



YEMEN TIMES



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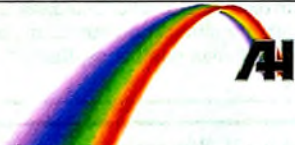
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The Long Battle for Freedom of the Press:

An Update

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

The gap dividing the rhetoric and promises and the actual actions is forever growing wider. This week the battle is raging as intensely as ever. The results, so far, show the Ministry of Information making steady attacks in its efforts to take the country back to the past. But no scores, so far, thanks to the wall of resistance of a few individuals who firmly believe in freedom of the press and the democratization process. Let us take a quick tally of the on-going fight.

1. Al-Belagh:

The Chief Editor of *Al-Belagh* newspaper has been released from prison following a few days of "rest" as a guest of the political security organization. It took an intensive lobbying and haggling to get him out. The paper is temporarily closed down, and the Ministry of Information filed a case with the penal court of Sanaa through the prosecutor-general's office.

The crime: A poem printed in the paper urging the president to stop the corruption of his men and advising him that the people have had enough.

2. Al-Wahdawi:

Al-Wahdawi newspaper is closed effectively, although it is "theoretically" able to print. All printing houses have refused to even touch the paper, under verbal but solid threats from the Ministry of Information.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has filed a law-suit with the courts through the kind cooperation of the general prosecutor's office. The crime: Three articles published in last week's edition (issue #150). One of the complaints, for example, is that in one of the articles, the writer describes the old faces in the new government as "dinosaurs who refuse to die."

3. Attagammu:

Attagammu newspaper is still unable to come out. Various excuses have been given, but the fingers of the Ministry of Information are clear. Besides, the paper will have to come out from Sanaa, and relocate its editorial base, archives and everything from Aden to Sanaa.

4. Al-Shoura:

The third hearing of the case filed by the Ministry of Information against *Al-Shoura* newspaper was on Thursday, October 20th. The proceedings, so far, progress normally. The case continues even as one can see little that the government hopes to achieve from these accusations and actions.

5. Al-Ayyam:

After over three months of interruption, *Al-Ayyam* newspaper came out last Wednesday, 19th October. The Aden-based newspaper was printed in Sanaa. The costs involved in over-hauling its stock of paper to Sanaa, and then shipping most of the paper to Aden, are enormous.



Where do we go from here? The Ministry is pushing the government into a tight and unacceptable corner. It is also running out of gimmicks in its eternal struggle to block a real freedom of the press. As one observer noted, "The Ministry (of Information) simply has no more irons in the fire." The fact that the Ministry of Information refers its complaints to the judicial system is already an important step in the right direction. Although the litigation process bleeds the newspapers financially and it pre-occupies them with non-

journalist matters, the cases have become a focal rallying point for journalists, lawyers, independents, human rights activists, opposition political parties, and many other groups. Meanwhile, the independent newspapers are forming a bloc among them in order to better fight the battle for freedom of the press. The chief editors of 6 newspapers - Yemen Times, Al-Shoura, Al-Belagh, Wahdawi, Al-Ayyam, Attagammu - are meeting to iron out an agreement to coordinate and mobilize public opinion and come to the rescue whenever freedom of the

press comes under fire, irrespective of which paper or journalist is at stake, even outside the Group of Six. The Group of Six have also agreed among themselves to finance the establishing of a printing house. "The Ministry of Information has been using the printing houses to control the newspapers. We hope by mid 1995, there would be a printing house which belongs to the independent newspapers," said Abdullah Saad, Chief Editor of *Al-Shoura*. Efforts are underway to speed up the establishment of the independent press house.

Yemen Blesses Jordanian-Israeli Accord and Iraqi Offers to Recognize Kuwait & Border

"The Government of the Republic of Yemen hereby offers its blessing to the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement. We hope this will lead to the return of the rights of the Palestinian people, as well as those of the Lebanese and Syrian peoples," the communique reads. The decision came following deliberations in the cabinet on Wednesday, 19th October. The cabinet also took a clear stand regarding the recent developments in the Gulf region. "The government of Yemen notes with satisfaction the recent developments which point to the Iraqi offer to recognize the neighboring State of Kuwait and to accept the international border between Iraq and Kuwait as stipulated and marked through the UN."

This is the first time the Yemeni government takes a clear-cut position vis-a-vis the on-going peace effort in the Middle East. It is also the first time that it has blessed Iraqi efforts in complying to the Security Council resolutions. The Government of Yemen still expressed its hope that the sanctions which are affecting the people of Iraq will be removed or at least be eased. These two steps are seen by observers as indicators of the desire of the new government to disentangle itself from any extremist positions or stands which are not in line with the majority of the world community. Internal and external observers have hailed the new government's decisions as steps in the right direction.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen Needs a Proper Examination System

One of the major problems of Yemen is that there is no way of identifying the true worth of an individual in terms of knowledge and know-how. All levels of examinations in schools have lost their meaning, and they have become hollow procedures. Cheating is rampant, evaluation is less than objective or thorough, and grades are "adjusted and re-adjusted" long after the results are announced.

Enrollment and entry exams have been employed to make up for the lack of credibility of certificates. Even these have been watered down, and their significance is lost in view of the "wasitah" (influential people who intervene on behalf of this or that candidate).

Examinations are important.

They motivate students to study. They provide a check on the effectiveness of teachers. They are a measure of competences required for further learning. They are a means to ration access to professional monopolies and organizational membership. They are a device to screen applicants for valued social goods and services to manageable numbers. They are an important tool to protect the public against the malpractice of unqualified doctors, engineers, plumbers, electricians, etc. Examinations are used for many other reasons, and they are a valuable mechanism for society to manage itself and as a measure of the native abilities and the capacity for persistent and advanced efforts.

But when the political leaders of society do not want to identify those who are qualified from those who are not, when they do not place any real and meaningful value on efficiency and productivity, and when they lose track of merits on purpose so that they can assign their cronies to senior positions in society. The leaders of society could not have by-passed the more qualified members of society in favor of their cronies unless the measurements for differentiation of abilities (examinations) are not properly administered.

If we look at the countries that have made progress in today's world, we will note that such progress is positively and directly co-related with the effectiveness of the examination system. Japan, which has made the most dramatic progress in the 20th century, is a country described as exercising "examination hell", and Germany, the most powerful and advanced economic power of Europe has the most Calvinist and evaluation system in Europe. More close to home, Jordan has created a relatively efficient examination system thus allowing it to maximize the potential of its human-power.

Yemen has failed to put together even the semblance of an examination system. The schools are plagued with leakage of examination papers - even in centrally administered exams. Because of sheer numbers, there is little credibility to an objective evaluation of the student papers. Even worse, student grades are changed at will, long after the results are announced. Finally, any kind of certificate is "officially" given out without the supporting examination papers.

This whole situation exists because certain powerful blocs in society cannot compete fairly on the basis of merits and qualifications, hence their persistent efforts to belittle and undermine our examination systems.

The Republic of Yemen needs to create a credible and effective system of examinations if it is to put its most able citizens to good use and to create a meritocracy.

The Publisher


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A Big Fire Destroys Market Center

A major fire totally destroyed over 300 shacks, huts, cottages and shops-on-wheel on the southern side of the Bab Al-Yemen Gate in Sanaa.

"It started at around 1:30 in the early morning of Thursday, 20th October," said Colonel Abdul-Wahed Al-Sayyaghi, General Manager of Sanaa City's Security Office. He insisted that the fire brigades arrived some half an hour after the first started. "The dramatic damage is due to the lack of any standards in the shacks," he indicated.

A committee is investigating the causes and what can be done. The silver lining to this incident is that it is now possible to plan the area in a better way.

Rothmans Donates Four Ambulances to the Yemeni People

Rothmans of Pall Mall International has donated four ambulances to the Yemeni people. Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies - agents and local partners of Rothmans - said on the occasion, "This is an important gesture from Rothmans by ploughing back some of the profits they make in the Yemeni market."

Simon Cunningham, Country Manager of Rothmans, visited Dr. Najeeb S. Ghanem, Minister of Health, on Saturday October 22nd, to hand over copies of the registration documents of the four vehicles. "It is up to the authorities to determine where the ambulances will be used. But I have learned one will go to Hadhramaut, another to Abyan, a third to Aden, and the last to Hodeidah. We have blessed this decision," the Rothmans official said.

Results of the Elections in the Two Vacant Constituencies Declared

The Supreme Elections committee has announced the results of the elections held recently in the two vacant constituencies - No. 78 in Radfan, Lahej Governorate, and No. 241 in Sa'afan, Sanaa Governorate. The winners are: Mohammed Abdullah Bin Suhail (Independent) - Constituency 78, and Ali Abdullah Al-Ghail (PGC) - Constituency 231.

According to the law, any newly elected members to vacant seats in parliament will simply complete whatever is left of the term.

All constituencies in the Republic will witness new elections in April 1997.

Decree on Consultative Council Announced

President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued decree number 9 for 1994 announcing the creation of the Consultative Council. According to the law by decree, the Council will have 59 members - two thirds of whom will be come in equal numbers from all governorates. The rest will be handpicked depending on their qualification and abilities. All members will be named by the president. The role of the Council is to provide advice and opinion on whatever is referred to it by the president of the republic. The names of the members are expected to be declared before the end of current October.

President Saleh Donates YR Fifty Million as Seed Money to Start Hadhramaut University

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on a visit to Hadhramaut, ordered the government to make available YR fifty million as start-up money for Hadhramaut University. "The money will be used to the Engineering College," a source told the Yemen Times.

Preparations to Establish a Center for Islamic Future Studies

Preparations are in full gear to establish the Center for Islamic Future Studies. Leading the effort is Fares Al-Saqqaf.

The brochure issued to introduce explains that the motives behind it are the endless crises that have plagued the Islamic World and Muslim peoples, in their inter-relations, as well as in relations with the rest of the world.

"As human civilization moves on, we Muslims have reacted with emotional outbursts and/or with a violent regressive attitude which is attached to the past," the brochure reads. It concludes that the marginalization of the Muslim people have had a lot to do with their current predicament. Another aspect is the lack of clarity and vision.

The objectives of the center are to embark on studies that will help both the Muslims and non-Muslims understand each other better.

The center is expected to be inaugurated in the first week of November, 1994.

