



YEMEN TIMES



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December 12th through 18th, 1994

Volume IV, Issue No. 49



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EL SOFFARY
السفاري

Meet the New Leaders of Yemen's Baath Party

By: Ameen Nouiser,
Yemen Times.

On Saturday December 10th, the Yemeni Baath Party concluded a three-day congress of the party which was a watershed in its political evolution. The congress elected a new party leadership, and charted a modified course for its actions.

Over the last few months, the Baath Party in Yemen was split between the old leadership headed by Dr. Qassim Sallam, the old-time secretary-general, and some of the party elders who have been pressing for change. When change did not come, the party was split into two groups. The congress, which brought together 1,200 persons representing the party members all over the country, was convened by the change-seekers.



The newly-formed leadership known as the National Leadership of the Party is made up of 21 members (please see full list on page 5) - many of them new blood to the top echelons of the party. Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood is tipped as secretary-general.



"We are proud of the achievements of this congress. We have thoroughly discussed the party's current situation, and what we need to do about it. We are now ready to join hands with all the patriotic persons in building the nation," said Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood.

Please read more details on p. 5



The pictures clockwise starting from the far left: Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood, Dirhem Abu Luhum, Ali Ahmed Nasser Ad-Dahab, Dr. Hussain Al-Kaff, Yahya Al-Othari, and Ashraf Ali Mohammed.

The Yemeni-Saudi Border: The 2 Countries Need Wisdom and Patience

The Yemeni-Saudi border is again in the news. Again, it is the Yemeni side that is crying foul.

The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement accusing Saudi Arabia of encroaching into Yemeni territory in at least two governorates - Sa'adah and Al-Maharah. (Please refer to map). The Foreign Ministry statement explained that Saudi Arabia was building roads and checkpoints in Jabal Al-Mashreq, Jabal Al-Mashnaq, and Kutaf - all in Sa'adah, and in Al-Kharkheer, Dhahyah and Doukakah in Al-Maharah/Hadhramaut.

"The Government of Yemen is interested in amicable relations with the fraternal nation of Saudi Arabia. Yemen calls for resolving the border dispute through legal and other proper international channels," the statement reads.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia responded by refuting the Yemeni claims, and by asking for the formation of a joint committee to look into the newly-set-up check points and whether they represented an encroachment. The Saudis say they had contacted the relevant ministers in Yemen before they built the new checkpoints.

Last week, Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani received the ambassadors of the



permanent member countries of the UN Security Council and presented Yemen's case.

The Yemeni people's reaction has been mixed. The problem is that they do not have enough facts. If the Yemeni government is serious about resolving this problem, the first thing it should do is tell its own people what exactly the problem is. Meanwhile, all Yemenis who do not have proper residence or work papers are shipped out of Saudi Arabia. According to Yemen Times sources, some ten to fifteen busloads arrive in Hodeidah every day.

Political Security Man-Handles Al-Thawry

On Saturday, December 10th, the Political Security office overwhelmed the editors and employees of Al-Thawry newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Yemen Times sent reporters to the office, located on Amman Street in Sanaa, who reported that soldiers had turned the office upside down and wrecked the shelves and papers of the newspaper. The soldiers who continued to occupy the office, refused to speak to the reporters and only said they did not need court orders for what they were doing.

Abdul-Bari Taher, Chief Editor of Al-Thawry and Member of the Politbureau of the YSP, said that one of the journalists, Qassim Abdurabbah, has been taken away by the political security people.

Correction

The Yemen Times received a letter from the Sudanese Embassy making the following corrections in its article last week:

1. The full name of the Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa is: Omer El-Sayed Taha. It was written as Omar Sayyid Taha.
2. The Seventh Round of the Joint Ministerial Committee between the two countries will be held in Sanaa rather than in Khartoum.
3. The documents and proceedings of the seventh round will be signed by the relevant officials on both sides. They will not be signed by the Presidents of the two countries during President Ali Abdulla Saleh's visit to Khartoum.

Yemen Times regrets the advertisement of El Soffary has not appeared in last week's edition.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Comprehensive Amnesty

Last week, I was in a dinner party that brought together one of the leaders of the secessionists - a man I have heard preaching on the inevitability of the re-partitioning of the country. I remember getting into a heated argument with him in those "unity" days. He strongly insisted that unity was not working and that they had to break away.

We all know what happened since.

I got an overwhelming feeling upon seeing him accepted in our midst. I felt, at that moment, the power and extremely long-term wisdom of the "comprehensive amnesty" decision. It was indeed a decision which has literally "freed" tens of thousands of individuals from potential litigation.

Except for sixteen persons named by the prosecutor-general's office, all other persons - even the soldiers and officers involved in the war, the mid-level bureaucrats and politicians, and many others - have been dissolved of any responsibility for the crisis and/or war. This step is a wise move that is enabling the nation overcome the wounds of the war in order to attend the pressing needs of reconstruction.

I have no doubt that the amnesty decision is not being carried out in the fullest sense. There are always complications here and there, and there is the urge among individuals to penalize certain groups they see as responsible for the damage. Moreover, out of personal interest, many will not allow the return of the officers and officials to return to share responsibility with them. We have seen many manifestations of this attitude in the recent past.

Even with such mis-applications and mis-implementation of the law, the comprehensive amnesty decision is worth supporting and praising. Even those individuals who are not happy with discriminatory application of it, should help hold the system and its officials to a full implementation thereof rather than cursing the system for "lying" about the amnesty. To my knowledge, there is no concerted and planned effort to deprive any person or group from benefiting from the amnesty decision. There are many individual cases of penalization. We should fight this mis-application while at the same time hailing this wise step.

The comprehensive amnesty is the first step towards shoring up the country and building relations of trust that will allow the development of the country. We need all Yemenis, without exception, to contribute to this development process. The leadership would do well to stress this point for the future.

The Publisher
Saleh

UNIFYING THE TRAFFIC LAWS AND REGULATIONS

On Thursday, December 8th, a three-day workshop on traffic laws and regulations was concluded in Sanaa. The traffic directors in all the governorates attended the workshop.

The idea is to unify all laws and regulations in issuing licenses, vehicle number plates and types of plates, ownership documents, violation fines and all other measures.

Since unification of the country in 1990, no steps were taken to dissolve the systems of the former PDRY and former YAR into one system. Unfortunately, there was visible resistance to unifying the systems until now, according to the concluding report of the workshop.

YEMENIA STARTS SHUTTLE SERVICE

YEMENIA received on December 6th, a plane - a Dash-6 - the first of the fleet of a newly formed company. The small-plane fleet is to serve oil company executives in their shuttles between their offices (in the cities of Sanaa and Aden) and the field sites where oil exploration and exploitation is taking place.

YEMEN MEDIATES BETWEEN ASMARA AND KHARTOUM

Yemen Times learned that a Sudanese high-power delegation is arriving here later this week. The group will hold meetings within the framework of the Yemeni-Sudanese Ministerial Joint Committee.

At another level, President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a letter from Sudanese President Omar Al-Basheer. The letter explains Sudan's views on the recent complications in the Eritrean-Sudanese relations.

It will be noted that Eritrea accuses Sudan of supporting Muslim fundamentalist groups which are trying to "Islamize" the system in Asmara. Yemen - a friend of both countries - is trying to play an intermediation role in containing the differences between the two neighbors. Within this effort, President Saleh is expected to pop in in Asmara and Khartoum.

GERMAN DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS ON AID

An official German delegation headed by Mr. Herbert Sahlmann, Head of the Middle East Division at the Ministry of Economic Cooperation, has been holding meetings in Sanaa and Aden. According to Yemen Times sources, Yemen has been able to obtain a commitment to resume German aid close to pre-crisis levels.

It is worth noting that Germany has, so far, donated to more than one billion Deutsch Marks for the Yemeni development effort.

AL-SHOURA WINS CASE

The three-month trial of *Al-Shoura* newspaper and its chief editor, Abdullah Saad, came to an end last week. Presiding judge Hamood Al-Hitar said in his judgement that there was no case and that the newspaper did no harm. As the judge read his decision, the court hall went in tumultuous applause. "The only thing between us and a return to dictatorship is the few decent and strong judges in the country," a citizen said.

The Ministry of Information, through the Prosecutor's Office, had filed accusations of slander (against the president) and of sowing dissent and division among the people. The ministry was referring to articles critical of the president and the system. *Al-Shoura*, in a long article on Sunday 11/12/94, praised the judgement.

JAPANESE DELEGATION ARRIVES HERE ON 16th

Yemen Times learned that a Japanese delegation will arrive here on the 16th on a six-day official visit. The delegation's mission is to study the possibility of resuming Japanese assistance to Yemen.

The delegation is headed by Mr. Seichi Otsuka, Director of Economic Cooperation Assessment at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo.

According to Japanese embassy sources, the group will meet with Yemeni officials, public personalities, as well as key persons in the diplomatic and foreign community in Sanaa.

In pre-war Yemen, Japan was one of the leading aid-partners of Yemen. Its annual aid

AL-JABHAH AL-WATANIYYAH AL-DIMOQRATIYYAH IS SPLIT

The Al-Jabhah Al-Wataniyyah Al-Dimoqratiyyah (the National Democratic Front) party concluded on Thursday, 8th December, its congress in which representative members of the party form all over the republic attended.

The congress was held to level accusations against the break-away faction. The party was split into two factions in the meeting of October 5th, followed by another meeting earlier this month.

The split of the NDF is yet another example of the fragmentation of opposition political parties in the country.

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES PROJECTS IN ADEN

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani inaugurated throughout last week a number of projects in the city of Aden. Many of the newly completed projects have to do with infrastructure, especially roads. An official spokesman for the government indicated that priority is given to those projects which prepare the city to play the role of a free zone and an economic capital for Yemen.

YEMEN ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

The Republic of Yemen has decided to start diplomatic relations with the republics of Moldavia, Kazakhstan, and Georgia. Representing Yemen in those countries will be non-resident ambassadors.

Yemen had earlier established similar relations with former Soviet Republic in the Baltics and Central Asia.

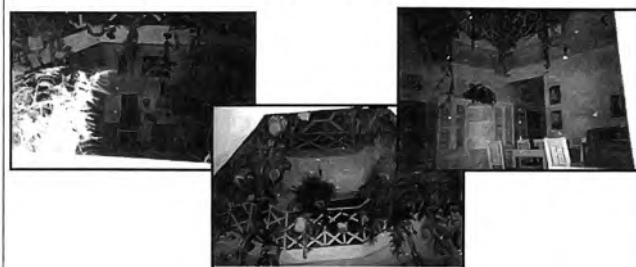
Yemen is trying to build economic and military relations with those countries.

ANTI-DRUG WORKSHOP

During the period 10-14/12/1994, a workshop is being held on ways to combat drug smuggling into the country. 32 airport employees are attending. The program of the workshop is being jointly sponsored by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Customs Authority. There is also support from UN organizations.

According to Sanaa International Airport sources, Yemen has become a transit point for smuggling narcotics and illegal drugs to the region. Many consignments have been compounded in the recent past.

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Abdorabboh Geradah:

"Some 100,000 persons are involved in making the census a success."

Over the coming week-end, the Republic of Yemen will be overwhelmed with the Population and Housing Census: 1994. The counting will take place on the night of the 16th of December (leading into the 17th).

The person charged with managing this important event is Mr. Abdorabboh Ahmed Geradah, Chairman of the Central Statistical Organization.

Ismail Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times Sanaa Bureau Chief interviewed Mr. Geradah and filed the following report:

Q: Could you give us some background regarding preparation for this census?

A: Immediately following the re-unification of the country, the senior officials thought of carrying out a campaign. It was agreed, a national census must take place during 1994.

The idea was to gain vital information to overcome any hold-overs in the system and population distribution from the pre-unity days. The information will also be extremely useful in planning and executing the development process. The various aspects of demographic details, such as age groups and

distribution, is necessary to determine the needs in education, health, and other sectors.

In addition, all buildings and construction structures will be counted, thus providing important information on the housing infrastructure.

Originally, the census was to take place in January of this year. But, as you know, the political crisis and the related difficulties created by the secessionists forced a short delay.

Q: What are the specific objectives to be achieved from the census?



A: We have many broad and specific objectives. The main goal is, of course, to create a reliable data base.

In terms of specific goals, I can mention the following:

- To specify the age and geographic distribution of the population.
- To determine the gender, marital status, and other social demographic variables.
- To determine the skills, educational levels, and other factors in the population and labor force.
- To determine the population movement and especially the rural-to-urban migration.
- To prepare the data base for the development envisaged for the period 1996-2000.

Q: Who and how is the census being financed?

A: The census is being financed by the Yemeni government. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some bilateral and multilateral assistance that has been provided by our friends for this purposes. I would like to specially mention the Netherlands Government, USAID, and the UNFP.

The census has its own budget to meet the requirements for carrying out the work.

Q: In relation to past census efforts, how do you see the

1994 census?

A: Of course, the census is a periodic effort. We try to use the same tabulations and structures so that there is a possibility for comparison.

This is the first census that brings together the whole of Yemen in one lot. In the past, the former YAR and former PDRY have had census reports. We have been able to combine those statistics and adjust the numbers. Without bias, let me say that this coming census will be the most reliable given the level of preparation and the objective methods involved.

