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INSIDE

Hussein Mohammed Al-Wali
on GCBC's Efforts.
Page 3.

It is a problem of
management."
Pages 7.

Budgeting and Fiscal
Management Policies.
Pages 9.

Helping Women Around
the World.
Page 10.

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Helmut Schäfer

Another Boost to Yemeni-German Relations

Schäfer in Yemen

On the first stop in a three-destination trip, Helmut Schäfer, Minister of State in the German Federal Foreign Ministry, arrives in Sanaa on March 27th. During the four-day visit, the German official will hold talks with senior Yemeni officials, as well as visit Marib and Hadhramaut. Schäfer, 63, is an old hand in politics. He holds his present post since March 12th, 1987. He is an FDP member of the Bundestag (German Parliament) since November 1977. He is the

Chairman of the FDP Special Committee on Foreign, European and Development Affairs. The impressive-looking Helmut is also comfortable and well-versed with the worldwide media and cultural organizations. He was associated with foundations like Friedrich Naumann, Stiftung. He sat on the Council of Deutsche Welle, and chaired the FDP Media Commission. The well-travelled Schäfer will visit Oman and the UAE, after Yemen.

Yemen and Germany enjoy very good relations. The high points in the relationship have been in June 1992 with the visit of former German President Richard von Weizsäcker to Yemen, and Yemeni President Saleh's visits to Germany. Germany's current ambassador to Yemen, Dr. Helga von Strachwitz is one of the most active and effective ambassadors in Sanaa. Her role in better Yemeni-German relations and understanding is unmistakable.

Visiting Malaysian Delegation Holds Mr. Rammah to Task for Lies

A Malaysian trade delegation concluded a visit to Sanaa on Friday, March 15th. The visit was triggered by allegations by Abdulghani Al-Rammah, owner of Thawra Industrial Complex, that the palm oil exported by Malaysia to him in November - through Pacific Interlink, a subsidiary of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies - was contaminated. He had presented test results done in Sanaa showing a high copper content which makes human consumption of the oil unsafe. He had

circulated his allegations through the media as well as by hand-delivered files. "Mr. Rammah has denied completely the allegations. He says 'he doesn't know who is behind it all.'" explained Mr. Mohammed Hussain Shafie, Malaysian non-Resident Ambassador to Yemen, who flew in from Riyadh. The Malaysian official was speaking in a press conference on Thursday, March 14th. "The price of palm oil dropped by nearly 20% between the time Rammah got delivery of the goods

and the time he made the allegations. Since he had not yet paid for the goods, maybe he was using this tactic to re-negotiate the price. While we are not involved in the price negotiations, we are disturbed by these allegations because Malaysia supplies 64% of the world's palm oil consumption," said Mr. Yahya Bin Mohammed, Deputy Minister of Light Industries, who was part of the delegation, which also included a number of other officials and businessmen. **Continues on page 5**

Busting the Economy!

On Saturday March 16th, the interbank lending cost has risen to 36%, and the banks now lend at the phenomenal 40%. This is based on a new Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) circular which jacked up the interest rates. Many of the investors and entrepreneurs are worried with these developments.

If they borrow to finance their projects, the cost is too high. If they pass on the costs to the consumers, then imports become cheaper. What a dilemma. The cost of living will witness a new sharp rise over the next few days. "It is all done under the banner of economic reforms," a disgruntled businessman said.

Senior Indian and Egyptian Delegations Visit Yemen

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of India, Mr. Salman Haidar, left Sanaa yesterday, Sunday March 17th, following a two-day official visit to the Republic of Yemen. He discussed with Yemeni officials political relations, commercial exchange and economic cooperation. At another level, His Excellency Fathi Suroor, Speaker of the Egyptian parliament, arrives in Sanaa today, Monday March 18th, 1996. He is on an official visit to Yemen.

Egyptian Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Adel Sobhi, told the Yemen Times that this is a return visit which comes in response to the recent trip by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Yemeni Parliament, to Cairo. The ambassador was upbeat about the bilateral relations between the two countries. "There is a long history that binds the peoples of Yemen and Egypt. In addition, there are lots of common interests," he said.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Why Are Public Places So Dirty In Yemen?

Last week, I was in a long meeting with a West European ambassador exchanging notes and discussing various issues of general nature. At the end of our extended meeting, he said, "I have an important question to ask you. 'Why are your public places so dirty?'" I did not know how to answer that question.

As I continued to think about the issue, I began to come up with what I think are possible answers. Let me share some of these with the readers.

1. The Concept of the Public Good:

In economics, there is a theory known as a public good. It is a well-developed concept which refers to the benefits which people jointly enjoy. People share the use of a public good, and as a result, have a joint responsibility for it.

The concept of responsibility for a public good does not exist in Yemen, or at least it is not well developed. Individuals are fiercely protective of their private properties, but they are negligent of the property they share with others. As a result, if you go inside the home of a Yemeni, it is very likely you will find it clean and well cared for. But, if you come out to the street, it could be very dirty.

It is very important that people learn to attend to their joint responsibilities. This is important - not only for the sake of cleanliness - but also for the sake of evolving a productive and healthy relationship within society.

2. Government Responsibility:

The responsibility for cleaning the streets, squares and other open space in our cities falls on the municipal and other government authorities. It is a well-known fact that the government and its various agencies have not been fulfilling their obligations. One of the shortcomings is in garbage collection and disposal. One can see garbage piling up for days, before it is collected.

3. Rural to Urban Transition:

Yemeni cities are really big villages. The number of houses has grown, but the urban structure and values have not yet become part of us. That is why you can see shepherds herding their goats and sheep in the streets. The shepherds routinely overturn garbage cans for their animals to feed on. This means that the garbage is scattered over a wide area, and as the wind blows, it further aggravates the situation.

4. Putting Up with a Bad Situation?:

One of the disturbing aspects in this question is that individuals tend to accept the rubbish and garbage piling up and flying around them and put up with the conditions. Citizens should get not get irritated by the situation rather than acquiesce and live with it. This is a cultural and social dimension of the character of Yemenis. And it is not just in relation to garbage and dirt, it is also true in relation to many bad situations and wrong actions.

Those, I think are some of the reasons behind the problem raised by the ambassador. It can be sorted, but it needs citizens who will not put with the situation, and a government that is responsible.

The Publisher
Signature

Prime Minister's Defence Lawyers Prolong Case

Judge Abdul-Malik Al-Jindari, President of the Sanaa Western District Primary Court, agreed to give the 3 lawyer representing Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani one more week to work out their defence. But he warned them against trying his patience. "It has been over two months since this case was filed. You are still playing with procedures. May I kindly ask you to respond to the case at hand," he stiffly told them.

That was on Wednesday, March 13th, during the third hearing on the case. The lawyers asked for more time and documents to respond.

Meanwhile, the lead defence lawyer of the prime minister approached the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA) in search of an out-of-court settlement of the case. "We are able to offer you a reversal of the prime minister's decision." The Prime Minister had decided to close down the Women's Development Center in Hadharem, and he had replaced the elected leaders of the HWA with men he directly hand-picked and named.

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the HWA, refusing an out of court settlement, said, "We are interested in establishing a precedent. Senior government officials should understand they cannot abuse their authority and power and get away with it. They should also understand that they cannot at will interfere with the work of NGOs and they cannot replace elected officials with their proteges, which is exactly what Abdulaziz Abdulghani has done." Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi, lead lawyer of the HWA indicated that this was an "open and shut case" and that once the court gets down to real business, decision should not take long. "The Prime Minister's lawyers are simply asking for more condemnation by these tactics," he said.

Terrorist's Bomb in Yarim Cinema Hall

On Wednesday, March 13th, in the hall of Zafar Cinema House which was full of spectators, a bomb was exploded instantly killing three persons and injuring dozens. The incident was in Yarim city, which is about 130 kilo-meters south of Sanaa city. According to horrified neighbors, the blast created panic in the packed hall, as spectators were rushing to get out. Information from security sources indicates that the event was the purposeful work of a terrorist who detonated and threw a hand grenade. The villain could not be tracked or identified.

British Trade Group Concludes Visit

A British trade delegation concluded on Friday a week-long visit to Yemen. The group - made up of leading English businessmen met with various government officials and businessmen in the hope of increasing commercial exchange.

More Vaccines Arrive

Dr. Mohammed A.M. Qubati, President of the Preparatory Committee of Children's Right in Yemen (CRY) said that more vaccines have arrived last week. We are thankful for the continued efforts and interest of the minister of health, he said. At another level, well-informed sources told the Yemen Times that the minister is diverting WHO resources earmarked for preventive medicine. "The money is used for other purposes."

Six New Ambassadors Present Credentials

Six new ambassadors to Yemen presented their letters of credentials to President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Thursday, March 14th.

Two of these are resident ambassadors; namely, Ambassador Amin J. Naim of Pakistan and Ambassador Pak Hi-Joo of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). In addition, four ambassadors residing as non-resident ambassadors presented their credentials. These are Ambassador Sergio Flores of Brazil, Ambassador Marcelo-Vargas Campos of Mexico, Ambassador Abukahi Sumani of Ghani, and Ambassador Pedro Manuel Castro of Portugal.

Yemen Times learned that some more ambassadors will present their credentials over the next few weeks.

Hayel Saeed Group Honored in Egypt

On behalf of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, its chairman, Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed Anam, received the Golden Knight Award in Cairo, last week. The award comes in recognition of the group's efforts in supporting economic growth in Egypt.

