



YEMEN TIMES



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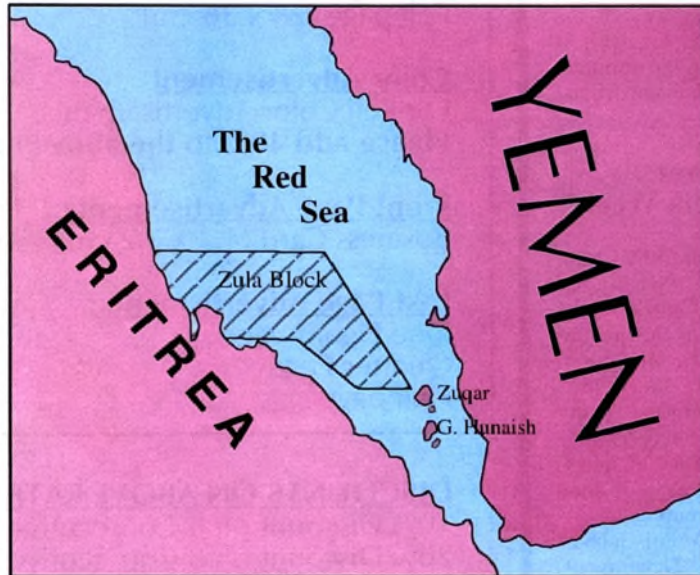
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Eritrea Releases Yemeni POWs

On December 27th, 1995, the Eritrean Government turned over to the Red Cross 195 Yemeni prisoners of war (POWs) captured during the Eritrean invasion of Greater Hunaish island on December 16th. The POWs include Brigadier-General Mohammed Saleh Al-Kuhali, Commander of



Yemen's Western Flank, three colonels, five majors, eight captains, eleven lieutenants, nineteen second-lieutenants, and the rest - 148 of them - rank and file. The groups have arrived in Hodeidah on December 30th in two shipments. Meanwhile, Yemen and Eritrea are still at loggerheads regarding the Hunaish Archipelago, located at the southern part of the Red Sea, some 100 kilometers north of the strategic Bab Al-Mandab straight. Eritrea occupied Greater Hunaish on December 16th, 1995, and has since refused to leave the island. It laid claim to it and demands that if Yemen and Eritrea fail to resolve their differences amicably, they should go to the International Court of Justice. Yemen has acceded to the Eritrean demand to refer the matter to the ICJ, but demands that Eritrea first evacuate the island. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh repeatedly insisted that the Eritrean use of force is uncalled for, and that the situation has first got to go back to its pre-16th December status, before anything else can be done. If Eritrea refuses to accede to Yemen's demands of a return to the pre-16th December status, many observers fear that the situation could quickly degenerate into a full-scale war. Already, there have been an exchange of fire around the island of Zuqar, to the north of Hunaish. Both sides are beefing up their forces in the region in preparation for a potential showdown. Meanwhile, and Ethiopian spearheaded effort to resolve the conflict peacefully is in full gear. Ethiopian Prime Minister Melles Zeinawi has visited both capitals - Sanaa and Asmara - over the weekend. He conveyed to each side the full views of the other, but has not been able to achieve a breakthrough in the conflict.

The Eritrean Government has already leased out the area of Hunaish. In September, 1995, Eritrea and a Houston-based American company, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. The company secured a Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) covering an area of 6.7 million acres known as Zula Block, which extends all the way to the Hunaish area. Please refer to the map above. The two countries, meanwhile, continue to talk peace while preparing for war. They are engaged in a military build-up as well as in a frenzied internal mobilization and an international media campaign. They are also working hard to win over the sympathies of neighboring and other governments. The implications for commercial shipping lines in case of war are immensely visible. Any war will inevitably disrupt the free and unhindered passage of vessels. That is why it is an urgent matter for the international community to stop the further deterioration of the situation. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali offered his kind offices to help the two sides resolve this conflict in an amicable way. Yemen has welcomed the UN offer, while the Eritrean ambassador in Sanaa told the Yemen Times that his government welcomes any efforts to resolve the issue peacefully. "No one wins in this conflict," he indicated. Washington had earlier announced support for the Ethiopian mediation effort which is now complemented by the UN's good offices. The next few days will determine the direction of events in the Red Sea.

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

Last Call:

Yemen Times will announce its choice of Person of the Year 1995 next week.
Rush in your nominations NOW!

Boutros Ghali:

"Yemeni-Eritrean talks could drag on for months."

The UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said that Yemeni-Eritrean negotiations with regard to ownership of the Hunaish Archipelago could drag on for months. In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, Dr. Ghali indicated that the UN has offered to mediate between the two sides.



The UN official, who has just concluded a visit to Yemen, praised the patience and peaceful approach of Yemen in resolving the problem. At another level, he indicated that the UN suffers from the lack of clarity by its member nations regarding what they want the organization to do. "Sometimes they decide that the UN must be involved

in many important international issues; and at other times, the UN is shut out," he said. Explaining his numerous trips to many countries, the UN Secretary-General indicated that many countries are falling back to isolationist tendencies. "It is no longer to resolve problems in any one country by itself," he said.

Full text of interview on page 5.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Organizing Charity Effort: Moving from Almsgiving to Philanthropy

Private organized charity - through the awqaf institution - as well as individual almsgiving are an important component of the fabric of Yemeni society. Between the two of them, they managed in the past to bridge the gap between the rich and poor, and to provide relief assistance in emergency cases. However, both types of contributions have been falling dramatically in Yemen. At the same time, an alternative modern social security system is yet to be put in place. Even the World Bank sponsored ideas of social safety net programs are still unclear. Thus, the poor of Yemen suffer enormously.

I suggest here that our society needs to move from the traditional form of altruism to the modern system of philanthropy. To do this, some changes are needed. I suggest the following:

1. Donations to religious establishments need to be re-channelled, at least in part, to elected community trusts, funds, NGOs, and other organizations which have clearer goals and more transparent mechanisms against which they can be held accountable.
2. Ad hoc donations should be replaced by well-thought out contributions. As it is at the moment, donors passively accede to requests - often under pressure, rather than going out and seeking worthwhile projects to fund. Humanitarian-based donations to individuals will, no doubt, remain an important component; but the money should go to help improve the conditions of a whole group.
3. The current system of one-time donations aimed to serve as a shot in the arm need to give way to multi-year commitments to various projects and efforts. This would help make a cumulative impact on society.
4. Politics is increasingly creeping into the business of charity. This is a recipe for disaster. Charity should not be manipulated to serve the interests of politicians, it should be executed on the basis of its merits.

What I am calling for is the transformation of almsgiving to philanthropy. While charity, in the religious tradition of Yemen, is based on altruism wherein one gives out of compassion, philanthropy is based on a self-serving sense of social responsibility, and thus takes a more impersonal and dispassionate approach with the aim of improving human conditions by institutionalizing giving. Philanthropy goes beyond the immediate needs of any one receiver - which may be pressing - to the root-causes of poverty. Thus, it implies a planned and organized use of charitable funds with the purpose of bringing about the desired vision of society rather than assisting one individual or group.

In our Yemeni culture, the failure to give publicity to donor activities limits the funds that could be made available. In the final analysis, there are few who give purely out of altruism. Often, charity is the result of fear of divine retribution, a desire of social status, peer pressure, fear of loss of face, etc. Such motives have been skillfully exploited by religious and political leaders to make people give in charity. If our modernizing society can come up with counterparts to those pressure tactics, it is conceivable that contributions can be stimulated to a much greater extent.

Our policy-makers could help this process if they could put together the legal guidelines for the transformation. This can be achieved through the tax, NGO, and other laws now pending with parliament.

The Publisher

Al-Shoura Newspaper Still Shutdown

The *Al-Shoura* newspaper, mouthpiece of the Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah, an opposition political party, is still out of circulation because of a government decision. "On July 18th, 1995, the government issued orders to shut down the newspaper. We got a court order to the contrary, but to no avail," says Abdullah Sa'ad, Chief Editor of the newspaper.

"The government does not possess the legal basis for banning our newspaper. What they have done is against the constitution and all the laws of the land. It is also against the spirit of democracy that the government says it pursues," said an official of the party.

Sanaa University Mounts 'Media Week'

The Department of Information at the University of Sanaa has mounted a "Media Week" - the high point of which is the graduation ceremony of the first batch on Thursday, January 4th, 1996. The program includes many lectures, photo/caricature exhibition, and special issues of newspapers and newsletters - all done by the graduating group. Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Gabbar, Chairman of the Department, stated that the graduates and the department will obviously help develop the media industry and business in Yemen.

UN/UNESCO Media Seminar Starts on Sunday

The UN/UNESCO-sponsored Seminar on Independent and Pluralist Arab Media will start at Haddah Hotel on January 7th. It is expected that about 150 participants, organizers and observers will fly into Sanaa for this purpose. The Yemen Times will provide extended coverage in its coming issues.

YSP Men Re-Integrated in Army

Some 1,400 persons from the former YSP army have been re-integrated in the Yemeni army this week. Most of these men had been in the navy and airforce. The re-integration of these men comes against the backdrop of Yemen's naval conflict with Eritrea.

Watch Your Car

According to statistics released by the Sanaa Traffic Department, 48 vehicles have been reported stolen in the capital city alone during November 1995. The report also indicated 9 of those cars have been retrieved. The Traffic Authority had just concluded a Traffic Week event during which strenuous efforts were exerted to improve traffic circulation.

Government Affirms Commitment to Handicapped

"I am happy to affirm commitment of the Government to the handicapped persons," said Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Minister of Industry, Oil and Mineral Resources. The statement came on the occasion of the "Day of the Handicapped in Yemen."

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Jane Taylor ... In Search of Saints and Sultans

Jane Taylor, the famous British writer, is putting together a book on Yemen - sort of a blend of photographs and text. She has spent over two months visiting Sanaa, Marib, Shabwah, Hadhramaut, the Arabian Sea coast, Aden, the Tihama coast, Sa'adah, Taiz, Jabal Haraz, Dhamar, etc. She has a rich collection of pictures as well as anecdotes and stories of various historic, social and cultural interest.

Special reference to Baynun is necessary, given the intricate waterway system which was engineered by the Himyaritic civilization. It is a canal waterway carved out in huge dimensions.

Jane had previously authored *Testament to the Bushmen*, 1984, *Imperial Istanbul*, 1989, *High Above Jordan*, 1989, and *Petra*, 1993. Once she finishes with the book on Yemen, sometime in mid-1996, she is launching another book on the Nabataeans.

Ms. Taylor has also produced several television pieces for the BBC, Granada TV and Yorkshire TV. With a degree in Mediaeval History and Moral Philosophy from St. Andrews University in Scotland, she has worked as a teacher, publisher, writer, photographer, and television personality.

Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf interviewed her this week at the end of her study-trip. Excerpts:

Q: Your book on Yemen - how was the interest triggered?

A: My association with Yemen is old. At the age of 8, I set foot in Aden, in a mid-sea voyage between Malaysia and Britain. I still remember with fascination the skyline of the majestic mountains around Aden.

My first real exposure, however, was in January 1986, when I came to what was the Yemen Arab Republic. My two-week whirlwind trip whetted my appetite for a return.

The Yemeni embassy in London then invited me - in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism to consider writing a book on Yemen.

Q: I worry when foreigners develop a romantic notion of Yemen. Have your expectations been fulfilled?

A: Yemen is one of those places which never turns out what you expect. But this does not mean I am disappointed. To the contrary, I have found real beauty and a tremendous variety which is visually overwhelming and stunning.

Things worked out better than what I had expected. During my first week, someone told me, "Say Bismillah, and wait for the miracles to happen." And some of the things that happened felt like little miracles.

Q: You visited many places in Yemen. What stands out in your memory?

A: In general, the most striking feature of Yemen is the marked and extraordinary variations in the regions of the country while at the same time enjoying strong unifying factors.

Look at Marib, with its awesome obelisks and temples, such as Arsh Bilquis, and its fantastic water control system especially the old dam.

Look at Hadhramaut, which was another revelation. I had the chance of flying on a TOTAL



Hassan Al-Hamdani said: "Baynun was pierced... so that a flow of water could be brought from the lands beyond to the region of Baynun." Today, farmers use these tunnels as pedestrian short-cuts.
Picture and text above from the book: *The Insight Guide to Yemen*, APA Publications Co., Hongkong, 1996.

plane, and watched the pattern of settlement in Wadi Hadhramaut. This was a beautiful pattern like the veins of a green leaf. There, I went in search of saints and sultans. The tombs of saints such as Qabr Hood and Qabr Saleh are visited by large numbers of pilgrims. There are also the gigantic palaces of the sultans, which are landmarks. Then there is the ancient city of Sanaa, itself one huge monument, and a very special place for me, as I lived there. Once you know how it works, it is like a game of chess. The architecture and the harmony that brings together thousands of history and culture is capsulated in this place.

