



YEMEN TIMES



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YT Person of the Year Dr. Waheeba Fare'e

PERSON OF THE YEAR



Abdulaziz Abdulghani Government Offers a Strange Welcome to the UN/UNESCO Media Seminar

"The Government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani is doing all it can to destroy freedom of the press in Yemen." That is a direct quote from the Chairman of the Journalists' Syndicate, Abdul-Bari Taher, himself a leading journalist. He is upset by what is widely seen as a stupid and uncalculated move by the government. Mr. Taher was reacting to the most recent efforts to curb and limit freedom of the press. In a long list of limitations, the government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani decided to enforce the following:
1. Journalists may not travel abroad in response to invitations or to cover any events or attend press conferences, unless they have a prior and written approval of the Council of Ministers. This approval would take about two months to get,

which effectively bans Yemeni journalists from travelling abroad.
2. And at home, Yemeni journalists may not contact diplomatic missions and international organizations working in Yemen and they may not attend functions, parties, celebrations, etc. of those bodies unless they have a prior approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Many Yemeni journalists were disgusted with these developments. "The prime minister and his cabinet still live in the past. They should know that such decisions are no longer acceptable in the post-Cold War world," an editor said. Mr. Taher also lamented the timing of such decisions which come just before the meeting in Sanaa of a UN/UNESCO seminar to promote press freedom.

The Yemen Times Person of the Year for 1995 is a female, our first.

It is Dr. Waheeba Ghalib Fare'e. She is a successful family person - a happy wife and mother. Her 5 children are all growing to be fine adults. She has often sacrificed many career opportunities for the sake of her family's interests. Dr. Waheeba, 42, has an exceptional career record. With a PhD in education, she joined Sanaa University in 1978. By 1987/88 she was the first female to be chair the department of Foundations of Education. During 1988-91, she was vice dean of the College of Education, another first for Yemen. She is the author of numerous books and articles in this field. Dr. Waheeba is the Executive President of the Yemen International Languages Institute. She is a member of Yemen's small class of successful business-women. The institute which started as a small project in 1989, has since grown to include branch offices in the major cities of Yemen. Ms. Fare'e has devoted the last quarter of a century to promoting women's issues to 'open up the all boys' club' as she says. As one of the leaders of Yemen's women's liberation movement, she is a founding

member of many women's associations and groups, dating back to 1969. She also founded the Ministry of Education's first department dedicated to the education of girls in 1976.

"I remember when in 1975, I went to Amran and Raida - tribal towns about 100 kilometers north of Sanaa - to establish the first girls' schools and women's training centers. The public was bemused. 'Why do we need to educate the girls' they kept asking me. Today, the situation is not yet acceptable, but we have come a long way from those early beginnings," she said.

"I have dedicated my life to enhancing the role and status of women here in Yemen. I hope I have been able to make dent."

Dr. Waheeba also worked at regional and international levels to draw attention to the plight of Yemeni women, and to work to improve their overall condition.

Ms. Fare'e was chosen from among 18 nominations, all of them outstanding individuals. What tipped the balance in her favor was her continued effort at self-education and self-improvement. Even today, she still goes to training centers to improve her language and computer skills.

Continues on page 4



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Warm Welcome to Our Media Colleagues !

This week, Sanaa plays host to a very important gathering. Prominent journalists from the Arab World, as well as friends from all over the world, are here to participate in a seminar entitled "Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media." This is a joint UN/UNESCO effort.

I would like to present my warmest welcome to our colleagues, and express appreciation for their solidarity and cooperation in pushing ahead a free media. In our part of the world, this will take some doing.

I would also like to take this opportunity to present my own assessment of the media situation in Yemen. This is a tricky thing to do, as I myself am torn between a pessimistic streak on one end, and a more hopeful attitude at another. Let me explain:

Reasons for Pessimism:

Yemeni independent media is headed towards extinction. To start with, there is only the press that could be independent, because the TV and radio are all government owned.

First, among the newspapers, and in all honesty, I know of no other newspaper except the Yemen Times, that has not received a chunk of government money and/or real estate, under one pretext or another. That has allowed the government to exert influence on them and to compromise their positions.

Second, the number of newspapers beyond government control has dwindled. Such newspapers as Sawt Al-Ommal, Al-Shoura, Al-Mustaqbal - just to name the famous ones - are now history. The regime has choked them off, one way or another.

Third, independent-minded journalists and columnists are subject to various forms of harassment. They are beaten up, jailed, sacked, searched, intimidated, etc. As a result, the number of people who write candidly and openly is falling.

Fourth, publishing houses are edgy about printing newspapers that are critical of the government. Some of them worry about losing their licenses.

Reasons for Optimism:

In spite of the visible decline of the independent media, there is still ample breathing room to work in. This is especially true when we compare Yemen to other Arab countries.

First, there are a few media leaders who are willing to risk a lot of things in order to stand up for their right to write freely. This core group of some three dozen individuals is solid and strong. At the moment, it receives moral support from the friends of democracy and freedom of the press in Yemen and outside.

Second, the opposition party newspapers provide a visible alternative to the government press. At the moment, there are some half a dozen such newspapers.

Third, the regime itself, worried about its image abroad, is willing to tolerate a certain degree of freedom of the press. It has avoided totally suppressing the opposing view.

Fourth, the laws and constitution of this country, expressly allow freedom of the press to survive, if not flourish. Legal recourse has shown that the courts are willing and able to uphold freedom of the press in many cases.

Well, there you have it folks. That is the picture of the media in Yemen as I see it. I am sure feedback on the subject from our visiting colleagues will further open our eyes to the situation. In the meanwhile, I hope the visitors will feel free to contribute and interact with the local media.

The Publisher
SSE

YSP Local Leader Imprisoned by PSO

Mr. Hassan Ahmed Ba-Awm, Member of the Central Committee and First Secretary of Hadhramaut Governorate of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) was arrested and put in jail by the Political Security Office. He remains there incommunicado since January 4th, 1996.

According to a statement issued by the YSP on January 6th, Mr. Ba-Awm has not been charged with any crime. His lawyer and family have not been allowed to see him.

The YSP, an opposition party, complained that all its members are subjected to oppression and harassment by the authorities.

Political Parties Get License to Operate

Last week, the Committee for Political Party Affairs, announced that it has given license (or whatever it may call) to four political parties to operate. These are the People's General Congress (the president's party), Arab Baath Socialist Party (a pro-president opposition group), the Nasserite Democratic Party (a pro-president opposition group), and the Supreme Command of the National Democratic Front (a pro-president opposition group). Other parties are expected to be licensed shortly.

YEMENIA Flies You to Socotra

YEMENIA (Yemen Airways) announced last week a weekly flight into Socotra. Starting from last Thursday, January 4th, a flight is available from Sanaa to Socotra (via Rayyan airport in Mukalla) every Thursday. The scheduled departure time in Sanaa is 7:00 am, with arrival in Socotra estimated at 11:45 am.

Exhibition of Art

As of Tuesday, January 9th, 1996, Gallery No. 1 will exhibit the art work of Mazher Nizar, one of Yemen's prominent artists. The collection is exhibited under the theme of "Reflections and Images". The gallery is open for the general public every day from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Study to Establish Regional Health Center

Professor Sidi Mohammed Tahir Al-Aoui, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Pharmacy at the University of Rabat, arrived in Sanaa on January 5th on a one-week visit. He is here to study the establishment of a Regional Training Center in Reproductive Health at Sanaa University's College of Medicine. This center will mirror a similar center Dr. Al-Aoui had helped establish in Morocco.

He will also deliver a series of lectures on the most recent advances in the field of reproductive health.

Professor Al-Aoui's visit is sponsored by the Program for International Training in Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA).

Aden University Seminar on Hunaish

The College of Law at Aden University organized on 26th December a seminar to discuss the legal status of Greater Hunaish. Speaker after another furnished historical and legal evidence of Yemeni ownership of the island and archipelago. The seminar also called on both sides to remember the long-term benefits of neighborly relations.

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Talal Al-Saqqaf:

"I know many businessmen who are interested in investing in Yemen, but ..."

Yemen's poultry industry is one of the most strategic activities. It is a major source of employment, it is one of the successful import substitution efforts of Yemen, and it provides badly needed protein for the local population, which visibly suffers from tertiary malnutrition.

Over the last two decades, hundreds of poultry farms have sprung up in various parts of the country. That has effectively marginalized the traditional household chicken-raising practice. However, as price-levels continues to rise, and given the high unemployment rate, many families, especially in the countryside - but also in the cities - have returned to the age-old household chicken raising practice.

To have an overview of the industry, Yemen Times Taiz office interviewed Mr. Talal Abdul-Hadi Al-Saqqaf, one of the young entrepreneurs in the field.

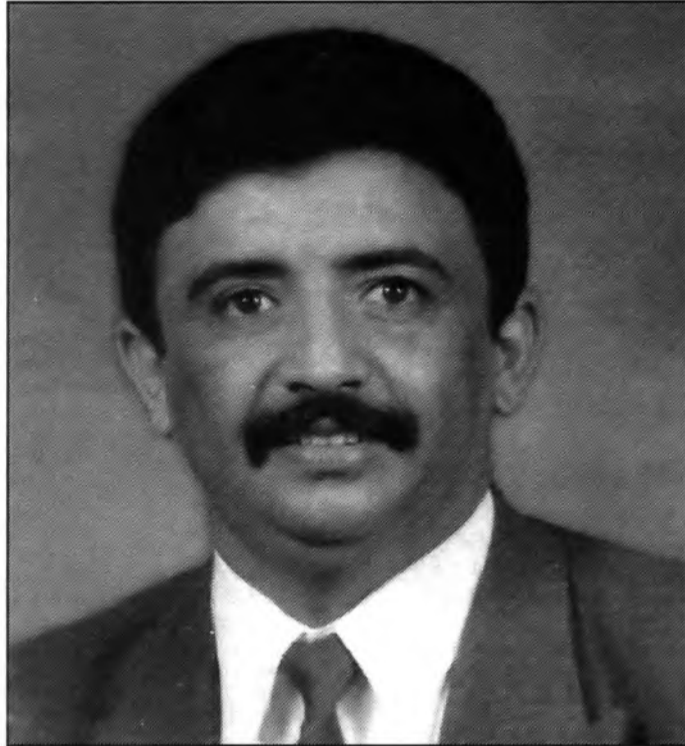
Q: What has been the strategy of investors in this industry?

A: Basically, it is to meet demand where a business makes economic sense. There could be another strategy of import substitution. The Yemeni poultry industry has come a long way over the last few years. The beginnings were modest-importing chick and feed. The value added was simply in growing the chicken. Then, local investors started importing eggs

which are then hatched in Yemen. Eventually, we hope even these eggs will be produced locally. Finally, local investors started producing the feed locally.

Q: What kind of demand volume are we talking about?

A: There are two sectors here. I can only tell about the organized sector. But remember, Yemeni households, especially in the countryside, raise chickens.



Nobody can ever tell how many these are, although we can definitely say that there is a visible return to household raising of chickens.

In the modern sector, total output is about 130,000,000 chickens a year. These are locally hatched and raised chickens. There is a small quantity of imported frozen chicken that is seen here and there.

Let me say that the hatcheries do not work at full capacity. They in fact work at less than 50% of capacity. The problem has to do with the exchange rate, and the

depreciation of the Riyal which makes any imported component very expensive.

Q: At the moment, eggs to be hatched are imported. Where from?

A: These are mostly from Europe. The average egg costs about 30 US cents CIF Sanaa Airport.

Let me hasten to mention that there are two giant local companies which do produce eggs for hatching. These are the Sabiha Plant owned by Hassan Naji Sabiha, which is a model even by

regional standards, and the Sanabani Plant owned by Mohamed Nasser Al-Sanabani. I think we should soon expect more progress on this count.

Q: What is the picture with poultry feed?

