



# YEMEN TIMES



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## President Saleh:

# "I swear to uphold the constitution."

"I solemnly swear to uphold the constitution and laws, promote the national interests, and safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Yemen."

With those sentences, General Ali Abdullah Saleh was sworn in on October 2nd, as president of the republic. Thus he proceeds to serve his 18th year as head of state.

On October 1st, 253 members of parliament voted in favor of General Ali Abdullah Saleh. There were 259 members in the House. No other candidate ran for president.

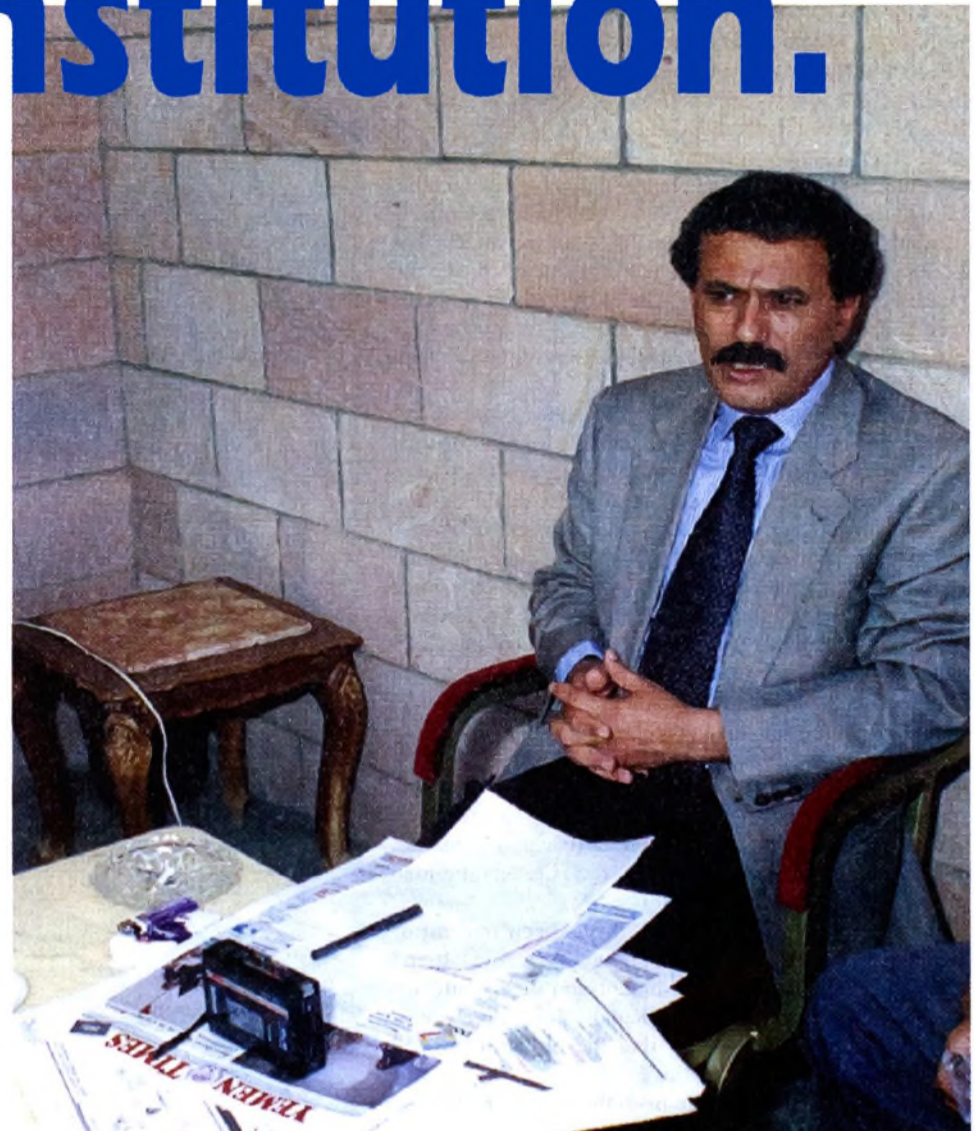
The president named Major-General Abdo Rabbo Mansoor Hadi as his vice president. This step has achieved many things. It has represented a southerner in the top echelons of authority, it has incorporated a leading personality of the Ali Nasser Mohammed bloc, and it has finally freed the post of defence minister in the coming government.

Now the search for prime minister continues. The cabinet is expected to be declared in the next few days, and it is expected to include members of the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah).

The president promised many things on the occasion. He said he will work towards a state based on law and order. "We shall nurture the pluralist political system, and we shall encourage a responsible opposition and a press that is free to provide positive criticism without the excesses of the past," he indicated. He also promised half a dozen times to fight corruption. "There is no more room for corruption which was so widespread during the transitional period. It was the secessionist YSP leadership that plotted against the country by promoting corruption," he said.

He also said that the ministers in the coming government will be chosen on the basis of their abilities and qualifications. He said that from among the PGC and Islah members, the most able will be chosen. The YSP is not going to be included in the forthcoming government.

Finally, President Saleh offered the olive branch to Saudi Arabia. "We shall focus to strengthen our relations with our neighbors in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. We offer our hand to start a new chapter in our relations," he said.



## Ministry of Information Plays Foul and Dirty

The Ministry of Information has issued a circular to all printing houses in the Republic that they may not print any newspaper unless it presented a written permit from the Ministry. This is contrary to the press and against the spirit of freedom of the press. One of the early victims of this action was *Al-Shoura* newspaper, which did not come out yesterday.

Other newspapers which are out of circulation because of one or the other actions from the Ministry of Information are *Al-Ayyam* and *At-Tagammu'*. Additional victims are expected to fall in the days ahead as the government completes its grip over the local media.

The Chairman of the Syndicate of Journalists, Mr. Abdul-Bari Taher, told the *Yemen Times* that a free press is the most important requirement for a pluralist and democratic system. "In our country, political parties, unions, syndicates, associations and other NGOs are produced by the regime at will. The only real test of their democratic nature is their tolerance of a free press," he said.

Several chief editors of the affected newspapers have gone to see ambassadors of countries in which the press enjoys freedom and respect. They were given a sympathetic ear and were promised moral support.

The next few days will be crucial for the evolution of freedom of the press in the country. One major factor is the choice of Minister of Information. "I hope we will get an understanding minister. Otherwise, we will have a long battle ahead of us," said the editor of *Al-Ayyam*. We will wait and see!

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Fish Pond

Many people are puzzled by how our economy works. They are bewildered by the chaos and by the apparent lawlessness and negligence. They also worry about the shrinking GDP and its implications. Finally, they wonder why the rulers, government officials, politicians and military/security officers are not attending to this matter.

Let me share with you why I think they do not care. The reason is the "fish pond". Yes, the fish pond.

I think our senior officials and officers see the economy as a fish pond. They see the fishes grow, and once in a while they could throw in a few things to help them grow. They would see the big fishes eat up the little fishes, and that is okay. Because the order of the day, and that is the system, for the big guys to swallow the little guys.

But, every once in a short while, the officials and officers will reach into the pond and grab some fishes as they get hungry. They roll back their sleeves and go fishing.

