



# YEMEN TIMES



• August 8th through 14th, 1994

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## Yemen's Reconciliation Process Takes an Ambiguous Twist

# A 2-Pronged Approach

The political game in Yemen is taking a strange shape. It looks like each party has decided to play a dual role in interacting with the others. Each of the numerous players in Yemeni politics is trying to out-manuever the others by distributing roles - essentially hawkish and dovish roles within each party, as follows:

### The YSP Players:

The role of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is probably the most perplexing unknown in the whole picture. It is apparent by now that the YSP has adopted a two-pronged approach in handling the reconciliation talks. It is also clear that there is a strong coordination between the two factions. The first faction is the one based inside Yemen and managed by the Supreme Committee for Contact and Coordination which includes all YSP members in the politbureau, the Central Committee, parliament, and the party secretaries in the governorates. This group is quickly emerging as the new leadership of the party. It has issued last week a press release to announce its position on the recent events. (Text is on page 5). This group is trying to wrench as many concessions as possible

from the president and his allies in the recent war. It is also inviting willing party members to come back to Yemen.

The second group of YSP leaders - mostly southerners - is based outside the country. They have linked up with other southern (non-YSP) politicians to project a southern image and thus trying to promote a north-south image to the conflict. This approach is supported by some Gulf states. It claims to base its demands on UN Security Council resolution 924 and 931. A meeting is currently underway in Damascus headed by Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman. It endorsed the press release issued by the group in Yemen, and made new overtures towards Sanaa. But a schism is expected to develop among the YSP leaders outside/inside Yemen.

### The Ali Nasser Mohammed Group:

This is the second group of players of southern origin in Yemeni politics. Again here, there is a two-pronged approach. While former PDRY President Ali Nasser Mohammed is in constant contact with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh - although last week he was constantly "out of reach", - he is also in touch with the new YSP

leadership. He represents the dovish side. His men, however, are pressing to carve out a region of influence for themselves as they try to inherit the YSP influence in the southern and eastern governorates. In their drive, they have come head on against Islah ambitions. The rivalry between these two groups has taken a violent twist last week, especially in Mukalla and Aden.

### The Islah Approach:

Again here we see a two-pronged approach to their interaction with events. On the one hand, the hardliners of the Islah bloc are pushing for a full implementation of Islamic law. This has resulted in the flogging of individuals found drinking liquor, pressure on career women to stay at home, and in general to enforce a more traditional way of life. The impact of this push is especially evident in the more liberal cities of Yemen, such as Aden and, to a lesser extent, in Taiz. At the same time, a wing of the Islah leadership is trying to project the image of tolerance,

co-existence and cooperation. This is particularly true when dealing with foreigners. The more tolerant approach of the Islah is not necessarily a show, some members of the Islah are truly liberal and enlightened in their approach, although at the end, the goals and objectives of all Islah members are the same.

### The PGC People:

The most important group, at the moment, is the PGC lot. And here too, we see two distinct approaches in their attitude in the interaction with others. One can speak of hawks and doves within the PGC. The hawks are led by Abdul-Salam Al-A'nsi, who wants to use the war results in deciding the roles of the various players. This group also refuses to even mention the Document of Pledge and Accord, let alone using it as a blueprint for reform in Yemen. The hawks, although small in number, are able to exert disproportionate influence. The group includes the army officers, and security personnel. The doves are led by Mr. Abdul-aziz Abdulghani, Assistant Secretary-General of the PGC and Member of the Presidential Council. Abdulghani looks at the long-term prospects and shows special concern for the internal

power balance in order to safely navigate the country in these troubled times. This group includes the intellectuals and merchant class. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has often come out on the side of the doves in his party. His speeches and declarations attest to that. However, he has, recently made hawkish remarks.

### The Foreign Connection:

Sanaa has officially notified the UN Security Council that it has closed the file on the civil war. "The country is now back to normal, and the war is over," a government official stated. "While we are thankful for the UN efforts, I hope the Security Council will close this file." Sanaa, however, would like the UN agencies to be involved in the reconstruction effort. The meeting between Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and UN Envoy Al-Akhdhar Al-Ibrahimi in Geneva at the end of last month, lasted for only three hours. Al-Iryani briefed Al-Ibrahimi on Sanaa's views. No other meeting is scheduled or expected on this matter between the two sides. Meanwhile, Sanaa has sent signals to its neighbors. It continues to make overtures in order to normalize relations.

## Dedicated to President Saleh

## The Story of the Fisher King

There is this king who had to spend the night alone in the forest to prove his courage, to prove he is worthy of leading his people and nation. While he was spending the night alone, he was visited by a sacred vision - out of the woods appeared the Holy Grail - symbol of God's divine grace. A voice said to him: "You shall be the keeper of the grail so that you may heal the hearts of men." But the king was blinded by a greater vision of a life filled with power, glory, and bounty. And in that state of radical amazement, he felt for a moment not like a king, but invincible like a god. So, as he reached to pick up the grail, it vanished leaving his hand in the fire and terribly burned and wounded. As the days passed, the king's wound grew deeper. All his powers and the obedient entourage could not satisfy him, nor could they heal his wound. Until one day, life for him lost its reason and meaning. He had no faith in any man, not even himself. He could not love or be loved.

One day, a clown wandered into the castle and found the king lonely, though not alone. As he approached, he did not see a king - he only saw a lonely man and in pain. "What ails you, friend?" the clown asked. The king answered, "I am thirsty and can't find water to drink." The clown looked around, picked up one of the many cups on the table, filled it with water, and gave it to the king. As the king began to drink, he realized his wound was being healed. Then the king looked at the simple clown, and asked, "How can you find that which the bravest of the brave among my men could not find?" "I don't know," answered the clown. "I only knew you were thirsty, and the cup and water were right there."

## The Kidnapping of Yemen Times Phones 23 DAYS & COUNTING

On July 17th, the Political Security Office (PSO) rounded up nearly two dozen journalists, university professors and intellectuals and locked them up. There was no accusation filed, no interrogation was carried out, and no information was sought. It was just a clear action of oppression. One of the actions associated with the round-up was to disconnect all the telephone and fax lines of the Yemen Times, the home phone number of the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, and even the number of his brother-in-law. That action is a clear abuse of authority and a complete disregard for the laws of the country. It shows disrespect for private property, private business, freedom of the press and other values to which, theoretically, this system adhere to. Moreover, someone out there is trying not to let this problem die away. By blocking the phones of the Yemen Times, the issue is kept alive. We are now going into the fourth week, and the phones of the newspaper are to-date non-operational. On this issue, we would like to present the following questions and answers.