A: There are quite a few plants that produce poultry and other animal feed. The situation varies from one plant to another.

Q: Can we talk about your plant?

A: My plant, The Talal Al-Sakaf Factory for Poultry and Animal Feed - is very new. Located at the northern outskirts of Taiz city, it was inaugurated on November 1st, 1995. We specialize in providing poultry farms with their need of feed and veterinary medicine.

We have a capacity of producing 7 tons per hour, or some 56 tons per (8-hour) shift. At the moment we are working one shift a day, and we could easily move to a second shift, or even a third shift. All our employees are Yemenis, and we have never needed foreign manpower.

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Q: How do you see the poultry industry evolving?

A: This is a growth industry. As you know the world is moving towards white meat as a source of protein. It is more healthy, and more to the point, it is also much less expensive than red meat. I expect more business, but the exchange rate situation and the

business climate have to improve and stabilize. I know many businessmen who are interested in investing in this field. At the moment, they are holding off because they need to be reassured about a number of policy matters.

Q: Can you be more specific?

A: Yes. Let me first mention the fact many businessmen disagree with many of the policy decisions of the Central Bank of Yemen. The tripling of the interest rates last year is a clear contradiction with the effort of the government to encourage investments. Most investors borrow a portion of their capital outlays, and the steep interest rates does not help in this process.

Another issue has to do with simple law and order. For an investor, a big part of the cost item is in the form of holding off predators. Most companies have an allocation, often a big one, to hold at bay people who would try to seize the company's assets, trespass, or interfere in one way or another. The law enforcement mechanism (i.e., police) does not work very well. Add to that the burdensome judicial system, you get a scary picture.

Of course, the inadequate basic infrastructure, such as utilities, is an additional worry.

Most businessmen would be able to cope with those problems and many more. They would simply consider them as part of the business risks. But they cannot cope with the lack of security. I think promoting security and stability is a key component in enhancing the investment climate of Yemen.



Fiscal/Monetary Policy Must Be Oriented towards Jobs!

The fiscal and monetary aspects of policy-making are going to be key to the success/failure of the reform program of the Republic of Yemen. There are many signs that the government does not know what the objectives behind these policies should be. I say, job-creation should take priority over inflation control.

Up to date, the government has been unable to control its deficit. The deficit in the budget continues to rise to frightening levels. Even though the government has opted out of many expense items (i.e., postponement of debt service, cancellation of public sector investments, etc.), the 1995 deficit is said to be around YR 54 billion. The numbers still need to be firmed up, but that is the magnitude.

At another level, monetary policy continues to wobble without clear directions. The functionaries of the Central Bank of Yemen keep a holier than thou attitude while messing up things. It is clear that the first priority of the CBY is tighten money supply, as a way of curbing the deterioration in the value of the Riyal, and also to fight inflation. However, as money supply dried up, so have investments.

The first priority of Yemen should not, and cannot, be inflation. It should be job creation and investments. Unless more income is generated, there is no way the present contractionary measures will make a real impact. The government of Yemen, given its inconsistencies and inefficiencies, cannot tie up all the knots to fight inflation. There are just too many bottlenecks beyond its control. Besides, its own reform program - like removal of subsidies and exchange rate adjustment - will inevitably lead to higher costs of living. Therefore, fiscal and monetary policies - as part of the reform package - should be oriented towards income-generation.

Already, the unemployment rate is around 35%. With more contractionary measures, the rising class of unemployed could simply rise up one day, and decide "enough is enough". Get the picture!

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Economics.

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Runner-up to Person of the Year Al-Haj Ali Mohammed Al-Habbari

The runnerup for the Yemen Times Person of the Year 1995 was Al-Haj Ali Mohammed Al-Habbari, a well-known businessman from Sanaa.

He first started his business as a grain whole-seller in 1959. He has since dealt in the grain import business.

Al-Haj Al-Habbari has made it a point to educate his children in the West. They are all successful individuals in their own rights.

An interesting aspect of Al-Haj Al-Habbari is his belief in monogamy. He insists to remain with his first and only companion in life - his wife. This is a unique gift in an environment given to polygamy.

The old man has discreetly and silently spent more than YR 50 million in supporting various charities and development projects. He financed the construction of a school for the returnees from Saudi Arabia in 1991. That was at Al-Salakhana camp in Hodeidah.

He financed the construction of a mother and child hospital and furnished and equipped another - both in Sanaa.

He financed a major part of the Education College in Arhab, in the northern outskirts of Sanaa. He regularly makes donations to charities and various projects.

He has also financed the maintenance, refurbishing, etc. of many mosques such as Al-Filaihi and Moussa Mosques in Sanaa. Finally, he supports many orphans and needy families with a monthly allowance.

A notable contribution he made last year was a major donation to the prisoners in the Sanaa, Hodeidah, Taiz and Aden central prisons.



The second runner-up to the 1995 Person of the Year was Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf - a leading intellectual and promoter of freedom of the press, pluralism and a civil society. Dr. Saqqaf has paid dearly for his criticism of the excesses of the state. Last month, he was beat up for a second time because of what he had written.

Dr. Waheeba Ghalib Fare'e is the first female to be chosen as Yemen Times Person of the Year. Since this tradition was established in 1991, all the winners have been male. They were Dr. Tariq Sinan Abu Luhum (1991), Eng. Ahmed Al-Anisi (1992), Ali Mohammed Saeed (1993), and Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby (1994).

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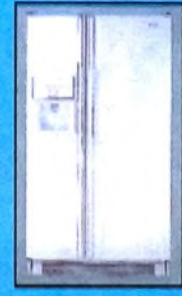
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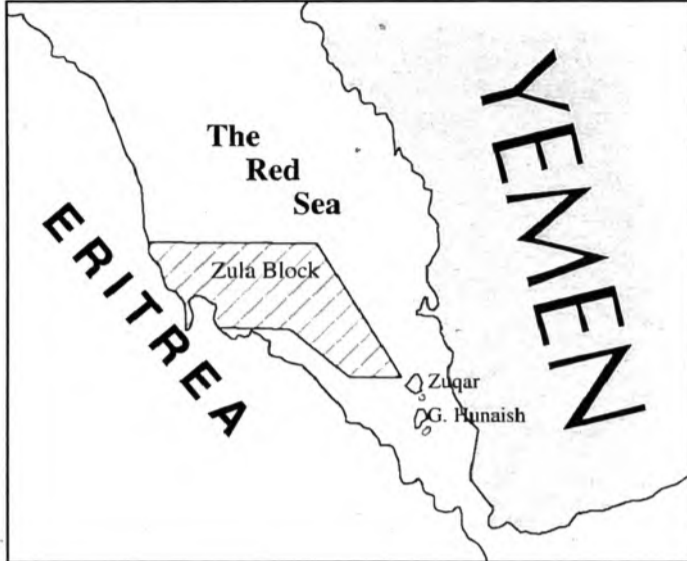
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Yemen and Eritrea: The Wrangling Continues

The Republic of Yemen and the State of Eritrea continue their maneuvering over the Hunaish archipelago. At the moment, Yemen is in control of the largest island, Zuqar, and Eritrea is in control of second largest island, Greater Hunaish. Both sides are speaking peace while beefing up their troops and hardware on their respective island.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Amre Moussa, is the most recent intermediary to visit the region. He does not carry any specific ideas, and he says he is here to bounce off a few thoughts in an effort to build common ground. A few days earlier, the Ethiopian Foreign Minister came at the footsteps of his Prime Minister, Mr. Melles Zeinawi. The Ethiopians had a proposal the Yemenis did not like. It called for withdrawal of both sides from the whole archipelago and referring the matter to the International Court of Justice. Yemen has yet to formally respond to that proposal.

The Republic of Yemen continues to demand a return to the situation that had existed before Saturday December 16th, when Eritrean forces completed their control over the Hunaish island. "The Eritrean use of force was not called for," the Yemeni officials repeatedly say. Asmara on its part claims that it was the Yemenis who started with the use of force by bringing in troops to the island. "We demanded the removal of the newly established garrison, but the Yemeni authorities refused," an official Eritrean communique



stated.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has wisely refused to heed the irresponsible calls for military strikes. Many hot-heads in the media and in officialdom have urged the President to use force. His wisdom and far-sight will eventually pay off.

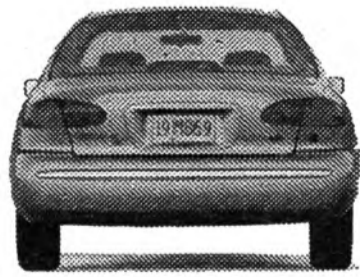
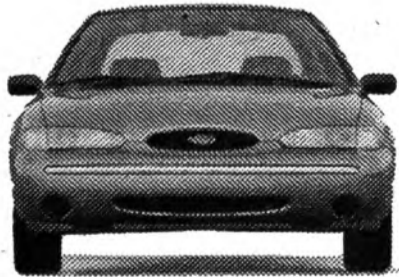
The international community continues to urge cool-headed negotiations. UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali spent the last days of 1995 in Sanaa, Asmara and Cairo. He offered his good offices to bring the two sides together.

The United States, France and other world leaders have warned the two countries against contemplating an escalation. Any escalation in the military confrontation could jeopardize the international shipping lines of the Red Sea, which is an important waterway.

Even then, the two countries are also lobbying with neighbors and friends to support them and stand by in push comes to shove.

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The PSO Responds to a Yemen Times Article:

"We didn't do it."

The Yemen Times received a strongly-worded letter from the Political Security Office (PSO) stating that it was not responsible for the beating of Professor Abubakar Al-Saqqaf. The letter, signed by the Public Relations Director, denied categorically that the PSO was behind it. "Unless there is proof, such accusations will lead us to take the necessary legal measures," the letter stated. (Scanned copy to the right.)

The Yemen Times, in the aftermath of the severe beating, quoted Professor Abubakar Al-Saqqaf accusing the PSO. In the same article, the paper also printed the denial of the PSO.

Meanwhile, the Director-General of the Investigations, Colonel Hussain Ali Haitham, called up the editor of the paper asking for leads, if the paper had any, regarding the perpetrators. He also called up the victim asking him to file a complaint.

Unfortunately, this effort is not expected to yield any results. Many opposition political figures routinely get harassed/beaten, and nothing ever happens to the perpetrators. The government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani claims it has no idea who is doing it!

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

التاريخ : ١٩٩٥/١٢/٢٧
الرقم : ١٠٥٧/ع/٩٥/ت

الأخ الدكتور/ عبدالعزيز المسقف - رئيس تحرير صحيفة 'يمن تايمز' المحترم تحية وبعد ..

يؤسفنا في الإدارة العامة للعلاقات والتوجيه بالأمن السياسي ما تعرض له الدكتور/ أبو بكر المسقف من اعتداء بتتالي والأخلاق الحضارية، ويستهدف الأمن والإستقرار.

وحيث أنه في الوقت الذي تتواصل فيه أصوات البحث والتحري باتجاه كشف مرتكبي الحادث والجهات التي تقف وراءه.

ولفما كان حري بالصحيفة قبل الصحيفة مد يد العون لأجهزة الأمن وتزويدها بالمعلومات التي من شأنها الإسهام في تضيق نطاق دوائر البحث والتحري.

تفاجأ في جهاز الأمن السياسي بما نشرته صحيفتكم 'صحيفة اليمن تايمز'، العدد '٥٢' الصادر للفترة ١٩٥/١٢/٣١.

وعليه لفتنا في الإدارة العامة للعلاقات والتوجيه .. إذ نعرب عن استنابنا إزاء ما نشرته الصحيفة، لأن جهازنا الأمني ليرأ من ذلك الفعل ويحفظ بطوقه القانونية إزاء ذلك الإتهام الظالم.

ختاماً : نطلب من الصحيفة نشر نص هذا الرد في ذات الصفحة التي نشر بها الخبر.

