



YEMEN TIMES



• June 6th through 11th, 1994

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WHY?

By:
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

Reaction from Sanaa:

Contrary to widespread expectations, Sanaa has reacted to UN Security Council resolution 924 tactfully and in a very flexible way.

At first, Sanaa officials were not sure how to react. They held long meetings to determine the "proper" response. The cabinet finally came up with a statement saying that "Sanaa appreciates the concern of the world community, and that it will interact with the resolution in a positive spirit." It tried to be vague about its true feelings.

By Friday morning, however, Sanaa has evolved a positive posture. It was able to interpret the resolution in a way that serves its objectives.

A statement issued implied that while the resolution demanded an immediate cessation of military activities, it also deals with the conflict within the framework of the Republic of Yemen. Thus it stops Aden from charting an independent course. Sanaa, therefore, is now using

The Yarstick of the Gulf Crisis Is used to get even with Sanaa !

many people a lot of uneasy feelings. This resolution could be taken to show that the Security Council decision is based more on the intertwined interests of the member-countries rather than on a set of universal laws, norms and ethics. The Saudi lobbying and arm-twisting exercised visibly on this instance lends credence to this conclusion. But, the resolution could also be seen in a more positive and balanced way. While it does insist that "political differences cannot be resolved through the use of force," and calls for an immediate cease-fire - points appreciated by Aden - it also refers to the Republic of Yemen, which is the only Yemeni legal entity mentioned in the resolution. This makes it the appropriate format for resolving the problem - a point appreciated by Sanaa.

to "complete" the war mission, before regional and international "meddling" aimed at dis-integrating Yemen complicates the situation further.

Tears of Prince Bandar:

Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, Saudi Ambassador to the US and UN, has been the chief architect of the resolution. He had lobbied hard to bring around even the "great" nations to his viewpoint. The timing of the big purchase of the Paris-based Euro-Disney - which was almost bankrupt - by a Saudi Prince is very telling. Whatever the motives, there is a visible hypocrisy in the statements which he has repeatedly made insisting that Saudi Arabia is very concerned about the welfare of the Yemeni people. Saudi Arabia, it is known, continues to ship arms to the war, and only four years ago, the Kingdom kicked out some one million Yemeni workers.

It would be more appropriate for the Saudi prince to simply state that he is promoting his country's interests. Saudi Arabia sees a united, prospering and democratizing Yemen as a threat to its interests.

Yemeni authorities could have alleviated some of the Saudi fears by pushing forward a deal on the border problem between the two countries. No progress was achieved in the past not because of Yemeni intransigence. Still, a more flexible and forthcoming approach could have yielded better results.

The UN Effort:

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has named the Algerian Al-Akhdhar Al-Ibrahimi who has left Johannesburg on his way to Yemen. Both Sanaa and Aden are now preparing to receive the UN envoy and present their viewpoints, following which he will report to Dr. Ghali.

A unified, democratizing and modern Yemen is an element of stability, peace and prosperity for Yemen and the region. If the Security Council can help guide events in this direction, its efforts would be most welcomed and appreciated by the Yemeni people.

If the Security Council can help in preserving Yemeni unity and democratization, its efforts are most welcome.

the resolution to force Aden to return to the fold of the Republic of Yemen, and is asking the world to condemn the new realities Aden is trying to create.

For a while, there was considerable worry that Sanaa would be pushed, against it will, to radicalization and isolation. By presenting it with a situation it cannot accept, it could have been pushed overboard which would trigger a rash response. That did not happen, at least not yet.

Reaction from Aden:

Aden has shown an overwhelming enthusiasm and welcome to the resolution. This is interpreted to confirm to the precarious military position of Aden and that it badly needs a cease-fire.

No doubt, Aden is still militarily capable, but it is under enormous pressure. Thus, although the resolution is "not binding," and mentions only the Republic of Yemen, Aden has announced it has unconditionally accepted it and will implement it.

Meaning of the Security Council Resolution:

The text of UN Security Council Resolution 924, which is given in the box on this page, and the way it was passed have given

What Does the Resolution Attempt to Do?

If the resolution aims to help the former PDRY secede from the Republic of Yemen, then the question is: "Does this help create stability and peace in the region?"

The answer is "No!"
Let us see why.

Assume, for the sake of discussion, that the PDRY is recreated, under whatever name. Then the former North Yemen is left in a bad situation. A Population of 12 million inhabitants - poor and with a vengeance is left sandwiched between two hostile neighbors - the newly created south Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Clearly such a situation will not enhance the security and peace of the region!

Now, if full secession is not possible, what is the resolution trying to do? Has it helped bring an end to the war?

The answer again is "No!"
Let us see why!

Assume there is an immediate cessation of the war. Both sides will simply try to use the lull to build up their military capabilities, and there are many countries around which will help this process.

That is why the war has intensified immediately following the issuance of resolution. Sanaa has embarked on a major offensive

Text of UN Security Council Resolution 924

The Security Council adopted in its 3386th meeting of June 1st, its resolution 924 (1994) unanimously. The Council convened at the request of six countries - Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - for a meeting to discuss "the situation in Yemen and the resulting tragic loss in civilian lives." The Republic of Yemen, through its UN representative, stated in several letters that "the Government of Yemen considered the request as an interference in its internal affairs, contrary to article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations charter."

Following is the exact text of the resolution:
Quote:

"The Security Council,
"Having considered the situation in the Republic of Yemen,
"Having regard for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
"Deeply concerned at the tragic death of innocent civilians,
"Appreciating the efforts of the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the neighboring states, and other concerned states to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and ensure peace and stability in the Republic of Yemen,
"Considering that the continuance of the situation could endanger peace and stability in the region,

1. Calls for an immediate cease-fire.
2. Urges an immediate cessation of the supply of arms and other materiel which might contribute to the continuation of the conflict.
3. Reminds all concerned that their political differences cannot be resolved through the use of force and urges them to return immediately to negotiations which will permit a peaceful resolution of their differences and a restoration of peace and stability."
4. Requests the Secretary-General to send a fact-finding mission to the area as soon as practicable to assess prospects for a renewed dialog among all those concerned and for further efforts by them to resolve their differences.
5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it on the situation at an appropriate time, but not later than one week after the completion of the fact-finding mission.
6. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

Unquote

The UN Spearheads a Fund-Raising Campaign of an Emergency Package for Yemen

Dr. Awni S. Al-Ani, UNDP Resident Representative and Country Coordinator of the UN bodies in Yemen, disclosed to the Yemen Times that in response to a request by the Acting Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, the UNDP is putting together an emergency package.

"The UNDP is going to put some money, and it is going to initiate an appeal to all international aid and donor countries and NGOs. The appeal will be through our headquarters in New York," he said. Dr. Al-Ani stressed that the package will cover the whole of the Republic of Yemen and will address medical needs, food aid, and the needs of displaced civilians, whose numbers run in the several hundred thousands, he pointed out.

The UNDP official holds a meeting today, Sunday, June 5th, with the ambassadors and heads of mission accredited in Sanaa. "We are asking everybody to chip in, and we will be grateful for whatever contribution is being made," he indicated. The emergency package immediately needed to meet the war-damage is expected to run close to a hundred million US dollars.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Virtue of Physical Exercise

We Yemenis have yet to learn the virtue of physical exercise. Most urban Yemenis do not engage in any form of exercise, although the rural population, by and large, does not need any form of physical exertion because of the tough life they lead. In the countryside, people toil on the land, walk long distances, climb mountains up and down, and in general sweat it out.

As the urban population grows, and the quality of life improves, the need for physical exercise becomes more pressing. There are already many medical problems associated with obesity.

There are many facilities and gadgets that can be used in the courtyard or even in the apartment. But this is not the most difficult aspect of exercising. The difficult aspect is the will and commitment to exercise on a regular basis and as a part of one's life. This means changing the current style of living.

There is another problem. In Yemen, the socio-cultural values actually consider obesity or being overweight as something favorable, and consider being lean and slim as something unfavorable. Maybe it is related to the poor past of the nation in which poor people are lean because they do not have enough to eat, and rich people are fat. In other words, the shape of the body reflects the wealth of the individual.

Modern science shows, however, that a proper body shape is more healthy than an excessively fat or slim shape. That is people the West and many other parts of the world, have taken up physical exercise on a daily or at least weekly basis. The idea is to burn those calories and not allow them to become layers of fat.

Unfortunately for Yemenis, there are not many clubs or exercise centers. Young people go to the few soccer clubs in the cities and towns, while the well-to-do persons go to the large hotels which have recreation and exercise facilities.

One thing that has been helping Yemeni adults is the consumption of qat. The green leaves reduce the appetite of the chewers thus often stopping them from having dinner or supper, and they work wonders to burn away the fat. Of course, there are many negative side-effects to qat chewing.

In any case, the media, educational institutes, and other opinion-forming circles could help by showing the virtues of exercise.

The Publisher
S. S. S.

Aden Forms Its Government

The Yemeni Democratic Republic (YDR), which was formed in Aden by seceding from the Republic of Yemen, announced a 30-man government in Aden, last week. The YDR state is headed by Ali Salim Al-Beedh, and the government is headed by Haidar Abubar Al-Attas. No country has yet recognized the YDR, while Sanaa has set out to quash the separatist state.

Fighting in the Proximity of Aden

The current warfare has moved south until it has now reached the area close to Aden. The city of Aden is more or less encircled by Sanaa's forces which are pushing hard to push Aden to submission. The fighting proceeds at the moment south of Sabir town which is less than 25 kilometers north of Aden city. The ferocity of the war has increased the casualties. Sanaa has dispatched over 50,000 soldiers to subdue the army of the separatist Yemeni Democratic Republic.

A Parliamentary Delegation to the US

A Yemeni parliamentary delegation headed by Vice Speaker Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh, left Sanaa on its way to Washington. The delegation will meet American senators and congressmen and other officials to discuss the on-going crisis and war in Yemen. The trip comes within the efforts of Sanaa to explain its viewpoint and perception of a feasible solution to the crisis.

Lt-Generals Saleh and Al-Basheer Exchange Letters

Mr. Yahia Hussain Al-Arashi, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform, delivered a message from Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh to Sudanese President Lt-General Omar Hassan Al-Basheer. Sudanese Culture & Information Minister Abdul-Baset Sabdarat arrived in Sanaa bringing a reply message to the Yemeni president. It will be noted that Sanaa and Khartoum enjoy close relations and exceptional understanding.

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Aden Office, Phone/Fax: + 967 (2) 345.653

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Arnold Leuthold:

"Yemen Needs Substantial Humanitarian Aid to Meet the Needs of War Affected Civilians."

