

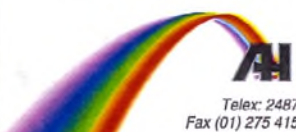


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As the War Concludes Its Second Month, It Is:

# Sanaa's Climax

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

This week, the on-going war stands at a threshold. It can either see a visible escalation, and thus things will get out of hand and deteriorate, or it can witness serious efforts in shoring up things and guiding Yemen towards a solution.

At the same time, this week has seen the climax of Sanaa. It has achieved its military objectives in the war (to destroy the war machine of the YSP), and has paid a rather small political price in return. But, unless Sanaa manages the situation in a new way and allow for a meaningful solution - one that is not totally dictated by itself - some of the military achievements could be rolled back, and the political price could rise sharply. Let us analyze those aspects in detail:

## 1. The Military Success:

On the military front, the government forces have achieved three things:

a. The military machine of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has been destroyed in a major way. This was actually the main objective of the war.

b. The government forces, in one way or another, control most of the territory of the southern and eastern provinces, notably, the heavily populated regions.

c. The government forces have captured the northern satellite towns of Aden. Of course, the core area of Aden's heartland (Khormaksar, Tawahi, Ma'alla and Crater) are still under the control of the separatist forces.

In my opinion, the military operations should be halted immediately because their work is done. To continue military operations deep into Hadhramaut or to attempt to "conquer" all of Aden is a dangerous and demanding effort which could backfire.

Already, significant advances have been into Aden. A successful thrust has allowed the government forces to bisect the city of Aden into two peninsula-like structures. This situation today is that the city of Aden is divided into three parts: a

northern part under the control of government forces, a western part which is up for grabs, and an eastern/southern part which is under the control of the separatist government. (See map).

## 2. The Political Price:

On the political side, the price paid by Sanaa is still negligible. Not one country has recognized the self-proclaimed Yemen Democratic Republic. The two UN Security Council resolutions (924 and 931) speak of the Republic of Yemen, and are well-balanced. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) efforts to isolate Sanaa have yet to bear their fruits. Sanaa has successfully maneuvered in world politics, in spite of a critical regional and international media. Even countries which had "opposed" Sanaa are now reconsidering in an attempt to play an intermediation role. Egypt is a case in point.

President Hosni Mubarak sent a special envoy (Badr Hammam) to Sanaa last week to show support for Yemeni unity, and concern and understanding.

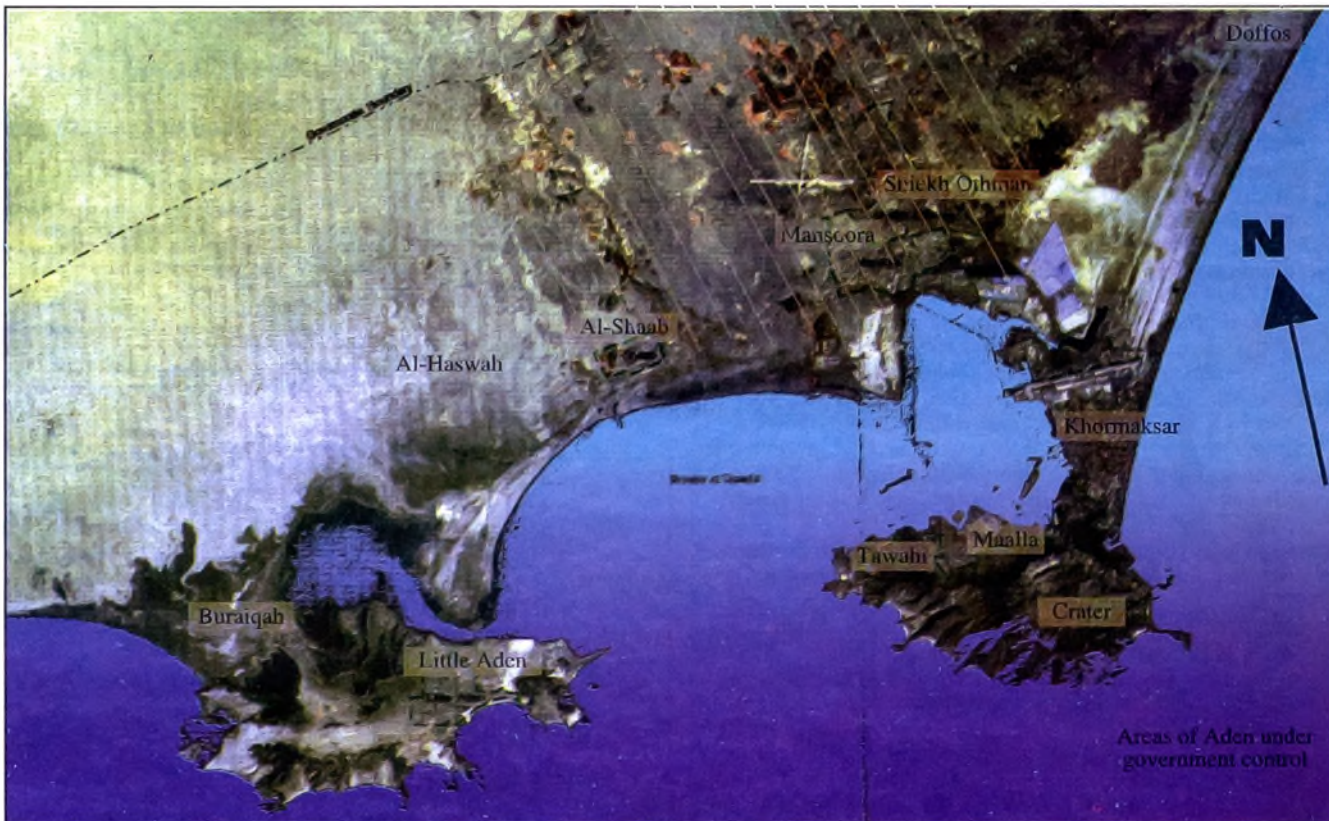
## 3. But ...

Sanaa must realize this is the peak of its successes. Now, and from a position of strength, it has to give towards a solution for the problem.

At the internal level, it has to immediately honor the two UN Security Council Resolutions by interacting candidly, positively and fully with UN Special Envoy Al-Akhidhar Al-Ibrahimi's efforts.

It should offer its former partner - the YSP - a proposal which it can accept and work with. Sanaa should also present the one or so million displaced Yemenis, the residents of Aden and other towns and villages, and the soldiers and volunteers a package of what it is going to do for them to match their sacrifices and suffering in the war.

At the external level, Sanaa should make serious offers to its neighbors, specially Saudi Arabia with the purpose of mending fences and starting a new relationship. Saudi rebuffs are not an excuse. Will Sanaa seize this opportunity and capitalize on its successes?