The International Pen Friends Names a Local Representative

The International Pen Friends (IPF) has named Miss Rahila Ba-Alawy as its representative in the Republic of Yemen. The IPF, which is a non-political, non-sectarian self-finding organization, has over 300,000 members in 210 countries and regions. The organization caters to all age groups. Its youngest member is eight years old, and the oldest was born in 1920.

The IPF has its own Stamp Exchange Division and over 6,000 stamp-exchanging members, and issues its own international magazine entitled "People and Places."

Rahila is a young and energetic woman who works for Yemen Hunt Oil Company. She has asked Yemen Times to announce her interest in linking up Yemeni pen friends with the world. She can be reached at the following address:

Miss Rahila Ba-Alawy,
 P. O. Box 481,
 Sanaa, Yemen
 Phone: (01) 216-080, x-2643,
 Fax: (01) 216-079.

Rising Investments in the Health Sector

There has been a rising level of investments in the health sector. "This week, I shall inaugurate three new hospitals in Sanaa, and two in Taiz. These represent a total of YR 500 million by local and international private entrepreneurs," said Dr. Najeeb Ghanem, Minister of Health.

The minister is expecting many more new investments. But the country's rising demand is really not just for general practitioners. "The country needs specialized medical care," the minister added.

Some 200,000 Yemenis leave the country annually, ostensibly for medical care. Some 70,000 went to Jordan and Iraq alone during 1993. That is why the Minister of Health is more than eager to license any new effort in the health sector by private investors. Even with the visible irregularities and fall of standards here and there in private clinics, the minister is willing to let the market chop off the amateurs and short-sighted investors. However standards in private clinics fall, they can't be worse than public hospitals.

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Abdo Mohammed Al-Ganadi:

"I call on all Nasserite parties to come together and work under one umbrella."

The Nasserites are splintered into at least three groups - the largest the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi Annasseri, the Democratic Nasserite Party, and the Corrective Nasserite Party. And today all three are penetrated by plants representing the interests of the rulers. Even then, there are efforts to re-unite the splintered Nasserite groups into a unified opposition party. Numerous individuals are working towards this almost impossible task. One of these is Abdo Mohammed Al-Ganadi.

Al-Ganadi, 46, is the Secretary-General of the pro-president Democratic Nasserite Party. He is also a member of parliament, for the second time, and one of the leading personalities of Taiz governorate.

Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Al-Ganadi and filed the following interview:

Q: You are a long-time member of parliament. Could you share with us your assessment of how well parliament has done?

A: Our understanding and interaction with the very concept and meaning of parliament is still fuzzy. In addition, our politicians have never had a real conviction of the role of parliament, or even of the ballot box. That is why we have all these problems and shortcomings in our parliamentary functions.

Let me start with the unification effort which unleashed the democratization process. Unity of the two former Yemens was achieved because the two ruling cliques in Sanaa and Aden believed they could dispose of the other partner one way or another. In the best case scenario, they would dispose of the other side through winning the elections.

A Supreme Elections Committee was formed from all the main parties, thus reducing the level of irregularities in the elections. The problem was one of how the two partners who created the unity will continue to divide the government and the state's resources. The overall rivalry atmosphere led to deep tensions and a prolonged crisis which did not allow the parliament to function properly.

We cannot expect our parliament to command the respect and power similar institutions have in the West, because it is a cumulative process. You will recall in British or other history that parliament was pushed around by the rulers. Today the Yemeni parliament undergoes a similar situation.

In general, however, I think our experiment is encouraging, and I feel that much has been done. I expect, and it is my hope, that this parliament will put the country on the right course of democracy.

Q: Parliament has stressed the need to fight against corruption. Do you think it will happen?

A: We only can judge on the basis of the declared intentions. All persons in parliament and in government have said that they are against corruption and general lawlessness and chaos that are prevailing due to lack of accountability.

The president complains about corruption, the speaker of parliament complains about corruption, the prime minister complains about corruption, and all senior officials and officers complain about corruption. But I think what is happening is that the word corruption has become politicized and is used as a scapegoat.

To further aggravate the situation, we see the widening gap between the various economic classes. The rich become still richer, and the poor fall further down. There is another gap: it is the one between our potential and the reality. As a result, the public no longer trusts the political promises being thrown at it, because many of those who complain against corruption are in reality responsible for it, even if only in part.

Let us take specific examples. The leaders had raised the issue of putting the right person in the right place based on abilities and qualifications. What has happened? We have ample evidence that this was never respected.

Another example is related to the concept of reward and punishment. The idea is to reward those who function properly and to punish those who deviate. What has happened. Again never has this concept any meaningful application.

In short, what I am saying is that we cannot fight corruption with words and promises. The public wants to see some action.



Q: You are the secretary-general of the Nasserite Democratic Party. We heard of steps to unify the three of more Nasserite parties. Can you share with us some details?

A: I must say I am ashamed of the division that has become a landmark of the Nasserite movement in our country. The main reason for this is really the personal ambition of individuals to become leaders of parties. I agree among the various shades of Nasserism, there were inclinations among the Nasserite factions to side with either the PGC or the YSP in their pre-war rivalry. Today the rivalry between the PGC and YSP has been settled and finished, and thus the facade of excuse may have ended.

Today, I am willing to become a member in the leadership of a unified Nasserite party rather than the secretary-general of a splinter group. I want to effectively contribute to the return of Nasserite parties to the mainstream of decision-making in Yemen.

I call on the Nasserite leaders to come together and investigate seriously the possibility of unifying the party. There is no big or small among the leaders of our party. We shall all grow if we see light and agree to work together. This is the true test of our democratic nature.

I propose a joint team of all Nasserite leaders to meet and then go together to see the leaders of

other parties, including president Ali Abdullah Saleh. We must show that we can work together, not against each other.

Q: As one of the representatives of Taiz, you have been trying to find solutions for the problems of the governorate. Could you tell us the main problems that face Taiz and how far have you come in resolving them?

A: There was a team of leading Taiz personalities which was formed for this matter. I was a member of that team, and so was your chief editor, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. The focus was on three specific issues:

1. Taiz-city water supply,
2. Taiz University,
3. Local government.

As far as the water issue is concerned, there were instructions from the president to urgently handle this matter. Studies determined that the city's water supply must come from a res-

ervoir to the north of the city, west of the town of Al-Qaidah. Unfortunately, the residents of the region have resisted efforts to drill water wells in their area out of fear of the repercussions. We have tried hard to explain and discuss and give guarantees, but all to no avail.

We as a parliamentary bloc from Taiz finally signed a letter to President recently asking him to enable the water drilling process. We are waiting for an action on this matter.

As far as Taiz University is concerned, steps have been taken to construct the buildings. The problem was that private owners contested ownership of the land. Given the nature of our new system, we had to go through a prolonged clearance system until the courts and other bodies settled the matter. I think the construction work on the fencing wall may have already started and I hope it will continue uninterrupted.

I want to mention that there are already some 30,000 university students in Taiz city as part of Sanaa University.

Finally, with respect to local government, we think that it will help in allowing people achieve their maximum potential. Taiz as the largest governorate in the republic - in terms of population - leads this process. But other governorates such as Ibb, Abyan, Aden, Hodeidah, etc. will also benefit.

This development will strengthen our democratic experiment, and it will expand the participation base of the people in government.

Q: The PGC and Islah are today running the government as partners, and the YSP is out. Could you share your thoughts with us regarding the political evolution of our country?

A: I think that the YSP caused the problems with the other political parties partly because it refused to recognize the changes brought about by the parliamentary elections of April 1993. So we had the media squabbling, the crisis, and ultimately the war - all of which are sad.

Today, the two parties which are closer to each other in vision and programs (PGC and Islah) are ruling. This is good in that it will allow them to lead the country in one direction. The YSP is now in the opposition, which is also good because it will strengthen the opposition. There will be at least an opposition bloc in parliament to make the government accountable.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to advise the government to pay attention to the economy. The standard of living of the Yemeni people and what happens to it will be the final arbiter of what happens to our democratic evolution.

يقول الحميد ابن منصور:

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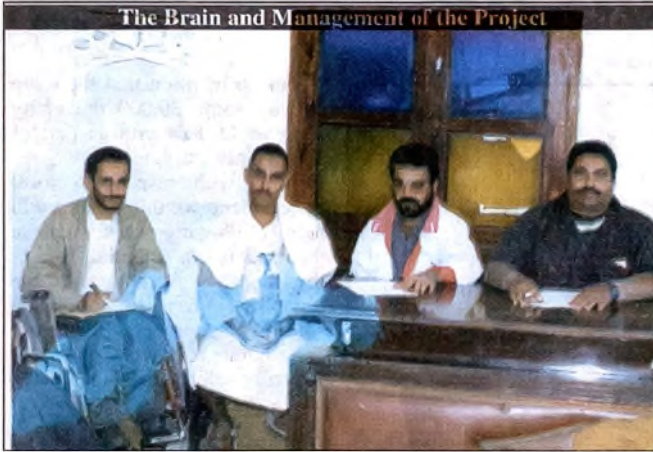
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The Physically-Handicapped Association Fights Against Economic Handicap



The Brain and Management of the Project

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi, Yemen Times

Some 12% of the Yemeni society is estimated to suffer from one form or another handicap. The physically handicapped represent about a third of this group.

The handicapped persons suffer from enormous difficulties. Their economic hardships have grown steadily over the last few years, as the whole country was getting poorer and poorer. A public that was formerly generous is no longer so given the economic crunch and the fall in the feeling of moral duty.

"We had to look for ways to generate income ourselves," says Othman Asselwi, a leading member of the Yemeni Physically-Handicapped Association (YPHA).

At first, the YPHA tried to urge the government to enact a law that would forbid discrimination against handicapped persons in employment. That was a non-starter. Not only was the government unwilling to enact the said law, but itself it exercised discrimination. The private sector was not willing either.

So the YPHA worked at another level. With generous assistance from the international community, it put together a workshop which will train handicapped persons and enable them to produce goods that the market demands.

The products are diverse and vary a lot: garments, napkins, embroidery, puppets, artifacts, woodwork, souvenirs, ornaments and pendants and hangings.

In addition, there is a section for learning typing, archiving and other office work. The hope is that by providing qualified people for a badly needed service in society.

