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YEMEN TIMES

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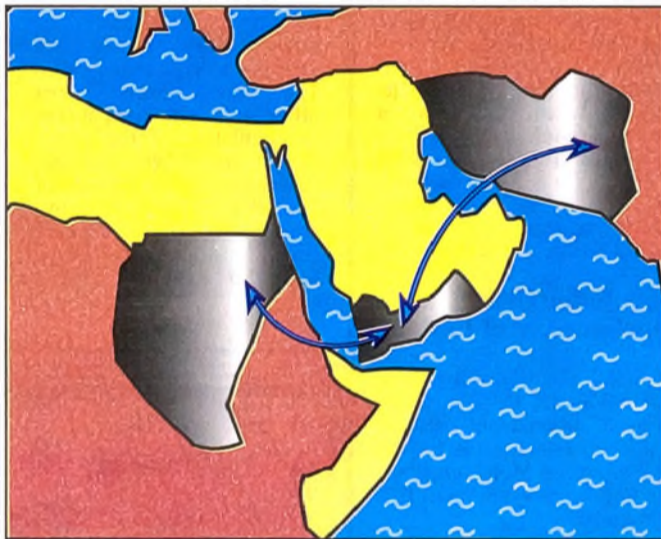
President Saleh Pushes Privatization

"It is time to push privatization in a full way. Inefficient government corporations and companies must be passed over to the private sector." Those were the forceful words of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a major policy statement he gave as he kicked off the cabinet's first meeting in Aden on Wednesday, November 23rd. Most circles welcomed the clear message in this regard, and the government responded by forming two committees. A committee to propose plans to privatize industrial units headed by Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, and a second one to propose plans to private government companies in other sectors headed by Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development. The two committees are to present their reports within the next three months. Some 70 government corporations have already been sold off, and another 300 units are still up for grabs. While most Yemenis support privatization as an economic policy, they want to be assured that the sale of the public sector is done properly and that proceeds thereof will go to government coffers.



Stronger Yemeni-Sudanese and Yemeni-Iranian Cooperation

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has agreed to visit Khartoum. The visit - the President's first ever trip to a foreign country since the war - is to take place so that the president will participate in Sudan's 39th anniversary of independence, which coincides on 1/1/1995. According to Sudan's ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Omar Sayyid Taha, the seventh round of the joint ministerial committee will meet in Khartoum in mid-December to prepare important cooperation accords to be signed by the leaders of the two countries during President Saleh's state visit. He also disclosed that there will be bold measures beyond the traditional forms of cooperation, which will consolidate the high-level coordination already existing between the two fraternal countries. Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani of the ISLAH had earlier described the Sudanese model of government as very appropriate for Yemen to emulate. At another level, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayeti just concluded an official visit to the Republic of



Yemen at the head of a large Iranian delegation. The Iranian government has pledged "unlimited" support for the Yemeni regime in its drive to evolve a system based on its own local traditions, beliefs and values. The Republic of Yemen seems headed to play an important link role in regional politics.

Looks Like the Bad Guys Are Winning Taiz Governor Sacks Al-Gumhurriyah Chief Editor

Taiz Governor Colonel Mohammed Al-Iryani ordered the replacement of Mr. Mohammed Al-Mugahid, the Chief Editor of *Al-Gumhurriyah* newspaper. The Governor has been at odds with the editor since the newspaper mounted a clean-up campaign and attempted to bring the governor and other senior officials to accountability. Editor Al-Mugahid has personally written several articles demanding the governor to explain the phenomenal growth in his wealth. "Apparently, the editor felt the time was right to launch a clean-up campaign. He may have believed the verbose coming out of Sanaa promising that the regime will introduce a new order based on efficiency, integrity and honesty," a foreign observer noted. Unfortunately the re is little change. Recently, the *Al-Gumhurriyah* press has refused to print *Taiz* newspaper, the mouthpiece of the People's General Congress, due to financial and other problems. That was the excuse used to sack the editor. A similar problem has prompted *Al-Thawrah* press to refuse printing *Al-Mithaq* and *22nd May* newspapers last week in Sanaa. No similar consequences are expected.

A New Form of Yemeni Discrimination in the Making

The government is gearing to introduce a new form of discrimination among the Yemeni people. This time, the targeted victims are Yemenis who are of Indian/Somali extract and who have been living in Aden for generations. It will be noted that Aden was some sort of melting pot for the region during the 19th and first half of 20th century. Many people from Somalia and the Indian sub-continent had settled in Aden and become part of it. The genius of the Sanaa rulers has it that these people cannot be accepted as Yemenis, and should therefore, be discriminated against. It will be noted that Sanaa already discriminates against Yemenis born of foreign mothers, the so-called muwalladeen. Yet another form of discrimination exists between tribalized and de-tribalized Yemenis. An additional form of latent discrimination exists among Yemenis based on religious sect, although officially this is shunned or so it is claimed. It is estimated that there are some 6,000 Yemenis (actually Adenis) who are either of Somali or Indian extract. They have been accepted and well integrated in the pre-unity government based in Aden. Now, the Sanaa factor is imposing the discrimination. Yemen needs to evolve a system which gives all citizens equal rights irrespective of their tribal or ethnic origin, irrespective of their color or religious sect. Unless Yemenis feel they are equal, they become a destabilizing factor. The people whose forebears came from Somalia or the Indian sub-continent have no relationship with those parts of the world. By any measurement, they are Yemenis, and they are no less patriotic than any other citizen. The regime must not deny them their rights under any pretext.

Saudi-Yemeni Border Heats Up Again

Yemen Times learned that armed conflict between Yemen and Saudi Arabia flared up again last week along the border. According to sources, the Saudi authorities have been granting citizenship to Yemenis. "The Yemenis jump on the opportunity because they get free privileges in Saudi Arabia if they carry Saudi IDs," an Interior Ministry source disclosed. That was grudgingly tolerated by the Yemeni authorities. "But last week, Saudi authorities solicited and obtained a request from the inhabitants of Al-Mashnaq village, 16 kilometers inside Yemeni territory, to build a school. A Yemeni military patrol which discovered the project stopped the construction process, on Thursday, November 24th. Meanwhile, a Saudi ship chased off last week Yemeni fishermen off the Meidi coastal area. "Although the ships carry a Saudi flag, all crew members are Egyptians, and we are bringing up the matter with the Egyptian authorities," said the Interior Ministry source. "The Saudis regularly engage in underwater detonations in Yemeni territorial waters to scare away the fish and fishermen."

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OUR VIEWPOINT

What Do You See After Three Months?

A group of intellectuals gathered around a qat chew a few days ago. The question being floated was what each one of us saw at the February, 1995. The answers varied enormously, and I would like to share hereunder some of the views:

1. No Change:

Almost half of the individuals in the qat chew contended there will be no change. "It is going to be more of the same." This group is what one would call the pragmatic lot. Don't go far, they are not the pessimists, because there is another such lot.

2. Getting Worse:

Another group was of the opinion that things will get worse, especially at the economic and security levels. However, they were not sure things would get out of hand.

3. Getting Slightly Better:

A small minority thought things could slightly get better, portending that they would get much better. This view point was put forth rather timidly.

All three sides presented lots of reasons as to how and why they reached the conclusions they did. The first group insisted the politicians have neither the vision nor the will to embark on any change. They stated that even the change forced on the regime by the IMF and World Bank is going to be resisted and watered down until there would be nothing of it left. The second group was of the opinion that the mismanagement and corruption will continue and even intensify. Thus, the economic, political and socio-cultural conditions will deteriorate. The third group, the smallest, felt that the new government will take some steps which will eventually lead to improvements.

Most Yemenis are hopelessly frustrated. The general mood is that the rulers have either to introduce change or to move out. But, there is no effective lobby to push the government towards real change.

Some people asked me why in three months? I think the answer is that there are many important decisions that will be taken between now and then, to the extent that we can say the next three months are indeed critical in the evolution of the country.

First, the economic reform package will be agreed upon or totally refused in the coordination between the IMF/World Bank on the one hand and the Yemeni government, on the other.

Second, the country's largest ever single project - the gas deal - will have been completed. Irrespective of which company picks up the deal, it is imperative that the project goes ahead.

Third, talks on relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are to be resumed in early January. Unless there is a break-through in this relationship in this round of negotiations, the situation in the bilateral relations could get out of control.

Fourth, the political dialogue among the various factions of the Yemeni population will come head on by early January. It is critical that the people of Yemen get at ease with themselves and find no more reason to fight among themselves, again.

Fifth, the new development plan starts in early 1995.

Sixth, the PGC-Islah alliance will have undergone the trial period of six months after the war.

The Publisher


How Serious is Dubai about Becoming a Regional Business Center?

Dubai has long cultivated the image of being a business center for the region, and even the world. This emirate has jealously guarded its right to pursue an independent policy to promote the emirate's objective as a regional business center. Unfortunately, this is not always the case as politics has now intervened. The last case of political decision which is detrimental to the economic prosperity of the emirate, happened last week.

Tetra Pak, the famous world leader in the packing business, organized a regional seminar based at the Hyatt in Dubai, during 14-16/11/1995. Trainees were invited from many countries including all the Gulf states, Iran, Yemen, Ethiopia, Egypt, Lebanon, among others. The eight Yemeni participants were chosen from the four leading companies involved in the packing industry.

While all other nationals were granted entry visa, the Yemenis were denied. That is stupid and short-sighted.

According to Arne Mattsson of Tetra Pak Yemen, the company is going to officially raise the matter with the Dubai authorities through the Swedish Embassy in the Emirates. The Company is also going to keep this experience as a factor in future selection of venues for its activities.

We in Yemen Times would like to ask the Foreign Ministry to summon the UAE ambassador and ask for an explanation. When Iran, which has ostensibly forcefully occupied UAE islands, can get visas for its nationals, when Ethiopians - a non-Arab people can get visas, it is strange that Yemenis cannot get a visa for a 3-day business trip.