It has been customary for Egypt to honor foreign investors, especially those who have made an impact in combatting unemployment, raising domestic production, and supplying the treasury with revenue. The Hayel Saeed Group has been increasingly involved in investments in Egypt over the last four years.

The Hayel Saeed Group also has investments ranging from Malaysia to the UK. Of course, their hub is in Taiz, where they have many factories.

The Government Too Takes Hostages in Yemen

They are kept in the building on the far northern side of the Ministry of Interior's compound. For the last two months, fifteen men from Yaffa' - ranging in age from 25 to 60 years - have been kept as hostages by the Yemeni government. The government has taken these men - whose picture appear with - until the problem between the government and the Yaffa' tribe.

Visited by Yemen Times, they were found languishing awaiting their fate. "We are not criminals and we are not even involved in the differences between the tribe and state. As elders of the community, we were told to come to Sanaa and express allegiance to the state and tell our tribe to remain calm. We did all of that. But, here we are held against our own will, without a crime," stated Sheikh Al-Amoodi.

Several weeks ago, there was a confrontation between the Yaffa tribe and the state. It was caused



by district general manager - based in Russud - who exceeded and abused his authority. That official and seven other soldiers were killed. The army surrounded the Yaffa' tribe, which in turn declared full alert and got ready to handle the army. At this point, the state decided to back down and ask for a peaceful resolution of the stand-off. Yaffa' tribe responded positively

and sent the elders to negotiate. Of course, they are not doing much negotiation, while in prison.

Hostage taking is an old Yemeni tradition, which is often employed by the tribes and state. Hostage-taking is a tactic or a means of putting pressure on the adversary. Distant relatives, by-standers or even foreigners get sometimes caught in the middle.

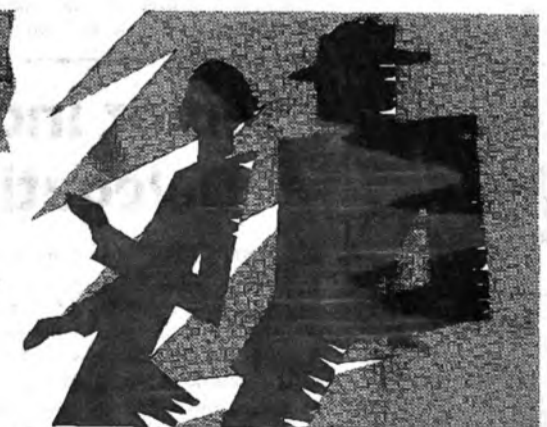
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Editor-in-Chief & Publisher:
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Sanaa Bureau Chief: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Phone/Fax: + 967 (1) 268-259
Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Phone/Fax: + 967 (2) 342-843
Ethiopia Bureau Chief: Ms. Afrah Mohammed
Address: P. O. Box 1336, Addis Ababa;
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Hussein Mohammed Al-Wali:

"Yemen is on the verge of a construction boom."

The Republic of Yemen is at the moment pondering over what to do with the state corporations. The privatization drive has rendered a heavy blow to the large public sector inherited from the former PDRY. The reform program calls for the dismantling of many public sector companies and the sale of many government assets. To a certain extent, that is good.

But, beyond a certain limit, there may be an overkill. The basic factor in determining the success of most companies is efficient management. In other words, the government must handle the issue on a case by case basis. There are some government agencies and companies which are doing well. Ownership by itself should not be the only factor. Performance should equally be an important element in the decision.

One of the leading public sector enterprises is the General Corporation for Building and Construction (GCBC) which has carried out a number of construction projects particularly in the southern governorates.

Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief, Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, discussed various aspects of public sector business and the specifics of the GCBC line of business with the Chairman of the Corporation, Mr. Hussein Mohammed Al-Wali.

He filed the following interview :

Q: Can you give Yemen Times readers a brief historical review of the corporation?

A: The corporation was set up in 1973 and began business a year later. Its first project was the construction of two residential complexes - the Duwain Area in the Sheikh Othman quarter and in the Al-Qutai'a area of Crater.

We started with a small labor force and somewhat outdated equipment. But we immediately started to focus on updating the hardware. We introduced new advanced technology and modern equipment.

By 1979, the corporation put together the factory for Concrete Buildings in the Al-Mansoura. With output from this plant, we started large scale undertakings in construction of housing projects, buildings, physical infrastructure, etc.

The number and quality of the staff rose with time, and we were able to execute projects in many sectors.

Q: What are the major projects your corporation has implemented?

A: The examples are many, such as in the health sector: The Health Units Project, the Nerve and Psychiatric Clinic in Sheikh Uthman, the Friendship Central Hospital for Maternal and Child Care in Sheikh Othman, the Health Complex in Aden Province, Ibn Sina Hospital in Hadhramaut, the Health Institutes in Lahej and Hadhramaut, the Higher Health Institute in Aden, the College of Medicine, the 400 apartment Najwa Makkawi Project, the 60 meter road housing Project in Sheikh Othman, the Stone Housing Project in Durain Area, the Housing Ministry building, the Public Electricity Corporation building and many other projects in Aden, Lahej, Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara.

Q: Any projects in the industrial sector?

A: Yes, here too the examples are many. These include the Hilal Flour Mill, the Vegetable Oil Factory, the Dairy Factory. In addition there are consumer outlets, stores and housing units. Most of the projects executed by the government (PDRY) prior to 1990 were implemented by our corporation.

The total number of projects executed by the GCBC up to 1990 were over 500!

After the re-unification of Yemen, the Corporation expanded its activities in the Northern Governorates to Sana'a,

and Taiz. It was the first (Southern) company to work in the north after unity, like the Taiz flood project which started in 1992 and new phases of which are still under construction. The project is taking longer to carry out because of special problems encountered due to the nature of the works involved. In the old city of Taiz, for example, we must proceed with caution while excavating or digging to avoid damaging old buildings. This means that all the digging cannot proceed continuously but must be done in sections of say meters.

Q: What projects in Sana'a do you execute?

A: In Sana'a we are executing we are rehabilitating the Ministry of Transport at a cost of YR 84 million. We are putting the finishing touches on the project.

Q: Any new projects in Aden?

A: We have many new projects in Aden. These include the Khormaksar Corniche at the Abyan coastline at a cost of YR. 152,000,000, Al-Nasr Park at a cost of YR 96,000,000, and the Sira Corniche where we have began work on land-filling. Already the visitors are coming to these recreational areas which proves that these kinds of projects are attractive to the public.

Q: What are the corporation's ability perform in large projects?

A: I do not claim that the GCBC is the only multipurpose construction establishment in Yemen, but I believe that there are no private companies that can take the risk or can venture into this line of work in view of the inability to absorb possible losses. But the public sector can take the additional risk entailed in these kinds of projects.



Q: Has the Corporation considered joint-venture projects with foreign companies?

A: We have found that this is a favorable approach to implement projects which are complex or require advance expertise.

The GCBC needs some expertise and technology from foreign firms, like in the area of planning, staff development, training and other areas that will upgrade the capabilities of the GCBC. In addition, new and modern inputs are required in the areas of organization, systems, programming maximum utilization of time, equipment and instruments. With experience and practice, we can add a lot to the ability and performance of the GCBC.

We have begun in this direction by employing a Jordanian team in a supervisory capacity. We are exploring cooperation possibilities with the Egyptian National Corporation for Construction and Building, with which we hope to participate in joint-ventures to execute many kinds of projects. We have also discussed with other famous Arab contractors from Egypt to participate with us in Duty Free Port Area

projects, where we lack expertise. We will explore all the possibilities in this direction.

Q: You mentioned projects in the Duty Free Port Area. Can you be more specific?

A: We are at the moment exploring the possibilities. I am afraid it would be imprudent in terms of business to give more details at this stage. All that I can tell you is that we have started serious and concrete discussions with the relevant officials.

Q: Let us talk about the downside. What kind of problems do you face?

A: I am afraid I will disappoint you. There really are no problems that I can think of. Of course, there are the standard problems associated with working with the government treasury. These are problems of delays in payment - though

sometimes running into many months. Let me say that payments are generally stopped from November to April of the following year.

Budgetary procedures are the excuse. We are now in this dead period. The government owes us more than YR 130,000,000 which puts a lot of financial pressure on us and could result in heavy losses due to foreign exchange fluctuations. Let me use this as an example of why private companies are unable or rather unwilling to get into this business, given the realities of the situation.

eastern governorates. One main reason for this is that not much construction has taken place in the former PDRY. Another reason is the interest of investors to participate in the good options available here. Finally, there is the urbanization sprawl which is quite visible.

The oil industry, the Aden Free Zone, and the many other projects hold the prospects for a bright future.

Q: That is a rosy picture. What could go wrong?

A: I am not a fortune teller, but realistic persons also appreciate that some things could go wrong. The main thing Yemen needs is stability. Our leaders must take the necessary measures to guarantee stability.

In general, let me say I am optimistic, and that at worst, things will simply not progress as fast as I expect. But progress, there will be.

Q: As a person thickly involved in construction, what do you think of the architectural patterns of Sanaa and other northern styles which have come to the southern governorates?

A: I think that the architecture of Sanaa is beautiful and very efficient. That is why it has survived for centuries. Some aspects of northern architecture has indeed come into the southern and eastern regions. It is normal. In the long term, however, climatic and economic factors will determine the viability and suitability of any form of architecture to the various regions.

