



# YEMEN TIMES



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EL SOFFARY

# President Shores Up Yemen's Regional Relations

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Chief Editor,  
Yemen Times.

In one shot, President Ali Abdullah Saleh was able to mend Yemen's relations with many of the neighbors, especially with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. During the Seventh Islamic Summit held last week in Casablanca, he met, for the first time since the war, with Jordan's King Hussain, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Morocco's King Hassan II, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, Mauritanian President Mauwiya Ould Sidi At-Taye', Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, and Sudan's President Omar Al-Basheer. The President also received in audience the Special Envoy of H.M. King Qaboos, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasseen Ramadhan, the Foreign Ministers of Qatar, Libya, and Iran, as well as senior officials from other countries.

The meetings and talks yielded immediate fruit.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia agreed to resume talks on the border issue. Key delegates are expected to meet in January 1995, and the President could fly to Riyadh before that for a tete-a-tete meeting with HM King Fahd. The face-to-face contact with President Mubarak has dissolved much of the edginess in the bilateral relations. H.E. Sheikh Zayed has shown he has overcome any lingering side-effects of the Gulf War, and he has promised to help Yemen overcome any divisive trends.

The President also solidified and strengthened the already



President Saleh (center) met clockwise from top row with: Jordan's King Hussain, Egypt's President Hosni, Morocco's King Hassan, UAE President Sheikh Zayed, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Palestinian President Arafat, Mauritanian President Ould Taye', Sudan's President Basheer, and many other senior regional officials.

special and strong relations with Jordan, Sudan, Morocco, Palestine, Iran, Qatar, Oman, and Iraq.

The President, in press conferences following the meetings, came out confident and satisfied. It was clear the president was able to reach out to the officials he met, and to the world, at large, to explain Yemen's position in the last war and the aftermath. Yemen Times learned that the President took with him some 120 files which carried documents on the last war and the subsequent events. "The files explained our position, and what we are offering," one senior aide told the Yemen Times in a telephone call.

Not only was Yemen able to re-habilitate relations with the neighbors, it visibly came out that Yemen was now in a position to play a constructive regional role. One example of this role is the mediation between Asmara and Khartoum.

"The President's personal participation in the Islamic Summit in Casablanca was a major diplomatic and political breakthrough for Yemen in rehabilitating relations with certain the countries in the region," proudly stated another presidential aide.

Indeed, the trip was a diplomatic feat for the system and the country.

## Another First from the Hadharem Welfare Association

The Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA), one of the active Non-Governmental Organizations in Yemen, has achieved another first in its grass-roots activities and efforts. It has included in its membership, all the adult females of the region where it operates in Hadharem, Shamayatain, Taiz Governorate. That meant that the women were able to participate in the elections that took place on 15+16/12/1994.

It will be noted that with the exception of the Women's Associations and Girl-scouts, which are all female organizations, all NGOs in Yemen are a male-only club. The HWA introduced this new dimension to its structure thus making it

more heavily grass-roots oriented.

An earlier innovation which the HWA introduced is administrative structure. In stead of the typical structure of the Executive Board which divides duties of board members by sector, the HWA works on the basis of division of duties by regions within the country, thus giving it more access and ability to mobilize its members and resources.

The new innovation of the HWA was hailed by the Ministry of Pensions and Social Affairs, which urged other NGOs to follow the HWA example and break the male-monopoly. The elections proceeded smoothly with the participation of 306 voters.

Continues on page 5

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The Power People

## OUR VIEWPOINT

### FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: Where Is the Truth?

Many foreigners keep asking about the degree of freedom enjoyed by the Yemeni press. They are confused because of different allegations.

On the one hand, the authorities claim that the press is fully free. They point to the aggressive and critical reporting prevalent in the few independent and opposition newspapers.

The opposition claims that the media is not free at all. They point to the hurdles of obstacles placed in the way of newspapers not beholden to the rulers. These hurdles can reach the level of closing down papers and imprisoning editors. Routinely, the government practices intimidation and bleeds newspapers of time and resources by frequently taking them to court. In my opinion, the truth lies somewhere in between the two views.

In one sense, there is no pre-printing censorship, and independent and opposition newspapers can publish practically anything they want, provided they are ready to shoulder the consequences. The reason for this is that the officials have now decided to react to the not-so-beholden press at various levels.

At the first level, the states puts on a tolerant face which is presented to the world. At this level, the state files law-suits and acts through the legal channel.

At the second level, the political security office poses a real menace to freedom of the press. It imprisons editors, closes down newspapers, taps telephones, goes through the mail, and threatens/intimidates journalists and editors.

That is why, when the government talks to the world, it only talks of the first level of interaction. When the opposition talks to the world, it talks of the second level of interaction.

Yemen has a certain level of independent press, provided it does not cross a certain level, thus inviting the intervention of the political security office at the second level of interaction.

To further complicate the scene, the state regularly hires the services of mercenary journalists and editors, and has even set up subservient newspapers. This group is used to discredit independents and opposition individuals through smear campaigns. These journalists, editors and newspapers are openly on the gift payroll of the rulers.

It is unfortunate that the rulers do not see the value of creative and constructive criticism. In fact, independent and opposition journalism is far more meaningful and useful to the nation than the hypocritical praise which shower praise on the rulers and the system, without much credibility.

In my opinion, a free and unmenaced press is an asset to the nation and regime.

*The Publisher*

### JAPANESE AID TO YEMEN

The Government of Japan has decided to extend two aid packages to Yemen.

In the first package, exchange notes concerning the debt relief grant aid for 1994 have been signed and exchanged in Sanaa. The notes were signed by H.E. Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development, and H.E. Mr. Susumu Akiyama, Ambassador of Japan in Yemen.

In accordance with the notes, the Government of Japan extends to the Government of Yemen a debt relief grant of over one billion yen. Since 1979, the Government of Japan has provided to Yemen 5.8 billion yens for the debt relief grant aid.

At another level, the Government of Japan is providing almost \$58,000 within its basic aid program to the Hadharem Welfare Association. The contract for the same is expected to be signed before the end of current December.

The amount will be used to finance completion of construction work at the Women's Development Center, and the purchase of sewing machines, furniture and other needs. The center is helping in the training of more than 2000 women in the region.

### INAUGURATION OF ALTHOWR'S GM EXHIBITION

Mr. Abdul-Wahab Jubary, Minister of Trade and Supply, accompanied by Colonel Hussain Al-Maswari, Mayor of Sanaa, Deputy Information Minister Mr. Mutahhar Taqi, US Ambassador David Newton, and many other senior officials, inaugurated on December 18th, the Althowr General Motors Cars Exhibition. On hand to receive them was Mr. Jazim Mohammed Althowr, the General Manager.

Mr. Althowr indicated that the sturdy American cars were than match to the unruly use of the Yemeni driver and the rough terrain of the country. "These cars combine comfort, safety features, and efficiency," Jazim said.

Large numbers of visitors flocked to the exhibition.

### SHEIKH NOMAN SUES AL-RAYI

Sheikh Abdul-Rahman Noman, member of parliament, told the Yemen Times that he is filing a law-suit against another parliament member, Colonel Yahya Al-Rayi, who is the whip of the People's General Congress Bloc. Mr. Al-Rayi is quoted to have called the Sheikh "a criminal and son of a criminal father and a criminal mother." Sheikh is filing the lawsuit in the name of the Hizbul-Ahrar Ad-Dastoori (The Free Constitutional Party) against the People's General Congress.

### YEMENI MEDIATION ON A GOOD START

Yemen's mediation effort between the two neighboring countries of Eritrea and Sudan is off on a good start. President Ali Abdullah Saleh first met with Sudanese President Omar Al-Basheer during the Seventh Islamic Summit in Casablanca. The President carried the Sudanese view to Asmara where he met with Eritrean President Asias Afewerke.

That concluded the first round of mediation. The President is expected to consult with the other countries of the region, notably Ethiopia and Egypt on the outcome, which is said to have bridged some of the gap. President Saleh is expected to make another mediation effort in January when he will visit Khartoum.

Asmara accuses Khartoum of meddling in its internal affairs by supporting a group which is trying to convert Eritrea into an Islamic state.

### YEMENI-SUDANESE TALKS UNDERWAY

The preparatory talks for the Yemeni-Sudanese Supreme Joint Ministerial Committee meetings are now underway in Sanaa. Leading the talks are Dr. Mutahhar Al-Saedi, Vice Minister of Planning and Development on the Yemeni side, and Mr. Abdul-Rahman Yusuf Haidoob, First Deputy Minister of Labor, on the Sudanese side.

There is considerable potential for cooperation between the two sides. "One clear dimension is labor, the second is trade, and then there is joint investment," Haidoob said in a press conference upon arrival on Saturday (17/12/1994).

The Supreme Joint Committee will hold its meetings in Aden on December 20th, and will be headed by Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and Al-Zubair Mohammed Saleh, First Deputy President in Sudan.

### YEMENI-SAUDI BORDER TALKS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Interior Minister Yahya Al-Mutawakkel played a key role in overcoming the recent clash along the Yemeni-Saudi border. The minister was on almost daily contact with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Nayif Bin Abdulaziz.

Minister Al-Mutawakkel, who keeps a tight lip on the matter, received Saudi Ambassador Ali Al-Qufaidi on Saturday, 17th December, who delivered a written message from Prince Nayif. An Interior Ministry source described the border clash as an unfortunate incident which has been overcome. "The two sides worked earnestly not to let this matter get out of hand," he said.

High-level talks on the border issue are expected to be held during January. "We would like to resolve this matter at the bilateral," the source added.

### UNICEF GREETING CARDS ARE HERE

Unicef greeting cards, mugs, cups and other souvenirs are here to mark Christmas and new year. It has been customary to purchase these cards and gifts as a way of supporting Unicef efforts.

According to Zaid Rifai, Unicef's Information Officer, these gifts are inexpensively priced since the official exchange rate is used. Proceeds from these purchases go to help the children of the world through various programs. In your salutations and greetings, why not use Unicef cards?

### PHASE ONE OF CENSUS EFFORT COMPLETED

The first phase of the census effort was concluded on the 17th of December. The second phase, tabulation of the numbers, is going to start immediately following the collection of the census form, this week.

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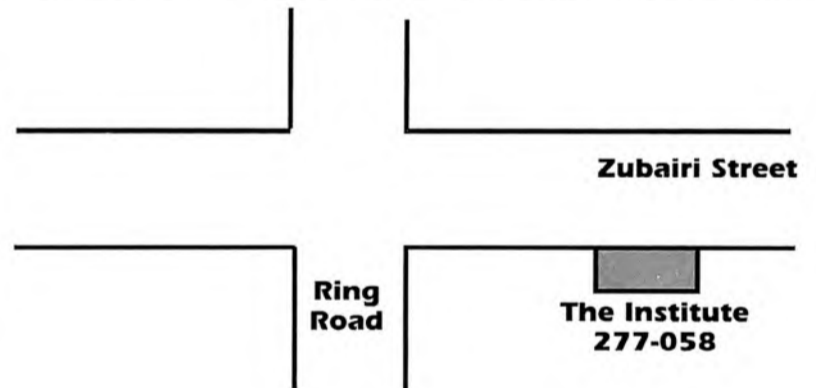
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## General Manager of Traffic:

# "Traffic Week Plays an Important Role."

Starting yesterday - Sunday December 18th, the Republic of Yemen is again going through another Traffic Week. This event comes following the recent meeting of traffic directors all over the country.

The rising number of vehicles, the relative lawlessness of drivers, and the subsequent loss in lives and property in accidents, are all reasons to mount a traffic week.

Another important reason is the decision of Yemen to mark the Day of Police commemorated in the Arab World. It is on this day that the "traffic week" was launched.

To shed light on this event, Ismail Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times Sanaa Bureau Chief, interviewed Colonel Saleh Hussain Al-Zawari, General Manager of the Traffic Department.

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: How do you assess the benefits from "the traffic week" which has become an annual event?**

**A:** The benefits are obvious. The lectures and seminars we deliver in public schools acquainted students and drivers with the regulations and laws of traffic. We also hand out meanings of traffic signs.

Army drivers are separately "enlightened" in their own barracks. Also during traffic week, our department officers spread out in all streets of our cities and towns to participate in this campaign. The results give us hope. Our efforts will reduce traffic accidents and bring some sense into the traffic flow.

**Q: You have come up with unified car number plates. When will this be carried out?**

**A:** It is the plan of our department to unify all car plate numbers to avoid the confusion of the present system. This will be done through issuing new plates.

The execution of the plan is awaiting directives from the Prime Minister as to who will pay the cost - the government or the owners of the cars. We have suggested that the cost is to be paid by the government as the citizens have recently paid the cost of the present plates. Unified plates for diplomatic cars have been completed and will be issued shortly.