Q: How many people are involved in the census?

A: First of all, let me say that it is the government that exercises complete responsibility for the census. Many ministries are directly involved, although the Central Statistical Organization is the focal point.

Second, there are many committees and supervisory bodies which are connected to this major effort. Many of them are for training purposes, and many are administrative in nature.

Third, let me say that it has been Yemeni expertise that has taken responsibility for the whole effort. After all, we have had several experiences in this field from the previous census and pilot surveys.



The number of persons directly working in the census are:

- Supervisors = 31 persons;
- Assistants = 302 persons;
- Registrars = 2129 persons;
- Counters = 12,600 persons.

Let me take this occasion to say that we have made it a policy to choose the registrars and counters (those who do the counting) from among the local populations and regions, as much as possible.

I would also like to add that both men and women are participating in making this work a success.

Given the number of security, traffic, media local elders, and other people involved, I can say that some 100,000 persons are involved in this effort.

Q: What kind of problems have you faced in your work?

A: The sheer size of the effort is a problem by itself. From the very beginning, we concentrated on two aspects:

a) That the people involved with the census are well trained and they know what is expected of them, and how to interact with the general public.

b) That the citizens know what the census is all about. The media played a tremendous role in educating the public and asking for positive interaction. Even the bureaucratic hurdles and the financial constraints have been sorted out because of the commitment of the country's senior officials. I can say we did not face any serious problem.

Q: Any last comments?

A: We are gearing up for the coming week-end. I take this opportunity to urge all sides to lend a helping hand.

I would like to add by sending a big "Thank you" to the media which has played a critical role in making the census a success. Finally, I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this important national effort.

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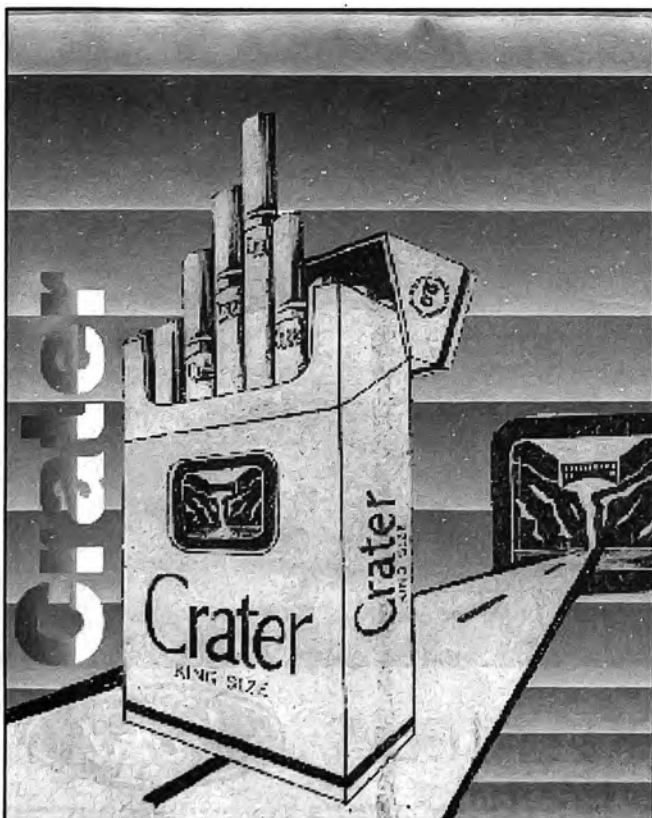


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PIL Executive Seeks Stronger Relations

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

1. PIL has been operating its lines to Yemen for almost three decades.
2. PIL continued to service Hodeidah even during the congestion years (late 1970s) 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 its rates given that the insurance premium shot up.

How does one explain that? Mr. Chua says it reflects "long-term association and commitment" on the part of the company. PIL operates an average of four ships per month between the Far East to Hodeidah. That is probably the highest frequency in this sector.

PIL is one of the largest private shipping lines in Singapore, operating more than fifty ships. Its main routes are between southeast Asia and East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Singapore itself is one of the

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 at the expense of the Hodeidah business," Thabet said.

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



L.L. Chua flanked by Mr. Thabet (left) & Capt. Ramachandran Nayar January 1995.

According to Mr. Abdul-

Yemen is expected to witness a dramatic surge during 1995. This is especially true if the economic reform package which is presently being finalized goes through," he said.

Meanwhile, PIL have recently introduced a regular 10-day direct service from China and the Far East with transit times to Hodeidah taking 25 days from Shanghai, 20 days from Busan (Korea), and 17 days from Hong Kong.

The new service is increasingly becoming a symbol of the company's association with world famous shipping lines.

Ameen Nouisser,
Economic Editor
Yemen Times

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MESA on a Mesa

For a weekend of meetings in November scholars interested in the middle east converged on Phoenix Arizona to attend the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). Interest in Yemen was at a peak as the American Institute for Yemeni Studies had lined up four panels on Yemen, most of which were well attended. Papers discussing Yemen were also presented at other panels, so all told Yemen was well represented. And not only on a theoretical level, as a virtual delegation of Yemenis was also present, including several Fulbright scholars, some representatives from the Yemen Centre for Studies and Research and even some members of the PGC.

Large crowds were drawn to two panels discussing, first, "post electoral problems in Yemen", and secondly, "the war". It was the first time that the process and results of the Yemeni parliamentary elections were discussed at length at a MESA meeting. And it provided a good opportunity for many scholars who had been following the Yemeni political process at a distance to actually discuss this remarkable accomplishment. The plethora of political parties was identified as one of the key problems, and a consensus emerged that the elections had led to an impasse from which there was virtually no way out, indicating that the following session devoted to the military resolution of the problem was a suitable forum for the continuation of the discussion. Western scholars discussed their impression of the significance of developments from outside. Dr. Bilqis Hadrami of the Yemen Centre underlined the key element linking the two sessions by stating clearly that the declaration of succession united all of the democratic tendencies in Yemen behind the legitimate forces, effectively depriving the secessionists of popular support, and guaranteeing their ultimate defeat. The strangest question posed at either session concerned the issue of whether there was any proof that Saudi Arabia was involved in the conflict!

Two other panels dealt with Yemeni identity and archaeology. A summary of current archaeological work in Yemen revealed the breadth of what remained to be done, as it is clear that one has only had a mere foretaste of everything left to be found. The other panel threw new insights into the cohesiveness of the principle of Yemeni identity, and thus provided an ideal end to the conference, as this historical sense of identity is one of the great strengths which will help Yemen in growing during the coming years.

By: David Warburton.

The Art of Leaks: Sources for Yemeni Journalists

It is now four years since I have started hunting for stories to be written in the Yemen Times. During this period, I have been involved in many strange situations in search of scoops.

But scoops are a minor part of the life of a journalist. The important aspect of a journalist's career is to develop a knack for a story before, or at least, as it breaks, and to stay with it until its completion.

However, the most vital aspect of journalism is for a journalist to find reliable sources of information - the so-called art of leaks.

Here in Yemen, one would conclude that this would be the easiest part of journalism. People so readily part with what could lead to exciting stories. Yet, as a journalist tries to check and re-check the sources, he/she often discovers the leaks are nothing but empty rumors.

Qat sessions have helped in adding to the confusion as rumor mongers keep pumping in lies and exaggerations. As the stories circulate further, they keep growing and new twists are added in each and every qat session.

There are several reasons why a story is leaked or even twisted by policy makers. They include the following:

a) The Trial Balloon:

Policy makers may leak a story in order to feel the response of the public and other parties. Many times, the officials want to gauge the reaction before a decision is taken, and thus they leak out part or all of the what is coming.

b) Sending a Message:

Sometimes a leak is made in order to warn or threaten another party. Information is sent out as a direct message. The party to which the message is sent is alerted to the prospects if he/she they continue on their policies. Timing is critical for this kind of leak.

c) The Policy-Promotion/ Destruction Leak:

Sometimes a story is leaked in an attempt to bolster the leaker's position. The opposite could also be true. A story is leaked to weaken another party, or to circumvent a certain policy.

For example, the leaks in the

recent past of the impending changes in the prices of certain services and products and the removal of subsidies was meant to build resistance to them, and it worked as the government decided to postpone such a decision.

d) The Character Assassination Leaks:

One of the most frequent types of leaks in Yemen are those aimed at weakening a rival. Stories related to character assassination and embarrassment of opponents is a major political tool in Yemen. That is why all political parties and groups have their mouthpieces.

Of course, journalists are not immune from pushing stories on behalf of groups or political agendas they privately endorse. But the real issue in Yemen is that journalists are often taken for a ride by scrupulous politicians. Politicians often call in to give a leak, and present the situation as if they are doing the journalist a favor. Any attempts on the part of the reporters to check the story would be taken as an "insult" to the source - hence the trap. As a result, the

journalist is simply a dupe, a gullible or innocent pawn.

The motivations of the leakers are critical for the credibility of the story. The competition between the urge to file a story before others (a scoop), and between the need to check out the facts is an eternal battle in the mind of the journalist and the editors.

As an evolving business whose boundaries are not yet properly marked, investigative reporting could be a dangerous task. Thus, checking out a leak is a difficult job, especially when the information is related to the center of power.

Everybody who has been observing the evolution of political life in Yemen agrees journalists are making a difference in the decision-making process. The role of the reporter has evolved from a passive recipient to an investigative nuisance who pokes his/her nose into many things.

Long live the curiosity.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor,
Yemen Times.

GHOSTS AND GHOULS STILL RULE IN YEMEN

When the housewife started seeing shadows pacing out of the corner of her eye, she didn't think twice about where to go for help.

She sought out a WALI.

"It was the spirit of my husband's deceased first wife haunting the kitchen. She was too hungry to make the journey to the afterworld."

Most Yemenis believe in ghosts and witches, sorcerers, and others. "Magic was mentioned in the Quran. So it exists" is a statement one often hears repeated by people who try to prove these beings from the other side. Of course, social values and traditions continue to place a burden on the relations of individuals and groups.

Many families spend lots of money on chasing out evil spirits from possessed bodies and souls,

and many more spend fortunes to deepen love among spouses. One woman spent more than YR 15,000 to make her husband hate a woman who was courted by the husband to become a second wife. Since the husband no longer married that woman, the wife felt her efforts paid off.

Many pay walis (pious/devout man) to chase ghosts out of certain homes. Families often hire the services of professionals to perform a ritual to chase out ghosts.

Skyscrapers rise in the Yemeni cities, universities teach hard sciences, and satellite reception antennas bring world television to Yemeni homes. But Many Yemenis, old and young, still cling to the age-old belief in spirit possession and destinies written in the stars. There are no statistics on how many share this

faith, but they are a majority.

Almost the whole Yemeni population is Muslim who are monotheistic. But many hedge their bets, seeking help from spiritual advisers. That is why, fortune telling, spiritual strengthening, and other similar services are growing and flourishing.

A guy in Dhamar is said to have made a decent fortune by telling people where they have misplaced valuable possessions, or who among their relatives and friends to be careful from because they would do them harm. A fortune-teller in Bait Al-Faqeh publishes his predictions about what will happen, and sells thousands of copies of the same. A man in Bani Matar helps spinsters get married.

When a Sanaa radio talk show invited callers to tell ghosts stories some two months ago, taxi drivers, workers, housewives and students filled the hour-long show with personal accounts.

Finding a fortuneteller is easiest in the countryside, but it is no problem in Sanaa, either. Fortunetellers make house-calls, offering to read customers' lives over a cup of coffee. They use a complex system built on the belief that the universe is ruled by the interrelation between fire, water, wood, metal and earth.

Walis, who depend on spirits for their power are regularly invited to chase away evil spirits when Yemeni families are confronted with a problem they can't handle or even comprehend.

Of course, many Yemenis don't believe in spirits and have never consulted fortunetellers. Many who seek their advice are simply looking for a word of reassurance or explanation.

The only to combat such superstitions and fairy tales is by better education and more correct religious guidance. That seems to be evading Yemen, even in its march towards progress.

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

Continued from Page 1:

The Baath Party ...

"I think this is the most successful Ba'ath congress ever convened in this country," said Ali Ahmed Nasser Ad-Dhahab, member of Parliament and leading personality from Qaifah, Al-Baidha. "We do not agree to receive orders from outside the country, even from Baath headquarters. We are patriotic Yemenis," he added.

"This congress is a watershed in our party's history," said Dirhem Abu Luhum. "I think this is a corrective measure in the party's structures and policy-making," he added.

Hussain Al-Soufi agreed. "This meeting is a renewal and longer lease in the life of our party. This is especially true since a lot of new blood is added to the top bodies of the party. This is a party I want to belong to," he said.

Ashraf Ali Mohammed was more concerned with the future reconstruction and role of the party. "We should leave the past behind us, and address the future. We have to even revise the laws and ideals of the party in order to bring them to terms with the realities of the country and the world," he indicated.

"This congress has come to re-arrange the priorities of our stands in accordance with the political and philosophical changes," said Abdullah Al-Jarmouzy.

It was Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood who was the force behind the congress. "I happily announce that the top leadership includes individuals from the various governorates and parts of the country. It truly is Yemen-based," he said.