By: Yahya Al-Hodeidi,
Yemen Times

As the war in Yemen continues to rage, many international organizations have intervened to minimize the damage. One such organization is the International Council of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC is now actively involved in helping care for the wounded, imprisoned, and displaced.

To discuss the ICRC efforts, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Arnold Leuthold, ICRC's Regional Delegate for the Arabian Peninsula. Excerpts of the interview follow:

Q: What is the role of ICRC and what are you doing to help the Yemeni People in this calamity?

A: The ICRC role in general is to assist victims of armed conflicts.

In Yemen our role is to first assess the situation and the need. The first group of our concern are the wounded people both military personnel and civilians. The second group includes the prisoners of war and politicians (sympathizers) detained by both sides of the conflict. The third group is the civilians whose life is endangered or severely affected by the armed conflict.

The ICRC delegation arrived in Yemen a few hours before the outbreak of hostilities, as the situation was clearly headed to hostilities. It is alarming that the fighting spread almost all over the country.

At first, we brought in four tons of medical supplies, but we decided to up grade our presence here and to send for additional emergency medicine.

Q: From where did you start your efforts to reach Yemen?

A: We started our efforts from Kuwait. We started by applying for the necessary approval



from the Saudi authorities to allow medical facilities and personnel to pass through Saudi territory. That is because Yemeni air space was closed.

We did get Saudi the permission, although it took some time. Meanwhile, we managed to bring to Sanaa via Paris - Djibouti a delegation of four persons and four tons of medicine. A generous French assistance made available a military aircraft from Djibouti.

Q: How many ICRC people are now working in Yemen?

A: Now we have two teams - one based in Sanaa headed by myself, and another in Aden headed by my deputy. There four international experts in each team, including a doctor in each team.

The first shipment of two tons was distributed to the hospitals within hours.

The first step was to assess needs of the hos-

pitals receiving the wounded from the battlefields, and to visit the medical evacuation lines to collect the most possible accurate data on wounded military personnel on both sides of the fighting.

Two evacuation routes were established. The first one runs from Rahida, Dhala, Qatabah and into Sanaa. The second one starts at Zinjubar, goes through Lowder, Mukairas, Al-Baidha up to Sanaa. We are now studying the needs of the Shabwah area.

So far, the ICRC has distributed eight tons of medicine and surgical materials through Sanaa, and seven tons through Aden. We have placed an order for additional supplies, probably doubling the quantities already delivered.

We focus on the materiel usually needed by people wounded in wars. You will appreciate that the needs of the health sector in Yemen are enormous. We are not in a position to cater for that need. We are here to help in the needs that arose from the war.

Q: Are you delivering the same quantities through Sanaa and Aden?

A: No, the need of Aden is a little bit less.

Q: Do you think that these medial supplies are enough?

A: No, but remember that the country also receives similar supplies from other sources. In any case, we have the impression that the distribution of these medical materials was very much appreciated by the hospitals specially since the shipments were there in time just as hostilities began. I am certain the lives of hundreds of wounded persons must have been saved.

Q: How does the ICRC function in its aid program?

A: We are closely cooperating and coordinating with the Yemeni Red Crescent, ministry of health, and the Medical Unit of the Army. In Abyan our people missed the valuable help provided to our Sanaa team because the Yemeni Red Crescent has no branch there.

We also exchange notes with other donors - whether UN organizations or national and international NGOs. At the risk of forgetting to mention some, let me point to some of the organizations actively supporting the relief effort. You have the whole UN system - UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and other non governmental organizations such as MSF, OXFAM, CARE, etc.

Q: Who decides where your medical supplies go?

A: We decide that. We are in control of the distribution and inventory. That is why we work hard to reach a proper assessment of the needs. It is important to stress that the evaluation and assessment phase of our work, and that of other donors, I may add, is very critical. Our requests and orders for supplies are based on the results of these assessments.

Q: What is your assessment of the level of casualties?

A: The ICRC has no independent assessment of the casualties. We do have an impression of those who were wounded and evacuated for medical care, but I would not dare make estimates because I have no adequate data.

Q: What about the needs of the displaced civilian population?

A: This job is very huge. The country is in need of great quantities of drugs and medical materials and equipment, shelter and food supplies, etc. Up to now, we have been working only on drugs and emergency needs that save lives.

Q: Do you have an assessment for the civilian population effected by the war?

A: Civilians were affected to various degrees. In battle-front areas such Abyan governorate, Dhala region and the regions north of Aden, the effects are much more than those in calmer places. In any case, there is a large number of displaced persons in the country, but they do not all necessarily qualify for assistance because a good percent of them have already been taken

care of by the existing social structures through the extended family system, neighbors, and other affiliations. That is lucky for them.

Even then, however, they do add to the burden on the system. For example, remember the strain on the water, housing, etc. facilities.

The ICRC is, of course, concerned about the displaced civilian population in the ongoing hostilities. We travel to all front-lines and assess the situation of the civilians. As a result, we took two immediate measures. First, we issued a public appeal to both sides to take into account the existence of civilians at combat areas and called upon them to take all necessary measures to protect civilians. For instance in Abyan governorate, we concluded that the location of the Somali refugees directly exposed to great risk. In coordination with the authorities in Sanaa and Aden, as well as the refugees themselves and the organizations caring for them, the ICRC organized the evacuation of the remaining Somalis to new places.

The second measure is our appeal to the international community - with the consent of Sanaa to provide Yemen with urgent medical supplies.

Q: Let us move to a third group. Do you have any numbers regarding the number of political prisoners, so far?

A: The term political prisoners is used in wars between countries. This war has at least started as something within one country. That is why we refer to them as interned or detained persons. These are two kind. The first kind is adversaries brought from the battlefronts. The second group is civilians who were associated with or sympathetic to the other side.

The records show the size of this group is a four-digit number. I cannot be more specific than that.

Q: What kind of service does the ICRC render to this group of people?

A: From the very moment of our arrival here, we started our contacts with all the relevant authorities in this field - state security, ministry of interior, ministry of defense, etc. - in order to find out what is the exact number of people they have detained as the result of the armed conflict. We have done this with the Sanaa and Aden authorities.

We have registered a four digit number of persons. We are now exchanging information between the two parties about the persons interned by the other side. This is an important process in confidence-building because many people assumed that all missing persons are dead.

The next step is to pass this information to the families of the interned persons and assure them that their sons and brothers are alive and that we have seen them. We will cooperate with the Yemeni Red Crescent to reach all the families of interned people.

We are especially working on the civilians. We have requested from the security organs of the two sides to make available all information on civilian detainees and we are still waiting for reply.

Q: What are the main difficulties faced ICRC in Yemen?

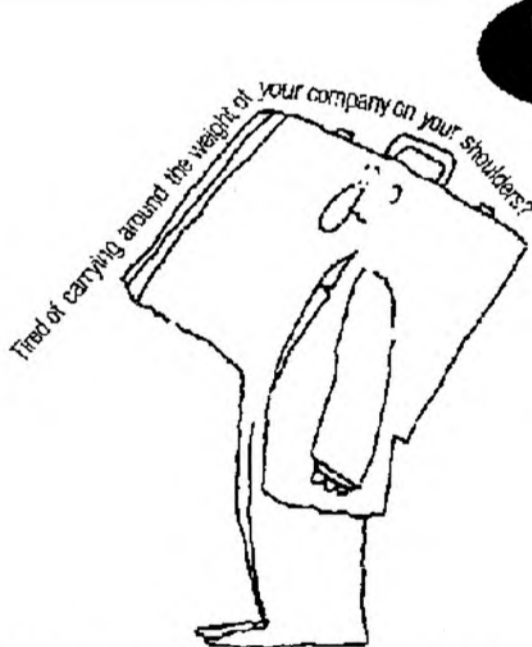
A: The major difficulty was that we had to do alone all the assessment work. The lack of reliable statistics has made our work rather difficult. This also meant the passage of precious time before we could place our orders for supplies.

I would like to repeat that the size and pace of international assistance is closely tied with such type of assessment reports and data.

There is another thing. In many other countries, there is a large public support base on which we could draw to carry out our work. Here that support base is still inadequate. So we have to carry out most of the work ourselves.

Finally, we are not party to the conflict, and we do not get sucked in. We work hard at confidence-building measures with all sides. We hope decision-makers see our role clearly, and help us carry out the work.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Yemen Times for its interest and efforts. I am sure the media can also help.



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Sanaa Mayor Al-Maswari: "Sanaa needs the cooperation of all its residents."

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times.



Mayor Hussain Al-Maswari

The cleaning process of the city of Sanaa has taken a special significance as a campaign has come underway. One visible aspect of this is the street cleaning effort.

The person behind this campaign is Colonel Hussain Al-Maswari, Mayor of Sanaa City. "I would like to stress that caring for Sanaa is not the job of one man or one party. All of us have to cooperate in beautifying our capital city," he said.

"The problem of hygiene and cleanliness in Sanaa has deteriorated and has become a serious one. There are many side-effects to such a deterioration. We have to work together to halt this trend," he added.

The mayor called on the citizens, shop-keepers, and companies to help by taking steps to contribute to the city cleaning process.

The mayor also complained against the over-lap in responsibilities and duties. "Many government organizations think they have to be consulted on anything relating to Sanaa. That impedes any early decision of anything, and creates confusion because of overlapping responsibilities," he indicated.

Finally, the mayor expressed dismay at the attitude of those who complain. "We always hear complaints by people who are not willing to do anything to help out. I wish those who complain would join hands with us to improve the situation. I am not saying there is no reason to complain, but that there is need to take a positive step."

The mayor pointed to the reasons for the increasingly difficult task of garbage collection. Among the factors he named are:

1. The average volume of garbage produced by the families has increased tremendously.

2. The total number of residents in Sanaa has also increased.

3. Most of the new products, due to their packaging standards, leave behind a lot of disposable components.

4. The careless behavior and consumption pattern of the people.

Colonel Al-Maswari also stated there must be some guidelines for the architecture and construction style. "We all know that the old and uniquely local architecture is the source of appreciation and admiration from all visitors and scholars. We should reduce the input of concrete slabs in our private homes, and government buildings."

To prove his point, the mayor indicates that most tourists flock to the old city (Sanaa Al-Qadeemah) with its traditional architecture, urban structure and skyline.

Another difficulty facing the Sanaa municipality is the inadequate resources available to a rapidly growing city. "To provide the services and facilities needed, massive investments must be made in all fields. Moreover, law enforcement is an important component in bringing order to a society that is undergoing dramatic socio-cultural transformations. This requires an efficient bureaucracy, and an effective manpower," said the mayor of Sanaa.

The political confusion has not helped, either. Mr. Al-Maswari used the occasion to appeal to the media and institutions responsible for evolving and forming public opinion.