Yes, there is a system for the fishing process, as well. One mechanism for fishing is through a highly socialist bureaucracy. Through the bureaucracy, the government officials get their share of the fishes in the pond. This is done in many ways, and you only need to ask the nearest company manager or even citizen to give sordid details of how the job is done. Some observers estimate that kick-backs and bribes represent more than a third of total costs.

Another mechanism for fishing is sheer brute force. You bring your tribesmen to occupy a plot of real estate that you like. You get a military officer or a security policeman to intimidate an individual or group or company into paying whatever is demanded. This is the system, and many individuals - especially the rich dudes - do pay. A vulgar and undeveloped version of this system is the hijacking and kidnapping for ransom. Such behavior is not totally alien, it is just an unrefined version of the system.

We do have a problem, don't we? As long as the rulers and their entourage perceive the economy as a fish pond, we cannot expect any real improvement.

The government says it is interested in changing the present attitudes and concepts. It wants to create an economy which is based on and driven by market forces. It also professes to reduce the bureaucratic load and unnecessary procedures.

While that is all fine and well, it has been our unfortunate experience that there is an unbelievable rift and gap between what the government and our politicians profess to do, and what they actually do. Therefore, it would be foolish to believe that the government will really change itself so drastically.

Maybe change should come from the private sector and the public at large. It is the private businesses that suffer from the present situation, and they are blamed for it. But it is really the public that pays for everything at the end. Therefore, it is up to society to push for change. The country needs a working economy, not a fish pond.

#### YEMENIA: Extra Priority to Training and Customer Service

YEMENIA (Yemen Airways) has just concluded one of a series and on-going training of its personnel. Four pilots, four co-pilots, and two flight engineers have just concluded a three-week training, part of which was done in Amman with ALIA (Royal Jordanian).

According to Abdulaziz (Aziz) Barahim, one of the leading pilots of the airline, the flight crew is overworked. "On average, we are air-borne for some 75 hours. The industry standard or average is some 60 hours." That is the company needs to train and upgrade its pilots, first officers (co-pilots) and flight engineers.

At the moment, Yemenia has 30 pilots, 37 co-pilots, and 32 flight engineers operating its 727 Boeings; 6 pilots, 4 co-pilots and 5 flight engineers flying its 737 Boeing; and ten flying its Dash planes. The company needs an additional 10-15% cockpit crew personnel. Part of this problem could be corrected in the merger of YEMENIA and ALYEMDA which is expected to happen before the year is out.

At another level, Yemenia is trying to put an end to the recurrent delay in its departures (and consequently, arrivals). The company has decided to start up an Operation Control Center which will be charged with the responsibility of coordinating the operation, commercial, and technical tasks. It will prepare a 72-hour work plan in advance. Thus, if there is a delay in one flight, it will try not to let such delay affect subsequent flights.

#### David Newton on His Way to Sanaa

US President Bill Clinton nominated Mr. David Newton as ambassador to Yemen. On 29th September, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the nomination, and the full senate is expected to discuss the nomination and approve it soon. Mr. Newton is an old hand on Yemen. He had served in the US embassy in Yemen in 1966, during the Yemeni civil war. He came back as deputy to the ambassador in 1973.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Newton pointed to the US participation in Yemen's modernization. "We have given support at crucial times... I believe that one of my principal tasks as ambassador will be to encourage the Government of Yemen to heal the wounds caused by the recent internal conflict by promoting national reconciliation."

#### Reforms Happen at Yemen's Diplomatic Corps

At last, reform measures are catching up with the reform-resistant diplomatic corps of Yemen. Mr. Ali Abu-Luhum, long-time Yemeni ambassador in Amman, has finally given-up his post. According to Foreign Ministry sources, other old and long-timers to be called back shortly are Mohammed Al-Rubayi (from The Hague), Mohammed Abdul-Quddus Al-Wazir (from Tokyo),

MOhammed AlKhawi (from Abu Dhabi), and Ahmed Mohammed Ali (from Tehran). Most of these ambassadors have become so-well entrenched that nobody was able to recall them. Many of them have developed business and other connections. Yemen Times learned it would be left up to the new government to name the successors in those posts.

#### Yemen Times Vacancy

Yemen Times has a vacancy for a secretary with the following qualifications:

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## Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar:

# "We shall activate the supervisory role of the parliament in the future."

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar is definitely a leading personality in Yemeni politics. His influence and power has grown steadily over the last few months with the downfall of the former leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the crisis and subsequent war, and finally, the first congress of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah).

Sheikh Abdullah has influence at several levels. He is the paramount sheikh of Hasheed, and possibly of all the tribal structure of Yemen. He is the speaker of parliament, and as such wields a lot of influence over the making of the power structure in Yemeni politics. He is the Chairman of the Islah, which is at least the second largest and most powerful party in the country. He is also a successful businessman with interests in many sectors, including commerce, oil, industry, agriculture, tourism, publishing, etc. Finally, he is thought of as the best bridge to mend fences with the influential neighbors of Yemen, notably Saudi Arabia.

Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times went to speak to Sheikh Abdullah and filed the following interview:

**Q: How do you assess the general congress of the Islah held last month?**

**A:** By all standards, our first general congress was successful. It shows our commitment to democratic procedures. It finally bestows legitimacy on the current leadership of the party.

**Q: But observers say the general congress was orchestrated to merely bestow the said legitimacy without any real choice. Moreover, it did not seek to renew the party leadership. What do you say?**

**A:** The legitimacy that was bestowed on the leadership did come from a vacuum. Our members who participated in the general congress enjoyed full liberties and freedom in making their decisions.

Prior to the congress, the leadership of the Islah was merely a preparatory committee. That is why the elections were crucial and important.

Regarding the need for renewal of party leadership, I would like to say that renewal should be for the ideas and currents, and that can be achieved without changing the faces and people. And this is exactly what happened in our party. In any case, a certain degree of new blood has been incorporated into the party leadership according to the election results.

**Q: Your party is an effective participant in the government. What do you think the tasks of the forthcoming government must be?**

**A:** Our participation in the government has been - and continues to be - a national necessity. We have not joined the government on the basis of sharing in the bounty, which was

the attitude of the Yemeni Socialist Party. We see our participation in the government as a responsibility and duty. That is why we believe in assigning posts on the basis of abilities and qualifications as well as by taking into account the character of the individual.

I think the main tasks ahead of us are those of construction and establishment of the state of law and order. We have already lost a lot of time, and we cannot procrastinate anymore.

**Q: The present House of Representatives is twenty months old. How do you assess the experiences so far?**

**A:** The current House of Representatives is the first elected parliament since our unity. There are many highly qualified people in it.

We have tried to play the role assigned to us by the constitution - to enact laws and supervise the activities of the executive authority.

The political crisis which started on August 19th, 1993, and the subsequent war, have affected the performance of the House, as they have all other organizations and institutions. Even then, the House was able to achieve many important things. First and foremost among these are the preservation of the unity of the country.

It is my sincere hope that our supervisory role will be strengthened in the future. Of course, this is in addition to our legislative role.

**Q: The attitude towards the otherside is the real test of the degree of democracy and tolerance of a person and a political organization. How do you personally see the importance of**



**this concept, and how does your party see it?**

**A:** We believe in freedom, and consider it as part of the basics of Islam and it is part of human nature. We believe in the right to be different and hold divergent views, except on the basic parameters.

