



YEMEN TIMES

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

President Saleh on Regional & European Tour

President Ali Abdullah Saleh plans a tour that will take him to Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Iran. The trip could also take him to Qatar and Jordan. Another leg of the trip will take the president to France, the Netherlands and Germany. In the Sudan, the president will participate in the celebrations of the 39th anniversary of independence. It will also be a chance for the president to further discuss the Yemeni mediation efforts between Sudan and Eritrea. In Saudi Arabia, the president will discuss the Yemeni-Saudi border with King Fahd and the other officials in the Kingdom. The president's visit to Saudi Arabia is expected to open a new chapter in the bilateral relations. The President will then move on to Teheran where he launch another watershed in Yemen's regional relations. Yemen and Iran already enjoy strong relations. The president's European visit will start with Paris. He is already scheduled for a dinner engagement with President Francois Mitterrand on the 16th. He will also meet with other French officials

including Prime Minister Belladur and Jacques Chirac. The meetings in the Netherlands and Germany are a "thank you gesture" from Yemen to those two countries, which are Yemen's two leading aid-partners. The trip also hopes to sustain the aid level of those countries. The Yemeni leadership has launched an offensive to rehabilitate the country's image following the recent civil war. The first major round in this offensive was the Seven Summit of Islamic countries which was held in Casablanca. In that summit, the President was able to win the sympathy and cooperation of many countries. He was also able to neutralize important regional actors that had taken an "unfriendly" stand vis-a-vis Sanaa in the recent conflict. The President is also planning another trip in mid-1995 to cover the countries of South Asia and South-east Asia. These trips will hopefully win over more friends for Sanaa, and open up joint investment opportunities for Yemen with those countries, and increased commercial exchange.

Al-Zubair Mohammed Saleh: "Sudan & Yemen Reach special arrangements."

Al-Zubair Mohammed Saleh, the first Vice President of Sudan, disclosed that Yemen and the Sudan have concluded several special arrangements between them. In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times (please refer to page three for full text), the Sudanese official pointed to the following arrangements:
a) Removal of visa requirements for the diplomatic corps of the two countries, and measures are to be taken to facilitate visas for ordinary citizens.
b) Wherever either country is not represented, the other's diplomatic mission (if it exists), will represent its interests.
c) Imports originating from the other country will be given a discounted harbor fee, and a reduced customs duty will be applied.
d) Barter trade arrangements according to which goods and commodities will be exchanged between the two countries. The first deal involves exchanging Yemeni gas for Sudanese sheep.
e) The Joint Ministerial Committee is

elevated to a Supreme Committee to be chaired by the head of government on both sides.
f) Strengthening of cultural, sports and social relations between the two countries. Artistic, educational, cultural, sports, and other social activities will be exchanged.
g) Coordination in regional and international political and military issues in an effort to bolster the positions of the two countries.
The Sudanese official also disclosed that there has been a relative loosening in the Western antagonistic attitude towards the Sudan. "There is now a better understanding of what we are trying to do, and therefore, the level of heat has fallen," he said. With respect to the internal situation, Al-Zubair pointed to the local elections being prepared for April 1995. At the economic level, much progress has been achieved in the balance of payments.

Details on page 3

Justice PSO Style: Ameen Qassim's Case

The dispensation of justice by the Political Security Organization (PSO) is, of course, a twisted business. A case in point is businessman Ameen Ahmed Qassim, who is languishing in PSO prison cells for almost two months now. The charges against him keep changing with time. At first, the charge was that he was peddling YSP money. In prison, he was forced to sign documents acknowledging this fact and surrendering properties, mainly real estate and other fixed assets. The charge was later changed to include receiving money from external sources (read, unfriendly countries) with the purpose of sabotaging the national economy. Finally, the charge was modified to include speculation and dealing in foreign currencies. All in all, the whole issue is shrouded in extreme secrecy to the extent that his immediate family members have not been allowed to see him.

Ameen Ahmed Qassim is a well-known person who has been doing business for several decades. If there is a problem, the authorities should deal with it openly and without the use of force and violence against the accused. At the end of the day, if there is a crime, why is the case not reverted to the proper authorities so that justice can take its course? Why all this secrecy? If Mr. Qassim has been using YSP money in private deals with the party's leadership, this is all rather ironic, because many businessmen today are said to be using PGC and Islah money. It is an open secret that many top PGC and Islah persons are silent partners in many companies and businesses operating in various projects of the economy. Maybe the partners of the PGC and Islah should start thinking of disengaging. If the current rulers change, the fate of the business partners of the PGC and Islah could well be similar to that of Mr. Ameen Qassim.

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The Power People

OUR VIEWPOINT

The Central Bank of Yemen Is Our Problem !

Recently, the Central Bank of Yemen has taken stern measures against bankers and money changers. The crime - speculation in foreign exchange. The measures involve the imprisonment of some forty businessmen. Word from the CBY is that it will strike with an iron-fist.

That does not sound like the language of bankers, and the people who run the CBY are not bankers. Another problem with the CBY bosses is the "holier than thou" attitude they are putting on. Let me make my case.

Point Number One:

The crime of which the money changers - changing money - is not a crime according to Yemeni law. The prices fixed by the CBY are not clearing the market, so they are ignored. That is not a crime.

Point Number Two:

The CBY itself has many times gone on a buying spree. I can remember at least a dozen times during 1994 when the CBY purchased dollars from the parallel market at "any" rate it can find. Nobody took the CBY to prison.

Point Number Three:

The Central Bank is the party issuing licenses to the banks and money changers. If any of these do not comply to its rules and regulations, it can withdraw or limit the license. There is no need to take anyone to prison.

Point Number Four:

If the CBY wants, I can supply it with a long list of speculators from among the top hierarchy of our officialdom and military/security personnel. Will the CBY take them to prison?

In addition, why aren't the big sharks among money changers free? Or is the law to be applied regarding the little fries.

I am beginning to feel maybe, just maybe, the economy would be better off without this so-called Central Bank of Yemen. Most of our troubles can be traced to a highly politicized CBY. Unless the CBY shapes up and leaves the parallel work, I strongly urge that we consider closing it down. I am serious, and I know quite a bit about monetary economics.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

WHOLESALE APPOINTMENT OF YEMENI AMBASSADORS

The government of Yemen is busy these days in a wholesale appointment of ambassadors. most of them - thank God - career diplomat. The following is a list compiled by the Yemen Times:

Yahya Al-Iryani (Poland),
Rashid Moh'd Thabit (Tunisia),
Hassan Al-Lowzy (Jordan),
Mohammed Hadi Awadh (China),
Riyadh Al-Akbari (Iraq),
Abdul-Wahid Mohammed Farc (Indonesia),
Dr. Hussain Al-Amri (Britain),
Dhaifallah Al-Uzaib (Oman),
Ibrahim Al-Saeedi (India),
Mohammed Al-Kebab (Saudi Arabia),
Abdullah Al-Radhi (Iran),
Sharaf Al-Sayidi (Qatar),
Ali Al-Khadir (Bahrain),
Hussain Taher (Mauritania),
Abdullah Berakat (United Arab Emirates),
Abdul-Malik Ismail (Pakistan),
Saleh Al-Ashwal (Syria),
Mohammed Al-Iryani (France),
Dr. Abdul-Galeel Humarah (Poland),
Moh'd Shayif Jarallah (Algeria),
Dr. Abdul-Dayim Mubariz (Cuba),
Mohammed Abdullah Al-Wazeer (Italy),
Abdul-Wahab Showkani (Morocco).

By the way, none of the above are from the Islah.

SAUDI OFFICIAL VISITS YEMEN

For the first time since the Yemeni civil war, a senior Saudi official arrives in Yemen. His mission - to provide assistance in the health sector.

Abdul-Rahman Al-Suwailim, Deputy Health Minister in Saudi Arabia, landed in Aden on Saturday, December 24th. "I am here to participate in the inauguration of Aden Hospital, and to discuss further cooperation in the health sector," he said.

It was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia financed the construction of the hospital, and all the furniture and equipment needed by the hospital.

This is the first resumption of Saudi aid to Yemen.

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Al-Zubair Mohammed Saleh:

"Sudan and Yemen are pushing for special ties."

The Governments of the Sudan and Yemen seem to be headed for closer and closer relations. The visit of Sudanese First Vice President Al-Zubair Mohammed Saleh last week did a lot to cement the strong relations and lead to further cooperation. The two sides signed many agreements and accords that will regulate their cooperation.