Is Dubai serious about being a regional business center?

Judge Orders Imprisonment of Lawyer

Judge Ali Abul-Ghaith of the Eastern District Primary Court in Sanaa, ordered on Tuesday, 22nd November, 1994, the arrest of citizen Mohammed Al-Hadi and his lawyer Abdul-Illah Al-Marwani.

The judge intervened in a case presided over by another judge, but was not happy with the judgement of his colleague, which was in favor of Mr. Al-Hadi. So Judge Abul-Ghaith proposed to mediate because the person against whom the judgement was passed was "known" to him. But he was rebuffed, and he subsequently ordered the arrest of the citizen and his lawyer, under the pretext of contempt of court.

Both citizen and lawyer were promptly thereafter released by the prosecutor's office. "But the incident represents a flagrant abuse and misuse of power," according to a petition sent to President Ali Abdullah (who is also the Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council), and signed by twelve leading lawyers in Sanaa.

Lawyer Al-Marwani is a key human rights activist in the country, and has defended many political prisoners. He continues to play an important role in the defence of freedom of the press and general liberties. That role has often brought him at odds with the regime and its symbols.

Government Meets in Aden

The Government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani met on Wednesday, November 23rd in Aden. The meeting which is the first of ten weekly meetings scheduled to be held in Aden, was chaired by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The prime minister and other members of his cabinet are expected to shuttle back and forth between Sanaa and Aden over the next ten weeks, in fulfillment of Aden's role as the "Winter Capital" of Yemen.

Cricket Catches on in Yemen

Expatriate from many nationalities have been training in their cricket games. The main contending teams are the Lion and Jambiyah Cricket Club (LJCC), the Indian Embassy Cricket Club, and the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel and the Taj Sheba Hotel clubs.

According to Peter Bradley, Captain of the LJCC, the first knock-out competition in cricket are to be played at the Haddah grounds during December.

Membership of the LJCC is open to all nationalities. "New cricket talent is always welcome." Interested individuals can simply turn up at the Haddah playing grounds on Friday mornings, or may call Mr. Don Sheridan, President of LJCC.

At another level, the LJCC handed over a check in sponsorship of the Al-Wahda Sports and Cultural Club on November 16th. The money was collected from Rothmans, LJCC and members of the rugby and softball fraternity in Sanaa. LJCC players have been training in Al-Wahdah grounds since early 1993.

Wind Erosion Workshops

The General Directorate of Forests and Pasture/Range-lands is sponsoring six workshops on ways and means to protect farmlands and trees against wind erosion. The five workshops will be held in Taiz and Hodeidah (22-24/11/1994), Ibb (26-28/11/1994), Al-Mahweet (3-5/12/1994), Sanaa (7-9/12/1994). In all cases, fifteen male and five female trainees will participate.

Withdrawal of the Dinar from Circulation

Mohammed Ahmed Al-Junaid, Minister of Finance, disclosed that the government will gradually withdraw the dinar from circulation. "The Riyal is the official currency of the Republic of Yemen," he said.

He did not specify any time span for completion of withdrawal of the dinar, which used to be the currency of the former PDRY.

CANADA



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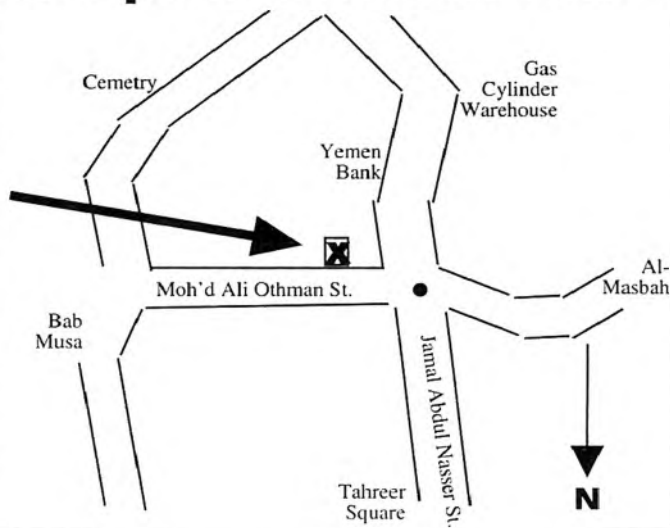
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Yemen Times Opens Office in Taiz

The Yemen Times opened last week a new office in Taiz. The office is located in an important commercial area near the Yemen Bank on Mohammed Ali Othman Street, as the adjacent map indicates. The telephone/fax number is: (04) 231590

Friends and clients are welcome to visit and/or call. The Taiz Yemen Times office will enable expansion of circulation of the newspaper, and it will generate coverage of the regions of Taiz, Ibb and Hodeidah governorates. The newspaper already has a head office in Sanaa, and a branch office in Aden.



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Brigadier Daris:

"All Yemenis are responsible for Yemen. Not just those in power."



Tribal leaders (sheikhs) play an important role in decision-making in Yemen. Some of these tribal leaders have crossed over into officialdom as military commanders and officers, as well as senior government officials. As a result, they have served as a bridge between the tribal power structure and the state. Some of these tribal leaders have become disillusioned with politicians and politics.

One of these individuals is Brigadier Abdullah Naji Daris, a notable leader from the Dhu Mohammed tribe, Bakeel, some 100 kilometers north of Sanaa. Brigadier Daris comes from an illustrious family which played a powerful role in resisting Ottoman rule, followed by confrontation with the Imams. That is why his father, grandfather and great grandfather have all died for political reasons as martyrs. He himself was very instrumental in the September 26th Revolution and in defending Sanaa during the 70-day Siege.

In Republican Yemen, he had served as commander of the Northern Flank, then Commander of the Popular Forces (tribal force), and governor of many governorates including Al-Baidha, Al-Mahweet, Marib, Dhamar and Sa'adah. He continues till this day as a central figure in Yemeni politics.

Al-Izzy Asselwi of Yemen Times interviewed him and filed the following report:

Q: With what are busy these days?

A: As all Yemenis, I am trying to extend my help in steering the country towards safety and development. I am very happy with the consolidation of the unity of the country, which was one of the key objectives of the Yemeni Revolution.

All patriotic Yemenis should join hands in protecting the country from the many problems created by outsiders as well as by our own inconsistencies and shortcomings. We should not let Yemen go to war with itself again.

Q: What specifically do you mean?

A: I am a leading member of the Union of National Forces (UNF), an umbrella organization which brings together very well-known personalities from all political streams in order to join hands and help guide Yemen towards what we see as the proper course. In other words, the UNF is sort of a lobby group which is not affiliated to any political party or tribe. It even includes people in government. I am also involved in the Bakeel Council, which unfortunately is not active these days because its leadership was involved in other activities which have taken them away from the Council. The Bakeel Council had hoped to water down the tribal domination of certain parts of the country over the state machinery.

I am directly involved in other gatherings and forums as well. Let me add here that I also talk regularly with people in power and continue to offer my views and advice.

The final goal of all of this is to ensure that we are on the right course.

Q: What kind of theoretical or legal framework are you working with?

A: I think that the Document of Pledge and Accord is still a useful mechanism for resolving our problems. The President, to my knowledge, is still committed to it. The Speaker of the House is still committed to it. After all, they signed it.

There is regional and international backing for it.

The Sixteen points on which the UNF is based are actually drawn from the Document of Pledge and Accord. Of course, I can understand a couple of things here and there which require adjustments because of the

recent developments, but the framework is still useful.

Q: Relations between the tribal system and the state go through many ups and downs. How do you see this relationship evolving?

A: The tribes of Yemen are its citizens. The fact that some tribes are armed means they are an army of the nation. Of course, there are problems, especially when the system is not seen as just or fair.

In my opinion, the state must come to terms with the tribes, and must create the environment for the tribes to play a constructive role. There is not other way. The state cannot by-pass the tribal system, and cannot ignore it or wait for it to wither away. It will not happen, at least not in the foreseeable future.

I also want to stress something to our officials. The officials in power think, simply because they are in power, they are the only ones in charge of Yemen. I want to insist that all Yemenis are in charge of Yemen. That is why we cannot allow those in charge to commit the whole nation to decisions which then affect the lives of all of us. We are in it together, and we should consult each other regarding the future course of the country.

We are willing and eager to help those in charge pursue the right course.

Q: What is the most pressing problem facing Yemen today?

A: I think the most pressing problem facing Yemen today is the lack of clarity of vision. Some people think that the way events over the last months have determined the course of action and relations permanently. This is wrong.

We need clarity of vision in the interaction among the various factions and parties. We need a clarity of vision in relations with our neighbors, notably Saudi Arabia. We need to make every Yemeni feel he/she has a room among us and a role to play. Unless everyone feels he/she has a stake in the system, they will work to undermine it.

Q: Any message you want to offer of the occasion of the 30th of November?

A: I want everybody to remember history and read its facts. We have to learn from the past in order to understand the present and chart the course for the future.

I want to wish all the best.

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Yemen Mounts an Awareness Campaign on the International AIDS Day

AIDS Comes to Yemen

By: Ismail Al-Ghabry,
Yemen Times.

He was in an isolated room in Al-Jumhuriyyah Hospital. He was incarcerated. Nobody would come near him. Nobody would touch him. He kept on yelling and cursing. Ibrahim finally died on Thursday, November 24th. The poor chap did not get a proper burial. A few servants were hired to bundle him up. According to his records, he contracted the disease through sexual relations here in Sanaa. That was one of the Yemeni AIDS patients.

Yes, there are some 200 documented AIDS cases in Yemen. The WHO estimation is that each documented case hides at least 500 other cases behind it. There are forty death cases attributed to AIDS. There is even a "medicine man" who advertises through wall graffiti that he "can" cure AIDS by traditional ways.

"The problem is well and alive with us. Yet, the government and public is treating the problem with extreme secrecy. The point is that it is not a problem that would go away if we did not discuss it. It would simply grow till it creates an explosion."

