



YEMEN TIMES



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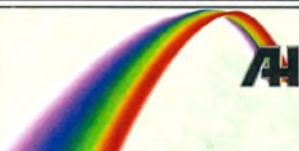
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Jordan and Israel Sign a Peace Treaty:

Life Comes to Wadi Arabah

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

A desolate and deserted place - Wadi Arabah - at the border crossing between Jordan and Israel near the Aqaba seaport - suddenly boomed with life. Around noontime Greenwich time on 26th October, the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty started. Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Abdul-Salam Al-Majali, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitshaq Rabin signed the treaty on behalf of their nations. The Jordanian Monarch, King Hussain, US President Bill Clinton, and Israeli President Izra Weismann, American Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kosyrev and many other dignitaries attended the

occasion and blessed the event HM King Hussain spoke of a new era, and the Israeli prime minister stressed that they have come to implement peace, not merely to talk about it. US President Clinton used the occasion to pay tribute to the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who was the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel fifteen years ago. The Jordanian Parliament and Israeli Knesset are discussing the treaty with an eye to ratifying it in spite of heated debates and hell being raised by the extremist blocs in the two countries. The treaty brings to end 46 years of hostility and a state of belligerency and war between the two neighbors.

Text of Agreement on page 5



President Saleh: A Master Politician

Last week, President Ali Abdullah Saleh paid visits to all southern and eastern governorates. Wherever he went, the president gave a tantalizing speech. All the time, in his speeches, he kept repeating, "We are not here to give speeches, we are here to get things done." The man has become good at it! Yemen Times spoke to some of the citizens who heard him speak, first hand. The impressions are very good. The people believe he was sincere in what he was saying. The president spoke of the need to fight corruption, favoritism leading to assignment of kins to senior state positions, and misuse of public funds. He insisted on building a state based on institutions, respect for law and order, and full respect for political pluralism and freedom of the press.



Unity & Sports Stamps for Collectors

The Ministry of Communications recently issued stamps to commemorate two different events. The first set, dubbed "Unity Stamps", comes in denominations of 3, 5, 8, and 20 Riyals. 4,600,000 stamps were printed. YR 20. The second set, issued earlier this month, intends to commemorate the World Football Cup 1994, hosted by the USA. The stamps

come in denominations of 2, 6, 10 and 12 Riyals. The quantity printed was 3,400,000 stamps. Souvenir sheets of both sets are available for purchase from the Philatelic Section of the Central Post Offices in Sanaa and Aden. They can also be ordered by mail by writing to the Director-General of Posts, P. O. Box 1993, Sanaa, Yemen.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Sincere Advice to the Prime Minister

I gather the prime minister and his new government are busy looking for ways to mobilize resources to meet the needs for building the economy. I would like to offer two pieces of advice, as follows:

1. Focus on Better Management:

The new government would do good to focus on better management of the resources available to it and to help society do the same. The country does need additional resources, but the crux of the matter is really how to overcome the distortions that have plagued the Yemeni economy.

Therefore, it is my advice that a big part of the strategy of the new government must focus on correcting the deformities that have grown in the economy. A major aspect of this corrective approach must be allowing able individuals to get on with the work rather than allowing friends and kins destroy our institutions and corporations. In the final analysis, it is human beings who move societies and economies forward. It is people who make systems and who build nations. Unless the government can enlist the sympathy and support of the people who can achieve, and unless it can channel the collective and enlightened energies of qualified individuals, the new government can achieve very little.

2. Enlisting Migrant Brain and Capital:

The new government cannot expect to raise a lot more money through foreign loans and grants beyond the present level. It must see that the age of easy foreign assistance to Yemen is fast coming to a close. Doubtless, some resources will continue to be made available to Yemen.

But, it would be more realistic to try to tap new resources, especially in the form of private investments. The starting point is really the successful Yemenis residing in foreign communities. At the top of my head, I can think of a dozen very rich Yemenis in different lands, such as Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the UK, the USA, etc.

I suggest to the Prime Minister to try to build personal contact and links with these individuals. As a starting step, why can't the prime minister name a select group and extend invitations to each to visit Yemen as his guests? These individuals are so successful, more income by itself is not a sufficient factor. They need recognition. Thus the personal invitation and attention of the prime minister will ensure that they will agree to visit the country, and they will take kindly to the idea of pouring money into Yemen. Their direct links with the prime minister will ensure these investors will not be blackmailed by bureaucrats and other influential persons. If the prime minister succeeds in enticing some of these Yemeni entrepreneurs, foreign investors would be more forthcoming.

Finally, let me mention that this approach has no cost to the government of Yemen, and it is a sure winner. What I am trying to say is that the new government should be more beholden to individuals with brains, qualifications, and capital.

This is a piece of advice that I sincerely urge the prime minister to consider in his new economic drive.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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The State of Yemen and AHMED NOMAN

The state of Yemen is a strange animal. It bites those that deserve to be kissed. The last of these irresponsible actions is what our leadership is doing to a man who is greater than they will ever be.

Ahmed Mohammed Noman is one of the high points of our modern history. He is a man to whom the thugs and thieves of modern-day politics in Sanaa must pay tribute. Yet, they are trying to starve him.

Ahmed Mohammed Noman is an old and fragile man who has been in Switzerland for seven years under intensive medical care. One of his sons, Abdullah, was appointed in Yemen's embassy in Geneva in order to attend to his father - a symbol of Yemen's revolutionary movement against British colonial rule in the South, and against Imamic oppression in the North.

During the recent civil war, Abdullah Noman issued a statement criticizing the war. That was not kindly taken in Sanaa. The response was to remove Abdullah Noman from his Swiss post, thus jeopardizing the medical treatment of the old man.

Is this the way our leadership works? What is the image it wants to project?

Al-Belagh Newspaper Still in the Doldrums

Al-Belagh newspaper is still unable to come out under serious threat to its editor. According to Yemen Times sources, the ruling political leadership is just fed up with the criticism of the paper and has ordered its closure.

The chief-editor of the paper, Mr. Abdullah Al-Wazeer, had been jailed for three days by the Political Security Organization (PSO) under orders from way high up. Mr. Al-Wazeer is hoping for an urgent audience with the president once the latter returns to Sanaa. There is a footnote to all of this. The car of Mr. Al-Wazeer is still in jail. Meaning it is held up at the PSO compound.

Seminar on Tax System Concluded

A six-day seminar on Yemen's Tax System was concluded on Thursday, October 27th at the Yemeni Banking Institute which was the organizer. According to Mr. Zain Al-Saqqaf, General Manager of the Institute, 34 bankers from various banks attended the seminar. "Specialists in the field offered insight into the mechanisms for cooperation between the tax authorities and the banking community," explained Mr. Al-Saqqaf.

PGC-Islah Coordination Charter Announced

The People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) unveiled in a press conference on Sunday, October 30th, a charter which will regulate their cooperation. The document serves as a basic guideline in the relationship between the two partners ruling the country.

Prime Minister Inaugurates Arab Students' Gathering

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani inaugurated on Saturday, October 29th, the Arab Students' Gathering which goes on for four days. The gathering is sponsored by the Arab World Branch of the Federation of Islamic Students' Organization Worldwide. Representatives from Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Eritrea, Mauritania, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Bangladesh and Nigeria are attending the gathering. This is the third annual such gathering sponsored by the

Inauguration of College of Commerce and Economics in Taiz

Sanaa University has inaugurated last week a branch of the College of Commerce and Economics in Taiz, starting from this academic year (1994/95). Vice President Abdo Rabbo Mansoor Hadi was at hand to kick off the ceremony on the occasion.

The College also celebrated the graduation of 300 of its students.

Islah Approves Its Internal By-Laws

The Al-Shoura (Elders') Council of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) held a four-day meeting during which it discussed and approved its internal guiding system and issues of national concern. The Council approved the internal by-laws (charter) of the party. It also urged the government to pay attention and give priority to the economic interests of the people.

Seminar on Role of NGOs in Family Development Completed

On Sunday, October 30th, a two-day seminar on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Family Development was concluded. Ten papers were presented to the seminar, which was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Pensions and Social Affairs and the Netherlands Embassy in Sanaa.

Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Batani, Minister of Pensions and Social Affairs, indicated on a statement on the occasion, that the orientation of the new government is to cultivate a higher role for popular and grass-roots level organizations. "NGOs are destined to play a higher role in the development process of Yemen," he said.

Yemen Times Vacancies

Yemen Times is happy to announce 2 vacancies as follows in its newly-opened branch in Taiz:

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- Must be a Yemeni national
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Staff Brigadier Al-Habeely:

"We should all rally behind President Saleh."

It is called the Brigade of Peace. It used to be located in Tabook, at the extreme north-west of Saudi Arabia, waiting for a chance to fight the regime in pre-unity Aden. Then came the unity, the political crisis, and the war. Today, the Peace Brigade has been merged with the army of the Republic of Yemen.

The leader of this brigade is a distinguished military officer - Staff Brigadier Haidar Bin Saleh Al-Habeely. Al-Habeely, 56, is from Baihan, Shabwah Governorate. He is a military officer from the generation that was trained under the strict British system.

Over the last quarter of a century, Haidar was more of a politician than a military commander. He has been linking up with various forces in the country and in the region.

Al-Izzy Asselwi of Yemen Times went to talk to Mr. Al-Habeely. He filed the following interview:

Q: Could you share with us a little bit of your background?

A: As you know, I am a native of Baihan. I was born in 1938. I was among the early military officers of modern Yemen.

In 1957, I graduated from the Military College of Jordan and returned to Aden where I joined the army. I was a captain and started a training program.

I moved from one military position to another until I became commander of the Federal Guard, and then Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. By the mid-1960s, agitation for independence intensified and I was one of the people involved. Competition among rival Yemeni groups led to internecine struggle.

On 18th June, 1967, the British authorities issued an order against me and three other senior military commanders.

Q: Could you give us some background of how you left Yemen and sought refuge in Saudi Arabia?

A: You know the rivalry between Jabhat Al-Tahreer (Liberation Front) and Al-Jabhah Al-Qowmiyyah (National Front). Egypt supported the first, and thus, the latter were favored by the British.

In the later part of February, 1967, I and many others forced to leave and we headed to the northern part of the homeland, and from there to the Rub'al Al-Khali (Empty Quarter). There we remained for some a quarter of a century. We enlisted support here and there in our struggle against the regime in Aden.

With time, we abandoned violent action, although we did not abandon our military power base.

During the January 1986 fighting in Aden, I flew to Sanaa and met with President Ali Abdullah and asked him to bring an end to the misery of the Yemeni people due to the senseless in-fighting.

Q: You were hosted by the Government of Saudi Arabia. Could you explain the relationship and what it meant?

A: We received assistance from many Arab circles. You know, our culture and traditions stress that when an Arab seeks refuge with an Arab, he cannot be turned down.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about the conditions of your return to the homeland?

A: With the reunification of the Yemeni homeland, we saw an end to our long exile.

I mentioned earlier that in 1986 I came to Sanaa and discussed the future of Yemen with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. I asked him to intervene to bring an end to the bloodshed. I said, "The blood being spilled is Yemeni blood." I asked the president for two battalions - one to join us in swiftly moving in on Aden from Al-Baidha, Shabwah and Lahej. The second would move in from Taiz via Al-Anad. The time was not ripe and the conditions were not right at that time.

With the recent war, finally we could return to our homeland and become part of the nation. I am happy to tell you that the Peace Brigade has been fully and harmoniously merged in the Yemeni armed forces. We received a warm welcome, and we have fit it nicely.

Q: Have you faced any problems in fitting in?

A: I have to insist that the pres-



Q: Do you have any last comments?

A: I hope that Yemenis will rally around the leadership in helping it build a new Yemen. It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

I am speaking as a man with a long experience. I think more good can be done by lining behind the government and political leadership and helping them effectively and in the right way. If you are part of the team, you can have more in the direction of the state.

I also want to say that I am an avid reader of the Yemen Times. It is a rich newspaper in more than one way.

ident and all senior officials have exerted all efforts to make our return to fold as easy and as smooth as possible.

Of course, we do face many little things here and there, but these are normal adjusting pains..

Q: Have your military ranks been adjusted?

A: Yes, fully.

Q: How do you see the political prospects?

A: I have to say that President Ali Abdullah Saleh represents a safety valve for the peaceful and smooth evolution of the political system. I think many Yemenis would agree with me that he upholds the interests of the nation.

Let me give a case in point.

In spite of the damage done by the secessionists, the president has issued a comprehensive amnesty. This far-sighted decision also reflects his ability to let by-gones be by-gones and to proceed with the coming needs of the nation. This way, he will enable all Yemenis to participate in the development and progress of the country.

Let me give you another example.

The president is now working hard to correct the economy of the country. He believes that unless the economy is brought in line, there will be more difficulty in the future. I agree with him, and so do most specialists and observers.

That is why I am optimistic and hopeful about the future. I know there is a lot of work to be done, but I also know that we have the leadership that will do it.



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Al-Shoura Case Awaits Verdict on Thursday

"There are three values I want to establish using this case," indicated Qadhi Hamood Al-Hitar, the judge presiding over the *Al-Shoura* versus Ministry of Information case. These three, as he pointed out are:

1. The press has the right to criticize the actions and decisions of any individual or group occupying a public position. Therefore, criticism of any official, including the president, is not illegal.

2. The press may not discuss the personal lives of any official or citizen in public. The laws provide full sanctity of privacy to the personal lives of officials (and any other individual).