The 21 Members of the National Leadership of the Baath Party

01. Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood,
02. Dirhem Abu Luhum,
03. Yahya Al-Othari,
04. Ali Ahmed N. Ad-Dhahab,
05. Abdul-Rahman Mahyoob,
06. Dr. Hussain Al-Kaff,
07. Hussain Ba-Rabba'
08. Ashraf Ali Mohammed,
09. Yahya Shuja'a,
10. Abdullah Al-Kibsi,
11. Mohammed Al-Kibsi,
12. Mohammed Al-Zubairy,
13. Abdul-Rahman Hameed,
14. Jubran Mujahid Abu Shawarib
15. Mudhish Ali Naji,
16. Abdul-Kareem Hamood,
17. Ali Al-Samawi,
18. Saleh Bin Sowdah,
19. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Shareef
20. Hussain Ahmed Al-Soufi,
21. Abdullah Al-Jarmouzy.



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إعلان

تعلن وزارة التأمينات والشؤون الاجتماعية والعمل والهيئة الإدارية

لجمعية الحضارم الخيرية بالحجرية بأنه تقرر عقد

الاجتماع السنوي للجمعية العمومية يومي الخميس والجمعة

الموافق ١٦/١٥ ديسمبر ١٩٩٤ الساعة التاسعة صباحاً

بمسجد عبدالهادي قرية الحضارم بالحجرية

وذلك لمناقشة الحساب الختامي والتقرير المالي للهيئة الإدارية

وكذا إنتخاب هيئة إدارية جديدة للجمعية...

× نأمل من الأخوة أعضاء الجمعية العمومية الحضور في الزمان والمكان المحددين، وكذلك إستيفاء إشتراكات العضوية

والله الموفق...

Common Sense

Yemen's Economy: The Victim of Continuous Neglect By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Part one of two

The economic situation in Yemen has been deteriorating steadily since the beginning of the 80's. The second Gulf Crisis lead to accelerating the rate of deterioration with the entry of the last decade of the 20th century. What has become obvious now is that the economy of the Republic of Yemen warrants greater attention by all: The government, the business and financial community and every citizen, whether as political parties or individuals who are unattached politically. Delaying this attention will only add more to the difficulties now faced by a majority of the population as a result of the plummeting purchasing power of the Riyal and the inability to maintain a half-way decent standard of living. In addition, the already shrinking middle class, will cease to exist, as many of its member rely on income that is not subject to adjustment, in keeping with the rapidly rising prices. To the latter, real income now had dwindled down to less than 10% of its value, 10 years ago.

During the second half of the 1970's the Oil Boom of the nearby Gulf States filtered down slightly to the Yemen (especially North Yemen, which the majority of this discussion covers). This was because of the availability of the required labor needed to carry out the ambitious development schemes of the direct beneficiaries of the boom in the other areas of the Arabian Peninsula. As a result one million Yemenis, entered the expatriate labor market in the Gulf States (Saudi Arabia and, to a limited degree, the U.A.E. and Kuwait). These Yemenis were engaged in the construction sectors mainly, especially housing construction, as well as other service sectors, with the majority being of semi-skilled or unskilled caliber. The entire national economy of Yemen was to rely on the productive capacity of these expatriate Yemenis, from 1976 to 1990, to keep its wheels going. In economic terms, in fact, one is to insist that, it was the only productive element in the "National Economy" for 15 years, though its inputs to the "Geographic Economy" declined steadily after reaching a peak (1978 - 1978). One is also somewhat amazed at the underestimated worth attributed to this national resource, especially by the government. Remittances from exported Yemeni labor exceeded \$ 2 billion at their peak years. These remittances changed the face of the country, particularly consumption demand patterns and did much to increase the ability of Yemen to play a more significant role in regional and international affairs. The country, in addition, was able to attract financial assistance from regional and international funding agencies, as well as budget



deficit financing from its neighbors.

During the first eight years (1976 - 1984), the Central Bank of Yemen enjoyed a relatively strong foreign reserve position, which during the peak years earned what may have exceeded US\$ 300,000,000 in interest income alone, and allowed for the exchange rate to remain stable at US\$ 1 = YR. 4.55, throughout the period. In addition, the inflation rate was considered manageable, not exceeding 30% p.a. and the unemployment level was minimal so that, ironically, labor was, in fact, imported for Yemen's own development schemes.

The downward trend in the economy, which began with the entry of the 1980s could be attributed to two reasons:

1) the stabilization of the construction market in the Gulf States and the reduction of oil prices, which indirectly caused a reduction of Yemeni expatriates' earnings.

2) The inability of the Yemen Government to maintain an environment that attracts foreign capital investments and the surplus capital accumulated by successful entrepreneurial Yemeni expatriates. Government bureaucracy and corruption did much to drive away potentially viable investment opportunities, that could have been realized if the environment had been more accommodating.

By 1983, the drawing from foreign currency reserves to meet the cost of imports (the foreign trade balance was an awkward average of \$30 - 50 million dollars for exports and one to one and a half billion dollars for imports). Meanwhile, the financial aid and support began to decline and budget deficit support began to diminish, as a result of regional economic developments and the failure of the Yemeni government to pursue a convincing systematic course of development, geared towards accumulation of productive plant/assets and qualitative development of human resources. Devaluation commenced in 1984, where the U.S. Dollar reached 5.5 Yemeni Riyals, and from there on, it kept getting worse.

At this stage, several studies and assessments were made by experts from many international assistance agencies, including the World Bank. These studies

analyzed the historical development from an economic and financial point of view and warned of worrisome trends, unless the government could show a greater bias towards dealing with the economic and financial situations in the country, with a view towards implementing the suggestions made in these studies.

Key elements of these studies were as follows (The readers should bear in mind that these studies were compiled in the early '80s').

1) Government spending must be controlled and managed properly, especially as budget deficit financing was getting harder to come by. Budgets should be scientifically and objectively drawn up and must be strictly adhered to.

2) The government should exert efforts to direct consumption habits so that they are pointed towards maximizing the value of goods purchased, and allow for savings to be accumulated by the general population. These savings should have favorable channels for investment.

3) The environment for encouraging investment in productive projects, by Yemenis and others was needed, by means of granting incentives and guarantees and by the elimination of unnecessary bureaucratic procedures. Corruption, embezzlement and other illicit activities must be contained or minimized, especially in the authorities concerned with promoting investments.

4) The government must find more reliable sources of revenues other than the reliance on imports customs taxes. Public sector enterprises that are suffering from mismanagement and inefficient production or services should be canceled. The tax system needed reorganization, simplification of procedures and tighter controls that prevent corruption. The customs tariff rates must be more uniform, with the least account of categorization. (some commodities may have different rates simply because of packaging differences).

5) Monopolistic tendencies must be discouraged especially in the trading and manufacturing sectors. Standards need to be established for minimum acceptable quality for goods and services, to avoid exploitation in a market that has yet to develop mature consumption habits. Competition must be encouraged.

6) The Government must simplify the procedures related to the implementation of the government's development projects, including the financial arrangements associated with them.

7) The educational/cultural schemes should work towards upgrading craft skills, improving professional attitude and broadening cultural horizons. The educational system should stress equality rather than just quantity, alone.

The Hotline

The Last Speech of the President By: Hassan Al-Sagheer

The speech of President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the occasion of the anniversary of Independence Day (30th November) was a major policy statement, by any standard.

In his speech in Aden, also marking the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Unity Agreement, the president mentioned many things which have become a point of argument.

I would like to use two issues the president referred in this article:



provide employment to all. He mentioned that the forebears did so well in their worldwide immigration and in providing commercial links and other similar services to the world.

Many people understood that phrase to aim to tell Yemenis to seek out a better living elsewhere. Some people concluded that the president simply referred to a historical fact without implying that the Yemenis of today

should pursue the same path.

Whatever the intention of the president, his speech yielded more questions than answers, and the arguments continue to rage on unabated.

It would be very useful if the presidential aides and other assistants help out by clarifying the meaning behind such phrases. They have not done that in the past, and I don't expect them to do it in the future. But it is something I wish they would think about.

When the president of the republic says something, it is very powerful and affects lots of people in many ways. I think some of the things he says are misunderstood or even twisted. That is why, it becomes rather useful to have people who are close to him and who will rush in to explain things before they are overly twisted. A case in point are the two issues I mentioned above.

Will there be a response. I wonder!



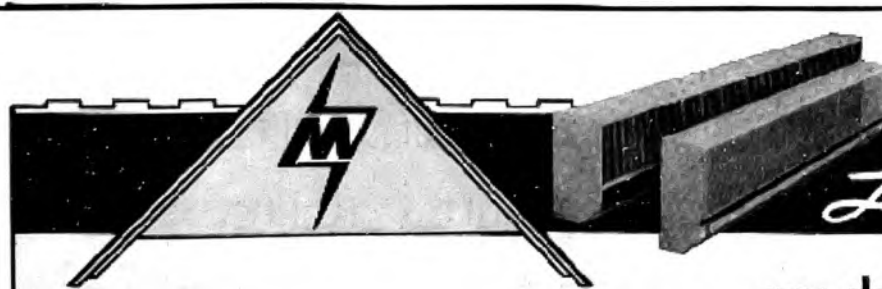
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The Hayel Saeed Companies: A National Pride of Yemen

The Story of a Man, a Family, and a Dream Come True

AN OVERVIEW:

The name has a certain ring to it. It conjures images of great wealth. It reflects admirable success. And it stands for a hard working family with a deep sense of social responsibility towards those less lucky than itself. It is the Hayel Saeed Anam family.

It is a story that started over half a century ago - 56 years ago to be exact. In 1938 that the late Hayel Saeed Anam started his business, which was destined to become Yemen's largest private enterprise by the end of the century.

"Those humble beginnings offer a lot of lessons. This success story has little to do with luck or accidental fortune. It has to do with a lot of hard work, long term planning and ingenuity," said an economics professor at Sanaa University.

Today the Hayel business world spans investments in the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other countries. The main investments, however, are in the Republic of Yemen. The group employs a total of some 10,000 persons, and produces more than 300 varieties of products. The business covers industry, agribusiness and agriculture, shipping, insurance, trade, printing, agencies, oil and gas, and other sectors.

The watershed in the group's business was in the late 1960s, when it pooled its resources to start the first factor at Taiz. The picture was quite bleak.

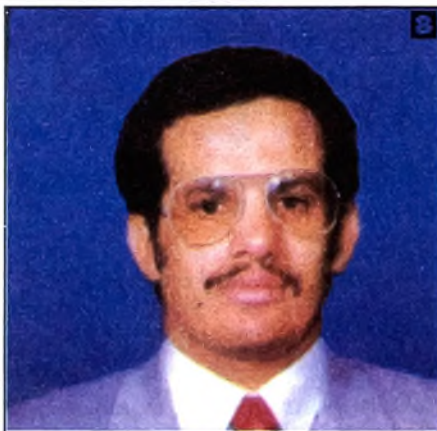
The former Yemen Arab Republic had just come out of a destructive civil war and conditions were, at best, precarious. Conditions were no better in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen where the system had just embarked on the long disastrous road of extreme left-wing politico-economics in the form of confiscation of private property.

Even then, the Hayel Saeeds ventured into this unknown territory and invested their money. As Ali Mohammed Saeed, the Chairman of the Group, explains, "We had confidence in our country and people. Even today, we pool our savings from operations abroad and channel additional resources to make new investments in industrial units, agriculture and agribusiness, and many other fields in Yemen."

"On average, the Hayel Saeed Anam Group has been adding a factory every year. As a result, their industrial complex today has over twenty factories," said an official at the Ministry of Industry.

As the largest single employer in the private sector, the Hayel Saeed Group is pushing training of local personnel. Towards that end, the group established its own training institute which has short and medium (two-year) programs. The Group also has other training efforts locally and abroad. So far, over 2,000 individuals have benefited from these programs.

The group is probably the largest private contributor to the government tax earnings. Every year, the group chips in almost two billion Riyals in various taxes and customs duties and other payments. In other words, it contributes some 10% of the government's domestic earnings every year.



Members of the Board of Directors of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies:

- 1- Ali Mohammed Saeed (Chairman)
- 2- Ahmed Hayel Saeed (Vice Chairman and General Manager),
- 3- Abdul-Rahman Hayel Saeed,
- 4- Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed, 5- Abdullah Abdo Saeed, 6- Abdul-Jabbar Hayel Saeed,
- 7- Mohammed Abdo Saeed,
- 8- Mahfooth Ali Mohammed Saeed,
- 9- Ahmed Jazim Saeed

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Since the early beginnings of the Hayel Saeed business enterprise, social responsibility occupied a high profile in the company's efforts. At first, the assistance provided to groups and individuals was done on a haphazard way. With time, the process was developed and refined, until today, the group has set up an independent charity association which is charged with the job of providing voluntary assistance. Ahmed Hayel Saeed, the Vice Chairman and General Manager of the Group, explains that the association has its own engineers, architects, accountants, evaluators, and other experts and clerks. Ahmed Hayel is especially proud of the self-support program which takes in widows, divorced women, or simply any other female with no breadwinner and offers them training in the production of various products. One project focuses on tricots, embroidery, knitting, sewing, and the production of household goods and artifacts. "Every year we have a larger number of applicants and the project has succeeded enormously in helping women generate an independent income from their own work. We provide the training and initial capital required to buy a sewing machine, or any other equipment and then the women are on their own," he explained.