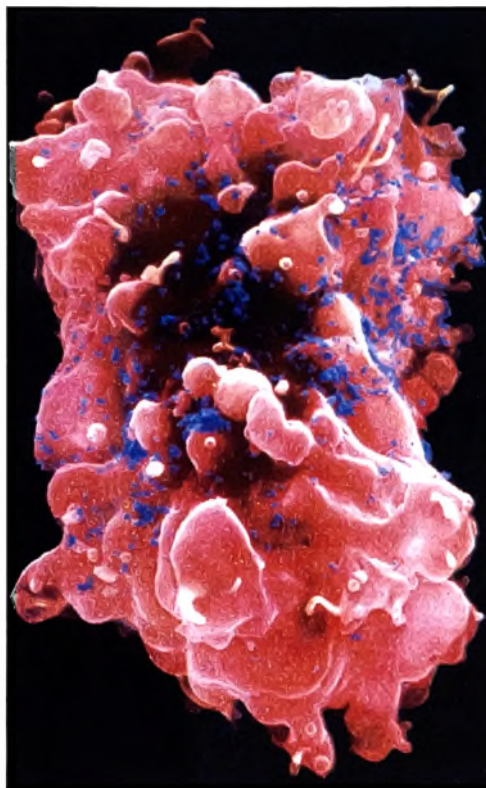
That is the message the Anti-AIDS Supreme National Committee (AASNC) is passing on. "The approach is not really curative - it is preventive." So far, however, there are no plans or programs. The AASNC, in collaboration with the WHO and many local groups, hopes to put together an effective mix of AIDS prevention measures. The problem is that the AASNC has not managed, so far, to convince the government to even give it a small budget to pay for the brochures and stickers.

The AASNC is using scare tactics by warning of the health and moral implications of adultery, broad AIDS education programs, and more strict care in blood transfusions. One strict measure that is taken by the police force is against prostitutes. Female refugees and muwalladeen women are fair game in the process.

Most of the AIDS cases are brought into the country by frequent travellers abroad who get infected and then transmit it to others in Yemen. Unfortunately, the country does not yet have a checking system or analysis. None of the hospitals has a section for AIDS treatment, although victims are quarantined.

But what is AIDS, and where did it come from?

AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome) is said to be an ancient benign disease which



HOW AIDS WORKS?

Once infected by HIV, a white blood cell become a virus factory. This magnified image shows new HIV particles (tiny blue spheres) budding from the cell's outer membrane.

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has evolved to become lethal. There is no consensus, but scientists believe it is original a primate disease communicated to human beings.

In the world as whole, there are over 8 million cases today, the majority of them being in Black Africa as the adjacent map shows. The disease seems to rage out of control, in spite of the best efforts of governments and international organizations. Even then, on December 1st of every year, the world commemorates World Aids Day.

This date was determined by the World Summit of Ministers of Health held in 1988 to represent the culmination of international efforts made throughout the year to combat AIDS. On this day, all the countries of the world intensify their programs to increase awareness of the epidemiological situation of AIDS globally, regionally and locally. Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and voluntary groups communicate to the public the latest information and statistics on the AIDS pandemic and stress the importance of taking preventive measures for the protection of the individual and community.

We are now in the 4th decade of the AIDS and the AIDS virus is still spreading the pandemic far and wide every day. Intensive research has not, so far, come up with a preventive vaccine, or a curative treatment. We now know for certain that we are facing a disease that is unlike any other disease.

As sexual transmission is the main cause of the majority of the human immune deficiency

syndrome (HIV) infections, it is only natural that the highest rates of infection occur among the sexually active groups of the population. During the past decade it was estimated that infection was transmitted to many million adults and the member is progressively increasing the most affected sectors indeed ore the economically productive age groups that can contribute most to the present and future socio-economic development of nations.

AIDS is a disaster unlike any other. Other disasters, whether natural or manmade, are limited in terms of time and space,

whereas AIDS spreads vertically in time from one generation to another and horizontally in space to halt at no boundary. AIDS, with its unprecedented, peculiar characteristics, calls for exceptionally unified, coordinated action--action that starts right at the family level, where we need to safeguard the health of the mother and thereby that of her foetus, as well as the welfare of all members of the family. It is mandatory that family members, particularly teenagers and young adults, have access to all the basic information about the AIDS virus and methods of its transmission and prevention in order to be able to protect themselves and avoid hazards resulting from ignorance or misinformation. The family and school should share the responsibility of educating the new generation properly and adequately on the principles and values of the community, since this is the basic preventive measure to avoid AIDS. In fact, all community sectors and organizations, whether governmental or otherwise, have a primary responsibility in the campaign against AIDS. Each of these social groups has its importance and influence on the various sections of society and should contribute to spreading the awareness and knowledge that enable people to protect themselves from destruction. The media must also fulfil its fundamental role to communicating the health message appropriately, prudently and at the right time, since each component of the media has its own target audience that eagerly and responsively looks forward to what the media has to offer.

According to WHO estimates as of 1 July 1993, more than 13 million adults and 1 million children have been infected with HIV since the start of the pandemic.

More than 8 million of the adult infections are thought to have occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. In South and South-East Asia, where the virus is spreading fast, over 1.5 million infections are thought to have taken place, most of them in India and Thailand.

More than 1.5 million adult HIV infections are also believed to have occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean. The future course of the epidemic in this part of the world spends very much on how the virus spreads in Brazil, which already has more reported AIDS cases than any country outside Africa apart from the USA.

WHO estimates that more than 75,000 infections have occurred in the Middle East and North Africa. These figures are of particular concern because, although only limited information is available for this region, reports suggest the presence of the sexually transmitted diseases and injecting drug use.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, unstable political, social and economic environments could lead to rapid spread of HIV. Current estimates are based on relatively limited data.

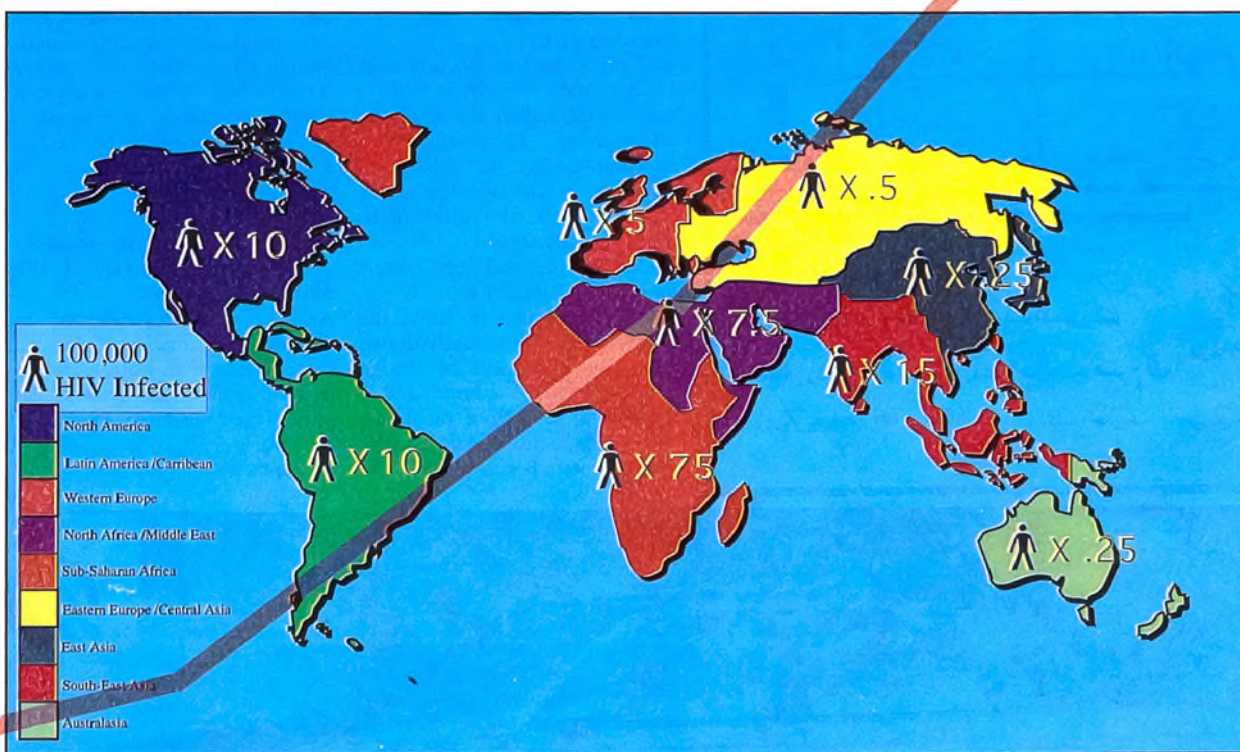
As of 1 July 1993, a total of 718 894 AIDS cases in adults and children had been reported from around the world. The true figure is much higher, however, because of delays, incomplete diagnosis and imperfect

reporting. WHO believes that more than 2.5 million cases of AIDS have occurred since the start of the AIDS pandemic.

While more than half of the AIDS cases reported are from developed countries, WHO's estimate that about four fifths of all cases have occurred in the developing world. This includes an estimated 1.75 million cases in sub-Saharan Africa.

The battle against AIDS is a community commitment. Without such collective commitment to fight AIDS, there will inevitably be a common danger and exposure that could lead to mass destruction of mankind. HIV/AIDS is in a pandemic stage and may get out of control if not dealt with properly. The disease has an impact on the health, social, economic and cultural status of the affected individual and the whole community.

Communities must, therefore, join ranks to face this unprecedented threat. There is no way to achieve such an objective except through well-informed and motivated community involvement and participation.





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Gender Politics or Hormonopoly: Can Biology Explain Male/Female Differences?