**Question 1:** Does the Political Security, or any part of government, or even the presidential office, have the right to disconnect the telephones of citizens and private companies? We have asked lawyers and other legal-minded people. The answer, theoretically, is "No."  
**Question 2:** Can the Yemen Times raise the issue with any authorities? Yes. We are told we can file a law-suit, but we are warned it will escalate the showdown with the state, something we don't want.  
**Question 3:** Does the taking away of Yemen Times telephones serve any purpose? We asked politicians, journalists, and government officials. The consensus is that such an action does not serve any real purpose. The maximum it can be doing is that "It is a slap on the wrist."  
**Question 4:** Is Yemen Times eroding the political power base of the regime with what it writes? Most people agree that whatever the Yemen Times

writes, it does not represent any real danger to the regime. To the contrary, a Yemen Times with an independent spirit and a touch of criticism does the regime a service by presenting it as tolerant, and by promoting the image of freedom of the press. Most people see the illegal action of kidnapping the Yemen Times telephones as an effort to curb freedom of the press and to intimidate journalists. We will continue to keep our readers posted on how far beyond the law the system will go. We hope our politicians, for their own sake, do not shoot themselves on the foot.

## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Republic of Yemen: In Search of a Place among Neighbors

Like a dizzy toddler just learning to walk and groping for new bearings, the post-war unified Yemen is looking for its proper place in a changing regional environment. The process does not seem to proceed on the basis of any long-term strategy, but then what does in these times of evanescence which intrinsically favor the short-term? That is those who expect future relations to unfold on the basis of rational patterns are bound to be disappointed.

Much of policy-making these days is conducted on compartmentalized case by case moves. The top leadership may have some overall designs in the back of its mind, but when it comes to actual implementation, it is concern about the hic et nunc that has the upper hand. That is why Iraq and Iran happily co-habitate as good friends of Sanaa at the same time. That is why Sanaa feels okay about being supportive of Washington, Seoul and Pyongyang - all at the same time. That is why Yemen's bed-fellows includes Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, etc., on the one hand, and the West, on the other hand.

But that does not give the full picture. The Republic of Yemen would like to belong in the regional clubs. One such club is the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes all the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, except Yemen. The GCC has ignored Yemen's past pleas for membership. But the GCC can no longer ignore Yemen, and if it does, it would be at its own peril, because it would be driving the country to other countervailing arrangements. The problem with the GCC countries is that they are unable to re-think their approaches on the basis of the new regional and international realities.

Another natural regional arrangement is the one that would bring the countries of the lower Red Sea together. This means Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia, in addition to, of course, Yemen. The arrangements could start by an economic association.

Whatever the arrangements, the exploitative attitude of big countries must be replaced with one that believes in mutual benefits. Big countries of the region, cannot any more expect to push around the smaller ones, and get away with it. Qatar defiance to Saudi Arabia and the rest of the GCC is a case in point. Patience and pragmatism should be relied upon to chart the way ahead for closer relations between nations - whatever their size and wealth.

It is in this light that the Gulf countries must come to their senses and make room for Yemen, by welcoming it in their midst before Yemen commits to an alternative arrangement.

### ENRON Gas Talks Back on Track

Charles Parker Karren, Enron's Yemen Representative Manager, is back in the country pushing for a gas deal. He has been meeting with Yemeni officials, including the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Mr. Faisal Bin Shamlan.

"I would like to stress that Enron still requires in Yemen LNG to be marketed to the Indian power plant (which Enron is building) by 1999. Towards that end, we are pursuing talks at various levels in order to conclude agreements for the exploitation of the Yemeni gas." Yemen's gas is estimated at around 15 trillion cubic feet in the Marib/Al-Jawf/Jannah areas. Four to five different agreements are expected to be concluded by the end of this year. The next few weeks will be a watershed in the progress of talks.

### Gulf Air Is Back

George Yigzaw, Area Manager of Gulf Air, disclosed to the Yemen Times that Gulf Air will resume its services to Yemen as from 21/8/1994. "Our flights will be from Sanaa to Abu Dhabi and Bahrain on Thursdays, and from Sanaa to Abu Dhabi and Doha on Sundays," he said.

### The Return of ALYEMDA Planes

ALYEMDA has been able to retrieve two of its planes from the United Arab Emirates. On Friday, 5/8/1994, noon-time, an Airbus-310 and a Boeing-737 arrived at Sanaa International Airport. The airplanes were taken out during the final days before the flight out of the secession leaders.

Leading the negotiations for the return of the planes was Mr. Saeed Sinan Najji, Acting Chairman and General Manager of Alyemda. He also indicated that talks have reached a decisive stage in retrieving the Boeing 707 which is presently at Cairo airport. Mr. Mohsen Al-Yusufi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, who was at the head of the receiving team, indicated that Yemen's southern and eastern airports are almost ready to receive airplanes.

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### Yemen Times Needs Representatives in the UK & USA

Yemen Times plans to print a UK and a USA edition of the newspaper. This plan will be consummated by the coming anniversary of the September Revolution. Yemen Times needs representatives in London, Birmingham, and Cardiff - in the UK, and in New York, Detroit and Fresno - in the USA. Applicants, who must be residents of those cities/countries, are encouraged to write to us. Thank you!

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## YEMEN TIMES

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**Minister of Communications:**

# "We have completed paperwork for projects worth over one billion Rials."

The need to keep in touch through the telephone, mail service, and other forms of contact are of extreme importance in our modern age. As a result, communications systems have become an integral part of daily life.

One of the main sectors which suffered enormously during the recent incidents in Yemen has been the communications sector. But this same sector is also the one that has witnessed the greatest improvement over the recent weeks.

To shed more light on the damage done, the improvement, and the future plans of this sector, Mr. Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi of Yemen Times went to speak to H.E. Engineer Ahmed Mohammed Al-Aanisi, Member of Parliament and Minister of Communications.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: What is the situation of communication system of Yemen today.**

**A:** I do not want to dwell on what was damaged or who did it. I would like to point out that we have already repaired much of the damage. I can say we have literally put back everything where it was before the incidents.

Seven repair teams have been working under difficult conditions continuously over the past days and weeks. Let me give you examples.

We have resumed direct telephone services between Aden and the rest of the country.

We have almost completed work on the Mukalla telephone exchange. The damage here was more extensive in that the twelve microwave booster stations between Aden and Mukalla had been damaged. To speed the communications process, we have installed a medium-size earth station in Mukalla, but the number of outlets is still limited. We are working at both fronts.

