



YEMEN TIMES



• August 29th through September 5th, 1994

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The World Comes Thru for Yemen

He was beaming and his face was shining. "The world has come through, and we are receiving more and more pledges," said Nejib Friji, UN Spokesman in Yemen. According to the numbers, Nejib has reason to smile, and so do we all. Of the nearly \$22 million in emergency aid appealed for, the UNDP has

already secured almost half of the money. The UNDP has released on August 16th a detailed report on the needs as well as on how the money will be used. The world has responded positively. The table below shows the amounts committed by the four major donors, so far. Meanwhile, Dr. Awni Al-Ani,

UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen and the head of the coordinating body of the relief activities, has been on a visit to UN headquarters in New York and Geneva. There he met with the Arab League ambassadors, Islamic Conference Organization ambassadors, and the ambassadors of the major donor countries.

Dr. Al-Ani was pushing not only for a positive response to

the UN Appeal for the urgently required funds - valued at US\$ 21.7 million - but also for a commitment to help in the reconstruction and development effort of Yemen.

Mr. Friji was optimistic regarding the results of the efforts of Mr. Al-Ani, and said, "The world so far has come through for Yemen. We are working hard to make this work and to help put back Yemen on

the road of rapid recovery and development," he said.

The question that still remains, however, is whether Yemen will come through for itself and for its own good. Will Yemen honor its commitments to the world to respect human rights, freedom of the press, pluralist politics, market economy, and engage in a serious transformation and reconciliation? Only time will tell!

Country	Commitment Amount
Italy	US\$ 4 million in kind
Germany	DM 2 million in commodity aid
USA	DM 1.5 million in medicine for Aden US\$ 1 million for demining operations to start in October, 15 medical kits enough to care for 630,000 patients for three months, US\$ 25,000 in cash to UNDP
The Netherlands	\$530,000 to Unicef efforts \$200,000 to WHO efforts.

In addition, international organizations such as FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF have all committed substantial resources to help improve the situation. The UNDP, of course, coordinates all these efforts and has put up money of its own, as well.

The Launching of NATCO's "Buy American" Campaign

NATCO, a leading company of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies and representative of many American products and companies in Yemen like Ford, General Electric, Hewlett Packard, etc., is promoting an extensive "Buy American" campaign. "Although we are targeting the whole market, we are focussing on American companies and individuals in the country," said Ali Saif Hassan, the coordinator of the Ford cars campaign.

The Ford Cars Campaign (FCC) is scheduled for the second half of September, and it is being sponsored jointly by NATCO, the US Embassy, the Yemen-American Friendship Association, and the Yemen Times. NATCO sources disclosed that a senior Ford team will fly in from Dubai for the occasion.

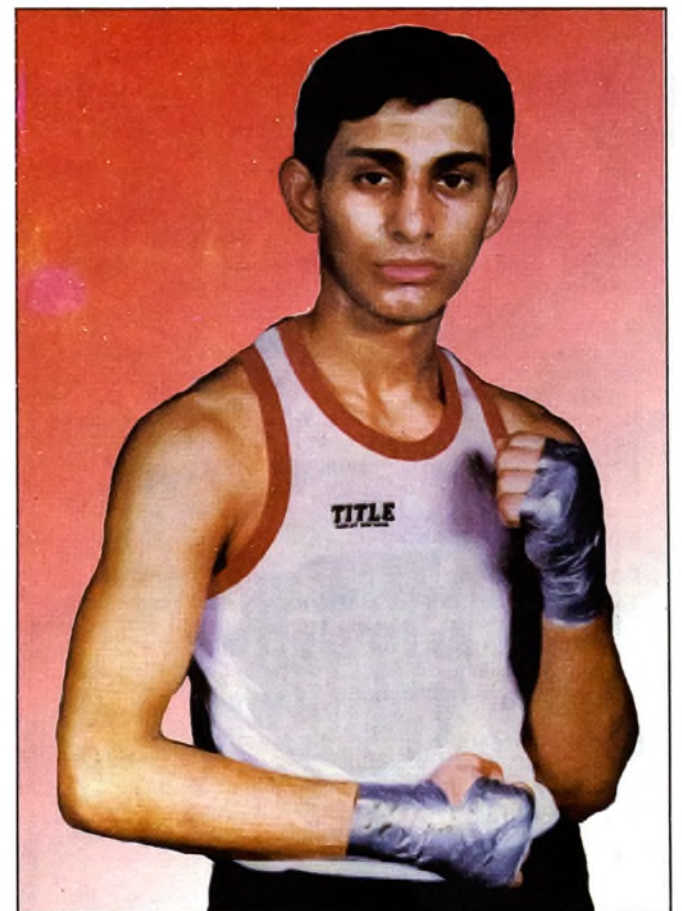
"We hope this big push will make a difference in our market share," said Ali Saif pointing to the Japan-dominated local car market.

