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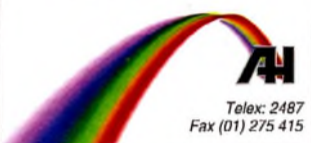
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President Saleh Outlines the Priorities of the Coming Stage:

"A big push in development."

In a major policy statement, President Ali Abdullah Saleh outlined the priorities of the coming phase in Yemen. In a speech to the community leaders in Taiz on Wednesday July 27th, the president identified socio-economic development as the first priority of the coming days. "We have to embark on a big push in socio-economic development," he said. The president pointed to the major price distortions in the market, and urged the government and merchants to join hands in this matter. "We can see the price of the US dollar vis-avis the Yemeni Riyal fall, yet the price-level continues to rise. The government must shoulder its responsibilities, and I call on the merchants to lend a helping hand," president Saleh said. One key component of the new approach is "to close the file of the past and to start a new phase in our development, in which all Yemenis can participate and to which they can all contribute." The president also stressed the need for more delegation of

authority to the local government administrators. "Local rule is the base on which our new system will be built," he said. According to the president's address, local officials - starting with district directors all the way up to include the governors - will be directly elected by the people in each governorate. "These officials will have enough powers to shoulder their responsibilities without unnecessary recourse to the central authorities," President Saleh stressed. A third component of the new phase is a strong drive to mend fences with the neighbors. Yemen has nothing against its neighbors, not even a grudge. "We would like to start a new stage in our relations. Yemen's unity presents no threat or danger to our neighbors. To the contrary, it is a source of stability and harmony in the region," he added. In one of his repeated appeals to the YSP and other politicians who are out of the country, the president urged them to return and to participate in the country's national reconstruction effort.

"Even those who have actively worked for the secessionists are covered by the comprehensive amnesty decision. They can come back, and there would be no measures taken against them." In a telephone call with one of the YSP leaders in Sanaa, who asked not to mention his name, he stressed that nations are not built with outbursts of emotional speeches or even with good intentions. "We would like to see some of those promises actually implemented on the ground," he stressed. At another level, the House of Representatives has been pushing for a vigorous transformation of the economic structures and institutions. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament, insisted technocrats must lead the development and reconstruction of the country. "Government posts are not a monopoly of anyone. We do not object to any formula for forming the next government provided it is oriented towards reforms and national economic reconstruction," the speaker said.



Just a Phone Business?

There is a beautiful Yemeni proverb which states, "If you never feel ashamed, you can do whatever you like." (إذا لم تفتح، فاصنع ما تشاء). For over two weeks now, the phones of the Yemen Times have been put out of service by the Political Security Office. The home phone number of the chief editor as well as that of his brother-in-law are also not working. Most, if not all of the officials of this country know that the Yemen Times telephone are illegally put out of service. More and more people of this country know that somebody out there in the Security Office is behaving contrary to the law at a time when the president of the republic goes on TV to insist on respect for the law. The diplomats and all other foreign friends residing among us know that a lot of pressure is brought to bear on the Yemen Times, thus blocking its ability to do normal business, at a time when the government of Yemen shouts loud in inviting private entrepreneurs to invest and do business in the country. Readers of the Yemen Times abroad realize the major gap between what the officials of this country preach, and what they actually practice.

Cutting off the phones of Yemen Times is against democracy. It is contrary to freedom of the press and the rule of law. It does not reflect any respect for private business and property. It does not assure any decency in the way our government behaves itself. We do not know what is expected of the Yemen Times. We do not know what our fault is or why exactly our telephones are disconnected. We do not know if the government wants to shut us down. After all, the Yemen Times is the only independent newspaper that comes out of Yemen today. There is an enormous pressure. The phone business is just one small part of the whole affair. We have written letters to the Deputy Chief of the Political Security Office, Mr. Mohammed Al-Sourmi, the man responsible for cutting the phones off. We have written to the Minister of Interior, Mr. Yahia Al-Mutawakkil, the man who technically oversees the security apparatus. We had earlier contacted the Minister of Communications, whose job it is to make sure the telephone system works. We have asked friends to talk to even the speaker of the parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, on the matter. All to no avail. Do you have any suggestions for us?

UN Report on Yemen 'Pessimistic'

"The immediate and urgent needs of the Republic of Yemen are estimated at an absolute minimum of US\$ 22 million," disclosed Dr. Awni Al-Ani, UNDP Resident Representative and Coordinator of the International Assistance Emergency Package Program for Post-War Yemen. This money is allocated to water and sewage repairs (US\$ 8 million), health and hospital needs (US\$ 6 million), food aid (US\$ 4 million), agricultural equipment (US\$ 1.7 million), and school needs (US\$ 1.5 million). The money is urgently needed to do repairs in water networks, sewage facilities, educational and health requirements, and various pressing needs over the next six months," the UNDP official stated. Out of this money, the UNDP office received only US\$ 1 million, which itself was chipped in by UN organizations (such as UNDP, WHO, UNFPA) out of their emergency budgets. "The situation looks bad," Dr. Al-Ani told the Yemen Times. In spite of the best efforts of the UN, response from the donor countries and international organizations has not been very forthcoming. "Some countries are discussing potential contribution either with UNDP head office in New York, or with specialized UN agencies such as the UNICEF," Al-Ani said. In the final count, not much is expected to come out. The total post-war repair requirements of Yemen were estimated at US\$200 million. But the government of Yemen is expected to put up most of this money. As one ambassador of a leading aid partner of Yemen put it early in the fund-raising effort, "What is the government of Yemen contributing?" A full-fledged report on the situation and the financial requirements will be released on Thursday, August 4th, once it is approved by New York and Sanaa. This report will include the findings of the Humanitarian Department's delegation which concluded a visit to Yemen last week. Robert Souriya, the head of the delegation expressed shock at the looting of schools, office buildings, etc. "Why would anybody want to take home a blackboard?" he was heard wondering. Most of the schools in Aden, Al-Howtah, Ataq and Mukalla have lost their furniture - desks, chairs, blackboards, etc. "These have to be replaced before the beginning of the school-year in September," indicated Dr. Al-Ani. The general tone of the UN report is rather pessimistic given the volume of the damage, and in light of the response of the donor countries and international organizations. "It looks the task of repair and reconstruction will be an arduous and agonizing one," according to a Sanaa-based diplomat.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Need for Efficient Packaging & Marketing of Produce