We are also about to inaugurate the new central switch-



board of Mukalla, which is the most modern one in the republic.

We have made extensive repairs in numerous other parts of the country, and as I said, we have more or less achieved the pre-war situation.

**Q: What was the total cost of the damage and the repairs?**

**A:** Actually, we did not concern ourselves too much with the financial side. Our mandate was simply to get the job done, albeit in the most cost-effective way. I am happy to announce we have almost completed the job.

**Q: What about the mobile phone? When will it return to service?**

**A:** We still have some small repairs to do. Although I cannot yet specify a target date for the resumption of the service, I am sure it is a matter of days, provided we do not have unpleasant surprises.

**Q: What about the marine cable that is going to link up Yemen with the world via Djibouti?**

**A:** Of course, work on this

project started in April 1994. The work was interrupted for some time, for obvious reasons. Now we will resume work and the equipment will arrive shortly.

Let me also use this occasion to state that the channels and lines between Sanaa and Aden are being expanded. One final note on this matter, Yemen, starting from the 1st of September will have one country code. You know that as part of the secessionist efforts, a different code for the southern/eastern governorates was enforced. Now, the country will use only one code.

**Q: You have been noted for trying to Yemenize one of the modern and complicated ministries. How much success did you have in this?**

**A:** We have come a long way in Yemenizing our personnel. As you know, we have a training institute which is responsible for graduating Yemeni technicians and skilled personnel. In the final analysis, the number of foreigners working for the ministry is rather small. The technology we work with is very advanced and makes it

necessary for us to obtain the assistance of foreign experts. The majority of which are Indians.

**Q: There was talk of training people from the region in the Yemeni Communications Institute?**

**A:** Yes, the relevant international organization has decided that the Yemeni Communications Institute is the best place to train persons from Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, etc. We have welcomed the decision, and the necessary facilities already exist.

We look forward to a strong regional cooperation.

**Q: You are the minister of an important sector, and you are a member of parliament. How do you attend to your combined responsibilities?**

**A:** It is, of course, demanding to attend to both responsibilities. Yet, I try my best to do my job. Work at the ministry is more demanding than it is at the House of Representatives. So far, I have been able to successfully meet my obligations and duties in both sectors.

**Q: What are your upcoming plans?**

**A:** We have many ambitious plans. We have completed preparations for many projects at a total cost of over a billion Riyals. These projects include the link-up to the international cable, a new switchboard of 50,000 lines for Aden city, and various expansions and modernization projects in the southern and eastern governorates.

The Aden switchboard will be up for bids soon. There are many other projects, such as central switchboards of small cities and towns like Bahan, Lowdar, Moudiyah, Mukairas, Attaq, Nisab, Al-Howtah, Al-Habeelain and Toor Al-Bahah.

We also have the Wadi

Hadhramaut project which connects the string of major villages and towns in this great Wadi.

In the northern governorates, there is the Taiz- Hodeidah extension, which also feeds the towns en route, such as Al-Mansouriyah, Bait Al-Faqech, Al-Hussainiyah, Zabid, Al-Garrahi, Hais, etc. We are almost halfway through in this project.

There is also the extension northwards from Hodeidah running through Zaidiyah, Abs, and all the way to Haradh. Another extension also connects Bajil to Hodeidah.

We also have an expansion of the Saada and, Hareeb central switchboard.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I would like to say we have now in our hands the real war - the war against backwardness. It is this war we have to win.

**Note from Yemen Times Editor:**

We asked the minister about disconnecting of Yemen Times telephones since July 17th, 1994.

The Minister insisted that such decisions were not taken by his ministry, and that he regretted such behaviour at a time when "we should be behaving in accordance with the law and the decency required to create a new Yemen."

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Happenings at the Taj Sheba

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# Mounting & Angry Response to the Clampdown on Journalists

On July 17th, the Political Security Office (PSO) arrested 22 persons. Of these, 13 are journalists and the rest are politicians and university professors. The PSO detained them from one day to three days. There was no interrogation, no accusation of any crime, and not even request for information. The PSO was simply sending a message. Many sectors of society responded strongly to this action, as they saw it as a prelude to indiscriminate arrests among the intellectual and political circles. Therefore, the backlash was widespread, and at best, the PSO attempt backfired.

## 1. Response of the Political Circles:

Most of the political parties condemned the clampdown. Even members of the ruling coalition party were dismayed. The opposition bloc sent a strongly-worded letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and accused him of going against his promises and that of the system. Some politicians did try to find excuses. One excuse offered repeatedly by politicians of the ruling coalition is that the seminar, described as a political gathering, needed clearance from the government given the state of emergency. The fact is that the seminar was discussed beforehand with the Acting Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Vice Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, and Deputy Information Minister Mutahhar Taqi. Another excuse offered by politicians of the ruling group is that the seminar came much too early in the aftermath of the war. The fact is that the war ended on July 7th, and the seminar was held on the 14th, a week after hostilities have ended. Besides, one of the objectives of the seminar was to provide alternatives to the possibilities of building a new Yemen, which is the objective of all sides. Whatever the excuses offered timidly, one senior

foreign observer gave the most appropriate conclusion. "This means that no political activity will be tolerated except those originating with the rulers or their proteges. Any independent effort will be looked upon with suspicion," he said. According to opposition parties, plans for many seminars are underway in defiance to the wishes of the rulers.

## 2. Response from the Journalists:

The Syndicate of Yemeni Journalists issued a stiff statement condemning the arrest of the journalists, and described the action as a gross violation of freedom of the press, and freedom of speech. In the statement, the syndicate urged all journalists to rally around their colleagues in protecting the right of all a free exercise of their rights in doing their work. The response among journalists was indeed very encouraging, even among those who work for government or ruling party newspapers. Mr. Abul-Bari Taher, Chief of the Journalists' Syndicate, on one of four visits to the Yemen Times since the incident, described the clampdown as "unacceptable" and that "all of us have to join hands against such irresponsible behavior and to make its price high for the system." Even then, no local newspaper has reported the incident or even touched it. This by itself shows that the degree of government control over the media, which it describes as free. Even then, one chief editor wrote to the Yemen Times promising financial support if we were to sue the government. We keep correcting that the government has little control over the PSO. Of course, the Ministry of Information has not raised a finger on this matter. As journalists have accurately noted, "The Ministry's job is to harass journalists, not to help in the proper growth of the media in Yemen."