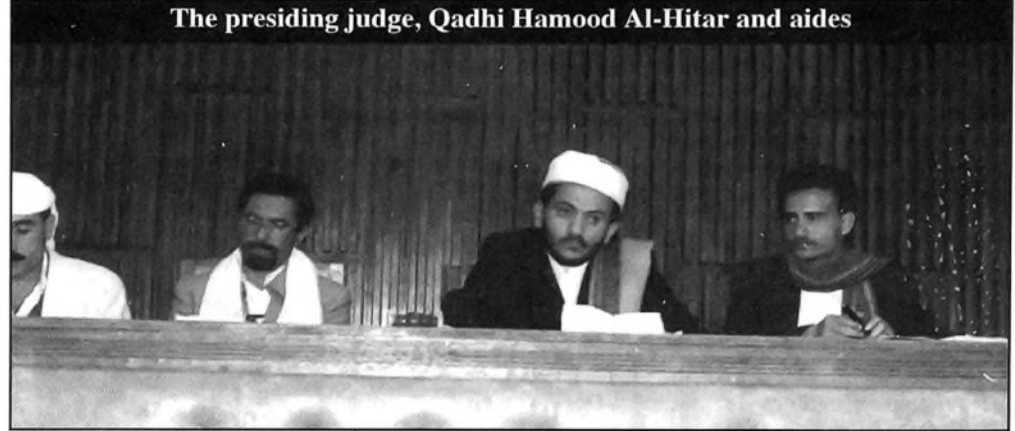
3. If an official feels he/she is undeservedly attacked by the press, he/she - under article 158 of the Penal Code Law, may file a lawsuit. The newspaper is then under the responsibility of proving the things it had written about him/her.

With that in mind, the *Al-Shoura* case took a new and serious twist in the hearing last Thursday, October 27th.

The judge gave two instructions. He asked the prosecutors to pin down their accusations and specify the words and phrases that they claim were the base of the offense and crime. He gave



Large numbers of lawyers & citizens attend the Al-Shoura hearings



The presiding judge, Qadhi Hamood Al-Hitar and aides

them three days to present their case.

On Sunday, October 30th, the prosecutors presented a long letter in which they pinned down phrases in articles printed by *Al-Shoura* that they claimed sow the seeds of sectarianism and division among the people, they presented other words and phrases which they claimed were slanderous to the president and other senior officials.

The letter was immediately copied to the defence lawyers of the newspaper in order to present their replies to the court hearing on Thursday November 3rd, when the judge is expected to issue his verdict on the case.

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Text of Agreed Framework between North Korea and the United States of America

Following is the full text of the agreement signed between North Korea and the USA in Geneva, October 21, 1994

Delegations of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States of America (USA) held talks in Geneva from September 23 to October 21, 1994, to negotiate an overall resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of attaining the objectives contained in the August 12, 1994 agreed statement between the DPRK and the U.S., and upholding the principles of the June 11, 1993 joint statement of the DPRK and the USA to achieve peace and security on a nuclear free Korean Peninsula. The DPRK and the USA, decided to take the following actions for the resolution of the nuclear issue.

Both sides will cooperate to replace the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactors and related facilities with Light-water reactor (LWR) power plants.

1) In accordance with the October 20, 1994 Letter of Assurance from the U.S. president, the U.S. will undertake to make arrangements for the provision to the DPRK of a LWR project with a total generating capacity of approximately 2,000 mw (e) by a target date of 2003.

The USA will organize under its leadership an international consortium to finance and supply the LWR project to be provided to the DPRK. The U.S., representing the International Consortium, will serve as the principle point of contact with the DPRK for the LWR project.

The USA representing the Consortium, will make best efforts to secure the conclusion of a supply contract with the DPRK within six months of the date of this document for the provision of the LWR project. Contract talks will begin as soon as possible after the date of this document. As necessary, the DPRK and the USA will conclude a bilateral agreement for cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

2) In accordance with the October 20, 1994 Letter of Assurance from the US president, the USA representing the Consortium will make arrangements to offset the energy forgone due to the freeze of the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactors and related facilities, pending completion of the first LWR unit. Alternative energy will be provided in the form of heavy oil for heating and electricity production. Deliveries of heavy oil will begin within three months of the date of this document and will reach a rate of 500,000 tons annually, in accordance with an agreed schedule of deliveries.

3) Upon receipt of US assurance for the provision of LWRs and Fok arrangements for interim energy alternatives, the DPRK will freeze its graphite-moderated reactors and related facilities and will eventually dismantle these reactors and related facilities.

The freeze on the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactors and related facilities will be fully implemented within one month of the date of this document. During this one-month period, and throughout the freeze, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will be allowed to monitor this freeze and the DPRK will provide full cooperation to the IAEA for this purpose.

Dismantlement of the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactors and related facilities will be completed when the LWR project is completed.

The DPRK and the U.S. will cooperate in finding a method to store safely the spent fuel from the 5 mw (e) experimental reactor during the construction of the LWR project, and to dispose of the fuel in a safe manner that does not involve reprocessing in the DPRK.

4) As soon as possible after the date of this document, DPRK and US experts will hold two sets of experts talks. At one set of talks, experts will discuss issues related to alternative energy and the replacement of the graphite-moderated reactor program with the LWR project. At the other set of talks, experts will discuss specific arrangements for spent fuel storage and ultimate disposition.

The two sides will move toward full normalization of political and economic relationships.

i. Within three months of the dates of this document, both sides will reduce barriers to trade and investment including restrictions of telecommunication services and financial transactions.

ii. Each side will open a liaison office in the other's capital following resolution of consular and other technical issues through experts-level discussions.

iii. As progress is made on issues of concern to each side, the DPRK and the US will upgrade bilateral relations to the ambassadorial level.

1. Both sides will work together for peace and security on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

2. The U.S. will provide formal assurance to the DPRK against the threat or use of nuclear weapons by the U.S.

3. The DPRK will consistently take steps to implement the North-South joint declaration on the nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

4. The DPRK will engage in North-South dialogue, as this agreed framework will help create an atmosphere that promotes such dialogue.

Both sides will work together to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

1. The DPRK will remain a party to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) and will allow implementation of its safeguards agreement under the treaty.

2. Upon the conclusion of the supply contract for the provision of the LWR project, ad hoc and routine inspection will resume under the DPRK's safeguards agreement with the IAEA with respect to the facilities not subject to the freeze. Pending conclusions of the supply contract, inspections required by the IAEA for the continuity of safeguards will continue the facilities not subject to the freeze.

3) When a significant portion of the LWR project is completed, but before delivery of key nuclear components, the DPRK will come into full compliance with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA (INFCIRC/403), including taking all steps that may be deemed necessary by the IAEA, following consultation with the energy with regard to verifying the accuracy and complete of the DPRK initial report on all nuclear material in the DPRK.

Signed:
Kang Sok Ju
Head of the delegation of the DPRK and Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Robert I. Galucci
Head of the delegation of the United States of America, Ambassador at large of the United States of America

Text of the JORDAN-ISRAEL Peace Treaty

The following is excerpts of the text of the 30-article peace treaty signed by Israel and Jordan last Wednesday. The annexes and appendices referred to in the treaty have not been made public.

Quote:

The Kingdom of Jordan and Israeli have agreed as follows:

Article - 1: Establishment of Peace

Peace is hereby established between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the state of Israel (the "parties") effective from the exchange of the instruments of ratification of this treaty.

Article - 3: International boundary

1. The international boundary between Jordan and Israel is delimited with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate as is shown in annex i (a), on the mapping materials attached thereto and coordinates specified therein.

2. The boundary, as set out in annex i(a), is the permanent, secure and recognized international Jordanian/Israeli boundary without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967.

3. The parties recognize the international boundary, including the territorial waters and airspace, as inviolable, and will respect and comply with them.

4. The demarcation of the boundary will take place as set forth in appendix i to annex i(a) and will be concluded not later than nine months after the signing of the treaty.

5. It is agreed that where the boundary follows a river, in the event of natural changes in the course of the flow of the river as described in annex(a), the boundary shall follow the new course of the flow. In the event of any other changes the boundary shall not be affected unless otherwise agreed.

6 - Immediately upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification of this treaty, each party will deploy on each side of the international boundary as defined in annex i(a)

7. The parties shall upon the signature of the treaty, enter into negotiations to conclude, within 9 months, an agreement on the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Gulf of Aqaba.

8. Taking into account the special circumstances of the Baqura/Naharayim area, which is under Jordanian sovereignty, with Israeli private ownership a right, the parties agreed to apply the provisions set out in annex i(b)

9. With respect to the Zofar area the provisions set out in annex i (c) will apply.

Article - 4: Security

1 a. both parties, acknowledging that mutual understanding and cooperation in security-related matters will form a significant part of their relations and will further enhance the security of the region, take upon themselves to base their security relations on mutual trust, advancement of joint interests and cooperation, and to aim toward a regional framework of partnership in peace. b. Toward that goal the parties recognize the achievements of the European Community and European Union in the development of the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and commit themselves to the creation, in the Middle East, of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the

Middle East. This commitment entails the adoption implemented in the post world war era (along the lines of the Helsinki process) culminating in a regional zone of security and stability.

2. the obligations referred to in this article are without prejudice to the inherent right of self-defense in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

3. the parties, undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this article, the following: a. To refrain from the use of force or weapons, conventional, non conventional or of any other kind, against each other or of other actions or activities that adversely affect the security of the other party; b. To refrain from organizing, instigating, inciting, assisting or participating in acts or threats of belligerency, hostility, subversion or violence against the other party; c. To take necessary and effective measures to ensure that acts or threats of belligerency, hostility subversion or violence against the other party do not originate from, and are not committed within, the territory (herein after the term "territory" includes the airspace and territorial waters), or through or over their territory.

4. consistent with the era of peace and with the efforts to build regional security and to avoid and prevent aggression and violence, the parties, further agree to refrain from the following: a. Joining or in any way assisting, promoting or cooperating with any coalition, organization or alliance with a military or security character with a third party, the objectives or activities of which include launching aggression or other acts of military hostility against the other party, in contravention of the provisions of the present treaty. b. Allowing the entry, stationing and operating on their territory, or through it, of military forces, personnel or material of a third party, in circumstances which may adversely prejudice the security of the other party.

5. the implementation of both countries' undertakings under this article is detailed in annex ii.

Article - 6: Water

With the view to achieving a comprehensive and lasting settlement of all the water problems between them:

1. The parties agree mutually to recognize the rightful allocations of both of them in Jordan River, Yarmouk River waters and Araba/Arava ground water in accordance with the agreed acceptable principles, quantities and quality as set out in annex ii, which shall be fully respected and complied with.

2. The parties, recognizing the necessity to find a practical, just and agreed solution to their water problems and with the view that the subject of water can form the basis for the advancement of cooperation between them jointly undertake to ensure that the management and development of their water resources do not, in any way, harm the water resources of the other party.

3. The parties recognize that their water resources are not sufficient to meet their needs. More water should be supplied for their use through various methods including projects of regional and international cooperation.

4. in light of paragraph 3, with the understanding that cooperation in water related subjects would be to the benefit of both parties, and will help alleviate their water shortages, and that water issues along their entire boundary must be dealt with in



their totality, including the possibility of trans-boundary water transfers, the parties agree to search for ways to alleviate water shortage and to cooperate in the following fields: a. Development of existing and new water resources increasing the water availability, including on a regional basis, as appropriate, and minimizing wastage water resources through the chain of their uses; b. Prevention of contamination of water resources; c. Mutual assistance in the alleviation of water shortages; d. Transfer of information and joint research and development in water-related subjects, and review of the potential for enhancement of water resources development and use.

5. the implementation of both countries' undertakings under this article is detailed in annex ii.

Article - 7: Economic Relations

1. Viewing economic development and prosperity as pillars of peace, security and harmonious relations between states, peoples and individual human beings, the parties, taking note of understandings reached between them, affirm their mutual desire to promote economic cooperation between them, as well as within the framework of wider regional economic cooperation.

2. In order to accomplish this goal, the parties agree to the following: a. To remove all discriminatory barriers to normal economic relations, to terminate economic boycotts against each other by third parties. b. Recognizing that the principle of free and unimpeded flow of goods and services should guide their relations, the parties will enter into negotiations with a view to concluding agreements on economic cooperation, including trade and the establishment of a free-trade area, investment, banking and industrial cooperation and labor, for the purpose of promoting beneficial economic relations, based on principles to be agreed upon, as well as on human development considerations on a regional basis. These negotiations will be concluded no later than 6 months from the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the treaty. c. To cooperate bilateral, as well as in multilateral forums, towards the promotion of their respective economies and of their neighborly economic relations with other regional parties.

3. The parties will act together to promote interfaith relations among the three monotheistic religions, with the aim of working toward religious understanding moral commitment, freedom of religious worship, and tolerance and peace.

Article - 8: Refugees & Displaced Persons

1. Recognizing the massive human problems caused to both parties by the conflict in the Middle East, as well as the contribution made by them toward the alleviation of human suffering, the parties will seek to further alleviate those problems arising on a bilateral level.

2. Recognizing that the above human problems caused by the conflict in the Middle East, cannot be fully resolved on the bilateral level, the parties will seek to resolve them in appropriate forums, in accordance with international law, including the following: a. In the case of displaced persons, in a quadripartite committee together with Egypt and the Palestinians; b. In the case of refugees, i. in the framework of the work of the multilateral group on refugees, ii. in negotiations, in a framework to be agreed, bilateral or otherwise, in conjunction with and at the same time as the permanent status negotiations pertaining to the territories referred to in article 3 of this treaty.

3. Through the implementation of agreed United Nations programs and other agreed international economic programs concerning refugees and displaced persons, including assistance to their settlement.

Article - 9: Places of Historical and Religious Significance

1. Each party will provide freedom of access to places of religious/historic significance.

2. In this regard, in accordance with the Washington declaration, Israel respects the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. When negotiations for the permanent status will take place, Israel will give high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines.

3. The parties will act together to promote interfaith relations among the three monotheistic religions, with the aim of working toward religious understanding moral commitment, freedom of religious worship, and tolerance and peace.

Article - 17: Tourism

The parties affirm their mutual desire to promote cooperation between them in the field of tourism. In order to accomplish this goal, the parties taking note of the understandings reached between them concerning tourism - agree to negotiate, as soon as possible, and to conclude no later than three months from the exchange of the instruments of ratification of this treaty, an agreement to facilitate and encourage mutual tourism and tourism from third countries.

