



# YEMEN TIMES



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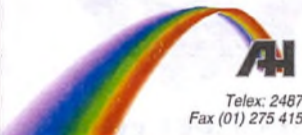
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## Trying to Prevent a Fragmentation of the Party

# The YSP Comes to Its Senses?

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times.

A diplomat called him a fighter. Whatever else he may be, Fadhle Mohsen Abdullah is definitely a survivor. He has been in politics for some 36 years - "Two-thirds of my life," as he says - and he has been minister for almost a quarter of century.

So is time to throw-in the towel? Not quite.

"I do not want to retire from public life right now. I feel I have a job to do," he said.

That job is to try to prevent the fragmentation of the Yemeni Socialist Party. "What has happened is beyond our ability to comprehend. It is shocking. It is frightening. It is sad," he told the Yemen Times in a four-hour interview. (Please read details on page three.)

So there will be a meeting of the Central Committee. Next week, several senior party members will return to Sanaa, including key figures like Mohammed Saeed Abdullah, Jarallah Omer, Ahmed Al-

Salami, Mohammed Al-Thawr, etc. - all politbureau members. Fadhle Mohsen played a key role in all of it. "I have given President Ali Abdullah some telephone numbers and asked him to call some of the key persons in order to re-assure them. I have told some others the president would be receptive to a telephone call from them," he said.

In addition, the YSP has created four work groups to prepare for the Central Committee meeting scheduled for early September (most probably 2nd). Work is underway to bring together the necessary quorum in order to breathe new life into our party. Everybody is looking forward to a change in YSP leadership. "The old leadership is gone. The political career of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh is over. He has no more place among us. And anybody who wants to follow him will also lose his/her place in the party," he emphasized. Yes, a new leadership is necessary.

Fadhle mentioned Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman and Jarallah

Omar as appropriate candidates to serve as Secretary-General of the YSP. "I will happily support either man," he said.

What if the victorious forces (PGC and Islah) push for a rough deal with the YSP. "I think it is in the interest of Yemen and all patriotic parties to help us rehabilitate the re-build the (YSP) party. If they push us too hard, then we will go underground, and nobody will have a peace of mind. It is in everybody's best interest to allow the YSP breathing room in order to shape up."

During the recent war, Fadhle lost his favorite son - Imad, 27. He lost a son-in-law. He lost a first cousin. And another cousin languishes in the intensive care unit of one of the hospitals abroad. He himself suffered much physical and psychological trauma.

The next round of meeting of the Central Committee of the YSP is going to be a watershed in the history of the party. Many party leaders are working hard to make sure a quorum will be there for the meeting. That is why Fadhle is working hard to bring in all those outside of the country. "Those remaining out of the country will not stand a chance in any leading position in the party," he said. That keeps out Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed from the deal.

Terrribly irritated at rumors circulated against his person, Fadhle strongly denied that he was opportunistic. "I have my beliefs and I stand by them. But I am not dogmatic. I have many points I share with different politicians even beyond my party. In fact, sometimes I fail to reach understanding with members of my own party. But that is about it," he added.

He finally had a word of advice to the president: "To think long-term and to show the virtues of forgiveness and tolerance."



## President Saleh: "No more leniency."

In an important address to the top brass of the armed forces, President Ali Abdullah Saleh urged all members of the military to either turn in their membership in political parties or to retire/resign from the army. "Members of the armed forces should pledge allegiance to the whole nation, not just to any segment or political party within it," he said. In response to that order, many commanders have turned in their party affiliation identity cards. The president also spoke strongly regarding integrating the army so that it represents the whole nation, rather than any one or group of tribes or region/s. "Our armed forces should reflect all segments of society."

The president who was speaking to the commanders of the army, navy, air force, and senior officers of the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday, August 16th, insisted on the need to re-structure and reform the armed forces. "We should respect orders and implement them. There is no room for buddying and we are all governed by a strict military discipline, which must be respected by all," he said.

The president also stressed that sabotage actions, kidnapping, hijacking and other forms of lawlessness will no longer be tolerated. "We will deal with such actions mercilessly and decisively," he said.

## Gov't Formation Hits Snag

Preparations for the formation of a new government hit a snag over the weekend as competing powers worked to secure the maximum for their parties. The new government will be a coalition between the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah).

The leaders of the PGC and Islah are working overtime to finalize the arrangements for the new government, and it is expected to be announced later today or tomorrow.

## A Private Indian Firm Sends Assistance to Yemen

Cipla of Bombay sent this week 110 cartons of antibiotics to the Ministry of Health. The medicine, valued at US\$ 20,000 was handed over by the Indian Ambassador in Sanaa, a representative of the company, and the local agent, Aljabal Drugs & Medical Appliances.

Cipla is a famous international producer of drugs.

## The Phony Phone Excuse

Since July 17th, 1993, the phone numbers of the Yemen Times are nonoperational. The Ministry of Communications says it is not responsible for the situation, and that the Political Security Office (PSO) is the culprit.

We have knocked on many doors to inform them that what the PSO is doing is illegal and immoral. The phones are still dead.

Last week, we have sent letters to the president of the republic and the speaker of parliament. The president's office has leaked word that the phones may return soon. We have not heard from the speaker.