There is no doubt that the farmers of Yemen, especially those who grow cash crops and fruits, have succeeded in expanding their output and in producing better quality products. Our markets are filled with fresh supplies of high-quality fruits such as grapes, melons, papayas, mangoes, strawberries, guavas, bananas, oranges, nectarines, etc.

The prices of these fruits exhibit dramatic swings up and down because supplies are concentrated at a certain time, thus saturating the local market. Distribution and storage bottlenecks lead to enormous waste. For example, I once saw a small hill of wasted papayas along the Dhabab road, south of Taiz. The problem was that transporting and selling commissions of the product would cost more than the total revenue.

There are a number of quick fixes as well as long-term solutions to this problem. The quick fixes would include better information on the market needs in various parts of the country, and opening the gigantic government cold storage facilities, which are partly idle, to the farmers and merchants, for a fee. Another possibility is using the government purchases (for example, for the military, hospitals, schools, etc.) to temper the price fluctuations. This would mean that the government would buy these products in their peak supplies and refrain from buying in the scarce seasons. That would also mean the government would buy during the cheapest season.

In the long run, a more efficient packaging and marketing industry is a must. These products are superior in quality even by international standards. The packaging service has two visible directions:

a) Proper and acceptable packing of the products in light of their perishable nature. Strawberries and grapes would require a different packing system than the larger and more durable fruits such as melons and mangoes.

b) A second approach to packaging is to process the fruits into another size, form, etc. For example, papayas could become processed into jam, guavas into juice, etc. This would extend the validity of the fruit and facilitate its transportation.

The Republic of Yemen loses millions annually because our farmers are unable to sell their products on time, if at all. Society has a duty to help overcome this problem. Entrepreneurs and businessmen need to act on this opportunity for the benefit of all sides. The government can facilitate this step by providing information, credit, and reduced paperwork.

Unless a visible development takes place in overcoming the bottlenecks associated with the flux into the market of agricultural products in a short time, the prospects for continued growth in output is at risk. This would put a ceiling on the potential for agricultural growth in this country. Can we join hands in helping overcome this problem?

High-Level Visitors from Iraq

Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, the Vice President of Iraq, arrived in Sanaa on Wednesday, July 27th, on an official visit to Yemen. "I have come to present our congratulations and felicitations to Yemen's leadership on the success in preserving the country's unity and overcoming the secessionist forces," he said. He also added that he was carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussain to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

At another level, Iraqi Deputy Information Minister, Mr. Naji Al-Hadeethy, is spending a ten-day official visit to Yemen. The official has been touching base with the official Yemeni media in an attempt to coordinate efforts in presenting news and analysis that concern the two countries.

Upon meeting President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Iraq's Vice President praised the exceptionally good relationship and cooperation between Yemen and Iraq.

It is estimated that some 6,000 Iraqis work in Yemen today in various fields, including employment with the government. Thousands of Yemeni students also study in Iraq.

Abdulghani Concludes Successful Gulf Visit

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the PGC, concluded a successful four-day visit to each of the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and the State of Qatar. During the visit, he discussed with his hosts Yemen's interest in strengthening the bilateral relations. Yemen already enjoys excellent relations with Oman and Qatar, and the UAE is coming around in its outlook towards Yemen. Abdulghani is increasingly seen as the person to lead the bridging of Yemen's external relations.

Zindani Visits Southern/Eastern Governorates

Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani, Member of the Presidential Council and Spiritual Leader of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), is currently on a week-long visit that has taken him to many southern and eastern governorates.

Sheikh Zindani's visit have included military camps, major religious centers, towns and villages, and economic/oil installations in the region.

It will be noted that Islah followers are strengthening their

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grip over the region, and have successfully increased their influence among the people.

Executive Board of Labor Union Re-directs Sawt Al-Ommal

The Executive Board of the Federation of Labor Unions of Yemen - the strongest union in the country - met over the last

week to discuss the conditions of workers in the country.

During the meetings headed by Vice Chairman Hussain Saleh Al-Bahlouli, decisions were taken to re-direct the federation and members unions to a new course that contributes to the consolidation of Yemen's unity. Decisions were also taken to re-direct Sawt Al-Ommal, the workers' mouthpiece, away from its past policies.