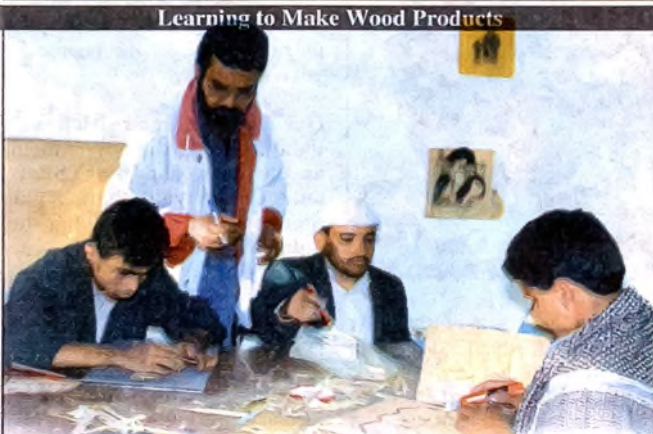
One of the female trainees put her case succinctly: "There is no one to take care of me. I have to learn to do that."

The total number of trainees is around eighty persons - almost equally divided among male and female trainees. They are optimistic about the program. They hope it will help improve their standard of living and they see it as their ticket against poverty.

But there is one problem: selling their products. We urge all to buy the handicapped's products when they go shopping.



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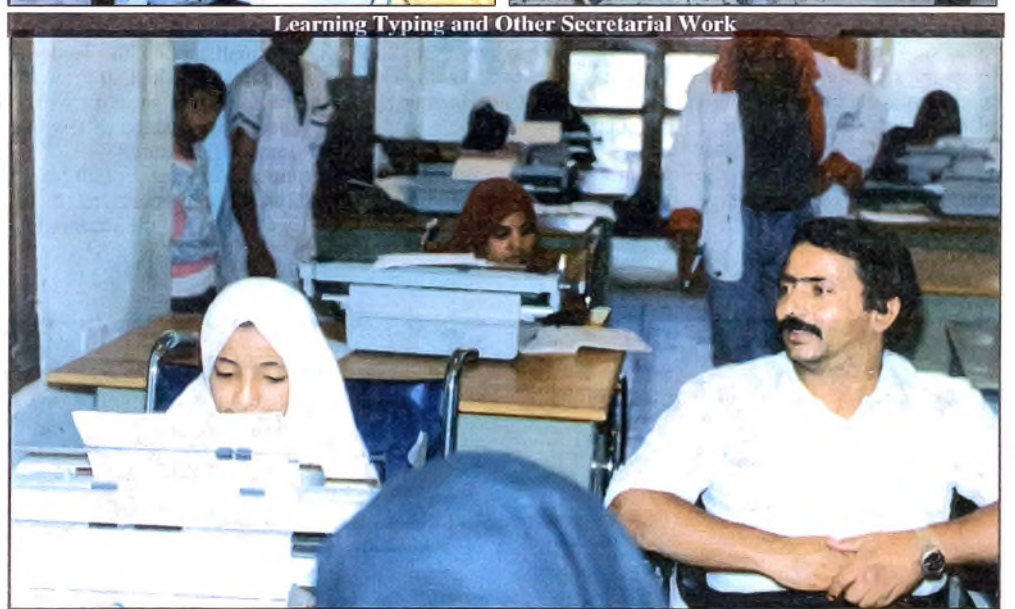
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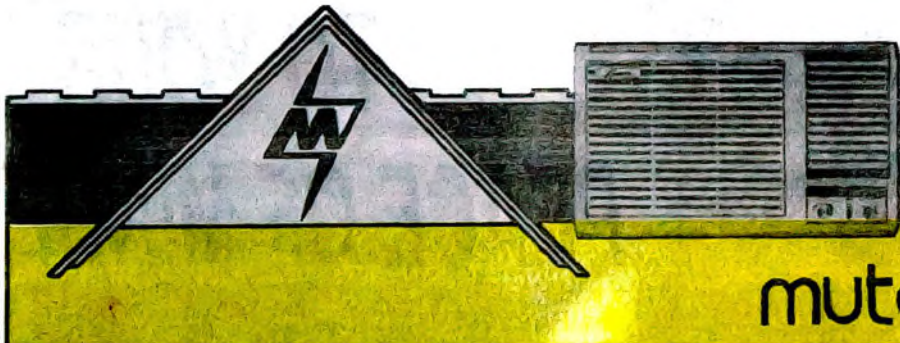


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THE BIG CHALLENGES FACING THE NEW GOVERNMENT

By Ali Mohammed A. Nasser, Sanaa.

After the Republic of Yemen has experienced a hard transitional period full with sorely tremendous events since 1990 through now the formation of the new government came to reveal that Yemen is admitting a new era. But despite the apparent favorable internal political situation characterized by the cease of political plots and quibbles as professed repeatedly the new government inevitably faces crucial economic problems. This intricate situation form a genuine grim challenge in front of this government.

Identifying the most severe economic problems we may indicate thus: the very narrow resource base, deep stagnation with a lack of growth, enormously high inflation and unemployment rates, heavy budget and balance of payments deficits, a very low per capita income, grievous structural macro-economics imbalances, a very low degree of economic employment and performance and to say nothing of the dire scarcity of foreign exchange and formidable foreign indebtedness. These serious problems are firmly interlinked and they contribute considerably to each other in terms of aggravating sharply the current hard economic situation.

Proceeding from such an erratic stance all options liable to the new government are likely to seem hard in as much as all undertakings involve grievous costs and the predictable merits resulting from the consequences are pledged by the durable preservation and consistent awareness which have to be interpreted in sound policies and intact framework of their implementation presumably the appropriate responding to such a stance is plainly demonstrated through conducting a comprehensive and global economic reform which seems to be more conclusive and effective than any partial confined remedy. But the decisive question that seems to be aptly posed as to whether the government will be sufficiently enthusiast of undertaking such a comprehensive reform or alternately she will be inclined to be in favor of carrying out a limited partial remedy due to the intricate problems and the vast costs ensued by the first choice. Whatsoever the option of the new government may be, it seems likely that she will not make up her mind to preserve the status quo of the present deteriorating economic situation.

Anyhow, we do not anticipate the events but one feels likely to be in favor of a global economic reform approach since the deep problems those the economy dismally suffer from are well by long odds beyond the apparent sufficiency that a partial remedy may involve.

Partial remedy as we conceive may involve a trial to improve budget revenue collection, holding a command on the budget expenditures so as to meet the goal of a less sever budget deficit. Further such remedy may imply taking measures to devalue the rial to a certain degree, trying to maintain fixed prices for the 4 items professed as necessary commodities, endeavoring to improve the performance of the present economy administration in addition to extracting oil and gas.

But far from being irrelevantly optimistic in the consequences of such a partial remedy we have to realize that such an extent of addressing the acute economic problems in Yemen does not tackle the locus of those serious problems. There are two main agents which exacerbate all those problems; the first is demonstrated in the multiple exchange rate system that is prevailing now and the second is represented by the budget deficit. Between these two agents there is a close interrelation whereas they foster each other and consequently they invoke the emergence and exacerbation of all economic problems. By undertaking a confined partial remedy those two agents will definitely remain and will continue to erode the national economy. We will stick hereunder to illuminating this particular matter in order to overshadow the notion of the necessity of conducting a comprehensive economic reform.

There are several levels of official exchange rate grading from 12 to 25 rials for 1 US\$ and simultaneously

there is a free exchange rate leveling currently over 80 rials per 1 US\$. Through official exchange rate merely 20% of imports and economic transactions are accommodated while the rest 80% of those imports and transactions are financed through the free exchange rate market. But in spite of the manifest in preponderance of official exchange rate in terms of accommodating of imports and economic transactions it can be realized that all the economic activities are seriously hampered by the effect of this official exchange rate. It cripples the forces of the market by disrupting the price mechanism and stumbling the interplay of supply and demand and distorting the relation between production and consumption and the pattern of resource distribution.

Notwithstanding the desperate lack of resources, official exchange rate affords not only subsidy to the professed 4 items of commodities those regarded as necessary for life and especially for the poor but it renders that all imported commodities to be considerably subsidized. Those 4 items are subsidized through financing their importation at a rate of 16 rials for a 1 US\$ and the other commodities are subsidized through reckoning the custom duties which have to be paid on them the basis of an over evaluated rate of 18 rials per 1 US\$. Thus the 4 items professed as necessary for life have their prices formed less than their objective economic costs with 80% whereas they are sold for a price which constitutes only 20% of the cost. Concerning all other imported items have their prices lower than their economic objective cost in a portion equivalent to the amount which forms the difference between the free market rate (80 rials) and the official customs rate (18 rials) in every dollar of the value of imported goods. The state incurs thereby a grievous loss not only in terms of earmarking huge amounts of foreign exchange for a growing importation as the matter would not be serious in being within that boundary but the bulk of the loss that the economy incurs is beyond that the far let us contemplate at some aspects of that heavy loss that the economy experiences. Wheat production may be a clear example.

Having imported wheat sold at the market in a 20% of its cost by the virtues of subsidizing exchange rate no one will accept to purchase the wheat produced by an indigenous farmer whose cost is built on the market exchange rate above 80 rials for a 1 US\$ and as a matter of course that farmer cannot afford to sell his wheat product for 20% of his cost otherwise he maybe a maladroit as his income from such a sale is not sufficient to make him meet the needs of life for but less than 70 days in the year counting nearly 365 days. The indigenous peasant here losses totally the ability to compete and simultaneously losses all incentives to grow wheat and he might be forced to shift his activity from wheat to another less risky like fodder or may be like Qat as a remunerative cash crop. the failure in competing does not hold for wheat but that is logically applicable to a wide range of products especially taking into account the dire need of widening and diversifying the economy.

An important point that we should not ignore is the common economic fact that lower prices bring about higher demand. Thus the low prices of all imported goods by the virtue of subsidization through exaggerated over-valuation of the rial pushes the demand on those commodities upwards and that creates the necessity to import more of those commodities under the prevailing conditions of obvious shortage and severe scarcity of foreign exchange. Thus there is a failure in supply associated with a burgeoning gap between diminishing supply and an increasing demand that leads up to a harmful speculation in prices where nouveau riches and graft are bolstered. So despite heavy subsidization and therefrom ensured resources squander there is a plain failure to realize even a narrow economic and particularly price stabilization. To such a stance applies correctly the well - known Arabian dictum that says {He provoked the anger of Christ and failed to content Mohammed (The Prophet)}.

