State Control of Shipping, the Handling of Hazardous Cargoes, Container Terminal Operation, Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, Computer Skills, Hydraulic Systems maintenance, Financial Management in Ports and the Practice of International Freight Forwarding are some of the many important subjects which have been covered during 1991 and 1992 by local instructors.

The Center looks forward to further development in the near future, during which it will concentrate on:

- meeting the training needs of all marine sector personnel;
- consolidating and improving the skills of its instructors;
- extending the training assistance to all parts of

## MARITIME TRAINING CENTER, ADEN, Development of New Training opportunities for Yemen

Yemen's marine sector;

- extending the range and raising the academic level of the transport sector training.

However, the Center believes that raining through short course alone is no longer adequate for the marine and transport sectors of Yemen, which have to compete in the international market. During the period 1993-1995, a growth in international trade can be expected as the Yemeni Government invests in export development, new ports are designed and built in various parts of the country and the oil sector increases its contribution to the economy.

Yemen must, of necessity, improve the quality of its marine and transport sector personnel in order to ensure that:

- modern management methods are available;
- the risks from marine pollution are carefully controlled;
- new equipment in the ports is properly operated and maintained.

In order to play its part in meeting the new challenges facing Yemen, the MTC will shortly be able to offer longer-term training programs for staff at various levels. For management personnel, it will offer a two year course leading to full membership of the Chartered Institute of Transport (CIT). This Institute, based in the UK, is recognized as the main body for promoting the improvement of all forms of international transport (sea, air, road, rail) and setting standards for the industry. Sections or divisions of the CIT have been established in many countries around the world and nearly all countries have members; particularly such places as Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai, whose economies largely rely on transport. Yemen - where efficient transport is vital to national and international trade is currently one of

the few exceptions. This will change as the MTC's program develops and Yemeni personnel obtain membership. The Center will initially offer training in:

- Transport Policy and Planning
- Statistical and Computing Techniques in Transport;
- Human Resource Management
- Marketing for Transport.

These subjects will be followed by others (Transport Economics, International Through Transport Management, Law of Business and Carriage etc.) which trainees study in order to obtain membership of the CIT. Training materials will be obtained from the Institute in London and the MTC is expected to become an Examination Center for the CIT. The standard of CIT exams equals that of a good European honors degree, placing graduates at the same level as other professionals in the international transport industry. The MTC may also offer training for personnel wishing to become members of the Institute of Freight Forwarders, Institute of Export and other related bodies. This training will be backed by a strong English Language program, leading to Cambridge English Language examinations at the Center.

The Center will extend its range of computer courses to meet the needs of those responsible for the computer systems which will increasingly be used as electronics data processing (EDP) and electronic data interchange (EDI) raise standards of commercial practice in Yemen. Electronic transfer of data on ship's cargoes, and the interchange of customs information, require a high level of computer expertise. European training materials and examinations, leading to membership of the Institute of Analysts and programs, will

be used.

As the level of investment in parts and shipping in Yemen increases, the importance of effective equipment maintenance grows. For example with proper

maintenance, container gantry cranes in developed countries - costing around US\$ 7 million each can give more than 20 years' of service. Similar cranes in less developed countries, suffering from poor maintenance, may last for only three years. The MTC has therefore prepared training programs for hydraulic systems, planned maintenance and management of equipment maintenance. It is establishing a small Engineering and Electrical Maintenance workshop which will provide practical training facilities for the engineers and technicians who will take responsibility for the maintenance of cranes, fork-lift trucks, straddle carriers and other expensive cargo handling and ship-board equipment.

As the development of Yemen's oil sector increases, Government responsibility for the safe operation of ports and oil terminals grows. The MTC expects to play an important role in providing training in contingency planning for these marine industrial areas, and in marine pollution control and oil spill clean-up. The recent demand by the Indonesian Government for US\$ billion following a collision in the Straits of Malacca reminds us of the potential costs of pollution. The Center will also co-operate with the Ministry of Transport and Public Corporation of Maritime Affairs (PCMA) in helping to establish an impartial marine examination service for Yemeni mariners.

In addition to the support given by UNDP, the Center has received a great deal of external assistance and has developed into a well-regarded center, listed in the three main international Maritime Training guides. Early in 1993, it will be running two training programs in port operations and engineering maintenance for the World Bank.



## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE....THE INNOCENT INDIVIDUAL OR THE BAD GUY - SOCIETY?

BY:  
SAMIRA ALI BINDAAIR.

It has always been hard to define the line between individual responsibility and that of society at large. It is obvious that there is a lot wrong with our society and it has become a habit...almost a ritual to talk about the state of affairs and blame society en masse. I would like to borrow from the opening lines of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" ...."something is rotten in the state of Denmark".

Something is indeed rotten to the core somewhere in the present state of affairs and it is evident at various levels and in different degrees.

The first point that comes to one's mind is the security situation of the country, firstly, in terms of the kidnapping of foreigners, which is both immoral in itself, let alone the repercussions it has on the national reputation and thus the economy. Whether people who kidnap have valid claims on the govt. or not is immaterial to the fact that innocent people should not be used as pawns for that purpose.

Secondly, the security lapses manifest themselves at the social level in the increasing trend of car-stealing and house-breaking. I remember how safe life was in the past in Yemen. At one time, it was "eeb" (great shame) to enter someone's house stemming from the Islamic belief of non-violation of the sanctity of people's homes and privacy. We never heard of house-breaking and on warm nights we would sleep on the roof with the doors wide open. These days you cannot even leave your house empty for a few hours, without the possibility of having the contents of your house emptied. A couple of weeks ago, my son sadly reported to me that his teacher is now sleeping on the bare floor because the thieves who broke into her house did not even leave the carpeting behind. What are we to attribute this phenomenon to?

The rising cost of living, a high rate of unemployment? Nothing justifies stealing...but who is responsible for inflation and unemployment? We have such a big police force...what are they doing while all this thieving is going on?

When we come to the social life, qat is obviously a problem...a serious k-economic problem, but shall we blame King Abraha of Ethiopia who may have introduced it into Yemen or any other subsequent King? People keep saying it is a way of socializing, because there are not many social facilities in this country. Certainly Yemen could do with more recreational facilities both for children and adults, but human beings are creative creatures if they use their imagination. There could be many alternatives to daily chewing of qat which is a drain on time and money.

At the educational level...who is responsible for the bad state of affairs? The teachers blame the administration...the administration blames the teachers and the Ministry of Education in turn blames the govt...which also blames the people. Who is to blame?

I was always told by well-meaning friends not to ever think of the University(ofcourse most of them were in other professions and could not even begin to understand the itch in an Educationist).So many contradictory statements...."It's highly politicized",someone said(But

isn't the whole of Yemen?). Someone told me of why she wouldn't dream of teaching there now that she has finished her studies,because she sees how hard the professors work and they get no appreciation. From whom, I wonder only silently to myself? Another friend says that most of the teachers there do not have any commitment and they hardly attend lectures and do not do their job properly., and the departmental administration is there only to rule and find fault not to help in the educational problems. Another person who teaches there puts most of the blame on the students, who are lazy and want to be spoon-fed. "But isn't that what they were taught to do at school...isn't it because they come from a bad system at the base,I ask?" The person only goes into a deep reverie and does not answer my questions. The University Administration at the top is also often blamed for the mess. Now that I have started part-time teaching there, I begin to think that the truth lies somewhere in between all these sweeping generalizations.

On the one hand, the govt. should invest more in education which is the basis of a society. On the other hand, much can be tackled at the individual level. For me, teaching is something that I do to satisfy a deep urge for fulfillment that I have always carried with me...having been born with the curse of wanting to do something socially useful. The facilities are not the best in the world,and the students come already lumbered with various educational disadvantages. So far my experience has been positive because the students are extremely polite and well-mannered(which is saying a lot compared to many parts of the world) and they are highly motivated and enthusiastic. I have observed a noticeable improvement in their level in only a few weeks' time and that is the reward I am looking for. I started with so few expectations except for setting standards for myself,and thus I take all the little things that come in my stride.

Whoever said the strenuous path of pedagogy is strewn with roses? I still don't know whom I am to expect appreciation from until now...maybe one day I'll find out and write another article about it in Yemen Times.

The environmental situation in Yemen leaves much to be desired, and there is litter everywhere. Is it the lack of facilities or people's education? I often tell my children to wait until they see a dustbin before disposing of their chocolate covers. My son told me one day, "But..MaMa...the streets are already so dirty...what difference will it make? Besides, everybody does it." "Well,I tell him, imagine if everybody thought that way, we wouldn't even be able to walk on the streets anymore. I know it's bad enough,but its this way only because there are some bodies who say "everybody" does it...so why not me? Besides, "everybody" only consists of so many some bodies like you...the choice is yours,Son". He only went on chewing his chocolate thoughtfully and silently,still holding the cover in his hand. The following week, he came home proudly announcing that he had told his friends off at school for throwing their sandwich covers on the floor and not the dustbins. Perhaps more cleaning up facilities and more education is

required....anyone heard of recycling? Perhaps we ought to try it in this country and be more environmentally conscious. How come in the old days people used to use straw baskets for their shopping which was cheaper and more sensible...and they have switched to more expensive forms which are at the same time less environmentally kind. Who is to blame

Everybody complains of the horror of going through govt.paper work in this country. We have had our fair share of it,I must say, and this despite the fact that my husband has old school friends who help in many of the govt.departments. Who is responsible for this institutionalized form of corruption? Many people say that they cannot survive with the meager govt. income, and with the high rate of inflation they have to resort to it. Is that a valid reason? In any case, who is to blame for this low standard of living in the first place? So many vicious circles and so many unanswered questions.

A long time ago, I attended an educational conference at some arab university when my first child was only six years old. Typical of an educated mother who had invested a lot of time in her child's education, I was extremely proud of my bright little girl. A cynical professor in a round of side-discussions told me,"She is only six.... wait until she goes through the grinding mill of formal schooling and then talk to me ten years from now". I angrily look at him and declare,"much depends on the parents". He in turn assertively declares,"much more depends on the society". Now who is this invisible bad guy "society" with whom I always seem to be at odds", I wonder to myself. Many years later I still remember the cynical old professor's words each time I work hard to undo the damage of formal schooling on my children. I once told my husband "I will start an ideal school...a real educational institution". He looks at me from underneath his reading glasses and quietly asks,"where will you get your teachers from...mars or jupiter"? He goes on reading his Times Educational Supplement and tells me of the increasing rate of illiteracy in school-going children in Britain. You can't beat the system, can you? or can you?

To conclude my long story, although my professor at university used to tell us that good literature leaves the reader to draw their own conclusions,but I will risk violating this golden literary rule because loose ends make me feel uncomfortable. There are things which are bigger than ourselves...our doing and beyond our control. However, there are things we can change by starting with ourselves and struggling to become better human-beings although that does require a lot of sacrifice on our parts. Each time we are confronted with a situation, and are tempted to blame the whole world, let us stop in our tracks for a moment and consider whether we had something to do with the problem ourselves or not and as to how we could improve the situation. If each of us will do it hoping others will follow suit,perhaps some social change may come about yet. Perhaps then we can force this terrible,naughty and wicked guy called "Society" to change at least once in his lifetime. Perhaps then we might just be able to beat the system.

## Pondering Over Options for Women

Housekeeping may still be the main occupation of women but it is no longer the only occupation or the single source of identity for most of them. For virtually women, married women's main source of satisfaction has centered (and depended) upon the husband's job, the home and the family.

Today there are more opportunities, offered to increasing number of those females whose satisfaction from life thrives on challenging and rewarding jobs. Besides economics, the other reasons that can be cited are: a break from the drudgery of household chores and boredom due to understimulation to a higher level of motivating factors such as high ambitions, fascinations with high status jobs, and sometimes in search of self-image.

Though economic need is the main and the major factor behind women's work force, the most telling factor join the working environment outside home or an urge to do so is the public devaluation of keeping house and raising children and its unrecognized and indifferent attitudes towards women's services in the household. Indeed it is one of the principle sources of the deep discontent experienced by many women in all social classes. The failure of society to acknowledge house-keeping and child rearing as socially useful work on a par with paid employment makes it difficult for a sensitive, ambitious and educated married woman who is merely a housewife' to see herself as a valued contributor in the eyes of her family and society. In fact, the reality is that keeping house and raising children in the best possible way is also work: work that is, on the average and when taken seriously, as difficult to do well and as useful to the larger society as almost any paid job involving the production of goods or services.

The problem is not that most people don't believe it or accept it, but, whatever our private and informal belief systems, acknowledged not, as a society, acknowledged this fact. The pressures generated by such social values tend to push women into the labour-force in their search for recognition as active and valued participants in society. The result is that some women who would perhaps remain at home are in effect pushed into the labour-force against their will.

At the same time another kind of pressure has been generated by a set of fallacious generalization based on traditional concepts, and an egotistical approach of our male-dominated society, that denies a right to choose to that section of women who would prefer making their educational or other skills profitable.

There are women who prefer proper jobs to keeping house and raising kids, while others

prefer to stay home. A few, at the same time, love to juggle their time between both the worlds. to force any woman to do one or the other against her wishes will be absolutely unjustified and is to play havoc and detestation to what we know about human development and family relationships.

Women who make Their own choice, of course intelligently and accordingly, probably make much happier women than those who do one or the other because of circumstances or coercion. It is quite evident that the public interest and the interests of the mother and the children are best served when the mother makes the choice herself. This choice, of course, must be essentially a free one; a decision either say must not carry with it any stigma attached to it.

In some societies, psychological obstacles have constantly hampered women in their attempts to be successful, satisfied and emotionally fulfilled participants in their work.