A Yemeni Reigns Over Europe

They call him the "Prince." Last week, Naseem, 20, became the champion of Europe in the Bantam Weight Boxing Championship, after knocking out his Italian rival in the third round.

His full name is Naseem Salem Kishmeem. His father had emigrated from Melah, near Redaa, to the United Kingdom some thirty years ago. The father started as a steel-worker, but he is now retired and keeps busy as a shop-keeper in Sheffield.

His coach and manager are both optimistic about Naseem's ability to rise up the ladder of boxing. After a couple of up-coming matches in defence of his title, Naseem has set his eyes on the world championship. According to boxing experts, he has the power to do it. President Ali Abdullah Saleh called up the "Prince" to congratulate him on the victory. "We are both victorious men," Naseem is quoted as having told the president.



Hallelujah Our Phones Are Back

It was around 8:00 p.m. My reading recluse was interrupted by the ringing of a bell. It was the telephone bell. Somehow the sound was sweet.

I jumped to the phone. "Is this Mr. Talal?" the speaker at the other end asked. "I am sorry but there is no one by this name here," I answered. I realized someone was trying to make sure my phone number was working.

An hour later, there was a call from the presidential office. Mr. Abdo Boraji, Press Secretary of the President was on the line.

"I am calling to personally make sure your numbers are back. I would also like to inform you that the president reacted positively to your letter of appeal, and he assures you of his support and care," the president's press secretary said.

The Yemen Times would like

to take this opportunity to thank President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his positive reaction to our letter of appeal and for his orders to return our phones. We would also like to thank Mr. Boraji for his kind efforts on our behalf.

We would also like to use this occasion to express our gratitude for all individuals who have supported us in our rightful struggle to regain our telephone lines. There is a long list of persons who helped us in this endeavour.

We would like to thank our lawyers - Khateeb & Allow, for their efforts on our behalf. Finally, let me say that if citizens can have recourse to legal channels to redress any wrong done to them, and if the machinery works, even if slowly, then people will be content to work through the system.

Editor of Yemen Times.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Prerequisites for a Modern Yemen

As I was going to bed one night last week, I was thinking about what makes nations succeed in their development process, while others don't. What makes the Singaporeans, South Koreans, etc. of the world? The issue was to sleep with me and lead to beautiful dreams. Actually, solid ideas were already in mind head before they were to take the new dimensions in the dream. Let me summarize the six pillars or prerequisites for a modern Yemen, as I saw them.

1. The Sailing Vessel:

In the first scene, there is a sailing vessel silhouetted against the setting sun and the whole picture is washed with a reddish gold sheet. One word describes the scene: **RISK**. The moral of the picture is that risk-taking towards change in a basic prerequisite for movement and change. This is normal, for you can never find new oceans until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.

2. Row, Row Your Boat:

In the second scene, there is a rowing team slicing the waters and creating a rhythm. There is a certain togetherness which seems to jump out of the frozen picture. One word describes the scene: **TEAMWORK**. It is this ability to work as part of the group - without forsaking the right of the individual to excel and pull away - that allowed many a nation to take off. Teamwork is the ability to direct individual accomplishment towards organizational objectives. In other words, it is for individuals to work together towards a common vision.

3. Ripple Effect:

In the third scene, a drop of water is depicted hitting the surface of a pond, with a dramatic impact which starts off a ripple effect right across the expanse. It is the story of cause and effect by one little drop pinging on the mirror. The catchword is **ATTITUDE**. Attitude is that little thing which makes a big difference. How often have people wished that someone's attitude changed in the way they receive or handle situations. That small thing sets the tone and pace for a lot of things.

4. Beehive:

Then there is this picture of lots of bees hard at work. You can almost hear their buzzing sound. The message here is: **HARD WORK**. No country has ever attained any level of prosperity and success and sustained, unless its people are willing to work. I remember one time when a senior government official asked me, upon my return from a several months trip to Japan, what I thought was the secret of Japan's success. I told him it was basically hard work.

5. Horse Pack:

The fifth scene is that of a herd of wild stallions, nostrils flared, following the strongest and fastest in whipped up cloud of dust. The legend is singular: **LEADERSHIP**. The speed, wisdom, reliability and credibility of the leader determines the rate of the pack.

6. The Fixed Stare:

The final picture is that of a little boy staring doggedly and silently at the sky. He shows **COMMITMENT**. The virtue of commitment, or by any of the many names it goes by such as perseverance, dedication, a sense of mission, a driving force, etc., is a critical element in achievement.