Our lawyers, Khateeb and Allaw, say that they have linked up with the relevant judge and that due process of law against the Ministry of Communications is underway. We are waiting for details in this regard.

Meanwhile, may we ask if this behavior helps freedom of the press. We would like to ask if this behavior gives any guarantees to private investors and entrepreneurs. We would like to ask if this behavior shows any respect to private property on the part of the authorities.

Those who are blocking the Yemen Times phones should know that the Yemen Times will continue with its mission and will not be discouraged by the inconveniences. The paper continues to come out regularly and serve its readers.

At the end, blocking the Yemen Times telephones casts a lot of doubts on the credibility of the system. Does this system respect the laws of the land or not? Do those in charge respect the promises and statements they have been making or not? We await their answers!

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Drinking Water Our Most Precious Resource

The Republic of Yemen is one of the countries which suffer from a severe shortage of drinking water, coupled with a dramatic depletion of underground reservoirs. As a semi-arid country, Yemen's most precious commodity and resource has quickly become potable water. Unfortunately, except for a few specialists and people directly involved with this problem, the general public as well as officialdom are oblivious to the issue. In fact, both the general public and the government are doing all they can to make the situation much worse.

Let me give some examples:

#### 1. Pattern of Consumption:

The consumption pattern has changed dramatically over the last thirty years. In the past, consumers used to fetch water in small quantities. Thus, the style and quantity of consumption was closely aware of this scarcity. Today, as tap water runs to a rising number of consumers, the awareness of the scarcity and precious nature of water is no longer the controlling factor in its use.

#### 2. Misuse at Home by the Rich:

Rich people are more notorious in the misuse of water at home. This is partly because they have more outlets to use water. One often sees rich folks waste a lot of water washing their cars. Another symptom is the misuse in watering the garden around the villa. A hose would be thrown for hours with the water flowing out.

#### 3. Inappropriate Technology:

Yemenis have gradually moved to imitate the West in the way it handles water. For example, many urban families today use toilets which are appropriate to societies which enjoy abundant water supplies. For example, the flush system in toilets is a major waste. Another example is the private swimming pools which are becoming increasingly a visible phenomenon in our cities, especially in the capital city, Sanaa. A third example is the private fountains inside the villas of the rich urbanites. All these are inappropriate for Yemen.

#### 4. Water for Agriculture:

The availability of money has enabled many farmers to freely drill for water. Most of these farmers grow qat, some grow fruits and cash crops. The plethora of wells being drilled has made the level of underground water tables fall in a frightening way. The government has been unable to control this abuse. In some regions, one can see artisan wells which are not even 300 meters apart.

#### 5. Nobody In Charge:

In our present system, many government authorities share responsibility for this important resource to the extent that nobody feels responsible. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Water and Electricity, the General Directorate for Water, the Cooperatives, the Local Councils, etc., are all responsible for this sector. The Supreme Water Council has witnessed a still-birth and has not done anything.

#### 6. Lack of Investments to Harness Water:

There is a glaring shortage of investments - by the government and general public - in projects to harness rain/flood water and in order to replenish the underground reservoirs. The government should have engaged in the construction of small dams and cisterns. Local councils, cooperatives and villages should have done the same.

Those are some of the reasons for the problem of drinking water scarcity in Yemen. I know some readers may think it is stupid to raise this issue at a time when the skies are raining cats and dogs. But that is the point. The apparent abundance is not allowing a real and serious tackling of this problem. Can we overcome this false impression?

*The Publisher*  
S.A. Faris

#### Stronger Yemeni-Libyan Ties & Cooperation

President Ali Abdullah Saleh stated that Yemen shall never forget the strong Libyan support for Yemeni unity and its condemnation of the secessionist effort.

In a statement he gave following his meeting with the visiting Libyan dignitary, Mustafa Kharroubi, Member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council and Inspector-General of the Armed Forces, the President confirmed that both sides are pushing for stronger ties and deeper cooperation.

The Libyan official handed over an invitation from the Libyan leader to President Saleh to participate in Libya's celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Al-Fatih Revolution, which brought Colonel Muammar Qaddafi to power. That is going to be on the 1st of September.

Mr. Kharroubi also re-affirmed his country's firm stand by unified Yemen, and pointed to the tremendous growth in the mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation between the two regimes and peoples.

The Libyan official left Sanaa on Wednesday, August 17th, following a 2-day official visit, and was seen off by Abdul-Qader Bajammal, Vice Prime Minister.

#### YSP Central Committee Meeting Scheduled for Early September

The next round of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party's meeting is scheduled to start on Friday the 2nd of September in Sanaa.

According to Yemen Times sources, the Central Committee will discuss a change in party leadership, charting the course for the party's interaction in the future, and preparing for the party general congress.

The sources also informed the Yemen Times that the intensive soul-searching that has taken place over the last few weeks within the party, has led to many important decisions. Among these are the decision not to participate in the next government and to remain within the opposition, to streamline internal party politics by facing head-on the issues and to confront the differences and take a clear course.

The sources also indicated that the meeting may represent a watershed in bringing to the open the schism and divisions that still remain under the surface. The YSP is expected to disintegrate into three different groups each claiming to represent the party. The group favored by the Yemeni regime is expected to gain the upper hand within Yemen.