Al-Zubair granted Yemen Times an exclusive interview. Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Sanaa Stringer Al-Izzy Asselwi went to speak to the Sudanese official, and filed the following interview:

Q: How do you assess your meetings with the Yemeni officials?

A: I am extremely happy with the visit. People often say the visit was successful, but this one really led in tangible results. We have done very well and I am happy as I head back to Khartoum.

Q: Could you give us some details on the agreements reached?

A: We have reached several agreements. At the economic and commercial level, we have agreed to reduce harbor (docking) fees and customs taxes on imports from each other. This is coupled with a barter arrangement, according to which goods and commodities will be exchanged. For example, we will be exchanging Yemeni gas for Sudanese sheep.

At the diplomatic level, our foreign policies will be coordinated. Moreover, our embassies will work closely. Wherever there is just one embassy, it will attend to the interests of the other. Visas for diplomatic passport holders will be waived. At the educational level, we will exchange experiences in curricula, books, teachers, etc.

At the sports level, we will be arranging games and exchange of teams.

At the cultural level, the two countries will exchange artistic work, will sponsor exhibitions, and will stage shows and plays in each other's country.

Q: What have you done for the Sudanese community in Yemen?

A: We have met with representatives of the Sudanese community in Yemen. We have also raised some issues of concern to them with the Yemeni authorities.

I believe the Yemeni side has now settled many of their rights and has resolved many pending issues.

Q: Yemen is playing the role of mediation between Eritrea and the Sudan. What is the

problem, and how do you assess the fruits of the Yemeni effort?

A: There is no real problem between Eritrea and Sudan. It is just a misunderstanding. The Sudan has played a key role in the successful conclusion of the struggle of the Eritrean people.

The problem is that there are still many Eritrean refugees in the Sudan. The Eritrean government should help by expediting their return home.

I think both Khartoum and Asmara have trust in Yemen's leadership. High-level security delegations from the two sides are expected to arrive here shortly in order to start talks in earnest.

I do not see any real problems, and if there are complications, Yemen's good offices will undoubtedly help the situation.

Q: There is a relative improvement in the Western attitude towards the Sudan. Could you substantiate that?

A: Your observation is correct. There is a visible easing in the IMF position vis-a-vis the Sudan. In fact, the IMF rather than freezing Sudan's membership, is now providing some technical assistance. They say that we have done well in terms of corrective measures. Of course, the measures we have taken are based on our own conviction and decisions rather than as part of an IMF recipe.

There is also improvement with Europe, especially France. You know all the media campaign associating Sudan with Carlos and other such nonsense have been proven wrong, if not malicious.

We are interested in closer relations with everybody, and we do not enjoy being an out-cast. But



we will not agree to toe anybody's line simply to be accepted in the fold of this group or that.

Q: If we move to internal Sudanese affairs. You are preparing for regional elections?

A: Yes, preparations are underway for elections in the regions. We expect the registration process will be completed by early March.

The elections will be limited to those who are qualified. We do not believe those who seek posts should be awarded the job. We go by the traditional rule of "Those who seek rule, should not be obliged."

We are looking for individuals who meet certain qualifications for managing the regions. Honesty, skill and abilities are among the top requirements. Following the regional elections, we shall prepare for the national-level elections. These will probably be a year later.

Q: I see you have a different concept of democracy?

A: Yes, our concept of democracy is based on *shoura*, which is more encompassing than simple vote-casting once in a while.

Our system is a way of life that covers many dimensions.

wilayas can chart out their course of action and decide the kind of system they want within a unified Sudan.

Q: But still some northern administrators will be at hand to help them?

A: Yes, there will be two senior northern administrators in each of the southern wilayas, just as there will be senior southern administrators in the northern wilayas. This will guarantee there is a certain degree of harmony and coordination in the various wilayas of the country.

Q: In a few days, Sudan will celebrate its 39th anniversary of independence. Any last comments on this occasion?

A: I believe we should remember the sacrifice of our forebears who fought for independence. We should not allow such independence to be a mere facade, while in reality it may have lost its substance.

I also want to thank the Yemenis for their support and understanding. I found the Yemeni authorities and people, wherever we went - Sanaa, Marib, Aden, etc. - to be very forthcoming and sympathetic. I think the Yemenis and Sudanese peoples are similar to each other.

My deepest gratitude goes to President Ali Abdullah Saleh who has shown a personal care for stronger relations.

عيد ميلاد سعيد

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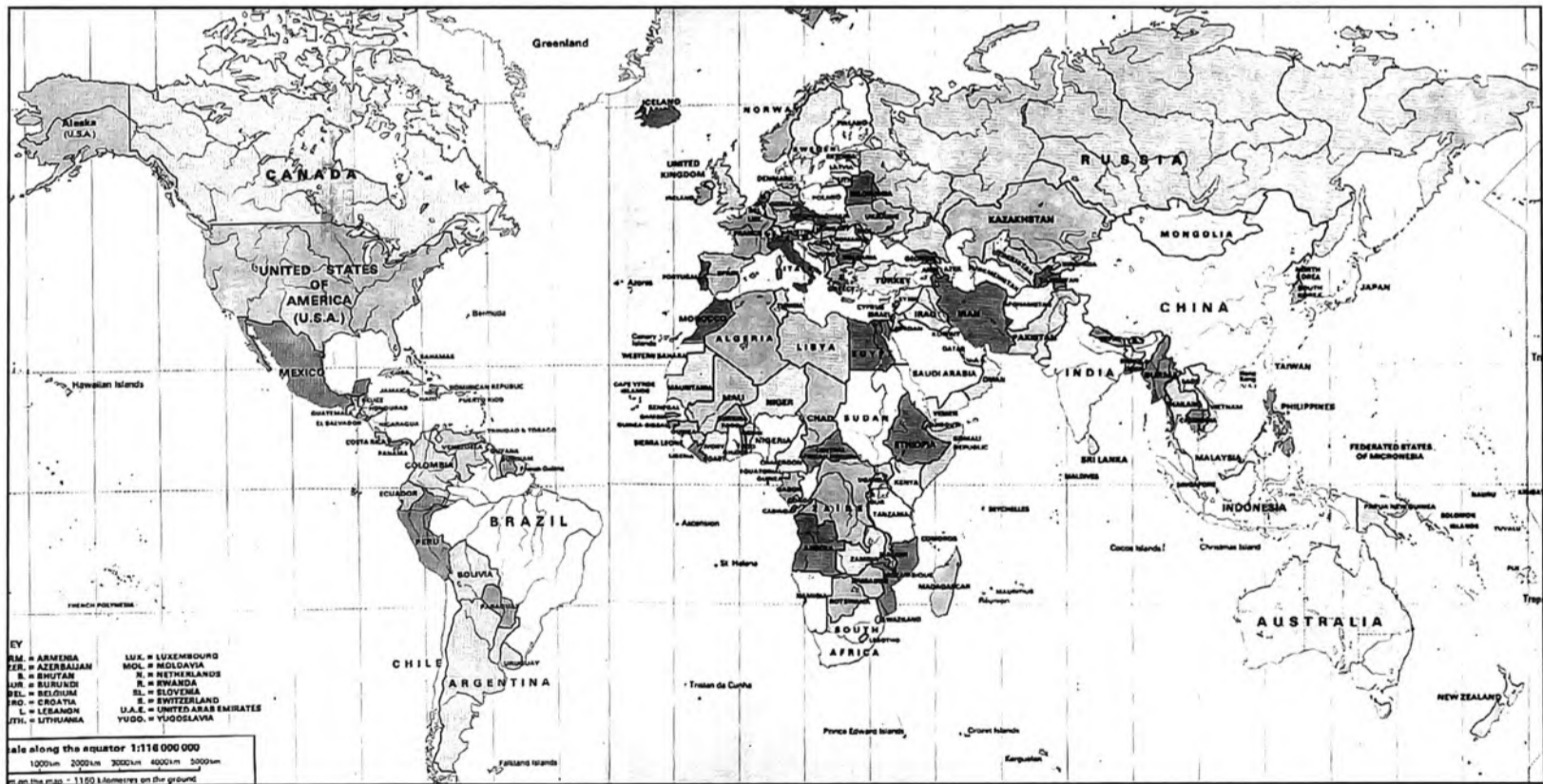
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Common Sense

On Yemen-Saudi Relations

By: Hassan A-Haifi

There is nothing more illogical and incomprehensible than having strained relations between two neighbors, that actually can complement each other in so many ways: the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Therefore, one is at a loss in finding justification for either side to have to resort to intimidation or violence in order to settle matters that can be resolved in a conference room.