**Q: The capital city, Sana'a suffers from car congestion, which leads to a near total halt in traffic flow in the main streets. Do you have any plans to cope with this situation?**

**A:** The reason for the congestion is the immigration of a big number of drivers who come with their cars to Sana'a from

other provinces. They use these cars to earn a living. This is forbidden by law, as vehicles of each governorate are expected to remain within that region. Cars registered and licensed in other provinces should be used in the same province which issued the license.

Now we are initiating a campaign to penalize such cars and this will help reduce congestion in the streets of Sana'a.

Another problem is really the improper driving which is evident. Drivers change lanes randomly and without consideration just to by-pass one or two cars. This slows down traffic, and it is one of the major causes of accidents.

**Q: As traffic accidents on highways are increasing, have you linked up with the Ministry of Health to arrange for ambulances to rescue victims?**

**A:** So far, we have not. But we will approach the Ministry of Health to establish medical centers and mobile units on the highways.

At the end, it is a matter of resources.

**Q: What is the number of cars registered in the year 1994?**

**A:** Since January this year, the total number of registered cars in the northern provinces is 29044 vehicles. We have no register for the southern provinces, as yet.

**Q: Citizens complain of the senseless bureaucracy in processing traffic paperwork. What plans do you have to improve the situation?**

**A:** I have explained that we are concerned with educating the public and providing information which should contribute to



improving the level of awareness. The public should know what kind of documents are required for various procedures. We are also instructing the traffic officials to be as patient and forthcoming in processing paperwork.

**Q: White plate numbers are sometimes used to avoid payment of customs duties. How do you controls?**

**A:** This is the duty of the customs department. We only issue the white plates according to instructions based on the customs department's certificate. When the validity date of the certificate expires, we withdraw the plate and return the car to the customs department or send it abroad according to procedures.

**Q: Car parking on our streets needs to be reviewed. Do you have any plans?**

**A:** Car parking space is the duty of the Ministry of Housing, Urban Design and Public Works. Our role is only to coordinate with them.

**Q: Don't you think it is essential to coordinate with the Ministry of Education to introduce traffic education in schools?**

**A:** We will do our best to link up with the Ministry of Educa-

tion. I do believe that giving lectures in schools is a good way to increase public awareness on traffic issues.

**Q: There are many old cars on the street even though they need a lot of repair. Don't you think it is time to remove such cars from the streets as they represent a hazard to driving?**

**A:** I agree with what you say. We are also aware of the negative effects and high risk posed by letting these cars run on our streets. But we are also taking into consideration the prevailing state of economic affairs in the country and the financial abilities of the citizens. That is why we are reluctant to take action under such situations. Most of these cars belong to poor people and they are the main source of living to many families.

**Q: It is observed that army plates on cars have increase after the war. Are all these plates official?**

**A:** Army cars plates are issued by the authorized army department which is the only party able to check this matter. We could - through the high council of traffic - check this matter. During the "traffic week", we do plan to check up on this and many other matters on our agenda.

### SANAA TRAFFIC ON FULL ALERT

Colonel Mohsen Abdul-Rahman Al-Saqqaf, Vice General Manager of the Sanaa City Traffic Department, indicated that the Sanaa Traffic Office was on full alert to uphold the law. "We are especially vigilant during the 'traffic week'," he said. Mr. Al-Saqqaf asked for assistance from the public.

"We are mounting our offensive at two fronts - we are working to raise the level of awareness through lectures, speeches, circulars, distributing pamphlets, and many other similar things. We are also present on the streets and demanding to see documents and enforce the law," he said.



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**BUTLER**  
BUILDER

# “Unless the pricing system is changed, the national airlines of Yemen may become bankrupt.”

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

“It is expected that the two national airlines - ALYEMEN and YEMENIA - will grind to a halt if the pricing mechanism presently in use is not changed.” That is the stiff warning of the Vice General Manager of the IATA, who is currently visiting the Republic of Yemen. In a statement to the Yemen Times, the IATA official pointed to the steady depreciation of the local currency and the subsequent need for a hefty price realignment. “The two companies are making a tremendous loss,” he added indicating of the accumulation of arrears payable to the international companies which have been honoring tickets issued by the Yemeni airlines. IATA, of course, serves as the clearing house for airlines worldwide. In the past, many national airlines have stopped their services because they failed to pay up amounts owed to the

clearing house. ALYEMEN and YEMENIA are estimated to be incurring heavy losses because “they are unable to even cover operating costs.” Khaled Mahdi, IATA’s Middle East Chief, said, “We are not here to frighten anybody. But we want to give advice regarding what is in store in the foreseeable future unless the price structure is adjusted. He also disclosed that IATA has been closely following the performance and condition of the two Yemenis companies, and that it has become increasingly concerned as the situation has rapidly deteriorated in the recent past. It will be noted whereas a major component of the airlines’ expenditures are in foreign currency, Yemenis pay in local currency for their travel. The discrepancy between the official and parallel exchange rates has incurred heavy losses on the companies. The prices have also fallen to ridiculous levels. As an example, a trip from Sanaa to Taiz would cost a



Saeed Sinan of ALYEMEN Listens as the IATA Officials Explain their Point of View

Yemeni passengers less than \$ 5 at the parallel rate. For about \$25, one can travel to Djibouti. Mr. Saeed Sinan, Chairman and General Manager of ALYEMEN AIR disclosed that the pricing structure is not controlled by the

airlines. “We suggest changes to the government (represented by the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority), and it is up to them to see the need.” Mr. Sinan also added that IATA has been very helpful in many

ways. One important assistance provided to the Yemeni companies is training of manpower. “Many of our people have been trained by IATA,” he said. Mr. Sinan, who attended the recent general assembly meeting

of IATA in Mexico City, indicated that the national carriers have a lot to gain from cooperation with the international organization. It is time to re-structure the air travel pricing system.

## Wing of National Cigarette & Match Industries Company Attracts Visitors



The wing of the National Cigarette and Match Industries Company Ltd. in the on-going Products Exhibition at the Closed Athletic Center in Aden has been attracting flows of visitors. “The reason is that our products are known all over the country, and they stand for quality,” explained a company representative.

The company presently produces Pall Mall and Radfan trade-marks - both in high demand among consumers. In a quick survey of visitors, it was clear that the people believed the company to be providing a cigarette which satisfies their taste, as well as being economical.

In spite of the tremendous difficulties which the country went through recently, the company has been able to remain on its feet and continue to grow and expand. According to management sources, the company plans further expansion in market penetration locally and abroad.

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**UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM UNLIKELY**

Despite the clamoring of most of the United Nations members for a more democratic and transparent Security Council, the 15-member chamber is likely to remain secretive and exclusive for the foreseeable future. Those more optimistic and impatient "at the fossilized structure" - in the words of a Latin American diplomat are hanging their hopes on the UN's 50th anniversary in 1995 as a good moment to make what the majority views as long-overdue changes.

"They can hang their hopes out to dry on a long pole," said the diplomat dismissively. Most General Assembly members admit that council reform is now unlikely to occur in the near future. The Assembly's committee charged with reform had to throw in the towel after several sessions produced little accord and a lot of discord. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali also threw up his hands, complaining of "lack of political will" among members.

The council has had only two changes since it was set up by the victors of world War Two in 1945. China replaced Taiwan as a permanent member in 1971. And after the Soviet Union dissolved into 15 nations, Russia took its seat in 1992.

The current Big Five - the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China are not in any hurry to extend the number of permanent seats, and especially their jealously-guarded veto-power, to others, even though the General Assembly has called for an expansion.

Theoretically, the Security Council is accountable to the 184-nation assembly, in which developing countries form a majority. In practice, the council frequently ignores the assembly's will.

Japan and Germany are next in the queue for permanent council seats alongside the current controlling powers. Brazil, India and Nigeria are also pressing for consideration on grounds of population size and their position as regional powers.

Japan and Germany are assured of seats on the Council because of their economic clout in the world and within the UN. Tokyo provides 12% of the UN's annual budget and Bonn 9%.

But there are obstacles to overcome. The main diplomatic difficulty for the Big Five is how to open the door to Tokyo and Bonn without letting

in anyone else or changing the status quo. In addition, although it is rarely said so in public, many still recall the aggression and brutality of the German and Japanese war machines during World War Two. The five that set themselves up with vetoes did not at the time envisage inviting in the losers of the World War Two notably Japan and Germany who are still referred to as "enemy states" in the UN Charter.

A change in Security Council seating is not the only problem on the Secretary-General's plate. Finding peace-keeping troops is another. Recently, he has been trying to combine the two by reminding Japan and Germany that providing peace-keeping troops might help their quest for permanent council seats.

The constitutions of both countries forbid military activities abroad and though both are beginning to bend the rules over what constitutes military activity, there is domestic resistance to overcome. Many other nations are also unhappy at the secretary-general's insistent activism on this front.

Of course, in the final analysis, war-time scars and memories carry little weight compared with current economic and political factors when it comes to membership in the autocratic organ often referred to as the "Big Boys' Club." Militarily and economically weaker nations are limited to rotational terms as non-permanent members.

As UN membership has expanded from the founding 51 nations that signed the Charter in 1945 to nearly four times as many, the opportunity of a council seat comes increasingly rarely.

The reform committee considering these weighty matters is called true to bureaucratic form - "The Open-ended Working Group on the Equitable Representation on the Increase in the Membership of the Security Council."

Cynical observers here have suggested that managing to reform its name might inspire some confidence in its ability to tackle the more complex matter of reconciling the interests of the political haves and have-nots among its membership.

Many representatives expect nothing concrete before the year 2000. But Assembly President Amara Essy of the Ivory coast, chairman of the rocking group, will reconvene it in January.

Continued from Page 1:

**Hadharem Welfare Association...**

This election was the first experiment in which women participated in voluntary grass-roots level efforts. As it turned out, more women voted than men, as they accounted for 156 of the 306 total votes cast in the ballot box.

The Ministry of Pensions and Social Affairs is studying this experiment and how to use it as a model to be applied in other NGOs. It should be noted that some men have already resisted this step and propose that the inclusion of women has changed the

outcome of the elections. Such efforts continue to raise hell in various circles.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has calmly referred them to the law which does not preclude women from voting, or even standing for office in NGO elections.

Mr. Farhan Al-Qusally, Director of Associations and NGOs at the Ministry has patiently clarified that NGOs are not a male-monopoly, and that he was gratified with the decision of the HWA in bringing women into its general

assembly. "This is a step to be followed rather than resisted," he repeated.

The over 2000 NGOs operating in Yemen, although grass-roots-based, are actually an exclusive club for men, like most other organizations in the country. This is the first time women get to participate in NGO decisions.

The board of directors of the HWA has already met to discuss further steps aimed at involving women in its activities. The experiment is worth following.

**New Board Members of the Hadharem Welfare Association based on the 16th December 1995 elections**

Name	Post in HWA	Regular Job
Abdulaziz Yasseen Al-Saqqaf	Chairman	Professor at Sanaa University and Chief Editor of Yemen Times
Mukhtar Mohammed Al-Saqqaf	Secretary-General	General Manager, Tourism Investment Company, UNIVERSAL Group
Ali Abdul-Hadi Al-Saqqaf	Financial Controller	Deputy Manager, Mareb Yemen Insurance Company, Taiz.
Mohammed Abdullah Al-Saqqaf	Village Office Director	Businessman.
Abdul-Nasser Qadiri Al-Saqqaf	Taiz Office Director	Senior Official, Al-Gharasi Group
Essam Ali Al-Saqqaf	Sanaa Office Director	Clerk, Central Organization for Audit and Control, Sanaa.
Abdul-Hafeez Ahmed Al-Saqqaf	Projects Director	Construction Contractor
Sameer Hashim Al-Saqqaf	Public Relations	Director of Municipalities, Turba
Mohammed Abdul-Qader Al-Saqqaf	Follow-Up Affairs	Businessman.

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## Common Sense

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

In the last issue, this column briefly summarized the background and developments of the Yemeni Economy in the 10 year period, 1975-1985. In addition, some of the key conclusions drawn up by studies of the difficulties faced by the national economy were highlighted which included some suggestions for remedying some of the problems accordingly.