Further, referring to the link between production and consumption it is realized that such a link has been disentangled. As in a sound economy an increase in the second leads up to a commensurate increase in the first, yet here the increase in consumption induces the growth of imports and consequently that revokes the stumbling blocks in the way of the local production.

As far as the budget is concerned, official exchange rate and the subsidization associating that do lower the bulk of budget revenue and consequently due to the obvious inflexibility of budget expenditures budget deficit overwhelmingly burgeons. By financing that deficit through over-drawing from the banking system the quantity of money and consequently the overall demand to rise and that brings about a drastic rise in galloping inflation and the prices and from that all results the inevitable further deterioration of the value of the national currency - the rial.

Therefore its is obvious that under these circumstances growth and stabilization are not in access and the erratic and paradoxical stance continue to predominate where losses incurred by the economy are rendered to seem indispensable whatsoever has been professed and preached about promoting the economic performance. Such professing and preaching resemble the one who digs deeply to reach into his aim but digging with a sieve.

The new government has to break the ground to devise the appropriate manners and the expedient methods to induce employment and growth and promote economic stabilization. These goals can be reached only through a comprehensive economic reform. Here where the wisdom and the awareness of the new government come to the fore.

We may presumably suggest the following key points that we conceive apt to form a base for such a comprehensive reform:

- 1: Abolishing all kinds of official exchange rate.
- 2: Desist fixing prices.
- 3: Accelerate the process of privatization and ceasing the role of the state as trader and commodity producer in the fields that the private sector can afford to carry on the function of production.
- 4: Corresponding to free exchange rate power and fuel prices as well as the prices of some services rendered by the government have to be revised accordingly.
- 5: Abrogate all kinds of subsidization for consumption and supplanting the present manner of subsidizing the production process through lower inputs price by subsidizing the product on their access to the market on condition that such a subsidy to be based on identifying the most essential product like wheat, cotton etc....

6: Corresponding to free exchange rate and free prices the budget revenue items have to be revised an recomputed to guarantee elevating the revenue yield to accommodate the revised an elevated budget expenditures in the manner that ensures the abrogation of the budget deficit wholly.

- 7: To accommodate the price rise which is estimated to step up by nearly 70% following the reform a head most commensurate increase in wages and salaries should be realized in addition to defraying tentative cash aids to ultimately real indigents.
- 8: Reactivating the compulsory banks to ensure that such modalities (tools) form gradually the base for determining bank interest rates. Fatherly determination of bank interest rates by sheer uneconomic coercive fiat should be desisted.
- 9: Making advantage of sound using of the open market operations to ensure stable exchange rate which contributes powerfully in stabilizing economic activities.

Such measures and steps have to be conducted in a closely coherent and integrated coordination manner to ensure the proper implementation of the reform. Any incoherence and any failure in maintaining firm coordination and integration of these measures implies not only jeopardizing the reform and impairing its fulfillment but that brings about the emergency of further worsening of the economic situation and its further deterioration. Thus one should be aware of such consequences.

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Environmental Degradation More Severe than Thought

The signals of trouble that the environment sends are often obscure, dim and complicated - by the time the threat is real and tangible, it is too late for a cure. This is what environmentalists have taken to calling "overshoot" better informations - about the past, the present and most likely the future of a problem - is an essential requirement of intelligent environmental governance. Particularly useful will be the "transferable" Data - research findings from one part of the world that are useful in another, however different the two sites might be in their topography, climate and their socio-economic role. In the initial results of an international research group from Clark University in the United States on the possible commonalities at nine research locales around the world, it was shown that environmental degradation was severe.

The causes and consequence of human induced environmental are not evenly distributed on the earth. The coverage in various places around the globe where human activities now threaten

continuing rapport with nature - locales as sharply desperate in their topography and climate as the rain forests of Amazon, the wintry wastes of the North Sea and peaks/valleys of Himalayas. Such environmentally endangered areas were extensively discussed at the earth summit at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

It is not just that these areas are at the greatest immediate danger, but more forbodingly, they may be harbingers of broader and longer term situations associated with global change. Such locales are of interest because they facilitate on-site exploration of the complex, yet sometimes narrowly located interactions between the driving forces of global changes and the local environmental vulnerabilities. They allow environmental scientists to examine the relationship of both the scale and time to the process of change.

For the past five years, research groups have been making a comparative analysis of nine environmentally threatened regions in different continents.

Case studies were conducted in each of these regions following

the same research protocol. The nature of human imposed changes necessarily varies from region to region reflecting the differing impact of human activity on both the natural setting and societal well-being.

The analysis seeks to explain not only the trajectory - that is the rate of slope and the rate of change over time of each of the variables - but also the causal relationship among them. Along with the global economic forces, the interaction one region has with another, nearby or distant, are major factors that set regional vulnerabilities. Much evidence from the project suggests the growing dependence of many agricultural economies on fluctuations in world market prices. Another major consideration is the role played by the individual farmer) vis-a-vis that of state policies.

It must be emphasized that the research did not point to any one, or even several factors that dominate regional dynamics.

Environmental Editor,
Yemen Times.

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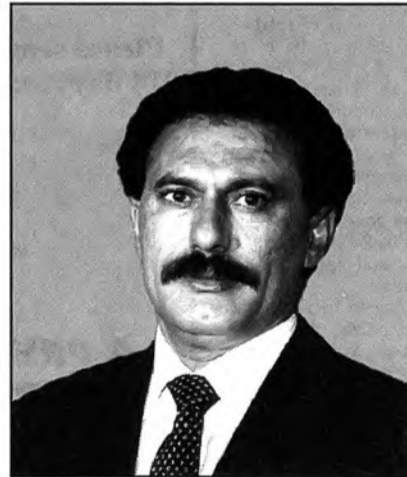
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**Vocational Training Workshop Issues
Important Recommendations**

The Government of Yemen, the private sector, and the World Bank jointly concluded a successful workshop during 18-19 October in Sanaa. The recommendations have concentrated on the ways and means of financing vocational training programs. Some important points are given below:

1. The private sector should contribute towards the costs of vocational training because of the higher worker productivity, higher product quality, less production waste, better maintenance and use of equipment, reduction in accidents, savings in hard currency, and attraction for foreign co-investors associated with vocational training.

2. Supply of raw materials to vocational training centers through contribution of employers and reduction in customs duties/taxes on raw materials.

3. Charging user/training fees with differentiation of fee structure by occupational categories and by training groups (e.g., reduced fees for females and poor families).

4. Encourage income generation by training centers through the sale of products and services made by trainees.

5. Establish a skill development fund - contributed and managed by employers and the private sector.

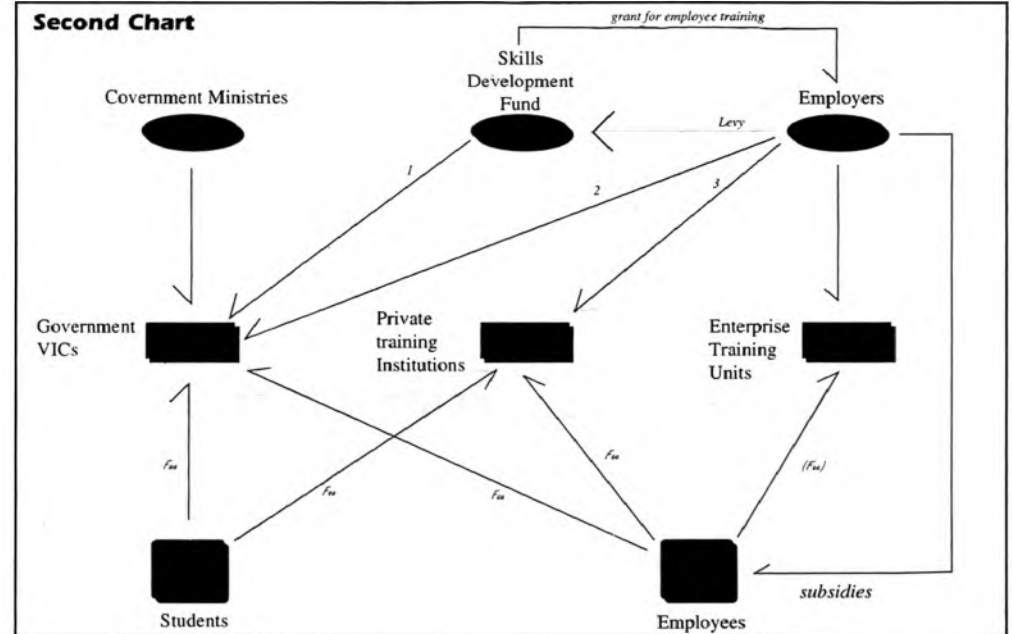
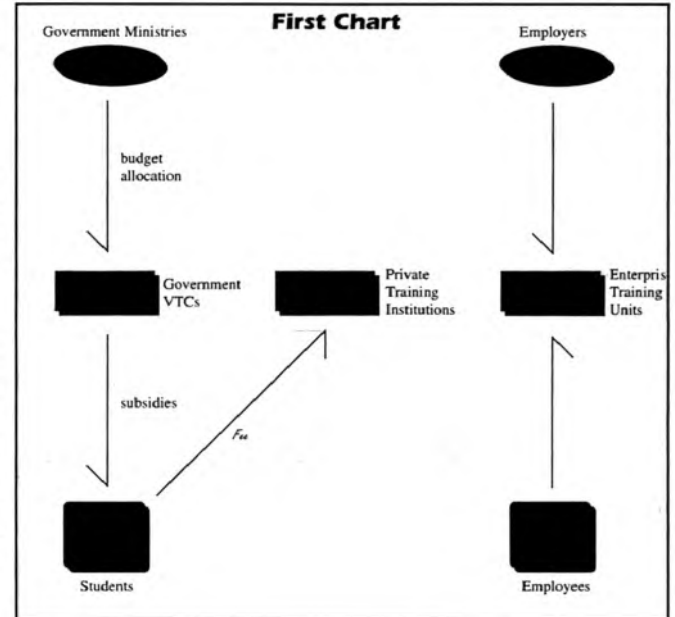
6. Increase fees on imported labor and deposit the additional revenue into the skill development fund.