There is no doubt that the people of both countries have found it more reasonable and worthwhile to interact with each other throughout history, whether as two viable states or as part of one part of one Islamic nation, for approximately 1400 years.

In the early days of Islam, Yemeni, Hijazi and Nejd tribesmen joined together to form the nucleus of the Islamic armies and missionaries that fanned out east, west, north and south, until the muezzins call to prayers was heard from the Iberian Peninsula to the Great Wall of China, and from the Caucasus Mountains to the deep hinterland of Africa.

As the idea of nation states crept into the Arabian Peninsula, in the beginning of this century, the two emerging states - Yemen and Saudi Arabia - had their first tries at conflict, through the barrel of a gun. But the motive still remained to make sure that the Arabian Peninsula remains as one entity. Therefore, the issue was really who should rule it all. When the conflict threatened the interests of the foreign powers, which were vying for control and influence in the strategic Bab al Mandal and Hormus straits, both sides felt it was better to avoid foreign interference, by ceasing hostilities. Thus, in 1934, the two sides accepted a status quo situation, recognizing each other's political independence. The issue of defining territorial boundaries between the two countries was postponed for a period of 20 years, until such time comes when tensions subsided and foreign influence would be less detrimental in arriving at a final settlement. This postponement has been renewed twice since 1934. However nothing was done to limit the freedom of movement of people from both countries from and to the other.

Fortune changed when Saudi King Abdulaziz al Saud, was more receptive to oil prospectors than the Imam Yahya Hamid-Din continued to distrust any activities by foreigners in his domain. Corollary to that, the economic fortunes of the two neighbors also changed. Slowly, the migratory itch of Yemenis started to send human waves trickling northwards. Yemenis were welcomed in Saudi Arabia to engage in any trades their hands, minds and business acumen could guide them to.

When the 26th September 1962 Revolution deposed Imam rule in Yemen, political differences between the new Republic and the Saudi Monarchy erupted



again, although without upsetting the relationship between the peoples of the two countries. In fact, the Yemeni population in Saudi Arabia continued to grow in number, as the first civil war in Yemen, between the Republicans and the Royalists drove more young men to the North with a view towards improving their lot.

In the meantime, Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Crown Prince, and later King, Faisal, wisely set out on channeling the increasing oil wealth towards developing the country and raising the standard of living of the general public, thus preventing the Revolutionary fever of the 1960's, then spreading in the Arab World.

Yemenis in the Kingdom enjoyed a privileged status, as compared to non-Saudis from other countries, despite the friction between the two governments that dominated most of the first half of the 60s. Of course, the Yemenis in the Kingdom made sure to avoid any cause for disenchantment towards them by the Saudi authorities, and the former worked diligently to gain the respect of their Saudi employers and, in many cases, partners.

The relations between the two countries were at their best, in the 1970s, as the civil war came to a peaceful end and the Saudis were in the midst of an oil boom. It was in the late 1970s that Saudi-Yemeni relations bore their best fruits, with Yemeni expatriates sending home the largest amounts of remittances; and the Yemeni government receiving substantial financial support from the Saudi government. Even the private sector in Saudi Arabia was beginning to explore investment possibilities in Yemen. Also, by this time, Yemeni entrepreneurs had set up some of the leading commercial and investment enterprises in the kingdom, especially second generation natives of earlier Yemeni migrants to Saudi Arabia.

As the situation in the area could not maintain stability from a political and economic standpoint, and the course of events in the world and the region seemed to veer off anticipated trends, Saudi-Yemeni relations were bound to be affected accordingly. What went wrong? The details are really not important, but the obvious outcome of the increasing cooling of relations between the governments, this time had to lead to consequences

which affected the populations of both countries.

It is my belief that there seems to be a greater leaning towards overreacting on both sides, as relations between the two governments became increasingly tense. Whatever convincing argument each side may use to explain their respective positions, the real question is: Should anything have been allowed to go wrong?

Relations between states are usually governed by a whole set of circumstances. However each state must allow for:

a) variances in some of these circumstances and be prepared to adapt to them accordingly; and
b) not to resort to extreme positions in dealing with any such variances.

Each state must also take into consideration the desire of the other state's drive to attain prosperity. Both states must deal delicately with issues that concern their neighbors, and at best avoid any position on these issues that could lead to significant impact on the circumstances governing the relationship between neighbor states especially.

On the recent developments in Saudi-Yemeni relations, one can detect the following important developments;

1) The Gulf Crisis of 1990, seriously damaged whatever was left of the good will between the leaderships of the two countries. But this time, the people were victimized.
2) The unification of Yemen has given Yemenis more self-confidence leading to an increasingly independent handling of the foreign relations.
3) A rising level of tension around the border issue.

One would safely guess that political opportunists could have misguided the Saudis in taking the position that had taken in the recent civil war in Yemen.

Whatever the problems of the past, one can say that there is no point in resorting to violence in settling the issue of the border dispute. Past rulers of both countries had dealt with this issue and avoiding being embroiled in any serious confrontation that could lead to undesired results. As a suggestion, maybe the two sides can consider a 5-year moratorium on the issue, while seeking arbitration through an international panel composed of representatives from the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and the Arab League. In the final analysis both governments should be guided by the desires of their citizens in this regard. It is time for reason to prevail over prejudices and miscalculated stands. The mutual interests of both countries seem to confirm this more than any other consideration.

In practical terms, the citizens of both countries - from Aden to Khafje - are one people who share mutual interests, historic ties and fraternal bonds. It is rather of little significance where the border is finally laid down, if it ever does get laid down!

The Hotline

Successful Census? Well, almost!

By: Hassan Al-Sagheer

In the headquarters of the census campaign, reports are received quite regularly on the progress of work. It is clear that the counting process is proceeding smoothly and on time. Already you get the feel for the size of the Yemeni population, as the numbers are growing rather rapidly. Yet, there are some nuisances.

As an example, let me share with you an incident.

There this sheikh in Barat to the north of Sanaa who has sacked all the census collectors and all the government people because he "volunteered" to write the report. I am itching to give his name, but the Yemen Times editor is forcing me to with-hold it, lest the paper should get into legal and/or illegal trouble. The truth is that this Barat in Hashed, sheikh thinks he can do whatever he wishes.

Now, the government, always known to take the appeasement approach when faced with armed sheikhs, and very well known to send businessmen, bankers, and merchants to prison



because they have no armed thugs around them, is negotiating with the sheikh to let the census people do their work.

I was told, they even agreed to let him "supervise" the work in return for a fee to be paid to him.

Well, there you have it folks. The laws of the land are applied against those who do not have a military force at their command.

At another level, the government has been recently distributing awards and citations for the people who had been instrumental in achieving the unity victory against the secessionists. There is a lot of talk about whether many of the people awarded actually deserved the honor.

In my opinion, the British boxer, of Yemeni origin, Naseem Kashmeem, far better deserves to be honored. He has done more to raise the moral and name of the country than any of the plundering marauders who are now hailed as heroes and patriots.

تهانينا الحارة

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الدكتوراه ناهد احمد نعمان قاسم المذحجي

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Taiz Chamber of Commerce GM:

"The private sector could do much if the government would allow it."

With the passage of time, Yemen's economic situation is deteriorating further and further. Unemployment and inflation are soaring, investment is falling to a trickle, services are as bad as they can get, and there are too many bottlenecks and shortages. Factor price distortions is accepted to be a major cause. A strange phenomenon associated with all of this is that the government's efforts and/or its declared intentions to help the situation only make it worse. The recent volatility of the exchange rate of the Yemeni currency is a case in point. Today, the dollar easily fetches more than a hundred riyals, well in excess of the YR 85 benchmark fixed by the monetary authorities only a few weeks ago.

Mr. Abdul-Qader Mughalles, Taiz Bureau Chief of Yemen Times went to speak to Mr. Mufeed Abdo Saif, General Manager of the Taiz Chamber of Commerce and a leading business personality. He filed the following interview:



Q: We have recently observed the whole-scale imprisonment of money changers. How does the government justify such action, and does it solve the problem?