Regrettably, none of the warnings were heeded and none of the suggestions were taken seriously. The economy, as such, continued to deteriorate steadily and by the close of the 1980's the official exchange rate has climbed to US

\$ 1 = YR 12.0, and the market rate had approached YR 20. The only positive development, though a very significant one, was the entry of Yemen into the international oil market as an exporter of crude petroleum. However the amounts involved were limited (120,000 to 130,000 barrels per day) and oil prices have declined significantly to less than half of the oil boom days of the late '70s. On the other hand, large capital investment outlays in the sector, funded by short or medium term credit, postponed any effect oil revenues could have on the balance of payments specifically, and on the economic situation, in general. Thus the Yemeni expatriate remittances continued as the backbone of the Yemeni Economy up to the entry of the last decade of the 20th Century. The unification of the two former Yemens (North Yemen, or the Yemen Arab Republic and South Yemen, or the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) opened up new potentials for Yemen's economic growth and developments as well as raised many hopes, since:

1) The end of the Marxist oriented regime of PDRY would attract more remittances, as well as investment capital from the many Yemenis who originate from the South, many of whom have become successful entrepreneurs overseas, from the Gulf States to the islands of the South Pacific.  
2) The expanded geographical area of the "new" country increased the potential for more oil and mineral exploitation and opened up new vistas for economic activity, in many areas, such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and trading (with the prospect of making Aden a Free Port).  
3) The implementation of democratization will encourage more Western support for Yemen's development schemes and increase Western capital investments, especially as political stability will be achieved by the peaceful and systematic transfer of power and authority (through the ballot box rather than the bullet box). In addition more freedom and civil liberties for Yemeni citizens will inspire initiative and innovative drive and thus lead to greater productivity, especially in an environment where law and reason will prevail over all other considerations.

Three months after the unification of the YAR and the PDRY (May 22 1990), Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait (August



2, 1990). Consequentially, the situation in the entire Arabian Peninsula/ Persian(Arabian) Gulf area turned upside-down and inside-out. The somewhat unsure position of the government of the Republic of Yemen vis a vis the dramatic events on the north-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula raised eyebrows among the Gulf Cooperation Council members, especially Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti government (in-exile and after the return to Kuwait, following one of the most expensive military liberation expeditions of modern times). The immediate result of the miscalculated Yemeni position, from an economic point of view, was the breaking of the backbone of the Yemeni Economy. One million Yemenis were sent packing home, foregoing many rights and privilege and becoming deprived of any opportunities to improve their living standards, while at the same time cutting off a vital source of foreign exchange earnings for their homeland; and they returned without making any issue of it, there or here!

This massive human movement was bound to cause a tumultuous change in just about every major aspect of Yemeni life, with the economy being the most adversely affected:  
1) Remittances diminished;  
2) Unemployment soared;  
3) Consumption increased, especially for nutritional and other rapid consumer goods;  
4) Services were overcrowded;  
5) Accommodation became scarce and expensive;  
6) Transportation became more disorganized;

It would take many pages to detail the full impact of this vast transformation of life in the country, from an economic point of view and the quantitative assessment of this impact is difficult to arrive at. However it goes without saying, that a severe blow was struck to the economy, which the economy was ill prepared for absorbing or even coping with. Moreover the strained relations between the Yemeni Government and the neighbors to the north of the country was a prelude to the loss of substantial aid and assistance to important areas of the country's development needs, especially education and health. No one is quite sure if the government considered the possible economic consequences of the position taken vis a vis the Second Gulf Crisis, but the likelihood is that somebody goofed in the calculations, or was influenced by other motives (which may never become clear to the people of the country, who stood

to loose the most), or had a mis-conception about the outcome of the Crisis.

Thus the economy inherited the economic difficulties from pre-unification days and added to it came adverse effects of foreign policy miscalculations, for which later efforts to rectify ended up in failure. As if that was not enough,

the Transitional Period, with all the political hassles that came with it, meant that there was little time, if any, for the government to worry about who eats and who doesn't! And if that was not enough, another Civil War was in store for us, which meant that the governments total attention time was exhausted in matters more important! The economy was left without any meaningful guidance towards a course that could offer some hope, for the majority of the population, that the worst is at last over in the economic plight of the nation.

By the end of the war, the US\$ had soared to 130 Riyals; and prices just kept climbing up, up and away, and there was nothing that could stop them. The exchange rate came down to 80 Riyals and then went back again on its upward surge. It has again climbed over the 100 mark and monetary policy by decrees (the latest Central Bank of Yemen's ingenious decision to set the rate at 84/85 without possessing the mechanism

to maintain such a rate) has failed to indicate that anyone really knows what to do about our helpless economy. Mr. Mohammed Jubarry, the present Minister of Trade and Provision or Supply, is well regarded in the Economic Sector and can do much to re-stimulate the Economy. But it would be unfair to expect much from him with all his intelligence and foresight, if he does not have the support of the other authorities on the government that play a role in formulating and executing the approach of the government vis a vis the national economy.

In addition, our now super rich "merchant class" must start to change its attitude and show a greater sense of responsibility, with a view towards channelling their investments in the direction of more productive enterprises and gradually reducing their reliance on exploitative and, sometimes, sleazy ventures that generate bad consumption habits (and poor health) and offer very little in terms of quality, durability or any real economic benefit to the country. Moreover, the insistence of these family trading houses to maintain monopolistic control of all economic activity is working against bringing widespread development and enhancement of the general standard of living in the country, through the allowance for an equal opportunity for all to participate in economic activities, whether individually or collectively.

As for the people, all that can be said is just give them a chance and an opportunity to work, in an environment that offers equal rights and protection for all its citizens. The result may surprise many who have neglected them and the national economy for too long.

## The Hotline

### The Bureaucratic Nightmare By: Hassan Al-Sagheer

Not many people will realize the burden which the bureaucracy is putting on the economy and society. The price we are paying for the upkeep of bureaucrats - most of whom are parasites - is enormous.

During the unification of the country in 1990, when the former Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) were merged, the government bureaucracy suddenly grew to menacing levels. I know of a ministry today, for example, that has two vice ministers, eight deputy ministers, sixteen general managers, sixty five directors, 130 chiefs of divisions, and forty four ordinary clerks or employees.

Now this is not a pyramidal system of hierarchy or administrative structure. The poor employees have too many bosses.

That is just one example, which has transformed the government's budgetary expenditures to simply payroll.



The bureaucracy, some sort of extension of socialist values, does not only pose a burden on society, but it also plays a damaging role in halting and preventing further growth. In addition, the bureaucracy is seen as a major factor in downgrading the good values of hard work and decency among the people. Furthermore, it has become a symbol of corruption, blackmail and favoritism. As one friend once told me, "Yemen is probably one of the rare places where you have to pay bribes to have the law applied or to pay money."

I think it is high to think about ways to trim the bureaucracy, as called for in the World Bank suggestions. There is no need to hesitate, because this huge bureaucracy - over a million strong - is a real headache to good planning and an obstacle to the development process.

I add my voice to all others in calling for streamlining the size and quality of the government bureaucracy.

## Sheraton's New GM Mounts Image Campaign

"We are planning to change things around here, and you will see results rather soon." Those are the determined words of the new general manager of Sheraton Sanaa Hotel, Mr. Ronald Huiskamp.

Huiskamp, 34, is from the Netherlands, and has had extensive European and Middle Eastern experience. A graduate of the Hotel Management School in The Hague, Ronald started his hotel career in the London Hilton. He then served in other Hiltons, notably in Germany and the Netherlands.

"It was five years ago that I joined the Sheraton. That was in Brussels," he recalls. Since then, he had served in Sheraton Jeddah and Sheraton Dubai, before taking over Sheraton Sanaa.

His main focus and forte is really the food and beverages department. That is also clear from the plans he has for the Sanaa Sheraton. He has already put together a new team of exceptional chefs. He is bringing in Mr. Tony Loppacher from Switzerland as executive chef. "Tony has a long and worldwide experience and he really knows the food business," he says.

Another chef he already has in place is Chef Deiri from Syria who is famous for some of the best mezzas in the Arab World. Chef Deiri is going to be the focal point for a new evening entertainment - Layaleena. This is a dinner engagement featuring a wide variety of Arabian specialties.

Finally, Mr. Huiskamp is bringing in a European food and beverages manager. Even then, the menus in the Sheraton will move to such ethnic cuisines as Mexican, American, and of course, Arabian.

Still within the food and beverages domain, Sheraton will re-open the Super Club as from the 22nd of December. "In addition to the good food, an eight-person Filipino band will entertain the guests," Ronald disclosed.



The Sheraton will also re-open the Chinese Restaurant. "We are getting highly qualified Chinese chefs from the Beijing Sheraton."

Whether you come here or for banqueting and outside catering, we will be able to provide exceptional services," Ronald said.

Among the other improvements are the refurbishings of the reception hall and meeting lounge. The rooms and suites will also be renovated, but that is a 1995 effort.

Finally, the new Sheraton management has linked up with the tour operators, airlines and other groups, in order to promote Yemen as a tourist destination.

Yemen Times bids Ronald and his family a warm welcome.

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# FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN: A Critical Role in Bridge Financing and Development

Before and following unification, Yemen has relied heavily on foreign aid. In 1992, total external assistance disbursements by UN agencies, World Bank (and its affiliates), regional multilateral donors and bilateral donor countries added to US \$243.5 million. The bulk of this disbursed assistance went to development projects.

In comparison, the volume of development investment spendings in the 1992 public budget was put at YR 4,423 billion, a sum which exceeded US\$ 147.4 million (12 the 1992 average parallel market exchange rate value), while the share of these spendings (confusing domestic and external funding) did not exceed 8.25% of the total public spending in that year. Further-more, the larger part of the new project spending concerned projects not completed in previous years and extended over 1992. In the same 1992 budget, capital expenditures were put at YR 13,877 million, almost 23.87% of total expenditures. In 1993, whereas the volume of foreign assistance remained close to what it had been in 1992, the share of new project expenditures in the 1993 budget dropped dramatically following the inflation suffered in current expenditures and in view of the spectacular rise in the budget deficit.

Already in the years prior to unification and ever since, the development function of external assistance in the economy emerged strongly as

a vital though insufficient substitute to the dramatically low domestic investment in development.

The Government of Yemen has had no or few self-financed projects, and domestic private investments have remained considerably far below the rising requirements of economic and social development with due consideration to the rapid growth rate of the population at 3.1% annually.

Consequently, putting aside oil investments that are financed by foreign companies and whose income growth is seriously deterred by the persistent deterioration of oil prices, donor financing of projects constitutes the bulk of the development investments realized in the Yemeni economy. The importance of externally financed development investments for the process of development in the country, links to the decline, since 1990 in Government investment in development in the country, links to the decline, since 1990 in Government investment in development projects.

Following the country's reunification, the new Republic of Yemen adopted liberal economic policies under which economic initiative focus shifted away from the State toward market economy. The two parts of the Country stopped pluri-annual planning as a means to define the strategic priorities of national development, substituting stra-

tegic planning with very broad priorities which the Government retained in agreement with the Country main donors, as reflected in the General Economic Memorandum and in the resolutions and recommendations of the first Round-Table Conference (RTC) held in June 30-July 1, 1992 in Geneva. The Government at that Conference acknowledge donors that it had decreased to a strict minimum the stat's direct involvement in investment.

In practice, external assistance had already substituted to the larger component of In practice, external assistance had already substituted to the larger component of Government financing of development projects and had become consequently vital to development in Yemen, even though the level of this assistance remains far below the country's development needs.

In fact, the volume of external aid dropped since the Gulf Crisis and has not recuperated its impetus ever since. Meanwhile, population growth, urbanization, consumerism and price rises under the new economic liberalization policies and amidst political crisis widened dramatically the gap between social needs and external assistance impacts.

Since unification, development priorities of the country have not been elaborated in a sufficiently concise, qualified, quantitative and evolving manner. Also and often, development objectives have

not been translated into goals or targets to be inserted in scheduled implementations plans.

Indeed, one most salient feature of the present development process is that the country's development priority areas, are at best co-defined broadly by the Government and country donors, but are not the result of strictly national selection derived from established national and sectoral development plans.

In the other cases where broad national development objectives and priorities were translated into quantitative goals, they were not derived from an indicative pluri-annual plan. Consequently, annual achievement determine from one year to another far-reaching objectives. But since the unified country has not adopted a multi-annual plan, it cannot refer to a global framework (a development plan) and to sectoral targets for deciding on the uses of foreign aid received from donors.

The volume of aid is therefore determined by the donors because the government is able to allocate very little funds against the country's great need to secure and introduce development projects.

Another consequence to the donors determination of aid is that the Government exercises limited freedom to endorse or to reject many of the donors' offers of projects of programs. In fact, in the least developed countries, Yemen included, external assistance constitutes

de facto the bulk of investment for development at least for several periods. For this reason, the design and execution of external assistance constitute an important factor influencing the functioning of the system of external assistance coordination and management and affecting the application of related procedures.

Given the important role of external assistance and of donors' systems and procedures in the Yemeni development process, it is important to check how the national system set in the Ministry of Planning and Development, and entrusted with planning, coordinating and managing this assistance, is designed to undertake those, planning, coordination and management central activities.