Article - 29: Settlement of Disputes

1. Disputes arising out of the application or interpretation of this treaty shall be resolved by negotiations.

2. Any such disputes which cannot be settled by negotiations shall be resolved by conciliation or submitted to arbitration.

Unquote

All in the Family

It was the day I decided to join yoga classes. All hell broke loose — in slow motion. My daughter was enthusiastic enough. "Fabulous Mom, for once you're doing something for yourself." Overcome by her enthusiasm, I enrolled and then broke the news to my better half. He grunted. Now a man who grunts is only second in line to a man who ignores, at least in my revised bibliography. I bit my tongue, he grunted again and then snorted. Now no one can snort as disdainfully as my hubby. It was designed to send my innards growling. But, I was by now, almost a yoga. An ace ascetic. Not for me this bantering. So, as cool as a cucumber, I held my own. "Pray, who enrolled you in her class?" badgered my husband, with the emphasis on 'you'. Peace, peace, peace. I silenced the retort rising within me. "It's a 'him' and not a 'her' and he is a professor of yoga." My husband stuttered. "Must be over the hill, must be senile, must be an aspiring sanyasi must be...!" Pricking the balloon of his priggish and prudish opinion I furnished him with the details. "He is young, alert and energetic and if the last three decades have not sent you into sanyaas, why should they do so for him?" "Honey," he said. Now, we call each other honey, only in sticky situations. I guess it is symbolic.

"If he can make you stay in one pose and in one place for an hour, I'll hand it to him. He'll achieve what no one has ever been able to." The sound I emitted was as close to a snort-cum-grunt as I could manage. Yoga classes started with great gusto. We were asked to practice at home a simple asana or exercise which required us to sit in a quiet room, with our legs crossed, hands on our knees, eyes closed and concentrate only on our breath. That should be simple, I thought, after all, I also manage to stay put on a mat for an hour. When my daughter inquired, I filled her in and told her about the exercise that I would be practicing that night. The door opened, in walked my hubby, looked at me and smiled. "Wow's the professor?" Needless to say, I did not smile nor speak. I am a practising yogi, and yoga professes peace for one and peace for all. After dinner and, a few minutes of T.V., I decided to start my asana or the *sukh-asana*, as it is termed. I went to the living-room sure that no one would disturb me there and closed the door. Just as I settled down in the *sukh-asana*, the door swung open. I opened my eyes, it was my daughter. "I have left the cordless phone here and want to speak to my fiancee," she apologised. I settled down again. 'Breathe in, breathe out' I told myself. Barely one minute later the door opened

again. I opened my eyes. It was my husband. He plonked a clock in front of me. "Otherwise how will you know the time?" I nodded, visibly disturbed. I calmed myself down. Concentrate on your breath. Breathe in, breathe out. I was veering on the verge when the door squeaked open. You don't have to guess who. "Your spectacles, honey; just in case you can't see the clock, just in case you..." I nodded and glared at him. Oh for a destructive eye of a Hindu god. "Listen, honey, can you do yoga wearing your specs?" Just then my daughter sauntered in. "Mum, he is right, how will you know ten minutes are up. We'll sit here and time you." "Such killing kindness I could do without. I am quite bowled over." Both father and daughter smiled sheepishly. "Er, it was getting quiet in the house and I thought, that is I hoped you were OK." I resigned myself to my role of homespun goddess or was I a persona non grata? Come yoga class, when the professor queried who had been practising *sukh-asana*. I told him it was a misnomer. It was a *dukh-asana*. The professor looked puzzled. The class tittered. Do you think he'll take up sanyaas or should I quit yoga?

By:
A confused Indian wife in Sanaa. Sanaa IS confusing, or is it the yoga?

The Art of Interviewing

Part of our job as journalists is to interview guests. Often, the going is uneasy. The interviewee (person you are interviewing) often thinks the journalists is out to get him/her. Thus he/she is always on his/her guard and he/she remains in the most superficial of generalities. How would you carry out an interview? In this era of self-directed work, you could be asked to weight in your host. You could be asked to wrench out the information he is so unwilling to part with. You could be trying to verify a fact. Whatever it is you are doing, you are perceived as an aggressor. Some people may even think of the journalist as a pervert. Be that as it may, it is imperative that we journalists master the art of interviewing. Often the first few minutes are critical. If you start with the wrong foot, the whole process is doomed. If on the other hand, you hit it out from the start, then you have it made. The best starter is to show you are interested in the person talking to you as much as you are interested in what he/she has to say. Thus, a question or two about the interviewee's background is a good beginning. Because, first people like to talk about themselves, and second, it will give insight into how you should shoot for. There are no magic formulas, but you can learn to ascertain information that will help your story as the interview proceeds. People who think interviewing is easy should try it. There have been times when I went back to my editor and he would throw my whole day's work on my face. "Get it right before you come to me," he would bark. And if you did not know, there is a lot of barking going on at the Yemen Times. Our editor keeps pushing us to the limit. He has this Calvinist attitude of maximization and doing the job right. I remember arguing many times that I have given it my best shot. He would retort, "Maybe your best is just not good enough around here." The bottom line is, a bad interview can end up causing a lot of complications for a journalist's career. If you repeatedly turn in bad interviews, you end up being sent to the smaller fries. In the big catch, you are chopped off. That is a bad omen. Experts outline a strategy for conducting highly effective interviews. They include the following steps:

1 -- Prepare in advance.

Be sure you know something about the person you are going to interview, and the main angles of

interest to your story. Study the issues you are going to raise and draft a list of questions.

2 -- Define the interviewees' roles.

Sometimes you have several interviewees chipping in, the situation could quickly degenerate. Each interviewee should be assigned a role and a different set of questions. You want to make sure that you get all information necessary to make a good story. One interviewee should be the 'point person,' providing an overview of the situation.

3 -- Talk less.

Interviewers don't spend enough time listening. You should spend only about 10% of the time talking or rather asking questions. Your host should be enticed to give away tons of valuable information that can help you write your story. But you must listen between the lines for follow-up questions.

4 -- Probe for information.

Experts recommend "situational interviewing," in which you cast doubts as well as scenario-like formats related to a situation. Open-ended questions also yield revealing information. "You don't want the interviewee to utter 'Yes' or 'No.'" Ask questions that begin, "Who, what, where, why, please explain."

5 -- Avoid illegal questions.

You must ask issue-related questions. The Press Law has established guidelines on areas that are off-limits. If you are unclear on what is OK or not, it is wiser to take a conservative position.

6 -- Don't Entertain Drifting.

Sometimes, your interviewee could drift away from your issues of interests. Arab guests are more likely to do this than foreigners. There is nothing wrong in interrupting to return the conversation to proper course.

7 -- Be gracious.

Many times, the interview can quickly degenerate into an interrogation. Remember the limits, and always, "Be gracious and considerate." Also remember to thank your guest for taking time to talk to you. "It was a pleasure meeting you," is a beautiful concluding remark.

By: Fatmah Rawah,
Social Editor, Yemen Times.

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Familiarizing Your Enfant with Books

As the new school year gets under way, the minds of parents with young children are focused on reading -- ever because of the national curriculum, which highlights reading progress. While opinions differ about the value of teaching your children to read before they start school, we all know that by helping them discover early that books are fun, they will become more confident pupils when the time comes. But choosing the right books is a difficult task. With so many new titles coming out every year, the choice is overwhelming. A recent survey conducted by Collins Children's Books and W. H. Smith found that parents were playing safe by buying books they already knew, often from their own childhoods. Some were so confused, they walked out of stores empty-handed. With hardback books often costing a fortune no one wants to make an expensive mistake.

And so the Grow With Collins campaign has been launched, providing shops with display cases which divide selected, inexpensive books into age ranges. Libraries are not only an excellent source of books, children's librarians are very knowledgeable and are able to advise which books might suit a certain child. Different things might capture a child's interest. For one child, it might be the illustrations, or that the main character has the same name. It might be about something they've experienced themselves, or a fantasy story that fires the imagination. By establishing the habit of having books around from the start, they will become a natural part of your child's daily life. If you show your children books all the time, they will be more literate just by being familiar with books, even if they only play with them. Children learn the fact that there

are words with the pictures, even if they don't understand them. It lays down the mechanics of reading for later. So when do you begin? If a baby can't understand what you are saying, it might seem silly to read to him/her. Not so, say researchers on a theme books and babies. Some recommend four months as a good age to introduce books for play. Choose attractive, chunky books that can be chewed and won't fall apart, waterproof ones to play with in the bath and cloth ones they can take to bed. Show your baby the pictures. Very early, they can recognize shapes, colors and animals. By 18 months, they can make links between pictures and text. However, parents should be careful not to put pressure on children. It is the teacher's job to teach the child the read—the parents can provide opportunities for the child to develop an interest in books.

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HOW TO MANAGE YEMEN'S PRIVATIZATION EFFORT?

By: Ali Mohammed A. Nasser, Sana'a



Over the last half a century, discussions about privatization had been intricate and often confused. That was not because of the impossibility of privatization, but it was due to the suspicion and conflicting ideas about such an undertaking. But in the 1980s, the call to dissolve the public sector and to privatize has increasingly gained momentum and has become widespread.

The collapse of the former Soviet Bloc and the fall to disgrace of communism have accelerated the privatization momentum. Today, it is obvious that the privatization issue has become a main policy concern of many regions in the world.

However, privatization is not - in practice - an easy thing to apply. There are many contradictory objectives that the governments want to achieve, thus creating genuine teasers and obstacles overwhelming the decision makers here and there. In addition, there are pockets of hold-overs from the old days, and they are out there to block the transformation. The lack of vision and political will have helped them.

Thus every country has to go through its own experience of privatization. Most countries, however, share three similarities: They all proclaim to push for the establishment of the requisites and stipulations of a free market economy. They all have put forth ambitious programs to dismantle inefficient and wasteful government companies and corporations. They all have failed to make any major progress on the ground.

The Republic of Yemen is part of the world current promoting privatization. Unfortunately, it is also involved in the complications of the privatization undertaking, which has yet to take hold in this country.

President Ali Abdulla Saleh has declared in many a press conference that he favors privatization and that it will be carried out. Thus the debates on the issue are not whether the government will embark on privatization or not. That has already been concluded, at least theoretically. The debates are how to go about it.

Actually there are many serious questions and concerns related to this matter and all of them have to be satisfactorily answered and resolved. Among these, the most prominent ones are: To whom does the government intend to sell the would-be privatized public entities? On what basis and what are the mechanisms? Is there a chance to use the process in order to build a share-holding corporate structure in the country? Can the employees buy shares against their production? Should the government retain a minority interest? Should the government sell all its companies and corporations? Should it start with the faltering companies, or should it put on the line the successful companies? Should the door be opened to foreign investors to buy the public sector? Could this process be used to generate hard currency?

Those and many other questions await answers. Before we have answers for such questions, we cannot expect to make progress on this front. On course, we are not being asked to re-invent the wheel, but the vision should be clear and long-term. The nature of answering each of these questions makes a significant difference in terms of carrying out a successful privatization program in Yemen.

I shall try to raise some important issues and attempt to find answers to some of these questions in light of the realities of Yemen.

As far as I know, there are some forty to fifty faltering public sector entities. They are experiencing economic difficulties because of obsolete equipment, low productivity, inefficient management, bad marketing, and over-politicized decisions in employment, pricing, procurement, etc. Basically, what we need to do is pass ownership of those companies and corporations.

Now, the book value of these companies is only a small fraction of their actual value. In some cases, the land on which the companies are built is itself of tremendous real estate value. The government

could earn more by simply removing the equipment and then auctioning the land which could be put to non-industrial use.

This is an important outlet, especially in cases where the government company occupied a central location in our cities.

Another important step would be to encourage shares. The capital outlay of each company could be distributed into shares. I suggest a mechanism which would put a ceiling on the volume of shares that any specific investor can purchase. I think it would be a good idea if the employees and workers are encouraged to purchase 10-20%, and the government should retain a similar interest. This would reduce the initial overall capital outlay required of the private sector. It would also phase government revenue from sales over a longer period of time, as the government could later sell whatever shares it had retained.

As far as the privatization price-basis is concerned I suggest that the government must use price-differentials to market the various companies. If the companies are in bad shape, the government should use a price closer to the book value. This would entice investors to purchase the enterprises. If the companies are lucrative, then the going-market rate must be used.

But whether the government undertakes the privatization process through an open auction system or according to private arrangements, there is one important thing which should not be overlooked. That is the fact that the cost of erecting many of these enterprises is still unpaid. Many of the government companies were financed through foreign loans, which today constitute a considerable burden on our economy. Therefore, the revenue from the sale of these companies must be, at least partially, be used to off-set the government debt, even if to the Central Bank of Yemen.

It looks like the government of Yemen is inclined to privatize only the failing and inefficient enterprises. In such a case, one suspects that investors may not be willing to buy those corporations. Therefore, perhaps the government has to privatize first those corporations which are relatively successful. But here, the question as to why we should have privatization arises. It must be remembered that privatization is forwarded as a cure for the endless economic woes of government companies and corporations. The failing enterprises constitute a heavy burden on the state, and their sale is presented as a solution.

Then there is the need to address the fate of the large numbers of employees working in these enterprises. Can the retention and re-training of these workers be part of the deal? For a country that already suffers from a high rate of unemployment, to fire large crowds of employees would add fuel to the fire of unemployment. The privatization scheme must - in one way or another - incorporate the issue of the fate of the workers. For those workers who will necessarily be disposed off, agreement must be reached regarding their rights and compensation.

As I see it, the government of Yemen does not have much to choose from. Its own budgetary complications make the disposal of its money-losing companies an attractive action. In addition, it could raise some money by the sale. In many cases, the government has only one choice regarding the case of unsuccessful corporations with excessive manpower. The government has either to sell them or dismantle them.

We have to rest assured that considerable benefits will be derived from privatization if, and only if, it is properly undertaken. The most important benefits to be derived are the reduction of government burden, raising production and productivity, and correcting distortions in the economy. In the long-run, this means an expanding economy with a higher employment and growth potential.