The Islah as a party does not believe in violence with opponents and adversaries. You can go back to the records and verify this. Let me use our differences with the Yemeni Socialist Party as a case in point.

We believe in peaceful competition and dialogue in the interaction of different ideas.

**Q: Political Islam has become one of the important research issues. Could you explain it to our readers?**

**A:** The phrase political Islam is alien to us. Islam is a whole package which includes political, economic, social, cultural and other aspects. I think the very phrase is an extension of the church-based philosophy of the West, and their drive to separate state from church.

Islam is a complete way of life, and it is not limited to a group of people or class. It specially has no class of clergy.

**Q: The tribal system is anathema to a modern state system. You are at the top of the state and tribal systems of Yemen. How do you harmonize between them?**

**A:** The tribal system or the tribe is part of the structure of the Arab society, specially, but also

of human society in general. Some societies have dissolved their tribal structures within the national system, and some have not.

Let me insist that the tribal system is neither faulty or something to be ashamed of. It is the original form of association. But it is problematic when it comes in conflict with the state system. We in Yemen have come a long way in merging the tribe into the civil society and into the state system. Our tribes are simple, peaceful, democratic and civilized. They are not aggressive. We are working hard to preserve the good qualities our tribal qualities. We are working to develop a state based on law and order, and we hope the tribes will become a positive factor in this.

**Q: Our relations with Saudi Arabia are passing through difficult times these days. Do you see any role for you personally or for the Islah in helping improve Yemeni-Saudi relations?**

**A:** Strong relations with Saudi Arabia are dictated by the facts of location, history and religion. Thus, whatever difficulties they pass through, they are rather temporary.

In the statement issued at the end of our general congress, the Islah has asked our brothers in the Kingdom to reconsider their position on Yemeni issues, in a way that would strengthen our relations. We have asked them to open a new chapter.

Personally, and the Islah, stand ready to exert all efforts in this direction.

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# A Yemeni Artist Displays Masterpieces

By Fatma Rawah,  
Social Editor, Yemen Times.

It was an exquisite and lively evening on September 29th. There were many people - the majority were foreigners. The venue was the home of Dr. Jacques Veerman. The house was decorated with etchings, engravings, and watercolor paintings of Mazher Nizar, a Yemeni artist who is slowly rising to dominate this sector.

Dr. Jacques Veerman and his wife Claire Goethals arranged the exhibition. Claire explains, "We always felt the need to support creative people. We have done it before in other countries and it happens now in Yemen. Mazher, 36, has worked a lot on his paintings, and he deserves a chance to show those masterpieces."



The Artist and the Exhibition Host



Dr. Veerman describes the exhibition as an international and modern occasion. "We don't need all the symbolism to always go back to the time of Bilquis and queen Arwa. It is not real anymore. We live in a different society, we need modern ideas. It is my desire to help young artists as I used to be a painter myself," he adds.

Another good reason for this kind of exhibition is to show another side of Yemen. Not only to focus on the tribal aspects, and other issues. Yemen has many admirable and honorable aspects, and foreigners have to know about them," he said.

Mazher Nizar is one of the most promising Yemeni artists. He comes from an area close to Manakha.

Haraz. But Mazher - having been born in India, where his father worked as a teacher of religion and Arabic - faces discrimination or at least lack of interest from the authorities.

That is the theme of another painting which has the name of "lovers." Another amazing painting is "Rwanda". Although Yemen was under tough circumstances, the artist didn't forget those who were in more critical situations like in Rwanda. A human skeleton with a head of a half develop flower is depicted in one painting.

There is misery, but there is also hope of the flower opening up one day. Then there is the broken pot which is the sign of the struggle for survival, and signals help from the rest of the world.

"In Yemen, everybody is busy with politics. Exhibition like this is the last thing one finds in Sanaa. Even on the anniversary of the 26th September Revolution, people were busy with other things but artistic work. Moreover, newspaper rarely cover the arts. They are overwhelmed with political events. I am appreciative that Yemen Times found the time to cover this event," Mazher said. But the more important task is to enhance public awareness on the value and role of arts. Dr. Veerman and Claire came up with the idea of using their home to introduce a Yemeni artist to the public. They are planning to repeat the service with another artist. "It is people like them who help arts," Mazher said.

Most of Mazher's paintings at the exhibition were drawn during the recent war in Yemen. There were over 250 paintings. One among the many important ones is entitled "Unity 1994." The picture shows the elements in North and South trying to pull regions apart. It shows a gap between developing. Then, from inside the gap, two heads and hands come out pulling the nation together and closing the gap.

The theme of another one is "Civil War 1994." This painting was done during the first week of the bombing of the capital city. It reflects the horror which everybody felt. The expressions on the faces - eyes wide-open, screams, and bodies of the dead piled up. "I felt that the war was wrong. But it happened and nobody could avoid the situation," said Mazher.

Most painters are technically employed by the government (Ministry of Culture or Information), and are guaranteed a certain minimum income per month, however small. Mazher is a full-time artist and painter. This is one aspect of the discrimination he faces.

"The majority of Yemeni artists barely eke out a living. Their work is not appreciated in a society that is overwhelmed with basic needs, and thus sees art as a form of luxury. This suffering of artists makes them forsake their talent. It is with great difficulty that an artist would survive in Yemen," explained Mazher. As a result, the limited patronage of the inter-

national community does play a major role in the sustenance of the local artists. Mazher has presented his work to people around the world. His work was exhibited in Algeria, Germany, India, Iraq, Italy, Libya, the Netherlands, North Korea, United Arab Emirates, and of course Yemen. His paintings are mainly black and white sketches, water-color paintings, mixed media monotype, etc. He prefers to do his paintings by the graphics method and use a simple machine to do the prints. "In Yemen, art buyers go for very low price and I find they respond to this graphics system. While the originals would go for around 20,000 Riyals for one piece, the prints go for a fraction of that."

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بمناسبة إحتفالات بلادنا بالعيد الثاني والثلاثين لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة

وبمناسبة إعادة إنتخاب ابن اليمن البار الفريق / علي عبد الله صالح رئيساً للجمهورية

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# Needed Reforms at the UN

Last week, Yemeni Foreign Minister, Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, left for New York to deliver Yemen's statement to the 49th annual round of the General Assembly. According to him and other observers, the air is filled with expectations. Everybody is psychologically ready for change and 1995, which marks the 50th year since the birth of the organization, would be an auspicious moment to implement the changes.

But what are these changes? That is exactly that task of the assembly's current three-week "general debate" on the U.N.'s work in the run up to its jubilee in 1995. Thus the foreign minister of the Ivory Coast, has his work cut out over the next few days marshaling a procession of world leaders to the podium of the United Nations General Assembly to set out their policies for the coming year. Mr. Essy, a professional diplomat with long experience in that gaunt tower on New York's East River and at its sister headquarters in Geneva, wields the presidential gavel during

But after the set-piece speeches have been delivered and the talks and formal dinners have ended, he must get down to the nitty-gritty - there are no less than 154 items on the agenda, many to do with the vexed question of finance of pushing forward an organization where many feel change is long overdue.

Proposals for reforming different aspects of the U.N.'s work are not new but with the end of the cold war and rising expectations of the world body's capabilities some old taboos including amending the Charter to deal with new realities - seem to be fading.