Review of the book *BRAIN SEX* by Anne Moir and David Jessel

The difference between the sexes is one of life's enduring mysteries. For the last generation or so, it has also been a burning social issue. Not since the early years of the twentieth century, when the first feminist revolt brought votes for women, has so much scholarly and popular attention been focused on what it means to be male and female. In these days of house-husbands and military service persons, the social roles traditional in the West since the Industrial Revolution have begun to blur. But the deep dichotomy that separates the sexes' positions in society, as well as the assumptions that support it, still endure. And so does the debate about the dichotomy's causes. Men and women, on average, act differently, perform different types of work, and exercise different amounts of power and authority. As with all other examples of social inequality, the discussion comes down to this: Do status and behavior reflect inborn or learned traits, physiology or culture?

In regard to racial inequality, we Americans have settled the question, in polite company at least, in favor of nurture. We agree that minority students, on average, perform academically less well than whites and minority adults achieve fewer positions of leadership in the general society because they face racial prejudice and limited opportunities, not because they're innately inferior or genetically "different." Today, almost no scholar seriously defends the view that black people, if given identical upbringings and opportunities as whites, could not on average perform as well.

As regards gender, though we have come to no such consensus. In politics, at least, nurture holds the political high grounds these days; women soldiers, for example, acquitted themselves well in Desert Storm. But nature has very staunch supporters, many citing evidence from genetics, physical anthropology, and, most recently, neuroscience, to argue that the social roles and typical behaviors that we associate with men and women arise inevitably from human physiology. social structure, in this view, merely expresses the natural tendencies of our species.

Choosing up Sides

Brain Sex: The real deference between Men and Women is one of the starkest and most forceful statements of the nature position to appear in years. Currently a big seller in England, the book has the virtues of good documentary TV: It is provocative, arresting, smooth, and amusing. But writing for the small screen is not the same thing as writing for the printed page, and the book also displays the electronic medium's faults: It is glib, oversimplified, sensationalistic, and largely lacking in the modulation necessary to serious science journalism.

"Men are different from women. They are equal only in their common membership of the same species, human kind," the first lines boldly proclaim.

To maintain that they are the same in aptitude, skill or behavior is to build a society based on a biological and scientific lie.

The sexes are different because their brains are different. The brain, the chief administrative and emotional organ of life, is differently constructed in men and in women: it processes information in a different way,

which results in different perceptions, priorities, and behavior. And it is hormones, they argue, that account for these differences. Because of biochemistry, men excel in math, spatial problems, and abstract reasoning; women in linguistic fluency and interpersonal relations.

This is an extremely strong declaration. Although a large mass of research reveals the tendencies mentioned, I very much doubt that even many of the scientists whose work Moir and Jessel summarize would carry their results to such a sweeping conclusion. Nor would most of them so tightly tie specific abilities to the compounds that Moir and Jessel insist on calling male or female sex hormones.

Indeed, "it no longer makes sense to call (testosterone or estrogen) male or female hormones," in the view of Helmut Nyborg, rightly identified in chapter six as "a leading Danish psychologist." Both types of hormones appear, though in varying concentrations, in both sexes. Nyborg, himself a strong proponent of hormonal influence on ability, in fact sees estradiol, an estrogen, as necessary to "the full expression of cognitive abilities." In his view, "slightly feminized men" rather than macho specimens, ought to excel at math.

Loss of Averages

Unlike Nyborg, who makes this sort of fine distinction, the book lacks intellectual subtlety. It consistently speaks of group averages as if they were individual characteristics. This approach may work on television; an hour-long documentary, for example, contains between six thousand and nine thousand words, hardly enough to specify the intricacies of individually experiments. But a 203-

page book, some 70,000 words in length, surely does. And a serious treatment of gender differences owes its readers something better than undocumented generalities like (a man's) brain strategy leads him to tackle problems in a practical, overall and inherently self-interested manner. Invited to a party which clashes with another date he will calculate the comparative benefit himself or investigate the time and motion possibilities of attending both. A woman is more likely either to honor her initial commitment or opt for the social situation in which she, and others, will be happiest.

Studies that group left and right handed men together, for example, may gloss over differences in brain organization as great as those distinguishing some men from some women. But Moir and Jessel provide us with almost no details about the studies on which they base their drastic conclusion, depriving readers of any basis for evaluating the evidence for themselves.

All this, the authors assume, may make the reader wonder "how male or female(his or her) own mind is." To fill this information gap, Moir and Jessel offer the "Brainsex Test," a ten-item multiple choice quiz. "the extent to which men and women exhibit masculine or feminine behavior is dependent on the organization of the brain into male and female patterns," they proclaim, a statement whose proof would require the most exhaustive study of enormous numbers of individual brains. Still, they concede, "It is possible to be female and have some male mind attributes, and this simply depends on the presence or absence of the male hormone during certain stages of pregnancy."

Continues on page 9

Twelve Ambassadors Present their Letters of Credentials

The ambassadors of Australia, Congo, Cuba, Germany, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, and the United States of America presented their letters of credentials to President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Aden on Thursday morning, November 24th.

Since the original schedule was changed, the ambassadors of Canada and Norway could not stay on to present their documents due to the postponement.

Eight of the newly accredited ambassadors are non-resident, and only four - Cuba, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA - have full embassies in Sanaa. Of the twelve new ambassadors, five - Congo, Mali, Malta, Mexico, and Tanzania - are new ambassadorial assignments to Yemen.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Wahaby, Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, disclosed that another set of twelve ambassadors, including Argentina, Cyprus, Nigeria, etc. - and of course, Canada and Norway - will present their letters of credentials during January, 1995. "These events point to the interest of various nations worldwide to strengthen relations with the Republic of Yemen. In the aftermath of the consolidation of our unity, we also are ready to reach out to other nations and strengthen bilateral cooperation," Mr. Al-Wahaby stated.

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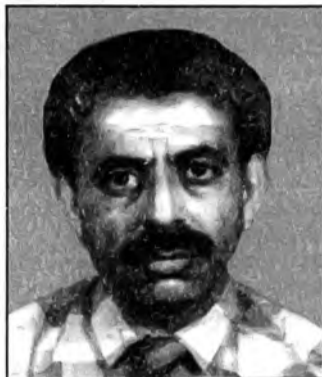
on the anniversary of the independence of the southern part of the homeland,
and on the anniversary of the signing of the country re-unification agreement.

Starting with this issue, the Yemen Times introduces two columnists, who are among the leading opinion-makers of Yemen

Common Sense

The Ruling Coalition & the Opposition

By: Hassan Al-Haifi



For more than thirty years, Yemen was generally subjected to one form of totalitarian rule or another, with varying degrees of intensity (extreme left oriented) in the South, and moderation (with some lapses of experimental democracy) in the North. Throughout their domination of the centers of power in the country, the gung-ho Soviet allies in the South and the dogmatically inconsistent military rulers in the North, continued to assure the baffled citizens of both parts of the country that all the blood spilled and resources wasted by them throughout those years was necessary and well in the interest and welfare of their fellow countrymen. The people, of course, had no right to question the wisdom behind those assurances.

Moreover the totalitarian rulers, in both the North and the South, continued to insist that any opposition to them, of whatever nature and in whatever form, was akin to high treason and betrayal of the national interests and the goals of the Revolution, as pictured by the different elements that held the reigns of power in the country. Even open discussion of the issues of the day were, as such, considered unwelcome, especially if such discussion carried any critical tones.

The deciding factors in political disputes in the Yemen, whatever may be their origin, were arms, money or a combination of the two. Even when the disputants happen to be from the same camp, there was no hesitation to resort to bloodshed and destruction to reach a final decision. In all cases, however, it was winner takes all!

In most cases, the disputes were between the different versions of totalitarianism that controlled both parts of the country or of an internal clash nature within the respective power blocks themselves. Any attempts by external opposition forces were summarily crushed or at best pushed underground before such attempts could have a chance to develop roots.

The unification agreement of the 30th November 1989 launched democratization in the newly formed Republic of Yemen. This meant that the 2 former totalitarian systems were ready to introduce new rules in the political game in the new republic. Such changes were supposed to rely on peaceful methods of resolving political differences of opinion, even if the parties in dispute were in power through a merger or a coalition. Moreover, external opposition forces were allowed to see if they can establish footholds in the political arena.

The Yemeni Socialist Party had attracted support from a majority of the opposition parties and independent political persons that the Transitional Period brought to the limelight. But for some reason, despite the resources the party had, the YSP could not get its act together. In addition, the YSP seemed to

suffer from an identity crisis: Was it a ruling party or an opposition party? In any case, the YSP failed to establish firm grounds on either side of the political coin. Notwithstanding the seemingly peaceful political conflict that dominated the political arena during the Transitional Period, the People's General Congress/ Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) on the one hand, and the YSP on the other were preparing for a more violent showdown. However the three parties that made up the power bloc during this tense period share the blame for the events that shook the country for two months of inexcusable bloodshed and destruction during May-June, 1994.

The three parties could not abandon their totalitarian mentality and refused to relinquish power, despite their continued lip service to the democratic process of working out political disputes. This was apparent in the way they handled the many crisis, which they themselves created due to the way they handled the issues.

Moreover, the refusal of the two parties, who were signatories to the unification agreement, to give up control of the military muscle and financial resources and assets of the former regimes they controlled, was sufficient cause for doubting the seriousness of their intentions, on top of being a good reason to expect that the traditional power struggle was to resurface again, but this time with more ferocity than ever before..

With the ruling parties maintaining their totalitarian attitude and the tools that give them power, it can be understood why the newly emerging opposition forces could not make significant gains during this period, as well as during the parliamentary elections of April 1993, in view of the interference of the the big three in the election process, each in his own way, to achieve the results that could assure each party's hold of a significant part of the ensuing power structure.

Thus the opposition was in no position to prevent the catastrophe. The rest was left to the numbers, international political circumstances (the role played by the various countries that took part in the war, in accordance with the dictates of the New World Order) and, of course, the misguided apprecia-

tion of the political and military realities that were involved in the region, in general, and in Yemen in particular, especially by the YSP, for an explanation of the outcome of the war.