Thus, it is important to stress the great benefits to be derived from the privatization process in the medium and long run economic performance of Yemen. The point is, however, to properly carry out the work in order to maximize returns. Can we do it?

Continued UN Efforts to Mobilize Funds to Finance Yemen's Emergency Post-War Needs

By: Dr. Awni Al-Ani, UN Projects Coordinator, and the UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen.

The sad events witnessed by the Republic of Yemen recently have left a legacy of tragic conditions in the economic, social, cultural, health, educational life of the country. That is why the government of Yemen appealed through the UN to the world for emergency assistance. Actually, the UN agencies were among the first to positively respond to the Yemeni appeal.

On May 30th, the government of Yemen asked the Resident Coordinator of the UN in Sanaa to coordinate all world assistance to Yemen. The mandate also covered to take urgent actions to mobilize resources.

The government of Yemen specified the needs to include the assistance needed by the displaced families and individuals, repair and reconstruction of infrastructure, services, utilities and basic facilities. Assistance to war victims is also an important designated use.

This effort was not the first emergency assistance to be channelled by the UN agencies in Yemen. Prior to the war, the UN has been assisting in the Somali refugee problem. Before, during and after the war, the UNHCR has been highly instrumental in providing much needed help to the refugees in Abyan who were caught in the middle of the fighting. They had to flee and ultimately be relocated.

The first contributions were made by the UN agencies themselves. The UNDP allocated all the balance in its budget - a total of \$250,000 - to the emergency fund. WHO allocated \$ 300,000 and the UNICEF \$200,000. In addition, the WFP was directed to channel food assistance to the displaced persons in Taiz, Lahej, Abyan and Aden. Immediate action was taken to purchase electric generators, tractors, medical supplies, etc.

Based on instructions from the Secretary-General of the UN, delegations visited Taiz and Lahej during 13-15/6/1994, and Shabwah and Abyan during 25-28/6/1994.

On July 20th, a delegation from the Humanitarian Department of the UN came from New York and Geneva to assess the needs of the country. Lahej, Aden, Abyan, Shabwah and Hadhramaut were visited. At the end of the visit, the department prepared a worldwide appeal. According to the delegation, the minimum and urgently needed funds to cover the period (August 94 - February 1995) were estimated at US\$ 21.7 million.

The appeal was launched in New York, Geneva and Sanaa. The UN Resident Coordinator spoke in several meetings which brought together the heads of mission of the diplomatic community in Sanaa and urged for pledges to the fund.

Several countries have made pledges and donations channelled through the UN agencies.

Donors to the Emergency Fund

A. Contributions by the UN Agencies

Agency	Amount	Total Estimated Need
WFP	\$3,537,392	\$3,943,040
UNICEF	1,106,503	5,300,000
UNDP	641,000	5,278,000
WHO	327,273	4,495,000
DHA	300,000	300,000
FAO	---	1,710,000
UNESCO	---	700,000
TOTAL	\$5,800,740	\$21,715,240

B. Contributions through the UN Agencies

Donor	Amount	Designated Use
Italy	\$2,725,964	Emergency Food Assistance
Italy	575,000	Water/Sanitation Projects
USA	800,000	Emergency Food Assistance
USA	25,000	Water/Sanitation Projects
Netherlands	784,375	Health and other Projects
UK	591,000	Water/Sanitation/Health/Mine Action
German Natcom	299,401	Unspecified
TOTAL	\$5,800,740	

C. Contributions Outside the Framework of UN Appeal

Donor	Amount	Form of Donation/Designated Use
Netherlands	\$1,960,000	Cash - ICRC, Water/Health Projects
EC	1,182,037	Cash - To Assist Displaced Families
USA	1,026,000	Cash - To Procure Medical Supplies
UK	373,135	Cash - ICRC, for War Victims
Canada	362,319	Cash - Assistance to War Victims
Sweden	148,254	Cash - ICRC
Italy	139,870	Airlift of in-kind aid through Pisa
Luxembourg	117,994	Cash - Purchase of Medical Supplies
Denmark	50,000	Cash - Evacuation of Foreigners
India	Unknown	In-kind - 945 kgs of medicine
Private Sources	12,699	Cash - ICRC
TOTAL	\$5,372,306	

These and other countries have also made contributions outside the framework of the UN, especially through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Care International, and other international voluntary organizations. Still other countries have provided direct bilateral aid to the Yemeni government.

Although it is early to assess the response to the UN appeal, it is already clear that a lot has been achieved. We expect additional pledges to be made and honored in the near future in light of the negotiations and discussions going on in various circles at the moment.

Let me use the recent experience in Yemen so far, and suggest a few steps for better management

of the future needs, as follows:
1. I propose to the Yemeni government to establish an emergency body which will be responsible for handling, assessing and channelling emergency aid, as needed. Many countries have such a body. A focal point for such efforts is absolutely vital.

The UNDP has allocated \$200,000 from its additional resources in order to help establish such a body.

2. The different UN agencies operating in Yemen have proved their ability to coordinate their efforts, and their effective willingness to work together. The recent emergency needs of the Republic of Yemen proves this point.

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MOZAMBICANS GO TO THE POLLS

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, scenting peace after decades of civil war in southern Africa, urged Mozambique's opposing sides to accept the results of their landmark elections this week. He also told Angola's civil war foes to stop fighting and sign and implement tentative peace accords reached last week in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

Opening a one-day summit of 11 southern African states, Mugabe said the international community hoped Mozambique's first pluralist polls since gaining independence from Portugal in 1975 would be free and fair.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano's ruling party, Frelimo, is competing against the rebel movement, Renamo, led by Afonso Dhlakama.

Dhlakama had raised the specter of renewed conflict when he charged that Zimbabwe has sent thousands of voters into Mozambique to back Chissano. Until elections actually started, Renamo had boycotted them. Dhlakama and his movement were convinced to stand elections only under international guarantees and a promise of extension of the elections.

Although the voting process has progressed relatively calmly, so far, no one can predict how the "formerly" dictatorial rulers will take the results if they do not satisfy their ambitions. Both sides have already foul in certain cases pertaining to the way the voting has proceeded.

On Angola, another former Portuguese colony racked by nearly 20 years of civil war, Mugabe said last week's Lusaka peace agreements were the only opportunity for the country to return to peace and stop the war between the rebel Unita group and the ruling MPLA government.

The accord is the latest in the war that has brought the diamond and oil-rich southern African country to its knees. Many regional analysts remain skeptical it will take effect.

Another power struggle has paralyzed the southern African kingdom of Lesotho in August after King Letsie sacked its civilian government. King Letsie was forced by threats of sanctions from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe to re-instate Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle's government.

INTELLECTUALS SLAM CENSORSHIP AND HARASSMENT IN IRAN

More than 130 of Iran's best-known writers and intellectuals have condemned "censorship and harassment" by the state in an open letter leaked outside Iran last week.

The letter, signed by 134 writers, poets and translators currently living in Iran, also called for an independent trade union to "restore freedom of thought" in the country, "when the struggle against obstacles to reading and thinking go beyond the capabilities of the individual, it is necessary to confront them in a collective way and on a professional level," the letter said. This would help to "restore freedom of thought, expression and publication and to fight collectively against censorship," it said.

"That is why the creation of a writers' association would help to guarantee our individual freedom." The letter was sent to the Iranian press, the ministry of culture and Islamic affairs and several writers' associations abroad including Pen Club International.

The academics criticized the "condemnation of writers in the name of morality or religious ideology" as well as the "anti-democratic practices" used by Iranian authorities against them.

"Criticizing a writer's work is normal, but prying into his private life on the pretext of criticizing his work amounts to an attack on the writer himself," they wrote.

Theoretically, Iran has no censorship of books and newspapers prior to publication. But the authors of work judged to be too critical or running counter to the regime's ideology regularly find themselves subject to police or administrative harassment, and are often jailed without charge.

The import and circulation of foreign books is subject to strict censorship, as are authorized translation of foreign works.

The government exercises near total control over the media. Editors are selective which of the public's letters and articles they publish. Otherwise they run in trouble with the authorities.

LEGHARI TO CALL ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE

Pakistan's President Farooq Leghari is seriously considering to call a round-table conference of all political parties to find a way out of the present political deadlock, locking both the government and the opposition in a deadly confrontation.

The apparent subject to invite all the political parties is to discuss the Kashmir issue but sources said the main reason was to bring the war-ringing opposition on the same table as the government so that the ice may be broken and some kind of a dialogue could begin.

Reports said that the proposed conference was likely to be held before November 6th as Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was expected to fly off to London on an official visit on that date.

There was no comment from the opposition on the proposal which was not officially announced but was recently leaked to local newspapers which carried banner headlines quoting official sources which said the decision to call the conference had been taken and invitation to 16 political parties were already extended, and that Islamabad was the venue. Government circles say it would be very difficult for the opposition to refuse participation in such a conference because it would make them look very odd.

The government has the conference on Afghanistan, called by late prime minister Mohammed Khan Junejo in 1987, as a precedent. The then PPP leader Benazir Bhutto attend that conference.

Although Benazir Bhutto was at that time not in the parliament as her party had boycotted the non-party 1985 polls held by General Zia-ul-Haq, her presence gave Junejo the authority and confidence to sign the Geneva accord on Afghanistan which signaled the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Observers say by calling the all-party conference, Leghari also wanted to open a line of communications with the opposition after a series of direct attacks on his role in the Mehran Bank affair.

Analysts also say the move will also provide the opposition with a face-saving opportunity to sit face to face with the government after its abortive attempts to overthrow Prime Minister Bhutto through street agitation, strikes and wheel jams.

WHO GIVES ALL CLEAR ON PLAGUE

Following 10 days of epidemiological studies, the World Health Organization (WHO) expert team gave an all clear certificate on plague. Dr. N.K. Shah, WHO representative to the Indian government, said at a press conference that WHO has informed the Middle East nations of its findings. But the decision to lift the ban on travel and trade with India will be left entirely to them.

Dr. Davis Dennis, a senior epidemiologist from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and head of the expert team, said plague had been restricted to Beed district in Maharashtra and Surat in Gujarat. He said there had been no secondary transmission in any other Indian city including Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. Dr. Davis said he saw no reason for travel or trade to be banned.

The team members visited both Beed and Surat, conducted rapid epidemiological surveys there and studied the sample collected at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

"Blood samples from rats and dogs have clearly established the outbreak of bubonic plague in Beed. However, in Surat, though some rat specimens tested positive, the exact route of infection with pneumonic plague was not established," Dr. Dennis said. He said in Surat, the probable route of transmission could have been a person traveling from Maharashtra and then developing pneumonic plague after arriving in Surat.

WHO called the outbreak of pneumonic plague in Surat as limited, and said many of the deaths could have been due to other diseases like malaria, TB, dengue fever, which are endemic to the area. "We have not been able to confirm bubonic plague in Surat and the cases of bubonic plague from rural areas of Maharashtra outside Beed were poorly defined," he said.

Though the situation in Surat was very serious, the epidemic did not take a sweeping toll because of the prompt action taken by the Indian government machinery. The ready availability of the antibiotic, tetracycline helped in containing the epidemic rapidly.

In Delhi, of the 68 cases of plague which were declared positive, the WHO team were able to check out 178 cases.



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Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Huraibi:

"A teaching hospital stresses quality service and medical research."

The Republic of Yemen is trying this year to establish what is dubbed as the first "University Hospital." The former Kuwait Hospital in Sanaa is converted into a teaching hospital that is part of Sanaa University. To shed light on this process, Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times went to speak to Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Huraibi, General Manager as well as lecturer at the Medical College. He filed the following interview:

Q: Could you give us some background on the birth of the University Hospital?

A: The creation and the birth of university hospital has always been a dream of the College of Medicine at Sanaa University. Then a decision was taken by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to transform the Kuwait hospital into a university teaching hospital. We have taken charge of the hospital and we are working to gradually complete the transformation. However, a lot remains to be done, especially in effecting real changes.

Q: What are the practical steps that have been taken to create a university hospital?

A: The main responsibility of the new hospital administration is to transform the hospital and bring it up to the world standard. We have also

taken steps to install the teaching facilities needed by the interns and students. To achieve this change, we put forward a well planned sequence of actions as follows:

1. We have already started to regulate and carry out the administrative duties in a self-controlled way, that would go uninfluenced or unaffected by the change of the person in charge. We brought in young, energetic and well qualified vice directors to strengthen the management. These were given the necessary authorities to function fully.

2. We embarked on training of the administrative and technical personnel locally and abroad, to further advance their knowledge and experience. In this effort, we just introduced a computerised system in all hospital activities.

3. We have given great attention for re-organising, the administration of each department. I would like to mention that the Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Hussain Al-Iriany and I have visited university hospitals in Egypt and are planning to visit similar hospitals in other countries in order to



learn from their experience and to link up with them to start cooperation.

2. A competent medical teaching staff was one of our early priorities. We have already signed contracts with distinguished and highly qualified teachers from Iraq and Egypt, to serve in the University Hospital.

I should point here our great pride in the capability and competence of the Yemeni teaching staff. The wind of change has already blown in the laboratory and pharmaceutical departments which boast of highly qualified Yemeni staff.

In short, we have taken many steps in achieving a swift and full transformation of the hospital.

Q: What are the equipment and other tools you badly need at the moment?

A: The buildings and some of the equipment and instruments are in good shape, although they are not in sufficient quantities. We are trying to make do with whatever we have.

In terms of furniture and system, the hospital was handed over to us in a very desperate shape, paralysed the laboratories. There is also great shortage of diagnostic facilities, medication and all kinds of drugs. We worked very hard to provide what is possible through close collaboration with other hospitals on the basis of barter or exchange.

Now we are looking up to the political leadership to support this young and growing university hospital. We are sure and certain to overcome the obstacles as we manage to fulfill our requirements in the near future.