Q: Any last Comments?

A: Thank you for your interest in the GCBC. I am eagerly waiting for the 1996 budget approval so that we can receive overdue payments from the government, in order to activate some of the pending projects. We need to get on with the work.

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Benetton Fashion Comes to Sanaa

Yes, folks, Italian fashion show magnet Luciano Benetton is coming to Yemen. He will arrive on his special jet on the 20th of current March for a one-day descent on Sanaa. The occasion is to finalize arrangements for opening up a boutique in Sanaa to carry the famous "Benetton" trade mark in clothings.

Speaking about his new association with Yemen, he said it was an adventure. But he also expressed confidence in the business opportunities and the prospects in Yemen.

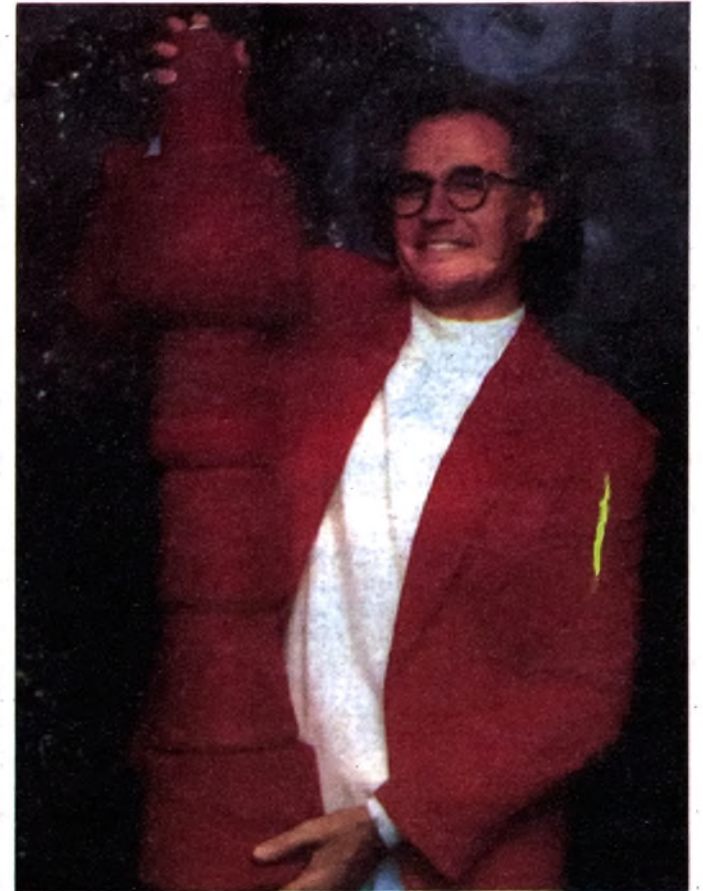
It is worth mentioning that the Benetton group has a number of stores in the Arab World especially in the Arab Republic of Egypt, where they have 40 stores or boutiques. In Egypt the group has begun the construction of a factory which will produce 1,000,000 pieces of garments a year.

Taking charge of the Yemeni business are the Livadiotti ladies - mother and wife of Marco Livadiotti - the person who has been promoting Yemen as a suitable tourist destination in Italy. "Yemen holds a lot of good business prospects. Luciano Benetton has seen this opportunity, and so has my family. That is why we are investing in this country," said Marco.

But there is more to it. He is expecting Yemen's traditional wear and fashion to lead to some interesting new designs. "You will be surprised how many ideas come out of the old, and from places you do not expect," he told the Yemen Times.

Initially, the number of models will be limited, and rather conservative, measuring up market response.

The women's community is



visibly excited by this development, even among local eye circles. "Cautious, yet interested" is the way the mood has been described. Many community leaders among the local and international women's groups will be invited for the inauguration ceremony, next week.

At another level, the Yemeni-Italian Friendship Association (YIFA) is encouraged by a new

bridge bringing Italy and Yemen together. The YIFA Public Relations Officer Dr. Arhab Al-Sarhi said they welcome the entry of the Benetton Group into Yemen hoping that this is the beginning of expanded trade relations between Yemen and Italy.

By: Walid Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

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Ambassador Shafie:

"Malaysian-Yemeni relations will not be affected by this incident."

THE PROBLEM:

The dispute between Malaysia-based Pacific Link (an affiliate of the Hayel Saeed Group) and Abdulghani Al-Rammah of Al-Thawrah Industrial Complex in Sanaa ended dramatically last week as the latter dropped all his allegations and claims. "I never complained about the quality of the palm oil exported to me by the Malaysians through Pacific Interlink," he was reported as having repeated. He had no choice but to swallow his pride and confirm he had been lying about the whole thing. It all started in November. He received a shipment of 3000 tons of Malaysian palm oil, on credit. By early this year, the price of palm oil dropped from over \$620 per ton to just over \$500. Mr. Rammah wanted to renegotiate the price. He thought if he raised hell about the quality of the oil, he would improve his bargaining position. That logic was dangerous because Malaysia is overly sensitive about the quality of its export product, of which it sells more than 90 million tons a year, or 64% of the world's market.

DELEGATION ARRIVES:

As newspapers carried his allegations, the government of Malaysia dispatched its ambassador, deputy minister, and several technicians and experts. They visited Yemen last week (11-14th march, 1996) with blood in their eyes. The delegation included H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hussain Shafie, Malaysian non-resident Ambassador to Yemen; Mr. Yahya Bin Mat, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Primary Industries, Mr. Abdullah Sani Ba-Harin, Trade Commissioner, Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed, Palm Oil Research Institute, Mr. Wong Soo Khwan, Palm Oil Registration & Licensing Authority of Malaysia, and Mr. Shamsuddin Bin Adrisolino of the exporting company. Accompanying the delegation was Mr. Fouad Hayel Saeed Anam, Honorary Consul of Yemen in Malaysia. They met with House Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar,



Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Oil Minister Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Minister of Industry Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Soofan, Deputy Industry Minister Mohammed Al-Haimi, and many others. All of a sudden there was no problem. Abdulghani Rammah denied even having made the allegations. The Malaysians did not want to rub in. They made him disown his words in public, and in front of the government officials, made their own press conference, treated the media corps to a sumptuous dinner, and left the country. They did leave behind a stiff warning to Mr. Rammah - Do not repeat this kind of behavior. They were immensely efficient.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE:

The delegation revealed that a series of intensive meetings with Yemeni authorities and Mr. Al-Rammah were held. Mr. Rammah, they repeated had withdrawn all allegations against the quality of the 3000-ton palm oil consignment. The delegation explained in great length the procedures of the quality control measures undertaken by both the exporter and independent surveyors. Regarding the trace of copper found in the oil consignment in Al-Rammah's tanks in Sanaa, Mr. Iftikhar said, "The only possible source of copper is from Al-Rammah storage facilities or his own processing." However, Mr. Iftikhar reiterated that the

facilities available at Al-Rammah factory are able to purify the oil from this copper trace. The Malaysian Delegation noted that the international prices of palm oil had dropped by some \$120 per ton (18-20%) a few weeks after Al-Rammah received his consignment. "That might explain the whole thing," Deputy Minister Yahya said. The Malaysians expressed they were upset with the press reports stating that Malaysia exported low-quality oil to Yemen. "Malaysia exports oil to over a hundred countries, and all of it subject to rigorous quality control along the PORAM specifications," the ambassador noted. The Malaysians also indicated that Pacific Interlink had fulfilled all its obligations - to both the exporter and the importer, according to the law. The Malaysians confirmed they were happy with Pacific Interlink and that they will continue to work with it in their future sales. They pointed out that the Yemeni authorities have now formed an arbitration committee to work out a solution to the differences between Al-Rammah and Pacific Interlink. Despite the damage that could have been caused to their commercial reputation, the Malaysian delegation said that the incident should not affect cooperation and trade relations between Yemen and their country. That is why they are not considering any legal action against Yemen or Al-Rammah. The Malaysian delegation expressed satisfaction that the Yemeni Authorities and the

government officials they met understood their position clearly and that both sides were keen to further develop bilateral commercial relations.

THE LESSONS:

The press, business community and the authorities could learn a number of lessons from this incident. The lawlessness and irresponsible behavior that prevails in Yemen does invite trouble once foreigners are affected by it. Within the Yemenis, it is already a taxigin situation that the law does not work and that individuals are forced to rectify wrong situations



themselves - that is, take the law into their hands, if they can. The basic principles of fair play and honesty - which are so essential in any meaningful interaction among people are, by and large, absent in Yemen. What we have seen in this incident is cause for alarm. We have seen journalists, especially in the government-owned newspapers, who will print anything for a fee. We have seen government agencies (like the Quality Control Office, Standardization and Measurement Office) which will issue contradictory reports depending on who wants what and how much will be paid. We have seen businessmen who are willing to cheat and lie in

order to negotiate price-changes on agreements they have made. We have seen a government machinery and a judiciary that does not work, hence making necessary to revert to tribal arbitration mechanisms to resolve business disputes. While Yemenis continue to trod along even in the absence of real accountability in our system for what one does or say, such conditions are not acceptable to many foreigners. It is sad that foreign firms should come to Yemen and put their foot down in order for us to wake up. I believe it was an awakening experience. We woke up, haven't we?