#### Elections for Executive Board of Journalists

Preparations are underway to hold a new round of elections for the Executive Board of the Journalists Guild. The term of the current board expired three weeks ago.

The elections are scheduled for early October. Many journalists worry about government meddling in the elections.

#### Colonel Labouzah as Deputy Chief of Staff

A Republican decree was issued on August 7th appointing Colonel Mohammed Rajih Labouzah as Deputy Chief of Staff of the armed forces.

Colonel Labouzah is among the commanders of the forces that had fled to the then YAR following the January 1986 incidents in the former PDRY.

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## Fadhle Mohsen Abdullah:

# "Come what may, we shall face it standing tall and in Yemen."

The greatest confusion in Yemeni politics today involves the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). The sudden annihilation of one of Yemen's strongest party has left many chips out of place. The more far-sighted among the party leaders are trying to achieve a structural transformation to avoid a complete death.

But the overlap in interest among the YSP party leaders, and efforts of other parties in Yemen - especially the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) - to employ the current YSP confusion to their benefit have increased the confusion. Moreover, the involvement of foreign powers, especially within the region, have added to the manipulations and intrigues.

As the struggle within the party and in its relations with other forces in the Yemeni political scene continues, some YSP leaders are trying to survive one more tribulation of this ever troubled party. One such survivor is Fadhle Mohsen Abdullah, member of the Political Bureau and technically the Minister of Fisheries. Fadhle Mohsen also has a strong tribal backing in Yaffa'a, a tribe which numbers almost 500,000 and which extends from the borders of Mareb all the way close to the shores of the Arabian Sea. The Yaffa'a people also represent some 15-20% of the citizens of Aden, and they have done well in trade. Fadhle Mohsen is one of the top and key leaders of Yaffa'a.

Al-Izzy Asselwi of Yemen Times met him and filed the following interview:

**Q: You have a long history of struggle against the colonial power as well as for the development of Yemen. Do you think your political career is coming to an end in a sad way?**

**A:** Of course, I am terribly saddened by the recent events (the war). I am not sad for my own sake, but for the sake of Yemen and the party.

Until even a few days before the war, say the 27th of April in my meeting with Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani and Abdul-Wahab Al-Aanisi, I never thought we would go to war. I always thought Yemeni wisdom will prevail. It shows I was not informed on the secret preparations for a showdown by both sides.

The war has a devastating effect on our people. I am not talking about the physical damage to property and lives, I am talking about the psychological agony. Let me repeat, I am not really troubled about my own fate, that is not a problem, but I am troubled about the fate of our country.

**Q: Is it time for you to retire from politics?**

**A:** I hereby declare my desire to withdraw from politics. I hope that people will not consider this as running away when the chips are down. I have always shouldered my responsibility fully, and I am not shying away now. But, I am willing to play any role my party assigns to me,

whatever it is. I think I have some skills and knowledge which could be useful for the country and party.

**Q: What exactly?**

**A:** Of course, I am no university graduate, though I did do superior military studies in the former USSR. But I have acquired through the years many skills and abilities in dealing with people and in overcoming difficulties.

At this moment, I am concentrating on contributing to the efforts of bringing together a quorum for the September meeting of the Central Committee. For example, I was instrumental in convincing many of the politbureau and central committee members to return to Yemen. Several will return next week and they will be here for the meeting. I have arranged telephone conversations between them and the president and others, and carried messages.

**Q: They say you have fallen back on your tribal affiliation in Yaffa'a?**

**A:** Yes, I have, and what is wrong with that?

**Q: Many people accuse you of working with all sides as the waves turn. They say you change your colors frequently. How do you respond to that?**

**A:** I think that is unfair and unjustified. I think it partly has to do with my past jobs. I was Minister of Agriculture which



brought me in close contact with the farmers and peasants. I was Minister of Public Works which brought me in close contact with the workers and contractors. I was Minister of Fisheries which brought me in close contact with the fishermen.

I have friends in all segments of society and I have visited all governorates of the republic. That also adds to the confusion. In addition, I base my decisions on the common denominators I share with others. It is not necessary to be 100% with someone or a 100% against someone. In other words, I could share your views on some aspects of a problem. So, people think that I change sides, which is not true.

**Q: What is the fate of the YSP today?**

**A:** I have said this before and I repeat it here. The YSP is here to stay. Its place in Yemeni politics cannot be denied. Come what may, we as YSP leaders shall face it standing tall and here in Yemen.

Of course, there is no denying that the recent events will leave a strong mark on it.

**Q: Do you think the party will be fragmented?**

**A:** I don't think there is any reason for its fragmentation. Such a development will be suicidal, and only the weak commit suicide.

I don't think it is in the interest of the party, the patriotic and nationalist forces and parties, and Yemen for the YSP to be fragmented.

**Q: What is the fate of the**

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secede and the subsequent decisions.

I would like to use this occasion to announce that the decision to secede or to form the government were not made by the politbureau of the YSP. It was a decision concocted by a few individuals who left us out.