Scientific research are part of the daily hospital work, coupled with the ordinary routine services. Hopefully, after we succeed in providing the basic necessities, we shall raise our level to that of the teaching hospitals' standards.

I think what will distinguish this hospital from others is scientific research which I believe is the cornerstone of any university hospital.

Q: What exactly is the difference between a regular hospital and a university or teaching hospital?

A: First, a university hospital is supposed to have a certain standard and competence, based on highly university staff.

Second, a university hospital is really a scientific referral center for similar institutes.

Third, as I indicated above, a university hospital does scientific research as part of its basic duties.

Fourth, all the staff members of a university hospital should belong to a university and must give lectures. They also supervise the research work of their students.

Finally, a teaching hospital is supposed to enjoy considerable independence from the Ministry of Health. It carries out its duties under supervision of the medical college of a university.

Q: What are the principles that link a university hospital to other educational or medical institutions?

A: The relationship of a hospital with other hospitals can be evaluated as follows:

- Our relationship with the university is the most basic of all our relations. We are part of the university and supervised by it. We, in fact, get all the necessary financial, administrative and moral support from the university.

The College of Medicine represents the university in our relations. We share the common aim of developing the medical/pharmaceutical and related profession. We also receive the student batches in their advanced years for internship and practical training.

For the first time ever, our hospital received a set of medical student trainees for one full year. The training process is going so well that it has even exceeded our hopeful expectations.

Our relations with other hospitals - like Al Thawrah, Al-Jamhoori, Al-Sabeen and the military hospitals - are built on the common interest of serving the public. Thus we exchange experiences, personnel and facilities.

Most certainly, we look forward and work for good and stable relations with the ministry of health which is the line ministry overseeing the work of all hospitals. We have a close collaboration and coordination so badly needed for the growth and improvement of medical services.

Q: What are the future plans and programs in your hospital?

A: I can say with exaggeration that a modest developmental revolution is happening in our hospital. So far, we have achieved the following:

- The provision of small lecture theaters for the medical students
- The provision of special rooms for teaching purposes inside each department.
- Organising and observing the teaching process by the administration with the help of the heads of departments.
- Creation of specialized consultation clinics and implementation of the referral system.
- Planning for the creation of an advanced emergency ward like in advanced countries.
- The creation of a scientific library with modern teaching facilities
- Creation of more operating wards and theater rooms.
- Creation of intensive care and therapy unit.

Our future plans include:

- Expanding the present building with extension buildings to meet our target of 400 bed capacity.
- Creation of more operating rooms.
- Attracting competent doctors who can be trusted by patients who are at the moment travelling abroad for treatment. By that I mean to invite distinguished doctors for short visits to serve in our hospital.

تعازينا الحارة

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SMOKING KILLS SIX PEOPLE EVERY MINUTE - STUDY

Deaths from cigarettes are likely to more than triple over the next quarter century to 20 every minute around the world, scientists warn in a new global survey.

The findings are in a book, Mortality From Smoking In Developed Countries 1950-2000, published recently by scientists at Britain's Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the World Health Organization and the American Cancer Society.

"Worldwide smoking is already killing 3 million people each year, and this number is increasing," Richard Peto, a researcher at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said.

"In most countries, the worst is yet to come. If current smoking patterns persist, then by the time the young smokers of today reach middle or old age, there will be about 10 million deaths a year from tobacco - one death every three seconds," Mr. Peto said.

The new survey provides the most comprehensive analysis of the world's smokers, describing trends in smoking-related death since the 1950s and forecasting deaths into the next century. A previous study by the same authors two years ago covered the 1960s.

The new book covers 45 countries, 15 more than the previous study. The additional nations are from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Sixty million deaths have been caused by smoking since the 1950s, the investigators estimate.

They predict smoking will kill about 10 million people a year by 2020, the vast majority in developing countries where the habit continues to attract the young and women.

"Smoking is like no other hazard. It will kill one in two smokers eventually," Dr. Alan Lopez of the World Health Organization, a co-author of the study, told reporters.

Dr. Ichiro Kawachi, an assistant professor of health and social behavior at the Harvard School of Public Health, said the authors "have made a very good stab" at predicting smoking deaths, within the limits of the available data. "If anything, I think their predictions are fairly conservative and an under-estimation," he added.

Investigators were unable to acquire smoking statistics from every country, which would allow the most precise estimates. Instead, they compared data on lung-cancer death rates among American non-smokers to the lung cancer death rate in each country to get an estimate of the number of smokers in a nation. They used other data from the American Cancer Society to estimate how many smokers would die of various other smoking-related causes, such as heart disease.

The researchers said they used lung-cancer rates as the yardstick "because in developed countries, lung cancer is so closely related to smoking and so seldom caused by any other factor among non-smokers."

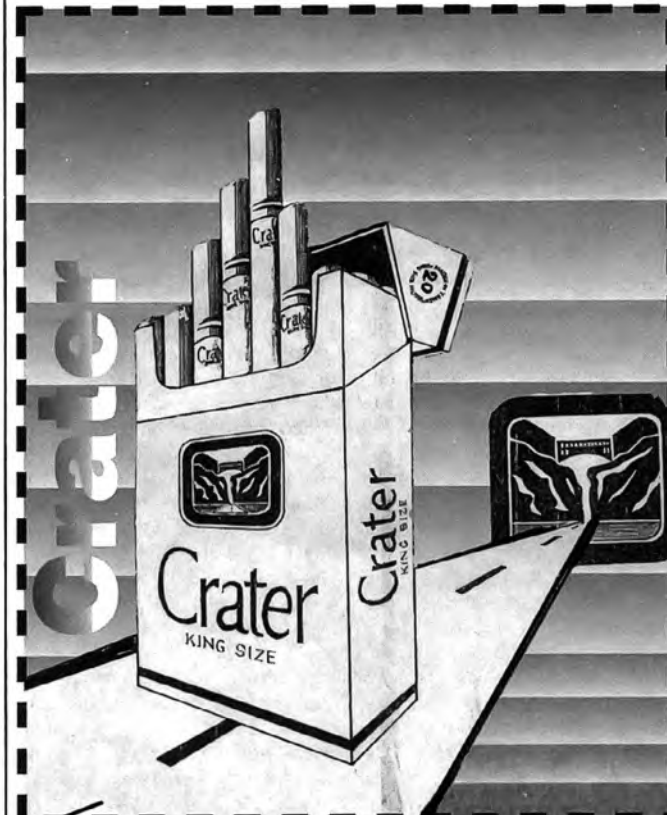
According to the report, 10% of middle-age British men will die from smoking by the time they are 35 to 69 years old. In Poland, 20% of men are doomed to die from smoking, the researchers predict.

In Spain, where women began smoking in the 1970s, the lung cancer rate among women remains low. But Mr. Peto said lung cancer is increasing and will kill millions of Spanish women in the next decades.

Mr. Peto said he hoped the survey would encourage governments to enforce stringent anti-smoking policies.

In addition to lung cancer, smoking also increases the risk of cancer of the mouth, larynx, oesophagus, kidney and bladder. Smokers are also more likely than non-smokers to die of heart attacks and strokes.

Judith Hatton, a researcher at Forest, a British organization for smokers' rights, called the statistics, unreliable and merely speculative. The Tobacco Institute in Washington also had similar comments. A spokesman for the institute described the comparisons "unscientific" and that the researchers started their study with a bias.



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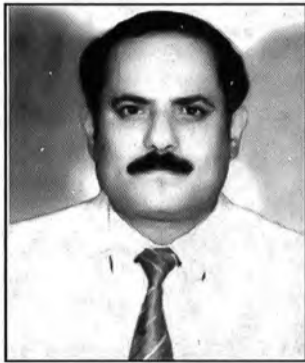
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رضاء عبدالرحمن السقاف

Caring for Cancer Patients in Yemen

By:
Mohsin AL-EMAD, D.D.S.,
Head of Maxillofacial and
Plastic Surgery Department,
Al Thawra General Hospital



The main purpose of this articles is to explain what happens when a patient with cancer in maxillofacial region (face, mouth, neck) or suspected of having one or referred to our department from another hospital or district. Let me start by complaining that patients come for professional treatment at a very late stage. Only 20% of our patients come to us at stages I and II. Most come to us in advanced stages of the disease.

To further complicate the situation, patients often do not know they have the disease until it begins to make its mark or take its toll. The absence of regular check-up medical services explains the late discovery of the problem. Unfortunately, this is a universal phenomenon.

There is a second point I want to raise. The treatment of head and neck cancer carries a high morbidity rate. In advanced cases, the chances of success are indeed slim. Doctors do their best, but they can't undo the damage, not all the time.

The main treatment of cancer is still surgery, radiotherapy or a combination of the two. Methods used are lasers, chemotherapy and immunotherapy. These methods need highly qualified specialists such as surgeons, radiotherapists, medical oncologists, pathologist specialists and dental prosthetists. The medical care often needs a rehabilitation center.

In our hospitals, we have no radiotherapy centers which is very important for the treatment of this disease. We have no oncology centers or departments, no hematology departments, no prosthetic centers and no rehabilitation centers - all of which are necessary to attend to the needs of cancer patients.

In the Maxillofacial Department of Al-Thawrah Hospital, we have only two rooms for male and two rooms for female patients. Each room has three beds - thus a total capacity of admitting twelve in-patients. These rooms are available for admission of all patients (Oncology, Teratology, Traumatology, Pyogenic Infection and reconstructive Surgery). This is absolutely not enough especially if we realize that there are no other Maxillofacial Department in any of the other hospitals.

The needed treatments are many and vary depending on the cases. Let me enumerate the following variations in medical treatment.

1. Surgical treatment specially for those patients who are lucky enough to arrive in the early stages. There are several surgical operations which can be performed on the head, neck and oral cavity. The approach is chosen that gives the best access to a particular tumor from a safe margin microscopically. Radical neck block or functional dissection is performed. Sometimes, we perform a "pull through technique and the result of these methods are good." The patients need to remain under close supervision, but they do not have to stay in hospital for a long time.

2. Palliative surgical treatment specially in advanced cases. These are highly complicated operations, and the likelihood of



Baby Patient: Before ↑ and After ↓ Treatment



deterioration in the situation is very high.

Often we combine adjuvant poly-chemotherapy or neo-adjuvant methods. We use the most active chemotherapy agents such cisplatin, 5-flourouracil, bleomycin and thethotaxate. Unfortunately, many of these are not available in our country, or are very expensive if found. There are other agents such Vincristin, cyclo-phosphamid and prednisolone, which are also employed.

Both single-agent and combination regimens have been used, and patients respond positively to such therapy.

Many patients with advanced cases travel abroad for medical treatment, and rightly so. However, our observation of these patients when they come back to us for palliative chemotherapy is that the results are not satisfactory given the amount of money and time spent abroad by these patients during medication. We feel that these problems can be reduced by giving special services here at home. The Ministry of Health, hospitals and the government, can help.

A Culture that Promotes Pursuit of Degrees Leads to Bad Private Universities

The socio-cultural evolution of urbanizing Yemen is leading to a catastrophe in education - the pursuit of degrees. The higher the degree, the better it is. Families decorate the walls of the homes with the degrees of their children. Even professionals like medical doctors, accountants, engineers, etc. hang their many degrees on the walls of their offices. As a result, this year, some 100,000 Yemenis have applied for university education, most of them within Yemen, notably at Sanaa University. This has led to cottage private colleges and universities, some of which have no permanent teaching and administrative staff. Some of them do not even

The new trend challenges the widespread assumption that university education should be provided by government. The trouble is that the government does not have the money to do the job.

Salaries are so poor at the government Universities that lecturers usually give only a few lectures a week, so that they can hold other jobs. A university teaching staff today receives between \$200-\$300 per month, a salary which many foreign housemaids are offered by the illustrious homes of the rich.

Despite sever economic constraints, students often regard university education as a right and a must. That is also why students shun the alternative of technical and/or vocational education. This is true even when technicians are better paid than university graduates. It is also true that technicians suffer less from unemployment than the graduates who have no employable skills.

In September, 1994, Sanaa University alone admitted some 35,000 new students. The university's student population is approaching the unmanageable level of 100,000. There are no sufficient laboratories, books, chairs and desks, or even space for the students. As a result, the university is pushing the system of non-attending students. That means, more than half of the students will only visit the university during examination time.

Over the last two years, half a dozen private colleges have been established. In most cases, these do not have any permanent teaching staff. They pay an hourly rate to the professors teaching at Sanaa University. They have rented buildings and purchased a few chairs and desks and put large placards. They have advertised heavily to attract the students who have not been admitted by Sanaa University. Most do not even have a semblance of a library.

But the problems will not end with the establishment of more institutions, however bad they may be. The country already faces the problem of unemployed graduates. These wait for one-to-two years before they can find any kind of employment. New graduates of arts, law, and social sciences are finding it difficult to secure employment in the tight labor market, which shows preference for highly skilled workers. But vocational/technical training is unable to make a take-off given the cultural bias for degrees.

By: Samira Bin Da'ar,
Educational Editor, Yemen Times.

WHO Urges that Mental Health Legislation Are Given Practical Effect

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the world Health Organization (WHO) called for global improvements in the quality of care for the many millions of people suffering from mental illnesses/disorders.

Dr. Nakajima made the appeal to mark World Mental Health Day, which is co-sponsored by WHO and the world Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) and which seeks to draw international attention to the problem of sufferers, their families and their communities.

"Too often the health and social needs of those with mental and emotional disorders are relegated to a low place on the scale of priorities," he said. "Those with such disorders, and their families, are often too ashamed to advocate loudly for increased resources and an improvement in services. For this reason, WHO and the voluntary mental health movement have an important role to play in advocacy on behalf of the mentally ill."

Dr. John Orley of the WHO Division of Mental Health delivered the message in an international videoconference transmitted by satellite to receivers in up to 135 countries. Simultaneous activities and events involving the "first ladies" of up to 30 countries were underway.