7. Increase government's allocation to vocational training.

8. Encourage in-house training in enterprises. Provide A legal framework and tax exemptions.

The most important obstacle to more intensive and prevalent vocational training is the lack of financing. The current financing arrangement is through direct government financing, as shown in the first chart below. The workshop conclusions call for a revised management of resources so that financing is channeled from different and additional sources, as shown in the second chart, below.

In case this new scheme is adopted, much more vocational training will take place.



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The Governor of Abyan Ali Shaikh Omer and all his staff in the governorate

present their heartfelt congratulations and felicitations
on the anniversary of the Yemeni Revolution (September/October),
on the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh,
and on the formation of the new government.

“GIVE UNWANTED CHILDREN TO ME”

"If there is a child that you don't want or can't feed or educate, give that child to me. I will not refuse any child. I will give a home, or find loving parents for him or for her". This was the compelling challenge made by Mother Teresa of Calcutta to those attending the International Conference on Population and Development, sponsored by the United Nations in Cairo, Egypt, on 5-13 September last. The Nobel laureate went on to say that she was fighting abortion by adoption and has given thousands of children to caring families. here is the English text of her message, which was sent to the Conference on 7 September.

I speak today to you from my heart— to each person in all the nations of the world, to people with power to make big decisions as well as to all the mothers, fathers and children in the cities, towns and villages. Each one of us is here today because we have been loved by God, who created us, and by our parents, who accepted and cared enough to give us life. Life is the most beautiful gift of God. That is why it is so painful to see what is happening today in so many places around the world; life is being deliberately

destroyed by war, by violence, by abortion. And we have been created by God for greater things— to love and be loved.

I have said often, and I am sure of it, that the greatest destroyer of peace in the world today is abortion. If a mother can kill her own child, what is there to stop you and me from killing each other? The only one who has the right to take life is the One who has created it. Nobody else has that right: not the mother, not the father, not the doctor, no agency, no conference, no government.

I am sure that deep down your heart, you know that the unborn child is a human being loved by God, like you and me. How can anyone knowing that, deliberately destroy life? It frightens me to think of all the people who kill their conscience so that they can perform an abortion. When we die, we will come to face with God, the Author of life. Who will give an account to God for the millions and millions of babies who were not allowed to have the chance to live, to experience loving and being loved.

God has created a world big enough for all the lives he wishes to be born. It is only our hearts that are not big enough to want them and

accept them. If all the money that is being spent on finding ways to kill people was used instead to feed them and house them and educate them— how beautiful that would be. We are too often afraid of the sacrifices we might have to make. But where there is love, there is always sacrifice. And when we love until it hurts, there is joy and peace.

If there is a child that you don't want or can't feed or educate, give that child to me. I will not refuse any child. I will give a home, or find loving parents for him or for her. We are fighting abortion by adoption and have given thousands of children to caring families. And it is so beautiful to see the love and unity that a child brings to a family.

The child is the most beautiful gift of God to a family, to a nation. Let us never refuse this gift of God. My prayer for each one of you is that you may always have the faith to see and love God in each person, including the unborn.

God bless you.
Mother Teresa, M. C.

The message was brought by:
Mathew M. Vadcherry, S.D.B.
Don Bosco - Sana'a.

WATER FOR LIFE: A RELATIONSHIP WITH FORESTRY

It is made up by a chemical combination of two simple gases; two atoms of hydrogen to one of oxygen. It is called "water" in English, *maa* or *moya* in Arabic and by many other names in different languages. All living things need it and even the trees are aware of its importance to the very existence of life in the Universe. But where as the animal life is mostly the recipient mutual respect exists between water and plants approaching one of symbiosis, i.e. water, particularly its regulation, benefits by the occurrence of forests.

In fact it is a general consensus, that forests bring rains. Perhaps based on the observation that where there is a forest, is still a scientific debate and not conclusive. what is known, however, is that the appearance of a forest somewhere will influence the rains to drop at a certain area not necessarily on the forest itself. Within a forest, as a results of reduced temperatures and high Relative Humidity from evapotranspiration, precipitation is normally higher than the surrounding areas. thus inside a dense forest, water is always dropping down from middle and lower canopies, while the soil underneath is always dropping down from middle and lower canopies, while the soil underneath is always moisture-saturated and sometimes even wet.

Again forests are a natural water-catchment system. It reduces the speed of flowing water and causes most of it to sink in the suitable for human consumption. On the contrary, a few minutes rain falling on bare hills will result into erosion of slopes and destructive floods down the plains.

Again forests are a natural water-catchment system. It reduces the speed of flowing water and causes most of it to sink in the

suitable for human consumption. On the contrary, a few minutes rain falling on bare hills will result into erosion of slopes and destructive floods down the plains.

Adding to knowledge of hydrological cycle in which trees play an important role of water catchment and releasing the underground water to the atmosphere, it has been recently discovered in the USA, Caroline university, that plants are after all not the passive water evaporizers they were thought to be, but during the night they suck up water from the deeper soil layers (using deep roots) and release it to the shallow layers through subsurface roots. The phenomena is known as the "Hydraulic lift".

It is common knowledge that some plant do store water that can quench the thirst of the many desert travelers short of water. The water may be stored in root, stem, leaves, or fruits. In certain areas, Western Sudan for example people use Baobab trees as water reservoirs to be used in dry times.

Where logged water is not needed, such as swamps to be converted to other land-use purpose, first growing tree species may be employed to

effectively dry up the area. Morocco and Sudan have managed to put this idea into practice in controlling the waste water dumping pools in urban areas. Not only do they make good use of waste water, the pools become reusable always with minimum heath and environmental hazards.

The above discussion gives us a strong case for rehabilitating and maintaining forests in the Republic of Yemen. Consider how a few minute rain on the surrounding bare hills of Sana'a and Aden caused destructive floods in those cities. And what about the warning from the experts that the underground water reserve is on the decline, by a steeper gradient that average?!! And what about the smell that greets the incoming travelers from Sana'a International Airport?!! It is coming from the waste-water pools nearby which surprisingly enough is used to irrigate human consumable crops. One wonders if it is healthy enough and why the environmentalists are oblivious about it.

Bringing in forest services in such areas will go far enough in remedying the situation and in contributing towards solving local environmental problems.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. ABDULAZIZ AL SAQQAF

Until resurrection farewell YEMEN TIMES.

As I understand and I have seen from other newspapers that they teach and give excitement to the minds and also vindicate the truth. Newspapers are the vassal of people, and they must not divert from their target. When we look at your YEMEN TIMES, so marginalized from knowledge and truth, one cannot give marvelous news. As I presume your YEMEN TIMES has obtrusive intention.

My Dear Dear Dr.:

Why don't you call it YEMEN ADVERTISE-
MENT instead of YEMEN TIMES? There are just too many advertisements!

In addition, the vacancy notices are a shame. For example, in issue number 36 and 37, sponsored by PROCTER & GAMBLE

LTD. They say they need young Yemenis who have B.A or M.A, but that their age should be around 20-30. It is perplexing. This advertisement tries to persuade us by crazy logic and much luck of professional ethics. How can you be that age and yet that qualified?

Second, in 1993, your Yemen Times advertised vacancies with an American Cruise company. Approximately 5,000 people have processed paperwork and paid \$240.00 each. Somebody is doing well with their money.

Dear Eminent Dr.: The report and job advertisement must be clarity, concise and orderly in presentation! Teach your pen to find facts. Reality and fact is glister than your opinion about everything.

Hassen Sherif,
Sana'a.

MY FAVORITE NEWSPAPER SINCE THE FIRST ISSUE

Happily and proudly I say that I'm on of the Yemen Times' list of permanent readers. As a matter of fact, it is the only newspaper I have closely followed since the very beginning of its publishing.

At first, I was reading the paper just because I wanted to improve my English language. Then, I found in it a very wide range of information for improving my knowledge. Besides, the "Yemen Times" is the only newspaper that I can rely on for giving me a balanced and courageous insight into the realities of Yemen.

That is why, however busy I am, I get my copy of the paper and read it. As time went on, I found new reasons to read the paper. Let me share some of my reasons with you:

1 - It is independent newspaper with all that this word

can convey. I truly believe the editors are not beholden to any party or group.

2 - The Chief Editor & Publisher, Professor Al-Saqqaf, is one of the highly qualified and open-minded people you can meet. It is very easy to see his openness and his ability to listen. Yes, it is a matter of truth to say that the professor is a man of the world in politics and journalism.

He is always shown a sign of steadiness in the most difficult situations and hardships. A good example of what I am saying is what he has been through during the recent war in our country and how he did his best to keep saying the truth in spite of the limitations imposed on freedom of the press in general and especially on Yemen Times.

One of the most important of his characteristics is his

ability to identify and sympathize with the underdog. You see come through in many instances. His support for the stranded southern students studying at Sanaa University and whose moeny transfers had stopped is one of the clear examples. Another example is his constant battle to remind us of the lot of Yemen's underclass.

Well, whatever I say will not give the Publisher Prof. Al Saqqaf what he deserves.

3 - The staff of "Yemen Times" is a symbol of activity and liveliness as they enable the reader to across new ideas on what is happening.

At last, I would like to seize this opportunity to call "Yemen Times" to preserve its independence and keep up the good work.

Nasser Murshid Al Rabe'e
Sana'a University

ON THE CONSTITUTION

First the amendment of the presidency

Second chapter executive branch

The first branch
Presidency of the Republic
Section 82-A The president of the Republic is the president of the country, therefore is elected according to the constitution.

Second branch
council of Ministers

Section 111-1 the president of the Republic and the Council of representatives have the right to order investigation with them and to try them. What was not mentioned in the constitution who have the right for the same procedure over the President.

Section 101 the accusation of the President and members of the Presidential Council on any matter that is against the country, only at the request of half of the members of the parliament.

This section is obsolete, it needs on amendment, to go along with section 82-A of the present constitution.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS POLICIES OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

On the Yemen times issue number 39 dated October 3, on letters page, there was a letter from Abdulkader Saleh speaking about employment in foreign companies. After reading what he wrote, I felt sorry for our government and the Yemeni people.

There are clever Yemenis who are well-educated and many of them are working outside the country especially in the Gulf countries. They work in all fields: oil installations, airports, banks, insurance companies, and other sectors. They work as managers, supervisors, skilled personnel, etc. Some are still working in those countries, and even in Saudi Arabia despite the Gulf Crisis.