In Tihama, you can see the hardships and hard life. The heat, the humidity, the dusty wind... Yet, the human spirit clings on and creates life under inhospitable conditions. You see the fishermen coming back with the harvest of the sea. In places like Zabid, you can also the learning of the past.

There is then the Hugarriah, which is destined to lead the socio-cultural and economic transformation of Yemen. Here you see the seeds of change. Look at Saadah, which is a fortress of culture and tradition. It is rich in its own way.

Finally, let me point to Dhamar and the regions around it.



Unfortunately, these waterways are no longer used for their original purpose. They have become shortcuts for pedestrian crossings.

Q: To whom is your book addressed?

A: I think it targets the people who enjoy travelling, and looking for somewhere new to go. People who when they travel, would like their experience to be spiced with stories of the people who live there. This category would evidently include the tourists, journalists, businessmen, and even diplomats.

Q: How do you compare Yemeni society with the other communities about which you have written?

A: Of course, each community has its own special features and attractions.

I have written about the bushmen of the Kalahari in southern Africa. This is a society that has remained more or less intact in spite of the march of progress. The second book was about Istanbul, and its tremendous riches. The two

other books were about Jordan - one on the country as a whole, and the second about one specific place - Petra.

My books are about places and about people. I try to combine the two, and Yemen fits nicely in this category as both place and people have much to tell. When compared to the others, however, it is clear that Yemen has more variety within one single place.

Q: You are also planning a sixth book.

A: Yes, I plan to write about the

Nabataeans. And the right place to start is here in Yemen, where for a long time before, many of the things for which the Nabataeans became famous had already existed and flourished. The water control system, the agriculture, the monuments and mountain carving techniques, the skill in trade.

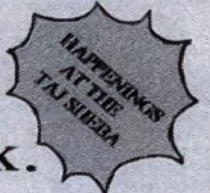
Q: Any last comments?

A: The more I know about Yemen the more I love the place and people. I am now ready to leave, but I can't wait to come back!

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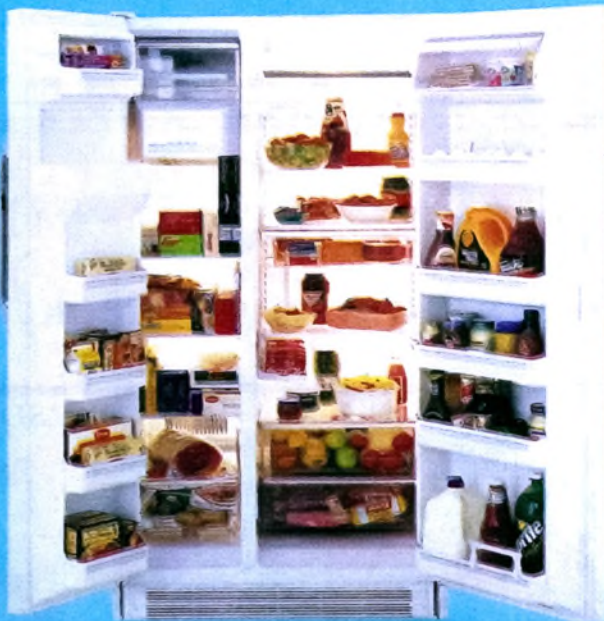
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Continued from page 1:

Boutros Ghali...

Dr. Boutros-Boutros Ghali paid an official visit to the Republic of Yemen during 29-31/12/1995 during which he visited Sanaa and Aden. He met with a number of senior officials, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh, House Speaker Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani. On the occasion, he granted an exclusive interview to the Yemen Times. Excerpts:

Q: What brings you to Yemen?

A: Let me say that this visit has been planned a long time ago. I hope to take this opportunity to try to help in resolving the conflict between Eritrea and Yemen.

In general, however, I travel to different countries in order to increase the interaction of countries with the UN. I am interested in making the UN a real universal organization, not just a club of a few active members. That is really the purpose of this visit and other trips in Africa and elsewhere.

In addition, we would like to see how the UN contribution in Yemen's reconstruction efforts after the war are coming.

Finally, let me mention that I have a personal interest in Yemen. I remember that one of my first research studies was on Yemen. In 1954, as a visiting professor at Columbia University, I did a paper on the southern protectorates. I feel that Yemen has the potential to lead the region in a meaningful way.

Q: How do you assess Yemen's efforts at democratization?

A: Of course, we support this. I think that if Yemen wants to have a place in the modern world, it has to continue on this process. We strongly advise Yemen to continue in its democratization course, political pluralism, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, etc. I think it will be worthwhile for Yemen.

Q: There is a conflict between Yemen and Eritrea regarding some Red Sea islands. As an international law specialist, how do you see this?

A: Let me say that we at the UN would be very happy to offer our good offices to make sure that this conflict is peacefully resolved. We offer our mediation



service, provided the two sides agree to it.

Q: Have they agreed to that?

A: Not yet. Actually we have yet to officially talk to them.

Q: The UN is witnessing a dramatic change, which often referred to as downsizing. What does that mean?

A: It means that we are under pressure to improve the efficiency of the performance of the UN system. At this juncture of time, when the world is going even beyond the post-Cold War period, the role of the UN is not clear enough.

You see, after the Napoleonic Wars, the world met in Vienna and put down the guidelines for the coming period. After WWI, the world met at Versailles to chart out the course of the future. After WWII, the world met in San Francisco to decide on the vision of the future. But, after the Cold War, there was no meeting to define the goals and objectives of the future. So we are groping and feel our way in the best way that would meet the needs of humanity.

Q: You coined certain terms that already indicate your orientation. You have preventive diplomacy as part of the peace agenda, you have the agenda for development, etc. Why do we need separate agendas, whereas, peace and development, for example, are connected?

A: I am happy to visit Yemen which has dynamism that will help in its successful evolution.

A: The reason we have separate programs is that they are requested by different parts of the UN system. In January 1992, one month after I took over as UN Secretary-General, I was asked by the Security Council to present a report - sort of a blueprint of a vision of the future. That is how the agenda for peace was born.

Then, the UN General Assembly asked me to prepare a similar report on development. And that is how the agenda for development was born.

In any case, these are programs that will help enable the UN to more effectively help make the world a better place to live in.

Q: What is the most difficult problem you face at the moment?

A: I don't know if I can specify one single problem, but I can point to the isolationist tendency in a number of countries. I continuously try to interest policymakers and governments in international issues, because it is no longer feasible to resolve internal issues without attending to their international implications. Besides, there are certain issues like environmental considerations, drugs, contagious diseases, etc. that can no longer be handled within any one country. They require a concerted world effort.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I am happy to visit Yemen which has dynamism that will help in its successful evolution.

AL-SOUFI'S STATEMENT:

AL-SAQQAF: VICTIM OF A VIOLENT STATE

The beating of Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf raised a lot of protest and outcries from several prominent Yemenis, especially from those who have dedicated themselves to the institution of democracy as a working political and social framework in the Republic of Yemen.

Perhaps when the rulers of Yemen introduced democracy into the political life of the Republic, they did not expect that people will quickly raise so much protest against government inefficiency and other faults. The totalitarian approach - whether left or right - in those who wield power, continues to dominate the political mentality of the rulers.

A slow process began to gradually transform the democracy that was availed into a surface coating that disguised the absence of human rights, justice and the full application of law - the basic elements of a democratic system. Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, a prominent thinker, writer and civil rights activist and promoter of democratic practice in the RoY, commented at length about the infamous assault on Dr. Al-Saqqaf in a long article titled: **Dr. Al-Saqqaf; Victim of a Violent State.**

Some of the highlights of what Mr. Al-Soufi, Secretary General of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD), said in the article are as follows:

- "It seems that Dr. Al-Saqqaf has become the object of

revenge, whenever the government faces pressure and failure in dealing with a neighboring country.

The first beating occurred in the wake of Yemeni-Saudi border confrontation last January. The second beating came in the climate of the recent Yemeni - Eritrean conflict.

- "Both occasions were undertaken by security men who display the cruelty of criminals couched on the guidance of the law of the jungle."

- "The second assault makes Dr. Al-Saqqaf the first victim of the latest modern electrical torture tools supplied to the Yemeni security organs."

- "Our rulers show flexibility and kindness when dealing with our neighbors regarding border problems, but they become hardened and rough when they deal with the opinion of the citizens. They are also wise and far-sighted when confronted with an aggression on Yemeni territory, but they become cruel and bloody in their response to any citizen who expresses an opinion in a conference or presents a point of view which defends the rights of citizens outside the context of military defeat and who seek a legitimacy which is not established by force."

- "With bitterness in their eyes, students in the Arts College of Sana'a University asked during a lecture I was invited to give on 24-12-95 on the topic of 'Political Violence in Yemen'.

"What ruling authority is this that does this kind of violence in dealing with its citizens, especially those who represent the civilized face of the country throughout the world? There is no crime committed by these people that the law should punish?"

- "We leave the following questions to the Minister of Interior: Who are these bloody thugs? Who gave them the orders to carry out the assault and who permitted them to use electric clubs and skinning tools on the back of Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf?... Who has the power to give such orders, if you yourself did not do it?"

- "The Al-Saqqaf incident came soon after a court decision was made in his favor in the case against Sana'a University. That comes after less than two months since the death of Abdul Habib Salim Moqbil, and less than a month after the holding of a conference on the Yemeni Crisis. We all remember the intimidation and harassment to the participants were exposed before and after the conference.

This incident comes after months of the closing down of the headquarters of the Popular Forces Party and its mouthpiece, Al-Shoura newspaper, without a court decision. These attacks are indicative of the scope of the ruler's use of violence."

- "The steps taken by the rulers after the war confirmed a truth ... which is that the war is not yet over."

مثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة وجميع العاملين فيها
تتقدم

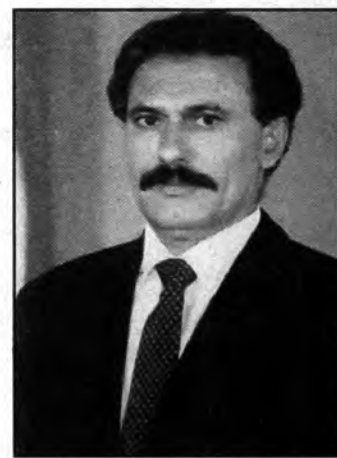
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بالتهنئة والتبريكات للشعب اليمني والقيادة السياسية
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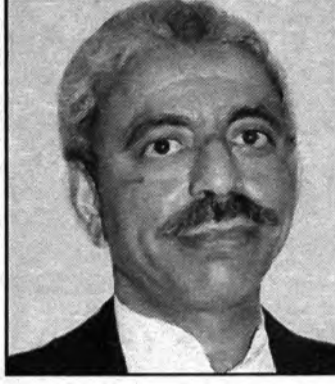
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Republic of Yemen

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Electric Clubs, the Government & the Law



"Thank God, it is all over," said the lawyer, as he walked out of the courtroom, talking to his assistant, Muslih. Muslih asked, somewhat confused, "You mean the case?"

"No, no, not the case. Since when does a case end in one court sitting. I am talking about 1995, the year of continuous despair for our people," replied the lawyer.

"Why should the end of 1995 be a reason for joy," asked Muslih, "Is 1996 promising to be a year of happiness?"

"At least, in 1996, Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf will be spared a beating by unidentified thugs early in the year," said his boss Abdullah as he opened the car. Muslih commented, "Are you implying that the law of probabilities applies to mysterious beatings on helpless intellectuals?"

Abdulla replied, "In Yemen, no law applies! It is just that it will take Dr. Abubakar at least six months to recover from the last beating he had."

"But sir, do these mysterious hoodlums who no one wants to admit any association with, have that much humanitarian sense to wait until the good doctor has healed completely?" asked Muslih.

"No, it is not the humanitarianism in their hearts," said the lawyer, "It is just that they want to wait until the shock of the last beating has been forgotten. Outcries were echoed by many governments and human rights organizations throughout the world," reported Abdullah.