**Q: What about the non-YSP southern leaders?**

**A:** I don't care about them, and I have nothing to do with them.

**Q: What happened in Damascus? They say the meeting was not successful.**

**A:** The meeting in Damascus was attended physically by eleven politbureau members, and six were represented by deputation. Thus a total of 17 persons were legally present out of the 24 members of the politbureau of the party.

The communique released following the meeting was clear and it shows that there was agreement on many things, including the new direction of the party and how to deal with the aftermath of the war.

Let me point here that one major point of agreement was that all party members must return to Yemen to resume their political life within the party and country.

**Q: Do you think the YSP will move to the opposition?**

**A:** I think that is the direction of events.

**Q: What happens if the YSP returnees are given a bad deal by Sanaa?**

**A:** I think that would be short-sighted and it would simply push the party to underground activities. It would be an unwise attitude to take, and it would not serve the interests of the rulers, the country or anybody.

**Q: There are already signs of limitations on freedom of the press, human rights and other liberties. What do you make of it?**

**A:** I have sadly noted these developments. Let us hope that they were a temporary measure associated with the exceptional circumstances that followed the war. Let us hope that such practices will lose their justifications with the formation of the new government.

There are those who can endure these constraints and limitations, but there are also those who cannot, and who simply join the devil to fight against these excesses.

**Q: What your advice to President Saleh?**

**A:** I advise him to choose the men of the next stage carefully. I would especially urge him to choose the right people to take charge of the southern and eastern governorates. The new officials will either deepen the wounds of the war, or they will help them heal.

I urge him to rise up above the need for vengeance and to show the virtues of mercy and reconciliation. He should remember life and politics have their ups and downs.

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## The Rise and Gradual Fall of the Human Rights Record in Yemen

### Recent History

Yemen's human rights record has been appalling, especially before the 1962 Revolution when the Imam used to rule the country. The real change in the attitude towards human rights evolved during the 1970s and 1980s. But even then, the record was poor. The regimes exercised full power, and freedom of speech, basic liberties, and human rights in general were respected.

Political prisoners were a permanent aspect of the regimes of Yemen until the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on May 22nd, 1990. That date was a new beginning for human rights in Yemen. Political parties, voluntary associations and societies, unions, charities, newspapers were all born in large numbers. No political arrests were recorded since.

However, there were a few assassination attempts against politicians. They targeted people from different parties, although the YSP members suffered most.

### New Discoveries

Then war broke out, and eyewitnesses discovered political prisoners who had languished in the prisons of Aden, Mukallah and Al-Mahara. As these cities were freed from the clutches of the YSP, underground detention rooms and torture chambers were uncovered.

shocked to find four skeletons, and the room had a nasty smell. The history of these four skeletons goes back to the events of January 13th, 1986. The four men were captives who were put in that building, firmly locked inside one of the rooms, and then forgotten. The men had starved to death.

### Abuse of the Press

After the government won the war against the separatists, the regime started applying pressure on the press. The newspapers which do not toe the regime's line started facing "difficulties". Many newspapers have closed down, and the independence of editors and the integrity of journalists is forcibly being compromised.

This conduct is against the Yemeni constitution, which the people of Yemen voted for. Are

telephone and fax lines of the Yemen Times have been disconnected over a month ago.

### Reconciliation

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has spoken at length about the need for reconciliation. This attitude has gained him the respect and loyalty of the people of Yemen. I am certain the president means what he says. Therefore, I hope that all politicians and soldiers who were on the wrong side during the war will be freed and allowed to return to normal life on the basis of the comprehensive amnesty declared by the Presidential Council.

As part of the reconciliation process, I hope that the president will make sure that none of his overzealous men will indulge in any excesses and irregularities. I hope the president will not allow a clamp-down on freedom of speech, which is such a critical part of human rights and basic liberties.

Finally, I want to share with the president and the Yemen Times readers an important quote from Vitor Hugo, that outstanding

French philosopher and writer:

"Those who say 'No' and are with you are better than those who say 'Yes' and they are not."

By:  
**Mohammed Al-Malahy,**  
Human Rights Activist,  
Sanaa.

الذين يقولون " لا " وهم معك ،  
خير ممن يقولون " نعم " وهم ضدك

فيكتور هيوجو

we in Yemen starting to stray In one free incident, the soldiers marching across the desert discovered an isolated building. The soldiers force-opened the iron door. They were away from the right path?

Why are decent newspapers like the Yemen Times picked on? The glaring abuse of power is evident from the fact that the

## Teachers Are the Cornerstone of the Educational Process

By Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi,  
Yemen Times

The most critical aspect of the whole educational issue is probably the quality of teachers. Of course, improvement in the education sector requires many important inputs such as investments in schools, furniture, textbooks, as well as continued up-dating of the curricula. Still, the input of the 80,000 or so teachers of the educational system is the most decisive factor in how much our children will learn.

Teachers are among the lowest paid government bureaucrats, especially in light of the fact that they cannot make an extra buck here and there by offering "favors" and "services" as can the ordinary clerks in the government bureaucracy. That is why teaching has become the residual employer of those who are unable to pursue other careers. This resulted in lower efficiency and low-quality output.

It is in this context that the work of Dr. Majeed Ali Ghanim, Deputy Minister of Education for Training and Qualifying (of teachers), takes on an additional importance. Dr. Ghanim is an old hand in this field.