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

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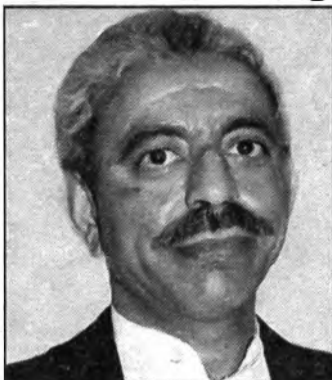
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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Corruption: More Than Just Loss Public Funds



In any society, government is probably the largest holder and mover of funds as a single entity - in all its forms, branches and agencies. Moreover, the government - again in all its forms and applications - is the possessor of the largest areas of real estate and other vital assets. This large amalgamation of resources with one entity can become an inviting source of improper routing and application of funds and inefficient usage of public property.

This becomes especially so when the systems by which these resources are managed are either not in place or lack proper controls which act as values and deterrents for the smooth and systematic channeling of these resources leading to maximum benefits for the members of society in an equitable and effective manner.

In the past, when most societies were under the rule of monarchs and other forms of despotic rule, all state funds were considered property of the ruler. Thus, the ruler, as "owner" was keen on assuring that their "estates" are subject to the least amount of plunder by those entrusted with their collection and management. That does not mean that the "entrusted" officials were meticulously clean or totally efficient, but they were subject to strict accountability by the ruler, if the latter detected any "losses" or any impropriety that significantly affected the "rights" of the owner. Such a situation, prevailed in Europe and East Asia, where dynasties lasted for centuries in entrenched and regimented medieval aristocracies.

Other areas of the world were subjected to continuous instability as outside conquerors changed hands in managing the affairs and resources of the societies. In these areas, indigenous societies could not absorb much systematic management. In fact, as conquered peoples, the resources of their land became a part of the domains of the conquerors and therefore were subjected to different systems - all

of which were destined to serve the interests of the conquerors.

Islam introduced the concept of public property by regarding all the property of the state as the "House of Finance of the Muslims". That was 15 centuries ago. But as the Muslim state's "House of Finance" became full of funds and property, it became a source of attraction to many selfish elements in society. Thus as the Islamic state fell under the control of despotic rulers, the House of Finance became the object of an ongoing power struggle.

After the American and the French Revolutions, nation-states began to have broader interpretations which incorporated the concept of public property as it is now understood by advanced societies. In addition, they were bound to be subject to definitive laws and systematic procedures that allowed for accountability and control. While the perfect system for the management of public funds and property has yet to be arrived at, whereby any society can be 100% safe from illicit mishandling of the society's resources, it goes without saying that most modern states have achieved acceptable standards of management of the available resources of the state, and have managed to direct most of societies' public resources in the service of progress aimed at improving the standard of living (even though sometimes at the expense of other societies through the use of force or the threat of the use of force).

Many societies are confronted by the inability to achieve to any semblance of order in the management of their affairs. In fact, under the pretext of stability and security, various elements of society have given themselves a mandate to control the lives of the overwhelming majority of the people. They also succeed in exploiting the resources of the land and the use the state coffers to advance their interest and of those who work for

them in ensuring that the ruler's powers are not contested by any other elements in society.

These are societies where the majority of the people are denied their inalienable rights as citizens. They are powerless, and their rulers - as possessors of everything - work diligently to make them remain in that situation. Accountability and transparency are irrelevant.

Corruption is a broad term which implies a normally rotten state of some kind. Corruption has become mainly connected with the irresponsible disregard of public trust by officials who have been granted the privilege of serving the public interest and enjoying the prestige that their positions grant them. The corrupt officials exercise the powers of their positions, but they lack honesty, integrity and professional ethics.

Corruption is a betrayal of trust: an illegitimate exercise and abuse of authority to advance personal interests. Corruption is an ongoing evil which exists in all societies in varying degrees, depending on the level of political and cultural maturity of society. Even advanced Western societies where there is some justice in their claim of sustaining fairly transparent political and social systems, in which reason and law dominate the way these systems function, even such societies must contend with cases of corruption from time to time.

But many of these cases occur not because society approves of them, but because the law comes in conflict with other rights such as human and civil liberties. Thus, society is forced to compromise and accept this kind of corruption. But the right safeguards are in place so that no kind of corruption gets out of hand or imposes serious infractions on the overall public interest and welfare.

On the other hand, immature societies are forced to coexist with regimes in which corruption is the rule and not just a few exceptions. In this case, the negative effects to society are staggering and bring much suffering to a large segment of society, if not to the majority.

The Republic of Yemen suffers from corruption to such an extent that corrupt officials allow themselves elitist status. They are free from any real accountability even under the laws they themselves have enacted. While corruption may not be new to Yemen, never has it reached the present levels. Corrupt officials shamelessly and openly defy the public and scorn its rights. They make a mockery of government service, as they rob, embezzle, defraud, cheat, misappropriate public funds to suit their own selfish interests.

The corruption that Yemen faces is so tightly interwoven and widespread that clearing it would entail a monumental task that is far more than a few spontaneous declaration that the President has recently issued. These declaration do not make up a campaign against bad government as the official media would make us believe.

Of course, the President has clearly put the government in an awkward position and it is unlikely that the present government can carry out the president's directives. But this government cannot tackle this ugly situation which has had so many years to grow and mushroom. Moreover, it is this seem government which needs to be cleaned up. It cannot possibly play both roles.

It is not important at this stage to delve into the background of the serious problem which the Republic of Yemen faces. What is important is to come to a consensus that corruption must end and as soon as possible. The difficulties in economic, financial, administrative and social dimensions have their roots in the corruption that has plagued our society for far too long.

The President's declared war on corruption becomes a tangible movement and a plausible and real effort that will be translated in all walks of life, and to which the public can react. So far, all we have seen is media statements and political posturing done by the leadership. To add insult to injury, even some of the visibly corrupt elements in governments have made some noise about fighting corruption, and about cleaning up.

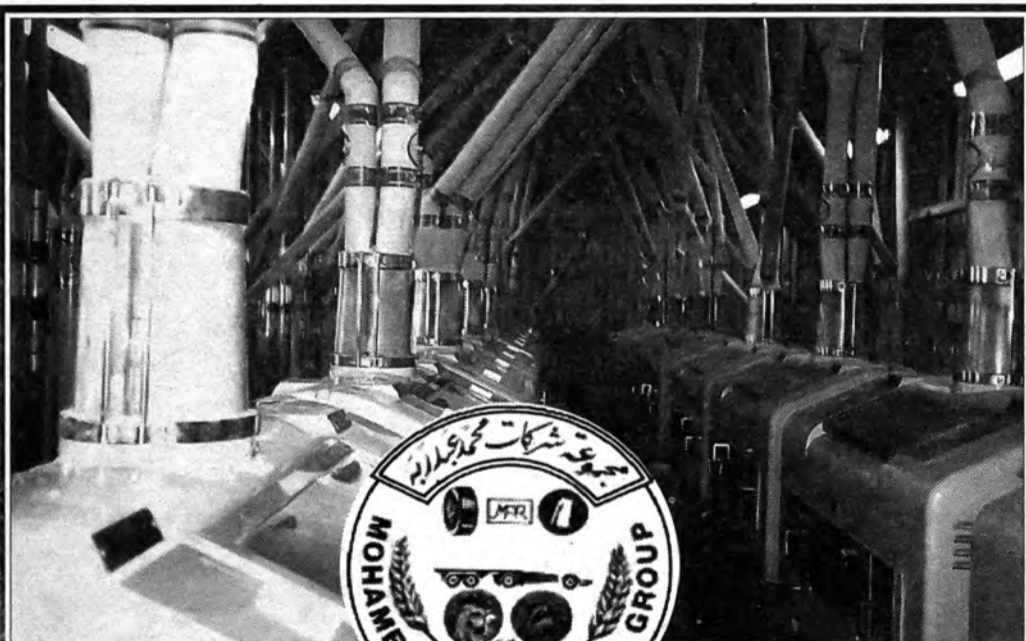
No doubt, there are many candid effort in this regard. And it is also clear that fighting corruption requires courage and perseverance, for it is not expected that such an orientation will be welcomed by those who have come to regard themselves as above the law. But it is inconceivable that the Yemeni people will accept to continue as victims of irresponsible bureaucrats and military brass who consider public funds and property their God-given rights to plunder and gnaw on as their selfish ambitions dictate.

Moreover, it has become impossible - for an economic point of view - to allow this corruption to continue to dominate the government with almost total disregard for ethical and professional values. Officials, and officers can no longer plunder the public with impunity. Most of these people have forsaken their honor in the public eye.

In any case, people are the same throughout the world and one cannot rely on conscientiousness alone to deter violations and transgressions. Systems have to be set up which can regulate government activity and there must be procedures tied to them. But systems do not stand by themselves if control mechanisms and early warning alarms are not there for detection of improper activities and decisions. In addition, there must be an effective penalization of those who are responsible for these improprieties. Evil intentions in men are not easily driven away by reasoning, especially if their carriers are comfortable in knowing that they can get away from it.

The observer cannot arrive at the conclusion that the present declared war on corruption in Yemen will go beyond speeches, press conferences, assignments of personnel at senior or lower levels of authority and investigations performed by the prosecutor on cases that hardly dent the deplorable level of corruption.

The Presidential commitment will be an important basis for encouraging all those who still fight the temptation to be sunk into the abyss of public service which is void of self-respect and true patriotism. But once we see reactions by those who have been sunk into corruption, that the war is going to hit them sooner or later, then we can feel assured that this time the fight against corruption is really serious, and not just publicity campaigns to try to launder a government that has reeked of the odor of corruption smudge for so long.