## UN Security Council Resolution 931

Following is the exact text of UN Security Council Resolution # 931 adopted unanimously late on Wednesday, June 29 and released by UNIC/Sanaa.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,  
REAFFIRMING its resolution 924 (1994) of 1st June, 1994, on the situation in the Republic of Yemen (Yemen),  
HAVING CONSIDERED the report of the Secretary-General on the fact-finding mission to Yemen dated 27 June, 1994, (S/190094/764),  
WELCOMING the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Envoy and the League of Arab States,  
STRONGLY SUPPORTING the Secretary-General's call for an immediate and complete halt to the shelling of the City of Aden, and CONDEMNING the failure to heed this call,  
DEEPLY DISTURBED that no ceasefire has been implemented or sustained despite several ceasefire declarations by both sides,  
DEEPLY CONCERNED at the situation in Yemen, and, in particular, the deteriorating humanitarian situation in many parts of the country,  
ALARMED by reports of the continuing provision of arms and other materiel,

1. REITERATES its call for an immediate ceasefire;  
2. STRESSES the importance of the existence and effective implementation for a ceasefire covering all ground, naval and air operations, including provisions on the positioning of heavy weapons out of range of Aden;  
3. STRONGLY DEPLORES the infliction of civilian casualties and the destruction resulting from the continuing military assault on Aden;  
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to continue talks under their auspices with all concerned, with a view to implementing a durable ceasefire and to the possible accomplishment of a mechanism acceptable to both sides, preferably involving countries of the region, to monitor, encourage respect for, and help to prevent violations of the ceasefire and to report to the Secretary-General;

5. REITERATES its call for an immediate cessation of the supply of arms and other materiel;

6. REITERATES that political differences cannot be resolved through the use of force, DEEPLY REGRETS the failure of all concerned to resume their political dialogue and URGES them to do so immediately and without preconditions, thus permitting a peaceful resolution of their differences and the restoration of peace and stability, and REQUESTS the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to examine appropriate ways of facilitating these aims;

7. EXPRESSES its deep concern at the humanitarian situation resulting from the conflict, REQUESTS the Secretary-General to use the resources at his disposal, including those of the relevant United Nations agencies, to address urgently the needs of those affected by the conflict, in particular the inhabitants of Aden and those displaced by the conflict, and URGES all concerned to provide humanitarian access and facilitate the distribution of relief supplies to those in need wherever they may be located;

8. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to provide a progress report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution as soon as possible and in any event with 15 days of the adoption of this resolution;

## Arafat in Palestine

The Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation organization and Head of the Palestinian State, Mr. Yasser Arafat, arrived in Ghaza late in the afternoon of Friday, July 1st. At hand to welcome him were thousands of Palestinians who gave their leader a hero's welcome. Mr. Arafat, himself a native of Ghaza, returns home after 27 years of exile.

The Palestinian leader also plans to visit Jericho. Palestinian police forces have joined hands with Israeli police and military to protect Mr. Arafat against Palestinian and Jewish extremists.

Mr. Arafat, in an emotional speech on the occasion, announced he will accept the re-partitioning of Al-Qudse (Jerusalem) to serve as a capital of more than one nation.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Yemen & Saudi Arabia: A History of Misunderstanding

Yemen and Saudi Arabia have a puzzling love-hate relationship. These days a little bit more hate than love. This relationship is the result of a long and undying misunderstanding on both sides.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a new nation. It was formed some seventy years ago. The very name belongs to the founding family of the nation. On the other hand, Yemen is over seventy centuries ago. The name is well-known to historians and archaeologists. Yemenis feel they have a better civilizational history to show, and therefore, they are superior to the Saudis. But they are confronted with the "bitter" reality that Saudi Arabia is richer, more powerful, and more important in world relations.

On the Saudi side, they look down on the backward and poor Yemenis. Yet, they have this hidden respect for the hard-working nature of the Yemenis, which complicates their attitude, specially when compared to the less energetic Saudi citizens.

Yet, all that can be overcome, if the Yemenis and Saudis rationally assess their interests. Saudi Arabia and Yemen are the two largest countries of the Arabian Peninsula, and they could strengthen each other's positions vis-a-vis regional and international powers. Sooner or later, Saudi Arabia will have to accept a larger regional role for Yemen. Sooner or later, Yemen will have to accept the leading regional role of Saudi Arabia.

If the two countries remain at loggerheads, then they both stand to lose a lot. If Saudi Arabia insists to push Yemen into positions contrary to its desires and interests, it will resist. If Yemen succeeds in withstanding Saudi pressure, Saudi prestige and influence in the region may fall dramatically. Yemen may be used by other regional powers to "erode" Saudi influence and prestige in the region. There are many countries that are more than willing to come to Yemen's support in rebuffing Saudi Arabia. So far, fortunately, the Yemenis have not played this card. The hope is that Saudi misgivings will be diminished as they assess the situation in a more rational way.

As a Yemeni citizen, I appeal to Saudi Arabia to think about its relations with Yemen rationally. I hope they do not push Yemen into a Samson-like solution, where the Yemenis attempt to bring down the whole place on everybody.

There is a lot of room for cooperation and understanding. If the Saudis do not want to cooperate, and that would be sad, they should at least leave Yemen alone. The Saudis have inflicted a lot of harm on Yemen - in the 1930s, 1960s, and now in the 1990s. In between those cycles, they have done quite a lot to help Yemen.

The present situation, as much as it is a sad epoch in Yemeni history, also offers a good chance for Saudi Arabia to show their better side. It is critical and vital for Yemen to reach an understanding and cooperation with our neighbor to the north. If they push us too far, they should be prepared to pay some price. That price could be a devastating blow to the dreams and aspirations of the Kingdom.

It would be wise to weigh the merits and demerits of Saudi messing up with Yemen!

*The Publisher*  
*سيف*

#### More Economic Destruction by the War

The on-going war has been dealing crippling blows to the Yemeni economy. The last of these blows was the blasting of the Yemen Hunt Oil Company facilities in Safer/Marib on June 30th, 1994.

Earlier, the Mokha Electric Facility was hit, thus interrupting electric supply to a large part of the country.

In the on-going duel, the refinery and storage facilities in Aden, the harbor, the airport, the radio and TV stations, the water and sewerage systems, and dozens of buildings have been bombed.

In a similar way, Taiz, Hodeidah and Sanaa airports, and buildings have been bombed.

Whole villages in Lahej and Abyan governorates have been destroyed.

The Republic of Yemen is one of the poorest countries of the world, and it is classified by the World Bank, UN agencies and other donor organizations as one of the least developed countries of the world. It has, over the last two decades, built some physical infrastructure, which it is now destroying. Most of the said infrastructure was financed either by loans or grants from the outside world.

God help Yemen!

#### The Trauma of Independent Newspapers

Starting this issue, the Yemen Times is shrinking to eight pages. The problem is the staggering rise in the cost of producing the newspaper because of the war conditions.

For example, the cost of printing paper double in June, and it doubled again last week. The cost of other inputs has also seen a similarly steep rise. That is why all independent newspapers, except the Yemen Times, have shut down. Only government and government-supported newspapers continue to go to print. We hope the war will stop, if at least for this reason.

#### Opposition Parties and Independent Public Figures Pressure for a Political Solution

The Opposition Bloc, supplemented by independent public figures, have presented a proposal to the political leadership for a negotiated settlement to the war and crisis. The group have been pressing for a meeting with the president to explain their proposal, but so far, no meeting has taken place. The cost of the war - in terms of economic destruction, political mistrust, and the people's socio-psychological trauma - is becoming unbearable. Hence the drive to stop this war.

#### Helping Stranded Students

The Yemen Times has initiated a fund out of its own resources to help out the students from the southern and eastern governorates who are stranded in Sanaa. The newspaper has already paid out over YR 130,000 to some 250 Sanaa University students, so far. We have reported that Captain (Yemenia pilot) Ahmed Zaid and Dr. Hameed Al-Iryani walked into the Yemen Times office and handed in their personal contribution of YR 5,000 each. They were followed by Mike Craig, of Yemen Hunt Oil Company who gave a \$600 contribution. Thank you all and God bless you!