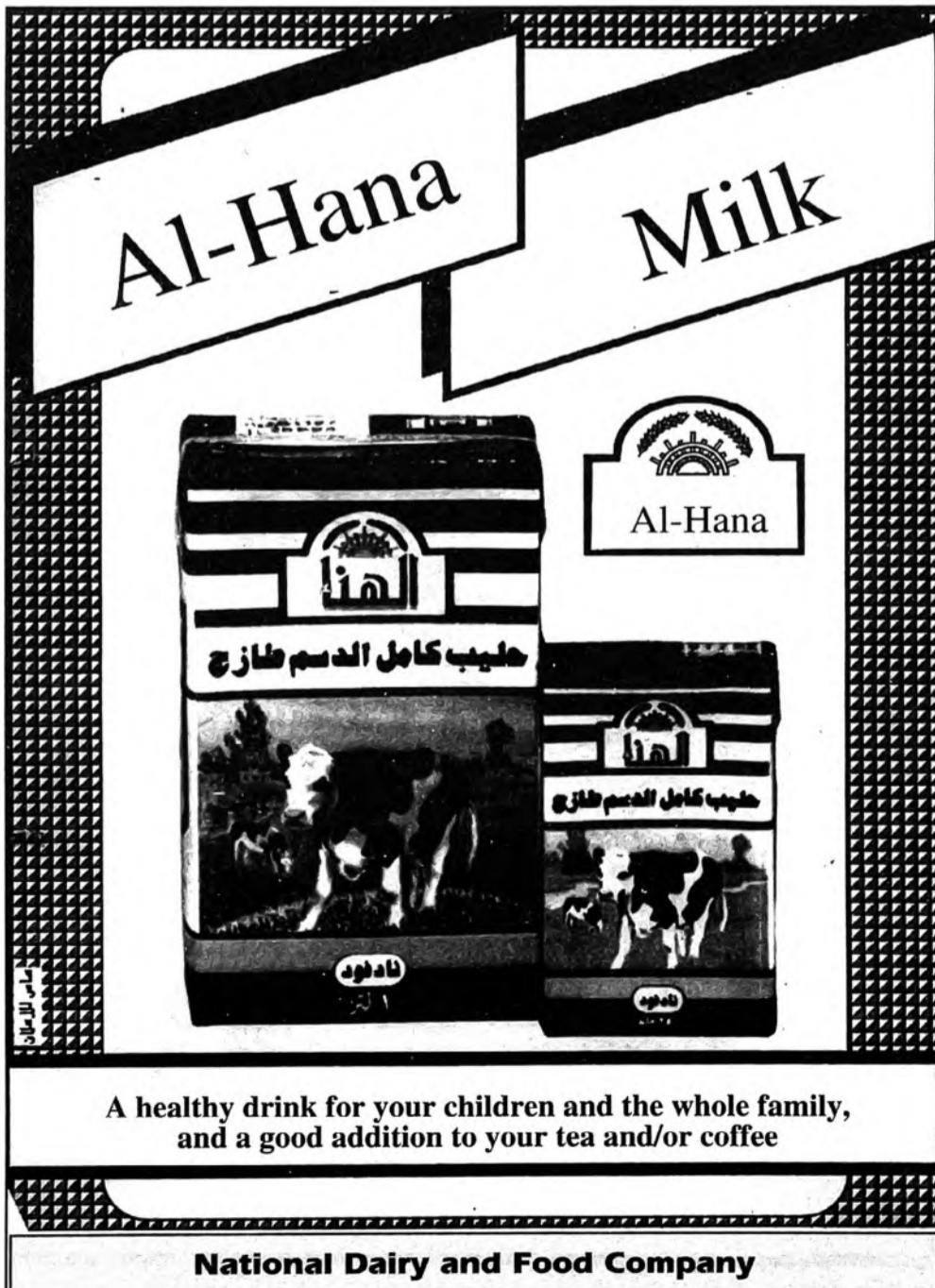
It is equally important to assess which components of foreign assistance are dealt with by the Ministry's different sectors and General Directorates, and to identify the present formal (corresponding to the mandate) and non-formal (de-facto) institutional distribution of coordination and management functions of external assistance among the same sectors and directorates, putting particular emphasis on the implications of this institutional distribution for the functioning, performance, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of foreign aid, in relation to national development priorities and to those of aid cooperation.

Because of the high (relative)

importance of external assistance to the development of the country, it is necessary to foreign assistance coordination and management are entrusted with capital assistance and which components are entrusted with technical cooperation, which are those dealing with assistance from the Bretton Woods financial institutions, and which are the others dealing with aid from the UN family, with Arab and Islamic regional multilateral aid and development institutions, and with bilateral donors, and how the system-established and procedure-defined inter actions among the Technical and Economic Cooperation Sector (TECS). Directorates and between TECS and other technical sectors of the Ministry, namely, the Planning and Programming of Projects Sector (PPPS) and the Macro Planning Sector (MAPS) influence effectively the system's functioning, its related procedures application and the overall effectiveness of the national system of foreign assistance planning, coordination and management at large.

**From a report transmitted to the Government entitled "The Present Foreign Assistance Coordination and Management System in the Republic of Yemen" prepared by Maria del Carmen Arriola.**

The Yemen Times got the report through its channels.



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## Lufthansa Cargo Launches New Offensive

As from January 1st, 1995, Lufthansa Cargo will be an independent company within the Lufthansa holding group. "This new set up will give us more flexibility in resource mobilization and management, and it will allow a faster reaction to market change," explained Kim Bullen, Regional Manager for the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Pakistan.

This step also comes in response to the changing needs, and to prepare to cope with the demands of the 21st century. The 21st century is one of speed - fast travel, fast communications, and fast logistics.

"I am delighted that peace has returned and enabled Lufthansa to once again serve Yemen and offer our customers a regular cargo service," added Mr. Bullen who was speaking in a reception to honor the most active cargo agents of the company.

It was also an occasion to name the naming of a Yemeni head for the Yemeni team of the company. Mr. Mohammed Abdulrazzaq Abdullah was named at the head of the Yemen Office. Mohammed has had nine years of experience with Lufthansa in Sana'a and Aden. It will be his job to ensure that Lufthansa Cargo customers in Yemen get a first class service.

Backing the Sanaa Office up from Jeddah is the manager of Saudi Arabia and Yemen Mr. Juergen Siebenrock along with Mr. Ahmed Hussein, the area sales representative.

"We expect the naming of Mr. Abdulrazzaq to provide a focal



point for responsibility towards customers," said Bullen.

Mr. Bullen also disclosed that the company has invested in the establishment of an export facility at Sanaa International Airport. "There is now a security compound and a secure container storage for cargo destined for abroad," he added. Here in Yemen, people want their goods to arrive fast and to depart quickly.

Lufthansa Cargo already has its own product management for different needs: mail, perishable goods, valuables, for express traffic, etc.

Some very interesting events are happening in Lufthansa at the moment. One of these is that the company has started to make a small profit for the first time in several years.

"In express consignments we have seen a particular interest from our customers. Zonal rates for express airport to airport and airport to door are being devised

for Yemen and this includes doors delivery possibilities for Europe and the entire United States," explained the Lufthansa Cargo official.

With the new investment in place, the appointment of Mr. Abdulrazzaq, and the various other improvements, are bound to make 1995 a good year for the company and its customers. On the same occasion, Mr. Siebenrock also thanked the "best supporters" of Lufthansa Cargo. He named six agents who were most active in giving the company business and who were given awards. "Obviously we cannot give an award to everyone in the room but I hope our gratitude and appreciation to all of you are clear," he said.

"The company expects to achieve spectacular results in its Yemen operations during 1995," Mr. Bullen indicated.

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi,  
Yemen Times.

## Job Opening

The Embassy of the United States of America seeks qualified applicants for the position of

### Cultural Affairs Assistant

Among the responsibilities of the position are the following:

- Help identify suitable candidates for short and long-term exchange programs in the U.S.
- Arrange meetings between official and private-sector U.S. visitors with their Yemeni counterparts in the government and private sectors.
- Provide oral interpretation for visiting lecturers and officials and written translation of documents and correspondence for the cultural office.

#### Minimum Qualifications for Position:

1. University degree on one of the social sciences;
2. At least 5 years work experience in an academic or media organization;
3. Fluent English and Arabic with experience in oral and written translation;
4. Expert knowledge of Yemeni culture, politics, educational system and social institutions;
5. Good knowledge of Yemeni culture, politics, educational system and social institutions;
6. Familiarity with computers, both Arabic and English programs.

Please send a copy of your C.V. to the Director, USIS, located at the YALI compound off of Baghdad Street. Include a phone number where you can be contacted. Deadline for applications is January 10, 1995.

# YEMEN TIMES

## 1995

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# Hue & Cry Over Colors

The ability to discern colors is a biological luxury for us. We really do not need it as we need, say, the opposable thumb (that makes the grasping of tools possible), or the well-developed cerebellum (which makes us evolutionary top dogs). Thus, as Huxley put it *The doors of Perception*, color is "inestimably precious to him, as an intellectual and spiritual being, but unnecessary to his survival as an animal."

And, of course, we have thrown it all away in the process of emblematising color, politically. Simple equations have developed around most colors, so that red equals communism (pink by association becomes left centrism, as easy concordance since it was earlier associated with the teeny-bopper bedroom and cotton candy), green equals ecology (or Islam, an association arising perhaps from the Islamic flag, or the Quranic promise that the faithful who attain Paradise shall be clothed in green garments on the fine silk), saffron equals Hindu spiritualism, blue equals the Dalit Panthers and so on.

The process is not new. Saffron was the color of the Sadhus of India and was thus incorporated into the flag, or so the civics text books tell us. White stood for virginity and purity - hence the color of the wedding dress, the debutante gown, the priest's cassock, the mourning of widows. Which is strange, since technically speaking, white is a mixture of all the hues, as any Newton's disc will tell you.

Blue was the color of the sky, the mantle of the Lord Jehovah, then the virgin Mary and the color of sadness, useful sadness, of the kind that gives rise to the blues. Black should have been the obverse of white - perhaps it was for a while, since the linguistic metaphors (black-hearted, black-guard, etc.), but morality got in the way, and red became the opposite of white, diabolical, passionate, blood red. Hence, perhaps, the use of red to describe communism, and let us not forget its use to signify danger. Yellow has never had it very good either, being associated with cowardice, China and tabloid journalism, but it started off well, as the color of the life-giving sun, which perhaps inspired the Papacy to adopt it.

Could it be that the new symbolism is largely political in nature? Nothing new under the sun, as someone remarked, since colors have always been used to represent warring factions, right from the time of the War of the Roses to the sports field, where colors differentiate teams. But this century has seen an explosion (a multi-hued explosion) of such representation. Mussolini's black shirts and Hitler's brown ones became part of a color code.

The African Americans started to protest the use of black as a metaphor for things unpleasant and the politically correct began to try and purge the language. However, *Soul on Ice* probably did more than any other book to

verify the feeling that black could never be beautiful. Perhaps other black writers recognized this, since Alice Walker's heroine wanted a dress of *The Color Purple* and Toni Morrison's incestuously abused heroine wanted *The Bluest Eye*. The great significance of color is probably the result of the hegemony that sight enjoys over the other senses.

There is something about seeing and thence perhaps believing that makes it a more important thing to do. Recently, people worldwide have started a campaign to revive the sense of smell. After all, color has art, and hearing has music, and taste has cuisine. What does smell have? Bad associations that arise out of the confusion that Johnson tried to cure with the *bon mot*: "You smell, the room stinks." But even there, the metaphor persists. Said David Werner of The Institute of Smell in California (where else?): "It is like inventing color all over again."

The metaphor returns. Liszt is credited with several pet phrases: "More pink here," and "this is too black," and "I want it all azure." Beethoven called B minor the black key. Schubert felt E minor was "a maiden robed in white and with a rose-red bow on her breast." Rimsky Korsakoff called C sharp sunlight and F Sharp red.

So there. Music has color too, but not quite as Newton, who related color to the notes on the diatonic scale, would have liked it. Color, therefore, haunts the

language and plagues our dreams. Normal people dream in color. Schizophrenics in black and white. However, not everyone is completely infatuated with it. "Any color as long as it is not black," said Henry Ford, when asked what colors he would like for his range of Model T Fords.

Color misplaced also tends to ruin things. Consider *Mughale-Azam*, so magnificent and monumental until the *Jab pyaar kiya* song in *Sheesh mahal*, which suddenly turned everything tawdry. Likewise the song in *Chaudhvin ka chand*, where the otherwise impeccable Dutt taste faltered a bit and led to that strange pallor on the cheeks of Waheeda Rahman.

And then there is Ted Turner's disastrous attempt at coloring the old MGM classics in order to make them more acceptable to the new color junkies, the young.