"Sanaa needs the cooperation and efforts of all its residents. That is going to really make it rise," he said.



Yemeni Women Undertake Training in Medical Care

The Federation of Yemeni Women's Associations (FYWA) has organized many workshops and crash programs to train female volunteers who tend to the war-wounded. A 12-day seminar was inaugurated in Sanaa on Saturday, June 4th, which aims to teach trainers how to train volunteers in civil defence, first-aid, and nursing. Some 200 female volunteers participate in the seminar.

Similar seminars were also held in Taiz under the auspices of the Yemeni Red Crescent. Other similar programs were underway

in Dhamar. Yemeni women have been participating in many hospitals and health centers to attend to the wounded persons brought back from the battle-fronts.

According to FYWA sources, over 600 persons have been trained over the last few weeks.

"It is our duty to contribute to the war effort by at least volunteering to care for the war-wounded," said Ms. Aatikah Al-Shami, Chairperson of FYWA. The volunteers have been distributed to hospitals in the capital city which received large numbers of wounded persons.

At another level, the Girl-scout movement have also set up volunteer groups to attend to the war-wounded. Already a list of 350 volunteers was prepared.

Meanwhile, both Sanaa and Aden have appealed for urgent medical supplies to meet the rising needs because of the fierce warfare. According to medical doctors in the hospitals of Sanaa and Taiz, the local facilities are unable to cope with the demand. "We cannot even provide basic care. We simply stitch the wounded, give them some medicine, and ask them to go

home and take care of the injuries. They can return to us in case there are complications," explained a nurse.

The reason the injured persons are asked to leave the hospital early is because of the limited bed-capacities. Thus, there is a high turn-over of patients.

Yemeni women have also started playing a major role in boosting the morale of the soldiers by campaigning among the families of soldiers and martyrs. According to Aatikah, "It is a chance to show women are indispensable."

Managing a Classroom

By: Susan Sanganeer,
Tid Bits Editor,
Yemen Times.

Managing a classroom is very literally an art. If is also, of course, a skill.

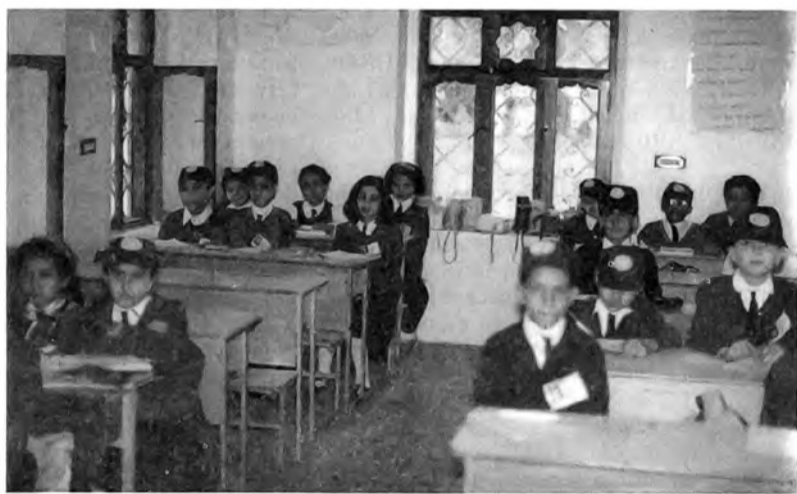
There are many studies about school education. I can mention hundreds of books dealing with the do's and don'ts of teaching. I am not interested here in the general teaching issue, but rather in a small

and specific aspect of it - how to manage a classroom.

Now, this is not really a small aspect. To the contrary it has to do with the most important issue on interaction between the teacher and pupils or students. It covers the environment in the classroom, the collegial relations among classmates, in the trust that often develops between teachers and students, and in the relations between teachers and parents.

If we re-phrase this last paragraph, it is clear that we are talking about sociological, psychological, cultural, educational, and even economic considerations. All these factors affect the level of absorption among pupils and students, and they are critical to the learning process.

The attitude and approach of the teacher are very important. Some teachers are dictatorial



demanding a complete obedience from their pupils and students. They dominate the class through fear, or even a wave of terror. They call their approach "order" which is often mis-constructed to stand for a one-sided relationship.

Managing a classroom this way means pupils and students sit quietly listening to the teacher who often does not entertain questions from them.

There is the other extreme, which has recently evolved in the West, especially in the USA. In this second example, the class almost become a free-for-all as the teacher lets the pupils and students almost run the show. This is often referred to as the "interactive" model of classroom management.

Here, there is almost a total lack of "order" although its pioneers say that the system has its own

underlying order. But this model requires a student body that is mature and responsible, something lacking in our society.

We have to remember that the attitude of the teacher is an extremely important in forming the personality of the children.

That is why, societies have increasingly become picky in choosing teachers, especially in the lower levels which children are in their formative years.

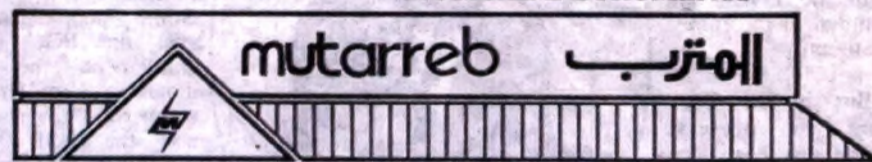
We in Yemen have yet a long way to go. In fact, our Ministry of Education thinks it can be more careless in the lower grades, which is contrary to the logic worldwide. The Ministry would do better to choose its best teachers in the lower classes, because their impact on the children is greatest.

It is high time that school administrators observe how teachers manage their classrooms.

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YEMEN'S PROBLEMS WITH CORRUPTION AND KICKBACKS Can the Law Be Brought into Play?

There is no doubt that corruption is a worldwide phenomenon. Everyday, the worldwide business and financial community as well as the political and military officialdom is being stunned as revelations of irregular practices compete for press headlines. The fact is that corruption, bribery, kickbacks - in one form or another - are both extensive and increasing. Yet, systematic statistics are not available - for obvious reasons.

Yet, here in Yemen, corruption has attained limits unheard of in the rest of the world. As one Yemeni intellectual put, "May be it is the only way to put Yemen's name in the Book of Guinness." It is a nice thought, but I would rather Yemen gets noted for something else.

What is Corruption?

Let us first by defining what corruption is. The list of possibilities is extensive. It starts with the outright bribery of government or company officials or security/traffic/military officers. Then it can progress to such issues as "commissions" and contributions made to politicians and influential persons. There is also the improper use or even misuse of government/company assets.

In short, corruption is the payment of money or gifts or favors given in an attempt to influence the outcome of a decision where the nature of that influence is not made public. Essentially the practices are nothing more or less than the abuse of power.

In most of the world, bribes are paid out to wrench out a decision which is either illegal or immoral. Here in Yemen, one may be forced to pay bribes simply to have officials do what is actually legal. In most cases, the corrupt officials would delay processing of paperwork until the required sum is paid.

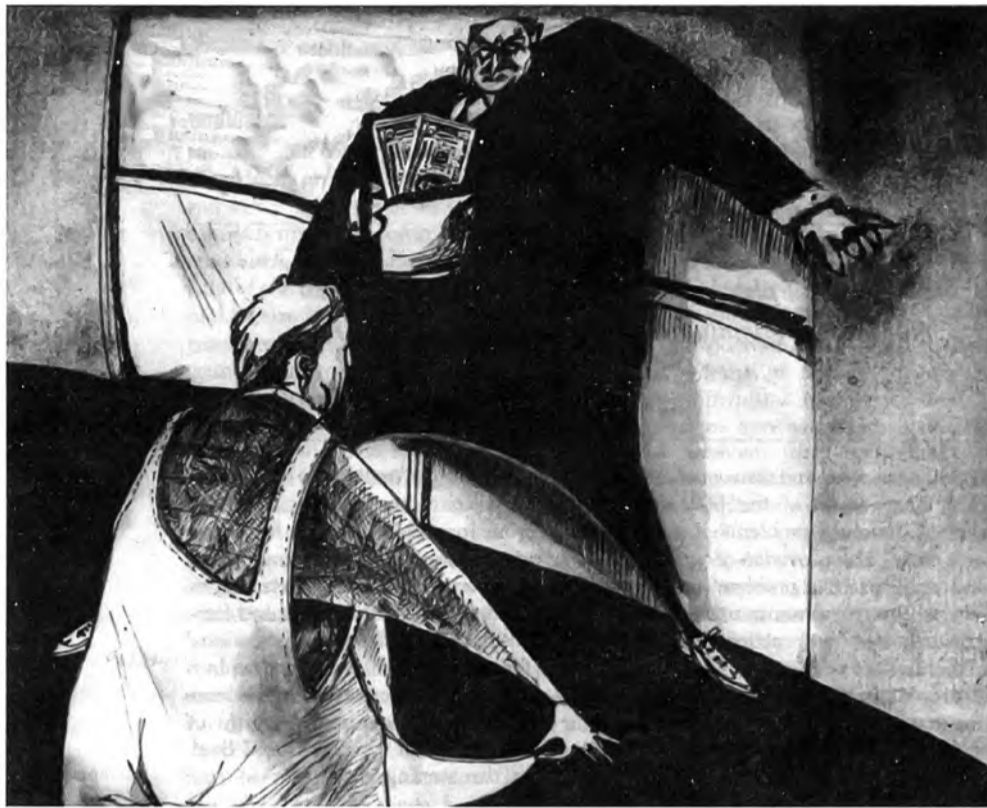
Why Does Corruption Spread So Fast?

There are several reasons for the rapid spread of corrupt practices. First is the concentration of power. In most developing countries, officials are so powerfully and single-handedly in control of their The lack of an adequate system of accountability also helps this practice flourish.

The political leadership may also condone, and even encourage, corruption as a way of winning the support of key elements in the power structure. Corruption actually undermines political credibility and the organizational structure of the system, in the long run. But those involved are invariably more concerned with the short term.

The political philosophy of society may also help spread corruption. As Gunnar Myrdal succinctly put it in his classical study *Asian Drama*: "Generally speaking, the habitual practice of bribery and dishonesty tends to pave the way for an authoritarian regime."

Finally, the low level of salary for government officials, security



Even if your pockets are empty, no dice till you pay up!

and army officers, and company executives is an important reason for the prevalence of corruption.

Power and Corruption:

Corruption tends to be most frequent where governments take on greater powers to bestow special privileges on certain individuals and groups in society. Where there is this concentration of power, there is urgent need to ensure more open accountability. Two sectors play an important role in controlling the situation. The media is frequently a key

element in the process of accountability. Unfortunately, it is often either directly controlled by the authorities, or intimidated by submission. But, in the Third World, how often are cases revealed as a result of penetrating investigative journalism, rather than vulture-like exposure once the revelation has come to light? The second sector is the public. But the public needs to be organized sufficiently in its demand of honest government. But, in the Third World, how often are unethical practices of officials and officers exposed and forced to submit to accountability by the efforts of the public.