## 3. Response from the Diplomatic Community:

The response of the diplomatic community was gratifying. Many ambassadors, charge d'affaires, and other attaches have visited the office of the Yemen Times in Sanaa. Although these visits are personal visits by friends, they are a message of solidarity, and they offered a much-needed moral support and encouragement. By Saturday August 6th, a total of six ambassadors and fourteen other diplomats visited the Yemen Times. Most of them stated they had reported "These sad developments in Yemen's political developments" to their home countries. As one diplomat said, "We have reported the incident, we have also reported that you have been able to write about it and publish it." The diplomatic community also follows-up the continued harassment of the Yemen Times, especially the blocking of its fax and telephone lines. As one of them noted, "By blocking your (telephone) lines, they continue to remind everybody of their blunder in clamping down on journalists and intellectuals." One amusing development is the predicament of some embassies. In the past, some embassies have given the political system high marks and sent home glowing reports on the democracy and freedom of the press in Yemen. Now, they want to report differently, and they are at a loss how to go about it. "After three years of glowing reports, we now have to eat our words and report the true reality of Yemen," said one diplomat in an embassy of a country often described by Yemen Times as one of Yemen's major aid partners. Another departing diplomat stated, "Back home, whenever anyone is headed for Yemen, they tell him 'At least, in Yemen you will find a different kind of press - a free press.' Now I have to go back and say that is becoming less and less true."

ident's office has received some 6,000 letters and fax messages. These have come from over two dozen countries. Now, it is his headache, although his office claims it did not order the clampdown. If that were true, many people, including the Yemen Times, would like to see the presidential office make the persons responsible for the clampdown accountable. If the presidential office does not do that, then whatever disclaimers it offers will not distance it from the incident.

## LONELINESS

Has anyone tried a companionship with loneliness?  
Experienced the confrontation with one's own "plentyness"  
A diversity of thoughts and memories travel through imagination  
Sometimes inspiring, at other times sentimental resignation  
Mourning the loss of the innocent compromise between reality and fantasy  
Fading away with age  
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Leaving scars of monumental happenings,  
Itching when memory is revived.  
Is it looking back or is it looking inside  
The never ending deepness of your soul?  
Extracting from the well of experiences, emotions and notions: tools forming your personality  
Oh loneliness without you I would not be myself,  
Oh loneliness despite all this I cannot surrender to your exclusivity, since this means the end of the dynamic state of mind and soul  
It would mean the exhaustion of imagination, rationality and passion.  
It would leave me empty and worthless.

By: Barash Ahmed Barakat, Cairo.

## تهانينا الحارة

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## Being New

As people move in our little world, one constantly find him/herself in new settings. Being new can be an adventure. A new house to live in, a new room to re-arrange and make all your own. A new neighborhood means new friends. Being new can be a little scary, but it can also be a lot of fun. Everybody has a taste for some adventure, but take out the initial fear out of it. You will be surprised how easy it is easy to make new friends. Start by a simple "Hello" and push on to other subjects - the things you like to do, where you used to live, etc. You will fast find yourself in a full conversation - not with a stranger, but with a new friend.

You can also meet new friends by joining activities. Group spirit is an important asset in making friends, and in maintaining friendship. If somebody new moves in your neighborhood, you could help by making the transition smoother. Offering to help is the best approach in such circumstances. Giving information about the little things in life in the neighborhood, such as directions, is of enormous value.

But there is one vital element in making friends and in continuing to enjoy friendship. That is the element we were taught as little children - sharing. To share with friends creates bridges among individuals. One final note is essential. Whatever you do, relax and be yourself. Do not pretend you are something you are not. Sooner or later the mask will fall. So it is better to relax and be yourself.

By: Rezk Abdullah Esmaeel, YCIC, Taiz.

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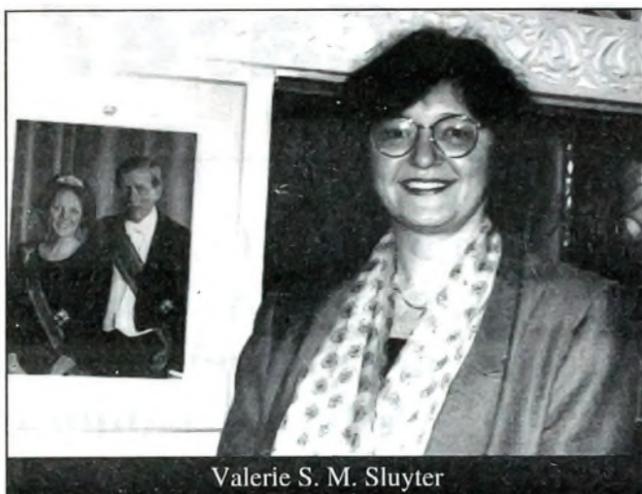
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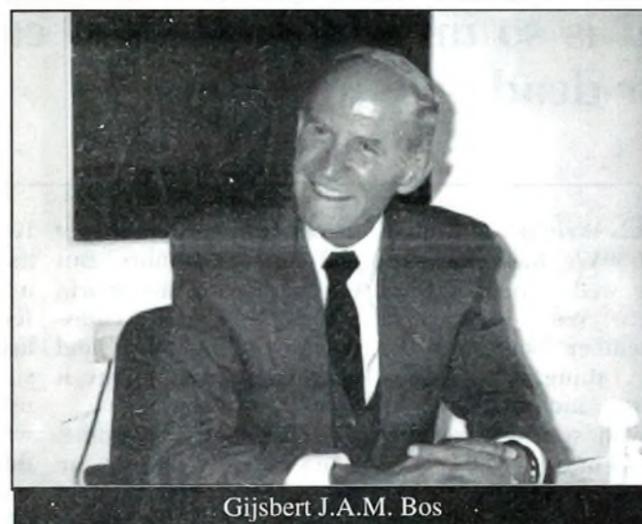
# 2 Firsts from the Dutch

Starting from August 2nd, Ms. Valerie S. M. Sluyter became in charge of the Embassy of the Royal Netherlands in Sanaa. In the diplomatic history of Yemen, this is a first. It is the first time that a woman is the head of a diplomatic mission. Prior to August 2nd, Ms. Sluyter was the second person at the embassy. But with the departure of Ambassador Gijsbert Bos, and given that his replacement will not come until October, Valerie is in charge during the interim period.