وتقبلوا خالص التحية ..



- نسخة مع التحية :

للأخ/ مدير الإدارة العامة للصحافة بوزارة الإعلام .

- نسخة للخط

ON VALUES AND LIFESTYLES !

A) When young people start looking for jobs, or evaluating different job prospects, they ought to be told of the emotional dimensions, which go far beyond the economic ones. Perhaps less than 5% of all new joiners of the labor market will ever be rich. People become rich by accident, by inheritance, or by some rare and special combination of skills. For most of us, a decent and reasonably comfortable life is all we can expect. This being the case, the most important factor about a job opportunity should be the fulfillment and pleasure it offers. To go into a field because it offers the potential of more income can be a fatal illusion. Money is necessary, but it is never sufficient to make one happy. If it were, the richest people would be automatically the happiest. Quite obviously, they are not.

A person whose work is emotionally satisfying can cope with a great deal of tension, even in other areas of his/her life. If he/she feels that he/she is making a contribution, if he/she feels that the intangible returns from his/her work compensate for the long hours and low pay, he/she has a secret source of strength to sustain him.

This is not a plea to ignore the economic appetite, which is strong and important. But it is a suggestion that, beyond a decent minimum level, money fails to bring what we think it will. Only pleasure and self-fulfillment in the performance of our job does that.

B) Knowledge is a great healer of emotional scars. There is no need to argue in/with failure. Just leave failure alone. There is no argument in failure.

Success, on the other hand, is too often brassy and argumentative, self satisfied and superior about itself. It is the duty of good people to argue with success against all the violence, fraud, greed and inhumanity.

Success is the only thing in the world that must be questioned. The most obvious truth in the world is often the hardest to grasp. For example, ponder the equation: the more respect you give, the more respect you receive. Since everybody wants respect from others - indeed the struggle for money and prestige is simply a means of trying to attain respect and recognition.

When a person has genuine respect for his/her own person and his/her powers, he/she then

has enough respect to spare for others. The truly successful person, by these rigorous standards, is a rare and wonderful creature.

C) Management should be to place the right man at the right post. It should be put in the hands of people who cherish wisdom and righteousness. Rather than being venerated, success must be carefully defined.

Management should conform with the main principles of good planning, proper execution, and consistent corrections and changes based on feedback. Management should prepare its financial system with adequate informative disclosures, in accordance with the sources of generally accepted accounting principles.

The management personnel of an organization must use accounting information for planning, controlling operations, formulating long term plans and making major decisions. That includes the development of detailed and current information helpful to all levels of management to achieve the organizations goals.

By: Yassin Ali al Ma'sali (Al-Jarahi) - Hodeidah.

صبراً آل الدعيس

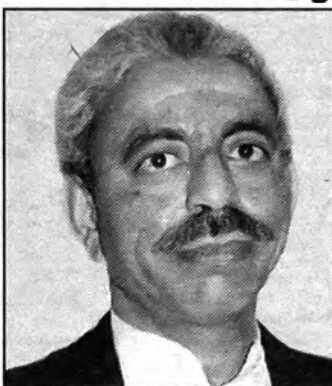
بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره ،
تلقينا نبأ وفاة الأنسة الشابة نجاة الدعيس
أسكنها الله فسيح جناته وألهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
الأسيفات :

المديرة والإداريات والمدربات في
مدرسة خولة بنت الأزور الإعدادية/الثانوية للبنات

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

WE MUST START SOMEWHERE



If there is anything that can be mentioned about 1995, at least as far as the Republic of Yemen is concerned, it is that the year seemed like a waste of time! Yemen's overall condition did not reflect any soundness of health or propriety of directions. The Republic had just come out of a senseless war that gobbled up a lot of national resources and led to an overall transformation of the political framework of the society. 1995 was lacking in indications that this transformation was confirmed as being worth the substantial cost that the Yemeni people would have been spared.

The Crisis Syndrome that Yemen has been afflicted with since the start of the New World Order has not been able to find a way out of the mainstream of life in this country, which is beset by many of the ills of Third World Countries and quite a few of its own. Of course, the economic ills of the country are the hardest on the majority of the general population of the country. What is apparent in the economy is a reversal in the trend of the standard of living and a rapid disappearance of a middle class that had just started to develop in the late 70's up to the mid 80's. Regional economic factors and political instability prevented any serious attention to the economy of the Republic of Yemen just when that attention should have been all the more apparent. Yemen's unity and the miscalculated policy during the Second Gulf War, or Operation Desert Storm, required that Yemen - government and people - direct all its energies towards fostering economic development and reorganization, in light of the vast changes that the economic factors had undergone in an almost abrupt way. Sadly, however, the political circumstances that dominated the national scene over the past six years have shoved all economic considerations aside to the point that the government only concerned itself with only meeting consumption needs. The production side was almost neglected except for the Petroleum Sector which was cater to because it was necessary to finance the political maneuvering of the rulers, locally and internationally. The high expectations from Yemen's entry into the oil market never had a chance to become economic realities for the majority of Yemenis, in view of the high initial capital cost

outlay and the limited production level so far reached. Nevertheless, it did achieve for Yemen self sufficiency in meeting its fuel needs, but the economic difficulties in Yemen had become so complicated that such an important achievement had become minuscule in effect as far as adding improvement to the standard of living of the people as a whole. When the Gas Investment Proposal had been expected to boost Yemen's activities in the Petro Chemical industry, again, political instability and the rather indecisive manner in which the project was contracted out had pushed back the impact such proposals could have on the economy at least 10 years from the date that such proposals came to light as feasible economic ventures earlier in the decade. With the American boycott of the French company, Total, now almost assured, it is difficult to set a probable date for the actual works to start. 1995 had gotten Yemen closer to the commencement date after the signing the Gas Deal with Total a couple of months ago. But with the latest American boycott drives against Iran, by including firms that dealt with Iran, this could mean that the Gas Project is headed back to Square One, as the American proposed partners, Exxon and Hunt, may have to withdraw their interest in participating, in compliance with the latest legislation barring American firms from dealing with foreign companies that deal with Iran.

1995 saw the introduction of economic, financial and administrative reforms worked in coordination with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund The First Phase of the Reforms, despite the exaggerated publicity has not shown the successes which the government claims, and may have actually increased the difficulties as prices continued to climb while personal income dwindled down as the currency exchange rate failed to achieve stability. The temporary intervention of the Central Bank to try to stabilize the foreign exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal turned out to be more of a staged maneuver, in good timing with negotiations with the WB/IMF, rather than an effective long range remedy to a chronic financial snag. By the end of the year, the Yemeni Riyal could not remain at a manageable rate and the US Dollar had shot up again to YR 130. After CBY

intervention the rate had undergone an unrealistic drop from YR 160 to YR 60, just a couple of months before the year came to a close.

The government's efforts to work towards a balanced budget were not accompanied by successes either as the inflationary spiral ate up any effects of steps in this direction, since even fixed expenditures were forced to undergo adjustment to keep pace with the instability of prices. It was a vicious circle, which was made the more difficult by the awesome bureaucracy that the concerned financial authorities have become entrenched in. There does not seem to be any signs that the situation will undergo improvement soon.

On the political front, 1995 was at best a disappointment. Democracy was the victim of the ruler's determined efforts to quell any hopes of a rising role for the opposition in the political life of the country. Moreover, the ruling coalition itself was beset with a state of uncertainty as each party turned the portfolios under their control to a partisan institution. Veteran and experienced civil servants of good standing suddenly found themselves out of positions as the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), in particular, replaced them with young and inexperienced officers sympathetic, or members of the Islah, in the Ministries under their control. The replacements were not just for former position holders brought by the Yemeni Socialist Party after unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, but included positions held by party members of the People's General Congress and other parties or independents. On the other hand the Islah extremists tried to solidify their positions in the Southern and Western Governorates, trying to fill the vacuum left after the collapse of the YSP after the dreaded Civil War. There were a lot of protests from the people of these governorates, who became disturbed at the harsh interpretations of religious dogma of the extremists, which tried to undo centuries of traditions and religious social habits and ceremonies of these people, which are really not deviations or violations of specific Islamic laws to speak of, and to impose their interpretations by force. Violence increased in Aden and in the other governorates and the Army was forced to intervene, as local police forces were no match for the well armed extremists. The extremists toned down a bit after the President decided to settle down in Aden and declare that the extremists will not be allowed to have a free hand to reap havoc and civil disorder and to threaten any chances of Aden becoming a successful duty free port. The extremists in the northern Governorates were also disrupting institutions that adhered to more established sects and religious organizations, who followed a more moderate and realistic approach to religion. The extremists attacked the Badr Scholastic Institute in Sana'a, without any justifiable reason and attacked non Islah Imams of Mosques in Sa'ada and other provincial towns apparently in the hope of taking over every mosque in the Republic. The interference of some of the moderate elements of the Islah Party was instrumental in preventing a sectarian feud which would have engulfed Yemen in civil strife which would be difficult to control if allowed to get out of hand.

Continuing with political activity in 1995, the PGC held its fifth General Assembly Conference amidst hopes that the party was going to undergo drastic reforms and reorganization, which would reflect the wishes of many of the general membership of the party. The leadership of Ali Abdulla Saleh is still the dominating influence in the PGC and the strength of the party still emanates from this leadership. This is notwithstanding the fact that the PGC still represents a large cross section of many prominent and capable Yemeni leaders, who might be able to give the PGC more spirit, if they had been given a chance to do so. As for the opposition, 1995 was not what may be considered a year of achievements. The eight active opposition parties grouped together to form the Higher or Supreme Council of the Opposition. But, as the ruling coalition kept the opposition on the defensive, the weight of the opposition in the political

life of the country could not get much of a boost during the year. On the other hand, one of the opposition parties lost its headquarters and its newspaper. The Popular Forces Party has not been able to either reopen its HQ or reissue its newspaper, Al-Shoura, despite a court decision in its favor to do so. Moreover opposition and independent leaders were the victims of harsh measures as they traveled or as they walked the streets in broad daylight, where the merciless electric batons and other new gadgets of the state's security apparatus were tried out on the flesh of outspoken critics of the government or the leadership. In terms of services, 1995 continued to see a rapid deterioration of public services. The electricity generation capacity did not get any uplift, despite the genuine efforts of the Public Electricity Corporation and the Ministry of Electricity's to present alternative proposals to solve the power generation deficiency in the Northern Grid. Generation investment is badly needed to the tune of US\$ 60 Million to alleviate the Sana'a black outs and to lighten the load on Ras Katenib and Mocha Power Stations, which are themselves in need of overhauls immediately, but cannot go through such maintenance because they must operate continuously at peak load.