A: I am sorry to say that the money changers are scapegoats. They are victims of the mismanagement and inefficiencies of the government officials themselves. I think neither the approach nor the action are justified.

Legally, the government has no right to imprison the people who trade in money, because it is a product which has its own demand and supply.

To add insult to injury, many businessmen who are not money changers have been imprisoned.

Q: Last month, a YR 85 per US dollar was fixed. Was that a correct price?

A: It is not a matter of correct price. It is a matter of not fixing the price, to start with. It is up to the market, not the government,

to determine at what rate a certain currency will sell. The market adjusts itself depending on supply and demand. The government should simply leave the market alone.

Actually, the government does say it is up to the market, but then we get such stupid decisions.

Q: What are the reasons for the deterioration in the value of the Yemeni Riyal?

A: There are many reasons, the overall backward economic conditions being the basic factor. If you want me to list direct factors, I will mention the following:

a) We need more foreign exchange that we earn. In other words, demand of foreign exchange exceeds its supply.

b) The prevailing and overwhelming corruption which adds to the cost of doing business in Yemen thus reducing the competitiveness of Yemeni products and exports.

c) Un-optimal use of resources and capabilities.

d) The fall in the level of foreign aid to the country.

e) The burdens of the Gulf War and our recent civil war.

f) The absence of a clear and sustained monetary policy in Yemen.

g) Smuggling, tax evasion, and other illnesses.

Q: What do you think of the economic promises made by the new government in its program presented to parliament?

A: Most of the objectives promised by the new government do not have any step-by-step plan of action or mechanism of implementation. It is all good talk, which I don't see being implemented.

To start with, the government can start with its own problems, such as corruption favoritism, administrative inefficiencies, wasteful expenditures, which it should tackle.

Q: The government is repeating that it would like to help activate the private sector and facilitate its work. What has it done for the private sector?

A: That is all political talk. I do not expect the government to lend a helping hand. Actually, the private does not need any hand-out to do its work. If the government wants to help, it should simply give the private sector large amounts due to it by the state.

For example, refunds of customs duty payments are owed by the state. This is accrued when a private investor imports raw materials or semi-manufactured goods which become part of a final product which is exported. Large amounts of money are owed according to the law, but never paid. The government does recognize these amounts are owed, but it does not pay. The government can help by drawing up the overall macro framework. That is all.

Q: There is a tug of war between consumers and suppliers/producers. How do you explain that?

A: Consumers demand price stability. Many times they accuse the producers of raising prices unjustifiably. In an inflationary environment like ours, any fall in the value of the national currency or increments in factor costs are passed on to the consumers. So the suppliers and/or producers take the wrap, because the people do not see the root cause of the problem.

Let me state here that prices in Yemen are generally cheaper than in most countries, including those which are at a similar level of development. The problem in Yemen is not really the price, but the low level of income. I want to insist that producers and suppliers have no interest in raising prices, because that cuts back on the volume of their sale. The media and educated classes have a role to play in creating a level of trust between consumers and producers/suppliers.

Q: One accusation against national capital is that it seeks easy and quick profit. People point to the kind of industrialization investments. What do you say?

A: First, there is nothing wrong in trying to make easy and quick profit, as long as it is legal. Complaining against this is a case of "sour grapes".

Second, any industry that has no demand will wither away. If there is demand, then the industry has actually replaced imports, which is good for the country.

Third, private investments rarely commit large amounts of capital

in long-term investments in such circumstances as ours. In most of the world, it is the government which has pioneered heavy industries.

Sometimes the problem is due to lack of trust in the national industry. I want to tell you that as a Yemeni, I am proud of the Yemenis products which are marketed today worldwide.

Q: In your opinion, what are the necessary conditions for growth in Yemen?

A: I think you already gather by now that an environment conducive to private business activity. A major prerequisite, therefore, is a smaller government in terms of bureaucracy and activity.

Of course, political stability is another major factor. Unless there is stability within the country and in relations with the neighbors, it is hard to imagine any sustainable development.

Another dimension to strengthening our development potential is by finding jobs to our human power. This can be done locally, and/or by coordinating with the economies of the neighbors. For example, I learned that the Sultanate of Oman was willing to absorb some 100,000 Yemeni workers. We should have given this matter our priority.

Q: On the eve of a new year, what are your feelings of 1995?

A: I am not optimistic. As long as the government pursues its lopsided lame-duck policies. The government is unable to put together a comprehensive strategy to address the economic woes of the country. I am afraid I don't expect much in 1995.


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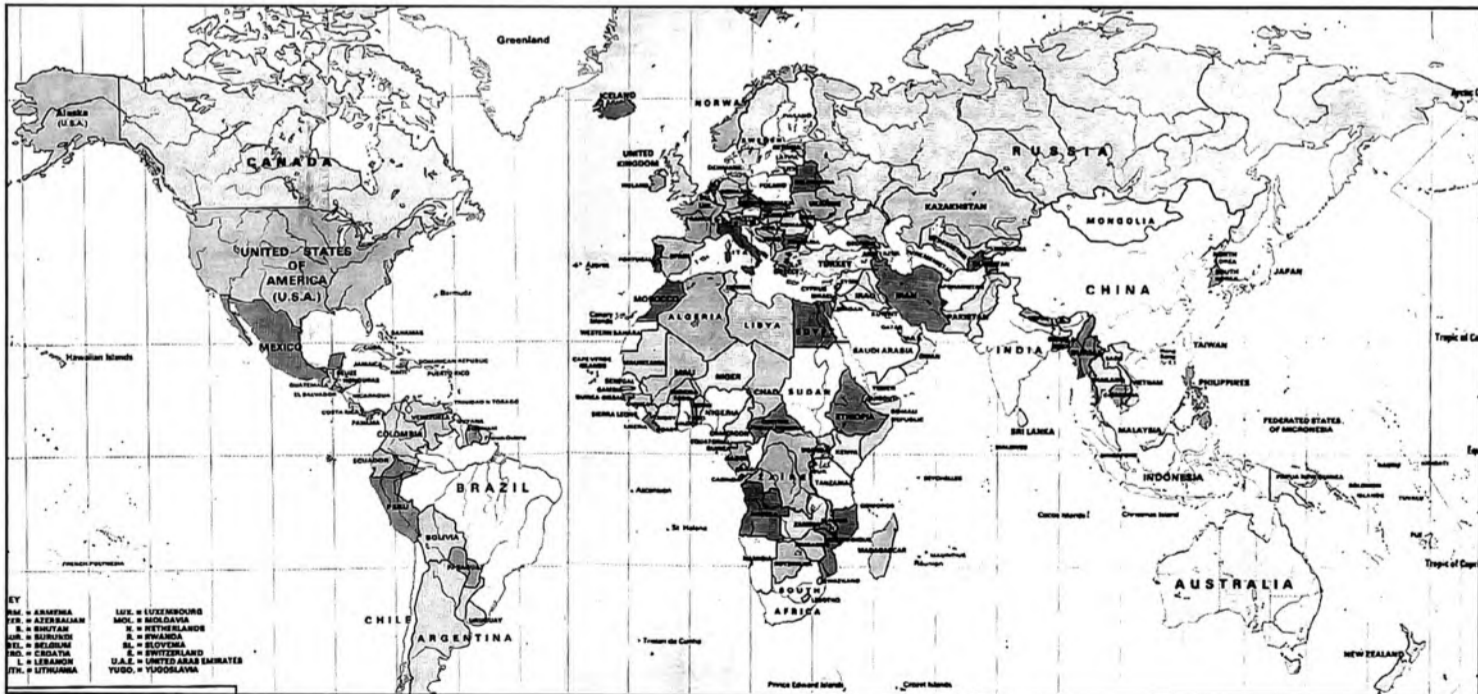
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ASSEA



The Price of Economic Success: ASIAN CITY PROBLEMS

Asia's booming economies are a carmakers' dream, but with grid-locked traffic and chronic air pollution that dream has collided head-on with an environmental nightmare.

Asian's major cities are reaching crisis point as traffic congestion becomes the number one priority for governments grappling with the dilemma of rapidly developing economies outpacing infrastructure development. But for car manufacturers whose domestic economies are only now struggling out of recession, the new-found spending power in a region with more than half the world's population is too good an opportunity to miss.

General Motors, Mercedes Benz, Toyota and Honda are some of the big names looking to take advantage of cheap labor and low production costs by setting up manufacturing bases in Asia.