Finding Solutions:

We have already indicated that no measures against corruption are likely to be effective if officials and officers are so badly paid that they cannot live on their salaries. That is why many countries have combined anti-corruption campaigns with an increase in salaries. Unfortunately, although poor pay frequently drives people to extort

bribes, higher pay, by itself, rarely stops it. In fact, it is often the better-paid senior officials and officers who are more prone to taking bribes than the lower level bureaucrats. That is why it is not surprising that the normal agencies of law enforcement usually find themselves unable to curb the practices of corrupt officials and officers, let alone eliminate them.

In any case, the first step is usually to pass a law making at least monetary corruption an offence. This could be coupled by the establishment of special corrective bodies charged with the task of investigation and enforcing anti-corruption legislation and penalties.

The problem of corruption would also be resolved or at least reduced if everyone worked on the assumption that whatever they did to influence a decision would be public knowledge. In other words, to increase the transparency of the system. Finally, the ethical and moral implications of corruption have to be strongly and clearly shown.

Unless the corruption trend is controlled and reversed, the consequences to individuals and society are going to be serious.

In many countries, it is not necessary to apprehend corrupt officials red-handed. Assets that cannot be accounted for through the legal earnings of the owners are by themselves accepted as sufficient evidence of corruption.

Yemen and Corruption:

Corruption is present in all the Yemeni government sectors without exception. It is more rampant in the service sectors and utilities. In municipal services, housing, utilities, telephone extensions, real estate, education, health, etc., and many other sectors, bribes are common practice. In traffic-related issues, criminal investigations, security, and other fields, again bribes are common practice.

One citizen went to report that his home was broken-into and that many valuable were stolen. He was shocked to find that the investigation officers were asking for money to start looking for thieves. His conclusion: "It is not worth paying them, because they rarely catch the thieves."

Higher officials work on the basis of commissions and outright transfer of public property to themselves. This is done either directly by themselves, or by permission from their superiors.

Unless something big is done swiftly, corruption in Yemen is going to ruin the whole bureaucratic apparatus. The system has very little credibility, and the officials/officers do not enjoy the trust of the people.

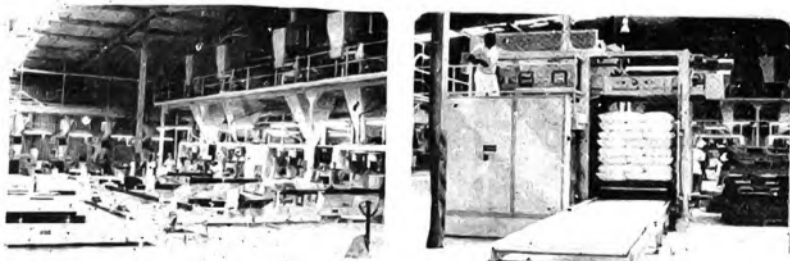
Can Yemen pass a strict law to penalize corrupt officials and officers? Can the system apply the law to some of the most notorious wrong-doers, who by the way, are well-known?

Most Yemeni enterprises have an item of expenditure which not many other account books have - invisible payments. That means payments that do not have legal record to account for them. An industrialist once stated that invisible payment represent an average of 35-40% of total costs. Yemen needs to control this problem before it can develop a good management system.



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الحديدية: ت: ٢٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تليفون: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسيميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليفون: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسيميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
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GUERRE

Médecins sans Frontières évalue les besoins sanitaires

L'organisation humanitaire française est allée visiter les hôpitaux yéménites des deux côtés du front. La situation sanitaire est loin d'être catastrophique et les besoins en médicaments et en matériel chirurgical date d'avant la guerre.

"La situation sanitaire est loin d'être catastrophique et les besoins actuels dans les hôpitaux yéménites ne sont pas plus importants qu'avant la guerre", déclare Guillaume Adam, administrateur à Sanaa de l'organisation non gouvernementale française, Médecins sans Frontières. Il appuie ses conclusions sur les évaluations effectuées par deux équipes de MSF de chaque côté du front. "Les victimes du conflit sont essentiellement militaires, ce qui ne relève pas de notre compétence. Nous ne nous occupons que des civils. De toute façon, il n'y a pas d'urgence médicale", ajoute-t-il.

Problèmes de transport de blessés

En visitant les hôpitaux yéménites, MSF a pu constater que l'évacuation des blessés du front posait un problème, surtout au nord. En raison du manque d'ambulances, en raison de la désorganisation, ce sont les cas les moins graves qui arrivent dans les hôpitaux, les autres meurent sur place ou en route. Le transport est en effet loin d'être confortable, souvent dans un camion militaire sans assis-

tant médicale.

MSF a deux équipes actuellement en activité dans le pays. La première, composée de trois membres, est basée à Aden. Professionnels des situations d'urgence, ils sont arrivés quelques jours après le début du conflit, alors que l'équipe de MSF qui travaillait sur place dans le camp de réfugiés somaliens d'Al-Koud avait été évacuée avec les autres Occidentaux. "Ces pools d'urgence sont prêts à partir immédiatement n'importe où dans le monde pour une mission de deux à trois semaines", précise Guillaume. L'équipe est allée visiter les hôpitaux d'Aden et de Lahej. Elle a commandé des médicaments et du matériel médico-chirurgical (des produits anesthésiques par exemple). Médecins sans Frontières à Paris a des modules prêts à l'emploi en fonction des besoins: modules pansements, modules grands brûlés... Un logisticien a été envoyé à Djibouti, chargé de réceptionner le matériel et de le renvoyer à Aden.

Avec l'organisation humanitaire australienne Care, l'équipe d'Aden a également évalué les besoins des populations déplacées, qui avaient été regroupées à Lahej. Care se charge notam-

ment d'un projet de sanitation (approvisionnement en eau, hygiène). L'équipe MSF continue à occuper les bureaux de l'organisation dans le quartier de Khormaksar à Aden, mais elle a décidé de ne plus y loger le soir après la chute de missiles tout près de sa villa. Cette équipe vient de repartir en France. Elle a été remplacée par une nouvelle, dont deux habitués du Yémen, Dominique, qui a travaillé à Dhi Sufal et Bruno, qui a travaillé à Aden puis à Dhi Sufal. MSF à Aden reste en contact radio avec Sanaa mais depuis le début de la guerre, la coordination ne se fait plus dans la capitale yéménite.

L'équipe de Dhi Sufal

La deuxième équipe MSF au Yémen est basée à Dhi Sufal, près de Taëz. Cette équipe travaillait jusque-là pour un projet d'assistance technique en soins de santé primaire dans la région. Le projet est pour l'instant suspendu en raison de la guerre. L'équipe est partie évaluer les besoins dans les hôpitaux du nord, à Taëz, Ibb, Mokha, Qataba, Dhamar, Al-Baydah, Kirsch, Al-Rahida. Dans cette dernière ville, au sud de Taëz, toute proche de l'ancienne frontière entre les deux Yémen,

l'hôpital a été touché par des missiles. Médecins sans Frontières a promis de payer les vitres brisées. L'équipe est aussi allée dans le gouvernorat d'Abyan, contrôlé en partie par les forces fidèles au Président Saleh, pour évaluer notamment les besoins des réfugiés somaliens évacués dans des villages,

alors que le camp d'Al-Koud était pris sous le feu des forces adverses. MSF a eu le déplaisir d'apprendre qu'une de ses ambulances avait été confisquée par l'armée des forces loyales au Président Saleh et qu'elle servait désormais à évacuer des victimes militaires.

Jérôme BERNARD

Histoire d'une organisation humanitaire

L'association Médecins sans frontières (MSF) a été créée le 20 décembre 1971 par deux groupes de médecins partis l'un au Biafra, l'autre au Bangladesh. "Aller là où les autres ne vont pas", tel était leur slogan. En 1978, les fondateurs du mouvement sont évincés et l'Aide Médicale Internationale (AMI) puis Médecins du Monde (MDM) sont créés.

Aujourd'hui, MSF est la première organisation non gouvernementale médicale privée d'urgence au monde. Chaque année plus de 2000 volontaires partent dans plus de 60 pays.

MSF est présente au Yémen, depuis 1986. A la suite du coup d'Etat sanglant

du 13 janvier 1986 à Aden, dans l'ancien Yémen du sud, une première mission d'urgence est envoyée. MSF accepte ensuite de participer à un projet de Programme élargi de vaccination progressif sur tout le territoire, notamment en formant des vaccinateurs dans quatre districts des gouvernorats du Shabwa et de Al-Mahra.

Après l'unification, la ministre yéménite de la Santé demande à MSF de "balancer" sa présence au sud du pays par un projet dans la partie nord. L'association française s'installe alors à Dhi Sufal, dans le gouvernorat d'Ibb, dans le cadre d'un projet d'assistance technique en soins de santé primaire.

CULTURE

Le Souffle du Yémen

par Jean Moncelon *

Cet article se propose de recueillir certaines traditions concernant le Yémen, parmi les plus curieuses ou les moins connues. Où il apparaîtra que ce pays a inspiré les prophètes, les mystiques et les poètes, - tous ceux finalement qui ont senti passer sur eux, fût-ce de manière fugitive, le Souffle du Yémen.

Les châteaux du Yémen

Mohamed Al-Wâdiq rapporte que Salman Al-Fârisî, compagnon du prophète de l'Islam ainsi que son "adopté", vit un jour trois lieux. Comme il l'interrogeait sur ce point, le Prophète admit les avoir lui-même aperçues - et dit alors: "A la lueur du premier éclair, j'ai vu les châteaux du Yémen; à la lumière du second, les châteaux de Syrie; à la lumière du troisième, j'ai vu le blanc palais de Kisra à Madaïn".

Et il ajoute: "Par le premier éclair, Dieu m'a ouvert le Yémen".

De fait, l'Arabie heureuse devait donner à l'Islam, du vivant même de Mohamed, nombre de convertis (dès l'an 7 de l'hégire), et apporter au Prophète la paix et la consolation durant les deux dernières années de sa vie. C'est pourquoi, il fera don de sa ceinture - qui était "d'or et bordée d'argent", selon Tabari, - à un Yéménite, et déclara, d'après la tradition musulmane: "Il y a un vent qui souffle du Yémen et qui me reconforte". Après sa mort, les tribus yéménites se battent sur tous les fronts, du Maghreb à la Syrie, et en Irak: à Kufa, les Yéménites de l'Hamdan viendront relayer les Abdalqays de Bahreïn, en 14 de l'hégire. Et pendant ce temps, au Yémen, à Al-Jannad et à Sanaa, des hommes comme Tawus ibn Kaysan illustreront la célèbre devise: *Inna'l-îmân yamân wa-l'hikmat yamâniyâ* - "La foi vient du Yémen, la

sagesse est yéménite".