According to WHO, at least 500 million people worldwide suffer from some form of mental illness. More than 50 million have severe mental disease such

as schizophrenia; some 155 million are estimated to suffer from neuroses; about 120 million from mental retardation; and 100 million from effective disorders such as severe depression. Dementias are estimated to affect about 16 million persons, and as many as 100 million others are affected by addictive disorders and mental problems due to infection or trauma.

Researchers at the Department of Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, in collaboration with experts in more than 30 developing nations, proposed recommendations which could help improve the mental health of the world's population. These include:

* A major initiative to upgrade the quality of mental health services in countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

* Systematic efforts to upgrade the amount and quality of mental health training for primary care health workers.

* Coordinated efforts to improve national policies on gender, to empower women educationally and economically, and to stop violence towards women.

* Systematic efforts to assess the global burden of alcohol and drug abuse, to reduce demand, and to develop treatment and prevention programs.

These recommendations, currently being studied by WHO and WFMH, are part of the Harvard researchers report

entitled "Mental Health: Problems, Priorities and Responses in Low-Income Countries" which will be published by Oxford University Press in January 1995.

WHO and the WFMH have played a crucial role in helping the United Nations develop a set of principles for the protection of persons with mental illness and for improvement of mental health care. The principals were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1991.

"The adoption of these principles provides an important avenue of future work and of collaboration between WHO and non-government organizations active in the field of mental health," Dr. Nakajima said "Together we need to ensure that the countries of the world have in place the legislation and regulations, together with the highest quality of service, that will ensure that the principles are given effect."

When implemented by member states, the principles should ensure that the rights of the mentally ill are protected, and that care is provided in accordance with the highest medical and ethical standards. "Health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being. It is time to focus our attention on mental well-being, on the means of attaining it, and of combatting mental disorders. Our organizations must work together on these issues to achieve a better world," Dr. Nakajima said.



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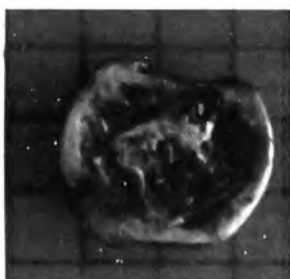
The General Industries & Packages Company

Money in Ancient Yemen

by: David Warburton

The practice of striking metallic coins, marked with a picture, with a specific weight implying a specific denomination can be traced back to the seventh century B.C. in Asia Minor. During the following centuries many different types of coins were circulating throughout the Mediterranean world, but Old Style Athenian tetradrachmas gradually gained ascendancy, and became the world's first hard currency (in both senses of the word), with virtually all other denominations slightly discounted in comparison with the silver weight value of the Athenian tetradrachmas, meaning that these heavy silver coins are found throughout the ancient world, including Yemen (see. Yemen Times, 3 October 1994, last page). For several centuries, the Athenian tetradrachma was the standard coin (much as the US Dollar was the standard internationally recognized currency after the second world war). The decline of Athens after the loss the Peloponnesian war and the ascendancy of Macedonia during the fourth century eventually resulted in the famous silver mines at Laurium being closed, and the coins stopped being minted, so that the Athenian coins lost their primacy. As other countries started to mint

bearded male head on one side has been assumed to be one of the first Qatabanian emissions, struck at Harib. The Athenians began to strike a new series of tetradrachmas during the third century B.C., and these were likewise copied by the Yemenis, but it is not clear by whom. Although the new style Athenian emission ended at the beginning of the first century B.C., the first Yemeni imitations have been ascribed to the Himyarites, who appear a hundred years later, so that parts of the sequence remain to be elucidated. Although one can speculate about the early Sabaeen and Qatabanian emissions, the later



Hadhrami and Himyaritic coins can be identified with certainty, and it is more likely that the first Himyarite series are copies of an Augustan type, minted at Raydan, their mountain stronghold not far from Yarim, but the Himyarite series was preceded by the Hadhrami coinage.

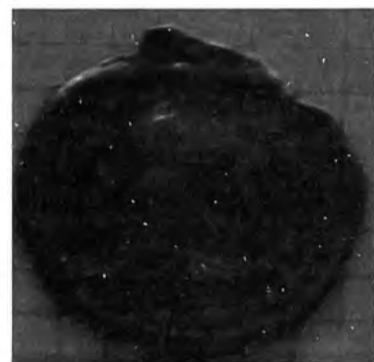
The Hadhrami coins are frequently distinguished by an inscription naming the royal palace at Shabwa, the capital of the Hadhramaut, Shaqir, but also with letters naming the moon-god Sin, along with the bull, symbolizing the god. (In Mesopotamia, the crescent moon was associated with the horns of a bull, and thus the two fell together, and the Hadhrami name for the moon-god was the same as that used in Mesopotamia). Another series shows an anthropomorphic head on one side, and an eagle on the other, perhaps representing the sun and the moon. In the Roman world, coins were used to transmit news, and to serve the propaganda interests of the Emperors, so that military victories and construction projects were represented on coins minted in many parts of the empire, and thus it is surprising to note that the Hadhrami coins pictured the god, but not the palace.

The next stylistic transformation

suggests that the Yemenis were well attuned to political and economic developments, for the imitations copy the coinage of Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, with a head encircled by a laurel wreath on one side with the Athenian owl on an amphora (from the "new style" Athenian tetradrachmas) on the



other. This type was probably the first Himyarite coinage, and widely disseminated, but quickly overtaken by a local style. The new coins were dominated by a bucranium, or steer's head, and became widespread: the Himyaritic "bucranium series" being one of the very clear chronological elements in South Arabian numismatics, as it dates



to the Himyaritic period prior to the emergence of monotheism, as the steer will have symbolized the Himyaritic moon-god al-Maqah. These coins tend to be dominated by a broad angular "S" shape on one side (this "S"-shape appears on inscriptions as well and seems to be a symbol of considerable import), and some letters on the other side of the steer's head, which is portrayed in a fashion similar to that seen carved in stone during the first centuries of our era, and the distribution of the coins was far greater than that of the sculpture, as the coins will be found even beyond the borders of the Himyarite kingdom.

The general tendency in the

ancient world was for the earliest coins to be struck, and these were then imitated in the provinces, the imitations occasionally being cast rather than struck. Cast copies of Macedonian coins make up part of the repertoire of the coinage of Pre-Roman Gaul (France) and cast forgeries of Roman coins have led to discussions about the extent to which the Roman imperial government may have tolerated forgeries in order to increase the amount of money in circulation. Ancient Yemeni coins were both struck and cast.

Two things however distinguish South Arabian coinage in the ancient world: on the one hand, the tendency to adopt foreign forms, but then to almost invariably rapidly transform them into the local idiom, and the fact that South Arabian coins are found virtually nowhere else in the world, except Ethiopia and Eritrea. The latter is not surprising, as the South Arabian domination of trade was such that products rather than coinage were currency, so that the plethora of local bronze types suggests the widespread use of

involved in South Arabian commerce, while the rest of the world continued on its own. (When the Axumites in Ethiopia started to strike their own coins, these imitated the ancient Yemeni forms, and themselves supplanted the local emissions when the Ethiopians conquered Yemen towards the end of the Pre-Islamic Period).

The proclamation of the local identity through the coinage may seem to be natural today, but in the ancient world it was virtually singular. The coinage of the peripheral areas of the Mediterranean world, from Afghanistan to Eastern Arabia was modeled on Greek coins, or on Greek interpretations of Persian motifs, as a rule. In fact, it is virtually essential to pose the relevant question: how did South Arabia fail to be influenced by the coinage of Alexander the Great? We have seen that the initial impetus for coinage came from the Old Style Athenian tetradrachmas, and that secondary impetus came from the New Style Athenian tetradrachmas, with a final bit of foreign inspiration visible in the influence of the coinage of the Roman Emperor Augustus, without a trace of the Alexander

Even those areas not conquered by Alexander adopted his style, and those which rapidly fell out of the sway of the Macedonian dynasties continued with his style, so that the Middle Eastern coinage was dominated by Graeco-Roman motifs virtually from the beginning, as soon as the Athenian tetradrachmas became the standard, and yet

South Arabia, alone among the ancient cultures not only maintained its independence, but also pursued its own monetary policy, both fiscally and symbolically. Although it is possible that ancient Yemeni coins wandered abroad, for the most part they served the local population, and small bronze coins were probably as frequently employed in Yemen as anywhere else in the ancient world, suggesting an extremely sophisticated economy, very much in tune with the times, and entirely compatible with the sophisticated national coinage.

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

The items pictured here were among those stolen during the last war from the Museum in Mukalla.



their own coins, flattering imitations of the Athenian tetradrachma compensated for the resulting reduced influx of original tetradrachmas. Among the countries in which they were imitated was Yemen.

While very accurate copies, the early Yemeni emissions included several coins with different values being issued simultaneously, however all of them were probably smaller than the tetra-



drachma, being calibrated to a Phoenician unit, of which the smaller denominations were halves, quarters and eighths. It is assumed that this first series was Sabaeen, but aside from South Arabic letters indicating the value on Athena's cheek, we have no indication of who was striking the coins. Over the centuries, the coins were transformed, having male heads on both sides instead of Athena's head on one side, and the owl on the other. Until now it has been difficult to distinguish the various early coinages, although one of the variants with a

coins for local transactions, and that Eritrea was intimately

coinage which otherwise dominated the East.

Position Wanted

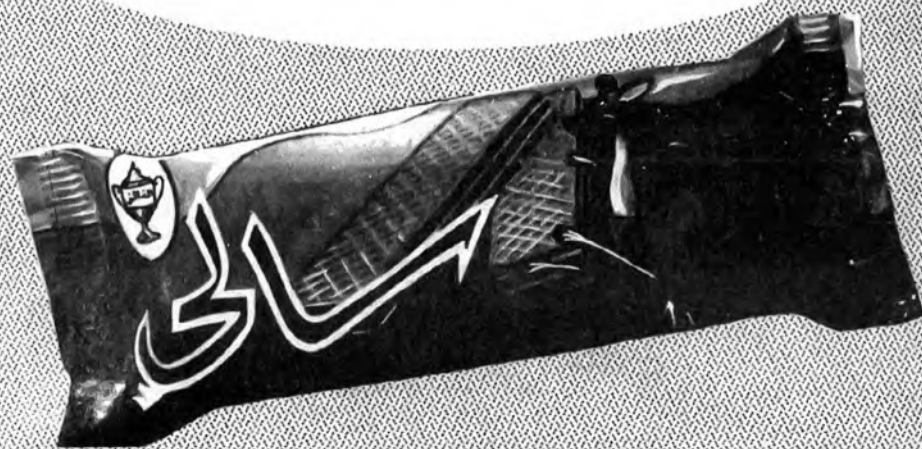
A highly qualified individual is looking for an appropriate position.

Details are:

Name: Kassim, Abdullahi,
Nationality: German (Originally Yemeni),
Age: 43 years
Marital Status: Married and has 3 children
Qualifications: Master of Science Degree in Engineering.
Field: Mining and Petroleum Fields.
Other Skills: Welding Engineering.
Languages: Speaks and Writes the following languages: German, English, Russian, Arabic, and Somali.
Contact Address: P.O.Box 3349, Sanaa;
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Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor

COMMENTS ON THE YEMEN TIMES

With all due respect, I wish to comment on articles in two issues of your paper regarding accuracy and consistency.

To begin with, as the only English newspaper in the country, you realize that your paper comes under the scrutiny of international analysts within Yemen and outside. To maintain your integrity, please make sure all details and information you provide are very accurate and realistic or you will lose credibility.

As an example, may I refer to the article on boxer Naseem (issue of Oct. 17, 1994). You wrote that Naseem could deal 32 punches in one second. I found this very unrealistic and very hard to believe. The legendary Muhammad Ali, the greatest of all boxers, was said to be the fastest puncher. In fact, one of his greatest foes Joe Frazier once remarked that Ali was so fast that he could rise from bed, switch off the lights and be back under the blankets before the light fades away! But even he could never throw 32 punches in one second. In fact, no mortal can do it.

Maybe you meant per minute

Second, your paper is very inconsistent in the volume of articles it publishes. For a while, it is a paper worthwhile reading even though very poor by international standards. But let me go back to the volume of articles printed. Sometimes it comes out so sketchy with almost nothing in it to read except page 1, the editorial and the last page. The rest is all advertisements.

After waiting for seven days to get my next copy of the Yemen Times, and I walk to the vendor and buy an issue like the one of Oct 10, 1994, I am left cursing and frustrated. This is cheating your readers and even the advertisers who pay thousands to get their messages on the paper.

Ahmed Bahannan,
Sana'a.

Editor's Note:

It is true that the editions coinciding with the last national celebrations did not contain enough material.

We promise not to repeat that experience in the future.

WHY OUR STUDENTS SO BAD IN LEARNING ENGLISH?

Many problems stand out as un-avoidable obstacles in learning English as a foreign language in Yemen.

There are some reasons for this. They can be summed up in the following points.

1 - The diversity of teachers and their nationalities, which leads to differences in their methods of teaching yields tremendous varieties in pronouncing and learning the language.

2 - The many negative aspects of the Arab teachers. For example, the use of Arabic translation which creates a gap between what the students learn and what they can understand.

3 - The syllabus concentrates on spoken skill and neglects the other essential skills in learning a language, specially reading and writing which are more important to the students because they cannot find sufficient chance to practice what they learn.

4 - The lack of audio - visual aids which help the students in learning better pronunciation and situational conversation. Even if these were available, the teachers are unable to convey the material in an ideal way.

5 - The relaxed and careless attitude of the students and the lack of ambition among them.

6 - Students are not punctual in attending English lessons, and they miss many lessons. Thus, they are unable to follow through.

7 - The style of examination encourages students to memorize phrases and sentences without really understanding what they are. Moreover, students are satisfied with the minimum of what they need in order to pass exams.

These points and others in my view explain the inability of secondary graduates to make one sentence in English after six years of learning it.

By: Faisal Elamin, English teacher.