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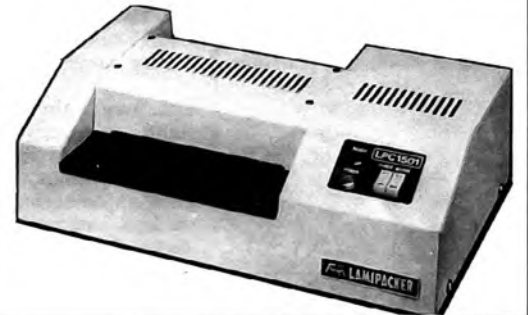
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**Harish Dhingra:**

# "Yemen must work to improve its share in the travel and tourism world market."

Among the five-star hotels of Yemen, the Taj Sheba Hotel of Sanaa stands out. That is the customers' opinion. One of the main reasons for this customer appreciation for the Taj Sheba Hotel has to do with the personalized attention of the top management.

Over the last two months during the war, the Taj Sheba Hotel's management has made another first - all members top management of the hotel are in town in spite of the war. The managers of the other top hotels have left the country.

On this occasion, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Harish Dhingra, the General Manager of the Hotel. A man with a long experience and a dedication to his work, Harish has become the friend of the international community, journalists, Yemeni businessmen, and officials. Whenever there is a function or an occasion, you will see him stroll in one of his many rounds to shake hands and make sure everything is okay.

Excerpts from the interview:

**Q: How profitable is it for your hotel to remain open with the full range of services in these difficult times?**

**A:** These are difficult times in Yemen, I agree, but for us at the Taj Sheba, we have taken it up as a challenge. We can still run the hotel in spite of the fact that majority of tourists, business-related travellers, etc. are at a trickle. Hotels and services all over the world are essential services like hospitals, gas stations, fire services. They are needed even more in times of emergency. *At the Taj Group, the objective of service comes before profit or growth.*

Essential services do not close down in time of need. People rely on us to provide the services in circumstances like this, and we are living up to expectations.

**A:** My association with Yemen dates back to the mid-1980s. I feel there is a bond and commitment. In fact I have more friends here than back home in India. Hence, my decision to remain. In addition, all senior personnel at the hotel management decided to stay by me and run the hotel in the best way possible. This is the kind of training imparted by the "Taj group of Hotels. Believe it or not, not one of my staff walked into my office to say he/she wanted to go home because of the situation. We are all determined to stay on and serve the community. For us it is "Business as usual." This is not the time for one to pack up and run away. Some of our personnel were due for their annual leave. Thus it was my idea that whoever is entitled to leave should take it



**Q: Most journalists, politicians and other dignitaries who are visiting Sanaa now stay at the Taj Sheba. Does that place an extra responsibility on you?**

**A:** First, let me start with a small correction. Not most visitors and journalists, but all of them stay at the Taj Sheba. We are the only five-star that is fully operational in Yemen today. Most journalists had visited the hotel before, most probably during the 1993 elections. So this was their choice with the full knowledge of the options and choices. Others have heard of the Taj Sheba through their colleagues. There is no doubt as to where they would prefer to stay.

and comfort.. The times may be uncertain, but we are not.

We try to be specially supportive and understanding to the various needs of our guests. In that sense, we do have this additional responsibility to enable them do whatever it is they are here to do.

**Q: How is the occupancy rate?**

**A:** Excellent, given the present situation. On average, we have these days about 45 to 50 guests staying with us.

If the circumstances were normal, this would be considered a miserable figure. The occupancy of a hotel depends on the circumstances in a country and we hope for an upswing very

increase efficiency and swiftness of service. I do sincerely hope that we will be allowed to see that part of our dream realized.

Right now we have carried out a soft refurbishing work in all rooms by changing the upholstery, carpeting, etc. We actually took advantage of this lean period not to relax, but to catch up on a lot of pending work. In this industry one can never rest. We are always looking for ways of improvement.

**Q: I would suppose the guests would have a lot of spare time. Are you doing anything special to keep your guest busy?**

**A:** Most of our guests are busy

**A:** Of course. We have many ways of getting feedback from our customers, including direct and personal contact. I will give you an example of another service industry - aviation, and why certain Asian Airlines have had such success in the business. There is no secret. It is not the availability of seats, or different hardware because their planes are just like those of other companies. It is not merely good food, which many other airlines also provide. The difference lies, first and foremost in the service. Their attendants are efficient and attentive throughout the flight. Their little touches here and there and the personalized care are what counts.

Very few requests are left unsatisfied, whether they concern defective head phones, additional silverware or substituting one beverage for another.

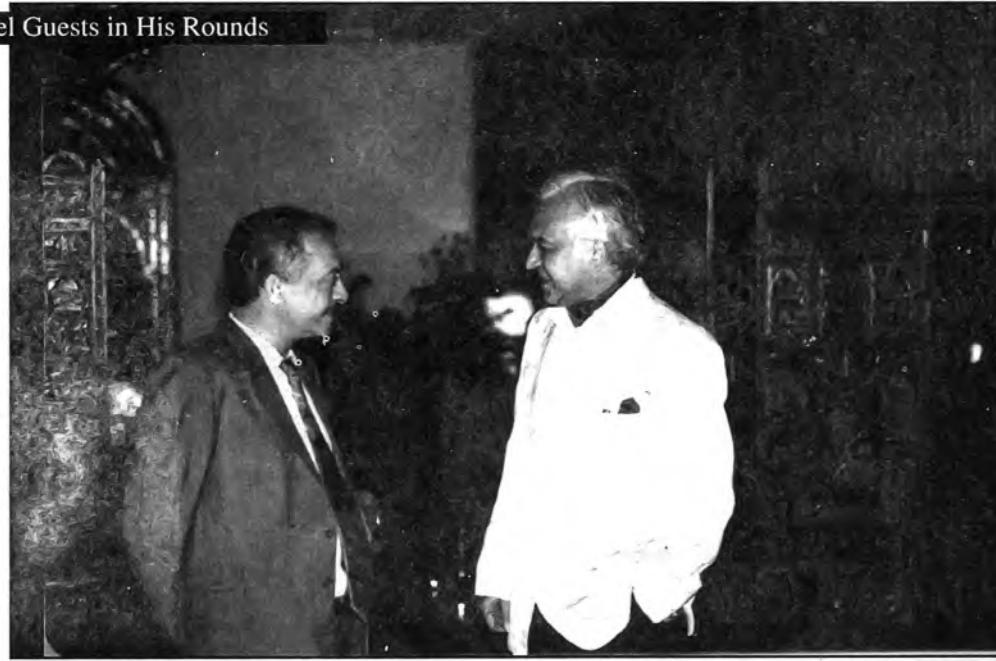
All of these forms of attention, are provided with a smile, which quickly convince a passenger that he/she is truly welcome and that everything will be done to make the flight pleasant.

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Another strong point is reliability, planes arrive and depart on time, a particularly valued quality for businessmen.