Abdullah Abdo Saeed, a leading member of the group who has direct responsibility for the group's charity efforts, is likewise upbeat. "The spectrum of projects financed by the association is broad. It normally includes the construction and repair of schools, clinics, daycare units, training centers, mosques, cisterns and small dams, drilling water wells. The Hayel Saeed Group's Charity Association has agreed to co-finance the construction of a university in Taiz," he said.

At the individual level, the beneficiaries include persons entangled with debt, patients who need medical treatment abroad, families overwhelmed with a catastrophe. Moreover, the association helps finance the group marriages that have become more frequent in the recent past. Marriages in today's Yemen cost quite a lot, and the association has made it its objective to help young couples start up their new homes.

Finally the association channels a lot of money through local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The idea is to expand the resource base with which NGOs work, and to help them finance their small projects here and there.

Strictly adhering to the Islamic concept of not speaking of or about one's assistance, Abdullah Abdo Saeed refuses to divulge the annual expenditure amount of the association. "We do what we can to be socially responsible towards our society and country. There is no need to speak about how is paid out. The main thing is the concept of positive interaction between business and society at large," he said.

The association's revenues come from the Hayel Saeed group of companies. It is assured of a specific percentage from the net profits of all the companies.



HSA

The Original Plant: The YCIC

The Hayel Saeeds think rather fondly of the Yemen Company for Industry & Commerce (YCIC). After all, it was the group's first experiment with industrialization and it is a

factory's out-put. "As you can see, we are pushing hard to increase our exports by opening new markets," he explained. One of the main problems

great success. It commenced operation in 1970, which was, in fact, the first attempt at industrialization by the country's private sector.

Today, the YCIC employs some 1750 workers and employees, including about 400 female workers and administrators.

Mr. Shukri Abdullah Abdulghani Al-Furais, the General Manager of the plant, speaks proudly of the fact that the factory's

products which go to all corners of the country. Abu Walad - that famous biscuit - has become part of the Yemeni household vocabulary. The plant's products include large volumes of biscuits, wafers, cakes, candies, chocolates, and other confectionery.

The company has a fleet of 74 trucks to ship the products to all over the country.

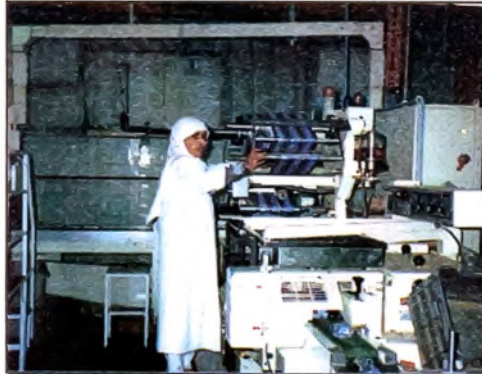
In addition, the almost 100 distribution agents and representatives

have their own vehicles which carry the goods to all domestic markets. These products are also marketed regionally and internationally.

"Our first exports were to Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Those countries are now seen as a traditional market for our products. Two years ago, we started exporting the Teashop and eight other brands of our

products to the United Kingdom. By now, our products go to Italy, New Zealand, Sweden, Russia, Nigeria, Guinea, Ghana, and other far-away lands," said Mr. Shukri. Yet, total exports represent only 8-10% of the

facing the company is the unstable conditions. The YCIC, like all other private companies, suffers from the ups and downs and other vagaries of the market.



Under license from such famous brand names as Buitoni of Italy, Teashop Bakeries and Trebor Sharp of the UK, the company continues to improve the quality

of its products using the most modern and sophisticated computer-controlled plant and machinery. The YCIC is really the flag carrier of the Hayel Saeed Group.

National Dairy & Food Company A Milestone in Yemeni Industrialization

In 1985, The Hayel Saeed Group inaugurated a new factory - the National Dairy and Food Company, which represented a milestone in the Group's industrialization effort. From almost the very start, Rashad Hayel Saeed Anam has taken charge of the company.

The line of products is increasingly getting more diverse. The initial products were canned products such as beans, broad beans, peas, etc. But it was the juices, milk, yoghurt and other products that quickly dominated the output. Some of the company's brand names soon became familiar words in the local markets such as Al-Hana and Al-Mumtaz.

Simultaneously, the company has, under license from famous international companies, started producing such products as Dutch Lady milk and Anchor powder milk.

The National Dairy and Food Company is actually five plants in one. First there is the metal sheets plant which produces cans and tins for packaging. Second is the condensed milks plant. Third is the canned foods plant. Fourth is the juices plant. And fifth is the powder milk plant.

"We are not working in full capacity because of sluggish demand. The falling value of the Riyal has eaten away the purchasing power of the local population, thus reducing total demand. We are now working at some 70% of capacity, and sometimes even less," said Rashad, the General Manager.



The company main strategy was to replace imports. "Import substitution was our main strategy, at first," explains Rashad. Soon, however, the company moved to export promotion. "We quickly were able to export to the countries of the region, especially to the Gulf and East Africa. We have since continued to expand into Jordan, Libya and other more remote countries," he said.

The thrust towards foreign markets was made possible by the company's strict measures in quality control. The quality of the product, the packaging style and size, and other factors are important in the company's policies and decisions.

The company takes great pride in having the most modern, and fully equipped and professionally staffed laboratory to meet the highest of quality control standards required. "We are working under strict international standards," said Rashad. That explains why their main brand name is Al-Hana, meaning to be quenched or reach full satisfaction. That explains why regional and international markets have been opened with ease for the products of this company.

Another strong point of the company is its big inventory and speed of delivery upon placement of orders. Customers do not have to wait long.

That does not mean goods stay in warehouses for a long time. It simply means that the company has a fantastically high product turn-over.

Tapping into a Historic Consumption Pattern

Arabia Felix Industries Ltd basically produces two kinds of products - insecticides/pesticides, and air freshener and perfumes. "Ground was broken in 1984, and in 1986, we started production," says Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Othman, the plant general manager. The two lines of products had been a major source of foreign exchange drain on the country. But the company's policy has been to start diversifying. "Under license, we are now producing Sunsilks shampoos. We are also into hair conditioners, perfumes and other similar products," the general manager said. The public has been sending mixed signals to the company management. One of the feedbacks is that the insects can



somehow develop immunity to the insecticides. As a result, the company has mounted an intensive research and has come up with what is thinks will do the job. "We hope to release the new product early next year," Mr. Othman said. Already, it is producing the famous Shelltox brand of products. Another aspect in which the company benefited from



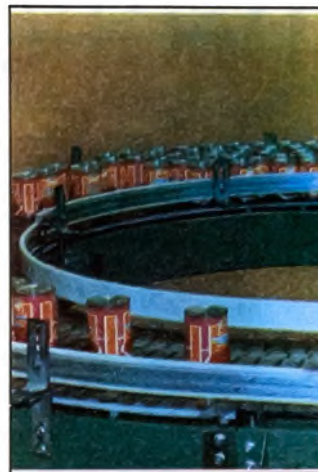
feedback from the market has to do with the scent. Insecticides have a strong and offensive smell. So the company has now developed an insecticide which is also an air freshener. In a society with a long history

of obsession with incense, producing air fresheners and various scent-producing sprays should be a big deal, and it is. The company has also moved into a wide range of household detergents.



GENPACK: Filling in the Inter-Industry Linkages

"The General Industries and Pack Company (GenPack) was formed to feed into the forward and backward linkages of the industrial complex of the Hayel Saeed Group. It provides inputs to the other companies, and uses the by-products of these same companies," explains Selah Ahmed Hayel Saeed, the General Manager of the company. Since it began production in 1985, the company has pursued



possible requisites such as baby diapers, women's sanitary items, napkins, tissues, and other similar goods.

"The 1050 workers and employees who have been instrumental in the replacement of many foreign imports," explained Aziz Al-Herwi, one of the brains behind the continued evolution of the company's products.

But it is the printing house that is the pride of GenPack. "In the whole republic, there are no machines like the ones we have here," says Ahmed Suweileh, the Manager of the printing plant. One of the machines can print the full range of colors on both sides of the paper roll. The unit covers some 70% of all the printing and packaging needs of the Hayel Saeed companies, and some 40% of the needs of other companies and industries in the republic.



this role. But it has also expanded into other businesses. Genpack today is actually four factories in one complex:

1. There is a multi-color printing and conversion of packaging materials by gravure and offset litho-processes. This printing house also produces school text-books and note-books.

This division is fully automated/computerized and is capable of printing all kinds of designs and works.

2. A food manufacturing factory producing high quality chocolate-coated confectionery, sugar confectionery and a wide-range of pasta, canned goods, and snack products.

3. Healthcare products produced under license from internationally-known companies. The company makes such famous brand names as Brylcreem hair preparation, Silvikrin shampoo, Nivea skin cream, Lux soaps, Signal toothpaste, shaving cream, and other products.

4. The fourth and final division produces dis-

"Last year, we produced 4,000,000 million text-books for the schools," Mr. Suweileh indicated. The company was gearing for more work this year, when it was surprised by the Ministry's decision to print part of the books abroad.

Yet, GenPack is doing well, and it is moving into high-demand areas.

NCSPI Products for Your Comfort

Twenty years ago, the National Company for Sponge and Plastic Industry Ltd., (NCSPI) was established to cater to the rising demand for various kinds of plastic products for households, offices and industrial enterprises.

The company produces a wide range of goods including polyurethane foam, corrugated cartons, PVC pipes and fittings, tissue conversion, injection and

blow moulding, flexible film extrusion, moulded pulp, and other products.

Most Yemeni homes have equipped their sleeping quarters and mafrajs/diwans using sponge produced by the NCSPI. The company also produces pipes, fittings and many other gadgets used in kitchens. Finally, the NCSPI is the main source of carton packages in the country.



To Reduce the Foreign Exchange Component of Imports ...

"The country has been importing packaging material in large volumes. So, we had the idea of importing raw material and processing them locally. That basically explains the idea behind the establishment of the Yemeni Company for Manufacturing of Packaging Material." So explained the company's General Manager Mr. Saeed Obadi Saeed.

The 152 workers and employees in the company are organized along two lines of products:

a) The metal cans and tins which are

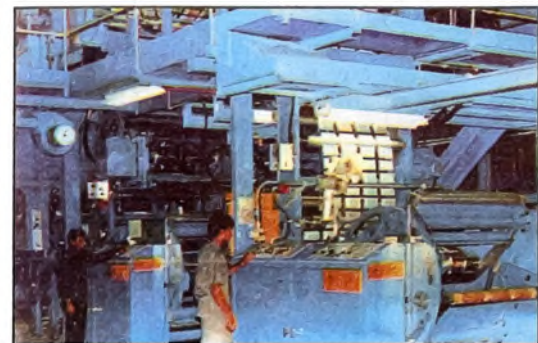


tailor-made to the needs of other Hayel Saeed and other factories.

b) The paper and carton containers and the labels used in various packages.

"We are looking into major expansions over the next few years. By 1997, we anticipate to employ some 300 persons, and to more than double our output," Saeed said.

The company is using some of the most modern machines imported from Italy and other parts of the advanced world.



"If you have to smoke, it should be Rothmans!"

In 1984, United Industries Company (UIC) began manufacturing first-quality cigarettes under license from Rothmans of Pall Mall international. Rothmans cigarettes, of course, have been in the Yemeni markets for decades and they are the first choice among smokers.

"We continue to use only the finest of tobacco wrapped and packed by the most advanced machines. We produce Rothmans King Size, Rothmans Pall Mall, and Rothmans Lights. We can satisfy the local demand, and even export our products," explains Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Wadood, General Manager of the company.

Yes, UIC products cover the whole republic and have been exported to many countries in the region, notably

Jordan and East Africa.

"We are now evolving a local blend, which we have called Ghamdan. This brand enjoys all the qualities demanded by local smoking patterns," Abdul-Wadood added.



Six Approaches to the Future:

No one will doubt, the name of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies stand for success. But that success has to be sustained with vigorous and continued efforts. That is why the Group and its men are always future oriented. Today, we can define six angles for approaching the future - each with its men and promoters.

1. Top Management: Confidence, Optimism and Commitment



The first approach in addressing the future is what the top management, as represented by Chairman Ali Mohammed Saeed and Vice Chairman/General Manager Ahmed Hayel Saeed manifest. They are pushing for the exemplary image of the group.



"The main thing is self-confidence, optimism in the abilities of the Yemeni people, and commitment to our customers..." is the message they pass on to everybody around them. We can say that is the first angle in the approach to the future.

3. Mohammed Abdo Saeed: The Need for National Economic Reform



"The Republic of Yemen badly needs economic reform in order to overcome the present dif-

ficulties and in order to enable an economic take-off. There consensus in policy-making circles regarding this point. The second point is that growth promotion should go hand in hand with efforts at re-structuring in order to minimize the distortions." Those are the words of wisdom of Mohammed Abdo Saeed, who is also a member of parliament.

He pointed to the need to reduce the level of risk faced by investors. "No body in his/her right mind would invest under the current circumstances. We need to bring logic and predictability to our economic situation," he said.

He is willing to work with any groups that seek to improve the economic environment in Yemen. Towards that end, he is willing and planning to work through parliament, through the Chamber of Commerce (of which he is board member), and of course, through the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies.