Surely these people are employed not out of love for them or out of pity and sympathy, but because of their experience and ability. The question therefore, is why our government does not do anything to attract these people to come back. The problem is not the foreign companies, but the attitude of our officials who don't think of the problems of the people. To help the situation, let me give the following two suggestions:

1 - Before bringing in foreigners, companies should advertize on newspapers for qualified Yemenis.

2 - Give the qualified Yemenis the same salary as that which is given to foreigners, and in dollars. I hope our new government will take care of the Yemeni staff because they will stay in Yemeni and the experience that they get will accumulate and remain in our own country. But foreigners will take away hard currency and the experience will go to another country.

We need to build a new and civilized Yemen.

Abdul Aziz Mohamed Saeed,
Aden.

BACK TO CHOPSTICKS

With reference to the letter entitled "Back to Fingers?" in your Yemen Times dated 17th October, 1994, by Rezk Abdullah A. Esmail, I would like to add perspectives to the matter., I think the writer seems biased about using fingers to eat.

I am not against civilization, but I am against "mental slavery", meaning to copying the customs of others mindlessly. Rezk says "eating with your fingers is for people in the ancient past". I would like to share a different opinion in this regard.

First, it has been proven that digestion really starts with the fingers, as you touch the food. A simple experiment to prove this, take two plates of cooked rice, and touch one plate with your finger and the other with a spoon. Results after some hours the plate touched with your fingers starts to smell. The reason is that, a process of digestion is taking place. Conclusion: why temper with nature and eat with spoons?

Second, the writer should be ashamed for not knowing that eating with your fingers is the

practice (Sunnah) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The perfect model to mankind.

Third, for your information, in every fast food joint, there are taps and hand basins to wash your hand, and napkins are used for drying you hands.

And last but not least, I want to tell Mr. Rezk that eating with spoons, etc, has noting to do with being civilized. It is merely copying the customs of others. I would advice you to break away from "mental slavery" and use your fingers to eat, or use chopsticks if you would like..

Muhammad Abubakar Said,
Sana'a.

APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF ADEN UNIVERSITY

First of all I would like to express my great admiration and appreciation for your lovely newspaper "The Yemen Times" and wishes of more shining progress.

Please allow me to share something from background. I work as a supervisor for chemistry and biology in the secondary school in Lahej Governorate. In addition I teach biology at the first, second, third and fourth levels at the college of Science, Arts and Education, at Aden University. This work is done by contract between me and Aden University and I was earning 80 YR per hour including taxes. In September, 1993, the University announced vacancies for new teachers in biology. I was there for an interview. I passed the oral interview, and was very happy because I felt I met all therequirements needed for the job.

To add to my optimism, the head of the Biology Department, Dr. Yosef Al Sobaii, and the director of the Education College, Dr. Hassan Hamed Al-Haddad, told me I was going to make it. Their reports were in my favor.

But surprisingly the Dean of Aden University refused the report and said that it was not done according to University regulations. Quickly he named another person instead of me. The man named is the brother of general registrar of Aden University. If we compare between the two of us; I am 38 years old and he is more than 40 years old; I am a qualified and experienced teacher who graduated from Educational College, and he is not; I have got my master-degree in the Methodology of teaching Biology while he graduated from the College of Agriculture.

I raised the subject with Dr. Saleh Ba-Sorrah who is one of the most respected man at Aden University, but he advised me to see the recent President of Aden University Dr. Al Amoodi. I appeal to him to make a fair choice .

Fadhel A. Nasser
Lahej Governorate.

The Right to Respond: Somali Ambassador Lashes Back

I, the Somali Ambassador in Yemen, was really surprised by the piece entitled "Leaders Of Somali Community Criticize Ambassador" which was published in Yemen Times issue of October 17th, page 8. It is something unusual for a highly respected newspaper like Yemen Times to publish that kind of article regarding baseless allegations by some rogues.

The false allegations have deepened the Somali inter-tribal conflicts and violence.

Apart from that, the question to be asked is why Yemen Times ignored the standard regulations of my Diplomatic Status. In addition to this, the chief Editor is a good friend of mine, and I hardly believe that he approved to publish simply

the words of rumor-mongers who falsely presented themselves as Somali community leaders.

These three persons are noted for trouble making as they were among those responsible for igniting the severe civil war in Somalia which resulted in chaos and destruction. We have their files in the embassy indicating their previous evil deeds.

The two ex-diplomats mentioned in the article were discredited because of violating diplomatic regulations. For further information, we have also their files and their cases.

In the case of the Community, it is the embassy responsibility to look after the Somali Community Center and it is my responsibility

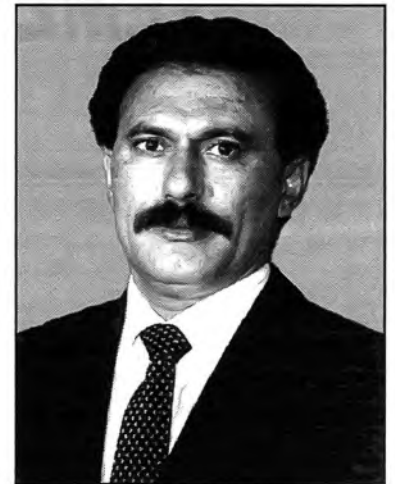
to stop irregularities. In other words we established the center, so we will not allow irresponsibility to close it. I was also blamed for exercising discrimination. This contradicts what I do. We give all members of the Somali Community in Yemen services within our jurisdiction without discrimination.

For the scholarship case, the first Somali person given this opportunity was the son of one of these three persons. This shows they've given to the paper we totally baseless allegations.

Thank you very much
His Excellency, The Somali
Ambassador
Abdul Salam Moalim Adam

شركة الهدهد للصناعة والتجارة

تقدم بأعطر التهاني وأحر التبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبي
بمناسبة أعياد الثورة اليمنية (سبتمبر وأكتوبر)
وبمناسبة إعادة انتخاب الفريق علي عبدالله صالح رئيساً للجمهورية
وبمناسبة تشكيل الحكومة برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني



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on the anniversary of the Yemeni Revolution (September/October)
On the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh,
and on the formation of the new government.

شركة الهدهد للصناعة والتجارة المحدودة

لمصناعة العريبات اليدوية والأثاث المدرسي والمكتبي
تليفون: ٢١٠٦٤٠/٤١، تلكس: ٢٩٤٨، ص ب رقم ١٠٦٧،
شارع تغز - صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية

As the Defendant Complained that the Ministry of Information Delayed Implementation of a Court Order, Judge Al-Hitar States:

"Give me proof of that, and I will see if any official in government can refuse a court order."

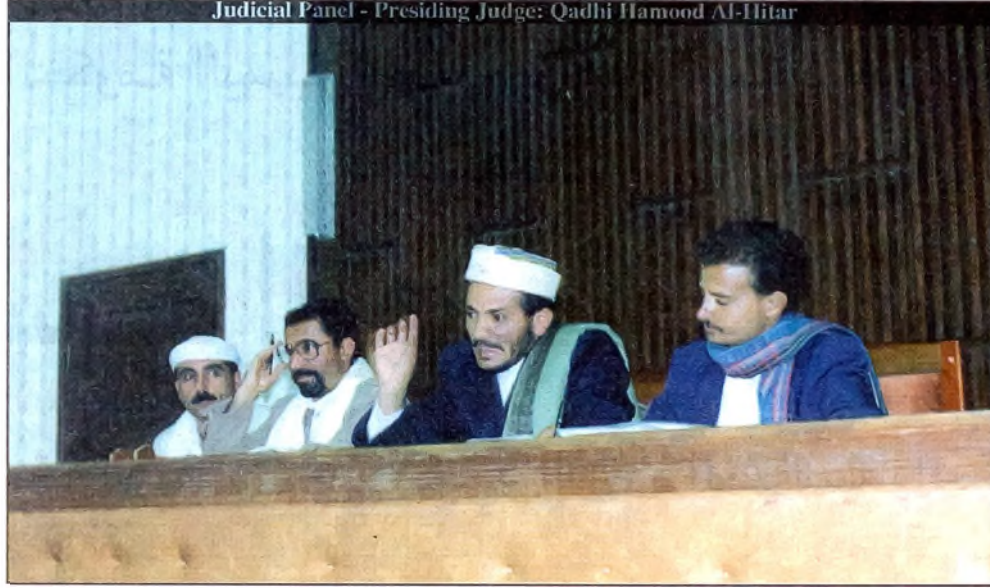
The third hearing session of the case of the Al-Shoura newspaper versus the Ministry of Information was on Thursday morning, October 20th. It was full of tension for two reasons:

1. Defence Squabbles:

As the number of defence lawyers grew (reaching 41 lawyers), there was confusion who will lead the group and how they will coordinate the defence. As a result, some of the leading lawyers decided to withdraw from the case, although they continued to pledge their moral support.

At the end, however, with the intervention of friends and the advice of the presiding judge, the withdrawal was retracted. The lawyers met yesterday (Sunday 23rd) to coordinate their positions. Dr. Mohammed Al-Khateeb was nominated team leader for the defence lawyers.

Meanwhile, the Arab Human Rights Organization (AHRO) has written to the court asking it to allow an observer representing it to follow the proceedings. Lawyer Abdul-Razzaq has been named to represent the AHRO in the Al-Shoura versus Ministry of Information case.