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



Pen Friends Corner

By: Rahila Ba-Alawy

Some Features of the "Internatinal Pen Friends"

The growth and expansion of our club into 210 countries has been made possible by the Publicity which has been so freely and willingly given by editors, journalists, feature writers, radio programmers and Interviewers all over the world. We acknowledge our indebtedness to them and thank them most sincerely for their enlightened cooperation which has helped us to promote goodwill and friendship on an International scale.

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Yemen Airlines is happy to announce the start of its service of a new sector - Aden/Taiz/Djibouti and the return - every Thursday starting from November 3rd, 1994 on board its 737 Boeing plane.

Departure from Aden to Taiz is at 6:00 a.m.

Arrival in Taiz is around 6:30 a.m.

Departure from Taiz to Djibouti is at 7:15 a.m.

Arrival in Djibouti is around 7:45.

The schedule of the return flight is as follows:

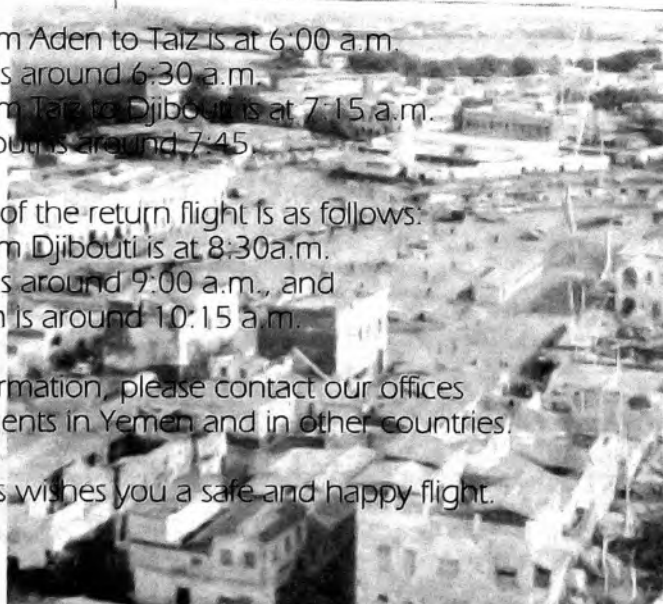
Departure from Djibouti is at 8:30 a.m.

Arrival in Taiz is around 9:00 a.m., and

Arrival in Aden is around 10:15 a.m.

For more information, please contact our offices or those of agents in Yemen and in other countries.

Yemen Airlines wishes you a safe and happy flight.



يسر طيران اليمن أن تعلن للجمهور الكريم عن تدشين خطها الجديد

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١٩٩٤/١١/٣م وذلك على طائرتها البوينج ٧٣٧.

الإقلاع من عدن الى تعز الساعة ٦ صباحاً

الوصول الساعة ٦:٣٠

الإقلاع من تعز الى جيبوتي الساعة ٧:١٥ صباحاً

الوصول الساعة ٧:٤٥

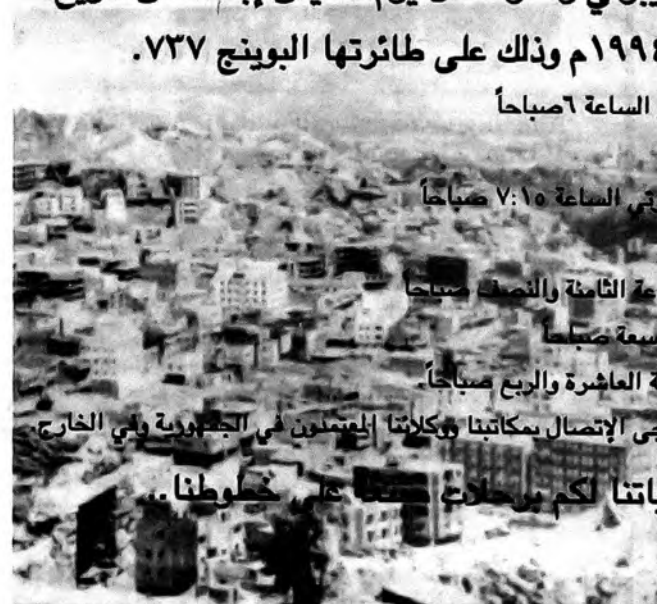
الإقلاع من جيبوتي الساعة الثامنة والنصف صباحاً

الوصول تعز الساعة التاسعة صباحاً

الوصول الى عدن الساعة العاشرة والرابع صباحاً.

ولزيد من المعلومات يرجى الإتصال بمكاتبنا ووكالاتنا المبعوثون في الجمهورية وفي الخارج.

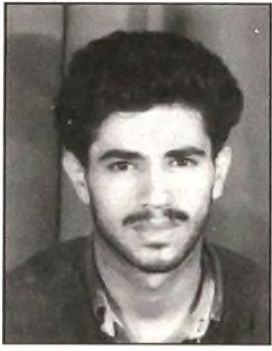
مع تمنياتنا لكم بسلامة رحلة على خطوطنا.



RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION & LAWS: A PREREQUISITE FOR TRUE DEMOCRACY

The revised constitution advocates democratic values such as freedom, social justice, equity and economic progress. All those ideals are of great appeal to the populace. The Parliament appears to be adamant to punish the culprits and offenders. The public hopes this will materialize into tangible deeds. It is crucial to have a law that everyone abides by, for an absence of a well respected legal system results in corruption, instability and disorder. More significant, however, is the enforcement of the constitution and laws. Respect for the law is the guarantor for implementation. Respect of the law must be based on full conviction that those who break it would be punished. Respect for the laws also means that the individual citizen believes that the law is fair and morally right and that its implementation is for his/her own benefit. If true democracy is to prevail in this nation, people must be treated equally in front of the law. No one should be "above the law." .

The unbridled corruption plaguing the nation has already grown to dangerous proportions. Rampant bribery, embezzlement, absence of a sense of duty, stagnant bureaucracies, and so on, are the order of the day. All of this could be ascribed to the fact that the law in this country lacks a driving mechanism essential for it to be carried out. It is unfortunate, and rather ironic, as most of those who are responsible for making/



enforcing the law in this country are themselves the law-breakers. They view the constitution as a scrap of paper that intervenes with their interests. To eradicate this epidemic corruption, or rather the prevalence of corrupt politicians - we have plenty of them - we must make examples of some of them. They must be tried and sentenced, by the book. If proven guilty, they must serve sentences. This bold act, if undertaken, would create a volte-face in the people's views of the law in this country. Trial of high-ranking public officials would definitely set the stage for law and ordinance in this country to be respected and appreciated. The general public awareness has been growing steadily. People no longer place any credence in pompous talks, lectures and speeches. Empty promises which give rise to futile hopes among the people will only backfire. The new government must perform. It should start by telling the whole truth, not a fabricated one or a modicum of it. The masses want action and not words.

People want to see those who plunder the nation's wealth, speculate public funds or violate the trust of people be brought to justice. Policies of leniency or indecisiveness would be tantamount to appeasement; reminiscent of pre-war treaties.

A way from cheap eulogy, however, one can gain say the achievements of the current regime which has been in power for almost a decade and a half. Perhaps the most pronounced accomplishment is its defeat of the addle-headed scheme orchestrated by the secessionists to divide and annihilate the country. The president's wisdom and sagacity in delicate situations have earnestly won him the respect of the Yemeni people as well as the international community. The latest comprehensive amnesty granted to the secessionists (in return for their animosity) attests to this reality. This amnesty will undoubtedly enable the "wrongdoers" to undergo a revulsion when they realize the enormity of the crime they had planned against their own people. Political right abuses are almost non-existent in Yemen. The new government has inherited a difficult legacy of economic and social grievances-from socio-economic misery to sprawling and corrupt bureaucracies exist to varying degree throughout the nation. The new administration, however, is expected to end social evils such as poverty,

class hatred, religious bigotry (still in its embryonic stage) corruption, bribery, and unemployment. Its first desideratum, however, should be improving the living standards of the people and putting an end to sky-high prices. Employment opportunities must solely be based on the individual's capabilities and qualifications, not on propinquity, nepotism, favoritism, tribal affiliation or political tendencies. People will closely monitor the activities of the new government. The ministers' acts will be the only testimony to their rectitude and integrity. It is hoped that the current coalition between the PGC and Islah be preserved and that none of the "conflict of interest" show-downs will recur. People realize that the new government needs some time to sort out its responsibilities and duties. Yet, the public hopes that it will not take forever.

In my view, the new government has two alternatives; either measure up to the expectations of the people and serve as the mechanism and channel for achieving its aspirations, or end up as the scapegoat and become the target of its rage. Fate could have it that the success of the new government will bring portentous omens of future prosperity. However, its failure is a luxury the nation cannot afford. I hope these words will not fall on deaf ears.

Mohammed Al-Amrani.

CAN COMPUTERS DRIVE YOU MAD?

The first calculating machine at the beginning of the century took up almost as much room as a railway carriage. Today, a computer, with its countless functions and a thousand times faster than its ancestor, fits into a tiny corner of the office. Computers are marvels of technology and data-processing and nobody would dare to contest their advantages. But there is another side to the coin. Information technology is progressing at such terrific speed that specialists in the area quite often only manage to keep up with their development at the cost of a constant "marathon", which is harmful to their mental balance. Adult education, re-training, refresher courses and intensive workshops are the key words of a profession in which knowledge becomes out-dated very quickly. "What we teach our computer students is very often out-dated by the time they enter the job market," a Paris university professor notes. "I had learnt to work with a very specific language used by IBM machines which were no longer sold when I found my first job," confirms Jean Nouvel, aged 28, today a computer programmer with Bull. "My studies had become as useful as Latin or Greek for a chartered accountant."

Jean Nouvel had to go back to school and follow course at the *Conservatoire National Des Arts et Metiers*, one of France's big engineering schools. "They are a legion in that situation," explains a teacher at the two-century-old establishment that 43% of computer specialists have to follow at least one new training session in the year, compared with 30% in other professions. And to get even better performance from their engineers and technicians, computer firms increase the number of internal conferences on any new high-tech subject. They even go so far as to pay all or part of their subscription fees for scientific reviews.

Every year, computer specialists note that here and there, new techniques and methods are starting to appear and getting ready to oust those with which they are familiar. They keep having to jump from one material to another and from one program to another and it is a tough task to be able to predict which computer language or which machine will win a place on the

market, as annex phenomena, some of which escape the rational, interfere with the development of computing. These can include fashions, for example BASIC was long thought to be dead and buried but, in fact, it is still quite widely used today. On the other hand, ADA, which was believed to become the universal language of computer specialists, never really got off the ground. The syndrome of obsolescence "At the age of 40, we are already considered as old," a forty-year-old deplors. "Even the best among us cannot always manage to find a new job when the firm lays them off."

So, computer experts are haunted by the fear of failure. Some of them, falling victim to stress and anxiety, lose control and develop the "syndrome of obsolescence," a phenomenon which is rapidly gathering pace in the computer sector, according to specialists in industrial medicine. "Young people who choose this profession today, no longer enter upon a path strewn with rose petals as that of their elders had been," a professor at the University of Paris VIII warns. Even if the market remains at a high level in this branch, employers no longer fight over their future collaborators when they graduate and the salaries offered are tending to fall.

Young computer specialists have a handicap compared to those who have studied the arts," a psychologist notes. "For instance, they are far from having the ease of the latter who are better able to adapt to new situations. It is as if they were locked into a system and confined in it and so they have little ability for communication which is so important today in firms that are in the those of transformation."

An attempt is thus being made in schools now to move away from completely technical studies in favor of a more open, broader and more diversified education which, if necessary, will facilitate the student's professional reconversion. The new generation of computer experts will include a growing number of young people with two areas of specialization, for instance management and data-processing, medicine and data-processing law, and data-processing, etc. These students will be better equipped to tackle the hazards of a profession whose stability is uncertain.

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SAFETY AND NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY OF IRRADIATED FOOD

"As long as requirements for good manufacturing practice are implemented, food irradiation is safe and effective. Possible risks resulting from disregard of good manufacturing practice are not basically different from those resulting from abuses of other processing methods, such as canning, freezing and pasteurization." This is the main conclusion of a detailed study just published by the World Health Organization (WHO) entitled "Safety and nutritional adequacy of irradiated food" as part of its ongoing evaluation of this relatively new food-processing technology. Food irradiation - also called ionization - is an extremely promising technique that could substantially increase the supply of safe food, and thus contribute to improving public health throughout the world. Food irradiation consists of exposing items for a specific period to the action of gamma rays, X-rays or electrons, which destroys most pathogenic microorganisms present in food, thereby making food safer for consumption and extending its shelf-life by retarding spoilage. Irradiation is particularly appropriate for pro-

cessing solid foods such as meat, poultry, seafood, tubers and spices, and other fresh and dried foods.

In the view of an international advisory group that WHO convened recently, the new publication is needed because of the distrust - even fear - that this technology arouses in some quarters. In the face of such reactions, which are often due to a lack of information about what in fact food irradiation entails, a thorough technical review was undertaken. With more than 500 references to the scientific literature, the publication is the most comprehensive compilation WHO has ever produced on the subject.

One of the study's aims was to determine whether the chemical substances produced in foods through irradiation, called radiolytic products, could have toxic effects for consumers. The findings are entirely reassuring in this regard. Almost 40 years of research shows that radiolytic products resulting from food irradiation are very similar, if not identical, to those found in unprocessed foods that have been processed using conventional methods. As regards possible additional radio-

activity in foods as a result of irradiation, all available evidence shows that irradiation in the commercially useful range does not generate measurable additional radioactivity in foods which, in any case, are all naturally radioactive to some extent. The frequently mentioned possibility that irradiation might produce mutant bacteria or viruses has been ruled out in the light of available information.

It was also necessary to verify claims that irradiated foods lose some of their nutritional value. Extremely precise measurements demonstrate that the nutritional value of the irradiated foods scarcely differs from that of foods processed by other methods. Where loss of vitamins is concerned, some of which are more sensitive to irradiation than others, this can be limited by irradiating foods at low temperatures or in the absence of oxygen.