"I think they just want to recharge the electric clubs, since they work on 110 voltage whereas our electricity is 220 volts. Thus they have to be sent overseas for charging... and the new budget will not be passed through Parliament until the middle of next year, so the travel allowance for those accompanying the clubs will not be paid at least until then," joked Muslih.

Abdulla smiled as he turned the ignition key and remarked, "Poor Dr. Al-Saqqaf, 2 beatings in one year, that is probably a record!" Abdulla said: "The good doctor has truly shown that he has a lot of guts. One would think that the first beating would be enough to stop him from writing. Anyway, I think he really believes we have democracy."

Abdulla wanted to clarify things to his assistant: "The doctor is not oblivious to the reality of the democracy we have. He wants to ascertain that there should be a common understanding of what democracy implies,

to the government and to the people. Apparently the government has the notion that the world would be taken in by official declarations of democracy, whereas the people of Yemen should have a different understanding of what democracy actually means. You see, Yemeni politicians always had their own particular definition and understanding of every political term in the book."

Muslih queried, "What about the constitution and the law? I would think that these should be sufficient to bring about a clear understanding of where the rights of citizens end and where the role of the government begins."

The lawyer replied, "I believe the problem begins in the courts. As you can see from our work, the independence of the courts has yet to be affirmed and the powers of the courts are not strong enough to balance the unlimited power of the executive branch of authority. Moreover, the executive branch has been able to organize undercover instruments that do not need to rely on official procedures to operate. Thus they operate outside the law. In fact, these clandestine elements are not governed by any formality which can be traced or accounted for. It would be impossible to sue such organizations in the courts. Even when there are good judges who are serious, honest and sincere, the individual efforts are unable to break the strong influence of the executive branch on the judicial system."

On the mention of the courts, Muslih was beginning to see that his work as a lawyer was not going to be easy: "Do you remember how difficult it was to implement a court decision in favor of our clients whose land was taken by a big shot in the military. Even after losing the case at the highest court, the big guy is still building on the property of the poor orphans who are living in tents set up near the property, waiting for the government to stop the construction and to force the trespasser out." Every time the police try to go to the property to implement the court order, they are met by armed men who diligently guard the property for their commander. The orphans have lost a lot of money in the case and the only thing left from their inheritance is this property.

The guy claims he bought the property from a Yemeni expatriate living in the Gulf. Can you imagine, an important government official coming up with forged documents? We accepted the case, without any fee, out of pity for the orphans, yet we

still cannot get out of the case, because nobody knows how to implement a court sentence. We have obtained orders from the highest authorities, but to no avail. The widow and her children can only weep and pray to God bring about justice. Her husband had given his life for his country during the last civil war against the secessionists. This is his reward!"

Abdullah said, "I have received calls tempting me with bribes to stay out of the case. When they saw I would not budge, the calls turned into threats. When I got a chance to see the President during his meeting with prominent Yemeni citizens last month, I told him about the threats and he was kind enough to call the guy and the threats have stopped. Getting the big brass out of the property is still going to take a lot of work. But since I have committed myself to the case, I must get it finished. It is not easy unless the guy loses his big position, which is unlikely in the foreseeable future."

Muslih added, "I would then think that we have to guide our judges on the importance of getting the laws of the country interpreted properly, especially by the courts since they make final decisions on all disputes as the lawmakers intended."

"Our judicial system is far from mature," said Abdulla and continued, "the strict adherence of our judges to due process of law, whose impact must be felt and seen by the general population, remains as one of our most important tasks as professional lawyers. Without the spirit of the law in a society, there is difficulty in escaping from chaos. Lawyers and judges must work together to introduce law as a mechanism for establishing order and justice in society. Moreover, the arm of the law must over-ride all political, social, regional/tribal and class considerations."

The framework that the constitution sets for society can only be achieved when laws are not subject to exemptions or exceptions for any individual in society, whether in government or outside it. There is also the need to make judges be dedicated to the honorable positions they hold.

Only then can the judicial system regain the respect of the general public who will volunteer to abide by the law and demand that its application becomes universal. This takes many years of judicial experience whether as lawyers or judges, before it can be built into the society and no element of the society will regard itself above the law.

Muslih added, "The government in Yemen is beset by excesses because of the absence of effective application and enforcement of the law within the government itself. Government entities always regard themselves outside the jurisdiction of the law. Once society sees that the government itself does not adhere to any effective code, then it is easy to see how disorder can creep in at all levels."

Abdullah pointed out, "The moment our society begins to believe that it is imperative for every member of society to adhere fully to the law, then most of our problems can be resolved. The moment that those in government, especially in the military and security organs and any person in position of social eminence, become the first to abide by the laws, which they themselves have issued, then can these laws truly become significant and applicable to the whole society. This is because society will appreciate a government which is disciplined and which operates within the law. The constitution of the country forbids what happened to the poor family we are helping to get back their property. There are remedies in the laws to deal with such abuse of power by our big official trespasser. The laws of our country forbid corruption and misuse of government funds, but to date, despite the clear evidence of illegitimate wealth accumulated by so many government officials, not one case has been presented to the courts or has been convicted."

In fact, I know of a case against a public official who had undergone trial and the judge has only to sign a guilty verdict, which for some mysterious reasons he has been unable to do for more than 3 years. Not only that, the official has been newly appointed to another senior post and the former government institution that he used to run was forced to pay his "lawyers fee".

How can you expect society to have respect for a government of this caliber? The same is true in the Saqqaf beatings. What is happening to the doctor is a clear violation of his human rights as the constitution guarantees. While I do not necessarily agree with all his views, I find that these views do not deprive him of his rights. Surely no civilized society will escape feeling offended by the barbarism that Dr. Al-Saqqaf has been subjected to, no matter what views he has. The real criminals are those who have violated a very important constitutional ruling, which the good doctor was only taking advantage of to advance the interests of his fellow countrymen and to give guidance to the rulers, where they have displayed failure or have infringed upon the rights of others or have exceeded the ground rules for proper and effective government, at least the way Dr. Al-Saqqaf sees it. After all, why did the constitution grant freedom of speech and freedom of the press?

Muslih commented, "Maybe because the government was unable to find anybody to beat up before democracy was declared! I just hope that people will not be intimidated or scared, because of what happened to Dr. Al-Saqqaf. Moreover, I hope that they will all voice their protest against such cruelty and make the government understand that constitutionally guaranteed human rights and civil liberties are valued and cherished by all. Such legislation should be defended by every citizen because here is where sacrifice is necessary and deserved in order to make sure that our society evolves in a civilized way. It is a pity that the laws are restricted and violated by those who should be most interested and responsible for upholding them. This is the crux of Dr. Al-Saqqaf's courageous stand for his views, notwithstanding the physical torture and abuse he has been subjected to."

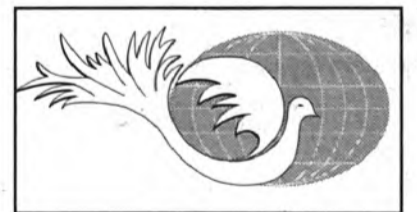
Abdulla said, as he locked the car after arriving at their office, "The law is on his side, yet the government insists on being the first violator of the law. But what can be done to get the government to see light and understand that it must also have the law on its side!"

Muslih remarked as they parted, while he was heading for home, "The only law which seems to be easy for this government to understand is the law of the jungle." Happy New Year!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Global Trade

Assessment of Recent Trends

In the postwar period, the growth of world merchandise trade has exceeded the growth of world merchandise output. Overall, the volume of world merchandise trade is estimated to have increased at an average annual rate of slightly more than 6% during the period 1950-94, compared with close to 4% for world output. This means each 10% increase in world output has on average been associated with a 16% increase in world trade. During those 45 years, world merchandise output has multiplied five and a half times and world trade has multiplied 14 times, both in real terms.

Rate of Increase

From a postwar perspective, the rate of increase in the ratio of trade to GDP in the most recent ten-year period is more appropriately described not as an acceleration relative to 1974-84, but rather as a return to the rising trend in that ratio evident during the preceding quarter-century. The world's trade-to-output ratio has increased by one-half in the past two decades, from around 15% to around 22.5%, and it is not unreasonable to conclude that the ratio may have doubled during the 1950-74 period, from around seven% to 15%. A fundamental process of global economic integration was interrupted during 1974-84, after which it got back on track.

It is true that the pace was somewhat faster in the most recent ten year period, but this is due entirely to the growth rates recorded since 1990. It is still too early to say whether this represents a permanent shift to a faster rate of increase in the world's trade-to-output ratio, or only a transitory increase due to one-time factors, analogous to the temporarily slower rate of increase during 1974-84. What can be said with confidence is that the rising trend in the world's trade-to-output ratio, evident for much of the post-war period, has fully recovered from the slowdown evident during 1974-84 and shows no signs of faltering.

Why should we care about the pace of globalization? Simply because the benefits are so far-reaching. While traditional theory has emphasized rather narrowly defined efficiency-related gains

from trade, there is now a large body of literature that expands the sources of gains from trade and increased globalization to include new forms of specialization and innovation. These include benefits related to innovation, new product development, specialization in production, and growth that can follow from deeper integration of the global economy. For developing and transition economies, globally-oriented trade regimes provide access to new markets and new technologies. Among low-income countries, open economies have grown much faster, exhibiting a pattern of convergence to OECD income levels.

The excess of trade growth over output growth throughout much of the past 45 years, together with the evolution of other elements of global integration, suggests a certain natural momentum. Does this mean that global integration is irreversible?

In seeking an answer, it is helpful to recall the three fundamental factors identified as the forces behind postwar global integration: development in government policies, innovations in communications and transportation, and evolving strategies of firms and individual investors. It is the latter two factors that impart a natural momentum to global integration. If governments everywhere were permanently committed to complete *laissez-faire* in domestic and international policies, supported where necessary by strong anti-trust laws, the first of the three fundamental factors would drop out of the picture. In this case, there would be every reason to believe that global integration would progress under its own natural momentum.

But, of course *laissez-faire* is not the dominant approach to economic policy, least of all in the area of international trade. Government policies with respect to international trade and capital flows can, however imperfectly, either speed-up or slow down or indeed reverse progress, on global integration. Evidence suggests that legally binding "international constraints" on government policy-making can play an important role in bringing about national policies that nourish integration.

Major Role

National trade policies, formulated in the absence of any international constraints, played a major role in converting a recession into the Great Depression. Between 1929 and 1932, world merchandise trade declined by 25% in volume and 40% in value. By 1936, the volume of world industrial production had recovered to 10% above the 1929 level, but the volume of world trade remained 15% below its 1929 level. This was a policy-induced decline in global integration. Out of this experience came the conviction that the best basis -- and perhaps the only basis -- for establishing and maintaining a liberal world trade order would be a system of international legal constraints on national trade policies, based on the Most Favored Nation principle.

Throughout much of the postwar period, the multilateral trading system was rightly seen as a bulwark against a return to the trade chaos of the 1930s. Today, the threat that would be posed by a loss of credibility of the multilateral rules and disciplines would be not a return to the 1930s -- global integration has progressed to the point, where disintegration on that scale is nearly unthinkable. If commercial relations reached the stage of trade warfare that characterized the 1930s, it would be warfare not between countries, but between blocs held together by their own free-trade treaties and a desire to protect the degree of integration achieved within the bloc.

Two Courses

This suggests two courses of action to pursue in tandem. One involves an examination of ways to ensure that current and future free trade areas and customs unions remain outward-oriented, complementing rather than competing with the multilateral trading system. Clearly an important part of any effort to ensure complementarity would be a

decision by the WTO member countries to deal with a series of widely-recognized shortcomings and problems surrounding the existing WTO rules and procedures governing regional integration agreements. The other action involves a broader effort to protect and extend the credibility of the new rules and disciplines agreed to in the Uruguay Round. The success of the Round shows that governments, and large parts of the private sector, recognize that as the dependence of production on cross-border transactions grows, so does the cost of actions that reduce market access or increase uncertainty about future market access. But agreeing to strengthen multilateral rules and disciplines is only the beginning. A willingness to abide by those rules and disciplines, and to adapt them to changing circumstances, is also necessary to a credible system.

As traditional trade barriers have come down, and as global integration and interdependence have increased, many policies that were formerly considered domestic have become trade-related policies. Already evident in the Tokyo Round (domestic subsidies, technical barriers and government procurement) and the Uruguay Round (services, protection of intellectual property and sanitary and phytosanitary regulations) this process is continuing in such traditionally domestic areas as financial services and telecommunications (both central to the globalization process), environment, competition policies and investment policies, to name only a few. Progress in dealing with these and other issues at a multilateral level will have a significant impact on the future pace of global integration, both directly and through its impact on the credibility of the multilateral system in influencing the broad spectrum of national trade policies.