While governments are eager for the investment, the legendary traffic snarls and pollution so bad that Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia spent much of the summer enveloped in thick smog - have forced an urgent rethink.

In Bangkok, where the traffic and pollution problems are the region's worst, new car and motor bike sales are growing at 13% annually compared with just one per cent growth in new roads.

Sales are booming despite a 257% tax on imported vehicles with engines bigger than 3,000 cc. In belated effort to tackle the problem, the government is introducing 210 vehicle testing centers to eliminate defective vehicles, but strict enforcement of emission levels is thought to be unlikely. Work has also begun on an elevated rail system for the Thai capital after years of

wrangling, and a new motor way to the airport is scheduled to open in December. But most observers agree the problem is likely to continue for the near future. Indonesia, where traffic problems are rapidly approaching the scale of Bangkok, is enjoying an unprecedented car sales boom and is wooing actively investment in the sector. General Motors of the United States has set up a joint venture to assemble Opel cars. It hopes to sell 5,500 next year. Mercedes-Benz began making its first Asian-built small truck in Jakarta in June. Car sales are expected to hit 300,000 this year against 215,000 in 1993, with September sales hitting a two-year high.

Jakarta's traffic congestion was highlighted in November, when it hosted the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum. Indonesians were given a two-day holiday to help clear the capital's streets and allow the motorcades of world leaders to pass unobstructed.

The story is the same in India, where an economic reform program has opened up the closed car sector to foreign investment, triggering a rush to capture a share of one of the world's largest potential markets. Carmakers such as General Motors, Suzuki, Peugeot, Rover and Mercedes Benz have recently signed joint venture agreements in India but will be churning cars into chaotic, hopelessly overcrowded roads.

India has 25 million vehicles, which will grow to 32 million in 1996 and 49 million in 2001. But this does not take into account the bicycles, bullock carts and other conveyances that clutter the streets.

The first concrete effort to

reduce pollution will be the introduction of unleaded petrol by 1st April, 1996. A recent attempt to ensure all cars had "pollution under control" stickers glued to their windshields fell by the wayside after a few months because there was no one to enforce the rule.

The Hong Kong government is eyeing an electronic road toll system similar to one used in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, to combat a growing traffic problem that has slowed cars heading for the harbor tunnels linking Hong Kong island to Kowloon peninsula to just 10 kph - slower than a bicycle.

The government has also proposed a stiff increase in the tax on cars to 70% of its total value, from a current 40 - 60% Annual license fees would rise by 40%

Just 13% of households own a car in Hong Kong, but there is one vehicle for each 3.7 meters of road space. Private vehicles are growing at a rate of 10%.

In the Philippines, where car sales have grown an average 30% over the last years, Manila officials are planning to enforce travel restrictions on a main thoroughfare in peak hours.

Only Singapore has managed to escape the Asian traffic nightmare, introducing draconian measures to combat pollution and congestion. To help traffic flow smoothly, the government has spent US \$1 billion to build and upgrade roads in the last five years. It plans another \$1.5 billion for roads over the next five years, according to the Registry of Vehicles.

Singapore also has a car quota system that makes it one of the most expensive and difficult places to buy a car.

YEMEN TIMES 1995

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The Neolithic Revolution & the Advent of the Bronze Age

During the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age, mankind spread across the entire globe, pursuing game and collecting the plants that happened to hand, basically exploiting the bounty of nature, influencing but not mastering it. Towards the end of the last glacial period when the glaciers were withdrawing into the mountains and receding northwards, the sea level began to rise with the temperature, and a very warm moist climate dominated many parts of the world, to the North and South of the contemporary temperate zone. At the same time, human population density began to grow, and it is possible that hunting groups began to intrude on each other's territories in the river valleys on the edges of less hospitable domains, such as the desert.

Whether or not these conditions influenced developments is unclear, but some 10,000 years ago, the most remarkable step in human history took place: the wandering hunters settled down and founded villages. The villagers domesticated animals and planted crops: man began to transform the environment in which he lived, felling forests and building canals to irrigate arid areas. Some people will have continued to hunt wild game, while others will have pursued herds of goats and sheep from one pasturing area to another, but the stage was set for the development of human life as we know it today, for many villagers in the middle east continue to live under conditions not far removed from those of their ancestors so many thousands of years ago. And those whom we term nomads are really nomadic in a pastoral sense tending animals which were first domesticated during the Neolithic. There are few true hunters left today: the Neolithic effectively transformed human life on earth in a few short millennia. In contrast, the technological improvements of the preceding Paleolithic cultures had not fundamentally altered the way in which people had lived for more than a million years.

The appearance of villages led to the accumulation of wealth, for the very nature of sedentary life permitted people to possess more than they could carry around, and made it possible to enjoy possessions, rather than to regard them as a burden. Human beings are by definition social creatures, so that society predates the Neolithic villages, going back to

before the emergence of even man's earliest ancestors, many millions of years ago. But social status and prerogatives based on wealth are features of human life which cannot effectively predate the Neolithic.

The characteristic innovation of the Neolithic was the pottery jar: a heavy immobile vessel used to store surplus items, something that would have been inconceivable at any earlier point in human history, when lightweight leather containers and twisted baskets may have been used for whatever it was necessary to carry along. People now stored water in their houses, rather than setting up their tents beside rivers and lakes. As far as we know these developments first took place in the fertile crescent: in Palestine, Lebanon, and along the Euphrates river in Turkey, Syria and Iraq. From a few settled villages, the customs of building houses, planting crops and making pottery spread to the rest of the Near East.

Wealth and political power accompanied the expansion of village life, and by the end of the Neolithic period, we have virtually identical pieces of pottery found across a large part of the middle east, signifying that people from Oman to Turkey were all part of one civilization. The first large public buildings appeared in Southern Iraq about 7,000 years ago, and it has been suggested that the large geographical expanse of this cultural unit may have had a single dominant political unit at its center: a state. It is a bit much to suggest that some nicely painted pieces of pottery represent a state, but the combination of monumental architecture, small figurines (potentially of religious significance), and a highly developed style of pottery decoration suggest that the conclusion is not to be disregarded. But the state will have been centered in Iraq, and been merely in trade contact with the rest of the middle east.

The next thousand years saw the emergence of a second powerful state centered in Iraq, related to the city of Uruk-Warka. It was at this decisive point in time that cities emerged, and a system of writing, in order to record the transactions related to administration in an urban environment. The early urban age was the Bronze Age, but stone was still used for many purposes. Among the instruments preserved from the end of the Old Stone Age or the Epipalaeolithic

into the Bronze Age were the bow and arrow, which were now used to subdue other nations of humans, rather than to pursue game, for food was now produced on farms. The urban state used pre-urban tools to establish its territory and to grow: peoples on the fringe of civilization were conquered or rendered powerless, and the power of the state grew far beyond the cities, including large tracts of countryside as well. But the power of the states was still concentrated in small pockets of the contemporary settled world, with influence going far beyond the reach of military power. As the urban structures in Iraq and Egypt grew, contacts between the two thus expanded as well. It is clear that at a certain point in time connections between the two superpowers of early antiquity followed the land bridge across the Sinai, but it is increasingly probable that connections between Iraq and southern Egypt were effected directly, by way of sea borne contacts across the Gulf of Aden. This will have been the first time in history that Yemen will have found its role of being "central to the periphery", since it was an independent country and not a client state of either ancient empire, and yet held a key position in the geography of the ancient world. Traders from both ancient Iraq and ancient Egypt will have found their way to Yemen, and purchased local products.

Thus, the archaeology of Yemen does not represent the mainstream tendency to be found in the areas immediately adjacent to the empires, with vestiges of cultural or economic imperialism as seen in the artifacts of Syria, Palestine, Turkey and the Sudan. At the same time, only Yemeni raw products found their way to the contemporary centres of power, and so there are no superficially obvious traces of ancient Yemen visible in the artifacts to be found there. The contemporary Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures of Yemen were influenced in a general way by developments abroad, but to a considerable extent, the Yemeni experience was unique.

The Yemeni Neolithic is thus characterized by the continuation of a hunting-gathering culture in a seemingly settled environment, where people unhurriedly adapted to the cultivation of the earth, so that they raised crops and herded sheep and goats while continuing to pursue the chase. One of the clear markers of the Yemeni Neolithic thus remains the arrow-head (more properly termed a projectile point, for they were frequently too heavy to be put on arrows).