The perpetuation of myths and fallacious generalization about women as a group has been one of the main obstacles and hindrances in the full utilization of women in the labour-force, though, logically comprehended, most of these myths are simply based on traditional concepts about women which are no longer valid and relevant. For example marriage, child bearing and rearing are usually seen as preventing a woman from working outside the home. A logical comprehension of the situation can be attained when keeping in mind that through proper time management and a better organization of working conditions and methods, a balance can be kept between the work outside the home and the domestic responsibilities simultaneously.

Moreover, a more practical and appropriate decision can be taken for when, where and how to start working in a given situation through pondering over all the alternatives and options open to a woman.



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### Ideologized Killing

I would like to refer back to the article written by your Cultural Editor Saad Salah Khalis titled "killing Ideologized" in the Yemen Times issue #12 (March 20th).

I must say that I too, found the massacre of Al Khalil Holy Mosque, very disturbing and inhumane. Not to mention the personal hatred and anger I felt towards Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who should rightly be labeled "terrorist".

It's amazing to know that the Army and the Police have orders not to shoot at civilians. Either the Israeli government is not keeping to it's promises or the Army and Police use that order as escape goat of an excuse when killing does eventually happen.

Israeli settlers, mostly a stronghold of followers of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane are calling for the government to withdraw it's Army and Policy so they can fight their own war. They refused and are no longer willing to leave the settler movement to pursue Kahane's violent Anti-Arab vision. Ofcourse Dr. Baruch Goldstein changed all that when he slaughtered the dozens of Muslims at prayer in Hebron's Tomb of the patriarchs.

In a week of unrest Israeli soldiers killed about 30 Arab plotters which is more than half the number killed in the Hebron massacre.

It is neither a new fact or a new scene in the prolonging world of terrorism. These scenes have occurred many times over. Palestinians have lived in an intoxicating hell and had to go through a substantial amount until finally the world opened it's eyes.

Why was the world shocked at such behavior? Surely worse has happened prior to the Mosque killing? Does the world open it's eyes and take action only when a catastrophe happens? What abuse the daily lives of these Palestinians? Surely what happens every day mounts up to more than what a news item brings every few weeks!

The Army cannot control the settlers, most of them who are reservists serve annually in the Army itself. It is believed that Goldstein used an Army issued assault rifle and uniform during the massacre. Was he alone in this? I wonder!

Experience has taught these radicals not to fear government Authority. For years they have attacked Arabs with impunity some Human rights workers. They say that settlers are seeking to another Arab violence burn Palestinian cars, break window, shoot holes in the

rooftops water tanks and injure or even kill Palestinians without much fear of legal repercussions.

Action by the settlers are always regarded as self defense. Palestinians are tried in Military courts, settlers in more.... Israeli civilian courts. Settlers who kill Arabs are often given token sentences or freed all together. I know for a fact that if personal feelings were to be considered rather than the political aspects of the whole situation, things would start to improve slowly.

Ms L. Addailamy  
Sana'a

Dear Ms. Rawah,

I am writing to you concerning an article you wrote in the February 13th issue of the Yemen Times. It was the article on the home for the destitute and handicapped.

Would it be possible for you to give me an address, that I could contact the nuns who run the home as I am interested in doing voluntary work for them if it is needed.

Yours sincerely  
Lusie Cross.

Yemen Language Center  
Sana'a

Dear Lucie,

Thanks for your interest in helping the nuns. For more details you can call Sister Dianne at 262426.

Fatma.

### "WHERE TO WE GO FROM HERE?... TO THE UNFORESEEN"

I have read your commentary article titled, "Where do we go from here?", in issue no. 16 of April 17th - 23rd and I appreciate, as I always do, your courageous and genuine approach to the existing crisis. My reply to the question, is "TO THE UNFORESEEN."

In mathematics, we have a procedural approach to prove fact, called, "deductio absurdum", where you are guided by certain logical facts to prove or disprove the initial statement.

Any miscalculation or deviation from these procedural steps, will lead to absurd or complicated conclusion.

The same procedure is applicable in order to resolve the present chronic crisis. The guiding document, (pledge and accord document), is there, already set up, defining clearly how to reorganize the "infrastructure and the superstructure" of the country, to the possible appropriate convenience of the people, provided that the leadership, the government and its machineries are genuine and patriotic to implement this historic document.

Nevertheless, to the dismay of the torn down people, neither the leadership nor the government and its machineries are willing to implement the document, because in one way or the other, it is against their interests.

Even, if some miracle happens and they came to the consensus of implementing the document, every party will have it's own interpretation of, not only each paragraph, but also of each line in the document, and according to its interest and conformity. In the final analysis, it is only the people, the down trodden people who are the victims of these catastrophes.

Non of the governing parties pay a dime to the welfare of the people or the country and they are always ready to safeguard their interests at any cost, whatever it may be.

Because of this, we see that unexpected incidents are taking place here and there and will take place anywhere and at any time.

Therefore, in such a situation, where the leadership and its machineries are in full contradictions and maneuvering irresponsible to do anything at any time, it really difficult to anticipate or uncover what will happen tomorrow.

Hence my answer to "where to we go from here?" is "to the unforeseen".

Hussein O. Salem.  
Sana'a.

### A CRY OF INJUSTICE

It's neither credible nor humane; we've been teaching since last August but we were paid only twice, so far, while the Yemenis are paid monthly and when we inquired about that we received a very ridiculous answer that the Yemenis will go on strike, if they are not paid punctually.

As we all know, the Yemenis expatriates are everywhere worldwide but not a single case of injustice treatment upon anyone of them has ever been reported. On the contrary, they are enjoying their privileges as well as the natives of those countries some of them even have become landlords. Ironically, the Yemenis who suffered the agony of living away from their homeland cause the foreigners who are living among them to agonize. what I have, there are too many others, for example; we pay an income tax of, approximately, nine per cent of the salary without receiving back any kind of post-service bonus which must be due according to civil-service regulations. However, teachers, in particular, and employees in general, in some countries such as Saudi Arabia and Sultanate of Oman are actually enjoying such right. We pay a rate of seven-hundred Yemeni rials every month as an income tax, whereas the Yemeni teachers pay only three hundred, not mention our own mates, the second who pay nothing because of the of the protocol.

In the economic term, a cost of living bonus should have been added to the salary so as to combat the skyrocketing prices, but instead of carrying out such measures, they tend to make unjustifiable cuts under the pretext of penalizing the faulty one. We trusted our unions, in this respect, to fight for our rights but unfortunately, they proved to be a broken need.

So many Yemenis have a strong prejudice against us because we are paid in hard currency, they are so prejudice that they treat us like robber, for those people I would like to remind them of the following facts: on one hand, the hard currency is donated by the UNESCO as an aid for education and the government makes the most benefit out of it, on the other hand, the Yemeni rials is not convertible, so what the hell can we have it for.

Eventually, we are Muslims as well as fraternal, so at least such virtues must be regarded with respect.

By Yousif Ahmed Omer,  
Ibb.

### MY ANSWER TO THE QUESTION "WHERE DO MUWALLADIN BELONG?"

Reading the article run by the Yemen Times of Feb 20th 1994 on Letters to the Editor's page (Resolution or Discrimination) I was badly touched.

I agree the content of the article demonstrate facts. But the question where do we belong had its natural answer since our birth whether the adversary accept it or not. We are the legal natural children of the universe and Yemen is our inherited homeland. No child on earth can choose one between a father and a mother or can choose for his/her birthplace. No matter where we were born and since our fathers are Yemenis and decided to come back to their homeland (along with their children) we are Yemenis.

Of course Yemen Times is the only paper that highlight on our problems. The chief Editor even makes personal efforts to solve problem. Good example is the editor's note to the article in the Yemen Times some weeks ago about a former Yemeni immigrant from a Gulf country who failed to renew his children passports due to lack of success in getting Identification Cards for his children. Still I doubt if the chief editor can stop any tragedy, I wish he could.

Many people in the world suffer in their own homeland but they will not reach to the extend Muwalladin (Yemenis born abroad) suffer in Yemen during the process of getting his/her identification card, due to ridiculous process and long unnecessary paperwork to get these cards. There are many tribes in Yemen but still there is discrimination only against those who were born abroad.

Nevertheless no matter what happen we will never change, our love and honest to our fathers' land will still be there.

During the reign of the late president IBRAHIM AL HAMDY, people extended their welcoming arms for us as for as to the far east Vietnam, Africa, America Europe...etc., they gave us every aid and warming comfort. Today newcomers may be depressed and frustrated let me remind you, we had a great hope that the unification would have put such problems to the end, as the state declared democracy, justice, and equality but failed to undertake laws as well as administrative legal practices into line. I will conclude my letter by saying that we have the right and it's our duty to develop our country by taking part in political and economical life in the state.

May I thank the Yemen Times as the only paper highlight on our problems and ask the chief editor for help to bring our issue to the national and international attention as means of pressure for the state to stop all forms of racial discrimination.

Al Maqtari S. H. Mansoor  
Sana'a



**جوز هند طري مغطى بطبقة  
ثخينة من الشيكولاتة**

إنتاج شركة الصناعات المتنوعة و مواد التعبئة

### تعانينا

يتقدم الاهل و الأصدقاء للاخ المحامي طلال عبد الله السقاف بأحر التهاني و التبريكات بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودا جديدا اسماه ( محمد ) جعله الله قره عين والديه واسعد به كافة الاهل المهنتون

د. عبد العزيز السقاف

المحامي مصطفى عبد الله السقاف، احمد عبد الله السقاف، طه محمد الاديمي، خالد عبد الله السقاف، عبد الحميد محمد السقاف، عبد الرحمن احمد السقاف، محمد عبد الله السقاف، خالد عبد الولي الاديمي، خيرى حسن السقاف، عادل عبد الرحمن السقاف، رضا عبد الرحمن السقاف، عبد الحكيم احمد السقاف، رضوان علوي السقاف





## CRISE POLITIQUE

# La méfiance domine

Une rencontre au Caire entre le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid est dans l'air. Mais l'absence de concessions ne laisse pas augurer d'une franche réconciliation.

Dans la crise politique qui dure depuis huit mois, les dirigeants yéménites prennent leur temps, semblant jouer sur leur lassitude réciproque. Mais pour l'instant, sudistes et nordistes ne semblent guère montrer de signes de faiblesse, restant toujours fermes sur leurs positions. Certains dirigeants sont partis à l'étranger "pour raisons médicales", c'est le cas du Premier ministre Haïdar Al-Attas (sudiste), du gouverneur d'Aden Saleh Sayeli et du ministre du Pétrole Saleh Ben Hussainoun (sudiste). Sans parler du chef de file de l'opposition, Sinan Abou Louhoum, et Abou Chawareb, vice-Premier ministre et chef de file du parti Baath, qui ne sont toujours pas revenus au Yémen depuis début mars pour protester contre l'absence de progrès dans les discussions.

## L'anarchie s'étend au nord

La commission chargée de la mise en oeuvre du volet militaire de l'accord de réconciliation inter-yéménite a repris ses discussions à Taëz la semaine dernière en présence du ministre de la Défense, Haïtham Taher Qassem (sudiste) et le chef d'état-major Abdel Malek Al-Sayyani (nordiste). Mais les négociations n'avancent guère. Depuis le début des travaux de la commission militaire jordano-omanaise fin février, les frères

ennemis tentent de se mettre d'accord sur le retrait des unités militaires stationnées sur l'ancienne frontière entre les deux Yémen et leur redéploiement dans des secteurs stratégiques. Mais de chaque côté, sudistes et nordistes préfèrent le statu quo.

## Une médiation égyptienne active

Les dirigeants yéménites continuent à envoyer des émissaires aux quatre coins du monde arabe, comme si la solution de la crise se trouvait à l'étranger. Après la visite de Yahya Al-Arachi, ministre du Service civil et de la Réforme administrative (nordiste), le 14 avril dernier, la Tunisie a reçu la visite d'un émissaire du vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid mardi 19 avril, Abdelaziz Abdeddali. D'autre part un émissaire égyptien est venu la semaine dernière au Yémen porter d'un message du Président Hosni Mubarak aux deux frères ennemis, Saleh et Al-Bid. L'Egypte essaie d'organiser une rencontre entre les deux hommes au Caire, mais elle ne peut avoir lieu qu'après une entente entre les deux hommes. L'échec des rencontres d'Amman et de Salalah pousse à moins de précipitation. La nouveauté, c'est l'entrée en scène de l'Arabie saoudite. Le Président Saleh a reçu mercredi dernier, un message du roi Fahd l'Arabie saoudite, remis par le ministre

saoudien de l'Education Abdel Aziz Al-Khouiter. C'est la première visite d'un ministre saoudien à Sanaa depuis le début de la crise politique en août 1993. L'influence du puissant voisin peut laisser espérer un déblocage de la situation.

Les tendances centrifuges dans le pays se développent un peu partout, profitant de la paralysie de l'Etat, qui avait déjà du mal à affirmer son autorité avant la crise dans les régions au nord et à l'est de Sanaa. Les tribus font à nouveau la loi dans ces régions. Les touristes ne vont plus à Saada depuis plusieurs semaines et la route

de Mareb (à l'est de Sanaa) est régulièrement fermée. Maintenant, c'est au tour de la route de Hajja d'être bloquée et samedi 16 avril, les étrangers ne pouvaient plus emprunter la route de Manakha (à l'ouest), des tribus rivales se battant près de Bani Matar. Elle a été rouverte dès le lendemain. Le renforcement du pouvoir tribal ne présage rien de bon pour le pays. D'ailleurs, le rial a repris sa chute par rapport à la monnaie américaine la semaine dernière, dépassant la barre des 70 rials pour un dollar. Pendant plusieurs semaines, il était resté stable autour de 65 rials.

J.B.