Or in food, a western baker, says Farro Birren in a study of color and its effects on food, tried to market bread in various pastel hues such as blue and green, and found the venture a dismal failure. He concluded: "For the most part, peach, red, orange, brown, buff, warm yellow, clear green, are the true appetite colors. Pink and tints of blue and violet are decidedly 'sweet' and not for the entree or filling part of the meal."

His inclusion of blue is surprising, though. In another study, psychologists painted hamburgers, French fries and apple pie a non-toxic shade of

blue and tried to get subjects to eat the result. The lure of people's favorite edibles and the smell of them wasn't enough. Perhaps there is something in *nouvelle cuisine's* desire for visual effects.

But long before the studies were conducted, it was known that colors could soothe the unquiet mind. In 1875, a European doctor by the name of Ponza fitted several rooms with colored glass windows, walls and furnishings. Blue and red were the principal colors used. The taciturn passing through red rooms became cheerful, the violent became calm in blue rooms. But this did not last with the arrival of drugs.

However, research continues into the best colors for mental hospitals, with blue emerging as a clear winner for the violent, and yellow for the depressed. The Rorschach inkblot also studies the interplay of color and form in the analyses of patients who are subjected to it. What is lot in all this, however, is the actual experience of color. Too busy with turning it into symbols, using it to cure the mind, assigning meaning and value to it, we are losing out on Coleridge's manifestations of eternal joy.

Abridged by:  
Al-Izzy Asselwi,  
Yemen Times.

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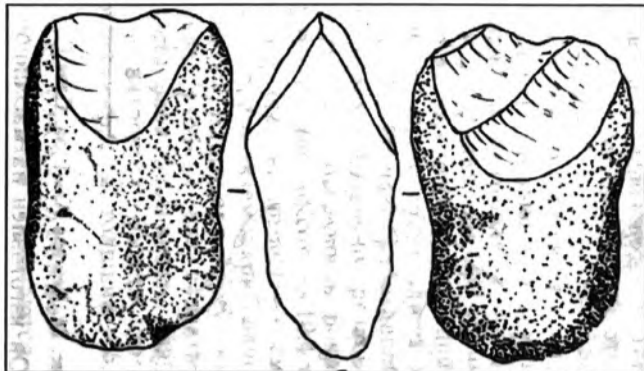
# Yemen & the Old Stone Age

By: David Warburton\*

Yemen was settled long before the emergence of the South Arabian kingdoms for which the country is famous. In fact, if the findings of recent research are confirmed, it is possible that the history of "man the toolmaker" is much the same as that of man in Yemen.

Ever since the 1950's a consensus has been emerging that man's ancestors appeared for the first time some four million years ago in Africa. A great deal of controversy has surrounded the findings of the most prominent individuals involved in this - both fossil and living - but there is general agreement that perhaps two million years ago, long before the appearance of the *Homo sapiens sapiens* sub-species (probably more recently than 50,000 years ago) man's ancestors began to manufacture tools. The first "tools" that we have are basically battered pieces of quartzite, which only experts can discern from wadi gravel, but these pieces represent the beginning of the romance of human history, and the beginning of the Stone Age. What distinguishes mankind from virtually every other species is the ability to make tools. Chimpanzees - which are probably as intelligent as man's ancestor who made the first tool - can use pieces of wood as hammers to break nuts, and use twigs to withdraw ants from their hills, but only man has taken a piece of raw material and altered it, as happens when he takes a piece of stone and strikes it with another, to create a tool which he can use for a third purpose. The conceptual process was revolutionary, and led to man's domination of the earth.

But there was still a long way to go. For more than a hundred years, scholars have divided European prehistory into arbitrary units, called the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age, the latter ending with the beginning of the Roman Empire. The European system seems to be relevant for large parts of the middle east, so that its chronology is used here, although it does not match completely. The Stone Age is divided into two parts: the Old and the New, distinguished by industries using chipped stone in the earlier



A Very Early Lower Palaeolithic quartzite "Chopper" tool found in Yemen by the Soviet Archaeological Mission

period and polished stone in the later one. (Scholars tend to refer to them using their Greek names, the Palaeolithic - Old Stone Age - and Neolithic - New Stone Age). The Old Stone Age is divided into three periods. The Lower Palaeolithic is the long period at the beginning of pre-history lasting until about a hundred thousand years ago. It is followed by the Middle Palaeolithic lasting until about 40,000 or 50,000 years ago, and ends with the Upper Palaeolithic and the Epipalaeolithic, perhaps 10,000 years ago. Archaeologists refer to the various types of tools as "industries" or "cultures" and assume that tools of similar appearance were manufactured simultaneously, but the relationships between various "tool kits" are not entirely clear.

During this period man's productive life seems to have been restricted to the manufacture of tools, as his livelihood was gained by hunting and gathering. One of the most important events during the Palaeolithic was however the growth of human population: as a tool-maker, man was able to use his cunning and his hands to substitute for teeth and claws, so that mankind carved out a niche for himself, subduing the competition. The result was that by the end of the Palaeolithic, humankind was present on virtually every continent of the earth: he had wandered from Eastern Africa to Alaska and Australia.

The first actions in such a bold undertaking are always the most important, and the first great move in human history may have been from Africa to Yemen. Until very recently it was assumed that the first humans were timorous creatures

who clung to the great land bridge, so that after following the Nile up to Egypt, they crossed the Sinai into Palestine, and thence into Asia and Europe. Palaeolithic materials and early human skeletons have been found throughout Asia, so that the date of the breakout is clear, but the route is less certain than formerly, due to recent discoveries in Yemen. The "industry" in question is called "Developed Oldowan", named after the place of its discovery in Olduvai gorge in East Africa. Although not the oldest, these battered pieces of quartzite are

among the earliest objects produced by man. And similar pieces were found by a Soviet team working in the area around the Bab al-Mandab straits, and in the Hadhramaut region.

How could they have gotten there? Virtually the only way would be if they were made by early man here in Yemen, and that would mean that he crossed the Bab al-Mandab, the straits separating Africa from Asia. At the time, the distance from one side to the other will have been far less than today because water levels were far lower, since a great deal of water was locked in the glaciers of Northern Europe which gave their name to the "Ice Age". It will have been easy to see from one side to the other on a clear day, and thus hardly a shot in the dark. In fact, the width of the Bab al-Mandab will have been less than that of the East African lakes on whose shores the first humans lived, and in whose waters they probably took their first swimming lessons. Whether they actually made reed or wooden boats must remain a matter of speculation, as no organic materials have been preserved from these far-off times:

we only have fossilized skeletons and stone tools. In any case, human beings evidently crossed from Africa to Asia, and the place where this first step in the global expansion of humanity may have been Yemen. During the million of so years following this event, the basic tool industries of Yemen resemble those found in Europe and the Levant, so that Yemen was at the same level of development as the rest of the world until about 40,000 years ago.

During the Middle Palaeolithic people used both flint and quartzite to make tools, but flint eventually replaced quartzite almost everywhere, as it is far easier to work. It was only after the end of the Old Stone Age that people started using obsidian to make tools.

What followed is not so clear, for basic industries are lacking: we have little or no evidence of the Upper Palaeolithic and the Epipalaeolithic, so that it is possible that as the glaciers melted and retreated, the greater part of mankind withdrew to more agreeable zones, and that around 10,000 years ago Yemen was left on the edge of civilization, with only a few hardly

souls wandering around the mountains hunting lion and gazelle.

The series of Yemen Times articles on objects stolen from the museums of the Southern and Eastern governorates during the war did not permit complete coverage of the archaeology of Yemen, so that I thought that I would add in a few articles relating to issues unaffected by the war, to round out the image, of which this is the first.

David Warburton is an archaeologist and Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. Opinions expressed are his, but were strongly influenced by the Russian and American archaeologists Amirkhanov and Whalen.



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# LEPROSY SITUATION IN REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

By:  
Dr. Yassin A. Al-Qubaty,  
Director, NLCP,  
Taiz.

Leprosy is a well known disease in Yemen since the ancient times. The history of leprosy know as "Gutham" dates back to 1350 years when the Abbassid Wali, Mohammed Z. Abou-Al-Madan, collected huge quantities of wood to burn the leprosy patients in Sana'a as a way of solving the leprosy problem. However, he died before committing this crime. These recorded events in Yemeni history clearly demonstrates the extent of the social stigma attached to leprosy which continues to cause a lot of suffering to leprosy sufferers.

Leprosy in Yemen, as in most countries of the world, does not only cause physical problems, in addition, it overpasses the physical suffering to psychological, mental and socio-economic.

Victims of leprosy have to get divorced and have to be isolated from their families as well as be ostracized from society. His/her properties are usually taken away by other members of the family. The moment that leprosy is diagnosed they are considered socially dead.

The poor health infrastructure and the inaccessibility of medical services are the main factors which delay diagnosis and treatment. Therefore, complications and deformities are developed. Hence, more is the suffering faced by leprosy patients.

Before 1964, leprosy patients were subjected to an obligatory isolation in unsanitary houses. These houses were built by the king in the north, by the English colonist or by the sultans in the south of the country.

Between 1964 and 1973, Taiz and Mukalla were the only places know for giving symbolic medical care by dapson monotherapy for leprosy patients.

In 1980, when I was working as a Dermatologist at Al-Gomhori hospital in Taiz, I started giving regular weekly visits to the leprosy hospital, "Madinat Al-Noor" presently called Skin and Venereal Diseases Hospital, Taiz, which was then run by the Missionaries of Charity, an organization of Mother Teresa, Calcutta, India.

After attending a WHO meeting for leprosy at Mogadishu, Somalia in 1982, I invited Dr. S.K. Noordeen of WHO to visit Yemen. After Dr. Noordeen's visit, the stagnated leprosy control activities in Yemen was turned-up by his valuable advice and the direct financial aid from WHO.

On 26th June 1989, the leprosy patients in Yemen obtained a greatest help by fulfilling an agreement between the GERMAN LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION and the MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, YEMEN. According to this agreement, the NATIONAL LEPROSY CONTROL PROGRAM geared up its activities in 1990 for the field work by obtaining five, four-wheel drove cars and a complete budget to run the pilot program in Dhamar, Taiz, Ibb and Hodeidah to serve the total population of 5,119,960.



## Present situation:

At present, the leprosy control work is being carried out in 9 governorates such as Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Dhamar, Hajja, Mahweet, Lahij, Aden and Hadramout with the total population of 7,799,748 out of 11,295,006, the total population of Yemen.

The NLCP activity is being carried out in two directions, which are, running of the S & VD Hospital in Taiz and field activities covering most of the governorates of the country.

## S & VD Hospital, Taiz:

The services of the hospital has been considerably extended to leprosy as well as non-leprosy patients, especially in the out-patients department as a method of mixing leprosy patients with others to fight against stigma. (The hospital consists of 130 beds and various departments like Surgical, social, Laboratory, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Nursing and Statistics.)

## Rehabilitation Activities:

A new orthopaedic workshop at S & VD Hospital, for making shoes and simple tools and aids for the deformed and disabled leprosy patients, has been set up in April this year with an agreement signed by Handicap International, Belgium.

## Field Activities of Mobile Teams:

Mobile teams are working to supervise 50 urban and rural clinics. Mostly run by Medical Officers, Medical Assistants and trained PHCWs whose function is to deliver MDT to patients as well as to suspect new leprosy cases and then to refer to Medical officers for confirmation of diagnosis and to start MDT.

## Training Activities:

To continue expanding leprosy control activities all over Yemen, about 80 workers are trained every year at the Training Center of City of Light, Taiz, by local and international experts.

## Budget:

Funds spent from 1991 till the end of September 1994 is as follows:

Years	Amount in Yemen Rials
1991	3,391,953.50
1992	4,368,322.50
1993	8,627,280.50
1994	6,291,690.10

(till end of September)

\* Conversion rate used is:  
25 Yemeni Rials = 1 US \$

## Publications:

To help leprosy workers

perform their duties, I published a guide book in Arabic language "Together for Elimination of Leprosy." This book contains all the information needed for medical officers, medical assistants and for public who are interested to know about leprosy.

## Special Occasions:

The NLCP organizes the annual International Leprosy Day Celebration on the last Sunday of January.

It also organizes a National Leprosy Day Celebration, which is called Qaidoon Festival. This annual tradition was started in 1230 AC in a village called Qaidoon in Hadramaut (1,050kms far from Taiz).

## Health Education Activities:

To fight against the stigma of the disease, a fully intensified health education program was started in 1992. Since then till now, we are continuing these activities in many ways like telecasting short films on the National Network Program, local radio broadcasts, production of school children education materials and giving lectures to community leaders especially in the mosques. Achievements during the last three years:

During 1991, 1992 and 1993 with the existing genuine reasons and environmental difficulties for the progress, the most effective measures were taken to reach the fulfillment of committed plans, in order to show the NLCP in action. For this cause, the main sources, such as MOPH, GLRA, WHO and YELEP were hand-in-hand in supporting to achieve the success to the satisfactory percentage while we compare year by year.