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Nasr Taha Mustafa:

"Stamping out corruption and forming a modern state are top Islah priorities."

One of the evident results of the war is the enhanced role of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, commonly known as Islah. There is no doubt that the Islah will play a dominant role, second only to the People's General Congress, in guiding this country in the coming days. To better understand the Islah and its vision, Yemen Times interviewed one of its rising stars, Nasr Taha Mustafa.

Nasr, 32, a native of Sanaa city, is the father of three daughters and a son. He is one of the 65 founding members of the Islah party, and he is a member of the Supreme Board of the party which is its highest authority. Nasr is also a member of the Political Bureau of the party, and a regular columnist in the party newspaper, Al-Sahwah. Excerpts of the interview:



Q: How do you read the current political situation in post-war Yemen?

A: I think the period since the September Revolution, our country has gone from one crisis to another. The basic reason behind those crises was that the top man in authority controlled too much of too many things. In addition, in the days of a divided Yemen, the calls for reunification became the focal point for tension and confrontation. In my opinion, we have today the opportunity to overcome those two sources of tension. The country has been united, and the democratization process allows for a wider participation in decision-making concerning the managing of government affairs. In the recent past, the Yemeni Socialist Party is primarily responsible for what happened because it was not interested in resolving the issues, as much as to use them to create an eternal cycle of tension.

I am not trying to blame the government or politicians for everything. It has been a learning process for the whole society. In a way, the opportunity we have today is the silver lining in the war. The country witnessed a rebirth on July 7th, and now, we have no excuse not to tackle the many developmental problems. There is no more reason for political tension. The army has been unified, and the political parties - including the People's General Congress - will now compete on a peaceful basis without recourse to the army. I think the situation now calls for a reconciliation within each party, and with others. A national construction and reform program must start in a major way.

Q: What would you say are the immediate tasks ahead of us?

A: There are many things that need to be done. 1. First, let us proceed with the constitutional amendments agreed upon by the three parties (PGC, Islah, YSP) last summer. This is called for urgently. 2. Second, there is the task of forming a government that will be able to address the issues of development and national reconstruction. 3. Third, corruption must be stamped out. We can apply the still useful elements in the Document of Pledge and Accord, and we can extract from the party programs those aspects relevant to the conditions today. In short, we have to take on the tasks needed to build a modern state based on law and order. If there is a will, these tasks can be achieved as we have the full knowledge and tools.

Q: You have written extensively regarding the need to fight corruption in the system. Do you have any specifics in mind?

A: I think that the corruption that permeates the system is the main

obstacle in creating a just and fair modern state.

First, I think all of us have a duty to expose corrupt officials and work on a media campaign to raise public awareness on the dangers of corruption.

Second, we should demand that the members of the new government be chosen from among the least tainted individuals, and we must by-pass the people who have been stained.

Third, we in the Islah will insist that we cannot join hands in a government which harbors well-known symbols of corruption.

Fourth, we can also start in the Islah by presenting a document on the financial worth of our officials today. This will be a reference point on their wealth once they are in office and beyond.

I can assure you that this question of corruption a top priority issue in the Islah at all its levels.

Q: We have heard Islah leaders often repeat that they want to create an Islamic state. What does that mean?

A: Much has been said and written on this matter, and most of it was done in order to distort the image of the Islah. Let me start from a historical perspective.

Religion-based political efforts are not new to Yemen. In fact, dating as far back to the 1930s. Members of the Islamic movement participated in the political evolution in every step since. That offers a long record of non-violent peaceful efforts with the purpose of working to change the political system.

The Yemeni society and state are both well-entrenched in Islamic values and traditions - unlike in other countries. The system in Yemen has always been based on moderation, such that, even when political pluralism was illegal and the Islamic movement was an underground effort, it was never an extremist political movement. Yes, we do call for the application of the Sharia, but I do not think any Yemeni has a problem with that. In fact, by and large, the Sharia is already being applied in Yemen.

Actually, the Islamic state we call for is more concerned with creating a modern state based on law and order and social justice. A state where the constitution and laws are well observed and respected.

Q: Another source of problem

with the Islah is its relations with the Mujahideen, known in Yemen as Al-Afghaniyeen (meaning the Afghani; i.e., those who fought in Afghanistan). Could you shed light on this?

A: During Afghanistan's war against the invading Soviet army, many Yemenis volunteered to go and fight. This was done with the full knowledge of the state. Some of these were Islah members, and many were not. Now, they have come back. The total number is indeed very small, irrespective of the tremendous media attention given to them.

By the way, in the last war, some of these "Afghani" fought with the government, and others like Awadh Bin Ushaim of Shabwah, fought alongside the secessionists. In short, this issue is used to smear the Islah and present it as a violent and terrorist movement, which it is not.

We all have a responsibility towards these people. If we feel they are in the wrong path, it is our duty to help them return to the main-fold of society by rehabilitating them, rather than to ostracize them.

Q: The Islah is often described as a copy of the PGC. How do you react to that?

A: I can describe our relations with the PGC as a strategic one, and I can say that we see eye to eye in almost 90% of the issues. Whatever differences there are, are not in the objectives and goals, but are probably in how to achieve those goals. Neither is a copy of the other, we are just very close to each other.

Q: Would the Islah be willing to participate in a government that includes the YSP?