5. Showqi Ahmed Hayel Promoting Industrial Production



With so many factories producing sometimes similar goods, the coordinating and planning role of the Industrial Department of the Group is vital, in spite of the independence of the management of each plant to carry on with its work. That is the job of Showqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed, the Deputy Manager of the Industrial Department of the Group.

Showqi is committed to industrial growth and expansion. "Industrial activities can achieve very high growth rates, expand the employment base, and thus the income level of society," he said. For a country like Yemen, industrialization is the way to go, and one gets lots of reason for that by talking to Showqi.

The Group already has some two dozen factories within Yemen producing various products. "The number is expected to rise quickly in the near future," he added. "Next year, we are going to inaugurate several plants. One that will come early is the year is a car-oil plant. Under license, we shall produce shell and mobil oil locally," he disclosed. The Group also has numerous projects lined up for Aden and Hadhramaut, and the studies for them are being finalized.

There are two main difficulties in the recent past to which Showqi alluded:

a) The absence of any government policies at the macro level affecting the industrialization process.

b) The absence of reliable shipping lines - in the past - connecting Yemen with the rest of the world.

"There are no quick fix remedies for our economic difficulties. We will have to work on them on a long term basis. But the shortest possible remedy will have to involve a heavy doze of industrialization. That will be the way to go for Yemen," said Showqi who holds a degree in Business Administration from UCLA.

2. Abdul-Gabbar Hayel Saeed: Promoting Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Abdul-Gabbar Hayel Saeed Anam is the leading figure behind the group's thrust in the domain of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. "Look this is a proven territory of comparative advantage within Yemen. We have the capability and potential to do something meaningful in this field," he told the Yemen Times.

The Yemen Company for Agriculture and Livestock Development has several hundreds of hectares under cultivation in the fertile Wadi Sardood region in Tihama, using the most modern seeding, irrigation, and fertilization systems. As a result, the exceptional quality bananas, mangoes, papayas and other fruits are being marketed with great success locally and internationally.

In addition, the Hayel Saeed plantations produce various vegetables and grains.

Another dimension of the plantation's efforts is the livestock aspect. Special units are formed for animal rearing and fattening.

A final dimension is the fisheries, which is an area into which the group is planning major expansions. With a country that has a coastal stretch of over 2,500 kilometers, there is no doubt regarding the viability and potential of fishing and fish packing.

Abdul-Gabbar is quick to point that promoting agriculture, livestock and fisheries is in line with the government's plan for developing the country,



and in line with the national interests of Yemen. That is true, and it is the reason why the company has been awarded special awards and citations by the president of the republic.

To add further confirmation to the point of view of Abdul-Gabbar Hayel Saeed, the orientation of the new government, the new development plan being worked and finalized stresses the role of agriculture, livestock and fisheries in the future development of the country.

4. Abdul-Rahman & Nabeel Hayel Saeed: Linking up with the World



Abdul-Rahman and Nabeel Hayel Saeed represent the Group's emphasis on regional and international links whether through direct investments or partnerships and representations.



Abdul-Rahman actually lives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he directs the Group's interests. In addition, the Group has interests in Egypt, the Far East and Europe.

Nabeel Hayel, on the other hand, manages NATCO, a company that represents numerous first-class international companies such as Ford, Hewlett and Packard, Black & Decker, General Electric, and many other companies.

The main strategy of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group is, of course, to diversify their business base. The Group's regional and international businesses re-enforces and strengthens their businesses in Yemen, and vice versa.

Moreover, the foreign connection allows the group's domestic base to benefit from modern and up to-date technologies as well as financing.

6. Waleed Ali Mohammed Saeed: Pushing Exports and Opening New Markets



One of the visible thrusts of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies is the continued search for new markets for their products, especially abroad. That is exactly the task of the Al-Saeed Company, managed by Waleed Ali Mohammed Saeed.

"We are assigned the task of finding export outlets for the Group's products. Our initial

concentration is on East Africa, notably Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Djibouti," Waleed explained. That is why the company has set up offices in Asmara and Addis Ababa - both capitals being well acquainted with Yemen and the Yemenis through past association. The Hayel Saeeds are working to strengthen and deepen the interaction between Yemen and East Africa.

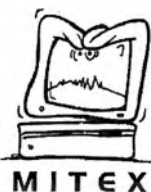
The company also exports the Group's products to the Sultanate of Oman and Qatar, via Dubai, and to Lebanon and Jordan. Further away, the exports go to the United Kingdom, Italy, and New Zealand. The exports are mainly fruits, cooking oil, ghee, candies, confectionery, chocolates, PVC water pipes and fittings, sponge and plastic products, exercise and note books, tissue paper, napkins, and other products.

"We have an ambitious program to expand into Scandinavia and East Europe. The products are of high quality, and they are very reasonably priced," he stated.

By setting up a specialized company through which all exports are channelled, the Group has saved on overheads which would have borne by each and every company, and at the same time, the Group is able to achieve high levels of export services and skills.

"We are not only proud of what we have been able to achieve for the Group, we are also happy that our efforts are very beneficial to the country because exports bring in hard currency which is badly needed by Yemen," he concluded.

MITEX: A Great Success



On Saturday, December 10th, MITEX (Micro Information Technology Exhibition) concluded a five-day exhibition. Fifteen local and international companies participated, and it is estimated some 4,000 visitors have been to the exhibition.

According to Dr. Mazen Al-Salehi, General Manager of Arab Digital Agencies (ADA) the organizer, it was a pleasant experience. "We feel we have done something useful for the market, and many of the visitors were enthusiastic and receptive."

"Several deputy ministers, members of parliament, general managers, leading businessmen, university lecturers, and various other people were among the visitors," Dr. Al-Salehi pointed out.

Given the rising volume of demand, many local companies catering to the computer market. "There is need to guide the way the market evolves," explained Dr. Hameed Al-Iryani, co-owner of ADA. He was optimistic about the chances of making this sector grow in the right direction.

Abdullah Faris has another concern. "We need to bring to Yemen the right technology whether in terms of hard ware or software. There are too many things out there, and we need to pick the right products that will be useful to Yemen," he said.

That concern was not lost on the sales agents of the companies participating in the



exhibition.

One of the main angles was the combination of computer training and English language skills. Several of the companies brought together those two aspects in a nice combination.

Many companies and institutes have mechanized and automated their offices and services. The need for computer skills and programs is rising at phenomenal levels. "Most markets in the region are saturated. The Yemeni market is still virgin and there is a lot of room to sell products here," explained an excited company representative who flew in from London for the exhibit.

One of the main problems was the electric black-out. It

was a menace because the whole exhibition depended on continued electric supply. The interruption created havoc and loss of time.

Another problem was parking. As the number of visitors rose, the street next to the exhibition became a nightmare, although the organizers quickly arranged for parking space nearby. Sanaa Mayor Hussain Al-Maswari came to inaugurate the exhibition.

As the first experiment ever for a small company to handle such a big task, the exhibition was a tremendous success. People are now asking when the next exhibition will take place.

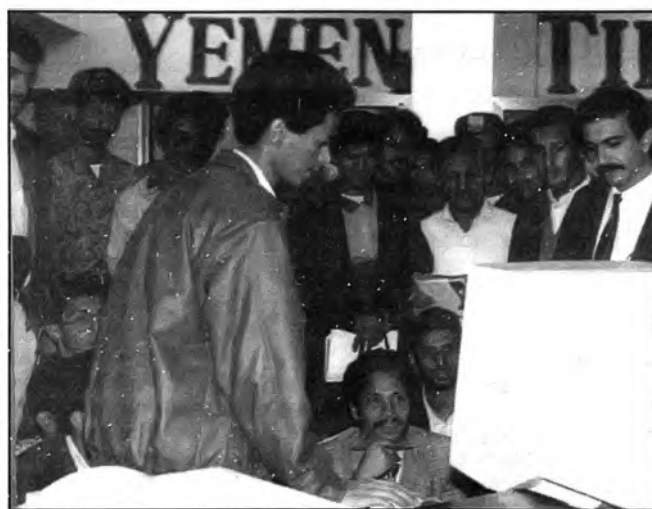
Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi, Yemen Times.

Students Study Yemen Times as a Case of Automation

The students of the course on Office Automation visited the Yemen Times premises last week. In two lots - one male and the other female - the students came to see how the Yemen Times was produced.

Teacher Khalid Al-Dhahbani accompanied the students.

It will be noted that the Yemen Times is the only newspaper in Yemen which is fully automated. The editors and journalists work on computers and insert both text and pictures on the machines. Page design and lay-out is done and executed on Macintosh machines. The pages are then produced on film.



A NEW LIGHT ON LAST EMPRESS OF CHINA

History is about to be rewritten in China: a book challenging the accepted view of the last empress - used by Westerners to justify anti-Chinese stereotypes and by the communists to justify their vilification of the old feudal order is being released by the state-owned publishing house in Beijing.

A Chinese translation of *Dragon Lady*, the international best-seller by Sterling Seagrave, is to be published at the beginning of next year, confronting Chinese readers with a new account of the life of Cixi, "the last empress of China," who died in 1908.

The book attacks the work of three generations of Sinologists and claims to expose a major historical fraud.

In the current view, the empress dowager Cixi (pronounced: Smie) is seen as a murderous nymphomaniac who killed anybody in her way.

Western powers used her evil reputation as an excuse to invade China in 1900, occupying parts of the country and finally destroying the imperial dynasty.

Seagrave paints Cixi as kind, indecisive and often misguided, a powerless puppet in the power

struggle between factions of princes and warlords in the Forbidden City. Isolated from the outside world, Cixi never developed an independent view about developments in her country.

The common recollection of Cixi's role in Chinese history, says Seagrave, is mainly based on the account of the British journalist Sir Edmund Backhouse, who worked in Beijing at the turn of the century. His information apparently included diaries, documents and verbal information from the Forbidden City.

However, it appears Backhouse fabricated the information. He described 200 visits to the Forbidden City and to the empress dowager, including details of his experiences with the old lady.

But, says Seagrave, Backhouse never met Cixi and certainly did not perform any sexual act with her. In a judgement which has lessons for contemporary politics and international disinformation campaigns, Seagrave says that the fraudulent account was a success because it was exactly what the Western powers wanted to hear at the time.

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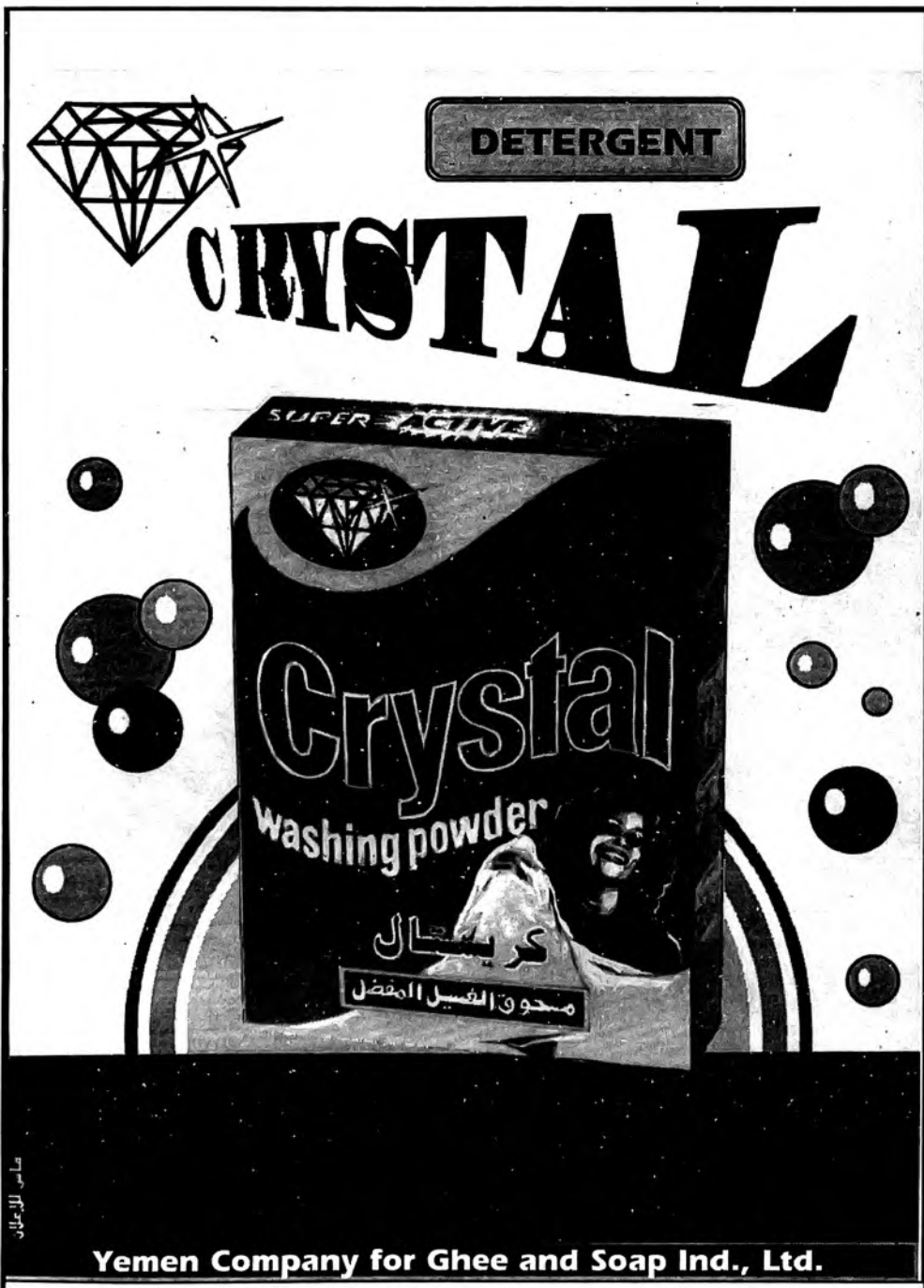
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Halima Mohamed Omer holder of Ethiopian passport number E 191192 has lost her passport. If anybody found it, please report to the nearest police station or at the Ethiopian Embassy.