YELEP itself is a new Yemeni non-government organization started its activities on 27th of January 1992.

Frequent refresher courses for old staff at the City of Light Training Center, Taiz, has benefited the field teams to upgrade the system of NLCP to cope with OMSLEP proforma and codes. Each course consists of theoretical and practical aspects on case detection, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up, health education, physiotherapy and prevention of deformities. By the end of 1993, 50% of the leprosy activities are fully integrated with the primary health care system.

the ministerial resolution of 1992 regarding transferring of City of Light Leprosorium into S & VD Hospital had been almost brought to 90% successful implementation. Ther-

This has brought more awareness in the public and voluntary reporting of patients has increased considerably.

Doctors from NLCP were sent to ALERT for 6 weeks course on leprosy by which the NLCP has gained better experience for more supervision to the field work. The NLCP staff had attended the national and international seminars and training to share the views and plans.

Old register of City of Light is always used as a guide for limited active case finding and more than 60% of old registered patients have been retrieved their addresses confirmed and their contacts examined.

## Plan of N.L.C.P. activities for the year 1994:

Due to political instability in the country, we have started the new plan of implementation for 1994. Its main objective was completing the integration of the field work activities with the Primary Health Care Units especially in the rural areas. 43 peripheral units were chosen for this purpose and 9 drug dispensaries were opened at the center of the 9 governorates to give services to the leprosy patients in the cities. 4 supervisors have been working continuously during this year to supervise the activities of the main and sub clinics in the 9 governorates. They were responsible to provide medical supply and collection of statistics from the clinics as well as for extension of the NLCP activities into two new governorates with a population of 654,292 inhabitants.

## Statistics of Leprosy Cases between 1991 and September 1994:

Number. of new cases: 1,875  
Number of patients who completed treatment: 645  
Number of patients presently on treatment: 2,184  
Number of cumulated registered cases: 5,107

## Plan of N.L.C.P. activities for the year 1995:

A proposal was formulated and sent to the Steering Committee of Special Action Projects Towards Elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) in Geneva to be discussed in their next meeting which concerns solving the problems of absentees and defaulters using the principles of HANOI DECLARATION resulted in the "International Conference on the Elimination of Leprosy" convened on the initiative of WHO in Hanoi, Viet Nam between 4th and 7th July 1994.

## Ambitions/Plans of N.L.C.P., Yemen:

In the next 5 years, the NLCP of Yemen will fully concentrate on one main objectives set forth recently. We want to declare Yemen as one of the countries which will eliminate leprosy before the year 2000, and we do realize that this is a major task.

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## Letters to the Editor

### IDEOLOGICAL CONTEST IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD? THE QUESTION BECAME ONE OF SURVIVAL, NOT DIRECTION.

In its search for a cure-all of its economic, political, and social ills, the Islamic world, in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, had experimented with several imported, non-Muslim ideologies such as nationalism, Marxism, and liberalism. In general, the returns were disappointing and in many respects, un-successful. All failed to meet Muslims' dreams of social justice and freedom or even achieve the minimum of political and economic progress. Along with other reasons, such as economic woes, have motivated Muslims to "re-search" for an ideology that was different. For a system that is compatible with their beliefs and identity. That search for a "different ideology" led them to turn their attention back to their faith itself: Islam. The rapid growth of the so called "Islamic Fundamentalism" all over the Islamic alternative be the "final solution?". in a New World Order where military might and economic capabilities are the token that define the ranks of each state and the kind of inter-relationship between nations, we, Muslims, seem to be placed at the perpetual disadvantage. such question deserves considerable attention from all people of all disciplines, especially the intelligentsia-above all for our children.

Nationalism came into being with the Muslims seeking independence from foreign occupation. It played a vital role in de colonization. Many countries, including that of Nasser in Egypt, Kemal Ataturk in Turkey and Ba'ath parties in Iraq and Syria, adopted nationalism as the ideological basis of their rule. However, major cleavages dividing the Islamic states has immensely undermined the power of Nationalism. Cleavages (1) between types of regime, (2) between states with oil and states without, and (3) between states aligned with the West or with the (former), Soviet Union. Moreover, religious differences between branches of Islam divided states internally. Regional conflicts such as the Arab-Israeli war, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Persian Gulf war have further reduced the power of nationalism in the Islamic World; never has the ideal of Muslim and/or Arab unity seemed so remote.

Marxism, from the outset, faced difficulties trying to woo Muslims. This is owing in large to the Muslim's deep religious sentiments for Marxism failed to reach beyond small intellectual or academic circles in the society. It, however, enjoyed a relative success in some countries such as Libya and (the former) South Yemen. Yet, the disintegration of the soviet Union has virtually ended the influence of the "Proletariat Revolution" in the Islamic World.

Like Marxism, liberalism was a new arrival to the Islamic world. Some countries, including Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Turkey and Morocco have experienced periods of relative liberalism during this

century. However, the sociopolitical weaknesses of democracy's advocates have led to the failure of almost all of those experiences. Liberals in the Islamic world were faced with fierce antagonism from the conservatives. All over the Islamic world, clergymen issued various *fatwas* (Islamic decrees) condemning liberalism and liberals. It seems, however, that liberals have been and remain incapable and perhaps disinclined to introduce a genuine democratic alternative that could realize democracy and freedom.

Failure of such ideologies doesn't necessarily mean that they are faulty, at least in theory or that Muslim abhor ideals such as freedom, social justice or economic progress. Perhaps, it was a matter of practice rather than theoretical misinterpretation that led to their decline. What is more important, however, is the result. Such ideologies proved, by experiment, that they are incompatible and ultimately unworkable in the Islamic community. A major drawback of such experimenting was that statesmanship in the Islamic world succumbed to military dictatorship. Grisly crimes and unspeakable atrocities were committed against millions of Muslims who perished simply because of their ideological, political or religious views. Ruthless physical elimination of opponents and liquidation of rivals was a common practice by the ruling classes.

A yet more significant consequence of that ideological miscarriage was the birth of the controversial, so-called "Islamic Fundamentalism." Since the last four decades, the Islamic world, stretching from Southeast Asia to North Africa, has been witnessing a tremendous waves of Islamic Movements aspiring for the revival of Islamic values in the societies. They argue that alienation from Islam has been the primary cause of Muslims political enfeeblement and economic misery. They profess and promise that a return to pristine Islam is the only solution, and the sole cure-all to all Muslims adversaries. Such promises are received with great sympathy and enthusiasm from Muslims all over.

Western analysts and observers argue that "Islamic Fundamentalism" is a by-product of poverty and is a passing phenomena. It is true that economic woes are factors, but, it is erroneous, I think, to think that it is a passing phenomena for copious reasons beyond the scope of this article. Based on its own set of norms and rules, the USA has drawn up the map for a new world order. Muslims do not know exactly where they fit in that incipient map. Yet as long as we, Muslims, are alienated from our own identity, or any identity, one thing for sure is that we are expected to comply whether we like or not.

Mohammed Al-Amrani  
Sana'a.

### AGONIES OF THE YEMENI COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA

It is well known that many of the Yemeni people immigrated to the neighboring and even distant countries for different reasons. I am not going to explain what kind of reasons forced out large flocks of Yemenis, but I would like to talk about some agonies Yemeni immigrants do face in foreign lands, particularly in Ethiopia to which I paid a short visit of one week.

It is in very rare cases that Yemenis who leave their country will completely forget their culture and habits. Many prefer to preserve their own culture even when living in foreign and alien societies.

For that reason, a Yemeni School Community was established in Ethiopia by the Yemeni immigrants in order to give their children their own identity. The Yemen Embassy supervises this school and the subjects taught are similar to those taught in Yemeni schools in all levels specially in Islamic culture and Arabic language.

A major problem that the students face in this school is the

scarcity of textbooks. "I am in the seventh level but there are no books available for this level. So I have to wait until these books come from Yemen," complained one student, with a lot of sorrow in his eyes.

Another problem is related to the fees demanded by the school. Let me give the example of an old woman who has five children. For every one of them, she has to pay 50 Birr every month (one Birr is equivalent to about 12 Yemen riyals) so she has to pay 250 Birrs as their school fees every month. "And if I delay in payment, I have to pay an additional 20 Birr as a fine," she protested.

I couldn't believe this. I thought our Embassy was responsible for bringing the teachers from Yemen in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. It also provides them with their monthly salaries and other needs.

There is also the problem of issuing certificates to those who pass from 11th to 12th grade. This problem should be con-

sidered carefully by the Ministry of Education in consultation with the Embassy and the school administration.

The last agony of the Yemeni immigrants I would like to talk about is related to those who escaped from Aden during the war to Djibouti. Many of them are now in Ethiopia, and some have been reduced to begging in the streets.

"I am waiting for our Embassy to find a solution for us as I haven't got a passport or any documents to prove that I'm a Yemeni," one of them told me. I am not sure whether that was true or an excuse to make me sympathized with him to give him some money.

In any case, he was indeed in a pathetic situation. Our Embassy should check out such cases, and take an immediate action as such sites spoil our country's reputation in the eyes of the host people.

Ahmed Dabwan  
Ministry of Oil,  
Sana'a



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



### Pen Friends Corner

By: *Rahila Ba-Alawy*

#### COME ALONG AND JOIN THE CLUB!

Dear Friends,  
Have you ever considered that the greatest friend you may ever have, is someone you have never met, living in a land you have never seen? Well, we can provide you with new friends, in your own age group, and in many places. We have over 300,000 members in 210 countries and our club is now regarded as the greatest penfriend organization in the world.

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army, navy, air force, artists, bankers businessmen and women, clergy, computer people, dancers, doctors, engineers, social workers, scientists, secretaries, students, teachers, technicians, writers, etc. An IPF member is - EVERYBODY - doing every job under the sun.

Whether your interests vary from a desire to cultivate congenial friendship or practise foreign language, to improve your technical knowledge, to arrange exchange holidays or to develop your hobbies, please be assured that from among 300,000 members we will provide you with many new, refreshing, exciting and interesting contacts as soon as you return to us the completed application form which can be provided by the representative. Our services have been designed with great care and with special consideration for young people and senior citizens.

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

#### OVERSPREAD OF CORRUPTION - SANA'A IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY

Dear Editor,

I'm sending you my best wishes and after that I would to discuss the topic of corruption at Sana'a immigration authority.

I am one among those from different communities living in Sana'a, and I would like to give this information on what we are suffering from.

Nowadays there is a campaign against the foreigners particularly those who interred the country illegally; examples Somalis, Iraqis, Palestinians etc..

The Yemenis whom we think they're teachers and religious leaders, or we can say honest to their religion and constitutions. They have different hospitality to the foreigners in prisons. They give no food or water instead in the mornings the officers always get in the prison and ask the prisoners money, to set them free, (and of course they will catch them again). Moreover they beat those who are there for a long time because of lack of money, they keep on asking "how much money you will pay if I set you free?"

I am saying this because I have witnessed the problem, and I know one person who is there now for three months, and the soldiers beat him everyday asking him money, but he doesn't have. I would like to appeal to those concerned to take an appropriate decisions to help these people; as they're coming from their countries escaping problems they didn't mean to come here to bring any harm to anybody. They're in need of help!"

Abdulaziz Ali Mohamed  
Sana'a.

#### WINTER AND COMPUNCTION

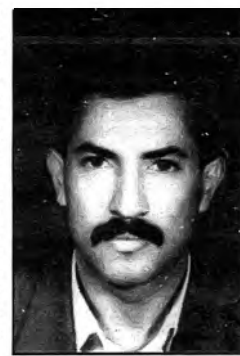
To whom do we intially affiliate?  
With whom do we really associate?  
We are missing such a common aim we adhere to nothing, what a shame!  
Completely scattered, we're impelled to surrender  
Empower the low colonizing invader  
Yielding possessions that to us belong  
Acceding humiliation all time long.  
Of no avail boastful of our past brave  
Still cheering the one in the grave  
Who could ever become greater  
We marched with him as a leader.  
Feeling rather hanged for losing face  
Consent whole to scandal and disgrace  
That apparently came to our doors  
With a mere scaring out of force.  
Holy precincts clearly violated  
Arab dignity deeply insulted  
They vanished like a mist  
Not a nightmare or a jest.  
Shall we stand up afresh?  
Wrestle those now poised to tarnish  
And confronting peril lain  
eliminating negligence proved vain.  
Will spring come to us again?  
Will Arabness rid us of pain?  
To protect dignity violated  
To restore land invaded..

Mohammad Noaman Al-Hakimi. Taiz.