In the same way, one has to be extra careful in our industry, the popular saying "One lost Ten Found", does not apply in our industry. Loss of a client quite

Harish Befriending Hotel Guests in His Rounds



I am glad that whatever business is there for Sana'a is at the Taj Sheba. It is true that even though business is much less than normal, but we are operating with our full range of services and more. The only service we have been forced to close down is the Golden Peacock Restaurant, but that is only because of restrictions on travel at night in the city. (N.B. There is a nightly curfew extending from 10:00 p.m. till 5:00 a.m.) The rest of the hotel like Coffee Shop, Health Club, Laundry, etc., remain open with the same timings.

I know that this is only a passing phase in the history of the country. We have worked hard to become the number one hotel in the country, and we plan to keep it that way by ensuring our customers get the quality service they deserve. *"A good name is rather to be chosen than riches."*

**Q: Has the expatriate personnel, including top management, remained in the country?**

now when business is low, in the hope that they are back in time to receive business when normal life returns, which I hope is sooner than later.

I have been in constant touch from day one with the Chairman and President of the Taj Group of Hotels, as also with Mr Hayel Abdulhak our Managing Director. They are fully in the picture of what is going on, and they have always been supportive of my decisions. My staff are my greatest asset. They are the "Wheels which set everything in motion."

**Q: We heard your local staff has made a financial contribution to the war effort. Could you give us details?**

**A:** The local staff have stood by the country throughout this episode. They have contributed five days of their wages towards the war effort. It has also been decided that the expatriate staff shall make an equal contribution towards the cause and to have a feeling of brotherhood. This climate helps productivity.

We are happy to have the guests and to provide a hub of activity which is needed. The Red Cross had always patronised the Taj Sheba and it is a privilege for us to have them in our midst continuing to do their exemplary humanitarian work.

We have always shared a good rapport with the various communities in Yemen and this has proved to be fruitful to the extent that now if anyone wants anything, they would think of the Taj Sheba.

The UN and its associated agencies have also used the Taj Sheba as the place for hosting their various visitors and we are pleased to serve them. The few businessmen who decided to venture back to see what the current state is in the country and to have an update of what the future looks like also decided to stay at the Sheba.

Many diplomats and expatriates come over for a meal as their spouses are not around. I am proud to say that this is everyone's inevitable choice. We are a combination of reliability

soon. We will continue to strive to make ends meet.

I was here during the Gulf war when, the hotel, as now continued to function normally. What the country needs is a healthy business climate to induce people to invest and to bolster economic activity.

**Q: The Taj Sheba Hotel had ambitious expansion plans. Are these on "freeze" at the moment?**

**A:** All I can say is that they are stalled for the time being. Actually, the expansion has been postponed indefinitely.

The decision to postpone the expansion was taken a few months ago when political tension in the country was making itself felt and when foreign offices were advising their citizens not to travel. With no solution to the crisis at hand, and seeing the steady drop in our occupancy rates, it was decided not to invest new money in expansions. We are using some of the money to add to the comfort of our guests and to

enough on their own, either nosing around for news or carrying out humanitarian work. This takes up all day. It is only in the evenings that one does not have much to do. So from time to time, we organize a get-togethers for our in-house guests to get to know people other than those they work with, share ideas, etc. If some are not in a mood to socialize, we have several indoor games and exercise options.

Food is another area that can become monotonous. So the evening meals have been converted into special events. Earlier we used to have only three Speciality Nights, but now we have six Speciality Nights.

These are the Curry and Kebab, Sea Food, Barbeque, Arabian, Flambe and Mongolian Night. They say variety is the spice of life and this is what we want to achieve through the variations in food services.

**Q: Do you have a polling or surveying system to monitor customer satisfaction, and which areas are priority to your guests?**

often could be a hard blow for a hotel and we work to determine the reason behind the lack of satisfaction, at once.

A survey performed in North America has shown that one dissatisfied customer will spread the word to eleven other persons, whereas a satisfied customer will only tell three persons.

Hence, we look for dissatisfied customers, if any, and take corrective measures immediately.

**Q: Any final comments?**

**A:** I want to indicate that the world forecast for the size of the travel and tourism industry is to: - generate \$3.4 trillion in gross output; - create 204 million employment opportunities; - produce 10.1% of world GDP; - invest \$693 billion in new facilities and equipment; - contribute more than \$ 654 million of tax revenue.

We in the Republic of Yemen should work to improve our share of this market. A 0.001% share would be fantastic.



## Elephantiasis: A Worldwide Disease

By: Dr. Abdul-Latif Molan,  
Chairman,  
Parasitology Department,  
Faculty of Medicine,  
Sanaa University.



Lymphatic filariasis or elephantiasis is the result of infection by parasitic nematode worms - *Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi*, of the family filariidae. The worms are fairly large, the male being 15-30 mm. long and the female 30-60 mm. The female continuously sheds small, young microfilariae (larvae) into the lymphatic system.

*Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi* are closely related, lymphatic-dwelling, filarial nematodes that are among the most important metazoan parasites of humans. They are included among the "Big Six", the six infectious diseases ranked by the World

Health Organization (WHO) as playing predominant roles in inhibiting the economic development of the Third World. These mosquito-transmitted worms are widely distributed in the moist tropical and subtropical parts of the world, with foci of infection remaining even in such highly developed nations as Japan. The

WHO estimates for 1990 show that at least 905 millions were at risk of lymphatic filariasis, while an estimated 90 million were actually infected.

The worms responsible for lymphatic filariasis are transmitted by various species of mosquito. It is estimated that at least 80 species and subspecies of mosquitoes, including the genera *Anopheles*, *Culex*, *Aedes* and *Mansonia*, are known intermediate hosts for *Wuchereria* and *Brugia*.

The mosquito is more than just a simple agent of the parasite; but an essential developmental cycle takes place within the body of the insect. Upon taking blood from an infected person, the mosquito may ingest microfilariae (larvae) with its blood meal. (Please refer to cycle sketch, below).

The microfilariae bore through the stomach wall to enter the body of the insect, where they migrate to the thoracic musculature for a period of growth. During the next 10 days or so, the larvae grow and molt to become infective-stage larvae.

The infective larvae enter the proboscis of the mosquito and when the next blood meal is taken, escape from the proboscis onto the skin. (Figure 2). They enter through puncture hole left by the mosquito, to infect their new host. Infective larvae gain access to the peripheral lymphatics, and then to the regional lymph nodes and larger lymph vessels. They molt twice before they mature in the lymph nodes and vessels. If male and female worms are present in the same area, they mate and microfilariae are produced. The time necessary for the worms to grow to sexual maturity is probably several months; adult worms are known to live for many years.

In most parts of the world where filariasis is endemic, the infection is seen in its so-called periodic form. Microfilariae, present in very small numbers in the daytime hours - and often undetectable - appear at their greatest density at night, generally between the hours of 10pm and 2-4 am. The basis of filarial periodicity remains largely unknown.

The pathologic changes occurring in lymphatic filariasis are attributed to the presence of adult worms in the delicate lymph vessels. Their presence results in dilation and thickening of the affected vessel and the formation of growths that extend into the vessel's lumen. The tissues become hypersensitive to the parasite products and resulting lymphatic damage causes a build-up of the lymph fluid in the limbs, breast, or genital organs. This can ultimately result in lymphedema and elephantiasis, a painful and horribly disfiguring enlargement of affected organs with the growth of possibly several kilograms of new tissue and the thickening and wrinkling of the skin.