Well, there you have it folks. Collectively, those are the prerequisites for the growth of Yemen, or any other society. I think those are important points to ponder as we strive to make a new Yemen. Maybe there is a certain degree of idealism that envelops all of this. There is another editorial in there somewhere struggling to get out. May be another time.

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Leading Ministry of Interior Officers Hold Nation-Wide Conference

The Ministry of Interior brought together over 500 leading officers who manage the security, secret service, immigration, border patrol, emergency squads, police stations, and the many other tasks and functions charged to the ministry all over the country. President Ali Abdullah Saleh was at hand to kick-off the three-day gathering. "Almost always, foreign visitors and investors make their first impressions of a country through contact with the officers of the Ministry of Interior," the president said urging the gathering to live up to that responsibility. The President also demanded that the officers abide by the law and withdraw from any political parties they may have belonged to. Many have turned in their party affiliation cards. Interior Minister Brigadier Yahya Al-Mutawakkel gave a detailed report on the accomplishments of the ministry over the recent past, especially over the period of the crisis and war, and highlighted the tasks that lie ahead. He emphasized the role of his ministry in the progress of Yemen. He insisted on working within the law to earn the respect and cooperation of the people.

The Sad Lot of Yemeni Women and Mothers

According to informed sources in the Association of Women's and Family Care, the lot of Yemeni mothers is dismal. The following statistics give some indication:

1. Of all mothers, 53% had their first baby before they were 19 years old.
2. Some 29% of all births take place sooner than the lapse of 18 months after the preceding birth.
3. Some 72% of all women were married off before they were 20 years old.
4. On average, Yemeni mothers go through eleven pregnancies in their fertility years. Some of the pregnancies come at a disturbingly late stage in the mothers' life.
5. Some 7% of all births end up with the death of either mother or baby, and some 18% of all newly born babies die before they are one year old.

As a result of this very somber statistics, efforts have been underway to help improve the lot of Yemeni women and mothers. These include UNICEF, WHO, and many international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Radda Barnen, as well as local NGOs. (More details on this topic in the interview on page 3).

Kuwait Helps Yemen Overcome War Effects

Mr. Arnold Leuthold, Regional Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, disclosed that the Government of Kuwait has donated \$ 500,000 towards helping Yemen overcome the aftermath of the war. The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society also donated \$ 60,000 for the same purpose.

Delay in Formation of New Government

Yemen Times learned that the formation of a new government has been shelved for at least two weeks, if not more. For now, the priority is to complete the constitutional amendments aimed to re-define the power structure. Both processes are part of the inter-party manoeuvring in Yemeni politics.

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Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sousowa:

"Women have to be strong to make progress in their rights in Yemen."

The lot of Yemeni women is indeed a sad one. But that is true when talking about the majority. If we were to talk about a tiny minority, then the conditions are extremely different. A few token women have excelled.

Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sousowa is one of the very few who have stand out. She has shown leadership qualities from her very young age. At 16, she was already the head of the Taiz Girl-scouts, some 800 strong. In her early thirties, Amat is already one of the leaders of the female movement in Yemen, attaining today the rank of Deputy Minister. Her official title at the Ministry of Information is Assistant Deputy Minister.

Not only has Amat succeeded in her career and public prestige, but she is also the loving mother of two children, a boy and a girl. "I think the world of them," she often says.

Finally, Amat is a member of the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress, and she oversees the female members sector of the party. There is already much that has been accomplished, but a lot more remains to be done for the women of Yemen.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, talked to Ms. Al-Sousowa and filed the following interview.

Q: You are often described as a strong woman. What does that mean?

A: I would like you to find out for me from those who say that. But, basically, I think they are talking about my ability to make decisions and stand my ground. Because I am a woman, people automatically assume I would be feeble and weak.

In my opinion, Yemeni women need to be strong and assertive so that they can face up to others and exercise their rights.

Q: I assume you are talking of a long-term process?

A: Of course. But we have to start moving.

Q: Do you think Islamic values and traditions stand in the way of women attaining rights equal to those of men?

A: I don't think so. Islam has given women a lot of rights, which they are unable to enjoy today because of wrong or biased interpretations.

Another problem may be that all the majority of the writings and work done on women was done by men.

Other religions had treated woman as the sin itself, or the party responsible for the original sin. We do not have that foolish blame in Islam. To the contrary, Islamic values are strongly in favor of women and their rights



as partners for men in life. The problem lies in our understanding of Islam.

Q: The seminar that started on Saturday focused on women. What is the purpose?