"The main pressing factor is the growing volume of enrollments. As Yemeni families realize the importance of education in the future of their children, they send them to school. Of the total 6 million or so who are in the school-age group, only half go to school at the moment. Even then, the system is unable to cope with this volume," he said.

In terms of evaluating the needs of this sector, he outlined the following seven steps in order to clarify the needs:

a) To define and specify clearly the objectives of each educational stage. Such objectives should also be tied to the different societal needs, specifically the labor market.

b) Re-aligning the structure of the Ministry of Education so as to create two broad categories of functions- one related to technical, and the other related to administrative and financial aspects. Relations with the governorates have also to be more clearly defined, preferably using the re-structuring to transfer and delegate authority to the regions.

c) To chart out a long-term strategy based on

the realities of our development stage and in harmony with the overall values and aspirations of society.

d) To block the politicization of the education sector. Partisan politics should be prohibited in the affairs of the education sector.

e) To involve NGOs, parents' associations, voluntary and charity organizations in the management of the schools and their activities. This way some needs will be covered by the community, as the needs required from the state are more clearly defined.

f) To investigate the contents of the curricula, the kind of teaching aids available, and the methodology, and to subsequently define the needs to improve them.

g) To study the conditions of the employees, especially the teachers, and to work out the needed steps to improve their efficiency.

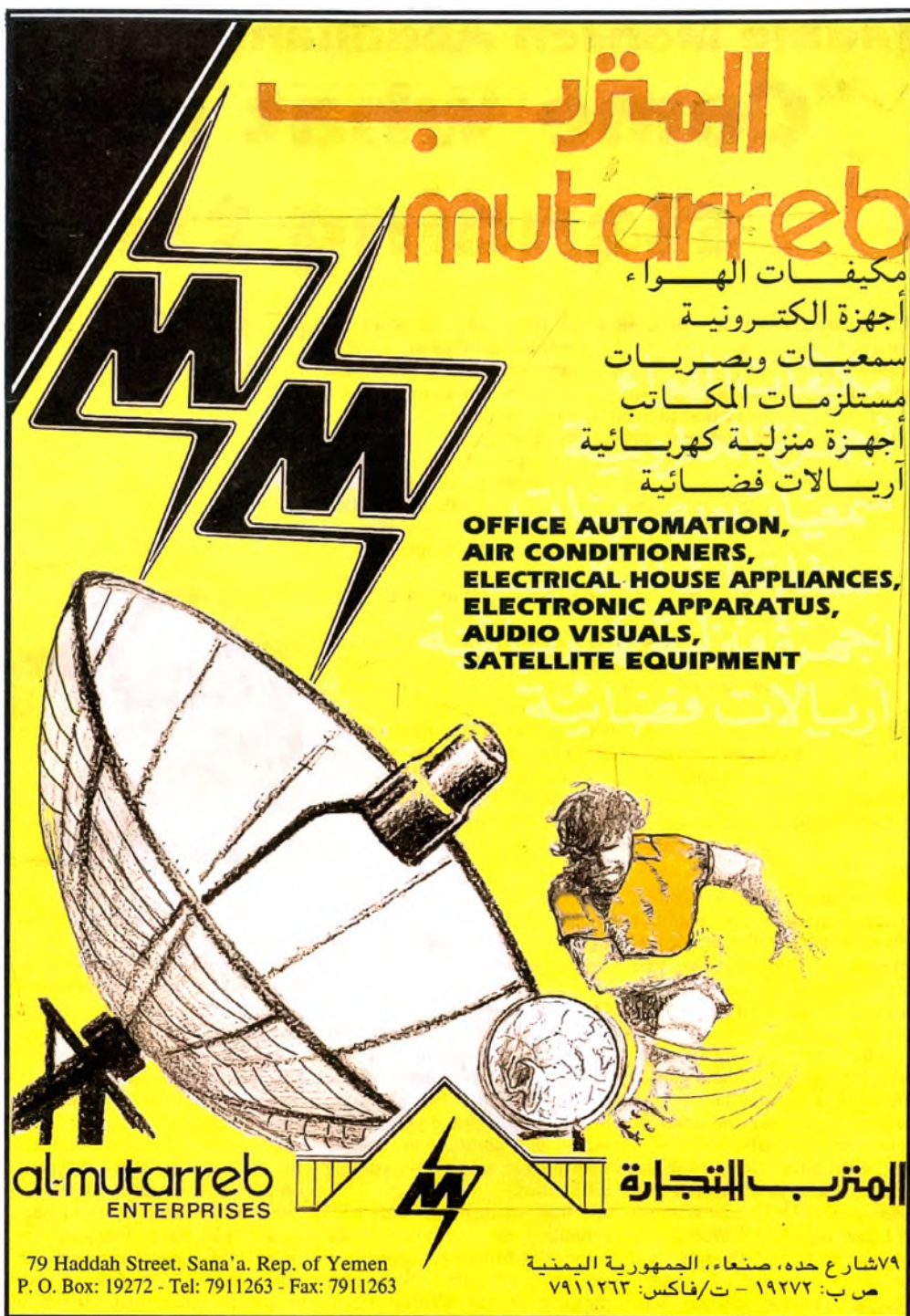
"We have two kinds of teacher training programs. The older program is the one targeting current teachers with high school degrees. It is based on summer courses aimed to enhance the knowledge and teaching techniques of these teachers. Following a certain cumulative total number of hours, the trainee receives a diploma which is equivalent to a two-year post-secondary certificate," Dr. Majeed explained.