The end of the showdown and the decisive victory of the PCG// ISLAH camp give rise to the following questions:

1. What direction is the Republic is heading for?
2. Can the opposition, with the decisive victory of the Northern Totalitarians, remain above ground, lacking any support from any party in the new power structure?

This writer is of the opinion that the opposition will continue to play a contained role in the political theater of Yemen. The two parties in power, despite their displeasure with the former coziness between the YSP and the opposition, are confident, at least over the near future, that the opposition can pose no threat to their monopoly of authority. They are also sure that they are capable of keeping the opposition under control. The PCG/ ISLAH camp also knows well that the democratic process, given the lack of political awareness among the public, is still incomplete. Thus the opposition forces, even with their combined strength, are still in no way able to bring fear to the PCG/ISLAH. One hopes that this cause for comfort will lead them into becoming more tolerant and less reliant on totalitarian tactics to maintain their superiority.

While the signs do not indicate a healthy democratic political environment, the opposition must still take advantage of this limited freedom allowed by the rulers, and work to keep democracy "alive". The opposition should concentrate on the issues, rather than seek political gains. In this way it can show that the opposition's motives are more patriotic.

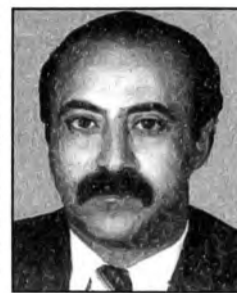
The important thing for now is to get the country back in forward gear again, especially from an economic point of view. Reliance on constructive criticism by the presentation of workable solutions to the problems faced by the country will go a long way towards strengthening the opposition's role in the political theater in the Republic. Moreover, the opposition will find it more meaningful to help increase political awareness among the general public, as to their political and civil rights under the constitution and the international agreements thereof. The aim should be to make maximum use of these rights to serve the interests of the nation, until such a time comes when the ruling coalition realizes that the totalitarian approach can eventually turn against its advocates. It has happened before, in Yemen and elsewhere in the world.

For the opposition then it is going to be a long winding road. But at least the road is open, for now.

The Hotline

Stratified Citizenship

By: Hassan Al-Sagheer



Our society has always been stratified, but it is the yardstick used that changes over time. In the old days, lineage, complexion, and professions were used to differentiate among people. Historians would tell you of the Sayyid class, the qadhi class, tribes, the akhdam, etc. They would also tell you a barber, a butcher, a singer, etc., are low-class people since these professions were unbecoming.

The September 26th Revolution came to dismantle such stratification and make all Yemenis equal.

Today, there is an economic stratification in progress. The rich people - with large cars, lush villas, good clothing, etc., are first class citizens. Most Yemenis are second class citizens. There is a third group of underclass who are the impoverished Yemenis who barely eke out a living. They are the down-trodden who have no rights, and whose voice is never heard.

The economic stratification takes a tribo-political twist since wealth is really generated by power and government posts. Thus the individuals chosen to fill up the posts are automatically elevated to the rank of first class (rich) citizens. That explains the fierce competition to attain government posts.

In Yemen, the roads leading to self-accomplishment are limited and are often tied-in

with state power. In most of the rest of the world, people attain self-accomplishment and self-esteem, and gain recognition by excelling in arts, sports, business, academic research, and many other fields. Here in Yemen, the options are limited and the population competes to gain its satisfaction through the government channel. That is why anybody who wants recognition goes to the authorities to receive a car, a piece of land, real estate, cash, military ranks, or a senior post. The rulers use these "gifts" to secure the loyalty and allegiance of the aspiring individual.

But there is a problem here since these "gifts" are not given equally to all citizens. They are given, first and foremost, to already influential and powerful individuals whom the regime wants to appease or win over. Hence, the further stratification of our society.

Yemen needs an equitable and fair system. If we want to build a stable and prosperous country, we need to reduce the growing stratification of our society. We should remember that the September Revolution came about to bring an end to another form of stratification. Do we need yet another revolution to do away with the new class structure?

I hope our politicians will see light and create a system that guarantees equal citizenship to all Yemenis. I hope it happens before it is too late, and before the boat is rocked again.

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The Role of Government in Trade

These days there is a lot of talk regarding the role of government in economic activities, in general, and in trade, in particular. The debate continues to rage ferociously.

Governments have as essential a twofold role to play. They must create an environment conducive to increased competitiveness for their exporters, and they must help enterprises not to run the risk of being excluded from international business because they cannot access the appropriate market information or because the technical infrastructures of the country prevent them from using modern information technology and telecommunications. Governments also have a unique role to play in determining the degree to which their economies should internationalized.

Government intervention should not be an obstacle to international trade. Governments have special responsibilities for the protection of their national economy, health, security, etc, and government agencies usually intervene in the movement of goods and financial flows. Although inevitable, such interventions should be as transparent as possible, they should keep pace with developments in transportation and information technologies. The direct and indirect costs of government intervention should not unduly increase the price of exported or imported goods. The "billion-dollar" hold up. In the transaction chain, delays e.g., by Customs or other control authorities - can constitute a hindrance to efficient trade. Government agencies have their share of responsibility for the billions of dollars that are spent every year in port congestion, delays, paperwork, fees, etc, for moving goods from seller to buyer. Invisible as they are, these costs are eventually borne by the consumer.

Law enforcement versus trade efficiency. Governments should strike the right balance between the necessity for controls and the need to trade and industry. The challenge for them is how to process ever-increasing volumes of trade at minimum cost for the economy, while maintaining adequate controls for revenue and other purposes.

Customs modernization is a must. Customs and other government control agencies should adjust their methods of work to modern transport techniques. Containerization is efficient, but the efficiency is lost if inspection procedures cause delays. Further more, the purpose of introducing modern information technology and EDI is partly defeated if Customs still require signed forms.

Small exporters are discouraged by red tape. Unduly complicated procedures often deter potential exporters - particularly SMEs - from venturing into international trade. For them to develop their activities, selling abroad should become as simple as trading on the local market place.

Foreign investment may also be discouraged by the difficulty of doing business in a country. When importing raw material and intermediate

goods is too slow and cumbersome a process, export oriented industries cannot easily adjust to changing market conditions. This can discourage foreign investment in local enterprises. Foreign exchange controls should be simplified as should the repatriation of profits.

Governments have a critical role to play in the key sector of services for trade. How with small enterprise react when, as happens more and more frequently, its major customer tells it, "Six months from now, we will no longer do business with suppliers that send paper invoices, order acknowledgment or price lists"? Those SMEs which cannot use EDI because telecommunications are deficient are at disadvantage in the international market place. They could even be de facto excluded from a market. It is the government's responsibility to provide them with technical infrastructures, a good access to international telecommunications and good quality services, to create a modern and appropriate transport infrastructure, to adopt modern trade-related finance, payment and risk management criteria, and to promote the free flow of business information and equal access to it by enterprises of all sizes.

Governments have a leading role to play in promoting the use of EDI by enterprises. For example, by computerizing Customs, governments facilitate the computerization of enterprises operating systems. By linking themselves to national network, enterprises have access to international ones.

A good example of government action to promote information for trade is the creation of national teletext services, which facilitate information flows, allow the creation of up-to-date, large data banks and contribute to job creation. Whenever required, governments should initiate legislative reforms to set up a national legal framework facilitating trade transaction e.g., to permit the utilization of modern information technology.

An appropriate institutional framework should be established for increased consultation between the public sector and the business community, so as to enhance the understanding by the private sector of the constraints under which government agencies operate, and to familiarize officials with the realities of trade transaction.

The poorest countries are excluded from international efforts to create conditions for efficient trade. Several working groups, committees and groups of experts have been set up to study, at the micro-economic level, practical solutions to the difficulties that trade operators encounter in their daily operations and to develop standards or recommended practices that contribute to facilitating international trade. A large numbers of countries, particularly the developing ones, are still excluded from this work, due to lack of information, technical expertise or financial resources. The Symposium will contribute to the establishment of appropriate conditions for their participation in these efforts.

Thabets Honor PIL Executive

Hodeidah Shipping & Transport Company (HSTC) threw a lunch reception last week in honor of Mr. L. L. Chua, Executive Manager of Pacific International Lines (PIL), based in Singapore. "PIL is special and has been extremely helpful to Yemen," explained Abdul-Gabbar Thabet, Manager of HSTC. He gave the following explanations:

1. It has been operating its lines to Yemen for almost three decades.
2. It continued to service Hodeidah even during the congestion years (late 1980s) when ships had to wait for months before they could unload their cargo. Almost all other lines ceased to service Hodeidah in those days.

3. PIL never stopped operating to Hodeidah even during the recent war. The company did not even increase the rates given that the insurance premium shot up.

How does one explain all that? Mr. Chua says it reflects "long term association and commitment" on the part of his company. PIL operates an average of four ships from the Far East to Hodeidah per month. That is probably the highest frequency in this sector. PIL is one of the largest private shipping lines in Singapore, operating more than 500 ships. Its main routes are between southeast Asia and East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Singapore itself is one of the



Mr. Chua (center) flanked by Mr. Thabet (left) & Capt. Ramachandran Nayar

busiest harbors in the world, with one ship either going in or coming out every four and a half minutes.

"Hodeidah seaport continues to handle some 80% of the country's sea transportation business. Of course, other seaports, especially Aden, are bound to increase their business, but that will come from the increased volume of business rather than a diversion from Hodeidah," Mr. Thabet said.

Aden harbor is gearing up to pick up more business, given the new improvements being introduced in the labor costs and system at the harbor. Private companies are expected to provide stevedoring services as from January 1995.

The shipping business in the

Republic of Yemen is expected to achieve a dramatic surge during 1995. This is especially the case if the economic restructuring package which is presently under finalization goes through.