A: Of course, we are willing. We participated in a government which had in it the hawks of the party. We will only ask those YSP members participating in the government to re-affirm their commitment to a unified Yemen and a peaceful interaction in the political evolution of Yemen.

Q: You come through as a moderate modernist. Does your line of reasoning represent the majority or minority in your party?

A: First of all, the image of extremism is a media image, and not the real image. For example, Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani

accepted to work in the Presidential Council along-with the YSP members - Ali Salim Al-Beedh and Salim Saleh Mohammed. But they did not accept to work with him. Now let me ask you who is the tolerant and moderate, and who is the extremist?

Second, the majority of the Islah rank and file as well as leadership are rational people who behave in a responsible way.

Having said that, let me stress that in each party, there are the doves and hawks. This is true of the PGC, the YSP, the other parties, as well as the Islah. So you cannot take one small segment of a party and then generalize on that basis.

Q: What is your assessment of the role of the opposition in Yemeni politics?

A: Unfortunately, the role of the opposition in the past has been weak and lacks credibility. The main reason is that the opposition became a mouthpiece of one or the other in the power struggle of the ruling parties.

The opposition needs to be independent of the ruling parties, in which case it can serve as a watchdog as well as a complementary role. That is the only viable course.

Q: The Islah party is accused of 'special' relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. What is your answer?

A: The war has shown whether the Islah plays any subservient role to any foreign country or not. That was an accusation levelled by others who themselves proved to play that role.

Whatever the case, we are not required to indulge in insults against others to prove we are not tied-in with them.

To the contrary, I think that any Yemeni patriot would see that good relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a basic element

for the stability and prosperity of Yemen. This is also true of all our other neighbors, but notably Saudi Arabia.

Q: How do you see your relations with the West?

A: We are interested in full cooperation with the West. In the past few years, we have succeeded in opening channels with them. We would like to see more Western investment and economic involvement with our country.

Of course, we will jealously guard our national identity and sovereignty. And this is not an Islah trait, it is the position of any patriot in any nation who is concerned that his/her national identity and sovereignty are not compromised.

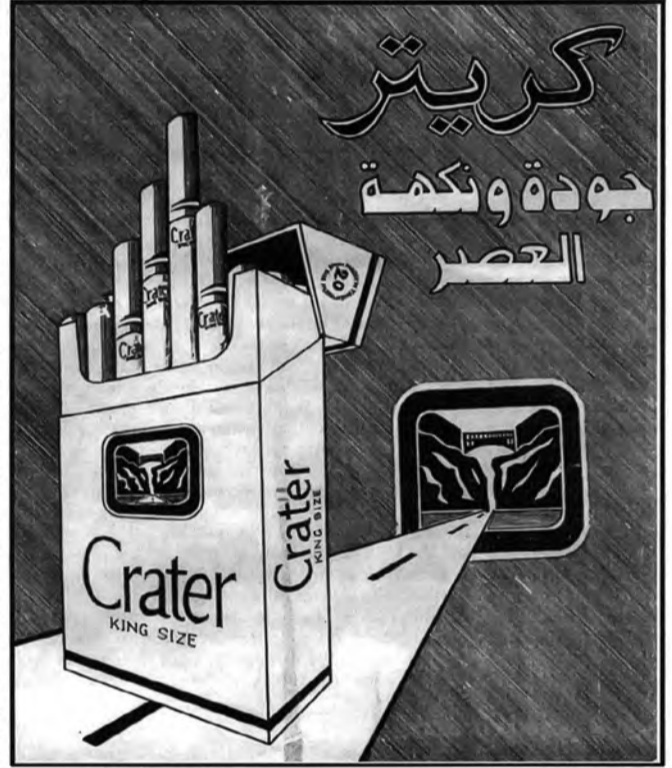
I can assure you the West understands and respects this concern.

Q: You have not yet had a general conference for the party members to choose their party leaders. Why?

A: We had plans that were postponed due to national crises. The last postponement came three months ago because of the war. All preparations had been completed for the general congress or conference, but then we had the war. Now, we plan to hold our general conference before the end of this year. Many of us think that such a gathering will lead to a new Islah, and it will allow a major transformation within the party.

Q: How many members are there in your party?

A: I do not have exact numbers, but you could use the results of the last elections as an indicator.



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Nuclear Power Plants Reassessed

After 30 years, it seems that the use of nuclear-generated energy is peaking in the West, just when Asia and Eastern Europe are embracing this technology to solve the energy problems.

France, the country which relies most on nuclear energy and has had the most ambitious plant construction program for two decades, has now stopped investing. In America, analysts are predicting that as many as a quarter of all US nuclear power facilities will shut down in the next decade. Robert Pollard, nuclear safety engineer with the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent organization created in 1969 and acting as a watchdog in areas where technology plays a critical role, argues that Western companies competing to build nuclear plants are more concerned about income than accountability and local environmental issues.

Expressing the view of the US Council for Energy Awareness, a pro-nuclear lobby group, Scott Peters counters that more is involved than opening new markets. "If environment, global warming and release of pollutants into the air concern you, there is a strong case for using nuclear power," he said. "Asia and Eastern Europe need cheap, clean electricity to progress and increase economic strength. Nuclear power is part of the solution. Hydro, solar, wind, wave, or other sources brought in at an acceptable level are part of the solution as well. Nuclear power can provide safe, reliable energy and raise the standards of living."