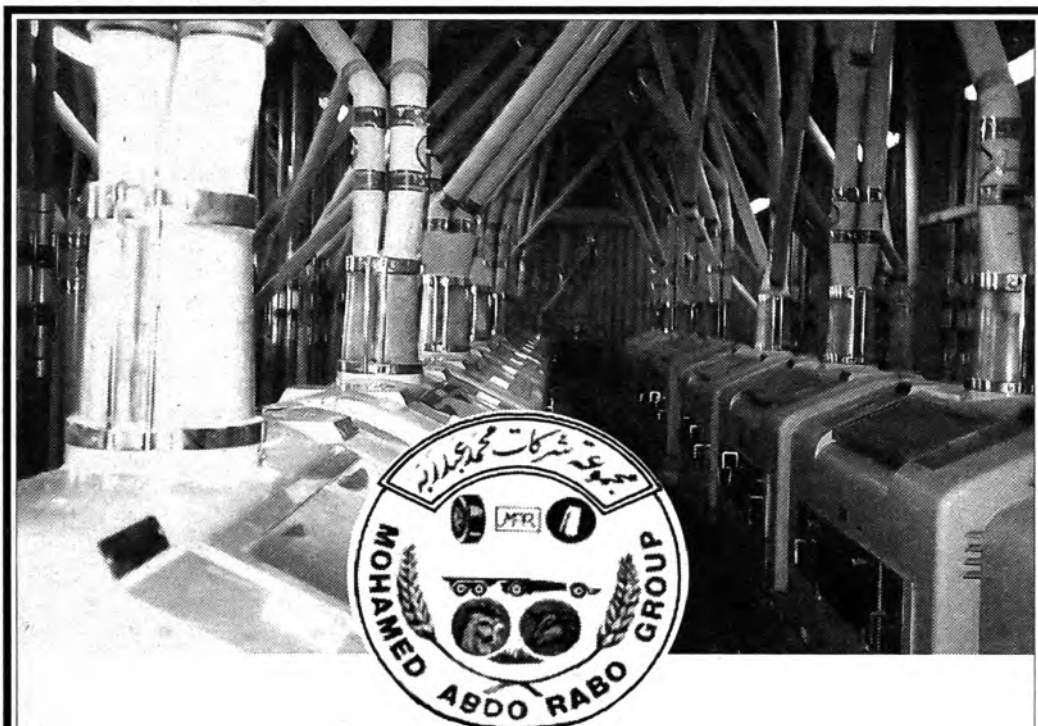
On another note, sanitation may have been given a rescue with the Arab Fund Loan to finance the Sana'a Sewage Treatment Plant for US\$ 40 Million. It will still be two years however before the odor in the Rawdha/AI-Jiraf/Airport areas become more acceptable to the human nasal cavities. While on sanitation, work is proceeding well in the Al-Hasaba area, to relieve the area from the chronic sewage problem there that has made it probably the filthiest part of the capital to walk in. While the National Water and Sewerage Authority misses the dynamic professional and aggressive management of Mr. Mohammed Al-Fusayal, Mr. Mohammed Nu'uman is keeping NWASA on the move.

As for the municipal sanitation work on the streets, 1995 was a year of heaps and hills of garbage, scattered throughout the streets of the capital. Yet the Municipality of Sana'a insists that garbage clean up is not its responsibility?!!

With such a despairing state came to close with an unexpected bombshell! Foreign elements are taking advantage of Yemen's general state of difficulties by actually imposing their will on Yemeni turf. It started north as the Saudis proceed with improving their territorial allotment before the Yemeni - Saudi border is finally arranged. But this is to be expected from a problem that has remained unresolved for more than fifty years. The real bombshell came when the Eritreans have found themselves capable of wresting control of the most important sea passage in the world! Yes, Eritrea, in such a short time of statehood had entered the international games nations play. Whether on its own behalf or based on the prodding of international or regional powers, Eritrea has proven that the national sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen is very fragile and needs immediate attention.

It is quite clear that the affairs of the Republic are going through what this observer would like to call a management crisis. There is mismanagement everywhere one looks and a total absence of adherence to law and the most basic of fundamentals of order and organization. Unless Yemen starts to explore more effective managerial techniques and procedures, the outlook for 1996 and beyond can at best only be said to be gloomy. The first rule of successful management of national affairs is to dislodge partisan sentiment or other narrow interests from the executive functions of government. Yemen is in need of changes and change must begin somewhere. The appropriate area seems to be in the executive functions of government. Corruption must cease; inefficiency and failure must be penalized; achievement must be rewarded. Without these basics introduced into government - and now - the ray of hopes for the future will continue to remain very dim.

It is just a question of will and determination.



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The successful applicant for this position will be proficient in both English and Arabic (written and spoken), have a background in aid work (two years minimum) and will be conscious of the development needs of urban and rural communities in Yemen. Candidates that are energetic, articulate and possess an outgoing personality will be ideally suited for this position. Candidates with backgrounds in public relations and advocacy will be highly regarded as will applicants with work experience at the managerial level.

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VIEWPOINT:

The Virtues of Economic Planning

Working on the basis of the principles of planned economy requires a re-structuring of the administrative apparatus. The task of improving management and raising its efficiency must be an essential and integral part of the economic planning process. Presently, the administrative machinery in most developing countries does not correspond to what is required for exercising a planning influence.

As it is known, the principle of planning includes an approach that ensures fundamental changes in the structure of a national economy. All the same, when the obligatory tasks were confined to specific sectors or branches of the economy, their fulfillment exercised a substantial influence on the development of the economy as a whole. Modern economists indicate that the planning process hinges on the level of development of production and social relations as well as on the nature of tasks involved in the development of the economy.

Evidently, the most widespread form of planning in Third World countries is the public sector program, including budget planning, outlines of the main indicators for the public sector at various times, and assessment of investment projects financed mainly from the budget or foreign loans. Investment programs form the skeleton for long-term economic planning.

Recently, new methods have been developed for regulating capital investment in the private sector, too. Many economic analysts in the developing world favor a less complicated planning technique. For instance, the participants in the Third Conference of African Instruments was couched on an economy that is multi-structured in the social, economic and tech-



nological sense, with unstable, rapidly developing links.

Developing countries have of late started to move from a feeling for the need for change to the idea of more efficient practical use of all available resources for achieving an effective state policy. This policy is applied to economic relations and methods of regulating them, in particular economic planning.

The state does try to plan economic development, though this is an extremely complex and contradictory task. Even then, economists say planning - rather than the market - is still the most effective method for speeding up economic development and accomplishing social transformation.

The development of economic planning and programming in the developing world has been, in effect, a result of a number of pressing observations:

- 1- Low output in the majority of these countries is due to a low level of productivity.
- 2- This low level of productivity is itself anathema to development of state economic planning.
- 3- Third World governments have yet to pin down the most effective economic levers. Once identified, the possibility of planned and

balanced development is particularly attractive.

An essential pre-condition for development is research in the form and method of economic planning which reflects the most important features of the dominant production relations. Planning methods are instruments for solving economic problems.

The governments of many developing countries are still grappling with poorly developed productive forces and underdeveloped socio-economic structures. In addition, they have not yet made the final choice of socio-economic development course or see planning as means for speeding up the development of productive forces. Here, planning is limited, covering only a few economic processes, and its methods are primitive. In essence, under these conditions it is not planning at all, but organizational and economic measures carried out by a state without any specific social orientation.

In planned economies, we can vision things in advance. As an economist once said, 'Planning is like a person standing on the ground.' Thus, planning can do away with wasteful and unhealthy competition.

Economic planning is at the same time much more necessary and more difficult to execute in backward countries than in advanced countries because of the limitation of information and knowledge of the system. Moreover, economic planning requires a strong, competent and incorrupt administration. It must be strong enough to be able to enforce its measures, such as to collect taxes, enforce a rationing system without black markets, etc. Furthermore, it must have a competent administrative service with trained personnel able to

understand the macro issues that are at stake and to act reasonably and rapidly. Finally, the administrative structure must be relatively free of corruption.

Now, a strong, competent and incorrupt administration is just what no backward country has. And in the absence of such an administration, it is often much better that governments should be laissez faire than they should pretend to plan. In the meantime, no administration should be loaded with tasks more numerous or more delicate than it can handle. The quality and forms of planning should be limited strictly within the capacity of the machinery.

Some economic analysts strongly feel that the first objective of economic planners in backward countries should be to create an administrative machinery that can do the work of planning. That means to train young men academically in the tasks of administration and to weed out mercilessly the incompetent and the corrupt.

It has been observed that in the Third World countries, governments usually have more difficulty in fulfilling the normally accepted functions of governments. The difficulty that faces these governments is that they cannot deliver services. They cannot render the services because they cannot raise the money. They cannot raise the money because their people are too poor. It is a vicious circle. Breaking this vicious concerns itself with measures to increase the national income. This is the sense in which economic planning is more necessary in the developing countries.

In Africa, it is stated that 200 out of 690 million people live under the poverty level, and con-

servative World Bank estimates project that the current poverty level, will definitely go up by a further 55% by the year 2002. Likewise, the number of people who live under the poverty level, in Latin America, has gone up from 135 million in the early 1980s to 185 million in the early 1990s. For all intents and purposes, it was pinpointed that these new challenges point to the need for comprehensive economic reform policies aimed at increasing the competitiveness of local industry and improving administrative structures.

Unless the wheels of the economy are reactivated, the poor crisis-ridden nations will fall to economic paralysis. If the economies are fully crippled, there may be no way out for Third World governments except chaos and violence which do not operate for the benefit of the toilers. It has been seen in the experience of many countries that violence is not beneficial for the workers.

Therefore, whenever centralization of power occurs, the despotic ruling system will probably exploit the laborers and farmers. Alas, experience has also shown that economic chaos will only lead to a coup d'etat. Such bloody struggles - caused by economic and political inequalities - are currently decimating seventy countries worldwide.

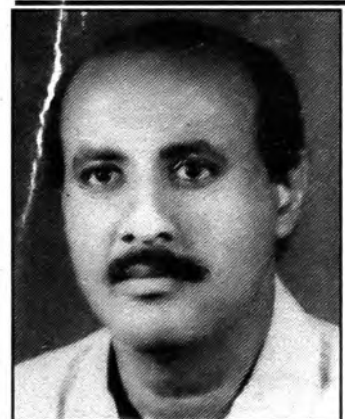
In the wake of the industrial revolution and the impact of technological inventions on our social life, governmental activities began to increase so much that today they engulf the entire life of man. Governments do not only regulate the economic life of their citizens, but also conduct that in the form of manufacturer, producer, distributor and server in different business and social welfare fields. Today, the world

economy is opening up, and free access to international trade will possibly be guaranteed through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and through partnership agreements among the top financial officials from the United States of America, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy - the Group of Seven - the biggest industrially advanced nations (G7). A reliable source has of late indicated that the G7's strongmen would like to carry out a \$50 billion emergency bail-out fund for countries in financial problems. This measure is expected to play a colossal role in planning for the economic salvation of the poor crisis-stricken countries.

Economically speaking, the world today is a single composite unit. Such being the case, a slight change in the economy of one of the larger countries has far-reaching repercussions in other parts of the world. Thus, the principles of economic planning include, above all, the following:

- a) A unity of politics and economics with a clear-cut social orientation of the government's economic planning activities.
- b) The all-embracing nature of economic planning.
- c) To combine overall national - group and individual - interests to from the class structure of society consisting of working people without exploiters.
- d) Democratic administration as the general principle for organizing, planning, reflecting the interests of society - groups and individuals - and ensuring the broad participation of all the people in elaborating and implementing the economic plans.
- e) The obligatory nature of the plans worked out by society for all executive agencies.

By: Mohammed Ali Shidle.



"Desertification"

Desertification is defined as land degradation brought about by a combination of climatic stress and human impact upon the soil of the semi-arid world and its sub-humid

argins. This is manifested by accelerated soil erosion and reduction in soil fertility, and decline in plant and animal production. Mr. Martin Williams reported that 5,000 years ago the climate of the present Sahara Desert was wet enough to provide food and water for large herds of domesticated cattle. Prehistoric rock paintings and the fossil remains of both cattle and herds are scattered across the Sahara in localities where it now rains only once every 10 years.

Presently, over 900 million people are adversely affected by desertification and over 100 nations are how suffering from the adverse economic, political and social consequences of the various desertification processes. The relationship between climatic change and desertification is less understood. Are droughts primarily responsible for the impact of human activities along desert margins? Will the overgrazed soil surface ultimately alter the radiation balance in dry areas with implications for the both local climate and global climate changes?

Unless sustainable measures are taken to control desertification, global warming and increased evaporation are likely to affect the water balance in dry regions. These process affects some 25% of the Earth's land area and occurs at an accelerated rate globally. In addition the UN convention to combat desertification acknowledges that desertification and draught are problems of global dimensions in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action of the international community is needed to combat or mitigate the effects of desertification and drought.

In Yemen, many original forest cover had been cleared in ancient times and current to rest resources are heavily utilized for a variety of purposes. One of the main issues nowadays is desertification. The

four major processes which induced or inducing desertification are as follows (FAO/UNDP).