Extracted from:
Report of World Trade Organization on International Trade, 1995.

Esam Al-Haiki:

"Yemen's economic prospects are very good."

Esam Obadi Ghaleb Al-Haiki, General Manager of Artex Trading Co. Ltd., is one of the rising young businessmen. He holds a degree in Business Administration from California State University, USA.

Artex Trading Co. Ltd. deals in a full range of home appliance small electrical appliances and household wares. The company has developed a good reputation in customer satisfaction, which has become a first priority.

Yassin Al-Haj of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Al-Haiki and filed the following report.

Q: Would you give us an idea about the products your company deals in?

A: I am managing a company called ARTEX Trading Company Ltd. based in Sana'a. We deal in home appliance, small electrical appliances and household wares.

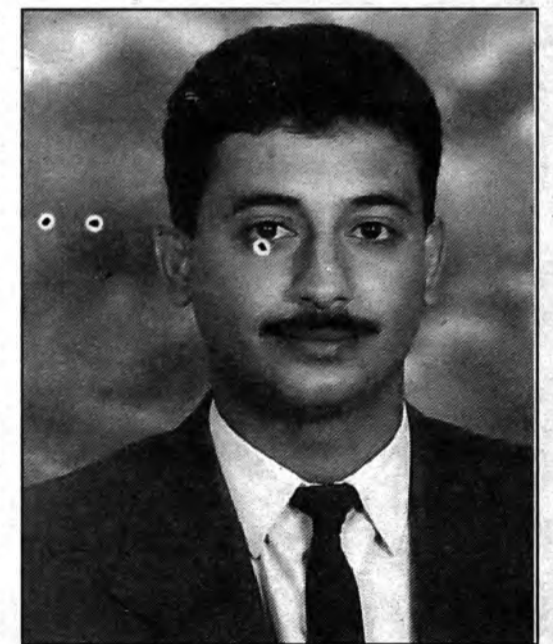
ARTEX represents major international companies in our field such as Glem Gas of Italy for Gas cookers, and Krups of France for small electrical appliances.

The company also deals in household wares, including the complete range of glassware, crystal wares, dinnerwares, and kitchenwares. We have established our first showroom at Alkumaim Trading Center on Hadda street, Sana'a, and we plan to open more showrooms in Sana'a and Aden during 1996.

Q: How does your company handle the problem of fluctuation of the currency?

A: I believe that the currency problem is one of the major obstacles all businesses face, even in our daily activities. We suffered greatly from the fluctuation of the dollar against the Yemeni Riyal. Of course, our company has treated this problem in a serious one at an early stage. We have taken major steps to overcome this problem. For example, we have worked on short term business policies in order to be able to quickly adopt to any changes in the market situation or changes in government economic policies.

Q: In your opinion, what type of measures should the government take in order to stabilize the economy and attract more investments into Yemen?



A: I think in order to stabilize the economy, the government should concentrate on the economic reform program. It should take it more seriously. I believe in order to attract investment to Yemen, we need a clearer set of economic policies and less government bureaucracy. We do have a good investment law and the government has actually started implementing the economic reform program, and it has declared the Aden Free Zone. All of this will boost the economy and will attract more investment to our country.

Q: Are you yourself planning new investments?

A: Yes, we are considering some new projects.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I have great confidence in our country and its economic prospects. Our country has an important geographic location, reasonable economic resources and more importantly, a good human-power base. All of these contribute to making Yemen an attrac-



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COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE - YEMEN

Announcement

ICD (International Cooperation for Development), a British based non-government organization, is looking for a Country Representative for its programme in Yemen. The successful candidate will manage a busy staff team based in Sana'a, to plan and implement Primary health Care Projects in 5 rural and urban areas in Yemen.

The successful candidate will have strong managerial skills, the ability to work with a wide variety of organizations and people of different nationalities, the ability to work in a consultative manner and to meet deadline under pressure and will be a Yemeni national. Excellent Arabic and English are required and a background in health development would be an advantage. Closing date for receiving applications will be 25th January 1996

For further information and application form contact:

Rajaa ba-Hassan
ICD

P. O. Box 1045
Sana'a, Yemen.
Tel: 967 1 275 222
Fax: 967 1 276 576

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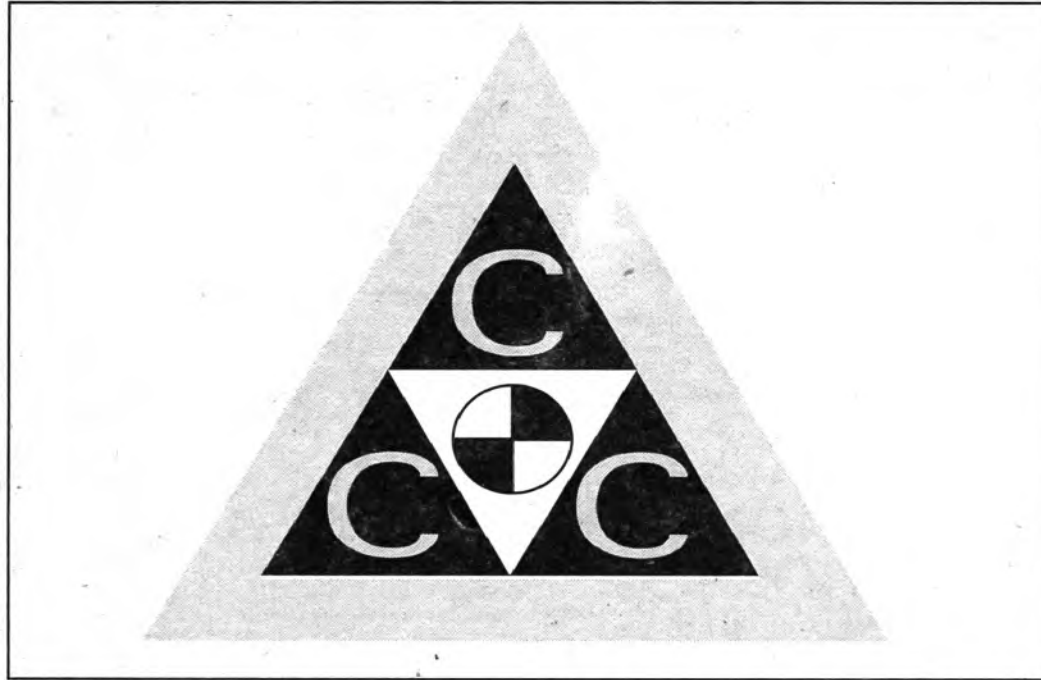
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On the occasion of the new year,

C C C

presents its best wishes and felicitations
to the Yemeni people, political leadership,
government, and all persons and companies
working in Yemen.

We wish all a happy and prosperous 1996.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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ASGA



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presents to the Yemeni people, political leadership, and government its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the new year hoping that it brings to Yemen more prosperity and stability.

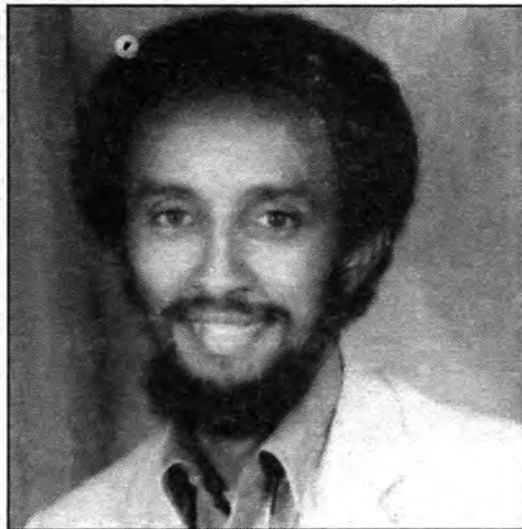
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Message of Education

The agent of educational promotion and cultural pervasiveness is the school. The unique role of this institution is to feed other institutions with competent and potential mentality without which no country can claim for better achievement. The administration, teachers, inspectors and the parents are the immediate actors to carry out this vital task for the nation. The central gist of this job is to help the students to learn something which will in the future support them as occupation the goal of which in turn will have to contribute to the collective advantage. This is a hopeful human investment.

The administration should thus occupy the hub and harmony of the participating parties in the message of education. It is the administration that is supposed to handle the daily routines of the school job - discipline, curriculum organization, supervision, laying down the timetable, review and to reorganize to make up the past intervened shortcomings. This immense responsibility calls for majority, full experience, level-headed psyche, patience, skill and tough personality that can contain and seek solutions for the ensuing common issues. Situations may vary. The sort of approach and behavior to apply makes differences. If the administration fails to wisely attend the social and psychological treatment of the inescapable challenging matters it misses the supportive spirit that it is part of the ambiance and rather takes aloof stance with tendency to resort to imperious and arbitrary measures in the moment of encountering an abnormal situation, surely disappointment will loom and steps taken to settle matters may contrarily sow seeds of inextricable confusion which as a result may debase the highly needed careers of the actors. As modus operandi, rapprochement and pursuance of empathy prove better course than coercion and menacing gestures. Preferably the head of the school should be educator as well as administrator and should enjoy distinctive qualities that enable him/her to be in charge of the others. Decision and implementation of it is another required quality and to know when, and when not to apply the office



authority, seriously studying consequences, of course in fear of unfavorable implications. The teacher in turn has to acquire appropriate competence in mastering the subject of teaching and not going along a perfunctory habit. This kills career. As the person to be limited, the teacher should avoid all sorts of vices in fear of negative effect on the youth he is teaching. Personable behavior and nice comportment is additional favorable component in the person of the teacher.

Better reputation, neatness, assiduity among his colleagues and high standard of performance and fairness in front of his students are extra support that make up the backbone of the teacher's status and role.

In order to cope with the always breeding of new coinage, expressions and terms the English Language teacher should allocate part of his income for buying relevant materials. There is the American English and the British English. Only more reading may enable one to overcome the difficulty of this language. If the English teacher is unaware of the natural development of English language and if he is incounicant to the

subject of his profession, then it is needless to ask about the gap between the mentally stagnant so-called English teacher and the ever-sloughing nature of the language he has chosen as means of living. Knowing methods, techniques, skills and sub-skills of English and passing these on to the students is a very essential matter for the very survival of the very career.

The role of the inspector is another instrumental task. The inspector is assigned to make follow-up, monitor, scrutinize, sift and then report on as to how the entire job of the school goes on and to indicate where the likely obstacles lay and subsequently to propound all necessary suggestions, recommendations, remarks and remedies. This backbreaking task calls for a perspicacious official.

Supposedly equipped with some administrative cognizance as well as good knowledge of English, the English inspector must honorably be higher in experience, diligence and academic qualifications than the person he is employed to play his coach. Otherwise, it is uneasy to claim control over your equal. This is obviously in contradiction with work ethics. And if one applies for a job or takes it on and can not implement it properly that only causes consumption of the concerned very personal prestige as well as loss of confidence of those who share job with him.

After all one should be able to prove that his selection or nomination came only through merit of performance. And thus the English inspector should enjoy better command of spoken English, almost standard pronunciation, good handwriting and sufficient leadership quality. Such adequate performance would qualify the inspector for better level for the responsibility she/he shoulders. This in turn has to inspire and inspire the teacher and to make him grudge taking the inspector as exquisite example to be imitated, instead of contempting him, given the inspector's efficiency and imposing fulfillment.

It is quite common occurrence to encounter naive inspector claiming to have passed through an experience of a quarter of a century. This

alone is an assertive insufficient substance. Good background, higher decree and wider literary outlook are valuable capital for promoting one's task and profession.

The first and the last person to take advantage of the opportunity of educational trek is the student. And the concerted effort of the concerned sides makes less/good sense unless this student is trained well.

With the help and awareness of the parents regarding the students' performances and attendance, the school may feel assisted in its fundamental objective - carrying out of the message of education. Parents who do not bother to know their children's performance are at loss and their immense investment is a mere wastage. Most of the school dropouts or truants come from broken or negligent homes.