"We have proved over 30 years of generating electricity - more than 20% in the US and 17% worldwide, with almost 500 reactors - that nuclear power plants can be operated safely," Peters said adding that the benefits of a major source of pollution-free electricity in an area where pollution and supply are problems and can be achieved with sacrificing safety.

But according to Pollard, the world community has not built a strong enough safety net to protect itself from a major accident like the Chernobyl disaster. He criticizes the UN's International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), "because it is charged with both promoting nuclear power and setting safety standards for nuclear power plants."

Peters noted that the IAEA's main concern is nonproliferation. It has concentrated its efforts on preventing the transfer of civilian nuclear technology from peaceful to military uses and works with the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), a London-based organization dedicated to checking safety activities of nuclear power plants worldwide.

Indonesia, Bangladesh and Thailand are among the Asian nations that have expressed an interest in developing nuclear power. One drawback is that none of them has a "mechanism for public participation in decision-making," comparing nuclear planning in Asia to the early days of the US nuclear industry. "Once we had the Freedom of Information Act (1966), information became available. Opposition grew. Citizens participated in the licensing process, making it difficult to get approval. We cancelled more plants in the US than we built."

In Eastern Europe, the issue of nuclear safety centers on existing plants built by the Soviet government, some of them similar to the Chernobyl plant. There has been talk in the West of helping Eastern Europe improve the safety of Soviet-designed reactors. "The main goal of German, French and US proposals seems to be to

generate work for Western manufacturers," Pollard said. There is no long-term strategy for energy policy. "How long will the plants run? You need to know to decide how much money to spend improving safety," he pointed out.

Companies are concerned about what will happen if they go into a nuclear plant and an accident results from its operation, Peters pointed out. "In time, we will see more interest in helping these countries substitute for or build new nuclear power plants. For now, the question is 'What is the liability of a company going in to help?'" Whether they approve or disapprove of nuclear energy, experts share one concern: How to dispose of waste. "Temporary waste storage is not difficult. Permanent disposal is the problem," Pollard said, indicating the issue is being avoided by governments interested in building nuclear plants.

Peters agrees that storage is the biggest stumbling block to nuclear power, not for technical reasons but because of public opinion opposition to it. "Countries involved in nuclear power have settled on deep geological storage in containers of one or more metals. The basic technology is understood and accepted." But nobody wants to live next to large nuclear dump site.

"We should have resolved storage 40 years ago," Peters said. "It was shoved aside because of pressures of the time. Now there is political reluctance to accept a solution." Sweden is working on a monitored retrieval system whereby waste storage can be examined periodically, and there are programs to put waste in vitrified form - turned into glass - to store it.

"One lesson from the US and Soviet experience is that despite predictions, plants will not run as well as claimed," Pollard said. "And they will cost more. Waste disposal and the cost of decommissioning are unknowns and represent significant hidden costs." He says building a nuclear power plant to free a country from oil imports may trade importation of oil for importation of uranium, repair equipment and trained personnel.

And what of the step from civilian nuclear power to military use? "India's first nuclear explosion (in 1974) came from their so-called peaceful uses of nuclear energy," Pollard said. "A myth was perpetrated on the public that plutonium used in nuclear weapons was different from that produced in nuclear plants. Can plutonium used in civilian reactors be used for a weapon? Yes - thus the concern over North Korea and over Japanese stockpiling of plutonium for fuel for breeder reactors - even though they say they are not interested in developing nuclear weapons."

During the oil embargo in the early 1970s, Japan decided to achieve energy independence by building fast breeder reactors that convert uranium to plutonium that can be used as fuel. However, it has to send the plutonium to France, by ship, for reprocessing before it can use it again, which is strongly opposed by environmental groups worldwide.

The economics of breeder reactors and plutonium reprocessing are dismal, Pollard said. Now Japan has delayed plans for building breeder reactors beyond an experimental one. Furthermore, he says, "No regime to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons could be effective if we use breeder reactors widely. There would be too much plutonium in commercial plants to prevent it from being sold or stolen and turned into weapons."

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Adios, Fips!

Michael Zinn, the German embassy's playboy, commonly referred to as "Fips", will soon be on his way to Mexico City. In mid-August, he is set to leave Yemen.

"At first, I was scared. How will I live in a country whose culture is so different from a European way of life. I did not know if I would 'survive' the three years I had to do in Yemen. As it happened, I ended up volunteering to extend my stay. I have spent more than four and a half years in Yemen," says Michael. The trick, of course, is to carve out your little world within the sea of traditional life around you.

Does Fips like Yemen? Of course, he does. I was more than accomplished at all levels. At the official level, he was charged with the development cooperation program between Germany and Yemen. "I am happy to state that the Federal Republic of Germany has given Yemen more than one billion Deutsche Marks (about \$600 million) in donation. The money was used to build physical infrastructure like the Sanaa International Airport, Sanaa-Taiz road, the Sanaa-Tawila road, water and sewage network systems, etc. Other projects include vocational training centers, plant protection, secondary cities planning, preservation of old manuscripts and documents, restoration of the Old City of Sanaa, health care, and of course, scholarships for educating and training Yemenis," he indicated.