#### The Right To Reply

#### I CAN SEE NO PUZZLES, BUT OBSESSIONS

Last Tuesday, I bought my favorite newspaper, the Yemen Times. I was quickly going through it (Issue No. 49 of 12/12/1994). As I was flipping the pages, a picture of a friend of mine stuck out. I was curious, and soon I was reading what he had written (in the Letters' Page). To my surprise, I came across information relating to me personally.



Let me state my case briefly:

My friend and I were two among five applicants for the post of demonstrator at the Language Center of Sanaa University. We competed and I won fair and square.

Unfortunately that only added to my friend's prejudice against me. I think an unwholesome distress may have spurred the unwarranted article, in which the writer accuses the university of corruption and malpractice. I want to refute his allegations and accusations.

My friend would have been satisfied and content if he had won the post, unfortunately for him, he didn't. That is why he claims unfairness and favoritism. At the time, he congratulated me and seemed satisfied. I can only explain such backbiting as being motivated by envy and jealousy. My friend said in his article that we were equally qualified. As such his allegations are groundless. In other words he believes he was not superior. It should not have offended him that someone else got the job.

One's genuine command over a language cannot be based on grades in school. It can only be proven through tests like the one we had at the Language Center. That is how people with different abilities can be gauged.

To add insult to injury, the article implied that I got the post through nepotism and favoritism. He knows that is not true. It is never was my strategy to approve of such methods.

To conclude, I would like to advise my friend not to indulge into such ways. One should not let one's vexation lead him into such positions and attitudes. The writer did not even spare the dean and other senior academicians in his accusations and allegations.

I would be pleased to see my friend succeed in his ambitions and plans. Perseverance and hard work are the only guarantees of success. He should follow them and keep aloof from any efforts at backbiting.

With my best.

Khalid A.. Al-Massna'ah,  
Language Center,  
Sanaa University.

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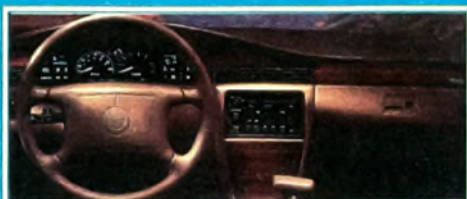
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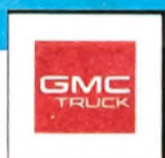
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## BALANCING JOBS AND RIGHTS

Bananas and people don't mix. That is the underlying belief of Asia's Lady of World Labor. Nieves Roldan-Confesor, chairwoman of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) governing board. Her stiff negative reply came in response to a question whether she favors proposals to make labor rights a factor in trade policies. She remarked that the people plus bananas equation could not even draw a zilch. "One cannot treat people as if they were export commodities and thrown overboard into the sea when the price is not right in the market," Roldan-Confesor said recently. The Philippine labor secretary is the first Asian woman to head the Geneva-based ILO, which has more than 170 member states. According to her, the flow of people across bound-

daries benefit both developed and developing countries. Developed nations have set up production units across the world. "If developing countries are destabilized, developed economies would suffer too since they depend very much on developing countries to buy their goods and services," Confesor said.

She calls the attempt by developed nations to include international employment standards, in the agenda of the World Trade Organization that will replace Gatt next year, "Labor protectionism."

Asked what impact global standards will have, Confesor said that the rigid application of labor standards to developing countries and the linkage of "social clauses" to international trade, in effect, constitute non-

tariff barriers designed to erode the comparative advantages and interdependence of developing countries. "That would stabilize the global economy. Countries would be penalized with withdrawal of trade concessions. Some countries will not trade with, say India or even the Philippines because it has high incidence of child labor," Confesor said.

She was all for helping promote workers' rights. "We must help countries through either technical assistance or more trade access under a mechanism supervised by the ILO, not the World Trade Organization, she said, adding that standards were necessary, and they were good guidelines.

However, except for a short list of basic standards, providing more flexibility was a must to

allow countries to comply at varying stages of development with provisions of new and updated conventions. "Your don't necessarily eliminate child labor nor promote human rights by penalizing a country," she pointed out, adding in the same breath, "but the human rights convention should not be negotiable at all."

She finds the ILO at crossroads today. Trade and economic globalisation promote economic development, provide the much-needed jobs and incomes, and ultimately alleviate poverty. "But there is no guarantee that social justice will be defended. That is where ILO finds itself today - at a crossroad," she says. Achieving the right balance between standards and development, between employment and protection is difficult, but not an

impossible task, she points out. She does not find the situation of women workers in Asia any good. "They continued to have lower wages than men. They tend to be emerging industries, assembly-line, repetitive work such as electronics. They are being discriminated against. We should have a program, to get women workers into the mainstream," she said. She revealed that in the Philippines, they had an upskilling, retaining program to enable them to enter non-traditional trades like welding, masonry, carpentry. "Many of our 26-million-strong work force are women. Our competitive advantage will be diminished," she said.

Assimilating the Philippine labor situation, she points out that they had achieved a measure of industrial peace

without the withdrawal of certain workers rights. "We have achieved economic growth with democracy," she said.

Defining the Philippine policy, she emphatically pointed out that it was not "cheap" but "skilled" labor.

"That is why we keep skilling our young labor force," she said.

She said that they were talking of market niches here, not just a market. "In garments for instance, we are going upmarket which means better technology. We talk of wages, not minimum wages."

she said that they were seeing that in the semi-conductor industry, paying more means keeping skilled workers home rather than having them cross the borders to a competitor.

### COMPUTERIZED EDITING REVOLUTIONIZES THE INTERNATIONAL FILM INDUSTRY

Three years ago Paul Bamborough was making low budget films in a back street studio in London. Today he occupies plush offices in Soho, the film *Mecca* in London's West End, and is the mastermind behind Lightworks, a film editing machine which has been used to put together the final versions of over 100 films including *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Pelican Brief*.

Just a stone's throw away from the Lightworks office staff at the computer Film Corporation worked on post production special effects for films like *Little Buddha* and *Frankenstein*.

These two companies represent a growing body of small British businesses which are rapidly emerging as a powerful force in the international film industry. With the arrival of several high-profile films from Britain such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the British film industry has begun something of a renaissance.

With the technical expertise being developed by a handful of highly talented small companies, Britain is also taking an increasingly important role in films which might outwardly seem to be pure Hollywood.

Lightworks has revolutionized the laborious manual task of editing hundreds of hours of film and video tape into a 90-minute film or 30-minute television program by computerizing it. Editors and directors throughout the world, including Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese, are turning to use the system. The company started producing the Lightworks machines with just half a dozen employees but quickly found a worldwide market.

#### Success story

Profits trebled during the first year of operation; last year the company turned over £10 million and expects to double that figure this year.

There are now over 60 employees and some 600 Lightworks machines worldwide making for a success story which reads like the script from one of the Hollywood movies Bamborough is now associated with.

The Lightworks Editor machine means film or video footage can be seen and heard on a computer screen and each frame can be cut out, put back in or altered in some way at the touch of a button, and parts of the film can be seen and accessed quickly and in any sequence. "Although the system has computerized the editing process it has kept the hands-on idea which is important because it means that editing remains very tactile," said Bamborough. The speed with which Lightworks has grown is an indication of the direction that film editors are starting to take: towards new technology which will revolutionize the film industry.

"There are more people putting on this than on anything else: there are 600 machines worldwide and we distribute to 30 countries with the United States as the most important market." But Bamborough is aware that it is not a static business and that he will increasingly face competition.

#### More commercial

"There is no serious competition in Britain yet, but there is in America," he said. At the moment there are two other film editing companies in America which are editing in a video oriented way. "We wanted to do something better, more commercial and get to the heart of where people are editing and what they are trying to achieve," said Bamborough.

While he and his team are busy taking parts out film and video tape, staff at the Computer Film Corporation (CFC) are busy adding extra features to films. Scenes shot in broad daylight for Kenneth Branagh's *Frankenstein* are being given the cloak of night and flickering candles appear from windows.

CFC, like Lightworks, has benefited from the renewed demand for British film expertise. It began to pioneer high-resolution digital special effects in 1985. Less than a decade later CFC employs over 35 people, anticipates turnover for 1994 to be over £3 million, and has recently exported technology to the United States and opened an office with further ten staff there.

The team at CFC is working round the clock at their facilities in Britain and the United States, and are also giving advice on high resolution digital special effects in film sets around the world. It is a good time for companies like Lightworks and CFC.

The revival in the British film industry means that studios such as Pinewood and Shepperton, near London, are busier than they have been for a decade, while American directors are searching for suitable locations in cities, towns and villages across Britain.


#### Skilled crews

Hollywood's producers are attracted by the cheapness and flexibility of skilled British film crews. The cost of making a Hollywood film in Britain fell by about 20 per cent after it pulled out of the European exchange rate mechanism in 1992.

British producers have tried to encourage the trend, with eight of them recently writing to their counterparts in America to boast that the so-called "British disease" of laziness and union militancy had been cured. "The restrictive practices of the past, like the infamous tea breaks, have now gone for ever," they wrote. A top production manager costs about £2000 a week in London, compared with £3300 in Hollywood. Assistant directors can charge £1800 a week in Britain compared with more than £2600 in California. Perhaps the most encouraging signs of the resurgence in Britain's film industry are cinema attendance which reached a record 26.3 million in the first quarter of 1994.

Traditionally a slow time of the year, this is a 16 percent improvement on the last three months of 1993. In the whole of 1984, 58.3 million tickets were sold in Britain and the 1994 figure looks likely to be double that.

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## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE...? THE INNOCENT INDIVIDUAL OR SOCIETY?

By: Samira Ali Bin Daair.

It has always been hard to define the line between individual responsibility and that of society at large. It is obvious that there is a lot wrong with our society and it has become a habit... almost a ritual to talk about the state of affairs and blame society en masse. I would like to borrow from the opening lines of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" ... "something is rotten in the state of Denmark". Something is indeed rotten to the core somewhere in the present state of affairs and it is evident at various levels and in different degrees.

The first point that comes to one's mind is the security situation of the country, firstly, in terms of the kidnapping of foreigners, which is both immoral in itself, let alone the repercussions it has on the national reputation and thus the economy. Whether people who kidnap have valid claims on the govt. or not is immaterial to the fact that innocent people should not be used as pawns for that purpose.

Second, the security lapses manifest themselves at the social level in the increasing trend of car-stealing and house-breaking. I remember how safe life was in the past in Yemen. At one time, it was "eib" (great shame) to enter someone's house stemming from the Islamic belief of non-violation of the sanctity of people's homes and privacy. We never heard of house-breaking and on warm nights we would sleep on the roof with the doors wide open. These days you cannot even leave your house empty for a few hours, without the possibility of having the contents of your house emptied. A couple of weeks ago, my son sadly reported to me that his teacher is now sleeping on the bare floor because the thieves who broke into her house did not even leave the carpeting behind. What are we to attribute this phenomenon to? The rising cost of living, a high rate of unemployment? Nothing justifies stealing...but who is responsible for inflation and unemployment? We have such a big police force...what are they doing while all this thieving is going on?

When we come to the social life, qat is obviously a problem...a serious socio-economic problem, but shall we blame King Abrahama of Ethiopia who may have introduced it into Yemen or any other subsequent King? People keep saying it is a way of socializing, because there are not many social facilities in this country. Certainly Yemen could do with more recreational facilities both for children and adults, but human beings are creative creatures if they use their imagination. There could be many alternatives to daily chewing of qat which is a drain on time and money.

At the educational level...who is responsible for the bad state of affairs? The teachers blame the administration...the administration blames the teachers and the Ministry of Education in turn blames the govt...which also blames the people. Who is to blame?

I was always told by well-meaning friends not to ever think of the university (of course most of them were in other professions and could not even begin to understand the itch in an Educationist). So many contradictory statements.... "It's highly politicized", someone said (But isn't the

whole of Yemen?). Someone told me of why she wouldn't dream of teaching there now that she has finished her studies, because she sees how hard the professors work and they get no appreciation. From whom, I wonder only silently to myself? Another friend says that most of the teachers there do not have any commitment and they hardly attend lectures and do not do their job properly, and the departmental administration is there only to rule and find fault not to help in the educational problems. Another person who teaches there puts most of the blame on the students, who are lazy and want to be spoon-fed. "But isn't that what they were taught to do at school...isn't it because they come from a bad system at the base, I ask?" The person only goes into a deep reverie and does not answer my questions. The university administration at the top is also often blamed for the mess. Now that I have started part-time teaching there, I begin to think that the truth lies somewhere in between all these sweeping generalizations. On the one hand, the government should invest more in education which is the basis of a society. On the other hand, much can be tackled at the individual level. For me, teaching is something that I do to satisfy a deep urge for fulfillment that I have always carried with me...having been born with the curse of wanting to do something socially useful. The facilities are not the best in the world, and the students come already lumbered with various educational disadvantages. So far my experience has been positive because the students are extremely polite and well-mannered (which is saying a lot compared to many parts of the world) and they are highly motivated and enthusiastic. I have observed a noticeable improvement in their level in only a few weeks' time and that is the reward I am looking for. I started with so few expectations except for setting standards for myself, and thus I take all the little things that come in my stride.