CRYSTAL

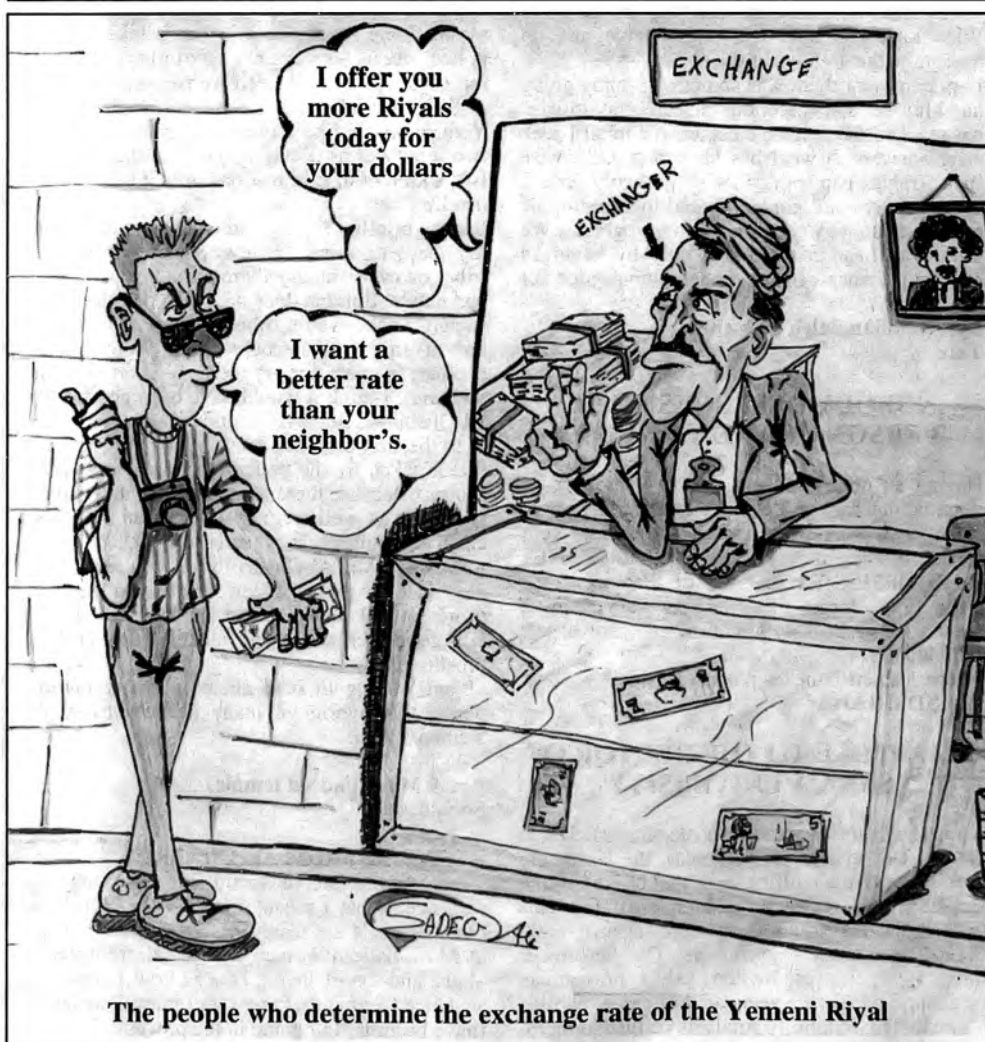
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Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE?

First, I would like to make it clear that the following is not fictitious or imaginary. It is one of the tragic events which have been happening and rather often.

Second, let me add that I am responsible to verify all that I am saying here.

Two years ago the Language Center in Sana'a University was in the need of two new lecture assistants (English Specialization). Six candidates applied for those two seats. And to make sure of complete fairness and objectivity, a seven-men committee which included professors and Ph.D. holders from different nationalities was formed. The main aim of this committee was to assess the applicants' qualities and list them according to merit. Two written tests and two oral interviews were held. Each interview lasted at least 15 minutes during which many different questions were asked. Finally the committee picked up the two best applicants.

However, this year the policy has been entirely changed and unfortunately, to the worse. This year, there were five applicants competing for just one post. We were all equally qualified. We scored very good grades in our B.A.s, although I was the candidate with the highest mark. Four of us had been to the U.K. and did the same course work over there.

I didn't bank on the edge I had since we were going to be given a fair test, as usual. A day was fixed for the test. I expected a tough test similar to last year's. It was Thursday, 17th November, 1994, ten o'clock in the morning. We were told that we would be first interviewed orally by a four-man committee. This time they were all Arabs. "This is it," I told myself.

Then the first shock came. The first applicant came out of the interview room less than five minutes after he had entered. The same happened with the others including me. I still remember the question they asked me.

What a pity - less than five minutes to reach such an important decision. My colleagues and I couldn't believe it. We went to Dr. Al-Mikhlaifi, the dean of the language center, who was really very busy... reading a newspaper. We asked him about the written test. With taking his eyes off the paper he answered, "No more tests. The best will be chosen based on the interview." We didn't even have a chance to talk to him.

Two days later, the committee thoughtlessly and in a ridiculous way reported that they had tested the five candidates' language skills and their ability in using different teaching methods. What a BIG LIE, they never did. There were two or three personal questions.

I would like to convey a message to the people charged with this job, including the dean himself. Why don't you take your responsibilities seriously? Why don't you follow the same policy which had been used successfully in the past? Why don't you hold real and reliable tests to determine the abilities of the applicants?

I am confident there was something funny going on. May be that infectious disease "favoritism" has reached the language center. All in all I seek clear answers to what has happened. Otherwise such tragic happenings will probably create society haters and gradually lead to catastrophic results that may obstruct our progress. We should all bear in mind that only by having a clear conscience can we do something good for our country.

By: Abdullah Saleh Hussein, Taiz

NOBODY DESERVES TO BE "PERSON OF THE YEAR 1994"

Having an obnoxious reaction to your 'call for nominations for the Yemen Times Person of the Year 1994, I hereby ask you to reconsider your selection. There is NO ONE ON THIS PLANET WHO DESERVES the title of 'Person of the Year 1994', forget of one being in Yemen. It should rather be a group, firm etc., not a sole individual.

I hope Yemen Times will consider this...

By: XDMHAHA

AN APPEAL TO THE RECTOR OF SANA'A UNIVERSITY

I am sorry for the misconduct of some officials at Sana'a University, in particular the academic affairs (registrar) office and the office of the assistant vice rector for academic affairs. This misconduct is usually practised against us - Sana'a University's professors. On September 8th, 1994, I was invited to to present an academic paper to a seminar. My paper, entitled "Small-signal Stability Analysis on the Northern-

part of the Yemen Electrical Network" was accepted by the organizers of the seminar. It took me more than four months to follow up the matter, in order to get the final approval and the necessary financing for my participation at the International Conference in India.

However, at the end of my long ordeal, I was informed by the above mentioned offices that these was no possibility for me to attend the said academic conference. I had, in the meanwhile researched and written the paper.

Many others who are less capable use relatives and other contacts to overcome any obstacles and have been going to numerous events. For us who have no acquaintances in senior positions, we only have God to help us.

This sick behavior goes on at one of the places which should be respectable. Unfortunately, Sana'a University is not a respectable place. This selective policy reflects a feeling of insecurity and selfishness, as well as uneducated and uncultured attitudes on the part of those who exercise them. They should disappear.

I urge everybody, for the sake of unity, to stop the discrimination and selective policies that are practised by some of the officials at Sana'a University.

By: Dr. Omer M. Badeeb, Ph.D.
College of Engineering, Sana'a University

"WE NEED HELP"

We, the undersigned, disgusted Somali refugee elders, would like to ask air our grievances and frustration with UNHCR officials in Aden.

These officials are deliberately starving us, as we have had no credible ration since February. Every time when we approach them for food, they make endless excuses or threaten us with force. Hence, many poor families are on the brink of starvation.

We have lately learned that our food is embezzled and sold off in the open market. Therefore, we appeal to the Yemeni authorities to intervene on our behalf, and put pressure on the unscrupulous UNHCR officials to distribute the food on schedule and in a fair manner.

By: Warfa Hussein, Ali abdi, and others from a Somali refugee camp.

AIDS COMES TO YEMEN?

It was really the joke of the week to read your article written by Ismail Al-Ghabri entitled, "AIDS COMES TO YEMEN" - issue no. 47 of 28th November.

First, I would like to ask Mr. Al-Ghabri - Did you just learn about it now? I think the disease came to Yemen almost at the same time when it was spreading all over the world, that was some ten years back. In Yemen, may be was not spreading as much and as fast as it was in other countries, but AIDS came here a long time ago. It is the ignorance and lack of concern of the people in charge that allowed the disease to spread. Maybe they thought it is a shameful thing to talk about it, so they waited until when now it is too late.

The second question to Mr. Al-Ghabri, can you explain to us into details what you real mean by saying "One strict measure that is taken by the police force is against prostitutes. Female refugees and muwalladeen women are fair game in the process." I, as a female muwalladeen in Yemen, would like a clear explanation on those two sentences as it was not clear to the majority. Is it a kind of discrimination? or is it a kind of an insult?

Let me briefly give my judicious explanation, or my piece of mind. "In every society, or every tribe, or every family there are some who have bad habits. But that does not mean that the whole society or the whole tribe or the whole country are of that type. People differ from one to another. In every society there are good ones and bad ones. I think it would have been good if Mr. Al-Ghabri would have mentioned in general as it is in the first sentence only, "One strict measure that is taken by the police force is against prostitutes." Because there are pure Yemenis who are prostitute as well, or may be we can call them clean prostitutes? They never get AIDS? I am sorry Mr. Al-Ghabri to tell you that if you have met one muwalladeen female who is a prostitute, not all muwalladeen are like that. I wish you good luck when you meet a pure Yemeni prostitute.

I am waiting to read about it in my favorite paper, the favorite of many muwalladeens, the Yemen Times!

By: A Muwalladeen female, Sana'a.

RESPONSE FROM AL-GHABRI:

There was a lot of confusion regarding that sentence. What I meant was that the police and other officials are using the AIDS pretext to get at Muwalladeen women and female refugees to abuse and extort them. That is how I read the sentence "Female refugees and muwalladeen are (have become) fair game in the process..."



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



Pen Friends Corner

By: Rahila Ba-Alawy

MORE IPF MEMBERS IN YEMEN

Since November 1st, the following friends have joined as new members of IPF -Yemen:

01. Yahya Ahmed Kaid - Hodeidah
02. Ahmed M.A. Tallmon - Sana'a
03. K. Sridharan - Oman
04. Moh'd Ali Shidle - Sana'a
05. Yusuf M. Baharoun - Sana'a
06. Mohideen A.S. Ahmed - Sana'a
07. AbdulHakim Mojaheed - Sana'a
08. AbdulQadir Ali Othman - Sana'a
09. Ahmed Moh'd Nour - Al-Bayda
10. Moh'd A. Al-Moayad - Sana'a
11. Jamil Kuresh - Sana'a
12. Anwar Sabry - Sana'a
13. Barakat Seuyem - Sana'a
14. Fath A.A. Al-Gadi - Sana'a
15. Ahmed Taher Hamzi - Ibb
16. Abdo Ahmed - Taiz
17. Benny Pascua - Sana'a
18. Khalid Al-Khader - Sana'a

19. Amira Ahmed - Sana'a
20. Marwan A. Abdullah - Sana'a
21. Hari Varijakshan - Sana'a
22. Ahmed Hazza Anam - Sana'a
23. Abdulhakim Al-Gooby - Sana'a
24. Lord Grey Agor - Sana'a
25. Gashaw Bezabeh - Sana'a

Special Note to the Readers:

- * All Correspondence with the Representative should be in English.
 - * Replies will be made to only letters with clear and understandable addresses.
 - * When you receive a reply from the Representative, please don't delay to reply whether you decide to become a member or not.
 - * Return the forms back to the Representative when you don't want to join the Club.
- Your cooperation is needed to promote this club in Yemen.

For more information write to: Ms. Rahila, P. O. Box 481, Sanaa, Yemen.