Meanwhile, Hodeidah Shipping, Middle East Shipping, Saba and the other local shipping companies continue to open new frontiers in the country's association with world-famous shipping lines. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Areeqi, Executive General Manager of Middle East Shipping disclosed ambitious expansion plans in his company's regional and international services.

By: Amin Nouisser,
Economic Editor,
Yemen Times.

Last Call for Nominations: YT Person of the Year/1994

The Yemen Times is happy to invite nominations for its 1994 Person of the Year. The two main factors in making the choice are:

1. Success in the private life/profession of the candidate,
2. Visible contribution for the national welfare.

Any person interested in nominating a candidate, including him/herself, may kindly do so before December 15th. Please fax your nomination to (01) 268-663, or mail it to:

Person of the Year Committee,
Yemen Times,
P. O. Box 2579,
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

Please enclose all information pertaining to success of your candidate at the personal level, and contribution at the national level. A Yemen Times team will sift through the nominations and will select the Person of the Year for 1994.

The final choice will be announced on January 2nd, 1995, in Yemen Times issue number 1/95, Volume V.

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والى رائد الوحدة والديمقراطية والتنمية الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح
بمناسبة ذكرى جلاء الإستعمار من جنوب الوطن والذكرى الخامسة للتوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة اليمنية

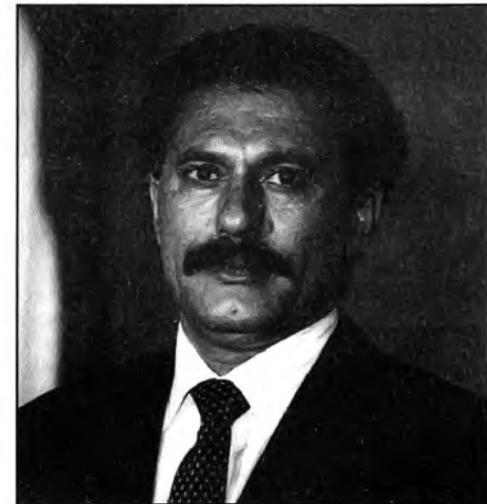


Shaher Abdul Hak & Brothers Group

presents its heartfelt felicitations and warm congratulations
to the great Yemeni people, our leader President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and the government of Yemen on the occasion of the 30th of November:
anniversary of the departure of the colonial forces from the southern part of the homeland,
and the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Yemeni unity agreement.

شركة كنديان أوكسي

تتقدم بالتهاني والتبريكات إلى الشعب اليمني الأبي والى الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح والحكومة
بمناسبة ذكرى جلاء الإستعمار وذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة اليمنية
وكل عام واليمن في خير وتقدم



CanadianOxy

offers its warmest felicitations and deepest congratulations
to the Yemeni people, President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the government
on the anniversary of Independence Day in the southern part of the homeland,
and the fifth anniversary of the signing of Yemen's unity agreement.

Continued from Page 5:

Gender Politics or Hormonopoly

Proving this second statement, of course, imposes the added requirement of exhaustively documenting the biochemistry of many an expectant mother. The test questions imply that such abilities as getting into tight parking spaces, mastering grade school spelling, and remembering acquaintances' names depend mainly on hormones. Other equally plausible explanations such as driving experience, wide reading, and the Dale Carnegie course are not considered.

After answering the questions the test-taker calculates his or her score by doing a computation that inexplicably weights the same answers differently according to the respondent's sex. "Most males will score between 0 and 60," we learn. "Most females will score between 50 and 100." But what we don't learn is how many constitute "most"? 50%? 98.5%? Can we know who these "males" and "females" are? Can drivers? Spelling teachers? Salespersons? A true random sample of some population? A haphazard selection of Moir and Jessel's friend?

But we do learn, most mystifyingly of all, that "such differences are average differences. A male might score above 60 and still possess a male brain. A female might score below 50 and still possess a female brain." If this is true, then what good are the concepts of "male" and "female" brains to begin with?

In fact, with the possible exception of strictly reproductive behaviors, all the behaviors, all the behavioral differences found between males and females are "average differences" drawn from samples in which, for the most part, the range of overlap between the groups far exceeds the average differences that divide them. Suppose, for

example, that in a certain class the boys' test scores happen to range from 37 to 100 and the girls' from 50 to 95, and suppose that the boys averaged 81 and the girls averaged 78. Could we possibly say which sex had done better? Would we even want to try? And most significantly of all, would it be fair to assign to all members of each sex the average score attained by their group?

Averages say nothing about individual possibilities. Because the female pelvis is far wider, for example, women's thighs descend to the knee at a different angle from men's, producing a less stable joint and a somewhat less efficient leg. But that don't prevent the very best female marathoners, despite being slower than the very best males, from trouncing all but a handful of men. Likewise, the highest-scoring girl math prodigies, though less numerous than the very best boys, still leave all but a handful of males gasping over their calculators. And the eminent female scientists who performed many of the experiments Moir and Jessel discuss—Corinne Hutt, Doreen Kimura, Marie De La Coste, Jerre Levy, Sandra Witelson have clearly managed to overcome their supposedly inborn mathematical weakness and innate awkwardness at abstract and conceptual thought.

Nor are cultural influences nearly as negligible as Moir and Jessel imply. "The very fact that marriage is, for humans the norm throughout the world—when, as we know, men are naturally disposed against the institution represents a truly remarkable triumph of the female brain and will." In Western society at least, which Moir and Jessel erroneously take as the human norm, marriage has until very recent

times, actually represented a rather unremarkable triumph of male property rights. Family systems that demand female but not male fidelity serve primarily to insure legitimate heirs to land passed in the paternal line, or where significant property doesn't exist, marriage is much less important and the sexes enjoy essentially equal sexual freedom.

Jumping to Confusion

"There is no longer any excuse, save mental indolence," for doubting that biology alone accounts for gender differences, Moir and Jessel proclaim. Even so, such conspicuous lazybones as R.C. Lewontin and Ruth Hubbard, full professors of biology at Harvard; Steven Rose, chairman of biology at Open University in London; Leon J. Kamin, professor of psychology at Princeton; Ruth Bleier, professor of neurophysiology at the University of Madison-Wisconsin; and Anne Fausto-Sterling, professor of medical sciences at Brown are some of the researchers who have written extensively doing just that.

Fausto-Sterling comes in for particular opprobrium from Moir and Jessel, probably because hers is the only book in their bibliography that questions their foregone conclusion. "One author maintains that we are sexually so strongly conditioned and the sexual atmosphere is so highly charged, that, consciously or unconsciously, the researchers and their research are biased....", Moir and Jessel cluck. Well, it's not "one author," it's a substantial literature of which they obviously know little. If it constitutes "mental indolence" to entertain the possibility that a theory supported by respected researchers may have merit, then what do we

call the refusal even to recognize let alone explore a large body of research opposing one's own opinion?

If Moir and Jessel want to engage in name-calling, it's they who are dilatory remiss, not Fausto-Sterling. Their literature review essentially rounds up the usual bioterminist suspects competent researchers all, but hardly the only ones working in the gender differences field. Missing, from their bibliography, among other topics too numerous to mention, is important work on primate social organization, nurturing by Human fathers, and the social structure of hunter-gatherer bands. Fausto-Sterling, for her part, is only one of the authors who have ventured beyond the preconceptions of "hard science" disciplines to see what other possibilities exist. Moir and Jessel choose to ignore the work of recognized scholars while quoting the likes Shere Hite, whose surveys of sexual behavior, to put the matter politely, hardly meet accepted standards of objectivity. "This isn't a prescriptive book," Moir and Jessel nonetheless claim; "it merely explains how the brains of the sexes are different and attempts to link those differences behavior of men and women..." Would that this becoming modest permeated the tire volume. The new information about apparent sexual differences in brain organization certainly adds to our knowledge of the human species. In time it may also add to our understanding of hums life. Human beings and human behavior are too variable to arise from any single influence. Nyborg, for example, has called the sharp distinction between nature and nurture "a false dichotomy. ... Perception influences biochemistry.... Many factors go into behavior."

"Science, then," -by which Moir and Jessel mean the particular brand of bio-determinism they espouse—"can offer an explanation for the way in which men and women come to be different," they write. True enough. An explanation, but far from the only possible, or even the most convincing, explanation. It is always valuable to report and discuss the latest research findings. But it is certainly premature to conclude, for example, that "there are practical reasons why the sexes can not undertake the same work." It is certainly

unjustified to brand all members of either gender by stereotypes derived from statistical averages. In considering so complex and subtle a question as gender differences, we must combine the supposedly female talent for integrating information from a wide variety of sources and the supposedly female talent for integrating information from a wide variety of sources and the supposedly male one for abstract thought and take all new findings under advisement. The final verdict is still a long way off.

MITEX, If You Want to Know

The arrival of shows and exhibitions is a healthy sign. Sanaa has been attracting a few of these lately. MITEX, (Macro Information Technology Exhibition) scheduled to start next week, brings together all forms and levels of computer technology under one roof to give coherence to a highly specialized field.

Most previous exhibitions were oriented towards basic consumer goods, and they were of a general nature. MITEX is the first specialized exhibition. It is also the first time frontier technology producers are brought into the country. Many foreign companies are interested in doing business with and in Yemen. It is the job of local companies to transform that interest into real projects. Arab Digital Agencies (ADA) did exactly that. It is my belief that Yemeni demand for computer hardware, software and networks will increase steadily over the next five years. MITEX will display the latest in those fields.

There are many potential clients for computers. These include the oil sector, the banking community, the telecommunications systems, the schools, the private businesses, the Aden Free Zone, the media, and many others.

ADA and a few other local companies have taken it upon themselves to strengthen and expand this sector. Yet, more work needs to be done to make Yemenis more comfortable with computers. It is a new field, but one so necessary for the country's future progress.

By: Dr. Mazin Salhi,
General Manager, ADA.