A: You know that a national committee has been formed to prepare Yemen's paper to be presented to the Peking Conference under the theme of "Equality, Development and Peace" scheduled for September 1995. I headed a team of 16 women who have prepared that document. The first draft is ready, and we are passing it on in the the seminar to serve as the focal point for our discussions in our to solicit feedback.

There are many themes in the workshop as follows:

1. Women as Decision-makers,
2. Women in Development,
3. Poverty and Women,
4. War and Women,
5. Violence Against Women,
6. Women in the Law,
7. Women and the Environment,

The purpose is to present an analytic study of women in Yemen and what can be done - locally and internationally - to help this sector within the overall development of Yemen.

Q: You are one of the key persons of the Ministry of Information. There is talk about efforts to limit press freedom. Can you comment?

A: Let me assure that there are no efforts to limit freedom of the press. I personally feel that freedom of the press is one of the most important aspects of our democratization process.

Yet, you will agree that many of the newspapers which had pre-vailed during the transitional

period and the period of crisis were not managed by professional journalists, and were more political weapons than newspapers. We are trying to help evolve true journalism. We hope the upcoming elections for the executive board of the Journalists Syndicate will be a milestone in evolving a truly professional journalist sector in this country.

Q: How do you assess the Yemen Times in this lot?

A: I think the Yemen Times is one of our better newspapers. It is often balanced and objective. Above all, it has been self-supporting financially, which is more than I can say for the other newspaper which depend on other sources for financing.

Q: As a member of the People's General Congress, how do you assess your party?

A: I consider myself one of the older generation in the party. Over the years, many persons have left the PGC, and many more have joined. Today we have a different mix than the one we started with.

The PGC is the party that takes credit for making the unity and preserving it. There is a lot more that could be done, but I am one of the critical member of the party. I want more achievements for my party.

By the way, the PGC is one of the most flexible party in terms of dealing with its members. Members have a lot of room to be themselves as they don't get detailed party instructions.

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A French Team of Tour Operators Tries the Waters of Post-War Yemen

Beverley Jane Cornic of The Economist/Paris



By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi, Yemen Times.

"Many people thought that Yemen was completely destroyed and that it is still unsafe. That is why we have invited a group of tour operators and travel journalists to come and spend a few days here and see for themselves," explained Jose Brebion of Ghamdan Travel and Tours.

Last week, a group of five French tour operators accompanied by a journalist from the Economist spent a week in Yemen: 15-22/8/1994. "We only had time to visit Sanaa, Hodeidah, the Tihama coastline, and Taiz," said Jacqueline Milcamps, whose company specializes in tourist arrangements to Latin America, specially Bolivia. Jacqueline who had visited Yemen some 20 years, expressed her amazement at the remarkable level of progress achieved over the last two decades. "The roads are especially impressive," she said.

Another tour operator, Laurence Garcon of BleuOrange, was attracted to the hamlets and small villages on top mountain summits. "The cap of a mountain, which is snow in the countries of Europe, is a small village in Yemen," she said. Her company has specialized in various particular-interest destinations. The desert has been one favorite one.

Agnes Rainbault owns her company, A.J. Voyage, and she has been active in many markets. "But this is my first encounter with an Arab country, and it is quite different from what I expected," she started. "I am sure that Yemen will be a new and important destination for my clients," she added.

Beverley Jane Cornic of the Economist plans to write about Yemen as a potential tourist destination for European travellers. "I am pleasantly surprised. The people of Yemen are very at ease with themselves, and the system is relatively open," she observed. "The Yemen Times will be an important component of marketing Yemen as a viable tourist destination," she said.

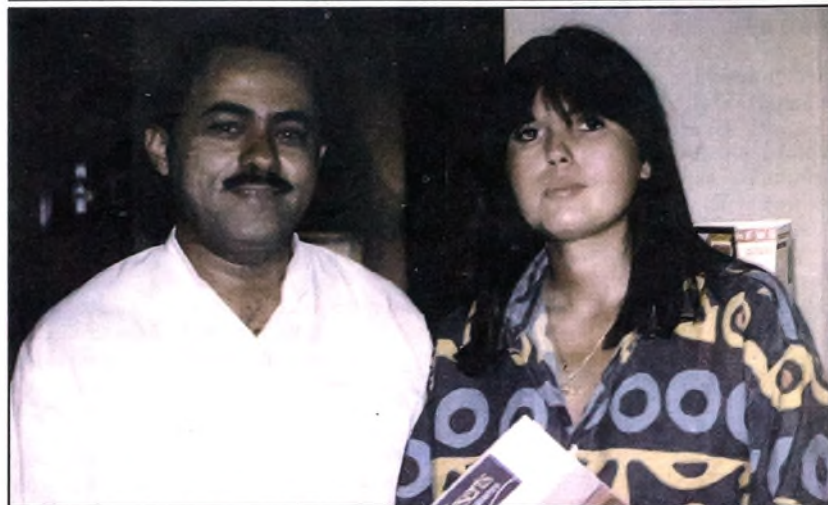
Abdulaziz Saeed Aslan of Ghamdan Travel & Tours indicated that the country is ready to receive tourists, again. That explains the campaigns being launched in this regard. "This recent visit was the fruit of a joint effort by YEMENIA, Taj Sheba Hotel, the Tourism Authority, and ourselves," he pointed out.