Valerie S. M. Sluyter

Before Mr. Bos left Sanaa, he asked the Yemen Times to send to him to Bogota a copy of the Yemen Times. So far that is normal. But Gijsbert asked for a subscription for the next four years, and paid for it. Now that is a first. Given this situation, I went to see him personally. "What is this I hear you want to subscribe for four years in advance. Do you think the Yemen Times will still be there four years from now?" I asked. His answer is interesting. "You read into my decision what you want. I have confidence in the durability of the paper, and in the freedom of the press of Yemen."



Gijsbert J.A.M. Bos

## Yemeni-Italian Relations in an Upswing

The first shipment of 18 tons of agricultural, electric and other equipment from Italy was received by the Yemeni authorities last week. "That was the first consignment, and it is worth US\$ 3 million," explained Mr. Giovanni Maria de Vita, second man in the Italian embassy in Sanaa. "This is an important indicator of the depth of commitment to friendship with Yemen because it comes at a time of serious budgetary crunch in Rome, he explained.

Yemeni-Italian friendship dates back to many decades. Yemen's first friendship agreement was actually signed with Italy in 1924, and since then, contact between the two peoples and countries have continued.

An Italian medical team have been serving in Yemen for many years and wherever they are needed. "Recently, they have relocated to Saadah and Al-Baidha," he said.

De Vita also had another bit of good news. "The archaeological team from Italy is returning in September to resume excavations and research on the various historic sites which are going to unlock the secrets of the ancient past of the country." This is going to be one of the first archaeological teams to return to the country.

Giovanni was also optimistic about the possibilities for com-



mercial and business relations. "Italy has had strong economic ties with Yemen, and we hope with the recent establishment of the Yemeni-Italian Friendship Association - which is managed by Yemeni businessmen - will help in strengthening economic cooperation," he said. Yemen already imports a lot of heavy equipment as well as numerous consumer goods, while Italy imports coffee, hides and other similar raw material.

Italian tourists represent an

important group in the total visitors of Yemen. Yemenis are increasingly becoming familiar with the Italian way of life, because of them, and because of the almost 100 Italian living in the country. In addition, Yemen's proximity to Eritrea and northern Somalia - both of which have captured some of Italy's flavor during a long association - have made Italian food and customs something familiar. "I hope we will see an Italian restaurant in Sanaa," he said.

### Diplomats on the Move

August is a month of holidays. Many ambassadors and diplomats in Sanaa are on the move. Dr. Kurt Messer, ambassador of Germany, Marcel Laugel, ambassador of France, and Allen Kepchar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy, have all gone on leave last week. UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Awni Al-Ani, leaves today while Italian Ambassador Pietro Cordone is preparing to

leave soon.

On the other hand, some diplomats who had taken leave during June-July have started returning. Arthur Hughes, US ambassador, is back, thus his temporary replacement, William Kirby, has gone back to Washington DC.

Mr. Eberhard Schanze, Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy is back in Sanaa.

## Press Release of the Secretariat of the Supreme Contact & Coordination Committee of the YSP

In the aftermath of the war and the devastating defeat of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), there is a lot of soul-searching among the YSP leaders. Today, it looks like there will be two leaderships - one inside Yemen, and the other outside. On August 2nd, the Secretariat of the Supreme Contact and Coordination Committee of the YSP, the leadership inside Yemen, issued a press release following lengthy and expanded meetings on all the senior members of the party in Yemen on 25th and 31st July, 1994.

The YSP leaders in Yemen have been under pressure by the government to announce their stand on the attempt led by certain YSP leaders to secede. Due to the confusion, and out of fear they would split the party, the YSP leaders who were not involved in the secession decision have avoided taking a clear-cut position. Finally, they have issued the following press release:

1. The YSP condemns the secession declaration as an unpatriotic and non-constitutional action, which is also contrary to the YSP objectives, national role and unitarian origins. The party confirms that none of its legal bodies and organs have been implicated in the secessionist decision, or in the reasons given to justify it. Therefore, such a decision represents personally those individuals involved in it without any connection to the party or

its organs. It also means that the secessionist decision represents a departure from the party line and withdrawal from the party itself.

2. Based on its national and historic responsibilities, the YSP condemns the tragic war which overwhelmed our nation and people for over two months, and led to bloodshed and destruction of our cities, villages and facilities. The party also denounces the looting and deliberate destruction of the government institutions, offices and private homes and property, especially in Aden and the other southern and eastern governorate towns and villages. Such actions have damaged the interests and potential of the people and country, and have harmed our national unity.

3. The YSP announces its refusal to the use of force as a means to resolve internal political differences, and stresses the need for peaceful negotiations. It thus calls on all political parties - without exception - to adhere to peaceful and democratic dialogue and to adopt it as a permanent course of action in handling all issues over which there are differences of opinion. Therefore, the YSP sees that the war has not resolved the internal crises and tension, and it feels that such problems cannot be resolved except through an effective political settlement and a comprehensive national reconciliation taking into account the

interests of all parties, their legitimate demands within a unified country, respect for equal rights of citizenship for all Yemenis, and guaranteeing of clean democratic practices. The YSP calls on all political forces to initiate immediately national dialogue regarding the issues facing the nation as outlined in the Document of Pledge and Accord, and addressing the consequences of the war on our nation, unity, and the national cohesion of the Yemeni people.

4. The YSP affirms its respect for constitutional legitimacy, its adherence to the results of the April 27th 1993 elections, and it renews its commitment to all the laws in force, and that it will regulate its political decisions based on the law governing political parties and organizations. We urge all political parties to announce their agreement and commitment to Code of Honor in Politics, which was signed earlier with the PGC.

Moreover, the YSP calls on all the influential political forces to take serious steps in abiding by the constitution and laws, and to avoid any actions which do not comply with them in word or spirit.

5. The YSP calls on the House of Representatives to exert more efforts in shouldering its responsibilities in normalizing political life and democracy, and to wiping the consequences of the war; in guiding the

country towards a state based on law and order, fighting corruption in all government organs, and in enacting the laws necessary for the implementation of the Document of Pledge and Accord.

6. The YSP refuses any efforts that call for the establishment of political opposition outside of the country or one financed by foreign resources, because such actions represent being pawned to external forces, and accepting them means compromising the national sovereignty of Yemen. At the same time, the YSP demands the parties which control decision-making in government and its institutions to take the decisions and steps that would not create an objective justification for the rise of an opposition outside the country. That means full compliance by the rulers with the democratic rights of all members of society, and not to oppress people who harbor opinion different from their. They should pursue strict policies in preserving human rights, guaranteeing equal citizenship rights for all, and expanding the participation base of the public in political and economic life. In addition, the rulers must create a real local government, guarantee clean democratic practices based on political pluralism, a peaceful transfer of authority, and by putting an end to exploitation of authority and public funds in partisan or sectarian

designs and objectives.