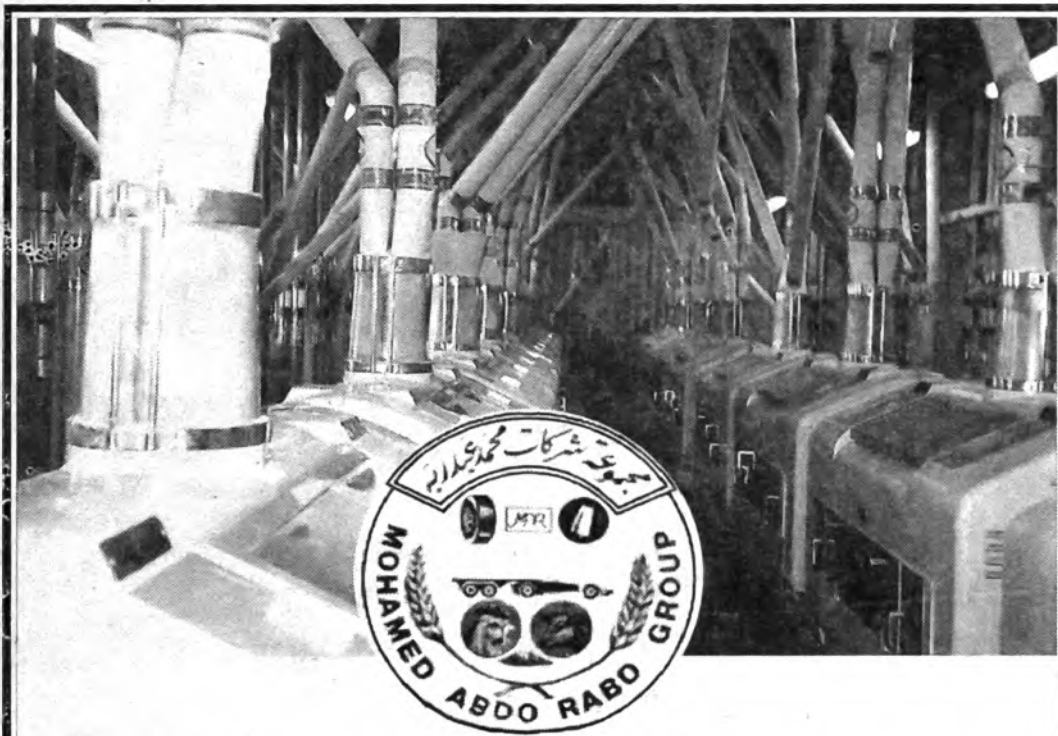
To sum up, intended commitment, assiduity, envisioned largesse, sacrifice and perseverance are some of the basic elements to recourse to promote the educational message. As a vital national cause, in volition, everybody in the society should feel called upon and obliged to help this laborious task in the drive of burden-sharing spirit and willingness to take pride in participating in a decisive national cause.

The operating parties in the various fields of education should realize that among the youngsters whom they are fostering or nurturing are the nation's presidents, ministers, statesmen, doctors, writers etc. of tomorrow. Without such prepared and prescient men, no nation can claim for tangible achievement.

Probably, more influential men can be availed through education than any other means. It is education that helps nations to realize promising progressive change in the springboard of socio-economic development, but this change is unlikely to occur unless there is a willing staff replete with strong professional competence.

Let's fight forever for discerning expectations for all.

By: Ahmednur Sheikh Ali Hassan
Sana'a



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A Pilgrimage to Ethiopia's QAT

By: Doobie Halliwell
 Courtesy: THE OLDIE,
 Nov. 1995, London.

When Arthur Rimbaud left France and what is generally termed civilization, the world speculated and still speculates about his motives for departure to points distant, obscure and sun-bleached. The world need speculate no longer, for I have stumbled upon his precise reason: he went in search of the finest *qat* and the most beautiful women in the world. (*Qat* or *khat* is a shrub whose leaves are chewed as a stimulant all over East Africa and Yemen - now available in selected greengrocers in Britain, flown in daily.) He found them in Harar, the capital of Harerge province, 6,000 feet up in the Chercher mountains in the east of Ethiopia.

Ed and I flew into Addis Ababa with its thousands of eucalyptus trees and settled down to enjoy its pleasures. We caused trouble and astonished little children with our foolishness. We disrupted a particularly important market by wandering through its midst followed by hundreds of yelling children who we maintained were our own. By day, we drank coffee and chewed *qat* whilst at night we moved onto St. George's draft and held strange conversations with unintelligible Somali generals (or should that be ex-generals?) who, by their eyes, appeared to have been chewing for several days without relent.

We escaped from Addis before it exerted its cosmopolitan grip and held us for weeks with its café life and charms. At the railway station we encountered an old lady and her daughter who persuaded us to perform a pilgrimage on their behalf. They presented us with the traditional brocade umbrellas and candles: offerings for Gabriel to be taken to the monastery at Kulubi, the goal of an annual pilgrimage undertaken by many Orthodox Christians from all over Ethiopia. Needless to say, we were honored to accept the responsibilities the woman wished to confer upon us.

Armed with our umbrellas and the obligatory *qat*, we boarded the train. The carriage was the site of a large-scale orgy, as everyone crammed as much *qat* as possible into their mouths. Once underway, the train stopped every ten minutes and everyone, the driver especially, scrambled off in search of more *qat*. Most of the passengers were en route to Kulubi which explained the festive atmosphere. Everyone swapped places and found new people to talk to on a new *qat* to chew. At Awash the train filled up with Tigrean soldiers (our escort) and as the carriages became more crowded the aisles were crammed with bales of cloth and livestock and sleeping bodies: no sleeping-cars on this train. It seemed that one was meant to chew all night or sprawl among the chickens and general debris. Toward the early hours someone produced a bottle of rum, which wandered aimlessly around the carriage for a while.

Even the most dedicated *qat* fiends were slumped asleep when the train arrived.

Buses and taxis crowded the station front amid shouts of 'Kulubi!' and 'Gibril!' We boarded a bus which filled rapidly and began the long climb up into the mountains. Wrapped in our blankets we dozed until the sun rose and we were able to see the neat terraces of altitude-loving *qat*. It was light when we arrived at the village of Kulubi and began to struggle up the last hill to the monastery and its church. Ahead of us the entire hill crawled with people. Here were the devout, the maimed who wished for miracles, the insane, and of course the thieves and charlatans who always accompany such gatherings.

At the bottom of the hill were the remains of the cattle that had been hacked up as sacrificial offerings to Gabriel. The heads and the hooves were scattered about aimlessly, while overhead screeched eagles and vultures and hawks and lesser scavengers who stooped occasionally for a morsel, only to be mobbed by their fellows. The remaining parts of the cattle were displayed along the sides of the path. We were offered the entrails, brains and even fine raw beef. In Ethiopia raw meat is a delicacy, especially the fillet and liver.

We staggered upwards by degrees, pushing the throng, stopped now and then by people who pinned holy badges to our clothes and begged money 'for Gabriel'. The queue into the holy enclosure was slow-moving but calm and the people were content to wait. Drums were audible from inside the church and as we pressed closer we saw the priests dancing slowly in a circle. Within the church white-clad women were visible, seated on either side of the aisle. In Ethiopia churches, as in mosques, one sits on the floor on carpets. The walls were covered with icons and paintings depicting the deeds of Christ and the saints.

As we took our places on the floor, the drumming picked up and it was time to honor our promise to the woman and her daughter from Addis. A sea of umbrellas sprouted as we pushed forward with our own towards the altar. At the altar the umbrellas were furled and handed to a priest who placed them on another priest who held a large golden cross which he touched first to the pilgrims' foreheads and them to their lips.

We soon fell asleep among the pilgrims who awaited the Patriarch or Abuna, until a chorus of shrill vocal trills echoed loudly round the church, signaling the arrival of the procession. Dressed to a man in gold brocade and carrying wonderful umbrellas, the Abuna and his priest moved down the aisle accompanied by deep drum-beats, the wailing of thousands of women and the scent of eau de cologne which was pricked liberally among the crowd by devout matriarchs. Once outside, the Abuna addressed the hillside through a megaphone circling the church three times.

With the main part of the service finished we sat in the grounds in the sun and watched the people outside who worshipped differently, but no less devoutly. People danced themselves into ecstasy to drums and drank *teje* (a kind of mead), while dervishes wandered about muttering into their beards, selling crosses and carrying upended umbrellas for donations to Gabriel.

After many hours we tried to find some transport to Harar. Buses filled up and rattled down the hill. We waved and shouted 'Harar! Harar!', but the drivers just looked down at us and laughed. After a while we realized there were no cars or buses to Harar at all, so we decided to walk back to the village itself and set off with two sisters we had met on the train.

In the village we found a Toyota pick-up going to Harar and climbed in the back with all the other Adaris, Oromos, Amharas and Somalis. The ride was exhilarating and we chatted in Arabic with one of them who translated for the others. They made us sing their songs, so we stunned and appalled them with our fine version of 'Old Macdonald' and caused monstrous giggling with the animal noises.

In the darkness, it seemed that Harar was hanging precariously onto the side of the mountain, dropping off into the darkness below. We staggered into a hotel and collapsed in the reception. It was at that point that we discovered that Harar was without water. The pump that supplied the town was above the level of Lake Alamaya, 15 miles away. We were informed, however, that the pump was being lowered and that supplies would, *inshallah*, resume shortly.

The following day our friends from Addis departed and left us with a warning that Harar was very dangerous. We nodded gravely, took no notice and went off in search of *qat* and danger. In the center of Harar we found a fine, dilapidated, wooden hotel with a balcony overlooking Harar's roofs and the distant specter of the mountains. Settled on cushions on the balcony we chewed the afternoon away and reflected upon Harar and the quality of the finest *qat* in the world.

Latter we wandered through the narrow, uneven streets and talked with the Adaris and the other assorted people who stared at us. Conversation was in stilted English, Arabic, Amharic and French, but always it was about *qat* or *arakie* (a heinous spirit) or *teje* or other forms of intoxication. In Harar we found many maniacs, but more maniacs seemed to find us.

Every evening in Harar at about ten, the daily delivered draft beer begins to run out in the bars. This leads people to wander about the town, in and out of bars, enquiring: 'Alle draft?' (is there any?). Eventually a bar is found which has bought extra supplies for the night and everyone settles down to drink it. For us, it seemed a fine way to celebrate New Year's Eve.

The next morning we were woken by the man who looked after the hotel, a very strange man, who delighted in sweeping our rooms at six o'clock in the morning. He laughed maniacally at our displeasure and our haggard demeanors. We soon learned that the previous night had not been New Year's Eve and felt foolish until we had resigned ourselves to further celebrations.

We ate eggs for breakfast with evil chillis and drank sweet, gingery Somali tea and so returned to a state of vague consciousness. After several hours of tea we plunged off in search of Rimbaud's shrine and any female descendants. Rumor has it that there are six Rimbaud houses in Harar, depending on who you ask. We found a hole in a wall with steps leading up to another hole, through which we entered a large wooden house. The house had a paneled ceiling, visible through the oval opening to the floor above. Inside the main room were some 20 people seated on the floor, chewing *qat* and drinking coffee.

We took our seats and talked politely with the Shaykh who reclined on a brass bed, the only object of furniture in the room. After the formalities, the limitations of language appeared. English and Arabic exhausted, we soon acquired a new method of communication. It appeared that a long drawn out 'Aaaahhhh!' accompanied by the raising of the hands to shoulder height, fingers upward and palms outward denoted extreme pleasure.

Harar's other attraction is its markets and the people who base their lives around them. Apart from the prolific *qat* markets, there is Christian market, a Taiwan market (selling cheap export rubbish and deodorant), an animal market, a Somali market, a Muslim market and, at that time, a water market. The people come from all over Ethiopia; Adaris, Oromos, Eritreans, Amharas, Somalis, Tigreans as well as Yemenis and Indians and Russians, all no doubt lured by the quality Chatharis adulis. Many languages are spoken and all-religions practiced. In a country with about 80 distinct languages, the example of Harar and the peaceful co-existence of its inhabitants will come, with luck, to be seen as a microcosmic blueprint for a new Ethiopia.

Our best friend was Hailu Dossegaw, an English/French professor obsessed with magic and strange shamanic practices. He was also an artist and a fine classicist, but often incoherent and unintelligible. He brought us fruit every day and told us of the importance of *teje*, though his logic was unconvincing. In this country he would be a guru with thousands of devout followers. We entrusted him with our copy of *Tristram Shandy*, hoping that it would teach him something about his own rare gifts and the joyous town where he lived.

Editor's Note:
 If you try any of that stuff, it is at your peril!

QATAR AIRWAYS TO

H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Bin Jabor Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways, disclosed to the Yemen Times that the airline will start a Sanaa-Doha service in March, 1996. In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times in Doha, Qatar, last month, the official stated that arrangements are being finalized to introduce the sector. "We have already received approval from the Yemeni Civil Aviation Authority, and we are now putting this service on our next program," he indicated.