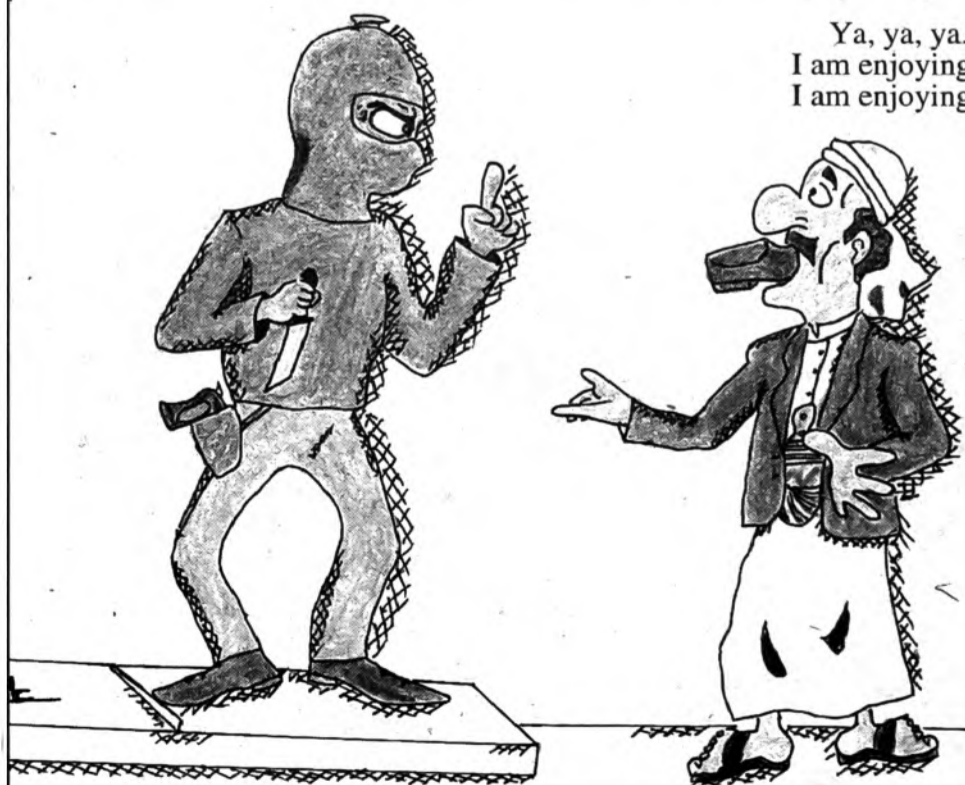


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ENJOYING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, YEMENI STYLE



**First of
2-Part Article**

The Legal Regime of the Marine Space of the Republic of Yemen

It Is a Problem of Management

Mr. Awadh A. Bahamish



The Law of the Sea Convention sets the definition of pollution of the marine environment and this is embodied by Yemen in its national law with the limits of Territorial Sea at twelve miles (art 3). The breadth of the exclusive economic zone set at 200 miles from Territorial sea baselines is defined as pollution-free zone in the national law of Yemen (37) of 1991. Each coastal state shall have continental shelf. The definition of the continental shelf is: the continental shelf of a state comprises the sea-bed and sub-soil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance. Islands were treated in the same way as mainland territories for the purpose of entitlement to marine zone of territorial sea, EEZ and continental shelf if there is human activity on it like Socotra. Since Yemen ratified the UN convention on the law of the sea in April, 1987, shall have large marine zone in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, as well as Territorial sea of 12 nautical miles and EEZ of 200 miles and continental shelf for Socotra Island.

According to the UN Convention on the law of the sea coastal states are under an obligation to determine their maritime boundaries whether with opposite states or adjacent states, and so Yemen is obliged to enter into negotiations with adjacent states of the Sultanate of Oman and Saudi Arabia to determine the maritime boundaries of each one whether the territorial sea or EEZ or the continental shelf in the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea. The same thing applies to the opposite States of Yemen in the Red Sea and thing applies to the opposite states of Yemen in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden i. e. with Eritrea and Djibouti and Somalia.

The enclosure of areas of the sea by coastal states with 200 miles zones has been the principal means of establishing resource rights and controlling pollution from land and vessels, and providing a better basis for managing alternative uses of the national sea areas, including legislation to control pollution from land and vessels and other sources and legislation to control the location and rate of exploration and exploitation of off-shore hydrocarbon resources. The priority aim of sea use management including the reconciliation of conflicting uses, the maximizing of yields from living resources commensurate with their conservation, the preservation of endangered marine species and the protection of fragile ecosystems. Sea use management may also include the social dimension of ensuring improvements in the livelihood of those dependent on the sea in certain sea regions.

Sea use management requires clear adjectives to overcome problems of cooperation between the various departments dealing with the sea E. G. the ministry of Fish Wealth, the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and the Ministry of Transport and its specialized corporation as the Public Corporation for Marine Affairs (PCMA).

Yemen has rights and obligations on its marine spaces and it has sovereign rights on its territorial sea subject to innocent passage for foreign vessels and transit passage in the international strait of Bab El Mandab. Sovereign rights have to be exercised subject to a number of constraints relating to conservation and utilization of fishery resources in the EEZ. Yemen must determine the allowable catch and ensure that the maintenance of the living resources is not endangered by over exploitation. The conservation and management measures adopted by Yemen must be designed also to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at level which can produce the maximum sustainable yields (MSY) as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors. There is an obligation on Yemen to exchange scientific information with adjacent and opposite states, but it is left to Yemen to determine in the first instance what measures are required to achieve such a highly qualified MSY, only taking into account scientific evidence and as appropriate cooperation with international organizations. Yemen is accorded comprehensive powers of enforcement, including boarding, inspection and arrest and judicial proceedings on foreign vessels. Foreign vessels must however be released upon the posting of a reasonable bond or other security. Yemen enjoys in the EEZ sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources of the sea-bed, sub-soil and subsoil waters and Yemen has jurisdiction with regard to artificial islands, installations and structure. Also on marine scientific research and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. Three is an obligation on Yemen according to the UN Convention (Article 192) to protect and preserve the marine environment. In honoring this obligation states have a duty to use the best practicable means at their disposal and in accordance with their capabilities and they have to issue legislation to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution.

Marine pollution may originate and cause damage in any geographical zone from land to high seas and so states are responsible to make standard setting and for the enforcement of such standards in relation to various maritime zones and sources of pollution. As regards standard section the UN Convention deals with six sources of marine pollution.

First: States are placed under an obligation to tackle pollution from land based sources through the adoption of national legislation and the establishment of global and regional rules, taking into account the economic capacity of developing states and their need for economic development.

Second: A similar obligation is prescribed for pollution from, sea-bed activities.

Third: A provision is made for the establishment of international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures to prevent pollution from activities in the area, which means the area beyond any national jurisdiction which is the common heritage for all mankind. States have a complementary obligation to adopt national legislation in relation to the activities in the areas of vessels, installations, structures and devices flying their flag, or of their registry or operating under their authority.

Fourth: A combination of national legislation and international norms to deal with pollution caused by dumping. National legislation must ensure that dumping is not carried out without the permission of the competent national authority. Moreover, dumping within the territorial sea, the EEZ and the continental shelf, may not be carried out without the express prior approval of the coastal state.

Fifth: A mixture of national and international law making is also provided for in order to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution from or through the atmosphere.

Sixth: Article 211 of the UN Convention deals with pollution from vessels. States have an obligation to establish international rules and standards and national laws and regulations of the least the same effects. They have also the promote the adoption of routing systems, wherever appropriate. Article (211) goes on to territorial sea and the EEZ.

Where states have established particular anti-pollution requirement as a condition for the entry of foreign vessels into their ports or national waters or for calling at their off-shore terminals, they have an obligation to publicize them. In cases where co-operative arrangements have been made by two or more states, to impose such requirements in identical form, foreign masters are to be placed under a duty to provide information about their destination and capacity to comply with these requirements when navigating in the territorial seas of one of these states.

As regards the territorial sea, Yemen has a sovereign right to adopt laws and regulations, provided they do not hamper the innocent passage of foreign vessels. Nor must such laws apply to the design, construction, manning or equipment of foreign vessels, unless they are giving effect to generally accepted international rules or standards.