7. Irrespective of the war and the tragic results of it, the YSP sees that the Document of Pledge and Accord still represents the right and appropriate mechanism to resolve the country's problems and crises. It also represents the joint (shared) program to create a strong national unity and cohesion, to correct the direction of the state's political path, to create the necessary practical conditions to address the corruption that permeated all organs, and to overcome all the distortions, disequilibrium, and shortcomings of the nation.

8. The YSP calls on the government to fulfill its commitments to the people as embodied in the promises of the presidential council and government to the UN. It draws the government's attention to the steps taken against certain employees in the southern/eastern governments based on partisan considerations, which does not reflect compliance to the said promises or the comprehensive amnesty declared by the state. The YSP also calls for the cancellation of the procedures taken during the emergency state of affairs such as freezing of YSP assets, and closing down of its branches and newspapers.

The party urges the government to bring an end to the looting of the homes of YSP leaders, and demands a return of the assets taken away or destroyed in the war.

Regarding the internal party arrangements, the Secretariat of the Supreme Contact & Coordination Committee of the YSP has adopted the following measures:

1. To make arrangements for the return of party leaders abroad so that they will resume their roles in serving the causes of the people and the party's struggle for them.

2. To urge party officials and organs in the governorates and regions to continue their efforts in normalizing the political conditions.

3. To prepare for holding a session of the Central Committee in Sanaa, the capital, as soon as possible, and to look into the following:

a- Resumption of the normal activities of the leading party organs,

b- Re-structuring the party's leadership in light of the new conditions.

c- Adopting a new strategy (vision) for the party.

d- Looking into preparations for the next party congress.

Finally, the party calls on its members and friends to continue in their struggle, in joint effort with all patriotic forces, for consolidation of unity, to defend the general liberties, democracy, political pluralism, freedom of expression, and human rights in order to build a modern Yemen.

# Rwanda:

## Do We Really Care?

The aid worker in her crisp white T-shirt tried to stay on her feet as the wave of misery lapped around her. She lasted about a minute before she was swallowed up by a thousand hands reaching to grab the carton of dried biscuits balanced on her shoulder.

Sadly, it is too late for her - or the rest of us - to hold back the wave of refugees thrashing out of Rwanda in numbers that numb the soul. It was easier to feed the five thousand with a few loaves and fishes than it will be to nourish the flotsam of this war.

Rwandans have nothing, only the UNITED NATIONS - and it confessed that it can't help them.

The UN did make the right noises as another 500,000 scared and hungry people spilled across the borders to swell the two million already washed up from the most pitiless conflict of the past half century.

But, before we ask what we can do now, it is worth pointing out that the UN cannot complain that they did not foresee this situation. Aid agencies told them months ago this would happen, in such graphic language it made your brain squeal. The truth was that the UN didn't care. May it is because we didn't care.

Call it "compassion fatigue" or "donor drought", but the world had many hot spots to worry about and, with the recession in the industrial countries, charities figures they could be

Today in Goma, a miserable mining town tucked inside Rwanda's border with Zaire, there are already a million refugees and several hundred thousand more are on their way. They could not have picked a sadder site - a sweltering clump of volcanic rock where there are no trees for fuel or shelter, no clean water supplies, and where the land is so impenetrable you cannot even dig deep enough to bury your dead.

giving for more worthy causes at home.

Relief organizers such as John McGrath of Oxfam can sense out exhaustion. "I cannot remember the world being such a violent place and people must feel they cannot solve every problem. It is as if the light at the end of the tunnel has been switched off," he said.

Whenever there is a disaster, the world expects the UN or the EU, or some abbreviated organization to do the business of patching up.

But these organizations draw their energy from the conscience of the general public, especially in the West. And until these few days, Rwanda never registered.

In case one needs reminding, something like two million people have died since April in this tribal war. Even Hitler would have marvelled at the monstrous efficiency of these butchers. Those they didn't kill, ran - thus an entire nation left home. The other shameful

feature of this conflict was that we saw it coming, and, when it started, the blue berets were in Kigali. But after a dozen Belgian volunteers were slaughtered, the UN took fight and pulled out and left the Tutsis and Hutus to drown each other in blood.

We didn't like to admit we have failed our fellow man. So, after seeing images of Rwanda's dispossessed, we expect the skies to fill with Hercules aircraft to make it right. If only it was that easy.

Today in Goma, a miserable mining town tucked inside Rwanda's border with Zaire, there are already a million refugees and several hundred thousand more are on their way. They could not have picked a sadder site - a sweltering clump of volcanic rock where there are no trees for fuel or shelter, no clean water supplies, and where the land is so impenetrable you cannot even dig deep enough to bury your dead.

Anna Wright of Unicef said, "We have tried to bore wells, and come up dry. We have to remember food is not the only thing. We need shelter and medicine, or we will see massive outbreaks of cholera."

"We have been in Kurdistan in recent years. In Lebanon, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and elsewhere in Africa, but there has never been anything like this. This is a disaster of biblical proportion."

And Goma is not the only problem. A few miles south, there are another 400,000 refugees around Bukavu and probably a similar number at Uvira. The names mean nothing now, but in a couple of weeks, they will be as famous as Sarajevo and Mostar.

In Goma, Patrick Finouchane of the charity Concern said, "Forget all the grand talk of airlifts. It looks terrific for a few days and makes us feel good, but the numbers here need much more. We must have convoys of

trucks, which are cheaper and can bring more. But that supposes the world recognizes it has a catastrophe on its hands and does something about it now."

The challenge is awesome. The million or so in Goma need 500 tons of food every day. To supply that would require 40 Hercules flights.

Add on medical supplies, clothings, water and firewood, and you are talking about a landing every ten minutes. Stansted would struggle with that sort of traffic, let alone some pathetic asphalt strip at Goma - even supposing the UN was to throw out everything else on its desk and concentrate on Rwanda.

The Security Council meets, and government pledge money, even though we had the unedifying sight of the EU saying it first has to ask other Third World countries if they mind us diverting 100 million pound Sterling of aid to this emergency.

If we do get grudging approval, it will be at best a band-aid job. Ironically, Rwanda needs the sort of help Bob Geldof summoned a decade ago using that name, but when did you see a collection box being rattled for the children of Kigali?

Maybe it is because their eyes are not yet sticking out from bulbous heads swollen with famine. Be warned, they soon will, and never forget most of these little ones watched their mothers and fathers cut down by machete gangs like the ripening corn on their farms.