Top of the list is the shuffling of place cards for those seated round the world's "top table" the



security Council with its five permanent veto-wielding members, Britain, France, China, the U.S. and Russia and a second tier of 10 rotating, non-permanent countries. Amongst his other duties Mr. Essy will preside over a General Assembly working group that since 1992 has been examining expansion of the council, with a clear consensus now established that Germany and Japan, the losers of the settlement of 1945, will be admitted.

The importance of this change cannot be exaggerated; only a short time ago Britain, terrified of losing its veto or, worse, being subsumed under a European Union seat, was arguing "if it ain't broke don't fix it" a clever but misleading line that has since given way to open support for reform. Far less easy, though, is the question of representation from other parts of the globe. The rival claims of Nigeria, Egypt, of Brazil and Mexico,

India and Indonesia will not be easily resolved, nor will the veto question. But now there is a real chance that the 50th anniversary year might be blessed with this fundamental change. This would be more than symbolic: It will mean a greater share in responsibility. The U.S., Germany and Japan currently have a combined total of fewer than 800 troops attached to the U.N. Zambia contributes more soldiers than the three richest nations together.

Peacekeeping will be a major preoccupation again this year, as it has been since the "Agenda for Peace" of the Secretary General, Boutros Ghali, was upset by the unfamiliar complexities of the post-cold war world with the U.N. lurching from one messy expedient to the next. But there are signs of a move away from political and security matters to the issues of economic growth and development that have always divided North and South and have never been given the priority accorded to them by the Charter.

According to Dr. Ghali, economic and social development is now the primary mission of the U.N. "Today, we have a deeper understanding of where the sources of trouble lie in our world," he said last week. "We now know that security involves far more than questions of land and weapons. We further realize that the lack of economic, social and political development is the underlying cause of conflict."

Such pledges will be welcome to U.N. enthusiasts long overdue. The welcome to U.N. enthusiasts is long overdue. The strengths of the U.N.'s specialized agencies have always been more apparent than those of the central policy-making organs, though an improvement has been seen in the creation of a Department for Humanitarian Affairs. Baroness Chalker, 2 Britain's aid minister, has spoken of the need for more work at the coalface and less in the boardroom.

Yet the old idea of an economic security council seems likely to make little headway as long as the major industrialized countries prefer to use the Group of Seven (G-7) the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), rather than the U.N., as an economic strategy forum. Thinkers like Mahbub Al Haq, a

former Pakistani finance minister, are pushing hard for action to restore social dimension to the world economy.

Much attention will be paid to next March's World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and there are high hopes for a women's conference in Beijing to build on the achievements of the recent Cairo population conference.

Critics of the U.N.'s failure to come to grips with such complex global issues will remain sceptical even as they call for new mechanisms to deal with problems environment, AIDS, drugs and population movement which came on to the international agenda after the Charter was written.

It all comes down to the 184 member states and the degree to which parochial positions and clinging to the status quo carry more weight than a commitment to interdependence. Prospects for reform, though, are better than ever before.

"In the end," wrote Sir Brian Urquhart, a former U.N. under-secretary general, recently, "there are two basic questions: What is the United Nations supposed to be, and, even more important, what is it to become? Are we to go backward into an anarchic age in which countries and peoples retire into themselves and put up walls in a desperate attempt to keep the world out and protect purely national interest? Or do we aspire to make a success of the one world that our inventiveness and ingenuity have already brought substantially into being?"

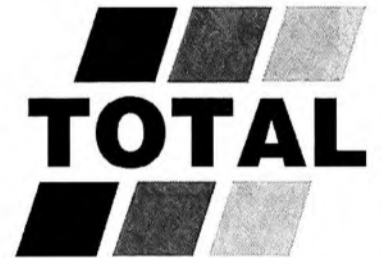
"If we want to take the letter course the phrase 'world community' often mouthed by politicians will have to take on a practical meaning and its essential rules and institutions will have to be developed."



## توتال (اليمن)

تقدم

بأطيب وأرق التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني البطل  
ولقيادته السياسية المظفرة ولحكومته الرشيدة  
بمناسبة ذكرى ثورة أكتوبر الخالدة .  
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on the anniversary of the 14th October Revolution.*



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## Exploitation of the Hadhramaut Underground Water Reservoir Under Study

The Mineral Exploration Board (MEB) signed a contract with Komex International Ltd. to carry out a detailed study of the Hadhramaut underground water reservoir. CanadianOxy had discovered large quantities of water which could be used in agriculture and other uses. Mr. Ali Jabr Alawi, Chairman of the MEB is optimistic about the results of the study. "We already know there are very large quantities of water. It is now a matter of proper and efficient use of it," he said.

Dr. Janan Sallomy, the company's Vice President of the Middle of the company, signed the contract on behalf of Komex. He pointed to the long experience of his company in working in Yemen. We were involved in various studies looking at the environmental impact of projects. Among these are the CanadianOxy pipeline and the Sanaa Water reservoir.

On the Sanaa water reservoir, Dr. Sallomy expressed concern about the rate at which the water level was falling. "In less than 15 years, the current reservoir will be depleted. The alternatives are more difficult and expensive," he added. "We are going to start by looking into the maps and pictures of the Hadhramaut basin. Then, over a two-year period, we should arrive at the optimal exploitation pattern of the water," he said.

The study is being financed by CanadianOxy (US\$2 million), and half a million Canadian dollars from the Canadian government. Komex International plans to open an office in Sanaa in November to supervise the rising volume of its business in Yemen.



Ali Jabr Alawi



Dr. Janan Sallomy

بمناسبة ذكرى الثورة اليمنية  
(سبتمبر و اكتوبر)

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تتقدم

بأعطر التهاني القلبية لشعبنا اليمني الأبى  
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## YEMENIA Inaugurates Beirut Line

On September 26th, Yemenia (Yemen Airlines) inaugurated its service to Beirut. Invited to this flight were many political, academic and media personalities. YemenTimes was on board.

"In collaboration with Middle East Airlines, which is one of the leading companies in the region, we hope to develop this sector for the mutual benefit of our two countries," said Ahmed Kaid Barakat, Chairman of YEMENIA. Mr. Barakat was speaking with a vision of the future. "We are a world-oriented company. We hope to start other new sectors whether to North Africa, to Southeast Asia, or across the Atlantic. To do that, we need airplanes with suitable flight range. We are now in the final phase for placing the order for the new planes," he disclosed.

Speaking about the coming merger between Yemenia and Alyemda. Mr. Barakat indicated that in a market in which large airlines are competing, the little ones are at a disadvantage. "It therefore makes economic sense to merge the two national companies so as to give them a better chance at competing and at customer service," he said. Mr. Abdullah Al-Kibsi, the Commercial Manager of YEMENIA, stressed that Beirut is an important regional center, and it is expected to regain part of its past regional role. "Yemenia wants to play a part in this process."

To transform the occasion into a promotion for the sector, the company invited the major tourism related personalities. "And until the sector take hold, we combined it with our Moscow flight, which used to stop over in Cairo. I am certain this route will soon become one of our busy lines," he concluded.

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi,  
YemenTimes.



Reception Party in Beirut:  
Many Yemeni and Lebanese Personalities Attended



The Lebanese Authorities Arranged a Fitting Airport Welcome.