Qatar Airways, a totally private enterprise, is a rather new comer to the market. Even then, it has already made tremendous headway in securing a place in the competitive Gulf market. "We are the national carrier of Qatar, although the State of Qatar has a stake in Gulf Air," Sheikh Hamad said. Gulf Air is owned jointly by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. In comparison to Gulf Air, Qatar Airways is much smaller in terms of fleet size or service network. Yet, there is no

hiding that Qatar Airways will probably eat away on part of the Gulf Air market related to Qatar.

Qatar Airways has ambitious plans to expand its fleet by introducing new and wide-bodied planes. "We are looking at far-away destinations in South and south-east Asia, Europe, and the Americas," the official said.

While an extensive training program of nationals is underway, the airline is in the meanwhile using expatriate pilots and assistants, including some one dozen Yemenis.

The Right to Respond:

General Ghalib's Disinformation Tactics?

In its issues of 4th and 10th of Dec. 95, the English weekly "Yemen Times" offered its readers bundles of merchandise, exported from Somalia to Yemen by Mr. Jama Mohammed Ghalib, who seemed for many as someone who has totally and cleverly managed to free himself from the gravity of all the density of his past. He joyfully introducing himself as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the faction of General Aidid.

Mr. Ghalib stated that during the Siyad Barre reign, some dissidents were transported from abroad back to Somalia, where they were eventually murdered by the regime. What Mr. Ghalib forgot to tell was that when that happened, he was in command of the brutal police force of that regime. For many years, he had served as the Minister of Interior, and Minister of Air and Land Transport of the same Siyad Barre regime he is now criticizing!!!

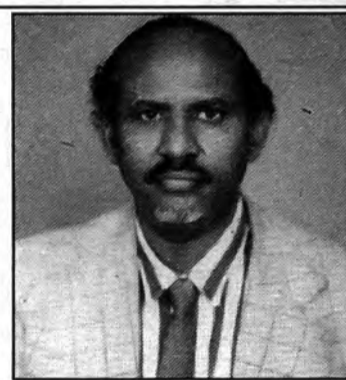
At another level, General Ghalib tried to distance himself from what he called the "remnants" of Siyad Barre. In truth, most Somalis see him on top of that huge heap of "remnants". After all, he served with that regime for almost two decades, and was a vital device for the survival and continuation of Siyad Barre' rule.

Mr. Ghalib's merchandise was so badly presented that it needed successive corrections and recorrections. In the first article, Mr. Ghalib suggested that General Aidid rules today half of Somalia. But after he was scolded by Aidid's followers in Sana'a, he hurried back to the paper, and provided in the second article a map showing that general Aidid controls about 99.99% of the area of Somalia.

Any way the baggage was not meant for the Somalis. It was for our Yemeni brothers. The Yemen Times was used as a conduit to help Mr. Ghalib remarket himself.

But the paper clearly forgot, may be intentionally, to label the General's stuff with a warning: "Feeding on Wrong Information is Poisonous".

By: Ahmed Al-Sheikh,
 Somali Intellectual Residing in Sanaa.



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Journaliste

Au moins cinquante journalistes ont été tués dans le monde en 1995 pour leurs opinions ou dans l'exercice de leur profession. "Mais pratiquement aucun assassin sous les verrous", s'indigne l'organisation Reporters sans frontières. "L'impunité n'est pas seulement un déni de justice, elle est aussi un véritable encouragement aux tueurs de demain". Il n'y a pas de liberté sans liberté de la presse.

Le conflit Yémen-Erythrée

Iles Hunaish* : statu quo

Chacun réclame "ses" îles. Et malgré quelques gestes, la situation est toujours bloquée.

Sana'a. — Le problème reste entier. Malgré les déclarations de bonne volonté, les gestes dits d'apaisement, et l'intense activité, pour ne pas dire agitation, diplomatique, le problème reste entier.

Et la libération des 195 prisonniers yéménites n'a rien changé. D'ailleurs Sana'a, en même temps que l'Erythrée mettait en oeuvre ce "geste de bonne volonté", durcissait le ton. Histoire de ne pas laisser son voisin passer de la situation d'agresseur à celle d'agressé, le Yémen a accusé Asmara de lenteur dans cette libération. Il s'agit-là pour les Yéménites de ne pas perdre la face sur le

plan international, puisque le gouvernement a choisi la diplomatie, ni à l'intérieur du pays, ce choix déplaisant fortement à la population.

D'où les déclarations menaçantes de la presse officielle, rappelant que le Yémen a les moyens de reprendre l'île par la force à tout moment. Ce que conteste une source diplomatique de Sana'a : "Le Yémen a peur. Son armée est beaucoup moins aguerrie que celle de l'Erythrée. Il y a bien eu la dernière guerre civile yéménite, mais elle n'a duré que quelques mois".

La réaction paniquée des soldats yéménites lors de l'approche de deux

vedettes érythréenne, dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, de l'île de Zogar sur laquelle les yéménites sont installés, n'est pas une preuve de fiabilité militaire. "Toute la nuit, les forces yéménites ont tiré aveuglément, mais les forces érythréennes ont respecté le cessez-le-feu et n'ont pas riposté", a affirmé Asmara, sans doute content de la réussite de sa provocation.

Le problème reste entier parce que chaque partie campe sur ses positions. Le Yémen en particulier réclame toujours l'évacuation de la Grande Hunaish par les troupes érythréennes, mais refuse quant à lui de quitter les deux autres îles de

l'archipel qu'il occupe depuis le début du conflit. Il s'est également montré réticent à l'idée d'accueillir des observateurs internationaux sur les îles. Pour une bonne et simple raison : le Yémen considère que l'archipel est sien, un point, c'est tout.

Or personne, aucun spécialiste ou observateur, n'est capable de dire à qui appartient réellement cet archipel. Ce n'est pas pour rien si tous ceux qui se sont penchés sur la question avant la crise aient appelé à la négociation entre les deux voisins, sous peine de voir des conflits se développer. L'activité diplomatique

la plus intense du côté yéménite comme du côté érythréen, est d'ailleurs celle qui consiste à sillonner le monde à la recherche de documents désignant le propriétaire légitime de l'archipel.

A ce rythme-là, tant que les îles n'auront pas été démilitarisées, que les deux parties ne discuteront pas de leur frontières maritimes, comme elles en font la déclaration d'intention, la mer Rouge risque fort de rester agitée.

François Petitdemange

* Hanaish ou Hunaish ? La première orthographe est érythréenne, la seconde, yéménite, paraît-il. Ménégeons donc les susceptibilités.

Cinéma arabe - Ahmed Attia

"Un peu d'épices"

"Un grain de sel, un peu de poivre". C'est ce qu'apporte le cinéma arabe. Un cinéma d'expression.

INTERVIEW — Il est LE producteur arabe actuel. Sans lui, le cinéma arabe se résumerait encore aux films égyptiens pré-mâchés. Mais Ahmed Attia est passé par là, a semé des chefs-d'œuvre, et récolté un peu de gloire, un peu d'argent, et beaucoup de fierté. Rencontre, lors de son passage à Sana'a (pour la pré-production d'un film de Patrick Brunie, "La Bataille Navale", sur lequel nous aurons bientôt l'occasion de revenir), avec celui grâce à qui le cinéma arabe a gagné une identité. Et a su trouver son marché.

« Il n'y a pratiquement plus de cinéma égyptien. L'Égypte produisait entre 80 et 100 films par an, cette année, elle en a produit 18. Il y a donc un problème. Le cinéma commercial égyptien, je crois qu'il a reculé, peut-être avec les libertés, peut-être parce qu'il a choisi un autre marché que le marché traditionnel du cinéma : il va sur vidéo, pour les pays du Golfe, qui lui ont imposé une manière de faire du cinéma, ou une morale, ou des limites aux libertés.

Mais il y a des cinémas arabes très toniques, des auteurs très intéressants, voir la Tunisie. Et il n'y a pas que la Tunisie, il y a la Syrie, il y a l'Algérie. Malgré toutes les difficultés qu'elle traverse, l'Algérie continue à faire des films magnifiques, avec un vrai dynamisme chez les auteurs. Il ne faut pas oublier le cinéma marocain, dont l'un des films a fait l'une des plus belles performances du cinéma arabe ces dernières années, qui s'appelle *A la Recherche du Mari de ma Femme*. Il y a des scénaristes magnifiques partout... Oui, il y a une personnalité du cinéma arabe en dehors de l'Égypte. Et en Égypte même il y a du nouveau, une école de jeunes cinéastes très intéressants, qui probablement fera connaître la grandeur de l'industrie du cinéma égyptien. Mais sur d'autres bases.

Parce que nous n'avons pas de place, et ça, il faut bien le comprendre, dans le cinéma commercial mondial, parce que nous n'avons pas le marché puissant américain, et les marchés puissants européens. Nous avons des petits marchés. Notre place

réelle, c'est celle d'un cinéma d'expression, d'un cinéma d'auteurs, qui exprime bien notre culture, la profondeur de notre réflexion, la qualité de nos scénaristes, la qualité de certains de nos comédiens, et les préoccupations d'aujourd'hui, d'hier et de demain de notre société. Quelque chose qui a une place dans le monde entier, personne ne nous enlèvera ça. Nous apportons un grain de sel, un peu de poivre, un peu d'épices, dans le cinéma mondial.

Pourquoi ma dernière production, *Les Silences du Palais*, a un tel engouement en ce moment aux Etats-Unis, pourtant un film sous-titré ? Parce que c'est un film qui raconte une histoire très humaine, c'est une histoire très petite, très limitée, mais qui a ce côté, cette émotion, qui en font un film universel. Je pense que c'est ça le cinéma qu'il faut faire, c'est un cinéma d'émotion, c'est un cinéma d'auteur, un cinéma d'expression, de droit à l'expression des peuples, et c'est ce qui fait notre place, que personne ne peut nous enlever. Et n'allons pas prendre la place des autres, ce n'est pas possible, nous n'avons pas cette place-là, nous ne l'avons jamais.

Ce n'est pas difficile à financer, le cinéma d'auteur ?
Oui, c'est délicat, difficile, mais je tiens le coup. Je suis à mon 9ème film, et ça va, je n'ai pas fait faillite. Je ne suis pas riche, mais je ne suis pas non plus quelqu'un qui crève de faim, je me débrouille, bien... Les auteurs sont payés, les techniciens qui travaillent avec moi sont payés, tout le monde est payé, très correctement d'ailleurs, mais je n'ai pas l'ambition de faire du cinéma hollywoodien, c'est tout. Je suis très bien là où je suis.

Et si je viens faire un film de Patrick Brunie au Yémen, c'est parce que le Yémen m'interpelle, et le projet de Patrick m'a interpellé, c'est tout. Ce n'est pas pour faire un film plus important ou avec un budget plus grand. Je ferai certainement des films totalement arabes avec des budgets aussi importants, si cela est nécessaire. Si on doit reconstituer l'histoire de Cléopâtre, réellement,

comme elle a vécu en Égypte dans les temps anciens, il faudra un budget comme ça. (Ce qui donne une idée du budget pharaonique dont a besoin Patrick Brunie, ndlr).

La France a-t-elle un rôle à jouer dans le développement du cinéma arabe ?

D'abord, les Arabes ont un rôle à jouer, essentiellement. Si la France a choisi de soutenir pas seulement le cinéma arabe, mais le cinéma mondial, c'est dans une stratégie bien claire. La France est évidemment celle qui a le mieux compris les enjeux et ce qui se passe autour de l'uniformisation de l'image par le cinéma hollywoodien. Elle s'y est opposée. Non seulement par une série de règles à l'intérieur de l'hexagone, qui permettent à ses producteurs et à ses cinéastes de faire des films — et c'est pratiquement la seule nation au monde qui réussit à faire une quantité de films par an, et une qualité de cinéma qui peut limiter l'influence d'Hollywood — mais en même temps, elle a mis au point une stratégie beaucoup plus large, celle d'une vaste alliance avec le reste des créateurs et des cinéastes du monde, leur permettant d'accéder à certains financements en France, pour pouvoir être ses alliés dans cette bataille formidable qui est la bataille de l'image de demain.