It is no good Western politicians muttering it would be better if they went home. African has confronted us with tragedies of such enormity we feel we cannot cope.

We have been asked to help and God knows we will, but will it be enough to sustain the colossal numbers swelling about the borders of Zaire, Burundi and -Uganda today?

By: Daniel Mc Grory.

### مبروك

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للشاب

((عبدالكريم محمد الزهرابي))

بمناسبة نجاحه بتفوق إلى الصف الثالث الإعدادي

وعقبال الدراسات العليا إن شاء الله

عن الجميع

شركة الأفاق للطباعة والنشر

### تهانينا الحارة

تتقدم مدرسة خولة بنت الأزور - بإدارتها ومدرساتها وموظفاتها - بأجمل التهاني وأعطر التبريكات للأخت

(( آسيا مطهر ))

بمناسبة زفافها الميمون وأدام الله السرور

عن المهنئات

عزيزه محمد السقايف

### THANK YOU NOTE

Al-Thawra Modern General Hospital would like to express its thanks to the Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) for the assistance in financing the maintenance contract and spare parts for the I.C.U. Department in the Hospital for two (2) years (1994-96). The said contract was signed with Al-Razi Trading and Agencies and Yemen Hunt Oil Company.

For this, Al-Thawra Hospital, Sanaa, take pleasure in thanking Yemen Hunt Oil Company for the assistance and help rendered.

# A Female Entrepreneur Offers You Delicious Meals

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

As the city of Sanaa grows into a cosmopolitan urban center with over a million inhabitants, one of the visible growth areas is cuisines from around the world. Foreigners have brought with them their taste and cooking style, but more importantly, it is returning Yemeni immigrants who are bringing with them the knowledge and culture of the peoples who have hosted them. One such example is Fatima, who was born and raised in Vietnam. Her father is a Yemeni, and mother a Vietnamese. She returned to Yemen in 1976.

Fatima is a hard-working entrepreneur. She has combined the Vietnamese delicacy of cooking and raised and refined it to satisfy international taste. Her specialty are the springrolls - as she boastfully claims, "The best in the world."

She began a wide-scale sale to the general public through supermarkets in Haddah, Thamran, Citiend, Al-Ferdows, etc. In addition, some restaurants have started placing requests for the springrolls. "Springrolls are easy to handle in parties, picnics, and in just ordinary family meals. They are inexpensive, and yet highly nutritious and healthy. You know, Asian dishes have a high content of vegetables, and you put that in a Western style serving, you have more or less combined east and west in a good meal," Fatima explains.



The Cook, Fatima

Many companies have already come in contact with this aspiring entrepreneur. "I have had dealings with several oil companies, embassies, and other companies. They are happy, and I am grateful for the business," she added.

But Fatima's dishes are not just limited to the springrolls. "I can offer many dishes such as fried fish, beef suer, egg noodle, fried rice, mung bean, soup, fruits, salads, etc. I can also provide several varieties of sweets and desserts," Fatima explained.

So, the service is offered on a take-away basis. You place your order either by phone (Call 967-1-238687), or go to House No. 3, Apartment 12, Street 4, the

Housing Complex near the Sheraton or American Embassy). The food is either delivered to you or you go and pick it up, depending on the arrangement agreed upon.

Fatima's business is a family affair. Her teacher and helper is her mother. Her two daughters are there to assist with customers. She has a couple of friends who are cooperating on a part-time basis.

"I am now considering expanding the business. I am thinking of establishing a small fast-food business in the center of the city. "Yemenis are capable of changing, and generally they are willing to try new things. That is why I think the Asia dishes have a good chance of success," she said.



Fatima is also interested in capital, and I have started contact starting a full-fledged restaurant with the Industrial Bank of Yemen, the Small Project Unit in order to secure partial financing," she disclosed. "But that requires enormous

## تعازينا الحارة

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التعازي  
للأخ الأستاذ مطهر حسين مطهر

بوفابوفاة نجله أسكنه الله فسيح جناته  
وألمه أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون  
الأسيفون  
د/عبدالعزیز السقاف  
الأستاذ إبراهيم حبيب  
الأستاذ إسماعيل علي الغابري

## Balancing the Urban-Rural Continuum

Badr Eldin H. M. Shaholi,  
Architect & Housing Planner

In all planning activities, strategies that are devised, and programs formulated in a logical flow based on sound theoretical concepts. If they are not, they tend to be ad hoc and reflect individual bias or preference. Continuity of such programs will depend on personal enthusiasm (read, interests) of bureaucrats. This is not a stable way to do work.

One area in which such problems visibly arise is the rural-urban flow. Here the issues are to be conceived in a clear context. Otherwise many complications and distortions will arise, especially in regional/area growth. A model that illustrates how the spatial incidence of development takes place through structural changes in economic and social actions where the rural-urban interaction, multiplier and linkage effects, come into play. Appropriate technology also plays a significant role. All such changes taking place through time, ultimately result in the establishment of complementary activities finally leading to spatial integration in the area.

Here, the articulation of the economics of space is affected by a complex network of changes and interaction processes, taking place through the different stages of a development continuum. In such a model the major factors contributing to regional development have to be as follows:-

- A) Exogenous factor:  
(i) National policies.  
(ii) Inter regional interaction.  
B) Endogenous factor:  
(i) Structural changes (in economy and society).  
(ii) Area differentiation through rural-urban interaction.

In micro-level planning situation, exogenous factors as "given" and



said to have achieved some kind of equilibrium with the urban center. An equilibrium becomes easy to establish in a set of compatible and complementary relations in terms of trade, technology, social values, and populational relations. When the market (read, urban center), however, outstrips the rural territorial basis and overwhelms it, then a distortion and disequilibrium comes in.

As the city market is transformed into an industrial town, thriving on economies of scale, the rural-urban gap widens and so does the disequilibrium.

Such situations require appropriate policy interventions, leading to changes in production methods in farming, storage, packaging, etc.. The changes may include the consumption patterns and even the attitudes and aspirations of the rural residents. With increased demand for technical, biological, and economic 'know-how', a new kind of relationship is forged with the urban center. The policy interventions would then have positive results leading to re-establishment of equilibrium in rural-urban relations.

The price of such intervention, if mis-applied, could be enormous causing increasing disequilibrium as well as increasing economic, technological and other gaps that are characteristic of rural areas, especially those around the towns in most of developing countries. The problem then essentially is how to plan for spatial growth in a balanced way.