1- Degradation of the Vegetative Cover is caused by uncontrolled tree cutting, fuelwood used as charcoal and firewood, uprooting of woody vegetation, overgrazing in foresting and range lands and improper cultivation practices. This is mostly due to existing acute poverty and lack of awareness and mismanagement from all concerned institutions.

2. Water erosion is mostly due to lack of maintenance of terraces and abandoning of the traditional technology of rain harvesting and water diversion structures which played great role in protecting plant cover and soil. Consequently flash flooding and flooding become destructive and removed the trees and plantation system in the Wadis thus enlarging its width and reducing the amount of water that can infiltrate into the ground water thus reducing recharge of the nearly shallow wells. This increases the rate of sedimentation load especially down stream and Wadi beds.

3. Wind erosion and sand movement mostly occur on the coastal plain and inter-mountain plains which leads finally to the shifting of sand-dunes. According to IFAD, the combination of the climatic conditions and removing of vegetation for fuelwood and fodder have resulted in sand-dune encroachment of agricultural areas, roads and settlement.

4. Salinization. This process is occurring rapidly in the coastal plains as more wells (ad-hoc ones are mostly for fruit irrigation, and banana fruit) are drilled and over-pumped thus leading to sea water intrusions. Agricultural lands are becoming and have become already more saline.

It is known that the plantation cover plays great role to stabilize air cycles which have great effect directly on the atmosphere. In fact the issue is global one which requires an urgent and effective action from the all nations in the world according to Climate Change Convention of 1994 committing all the parties signed and ratified the treaty to protect the climatic system for the present and future generation for our children and children of our children. One of the main processes in protecting the climate is to conserve the existing forests or managing them in a way that the quality of trees cut should not be more than the growing or replaced trees. This management will contribute to

the maintenance of biological/diversity or so called biodiversity.

Also, the expansion of paved roads and widespread of mechanical transport have increased the processes of degradation of the forests and range lands; in addition to that most of the newly constructed terraces use only earth banks and have no stabilizing bank vegetation. This led to erosion problems threatening not only the resident but also led to erosion of valley terraces and flood plain lands. For example in Jabal Bura new roads have facilitated access to the inaccessible remaining stands of original vegetation. This led to land clearing, exploitation of trees for fuelwood and threatening of the rare wildlife.

Consequently, about 50% of the woodland has been degraded. Of this, 85% disappeared during 1973-88, and an additional 3% was cleared off in 1988-1991 according to the above mentioned report of the High Water Council. Given that Yemen has one of the highest species diversity in the Middle East, a number of species are threaten or endangered which require protection and conservation. Records show over 1700 plants 55 mammal, 350 bird, 65 reptile and 43 freshwater fish species.

According to HWC report of 1992, it has been reported that there are many species which are included in the IUCN lists of threatened species i.e. 5 mammals, 18 birds, 4 reptiles and 2 fishes.

In addition, it has been reported that Socotra island has over 250 endemic plants out of a total inventory of 800 plant species.

From the above mentioned issues and information it is evident that there is an urgent need to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach in order to reduce or avoid the existence processes of desertification in Yemen, manly the socio-economic aspect of the problems should be addressed well. For instant the priority of the Technical assistance at national and international level should be directed according to the more affected people that is the poorest farmers who depend on scarce rainfall and marginal lands and fuelwood for their livelihood. Since the problem is a global level what is needed is the implementation of the commitments to long-term help from international and national organizations including the beneficiaries. Assistance should be extended to the small farmers to rebuild terraces,

replanting trees and building diversion. Structures to reclaim the eroded Wadis, training local farmers on aspects of reducing the phenomena of desertification by easing access to credit facilities and sustainable financial incentives in soil regeneration and conservation, reafforestation and water harvesting system. This financial incentives should include reducing for firewood by supporting the introduction of gas stoves technology to replace charcoal and wood, and encouraging farmers to produce and rely on home-produced grain crops which requires less water compared to fruit and vegetable crops which exploits ground water reserves. And above all and according to the action programs of the convention on desertification it should be promoted multilateral financial cooperation institutions to ensure implementation of the convention giving priority to the eradication of poverty and improving the quality of human life.

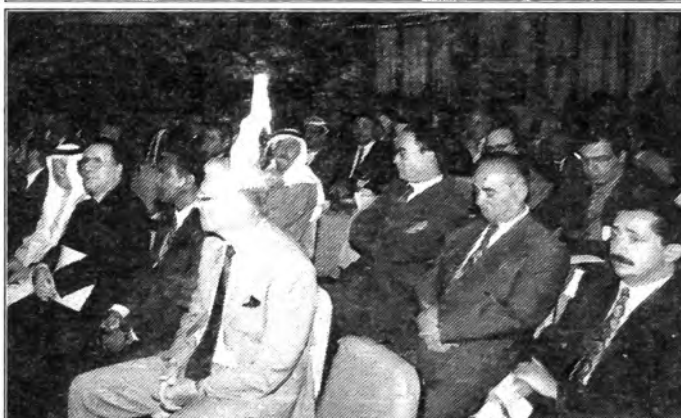
National and international communities should provide new and additional financial resources to affected areas and regions in light of the appropriate concept of sustainable development in the context of "poverty eradication and promotion of livelihood system in areas prone to desertification. In fact desertification is one of the manifestation and consequence of "poverty-resource degradation cycle" in turn as consequence of lack of fair distribution of assets and wealth which lead to a widening gap between the rich and poor of the world nowadays. In fact, reports show that 20% of the rich people get more than 85% of the world's resources.

Therefore, in order to work at local and regional levels, the people should be involved in decision-making which could be a tool to solve the above-mentioned issues, and priority should be given to poorest countries and people. The assistance and supports should contribute to measures blocking but not in degrading the environment elements mainly the human-beings and their capacity of managing their resources and quality of life as planned by them selves and this only could be realized if both the developed and developing countries jointly implemented and fulfill their commitment in all the concerned and ratified conventions.

By: Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariqi,
Environment/Development Consultant

MEDIA MEDIA OPENS IN SANAA

Below are pictures from the first day of the UN/UNESCO seminar on "Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media in the Arab Region" which is going to continue until Thursday, January 11th. Next week, the Yemen Times will run a full account of the seminar and the resultant documents.



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Hasco and Shell Marketing Y. S. C., a joint venture company, marketing Shell lubricants in the Republic of Yemen, require the following personnel (Yemeni nationals only) for their head office in Sana'a and branch offices in Taiz and Hodeidah:

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The Role of Family Planning In Reduction of High Maternal and Morality In Yemen

By: Mohammed Ali Kolaise,
Director of Immunization Program (EPI),
Southern & Eastern Governorates.

High maternal and child mortality rates indicate a serious health problem in the Republic of Yemen that deserves a serious Primary Health Care (PHC) program. Maternal and children mortality in Yemen is considered one of the highest in the world. Present information indicates a maternal mortality rate of about 10 per 1000 live births, an infant mortality rate of 130 per 1000 live births, and an under 5 years mortality of 190 per 1000 live births. These rates are higher than the average for most least developed countries.

A very high fertility rate of 8 live births per woman in Yemen is considered among the highest worldwide. High fertility exposes mother to the risk of repeated pregnancies, a majority of deliveries (approximately 85%) take place without trained care, either in the presence of a "gidda" (an experienced grandmother), or in certain areas with the help of traditional birth attendants. In a small number of cases, delivery takes place completely unattended.

The cumulative risk of mothers dying during childbirth is an appalling 8%. Leading causes are complications during pregnancy, childbirth and pure perium, as well as anemia, malnutrition, stillbirth rates which are indicative of the health of the mother, also vary widely. Several local studies in Sana'a, Taiz, Marib and Al-Jawf during 1985-1990 gave stillbirth rates ranging from 19 to 74 per 1000 live births. It has been estimated that for each case of maternal death, there are 15 to 20 cases of severe maternal morbidity.

The principal causes are, ruptured uterus from neglected obstructed labor, hemorrhage. Other causes are childbearing at too young age, too short birth spacing, too many and too old pregnancy.

The Importance of Family Planning:-

Family Planning, as a health measure and human right, means much more than using contraceptives to avoid unwanted births, though that it is certainly important as it enables positive planning for births. Planning childbirth means that the mother's health is not put at unnecessary risk. It means using contraceptives rather than risking the dilemmas and dangers of induced abortion.

It means timing and spacing such births, so that the resulting children have the best possible health and start in life, and best chance of care and attention as they grow up.

The Health Benefits of Family Planning:-

Family planning is especially valuable where infant mortality is high, where the age of marriage is often low and where women may spend between one-half and one third of their lives in childbearing.

Family planning can play a major part in reducing the high maternal mortality of 10 per 1000 death among women during pregnancy of childbirth. It can also significantly lower the risks to health among women of childbearing age by preventing many common nutritional deficiencies, such as anaemia, and a whole range of short and long-term complications of pregnancy and abortion.

Family planning can effectively reduce maternal and infant mortality rates by decreasing the number of high risk pregnancies. The highest maternal and infant mortality rates are found in four specific types of pregnancies:

- 1- Pregnancies before age 18,
- 2- Pregnancies after age 35,
- 3- Pregnancies after four or more children.
- 4- Pregnancies spaced less than two years apart.

In other words, "Too young, too old, too many, too close."

In practice, the combinations of these four types of high risk pregnancies are more important than any one of the four considered separately; e.g., older women usually also have many children, so their pregnancies fall into two high risk categories.

Likewise women with large families tend to have closely spaced-birth, also women who marry young may have several closely spaced birth before they reach age 20 years old.

These groups of women who are doubly at risk, should be a special focus of PHC programs trying to reduce maternal and child deaths.

There are both biological and social reasons for the extra risk in these four types of pregnancies, age, number of births, and birth spacing affect the mothers ability to carry a pregnancy safely and to provide optimal biological condition for the developing fetus.

The summary report of the Yemen Demographic

and Maternal and Child Health Survey 1991/1992 resulted and summarized the situation as follows:

Contraceptive knowledge:-
- Only 2% of currently married women know a correct method of family planning; just half of those who know any modern method can name a place where family planning services are available,
Contraceptive use:-
- Only 6% of currently married women use a modern contraceptive method.

The prevalence rate is 10% for all methods including prolonged breast feeding.

- Use of contraceptives varies substantially according to the socio economic background of women. Among currently married women, current use is 17% in southern and eastern governorates, 28% among urban women and 39% among women with post primary education. In contrast, 8% or less of women living in northern and western governorates, rural areas, and among those who are illiterate are able to use a family planning method.

Provision of Family Planning Services:-

- Six of ten users of modern methods obtained their methods from a public sector source;

- Contraceptive services are not readily accessible in rural areas. 40% of contraceptive users in rural areas have to spend more than two hours to reach a service provider.

Furthermore, a 1991 research project on family care perceptions, beliefs and practices, conducted in three northern areas by the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, found that:

- The ideal family size is 3-5 children, with some people preferring only two;

- Family planning is acceptable, but birth control is viewed negatively;

- Pills are the least favored contraception method, suspected of causing health problems for women and children;

- Abstinence is the most popular family planning method;

- "Western" contraceptives are generally unacceptable, with many people believe family planning to be a western plot against Arabs and Muslims;

- Most men and women are unaware of male contraception methods;

- Many non-users claim to have the intention to use contraceptives;

- Most women in Sana'a rely primarily on breast feeding as - a contraceptive method;

- All women users got their husbands consent or command;

- Non-users blame their husbands;

- Word-of-mouth is the most important means of learning about family planning with little or nothing learned from the media;

- Family care centers are perceived as being for pregnancy and child care, and are thought to be too far away from hence and lacking in facilities, with doctors who are unhelpful or negligent.