In *Brugia* infections, elephantiasis occurs on the lower limbs below the knee, but in *bancrofti* filariasis can also affect the genitals and sometimes the arms and breasts.



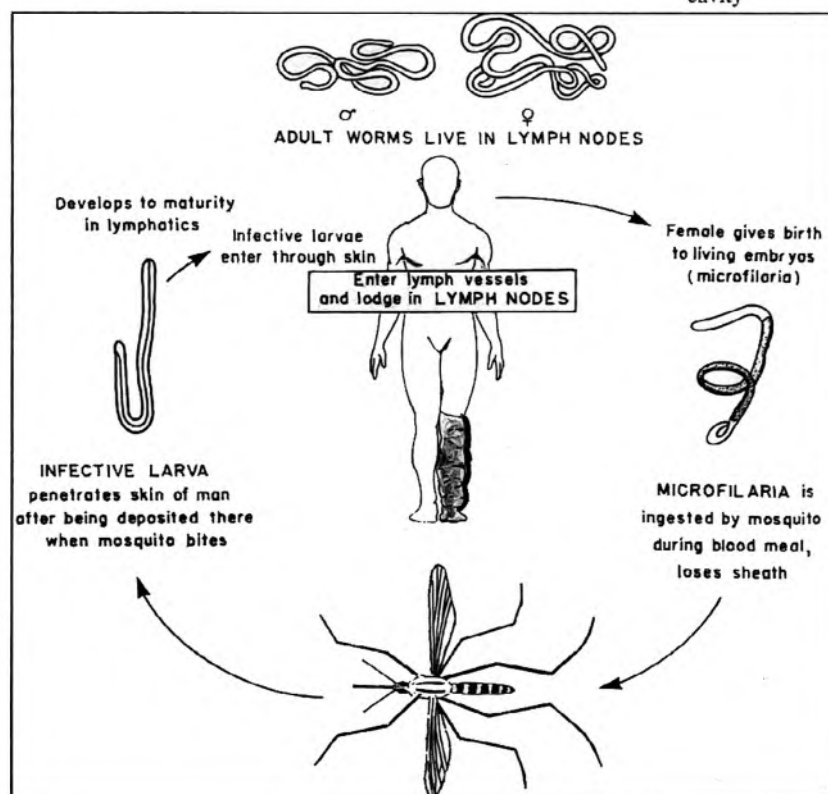
Vaccination to prevent infection is not yet possible, but it is the goal of much research activity. Presently, the best form of individual prevention is avoidance of mosquito bites through the use of repellants, protective clothing, house sprays, netting and screening. Community-wide prevention and control involves chemotherapy, mosquito control, or both.

Fortunately, the world-wide malaria eradication program of mosquito control has served effectively as a two-edged sword. Chemotherapy with diethyl carbamazine (DEC) has been used since 1947. When given every day

for 2-3 weeks, it kills microfilariae effectively, but is not active against adult worms. Treatment may have to be repeated every few months. Recently very low doses given continuously for several months have been effective against adult worms.

It is very important to mention that some beggars in Sanaa and other places show typical symptoms of elephantiasis (See picture above).

As long as the species of mosquitoes transmitting the causative agents of this disease are all found in Yemen, infection with the disease, and its transmission are real possibilities.



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al-mutarreb ENTERPRISES

المتررب للتجارة



**Dr. Y. Al-Anssi:**

## "We are pushing the GCFTG to function along market-mechanism lines."

The General Corporation for Foreign Trade and Grains (GCFTG) plays today an extremely vital role in the welfare of the Yemeni society. This role is even more critical given the war conditions.

The GCFTG is charged with the job of making sure that there are adequate supplies of foodstuffs in the markets. Its chairman of the board is the Minister of Supply and Trade, Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ba-Fadhle, while its general manager is a young economist who has recently returned with his Ph.D. from the USA, Dr. Yahia Al-Anssi.

Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times spoke to Al-Anssi and filed the following interview:



**Q:** Could you give us a short summary of the objectives of the GCFTG?

**A:** The GCTFG was created on 1/1/1987 when two government corporations were merged. The General Corporation for Foreign Trade, and the General Corporation for Grains were united to create the GCTFG. The merger was the result of a conviction that there was a lot of overlap which resulted in too many complications.

The purposes and objectives of the GCTFG are as follows:

1. To ensure the availability of the needed foodstuffs in the local markets at competitive prices (as decreed by the Ministry of Supply and Trade).
2. To sell construction material

(produced by other government bodies), specially cement.

3. To import and sell garments at acceptable prices.

4. To import and sell furniture and fixture at competitive prices.

5. To import, unload, re-pack and distribute grains by using its silos at the (Hodeidah) harbor.

6. To operate two mills and two bakeries (one of each in Sanaa and Taiz) to provide for the needs of hospitals, schools, and the general public.

**Q:** There is a visible shortage of flour and wheat, as well as other foodstuffs in the local market. What is your assessment of the situation?

**A:** This is an apparent shortage and not a real one. One of the major bottlenecks has been the unavailability of trucks to transport the supplies presently stocked at Hodeidah harbor. But this problem is being resolved. The general public, out of fear of the supply situation, over-stocks, and thus aggravates demand.

**Q:** There are too many bodies responsible for regulating food supplies into the market. How do these bodies coordinate their efforts?

**A:** There are several bodies responsible for this sector, as you said. These include the GCTFG, the Yemeni Economic Corpora-

tion, the Consumer Association of Government Employees, etc. But all these bodies are guided by the Ministry of Supply and Trade, which serves as the central coordinating body. The Ministry decides on the portions of the market to be covered by each corporation, depending on its policies and priorities and regional and sectoral distribution. We also have the coordination with municipalities such as Sanaa City and the governorates.

**Q:** You are dealing in subsidized commodities. How does this fit with the economic reform and re-structuring the country plans in the future?

**A:** We are aware that the pricing of these goods is subsidized in that the import price of the US dollar is converted using the official rate. This is a political decision, that is in harmony with the government's policy given the nature of these goods.

But let me state here that the GCFTG is moving to strengthen its activities in the goods that are not subsidized. I am specially referring to the garments, furniture, and other similar consumer goods which have a strong demand in the economy. Towards that goal, the GCFTG is going to open new branches to expand its distribution network.

**Q:** Basically, your job is to control spirals in prices. To do that you will need a large stock of these goods. This is also important as a strategic reserve for the country. Could you tell us how much stock do you have?

**A:** We are building up our stocks, specially in light of the politicization of food supplies. We have witnessed the disappearance of large volumes of food supplies from the local market in a very short time.

We think this is related to the war situation. (Dr. Al-Anssi is referring to recent reports which state that large volume of food supplies have crossed the border to Saudi Arabia where they are "purchased" at exorbitant prices by the authorities in that country. The obvious purpose is to create a food shortage and panic in

Yemen.). Let me assure you, however, that we have adequate stocks of the major food items.

**Q:** What are the major difficulties that the GCFTG faces today?

**A:** I can immediately highlight two problems - the large number of employees and the large volume of bad debts owed to the GCFTG.

In terms of the large number of employees, we think this is gradually eased by opening new branches and outlets and sending out some of our current personnel to man them. This is not an ideal answer, but it is working.

Regarding the amounts owed to the GCFTG by other government bodies, specially those related to supplies to the armed and security forces, this is a difficult problem with which we are trying to cope.