The organizational structure of the bureaucracy, the intervention policy as well as the stage of development all come into play to make the urban center as a catalyst for rural development. Thus the city - within the over-all development strategy - must attain its optimal role to achieve the maximum potential of the country.

## ألف مبروك

يتقدم كافة الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات

للأستاذ فاروق محمد علي لقمان وأسرته والأستاذ محمد محمود لقمان وأسرته

بمناسبة عقد قران الشاب

(( عبدالله فاروق لقمان )) على الأنسة (( سامية محمد لقمان ))

وبالرفاء والبنين

المهنون:

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف وأسرته ، علوان سعيد الشيباني وأسرته

عمر محمد عمر يعقوب وأسرته ، أنور غفوري وأسرته

عبدالله عوض وأسرته ، توفيق حمود وأسرته

عديروس حمود وأسرته ، عائلة المرحوم جعفر سعيد

وأخوانه ظافر وجمال وجلال ويسام وسامي وماهر وعبادي

## تهانينا الحارة

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء والجيران بأعطر التهاني والتبريكات

للأخ الشاب (( محمد عبدالله حزام ))

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون

وبالرفاء والبنين ، وأدام الله السرور

المهنون:

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف وأسرته ، والعقيد احمد السقاف وأسرته ، وبقيه آل السقاف

كما يتقدم لكم بالتهاني والدعم الحاج عبدالله حزام والأهل في بني مطر

وكافة الأهل والجيران في صنعاء القديمة

## A Call to Learn from the American Experience

By: Charles P. Karren,  
Representative Manager,  
ENRON-Yemen.

Yemen is not the first democracy to go through a civil war. That distinction belongs to the United States of America. Although the American civil war took place some 133 years ago, it offers some remarkable similarities to the events of Yemen during the past few months.

One similarity is that some foreign powers welcomed a divided US because they saw in it an advantage to themselves.

But the most obvious similarity is that the southern region of America, led by rebellious, unpatriotic southern leaders who issued belligerent demands and ultimatums, broke away from the union and formed their own country - the Confederate States of America. This country became known as the "South". The remaining states which wanted unity became known as the "North". The American Civil War which was fought during 1861-1865 was not only the North versus the South, but brother against brother, and it became the bloodiest civil war in the history of mankind.

The war was a very bitter experience for many Americans and many lives were lost. In the Battle of Antiedum for example, more Americans lost their lives (30,000) on that day than in any day before or since. And in the southern state of Georgia, the northern general, William T. Sherman waged a "Scorched Earth" policy of war, meaning that he burned everything in his path - not only military bases - but every civilian home, business and farm he or his troops found. In the end, after four years of war, more than one million American men, women and children died, making the civil war the greatest tragedy in the history of the United States. With such a divisive war, with so many Americans dead, so many



livelihoods destroyed, and with the economy of most of the country in ruins, how did the United States rebuild itself and set the foundation to become a great industrial power, win two world wars, put a man on the moon and today, become the world's only superpower? The origins can be traced to a man who was born in a log cabin, of poor parents, who educated himself to become a lawyer, and who today is considered the greatest of the forty-two American Presidents from George Washington, the founder of the nation to Bill Clinton. This man is Abraham Lincoln, and the reason he is great is not the most obvious reason. If you asked people today why is the greatest president they will tell you: he held to his principles, demanded equality for all people and, most importantly, he made sure that the United States remained united, even if it took (and it did) a civil war to do it. Granted these are all reasons that contributed to his greatness, but the real reason that Abraham Lincoln was a great president is that he laid the foundation for reconciliation with the former enemies of the North. With reconciliation, the personal hatred, the need for retribution, the divisions of the people of the North and the South were soon to be buried and the American people were able to move forward and



US President Abraham Lincoln Holds a Model Key to Reconciliation

rebuild their country.

The basis of Lincoln's plan was that people of the south, including some prominent southerners (the President of the former South was jailed and the other top leaders were never allowed to vote again), were required to swear allegiance to the Constitution of the United States in order that they may gain the rights that are granted to them in that document, including the right to vote and the right of Free Speech.

Once a person swore allegiance, he or she was then granted amnesty. Once enough people had done this in each state (eleven southern states had seceded), they would be allowed to form their own local and state governments and also allowed to send representatives to the national government in Washington. After all, people in the north were allowed to have their own local and state governments. These local governments and representatives to Washington sometimes included former southern leaders (again, not the very top leadership). To many people in the north, this

was unacceptable. They had fought a bloody war in which many of their sons had died, only to see southerners and even prominent southern politicians, come to Washington to take their seats in the Congress of the United States. Many northern politicians pressed, first, Lincoln and then his successor, Johnson, to punish the southern states even more. But Lincoln in a speech he gave on April 11, 1865, (a few days before he was assassinated) stated that only reconciliation and bringing the southerners back into the union could bring this country together and make it prosperous again:

"Some twelve thousand voters of the former southern state of Louisiana have sworn their allegiance to the Constitution and to the Union. These people are fully committed to the union and they ask for this nation's assistance to make good on their committal. Now, if we reject and spurn them, we in effect would be saying to them 'You are worthless, or worse - we will neither help



Will Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Grab the Model Key?

you, nor be helped by you.' We must recognize the new government of Louisiana. We must encourage the hearts of the twelve thousand to argue for it, fight for it, feed it, and grow and to ripen it to complete success. After all, the people and the government of Louisiana is to the government of the United States, what an egg is to a fowl. We shall sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg, than by smashing it."

It would have been very easy for Lincoln, as president, to let members of his government and other political parties of the north impose harsh penalties on the people of the south, to deprive them of any government or any representation to the national government in Washington, and to just keep them in economic ruins. After all, did not these southern secessionist leaders and the people of the south deserve it? They started the war that killed over a million Americans.

However, Abraham Lincoln did not see it that way. He had the foresight and wisdom to under-

stand that taking revenge and retribution would never work and that only by helping the people of the south would make the United States not only a unified country, but one that would never go to war with itself again.

As the speech above proves, Lincoln saw it as his job as president to lead the nation and all of its citizens, not just the ones who were with him in the North during the war. This is why he chose the path of reconciliation and it is why Yemen should choose this path as well. Reconciliation in the United States allowed the American people, from both the north and south, to put aside their political differences and to work together on the common values that all Americans share such as God, family and friendship.

It is this unity of purpose that allowed the American people to get back to work and to make their nation a prosperous one. If Yemen can follow the American example of reconciliation after its civil war, there is no reason why, with its people and resources, it too can't become an even greater nation.

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