## Amitié irakienne

Le Président Saleh sait être fidèle en amitié. Trois ans après la crise du Golfe, au cours de laquelle le Yémen avait apporté son soutien à l'Irak, il continue à soutenir le régime de Saddam Hussein. Celui-ci lui a envoyé jeudi 14 avril un message remis par le ministre irakien de l'Information, Hamed Youssef Hammadi. Dans son message, le Président irakien préconise une "attitude nationale arabe susceptible d'alléger les souffrances qu'endure le peuple irakien en raison du maintien de l'embargo, en dépit du respect par l'Irak de toutes les résolutions de l'ONU, dont la 687", prévoyant

l'élimination des armes de destruction massive irakiennes. Le ministre irakien de l'Information a également appelé à la conclusion d'un accord visant à "démilitariser" la région du Proche-Orient, "étant donné que la politique (d'armement) provoque la dilapidation des potentialités de développement des pays de la région". Le Président Saleh a assuré l'émissaire irakien de la "solidarité du peuple yéménite avec celui de l'Irak face à l'embargo". Une prise de position qui ne devrait guère enchanter les monarchies du Golfe, notamment l'Arabie saoudite et le Koweït.

# Il y a un an les élections...

La période de transition a pris fin il y a un an à l'occasion des élections législatives du 27 avril 1993. Mais tous les problèmes liés à l'unification n'ont pas été réglés. Depuis le mois d'août, le pays est confronté à sa plus grave crise depuis la réunion des deux Yémen. Rappel de douze mois décisifs pour l'avenir du Yémen unifié.

Les déclarations étaient alors triomphales: du Président Saleh, au vice-Président Al-Bid, en passant par le chef de file des islamistes, Cheikh Al-Ahmar, tous se félicitaient du bon déroulement des élections législatives du 27 avril 1993. Les premières élections libres de l'histoire du Yémen avaient été saluées par les observateurs internationaux. Le pays pensait avoir fait un pas de plus vers la démocratie et les dirigeants espéraient que cette image positive allait attirer les investisseurs et les aides extérieures.

## Al-Bid a rallié les opposants à Saleh

Dans la foulée, Ali Abdallah Saleh, chef de file du CPG (Congrès populaire général), l'ancien parti unique du Yémen du Nord, Ali Salem Al-Bid, à la tête du PSY (Parti socialiste yéménite), l'ancien parti unique du Yémen du Sud, et Cheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar, chef de file de l'Islah, devaient de former une coalition parlementaire et de gérer ensemble le pouvoir. C'était en mai 1993. A l'époque, le CPG et le PSY avaient ressorti de leur tiroir un projet de fusion des deux partis.

Un an après, le Yémen a l'âme en peine, englué depuis huit mois dans une crise poli-

tique sans issue. Ali Abdallah Saleh et Ali Salem Al-Bid s'entredéchirent, le Cheikh Al-Ahmar soutenant le premier. Les ministres socialistes ont quitté Sanaa il y a quelques mois avec femmes et enfants. Ils sont retournés dans leur ville d'origine, Aden. Le gouvernement de coalition ne fonctionne donc plus. Il s'est certes réuni à Aden fin mars puis à Taëz début avril, mais l'objectif était surtout d'afficher une réconciliation de façade. Le pays est paralysé par la crise, et l'économie, déjà mal en point, est proche du marasme. La monnaie yéménite, le rial, s'enfoncé lentement mais sûrement, perdant peu à peu sa valeur par rapport à la monnaie américaine.

La crise politique a commencé le 19 août dernier, quand le vice-Président Al-Bid a décidé de se retrancher à Aden pour protester contre l'absence de réformes menées par le gouvernement. Les trois partis au pouvoir discutaient alors depuis le mois de mai d'un programme de réformes constitutionnelles, sans arriver à se mettre d'accord. Ali Salem Al-Bid avait déjà pratiqué ce genre de "retraite" dans le sud en 1992 pour dénoncer l'immobilisme politique du selon lui aux méthodes de pouvoir du Président Saleh.

Mais cette fois-ci, la "bouderie" s'est transformée en véritable déclaration de guerre. Loin d'être isolé, le vice-Président a su rallier à lui les ministres socialistes, accusés pour certains d'avoir succombé aux sirènes de Sanaa (villas, voitures luxueuses...), mais surtout, l'opposition au Président Saleh au nord, notamment les tribus Bakils, adversaires des Hacheds, soutiens indéfectibles du régime nordiste.

## L'unité du pays est menacée

Ignorant la retraite d'Al-Bid, qui reflète plus largement le mécontentement de la population du sud qui se sent négligée depuis l'unification, les nordistes ont fait élire un nouveau Conseil présidentiel en octobre, y faisant entrer l'ennemi juré des socialistes, le leader islamiste pur et dur Cheikh Zendani. Les sudistes se montrant de plus en plus déterminés, Saleh et son acolyte le Cheikh Al-Ahmar ont accepté de signer à Amman le 20 février dernier le document de réconciliation, pourtant largement favorable aux sudistes. Mais son application reste à réaliser.

Dans les faits, l'unification qui remonte au 22 mai 1990 semble bien menacée. Les socialistes ont en effet repris les

rènes du pouvoir dans les gouvernorats de l'ex-Yémen du Sud et sont décidés à y appliquer leur propre politique. Saleh Al-Sayeli, le gouverneur de l'ancienne capitale du sud, bête noire des nordistes, mène une politique très volontariste, sortant la ville de la léthargie où elle était plongée depuis l'unification. Cela passe par l'éviction des hauts fonctionnaires originaires du Nord et qui avaient été placés au Sud dans un mouvement d'échange entre les deux Yémen après l'unification. Les taxes et les impôts ne sont plus rapatriés à Sanaa. Etape supplémentaire vers la séparation, les sudistes réclament le retour des unités militaires sudistes installées au nord et celles du nord installées au sud après l'unification.

Le processus de démocratisation a été stoppé. Les services de sécurité ont été réactivés des deux côtés. Au nord, ils ont contribué à la disparition du mouvement de sit-in populaire organisé à Sanaa et considéré sans doute comme étant trop favorable aux socialistes. La censure est revenue à la télévision. A Aden, les passages du journal national réalisé à Sanaa qui déplaisent sont remplacés par un écran noir. Les dirigeants yéménites font avancer le pays à reculons.

Jérôme BERNARD

## CHRONOLOGIE (Suite)

les oulémas à la mosquée Al-Janad près de Taëz n'a pas lieu.

- 18 janvier: Présentation du document de réconciliation établi par le comité du dialogue.

- 22 janvier: Le Premier ministre Al-Attas accuse le Président Saleh d'avoir dépensé un milliard de rials au mois de novembre 1993.

- 6 février: Interception par les nordistes d'un avion cargo ougandais transportant du matériel de transmission pour les sudistes.

- Début février: Mouvements de troupes près de l'ancienne frontière.

- 11 février: Un officier de police nordiste blessé par balles dans le gouvernorat d'Al-Mahra.

- 14 février: Le Président Saleh annule la nomination par le Premier ministre Al-Attas du nouveau gouverneur de Shabwa.

- 15 février: Deux cadres du CPG sont assassinés près de Sanaa.

- 20 février: Cérémonie de signature à Amman de l'accord de réconciliation entre sudistes et nordistes.

- 21 au 28 février: Tension et accrochages militaires entre sudistes et nordistes dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan et à Harf Sufyan, au nord de Sanaa.

- 22 février: Le vice-Président Al-Bid est reçu par le roi Fahd d'Arabie saoudite puis en Oman. Saleh Saleh, son adjoint au PSY, est reçu au Koweït et aux Emirats.

- 25 février: Arrivée au Yémen d'une mission militaire jordano-omanaise.

- 3 mars: Sinan Abou Louhoum (opposition) et Abou Chawareb (Parti Baath, vice-Premier ministre) se retirent du comité du dialogue et quittent le Yémen.

- 4 mars: Début du mouvement de sit-ins populaires à Sanaa, Taëz et Aden.

- 9 mars: Le Président Saleh est reçu en Egypte puis aux Emirats.

- Mi-mars: Accrochages militaires entre sudistes et nordistes à Ataq, chef-lieu du gouvernorat de Shabwa.

- 21 mars: Le Président Saleh réclame le limogeage du Premier ministre Al-Attas.

- 23 mars: Réunion à Aden du gouvernement, la première fois depuis trois mois.

- 24 mars: Le Président Saleh en Syrie, il rencontre Ali Nasser Mohamed, l'ex-Président du Yémen du Sud.

- 25 mars: Assassinat d'un cadre du PSY à Sanaa.

- 26 mars: Réunion du parlement à Sanaa, la première fois depuis deux mois.

- 2 avril: Le vice-Président Al-Bid en visite aux Emirats.

- 3 avril: Echec de la rencontre entre le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid à Salalah au sultanat d'Oman.

- 6 avril: Accrochage militaire à Dhamar.

- 6 et 7 avril: Réunion du gouvernement à Taëz.

- 10 avril: Rencontre à Aden entre le ministre de la Défense Haïtham Taher Qassem (sudiste) et le chef d'état-major des forces armées, le général Abdel Malek Al-Sayani.

- du 6 au 10 avril: Saleh Saleh (sudiste) en Egypte, puis en Syrie. Mohamed Basindwa, ministre des Affaires étrangères (nordiste) en Iran. Les nordistes envoient un émissaire au Maroc, en Algérie, en Tunisie et en Libye.

## CHRONOLOGIE

27 avril 1993 ...

27 avril 1994

- 27 avril: Elections législatives: Le CPG, 123 sièges, arrive en tête, suivi par l'Islah, 62 sièges, et le PSY, 56 sièges, sur les 301 sièges que compte le parlement.

- 10 mai: Le CPG et le PSY forme une coalition parlementaire. Ils sont rejoints par l'Islah deux semaines après.

- 15 mai: Rentrée parlementaire, Cheikh Al-Ahmar, chef de file de l'Islah, est élu président du parlement.

- 23 mai: Haïdar Al-Attas (PSY) est appelé à former un gouvernement de "coalition nationale".

- 30 mai: Le nouveau gouvernement est formé. Il compte 29 ministres, 15 CPG, 9 PSY, 4 Islah et 1 Baas.

- 10 juin: L'Islah obtient deux portefeuilles ministériels supplémentaires.

- 18 juillet: Le général Abdallah Al-Béchiri, chef d'état-major des forces armées yéménites, présente sa démission pour protester contre la politique du ministre de la Défense Haïtham Taher Kasseem (PSY).

- 19 août: Ali Salem Al-Bid, vice-Président, se retranche à Aden. Début de la crise politique.

- Fin septembre: Ali Salem Al-Bid publie un programme de réformes en 18 points.

- Mi-octobre: Election d'un nouveau Conseil présidentiel pour mettre fin à la période d'incertitude, le CPG et le PSY, n'ayant pas réussi à s'entendre sur les amendements à apporter à la Constitution. Cheikh Zendani (Islah) fait son entrée au Conseil présidentiel.

- 16 octobre: Ali Salem Al-Bid est absent lors de la prestation de serment devant le parlement du nouveau conseil présidentiel où il a été élu vice-Président.

- 26 octobre: Le rial passe la barre des 60 rials pour un dollar. Manifestations à Taëz.

- 29 octobre: Attentat manqué contre deux fils du vice-Président Al-Bid à Aden. Son neveu est tué.

- 10 novembre: Le parlement demande au Président Saleh de mettre fin aux mouvements de troupes dans le pays.

- 11 novembre: Le conseil des ministres se déroule exceptionnellement à Aden.

- 14 novembre: Attentat manqué contre le fils aîné du vice-Président Al-Bid à Aden.

- 27 novembre: Saleh Saleh (PSY), membre du Conseil présidentiel, lance l'idée du fédéralisme. Tollé chez les nordistes.

- 4 décembre: Début des travaux du comité du "dialogue national" à Sanaa entre les trois partis au pouvoir et les partis d'opposition.

- 23 décembre: Assassinat d'un cadre du PSY à Sanaa.

## 1994

- 4 janvier: Manifestations contre la hausse des prix à Taëz, Hoddeida et Sanaa. Rapidement dispersées. Changes, 1 dollar=66 rials. Deux cadres du PSY abattus à Dhalaa.

- Début janvier: Le Président Saleh rend responsable le Premier ministre Al-Attas de la dégradation de la situation économique.

- 8 janvier: Un cadre du PSY abattu à Sanaa.

- 9 janvier: La rencontre entre le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid organisée par



MER

# Vocabulaire nautique arabe

*Alain Rouaud, chercheur français au CNRS, vient de faire paraître un glossaire nautique arabe rédigé par un capitaine au long cours H. Grosset-Grange. Il explique ci-dessous les limites de ce travail de grande ampleur.*

Le texte du glossaire nautique arabe rédigé par H. Grosset-Grange a enfin paru (1) après un long travail de mise au point qui n'a visé qu'à le rendre accessible sans le défigurer. Capitaine au long cours, l'auteur alliait à son savoir nautique une solide connaissance pratique de l'arabe, de l'astronomie et de la navigation traditionnelle dans l'océan Indien mais il n'était ni linguiste, ni bon rédacteur. Quelle valeur scientifique attribuer à son travail ?

## Tradition nautique de l'océan Indien

Il n'a pas d'équivalent par son ampleur. C'est une riche moisson de termes relatifs au vocabulaire du bateau et de ses parties, de la manoeuvre, de la navigation, le tout ne concernant que la tradition nautique de l'océan Indien si distincte de celle de la Méditerranée. Il est en revanche pauvre sur d'autres points: typologie des bateaux, vocabulaire des techniques de construction navale, vie des équipages, halieutique, faune et flore marines, etc. La matière est accessible par des entrées françaises ce qui est discutable.