Mais il y a aussi que la tradition sur le Souffle du Yémen a inspiré la méditation des penseurs visionnaires - le Yémen symbolisant le "côté droit" de la vallée d'où Dieu se fit entendre à Moïse, selon le Coran (XXVIII, 30). Parmi ceux-ci, Sohrawardî (mort en 1191) qui écrira à ce sujet: "Lorsque cette eau (de la Connaissance) et cette brise parvient au tréfonds du cœur, cent mille ramures et ailes spirituelles s'élancent de celui-ci. Cette douceur et cette fraîcheur sont le sens caché, signifié par ce propos du Prophète: "Je rencontre le Respir du Miséricordieux qui souffle du côté du Yémen" (Vade-mecum des Fidèles d'Amour). Certes, une telle exégèse implique que l'on considère le sens symbolique du mot Yémen, qui signifie l'Orient, - ainsi que le monde de l'Ange. Mais cette interprétation, loin d'appauvrir le sens communément donné à l'expression "Souffle du Yémen", autorise des développements suggestifs.

Une géographie spirituelle

Si le Yémen passe pour signifier le monde de l'Ange, selon les traditions ésotériques, c'est aussi que certains événements surnaturels s'y produisent sans voile, ou du moins sans le voile des apparences. Et cela est particulièrement sensible en quelques lieux privilégiés du pays. Il serait d'ailleurs possible de dresser une carte de la géographie symbolique du Yémen. Le centre en serait Taëz et le

djebel Saber. A cet égard, la tradition qui place la source du Kawthar (l'un des fleuves du Paradis) au sommet de cette montagne montre à l'évidence qu'il s'agit là d'un lieu intermédiaire entre le monde visible et celui des réalités célestes.

On reconnaîtra la dimension symbolique du djebel Saber dans ce poème (inédit) d'Abdelrahman Baqri: "Sur le mont Saber/ brille une étoile/ qui oriente ma destinée. Immobile au-dessus de la Caverne/ où dorment les Ashab Al-Kahf, elle veille/ et me désigne le monde de l'Ange. Ainsi ton regard/ qui a l'éclat de l'Etoile/ me guide-t-il vers la Source de la Vie".

Vers quel horizon, cependant, faut-il se tourner pour découvrir, parmi les "châteaux du Yémen, la retraite d'Oways Al-Qarani, le "maître des sans-maîtres", ou encore la demeure de ce mystérieux sage, al-Hâdi ibn al-Kheir, dit le Yéménite, dont la mémoire est vénérée jusqu'en Perse? S'agissant de ce dernier, vers quelle contrée se diriger? D'où nous parvient, par le truchement de la Huppe du Yémen, son appel à chercher son asile: "Au nom de Dieu, le Clément, le Miséricordieux! Nous soupignons après vous, mais vous n'éprouvez aucune nostalgie. Nous vous appelons, mais vous ne vous mettez pas en route..." (cf Henry Corbin, L'homme et son Ange, p.25). Dès lors, faut-il suivre la direction de l'Etoile du Yémen - la Canope des Grecs - pour

rejoindre cette patrie perdue? Dans *Les proscrits*, Balzac écrivait: "Quand j'allais par les campagnes de lumière où se pressent les heureux, l'amour d'une femme, les ailes d'un ange me soutenaient". Ainsi la conduite d'une femme - d'une Jeune Fille à la ressemblance de l'âme, - permet-elle l'accès à ce monde, à cet "Orient" qui porte le nom de Yémen.

La Reine de Saba

Nerval - on le sait - avait placé son initiation au monde de l'Ange sous le signe de Bilqis, reine de Saba: "Sur une feuille imprégnée du suc des plantes, j'avais représenté la Reine de Midi, telle que je l'avais vue dans mes rêves (...). L'une de ses mains est posée sur le roc le plus élevé des montagnes de l'Yémen, l'autre dirigée vers le ciel balance la fleur d'axoka que les profanes appellent fleur de feu" (*Aurélia*, fragments d'une version primitive).

Que le poète n'ait jamais atteint le Yémen importe peu finalement, tant qu'il se trouvera des pèlerins pour entreprendre à son exemple le voyage de l'Orient ainsi que des disciples du poète allemand Novalis: "Qui sait si notre amour ne se transformera pas un jour en ailes de flamme qui nous emporteront dans notre patrie céleste?"

Il reste que le Yémen semble le dépositaire d'un Mystère qui n'appartient qu'à lui, à commencer par ce qu'en exprime la légende de cette Reine de Saba,

qu'évoquent la Bible et le Coran ("En somme, disait Malraux, les dieux seuls ont écrit sur elle"). Même si ce n'est pas éclaircir tout à fait ce Mystère, il convient de citer ici les propos d'Ibn'Arabi (1165-1240), dans son *Interpète des nostalgies*: "Le jour du départ, ils ne sellèrent pas les chameaux aux teintes rougeâtres et blanches avant d'y avoir fait monter les paons aux regards assassins et au pouvoir souverain: tu aurais pu croire que chacun d'entre eux était une Bilqis sur son trône de perles. Lorsqu'elle s'avance sur les pavés de terre, tu vois un soleil, une sphère céleste dans le giron d'Idriss. Si ses regards peuvent tuer, sa parole rend la vie, comme si elle, donnant de cette manière la vie, était Jésus."

Puisqu'il n'est plus possible désormais de pénétrer le Mystère du Yémen, qu'incarna voici plusieurs millénaires la Reine de Saba, qu'au moins ce texte permette de l'identifier (la magie au féminin), et de conclure que le "Souffle du Yémen", qui est lui, de nature virile et prophétique, demeure aujourd'hui encore un vent de poésie - de printemps de l'Esprit - d'amour et de foi: "Dans le désert passe le Souffle du Miséricordieux - il vient du Yémen - comme l'Ange tu m'as visité, dans le secret du cœur".

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

En Bref

Réunion du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU sur le Yémen: Les 31 mai et 1er juin dernier, le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies s'est réuni à New-York, pour discuter d'un projet de résolution sur le Yémen déposé par le sultanat d'Oman, avec le soutien de l'Arabie saoudite, des Emirats arabes unis, du Koweït, de Bahreïn et de l'Egypte. Dans la soirée de mercredi dernier, la résolution 924, qui se veut non contraignante, a été votée à l'unanimité. Le Conseil de sécurité réclame un cessez-le-feu immédiat et le début de négociations de paix entre les belligérants. Les Nations Unies ont décidé d'envoyer une mission d'enquête au Yémen, dirigée par l'Algérien Lakhdar Ibrahim. Les autorités de Sanaa avaient envoyé un émissaire à New-York chargé d'expliquer leur position. Elles considèrent notamment que les combats au Yémen sont une affaire strictement interne. Leur condition pour un cessez-le-feu, reste toujours la reddition des partisans d'Ali Salem Al-Bid. Quelques heures après le vote de la résolution par le Conseil de sécurité, deux missiles tombaient à Aden, faisant 21 blessés.

Libération des otages néerlandais: Les trois otages néerlandais, enlevés le 25 mars dernier dans la région de Jihana, à 50 km au sud-est de Sanaa, ont été libérés par leurs ravisseurs il y a quelques jours. Le premier a été relâché le 16 mai, alors que les deux autres ont attendu le 28 mai pour recouvrer leur liberté. Le chef des ravisseurs, Cheikh Mubarak, du clan des Jahms, n'en était pas à son coup d'essai. En novembre dernier, il avait pris en otage un diplomate américain, Haynes Mahoney, pendant une semaine. Dans les deux cas, les revendications étaient les mêmes: les ravisseurs réclamaient des redevances sur les installations pétrolières construites sur leur territoire, l'emploi de 200 membres de la tribu pour assurer la sécurité des installations et l'électrification de la région, l'une des plus peuplées du gouvernorat de Mareb. On ne sait pas s'ils ont obtenu satisfaction.

Examens: Le département de français de l'Université de Sanaa et le Centre culturel français, maintiennent la session d'examens pour l'obtention du DELF (diplôme d'études de langue française). Les épreuves écrites se dérouleront au Centre culturel français le 7 juin, à 7h45 et les épreuves orales le 8 juin, partir de 8h, toujours au Centre culturel.

Reporters sans Frontières: La Journée internationale de la liberté de la presse, c'était il y a un mois, le 3 mai dernier. A cette occasion, l'association française Reporters sans Frontières a publié son bilan annuel sur la situation des journalistes dans le monde en 1993. Le rapport de plus de 500 pages concernant 47 pays examine Etat après Etat toutes les violations de la liberté de la presse. Selon Reporter sans Frontières, en 1993, 63 journalistes ont été tués et 140 autres se trouvaient en prison dans le monde. Depuis début 1994, 14 journalistes ont été tués et 142 sont toujours privés de leur liberté. L'Algérie a dépassé la Bosnie-Herzégovine au sinistre palmarès des journalistes tués l'an dernier. Dans les pays du Proche et Moyen-Orient, la liberté de la presse reste un voeu pieu, et la censure sévit toujours.

Despite Major Political Schisms, a Scholar Calls for: **ARAB ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

**Dr. Mazin Salhi,
GM, ADA Diwan,
Sanaa.**



This world is preparing itself for the 21st century, and the main trend is clearly of regional integration, at least at the economic level.

Economic Integration in various forms is being developed among nations in different areas of the world for many reasons. The new world order has no place for small communities. The game of big numbers has its own charm for the new system.

Ironically, the Arab countries so large in number with a population exceeding 200 million, large areas and huge wealth have been unable to capitalize on these advantages. In spite of the many common bonds and historic tradition of unity, the Arabs have not paid much attention to the issue of integration. It is only recently that Arab politicians have started thinking about closer cooperation on a regional basis.

The Arabs faced tremendous obstacles in the last 20 years; Poverty, wars and backwardness prevailed. They were dependent on outside sources for all their needs, and their interaction with the world community was and ineffective. All the years since independence were full of pain and tragedies.

Imagine a region - the Arab World - with special reasons to come together: a common language, a binding religion, a shared history and a set of goals and ambitions shared by all. Yet, they are scattered into 21 pieces. On the other hand, imagine another region - Europe. Twelve countries have come together to form the European community. Twelve nations have decided to build their future together, although they have different languages, different religions, and

a distant past as well as recent history full of animosity and hostilities.