Other travel agencies, hotels, and tour operators such as UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, Arabian Horizons Tourism, Ashtal Travel and Tourism, Alnasim Travel and Tourism, Sheraton Sanaa Hotel have been equally active in promoting Yemen as a viable tourist destination to overseas travellers. West Europe has been a traditional source of tourists, notably Italy, France, Germany and Spain. Some companies are working to open up new markets, like East Europe, Russia, and Japan.

"We were able to correct the wrong impressions that people had about the situation in Yemen," insisted Jose Brebion. "We showed the visitors that travelling is easy and safe, and that the conditions of the country are normal," he added. Ghamdan Travel & Tours people are planning additional visits by tour operators and are gearing up for the tourist season later this year and early next year.



Agnes Rainbault of A.J. Voyage with Mathew Kurian of Taj Sheba Hotel



Laurence Garcon of BleuOrange with Abdulaziz Aslan of Ghamdan T.T.



Laurence Bogacki of Continents en Fete with Jose Brebion of Ghamdan T.T.

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1. Men love football. It is difficult to understand all those men running around frantically bumping into each other even when nothing is on sale.
2. Men forget fast. That is why they need instant replays in sports because they have already forgotten what happened.
3. If a woman tries on clothing from her wardrobe that feels tighter, she assumes she has gained weight. If a man's clothes feel tighter, he assumes they have shrunk.
4. All men have single socks that they will never wear, but will never throw away.
5. Men like camping more than women because of the ease of their bathroom situation.
6. Men always think they are the best thing that has ever happened to you.
7. If you want a man to come shopping for dresses with you, pick a shop that has a chair.
8. Male secretaries like to be called "assistants."
9. When four or more men get together, they talk about politics or sports. Women talk about men or shopping.
10. If you are in a car with a man and he stops to ask for directions, listen carefully because he won't, and it will be your fault if you get lost.
11. If a man prepares dinner for you and the salad contains three or more types of lettuce, he is serious about you.
12. Men are very impatient. They need to drive faster and get to places quicker. Maybe that is because they die younger... or maybe they die younger because they need to drive faster and get to places quicker.

13. Men who write love letters don't live in this century.
14. Older men are not more mature. They just have more money... which makes them appear more mature.
15. A good place to meet a man is at the dry cleaner's. These men usually have jobs and are hygienically more responsible.
16. If you like easy-going, monogamous men, stay away from millionaires.
17. The way a man looks at himself in a mirror will tell you if he can even care about anyone else.
18. Men like gadgets with lots of buttons, they make them feel important.
19. A man with pierced ears is better for marriage. He has experienced pain and bought jewellery.
20. Men who work out all the time are very tired. Marathon runners will just manage a good-night kiss before rolling over and falling asleep.
21. A man in a delivery room is about as useful as a nun at a bar.
22. Most of the men sitting in first-class on an airplane have really boring jobs.
23. Men who don't say "I love you" a lot probably love you more than men who do.
24. Even men who consider themselves brave would not want to be alone with Madonna.
25. Men who buy a new car every year usually have trouble committing to relationship.
26. A man who wants to be "friends" immediately after the relationship is over was never really in the relationship.
27. If a man says: "I'll call you," and he doesn't, he didn't forget... he didn't lose your number ... he just didn't want to call.

By: Fatma Rawah, Yemen Times.

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Yemen's New Nightmare: The Brain Drain

Since the beginning of the year, at least a dozen Yemen Ph.D. holders and hundreds of highly educated and skilled Yemenis have left the country. In addition, the number of upper middle class and refined urbanites, especially the businessmen, who have gone abroad is steadily rising. It looks like Yemen is losing its best to the world. That simply means Yemen has joined the rest of the Third World which has been suffering from the "brain drain". The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) points out in its newly-published World Science Report that this effectively returns \$2 to \$3 billion of development aid to the rich countries every year. Part of the problem is that many politicized bureaucrats are firmly in control of the local academic and government institutions and they feel threatened by the more qualified new blood. As a result, they have created walls of incomprehensible paperwork to keep out the new comers.