Mais le défaut majeur n'est

pas dans ces carences. Il est d'ordre linguistique. Pour tous les termes présentés, qu'ils soient "anciens" (c'est-à-dire attestés dans les textes nautiques du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle) ou "modernes" (c'est-à-dire en usage dans les années 1970), l'absence de mentions pousse le lecteur à se poser les questions suivantes: quel est leur degré de littéralité, de quel dialecte relèvent-ils, quelle est leur aire géographique d'utilisation, etc. Les termes modernes (dont les lieux de collecte n'ont qu'exceptionnellement été indiqués) n'ont pas été relevés par enregistrement et leur prononciation n'a donc pas été restituée rigoureusement. De plus, il semble que l'auteur ait eu tendance à les littéraliser. Les rubriques ne comprennent aucun commentaire ni linguistique, ni étymologique et aucun rapprochement avec les lexiques nautiques de la Méditerranée ou des grands fleuves n'est proposé.

## Affiner le travail réalisé

Il ne s'agit toutefois pas d'adresser des reproches à l'auteur qui n'a voulu parler que de ce qu'en marin il connaissait le mieux, mais de tirer

de nouveaux profits des matériaux qu'il nous a transmis.

Le travail consistera d'abord à redresser et à améliorer la restitution des termes et à affiner leur description. Il sera ensuite possible d'étudier la constitution du lexique qui, pour une part, s'est faite dans ce domaine comme dans d'autres par des réemplois dans des sens nouveaux, descriptifs ou analogiques, de termes le plus souvent populaires. Les emprunts sont aussi nombreux et tirés de langues assez diverses (grec, persan, langues indiennes, portugais, anglais, italien, turc, français). Le plus souvent, leur origine exacte et leur cheminement restent à élucider. Autre recherche, celle qui concerne les étymologies. Toute aussi délicate à mener, elle peut se révéler productive, comme nous le montre l'exemple du mot "galba" ou jalba.

## L'exemple du mot jalba

La jalba est une petite embarcation assez mal caractérisée mais anciennement attestée. Aux étymologies qui font venir son nom de l'anglais jolly boat (canot, youyou) ou du persan (v. Kindermann, "Shiff", p.19), il semble qu'il

faillit préférer l'origine arabe. Tous les dictionnaires de cette langue connaissent la racine JLB (apporter, tirer, traiter des marchandises, pêcher, etc.) à laquelle on rattache les mots qui désignent l'armature de la selle ou sa garniture. D'où il est clair, qu'à l'origine, ce bateau était une espèce de coracle, fait confirmé par d'autres indices. Avec jalba nous tenons même un exemple de mot arabe passé dans d'autres langues: en portugais (gelva) et dans les langues éthiopiennes, tigré, amharique (galba).

Alain ROUAUD

**Chercheur français au CNRS (Centre national de recherche scientifique) et plus particulièrement au Centre de littérature et linguistique arabes et sud-arabiques. Il s'intéresse aux mouvements et contacts de langues et de cultures entre les deux rives de la mer Rouge. Il a publié il y a quelques années un livre aux Éditions Complexe-Bruxelles, "Le Yémen et ses populations".**

(1) Glossaire nautique arabe, ancien et moderne, de l'océan Indien. Texte établi par A. Rouaud, Paris, CTHS, 1993.

## En Bref

**L'Arabie saoudite déchoit de sa nationalité Ossama Ben Laden:** L'Arabie saoudite a décidé de déchoir de sa nationalité le riche homme d'affaires Ossama Ben Laden, connu comme l'un des principaux financiers des "vétérans d'Afghanistan" et des mouvements islamistes. L'Arabie saoudite a estimé que son comportement risquait de "nuire à ses relations avec les pays frères". Le Yémen l'a accusé d'avoir soutenu le Jihad islamique, incriminé dans plusieurs attentats contre deux hôtels à Aden. Originaire de l'Hadramout, Ossama Ben Laden s'est installé au Soudan après le coup d'Etat de la junte à tendance islamiste en juin 1989, qu'il soutient financièrement. Il avait été désavoué en février dernier par sa famille, propriétaire de l'un des principaux groupes de travaux publics du royaume saoudien et connue pour ses liens étroits avec la famille royale.

**Première rencontre de muséographes arabes à Amman:** Du 26 au 30 avril prochains, pour la première fois dans l'histoire des musées arabes, plus de 80 muséologues d'une vingtaine de pays arabes se rencontreront à Amman en Jordanie, autour du thème "Musée, civilisation et développement". L'objectif de cette rencontre est de permettre aux professionnels d'une même région de mener une réflexion commune sur leurs musées et

de développer de nouvelles politiques d'échange et de coopération aux niveaux régional et international. Un répertoire des musées des pays arabes sera publié après cette manifestation. Le Yémen sera représenté au cours de cette rencontre.

**Le Liban rompt ses relations diplomatiques avec l'Irak:** Le Liban a décidé lundi dernier de rompre ses relations diplomatiques avec l'Irak après le refus par ce pays de lever l'immunité de deux diplomates irakiens, l'attaché commercial et l'attaché culturel. Ceux-ci sont suspectés du meurtre à Beyrouth d'un opposant au régime de Saddam Hussein, Taleb Souheil.

## Voyage

L'Association de la Langue française organise un voyage de quatre jours à Khawkhah dans la Tihama du jeudi 28 avril au dimanche 1er mai. Les places peuvent être retirées à la faculté de Lettres, département de français, ou au Centre culturel français. Dernier délai lundi 25 avril à midi. Pour les étudiants, 1000 rials, pour les autres 1500 rials et pour les enfants de moins de 12 ans, 700 rials, le transport et les repas étant inclus. Départ le 28 avril à 7h à la faculté de Lettres. Retour le dimanche 1er mai à 17h. Matériel à emporter: le couvert, un tapis de sol et un drap.

## PATRIMOINE

# Architecture de Zabid

*Classée à la fin de l'an dernier au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, la ville de Zabid dans la Tihama le doit notamment au travail effectué par l'anthropologue Paul Bonnenfant et l'architecte urbaniste Jeanne-Marie Gentilleau.*

"C'est un grand honneur pour Zabid d'avoir été classée au patrimoine de l'UNESCO". Paul Bonnenfant, anthropologue et directeur de recherche au CNRS (Centre national de recherche scientifique) en France, sait de quoi il parle. En liaison avec le GOPHCY de Sanaa, dirigé par le Dr. Abderrahman Haddad, il a monté le dossier pour obtenir le classement de cette ville historique de la Tihama, avec Jeanne-Marie Gentilleau, architecte et urbaniste.

## Une décoration tournée vers l'intérieur

"Nous travaillons ensemble sur Zabid. Elle, en tant qu'architecte, dessine des plans de maisons, des plans de quartiers, des coupes des élévations. Quant à moi, j'étudie l'usage de l'espace par la population. Je fais de l'histoire sociale. J'étudie tous les facteurs qui ont contribué à la genèse de l'habitat", précise Paul Bonnenfant. Le chercheur français accorde une grande importance au nom de la maison et aux proverbes concernant l'habitat. Pour expliquer son travail aux habitants de Zabid, il leur a montré les ouvrages qu'il a écrit sur Sanaa.

Dans Zabid écrasée par la chaleur, au sud de cette Tihama semi-désertique, beaucoup de très belles maisons datent de soixante ans environ. La maison de Zabid est l'archétype de la maison de la Tihama, comme la maison de Sanaa est l'archétype des maisons-tours des hautes terres yéménites. Le style de Zabid se retrouve par exemple au nord de la Tihama, dans le port de Luhiyya, utilisé par les



Intérieur de l'université islamique qui fit la renommée de Zabid.

Turcs au moment de leur présence au Yémen.

La maison de Zabid est composée d'une pièce d'habitation principale très décorée, d'une galerie couverte et d'une cour. Les maisons les plus riches ont une pièce à l'étage. La maison de Zabid ressemble beaucoup à la maison maghrébine. Les décors très raffinés sont surtout tournés vers l'intérieur, contrairement à Sanaa où la décoration extérieure est très développée. La brique, la chaux et les bois peints découpés à jour sont les trois éléments de cette architecture.

Selon Paul Bonnenfant, l'architecture domestique au Yémen est très menacée. Il est donc important de prendre des mesures conservatoires. Le

classement de Zabid au patrimoine de l'UNESCO, qui est une reconnaissance internationale de la qualité de l'architecture, devrait aider à encourager des actions de mécénat. Dans l'immédiat, à Zabid, la question de la restauration de l'habitat ne se pose pas. Par contre le réseau d'adduction d'eau qui circule au ras du sol et l'absence de réseau d'égoûts entraînent des infiltrations qui menacent des bâtiments millénaires et la santé publique.

## Faire revivre les fours à briques

D'autre part, depuis quatre ans, beaucoup de constructions modernes en parpaings sont

apparues. Les gens ont commencé à construire à l'intérieur de l'enceinte ancienne. Le chercheur français pense qu'il faudrait faire revivre les fours à briques afin d'encourager leur utilisation. Par contre, il estime qu'il faut éviter l'utilisation du bois, ce matériau devenant de plus en plus rare dans le pays. Paul Bonnenfant et Jeanne-Marie Gentilleau ne sont pas les seuls à travailler sur Zabid. Une équipe canadienne y fait des fouilles d'archéologie islamique et un chercheur yéménite Mohamed Al-Aroussi a écrit une thèse soutenue en France sur les écoles islamiques à Zabid. Le classement de la ville de la Tihama est pour tous un succès.

J.B.

## PROCHE-ORIENT

# Résoudre le problème de l'eau

*Pour la première fois depuis leur lancement il y a deux ans à Vienne, les négociations multilatérales sur la question de l'eau au Proche-Orient se sont déroulées dans un pays du Golfe, le sultanat d'Oman.*

Pour la première fois depuis le lancement des négociations multilatérales sur les ressources en eau du Proche-Orient il y a deux ans à Vienne, les pays concernés ont fait état d'accords concrets visant à résoudre cette question. Ils étaient réunis la semaine dernière à Mascate, de dimanche à mercredi, invités par le sultanat d'Oman. La présence d'une délégation israélienne a brisé un tabou pour les monarchies du Golfe. C'est en effet la première fois depuis la création de l'Etat d'Israël, en 1948, qu'une délégation de l'Etat hébreu se rend officiellement dans un pays arabe du Golfe.

"L'eau risque de devenir un enjeu de taille dans la région, peut-être encore plus que le pétrole", a souligné un expert qatariote, Jaber Ben Nasser Al-Naïmi. Selon lui, le déficit en eau des pays de la Ligue arabe est appelé à se creuser en raison de "convoitises étrangères". Il fait référence à Israël, accusé de détourner le cours du Jourdain, et à la Turquie, engagée dans un vaste programme de construction de barrages sur le Tigre et l'Euphrate qui diminuent leurs débits vers la Syrie et l'Irak.

## 40 pays participants

Les participants à la session de Mascate, 40 pays et trois organisations internationales, ont notamment approuvé un projet, proposé par Oman, portant sur la création d'un centre d'études et de recherches sur le dessalement de l'eau de mer. Le projet vise à accroître les ressources hydrauliques dans la région, en réduisant le

coût des opérations de dessalement et en augmentant la capacité des stations de traitement de l'eau de mer.

Quatre autres projets ont été approuvés. L'un, présenté par les Etats-Unis, porte sur le traitement des eaux usées dans la région, un autre, israélien, prévoit la remise en état des réseaux municipaux de distribution d'eau et un troisième, allemand, concerne l'élaboration d'un programme mixte américano-européen de formation de techniciens. Les participants ont également approuvé une proposition de création d'une banque régionale de données sur l'eau.

Les participants ont accueilli favorablement l'annonce de la création d'une autorité palestinienne chargée des questions de l'eau dans le cadre de l'autonomie palestinienne à Gaza et Jéricho. Ils ont appelé les co-parrains des multilatérales, les Etats-Unis et la Russie, à assister techniquement les Palestiniens dans la mise sur pied de cette institution.

Les négociations multilatérales sur l'eau ont été lancées dans le sillage de la conférence de paix de Madrid en 1991. La quatrième session, tenue à Pékin en octobre dernier, avait enregistré des progrès en dépit de la persistance du problème du "droit à l'eau" des Palestiniens des Territoires occupés. La Syrie et le Liban boycottent les multilatérales en attendant des progrès avec Israël dans leurs négociations bilatérales sur les questions territoriales. L'Irak, qui n'a jamais été convié à participer au processus de paix, n'était pas non plus représenté à Mascate. (AFP)



## Computer and the Space Shuttle

By: Adel Ben Harhara

Looking back, the ubiquity of computers in space exploration seems inevitable but it was not always clear now or even if they could make a contribution. The application of computers to space flight dates to the early days of World War II, when a team of German engineers began experiments combining computers with rocketry at a research center. Manned space flight is risky

business. Complicated equipment (the space shuttle and its rocket engines have thousands of moving parts) endures tremendous strain at launch and afterward is exposed to radiation and temperatures more intense than anything encountered on Earth.

The great probability is that sometime during a flight some thing will go wrong. The failure could well be catastrophic, like leaking booster that destroyed the space

shuttle "Challenger" in 1986. More than likely, however, the problem will be a smaller one that need not doom a mission if the crew knows what to do about it and acts in time.

To prepare for uneventful missions as well as ones in which major difficulties arise, NASA has long used machines to simulate into space and the flight. Simulators train both the astronauts who venture into space and the flight controllers who remain on the ground, through expensive to build and operate, these technological make manned space flight practical without them, it is doubtful whether nation would accept the risk of sending astronauts into space.