Another marker of both the Neolithic and the Bronze Age in Yemen is funerary architecture. All across Yemen, rural areas are dominated by heaps of stones which formerly marked tombs. In Yemen there is a remarkable variety of these cairns, some being accompanied by "tails" of smaller heaps of stones aligned with the main burial, while others contain stone "boxes" in which the dead person was originally placed. Some cairns are monumental, encircled with stone pavements, and others have long alignments of vertically placed stone slabs which converge on a central box with the burial. The circular burial cairns are reminiscent of pyramids, but the rectangular constructions made of stone slabs also resemble the megaliths of central and northern Europe, and thus they are part of a broad pattern, with more specific associations with burial tumuli from the northern part of

the Arabian peninsula, from which certain architectural features seem to be derived.


Aside from their purely architectural nature, burial monuments suggest a social organization and a system of religious beliefs, as larger tombs will have been raised for more important members of a community, and care for the dead implies a belief in a life beyond death. Unfortunately, the oldest preserved texts concerning the Beyond are from the distant world of ancient Egypt, and seem to reflect political events in that country, so that we can never grasp what local monuments meant to ancient Yemenis. They will have been as proud of their independence from the existing state structures of the contemporary international climate as modern Yemenis, and probably just as poor, but they will have developed their own ideas in light of concepts prevalent at the time, being most

strongly influenced by their neighbors on the Arabian Gulf, but we will never know what they believed. We can only realize that in those far-off days some six or seven thousand years ago, Yemenis hunters settled down, and began to reflect on life after death, and to construct suitable houses for their deceased leaders. And that for millennia thereafter, those piles of stones set up on high hills were used to direct caravans on their way through the desert, but that they also marked the point of no return for man the hunter, who would be forever more torn between the desire to wander and the desire to live a life of ease at home.

By: David Warburton.

Mr. Warburton is an archaeologist and Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. The opinions expressed here are his own.

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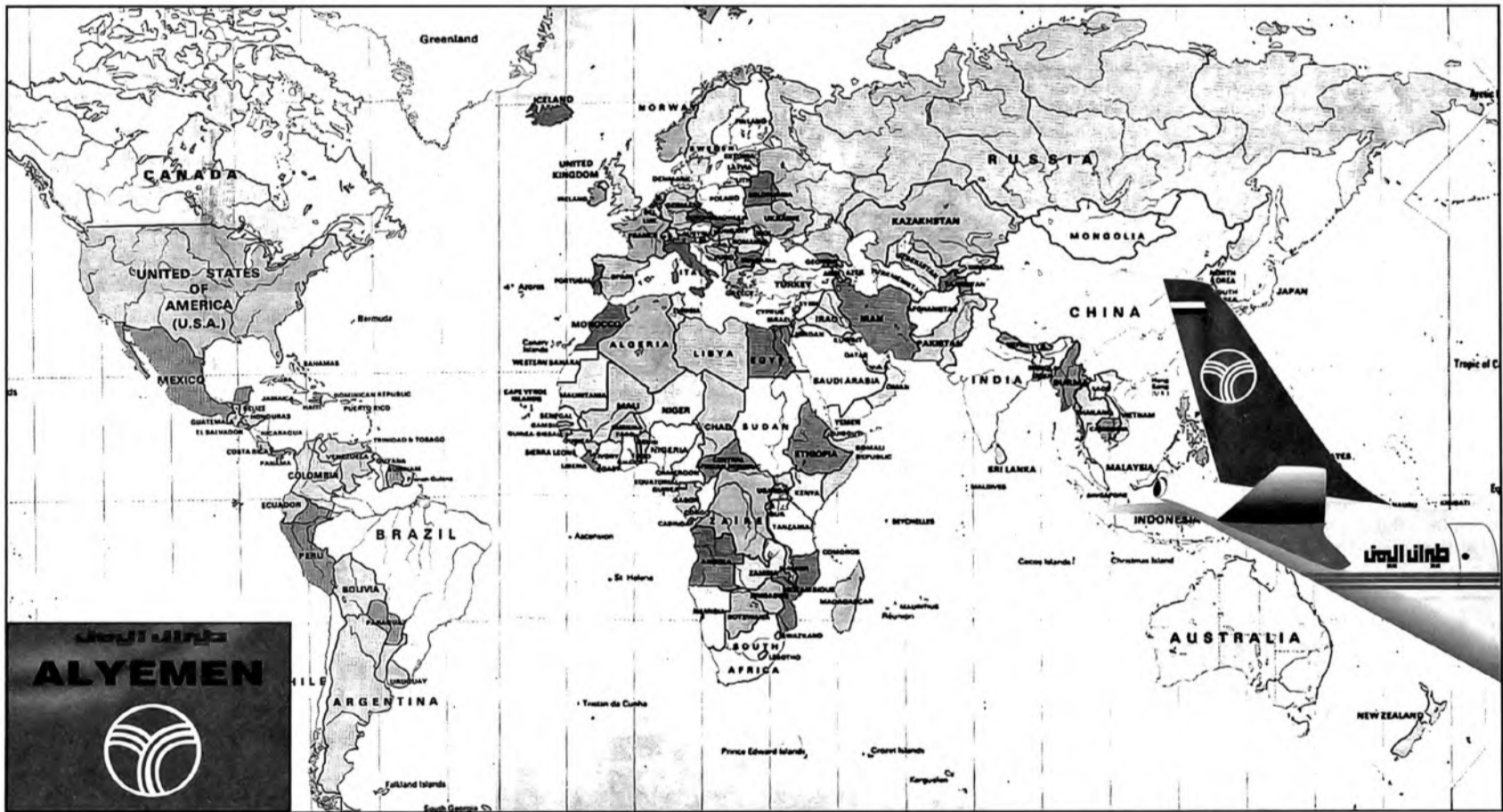
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Letters to the Editor

"GHOSTS AND GHOULS STILL RULE YEMEN"

In "Ghosts and Ghouls Still Rule Yemen" (Yemen Times issue Dec. 12, 1994), by Yemen Times Educational Editor Samira Bin Da'air states that "despite its skyscrapers, had science, and satellite dishes, Yemen is hampered by its belief in 'superstitions and fairy tales'." As a Muslim from the United States - a developed country whose skyscrapers do not have thirteenth floors, whose ladders are not walked and many other different forms of paganism - Aall in search of something, anything to believe in. I find the association between technology and an un-superstitious world particularly problematic. Superstition and technology have never been opposites. The ancient Greeks, Romans, Persians, and Chinese would attest to that. "Development" apparently wasn't enough for them, so they often consult soothsayers, astrologers, fortune-tellers, and oracles in an effort to stoke the unseen into revealing its secrets.

However, let us remember our religion for a moment. If we believe that there is one True God Who created everything, knows that which we know not, and gave us guidance and clarity in our physical and spiritual lives, then what accounts for all the errors we see around us? As Muslims who are encouraged to keep learning throughout our lives, we should at least know what our own religion says.

For instance, in many verses and an entire chapter of the Qu'ran, Allah has mentioned the *jinn*, who inhabit a parallel universe of sorts, who have been given free will just as we humans have been, and who will be held accountable for their actions just as we will be. Also, believers are warned about "those who blow on knots" (witches) in *Surat Al-Falag*. In a well-documented prophetic saying (*hadeeth*), the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that the evil eye (*al-'ain*) is true. Furthermore, believers are reminded again and again to believe in Allah as the only true source of guidance and to avoid perpetrators of "black magic" and fortune telling. In another *hadeeth*, for instance, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned that even 40 days and 40 nights of continual prayer wouldn't be enough to counteract the misdeed of consulting a fortune-teller, and that it was tantamount to disbelief (*kufir*).

Certainly, there is a right way and a wrong way to free oneself of any kind of oppression, be it worldly or otherworldly. The wrong way is to trust in soothsayers and people who use non-

Islamic methods (potions, cryptic incantations, etc.). Muslims who have become lazy, desperate, or otherwise weak in faith may wrongly opt for the services of these charlatans, but they should remember the punishment that is promised for the practitioners of "black magic" and fortune telling, as well as for those who seek their services.

The right way, obviously, is to seek the aid of someone who uses the Qur'an and the well-documented examples from the *hadeeth* of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions. For example, the Verse of the Throne (*Ayat Al-Kursi*), *Surat Al-Nas*, and *Surat Al-Falaq* were specially recommended for combating demons.