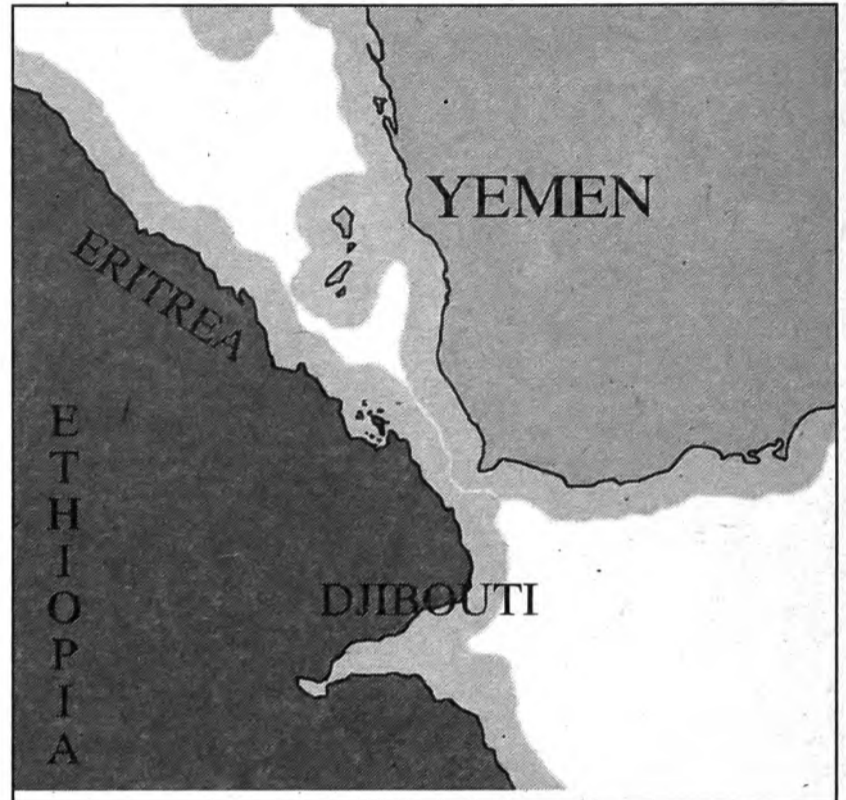
As a regard the EEZ, Yemen has the right to adopt laws and regulations giving effect to generally accepted international rules, thus making these rules enforceable in the EEZ. Yemen is entitled to adopt additional national laws and regulations on discharges or navigational practices or especially vulnerable areas of the EEZ in order to protect the living resources and to prevent pollution and to preserve the marine environment.

So Yemen is entitled to adopt special rules for areas of the EEZ to meet the special oceanographical and ecological circumstances. A provision is made in the UN Convention to ensure that incidents involving or threatening discharge will be promptly notified to states which may be affected.

As far as enforcement of laws and regulations to control pollution and preserve marine environment, could be enforced under two kinds of jurisdiction. By virtue of its territorial jurisdiction. The coastal state is entitled to enforce its anti-pollution laws on its land territory and in its maritime territory, ports, internal waters and the territorial sea. This type of jurisdiction applies in relation to land-based sources of pollution, and to dumping and discharges in the EEZ. Articles 218 of the UN Convention embodies a second type of jurisdiction which is port state jurisdiction under this article, when a vessel flying the flag of state A, is voluntary within a port or at an off-shore terminal of state B, then state B may institute proceedings in respect of a discharge seaward of state B of EEZ, in violation of applicable international rules.

Control of marine pollution in the Red Sea, the gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea is dealt with in many international convention. Yemen is party to some of them. Yemen is party to the oilpol convention. Oilpol forbade discharge of oily mixtures into the sea within specified distances from the coast, required stop slop tanks on board for the retention of residue and encouraged load on top method. Tankers were also required to carry an oil record book.

The safety of life at sea (SOLAS) convention and the collision regulations have made an important contribution in reducing accidental oil spills. Other conventions include the OSLO Convention for Prevention of marine pollution by Dumping from ships and Aircraft (1972) and the Paris Convention for the prevention of Marine Pollution from land based sources (1974). As part of the United nation environmental program (UNEP) a Regional Sea program was adopted. One of these arrangements has been made for the Red Sea



and the gulf of Aden, called the Jeddah Convention. But unfortunately the Jeddah convention is not implemented yet, due to lack of cooperation among the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden states. The Arab league failed to sponsor such arrangement to fulfill its objectives. The desire and the will of all states to preserve the marine environment and control pollution in the region is hampered due to political differences and lack of coordination by the Arab League and absence of guidance by the UNEP for the region.

In 1973, the international convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) was concluded to control all forms of pollution from ships. As a result of protocol of 1978, oilpol was replaced by such protocol. One novel feature of the convention and discharges are prohibited. The Red Sea area is one of the special areas. The Gulf of Aden is added through an amendment. The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden are covered by two instruments adopted in February 1982, the Jeddah Convention for the Conservation of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment and the protocol convening regional cooperation in combating marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency.

Continues Next Week



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The Search for Artificial Blood

Researchers are struggling to produce a material that safely and effectively mimics the oxygen-carrying capacity of the precious red fluid running in our veins.

At the American Society of Hematology's annual meeting in Denver in November 1991, Dr. Robert M. Winslow of the University of California at San Diego reviewed efforts to produce a substitute for the oxygen-carrying capacity of human blood.

"Afterward a member of the audience said he was disappointed about what he had heard," Winslow recalls. "My questioner told me that the Wall Street Journal reports that synthetic materials that can carry oxygen to the body and can be given to patients are just around the corner, but you say these agents are nowhere near ready for use."

"My immediate thought was that I've done my job properly. I've succeeded in introducing an element of reality to the picture," says Winslow. "To make effective substitutes for the oxygen-carrying capacity of human blood is not easy. If it had been, we would have had such substitutes years ago."

In fact, more than 100 years of research into substitutes for the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood has yet to produce a solution that can be safely and effectively used in humans. But scientists are closer than they were, and Winslow, for one, firmly believes there eventually will be satisfactory substitute for blood. "I just don't think it's going to happen next year," he cautions.

JUST AROUND THE CORNER?

Winslow's experience at the hematology meeting makes an important point. There is the scientific reality; and there's the popular perception that a substitute for blood is just around the corner. In the summer of 1991, DNX Corporation in Princeton, New Jersey, announced that it had developed a genetically engineered pig that could produce large quantities of human hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the molecule contained in the red blood cell that actually carries oxygen throughout the body.

The announcement was carried by newspapers around the country. Even the normally restrained New York Times put the news in its most prominent position on the front page, and other stories hailed the step as a milestone in the effort to find a substitute for blood that could be used safely in humans.

Ignored by the press reports was the fact that there is no shortage of human hemoglobin; hence, the finding that it can be produced in experimental animals was really of marginal interest. Nevertheless, the newspaper stories illustrate the public concern over developing usable blood substitutes, notes Dr. Joseph Frantantoni of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). One of Frantantoni's jobs is reviewing applications for licensing blood substitutes.

Certainly there are some significant advantages to developing a substitute for blood. It would be safer than the real thing, and you couldn't get AIDS, hepatitis, or any other known infectious disease from it. Today, thanks to tests for the presence of the AIDS virus in blood donations, there is only a very slight chance of getting AIDS from a blood transfusion. It's less than 1 in over 60,000 transfusion, says Dr. Girish N. Vyas of the University of California. Hepatitis is a greater risk, since not all hepatitis-causing viruses have been identified, and some forms of the disease can kill.

Other potential advantages of using red cell substitutes include the following: There would be no need to match donor blood to the recipient; the substitutes could be stored indefinitely; and their supply would not show seasonal variations. At present, blood is in short supply from time to time, especially during holiday seasons when demand is often high and donors few.

The U. S. military services have consistently supported research into red cell substitutes. Wounded soldiers who otherwise might bleed to death could be saved by transfusions of such convenient, portable, and easily stored fluids.

Two principal approaches have guided recent efforts to develop blood substitutes. One involves the use of oxygen-carrying fluids known collectively as perfluorochemicals; the other is to use the hemoglobin molecule in some form or another. The perfluorochemicals were the first to be tried.

ONLY MODEST SUCCESS

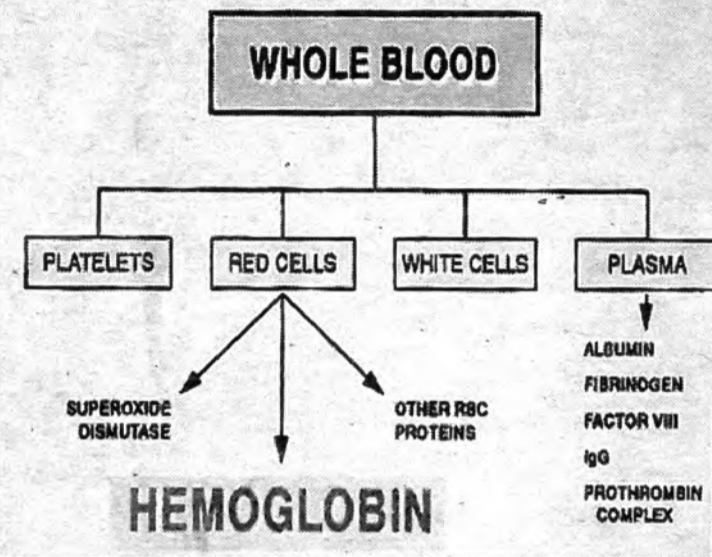
The perfluorochemicals are inert fluids about twice as dense as water and immiscible with it. Scientists demonstrated in 1966 that laboratory animals totally immersed in an oxygen-saturated perfluorochemical fluid could survive for many hours by "breathing" the fluid in and out of their lungs, and assimilating the oxygen carried in the liquid. Later, a procedure for coating minute droplets of perfluorochemicals with animal fats was developed. An emulsion of those droplets with water was made that could be injected and mixed with blood. This was successful used as a substitute for red cells in rats. But for various reasons, including the need for the animal to breathe extremely high levels of oxygen to achieve adequate oxygenation of the tissues, it was not regarded as clinically useful.

Nevertheless, this approach has ultimately achieved some success. Improved emulsions have been developed that allow higher amounts of oxygen per unit volume. After extensive experimental studies over many years, the FDA has allowed these agents to be used on a compassionate basis as a substitute for a blood transfusion in patients who refuse blood for religious reasons.