بمناسبة ذكرى جلاء الإستعمار و ذكرى التوقيع على الوحدة اليمنية

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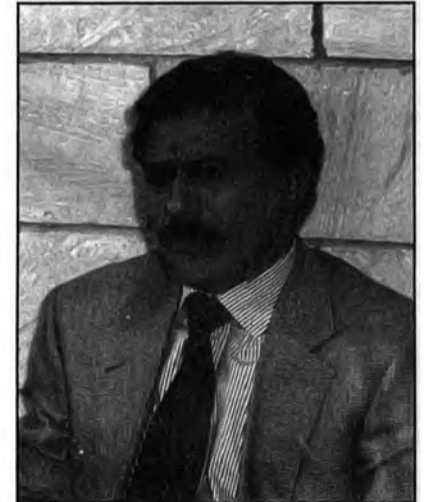
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ممثلة في الأخ الفريق/ علي عبد الله صالح والحكومة.



The Chairman and Members of the Board,
the Management, Staff, and Workers of

The National Corporation for Water Bottling and Soft Drinks

present their warm congratulations to the Yemeni people, President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Government on the anniversary of Independence Day and the 5th anniversary of the Signing of the Unity Agreement.

Yemeni Children: The Rights and Realities

By: Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.



The Republic of Yemen is signatory to INTERNATIONAL CHARTER OF CHILD RIGHTS. It has also signed several international covenants regarding human rights and other documents. According to the commitments the country has made, it

is supposed to present a progress report on how much of its obligations towards Yemeni children it has fulfilled. Yemen Times has received a copy of the draft report prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

According to the Ministry's report, much has been done in terms of legislation and commitment. "The country's democratization process and the more open environment which enabled many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), have resulted in more awareness and respect for the rights of children," it reads.

The report also outlines the services rendered to children in education, health, nutrition, daycare, public parks, and many other facilities. It provides the total air time allocated on national television and radio networks to issues serving children. It makes reference to

the various legislation, notably the family law, which, for the first time, outlines the rights of children vis-a-vis other members of the family.

Yet, many educationists and NGO leaders are not satisfied. They claim a lot more could have been done. They refer to the abuse children go through starting from imprisonment of children, to underage employment, to child beggars. One such critic is Basmah Al-Qubati, head of the most active NGOs in Sanaa. "Look, the government is not interested in doing anything unless it is pushed into it," she said. And she is right.

Unfortunately, the children of Yemen are neither vocal nor do they have a lobby to fight for their interests. That is why they command a low priority in the government projects.

That is why the NGOs, supported by international organiza-

tions such as the UNICEF and Radda Barnen, are preparing an alternative report on the status of children and their rights in Yemen.

"Such report is drastically different than the official report, and it has more credibility," indicated a source at UNICEF.

The children of Yemen have to go a long way before they can catch up with their peers in the rest of the Third World, let alone the advanced countries.

Educational services and facilities are not adequate, playing grounds and amusement parks are virtually non-existent, child mortality and morbidity rates are among the highest worldwide, and child abuse by parents and society at large is commonplace. Children are born and raised in the Sanaa Central Prison, and young lads are imprisoned without sufficient consideration of their age.

A Yemen Times survey of children carried out by experts during 1993/94, offers many proposals which can be adopted by the government if it serious about improving the lot of children. Most of these do not require large sums, they just require a commitment.

VACANCY

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTER (UNIC) SANA'A REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Functional Title:

Information/librarian/Reference Assistant

Summary of Principal functions:

1. The primary function of the incumbent is to make the reference unit a ready source of UN information by arranging documents and guiding its users. Use of Radio and TV responsibilities. Establishing of close working relations with other libraries of the country also form part of duties.

Under the overall supervision of the UNIC Information Officer the incumbent performs the following activities.

2. Takes responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of the Centers reference library and its collection and takes an active part in other information and educational activities.

3. Records classifies and controls all library materials (headquarters press releases documents and publications), and replies to routine telephone and written enquiries from the public at large, including teachers, journalists, publishers, NGO's and government officials.

4. Assists researchers and scholars in providing specific information about the United Nations, programs and the specialized agencies.

5. Collates and files all periodicals regularly received from the UN, its programs and the specialized agencies.

6. Prepares and regularly updates a complete a set of card catalogues for all publications and other written material available in the library.

7. Assists UNIC Information Officer in maintaining close working relationship with academicians, teachers students and NGO leaders, and provides whatever assistance and guidance may be necessary for the promotion of public interest in the principles and activities of the United Nations.

8. Keeps regular contact with librarians or his/her counterparts working at the United Nations system and diplomatic missions in Sana'a with a view to identifying the problems common to all in respect to the running of the libraries and make suggestion to the Information Officer for solution of those problems.

9. Takes responsibility for the running of the Center film library regularly updates the film catalogue and whenever necessary, arrange distribution, on a loan basis of UN films.

10. Assist the Information Officer in selecting appropriate films for the public showing and television screening in support of special observances, makes arrangements for the forwarding of such films to Yemeni Television and, tracks them down until those films on loan are returned in good condition to the Center.

11. Helps maintain and update Center's mailing list with special attention to the Governmental, non governmental and educational section.

12. Periodically conducts survey of readers of UNIC publications and makes suggestions for necessary changes in outputs as well as the mailing list of the Center.

13. Selects the scans news items from local newspapers to help the Center report regularly to DPI/ASG and other units to the organization.

The incumbent is required to assist the Information Officer in taking appropriate decision as to the distribution of the UN materials to different target groups, let them know of any news arrivals in the library, recommends measures for better management of the library through intense contacts with other national libraries and arranging inter-library workshops, exchange of views for better display of UN users, recommends on the ways of better display of visual materials for better understanding of the UN system.

The incumbent's efficiency accounts for a great deal of the image of the Organization in the country.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree or equivalent from any recognized university.
- Must have adequate knowledge of the UN system and Must be fluent in Arabic and English.
- Must be a computer user.

All candidatures should be sent to:

Mr Najib Friji, UNIC c/o UNDP, P.O. Box 551, fax No. (01) 263067
Deadline for candidates' submission is 20th December 1994.




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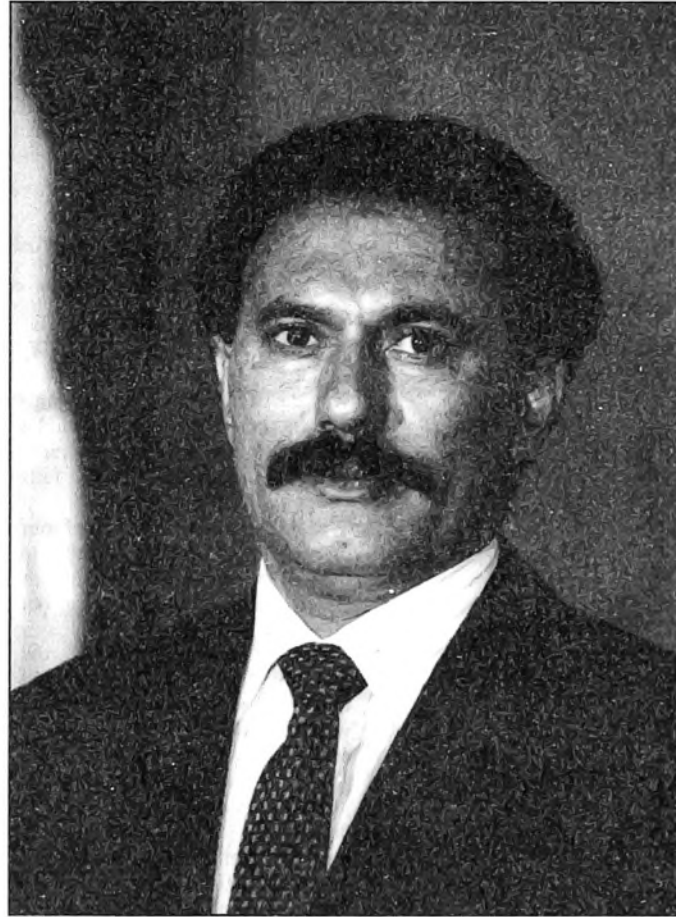

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بتهانيتها العطرة وتمنياتها القلبية لكافة الشعب اليمني
ولقيادته السياسية ممثلة بالفريق علي عبد الله صالح
وللحكومة الرشيدة
متمنين لليمن الرقي والنجاح والتطور



ENRON CORP

**extends its best wishes and congratulations
to the Yemeni people, political leadership represented
by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Government
on the occasion of the 30th of November –
the 27th independence anniversary, and
the 5th anniversary of the unification agreement.**

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

AN APPEAL TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

First of all let me congratulate Yemen Times for its continuation, even under strenuous conditions. It is our breathing lungs without which we will suffocate and die. Therefore I decided to write and air the opinion of many of educated persons.

After the 4th of July, people were relieved that the war was over and expected great changes in all fields leading to stability, reconciliation and democracy. As a citizen in Aden, I think we have suffered a great deal and deserve a break, instead of the disaster which appeared in the education sector.

Recently, a new over-zealous vice deputy, who was ex-headmaster of a Taiz school, was appointed in Aden. Instead of spending some time to evaluate the situation and discuss it with the experienced and qualified local people, he started issuing regulation based on his ex-school experience in Taiz regardless of the many differences between the two cities, one of which is the weather conditions.

One of the changes he introduced is the daily school-hours which was accepted grudgingly in the primary schools but caused chaos in secondary schools. Another drastic measure is the omission of the names of the 14th October Revolution members why? Many people were offended and wondered why the newcomer is doing this as history doesn't belong to him or the YSP, but to all Yemenis. I wonder who will write our history in an unbiased way. God help us and our children who are more confused by the continuous political changes.

Finally, the over zealous vice deputy held several meetings with headmasters and inspectors who are the nucleus of education. He shot at them his firing words of disapproval of everything he saw in the schools. Some headmasters and inspectors protested and wanted to express their point of view. His response is very telling. He simply told one inspector, "If you don't like what I say, just resign." Is education his private property?