Here in Sana'a, it is no secret that there are several well-respected gentlemen with strong faith who regularly perform exorcisms according to specific Islamic methods. Interestingly enough, Jesus (peace be upon him) and his apostles were also reported to have exorcised possessed people (see Mar 1:23-29, Mark 5:1-13, and Acts 16:18 of the Holy Bible).

I feel very fortunate to have entered Islam without the cloak of Arab folk traditions that unfortunately gets wrapped around our religion all too easily. Although sister Samira does advocate "better education and more correct religious guidance" as a solution, she herself lumps together "spirit possession" and "destinies written in the stars" rather quickly and effortlessly, as if they were equally wrong, and as if neither had an Islamic basis.

In conclusion, the best way to avoid the problems caused either by disbelief or by legitimate hoodoos is to remember what we have got. The two verses immediately following the Verse of the Throne remind us quite succinctly:

"And he who rejecteth false deities and believeth in Allah hath grasped a firm handhold which will never break. Allah is Hearer, knower. Allah is the Protecting Friend of those who believe. He bringeth them out of darkness into light. As for those who disbelieve, their patrons are false deities. They bring them out of light into darkness. Such are the rightful owners of the Fire. They will abide therein."

Unfortunately, many people can't see the wealth that is available to them right under their noses.

Yahya Frederickson
Sana'a

The Marib Dam

Marib is a district in the east of Yemen. The land is deserts and sandy. In this area, there used to be one of the world's ancient wonders - the famous Marib dam. The dam was built during the Sabaeen era some 2000 years ago. The story is documented in the holy Quran. It says that once there was the great Kingdom of Saba - in Marib. The dam was built to provide water which guaranteed the continuity of irrigation to the rich gardens and farms. The people used to live in luxury and ease, but they were non-believer. They used to worship the sun and other heavenly bodies instead of God. Then God destroyed the gigantic dam, and the tribes were forced to move on in different regions

in the Arab world.

The migrating tribes carried with them their experience of farming, construction and other activities. They contributed greatly to the evolution of civilization at the time.

History records with honor the achievements of the Yemeni people and their contribution to human civilization. The wisdom and knowledge of Yemen dates back to those days.

In the present time, a modern dam is built near the old one. Water flows to irrigate the lands, turning the desert into a green, attractive oasis, one more time. The large plantations produce grains, vegetables and fruits which the local market needs. The Marib plantations and farms are now supplying the whole country with watermelons, oranges, grapes and

apples. It is a source of satisfaction to such abundance, and I hope that the volume and quality will soon allow exports.

The Marib tribes are famous for their hospitality and chivalry. They hold on to the conventions of the true tribal values. Any visitor is highly respected and entertained. This is not strange, for they are the heirs of the great traditions of Himyarites and Sabaeans. They are the symbol of the true Arabs who regard their habits as sacred.

Everyone in Yemen should not lose the chance to visit the marvelous dams of Marib - both the ancient and modern. The first is a symbol of past greatness, and the second holds the promise of a great future. Yemen, the cradle of ancient civilization, need not languish behind others today.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR

This is to bring to your kind attention that visa department of your respected Embassy is very inefficient. Recently I submitted my application for a transit visa. According to your regulations, an applicant should have a visa for the country of ultimate destination which I had.

There was a woman at the reception who talked rudely to me, even though I was polite and answered all her questions properly. She asked for many things, including my airline ticket and USD

1260 in cash. I fulfilled all the requirement and yet, she refused to give me the visa. Mind you I was only transiting.

At the end, the woman even got rude with me. She was obscene, and finally told me to get lost. I asked on what basis she denied the visa, but got no answer, except more abuse.

Do you agree with the way your staff behaves?

By Mohammed Seif, Sana'a.



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



Pen Friends Corner

By: Rahila Ba-Alawy

FRIENDS TO SHARE

If you can make someone happy when you know they are feeling sad.

If you can see good in someone although they may appear to be bad.

If you can share with someone the things you have, that they may not have.

If you can share with someone lonely, a part of your life.

If you don't take on other people's problems that bother you,

If you are willing to find answers for the worries of others.

If you can help reduce the load of others and show them there still is reason to continue travelling the road

If you can, for a moment, make someone forget their pain.

If you want to bring comfort by loving.

If you can share memories and hopes, if you can share the beauty inside you, and in the things growing wild.

If you can do something small to show you care, If you can rekindle fond memories and remember kindly someone far away.

And if at the close of the evening, you want to reach out to grab that feeling contentment. You will know then it was all worth it.

It was worth at least the trying.

It is such moments that give meaning to us as humanbeings. The dark living creatures inside us fall to sleep.

We bid the day, one day at a time, at last goodbye and we await tomorrow.

We try to comprehend the undying truth that dying is inevitable. DEATH gets us all in the end, but we have to reach meaning before that happens.

We can do it. One way is by a touch of words whispered across thousands of miles, you can make two tired eyes shine again. Fill your life with joy and victory, and do the same for other strangers.

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

تعازينا الحارة


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SUCCESSFUL ALTHOR CAR EXHIBITION



Estimates of the visitors of the Althor Industrial and Trading Company's on-going GM car exhibition put the number at three thousand over the last few days. "The only limiting factor is space, as we see enthusiastic interest in General Motor cars. These are elegant, sturdy and highly efficient cars," explained Mr. Jazim Al-Thor, the General Manager.

On the first day, Mr. Mohammed Jubary, Minister of Supply and Trade, Sanaa Mayor Hussain Al-Maswari, Deputy Information Minister Mutahhar Taqi, US ambassador David Newman, and many other officials.

Since then, the main visitors have been potential buyers of the cars. "We have already sold a few cars on the spot, and we are now taking orders for delivery during early 1995," Jazim stated.

Impressions of the general public have been fantastic. "I would love to own one these cars. I am planning to make this come true in 1995," stressed one visitor who was determined to make a long-time dream come true.



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"NGOs Offer a viable development alternative for the Republic of Yemen."

By: Ameen Nouisser,
Economic Editor,
Yemen Times.

The Yemeni society has always known one form of voluntary self-help movement or another. The major developmental thrust that was achieved in the mid-1970s is often attributed to the grass-roots cooperatives which were launched on the initiative of the people. The experiment was distorted once the government decided to "regulate such initiatives."

"Today we are reviewing the whole Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) movement in an attempt to strike a balance between local initiative and government guidance," explained Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister in charge of NGOs. According to the Deputy Minister, there will shortly be a workshop to study the way NGOs function, their interaction with the government administration, their financing methods, and what can be done to revitalize their operations. According to the Deputy Minister, the NGOs offer the Republic of Yemen a viable development alternative.

He added, "It is clear that the over-bureaucratized government effort has not achieved its goals. In addition, we expect far less resources to be made available to the country through foreign assistance and investments. Thus, it becomes critical to mobilize domestic capabilities, and this can only be done through private initiative." Actually any foreign resources

made available to Yemen, would be put to better use by the NGOs rather than the government.

The Director-General of NGOs at the Ministry of Pensions and Social Security, Mr. Ali Al-Sha'ir, echoed similar sentiments. "Today there is a total of nearly 1000 NGOs registered with the Ministry, which is the licensing agency," he disclosed. As a matter of fact, there are double that number of NGOs, but many of them have not even bothered to register with the ministry.

The Ministry does provide some of the unions, syndicates, and federations of NGOs some budgetary support, but the majority of the NGOs are doing without such support.

"We are extremely delighted with the new developments in some of the NGOs. "A case in point is the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA), which is a very active NGO. In its last elections, the HWA brought in female members of the association to participate in full parity with the men," he added.

There are some other NGOs that have left their mark on society given the services they are offering. One such NGO is the Charitable Welfare Social Society which has been helping the less advantaged members of society. According to insiders, one of the major problems facing NGOs is the attempt of politicians to politicize them and use them as vehicles to mobilize support. "Such an attitude has paralyzed and destroyed many local initiatives," explained one senior NGO official.



Deputy Minister Ali Saleh Abdulla



NGO Director General Ali Al-Sha'ir

Governorate	Number	Source:
Aden	213	Ministry of Pensions and Social Affairs.
Sanaa City	196	
Sanaa	72	Note: Number of NGOs as listed at the end of 1993.
Hadhramaut	67	
Taiz	60	
Hodeidah	52	
Ibb	37	
Lahej	33	
Others	73	
Total	855	

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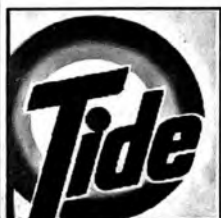
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Good bye 1994, Welcome 1995

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Sanaa Bureau Chief,
Yemen Times.