As spacecraft have grown more complex, so have the machines and computers the mimic their exploits. The space-shuttle simulator is complicated that rank upon rank of computers are necessary in order to emulate the spacecraft's flight systems, to let astronauts work the arm in the payload bay, which appears in one simulator only as computer-generated graphics, and to present astro-

nauts in training with some of the multitude of problems that might arise on a real mission. The result is a computer system substantially more powerful than five IBM machines that ride the actual shuttle into space.

When sea sailors of earlier arenas ventured beyond sight of land, they relied on then knowledge of winds, currents and the heavens to reach distant ports. Today's sea is the void of space, where the need for accurate navigation is just as pressing, and the task of achieving it vastly more complicated.

Magellan might never have found his way around the world if world's land masses behaved like objects in space. Continents and islands would spin as they moved rapidly across the face of the globe, and they would exert an attractive force on each other, as well as on the explorer's vassal. The problems of navigating in space demand computers capable of performing, in seconds, calculations that would take years to do by hand. Such computers must be able to determine the spacecraft's position and heading

from sighting of the sun, Earth or stars; select the trajectory that will conduct the craft to its destination with a minimum expenditure of fuel and keep the craft oriented so that antennas and other devices can be pointed in specific direction. It is no exaggeration to say that the development of computers has been as important to the progress of space travel as the development of rockets.

To make a trip to the moon or any other planet would require many months, are a properly outfitted ship might weigh hundreds of tons, which is far too much for launching directly from Earth. So a smaller vehicle, a ferry of sorts, would be used to shuttle components of the ship, including banks of computer, to the space station for assembly in orbit. Once assembled, the interplanetary vassal would be available to take passengers between Mars and Earth, with a stop in lunar orbit to pick up travelers based on the moon.

The best route in space is rarely the shortest. To move in a straight line between planets generally requires

great quantities of fuel to overcome gravity. Instead, spacecraft take advantage of the natural motions of the planets and their satellites. First, a space ferry is launched into Earth orbit for rendezvous with a space station. There, the crew and passengers transfer to a long-distance space craft, which pauses briefly in moon orbit to take on other travelers bound for Mars.

Timing is a critical factor in these maneuvers. Just as sharp shooter must lead a moving target and fire while the quarry is with range, a space-craft must be armed ahead of its destination in order to arrive there, and the vehicle must take off within a narrow span of time called a launch window. To conserve fuel on the leg to Mars, and because of the planet's orbit relative to Earth the interplanetary craft follows a course that will converge with its destination on the far side of the sun, after an eight-month voyage of approximately 360 million miles. The lunch window for this trip lasts about a week, and occurs only once every two years.

### "Renewables are the hope for the future."

If even chilly Scotland could get a 90 percent of its household heating from solar energy, what prospects are there for Jordan and other Mediterranean nations? This question was explored at the Fourth Arab International Solar Energy Conference held in Amman from 20-25 November 1993. The conference was organized by the Arab section of the International Solar Energy Society. Participants from 20 countries and the European Commission attended. Commission representative Dr. Giancarlo Caratti outlined the possibilities for renewable energy use, which include not only solar power but also wind and biomass, and the research undertaken by the Community over the past two decades. The long term objectives of this research are as relevant to Jordan and its neighbors as they are to Europe.

They include: The reduction in pollution and in particular in greenhouse gas emissions - The diversification of energy sources - security of energy supply and a lessening of dependence on imports - assisting the development of less favored regions. Dr. Caratti pointed out that when research into renewable energy began scientists were only exploring its potential, now 20 years later, Europe is in the forefront of world research and European industry has a sound market position worldwide. As the development of alternative energy technology advances and costs come down, it brings clear advantages to the developing world. Techniques are suitable for developing countries and mean cheaper energy and a better spread of services. Jordan's program for the use of wind and solar energy in isolated villages is just one example of the process at work. The use of biofuels can help to balance world food supplies. European farmers should be able to use more land to produce fuel crops rather than surplus food supplies as they do now. Future prospects: the Community has already launched ALTENER, a 1992-1997 program for specific actions in favor of a larger penetration of renewable energies in to the market. Its basic objective is to see renewables double their share of the Community energy market by 2005. Certain of

its goals should be achievable by the year 2000. By then photovoltaics should be competitive with the conventional power grid. Commercial wind energy machines should also have been developed. Biofuels derived from agricultural biomass plantations have to become cost-competitive with conventional fuels and in particular coal and oil. C4-plants (sweet sorghum is a good example) are promising to achieve sufficiently high yields in northern and southern Europe alike for the production of bio-oil at a cost competitive with heavy fuel oil while providing the farmer with an attractive yearly income. In the building sector active and passive solar collectors have the potential to replace conventional building elements. Their integration does not necessarily lead to any initial extra costs and offers additional comfort benefits. Euro-Arab symposium: The Community's overall energy policy was under scrutiny in Amman in February 1994 at a Euro-Arab Symposium on Energy: The Link between the European Community and the Arab countries in a Turbulent World. It is hoped that the symposium will help to strengthen the links between the Community, which is the world's largest energy importer, and its largest exporter, the Arab world. As a first step it will address top level decision makers in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria in order to provide them with information on the main features of EC energy policy and to take the first steps towards closer cooperation in the field. The five sessions of the symposium looked at energy-related institutions in the two regions, EC and Arab energy policies and the possibilities for an Arab regional approach, prospects for Euro-Arab energy in general and in the specific sectors of oil and gas, electricity, renewables and energy efficiency. The symposium is being organized jointly by the Directorate General for Energy of the Commission of the EC, the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

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## Despite the Political Crisis, Imports Through Hudiedah Port Substantially Increasing

Despite the fact that the prolonged political crises of the country had badly affected the Yemeni national economy, surprisingly the Hodeidah Port shows strong evidence the imports haven't been affected, on the contrary the imports have actually substantially increased during the last few months of the political unrest.

Alizzy Al-Selwi, Yemen Times staff member, visited and discussed the details with Captain Ali Hamid Shar-efuddin the director of Hodeidah port: "The last few months witnessed an increase of approximately forty percent in the volume of imported goods, as the average for the pre-political crisis was 6,000 container per month, while the average of containers arriving to Hodeidah jumped to 2,000 containers weekly since December", explained Captain Sharefuddin, and added that; "this figure shows that the businessmen think it in a different way, this amazing increase in imports at times of intensifying political crisis proves that there is a feeling among the business community that the political

crisis doesn't seriously threaten their interests and that the crisis is purely political and that the any other possible implications such as the break out of war or wide range violence is very remote, in fact I think that the mass media is playing a bad role in creating a tense atmosphere."

"There is another indication that the situation in Yemen is not conceived as that bad", says Captain Hammed; "it is the fact that a growing number of foreign exporters and marine lines who are using Hodeidah as a transit point to handle their business with Jordan and a number of other Red Sea and East African ports. They are making use of the good and prompt facilities of Hodeidah, as waiting point and to load and unload freights heading for a number of other ports. Even The number of

passenger liners has considerably increased last year, despite the continuation of political crisis and the appalling practice of kidnapping foreigners in Yemen,

pletion of formalities and paper work. Asked about the PSPC achievements and plans to face the ever growing sea port needs Captain Shar-efuddin explained that more

port on the other hand. In this regard the Hodeidah port witnessed remarkable improvements in a relatively short time, in construction of new docks, renovating and

and make it ready for the expected boom of Yemeni economy.

There is also an ambitious plan to develop and improve both Mokha and Saleef ports and the work is underway to construct a 500 meter long, deep dock at Saleef so as to be able receive commercial vessels up to 72 thousand tons. All these expansions are being financed through PSPC's own resources.

Yemen Times asked Captain Sharefuddin on about a concern expressed by many Hodiedans as to the effect of turning Aden into a duty free zone in the Hodeidah port, Sharefuddin sees no base for such concerns and continued to say duty free zone in Aden will have no negative impact on Hodeidah at all, my understanding is that the duty free zone in Aden is being created to develop and enhance industrialization in Yemen through providing certain concessions to foreign and local investors, it is not a center for importation of goods free of customs as many people think, if it is for that, then it will be a smuggling zone not duty free zone.



of course it the is duty of Ministry of Tourism and tourism agencies to look after the tourists but the policy of Public Corporation of Sea Ports (PCSP) is to give tourist carrier vessels the top priority in harboring and supplies, provisions, and the prompt com-

developing and renovations are needed to make the Yemeni sea ports keep pace with the needs of the developing national economy on one hand and with the new expansions and progress of the international marine trans-

now preparing to receive three new sea tractors ( tugs ) one of them costs more than \$8 million US, for use at Hodeidah port and helping in handling oil tankers at Ras Isa, these machines will considerably expand the facilities and capabilities of the port

By: **Dr. Mazin Al-Salehi**  
General Manager of Diwan

## RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT

No one would deny that most ideas in the body of human thought during more than two thousand years came from religion. If we look at the principal religions, we find that the economy was tied to them. Economic ideas were a mixture of history, philosophy and moral teachings. Most of these religions possessed some of the characteristics of modern capitalism; there was private property, division of labor, market exchange and money, etc. So the idea was in most religious books. The economic system was included in the laws of Buddha, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed. Part 1 of this 2 Part series is devoted to the oldest religions, Buddhism and Judaism. The next issue will focus on The Roman Catholic Church and Islam.

**Buddhism Economic System:** Buddhism stems from teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (ca. 566-ca. 483 B.C. E.), sometimes called Gautama Buddha or Buddha Sakyamani (The enlightened sage of Sakya Clan, to which he belonged). Born in what is now Southern Nepal, his teaching called dhamma (a word also meaning truth, law, norm). Buddhism focused on penetrating the obvious, visible aspects of life to determine their essential and true aspects. The ultimate aim of the teachings of Buddha is the attainment of Nibbana (Nirvana, understanding the reality, dis-

passion, bliss) transcending the rounds of existence or cycle of rebirth, and a leading of a life based on such understanding. A noble but less lofty aim is expressed in the doctrine of Kamma (moral justice): To live a life such that sufficient merit has been accumulated to be reborn in a better situation to attain Nibbana in a later life. To summarize some of the ethical teachings of Buddha: First, all mental and physical phenomena are impermanent and life is a process subject to constant change. Second, action and attitudes as well as the treatment of nature have a variety of future consequences, not only in this life, but in the succeeding life as well. Third, in its most essential sense, the self does not exist. Self is the result of a misunderstanding about our separation from nature.

Personal ethics are an important part of the Buddhist doctrine. Buddha declared that those wishing to lead a pure life should avoid both the extreme of self-indulgence and asceticism, but rather a person should select a middle way. Such a middle way does not exclude a comfortable life-style, or for that matter, the prosperity associated with economic development. In this important respect Buddhism is not anti-materialistic. According to the Buddhism Book, there was general prosperity and property in common, rice was so abundant that when gathered in the evening for supper, a new crop was ready to be gathered for breakfast in the morning. However, certain inequalities based on physical characteristics arose and such differentiation led to transgression from the path of dhamma, as the more affluent people scorned those with less fortunate endowments. Further transgressions occurred as people maximized utility by collecting and storing rice for several meals, thereby saving some work for themselves and acting in a self-interested manner. Following these events,

the Sutta says that the fields were divided and assigned to specific individuals as private property, which in turn gave rise to the stealing of land, lying and other undesirable activities. Private property in land arose as a pragmatic response to human frailties and economic scarcities which were induced by the transgression from the moral law. The property owner in Buddhism is advised to divide his wealth into four parts: One for living and doing one's duty for others, one part for times of need, and two parts to business. If these four parts are of equal size it will refer to the division of income, it may imply a high amount of



savings. Two basic moral ideas must be stressed in Buddhism: First, the owner of wealth should not be unduly attached to it, nor must be it be accumulated by immoral means, a person must be generous and give large parts of it away. Thus, wealth is a means for gaining merit. Second, such generosity leads to an accumulation of merit which in turn means that a person is reborn to a higher position of wealth and social status. However, such a massing of wealth can also lead to rebirth in a lower social and economic status, if it is carried out by improper means. It is fair to say therefore, that Buddhist Economic Doctrine is too simplistic and lacking in too many essential respects to be considered, but no one will deny that Buddhism contributed to economics directly or indirectly. Such contributions are not so easy to extract, they are buried in Buddhist literature. Buddhism like any other religions gave major support to the advancement of science and economics. The second part of this article demonstrates Judaism and its influence on economic life. If we go back to the world of Jewish economic life far enough it predates any publications on economics. Here we will find "substantive

economics." Jewish economic man whose behavior has been shaped by the ethical and moral principles of Judaism (Torah, Talmud). Economics was considered as an off-shoot of moral philosophy.

An important historical insight into the evolution of Jewish economy can be seen in the Jewish charter of his behavior which has been molded and refined over two thousand years of Diaspora in the Roman world. A question arose to my mind, of how does a Jewish society deal with touchy issues like that of self-interest in social life? According to Judaism, the pursuit of material wealth was never regarded, in itself, as an undesirable social activity. Judaism does denounce one's excessive concern over the acquisition of personal wealth. This is because Judaism dictates man to fulfill his dual responsibility that he owes to God and his fellow man.

Historically, Jewish economic man has been especially successful in many areas of business. There are many reasons for their success: In Judaism, the merchants play a desirable role in commerce and therefore are morally entitled to a profit in return for fulfilling their function without any need for apology. Jews were forbidden to own land in the medieval ages, therefore, profits from commerce were essential in acquiring the initial wealth needed. The Jews have exploited their high moral standard and frugality to the utmost in nurturing successful banking houses in many societies. It is important to point out in this connection, that Judaism does not see any thing inherently wrong with lending money with interest. For them, it was indeed a perfectly normal and beneficial part of economic activity, like the supply of other forms of capital. Money lending is shown to be an integral part of Jewish economic man's moral obligation to his fellow Jew's. However, the injunction against the taking of interest did not apply to Non-Jews who did not share the same communal spirit of Jewish money lenders. After all, most if not all Jewish are Shylocks. Judaism and its influence on Jewish economic life, contains an important message about economic life in general.