Therefore, all the above results, indicators show a quite obvious explanations that the present situation of family planning reflect unsatisfactory and insufficient to meet the essential needs of population, specially in the reduction of maternal and infant mortality, reduce the high fertility rate in Yemen.

Notwithstanding; there are many obstacles envisage the extension and minimized the responds and population such as:

* Less than half the population has access to PHC services, and only some 20% are offering family planning services

* Contraceptives are believed by many people, especially in rural areas, to be against the Precepts of Islam. A national Conference on (Population and Islam) was held in Yemen in March 1989. It was attended by religious leaders from inside and outside Yemen.

In this conference it was agreed that Islam does not contradict the use of modern family planning method, it recommended the use of family planning methods on a voluntary basis to improve mother and child health.

* The Private Health Sector is mostly curative and their participation to Proved Family Planning Services still in infancy stage.

* Lack of understanding of the potential benefits that could be derived from F. P., but it also neglect deep-seated social values, especially among males who dominate decisions at the family level.

However, through the all indicators mentioned above it is a quite obvious that the situation still unencouragable and insufficient to cover and meet the essential demands of the population.

Therefore, there is an almost need, call the government for taking a prompt actions and active measures to create an innovative methods aims to reach to reached and achieved the strategies and policies for health development in Republic of Yemen, which the government ratification taken 3

years ago.

In fact, there policies, strategies and the ratification as well still on the papers and just need extremely whole hearted dedication jointly with strong and constant government supports.

The Recommended Strategies:

1- Improve the accessibility of preventive and curative care during pregnancy and delivery, especially in rural areas and urban slums, and provide nationwide specialized maternity services.

2- Through full, comprehensive and integrated family planning services in the public sector, timely and systematically - complemented with initiative

of the private sector, non-government organizations and local communities, the HDPs shall operate to reduce exposure of mothers and children to rise of repeated and closely-spaced pregnancies.

3- Through promoting longer intervals between pregnancies, discouraging pregnancy among teenage and above thirty five aged mothers, prolonging breast-feeding, providing supplementary food especially for under-nourished pregnant and lactating mothers, and improving delivery setting.

4- By creating and expanding facilities in villages and urban neighborhoods, employment community-based resources with referral and supervision from local medical centers. Improved outreach services, decentralizing many aspects of program management, integrating all services at the local level, multiplying services outlet and broadening contraceptive method-mix of services users. The HDPs shall set an appropriate path for generalizing MCH/FP services.

5- Strengthening coordination and integration with other ministries, NGOs, and community-based institutes. The HDPs calls for talking necessary measures to raise public and official awareness regarding modification of reproductive norms in accordance with Yemeni value system, and in health and social benefits of fertility regulation broadening the existing health education program to incorporate dissemination of information regarding the full range of MCH/FP services, taking concerted efforts to improve women's status as beneficiaries of, and agents for. Sustainable development, and remedying environmental consequences will result in improving survival prospects of millions of women and children.

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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

Al-Mahara: A Land Waits to be Discovered

Arrival:

Our jetplane landed smoothly on the runway, which was built some two decades ago, at Al-Ghaidha airport. Within minutes, the passengers were out, each haggling with one of the owners of the big 4-wheel drives which line up the airport waiting for passengers. Al-Ghaidha has yet to appreciate the virtues of a taxi system.

I came here about fifteen years ago, and I was pleasantly surprised with the improvements and developments in the city. Apparently, some major improvements have taken place over the preceding weeks prior to my visit in December 1995.

First and foremost, electric supply has stabilized and increased. This was a big headache in the past, given the harsh summer heat. Second, transmission of Sanaa television was on its way, via Intelsat. It finally did arrive while I was there. Similar other improvements have taken place.

In other words, I arrived at a time when the people of Al-Ghaidha were in a good mood and their attitude towards the state was positive. But that is only one dimension to what we learned in our visit to this virgin country, which, according to many, still waits to be discovered.

Historic Importance:

Dr. Ahmed Ba-Taye', Archeologic expert in the governorate, explained that only a very small segment of the governorate has been surveyed. "Only the coastal stretch of Hawf and Al-Ghaidha have been analyzed, and the whole region still awaits action in assessing the historic sites," he said. Some of the sites and harbors in this governorate have been mentioned in manuscripts and monuments that date back to several centuries before Christ. "We have unearthed many statues, tablets, and monuments which have writings which still cannot be deciphered. That is why we call them 'mukharbashat', meaning scribbles," Mr. Taye' explained.

Indeed, Al-Maharah was a major producer and transit point for the ancient frankincense trade. It was a connecting point for Oman, India and the rest of South Asia on one hand, and for the rest of Yemen, especially Hadhramaut, on the other. In Habrout, discoveries show dwellings at a time when



man used stone-axes and wooden arrows. The governorate is also rich in its Islamic heritage. In an area called Hairreez, Islamic pottery and other relics have been discovered.

The people of Al-Mahara speak a variant of the ancient Himyaritic language. This language is fast approaching extinction because only modern Arabic is taught in the schools. Today is spoken widely by Al-Mahara people only in their homes, is totally lost, as so many other ancient languages in the region. It is presently studied by a few scholars in Europe. Not one scholar in Yemen or the Arab World studies it.

Al-Mahariyyah, the local language of Al-Maharah, is one of three variants of the ancient Himyaritic tongue. The other two exist, one each in pockets of Hadhramaut and in Socotra. It is often referred to as South Arabic, or sometimes Al-Musnad.

Al-Ghaidha's Growth:

The city of Al-Ghaidha, the capital, has grown enormously over the last few years. Natives of the governorate, who had emigrated in the past, have come back with their savings to invest. As a result, a number of hotels, restaurants, and other projects have sprang up.



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The harbor, some 80 kilometers south of the city, at a point called Nashton, was completed in the early 1980s. It was then, and only then, that relatively larger boats could anchor to serve the city and its hinterland. When I visited it, however, it was clear it badly needed maintenance. The moving sands have nearly covered the perth and docking area. The office building and storage facilities are badly run down.

A few of schools and clinics have been established, although still insufficient and inadequately staffed. Some government offices and buildings have also been constructed, notably since unity.

The daily flight into Al-Ghaidha, alternating each day between YEMENIA and ALYEMEN airways, has become the lifeline of the city. "Without this important link, we will be cut off," said one businessman who recently put up shot in the city. The prospects for rapid growth are very good.

Environmental Effort:

Some tree-planting effort has been undertaken over the last few years. This quite fitting because the word ghaidha itself really means a density of trees. It was here, at the mouth of Wadi Al-Jaizy, that the ruler of Al-Shihre, Badr bin Tuwairiq, established himself. The city's full name is actually Ghaidhat Badr, although it has now become limited to Al-Ghaidha.

In addition to the tree-planting effort, some plans are being completed to help block the tidal movement of the sand dunes. These efforts are definitely going to be part of the overall development plan of the city and the governorate.

In general, one can say that Al-Ghaidha city in particular, and Al-Maharah governorate in general, are still virgin territories waiting to be discovered.

Next week, another field report from Shabwah!

By: Ali Bin Taleb from Al-Ghaidha.
Yemen Times.



More Freedom in India

The Indian Government is moving ahead with a new law which will open up the airwaves, presently tightly controlled by the state. The law, which is expected to be presented during the next two months, will permit private television and radio stations. The private stations to be licensed under the new law, as well as the state-run All India Radio and television broadcaster Doordarshan, will be regulated by a new national broadcasting authority.

The government move is said to be triggered by India's supreme court decision in February 1995 which stated that the airwaves were 'public property' and that the state-run media should have no monopoly over them. Since then, the state has allowed more and more time-slots for programs and advertisements to private broadcasters. But with the new law, Indian private broadcasters will compete on an equal footing with the official media.

But it remains unclear if the law can be passed as presently planned given the elections which are due in June, 1996. Already, there are many complications in parliamentary meetings given the corruption allegations raised by the opposition parties.

No substantive work was done in the winter session of parliament in November and December, because opposition lawmakers refused to let parliament function alleging corruption in the privatization deals of telephone services. The situation is further complicated because the ruling Congress Party has no majority in the upper house, rajya sabha.

In February 1995, the Supreme Court of India ordered the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to set up an independent public authority to regulate the use of airwaves by electronic media. The ruling came to uphold the rights of a cricket association to sell broadcast rights for a tournament.

The Indian Government has embarked on a broad economic reform program which has abolished socialist controls on private business, but the media remained conspicuously excluded from the reform package. Private Indian broadcasters ship out videotapes to countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, Russia, the UK, etc., where they are broadcast by satellite to India's booming cable television market. The new law, once enacted, will give the Indian broadcasters a much larger market which they can directly serve.

India enjoys an aggressive and fiercely independent media. Even the government owned media are strongly critical of state policy. In the topsy turvy world of Indian politics, plagued with corruption and excessive muscle flexing, the vital role of the media in ensuring fair play and the smooth operation of a relatively democratic political system is abundantly clear. That role will be further strengthened and enhanced as the new law comes into effect this year.

Democratizing countries worldwide are throwing open state-controlled media, specially the radio and television stations.

From Revolutionary to Statesman: Arafat Seeks Legitimacy thru the Ballot !

On January 20th, the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, the West bank, and the still-annexed East Jerusalem will elect a new Palestinian executive authority. Coupled with this election, the voters will elect the president of the authority.

Mr. Yasser Arafat, 66, who has headed the Palestinian authority since its establishment when the self-rule process was launched in the Gaza/Jericho enclave in May 1994, said he will seek legitimacy through the ballot-box. This is a major transformation in the perception and workings of the Palestinian revolutionary. As a Western ambassador in Israel noted, "This will complete the transformation of Mr. Arafat from a revolutionary to a statesman."

The only other contender for the post is Ms. Samiha Khalil, the 72-year old veteran Palestinian feminist. Ms. Khalil, a grandmother of 13, filled up her candidature papers in Ramallah on December 15th, 1995. Clearly avoiding a confrontational position vis-a-vis the Arafat camp, she told reporters, "I am not running against Arafat. I am not running against any one. I am just running for the post."

Arafat is expected to win a landslide victory, given that most voters said he was their first choice. For almost thirty years, he has led the Palestinian people in their struggle to recover their land and rights. During the past three decades, he had never submitted his leadership to a popular vote, although there were periodic 'elections' within the ruling council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization



(PLO) and the Palestinian National Council, sort of the parliament in exile.

The Palestinian people will elect 83 representatives to the Self-Rule Council, which will serve as parliament for the emerging Palestinian entity. It will also supervise the work of the Executive Council, whose top position is being contested by Yasser Arafat and Ms. Samiha Khalil.

King Fahd Lets Crown-Prince Abdullah Run the Show

On the first day of this year (1/1/1996), King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, ruler of Saudi Arabia - a visibly and fragile person - read a letter in which he transferred his powers to his half-brother, Crown-Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Commander of the National Guards. The King's letter stated:

"In view of our desire to take rest for some time, ... we hereby entrust you to run the affairs of the state while we enjoy rest and recuperation..."

King Fahd was hospitalized on November 30th. After one week of "reassuring" medical tests, he left hospital for home on December 7th. At home, the large team of Saudi, European and American doctors attending to him insisted that he should rest from his burdensome tasks.

While the king was sick, Crown-Prince Abdullah and the powerful Defence and Aviation Minister, Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz shared the responsibility of running the affairs of the state.

The Kingdom of Saudi has succeeded last week in the critical test of achieving the transfer of power. Observers were worried about complications arising from the situation, given the behind-the-scenes lobbying that has taken place regarding the distribution of power in the post-Fahd period. Although the arrangements are not yet final, last week's decision to let Crown-Prince Abdullah run the show is a correct decision in the right path, within the Saudi monarchy's system.



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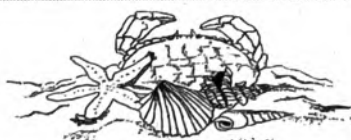
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HALAQA

The International Cultural Circle

Halaqa is primarily a new co-ordinating body for cultural events

It aims to liaise between individuals and organisations and so facilitate cultural activities, the sharing of skills and knowledge, and more importantly bring them to the attention of a wider community in the form of a *newsletter*.