Whoever said the strenuous path of pedagogy is strewn with roses? I still don't know whom I am to expect appreciation from until now...maybe one day I'll find out and write another article about it in Yemen Times.

The environmental situation in Yemen leaves much to be desired, and there is litter everywhere. Is it the lack of facilities or people's education? I often tell my children to wait until they see a dustbin before disposing of their chocolate covers. My son told me one day, "But, mama... the streets are already so dirty... what difference will it make? Besides, everybody does it." "Well, I tell him, imagine if everybody thought that way, we wouldn't even be able to walk on the streets anymore. I know it's bad enough, but it's this way only because there are some bodies who say "everybody" does it...so why not me? Besides, "everybody" only consists of so many some bodies like you...the choice is yours, Son". He only went on chewing his chocolate thoughtfully and silently, still holding the cover in his hand. The following week, he came home proudly announcing that he had told his friends off at school for throwing their sandwich covers on the floor and not the dustbins. Perhaps more cleaning up facilities and more edu-

cation is required...anyone heard of recycling? Perhaps we ought to try it in this country and be more environmentally conscious. How come in the old days people used to use straw baskets for their shopping which was cheaper and more sensible... and they have switched to more expensive forms which are at the same time less environmentally kind.

Who is to blame? Everybody complains of the horror of going through govt. paper work in this country. We have had our fair share of it, I must say, and this despite the fact that my husband has old school friends who help in many of the government departments.

Who is responsible for this institutionalised form of corruption? Many people say that they cannot survive with the meagre govt. income, and with the high rate of inflation they have to resort to it. Is that a valid reason? In any case, who is to blame for this low standard of living in the first place? So many vicious circles and so many unanswered questions.

A long time ago, I attended an educational conference at some arab university when my first child was only six years old. Typical of an educated mother who had invested a lot of time in her child's education, I was extremely proud of my bright little girl. A cynical professor in a round of side-discussions told me, "She is only six... wait until she goes through the grinding mill of formal schooling and then talk to me ten years from now". I angrily look at him and declare, "much depends on the parents". He in turn assertively declares, "much more depends on the society". Now who is this invisible bad guy "society" with whom I always seem to be at odds? I wonder to myself. Many years later I still remember the cynical old professor's words each time I work hard to undo the damage of formal schooling on my children. I once told my husband "I will start an ideal school... a real educational institution". He looks at me from underneath his reading glasses and quietly asks, "where will you get your teachers from...mars or jupiter"? He goes on reading his Times Educational Supplement and tells me of the increasing rate of illiteracy in school-going children in Britain. You can't beat the system, can you? or can you?

To conclude my long story, although my professor at university used to tell us that good literature leaves the reader to draw their own conclusions, but I will risk violating this golden literary rule because loose ends make me feel uncomfortable. There are things which are bigger than ourselves...our doing and beyond our control. However, there are things we can change by starting with ourselves and struggling to become better human-beings although that does require a lot of sacrifice on our parts. Each time we are confronted with a situation, and are tempted to blame the whole world, let us stop in our tracks for a moment and consider whether we had something to do with the problem ourselves or not and as to how we could improve the situation. If each of us will do it hoping others will follow suit, perhaps some social change may come about yet. Perhaps then we can force this terrible, naughty and wicked guy called "Society" to change at least once in his lifetime. Perhaps then we might just be able to beat the system.

Continued from Page 16

## UNICEF ...

Preliminary investigations indicate the existence of a large iodine deficiency problem in Yemen, making it one of the priority goals for Yemen. UNICEF in Yemen is making it its principal objective in 1995.

Mr. Tinstman said that "UNICEF will not be able to save the Yemeni children without the help of the parents and through NGOs, and the government."

The second area is that of immunization, where much progress was made across the world. The goal set for 1995 was to maintain the 80% immunization coverage in the 66 countries that have already reached such a coverage. Thirty three countries have been able to maintain the 80% immunization coverage, another 22 countries have been able to increase that. But immunization coverage has slipped in some 11 countries. Yemen, unfortunately in one of them. This, too, needs our priority attention in 1995.

Finally, an additional target set for 1995 was the universal ratification of 1989 "Convention on the Rights of the Child" (CRC). The CRC is the first legally binding code of the children's right to survive, develop, be protected, and allowed to participate. As of date, only 14 countries have neither signed nor ratified the CRC. If ratified by those countries, the CRC will the first human rights treaty in history to be universally ratified. Yemen was one of the countries that signed and ratified the Convention early on.



But as it was explained by Dr. Ziad Rafai - UNICEF's new Information and Communication Officer in Yemen, that it was a hard task to the Yemen government and the people to fulfill the promise on the first half of the decade as the country at that time has passed through crisis. Another good news is that; last week members of the Organization of Islamic countries, in their meeting in Casablanca, have made a new commitment to sign Summit for Children. The leaders of the Islamic countries underlined the importance of Child Care in Islam, and the importance of the children for the future of the "Ummah".

### Contest No. 7

### مسابقة رقم 7

Prepared by:

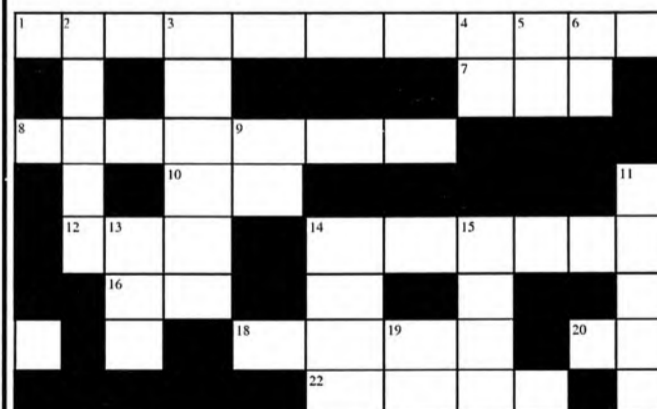
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ه ب رقم (١٦٩٢٧)، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء، تليفاكس ٢٠٩٧٢١ (٩٧١-١)

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:

- It makes a car go faster
- boy child
- Sorry - I didn't do it on .....
- I'll see you ..... Tuesday
- She lives with ..... mother in a big house in a country
- One that makes pottery
- Telephone me ..... four o'clock
- You can keep money in it
- All right
- Love is all you .....

#### DOWN

- People how have colds sometime to this
- The opposite of import Today's not as cold ..... yesterday
- 'Come and have a drink.' 'No, I don't want .....
- Three plus eight minus four plus two minus six plus two minus four
- The opposite of off
- It makes a car stop
- He ..... too much: he'll get fat
- Sorry - 'I didn't ..... to do it'
- I don't want it - please ..... away
- North-east

## الف مبروك

يتقدم الأصدقاء والأقرباء والجيران بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

### Winner of Contest No. 6

The winner of last week's contest (No. 6) is Salwa Mohammed Al-Olofi (Please see picture insert).

The correct answers are:

ACROSS:

1. school; 4. chord; 5. mechanic; 7. stomach

DOWN:

2. character; 3. scheme; 6. echo.



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# Forums for Economic Discussion

By: Ameen Nouisser,  
Economic Editor,  
Yemen Times

Over the last few weeks, groups of intellectuals, businessmen, policy-makers, and other people concerned with the economic situation have been meeting to discuss the prospects of the Yemeni economy. One of the main results of these rounds of meetings is efforts to create forums for more organized discussions. The hope is to establish lobby groups and think-tanks which will help in guiding economic decisions.

1- One such effort is promoted by Mr. Mohammed Zohdi Mejanni, a respectable entrepreneur based in Sanaa. He is pushing for the formation of an association for busi-

nessmen and entrepreneurs. The objectives of this new Non-Governmental Organization are as follows:

- To spread economic and developmental awareness in Yemen.
- To propose new laws that will help in the development process.
- To prepare periodic reports on the obstacles to development.
- To sponsor or co-sponsor seminars, training workshops, and other meetings.
- To organize or co-organize exhibitions, receptions and other similar events in collaboration with the Yemeni authorities or delegates from fraternal or friendly countries.
- To cooperate with the government authorities to formulate policies.
- To present advice to the government on issues concerning the

market, trade, international agreements, tax arrangements, etc.

h) To prepare studies on the economic conditions, development plans, investment potential and other issues.

i) To establish a club to bring together the members and offer them entertainment and sports events.

j) To issue publications and periodicals

The steps regarding the establishment are underway, and the formal announcement of the organization is expected in the first quarter of 1995.

Interested persons may call (01) 274-275 or (01) 274-274.

2- Another effort happened last week. A five-person team has agreed to serve as a core group to sponsor a weekly meeting - the Monday Club. The Yemen Times has agreed to host this weekly event, which will start in January, 1995.

The idea is to define a specific issue, and then make a list of interested and specialist individuals to attend an afternoon meeting (i.e., qat chew session). One week may focus on the problems of exchange rate and the depreciation of the Riyal. Another week may focus on the on-going privatization effort. A third may focus on the budget, etc.

Already long lists of specialists in various fields - banking, oil exploration, free zones, budget, etc. is being prepared. Each group will be invited by the core group to participate in the discussions. The aim is to expand the data base, and to increase awareness - first among a small group of concerned individuals, and then among a much larger public. Ultimately, these meetings hope to

represent a pressure tactic.

Interested persons may contact the Yemen Times to be added to the list.

3. A third forum is the newly-established World Bank office in Sanaa. Dr. Osman who heads this office has already expressed his interest in linking up with the country's private sector, intellectual and international community. He has said that the office will include a library and research component which will be the focal point for discussions on the economy.

Many university professors and other specialists are already looking forward to cooperating with Dr. Osman and his team. Businessmen are also interested in starting cooperation with the World Bank group.

Dr. Osman, who is out of the country this week, can be reached at the Taj Sheba Hotel, where is staying temporarily.

4. A final group is a think tank that is evolving at Sanaa University. University lecturers at the Economics Department are working on establishing a loose consultant team that will cater to the private sector. The team hopes to establish a center that will pool economic information to be used in the development process. Interested persons may call Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakkel at (01) 270-077, since he is the focal point of this effort.

All these efforts come because the assigned forums of discussion - such as the universities, government research centers, etc., have failed to play this role. As a result, voluntary efforts have emanated from the private sector. The government, donor countries and international organizations would do well to benefit from these efforts, and to interact positive with them.

# UNICEF Launches its "CHILDREN OF 1995" Effort

By: Fatma Rawah,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office in Yemen presented the 1995 "State of the World's Children" report on Saturday 17th, at the Taj Sheba Hotel. Mr. Carl Tinstman, the new UNICEF Representative in Yemen, released the report to Journalists and media persons. On the occasion, he went over the contents of the report, and highlighted its main aspects. The floor was later opened for discussion of the report's findings.

Every year, in December this time, UNICEF releases its "State of the World's Children" report. This year's report comes with a happy note. More than half of the nations of the Developing World have reached or are on target to reach the goals that were pledged at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

"At the 1990 World Summit one hundred and fifty countries committed themselves to achieving a series of ambitious, yet do-able, goals that aim at improving the health, nutrition, education, and development of the children of the Developing World by the year 2000."

These decade goals, specific and measurable, would cut child deaths by a third, and malnutrition by half. They would bring childhood disease, such as measles and diarrhea, under control, and completely eradicate polio, and at least 80% of all children were to complete primary school.

It is worth noting that Education is one of important sectors in Yemen that UNICEF and other organization should take a great consideration, especially on girls education which for years has been neglected. Educated girls of today will be educated mothers of tomorrow for the good of future generations.

To help countries achieve the year 2000 goals, specific mid-term goals were set for the year 1995. The majority of the goals set for 1995 have already been met or will be met by the end of next year by a majority of the developing countries. Translated into figures, this means that across the world, some 2.5 million children will be spared each year. Three quarters of a million children will be spared disability, blindness, or mental retardation.

Yemen, unfortunately, is in the minority. It is one of the countries that will not be able to achieve the majority of its 1995 goals. "That having been noted, two areas are particularly in need of attention here in Yemen: The first, and on the world progress side (although not here in Yemen) major advances have been made to combat the iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). The IDD are the world's biggest single cause of preventable physical and mental retardation in the world," the UNICEF official said.

Preventing IDD is achieved simply by adding iodine to common salt. UNICEF Executive Director, James Grant, said that IDD "is so easy to prevent that it is a crime to let a single child to be born mentally handicapped for that reason". The goal for 1995 was to iodize 95% of salt supplies in all 94 countries affected by IDD. Nearly 60 countries are on track to achieve that goal.

Continues on page 15

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