## مؤسسة المحضار

تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات  
لشعبنا اليمني الأبدي وقيادتنا الوحدوية  
بمناسبة أعياد الثورة اليمنية  
وكل عام واليمن في تقدم واستقرار وازدهار

مؤسسة المحضار  
الرائدة في صناعة  
الأدوية فهي غنية  
عن التعريف  
والتي كانت وما زالت  
قلعة اقتصادية  
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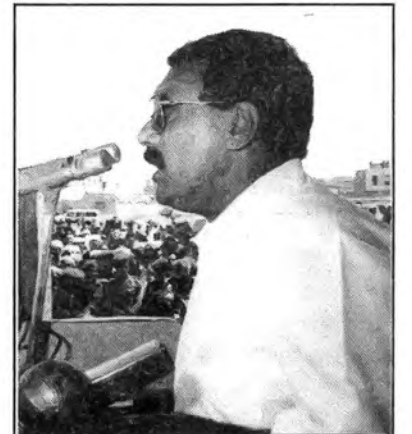
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سبتمبر وأكتوبر



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## UNKNOWN THREAT TO SURVIVAL OF THE WORLD

Amphibians are specially susceptible to pollutants their thin epidermis leave them in intimate contact with their environs

Among much scientific uncertainty about our world one thing is all but certain environmental processes are at hand with the capacity to generate major problems. Yet we know next to nothing about them. These potential problems warrant the designation of unknown unknowns. The name might seem a contradiction in terms. How can we know what we do not know? While we know all too little about global warming, and still less about when and how it will arrive, we know it is on its way. It is a "known unknown". Until recently, however we hardly knew it existed: It was an unknown. Acid rain, too, for decades built up unseen and unsuspected.

So what new unknown unknowns are waiting to leap out? the issue is a major challenge to science, yet receives next to no attention. Here are signs that should make us think.

Many amphibian species are undergoing marked decline in eastern and western Canada, south-eastern and far western United States, the Rocky Mountains, Guatemala, Costa Rica, lowland Amazonia, the Andes cloud forests, France, Italy and parts of Australia. The decline varies from area to areas, and both among and within species, but the phenomenon appears to be pervasive and significant.

Not all parts of the world have been investigated. If they were, other areas might show a similar decline if only because of pollution and fragmentation of habits. also involved could be desiccation of ecosystems due to incipient global warming, and enhanced ultraviolet radiation through ozone layer depletion.

Amphibians are specially susceptible to pollutants their thin epidermis leave them in intimate contact with their environs. the

young often forage at the base of detritus food webs and adults at upper levels of those same webs, where pollutants become concentrated. As major consumers of invertebrates, especially insects, amphibians are often top carnivores, and their decline could have sizable repercussions for their ecosystems.

Next, there has been a series of bleaching episodes since the early 1980s, notably in the Caribbean, but also around Taiwan, the Maldives, Australia and Hawaii. The bleaching cause extensive morbidity and mortality throughout coral communities. the causes may lie with global warming or white-band disease, or both, perhaps together with other factors.

Third, the mass deaths of dolphins and seals. Perhaps 50 percent of dolphin populations died in 1987-88 along shorelines from New Jersey to Florida in the US, ostensibly because of severe bacterial infection. During the same period, one tenth of Lake Baikal's seals mysteriously died, as did perhaps two-fifths of seals in the Baltic and North Seas because of rampant viral disease and pollutants. Similarly, the black seaurchin, once ubiquitous in the Caribbean, has disappeared, due, it's thought, to an unidentified water-borne pathogen.

Next, several near-shore algal blooms have erupted in recent years. Their number and extent seems to be increasing. Episodes have occurred in the Baltic, North, Adriatic and Black Seas, along the US East Coast, in Hong Kong Harbor, the Seto Inland Sea of Japan and the Gulf of Thailand. the cause seems to be nutrient loading though man-made emissions of nitrogen and phosphorus, possibly in conjunction with toxic chemicals.

Sixth is the phenomenon of cancer epizootics in fish. During the past three decades, more than 40 tumor epizootics have appeared in the US, principally in the Great Lakes and along the

north-eastern coast.

Finally, consider a number of population declines. Birds migrating between the US and Central America or the Caribbean show a 25 to 50 percent drop-off since the mid-1960s. Between one third and one half of European bird populations are losing numbers. The main problem appears to be habitat disruption, especially in the tropics, but pollution may also be implicated. Half of all marine turtles examined in the Caribbean and Pacific reveal tumors.

Saguaro cactuses in the south-western US and northern Mexico have lost half their numbers in some areas, and many others are showing "browning" and loss of spines. In these latter two instances, the most likely cause is pollution.

All these incidents share several characteristics. First, they cover hundreds or thousands (occasionally tens or even hundreds of thousands) of square kilometers. Hence they can reasonably be regarded as regional or even global phenomena. Second, they are unprecedented in our scientific experience. Third, there is no immediate or obvious explanation, although a primary culprit appears to be pollution.

Fourth, pollution seems to exert its most deleterious effects when it works in conjunction with other stresses such as aquatic eutrophication, other forms of habitat disruption and whatever else can induce immunosuppression. Fifth, we know next to nothing about what these perturbations tell us about further such phenomena engendered by "chemical time bombs". But they add up to a whole flock of miners' canaries bellowing warnings. What should we do?

Consider the amphibians. their characteristic attributes make them probably the most capable of all vertebrates as indicators of environmental decline. The 4,200 plus species are distributed throughout the world. They are generally easily observed and

readily recognized. The support of amateur naturalists could be mobilized in a worldwide endeavor to watch for declining populations. Should we attempt such an amphibians alert program?

What other taxa could serve a similar role? Take dragon-flies and damselflies, which, like amphibians, are dependent on both aquatic and terrestrial habitats at various stages of their life cycles, the nymphs are specially susceptible to water pollution. also, they are found throughout the world, and are easy to observe. Still more promising are tiger beetles, as their biology is well known, and they are widespread across a broad range of habitats. A tiger beetle population can be sampled within as little as 50 hours, a small fraction of the time needed for most other taxa in the same sites. Equally helpful could be lichens, since they are ubiquitous, and with their slow growth rates they reflect long-term trends. also revealing could be bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), being usually susceptible to both water and land pollution.

At the same time, we should ask ourselves a front-rank question. What is the source of the seven omens listed above? A likely culprit lies with the 50,000 synthetic chemicals we have injected into our environments with only minimal testing against only a few recognized threats (unknown threats remain unknown because we don't have the wit to look for them). We can do a far better job of checking what we do know: that these chemicals have capacity to inflict prodigious harm.

Next, we can tackle the unknown threats. A tough challenge: scientists prefer to grapple with problems about which they already know something. It is a safety-first strategy with proven pay-offs. If a similar spirit has motivated Darwin, Edison and Einstein, we would have remained the more benighted.

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يتقدم

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ودوماً إلى مزيد من التقدم والنجاح



**COMMERCIAL BANK OF YEMEN**  
joins the Yemeni people, leadership and  
government in rejoicing on the anniversary  
of the 14th October Revolution

بمناسبة العيد الحادي والثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر المجيدة

تتقدم شركة

# إنرون كوربوريشن

بأحر التهاني القلبية وأعطر التبريكات الصادقة  
للشعب اليمني الأبى وللقيادة السياسية المظفرة وللحكومة الرشيدة

إنرون: المشاركة في نهضة اليمن



**ENRON**



On the 31st anniversary of the 14th October Revolution

**wishes to convey its best wishes  
to the Yemeni people & political leadership.**

**ENRON CORPORATION**

**Partners in Yemen's progress.**

## Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor

### REGARDS TO YEMEN TIMES

I am one of the many readers of The Yemen Times. While reading the paper, issue no. 37, I noticed that letters to the editor's page is back again after having disappeared for a few months. I am very happy to see this page back, because it gives the readers a chance to express their opinion and share their ideas.