Fips describes Yemeni-German relations as special. "Over and above the traditionally warm relations and good understanding, our two societies have recently undergone similar experiences, which created some kind of a bond between them. The reunification of Yemen in May 1990, and of Germany in October of the same year, and the parliamentary elections in the two countries during 1993 are common experiences. We also share similar post-unification problems, although each country also has its special issues," he said. The visible manifestation of such a special relationship are many. Mr. Zinn points to the visit to Yemen of Mr. Richard von Weizsacker, Germany's former president, as that of the first Western head of state to Yemen. He also points to the fact that German presence in the country and assistance to Yemen during the Gulf War and the Yemeni civil war, continued. "Indeed, we have a special relationship."

The high point of his days in Yemen was the pompous (and crazy) 40th anniversary celebrations. But that is not all. "On that occasion, my Yemeni friends gave me a hand-signed photo of President Ali Abdullah addressed to me by him. It was such a special gesture that I will never forget," adds Fips.

"I will take a piece of Yemen with me, wherever I go. I hope I have also left a part of me with my Yemeni and international friends. But now it is time to move on, again."

Michael has a piece of advice for the Yemenis. "A unified Yemen has the chance to become a strong and modern country. But that requires commitment to some key issues -- democracy, freedom of the press, human rights, political pluralism. It also requires to check and control radical elements in society, nurture internal stability, and good relations with the neighbors. It also requires absorbing the modern elements of technology and know-how without forsaking the good traditional values. Finally, it requires to spend a little bit less time in qat chewing, and a little bit more time in doing hard work."

Those are the words of wisdom that Fips leaves with us as he says "Auf widersehen."

Michael Zinn visibly looks forward to Mexico City. We would like to warn them. "Watch out for the German bachelor from Sanaa!"

Why Do Foreign Companies & Embassies Freely Employ Foreigners?

No two persons will argue that Yemen is a country which suffers from a high rate of unemployment. One can see young graduates on the streets, unable to secure a job.

Even then, there are many foreigners who are employed in various jobs, most of which do not require any advanced skills or knowledge. I have visited many organizations only to find that the receptionist is a foreigner. The switchboard employees is a foreigner. The typist is a foreigner. The clerks are foreigners. In many cases, even the drivers are foreigners.

The laws of the Republic of Yemen forbid the employment of foreigners in low-skill jobs. Foreigners - again by law - are required to have residence and work permits before they can engage in local employment. Unfortunately, it does not look like the foreigners - especially if they are from Third World countries - do not care about the law. Similarly, the law enforcement agencies in Yemen are either negligent, or they are cheaply bribed and thus do not attend to this matter.

The loss to our country is enormous. They include the following:

1. Foreigners occupy the jobs which could have gone to Yemenis. Thus the level of income of Yemenis falls, and many complications arise from being unemployed.
 2. Foreigners transfer home part of their income, thus they add to the outflow drain of foreign exchange.
 3. Any training and skills acquired by the foreigners while working in Yemen will be gone because they eventually will leave the country.
 4. The psychological animosity that grows with the feeling that foreigners are taking our jobs makes Yemenis increasingly harbor anti-foreign feelings and attitudes.
- I demand that our government and political leadership to correct this situation by taking the needed steps immediately.

By: Abu Aamer, Sanaa.

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An Appeal to the Yemeni People

It is well known that the Jews of Yemen have been living in Yemen since antiquity.

From the multitudes of Jews who had inhabited Yemen prior to 1950, barely a few have remained. These precious few are the last of their kind. They are the last of the Mohicans, as you might say.

We, who represent hundreds of Orthodox Congregations in the United States that comprise the multitudes of Orthodox Jews, who are opposed to Zionism's basic essence and to the very establishment and being of any Jewish state in the Holy Land, appeal to the Yemeni people, its Government and all political parties of all persuasions to help save the last remnant of Yemeni Jews, who are part of Yemen's history and who are now in imminent danger of being forced to leave Yemen against their will.

During the past two and a half years the Zionists through agents of the Mosad, Israeli Espionage Services, have been continuously operating in Yemen under the innocent guise of "tourists" and sometimes in the open, to forcibly move the Jews of Yemen to Israel. Their actions have taken the form of intimidation, cajoling, threats, bribery, and continuous harassments. That the Zionists have not been successful in their diabolical wicked scheme are not only due to the tenacious character and religious traditions of the remaining Jews but because of their love and attachment to a country that has been their home for thousands of years.

In a recent issue of an Israeli daily Yediat Achronot one of the Mosad agents, mentioned with a first initial of S. (probably called Sam), was quoted as saying "... The situa-

tion in Yemen today is intolerable. After we have received the okay from the authorities and have received the go ahead from the local tribal Sheiks and opened the door for Yemen's Jews to leave Yemen we are faced with obstruction from the Jews themselves".

This quote from one of the leaders of the Zionist efforts to have Yemen made Judenrein is ample testimony to the unwillingness of the JEWS to leave Yemen. But the Zionists do not give up, no matter what. They have decided to achieve their political goal of emptying an ancient people from an ancient land so they can issue propaganda statements to the world that Israel is the only place of refuge for Jews from Arab lands, and the false premise that Jews and Muslims cannot live side by side in peace and harmony.

To achieve these

goals which brings in money from world Jewry, nothing is beneath them. We have reason to believe that at this very moment these Zionist agents presently in Yemen, be their names Moshe Damti, Moshe Yarimi, Salim Cohen, Sam Grafi, Yusef Amar, Salim Zebiba, Moshe Sharabi, Eliezer Sharabi, Moshe Charir, any others and under any aliases, have concocted a diabolical plot to scare the few remaining Jews of Yemen to emigrate to Israel.