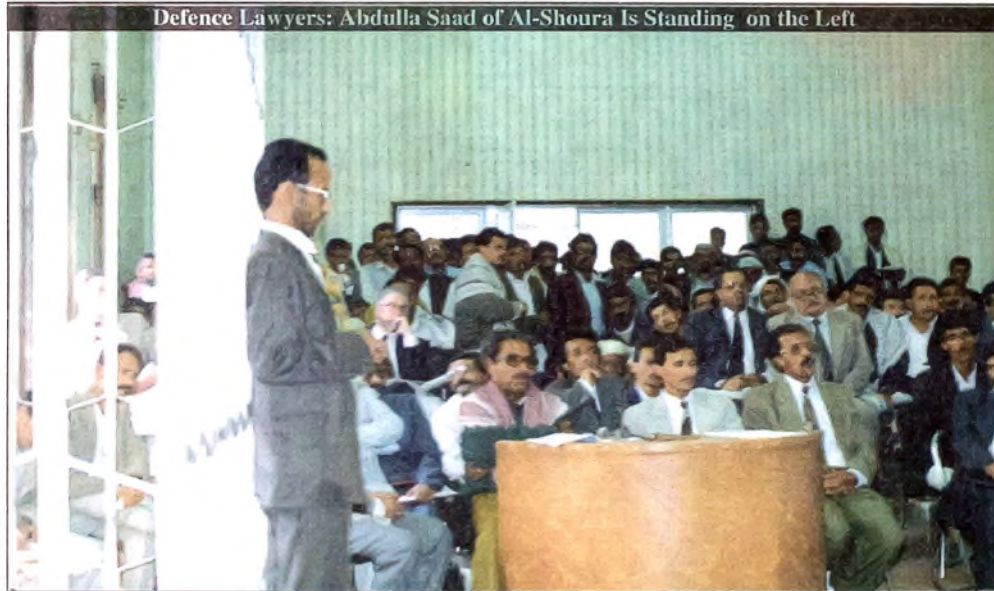
2. Insubordinate Ministry of Information?

Defendant Abdullah Sa'ad inform the court that the Ministry of Information delayed release of its issue # 148. "We gave them the court order to release the issue on Sunday. They released the newspaper on Tuesday," he said. The judge, irritated by this news, said, "I will not remain one more day on the bench if there is a government official who refuses to obey a court order. Give me proof of refusal or procrastination, and I will see to it that the responsible person/s are brought to account," he said.

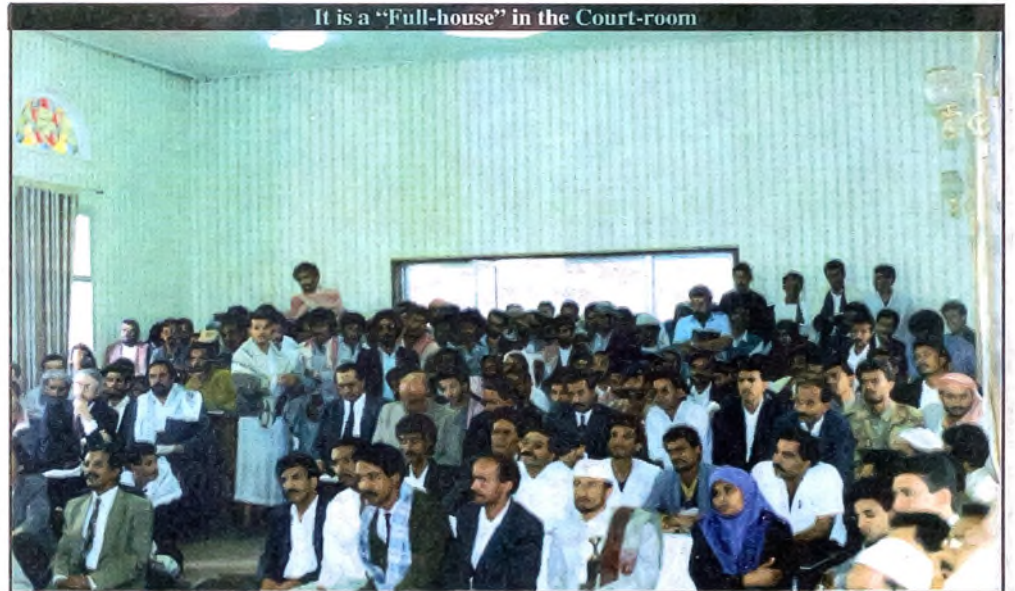
The judge asked the defence lawyers to present evidence of when the court order was delivered to the ministry and when the ministry released the paper. He also asked the ministry to explain its position in response to the allegations.

The third session was attended by over hundred persons, including John Kincannon, US Information/Cultural Attache; Mitsuru Murase, First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy; Rupert Joy, British Second Secretary; and Denis Toupin, Director of the French Cultural Center.

The next hearing is on Thursday, November 1st.



Defence Lawyers: Abdulla Saad of Al-Shoura Is Standing on the Left



It is a "Full-house" in the Court-room

فندق شيراتون صنعاء

يتقدم

بأحر التهناني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبي

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وبمناسبة تشكيل الحكومة برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني



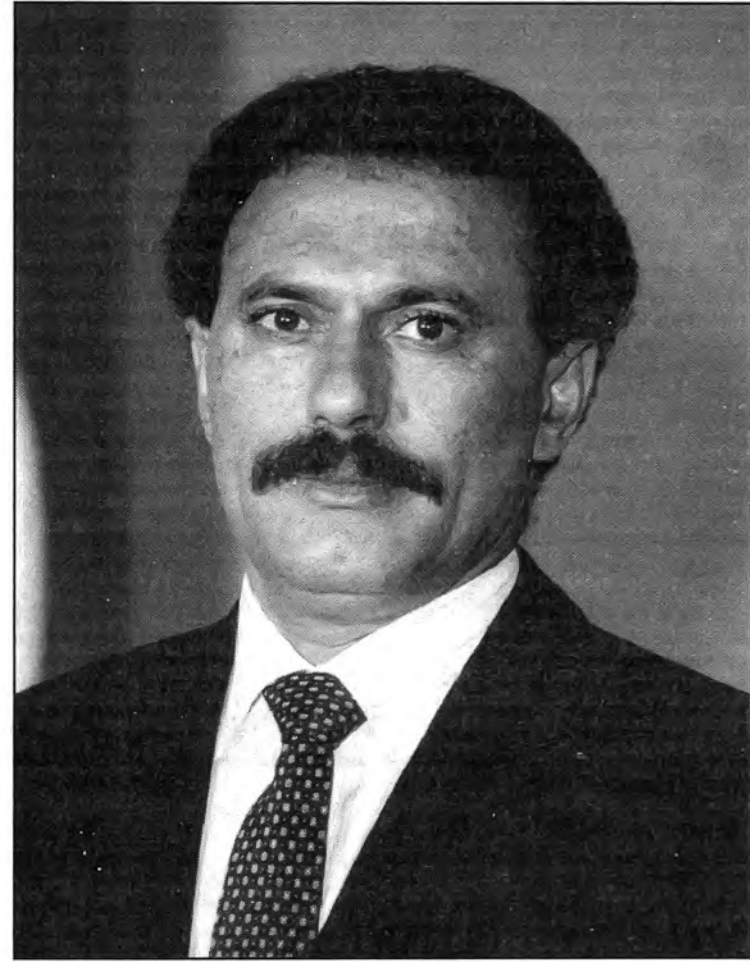
Sheraton Sanaa Hotel

presents its warm greetings and congratulations to the Yemeni people on the occasion of the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and on the formation of the new government headed by Abdulaziz Abdulghani

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وبمناسبة إعادة انتخاب ابن اليمن البار القائد الرمز الفريق علي عبدالله صالح رئيساً للجمهورية
وبمناسبة تشكيل الحكومة اليمنية الجديدة برئاسة الأستاذ القدير عبدالعزيز عبدالغني
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**to the Yemeni people, leadership & government
its warm felicitation and best wishes
on the anniversary of the Yemeni Revolution
on the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and on the formation of the new government.**

REFLECTIONS ON A RETURN VISIT TO YEMEN

Michael Croach,*
Australia.

It has been a long time, 28 years already passed. I was here for a brief time in April last year, but this time the past fortnight has been the real opportunity for me and my wife to take the occasion to observe, to talk with Yemeni citizens from all backgrounds and to assess the current position.

Perhaps my perspective may be somewhat different from that of others coming to this country; a few words of introduction are helpful. In 1958 I joined what was then the British Overseas Service, after four years at Cambridge and then Oxford. I had been brought up in Kenya, and earlier Sudan where my father served as a doctor - my grand father had been in India, so perhaps there has been a tradition of work among developing communities - the modern equivalent is probably to join one of the international aid agencies.

I was posted to the British Residency in Mukalla where my first 'boss' was the legendary Colonel Sir Hugh Boustead, a man who brought with him from the Sudan a wealth of experience in development at the local government level, in particular. After he left the service I spent some two years on my own in charge in the Northern Deserts area of the (then) Eastern Aden Protectorate, just me with two vehicles, calling on the assistance of the local soldiers when necessary, helping to keep the peace and to encourage modest development in that vast and barren land. It was a wonderful experience for a young man, keen to get to know

the people among whom he lived.

From there I spent two years in the more developed Wahidi area where the emphasis was on local administration, under the guidance of the wise bin Said (I met his son, Colonel Ali bin Mohamed bin Said, in Sana'a a few days ago, to our mutual delight). From there to Lahej where, with my wife Lynette, we became good friends with the nephew of the then Sultan Fadhli bin Ali (imagine our pleasure to dine with him last night in garden of Sana'a charming Taj Sheba Hotel). Thirty years ago Ali bin Ahmed and we had ridden our horses through the fields of Lahej, as we discussed what was best for the future of the area I was sent to help.

A few months in Dhala was a great change from the relative sophistication of the Aden scene and we then returned to Mukalla for a year or so, before being posted back to the west, later to Aden itself and finally I - on my own - back to where I had started, to Mukalla. There my melancholy task was to close down the Residency and shortly after to join Lynette and the two babies for a new life in Australia. It was the saddest part of my life to date, so we put all that behind us and concentrated open a new life in a new land.

Last year, As I mentioned earlier, I had the chance to come back at the invitation of the authorities, and particularly at the instigation, I believe, of Rasheed Al-Kaf, then Chairman of the Yemen Company for Oil and Minerals, to help advise on where the border ran, in my day, between the al Abr areas and Saudi Arabia. We spent some

days in Sana'a looking at old maps and discussing where it was the then Protectorate was in control of the border area. We then drove round the country, which gave us an impression of how things were after 27 years. However it has been the previous fortnight that has really provide that opportunity to make some proper judgments.

Let me say that making comparisons with the past is a waste of time, in my opinion at least between the past and now. It is the present with which we should be concerned and look to the future, as far as that can be assessed. I should also say that what follows is the opinion of two ordinary persons, not experts, two individuals who are very fond of this country and of the many people they know as friends and acquaintances, whose welfare is important to us.