Last year, Sanaa University refused to accept the services of first class surgeons who graduated from Germany, Italy and Canada. The persons in control of the Medical College at Sanaa University have graduated from far less prestigious schools in the former Eastern Bloc. In fact, Sanaa University has started losing some of its own people. Several professors have taken open and extended leave from their work to go and work in other universities. I know at least six professors from the arts, education, commerce and engineering who have left the country to work abroad. The oil and minerals sector has failed to employ many good engineers who graduated from the USA, Europe and other places. The Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, its affiliated companies and boards, and some of the oil companies are plagued with far less qualified persons who have taken their positions because of the tribal and/or political party affiliation.

A quick visit to the embassies of the Western countries will show the number of visa applications by "people you never expected would want to get out of here" according to a consul in one European country. Political considerations have complicated the situation and have added to the outflow of Yemenis. As a result, more than 1,000 Yemeni families have applied for political asylum with various countries worldwide. Yemeni history shows we are a nation of emigrants, but the kind of people who used to leave the country was mostly the unskilled manual laborers. The situation today is different. Most of those who want to leave and do leave are the most qualified often termed as the "cream of society." At another level, a leading businessman complained that his companies have lost many of its second-level managerial and skilled staff. "We invested a lot of money in training those people, and now they are gone," he bitterly stated. The main reason offered by people for leaving the country is not really the hardships they face at the moment, although these are enormous, especially in terms of the psychological anxiety of not feeling secure and safe enough. It is the worry of what will come, it is the uncertainty shrouded in the future, which is expected to be difficult. Many people who leave Yemen are persons who have had extensive contact with the rest of the world, and who are future and world oriented. They are scared of being forced to go back to the past, and the implications of that on their personal lives. Yemen's development is made much more difficult by the departure of these people.

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,
Yemen Times.

A REMINDER TO ALL BRITISH CITIZENS

Have you recently returned to Yemen?
Are you here on your first visit?
Do you intend to stay?

If so, please register at the British Embassy.



British Embassy
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Tel: 215630-33

Yemenia  اليمنية

Press Release

In the usual tradition of its route expansion, Yemenia had decided to open Beirut from June of 1994. But unfortunately because of the recent situation in Yemen, the plan was delayed. Now Yemen being fully normalized, the national airline is committed to inaugurate the new weekly service on September 26, 1994. This day will give double the pleasure to all those in Yemenia in commemorating the national day and celebrating the opening of the new station.

Beirut was an important center for the Middle East Region before the 15 years war era. It was referred as Paris of the Middle East. Beirut was a major commercial center, specially for banks and insurance companies. It has great touristic attractions. The Lebanese are good business people. That is why, in spite of the 15 year civil war, more or less business was going as usual. The war being over, and considering the Lebanese people's ability to re-establish business, we are confident Beirut will soon retake its dominant position as a commercial and touristic center, and a major gateway between Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Post war economy, because of possible mass reconstructions, can be viable and offers great opportunities for airlines in particular.

In the past decade, Yemenia has vastly expanded its network. Beirut will be the 25th international station. Yemenia will link Beirut with Sanaa and Moscow with a weekly service of Boeing 727-200 with convenient departure and arrival time. The flight provides good connections to and from East Europe, Middle East, the Gulf and East Africa.

The service is available for booking at al Yemenia offices and travel agencies.

"Yemen's future depends on concentrating on enabling individuals to attain their best."

Excerpts from an interview with Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarib published in 14th October newspaper on 16th August.

Q: How do you assess the post-war economy?

A: Frankly speaking the country needs a revolution and a new breed of men. Even without the destruction that has resulted from the war, the two Yemens prior to unity suffered from very weak economies. The economy today is neither capitalist based on market forces, nor socialist in the sense of central direction. In addition, we witness excessive spending by the government, inefficiencies, waste and distortions throughout the system leading to tremendous loss. Add to that the oversize bureaucracy which stands in the way of everything. Let me give you an example, the total payroll of employees in Aden city alone is YR 700 million per month. I think we need a serious tackling of the economy leading to basic changes.

Q: What kind of changes are you suggesting?

A: The first step is to bring specialists to manage the economy and to take out the politicians. These technicians should have the authority to introduce change and to make decisions based on economic viability rather than political expediency. Among the clear steps to be taken are to unify the parallel institutions and currency that were inherited from the previous systems, reduce the overlap, define responsibilities more clearly, etc.

Q: You are often quoted as saying that the government bureaucracy is dead wood. Can you explain that?

A: There are two levels of government bureaucracy - the government administration, and the management of government companies and corporations. First, let me stress that the Yemeni economy has no visible identity. It is not really a market economy as the government tries hard to price products administratively, and there is unnecessary involvement in many sectors in the form of government monopolies. But it is not a command economy as the government is really unable to direct anybody.