It is that time of year when one has to stop for a moment and take stock of things. Let us recount the main events of 1994, as under:

1st January:
The NAFTA (North American Free Trade Association) is created bringing Canada, the USA and Mexico together.

6th February:
The worst incident in Sarajevo's bloody strife. A mortar lands and instantly kills 68 persons.

25th February:
An extremist Israeli showers Muslim worshippers in Hebron with gunfire killing 30 persons and wounding over a hundred.

28th February:
NATO warplanes gun down four Serbian planes in what was the first military air encounter in the Bosnian civil war.

27/28 March:
Silvio Berlusconi comes to power in Italy. He is not destined to finish the year.

6th April:
The murder of the Rwandan and Burundi presidents unleashes what was to become one of the worst cases of genocide and human atrocities ever committed.

15th April:
The Uruguay Round of GATT talks is concluded as 120 nations sign it after seven years of negotiations.

22nd April:
Former US President Richard Nixon dies. He was 81.

26th April:
The first multi-racial pluralist elections in South Africa.

4th May:
Israel and the PLO sign a peace treaty that gives the Palestinians self-rule status over Jericho and Gaza.

1st July:
PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat returns to Palestine after 27 years of exile.

7th June:
The civil war in Yemen comes to an end with the victory of the unity forces. The war had begun on May 4th.

8th July:
North Korean long-time ruler Kim Il Sung dies.

31st August:
Irish Republican Army declares secession of violence.

8th September:
The last of the Allied soldiers leaves Berlin.

19th September:
American troops occupy Haiti.

28th September:
The vessel Estonia sinks in the Baltics as it was on its way from Tallin to Stockholm. The death toll stands at 910 persons.

7th October:
Deployment of some 60,000 Iraqi soldiers near the Kuwaiti border triggers a new crisis.

15th October:
Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to take charge of Haiti, after three years of exile.

16th October:
Jordanian and Israeli prime ministers sign peace accord, thus ending the state of war between their countries.

10th November:
The Iraqi Command Council accepts Iraqi-Kuwaiti border demarcated by the UN.

15th November:
German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is re-elected on a fourth four-year term.

11 December:
Russian troops invade Chechnia.

Those are the main events of 1994. Nobody knows what 1995 holds, but for us in the Arab World, it cannot be any better than the year we just finished. Civil unrest and social strife are expected to rise to new levels. Here in Yemen, 1995 will be the year to make or break our aspirations for a modern state.

بشرى سارة

يسر

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GOOD NEWS

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Contest No. 8 مسابقة رقم ٨

Prepared by:

Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر إعداد:

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

Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouq 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. سيعلم اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من «يمن تايمز».

Drill

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Who makes bread? | 2. Who mends shoes?..... |
| 3. Who conducts an orchestra? | 4. Who repairs watches?..... |
| 5. Who makes furniture? | 6. Who sells vegetables?..... |
| 7. Who writes books? | 8. Who paints pictures?..... |
| 9. Who plays the piano? | 10. Who makes men's suits?..... |
| 1. Who cuts men's hair? | 12. Who delivers letters?..... |
| 3. Who sells medicine? | 14. Who serves food in a restaurant?..... |
| 5. Who carries luggage at a station? | 16. Who controls traffic? |
| 7. Who designs buildings? | 18. Who flies aeroplanes? |
| 9. Who takes photographs? | 20. Who pulls out teeth? |

Name: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Winner of Contest Number 7
The winner of last week's contest is **Yusuf Ibrahim Saeed** (please see the picture insert).

The correct answers of contest (7) are:
ACROSS: 1. accelerator 7. son 8. purpose 10. on 12. her 14. potter
16. at 18. bank 20. OK 22. need
DOWN: 2. cough 3. export 4. as 5. to 6. one 9. on 11. brake 13. eats



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PROMISES, PROMISES

On July 7th, 1994, with the triumphant entrance of the unity forces, the acting prime minister of the Government of Yemen, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, sent a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, Dr. Boutros-Boutros Ghali. That was a promise that the unity government will undertake certain steps and decisions. Today, some half a year later, we are printing the letter as a reminder:

QUOTE:

1. After the adoption by the Security Council or resolution 924 (1994) of June 1 June, 1994, on the situation in the Republic of Yemen, which was followed

by resolution 931 (1994), of June 29th 1994, the Government of the Republic of Yemen declared a unilateral cease-fire on eight consecutive occasions, but the rebels continued to reject it through their actions since they continued to bombard by land, sea and air the forces of unity and legitimacy.

2. This uninterrupted violation has imposed a tragic situation on the innocent population of Aden and other cities, which is still exposed to the dangers arising from the continuation of military operation, not to mention the lack of water and other vital needs.

3. For these reasons and in order to protect people and their property and to put an end to

their suffering and the rebel operations, which have continued to threaten national security and the lives of the population, the Government decided to restore and exercise its authority in all areas of the country. Since this has been achieved, the Government of the Republic of Yemen declares and affirms that all military operations will cease definitively and immediately, as a result of which the provisions of Security Council resolutions 924 (1994) and 931 (1994) will be implemented.

4. The Government forces have distributed and are continuing to distribute food and water to the population of Aden and other places in the areas that have suffered the most as a result of control by the rebels.

In view of the foregoing, the Government of the Republic of Yemen wishes to inform you that it has decided to:

a) Declare a general and complete amnesty;
b) State its readiness to compensate all those who have lost property as a result of the rebel operations and to ensure that the law protecting the families of martyrs will apply to the victims of the rebellion;

c) Reaffirm its strong commitment to ensuring democratic order, political pluralism, freedom of opinion and the press, and respect for human rights.

d) Uphold its commitment to the continuation of national dialogue based on constitutional legitimacy and in order to implement

the tenets of the Pledge and Accord Document, as a basis for building a modern Yemeni state;
e) Reaffirm its intention to engage in full cooperation with the states of the region on the basis of the principles of mutual respect, good neighborliness and non-interference in internal affairs - in accordance with the UN Charter, and also it stands ready to develop relations of close cooperation with its neighbors in order to enhance the security, stability and welfare of the people of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf States.

In conclusion, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to you and your special envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, for the efforts you have made in order to settle the internal crises that our country has undergone. I also wish to express appreciation, through you, to the President and members of the Security Council and assure you once again of our complete cooperation with them leading to peace and stability in my country and the entire region.

UNQUOTE

Some of our officials may think they can make promises and then forget about them. That would be a grave mistake and a serious miscalculation. It would be more becoming of the rulers to think seriously about the implementation of the promises made to the Yemeni population and the world at large only six months ago.

The Sign of the Times

Over the recent past, there has been increasing signs that there is an attempt to overhaul the structure and value system of society. Let us look at some examples:

1. A court in Ibb sentenced the Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank to three years imprisonment and moral pressure because it charged interest. The court was looking into a case filed by one farmer who had borrowed from the bank. The bank charges a 7% interest (called fees) for the one-year loan. "Of course, neither the judge nor the court would say how to physically imprison the bank.," chuckled an observer.

2. At Sanaa University, "university guards" were taking into custody students who were seen speaking at length to the opposite sex. Over a dozen male and female students were taken in and made to promise not to talk to the other side. In one case, a student protested stating that the woman he was talking to was his wife. "She can be your wife outside the university, not here," was the wise answer he got.

3. Last week, the Ministry of Education introduced the new time-table for schools. According to the new schedule, the time allocated for such courses as English, mathematics and science was reduced to make more room for religious courses. "That is the best way to prepare for the 21st century," commented a university professor.

4. Segregation of children has become the norm. In region after another, children in schools are being segregated on the basis of sex. Somebody out there is dead worried of mischief among our six year olds. Isn't that sick or what!

5. Adult females are finding it increasingly difficult to become career women. The high unemployment rate prevailing in our society is not helping.

To add insult to injury, the women are advised to bundle up. More women than ever are wrapped in the sharshaf (black veil covering the whole body), which is supposed to enhance their purity. As a result, more women wear the sharshaf today than ever before.

6. As one observer noted, Yemeni male adults are a bearded lot. Yes, it has become a fashion to grow one's beard as a sign of being religious. But then again, Fidel Castro has quite a beard and he is not repenting communism.



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