Speaking first for myself, then, I am heartened by the obvious enthusiasm of the people I met, to work towards a unified future, even if in the south there must be apprehension as to what the new regime will bring. I am always so delighted by the warmth, the hospitality and the charm of the people and country. However, I do recognize the problems ahead which are - I think - to be summarized as follows:

* Confidence in you new government has to be established. You have some excellent people - Dr. Al Iryani for one is well respected by the western world and I personally share the admiration felt for a statesman of world class. However, the wise direction of the President surely

has to be consolidated by action. * Economic success will be measured by the support provided not only by friendly countries that I trust will all resume the aid programs suspended, but also by such agencies as the World Bank being willing to contribute the funds I know are available for investment once the proper conditions for stability and reconstruction are seen to be in place.

* infrastructure is then of then of the essence which includes:

- getting those poor roads in the south - made and maintained, to ensure that trade flows cheaply between all corners of the country and to help visitors travel through the land without suffering the agonies of being jolted into exhaustion;

- helping private enterprises ensure there is a nucleus of really adequate hotels in each of the main centers, to complement to excellent cuisine and local culture to be enjoyed though the country. With the exception of those tow fine hotels in Sana'a, and the Aden Hotel, and those quite adequate hostellers in various other centers, there is a demonstrated need for some comfortable 'middle range' hotels consistently maintained to certain standards otherwise visitors will be discouraged;

- there must be a concerted drive on public cleanliness. The use of plastic containers thought

the world has led to the same problems of collection and disposal. We in Australia are no exception. One remedy we employ to supplement the garbage services is to involve those young people who have got into trouble with the authorities to pay for their misdemeanors by helping to collect debris off road verges - and to discourage the dropping of litter by the populace, through education. It takes time but I think it is important.

I hope you are never invaded by those floods of tourists that have hurt other countries, rather than make a real economic contribution, but that a gradual increase in well managed groups of interested visitors will help to spread the news of this country's delights around the world. I personally hope to arrange some tours from Australia, with the help of the excellent Unified Yemen Tours Company which has displayed much initiative in getting me to visit from Australia

From my wife Lynette's perspective, she was found this visit a mixture of emotions, excitement and even some apprehension after he memories of leaving the south 28 years ago. Like me, she had never visited the north before and her fresh outlook on the country is interesting. Like all visitors she has been both charmed and fas-

cinated with everything she has seen, and has enjoyed the different landscape, the magnificent northern terrain, the tranquil sea and the majesty of the Hadhramaut valley. The incredible development in building everywhere, with plots marked out in apparently inaccessible areas - the stability and the progress of all helped her to come to terms with the dark days of her abrupt departure all those years ago. She has also enjoyed one of the most memorable holidays of her life, with even her Arabic starting to return, as we sat and talked with friendly strangers in little restaurants in far-off villages and towns.

And so in summary, what is my final thought? I suppose it is best put in the English saying, for which I am sure there is an Arabic equivalent - "Make haste slowly!" This is a period in Yemen's history when the country, the future prosperity of its people and the strengthening of its institutions are poised on a knife's edge. Fail to build on your new government's promise, or rush along a path that has only short term gain, but long term decline - and the moment is lost.

I personally am optimistic and from the bottom of my heart I wish you all well.

* Mr. Croach served in Yemen when it was a British colony.

شركة النفط اليمنية - عدن

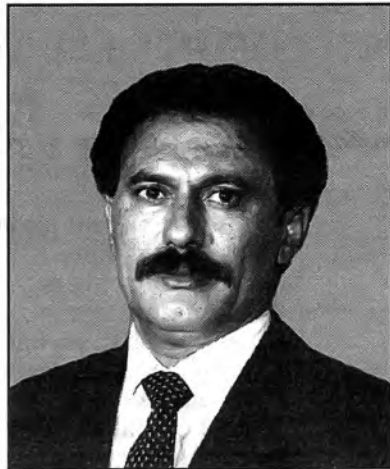
تتقدم بأعطر التحايا وأصدق الأمانى

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فرع عدن



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its compliments and felicitations
on the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and on the formation of the new government
headed by Abdulaziz Abdulghani

Contest No. 3

مسابقة رقم ٣

Prepared by:

**Al-Farouk Institute of
Languages & Computer**

إعداد:

معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

P.O.Box 16927, Al-Raqqa St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sanaa; Telefax (967-1) 209721
ص ب رقم (١٦٩٢٧)، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء، تليفاكس ٢٠٩٧٢١ (٩٧١-١)

This contest is for the students of Arabic

Please fill the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of Al-Farouk Institute by Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

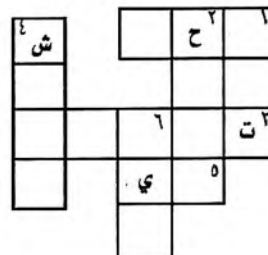
هذه المسابقة خاصة بالأجانب الذين يدرسون اللغة العربية

يرجى قطع المسابقة المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى المسجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس.
سيعلن أسم الفائز بالجائزة في العدد القادم من «يمن تايمز».

This contest is for non-native speakers of Arabic

هذه المسابقة خاصة بالأشخاص الذين العربية ليست لغتهم الأولى

أفقي: اكتب



١- أنت تقرأ الأخبار من: _____

٢- هذا البترول خام ويحتاج إلى _____

٥- حرف من حروف الجر _____

عمودي: اكتب

٢- هو يحكم بين الناس _____

٤- أنا أسكن في _____ الرقاص

٦- يغطي جسم الطيور _____

Name: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Winner of Contest No. 2

The winner of last week's contest (Contest No. 2) is student Kirill Babaev (picture).
Congratulations:

The correct answers were:
ACROSS: 1. steak, 4. smell, 7. tea, 8 weren't
DOWN: 2. taste, 3. raw, 5. menu, 6. eat



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Bronzes in Ancient South Arabia

By: David Warburton

When wandering around South Arabian archaeological sites, one occasionally notes what appear to be fossil footprints, usually about the size of normal human feet, although at the ruins of the ancient Hadhrami capital at Shabwa the imprint of a single foot is more than a metre long. Needless to say, the Jurassic or Cretaceous limestone of Yemen occasionally shows marine fossils formed one or two hundred million years before the appearance of man in Yemen (or anywhere else), and therefore the footprints cannot be fossil. If you have the good fortune to wander around the storerooms of Yemeni museums, you will have the chance to see smaller fossil footprints, in smaller blocks of stone with lengthy inscriptions on one face, betraying the character of

the footprints: they were cut into the rock in order to support the feet of a metal statue. The inscriptions relate that such statues were placed in front of temple façades, many of them donated by private people (including women) to the god (or goddess) of that particular temple, but also by kings. It is no surprise that only the footprint remains, as the inscriptions record that many of them were made of gold. The statues that have been well preserved - such as those of Dhamar Alay and his son in the entry to the Sana'a National



Museum - and those fragments that have been found are however made of bronze, and not gold. While it is possible that some statues were made of gold, one should not forget that ancient

bronzes were not green as we see them in museums today, but golden, at least before they acquired their patina, and that the ancients were not needlessly modest when no one was contesting their claims. Some ancient Yemeni bronze statues bear inscriptions identifying the person depicted, and thus it is clear that these are not the cult statues in the innermost sanctuary of the temple. In the ancient world people frequently had statues of themselves made (not quite the way we have photographs made, but theoretically similar to the way we line up to be photographed in front of some monument or special place), and many of the larger statues that have survived depict people and kings, as seems to have been the case in cities of the Roman Empire in the North, such as Jerash and Palmyra. In those cities stone and bronze statues of individuals adorned the main market places, where they could be admired by everyone, but the Yemeni bronze statues of individuals were set up in front of temples, in private gardens, and as ornamentation on private houses, so that one can hardly imagine the impact of the sun glinting off all those statues in a crowded city such as ancient Timna (the capital of Qataban) or ancient Shabwa. The full sized cult statues may well have been made of gold and thus disappeared long ago, but many smaller votive statues depicting the gods to whom they

were offered were made of bronze, and some of these have been preserved until the present day. The texts associated with the larger statues probably reflect the nature of these smaller offerings, and thus in interpreting their significance, we draw on these texts. Frequently, the donor will have appealed to the god for an oracle decision, and promised the god that if he were to be the party favoured by the decision, then he would offer a statue to the god. Other donors vowed to offer a statue to the god should they be rescued from some difficult position, due either to illness or other problems, and obviously did so when they found themselves safe and sound. In the same vein, the occasional king



This would imply that a person stood in need of support, due to an unfavorable financial position or an illness, or a more immediate threat such as a mortal enemy, and that a vow was rashly made to a god, and then, once rescued, the happy person would commission a statue. The more dire the need, the larger and more costly the statue. Most of the statues of the ancient world were made using

variants of a one-off basis called the "lost-wax" process, whereby a clay figure of the object to be depicted was made, and then a mold fashioned around it, and then the mold broken, so that the original form could be reproduced in wax. This wax was then melted out and molten metal poured in.

Small solid figures could be made quite easily this way, and it is possible that craftsmen had a selection of statuettes of offer right in front of the temple, so that minor vows could be taken care of quite quickly. Larger figures had to be assembled using dozens of different pieces, and the final result was a hollow statue. Smaller statues frequently reveal small irregular formations under or between the feet. These are the remains of the holes through which the bronze was poured into the mold, but they were not filed away afterwards, because they could be used to hold the statue erect in some kind of stone or clay pedestal.

Large or small, the votive statues would find their way to the temple, and the temples of antiquity frequently became cluttered with the offerings over the centuries, and we know that Yemeni temples at Sawda, Baraqish and Marib were in use for almost a thousand years, or even longer. If the temple was not plundered in the course of one war or another, the priests may have occasionally

gathered up the statues and put them in a special deposit. Either way, with the advent of Islam, the temples fell into disuse, and the statues were not treasured, but melted down, immediately if they were made of gold, and later if of bronze. Those statues and statuettes found today will have been buried when buildings collapsed on them or simply forgotten in the corners of temples or private house shrines. Today, archaeologists and peasants come across them in the course of their normal work, and they are brought to museums.

The pieces shown here were stolen during the last war from the Museums in Ataq, Bayhan and Hablayn.



* David Warburton is an archaeologist and resident director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. The opinions expressed here are purely his own.

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will have offered a statue to a god as thanks for his aid in winning a battle or a war. There is also at least one possible instance of a woman being assigned the duty of providing an offering to assure that rain would fall plentifully.

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