On this occasion, I would like to make the following comments on the Yemen Times.

- Yemen Times, not only provides information on political, social, cultural, or scientific issues, but it also helps many Yemenis improve their English language.

- Yemen Times is a bridge between Yemen and the rest of the world. It highlights Yemeni culture, and "educates" Yemen on modern world culture and values.

- Yemen Times is produced in a nice and aesthetic way.

- The price of Yemen Times is reasonable, and many of us students can afford it.

- Yemen Times has a team of good writers.

Keep up the good work, and my best wishes to you.

Ibrahim Yahya Zein,  
English Language Teacher  
Thu'al School,  
Zaidiya-Hudeidah

### DOOMSDAY CONSPIRACY

Do flying objects really exist? Are we being visited by aliens from another planet?

A well-researched novel by SIDNEY SHELDON entitled DOOMSDAY CONSPIRACY, documents the search for intelligent life in space. Sidney points out that in the past three decades, there have been at least seventy thousand reports of mysterious objects in the sky and countless more sightings, perhaps ten times as many, that have gone unreported. In this book, we are told that there is worldwide government conspiracy to conceal the truth from the public. The United States Government denies the existence of UFOs (unknown Flying Objects), in order to prevent public panic.

Sidney put together many statements and documents issued by astronauts.

"There are 400 billion stars in the galaxy. We're made of stardust, really common stuff. In a universe filled with stardust. It is hard to believe that we are the only creatures who could be."

Sidney Sheldon, in his remarkable book, gathered evidence based on reports and indications which deal with UFOs.

The Author, in his novel stresses the need to have a top level coordinated program to scientifically collect and analyze data from all over the world concerning any type of extra-terrestrial encounter. The idea is to determine how best to interface with these visitors (UFOs) from other planets in a friendly fashion. This would have a tremendous possibility on advancing our world in all areas.

The Author's effort is splendid. He published in his novel a letter of appeal to the UN, written by Colonel L. Gordon Cooper (astronaut) on November 9th, 1978, calling on the UN to handle this subject with all experienced UFO researchers and astronauts. Colonel Gordon is among astronauts whom Sidney Sheldon had contacted and had personally reported several flights of UFOs. Colonel Gordon also mentioned that other astronauts had similar experiences but were warned not to discuss them. DOOMSDAY CONSPIRACY, exposed the tragedy of the scientists who worked on Star Wars-type projects. A list of the deceased and the dates and circumstances of their deaths are highlighted in Sidney's novel. Al Homeidy's article of last week, "WHO IS THE MOST INTELLIGENT?" encouraged to write about the famous and well known SIDNEY SHELDON. SIDNEY is the author of many other books such as Master of the Game, Bloodline, Memories of Midnight, The Other Side of Midnight.

Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ruayni  
Sana'a.

### FIRST DEMOCRACY ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Now as the dust has almost settled, we can look back and evaluate the political crisis of Yemen. I bet nobody could have visualized the present situation as no one could ever have thought there could be a fourth sequel to the scenario of crisis.

I am not going into details as to how events unfolded or why they did. But I am writing to convey to you my shock at the behavior of your wealthy neighbor-Saudi Arabia.

How quick they were in helping the new break away regime. Were they trying to settle an old score related to the Gulf War or were they scared of the political and economic ramifications to them of a unified and democratic Yemen. I do not think they are allergic to democracy since they already have a democratic Israel. It is high time that they should encourage and support Republic of Yemen which is the first ever democracy on the Arabian Peninsula.

Now since Sana'a is relatively assured of its unity and its internal structures, I am sure the rulers will deliver on the promises of an open political system and a free press. I am sure this could be a model for participatory democracy and if preserved, it could contribute to

a long term stability of the region.

Satish Bhasin  
New Delhi-India

### A YEMENI IN A FOREIGN COMPANY

Please allow me to share my experience while working with a foreign oil contractor, based in Sana'a. I am a Yemeni but was born and raised in Africa. I was educated there and gained some managerial experience in technical and administrative fields.

It was my dream to settle in Yemen - my father's homeland. As soon as I arrived here, I was lucky enough to get a job with a foreign oil contractor. In this particular company, the so-called expatriates had an upper hand over the indigenous Yemenis in terms of salaries, privilege and other benefits including the terms and other conditions of work. For example, while I was earning only 15,000/YR and

after the deductions of income tax, social security, etc. I took home only 12,000/YR, my foreign colleague (from another country in the Gulf) was earning 1000 USD per month, plus free accommodation, a car including and many forms of entertainment. What he was doing is exactly what I did, and when you compare our education and experience I was superior.

What surprised me more is the attitude of some foreigners towards Yemenis. Often they regard a Yemeni as an ignorant stupid fellow.

On completion of my first year, something strange happened. It was a decision to get rid of some of the redundant personnel, and to my great surprise I was one of those to be thrown out despite the fact that my foreign colleague retained his job.

One morning, my boss came to my office, closed the door and said, "I am sorry. Due to lack of enough work, we are unable to employ you any longer. Nothing

in writing was given to me. The worst part was the role of our so called Ministry of Oil. It does not care for the interest of the Yemenis, but carries out orders from certain circles which have interest in the foreign companies.

Who in the Ministry of Oil or Labor will listen to a Yemeni worker who doesn't have backing or support of influential persons? Yemenis face a great problem because of unemployment while there are many foreigners from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, etc., employed in foreign companies and embassies. Sometimes they occupy simple jobs which Yemenis could easily occupy. It is a high time that Yemenis should wake up. Our officials are there to look after the interest of Yemenis, not that of foreigners and their private needs. We should fight for our rights.

Written by Abdulkadir M. Salah on behalf of a friend.



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تتقدم

## مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

بأعطر التهاني وأجمل الأمناني وأعظم التبريكات  
لكافة أبناء شعبنا الكريم ، وكل عام والجميع بخير



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and  
on the anniversary of the October 14 Revolution**

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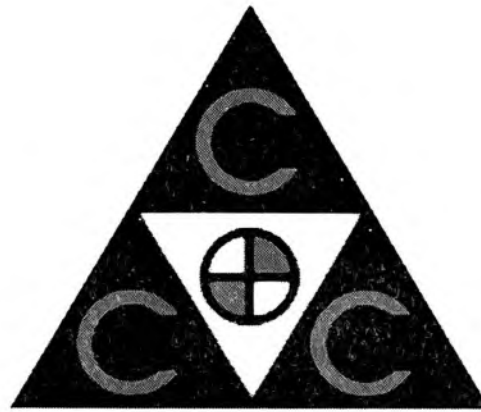
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وبمناسبة العيد الحادي والثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر المجيدة

تتقدم شركة

## إتباد المقاولية العالمية

بأحر التهاني القلبية وأعطر التبريكات الصادقة  
لشعبنا اليمني الأبى ولقيادتنا السياسية المظفرة وللحكومة الرشيدة

سي سي سي : مساهمة فاعل في نهضة اليمن



On the Re-election of General Ali Abdullah Saleh as President  
and On the 31st anniversary of the 14th October Revolution

**Consolidated Contractors (International) Co.**  
wishes to convey its best wishes  
to the Yemeni people & political leadership.