In the final analysis, let me say that we are pushing our operations to be based on market mechanisms. In our opinion, the GCFTG has to work along market dictates, even it is charged with certain non-market functions. This is the only way for its true success.

**Q:** Any last comments.

**A:** I would like to confirm that we adequate quantities of all the foodstuffs that Yemen needs. I use this occasion to call on all truckers to bring out their lorries to transport the goods to the public.

## Environmental Risks: Paranoia and Neglect

**By:**  
**John D. Graham and Katherine D. Walker**

According to mainstream environmentalists, public health is increasingly threatened by the toxic chemicals that we eat, drink and breathe. Public fears of toxic pollution have spawned an elaborate system of regulatory protection. Economists estimate that in 1990, the United States alone invested \$100 billion in pollution control, and this figure is expected to mushroom to \$150 billion by the year 2000. Why is it fashionable for opinion leaders to call for reducing world's huge defense budget, but not to ask tough questions about whether investments in environmental protection are well spent?

A small but growing community of risk analysts is beginning to ask these questions, and preliminary answers are quite sobering. Current efforts at environmental protection suffer from the twin evils of paranoia and neglect. While the world spends billions of dollars to eliminate minute exposures to feared poisons such as dioxins and PCBs, serious environmental threats close to home such as indoor air pollution receive little government attention and resources.

In the name of environmental protection, some regulatory policies simply shift pollution from one medium to another (for example, from air to water or land). Other policies reduce

human exposure to toxic chemicals but only at the expense of increasing other threats to human health. Several examples illustrate our nation's state of confusion about environmental risks. Contrary to the dire predictions of mainstream environmentalism, people are healthier than ever before. Life expectancy at birth in the West has increased from 48 years in 1900 to 78 years today. While much of this progress reflects declining rates of infant mortality, senior citizens are also living longer. Life expectancy at age 65 has increased from 12 years into 1900 to 18 years today. As mortality rates have declined, so have rates of nonfatal illness. In the last decade alone, the number of disability days lost to chronic illness among older Americans declined 25%.

The dramatic progress against coronary heart disease since 1960 has led to more cases of cancer. Yet when cancer mortality rates are adjusted for the aging of the population there is no indication of a cancer epidemic in the Europe. Concerns have also been raised about the effects of toxic pollution on reproductive and neurological health, but scientific understanding of their endpoints is only beginning to coalesce.

**Risk Reduction or Risk Transfer?**

A major criticism of regulatory agencies is that the current patchwork of environmental regu-

lations for air, drinking water, surface water, and solid and hazardous wastes fails to provide an adequate mechanism or incentives for managing transfers of pollutants between media. Technologies intended to reduce, remove, and treat the wastes in one medium often result in the discharge or disposal of wastes to another. Air pollution equipment, like scrubbers, that removes pollutants from stack gases often only concentrate them in a waste that must then be disposed of elsewhere. In other cases, tall stacks designed to minimize the contribution of air pollutants to local air quality problems have essentially shifted the risks to more distant geographic areas and populations. Sewage treatment plants, designed originally to reduce the threat to local water supplies from infectious agents and other pollutants, have generated discharges to harbors and oceans outfalls, the impacts of which we are only just beginning to address. There are many other examples of such pollutant transfers in other areas of environmental management-solid waste disposal, industrial pretreatment standards, and hazardous waste.

Why do these cross-media or intra-media transfers of pollutants matter? They strike at the very heart of environmental regulation - that these regulations are intended to protect public health and the environment. The regulations are well intended and meant to be protective, but they are typically focused on the

health and environmental risks of only the medium over which they have primary jurisdiction. The underlying assumption that the benefits of reducing these direct risks outweigh their costs has not always been tested; the costs in terms of risk transfers are often not calculated.

### Old versus New Risks

In the effort to protect the public from new chemical or products before they get on the market, our current system of regulations requires that they meet rigorous efficacy and safety standards. While such standards are very important, the regulations lack the flexibility to allow regulators to weight the risks of the old products against the new directly. In some cases, this means that more toxic older products cannot be replaced with less toxic newer ones even if such a substitution could reduce overall health risks. This dilemma has been called the old-new division in risk regulation.

Pesticide regulation provides good examples of this dilemma. Pesticides are regulated with the goal of protecting public health and the environment while assuring a wholesome and economical food supply. Regulation of pesticides therefore attempts to balance the positive aspects of pesticide use against the toxic effects of these compounds. In the ideal situation, if a pesticide is banned because it poses too great a risk to public health and

the environment, its place will be taken by an equally or more effective compound with lower risk. In reality, the greater regulatory rigor to which new pesticides have been subject, relative to older ones placed on the market when regulatory standards were less stringent, often mean that efficacious, less toxic compounds are not available.

A recent decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the use of Maneb, a fungicide used to control downy mildew on lettuce, illustrates this point. Maneb belongs to a class of fungicides called the ethylene bis-dithiocarbamates (EBDCs), the most widely used family of fungicides in the world. For many years, the EPA has considered revoking the use of many EBDCs because of concern about the cancer risk posed by one of the primary metabolites and breakdown products of the EBDCs. A potential alternative to Maneb-Aliette-is an effective fungicide with very low acute toxicity. Although animal studies suggest that it is also a possible human carcinogen, most evidence suggests that it poses much lower public health risk than Maneb. Yet, in a recent decision, the EPA decided to continue to allow the use of Maneb on lettuce.

### Toward Risk-based Priorities

The public health and environmental risks demanding our attention are numerous and

growing. They are straining the resources we have as a society to respond. The time is overdue for a reasoned approach in setting our priorities.

Too much of our national expenditures on environmental protection have been motivated by the fear of cancer, which as a major environmental health problem remains elusive. It is widely suspected, for example, even by the EPA, that the risks to human health posed by our hazardous waste sites are not as great as public perception would suggest.

Instead, we need to set our priorities on the basis of a balanced and scientifically well-founded assessment of the risk posed to public health and the environment. The EPA's Science Advisory Board suggested as much in its report Reducing Risk: Setting Priorities and Strategies for Environmental Protection.

Meeting this goal, however, will require substantial changes in our current approach to regulating risks. Total risks of regulatory action, including the risks resulting from pollutant transfers, must be considered if the real risks of such action are to be accurately ranked. Similarly, regulatory strategies that allow the risks of one pesticide to be weighed against those of its alternatives need to be adopted so that decisions can be made that best achieve overall risk reduction. We cannot afford not to.



## Two Comments on Susan Sanganee's Tid Bits from Hodeidah

### 1. AN IDEA TO CLEAN OUR CITIES!

You are right in pointing to the fact that we invariably succeeded in keeping our cities so dirty (issue no 24, June 20).

No doubt that dirtiness poses a threat to our health and perhaps to our lives since it makes the soil, water and the air dangerously impure and unfit for use. It has been over a generation since Yemen started opening up to the world and, one would expect that Yemen has by now come to grip with the problem of pollution.

Such a problem is probably due to two main reasons:

One is the lack of public awareness to recognize the need for healthier and cleaner environment; and Second, which is no less important than the first, is the absence of efficient teams from the Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to design a strategy to combat this problem.

The local media, visual, oral and written can play an important role in getting the message across to the public. For a publicity in TV or in public notices to be successful it must:

- a) be seen;
- b) be read;
- c) be believed;
- d) be remembered;
- e) be acted upon.