في رحاب المولى الفسيح

بخالص تعازينا نتقدم الى الاخ/ علي محمد هاشم رئيس مجلس إدارة مؤسسة الإسماعيل

وجميع آل هاشم وأسرة المتوفي وذلك بوفاء المغفور له

أحمد محمد هاشم

تغمد الله الفقيد في واسع رحمته وآلهم آمه وذويه الصبر والسلوان
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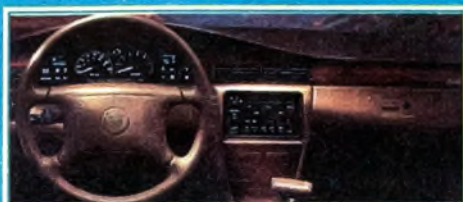
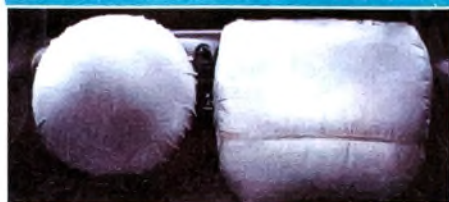
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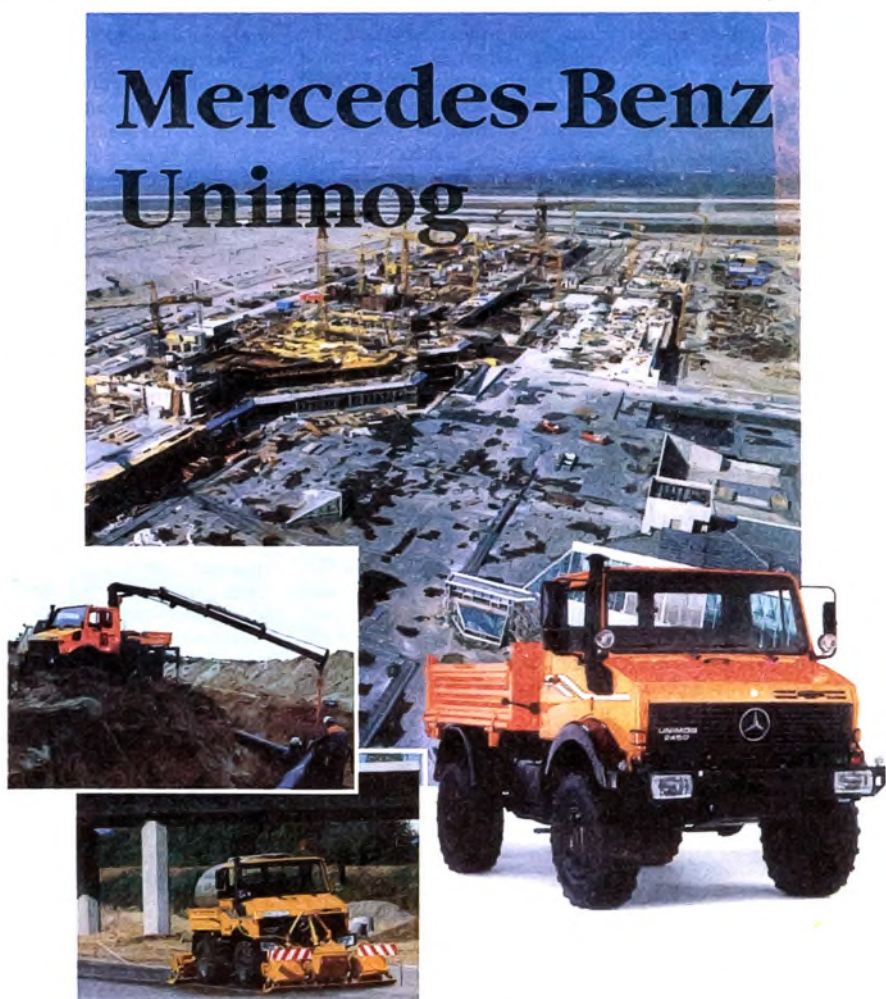
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Fax: 211907
Aden branch: Al-Mansora, caltex square, Tel: 341483/7920487 **Taiz branch:** Jamal street, Tel: 7922462.

CLOUDS: The Givers and Takers of Light

Clouds are intrinsically neither bright nor dark, but scatter sunlight towards or away from the observer in endlessly variegated patterns.

Clouds bring both brightness and darkness. They are symbols of contrary moods. Samuel Taylor Coleridge found "a fair luminous cloud" a source of joy, but to a brooding Edgar Allan Poe, "cloud hung oppressively low in the heavens (on) the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day." Why can clouds appear so different, now the brightest objects in sight, now the embodiment of gloom? What endows clouds with the power both to give light and to take it away?

No all-encompassing answer can be given to these questions. Each cloud observation is a separate knot to be unraveled. There is not just one way, but many.

Absorption is not the answer

Light that interacts with matter suffers one of two possible fates: scattering or absorption. Scattered light is redirected light, its radiant energy may be recovered. Absorbed light ceases to exist as light, although its energy lives on in whatever has absorbed it.

A clean white shirt is easily smudged by careless and dirty fingers or by an inadvertent brush with a sooty stovepipe. This transformation from white to black results mostly from absorption. Many common objects near to hand—black stoves, black dresses, black ties—owe their darkness to absorption. This has engendered the misconception that all dark objects, distant and untouchable dark clouds in particular, are similarly the result of absorption. Yet a moment's reflection suggests that if there are two ways in which light interacts with matter, there may be at least two paths to darkness.

Clouds often appear so palpable that it seems they might be

walked upon if one were to tread gently. But they are really quite tenuous: Only about one millionth the volume of a cloud is occupied by liquid (or solid) water. How much water is contained in clouds?

Weather, as this term usually is understood, is largely confined to the lower 10 to 15 kilometers of the atmosphere. If a hypothetical cloud extending throughout this entire region were to be compressed suddenly into a liquid layer, its thickness would be about a centimeter. A corollary is that rainfall accumulations many times this amount result from considerable water passing through a cloud, in the same way that much more water can flow through than be held by a spring-fed reservoir.

A few tens of centimeters or less of pure water liquid or solid do not absorb much visible light. Water absorbs red light most, yet such light transmitted through a centimeter of water is reduced in intensity by only a fraction of a percent.

The path light takes through a layer of water is more direct than the path it takes through a cloud because scattering by droplets makes the cloud path tortuous, increasing the total distance light travels from the top to bottom of a cloud. If the path length of light through cloud water is multiplied to 10 centimeters, say, red light is reduced in intensity by only a few percent and light of shorter wavelengths by even less. If absorption of visible light by reasonably pure water were sufficient to make clouds dark, objects could not be seen on the bottoms of swimming pools, which have depths of a meter or two. Diving into them would be like diving into ink.

What about clouds of impure water droplets? Although cloud droplets form on particles in the atmosphere, these particles usually are not especially



absorbing. Except in the most polluted environments, absorption by particles on which cloud droplets form and by particles that subsequently collect on these droplets is insufficient to transform otherwise white clouds into dark ones. Again, the best evidence for this is common observation. Rain water accumulated to a depth of many centimeters in a bucket usually is transparent. Indeed, rainwater often has been considered a symbol of purity.

Black clouds are not unwanted by-products of the Industrial Revolution. There was no golden age when all clouds were pure and white, unsullied by the noxious effluent of "dark, Satanic mills." More than 2,000 years ago, Horace wrote that "tomorrow the father may fill the sky with black clouds or with cloudless sunshine."

Absorption plays such a minor role in the disposition of visible light by clouds that it can be ignored. Absorption is not zero, but it is negligible for purposes of trying to understand the variegated appearance of clouds.

The whole is different from its parts

A cloud is a suspension of many tiny water droplets or ice particles. Although clouds contain little other than water, they appear quite different from ponded water. Their dissimilarity arises from the different ways in which water in clouds and ponds is arranged.

A single water molecule may be considered to be a miniature antenna, driven to radiate (or scatter) in all directions as a consequence of excitation by sunlight. A single cloud droplet is a collection of many such molecules; hence, it is a composite antenna, much larger than a molecule and with different scattering characteristics. The directional pattern of light scattered by a collection of antennas depends on their arrangements. A layer of water, another such collection, scatters light differently than a droplet.

Individual cloud droplets scatter light in all directions, although not uniformly. Scattering is much greater in the forward direction, that opposite the source of incident light. Yet a thick cloud of droplets scatters much light back toward the source. Light scattered by one droplet illuminates others, which in turn scatter light to other droplets. As a result, the collective scattering properties of the cloud are quite different from those of the individual droplets. The brightness to scattering by air molecules and particles suspended in the atmosphere. Without such scattering, the sky would be black.

When clouds cover the sky, the amount of sunlight reaching the ground is diminished but the sky's brightness in directions away from the sun is increased. Light scattered by clouds can make the sky brighter, which can be observed on a day when the sky is covered by thin, partly broken clouds. The cloudless sky seen through gaps in the clouds is darker than the surrounding cloudy sky. The thicker the clouds, the greater the sky's brightness but only up to a point: Beyond a certain thickness, clouds diminish the brightness of the skylight.

An observer above the clouds, however, would see an ever-increasing brightness as they thickened. Light that was not being transmitted to an observer on the ground would be scattered to one above the clouds. One observer's loss is another's gain. They would describe the same thick cloud in opposite terms, the one on the ground saying that it was dark, the one in the sky that it was bright.

If clouds were composed of appreciably absorbing droplets, they would be dark both to earth-bound observers and to passengers in an airplane flying above cloud level. That this is not observed is evidence to refute the notion that dark clouds are a consequence of absorption. Clouds do indeed give light and take it away, but they do so by the same

mechanism: Light can be scattered both toward and away from observers. Thus the same cloud might be described as bright, if seen by scattered light, or as dark if it does not transmit much light. Or the reverse may be true. What is observed depends on illumination, background, cloud thickness, and the relative angular positions of cloud, sun, and observer.

Variations on a theme

Given that clouds mostly scatter rather than absorb visible sunlight, many seemingly disparate observations can be unified under a common theme.

Of two companion clouds, identically illuminated and not occulting the sun, the bigger cloud is likely to be brighter. To call the smaller cloud sooty would be a careless use of metaphor, not an accurate description of its composition. The smaller the cloud, the fewer droplets it contains to scatter sunlight to each other and to an observer.

Two clouds, apparently identical, both seen against more or less the same background sky, can be greatly different in brightness if one lies above although it need not shadow the other. This is especially noticeable just before sunrise or after sunset when the lower cloud may be shielded from direct sunlight by the earth while the higher cloud is still bathed in it. When the sun is so far below the horizon that no clouds are directly illuminated, they all may be black against the faintly lit twilight sky.

Clouds may be shadowed differently by different clouds, especially in a sky of broken clouds. All else being equal, a cloud will be brighter the more intensely it is illuminated. When all candles be out, all clouds, like all cats in the proverb, be gray.

Clouds may be shadowed differently by different clouds, especially in a sky of broken clouds. All else being equal, a cloud will be brighter the more intensely it is illuminated. When all candles be out, all clouds, like all cats in the proverb, be gray.

Clouds are not regular geometrical objects. Their boundaries are ill defined, ever changing. Gaps open in clouds only to close moments later. Ragged wisps or turrets jutting from the main body of a cloud owe their comparative darkness to fewer and possibly smaller drops reduced in number and size by greater evaporation at the boundary between cloud and clear air.

Two parts of the same cloud often differ greatly in brightness, especially if the cloud often differ greatly in brightness, especially if the cloud occults the sun. The silver lining of gloomy clouds is either light scattered by their thin and wispy edges or directly transmitted sunlight.

On a day with broken clouds on the horizon, when all are about the same size, those seen toward a sun low in the sky are some-

times brighter than those seen away from it, especially if the clouds are thin. Here is a consequence of strong forward scattering by cloud droplets. A related observation can be made of dew-covered spider webs. Seen toward the sun, the webs glisten; seen away from the sun, they all but disappear.

Brightness is subjective

One might gather that brightness is objective, merely a synonym for quantity of light. Nothing has been said about the characteristics of the observer; yet they cannot be ignored. What is perceived in the world of light depends on context. The same cloud may be said to be dark or bright solely depending on its surroundings. Brightness is a psycho-physical quantity, not a physical one.

Consider a power plant studded with smokestacks from which clouds continually billow. One of the products of combustion is water vapor, which can not be seen until it condenses to form droplets. Excluding smokestacks, which emit the solid products of combustion, clouds from power plants are not fundamentally different from those formed naturally in the atmosphere.

On a clear day, a power plant may be the source of a bright plume rising skyward. On an overcast day, however, the plume may be transformed into a dull gray column. Have the unscrupulous plant operators diverted filth into the plume? Not likely. The bright plume is seen against a darker sky; the dark plume is seen against a brighter sky. A striking example of this relativity of brightness is the transformation of falling snowflakes from black to white as their background changes suddenly from the bright sky over head to dark trees at the below eye level.

Only clouds are said to be gloomy. Snow on the ground is rarely so described. Bright snow is contrasted with gray clouds spreading over the sky on a wintry day. But wait! Those gray clouds are the source of the light illuminating the snow. How can it be brighter than its source? This is so compelling an illusion that one would be willing to wager that the snow tells otherwise: The snow is not brighter than the overcast sky, especially near zenith, appearances to the contrary.

Unlike the sky overhead, snow on the ground is contrasted with darker surrounding objects; hence, it is perceived as bright. Only when one views sky and snow simultaneously with the help of a mirror does the sky's greater brightness become apparent.