The second program is a pre-employment teacher training program for new recruits which have secondary certificates. This is a two-year continuous training course offered by seven institutes. "We have 1,500 potential teachers enrolled in these institutes," he said. The office of the Training and Qualifying Teachers also has special programs for school management. During the 1993 summer, heads of schools were invited to a six-week crash course on better school management. "We included a heavy dose of psychology, sociology and other sciences in order to help them better manage their schools," Dr. Majeed said.

The plan is to repeat that experiment in the future, although there was no program during the 1994 summer because of the events that overwhelmed the country in the recent past. According to the Ministry of Education official, all previous (low-level) teacher training institutes are being shut down. "The country had to accept potential teachers after

elementary school in the past through the five-year teacher training program. Then the program was elevated to the three-year teacher training program which accepted potential teachers from among students who completed the preparatory level of education. Given the availability of higher-level graduates, both systems are gradually being phased out as the new teacher training institutes are being phased-in. You will note that the number of high-school graduates this year, where potential teachers in the new teacher training institutes are recruited, is over eighty thousand. That is why the old mid-level teacher training institutes are gradually being converted into ordinary schools. Many have already been turned over to the school-system," he added.

The official lamented the low remuneration of teachers. "It is well-known that teachers are not as well paid as others who are employed by the government. In addition, teachers do not get other facilities and privilege associated with the job such as cars, trips, etc. Moreover, teachers do not have the opportunity to rise up the ladder as do their clerical counterparts. Even then, we have done much to improve the lot of teachers. Nonetheless, more needs to be done in this regard. Unless the remuneration and prestige of teachers are enhanced, the possibility of recruiting from among the best graduates is slim," Dr. Majeed Ali Ghanim concluded.



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# ARAB BANK GROUP

## A PROFILE OF ARAB BANK

The Arab Bank in Amman, Jordan is owned by approximately 3,300 shareholders from all Arab countries. The Bank was established in Jerusalem and started operating on July 14th, 1930 with a paid-up capital of 15,000 Palestinian Pounds (The Palestinian Pound then equalled US\$ 5). By the end of June 1994, the Group's equity was around US\$ 1,100 million. In 1948, the Arab Bank's General Management was moved to Amman, and later the Bank was reincorporated in Jordan as a public shareholding company. Currently, the Arab Bank Group has a worldwide diversified network of more than 300 branches. It is one of the principal financial institutions in the Arab World and ranks among the leading international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets. It is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies and other international financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial lending, real estate lending and international banking. The Arab Bank Group employs a prudent asset management policy which is centered on selecting a prime loan portfolio and at the same time, maintaining high liquidity. On 30 June 1994, the liquidity ratio cash and due from banks and marketable securities to total assets amounted to 65.0%. By the end of June 1994, the Arab Bank Group's equity amounted to 7.3% of total assets. The capital adequacy ratio for the Group measured according to the Basle Committee rule was around 13%. Moreover, total assets amounted to 65.0%. By the end of June 1994, the Arab Bank Group's equity amounted to 7.3% of total assets. The capital of the Group reached US\$ 14.7 billion. Most of the Group's external sources of funds are composed of stable customers' deposits which give the Group ample room to manage its assets efficiently and reflect the customers' long-standing confidence and loyalty. Total deposits at the end of June 1994 reached US\$ 13.3 billion. The Arab Bank looks to the future with great optimism and determination. The Bank plans to continue to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab world, and at the same time it will endeavour to enhance its position as a major financial institution in the international markets.

## Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1994 and 1993

Assets	1994	1993	Liabilities	1994	1993
	US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)		US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)
Cash and due from banks	7,696,015	8,156,765	Deposits and other accounts	13,272,054	13,171,174
Securities and investments	1,879,895	1,577,198	Acceptances	151,727	105,339
Loans and advances	4,721,428	4,331,516	Accrued interest payable	59,766	51,542
Customers' liability on acceptances	151,727	105,339	Other liabilities	168,873	151,479
Premises and equipment	87,940	76,327	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>13,652,420</b>	<b>13,478,534</b>
Accrued interest receivable	69,498	66,196	<b>Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Other assets	119,238	142,965	Capital	139,246	139,246
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>14,725,741</b>	<b>14,456,306</b>	Statutory reserve	111,933	99,721
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	4,472,558	3,745,368	Voluntary reserve	148,871	127,571
			General reserve	672,406	635,414
			Reserves with associated companies	204,830	190,095
			Retained earnings	2,053	1,618
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1,279,339</b>	<b>1,183,665</b>
			Translation adjustments	(206,018)	(216,893)
			<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>1,073,321</b>	<b>976,772</b>
			<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>		
			Equity	14,725,741	14,456,306
			Guarantees and letters of credit	4,472,558	3,745,368
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,198,299</b>	<b>18,201,674</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,198,299</b>	<b>18,201,674</b>



Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1994 and 1993 was included in "Other liabilities"

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Arab Bank (Austria) AG - Vienna	100%
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Arab Tunisian Bank - Tunis	64%
Arab Bank Maroc - Morocco	50%
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100%
100%
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100%
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## Cement Demand & Supply in Yemen

The annual deficit in the cement balance in the country is increasing steadily. Today, the deficit stands at over 700,000 tons. Total demand in the local market is around two million tons, whereas the total Yemeni production is around 1.3 million tons - distributed among the three cement plants located in Bajel (Hodeidah), Amran (Sanaa), and Al-Barh (Taiz). Over the last quarter of a century, the total output or cement has risen tremendously. There are plans for the expansion of capacity in the current plants, and there are two new projects of cement plants on the drawing board. The new reconstruction projects envisaged by the government as well as the local and international private investors will generate new demand for cement. As a result of the additional need placed by the surge in the reconstruction effort, the level of growth in the demand

for cement will have surpassed the level of 5 million tons by the end of the century. According to sources in the General Corporation for Cement Production and Marketing, the current gap Yemen's need for cement is met by imports from Greece, Turkey and other countries. The only way to bridge the gap is to build more cement plants and to expand the existing capacity. The government can help speed up the rise in supply by encouraging the private sector to undertake new investments in this vital sector. There are projects for which the studies are more or less ready, especially the Batais cement project. In addition, the government could offer its ownership in the existing cement plants to the private sector within the current privatization scheme. The newly-raised money could be used to finance new cement projects to bridge the gap.

### Cement Production in Tons

Year	Bajel	Amran	Al-Barh	Total
1973	38,327	--	--	38,327
1974	57,422	--	--	57,422
1975	65,947	--	--	65,947
1976	65,324	--	--	65,324
1977	61,615	--	--	61,615
1978	62,870	--	--	62,870
1979	67,737	--	--	67,737
1980	81,356	--	--	81,356
1981	86,296	--	--	86,296
1982	87,241	133,800	--	320,096
1983	94,109	529,291	--	623,400
1984	184,582	523,918	--	708,500
1985	286,519	414,500	--	701,019
1986	289,258	418,100	--	707,358
1987	299,990	475,500	--	775,490
1988	303,329	501,400	--	804,729
1989	260,000	453,700	--	743,700
1990	281,254	553,800	--	835,054
1991	293,712	553,100	--	846,812
1992	276,164	538,242	--	814,406
1993	303,392	601,269	199,257	1,103,918
1994	218,140	615,856	271,768	1,104,764

Source: General Corporation for Cement Production & Marketing  
Note: Numbers for 1994 are for the first half multiplied by two.

## Minimal World Response to UN Appeal on Yemen

A United Nations Development Program (UNDP) source disclosed to the Yemen Times that the Sanaa UNDP office has not yet received any response for its worldwide appeal released simultaneously in New York, Geneva and Sanaa. Although the UNDP official has not lost hope, the source did point to the many other appeals released by the UN, all of which are competing for the meager resources available. Rwanda was specifically mentioned as a more deserving country. Of course, the appeal was released only one week ago, and many gov-

ernments, international NGOs, and worldwide charities take some time to respond to evaluate the situation and respond. One thing that would encourage a positive world response is the way the regime handles itself, especially in fulfilling the promises it had made to the world community through the UN. These include respect for human rights, freedom of the press, earnest dialogue to resolve the crisis, a market economy and a democratic and pluralist political system. The general amnesty declared by the system was an additional plus.

But to what extent have those promises been respected by the regime in Sanaa? That is a difficult question. Meanwhile, friendly government are trying to provide whatever minimal assistance possible notwithstanding the deterioration in human rights record, freedom of the press, political pluralism, etc. "We sort of expect these irregularities under dire circumstances, but we also expect marked improvement as the situation allows," one amassador in Sanaa summarized. Maybe the world is waiting for these improvements.

## WHO's Drug Policy versus the Pharmaceutical Industry

Attacks on Bangladeshi and Thai drug policies based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) concept of "essential drugs" have fueled concerns whether reduced interest in the over 100,000 drug preparations will put to risk the WHO leadership in pharmaceutical issues. The basic idea of the essential drugs is that about 270 medicines will meet over 90% of the entire medical needs of most countries, and that most of the 100,000 preparations on offer around the world are unnecessary - especially to cash-strapped developing countries - ineffective, too expensive, or even potentially hazardous. The \$220 billion-a-year pharmaceutical industry opposes restricted lists, arguing demand is best left to the market. In both Thailand and Bangladesh, the pharmaceutical industry has been campaigning for the removal of key parts of the national drug policies. The governments argue that by focusing on drugs considered most essential for public health, consumers can save money without sacrificing the quality of treatment. Thus, as part of Thailand's new drug policy, the government proposed earlier this year guidelines to include the generic and/or chemical name of a drug, as well as the brand name, on all