Halaqa already has the support of many leading people and active cultural groups in Yemen, both Yemeni and expatriate.

We now call on everyone involved or interested in the arts to participate.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

- **Send information on Cultural Activities for our Newsletter**
If you are an individual or group involved in culture ie: Visual Arts; Poetry; Music; Play writing; History; Architecture; Archeology and environmental issues, please send our editorial team information about your forthcoming events, so we can ensure publicity.
- **Become an Active Member**
If you would like to become an active member we are looking for individuals who can help with publicity, editing and fundraising. Arabic speakers are particularly welcome.
- **Sponsor**
If you are interested in donating funds or placing an advertisement in our newsletter.

LOGO COMPETITION

We invite you to submit black and white logo's expressing the idea of *HALQA* as a link or circle. Logo's will be exhibited and a prize will be awarded (in the form of original artworks by local artists) to the first choice and runner's up.

Please keep a copy of original artwork and send it to the below contact by 29th January '96

There will be a cultural events in early 1996 to officially launch *HALAQA*. We look forward to your presence as a participant or a guest.

Contact **HALAQA** c/o Dr. Jacques Veerman
Fax: 216 079 or 217 536 P. O. Box 481 Sana'a

ADEN:

In Search of a Balanced Approach to Development

The city of Aden is undergoing what is seen as the beginning of a construction boom. This is associated with the relative stability brought about, especially in the aftermath of the 100 days President Ali Abdullah Saleh spent over there, with the visible steps in transforming it into a free zone, and with the rising volume of new investments. But this new development has triggered new worries in different circles, especially in the Yemeni Society for Protection of Coasts and Antiquities (YSPCA), which is headquartered in Aden. "We welcome new progress, but it has to make sense. We cannot destroy many aspects of our historic and socio-cultural heritage under the name of progress. We cannot destroy the scenic beauty and the environment under the name of progress," said Salem Abdo Al-Ferras, Chairman of the YSPCA. He has a point.

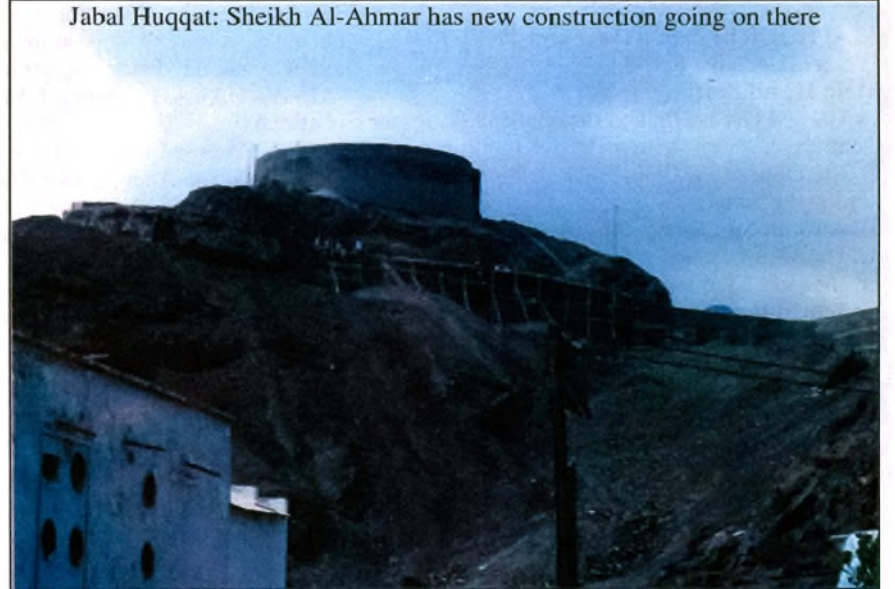
A quick visit to how the construction is being carried out will show that there is hardly any logic in the way the construction is being carried out. Let us look at examples.

1. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar on Jabal Huqqat:

"Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and Chairman of the Islah Party, is said to have 'purchased' the former residence of Ali Salim Al-Beedh. He has taken over the whole mountain, dislodged the neighbors, and is now building on some of the most historic sites of Aden, including the old wall,"



Jabal Huqqat: Sheikh Al-Ahmar has new construction going on there



explained Mr. Hussain Al-Sayyid Abdullah, the Information and Cultural Officer of the YSPCA. We visited to the location, and we did find men doing all kinds of construction work, as the picture above shows.

2. Destroying the Breeding Ground of Migratory Birds:

The breeding/resting areas of long-distance migratory birds that come from Central Asia and Central/East Africa are being destroyed. Land-fills have become a fashion as more and more coastal areas are claimed by real estate developers. Already, the marsh area next to Aden Movenpick has been filled up, and the same process is going on on Abyan beach and Al-Burayq.

3. The Diplomatic Quarter:

"As you drive/walk past the Al-Aqaba Gate towards Ma'alla, the view you come across of the sea and the coastal stretch is breathtaking. Families and individuals go to Arwa Facility to spend the afternoons and early evenings and enjoy the view.

Today, shovels and bulldozers are busy levelling the ground to build the Diplomatic Quarter, a set of tall buildings. Once completed, they will obstruct the view thus depriving the people of Aden and visitors of enjoyment.

4. The Salt Mills:

Today, six salt-mills are still in place. There used to be dozens. These are wind mills with shutters which trap some of the

sea water during incoming tidal flows. As the water evaporates because of the heat of the sun, a layer of salt remains on the surface. This used to be gathered and sold to the public.

Today, these mills need preservation and protection. "They can still serve an economic purpose. They are a good tourist destination," explained Mr. Al-Ferras.

"But as you can see, the whole area has been designated as part of the real estate which is under the Free Zone Authority. I am afraid the land will be parcelled off for investors," he said.

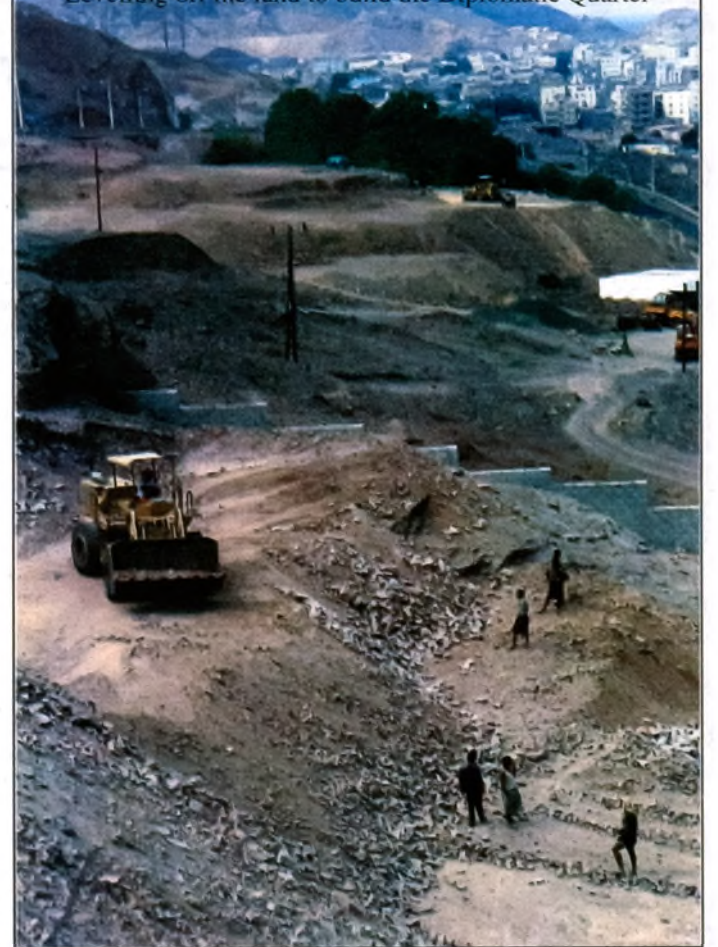
5. The Abyan Cornish:

In all coastal cities, the area next to the sea is reserved for outings and promenades. Here in Aden, people are building almost into the sea.

"The best example of this situation is the Abyan Cornish. Why do a few individuals want to monopolize the sea for themselves. These areas should be made public recreation facilities. They are a breathing space for the residents and the visitors of the city," stated an alarmed Hussain Al-Sayyid Abdullah.

The YSPCA has a clear message. "Aden is a city whose history, dates back to at least 3000 years. References to it can be found in ancient writings, as well as on the monuments of several centuries B.C. It was mentioned along with Qina and Hadhramaut in the Old Testament, Ezekiel, Chapter 27.

Levelling off the land to build the Diplomatic Quarter



Many parts of the city, especially Crater, contain important historic sites that need to be protected. This also includes the citadels, fortresses, tunnels, walls, etc.

"While there is need for progress and development, it should simply be done in harmony with such a precious heritage."

That message was presented in an open statement to President Ali Abdullah. The YSPCA asked the President to intervene to stop the mindless on-slaughter on the historic sites of the city. "These sites are part of the identity of the city, and by extension, of the whole country," the statement reads.

"Let me make one final," added Mr. Al-Ferras. "Our organization covers the whole country, and not just Aden. Your newspaper is at the moment interested in what is going on in Aden. But we also have similar concerns regarding Sanaa, Taiz, Zabid, Hadhramaut and many other places."

Indeed, the association did take similar stands regarding other cities. But at the moment, it is really Aden which is at crossroads, and which requires a clearer vision and policy as to the balance between modernization and preservation of the nation's heritage!

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

KRUUPS

ماكرويف الكروبي من

كروبيس

فخر الصناعة الاوربية
انه يطهو ويشوي في آن واحد
انه مايكرويف كروبيس

متعدد الاستعمالات

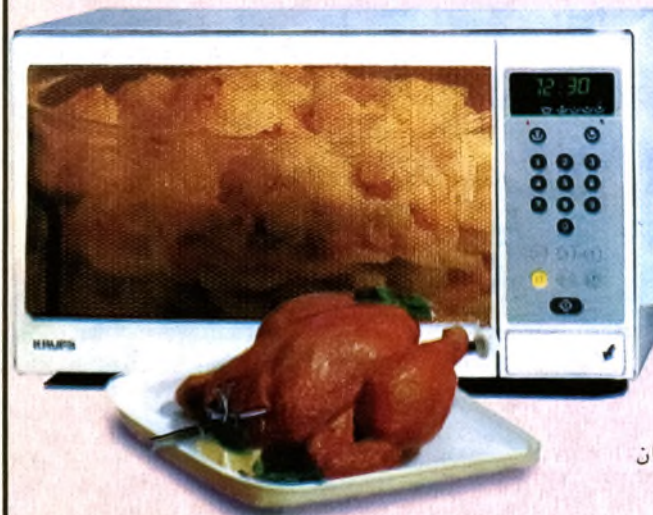
يوفر لك مايكرويف كروبيس
الالكتروني عدة طرق مختلفة لطهو
اطباقك ووجباتك المتنوعة، فهو يعمل
كجهاز مايكرويف وجهاز للشواية
في آن واحد

سريع

اذا اضطررت لتحضير الطعام بسرعة فان
مايكرويف كروبيس قادر على انجاز
اصعب مهمات الطهو بسرعة فائقة
مهما كان نوع الطبق الذي ترغبين بتحضيره
مما يوفر عليك الوقت والجهد

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AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-1-96

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Opposition Rejects Internationalization of the Hunaish Aggression
- 2) The Higher Coordination Council Condemns the Arrest of Students in Sana'a University
- 3) The Disputes Between the PGC and Islah Extend to the Labor Syndicates

AL-THOURY: San'a (Weekly) 29-12-95

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Oil and Diving Ignited the Yemeni - Eritrean Conflict
- 2) The Opposition Calls For Rejection of Abandoning the Islands
- 3) A Court Suit Against the Prime Minister
- 4) The Court Issues a Court Summons for the Editor - in - Chief of Al-Shoura Newspaper.