In conclusion, the book stresses that "irradiated food produced in accordance with established good manufacturing practice can be considered safe and nutritionally adequate because the process of irradiation will not

lead to changes in the composition of the food that, from a toxicological point of view, would have an adverse effect on human health; will not lead to changes in the microflora of the food that would increase the microbiological risk to the consumer; and will not lead to nutrient losses to an extent that would have an adverse effect on the nutritional status of individuals or population".

Adopting a public health approach, the book concentrates on the specifications that must be answered before government authorities can approve irradiation as a safe technique for reducing the incidence of food borne diseases, preventing food losses, and extending shelf-life. Its findings are of importance to all countries. "In developing countries, for instance, the technique has the potential to increase the food supply by decreasing spoilage," says Dr Fritz Kaferstein, chief of the WHO Food Safety Unit. "Moreover," he stresses, "the technique has the potential to increase trading opportunities for food-exporting countries by improving both the shelf-life and hygienic quality of their commodities."

"Government that permit the sale of the irradiated foods are not availing themselves of an additional opportunity to

increase their citizens access to safe food but, in effect, there by enhancing health protection," adds Dr Kaferstein. According to WHO, up to 70% of the diarrhoeal disease, which cause about 25% of all deaths in developing countries, are estimated to have food as the transmission vehicle for the causative agents. In the United States of America, there are between 24 and 81 million cases of food-borne disease every year and some 10,000 related cases of "needless death". Salmonellosis alone accounts for about 2 million of these cases and is estimated to cost at least US\$ 1500 million annually.

In 1993, on the West Coast of the USA, illness caused by an extremely virulent strain of E.coli in undercooked hamburgers killed four children, hospitalized almost 200 people, and otherwise made quite sick more than 700 adults and children. Following this event an independent panel of experts convened by the American Gastroenterological Association Foundation (AGAF) concluded that complete elimination of this bacteria "is currently impossible unless the product (meat) is thoroughly cooked or irradiated". Given the potential magnitude of the health problem related to the

hamburger consumption in the USA, this conclusion received wide publicity and a petition to use irradiation to ensure hygienic quality of beef was recently submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA had earlier approved the use of irradiation to ensure the safety of spices, poultry and pork, as well as for insect disinfestation and shelf-life extension of wheat and fresh food of plant origin.

Worldwide, some 40 countries have approved the use of irradiation for various kinds of food, and about 30 of these are applying the technology on a limited commercial scale. The agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures was recently adopted as part of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. When the agreement enters into force in 1995, Members of the World Trade Organization could be required to provide justification for import restrictions for foods - including irradiated foods which comply with international standards, guidelines and recommendations. Already in 1983, the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission had adopted the "Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods."

Yemen Times Carries an Interview on the Air:

"Being a hostess is much harder than what many think."

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi, Yemen Times.

"Some jobs are glamorous when looked at from a distance, but they are exhausting and difficult. One such job is the work of hostesses on airplanes," those are the words of Fowziyah Al-Tarafi, hostess with Yemenia. Fowziyah, 21, is a native of Morocco. "I was a second year engineering student. I did not finish because I changed trades and became a hostess," she adds.

Asked how come she joined Yemenia, Ms. Al-Tarafi explained that she had many opportunities with Gulf Air and Kuwait Air and other more luxurious airlines. "But somehow Yemen has a romantic notion attached to it." She has adjusted well and works nicely within the Yemenia team. "I have a place I belong to and I am comfortable with the crew," she said. The company is also taking good care of its people.

What is the most memorable experience she had gone through?

"First, I will mention one frightful flight in which the plane seemed like a feather carried by the winds. For a few moments, the rough ride was scary.

"Second, I want to mention one passenger

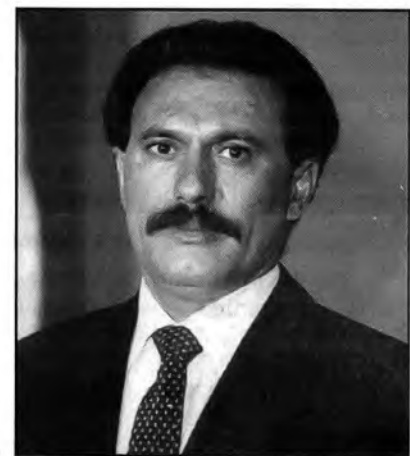


who nearly attacked me because he felt I was not decently dressed. Of course, I was, but he was more conservative than average. He was a bit on the extreme side."

What does she want to do in the future. Fowziyah said she wants to be a fashion model once she is back home. Good luck!

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CURTAILING THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

Hopes that after the Cold War would come a time of peaceful sharing of the planet appear just as empty as the predictions thirty years ago that the post-war economic boom would bring an easy life and four-day work week to industrialized societies. While economic prosperity remains a far-off goal, security concerns are heightened by the worldwide spread of weapons systems that target civilian populations.

Henry Sokolsky has made it his business to separate facts from dreams when it comes to security issues. A pragmatist with a wry sense of humor and extensive knowledge of military matters, he served as the US secretary of defense's deputy for non-proliferation policy from 1989-93.

In this capacity he played a key role in US efforts to end South Africa's rocket program and nuclear and rocket exports from Argentina. Sokolsky was among the first US officials to highlight the proliferation threats posed by the Russian sale of strategic technology to China.

Today, to continue his private agendas of curtailing the risks of nuclear proliferation and what he calls "high-leverage" weapons systems, he is launching a foundation called Non-Proliferation Policy Education Center in Washington. Foreign experts will be asked to contribute research papers, Sokolsky says. Members of the foundation's board of advisers include former ambassadors to China and Indonesia.

Sokolsky is also working on a book titled *Armageddon's Shadow: Fighting Strategic Weapons Proliferation*, where the first chapter explains that the greatest proliferation threat is

"our outmoded way of thinking." Sokolsky admits to not being very popular with the current administration. "I am either irrelevant, or at best, a critic," he quips. "I have friends in government who were there before (President Clinton) and will be there after.... It's not as though they no longer will be seen in public with me!"

He is leery of the current overtures to the North Korean regime promising financial aid, help with its civilian nuclear program and international recognition in exchange for the freezing of Pyongyang's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons (experts estimate that North Korea may already have enough nuclear material to make several bombs). Also, North Korea's recently acquired capability to launch far-ranging missiles with the capacity to carry nuclear, chemical or biological warheads remains a major threat for the region and beyond, since Pyongyang relies on military sales abroad for badly needed hard currency according to Sokolsky.

"Re unifying (the Koreans), that's really where we want to end up, and if we don't show any seriousness about getting to that objective, we run the risk of never getting there," he says.

"Of course they (North Korean government) have no desire to have any strings attached to (promised) capital investment, but we have to stick to the peaceful guns of development. We do better when we think clearly about development and requirements for it, then we do between when we think clearly about development and requirements for it, then we do when we think desperately and frantically about how to gloss over a nuclear rocket problem in the

near term by getting some kind of statement that a country is going to freeze programs of promise not to use materials for war, or will let IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) personnel check a few things."

"What we want to control is capabilities, not intentions," he continues. "When we try to control the intentions of people - dictators or regimes that are showing every indication that they are up to no good, we kill ourselves."

The technologies that people should be most concerned about from a proliferation standpoint are precisely those that can be used for military purposes very, very quickly, literally in some cases over night, he argues.

Since North Korea a country of 22 million, about half the size of England and with one of the largest armies in the world - has openly told its citizens that economic progress and development were a major goal, says Sokolsky, the regime has to seek foreign aid and crack open the door to the outside world from which North Koreans have been isolated for 40 years.

While others ponder how reliable the new Great Leader Kim Jong-il, the 52-year-old son of the late Kim Il-sung and only heir of the communist ruler. Sokolsky believes in letting businessmen operate a quiet conversion of North Korea to a market economy.

The example of Germany, for whom reunification ushered in a major economy crisis, does not necessarily apply to the Koreans, according to Sokolsky. This is because South Korea's booming industry can take advantage of low wages in the North without extending to this work-force all

the benefits and privileges given outright by West Germany to the East Germans.

In recent commentary published in the *Wall Street Journal*, he put forth a detailed blueprint involving a co-operation between South Korea, the US and Japan, and the creation of a "reunification" fund to make infrastructure improvements. Money for the fund could come from adding something like a \$1 contribution to South Korean taxpayers' bills, and seizing the hundred of millions of dollars sent to Pyongyang every year by Koreans living in Japan in spite of currency laws. "This could be further leveraged by securing guaranteed loans from the Asian Development fund, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank", Sokolsky wrote. "With effort, all this could be done in less than 12 months".

Those who doubt the validity of advice from academe will ding Sokolsky siding with them, and describing the gap separating "town and gown - the lay public that worked for a living, and the academic circles that manage to get the community to support them to pursue the truth." In fact, Sokolsky used to meet the opposition head on when he lectured at military colleges "where colonels who want to become generals have to take a year off to study."

To start off "I say that I dropped out of the University of Chicago because I wanted to do something serious, and they all roar in approval - they don't think academics are very serious," he explains. "(In their field) if you make a mistake, someone gets hurt, someone gets blamed. In academia, if you are wrong it does not really matter, nobody

gets hurt here they would roar again."

The problem is that people who deal with deadly serious issues tend to become more and more conservative over time because they don't want any body to get hurt, Sokolsky explains. "And what happens is that you stop thinking, you get into standard modes of operation, and then you make a really big mistake."

He also stresses the need for country's policy makers and intelligence community to work closely together, first of all to agree on what proliferation is, this implies that they have a way to develop threat scenarios that neither require policy makers to make intelligence determinations, nor force intelligence officers to arbitrate everyday policy disputes.

"That's a challenge, but one worth working on: The great religions of the world always preach the need to be virtuous; now it's unclear whether men can be virtuous, but only a fool would say it is not worth trying."

Asked to evaluate the chances that Cocom, the now defunct international organization that regulated trade of strategic technologies to the East Bloc, will be replaced, Sokolsky noted that "there are plenty of countries that are interested; the question is whether there is enough interest so that the successor organization would have restraining power."

He expresses special concern about the spread of rocket launching technology, explaining: "I liken rocket technology to the aerospace equivalent of 'peaceful' nuclear explosives. In missile technology, once you get to a certain range in payload capacity, it is only useful for military purposes, and only in a

secondary way is it useful to launch (commercial) satellites."

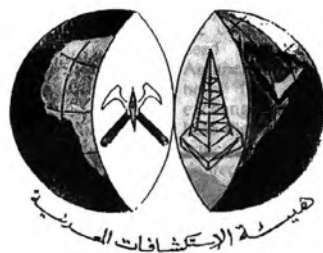
"There is already a variety of countries that provide commercial launch facilities - including China, France, the US and Russia for a very reasonable fee, says Sokolsky. "The notion that, today, a country needs to develop its own launching capability, at an astronomical cost, strikes me as very unpersuasive, unless, of course, you want to have your own military delivery vehicle. It magnifies the nuclear threat and other threats biological, chemical."

Is the world likely to see a time when most countries will have ballistic missiles pointed at each other, the way it used to be between the US and Russia during the worst days of the Cold War, before the superpowers started dismantling their nuclear warheads? "I can imagine it, and being able to imagine it is enough to encourage people to try to restrain trade in these things, or delay it as long as possible," says Sokolsky.

"The whole point about weapons system that re proliferation concerns is that they draw in lots of countries... In the case of North Korea, we have at least Japan, South Korea, China, the US Russia, and upon reflection, a concern about how Iran might interpret these things, and therefore Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel (come into the picture)... Most countries, even small ones, have bigger countries as friends, and bigger countries don't like to see their friends stepped on. The notion that you can quickly balance one country's acquisition of strategic weapons with another's acquisition just does not seem to have been proven out by history."

تتقدم هيئة الاستكشافات المعدنية

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on the formation of the new government headed by Abdulaziz Abdulghani,
and on the anniversary of the October Revolution

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Is the New Government Promising a Pie in the Sky?

The government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani presents this morning its program of action to parliament. It promises, as the prime minister told the Yemen Times, "to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people, and to rectify the economic woes." That is a tall order, indeed, by any standards. The Abdulaziz Abdulghani inherits one of the most difficult tasks faced by any former government in this country. The economy is in shambles - as unemployment soars to some 35%, as inflation spirals to over 120% a year, and as the economy stagnates or even shrinks. The US dollar exchange rate gets poised to hit YR 100 before the end of the year. It is already around YR 90 per dollar.

The political situation, in spite of the military victory, is still unresolved as different groups and faction vie for influence - either to fill in the vacuum left behind by the YSP or by the YSP and its allies themselves to retain as much of their old power as possible. The services and utilities are in bad shape. Over the last four years, few schools and clinics have been built, even as demand continues to rise sharply. The electric generation facilities are decaying very fast in view of lack of proper maintenance. The water and drainage network in the cities are clogged and deficient. In short, there is a mood of frustration which prevails while expectations continue to run higher than ever.



A third problem is the subsidies. The government is being demanded - as part of the corrective measures to remove the price distortions - to remove the subsidies presently allocated to basic foods and medicine. If the government does remove the subsidies, adjust the user charges and fees upward, and increase the price of fuel, then it will commit suicide. Abdulaziz Abdulghani knows this, and the long-time political survivor will definitely weigh the consequences. That is why his government's program does not address these matters directly. The parliament, will enter into heated debates and deliberations regarding the program, but is bound to approve the program. It is poised to actually add more demands on the rather ambitious government program. We will wait and see.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor,
Yemen Times.

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One of the ominous aspects of the near future is the economic re-structuring package. The government is required to charge user fees that will finance, at least, the recurrent costs of the facilities which provide the service. Thus, electric, water, sewer, gas, telephone, etc. bills are expected to rise. At the same the price of petrol, diesel and other energy sources are expected to be adjusted. upward to come to parity with the real situation. As one foreign observer correctly noted, "A bottle of petrol in Yemen is cheaper than a bottle of water, which is strange."

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