Economic life does not take place in an abstract space of economic agents making rational decisions in the market but rather a concrete space of interactions between individuals and society where economic behavior is shaped by cultural, ethical and religious values of the society.

### البقاء لله

نتقدم بأحر العزاء والمواساة للأخ العزيز عصام سعيد سالم رئيس تحرير مجلة «صمبم» الكاريكاتورية بوفاة والده المغفور له الوالد سعيد سالم اليافعي سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

د/ عبد العزيز السقاف

أمين نويصر

سمير راجح

إسماعيل الغابري



By: Saad Salah Khalis  
Cultural Editor

What did happen back in 711 A.D.? Who was "Tarik bin Ziad" after whom the glorious Gibraltar was named and who was his pal "Musa bin Nussair" the alleged conqueror of Spain? How did Spaniards turn from Christianity to Islam and should we really, after all, believe our history books?

those questions and others were exclusively discussed and dealt with. But from totally uncommon point of view in a book by the Lebanese author Ismail

Al-Amin, titled "Arabs didn't invade Andalusia", by Riadh Al-Rayiss publishing house, London, 1991.

In the beginning, the author admits that his book is rather a revised reading for the book titled "Islamic Revolution in the West" by the Spanish historian Olague, although he, i.e. the author, has somewhat different conclusions than those of the Spanish writer.

The first shocking feature of the book is in fact its title, "Arabs didn't invade Andalusia", the assumption the author considers to be unquestionably right, in contradiction to most of historians, either Muslim or Christian, history readers, and even common knowledge. Throughout the book, the author solidly insists that Arabs never invaded the Iberian peninsula, and the whole story is a myth created by the imagination of Arab historians!

He agrees that Islam did conquer Spain, no question about that, but not through military conquest, it was rather achieved through a "battle of thoughts" after which the stronger prevails, and "this the way Islam had conquered three quarters of the world then." Going on building a new structure for a historic period of several centuries using his own abstract logic, he concludes that the famous conqueror "Tarik" character was at his best a Berber tribe leader, or might be even a non-Muslim Gothic character. While his commander "Musa bin Nussair" might be totally imaginary, and if he did exist, he can be no more than a religious missionary. The conquest battles mentioned in history books

might be just local skirmishes in Iberia, that if they really occurred. The author didn't deny Muslims' stories about those events, he also denied the Christian ones, using personal conclusions, though sometimes with logic, as a guide line. All his attempt is hinged around what he calls "a new vision of history". Since early chapters, the author doubts and rejects the known texts on which written history of that period was built upon, arguing that if what was written is true, then what happened should be should have been documented by observers and historians then. But as nobody did, Arab historians "made-up" this legendary conquest story around four years later. He also argues that no authentication of that period is possible as no historian did write about what happened in the 8th century A.D. Both Muslim and Christian historians adopted texts written long after the actual events occurred, i.e. 11th and 12th centuries. He claims that texts of the 9th and the 10th centuries were re-written in later times, and in other spots of his book he doubts referring those texts to their alleged authors, as in the case of "Ibn Habib's texts and the book of "Imamism and Politics" by Ibn Qutaiba. He classifies the Arab texts of the 11th century as "unreliable", being based upon oral tales inherited by Arab clans as folkloric myth, such as those texts of Al-Razi writings and the book titled "Collected Tales" by an unknown author. It is rather strange that as fiercely as the author denies the authenticity of the said books, he always refer to them to consolidate his own opinions when he feels like it!

The author turns to be more tolerant to those texts of periods later than 11th century, such as those of Ibn Khaldoun for instance, as he believes that Arabs had already adopted scientific research methodology at that period.

The author concludes that Iberia was in the middle of religious-revolutionary anarchy deeply rooted in that land's history in the period from the 4th to the 8th century. Referring to the tendency of its Christian population, especially in the south, to follow Arius teachings that deny the trinity and divinity of Jesus Christ in controversy with the Catholics, who despite their apparent control, they were in no position to subdue the

of a variety of families living in a residential building in the heart of Cairo, major social and political aspects thereof are exclusively covered through a period of over 25 years, where the building in the series summarizes the whole country. Terrorism is openly dealt with through well selected characters and dialogs, its destructive anti-social mission is sought to be obstructed by the means of patient, religiously oriented dialogue instead of violence. But if the other party leaves you with no option but to fight back, then you have to do it no matter what slogans they are raising. Social, sexual and economic frustrations are shown to be the major sources of terrorism, combined with illiteracy and social ignorance and to some extent alike.

Enjoying this highly artistic piece of TV work, Yemeni families are watching and seem well responsive to the ideas and thoughts implanted. The position of the Channel 1, let alone channel 2, is also an indication of a political position, even if rather shy, in the side of liberation, democracy and modernization. Saluting the brave Yemeni TV channels, more and more to that direction is required. Religion shall be reserved in its proper form, as Islam is not an auction market where every adventurer with a gun and dagger can enter to and create a religion of his own, spreading hatred and death all around. The state has to declare openly its rejection to all kinds of terrorism, and its commitment to reserve social piece and liberties against all destructive tendencies, regardless of garments they wear, slogans they raise or dignities they hide behind.

## Books

### Did Arabs Really Invade Spain ?

Ariusians. Then came those differences among the heirs of the throne of Toledo, who eventually called for help from Olian, the Christian ruler of Septa and a friend of their late father, who obliged and crossed the sea along with a group of his Muslim neighbors. never doubting the truthfulness of his conclusions, the authors goes even further by denying the known story of crossing the Gibraltar strait which he believes was practically impossible for the Muslim Berbers to cross the sea in the way known, and he sees no point in the alleged act of a Christian prince to ask Muslims (enemies) for help. And if it did happen, how could it possible for a few thousands of strange non homogeneous (mercenaries) to subdue ten million Iberians. He forgets here that conquering armies were often numbered in thousands but conquered lands inhabited by tens or even hundreds of people, such as in the case of Alexander the Macedonian, or the British armies of the last few centuries, let alone Muslim conquests.

After the Muslims, with their ally Olian, accepted to help, they brought with them their religious doctrine that is, in some of its main lines, very close to people's Ariusian Christianity. They (Muslims) pushed their missionaries calling for the new religion which the Iberians accepted in the course of time, being impressed by the new thought, they heartily wanted to upset the catholic believers of trinity.

In his opinion, influential existence of Islam in Iberia was non-visible in the 8th and 9th centuries, denying the mere existence of the Muslim Walis (rulers) mentioned in history books and the conquest of France attempts across the border. The story of Prince "Abdul-Rahman Al-Dakhil" (Saqr Quraish or the hawk of Quraish), the Ummiad who escaped to Spain during the Abbassid rule is legendary according to the author. he believes that this man, whatever his name was, is just a brave Iberian knight of Gothic or German origin who jumped to power around 756 A.D, and was never an Ummiad Arab, nor a Berber, not through away all lies and legends therefrom to create a new vision of history is a must, and the author attempt to that end was promising, but the outcome was somewhat confused. even a Semite. He does tells us why this time;

that is because he was blonde, the fact that is more than sufficient to our author. The world famous "Mosque of Cordoba" was never but an Ariusian church in his view, as Muslims were not able to build such a monument at the time (forgetting state-of-the-art buildings all over the Islamic world in the same period) especially with such a forest of pillars. To consolidate his point, he uses a warning issued by Pope Adrian the 1st (774-784 A.D) where the Pope asks the people of Spain to try to avoid intermixing with the Jews and Infidels. The author believes that if there was an apparent Muslim existence, the pope would have said Jews and Muslims (forgetting or maybe not knowing that the Christian clergy used and continued to refer to Muslims as infidels until the twentieth century).

Going on with that same logic, the Ummiad descendants of Abdul-Rahman shall be either Iberian princes or imaginary beings. So he affirms that Hisham, Al-Hakm, and Abdul-Rahman the 2nd were Ariusian princes of which the latter was converted to Islam, but he never tells us why and how, especially in those times when conversion was a deadly charge. Clothes worn by the Iberians was also a point of Author's argument to prove that those people were not Arabs nor Berbers, but Ariusian Iberians.

The author goes through many faces of the conquest of Andalusia story, that may need much more space to discuss. His book is in fact very interesting to read, so were his attempts to adopt a new vision of history through strict scientific methodology, yet, the falls were too many to render the book a landmark in Andalusian history or scientific research, or even to achieve author's goals. He mainly used the same books and texts he attacked and denied authenticity

as references in his footnotes! Al-Razi and "Collected Tales" texts which he considered "written a long time after the events" (10th century) were his main resources of events in Iberia in the 7th century, he unconsciously adopted their tales of pre-Islamic era, but totally denied those of the Islamic period. In his research, references were adopted when he needed to prove a point, and neglected when it contradicted therewith!

This translation/re-reading had made some damage to commonly known names of cities, dignities and battle sites. He might have need more experience in history and geography to make the book he wanted to, and to create the right background to represent his ideas to the readers with.

In principle, trying to re-read history and

## Yemeni TV on the Ride Against Terrorism

It was worthy and rather intelligent gesture by the Yemeni TV to show the controversial Egyptian series of "Al-A'ela" (the Family) on daily basis. It is even more important to note that channel 1 was the one who took the initiative followed by channel 2 a few days later. The series was presented after an introduction which literally said: "Channel 1 has decided after thorough consultation with concerned authorities (evidently religious and political) to show Al-A'ela series". The negative part of the scene is that Channel 1 had to discuss showing the series with certain authorities, which means that TV shows are either still subject to thought censorship, or that the officials there cannot make such step without consultation with the "higher" authorities despite living in unprecedented democratic environment. Yet, the positive, and may I say the bright, side of the equation is that those authorities had conceded the series, hopefully with no omissions. the case is not the same with the more "liberal" channel 2, though the problem of "omissions" is not totally solved yet.

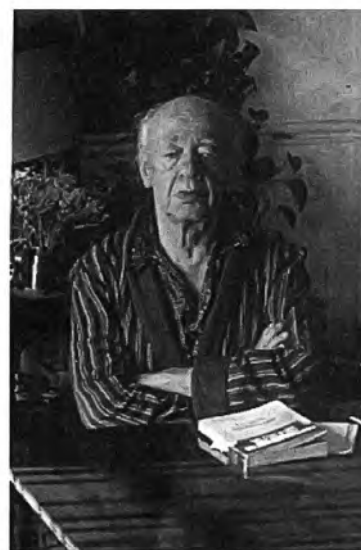
"The Family" is a major tool in the open battle Egyptian intellectuals are openly initiating against all kinds of terrorism, religious-garmented being the major trend. The state has long been tolerant to such movements not even allowing the intelligentsia to play its supposed role therein. But, as the pressure became immense, it seems that intellectuals are in the arena now.

Achieved by a remarkable crew, such as the author Wahid Hamid, the director Ismail Abdul-Hafidh and a brilliant group of artists, A-A'ela had created a hell of controversy wherever shown. Exhibiting daily life stories

## Theater

### The Death of a Pioneer Artist

On March 29, the world lost Eugene Ionesco, the great French theater writer, who stunned the spectators all over the world with his literature which was published in almost every



living language of the world. Ionesco is by all standards one of the pioneers of what critics are accustomed to call "Absurd Theater", along with his two other great

companions; the Irish Samuel Becket and the Russian Arthur Adamov.

Born in 1912 of a Romanian father and a French mother, Ionesco became a French citizen in 1938, and a member of the "Academy Francaise" in 1970. He, like his two companions, has chosen Paris, the city of beauty and arts, to represent his art but his early plays made such a clamor as to be negatively received by the audience who even

wanted their money back. But it wasn't long for Ionesco to jump into the head lines. His wild plays such as "The Bald Singer"(1950), "The Lesson"(1951), "The Chairs" (1952) were all landmarks in the movement of the Absurd theater. The sixties were his most ambitious years when he wrote his masterpiece "Rhinoceros" which deals with totalitarianism, describing a society where all people turn into senseless monsters.

Ionesco was not a reformer nor a philosopher, but he was an artist devoted to confirm the individuality of the man against all diverse surroundings. In his works, the life is not those common daily events, it is rather the accumulation of expressions, illusions and imagination, non subject to any logic.

His works always disturbed the conservatives, as he manipulated the language turning over its traditional structure. But his rebellious, provocative, black comedian worlds finally achieved credit and universalism, being played all over the world. They were played in the "Comedy Francaise" in 1965, while the "Rhinoceros" appeared in London, directed by Orson Wells, and played by Lawrence Olivier. Later in his days, his literature became more and more classic and he began to get interested in painting. Yet, he was still that satirical, desperate, rebellious artist of an exceptional literary voyage and an extraordinary relation to his surroundings.

Three years ago, "Gallimard publishing house published his complete works in its reputed "La Pleiade" series. He passed away on March 29, when his glorious "The Bald Singer" was on show for 1944th time.