Why have they gone to such lengths as to sponsor trips for tribal sheiks to the United States wine them and dine them at the Sheratons of New York and Washington D. C. if not to "persuade" these Muslim Sheiks that Israel is the right place for the remaining Jews.

And once again, We appeal to the Yemeni people of all

parties and all persuasions to do everything they can to save the last remnant of ancient people and to do all means possible to hinder and stop the activities of the agents of Zionism.

Zionism is the greatest enemy of the Jewish people. Zionism and Judaism are diametrically opposed to each other.

You cannot be a Jew and be a Zionist.

We salute the Yemeni people for giving a home to the Jewish people and for helping them sustain their heritage over the millennium. And we pray for the well-being of the Republic of Yemen. May the Almighty bless the entire Yemen with Peace and Tranquility and prosperity.

Amen.

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CanOxy's Larry Murphy: "We are here to do business, not politics."

Many observers and most Yemenis believe that the discovery of oil in Hadhramaut had a lot to do with the desire of some leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party to break away from the Yemeni union. The first of these discoveries is at Masila Block (#14) where Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd is, at the moment, producing an average of 160,000 bpd. During the war, the company was caught in the middle because its block was in the area controlled by the secessionists. "We resisted being sucked in. We are in Yemen to do business not politics. We were determined to remain neutral during the crisis and war," explained Larry Murphy, President and General Manager of the company. The CanadianOxy official, although soft-spoken, was firm and decisive on the issue.

When the situation was not clear, the company ploughed the government's revenue share of the oil exports into an escrow account, set up on 26th May, and closed on the 7th of July when the war ended. "The Central Bank of Yemen received the money in this escrow account and it now collects the government's proceeds from our exports," Murphy added. Going into the war, the company was pumping out oil at the rate of 145,000 bpd. Since then, the volume gradually increased and it is expected to remain at its current level of 160,000 bpd until the end of the year.



Larry Murphy took charge of the company at a difficult time. He came here in September, 1993 - as the political crisis was beginning to take hold - and has been in charge since. "We continue to enjoy the confidence and full support of the Yemeni government officials - starting with the top leaders to the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Mr. Faisal Bin Shamlan, to all his deputies and assistants and to the junior clerks. We work well together," he added. The company is now gearing up to do more extensive exploration work. "We are looking into more exploration work into three regions within our block, which

are promising according to the seismic interpretations. These are along the western coastal stretch, east of our core area, and north of Sanau. We hope to drill the first exploratory well in the coastal area before the end of the year," he points out. Commenting on recent press reports that the company had paid in advance the government share in the oil exports of the next five years, Murphy stressed that such reports were incorrect. "Actually, given our auditing and accounting practices, it is not possible for such arrangements to take place at all." The recent violence had its toll on the company's offices, living

quarters, and the equipment and furniture. The company's camp site - on the Abyan road - was hit, and so were its other buildings and villas in the city of Aden. "The company is now considering to repair and replenish them." "We never felt we were targeted in a deliberate way. But still, an evacuation plan was carried out, and all the expatriate staff left the country. The company's local staff managed the basic work needed to keep things going," he said. Now the company is gearing itself to a new pace. The renewed vigor is expected to yield new positive results.

In Block 10, next door to CanOxy's Masila block, Total has found oil, and it has initiated talks with CanOxy regarding an agreement on schedule and fees for pumping Total oil through the CanOxy pipeline.

"I am going to meet the Total people in Calgary in next week to discuss this matter. I have met with many senior Yemeni officials in the last week, and every one of them has stressed the need for a deal that would allow it all to go ahead. I think we will make it work," he assured.

If the Block Ten oil is transported through the CanOxy pipeline, an additional main-line pump may be needed in addition to the existing facilities. But that would depend on how much reserves there are in Block 10, and how much will be produced, and where Total will tie-in on the pipeline.

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd. has been one of the community-conscious companies in Yemen. It has in the past, drilled water wells, constructed roads, and financed part of the repairs and reconstruction of the Aden flood damages.

Since the war ended, the company has continued its positive interaction policy. Canadian Oxy has given to the ICRC (International Council of the Red Cross) \$250,000 to help finance its relief operations in Yemen. It has also convinced the Canadian government to chip in with \$500,000 of its own for the same purpose.

Last week, CanadianOxy made another contribution, this time directly to the Yemeni government. It provided \$2,000,000 to help in the reconstruction efforts. "These contributions come within the overall company policy. We feel that since we are going to benefit from being in Yemen, it is just right to put something back into the community," he added.

Mr. Murphy then pointed out that the company also plans to provide some assistance directly to the local community in Aden, especially for the region between Aden and Little Aden.

Another thing the company plans to do is locate its employees, and try to see what happened to them, and whether there was something the company could do for them. "Beyond that, we also see that we have a commitment to the community, and we will consider further assistance. For example, we are told that many of the schools have lost their furniture - desks, chairs, blackboards, etc. Maybe that is an area we can contribute to. There are many other issues we want to get involved in within the reconstruction efforts."