Article Summary:**1) The Occupation of Grand Hunaish In the Middle East Peace Equations**

Dr. Yassine Saeed Nu'uman, former Speaker of parliament and member of politburo of the YSC tries to link the recent events in the Red Sea with the Middle East Peace Process. The problem, he points out, of Hunaish and the security of the Arab World, in general is that the Arab World never looks at events in terms of strategic significance or long range outlook. The biggest mistake came from Yemeni diplomacy when it was discovered that Yemen's policy towards "normalization" as an issue that Yemen has no reason to be a part of. It seemed that the Eritrean adventure has assured Yemen a part.

2) The Weakest Tribe In Yemen

Referring to the beatings of Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Sakkaf, Hashim Abdul - Aziz, in the column: A Word That Must Be Said pointed out that the beating reflects the weakness of the intellectuals a group in the social framework of the Yemeni social hierarchy. The reason for the continuous suppression of the intellectuals is the lack of organized group affiliation of intellectuals. They do not have tribes or even political parties with militias that can protect them. Moreover intellectuals would not accept the use of paramilitary tactics in an environment where safety and security is better guaranteed by the tribe



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

more so than the government. That is why it is becomes so easy to step on them for any reason and why nobody listens to them.

AL-WAHADAH : Sana'a (Weekly) 3-1-96

(Official)

1- "The Proposed Law Of Local Administration Reinforces The Approach Of The State Towards Decentralization: "Assistant Undersecretary For The Administrative Units Sector, Ministry Of Local Administration.

2- Preparations For The Regional Seminar On The Independence And The Freedom of Information Media.

3- "The popular associations and innovative groups condemn the assault on Dr. al-Saqaf.

Article Summary:**1- Sheikh al-Ahmar Calls on Political Parties To Life The Partisan Trusteeship of Union**

In his statement to teacher's syndicate meeting of syndicate leaders which commenced on Tuesday 2-1-96 the speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar called for separation of partisan activity from syndicate activity. Partisan interference in syndicate affairs or vice versa, will cause syndicates to fail in fulfilling the purposes of labor syndicates.

2- The Seminar on Fighting Desertification Starts

A member of experts in the area of forestry and desertification gave lectures to a group of six trainees from the Ministry of Agriculture's provincial offices in Shabwa, Lahej and Abyan who are undergoing special training in combating the advances of deserts into arable land. The seminar will last from 2-17 January.

AL-SAHWA : Sana'a (Weekly) 4-1-96

(Yemeni Congregation For Reform [ISLAH])

1- The Coalition Continues To Discuss The Second Phase Of Economic Reforms

2- In Marib : A Gang Of Public Funds Swindles To Discovered

3- The Aden Explosions Trial: The Defense Lawyers Withdraw Their Request For The Testimony Of Senior Security Officers

Article Summary:**Foreign Tourists In The Old City Of Sana'a**

The paper's reporters took to the streets of Sana'a to try to get their views from wandering tourists on their impressions of Sana'a and the motives wandering visit. The page full article contained an insert rectangle which highlighted what the paper calls: "Disturbing Displays", which highlight some of the negative situations confronted by the reporter

- Curious crowds following our groups

- Beggars

- Money Changers continuous chasing of tourists

- The excessive photography from rooftops of houses

- The disrespect of tourists to our traditions and culture and the performance of acts which are foreign to our society.

-The invitation of our youth to foreigners in dress and hairstyles. On the whole the reporter recommend Tourism with caution

AL-AYYAM : Aden (Weekly)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Citizens Arrest A Gold Thief
- 2- The Chairman Of The Human Rights Organization In Lahej Shoots Himself
- 3- The Flour Crisis Causes A Young Boy's Leg To Be Broken

Article Summary:**1) The President Guarantees To Pay The Blood Money In MP Mohammed Najee Case**

Due to the mediation efforts, tribal style, of Sheikh Abdulla al-Ahmar, speaker of the house between the inheritors of the man presumed to be killed by Parliament Member Mohammed Najee Saeed (during the civil war) and the accused, the family of the deceased victim accepted blood money of YR 4 million in liven of the MP's further prosecution and trial. The President has volunteered to pay the amount to the inheritors after they have agreed to withdraw their rights to demand "life for a life", in the cases of premeditated murder. It is expected that the MP will be released from jail in the next few days. The inheritors have decided to donate the money to the municipality of Jail of for improvement of the town.

2) The Seizure Of Tricks Fill Of Electrical Equipment And Ammunition

The police in Lahje were able to seize a number of large trucks laden with Electricity Wires and Cables and more than one thousand rounds of anti aircraft machine-gun "23" type. The trucks were headed for Taiz. Investigations have yet to reveal the party they were destined for in Taiz.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 4-1-95

Main Headlines:

1- The President : The Dispute With Eritrea Can Only Be Resolved By Negotiations Of The Sea Borders According To The Law Of The Seas And International Law"

2- The Council Of Ministers Will Discuss (In Meeting Of Saturday 5-1-96:

- The Ethiopian Settlement Proposal Between Yemen And Eritrea

The Economic, Financial And Administrative Reforms, Phase

3- The Vice President: The Era Of Conflicts In Yemen Has Ended And New Page Of Is Opened Based On Tolerance And National Bonds All Those Returning Will Get All Their Rights And Dues And Deserved Promotions (Speaking To Former Troops Who Took Advantage Of The General Amnesty

Wanted A Zoo In Sana'a

Since Sana'a is lacking in places of leisure, the city could use a zoo to give the families of Sana'a a place to go to during vacations and holidays.

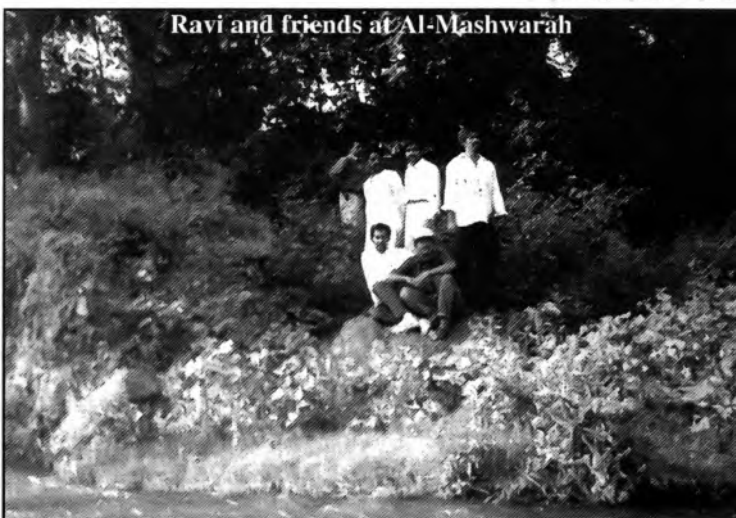
*Letters to the Editor**Letters to the Editor**Letters to the Editor**Letters to the Editor*

A TRIP TO THE CHARMING GREEN VALLEY, AL-MASHWARAH

We, numbering about sixty, left Taiz in the early hours of the day for a full day's outing. Our destination: the marvelous green valley called Al-Mashwarah, which is about 80 kilometers away from Taiz. Our trip was organized to mark one of the many festivals of Kerala, the Green Base of India.

When starting from Taiz, none of us hardly imagined that we were going to such a place where nature has poured its beauty in abundance - the kind of flora, I had never seen elsewhere in the world before ... tiny creeks that ran gently, soothing the nerve. To be frank, words are not enough to describe this charismatic wonderland of Yemen.

When we arrived it was around 10 o'clock. The green bed had the warmth of the rising sun, with its golden rays showering all parts of the valley. For a moment, I lost my thoughts and felt as if I was in my native village.



Ravi and friends at Al-Mashwarah

Add to that the gentle nature of the natives of Al-Mashwarah. They joined us, enjoying the song and folk dances we had arranged as part of the celebrations. They appeared to be quite compassionate. It was quite nice to be with them.

For those who find happiness in the admiration of nature's limitless beauty, Al-Mashwarah is a place of first choice. Yes folks, it is worth visiting a million times!!!

By: Ravi Menon,
Taiz.

The First Case of IOL Operation in Seiyun

Cataract is a kind of disease leading to blindness. It frequently occurs in Yemen. The case's pathologic change is that intraocular transparent lens becomes opacity due to different causes. After operation to extract the opacity lens, patients have to use glasses to increase their vision so that they feel much less trouble.

Recently, microsurgery has been developing quickly in the ophthalmology, and the operation of intraocular lens (IOL) implantation has been popularized in many countries. An appropriate lens placed within the eye in aphakia will almost get back normal vision without glasses. This kind of operation has been carried out with safety and effectiveness.

Young patients who suffer from a unilateral cataract, difficulty, are suitable for an IOL implantation, because they are unsuitable for ordinary glasses. Now we know that this new method represents quite a substantial improvement in dealing with cataract.

We successfully carried out

the operation on a sixteen-year old patient recently. Another patient who is twenty years old accepted some operation on the 21th November, last year. These patients - both from Seiyun - suffered from unilateral traumatic cataract. After operation, their vision recovered very well without complication. Now they are able to study and work without glasses.

We will do our best to promote development of this new surgical treatment, and we wish all of the patients a quick optic recovery.

By: Dr. Lang Ping,
Ophthalmologist CMT,
Seiyun Hospital, Seiyun.

"This is what we get for helping!"

We didn't think on any day about any military action against our country from neighboring Eritrea. Yemen was the strategic depth of the Eritrean Revolution when the Eritrean people were fighting against Ethiopian military occupation. In 1993, the Yemeni government was among the first countries which started diplomatic relations with the new state in Asmara. So the presence of Eritrean forces on the Yemeni Island of Hunaish is very wrong.

The Yemeni government wants to solve this problem by diplomatic channels. This does not mean that Yemen is unable to regain the island in other ways. Yemen simply wants to solve this problem peacefully.

The position of Yemen is appreciated by many governments. We want from the authorities in Asmar to use wisdom which is better than guns. The Eritrean forces must leave the island, because all Yemenis are united in getting back this island, whatever the sacrifices. The Yemeni people are waiting for a positive response from Eritrea.

By: Saleh Ahmed Sapoulan
Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a.

Don't Fly with a Single Wing

During my college years, I noticed that many students were self-enclosed in their studies. I mean they did not open their minds for other studies. Let me use the students of the English Department, as an example. They never bothered themselves to learn Arabic well. They arbitrarily thought that they will succeed in life by mastering just one language. I think if someone could not master his/her own language, he/she would find it difficult to master foreign languages. Because your mother-tongue is acquired from your environment, thus it must be easier for you.

I am sure from many experiences, not just my own, that mastering Arabic helps a lot in learning English. It gives you the opportunity to compare and contrast, thus understand better. That is bilingual persons are often better at both than many who only speak one language.

Here let me remind our students of those igneous professionals who played a remarkable role in transferring a lot of foreign culture to ours and also introducing our culture to the West. The list includes Refa'ah Al-Tahtawy, Sulaiman Al-Boustany, Mohammed Badran and so many others. These great men mastered two or more languages so they presented something beneficial and remarkable to both sides. They enriched both cultures.

I remember Dr. Hussam Al-Khatib, our previous dean of the Faculty of Arts, Sanaa University. His role could not be ignored in introducing comparative literature to Arab universities by translating and commenting on some Western literature. Dr. Al-Khatib was a specialist in English and Arabic languages and literature.

Now I return to my point. Enclosing oneself in one language is like flying with a single wing. I want the students to pay attention to this fact especially those who intend to study translation. I ask them to try their best to keep an open eye to both languages and cultures.

By: Ms. Arwa Mansour,
Sanaa.

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