Clear skies are not uniformly bright; they are generally darker overhead and brightest toward the horizon. The perceived brightness of a cloud depends on its backdrop. So of two clouds, identical in all respects, the one seen against a zenith sky may appear brighter than the one seen against a horizon sky. This difference in brightness is entirely subjective: Objectively, the two clouds are identical.

Clouds are neither intrinsically bright nor dark. Bright clouds are not different in composition from dark ones. Clouds are scatterers of light. Their appearance depends on their size, how they are viewed, and their position relative to sun and observer. The endless variety of patterns of light and dark clouds is like the unlimited ways in which flour, salt and baking powder can be combined to make English words, sentences, paragraphs, chapters and books.

Abridged from an article By: Craig F. Bohren, Pennsylvania, USA.



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ITALIAN BAND THRILLS AUDIENCE

By Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

Recently, for a short but unforgettable time, an Italian Brass band entertained Yemeni and international community audiences. In two concerts - one Sanaa and the other in Aden - the five-man team played to the thrill of the audiences.

At the Sana'a Cultural Center on the 1st December, the band played until late into the night. A repeat performance was given in Aden's Cultural Center on December 4th.

The brass band which consists of five musicians - Gino Santo, Raffaele Giampa, Daniele Augruso, Antonio Sicoli, and Fabrizio Cava - were invited and sponsored by the Italian Embassy in Sanaa. This group first performed in 1988. Since then, they have participated in different competitions in Italy and other parts in Europe. They also took part in many international festivals; the most important one being in Finland where they played very well in five concerts.

The visit to Yemen gave the band its first chance to sing in and play in the Middle East. "We hope it is not going to be the last trip," said Giovanni de Vita, the First Secretary at the Embassy. According to the band leader, they intend to popularize their type of music across the world. The Brass Collection which is already famous in Europe. Their fame goes back to the 18th century. For a long time, brass music was neglected especially after the coming of pop music which attracted most of the younger people.

But now once again, brass music is making a come-back and is gaining in popularity among many circles.

The group also offered two pieces of music in Arabic. The first is the very famous "Night in Tunisia", and the other was called "Souk" and which was composed by the group leader.

The idea came to the group to play Arabic music after listening to a famous Egyptian trumpet player who played Arabian and European music. But since the group's visit to Yemen, their interest grew deeper, especially in Yemeni music. The Yemeni audience was very thrilled by the music. One of the band said that it was a very



good sign to see an Arab audience react so positively and enthusiastically to brass music.

It is well known that Arabic music is very different from the European, but the instruments which the group used are suitable to both types of music.

"Although the two countries are very far from each other, still there are a lot of similarities in the interest of music and the hospitality of the people," de Vita said. The group concurred.

They also explained that they have learned about the cultural and civilizational depth of the Yemeni people, especially in music. "Although strictly religious and traditional, it is very clear that they enjoy music and they have a good sense of it," they said.

The main instrument which Yemenis play is the "ood". "There are two similar musical instruments in Italy to the ood. The closest one is called the "Mandola".

The brass group got the opportunity of listening to Yemeni music and they enjoyed it. They are thinking of practicing Yemeni tune and hope to play them the next time they are back in Yemen. On behalf of Yemeni music lovers I would like to tell the group, "Welcome again to Yemen!"

Graphic Arts Exhibition

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,
Yemen Times.

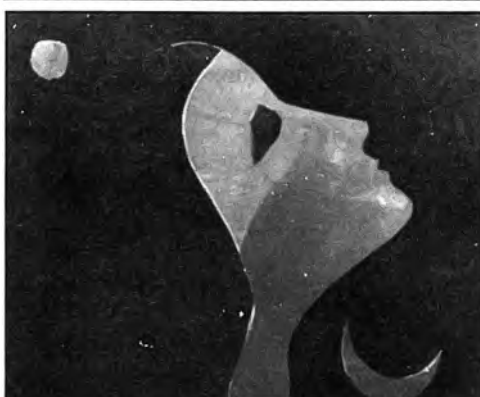
Eleven artists banded together to exhibit their artistic work. Dozens of paintings, engravings, drawings, and other forms of arts were on display in the exhibition which was inaugurated by Mr. Yahya Al-Arashi, the Minister of Culture and Tourism on November 8th at the National Center for Arts in the Old City of City.

"The exhibition comes as a culmination point to the workshop which took place during 1-20/11/94 and in which many works were produced on site," explained Mr. Fouad Al-Futaih, a leading artist. The workshop was also a chance to attract and entice youngsters to try their talents in this field. And many did.

The drawings and engravings were done on wood, zinc, linoleum, and other material. The paintings were especially colorful. Many of the artists were from the metaphysical sur-realist schools. "Yet, the audiences were interested and followed the deep meanings involved," explained Mr. Hisham Ali Bin Ali, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Members of the diplomatic and the international community also visited the exhibition. Many came back with pieces they purchased.

"Many more exhibitions are lined to be held at the National Center for Arts during 1995," according to Mr. Al-Futaih.



KLM Introduces Family Plan for Frequent Flyers

On December 1st, KLM introduced Flying Dutchman Family Plan allowing present and new members of their Frequent Flyer program to accumulate points when up to six of their family members fly on KLM or one of their participating partner Airlines.

The introduction is a reaction of demand in the market that caters for the specific customer needs in the Near and Middle East where local people travel with their family or have children studying abroad and where expats go on leave with the whole family or have their families spend the holidays in this area. Many of these passengers do a lot of travelling and when accumulating points on one card, they will be eligible for free tickets, upgrades, tax free vouchers or holidays, more quickly.

Current members, but also new members can nominate a maximum of six family members (minimum age two), whom they entitle to earn points on their (temporary) card. After a listed family member has flown, points will be added to the statement of the member in question. Unique about this program is the fact that the number of points that are earned depend on the length of the journey. The longer the trip, the more points are earned, whereas most programs give a fixed number of points for family members.

The airline, currently celebrating its 75th anniversary, confirms that it is a nice Christmas present for those who have plans to travel to one of KLM's 57 destinations in Europe or over 150 destinations in the US and Canada, but states that it will have its Family Plan facilities also available during the coming summer. The temporary promotion will end on September 31st, 1995.

For further information, please call KLM on telephone (01) 278-310.

Contest No. 6

مسابقة رقم ٦

Prepared by:

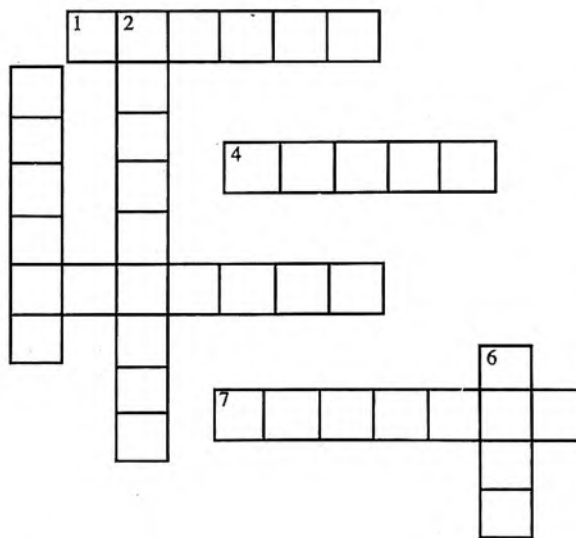
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Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farooq Institute by Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

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



ACROSS:

1. Where you teach or drill in a specific knowledge or skill.
4. A group of musical notes sounded together.
5. A person who looks after machinery.
7. Organ of the body which digests food.

DOWN:

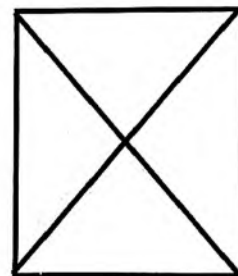
2. A person represented in a play.
3. A plan.
6. A sound that is heard again after it bounces back off something solid.

Name: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Winner of Contest No. 5

The winner of last week's contest (Contest No. 4) is Nobody. There was NO WINNER! The correct answers were

أفقي: ١- كوكبان ، ٢- المقالع ، ٣- الفاروق
عمودي: ٤- رمضان، ٥- الكلام ، ٦- مفاتيح



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What to Do about the Economy?

Omar Al-Kumaim



Mohammed Abdo Saeed



Arne Mattsson



M. Zohdi Mejanni



Most people agree that Yemen's next challenge lies in the economic sphere. Government officials accept they have to do something about the deteriorating economic situation. Businessmen complain about the instability of the major variables in economic activity. Citizens bitterly express their indignation at with the high inflation rate and the high unemployment level. Even foreigners tell us we have to attend to the economy.

Over the last two weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet at length with key persons involved with the economy. I met with bankers, businessmen, government officials, World Bank experts, university academicians, and of course, ordinary people. Amazingly, their ideas and conclusions are very similar. They share the following four general positions:

1. There is urgent need for restructuring and reform. It makes very little difference who drafts such reform package. It is more important to implement it, and to stay with it.
2. All sides agree the country needs less government and more private activity. There are many manifestations to this. For example, the government should live with its own means, it should privatize, it should reduce paperwork and bureaucracy, etc.
3. There is agreement that our politicians alone cannot be trusted to implement and stay with the reform package. All sides agree there is need to bring in other parties to share responsibility for implementation. However, the question is to devise a mechanism

that will allow other sides (e.g., the private sector, donor organizations, NGOs, etc.) to participate in the reform process.

4. Some of the newly devised policies of the new government are a catastrophe. One case in point is the YR 84 per US dollar exchange rate. Now importers are required to produce a letter from a money changer confirming that the importer has changed his riyals into dollars at the specified rate (YR 84) for the value of the letter of the credit.

This requirement creates a license-like situation which allows corruption, inefficiency and other forms of distortion to creep into the system. At best, the new requirement adds to the cost of doing business by depriving importers of the credit facilities they could be enjoying (say, from exporters) if they were not required to put up the money upfront. In addition, who can guarantee that the money changers

letters are accurate or even authentic?

Omar Al-Kumaim, a first-class economist who serves as advisor to the Minister of Supply and Trade, the potential to get something meaningful done is there. "All we have to do is to put our act together, and create the environment for private entrepreneurs to contribute to the growth process," he said.

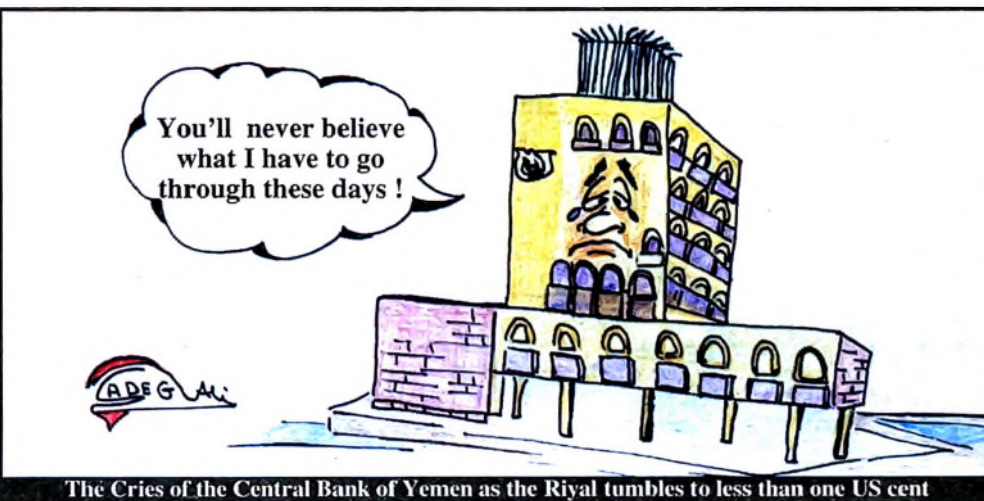
Another economist, Mohammed Abdo Saeed, is a member of the Hayel Saeed group. He insists that the country must bite the bullet and introduce the much-awaited reforms. "Change is needed in order to increase our chances for better performance. The longer we wait before embarking on reform, the more difficult it becomes," he pointed out.

Arne Mattsson, General Manager of Tetra Pak Yemen, is more conscious of the investment climate. "It is very critical to make investors feel at ease about investing in

Yemen. There are many companies, including ours, that are interested in doing business in Yemen and in the region," Arne stated.

Mohammed Zohdi Mejanni, Senior Partner of KPMG Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co., is a long time observer of economic trends. He stresses the large volumes of savings of Yemenis - both inside and outside the country. "I believe there is some US\$ 20 billion in Yemeni savings. If we tap even a fraction of this resource, we are talking of a major infusion of capital," he said.

The World Bank is now establishing its office in Sanaa. Dr. Osman S. Ahmed, Resident Representative of the World Bank, is now contacting various individuals and groups and collecting data on the best policy-choices. He is trying to address the question of "What to do about the economy?"



The Cries of the Central Bank of Yemen as the Riyal tumbles to less than one US cent

Happy Married Life

On Thursday, 8th December, the Hunt community celebrated the joining in "holy matrimony"

Mr. Faiz Don & Ms. Fatima Abdullah

Best wishes from all the staff of Yemen Hunt Oil Company and all the other friends.

From Rahila and all of us



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