# CCC:

**An Effective Contribution to Yemen's Growth**

# Aden Searches for Ways to Control Spiralling Inflation

By: Shaher Musa' abain,  
Aden Bureau Chief,  
Yemen Times.

The people of Aden are infuriated by the price hikes that seem to be jumping beyond control. "You can see a rise in the price level from one day to another," one housewife next-door to the Yemen Times office said showing anger and anguish. She reflected the general mood in the city.

Aden governor, Taha Ghanem summoned leading merchants, economists from Aden University and other public personalities, to a special meeting on September 20th. Their task: impossible impossible - to find ways to control the rising cost of living.

The Chairman of the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry defended the role of the merchant class, and said that the problem was the result of the wrong policies of politicians. "In any case, we are willing to contribute to a solution," he added. The university economists came on the side of the businessmen. They highlighted the run-away inflation and insisted it was



caused by the government's fiscal and monetary policies. Khaled Abdul-Wahid, President of the Central Statistical Bureau, insisted that his office had turned over a detailed analysis of the situation. "The numbers are clear. But the government failed to act, and still fails to act in the proper direction," he said. From what was said in the meeting, it looked like the government was looking for a scapegoat, and it is the merchants.

Specific blame was put on three factors:

- 1) Disequilibrium in the economic policies of the state.
  - 2) Unstable fiscal and monetary policies and their inconsistencies.
  - 3) Bureaucratized procedures which hinder market-based activities, notably the quota, permit, and customs systems.
- Mr. Salim Taher Ali Al-Aradhi, Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said

that the Chamber will hold a sequel meeting to follow-up on the decisions taken in the first meeting. He also indicated that the Chamber - now under the control of the businessmen - is once again interacting with the

issues concerning the public.

He indicated that they were concentrating on training and providing companies with data important for their economic decisions. "That is part of our campaign for transforming the

role of Adency," he said.

The chamber has also formed many small committees to enhance awareness on the possibilities offered by the commercial and economic capital of the Republic," he concluded.

## TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT for 2nd time

TENDER NO. (1) FOR SUPPLY OF CABLES & CONDUCTORS

PEC ADEN ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE ABOVE TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

- 1) REHABILITATION OF ADEN ELECTRIC NETWORK AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD FINANCED BY ARAB FUND
- 2) HABILAIN & DHALLAN NETWORK FINANCED BY OPEC.

Tenderers willing to participate in any of the above mentioned tender can purchase the tender documents from:

THE DEPT OF PURCHASING & STORES.

Public Electricity Corporation,

Hedjuff, Ma'alla Aden,

Republic of Yemen,

Tel. 242973; Fax No. 221133; Telex No. 2263 YD ADENLEC.

Starting from 20/9/94 against a non-refundable fee of 1000 Yemeni Rials (ONE THOUSAND RIALS) for each copy of the above mentioned 2 tenders.

The bids must be accompanied by BID/BOND in the form of a Bank Guarantee or a payable check for 2% (two per cent) of the total bid amount in the name of the Public Electricity Corporation - Aden Branch, and should remain valid for 120 days from the closing date. Tenderers in the Republic who are willing to participate in the above tender are required to submit with their tender documents the following.

- 1- TENDERS BIDS IN 3 COPIES: AN ORIGINAL AND 2 COPIES
- 2- COPY OF INCOME TAX CERTIFICATE (FOR LOCAL FIRMS)
- 3- COPY OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CERTIFICATE (FOR LOCAL FIRMS)

Bids for the above tender is to be submitted in sealed envelope to the Secretary of the Tendering Committee at the General Managing Director Office, Hedjuff, no later than 11.00 Noon local time of closing date 17/10/94. Bids received after closing time and date will not be considered.



## TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO. (4/94) FOR SUPPLY OF COMPUTER, EQUIPMENTS & AUXILIARIES.

PEC ADEN ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE ABOVE TENDER FOR COMPUTER, EQUIPMENTS & AUXILIARIES FINANCED BY OPEC.

Tenderers willing to participate in the above mentioned tender can purchase the tender documents from:

THE DEPT OF PURCHASING & STORES.

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Republic of Yemen,

Tel. 242973; Fax No. 221133; Telex No. 2263 YD ADENLEC.

Starting from 29/9/94 against a non-refundable fee of 1000 Yemeni Rials (ONE THOUSAND RIALS) for each copy of the above mentioned tender.

The bids must be accompanied by BID/BOND in the form of a Bank Guarantee or a payable check for 2% (two per cent) of the total bid amount in the name of the Public Electricity Corporation - Aden Branch, and should remain valid for 120 days from the closing date. Tenderers in the Republic who are willing to participate in the above tender are required to submit with their tender documents the following.

- 1- TENDERS BIDS IN 3 COPIES: AN ORIGINAL AND 2 COPIES
- 2- COPY OF INCOME TAX CERTIFICATE (FOR LOCAL FIRMS)
- 3- COPY OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CERTIFICATE (FOR LOCAL FIRMS)

Bids for the above tender is to be submitted in sealed envelope to the Secretary of the Tendering Committee at the General Managing Director Office, Hedjuff, no later than 11.00 Noon local time of closing date 31/10/94.

Bids received after closing time and date will not be considered.

## TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO. (5) FOR SUPPLY OF INSULATORS  
TENDER NO. (14) FOR SUPPLY OF TRUCKS (Item 1.2) & (1.3)

PEC ADEN ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE ABOVE 2 TENDERS FOR REHABILITATION OF ADEN ELECTRIC NETWORK AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD FINANCED BY ARAB FUND

Tenderers willing to participate in any of the above mentioned tenders can purchase the tender documents from:

THE DEPT OF PURCHASING & STORES.

Public Electricity Corporation,

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Republic of Yemen,

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Starting from 20/9/94 against a non-refundable fee of 1000 Yemeni Rials (ONE THOUSAND RIALS) for each copy of any of the above mentioned 2 tenders.

The bids must be accompanied by BID/BOND in the form of a Bank Guarantee or a payable check for 2% (two per cent) of the total bid amount in the name of the Public Electricity Corporation - Aden Branch, and should remain valid for 120 days from the closing date. Tenderers in the Republic who are willing to participate in the above tenders are required to submit with their tender documents the following.