# BAB AL-YEMEN: Going Back in Time

By: Christine Clark,  
Yemen Times

Last week on Monday, I went on a trip; a "time trip." Bab Al-Yemen is a stimulating mixture of the past and present, a colorful collage of old and new. Mirtha Aertker,

knew this to be true, but my feelings were reconfirmed after experiencing Bab Al-Yemen. She is also very involved in charity work with Yemeni women, specifically The Women's Handicraft Center. Most of the women there have large extended

inundated with exotic fragrances. I think its a smart move to have specific market areas in which baskets, leather goods, pots and pans, clothing or whatever you want. But, I'm curious as to how does everyone make a living when each shop is side-by-side



whose husband is employed by Yemen Hunt Oil Company, was a tour guide extraordinaire. She has been in Yemen for about six years, and is the official/unofficial escort for Yemen Hunt and other expatriate companies. Many of the shop owners greeted us with enthusiasm,

families; they are taught embroidery, how to make dolls (Mirtha's specialty), other crafts and also English. This supplements their household budget, and with all the cooking, housework, and child-rearing they must do, it also gives them a chance to socialize. What is inspiring is



hand-shaking, and always a smile. Some of the merchants gave us gifts of flowers, nutmeg nuts and *bakhoor*, which resembles a grayish colored rock, that can be burned like incense and smells wonderful. Mirtha expressed a true affection for the Yemeni people and culture: "I really enjoy coming here, the people are so friendly and open, and in some ways very innocent and childlike." From my own personal experience, I already

that after they learn a skill they in turn teach others, it's an ongoing team effort. Bab Al-Yemen, the main meeting place in Sana'a is steeped in history. You can see it not only etched upon the facades, doorways and windows of ancient buildings, but also on the lined faces of the shopkeepers, artisans and people who fill the narrow, uneven streets and alleyways. Before you are even in the area where spices are sold your nose starts tingling and you are

really a thrill was climbing up to the roof for a glorious panoramic view of Sana'a. Naturally, there have been additions and subtractions to the *souk*, but the flavor and mystery of the past endures. Bab Al-Yemen is a myriad of things to see (wedding celebrations on Thursdays) and places to visit. It can't be done in just one day, but then who wants to? When its exciting, fun, enjoyable and a pleasant outing. Just go with the crowded flow.

and trying to absorb everything. I felt a strong tug. At first I thought someone wanted to steal my new purchase but it was an old woman and she wanted to demonstrate how to use it. Its amazing what people can communicate to each other even when they don't speak the same language. To see, there is the Anahaus Building (Samsarah), where an exhibit through comparison pictures (photographed in 1920's, and then in the 1960's) depicts how Bab Al-Yemen has changed and still remains the same. The building was originally a private home, it houses an art gallery on the first floor, but what was

## Al-Maqaleh:

# "I feel like dreaming. I feel free. I feel peace inside me and all around me as I fly."

By: Mohamed Abdulhamid  
Yemen Times Managing Editor

"When I fly in the sky, I feel like I am dreaming, like swimming in an endless sea of light, I feel free, I feel quite calm. I feel peace inside me and all around me." Those are the words of Yemen's pioneer in hang-gliding, Mr. Mohammed S. Al-Maqaleh.

"My flying experience is special, and makes me romantic. To me, hang gliding is not only a kind of sport, but it is also a philosophy," he said.

Al-Maqaleh, 36, is the first Yemeni to hang glide and practice hang gliding. Yemen offers a fantastic opportunity, given its high mountains and deep valleys.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Al-Maqaleh described his fascination with hang gliding and para-gliding, as something he had long before he tried it out. Once he got into it, he liked it even more. Al-Maqaleh had already put his stamp on Yemeni sports as the country's first wrestler. He represented the country in many regional and international competitions.

"After that," Al-Maqaleh continued to say, "I started to look for more challenging sports and found myself attracted to hang gliding. That was in the late 1970s." But his first real encounter with gliding came during his visit to the United States in 1986. "I contacted a number of gliding clubs and professionals and started the first steps in my training," he describes.

Last October, Al-Maqaleh flew over Taiz for more than one hour presenting a fascinating and breath-taking show that attracted thousands of people. They were looking up to the sky, pointing to the flying Yemeni. Many of them recalled the story of Abbas Ibn Farnas of the Arabian ancient mythology and prayed for AL-Maqaleh not to face the fate of Ibn Farnas. In the story of Ibn Farnas, legend has it that he waxed together two wings and flew. As Ibn Farnas rose closer to the sun, the wax melted, the flyer lost his wings, and came tumbling down. (By the way, Greek mythology has a similar story.) But Al-Maqaleh landed safely and to a warm reception.

"My first gliding was in 1988 at Wadi Dhahr near Sanaa, organized by Sanaa University," he recalls. "Even though it was only a 60-meter jump, it was a real risk as it was an examination for my will power," he stated. "My father, who showed up suddenly at Wadi Dhahr, burst in tears a few minutes before my take-off giving me a very hard time," he added.

Yes, one of the difficult aspects of this sport was convincing his family, which strongly objected. "They just could not understand the thrill and achievement associated with the sport. They would always question why a sane man would

jump off a cliff." Even the organizing body of that first jump - Sanaa University - asked him to write a letter of consent releasing them of any responsibility for whatever may happen to him. "I wrote that stupid paper and signed it, flew off and landed safely realizing one of my life's dreams," said Al-Maqaleh,

with his face glowing and his eyes shining. He added, "After that, I flew off from the peaks of Noqum, Nabi Shu'aib, Sabir, Ba'adan, Abyan and Arous.

In 1992, he started training in para gliding. "Para gliding gives an exciting experience. It has its own techniques and special enjoyment."

Through long and difficult practice, I developed my own experience which has so far given me mixed results.

Asked about his funniest experience, Al-Maqaleh said that at one time he descended on a flock of sheep and landed near the shepherd, who simply fled. "He thought some creature had descended from heaven."

Although he works as an attorney-at-law, Al-Maqaleh is taking his sport more seriously. He is allocating more and more time and effort to his beloved sport which he says has "enriched my life and personality and made him a different man."

But his is a very expensive sport and Al-Maqaleh knows it. "This sport needs a lot of money, equipment and time to the extent that it will be extremely difficult to imagine it will develop into a popular sport in Yemen without a kind of institutional support," he said. Although the topography and climate of Yemen are most suitable for this beautiful sport, "I am trying to start a hang gliding and para gliding club in Yemen. I have contacted many people, business-men and government officials, and I think that this sport deserves their support, because it can attract a special type of high-spending tourists to Yemen. As an example, I invited a number of German professional hang gliders to Yemen last August, they performed in Ibb province and attracted the admiration of thousands of people. They were most satisfied and pleased with their stay-and performance in Yemen and promised to come back. They also published their experience in Yemen in specialized gliding magazines in Europe, which I believe will lead of more of them will come to Yemen in the future," said Al-Maqaleh. He went on to say that he already has the license to start the club and he will go ahead with it. He asked all who would like to join him to contact him at the following address:

Fly Yemen Hang Gliding and Para Gliding  
P.O.Box 1946, Sanaa, Yemen  
Telefax 967-1-204999  
Phone: 967-1-7911793





## THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PESTICIDES



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

Pesticides are used to control and kill pests and insects effecting agriculture and public health. In spite of the effect of these toxic materials, they also effect the environment and other creatures, including human beings, when precautionary measures and related instructions are not followed.

Insecticides, a major part of pesticides, are part of a wide group of chemical substances used to control and kill insects effecting the public health.

### Toxicological risks of Pesticides :

Misuse of pesticides may cause several toxicological risks to human beings and living creatures. It also may lead to accumulation of toxic materials in the environment, especially in soil and water. Exposure to pesticides and/or insecticides with consequently poisoning may occur through applications, manufacturing, and residues in food and water. Sensitivity to poisoning depends on the type of the pesticides, chemical composition, dose, duration of exposure, age and physical condition.

Pesticides are taken by human beings through inhalation, dermal or gastrointestinal. This depends on application techniques and the way of exposure. The deposition, reconstruction and secretion of pesticides in the body depends on their types and chemical character.

Insecticides, the major part of pesticides, could be grouped according to the purpose of application, such as herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, and nematocides. Insecticides are the major part of pesticides, and are considered as chemicals of different structure designed and used to kill and control insects through the various stages of growth.

Their major use is in agriculture, public health and homes. They became indispensable all over the world.

Insecticides have made a major contribution to increasing the food supply by reducing the world wide crop harvest losses due to pests and diseases which are estimated at about 30 - 35%. The major losses are suffered by the developing countries. Among the 800,000 species of insects there are about 10,000 plant eating species.

Insecticides play a major role in controlling disease-transmitting insects such as flies, mosquitoes, and cockroaches. For instance, annual death rate from malaria has been reduced from 6 million in 1939 to 2.5 million in 1965 and to less than 1 million to date ( WHO, 1991 ).

Similarly an important progress has been made in controlling other diseases such as yellow fever, sleeping sickness, and others.

The toxicity of insecticides to man starts from the manufacturing stage, through application and even after irresponsible disposal. Insects may develop resistance towards excessively used insecticides. This necessitates the use of more powerful insecticides, thus increasing expenses. The mis- and excessive use of insecticides, especially the non-degradable, lead to their accumulation in the environment ( soil and water ) and consequently increase their hazard to man.

Government agencies and legislative bodies are asked to concentrate their efforts to ensure proper use of pesticides ( in general ), minimize risks, and warn against the dangers of their improper use.

There are useful and harmful insects to man and environment. Unfortunately, insecticides do not distinguish between these two types of insects. Insecticides are used in the following forms :

\* Contact poison, as the case of some organochlorine, carbamates, and pyrethroids and organophosphorous.

\* As a bait to be eaten by insects such as organochlorine, carbamates, and organophosphorous.

\* As inhalation poison such as methyl bromide, nicotine, chlorpikrin, and ethylene oxide.

As far as application of insecticides is concerned, following are the major types: Dusting, Spraying, Fogging, Fumigation.

### Effects of Insecticides and their Residues on Human Beings:

Toxic materials are those with dangerous effects on human beings, even under exposure to trace amounts. A scientist said : " Only the dose determines the poisoning ". The mechanism of biological activity of insecticides is not very clear. They can inhibit enzymes and thus block respiration. They affect the transmission of nerve impulses, and can also interfere in the biosynthesis of protein and DNA. All insecticides, whatever their types are considered to be toxic to human beings with different degrees of intoxication. Symptoms may develop rapidly or after a delay for several hours from exposure, depending on the type of insecticides. Poisoning occurs mainly as a result of use in agriculture, industrial contacts, accidental exposure. This is due to improper handling and dealing with such materials. Non-agricultural workers can also be poisoned after working in areas recently treated for insect control.

Children are frequently poisoned while playing in areas recently treated for insect control or by playing with instruments used in chemical application or by ingestion.

Man poisoning due to food contamination has also been observed in different countries. Indirect exposure is caused by dissemination of these materials through air, water, and soil. Insecticides may pollute water by direct discharge of industrial waste and effluent, or by seepage from buried toxic wastes. However, the toxicity of pesticides will still be considered as one of the hazardous chemical wastes, particularly when it is expired and left under improper conditions, which means health hazardous to the public.

## Leopards

The leopard is one of the most beautiful of the "big Cats", living a solitary existence in forests, high mountain ranges and remote country, where it is least likely to be disturbed by man. It sleeps for most of the day, either in a tree or cave, and hunts at night. Its prey is usually small mammals, such as deer, hares and foxes, which it kills and then frequently drags up into a tree where it can relax and feed in peace. Unlike lions, which hunt in prides as a team, leopards hunt alone, and only seek a mate to breed. The female rears the cubs, while the male goes back to his solitary life.

Until the middle of this century, leopards were not uncommon in the high mountains of Southern Arabia, living in caves in the jebel from the Asir mountains of Saudi Arabia, the high jebel of Yemen, to the mountain ranges of Oman. Together with Lynxes and wild

by unthinking human interference.

Yemen has laws in place which make it illegal to capture or keep in captivity animals like this. What is happening is wrong, is against the law, and is punishable. But there is not a single person in authority who is willing or able to implement the law, release the animals and punish their captors. Why is this? Have we become so cruel that we do not care about anything or anyone but ourselves and our own advantage? Do we no longer have the ability to respect and admire a beautiful animal for its own sake?

There are still leopards in Yemen, living wild and not interfering with us. The captor of the Sana'a leopard will offer to "obtain" one for you if you say the word and pay enough. In the last 10 years, numbers of leopards have been killed in Yemen by poachers, despite the



cats, they were the main predators of the Arabian peninsula. Now all that has changed, and the leopard is persecuted as pest, and hunted for its skin which fetches high prices in the markets of the world. Despite legislation to protect it in almost all the countries where it still survives, numbers have dropped to the point where it is an endangered species, likely to become extinct in the next twenty years.

Opposite the Taj Sheba hotel, behind a cinema, there is today a Yemeni leopard in a cage less than six foot square. It is alive, and you can pay five rials to look at it. Small boys

law. What is needed is the creation of national parks where wild animals, including leopard, hyena and rare gazelles, are protected, and the law is enforced. Most other countries which still have a heritage of wild animals, have formed such parks successfully, and their citizens are proud of them, and drive out to watch their wildlife in its natural setting, providing variety interest and beauty for all to share. Surely we should all press for this to happen in Yemen before it is too late, and we have nothing left to protect?

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### YEMEN TIMES CONSERVATION GROUP MEETING

The second meeting of the YTCG was last week, at the Yemen Times. Several items were discussed and after the discussion, it was agreed that:

1. Dr. Richard Porter, of Birdlife International and OSME, should be invited to Yemen to meet the YTCG and advise on current initiatives on wildlife projects.

2. A workshop should be organized on May 8th, to be addressed by Dr. Richard Porter, and possibly guest speakers from Arabia, at which Conservation issues, objectives and methods should be discussed. It was agreed that representatives of International and other organizations in Yemen should

be invited, and that the Sana'a University should be approached for the use of the Agriculture Faculty's lecture theatre.

3. Three Group members presented outline proposals for potential projects, and it was agreed that these should be presented and discussed at the workshop on May 8th.

4. It was agreed that Dr. Ali Salem would initiate a competition in the Yemen Times for design of a "LOGO" for YTCG. This could then be used on a number of small objects. This means will be used as a message to raise the public awareness.