Mais je ne crois pas que la seule intervention de la France permette à des pays de faire des films. La preuve, il y a plein de pays qui ne font pas de films. S'il y a des pays qui font du cinéma, c'est parce qu'il y a des politiques mises en place par les Etats, et quand je dis que c'est les Arabes qui doivent faire leur cinéma, c'est essentiel. Si actuellement le cinéma tunisien est un peu tonique, c'est parce que l'Etat tunisien a créé un fonds d'aide à la production nationale, qu'il a une politique suivie par le ministère de la Culture, et qu'il a une politique d'encouragement et de soutien.

Si les Etats veulent un cinéma national, ils doivent faire une politique nationale pour le cinéma, et s'intégrer dans les relations internationales, parce qu'un seul marché, nous le savons, ce n'est pas suffisant. Il y a donc une politique nationale à développer, c'est essentiel, la base-même de toute éclosion de production et de talents, et de découverte de talents et de créateurs. Qui le rendent bien, d'ailleurs, à leur pays. Quand la Tunisie fait cette politique, elle a en retour pas seulement la



Sana'a. Ahmed Attia devant la Tour Eiffel de Patrick Brunie.

réussite financière de ses producteurs ou de ses films, elle a surtout l'image positive que la Tunisie donne d'elle-même à l'étranger, et il n'y a pas mieux que l'image d'un film pour relever le prestige d'un pays. Des Etats qui mettent de l'argent, qui aident leurs cinéastes, qui veulent faire une politique de cinéma national sont payés très largement en retour. Les cinéastes donnent plus qu'ils ne perçoivent. Et en plus, c'est une fierté pour le pays.

Un pays, une Cité — au sens grec du terme —, ce n'est pas seulement avoir des routes, des égouts, des écoles, mais c'est avoir une culture, participer au développement de l'univers, de l'univers des hommes. Pour les Grecs, être une Cité, c'est aussi avoir un théâtre. C'était l'expression la plus importante de la communication de l'époque. Aujourd'hui, il y a des livres, des poèmes, des films, des pièces de théâtre, de la danse, de la télévision... C'est ça qui fait qu'un pays peut se reconnaître. Vous savez, parfois, les cinéastes sont plus forts que les politiques, parce qu'ils réussissent à mobiliser des millions de spectateurs, avec un seul film, alors que les politiques, pour un meeting, doivent ramper pour avoir quelques milliers de spectateurs et de partisans. C'est ça, la réalité.

Et le cinéma yéménite ? Existera-t-il un jour ?

Ah oui, tout à fait. Je pense que tous les peuples ont des capacités à avoir des créateurs, des auteurs, des artistes de très bonne qualité. Le Yémen aura, tôt ou tard, des cinéastes. Je pense, j'espère que ce film qu'on fait ici sera le démarrage d'un cinéma yéménite intéressant. C'est la condition *sine qua non*, il ne peut être que le début, et non pas une fin en soit. On essaie de mobiliser autour de nous. Les cinéastes formés à l'étranger, ça existe pour le Yémen actuellement, nous essayons de les mobiliser, pour qu'ils travaillent avec nous, pour qu'ils acquièrent une expérience supplémentaire, avec ce projet, pour qu'ils pensent aussi à leurs projets.

Si j'ai demain un projet yéménite qui m'intéresse, je suis prêt à le produire et à en monter le financement, même si c'est le premier film d'un cinéaste yéménite. Parce qu'après tout, dans la majeure partie des cas où j'ai été producteur, j'ai été producteur de premières œuvres. C'est peut-être une de mes ambitions, je veux être un découvreur d'auteurs, puisque je ne suis que producteur, pas auteur. Je veux au moins me targuer d'avoir découvert des talents. »

Propos recueillis par F.P.

en bref

SIDA — Il y a 17 millions de séropositifs dans le monde, la plupart en Afrique subsaharienne, selon l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). Les cas de SIDA s'élèvent quant à eux à 1,2 million. Au rythme actuel, il devrait y avoir 30 à 40 millions de séropositifs d'ici l'an 2000. L'Asie est en train de dépasser l'Afrique comme le continent où la propagation du fléau est la plus rapide.

VIAGER — "Dans la vie, on fait de mauvaises affaires". La boutade est de Jeanne Calment, 120 ans, "doyenne de l'humanité" de son état. La mauvaise affaire, c'est un notaire qui l'a faite, il y a 30 années de cela. L'homme de 47 ans à l'époque, avait cru flairer un bon coup en reprenant une rente viagère à Jeanne Calment, âgée alors de 90 ans, avec pour clause le versement d'une rente mensuelle de 2.500 francs. 30 ans après, Jeanne Calment est toujours en vie. Et le notaire est mort le jour de Noël, dans le sud de la France.

SANS — C'est une première dans les pays du Golfe : la bière sans alcool vient d'être interdite au Koweït. Les raisons ? La chose "n'est pas nécessaire à la société", selon la direction générale des études juridiques musulmanes, auteur de l'interdiction. Et surtout, "le jus d'orge peut facilement devenir une boisson alcoolisée, si on y ajoute un peu d'alcool". Et le jus d'orange ?

INAPPROPRIÉE — 40 coups de fouet, une amende, de la prison avec sursis. Pour quel odieux crime ? Pour avoir bu de l'alcool et dansé. L'aventure est arrivée à une quinzaine de jeunes, dont deux étrangers, au Soudan. La police avait effectué une rafle dans une maison de Khartoum, et arrêté 92 jeunes gens, dont des diplomates, qui "participaient à cette action inappropriée", selon l'expression d'un journal.

FRONTIÈRE — Le comité conjoint chargé du bornage de la frontière entre le Yémen et l'Arabie Saoudite a entamé les travaux de sa quatrième session à Ryad. "Des équipes des deux pays ont déjà entamé le travail préliminaire sur le terrain". L'opération devrait durer un an, avant le tracé définitif. (AFP)

KLM Welcomes Santa

Santa

B O A R D I N G



On the eve of the 24th of December, KLM celebrated Christmas with their passengers. Travellers inbound on KL 535 and outbound on KL 536 had a pleasant surprise waiting for them - a big chubby guy with a red gown yelling 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'.

That was not all. Santa had gifts of confectioneries and sweets to offer.

As the passengers told the story later, "It was a delightful surprise. It was a special touch, the KLM personal touch. That is the KLM standard."

Now that the year 1996 has arrived, KLM presents its best wishes to all. But it presents more than that. It presents a commitment to make this year better. As the KLM Sanaa team puts it, "We will do that by taking that extra step to stay ahead of the competition, and make our passengers get the best service ever an airline can offer."



رئيس مجلس الإدارة وجميع الموظفين والعمال في

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

بأحر التهانى والتبريكات بمناسبة حلول العام الجديد

جعل الله عام استقرار ورخاء لليمن

وكل عام والجميع بخير

The Chairman of the Board of Directors
and all the Employees and Workers in
The National Cigarette & Matches Industry
on the occasion of new year's eve,
wish all a happy and prosperous 1996.



Happy New Year

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

region, especially the fish resource. In less than a month, he himself carries out a heinous act which threatens the security and stability of the area. Now, which Aforkay should we believe?

2) A Loan is Wasted?!

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development granted a loan of Kuwaiti Dinars 2.5 Million to rehabilitate inhalations that were destroyed or damaged by the 1993 floods. The loan closing date comes in June 1996, yet the concerned authorities (Utilities and services Sectors) have done nothing to take advantage of the loan, especially in the wake of the additional damage brought on by the war (Summer 1994).

SOUT AL-MUA'ARADHA: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-12-95

(Democratic Coalition of the Opposition [ADAM])

Main Headlines:

- 1) Vice Minister of Interior Al-Misry Sends 2 Senior Security Officers to a Disciplinary Court
- 2) Another Failed Attempt to Assassinate Husni Mubarak
- 3) YR 4.5 Billion In Income Taxes are Not Deposited with the Treasury.

Article Summary:

The Sacking of Senior Military Officers
According to informed sources, the President will, in the next few days issue important military and political decrees, in light of recent developments (in the Red Sea). Observers do not exclude from these decrees the removal of high ranking military brass and their court martial in view of their mishandling of the recent incident in the Hunaish Archipelago. Many outcries were heard in the wake of the situation in the Red Sea, which was echoed to the President, Ali Abdulla Saleh, during his meeting with Yemeni dignitaries (21-12-95), who demanded that it was about time that these responsible for such failures be brought to account.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 27-12-95 (Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Confirms That Yemen Will Not Revert to the Use of Force to Resolve the Dispute With Eritrea
- 2) The Higher Elections Committee Chairman: We Have Begun Preparations for the Coming General Elections (27-4-97)
- 3) V. Minister of the Interior: "No One Is Above the Law"

Article Summary:

Safeguarding Public Funds In the Eyes of the Concerned Authorities

While safeguarding expenditure of public funds is a commendable deed, that does not mean that the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Finance should get carried away with it, by leaving the processing of drawings for projects and services delayed by a lot of red tape and give and take, thus forfeiting projects with work in progress from their allotted funding for the year.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-12-95 (Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Abdulaziz AlSakkaf Is a "Guest" In Alturba Jail
- 2) Explosion in the HQ of the People's General Congress In Al-Dali'a
- 3) Cutdown in Whipping Costs

Article Summary:

1) Arrests In Sana'a University
After being arrested a few hours at the Security compound of the University, three students were released. Other students were sent to the Political Security Organization. The arrests were made because of instructions from the deans of the colleges of the university after the students were distributing leaflets and putting stickers up in protest of the Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf beating. Later students gathered at the Security Bunkers to protest the arrest of their fellow students. The Suppression of Demonstrations by Street

Vendors In Sana'a

Sana'a's street vendors took to the street to protest burdensome procedures imposed by the Sana'a Municipality on them and other conditions of the country. The demonstrations were throughout Sana'a's streets and lasted from mid afternoon to 8:00 PM of Tuesday 27-11-95, at which time the riot police intervened to quell the demonstrations with tear gas bombs and clubs. During the demonstrations, the vendors were shouting denunciations against the economic conditions and the loss of Hunaish Island, in addition to the Municipality of Sana'a.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-12-95 (Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Opposition Calls for a Decisive Position on the Aggression (of Hunaish)
- 2) A Severe Crisis in Provisions Because of the Wheat Flour Mafia
- 3) Gulf States Receive the Former Ruler of Qatar

Article Summary:

Delay In Following Up on the Second Phase of Reforms

The paper was informed that the Council of Ministers had delayed discussing and approving the second phase of the Economic and Financial and Administrative Reforms, scheduled for its routine session of the 20th of December 1995. The delay was said to be because of the developments in the Red Sea and the possible negative reactions that could arise from the reforms at such a critical time.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-12-95 (Mouthpiece of the Military)

Main Headlines:

- 1) In its session of 27-12-95, the Council of Ministers:
 - Sets up committee Headed by Prime Minister to Follow Up on Electricity in Hadramaut
 - Discusses The Performance of Government Staff and Orders That annual evaluations are carried out by the respective Personnel Committees in the respective Units in Coordination with the Ministry of Civil Service
 - Hears reports from Dep. Pr. Minister, Minister of Development on Talks with the World Bank and his trip to Indonesia, as well as from Minister of Fisheries and Minister of Social Security, Labor and Social Welfare

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 2812-95

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President: "We Welcome All the Mediation Efforts"
- 2) The Trial of Al-Dali'a Suspects Postponed To Allow Defense Lawyers to Study the Case
- 3) Aden Bombings: The Court Calls Security Officers to Testify On the Accusations Directed Towards Them By the Suspects

Article Summary:

Between the Queries and Reactions on Greater Hunaish Crisis

The issue of the occupation of Greater Hunaish island was the source of a lot of controversy and aftereffects on the public. The paper said that those responsible in the government should be questioned and they should be held accountable for any shortfalls. The least that should have been done was for Parliament to summon the government to clarify the situation and to give a briefing on the circumstances leading the carelessness that lead to the loss of a very important part of the country. The invasion of Hunaish brought this island to light to many people, and the public was eager to find out information on the island and the other islands of the Red Sea and the Gulf Aden and the Arabian Sea. Moreover it seems that there are a lot of faults that need to be corrected and weaknesses that have to be remedied so that our enemies will not be able to carry out their designs against us when we least expect them to.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 25-12-95 (Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Will the Peaceful Settlement (of the Hunaish Crisis) Cut the road for the Dangers of Internationalization of the Conflict.
- 2) Al-Jawi: "Our Country Is Bled and Destroyed as a Result of the Ruling Coalition"
- 3) An Assault on a Government Building (By Manger of General security) and a New security Manger (In Lahej)

Article Summary:

1) Aforkay against Aforkay

In a statement to the Qatari News Agency, a month prior to the aggression on Hunaish Island, the Eritrean President urged the countries overlooking the Red Sea on the necessity of cooperating and working together to prevent any outside ambitions in the region, as a service to the security and stability of the area and to protect the resources of the

Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

Don't fly with a single wing

Through my collage study, I've noticed that so many students are self-enclosed in their specialization. I mean they don't open minds for other studies. Those who are in English department never bother themselves to know more about Arabic which is their own language and vice versa. They arbitrarily think that they may succeed in mastering one language without the other. But in vain, I think if someone could not master his own language, he would find it difficult to master foreign languages. Because your mother-tongue is acquired from your environment, thus it must be easy for you according to foreign languages the mother is different.