The FDA has never licensed these agents for general use as a blood substitute. Two years ago the FDA did approve one of these products, trade named Fluosol-DA, for use in patients undergoing balloon angioplasty, a procedure for opening coronary arteries by inflating a small balloon at the point of arterial blockage. Approval has not been granted for other applications because efficacy has never been shown for other applications.

However, even in this limited use, fluosol-DA has not been very popular among medical professionals, and the dramatic results expected of it have not materialized. Widespread advance publicity has heightened the disappointment. For years business magazines had been fouting Fluosol-DA as likely to replace 50% of the more than 10 million units of blood that are transfused in the United States

ISOLATION OF THERAPEUTIC BLOOD COMPONENTS



annually. But the agent is difficult to use. It comes in a kit involving three different solutions that have to be reconstituted for use.

Among the perfluorochemicals, the most promising agent, Oxygent, is made by Alliance Pharmaceutical Corp. of San Diego, California. Oxygent has much greater stability than the earlier perfluorochemical emulsions, perhaps due to the nature of the particular perfluorochemical molecule used. Oxygent can be kept at room temperature for more than a year, but its most significant property is that it contains five times more fluorocarbon per unit volume than Fluosol-DA. This means it carries five times more oxygen per unit volume. Also, again unlike some other perfluorochemicals, it comes as a single solution and does not need to be reconstituted. Toxicities are minor. Although some patients receiving the agent may become feverish and develop uncomfortable, flulike symptoms, these are not life threatening and can be managed.

Oxygent has a number of other factors going for it. From the commercial point of view, Oxygent is simple to make, and since it is not a biological product like hemoglobin it could well have an easier path to eventual FDA licensure. Indeed, Winslow believes that Oxygent may well be the first blood substitute to reach the market. Since the product is still under review, the FDA's Frantantoni has no comment.

As far as the perfluorochemicals go, "I think we are moving along reasonably well," says Dr. Thomas Zuck of the University of Cincinnati. "Does this mean we are going to have a blood substitute?" he asks. "The answer is no. But we are going to have some products that can perhaps improve oxygen delivery in certain very specified clinical settings."

Zuck notes that late last year Alliance was given the green light by the FDA to test its product in patient. "Now we can do organized clinical studies that eventually will provide the basis for FDA licensure," Zuck says.

Layers of problems While the perfluorochemicals remain a promising candidate pursued by one dedicated group of researchers, another equally dedicated group, including Winslow, is studying hemoglobin for carrying oxygen in the blood. Winslow has worked on hemoglobin-based red cell substitutes for almost 30 years. "It's been work and disappointment. One problem after another," he says. He likens his studies and that of others in the field to peeling an onion. "You get one layer off, only to find another layer presenting itself."

The problem researchers such as Winslow face is that hemoglobin free in solution won't do as a red cell substitute. The kidneys clear the material so rapidly that the tissues don't get enough oxygen. The kidneys naturally filter out molecules that are small enough to pass through the wall of blood vessels in the kidneys. While intact hemoglobin molecules are too large to be filtered out by the kidneys, the hemoglobin molecules free in solution break into units that are small enough to be filtered out by the kidneys, the hemoglobin molecules free in solution break into units that are small enough to be filtered out by the kidneys.

Also, more than 100 years of work has produced evidence that cell-free hemoglobin might be toxic. One concern is the effect of hemoglobin on the kidneys. Research with hemoglobin as a red cell substitute has produced such diverse symptoms as chest pains, difficulty in breathing, decreased urine output, fever, chills, vomiting, nausea, and lower back pain.

"We're beginning to realize that the toxicity of hemoglobin solutions is real. It's not going to go away. There's a major problem here, and it's got to be dealt with," says Frantantoni.

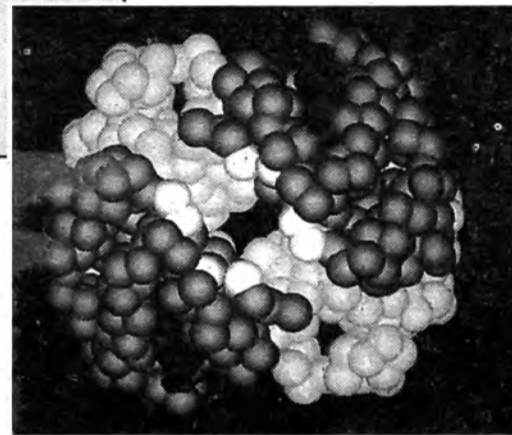
The first step in overcoming this problem came in the 1960s, when researchers found that hemoglobin molecules separated from red cell membrane fragments and plasma components were much less toxic than preparations containing both hemoglobin molecules and red cell membrane fragments. Unfortunately, when clinical trials were undertaken with this membrane-free material, patients still did badly, and there was still renal toxicity.

To counter this, the next idea was to bind, or cross-link, the hemoglobin molecule to keep it from falling apart in the circulatory system. The argument was that if the hemoglobin molecule was prevented from breaking down, the kidneys would not metabolize it and damage to the kidneys would be reduced. This indeed turned out to be the case. Purified, membrane-free, cross-linked hemoglobin was more stable and stayed longer in circulation. Another layer of that onion had been peeled off.

No sooner was that problem overcome than another appeared. Free hemoglobin in solution reacts with nitric oxide, a chemical present in trace amounts in the body that plays a role in relaxing smooth muscle cells. "One of the properties of hemoglobin that we've known about for many years is that it binds with nitric oxide even more readily than it does with oxygen," says Winslow. "When hemoglobin comes into contact with nitric oxide, it instantly sops it up."

This prevents nitric oxide from playing its normal muscle relaxing role. The result is blood vessel constriction and the possibility of dangerously high levels of blood pressure.

"Now there are those who argue that while this affinity of hemoglobin may lead to high blood pressure, it may not be all that serious," Winslow comments. "Maybe so," he adds, "but nobody has the answer to that question at the moment. It is true that the commercial companies that are making hemoglobin say that if the solution is really pure this effect does not occur. However, that's hearsay. There are no published data one way or the other. Right now we know that hemoglobin reacts with nitric oxide regardless of how pure it is."



Granted his problem has to be dealt with, Winslow admits to being up against the wall. What's distressing about this, he says, is not only that hemoglobin reacts with nitric oxide in the same way that it dies with oxygen, but that the two molecules are almost exactly the same size. "So I'm convinced there is nothing you can do to hemoglobin to prevent it from reacting with nitric oxide and leave it capable of carrying

oxygen. This may very well be the core of the onion," he says.

BUNDLES OR BAGS OF HEMOGLOBIN?

Having said this much, Winslow suggests there may yet be some solutions. "One possibility is polymerization. That means making the hemoglobin molecules very big by connecting one molecule to the other, so you get big aggregate of hemoglobin. In this way the hemoglobin will stay inside the blood vessels and not react with the nitric oxide in the smooth muscles outside the blood vessel wall."

The downside is that if the hemoglobin is too big, there are the same kinds of side effects as with the perfluorochemicals: fever and flulike symptoms. But it is possible, he concedes, that there is a sort of midpoint, where you can make the molecule big enough to prevent one problem without giving rise to the other.

A possibility that Winslow finds most intriguing is to enclose the hemoglobin molecule inside an artificial membrane. "Having gotten rid of the natural membrane, we now put it into an artificial one," he explains. "We reinvent the red cell but without the antigens on its surface that cause immune reactions. Also the artificial membrane allows one to make the hemoglobin molecule absolutely sterile, so one doesn't have to worry about transmitting disease."

Winslow points out that there is already considerable experience in enclosing drugs in such baglike membrane, which release the drugs slowly and continuously when placed in the body. Unlike the situation with drugs, which are released in microgram amounts, using such membrane as artificial red cell containers would mean given "liters, not milli-liter amounts."

No matter what the prospects are for producing a usable oxygen-carrying molecule to replace blood, Winslow says that the work on developing blood substitutes has prompted investigators to think seriously about why blood is transfused at all and the difficulties any artificial material is going to face as it goes through the regulatory process.

"If you went to the FDA with a product called whole blood, asking for a license to use it in humans, they'd throw it out," says Winslow. "Blood can't be sterilized. It carries all kinds of risks. There are all kinds of problems with it."

"It's very hard to show that a blood transfusion does anything. What doctor can say that if he hadn't given a patient blood, the patient would have died? It is seldom that clear."

"Although such occasions are few, the life of a severely anemic patient, who is refusing transfusion on religious grounds, might be saved with a blood substitute."

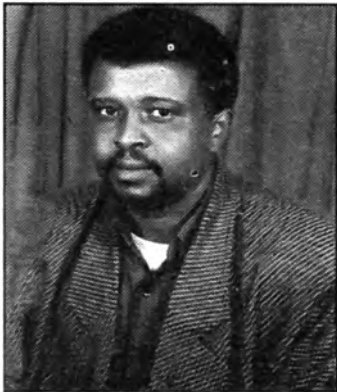
"A few years ago, before physicians became so attuned to the risks involved in transfusing blood, they would order a blood transfusion even when hemoglobin levels in the patient were quite high, close to normal. How many times have I heard on the ward: 'Let's pink this patient up, and he'll go home earlier.' It may be true, but there's no scientific evidence for it and there is always a risk."

"So what the blood substitute folks face is the FDA requirements for safety and effectiveness. Safety may be relatively easy to demonstrate, but efficacy is another matter. If it's hard to show that whole blood is effective, imagine what the blood substitute folks are up against."