The timing of the campaign itself is crucial. Messages can be spread fairly evenly over the time period of say one year.

I recall a nationwide campaign launched against dirt in major cities in Yemen back in 1980-87 which, I felt, had made a great impact on the public at the time. The campaign was sponsored by the Dutch Government and it dealt with various cleanliness issues such as household waste disposal, keeping beaches clean, road sweeping as well as other eyesore problems. The Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing took part in that campaign.

A stubborn nation such as ours which resists laws will do little to react positively to publicities on cleanliness. One can expect that children spoil our environment because of their immaturity, but

it regrettably appears that adults are more responsible for our dirtiness. The Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing should, therefore, intervene and take punitive action, including heavy fines, against offenders.

Having lived in the UK for some years, I was impressed with the way the British Municipal authorities keep the towns and beaches clean. Of course, one cannot compare Yemen with a wealthy country such as the UK, but I would like to give some examples here.

A rubbish collecting car arrives in the morning on a particular day of the week, depending on the area of the town. Three rubbish collecting men begin collecting the trash bags from door to door and deliver 2 to 3 new trash bags a week free of charge to every house. As for the beaches, they use a combine-harvester-like machine that combs beaches and extracts rubbish left behind by bathers in the summer every year.

There is also a visible lack of dustbins in Yemen. I walked in Sana'a for a few miles one afternoon and the first thing I came to notice was the absence of dustbins. It is so embarrassing that such a situation exists in the capital of Yemen where world embassies and consulates are situated.

I would therefore suggest that the Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing subsidize the trash bags in order to encourage the public to use them. Furthermore, making available rubbish metal containers in every street or lane corner coupled with regular rubbish collection will certainly assist in reducing the amount of rubbish dumped in the backyard of houses.

I would also like to suggest that every restaurant in our large towns should have a rubbish metal container at its disposal. I hasten to ponder, of course, whether the Ministry has adequate funds to carry out a large-scale cleaning project including purchasing the necessary equipment, etc.? But a cheaper alternative is truly cheap.

By: Abdul Hakim Kaid,  
Hodeidah

### 2. HOW TO TRY TO KEEP OUR CITIES CLEAN

It is evident that cleanliness could also mean fighting being dirty. I would like to comment here on household garbage as it is one of the active agents in causing dirt, sickness, etc. If this issue is handled wisely and in a timely manner, our environment could become clean and healthy in the long run.

What is the most dangerous and fatal (to health) type of garbage?

I think I can say that food leftovers are the most dangerous kinds of garbage. Yet, we find it scattered in the streets, garbage-cans or just about anywhere.

Citizens join forces in a way that is coordinated and supplemented with the media through special programs to indicate the adverse effects of food leftovers, and to point to the easiest way to dispose of it.

The first step on this thousand mile journey, is to show a strong will and resolve to combat the germs that find their way to human beings and exact a high price on our resources, health and the environment.

The starting point is to separate food-garbage from other garbage. Rather than collect it as whole, part and

parcel, we should show our people how they must separate these two components of garbage so that they can be disposed of differently. Maybe a company can be set up for this purpose. This is the whole idea, for we have to be responsible for our garbage which is now scattered everywhere.

I hope to have contributed something to this essential subject that Susan Sanganee has touched upon.

Haydar Banaani  
Hodeidah.

زواج سعيد  
أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نرفها للأخ  
حسن محمد علي العمري  
بمناسبة الزفاف وعقبال البكاري إن شاء الله  
المهنؤون:

العزي الصلوي خالد السراجي محمود سعيد محمد أحمد سالم الظاهري  
رشيد الذماري عبد الباري الذماري وبقية الأصدقاء



### الف مبروك وزواج سعيد

في وقت يتطير فيه الشذى ويفوح العبير نتقدم بخالص تهانينا للأخ  
والصديق محمد حسن عمر جعماني وذلك بمناسبة زفافه الميمون  
في يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٢٩/٦/٩٤م متمنين له حياة سعيدة  
وهانئة وبالرفاء والبنين. المهنؤون: محمد يوسف الحديدي  
يحيى يوسف الحديدي أحمد عبد الله عمر المرزوقي  
سليمان محمد عبده الجعماني وجميع أصدقائك في زبيد



## Rural-Urban continual validity in development situation

The new strategy of "Bottom Up" development implied in block level planning and integrate rural development, has again brought the crucial issue of Rural-Urban relations to the fore.

The new strategy implies at least four important issues and policy instruments related to them - poverty alleviation through labor absorption in the rural areas; checking the migration of rural population flow to the urban areas; including rural based industrialization; and the provision of basic minimum needs to the rural population. In all proposed plan interventions touching on these aspects of socio-economic change, the emerging pattern and degree of rural-urban relationship are of vital significance.

The city has been, and always remains an pull factor for people from different levels of culture and education. People usually migrate to cities, in search of work; or to improve their income, and to find more facilities to share. Therefore under the high pressure of uncontrolled migration, cities expand, new settlements spring up, on its periphery (at the expense of agricultural land) to accommodate the new-comers, as well as to accommodate the natural increase in city population.

The effects of such dysfunctional development could be seen both in rural and urban areas. In rural areas it is reflected in abysmal poverty, large numbers of landless laborers and acute unemployment. In urban areas it is reflected in a process of "overurbanisation" which is caused by the inflow of rural people. This inflow has led to the growth of an urban "informal sector" which is characterized by low income, low productivity occupations and the proliferation of slum and shanty settlements.

If this internal rural-to-urban migration is to be contained within an orderly process, then what is required is to establish across sectors a functional



planning framework, that is conscious to consideration of the rural-urban balance.

The concept of this framework goes beyond the mere redressing of poverty of a targetted rural population group. It also seeks consensus regarding policies related to:-

- (i) Reducing the disparity in income-levels and living standards between rural and urban areas, and
- (ii) Narrowing the gap between urban and rural amenities.

The narrowing of differentials in incomes and standards of living between rural and urban sectors is possible, only through a wide range of socio-economic policies. This would call for structural changes within the rural sector itself, aiming at the transfer of income to rural areas, and to the poorer segments of population through land reform and investment in rural areas; and the generation of production-oriented employment opportunities to assist the rural poor.

To narrow the gap between urban and rural amenities, the structural changes induced in the rural areas must be complemented by appropriate distribution policies favoring dispersion and proliferation of small scale industries and social services in rural areas, so that growth can be organized within and out of a developing rural economy.

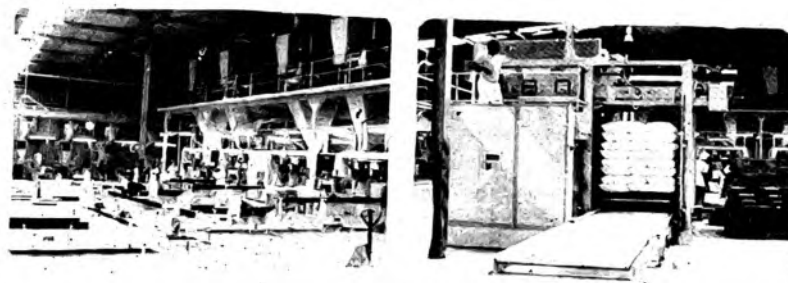
The concept has thus both, growth and distribution aims, and combines in itself several elements such as production, employment, and basic minimum needs. In order to achieve these aims, it proposes to combine the area integrated development approach, with the target group approach. It is in this context of development that the whole question of rural-urban relationship can be kept in balance.