Having said that, let me say that government administration is plagued by inefficiency and waste because of the high level of politicization. For many incapable managers, the only way to remain in charge of the companies to which they are appointed is by giving them a political twist. That is why they wrap everything in the political shroud.

It is critical that we reconsider the role of these companies and the very government role in the economic activities. Privatization of these companies is a possible alternative.

Q: What is your overall assessment of the economy?

A: I am optimistic about the future of our economy. We have an economy that is based on many pillars. There is the increasing volume of oil production and exports, the tourist sector, the growing industrial sector, the success in agriculture and fisheries, etc.

In all of this, however, unless we adopt the market economy and free competition among the capable individuals, the economy will be hampered. An atmosphere conducive to proper private business activities - local and foreign - is a necessary prerequisite for the development and growth of our economy.



Q: There has been a lot of talk about enticing foreign investment. What are the obstacles?

A: The most obvious obstacle, of course, is security and stability. The country needs stability and safety to entice foreign and local investors to plough-in their money.

Another obstacle is the gap between what the law dictates and what the investors actually face in their dealings with a bureaucracy that is neither patriotic nor efficient.

A third obstacle is the fact that local investors are holding back. Foreign investors take their cue from the locals. If local investors are not willing, why should foreigners be.

The overall climate is not helpful. Politics gets involved in everything and decisions based on the law are hard to come by.

Q: What has become of the Aden Free Zone?

A: The major problem of the Aden Free Zone has been the grip of hold-overs from the days of socialism over the seaport. The YSP secessionists were using the issue to score political points. The army of employees associated with the harbor is the biggest headache.

In addition, a Sanaa-based Free Zone authority was unable to follow the situation in Aden. The authority should move to Aden.

Q: We have heard a lot about local government and local rule. What do you make of it?

A: Within the general framework of agreed-upon national parameters, we support local administration and decentralization. The various regions and governorates should be given the authority to take decisions within their prerogative.

I am personally opposed to local government and there is no need to try to by-pass our realities and conditions. I think we can plan for local administration to be launched in 1995 within a clear set of rules. The main issue here is the level of delegation of authority.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I think that the economy has been badly neglected over the last few years in favor of politics. In addition, an archaic administrative system and the lack of checks and controls on the behavior of government officials are to blame for our conditions today.

Yemen's future depends on concentrating on enabling individuals to attain their best.

START OF REGISTRATION

Sana'a Montessori School is pleased to announce the start of REGISTRATION for the first term of the School Year 1994/95 effective August 27th through September 3rd. The first term begins on September 10th at 8:00 a.m. This year the School will begin classes for the first graders in addition to the pre-school level.

Sana'a Montessori School is a combination of the British and Yemeni curricula and works on a ratio of one teacher per ten students in the pre-school level and per twenty students in the graded classes. Students who have already completed the pre-school at Sana'a Montessori School as well as new students who wish to enroll in any of the three levels are encouraged to register.

Pre-school: 3 and 4 year olds; Grade 1: 5 year olds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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Hayel Saeed Anam Companies Cut Down Prices by Adopting "A Factory to Consumer Marketing Policy" Based on Exhibitions



By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi, Yemen Times.

"We are doing everything we can to lower prices. We have cut back on many expense items. We want to help reduce the burden of the citizens," said Fayedz Abdo Saeed, the Vice General Manager of NATCO company and one of the coordinators of the country-wide exhibitions of the products produced and/or imported by the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies.

One new way to cut down prices is by eliminating the middle person. The producers (factories) will market their goods directly to the public through exhibitions. In Sanaa city, there are three exhibition centers, in Hodeidah there are three, in Taiz three, and in Aden two.

"We are open two shifts a day - a morning shift for women, and an afternoon shift for men. Families are welcome in both shifts," explained Sufian Abdul-Rahman Noman, one of the active personnel in the Arwa School Exhibition in Sanaa. He indicated that the total number of visitors is in the several hundreds everyday.

Prices are 15-35% lower than the retail price in the market, depending on the product and commodity in question.

Families have taken advantage of the lower prices and bought in large quantities to stock up for the rest of the year. In many cases, the products in question are basic foodstuffs, consumer goods and some durable goods, especially in household electric appliances. The weekend has witnessed an exceptional rush to get the goods from the exhibitions rather than the regular retail shops and stores.

In a telephone call from London to the Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, asked to visit the exhibitions and "see for yourselves what our companies are doing to help our citizens better cope with the economic hardships."