I assure from many experiences not just my point of view, that mastering of Arabic helps a lot in English. It gives you the opportunity to compare and contrast, thus understand more deep.

Here let me remind you dear students of those igneous professions who have their remarkable role in transferring a lot of foreign culture to ours and also introducing our culture to the west. For example Refa'a Al-Tahtaury, Suliman Al-Boustany and Mohammed Badran and so many others whom I can't remember at this moment. They tried their best to enrich our culture, these, great men mastered both languages so they

presented something beneficial and widely remarkable. In this field I remember Dr. Hussam Al-Khatib, our previous dean of the faculty of Arts. His role could not be ignored in introducing comparative literature to the Arab universities by translating and commenting on some western studies in this field, I mean comparative literature. Dr. Al-Khatib has an English doctrine as well as an Arabic one.

No, I come to the point that enclosing yourself in one language is as if you are flying with a single wing. I want you dear student to pay attention for this fact especially those who are intended to study translation, I ask them to try their best to return just a little of our culture is debt which we all hold the responsibility of it.

Arwa Mansour

Correct Quotes

Here are some chosen quotes which draw my interest and liked to share them with Yemen Times readers:

1- BOOKS

• The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

Mark Twain

• Some books are to be tasted; others swallowed; and some to be chewed and digested.

Francis Bacon

• Books, like friends, should be few and well chosen.

Samuel Paterson

• Some books leaves us free and some books make us free.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

• A book is the only immortality.

Rufus Choate

2- ANGER

• Beware the fury of a patient man.

John Dryden

• The greatest remedy for anger is delay.

Seneca

• Anger blow out the lamp of the mind.

Robert Green Ingersoll

3-OPTIMISM

• Don not expect the world to look bright, if you habitually wear gray-brown glasses.

Charles Eliot

• The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

• There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist, except an old optimist.

Mark Twain

4- ERRORS

• The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything.

Edward Phelps

• An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.

Orlando A. Battista

• Sometimes we may learn more from a man's errors, than from his virtues.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

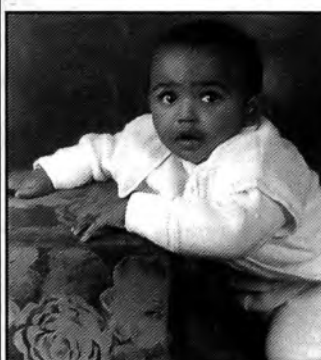
Collected by: Imad Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times

ألف مبروك

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نرفها إلى الاخ
محمد صالح محسن شقدم
بمناسبة المولود الجديد الذي أسماه يوسف
ألف مبروك يا أبا يوسف.

المهنؤون : د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف ، العزي الصلوي ،
رضا السقاف ، عبدالكريم المجذوب ، محمد المجذوب ،
طارق البراق ، محمد المطاع ، عبدالحميد الحسام ،
عبدالواحد أبوالرجال ، جابر محمد جابر الضالعي ،
محمد علي أحمد الأنسي ، علي صالح محسن شقدم ،
عبدالقدوس العماد ، محمد علي ناصر الذاري ،
عبدالحليم صالح محسن ، مهيوب محمد حمود ،

عيد ميلاد سعيد



أطفاً الطفل
وائل احمد
الصيادي
الشمعة الثانية
احتفالاً بدخوله
عامه الثاني ألف
مبروك وعقبال
١٠٠ سنة .

المهنؤون : أنور الصيادي وجميع افراد العائلة
وجميع موظفي صحيفة «مين تايمز»

تهنئة

أسمى آيات التهاني وأطيبها
تم عقد قران الشابين المهندس هاني حسن
الحسيني على ابنة سالم احمد معدان ألف
مبروك وعقبال الفرحة الكبرى
المهنؤون :
اسرة حسن صالح الحسيني واسرة سالم
معدان واسرة عبدالله علي الزنداني واسرة
علي وسيمير وخالدعبدالله علي واسرة المرحوم
محمود سعيد علي واسرة عبدالعزيز عقلان
واسرة عيروس عبيد واسرة فضل الهاللي
ومكتب مين تايمز-عدن .

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات

للاخ العزيز عبدالسلام عبدالله احمد مظفر ،
وذلك بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقد القران فالف مبروك
وعقبال دخول القفص الذهبي

المهنؤون :

الحاج/ حمود يحيى مبخوت الجعابي وأولاده ،
عبدالله حمود الجعابي وأولاده ،
الاستاذ/ محمد حمود الجعابي ،
احمد حمود الجعابي ، خالد حمود الجعابي ،
الاستاذ/ صالح محمد مهدي ،
يحيى علي مظفر وأولاده ،
الاستاذ/ ابراهيم علي عبدالله صالح المقصوري

January 1st, 1996



الف مبروك

وسط فرحة الال والاحبة ،
أطفأت الطفلة

بواهر

شمعتها الثانية معلنة دخولها
عامها الثالث من عمرها .
الف مبروك وعقبال المائة سنة .
المهنيون: بابا وماما وكل
الاهل والاصدقاء

زواج سعيد

مع امنياتنا الصادقة بحياة زوجية
سعيدة للشابة

منى يحيى زيد المحاقي
نرفع اجمل الاماني واعطرت الهاتي
للعرس والعريس ولكافة آل
المحاقي مع باقة ورد بنفسجي .
وعقبال البكري ، والف مبروك .
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الشخصية على فاكس رقم :
(٠٠٤٩ ٢٢١ ٦١٤٦٢٤) - المانيا .

NOTE:

The numbers below are as up to-date as our records show.
If your number has changed, please call us at (268-661/2)
for a correction. This is a courtesy service to our readers.



Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumphury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61

Insurance Companies:	
Y.I. & ReInsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sanaa	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance	01-272890-2
Taiz:	215012
Hodeidah:	217292
Aman Insurance Sanaa:	214093
Hodeidah:	03-240354

SANAA :	
1. Embassies:	
Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	240458/9
Bulgaria	208469
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275848/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413184/7780
Hungary	248147
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	414385
Iran	243439/40/43
Iraq	216682
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	268876/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	267636/4
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	278719
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
Syria	413153/
	414891
Tunisia	240458/9

U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A	238842/52
Vietnam	215985
2. Honorary Consultates:	
Austria	266725
Belgium	205925
Canada	208814
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360/207054
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534
3. International Organizations	
Care	414079
FAO	207331/607
UNDP	215505
UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
	02-233183
WHO	252213/204

ADEN Consulates :	
China	233115
Ethiopia	231335
France	255896
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russian (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Slovak	233630/232101
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.

AIR LINES	
Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Air Tanzania Sana'a	275029
Aden	241534
American Airlines	272894/838
Alitalia	273655
Al-Nasim Travel	270750
Alyemen (HO, Aden)	231339
Alyemen (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
Bazara Travel	78093/270879
British Airways Sanaa	248151/2
Aden	241534
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75, 265374
Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554
Iraqi Airlines	219431/224/5/6
Japan Airlines	219431/224/5/6
KLM	278747
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272731
Pakistan Int'l	219431/224/5/6
Philippines Airlines	272808 / 937
Rover Airlines Int'l, Inc.	205779
Royal Jordanian Sana'a	275314/355
Aden	243532
Russian Airlines	271242

HOTELS	
Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	215212/4/5
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
Mukalla (05)	
Hadhramaut	2060
Al-Ietamad	552493
COURIERS	
Aramex / Sana'a	243-925
Aramex / Aden	255-683
Aramex / Taiz	213-489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218-168
DHL / Sana'a	248017-249878
DHL / Aden	242128
DHL / Taiz	225383
DHL / Hodeidah	217490
DHL / Mukalla	05354844
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
TNT Express Aden	253097, 253049, 255600
Mukalla	7921888(mobile)
American Express	272435/6

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معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER
مسابقة رقم ٥٣
Contest No. 53

Prepared by:
Al-Farouk Institute of
Languages & Computer

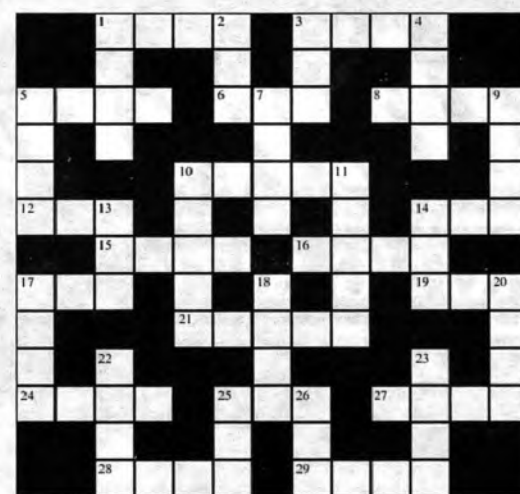
P.O.Box 3637, Al-Raqqaq St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sanaa; Telephone (967-1) 209721, Fax 218 231
ص ب رقم (٣٦٣٧) ، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقااص - صنعاء ، تليفون ٢٠٩٧٢١ (١-٩٦٧)، فاكس ٢١٨٢٣١

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



Across
1 & 10 DOWN, Light drama
serial, like *EastEnders*.
3. Leap up.
5. Horse control?
6. It fits round a bolt.
8. Biggest continent.
10. Make a speech.
12. Modern.
14. Recline, and don't tell the
truth!
15. Assist a criminal?
16. 14 DOWN joint.
17. Lassie is a famous one.
19. Space between.
21. Still breathing!
24. Young horse.
25. Opposite of 12 ACROSS.
27. Noise made by a 17 ACROSS.
28. Heavy metal to be in front?
29. Pulped potatoes.

Down
1. Move through water.
2. Nip back for a fastener!
3. Powerful aircraft.
4. Where there is a leaning tower in
Italy.
5. Wet weather.
7. America's 'Salt Lake' state (anagram
of HAUT).
9. Measure of farmland.
10. See 1 ACROSS.
11. — Wise (Eric Morecambe's old
partner).
13. Tail movement.
14. Lower limb.
17. Unable to hear.
18. Tablet.
20. Play area.
22. Spike for joining wood.
23. Every one.
25. Not even!
26. It holds back water.

Correct answers for contest No. (53)

FINCH BEN
UEO M NVST
N A BOSUN A
CRAB E EIDER
O YEAST O R
DOVE A H SWAY
S V RIO U L L
H E R E T I O N I L E
E A R O O K S E
R E V U E I W R E N F
O E D E L H I D F I
N O N E A F C A
N O N E F R Y T H E F T

WINNER OF CONTEST NO 53:
Mansour Abdulsalam



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متعدد الاستعمالات

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- قدرة ١١٠٠ وات.
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- سرعة كبيرة لتذويب الاطعمة المجمدة
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Where Is the 1996 Budget Proposal, Mr. Prime Minister?

The Republic of Yemen has no budget proposal for 1996. This is a constitutional violation, but what does this government care! According to the constitution of Yemen, the government should prepare and present a budget proposal for the next year two months before the end of the current year. This is the time during which parliament will deliberate before it decides to approve it.

The Abdulaziz Abdulghani government has not paid attention to this aspect of its obligation this year. It didn't last year either. The parliament has not taken the government to task on this matter.

By not having a budget, the government has a free hand in doing whatever it wants with the resources. It also makes its activities very inefficient. More importantly, it allows corruption, favoritism, and whimsical decisions to prevail.

Approached about this matter, several members of parliament shrugged off their shoulders. "This government has no respect to the constitution or to parliament. Even the budgets agreed upon by the government and parliament are not observed. If you see what was authorized for 1995, and what is being implemented, you will be shocked at the gap," explained one leading parliamentarian.

The budget is a key mechanism through which the legislative body controls the government in a democratic system. If this mechanism is rendered ineffective, an inherent weakness is brought into the system. This leaves us with the facade of a democracy without its checks and balances.

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