It was decided that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20th, at 5:00 P.M.



**NOTE:** The numbers below are as up to-date as our records show. If your number has been changed, please call us at (268-661/2) for a correction. This is a courtesy service to our readers.



**EMBASSIES & CONSULATES**

Emergency Police	199	<b>SANAA :</b>	U.A.E	248777/78
Accident (Traffic)	194	<b>1. Embassies:</b>	U.K.	215630/33
Fire Brigade	191	Afghanistan	217691	238842/52
Water Problems	171	Algeria	209688/89	215985
Electricity Problems	177	Bulgaria	208469	
Telephone Enquiries	118	China	275337/340	
Aljumbury Hospital	202192/3	Cuba	217304/5	
Athawra Hospital	246970/9	Czech Republic	247946	
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4	Djibouti	245792/265469	
Red Crescent	203131/3	Egypt	275948/9	
<b>Banks:</b>		Eritrea	209422	
<b>Yemeni Banks:</b>		Ethiopia	208833	
Central Bank	274371/3	France	268832/3	
Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6	Germany	216756/57 266873/4	
Hodeidah	217040-3	Hungary	216250, 216679	
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3	India	241980/1/2	
National Bank	275373	Indonesia	217388	
YBRD	271623/4	Iran	243439/40	
<b>Branches of Foreign Banks:</b>		Iraq	216682/790	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29	Italy	265616/73409/78846	
Bank Indosuez	272801/3	Japan	207356/208753	
United Bank Ltd	272424	Jordan	413275/6/7	
<b>Government Offices:</b>		Korea (Dem)	232340	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7	Korea (Rep)	245959/60	
Interior Affairs	252701/7	Kuwait	216317/319	
Immigration	250761/3	Lebanon	203959/733	
Tourism	271970/2	Libya	208815/6	
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3	Mauritania	216770	
TV Station	250001/03	Morocco	247964	
Radio Station	200060/61	Netherlands	215626/7/8	
<b>Insurance Companies:</b>		Oman	208933/4	
Y.I. & Reinsurance/Aden	273311	Pakistan	248813/14	
Marib Insurance: Sanaa	206112/14	Palestine	215404/5	
Aden:	255668	Poland	248362	
Taiz:	222162/3/4	Qatar	217488/296	
Hodeidah:	217370/1	Romania	215579	
Yemen General: Sanaa:	265191	Russia (FR)	78272/78275	
Aden:	243909	Saudi Arabia	240429/30	
Taiz:	221561	Somalia	208864	
Hodeidah:	239184	Sudan	265231/2	
United Insurance Co.	01-272890-2	Syria	414892	
Aman Insurance Co.	01-214093	Tunisia	240458/9	
		Turkey	241395	

**AIR LINES**

Air France	272895/6	Universal Travel	275028-30
Air India	272544	Bazara Travel/Tourism	78093/270879
Alitalia	273655	Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339	Al-Nasim Travel	270750
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637		
Austrian Airlines	272432	<b>Yemenia Branches:</b>	
British Airways (Sanaa)	248151/2	Abdul-Mughni	274803/4
British Airways (Aden)	243475	Haddah	204538/550
Cathay Pacific	271803	Shaub	250833
Egypt Air	275061	Zubeiry	260834/5
Ethiopian Airlines	272437	Head Office	232381-9
Gulf Air	265274/75, 265374	Reservations	250800/1
Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909		
KLM	278747	<b>COURIERS</b>	
Korean Airlines	272548	Aramex / Sana'a	243.925
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4	Aramex / Aden	255.683
Lufthansa	272583	Aramex / Taiz	213.489
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091	Aramex / Hodeidah	218.168
Royal Jordanian	275314/028	DHL	248017-249878
Russian Airlines	74930	Life Express	205696
Sabena	285865/925	Skypack	77310
Sudan Airways	272503-5	American Express	272435/6
Swiss Air	272547		
Syrian Airways	272543		

**HOTELS**

<b>Sana'a (01)</b>	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
<b>Aden (02)</b>	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
<b>Hodeidah (03)</b>	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
<b>Taiz (04)</b>	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
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**Mr. Cho Kyu-Jae,**  
Ambassador of the Republic  
of Korea in Yemen.

**Dr. Mohammed Jarhoom,**  
Former Minister of  
Information



**Tid Bits Corner**

By: Susan Sanganee

\* It is worth noting that our Minister of Interior, Mr. Yahia Mutawakkel, has made serious efforts in recovering many stolen and hijacked vehicles. Some reports say as many as 1300 vehicles have been recovered. As the owners of these stolen and hijacked vehicles may not know about the retrieval of their cars, it will help if a list showing the registration numbers and types of the recovered vehicles were published. This would be part of the effort of the Ministry to return the vehicles.

ground for anti-government lawlessness, unless urgent measures are taken to create jobs.  
\* It is invigorating to spend an evening at the new Cornish on Abyan Road, Aden, away from the humdrum of the city. One expects our authorities in Aden to take care and maintain its present standard so that the place attracts more families and individuals seeking a nice and enjoyable outing.

\* It is well known that the Yemen Housing Bank's residential complex near the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel was initially known as Al-Hamdi Township. The name was removed, as were the names of many other facilities which carried Al-Hamdi's name. Today, the place has no well-known name. I suggest, why not re-instate the old name, at least to give homage to the memory of one of our late presidents who still commands the respect of our people.

\* It is fascinating how true democracy works. Of course, I am not referring to Yemen, but to the United States where the Clintons are under investigation for certain financial and moral violations. Let us hope our officials will have enough courage in the coming years to disclose their wealth and whether they pay their taxes.

\* It is disturbing to see thousands of our university graduates unemployed. Unfortunately, our government has done very little to create jobs. The number of jobless graduates will increase as more than ten thousand students will graduate this year. Their frustration over not finding a job is the perfect breeding

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

Article 2-2-1 of the Document of Pledge and Accord (18th January Document) calls for the establishment of new administrative units or zones. The objective is to delegate more powers to the regions, within a system of local government.

Such new administrative zones - called makhaleef (singular mikhlaf) - are to be based on objective criteria such as tribal

## Scenarios of Distribution of Local Government Zones

links, geography, population and socio-economic factors. In light of the above, several people have undertaken the task of evolving scenarios and possibilities of the optimal distribution.

One outstanding researcher who has done extensive thinking on the matter is Mr. Abdulaziz Sultan, a member of the Executive Committee of the Nasserite Unitarian Party. A

statistician by training and a senior official of the Public Electric Corporation, Mr. Sultan spoke to the Yemen Times about the additional elements he considered when working out the various distribution scenarios. These include:

- a) Each zone must have access to the sea;
- b) As many zones as possible must bring together territories

of former YAR and PDRY ; c) The zones must have a fairly equal chance at development; d) The zones must be comparable in relative importance; e) The zones must create viable regional entities.

There are several scenarios of the divisions of administrative zones which could be applied to Yemen. I have chosen the three most viable which call for the

guided, as the Document of Pledge and Accord has decided that Yemen must move towards local government. I think seminars should be held to study the best ways to go about implementing local government in Yemen.

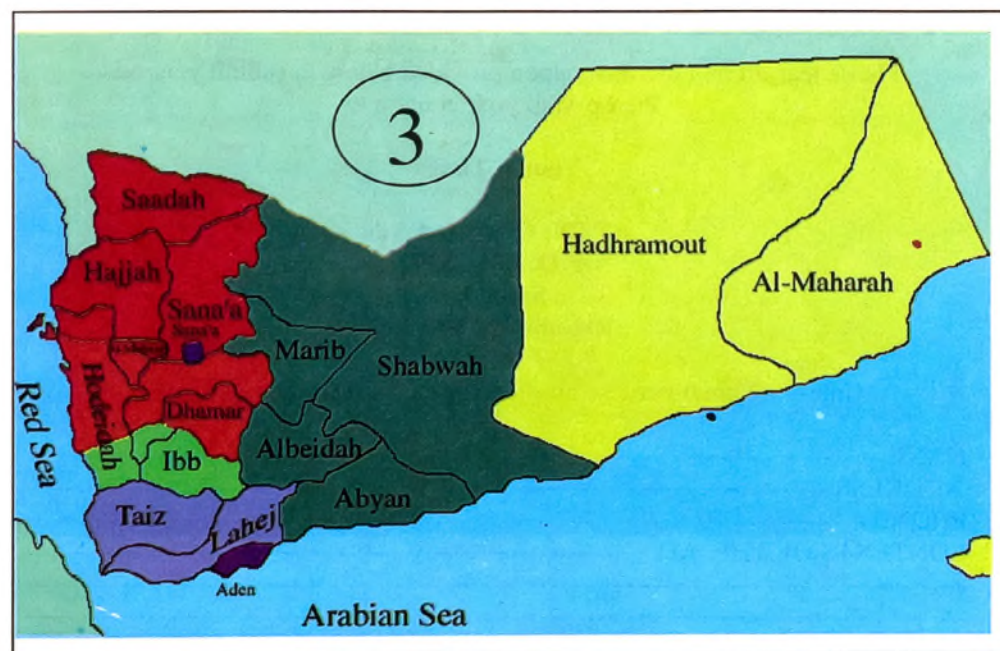
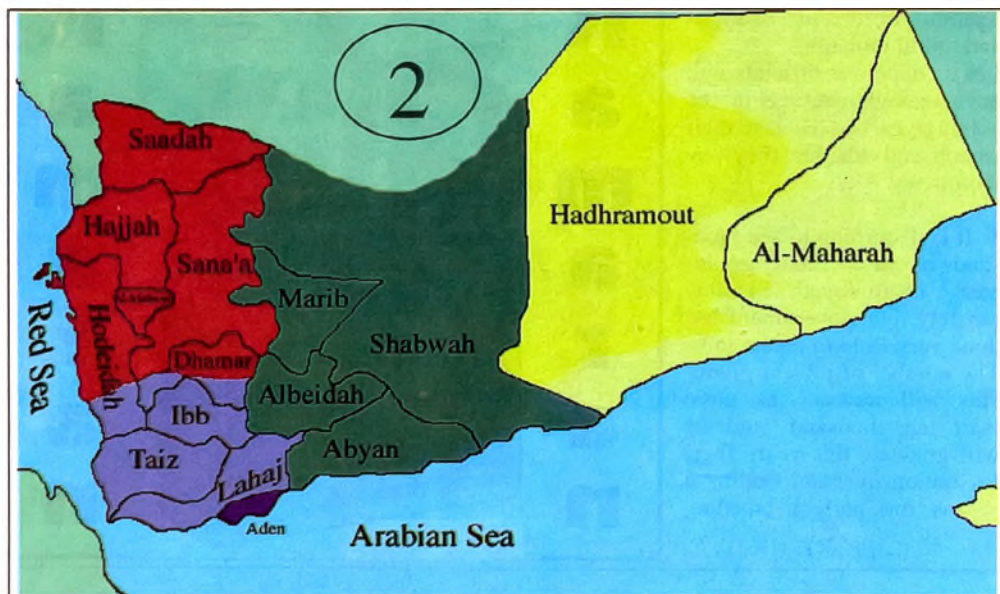
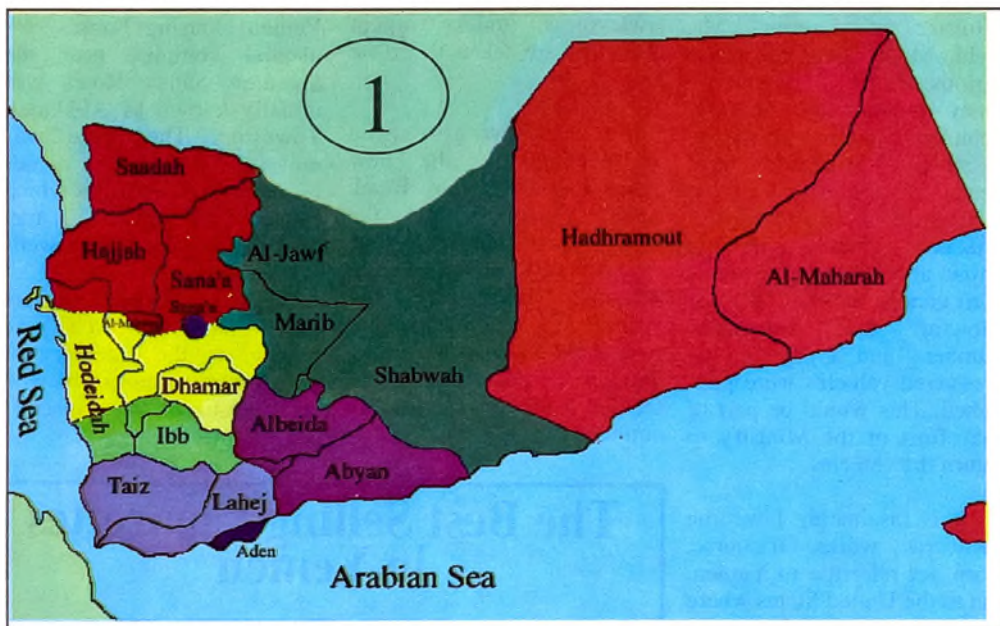


establishment of seven, six, and four zones in the country.

The map on this page shows the administrative zones based on seven regions and two municipal districts for Sanaa and Aden cities. I personally prefer this administrative zone because while it satisfies the need for more local participation in public life, it reduces the possibilities of any region being big enough to tear itself away into an independent entity.

Such issues as the distribution of revenue from sovereign resources (like oil, gas, gold, etc.) will have to be settled through an acceptable mix of taxation. Ownership of water rights, distribution of customs duties, and central government investment will all also have to be discussed and settled.

Recently, the PGC had organized a seminar on what people think of local government and whether it is a good idea or not. That orientation, I feel is mis-



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