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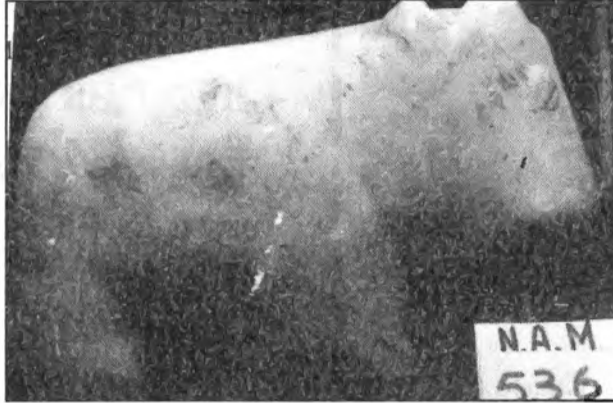
# More Stolen Beauties of Ancient Yemeni Art

By: David Warburton

Of the great Pre-Islamic Arab civilizations, Yemen's was the oldest and the one that flourished the longest, so that its art has a unique place in history. Ancient South Arabian art is also unique in that two parallel traditions were allowed to grow side by side: the indigenous artistic bent expressing the religious beliefs and artistic traditions never ceased to grow, yet simultaneously, there was also a tradition allowing imported forms of artistic expression to be incorporated into the local repertoire, enriching the culture without menacing it. Works of art dating to the same period may thus differ significantly, as they were born of two different traditions which did not necessarily blend together. To understand this, we must go back to the origins of Near Eastern civilization, where the earliest human cultures employing art emerged in Egypt and Mesopotamia more than five thousand years ago.

For nearly four thousand years, the Egyptian civilization followed a single line, adopting foreign ideas, but incorporating them into Egyptian art forms. When the Greeks and the Romans ruled Egypt, after the conquest of Alexander the Great around 300 B.C., the Egyptians continued to use their own art forms, and the foreign residents continued to observe their own traditions, so that there was little cultural blending, although - living cheek by jowl - the two cultures did occasionally affect one another.

The history of ancient Mesopotamia was far more turbulent, so that many different artistic traditions competed with one another, usually surrendering to the culture of the militarily victorious, so that when the Greeks and Romans ruled the orient in the centuries



**← Pictures clockwise**  
bull headed stele from Qataban; a bear (?) from the Awsan Kingdom; an inscribed stele from Qataban; a funerary head from Qataban; imported Athenian tetradrachma; an ancient ibex frieze.  
All above objects - and many others - were stolen from the Museums of Aden, Bayhan, Zinjibar and Mukalla

after Alexander, local Mesopotamian artistic concepts and styles were lost, disappearing completely under the façade of Roman rule.

Three of the great Arab kingdoms of classical antiquity blossomed after the fall of the classic Mesopotamian civilizations under the influence of Graeco-Roman artistic thought: the Nabatean Kingdom in present day Jordan, the Kingdom of Palmyra in present day Syria, and the Kingdom of Hatra in present day Iraq. Each of them developed its own art and architecture, but with an ancestry including both Mesopotamian and European elements.

Not so South Arabian art. Yemen's Arab kingdoms were flourishing long before contact with Egypt and Mesopotamia developed to a phase of real intensity, so that the local traditions were able to grow and become strong without exposure to external influence. This meant that being without outside influence, Yemeni art was unique in the Arab kingdoms of

the ancient Near East. The architecture and art which emerged seems very alien in appearance, giving us pause, but its striking contrast to that familiar to us enables us appreciate it as an expression of national character. Once the tradition was established, such sculpture and architecture as was required for religious purposes held its own. Thus, one strain of South Arabian art can be seen and appreciated as an expression of cultural independence.

Another strain appeared in the form of blended imitations of imported artistic styles. After the South Arabians came into direct contact with the older Northern civilizations, and trade brought many Northern articles into the country, the South Arabians took enormous pleasure in adopting the forms of expression encountered in the Egypt, Greece and Mesopotamia, and employed them

freely. This produced wondrous creations, such as three statues of the kings of Awsan: one classically South Arabian, one in Graeco-Cypriot garb, and the third having adopted a dress reminiscent at once of Yemen and of the Persian Medes (from left to right in Yemen Times, 12 September 1994, last page), telling the tale of the changing artistic, commercial and political history of Yemen and its neighbors. At a later period, one can admire the pieces from wadi Dura, reflecting Mediterranean and Persian influences (in the Yemen Times of 26 September 1994, last page). The objects from Dura and the statues of the Awsanic kings can be associated with the fine Yemeni-Roman bronzes in the National Museum in Sana'a as representing the openness with which Yemeni art welcomed foreign styles for purposes of public display in the secular world.

It is a common feature of human history that cultures are best able to protect their national traits and forms of expressions in the secluded world of religion, for most of the divinities of the ancient world were national gods. In the conservative religious scriptures and sacred architecture, the nation was able to maintain its identity, unclouded by foreign influences. For this reason ancient Yemeni funeral portraits, but also snakes, eagles, ibexes, bulls, bears, and other appurtenances of the divine, followed the same straight artistic tradition that we see expressed in the statue of Yasdiq 'l Fr'm Bin M'dl, one of the earliest kings of Awsan.

One the most common expressions of the divine in a general way can be seen in the decorative ibex friezes that are found throughout ancient South Arabia. In a mountainous land bordered with deserts, ibex and gazelle will have been among the most common creatures, yet among the most elusive, a prime condition for divinity. And the ibex continues to be divinely elusive today, as its meaning is still not fully grasped.

Another enigma is the god behind the bull shape, possibly the moon-god, named Almaqah in Saba, Wadd in Main, and Syn in the Hadhramaut. Some modern western scholars attempt to identify the South Arabian attributes of these divinities with Graeco-Roman attributes, assuming that since the bull and the eagle were solar attributes in the European pantheon (stretching far beyond the Mediterranean, to Scandinavia), they must be solar attributes in the South Arabian pantheon. As the divine names of the members of the South Arabian pantheon are clearly Semitic, and clearly pre-date the Mediterranean gods of Greece and Rome, there is no logical support for the contention that the South Arabian



pantheon should reflect anything except South Arabia.

A very curious instance of this insular attitude is the god Athtar, whose name and role are similar to that of the Levantine Semitic Ashtar, the goddess of love. Athtar is however a male deity. The Northern Semitic designation of the Sun-god was invariably masculine, yet Shams (meaning Sun) was the national goddess, in parts of South Arabia. We thus see that the South Arabian pantheon was native South Arabian, and that the local symbols of divinity have their own local significance.

Foreign influence necessarily began with the influence of trade, probably late in the second millennium B.C., perhaps around 1200 B.C. Among the first tangible pieces of evidence of foreign influence in Yemen are the Athenian coins that began to arrive in Yemen around 500 B.C. These coins were copied by the local rulers, who minted imitations of the coins here in Yemen. Some statuary and tableware was probably also arriving in Yemen, as part of the luxury trade. Initially there may have been some demand for foreign wares, but the country's wealth attracted foreign artisans who came and worked here in Yemen. It may be assumed that the objects in wadi Dura were manufactured by Roman - and perhaps

Persian - craftsmen who found employment in Yemen, but the proof comes from one of the statues in the National Museum in Sana'a. These statues were found not far from Dhamar, and the inscriptions across the chests of the figures identifying the royal subjects were written in South Arabic, and the sculptor's autograph is preserved on one of the figures, stating "Phokas made (it)", but the formula is in Greek, indicating that the master sculptor was from the Eastern part of the Roman Empire. His Yemeni assistant also signed the piece, making it a virtually unique testimony to international co-operation in Antiquity.

We can thus state that the ancient Yemenis maintained two distinct artistic styles under the umbrella of a single culture, and that traces of this cultural heritage can be found divided between the sacred - where traditional values prevailed - and the profane - where foreign influences enjoyed popularity - as long as they were translated into the Yemeni idiom.

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The opinions expressed in this article are purely his own.

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