Buyers have given the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies high marks and translated their appreciation of the opportunity by buying more goods. "Everybody knows that the Hayel Saeed Group have always been con-

scious of their image with the public," said one citizen. Even the government had a good word for the Hayel Saeeds. A senior Ministry of Supply and Trade official pointed to the generous donations and continued support of the Group to voluntary efforts and NGOs. The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies has been diverting 15% of net profits to charities nationwide.

"We would like to positively interact with society," explained Mr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anam, the Vice Chairman of the group, and himself a leading actor in the charity efforts. Ahmed is the president of the Red Crescent Organization/Taiz; the Chairman of the Productive Women's Society, and a major participant in many NGOs.

"For business to succeed, some of the company profits have to be ploughed back to help in the growth of society, and to help the less fortunate segments of the population," he added.

"The exhibitions, which started as a two-week (15-30/8/1994) event, are to be extended in response to public demand," an exhibition official said.

Example of Bad Economic Policy

According to informed sources in the Ministry of Higher Education, the Government of Yemen pays out annually some \$24 million in fees and stipends to Yemenis doing university education abroad. "There are some 7,000 students enrolled in universities in foreign countries and sponsored by the government, and over 90% are undergraduates,"

"Can you imagine we annually pay Romanian universities over a million dollars as fees for our students, and we pay half a million to Czech and Slovak universities?" he asked. On average, each student costs the government \$3000-4000 per year. Students learning at their families' expenses, although fewer in number, spend a lot more, and their total expenses are estimated at \$10 million per year. With that kind of money, the country could built many universities and improve the performance of existing ones. Today, the Republic of Yemen is basically stuck with Sanaa University.

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CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Notice is hereby given that ALPLAST S.p.A., an Italian Joint Stock Company of Regione Calvini, Strada S. Damiano 90, I-14016 Tigliole D'Asti (Asti), Italy, are sole owners and proprietors of the patent titled.

"CLOSURE APPLYING APPARATUS"

(corresponding to Italian Patent application No. 1189689 dated February 4, 1988)

Abstract of the Invention

A closure applying apparatus suitable for use in capping machines for placing, on a container having a threaded neck portion and an annular collar below said neck portion, a tamper-evident screw-type capsule made of rigid plastic material and having a lower skirt portion which is connected by a plurality of thin frangible bridge portions to and upper internally threaded skirt portion and is provided with and inwardly projecting bead for snap engaging beneath said annular collar as a result of screwing of the capsule on the container.

The apparatus comprises a rotary, vertically reciprocable capping chuck having a plurality of jaws for gripping the capsule each jaw being provided at its lower end with an inner flange which engages from below the edge of the lower skirt portion.

The flange of the jaws from an abutment surface for the lower skirt portion, which absorbs the forces produced during snap movement of the inwardly projecting head over the collar of the container, thus preventing fracture of the bridges during the capping operation.

The said owners claim all rights in respects of the above patent and will take all legal steps against any person, firm, or corporation infringing their rights in the said patent in the Republic of Yemen.



Yemen's Red Crescent Honors Its Most Active Volunteers

On Thursday, August 25th, the Yemeni Red Crescent Society (YRCS) held a ceremony in which it honored its most active volunteers. It honored several hundred nurses and first-aid assistants who had volunteered to work with the YRCS over the last few months in caring for the persons wounded during the war. As an extra bonus and incentive, Minister Yahya Hussain Al-Arashi, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform and Chairman of the YRCS, indicated that the YRCS has convinced the Ministry of Health to employ those volunteers who want to pursue a nursing career.

"The YRCS has been active in helping alleviate the consequences of natural and man-made disasters and calamities," he said. He mentioned the earthquakes, the floods, and the Somali refugees, as well as the recent civil war, as cases in point.

On the occasion, the YRCS honored those individuals who had given most - in terms of resources and time - to make its efforts a success. Three notable examples among the businessmen are Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, Chairman of the UNIVERSAL Group of Companies, and Mr. Saeed Al-Hakeemi, a leading NGO personality and public figure.

In an opening statement, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the People's General Congress, expressed the state's appreciation for the very valuable work of the YRCS. "Our performance in the war would not have been the same without the volunteers and support of the YRCS," he said.

During the ceremony, the YRCS showed a short film on its operations and activities. "Our society has known this or that form of cooperation and coming to the help of the needy. We have to continue on with this tradition," added Minister Al-Arashi.

The YRCS and its branches were the focal point of the local voluntary effort in the war.



Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani distributes YRCS honors



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بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره، تلقينا نبأ وفاة الوالد
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عبدالعزیز و خالد محمد يحيى الذبحاني
وندعو للفقيد واسع الرحمة والغفران
ولنا جميعاً الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
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