Mr. Larry Murphy concluded his talk with the Yemen Times by stressing the company's training program. "We have a local training program. We also plan to send Yemenis to Canada for training. Yemenization is a big issue for us, and we plan to proceed with it fully," he said.

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may his soul rest in peace.

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An Update...

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor,
Yemen Times.

The political situation in Yemen is slowly normalizing, but it will be at least till the end of the year before it will be clear the direction this country will take. At this moment, there are two forces competing for influence - within each party - as follows:

Force of Reconciliation:

The leading force today is the one which calls for a national reconciliation, and which pursues a flexible approach regarding the interaction among political parties. This group also wants to play down the repercussions of the war, least of all to use the war results to determine the future relations among the power blocs in Yemen.

This force is urging for closer ties and understanding with the rest of the world. It also pushes for a pluralist political system that is based on respect for freedom for the press, human rights, etc.

Representing this groups is a collection of individuals from different backgrounds, but notably from the independents, urban/middle class, intellectuals, businessmen, etc.

Force of Extremism:

The second force in the political scene of Yemen today is the one representing the extremist position. This group calls for the exclusion from political life of the Yemen Socialist Party and its partners which had formed the secessionist state, and to bring the results of the war to bear on the role of the parties.

Internally, this force wants a tighter grip on society, and externally, it wants a more guarded interaction with the world.

The universal values of respect for human rights, freedom of the press, pluralist political systems, tolerance, etc., have little meaning with this group. Representing this group is a collection of hard-liners in politics, military and security persons, traditional and other elements in society.

The struggle today is between those two forces, and whichever wins will lead the country to the goals and objectives it calls for.

The majority of the people of Yemen are not involved in this competition, although they are the ones to benefit or lose from the outcome. In the final analysis, the on-going dialogue and maneuvering must be seen within the above context.

The YSP Dilemma:

The Damascus meeting of the YSP politbureau members was a flop. Now it is being referred to as simply a consultation meeting which did not succeed in bringing together even half a dozen members of the politbureau - out of a total of 22 members. Today, there are six politbureau members in Sanaa, and the number is expected to rise to ten by mid-August.

At the same time, a rising number of members of the Central Committee of the YSP are flocking into Sanaa. It is believed some sixty members are already in town, out of a total of 110 - although six members have died in the last war.

The Secretariat of the YSP - a temporary leadership formed in Sanaa - has been holding meetings to determine the best course of action to be taken. They have agreed on three basic guidelines:

1. No Foreign-based Work:
The group agreed that they will not be involved in any efforts that are managed by a power-base which is located outside of Yemen. Thus, they urge all senior YSP leaders to return to Yemen and resume political action here. They are opposed to any arrangements which are worked out abroad, because that

would mean they are manipulated by outside forces.

2. Postponing of Assessment of Party Decisions and Officials:

The group has agreed that they will not oblige the "winners in the war" by discrediting the party leaders and their decisions. "I hope they will let us reach our own conclusions out of our own convictions, and not simply to please them," said one senior YSP leader.

3. Avoiding Schism in Party:

The party officials - whether in Yemen or abroad - are trying hard to hold the party together as one entity. Some cracks have already appeared between the foreign-based and Yemen-based people. The government of Sanaa is trying to enable the Yemen-based YSP people to attract more of their colleagues from abroad. To achieve that goal, the government will have to show its tolerance and good intentions in practice.

The Neighbors' Attitude:

One of the main factors in deciding the future direction of the country is the attitude of the neighbors. These countries are increasingly inclined to be "understanding" of the position of Sanaa. They have shown signs of willingness to cooperate with the regime of President Salch, as follows:

1. Oman:

The Sultanate of Oman, to which many of the leaders of YSP had fled, has quickly adjusted its position. It has mended fences with Sanaa, provided some urgent assistance, "convinced" Ali Salim Al-Bedh to retire from politics, and has now decided it no longer wants to host the YSP people on its soil.

2. Qatar/Sudan:

The State of Qatar has been the only Gulf state which sided with Sanaa in the civil war. The Sudan has also taken a similar stand. For that reason, they enjoy an exceptionally good relationship with Sanaa.

3. The United Arab Emirates:

Sanaa has made overtures to the United Arab Emirates, and has succeeded in getting a positive response. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani's visit to Abu Dhabi last week cemented the trend of improved relations between the two countries.

4. Saudi Arabia/Bahrain:

There is a strong possibility that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Bahrain will come around to an understanding with Sanaa. Saudi Arabia, by now, has realized the secessionist leadership has little to offer in terms of pressure and influence inside the country. Relations with Sanaa are

expected to improve in the near future.

The situation in Yemen is in a visible flux. The position of one man - President Ali Abdullah Salch - will determine where this country is going over the next few years. It will also determine how the recent events will be recorded in the history books.

Three steps are necessary if this country is to come out on top:

1. The government of Yemen must persist in its efforts to reach out to our neighbors and strike a workable formula in the bilateral and collective regional relations.

2. The leadership of Yemen must make good on the general amnesty, and must pursue the national reconciliation efforts in a stronger and more courageous way. The reconciliation is not simply limited to former YSP leaders, but also in showing sufficient respect and tolerance for intellectuals and the opinion-makers.

3. The leadership must ensure that the reconstruction phase takes its appropriate path by allowing well-trained and able Yemenis to undertake the task of development in Yemen.

Those are the basic issues facing the country today, and they will determine the fate of Yemen.

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