I wonder. I think it is a terrible and dangerous feeling to be oppressed in a so-called a democratic country. I appeal to the minister of Education to deal with the situation before its too late.

**Fathia Mohamed , Haza'a,
Aden.**

TECHNOLOGY & SOCIO- CULTURAL LINKAGES

According to your viewpoint on technology and its use, as expressed in your issue number 44 of 7th November 1994, I would like to express my point of view on technology and its deep anthropological linkages with the receiving system.

Technology is a key factor in culture and it determines the relationship of a community with its natural environment. From lessons learned in the past, we notice that the mere transfer of technology into indigenous cultures lead to failure and to poverty to most of the people in developing countries.

The success in transfer of a technology depends mainly on how it fits with the socio-culture structure of the receiving system or according to the principle of "goodness to fit" between technology and the receiving culture. Thus, what is needed is really the techniques of a technology to be combined with the different set of social and economic activities.

Technology transformation must lead to an appropriate technology for a sustainable development which relies more on local resources through enhancing the skills of local people and creating economically advantageous work plans. This means empowering the locals to take control over their environment. In fact, a leading researcher in the field, Hayman states that appropriate technology depends on how it is used, what it is used to produce and who gains and loses as a result of the decision to introduce it. While closer emphasize on the impact of the adaptation of technologies for sustainable development pertains to the interdependence associated between technology, potentials users, the transfer process and the technology-assisting agent.

If all of these factors are taken into consideration, the technology introduced in society will lead to improvements in the receiving system by helping the indigenous people enhance their quality of life as defined and seen by themselves. The role of the assisting-agents should be to provide the technology that suits the local people and circumstances, rather than forcing the people to adopt and match the technology.

**Abdulkadir M. Hassan,
Environment & Development Consultant,
Sana'a**

تقدّم

شركة المحضار للأدوية والمستلزمات الطبية

بأرق وأصدق التهاني القلبية للشعب اليمني وللقيادة السياسية والحكومة الرشيدة

بمناسبة حلول يوم (٣٠) نوفمبر

ذكرى إستقلال جزء من وطننا الغالي وكذا ذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة .

وكل عام والجميع بخير

شركة المحضار تعتبر من أهم
العالم الحضارية الاقتصادية
في اليمن والتي قدمت
الكثير والكثير من الخدمات
للوطن والمواطن، ويتمثل
في توفير الدواء الذي هو
عصب الحياة وروحها النابض



AL-MOHDAR Pharmed Apliances Co. Ltd.
presents

its heartfelt felicitations and warm congratulations
to the great Yemeni people, President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and the government of Yemen

on the occasion of the 30th of November:
anniversary of the departure of the colonial forces
from the southern part of the homeland,
and the anniversary of the signing of the Yemeni unity agreement.



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



Pen Friends Corner

By: *Rahila Ba-Alawy*

FRIENDS WANTED

If you come home one day,
Tired and feeling blue,
And you think "Too old to play!"
Here's the thing for you to do.

Take your pen and write to us,
We're your friends around the globe.
International Pen Friends a plus,
And guaranteed to give you hope.

Fill your life with joy and victory,
And do the same for other strangers.
Maybe learn a little history,
Like that of the Texas Rangers.

Meet the best of the very best,
People who care about you.
North, South, East and West,
Men, Women, and children too.

So, believe me when I say,
Your life will never be the same,
You'll always be happy and gay,
And always have us to blame.

Because, next time you come home,
You will have so much to read
From China, France and even Rome
Which will make you smile ... guaranteed.

So, tell your friends and family
And have them join us like the rest,
Live forever very happily,
And IPF's very best

So my friend wherever you might be,
Take your pen and write a letter
Because only then you will see,
How your life has changed for better.

Poem by the Yemen Representative

We have a message greetings from Havana!
Ariel says:

"Please, I would like to get some pen friends
from your nice country - Yemen!
"I'm 27, male and have many friends from all
over the world. Writing letters to friends is my
favorite hobby.
"I will answer all letters that I receive in
English or Spanish languages!"
So, all of you out there, write to Ariel Jardins
in Havana, Cuba. His address is:

**Ariel Jardins,
P.O. Box 31,
Havana 16, Cuba**

For more information write to: Ms. Rahila, P. O. Box 481, Sana'a, Yemen.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY

I take this opportunity to point to you the malpractice and corruption taking place in the Public Electric Corporation, Aden branch (Hedjuff) which falls under your good ministry.

We bothered sending one of our men from Sana'a to Aden to obtain the tender documents as advertised in the local media, but all was in vain.

When our man approached the PEC office in Aden, he was told to pay in advance USD 100 for which a receipt will be given accordingly, and another Yemeni rials 1000 without a receipt for photocopies of the original tender documents. They promised to send the original tender documents to us by mail as soon they arrive from Australia. They blamed Snowy Mountains Engineering Cooperation Ltd. (SNEC) of Australia for the delay.

We have sensed something fishy going on in the Aden office. Assuming that the Australian company delayed sending the original documents? How did the Public Electric Company of Aden managed to photocopy them from original and sell them at YR 1000 without a receipt?

Consider these lies, theft in daylight and embezzlement of public funds.

It is time for you, Mr. Minister, as a newcomer to inspect all the electric departments and offices and clean them up for the better future of your ministry and the whole country.

If you will not take this opportunity to get rid of corrupt officers and stop all corruption forthwith, they will scare the financiers and investors and make them hesitate to come to Yemen.

We hope that you already have this and other such issues in mind and that you will take appropriate action before its too late.

**M.S. Bamehriz, Managing Director
Mehriz Trading & Industrial Agencies
Sana'a.**

SAIL ON AND ON

I am a student in the Faculty of Medicine Aden, doing my internship and I am a regular reader of your newspaper, not only because it is the only English newspaper in the country but because I admire and respect your candor, frankness and analysis. I present the following poem as my contribution:

I see all these ships sail away,
sailing beyond that hazy line.
of all the sad things they have to say,
floating along this static time.

Only the solace of the blue sea,
the rays of the sun above,
you feel the bondage though you are free,
on the calm sea or when it is rough.

But you've to sail on and on,
sail beyond that hazy line,
Slowly your companions would all be gone.
As you'll follow your life's decline.

By: **Saumitra Bharadwaj, Crater - Aden**

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وكالة اتحاد الساعات السويسرية
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YEMEN AIRLINES

is happy to announce its new service to Nairobi which will be operational as from December 10th, 1994. There will be two flights a week as per the following schedule:

EVERY SATURDAY: SECTOR: ADEN - NAIROBI - SANAA - ADEN

Departure from Aden at 9:45 p.m., arrival in Nairobi at 12:45 after midnight;
Departure from Nairobi at 1:45 a.m., arrival in Sanaa at 4:30 a.m. on Sunday;
Departure from Sanaa at 5:00 a.m., arrival in Aden at 6:00 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY: SECTOR: ADEN - SANAA - NAIROBI - ADEN

Departure from Aden at 6:00 a.m., arrival in Sanaa at 6:45 a.m.;
Departure from Sanaa at 7:30 a.m., arrival in Nairobi at 10:14 a.m.;
Departure from Nairobi at 11:15 a.m., arrival in Aden at 2:15 p.m.

It will be noted that direct and easy connections upon arrival in Nairobi are available to Mombasa, Dar Es-Salam, Kampala, and many other African and European cities.

For more information, please contact our offices or agents in Yemen and/or abroad.

طيران اليمن ALYEMEN



يسر شركة طيران اليمن

أن تعلن للجمهور الكريم عن خطها الجديد إلى نيروبي اعتباراً من العاشر من ديسمبر ١٩٩٤، وبمعدل رحلتين أسبوعياً على النحو التالي:

كل يوم سبت:

الخط : عدن - نيروبي - صنعاء - عدن

الإقلاع من عدن الساعة (٩ر٤٥) مساءً ، الوصول إلى نيروبي الساعة (١٢ر٤٥) بعد نصف الليل الإقلاع من نيروبي الساعة (١ر٤٥) بعد نصف الليل ، الوصول إلى صنعاء الساعة (٤ر٣٠) فجرأ (الأحد) الإقلاع من صنعاء الساعة (٥ر٠٠) فجرأ ، الوصول إلى عدن الساعة (٦ر٠٠) صباح يوم الأحد

كل يوم إثنين:

الخط : عدن - صنعاء - نيروبي - عدن

الإقلاع من عدن الساعة (٦ر٠٠) صباحاً ، الوصول إلى صنعاء الساعة (٦ر٤٥) صباحاً الإقلاع من صنعاء الساعة (٧ر٣٠) ، الوصول إلى نيروبي الساعة (١٠ر١٥) صباحاً الإقلاع من نيروبي الساعة (١١ر١٥) قبل الظهر ، الوصول إلى عدن الساعة (٢ر١٥) بعد الظهر

الجدير بالإشارة إلى أنه تتوفر خطوط ربط مباشرة عند الوصول إلى نيروبي إلى كل من (ممباسا) و(دار السلام) و(كمبالا) والعديد من المدن الإفريقية والأوروبية .

لمزيد من المعلومات ،

يرجى مراجعة مكاتبنا أو وكلائنا المعتمدين في الداخل والخارج

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة



تتقدم

بأحر تهانيتها القلبية وأعطر أمنياتها إلى كافة الشعب اليمني الأبي وخاصة الأخ الفريق/ علي عبد الله صالح والحكومة وذلك بمناسبة ذكرى عيدي الجلاء والتوقيع على الوحدة اليمنية وكل عام والجميع بخير



National Cigarette & Match Industries Co. Ltd.

presents its heartfelt congratulations and felicitations to the Yemeni people, President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Government on November 30th - the anniversary of Independence Day, and the fifth anniversary of the Signing of the Unification Agreement. We wish all many happy returns.