By: Badreldin H. M. Shahooti,  
Architect & Housing planner.



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الحديدة: ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ - ٢١١٥٥١ تلكس: ٥٦٦١ أبو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥  
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦١ - ٧٤٦١٠ تلكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيجان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦  
بورسودان: ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ تلكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠



## The Last of the Dinosaurs

Fouad Shomali, 60, is leaving us later this month at the end of over 31 years of service with the United Nations. During those years, he had served in various parts of the globe, including South Africa, Congo, Afghanistan, Thailand, Nepal, Sultanate of Oman, Jordan, Iraq, the former South Yemen, and finally the Republic of Yemen.

Shomali, a Palestinian-Jordanian is a highly apoliticized person. "I never involve myself in politics. Even when certain Palestinian organizations offered educational scholarships for my children, I refused. I don't want to be involved with anything that has to do with politics," Fouad insisted.

His last post in Sanaa was Assistant Resident Representative of the UNDP for Administrative and Financial Affairs.

"I feel very close to Yemen. I am



saddened by the current state of affairs, and I hope the war will come to end soon," he said. In a farewell reception at the Taj Sheba in his honor last week, one guest referring to Shomali's durable nature, quipped, "There goes the last of the dinosaurs."

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## The Yemen-American Friendship Association (YAFA)

presents its warm congratulations and heart-felt felicitations  
to the US Embassy and the American Community in Yemen  
on the occasion of the 4th of July (Independence Day).

We wish all the best on this happy moment, and  
we hope for more cooperation and understanding  
between the peoples of Yemen and the United States.

تتقدم

## جمعية الصداقة اليمنية - الأمريكية

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نتمنى مزيداً من التعاون والتفاهم بين الشعبين .



## Badr Hammam:

# "All possible solutions we are looking into are within the framework of a unified Yemen."

Badr Hammam, Egyptian Undersecretary of State for Arab Affairs, leaves Sanaa today, Monday, July 4th, at the end of a week-long visit to Sanaa. "This visit comes within the framework of consultations with the Yemeni authorities. It is one of a series of visits I have paid to Yemen," he said in an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times.

Hammam, a scholar and intellectual who quickly points to his rural background, has a post-graduate degree in law and history. He is a career diplomat who joined the diplomatic service in February 1960. Since then, he served in many countries including Libya, Britain, USA, Malaysia, China and many other countries. Today, Cairo has charged him with the Yemeni file. "Yemen is one of the countries for which I am responsible at the Foreign Office. Besides, I have always been fascinated by Yemen," he said.

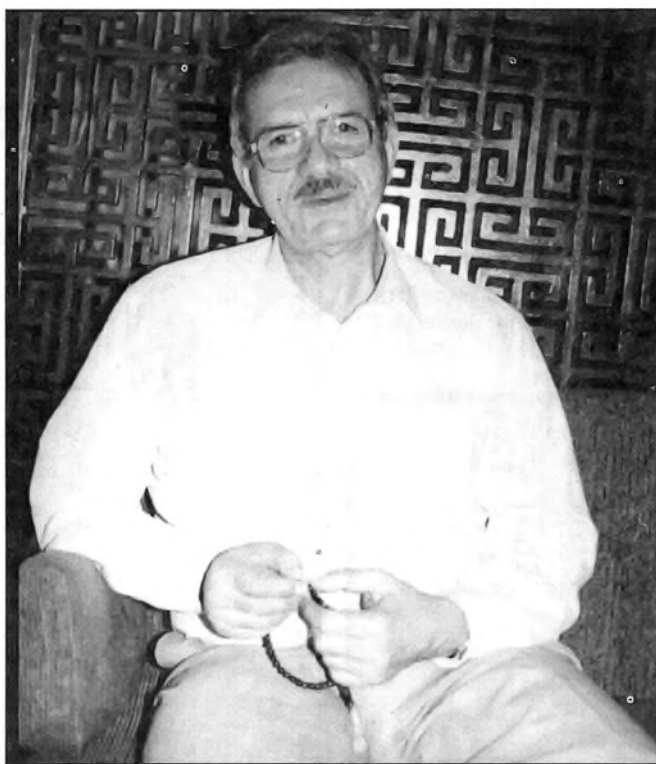
Over the last few weeks, there has been a clear misunderstanding between Cairo and Sanaa. Sanaa has been irritated by the repetition by Egyptian officials that "Unity cannot be imposed or maintained by force." The reading of this statement in Sanaa has been that Egypt favors the secessionists. "That is absolutely wrong.

Egypt, in fact, favors a unified Yemen. But we are against the use of arms to settle political differences. Dialogue should be the means to resolve differences in opinion," insisted the Egyptian official.

Asked about the nature of the Yemeni crisis and his readings of the problem, Mr. Hammam outlined three important reasons for the crisis:

1. There are changes in the power structure and political life which needed to take place in Yemen. These changes were already complicated and tense within the former YAR (North Yemen) and PDRY (South Yemen). When unity took place, the problems of power struggle and political change were simply compounded, although partly suppressed by the euphoria of the union. But change was inevitable, although not necessarily smooth.

2. The power base, organizational skills and philosophy of the two ruling parties - the Yemeni Socialist Party in the former PDRY, and the People's General Congress in the former YAR - were different. Each side, given its perception and understanding of its role, tried to enlarge and strengthen the factors which contributed to its power base and philosophy, while working to undermine those of the other side.



3. The unity agreement stipulated that the PGC and YSP are equal partnership in managing the state. This was an untenable stipulation, specially given the results of the April 1993 parliamentary elections. The YSP found its share in the state much reduced, thus unable to accept the new deal.

"In my mind those are the real reasons for the crisis in the Republic of Yemen," he said. The Egyptian official insisted that the transformation process, specially in political thought, needed more time. "Yemen tried to shorten the time needed to achieve the transformation. A

clear example of this effort in the Document of Pledge and Accord, which is a beautiful piece of literature, but an impractical political agenda. The distance between the realities and the aspirations and dreams is simply enormous," Mr. Hammam said. "Still, the document represents what kind of political system the people of Yemen want."

The second UN Security Council Resolution (#931) calls for "implementing a durable ceasefire and to the possible establishment of a mechanism acceptable to both (Yemeni) sides, preferably involving countries of the region." Is the ball with Egypt because of this?

"Of course we in Egypt have played in the past, and will continue to play in the future a role in finding solutions for the

war and crisis. The first step in this direction is to achieve a durable ceasefire, for it is not possible to undertake a serious dialogue unless the guns are silent. We are willing, in cooperation with other parties, and with the consent of the Yemenis, to play whatever role is necessary to resolve this conflict. All the possible solutions we are looking into are within the framework of a unified Yemen," he indicated.

Regarding Saudi intervention in Yemeni affairs, the Egyptian official insisted that Sanaa presents tangible proof to implicate Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Hammam concluded with a positive note urging Yemenis to show the classical Yemeni wisdom in resolving the problem.

## MARA-GONNA

Yes, Diego Maradona is again at the center of a scandal, as a result of which he is kicked out of the Football World Cup Championship because he has been doping. Urine tests taken on the 26th, and again on the 28th were positive confirming the use of a stimulant known as effedrin. In a game Argentina played against Bulgaria without its star player, it lost 2-0.

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