Even with all their cultural and historic differences, the Europeans have been able to see that the future belongs to only those nations which are able to gang up. Thus, they have created one economic system which allows them to live in harmony, peace and prosperity.

Tracing the history of Europe presents a confusing and fascinating picture. Despite the World Wars and prejudices, despite political rivalries of the past five centuries, they have come together. Even giant nations like the USA and Canada have banded together. In addition to Mexico, they have created the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

Maybe we are looking at the wrong building blocks to come together. The one thing that European and North American countries have which we don't have is democracy. Democracy, that form of government bequeathed by the wise Greeks, became the cornerstone of the Western civilization.

Yet, it is only after the World War II that a number of

European countries have shown some willingness to relinquish certain aspects of their sovereign rights. They replaced their age-old rivalries with a system that merged their essential interests by establishing one economic entity.

Today they are engaged in a process that may even lead to one political entity. They use reason to accommodate one another's so that no country or group feels disadvantaged.

Another prerequisite for unity is a logical and long-term view coupled by political will. As the saying goes, "Where there is a will, there is a way." The vision has to be sold to the general public, and they should fight for it. In Europe, the feeling and sense of being European is gaining ground. We see nationalism giving way to a new sense of belonging.

Thirdly, the proper application of the Calvinist approach is an imperative aspect of this evolution. To be practical, and to be realistic about the possibilities in life is an extremely important attitude. This leads to a deep technical knowledge in many fields (e.g., engineering, finance, trade). It is also the only means to transform the rivalries among neighboring states into a pattern of cooperation.

The Europeans started their integration process by stressing the economic sector as the first step towards political integration. They started as a loose customs union, which was evolved into a common market, and now it is a fully integrated economic system.

Historically, we have a better background. Unlike the history of hostilities, we were a unified nation. Prophet Mohammed (may peace be upon him) left with us a system for full economic and political integration. In 622 he founded a tiny state at Medina, which within one century, ex-



panded to include most of Western Asia extending up to China, and across North Africa to the Atlantic. The landmass extended from deep into Black Africa (south of the Sahara) all the way into the Caucasus.

A greater Muslim nation was born with one single system, the whole nation spoke with one voice. The vastness of the landmass of that nation is caught in the phrase of the second caliph - Umar Al-Khattab, who said addressing a passing water-laden cloud, "You may rain wherever you wish, but your proceeds (harvest) will belong to my Umma (nation)."

We have that legacy, which should make it easier to re-build a regional integration.

But it is not just evoking the past that would lend itself to Arab integration. It is the prospects of the future that should bind the Arabs together. Without a strong and unified bloc, they will continue to linger in the margins

and peripheries of the modern civilization.

It must also be remembered that the Arabs of to-day are very different from the Arabs of the past. Today, they are examples of division. This can be seen in the Iran-Iraq war, the civil war in Lebanon, the Palestinian crisis with Israel, the Gulf crisis, and last but not least, the Yemeni crisis.

The causes of division among Arabs may be attributed mainly to lack of democracy in their systems. The influence of the superpowers on the Arab political decision has become visible to the extent that the Arabs are not really decision maker.

If Arabs are to overcome the present weaknesses, they have to exercise more control over their lives and destiny. This can be achieved only if they are held accountable to their people.

A wider unity can be achieved gradually, but we can start as the Europeans have done - through

economic cooperation. This will allow each country to resolve its internal problems, enhance stability and allow economic development. It will also reduce regional conflicts.

Today, we have a proper climate for cooperation especially after the fall of the Soviet Union, the steps towards resolving the Palestinian problem, and the relative peace in the world. All these factors should help the Arabs to take steps towards integration.

Any future policy should take into consideration the following:

- Ensure democracy
- Encourage privatization
- Re-prioritize investment and production sector to develop the national economy in order to satisfy the basic needs
- Vitalize the Arab Monetary Fund

Those are some of the ideas that would help bring meaning and life to regional cooperation. Will we Arabs rise up to the occasion and join the 21st century?

The IBY: Good News for Share-Holders

The share-holders of the International Bank of Yemen (IBY) received a dose of good news on Friday, June 3rd. In a statement to the general annual meeting of the share-holders, Mr. Ali Lutf Al-Thowr, Chairman of the Bank, said that in spite of the difficult circumstances of the country, the IBY has achieved significant growth in revenue, customer base, and banking activities.

"We have been working under severe constraints in terms of foreign exchange operations and international dealings. And we do not anticipate such constraints will be resolved in the near future. That is the tasks of the bank Board of Directors and top management will become even more difficult," the statement said.

Among the major events during 1993 were highlighted by the statement as follows:

1. The IBY opened its third branch, the Aden branch during 1993. Preparations for opening the Taiz and Mukallah branches are underway, and if conditions permit, the two new branches will be inaugurated during 1994.
2. The designs and preparations for the construction of the head office building have been completed and approved. Tenders for construction of the same will be invited later this year, depending on the general conditions of the country.
3. The 20% share of Bank of America was bought by locals during 1993. Even then, the management of Bank of America of the IBY has continued.

The IBY was established on January 4th, 1979 as a Yemeni share-holding company. Today it operates through its three branches in Sanaa, Hodeidah and Aden.

According to the bank account auditor's report, total assets at the end of 1993 were valued at YR 3.5 billion (a 12% increase over 1992), total deposits at YR. 3 billion (a 10% increase over 1992), and total loans and advances at YR 1.24 billion (a 10% increase over 1992). The auditor's report also shows that total revenue was YR 161.3 million (a 23% increase over 1992), and net after-tax profits stood at YR 31.3 million (a 7.5% increase over 1992).

Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, General Manager of the bank, is pushing harder for better services to the customers. "We are now engaged in extensive training of local personnel, introduction of advanced operation systems, and improved administration," he said. It will be noted that the IBY has one of the lowest, if not the lowest, percentage of expatriates among its staff.

The share-holders quickly approved the auditor's report and adopted the recommendations of the board of directors. A happy share-holder told the Yemen Times following the meeting, "At least we got some good news here. In the sea of bad news around us, it is refreshing to come to a meeting where you hear something positive."

**By: The Economic Editor,
Yemen Times.**



YEMENI COMMUNITY IN EAST AFRICA: A Historic Association, and a Bridge for Future Cooperation

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, Yemenis started migrating to Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar and Tanganyka. The last have since merged to form Tanzania.

These countries were British colonies, and they only achieved independence during the 1960s, and was changed to a Republic. This region has witnessed great transformation and radicalization which greatly affected the Yemeni population, which represented from 2% to 15% depending on the country in question. Today, the total population of this region - often referred to as East Africa - is about 50 million. The lingua franca in the region is Swahili, itself a hybrid of Arabic and other local languages.

The Yemenis contributed greatly to the prosperity of this region, which was expected to achieve spectacular growth. It was Sir Winston Churchill who called Uganda "the Pearl of Africa" and described that the land was so fertile that; if you planted a stick anywhere in the ground it would take root and grow.

I would like to focus on the Yemenis in Uganda, which I know most.

The Ugandan capital, Kampala, means the Seven Golden Hills. The majority of the Yemenis who had lived in Uganda had left it, although some 65,000 of their descendants still live there. They have no organization or structure to bring them together. The local conditions also did not permit any groupings, especially not of one still seen as foreign.



Political upheavals have also claimed many lives, mostly at the hands of the King's tribe. In 1971, this East African country had experience its first coup, which brought Colonel Idi Amin, one of the worst dictators the world has ever seen, to power. He overthrew Dr. Obote's government.

Killing and chaos reigned and in 1972, Amin gave Asians 91 days to leave the country, but not without killing many of them first and looting their property. Uganda was like a graveyard, literally and figuratively.

As the Idi Amin regime grew increasingly notorious, the Front for National Salvation (FRONASA) was formed in Tanzania to wage war against the dictatorial regime. FRONASA finally toppled the Amin government in April 1979. Most of the Yemeni had left Uganda, by that time, although many were killed (or buried alive).

But the military Commission which was in power organized a controversial election in December 1980, which brought Obote back to power. This triggered another guerrilla movement led by Museveni and called the National Resistance Army (NRA). On January 29, 1986, Museveni became the president of Uganda. President Museveni vowed to give security for all Uganda, end the violence, and restore the property. He invited Amnesty International to report the damage that was done. The report showed a staggering 1,200,000 were killed under the Obote and Amin regimes.

Today, Ugandans, and most Asians and Europeans have returned and gotten some of their property/businesses back. The "Pearl of Africa" is trying to live up to its name.

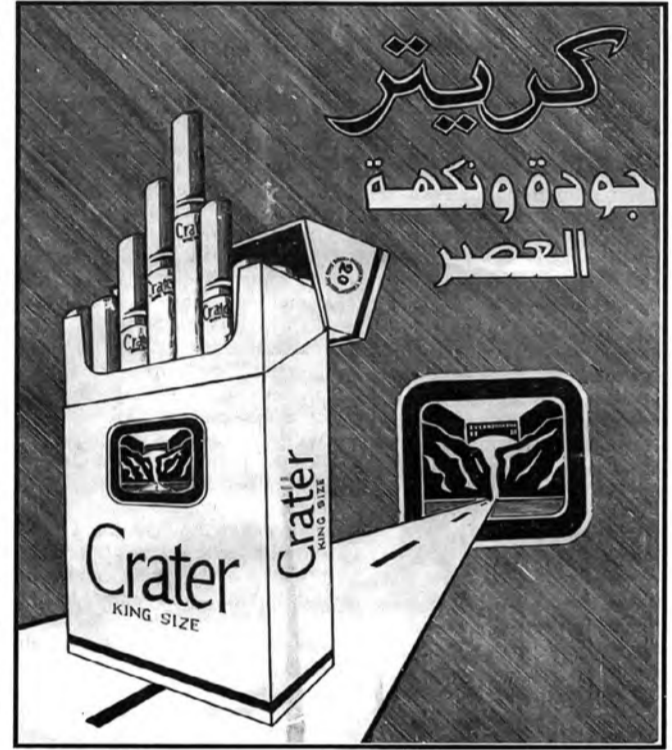
The population has grown steadily and is expected to approach the 20 million mark. More importantly it is a democratizing government.

In 1989, the Yemenis there decided to form their own association. The Yemeni ambassador in Kenya and two diplomats from Aden, along with the

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, attended the meeting. This, of course, has wonderful ramifications as now the Yemeni community can help itself in many ways.

But that is not the end of the problems of the East-African-born Yemenis. Now they have a big headache with the Yemeni authorities which treats them shabbily. I hope one day the Yemeni authorities will wake up to their true duties.

By: Zaki.



Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank Head office - Republic of Yemen Fourth announcement

Cotton Tender 1992/93 season's crop (For Foreign Export)

1. The Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank has the pleasure to announce and open tender to sell a quantity of the raw cotton of 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 and six.

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

Cooperative & agricultural credit bank,
Zubairi str., Specialized Bank's Complex
P. O. Box 2015 or 2850
Sanaa - Republic of Yemen
Fax: no (00967-1-203714 or 00967-1-207817)
Tel: 00967-1-207813 or 00967-1-207817)
Telex: 2544 CACBANK YE.

3. Interested purchasers must quote their bid prices in USA dollars and deliver them in sealed envelopes. In addition the validity of bids shall remain operative upto Sunday the 3rd of July, 1994.

4. Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 11.00 a. m. on Thursday the 30th of June, 1994. Opening of bids will follow (on the same day) at the bank's head office in Sanaa, Republic of Yemen.

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

بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي الإدارة العامة مكتب المدير العام

إعادة إعلان للمرة الرابعة

عن بيع قطن طويل التيلة (للتصدير الخارجي)

يعلن بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي عن بيع قطن خام طويل التيلة نوع لا مبرتك ٤ محصول الموسم الزراعي ٩٣/٩٢م حسب الدرجات ٣-٤-٥-٦ محصول مزارع أبين.

فعلى الجهات الراغبة بشراء كمية الأقطان التقدم إلى الإدارة العامة صنعاء - شارع الزبيري مجمع البنوك للحصول على المواصفات والعينات خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي. على الراغبين بالشراء تقديم عطاءاتهم بالدولار الأمريكي ويطرف مختومة بالشمع الأحمر وسارية المفعول حتى يوم الأحد ٣/٧/١٩٩٤م.

علماً أن آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات هو الساعة العاشرة صباحاً من يوم الخميس ٣٠/٦/١٩٩٤م وستفتح المظاريف في تمام الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً من نفس اليوم في مقر الإدارة وبحضور المشتريين أو مندوبيهم ولزيد من المعلومات.

يرجى الإتصال ببنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي - الإدارة العامة. على العنوان التالي:

تليفون: ٢٠٧٨١٧

فاكس: ٢٠٣٧١٤

ص.ب. ٢٠١٥ - ٢٨٥٠

تلكس رقم: ٢٥٤٤

Books:

An interesting Journey in Hadhramaut

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

Whenever Yemen is mentioned in the literature of travel and adventure in the West, the name Freya Stark jumps into the forefront. She is one traveler who experienced this country and knew it well enough to write about it some of the most interesting pieces in the literature of travel and discovery of Southern Arabia.

Freya was born in Paris in 1893, and began traveling at early age. It is said that by the time she was five years old, she was already able to speak three languages, having spent her early childhood in France, Italy and England. Although she didn't have that big a share of basic education, she did manage to acquire a place in London University after passing the admission test.

During World War I, Freya Stark worked as a nurse on the Italian front. Later, she dedicated herself to learning Arabic and mountain climbing. The Alps offered an accessible chance. During World War II, she worked in the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Information. But that was not going to satisfy her. All those colorful and unconventional years of early upbringing had shaped Freya into one of the most popular and widely read travel and adventure writers of this century.

Our book for this week is Freya's "Winter in Arabia," which is about a winter she spent in Hadhramaut. The journey was arranged by the Royal Geographical Society, Ashmolean Museum, Cambridge University and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. About that book, Freya says that if you (the reader) are "looking for scientific or more serious records of this venture, you should look elsewhere, as this book is but a record of actions and reactions that might occur in any small Arabian town unused to Europeans and of a journey from Hureidha to the sea."

About the value of Freya Stark's works, especially her diary on her expedition to Arabia, Sir Kinahan Cornwallis K.C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., writes about the book that in addition to the interest and amusement it offers, it always has some valuable lessons that no European or any other traveler to the East can afford to neglect. She (Freya) managed to step into a country of almost no regular administration or rules to govern. It is true that most of the sheikhs and tribal leaders knew her, but they and their people were inclined to look upon the visitors and their unusual occupation with suspicion. That is why travelling in the remote hinterlands of Yemen at that time was a risky business. In addition, Freya was accompanied by two Englishwomen only, and any complication might have led to agony if nothing worse. But with her long traveling experience and genuine interest in Arabs in particular, and her patience and friendliness, Freya managed not only to bring success to the expedition, but to also leave behind pleasant memories that have lasted a long while.

About her character, Sir Cornwallis goes on to explain how, during his service in Iraq, she was always wandering in those places where move-



FREYA STARK

A WINTER IN ARABIA

ments of ladies was justifiably restricted and where visits to nearby countries such as Persia were strictly forbidden. Miss Stark never asked for permission or go through any of that bureaucratic stuff, she would just go wherever she likes and then tell all about it after she comes back. "She exercised, in fact, on-us the same qualities as she showed to the Arabs, and soon built up for herself a privileged position."

Cornwallis thinks that the most obvious lesson is that the Arab individual, like any other person in the world, is essentially human; treat him as he should be treated, as a friend and an equal and you get the best out of him; if you are aloof or superior or patronizing, you will get what you deserve. He (the Arab) is more than ordinarily sensitive and quick to imagine a slight, but he responds in like degree to friendliness and kindness.

"The value of personal contacts and friendship

has been proved useful over and over again in the Middle East, and the evil effects of aloofness and indifference are clear for all to see." Sir Cornwallis concludes his account by saying that "the average Englishman is not blessed with an exaggerated sense of imagination in his dealings with other races, but it is to be hoped that all who read Miss Stark's pages will learn the difference between the right way and the wrong, and profit thereby."

Back to the book, it was published by Arrow Books in its series of Century Travelers, in 328 pages with a few maps attached thereto, all of it about southern part of Arabia Felix. The journey started by air from Aden to Mukalla, then by land north through Hadhramaut.

The first four chapters respectively entitled "From the Air" which includes a sub-title (To Mukalla), "Mukalla Revisited", which contains (Friends and officials), (Harold Ingrams) and (The Sea), "Transport and the Cook", which is divided to (Departure), (Stones and Companions), (A question of brigands) and (Sayyids and Flints), and "The Towns of the Kathiri", through which we read (The waters of Wadi Kbn), (Sanabiye) and (The Pools near Seiyun), are mainly concerned with the general arrangements of the journey, an introduction to her travel companions and to the officials she met in Mukalla, an account of travel hardships and obstacles. In addition to a description of the sea, land and the small towns of the area all arranged with her easy to read style, true and delicate wording to form a joy to read. The next part we face is Freya Stark's traveler's diary, that start from they day they arrived to Shibam on November 25, 1937.

We then read in "The Diary, Shibam" the following sub-chapters; (Setting up house in Shibam), (Ba Obeid's Shop; Smells and drinks), (Ramadhan: Husain and Said), (Hussain's Wife: Greetings), (Potters and Dyers), (Visitors and Mercenaries), (A poet in the kitchen: East and West), (A singer and his piper), (Songs: The poor of Shibam), (An affair of rings), (A decal-

ogue for travel), (The new moon), (Crowds and preparations), (Obligations of the feast). To that end, the diary of Shibam ends just for the "Diary of Hauta" to begin where we note the (Pilgrimage to the Tomb) and (Crowds and a horse race). From those titles, one can not but to note how exclusive her remarks are and how experienced her eye is. The diary then turns to become "The diary: Mukalla" And goes on telling us about the journey (By Air To Aden) and (Christmas on the Jol), just to turn to the "diary of Hureidha" one of the long parts of the book where we see (The Mansab and the Ladies), (Hygiene: The Dig), (Our House in Hureidha), (Young Visitors: Salim), (An affair at the dig), (Rabiya and Fatima), (Qasim in love), (Visitors: News of the valley), (More visitors), (A question of Taste), (Trousers and an incense burner), (The Qu'aitis and the Kathiris), (Subject of Conversation), (Science and Art), (Science and the Arabs), (The Lamp of Learning), (Sayyid 'Ali's Creditor), (Religious Men and Landlords), (Qasim, the doorkeeper), (The Mansab and the landlord), (Food for the dig), (The Sultan of Qatn), (The Oldest Man in Hureidha), (Peace from the Air), (Love and Magic), (The Three Temples), (Mubarak's Cave), (Problems of the Dig), (Plants and their Uses), (The Green Bird), (The Tribesmen), (Hussain, Ahmed, and Salem), (The Lamp of Understanding), (Harold Ingrams: Aeroplanes), (The Workmen's Food), (An Ambush), (The Humumi Raid), (A Question of Keys), (Sikins Barkins, 'Afrits), (The Feast of the Pilgrimage), (The Good and the Bad), (The Tombs of the Saints), (The Paraphernalia of Beauty), (Homes of Worship), (God is Great), (The Day of the Feast), (The Visit of the Bedouin), (Dances at the Mansab's Home), (The dances), (The Mansab), (Bombs and the Se'ar), (A Geological Discovery), (Arab Manuscripts), (Songs of Ingrams and the R.A.F), (Reforms in the Barims), (The Pool), (An Expedition with the Mansab), (Songs of Praise), (In Search of Flints), (The Council of Elders), (A Pilgrimage on Horseback), (Humumi Raids), (Breaking Tufa), (Learning, Luncheon, Divorce), (Rocks and Pools), (Bedouin), (News), (A Matter of Debts) and (Last Farewells).

To that end the second part of the book titled the diary was over with a multitude of inside information about the peculiarities of life in that part of Yemen of which little is known abroad, but not to Freya Stark.

The third and the last part of the book is called "The Journey" which contains the last 13 chapters describing her journey throughout Hadhramaut, the chapters are: "The journey begins", "Wadi Amd", "Sickness in Amd", "Robin", "The High Jol", "The Drawings of Rahbe", "Across the Watershed", Arrival in 'Azzan", "Naqb al Hajr", "Jebel Kadur", "The Sultan's Caravan", "The site of Cana", and "A Dhow to Aden". The book also contains an appendix of Arabic plants and an Index.

The book was written on Freya's return to Hadhramaut in November 1937 when a fragile British peace was in force, it was her second visit thereto. Accompanied by colorful companions and eighty-one packages. To quote the remarks of the publisher on the back of her book, "She traveled through the arid beauty of the desert until her company was marooned in a busy town in the interior. She met Sultans and slaves, bedouins and bandits, spending her time exploring dusty forts and local rituals of the harem. She returned to the coast, learning the art of the caravan the hard way, but grateful for the Arabian version of solitude".

A valuable note of Freya Stark in the book reads "It is one of the greatest allurements of Asia that its nakedness is so clothed with the shreds of departed splendor; like a face lined with age."