labelling and advertising. But, governments in developing countries find it difficult to counter the economic and political power of the international pharmaceutical industry. For example, in response to the Thai decision, the pharmaceutical manufacturers' associations from both the US and Europe have protested. Representing more than 2,000 companies - many with substantial business interests in Thailand - the associations cited the "Uruguay Round" of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to claim that the Thai guidelines would "infringe trademark laws" and that they "constitute a severe non-tariff barrier to trade." Canada, US, Uruguay, Denmark, Australia and the Philippines have similar policies. Several WHO documents recommend the use of generic names in labelling and advertising. Among these documents is the WHO Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion - which the pharmaceutical industry helped draft. In Bangladesh, which became the first country to implement the WHO essential drugs concept when it adopted a drug policy in 1982, foreign-based pharmaceutical companies have been calling for its dismantling since a new civilian government

took office in 1990. Although the policy has increased the supply of essential drugs, held down prices, stimulated local production, and saved millions of dollars in foreign exchange, the industry claims it has discouraged foreign investors. Despite promoting free trade initiatives in many countries, the World Bank has joined WHO and UNICEF in publicly supporting the benefits of the national drug policy in Bangladesh. More generally, drawing on the policies developed by WHO, the Bank argues that government involvement in regulation to "discourage the overuse and over prescription of drugs is necessary." Even then, pressure from the giant international companies has begun to make its mark on the enthusiasm and drive of the world organization. In January, WHO's executive board discussed the progress by the organization's Action Program on Essential Drugs (APED), set up to help governments develop drug policies that ensure all people are able to obtain the drugs they need at the lowest possible price; that these drugs are safe and effective; and that they are prescribed and used rationally. However, a report on the

program failed to materialize. Dr. Sam Okware, a board member from Uganda, described the lack of a formal report on the program as "rather unusual". APED has been without a permanent director for nearly a year, which is one reason given for the lack of a comprehensive report. But then in March, WHO Director-General, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, announced the appointment of Margaretha Helling-Borda to the post. He used the occasion to stress that "it must be our duty and our responsibility to stand firm on the principle of health for all, that is, equality in access to health care and drugs." In the meanwhile, the competition between the WHO, which calls for downsizing the market by the use of a list system selected on the basis of need, and the giant companies of the pharmaceutical industry, which argue "to let the market do its work". Today, over half of the world has no access to medicines for the most common diseases. Yet, many countries have a glut of inappropriate drugs, which are ineffective, too expensive, or even potentially hazardous. That is because the pharmaceutical market has become a "therapeutic jungle" in which 5,000 active substances are compounded into 100,000 different preparations.

## Yemen's First Private University

On December 29th, 1993, the Ministry of Higher Education issued its resolution (19) which licensed the establishment of the College for Sharia and Legal Sciences (CSLS). That step marked a departure from past practices. It broke the government monopoly on higher studies in Yemen. For the first, a private institution providing university education came into existence.

"The college is based on the curriculum of the College of Sharia and Law (CSL) at Sanaa University, and the lecturers and professors are all from Sanaa University," disclosed Dr. Ahmed Abdul-Malik, Dean and founder of the CSLS and Vice Dean of the CSL.

But the CSLS is more disciplined and better managed. "We have seen applications for enrollment at the CSL rise to several thousand. Last year, the CSL admitted over six thousand freshmen. Held over from the preceding year were over three thousand. Therefore, first-year students at the CSL were close to ten thousand. Now, nobody can really give education to that large a number with the meager resources of Sanaa University. That is why we have started the CSLS as an alternative," he added.

In the school-year 1993/94, the CSLS admitted some 192 attending students and about 300 learning while at home or at work. This year, the college admitted 500 students. "The idea is to control admission to the level serviceable by the facilities



and the faculty," Dean Abdul-Malik emphasized. The CSLS started with a YR 2 million capital, which quickly increased to YR 3 million. The owners are several persons in a share-holding company. "The building and other fixed assets are all rented at the moment, but we are considering buying our own piece of land and building the college," he indicated. Since the CSLS was established, three other private community colleges were established. Some

of these have been transformed into university colleges running for the full years of university education. The CSLS itself is in the process of being converted into a full-fledged university with various colleges. "We are considering other colleges which do not require large initial capital investments," he said. The CSLS is accredited with Sanaa University, Al-Azhar University and other universities. "This allows the transfer of students between us and these universities, and it allows our

students to pursue higher studies with them," he added.

Many people have been encouraged by the visible success of this experiment. Both at the financial and academic levels, the CSLS is a success.

Registration fees are established at YR 10,000 per student per year, and educational fees are set at YR 15,000 for locals and US\$ 1000 for foreigners per year," Dr. Abdul-Malik stated. Therefore, the school stands on a sound financial ground.

Asked about the right to access to education guaranteed by the constitution, the CSLS official said there was no contradiction between private education and free access to education. The government schools provide the free access, while those interested in a different arrangement have the right to an alternative, which is provided by private investments in education.

The CSLS is managed by two bodies - The Board of Trustees is made up of the owners or their representatives and it oversees the managerial and financial aspects of the college. The Council of the College is charged with the academic affairs of the CSLS. The office of the Dean implements the resolutions and decisions of the two bodies.

"We have to realize that we cannot rely just on the government to provide all services, especially not with a government like ours which suffers from a marked scarcity of resources. Society has to chip in," Dr. Ahmed concluded.

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