To end this account by recommending this book to all those interested in this part of the world and the art of travel in general, it is well worthy to quote the remark of the "Daily Telegraph" It says: "Her humor, her sensibility, her vivacity, her vivid sketches of scenes and characters, are as unquestionable as her love of daring adventure or her devotion to the Arab race."

One final note. This book is under translation into Arabic so that Arabic readers will be able to shortly share the joy of it.



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بنك اليمن الدولي
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

**INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (Y.S.C.)
SANA'A - REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

**COMBINED BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993
(Amounts expressed in Yemeni Rials)**

<i>ASSETS:</i>	<i>31/12/1993</i>
<i>Cash in hand and at banks</i>	355,062,084
<i>Statutory reserve account</i>	542,055,000
<i>Time deposits with banks</i>	1,059,972,061
<i>Loans and advances (net)</i>	1,244,252,342
<i>Other assets</i>	214,684,239
<i>Fixed assets (net)</i>	52,206,728
<i>Total Assets</i>	3,468,232,454
<i>LIABILITIES & SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY:</i>	
<i>LIABILITIES:</i>	
<i>Due to banks</i>	53,626,461
<i>Customers deposits</i>	2,978,838,155
<i>Provisions</i>	46,595,098
<i>Other credit balances</i>	138,000,931
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	3,217,060,645
<i>SHAREHOLDERSEQUITY:</i>	
<i>Share capital - Authorized, issued and fully paid 2,035,208 shares YR 50 each</i>	101,760,400
<i>Legal reserve</i>	29,080,103
<i>General reserve</i>	70,000,000
<i>Foreign exchange reserve</i>	237,434
<i>Retained earnings</i>	50,093,872
<i>Total Shareholders Equity</i>	251,171,809
<i>Total Liabilities & Shareholders Equity</i>	3,468,232,454
<i>CONTRA ACCOUNTS</i>	466,196,953

Ambassador Cordone:

"Italy is the first European country to establish diplomatic ties and to initiate development aid cooperation with Yemen."

On the occasion of the Italian National Day (June 2nd) and the given that the term of service of Pietro Cordone as ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Yemen is coming to end soon, Yemen Times Staff Member Al-Izzy As-Selwi talked to the ambassador about a number of issues.

"I was fortunate," started Mr. Cordone, "that I began my mission in Sanaa just as the negotiations to unify the country were going on seriously between Sanaa and Aden." Mr. Cordone presented his letters of credence on 19/12/1989.

Quickly coming to the current crisis, Ambassador Cordone pointed to support of the European countries to Yemeni unity. "We think that Yemeni unity is a key factor in stabilizing the area and preserving peace. We reached this conclusion from the very beginning, and we continue to hold on to it," he said. "We are convinced that it is the interest of the Yemeni people and the neighboring countries to sustain Yemeni unity."

Regarding Yemeni-Italian relationship, he stressed it will continue to develop and grow



Young People and Violence on the Roads

According to a recent survey carried out by the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS), out of 10,000 people killed on the roads each year, nearly one third are aged between fifteen and twenty-four. Road accidents are responsible for half the number of deaths in men of that age and the main causes are cars and motorbikes. This death toll is not something inevitable.

In 10 years, from 1980 to 1990, road accidents caused 123,000 deaths in France alone. Young people aged between fifteen and twenty-four account for 30% of this figure and boys are casualties four times more often than girls. With 45.1% of deaths, traffic accidents are, by far, the major cause of death among young people.

Twenty years ago, the number of casualties was much higher. In the 70s, people started becoming aware of road traffic problems, but these were centered far more on matters causing disturbance (pollution, noise, etc.) than on safety.

However, important measures, such as the speed limit on roads and motorways, helmets made compulsory for motorbikers and a minimum age of 18 to pass a motorbike driving test, were taken and produced results.

The overall reduction in accidents nevertheless conceals some worrying phenomena. Although the number of deaths from motorbike accidents among those aged under 17 fell by 62% between 1980 and 1990, there was an increase in the number of casualties aged eighteen to twenty-four (motorbikes of more than 400 ccs.)

Another alarming fact is that the reduction in accidents was, however, accompanied by an increase in their seriousness. These high figures among fifteen to twenty-four year olds in road



In spite of changes in legislation and in public opinion, road accidents do not seem to cause much emotion, as if this sacrifice to modernity was something inevitable.

Sentences given to bad drivers, for involuntary homicide, are light compared to the seriousness of the harm suffered by the victims and their families, while alcohol and automobile lobbies effectively dampen the introduction of really tough

measures. Another example of laxity is that the rate of success in passing the driving test for motorbikes is 80% compared with less than 50% for car driving tests. In comparison, in Japan, fewer than 10% of applicants pass their motorbike driving test and the use of engines of more than 400 ccs is banned.

The researchers denounce the attitude of inevitability which they find, concerning the death toll from road accidents and they insist that one should not wait until young people are a rare and protected species before taking measures against drinking and driving, and speed, among other things.

The myth attached to tribal weekend bike-riding still remains to be broken and those concerned must be convinced that the dream they conjure up is both misleading and artificial.

With the help of alcohol, accidents are particularly fatal.

servicing the interests of the two friendly countries. "You will note that Italy was the first European country to establish contacts with Yemen. That was in 1924, when Imam Yahya signed his first agreement with any foreign country. It was a commercial cooperation agreement with Italy," he said.

The agreement aimed to organize the old commercial links between the two countries created by Yemenis and Italians through their dealings with each other in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Soon Hodeidah was included. "Italy," said Mr. Cordone "has also started the first European Technical cooperation program with Yemen by sending the first Medical mission to Yemen in 1930."

The cordial relationship between the two countries continued to develop through the years up to the few last years when Italy's assistance to Yemen fell because "my country faced serious economic problems which resulted in reducing its foreign aid to different countries including Yemen." Mr. Cordone quickly added that he is optimistic that his country's economy will recover soon and that foreign aid programs will be resumed. "I am sure that Yemeni-Italian relations will again develop to their historical level."

On the recent transformation of Italy's political system, the ambassador described the March 28th elections as a political

revolution which led to wide-ranging changes in the government and system. It will be noted that the proportional system was recently changed in favor of winner-take-all system which has disrupted the traditional structure of power. The change has terminated the monopoly of the traditional parties such as the Social Democrats, Communists, and Socialists. This has allowed the emergence of new parties, especially the right wing, to take over," he indicated. The implications of such change for internal and external policies is rather evident.

Mr. Cordone said that fears of extremism in Italy are baseless and that democracy in Italy will continue and that its foreign

relations will remain balanced. He confirmed that the evolution of Italian-Arab cooperation will also remain a priority for the new government and that it will exert all efforts to further develop these relations specially in the Middle East peace process where Italy intends to play a more active role.

Mr. Cordone, an Arabist, is well acquainted with Arabic and Islamic culture, and speaks Arabic perfectly. His spent most of his diplomatic career in the Arab region, and has served in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and Morocco, in addition, of course, to Yemen.

By: Al-Izzy As-Selwi,
Yemen Times.

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A Question of Leadership

Put aside for a few moments questions of impending problems in the distribution of the country's resources, notably the newly-found oil in Hadhramaut. Put aside questions of the relations between the various regions of the country, the tribes, and the political parties and groups. Do not anticipate the important drama of new political realities emerging and the durability of a unified Yemen.

Think rather that the challenges we face are related to the issue of leadership - a leadership that is destined to take this country into the 21st century.

I will start by raising the question of leadership itself.

Many scholars have stressed the leadership factor in the rise of nations and in their prosperity. A bad leadership plunges society into warfare and chaos, while good leadership elevates society to prosperity and stability.

Leadership is a problem for people, not because leaders are difficult to recognize, but because we seldom seem to know what leaders do.

Leadership Qualities:

Maybe it is easier to list the traits or qualities of leaders. Ancient chronicles, including religious teachings - notably Islam - have left us a rich literature in the field. They include the following:

1. Role Model:

Leaders are expected to play role-models to individuals in society. The Quran explicitly describes the Prophet

Muhammad as an example to Muslims. In Zeidi Islam, applied in Yemen during much of the last few centuries, fourteen qualities were specified before a prince could be considered for the Imamate. These include natural abilities, uncommon strength on reason, and largeness of understanding. In addition to largeness of heart, compassion, valor, and nobleness of disposition. They also include knowledge of the sharia and law, a stability and firmness of integrity, fidelity and piety, and the habit of applying their strength to the advantages of the good of the Muslims (read society).

Students of leadership have long followed Aristotle's dictum: "To know goodness and be good, fasten your attention upon a noble soul and imitate it."

2. Drive for Excellence:

The connection between individual excellence and public leadership was long established. The leader must be a person given to the drive for excellence and perfection. This is often associated with the ability to rise high above the petty level. This aspect of leadership was evolved by the contemporary management gurus into a formula for "getting out of the subordinates activities."

3. A Plan, a Vision, and a Sense of Destiny:

An important aspect of leadership is that the leader must have a long-term and vision, and that he/she must feel a sense of destiny. This distinguishes true leaders from others who happen to be at the top position, almost

by accident.

It is this aspect that is often referred to as the soul of leadership. It is the element that makes leaders command the respect, admiration, and loyalty of those around them.

A long-term plan and vision are also vital factors in achieving success and prosperity. Coupled with this is the spirit, the soul, the destiny which enables leaders to lead their societies with dignity to greatness.

Yemen's Needs:

To successfully march into the 21st century, Yemen needs leaders who will command the allegiance and respect of the whole nation. Unfortunately, only a portion of society identifies with the present leaders and therefore, they are leaders of only part of society. That is why a big part of the nation feels it does not have legitimate leaders. That is why, there is a problem in Yemen. None of the current rulers are seen as truly being leaders.

The country needs a leadership that enjoys the confidence and support of the people. A clean record in interaction with public property is a basic requirement. Such leadership should also create the necessary environment for the people to fully exert themselves and achieve their potential.

This is the first step in rebuilding Yemen. Will it happen?


By:
Yemen Times Staff

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"DULCE ET DECORUM EST"

by Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

Wilfred Owen is the best known of the so-called "War Poets" of World War I. When he died, Owen was preparing his first book of poems. In the Preface he wrote: "Above all, I am not concerned with Poetry. My subject is war, and the pity of war. The Poetry is in the pity."

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of tired, outstripped Five-Nines that dropped behind.

Gas! Gas! Quick, boys!- An ecstasy of fumbling,
fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime ...
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace

Be ware

And

Hi

If

Co

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Of

My

To

Pr

*1

*2

Selected by: Susan Sanganeer.

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Editor's Note:

Given the scarcities, Yemen Times regrets that starting next week, it will not come out in full colors!