In the past 20 years, considerable progress has been made toward understanding how to use either the perfluorochemicals or hemoglobin as a substitute for the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood. Yet while all the experimentation has yielded considerable new information about the complexities of blood circulating in the body, our basic understanding of the far-reaching consequences of blood substitution may still be insufficient to the task. Just as blood typing was a previously unknown key that unlocked the door to successful blood transfusion, there may well be a key to successful blood substitutes that remains to be discovered.

On Matters of Fiscal Policy

From the financial points of view, it is self-evident that a sound fiscal management is the root-base of government financial administration. In a welfare state, it functions not merely as an instrument of administrative control, but also as the regulator of the flow of funds to vital centers of economic and social activity and also as means of coordinating the activities of operating agencies and determining priorities in public activities. A sound system of financial administration is necessary not only to keep the state at an even keel, but also to determine the pace, direction and pattern of social and economic development of a country.



Fiscal management is a dynamic process involving a continuous chain of operations which may be indicated as:

1. Estimates of revenues and expenditures, technically called "Preparation of the budget";
2. Securing legislative sanction for these estimates, technically called "Legislation of the budget";
3. Execution of the revenue and expenditure operation called "Execution of the budget";
4. Legislative accountability of these operations, called "Audit".

Fiscal management includes, as its principle subdivisions, budget-making followed by the formal act of appropriation, executive supervision of expenditure (budget execution), control of the accounting and reporting system, treasury management and revenue collection and audit.

That the 20th century witnessed the growth of the problem of public finance on a gigantic scale is well-known. The world economic and financial analysts say, the problem arose in as much as the growth of the functions of a state in all directions, the establishment of parliamentary control over public finance, the necessity of checking financial administration to prevent fraud and waste, and to secure the highest possible results from public expenditures, and the growth in credit operations which resulted in the creation of central banks as the bankers of the government.

To solve this problem, there arose a new system in England, called Budgetism or the budget system, which was wholly unknown until 1803. The term "budget" is derived from a French word, bougette, meaning a leather bag or wallet. This word came in England by the year 1733. Budget today has become one of the principal tools of financial administration. Economists say, it is a proposed work program, with estimates of the funds necessary to execute it. The financial management of any country, from the custody point of view, depends on its history, its area, and the banking facilities.

The Banking System:

Before the development of the banking system, every government used to keep its own treasuries at different places and there used to be elaborate systems of its custody and accounts. Banking facilities exist now in almost every country developing or developed. Furthermore, through the use of banking system it is no longer necessary to carry on all the financial transactions through cash money as most of the work may now be done through cheques, drafts, handies, and bank bills. Thus, today it is quite possible to keep a centralized system, a Central or Reserve bank carrying all the money transactions through its various branches in different parts of the world. A proper system of control over public finance is not necessary only to ensure fidelity on the part of public officials but also, and more so, to accomplish program targets at minimum costs and in shortest possible time. Therefore, a control system is an integral part of financial management. As the new financial markets developed and the traditional ties weakened, many manufacturing firms in both the developed and developing countries began to prefer direct finance "issues of securities, especially equities and equity-related instruments" to indirect finance "borrowing from banks".

The process of financial innovation and deregulation, which everywhere seems to run faster than the authorities would wish, cracks the functional boundaries between different sorts of institutions. Banks are allowed to do business traditionally assigned to securities houses, and vice versa; new instruments are permitted; interest rates are freed; and, most important, financial markets of one sort or another begin to displace the close relationships between borrowers and lenders that seem to depend on highly segmented industry. Actually, the industrial economies still account for 78% of world exports and their currencies dominate international

financial markets. So the economic policies of the old industrial giants do have a disproportionately large influence on the world economy as a whole.

A World of Business Discipline:

Lack of business discipline has been, and still is, one of the basic problems facing the world. Commodity exchanges operate as standard practice in business and in the handling and pricing of goods, some businessmen say, pricing an equity issue is always tricky. The trade-off between risk and return is familiar to all investors:

a risky asset ought to pay more over the long term to make up for the greater possibility of a short-term loss.

The commodity exchange must be revived in the Third World countries. Since these countries' economies have reached a level which required this kind of mechanism. With strict exchange regulations, an excellent testing ground is offered for economic organizations to create the ethical practices that are essential for an efficient market economy. Since openness is vital for the operation of the exchange, it is incumbent upon the businessmen to make all information about the deals public.

The hope that one can make a fortune in the commodity's exchange without any effort quickly vanished. It becomes clear that the exchange is acting as a price barometer and has an effect on other deals as well. The farmers who are keeping a tab on the price trends in the commodity exchange can easily calculate how much of a risk they should take, and this is where covering purchases, an art of its own within the exchange, may play a role. As soon as the covering purchases reach that proportion, then the exchange can claim to be functioning as a genuine exchange.

A country's real effective exchange rate is calculated by adjusting the nominal, trade-weighted exchange rate for differences in inflation at home and abroad. When a currency rises in value, theory says the country's trade surplus should fall. One can only hope that fair business practices will be clearly and universally accepted. Foreign investors who would like to do business in developing countries need to know how big these potential markets are. It is the fact that the UN's international comparison program is the most effective efforts to revalue developing countries' output at international prices. Businessmen had better use purchasing power parties, which take account of international differences in prices. Perhaps, it gives a more accurate measure of the relative size of economies than market exchange rates, this still leaves a problem: the original local currency figures may themselves be unreliable. For example, poor-country governments may have an incentive to report GDP as low as possible to qualify for soft loans from international financial institutions, or to get favorable trade treatment.

With economic stabilization, the need for consumer and capital goods is expected to rise. Nowadays, North American Free Trade Agreement is seen to create the World's largest single trading bloc, linking 365 million consumers in a U. S. \$65 trillion market. It means that there should be a lowering or abolition of tariffs among the three countries making goods manufactured in Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America cheaper to the end user. Some technologically-advanced countries are afraid of the NAFTA in view of a further erosion of the competitiveness of their goods on the U. S. A. markets. They believe their major export industries will be affected by the new trade pact! The industries include semi-conductors, electronics, computers, automobiles, and textiles.

Factors shaping the new trade relationship:

- i) Trade & Tariff agreements,
- ii) Improving foreign exchange conditions as Western countries begin to channel financial aid to the countries that are in need of it. Let's use Nigeria as an example. As its traditionally strong export markets begin to weaken, the country's policy of export diversification appears to be paying off especially when coupled with improved price and quality competitiveness. As far as the economists know, to the extent that the prices of traded goods were equal everywhere, then wages in each country would depend on the productivity.

As far as the economists know, to the extent that the prices of traded goods were equal everywhere, then wages in each country would depend on the productivity of its traded goods industries. Countries with low productivity would have low wages. It had

become clear that expanded production imposed great burdens on a country, and genuine changes would be required. The first semblance of a free market is made possible by the liberalization of prices. The commodity exchange must also be revived from the comatose state.

The study of questions regarding the sale of products for hard currency plays an important role in feasibility study. As it is known, the banks insist that agreements on marketing products should meet the following requirements:

- a) The form of an obligation must be paid if delivered.
- b) If the agreement on the sale of similar goods with published market prices has to be reached, the formula that determines the sum of prices for goods delivered must dovetail world prices with prices quoted under this agreement.
- c) The validity period of the agreement on sales must not be less than the repayment period of currency credits.
- d) The agreement must provide for the payment of all losses caused by non-fulfillment of the obligations undertaken by the buyer as well as the right of creditor in this case to replace the buyer.

Democracy has to play all sorts of mechanical and human means to safeguard public money form this susceptibility of its officials. Accountability is the principle of democratic administration. Accountability can not be affected merely by the traditional devices of bounding book-keeping, accounting and reporting, it goes further than custody and stewardship and enlists the dynamic policy-determining qualities of management. Its effectiveness, therefore, is not only a matter of developing a few internal and external controls but of devising an integrated administrative machinery which in collaboration with the general planning machinery may prepare a work-plan and so manage the flow of the finance as to accomplish the targets of the plan with the minimum expense of money and energy within the specified time limits

In conclusion, whatever the global financial strategy to be followed, one thing is certain: Action is needed fast before time runs out for accountability and audit, unless this action is taken, financial scandals will not be, chauvinistically, overcome in make a new era of accountability.

By: Mohammed Ali Shidle

ألف مبروك

تقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى المستشار القانوني
عبدالرحمن عقلاان علي القدسي
بمناسبة عقد قران ابنته الكبرى
إشراق على الشاب أحمد عوض
وأدام الله المسرات

الدكتور/ عبدالعزيز السقاف ، السفير/ اسماعيل النعمان ، المهندس/ محمد سعيد نعمان ، عبدالرزاق عبدالملك ،
الدكتور / علي عبدالملك ، الكاتب/ محمود علي أحمد ، الاستاذ/ محمد حسين ريان ، الحاج/ عبدالملك القاضي ،
وجميع رواد منتدى بأشراحي في صنعاء وعدن

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HELPING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

CHARITIES FOCUS ON WOMEN WHO FACE INEQUITIES

She is now awake. A few minutes ago she was back "there." Reliving those moments of horror that would change her life forever.

She was running. Running so fast that her feet seemed to take off into the air. Breathing so hard that her lungs seemed to explode.

They catch her. Force her down and carry her into a room. It is a dark room, and she can barely make out the faces around her. Other than the sound of her own heart pounding, she hears her mother whispering into her ear. "My darling, do not be scared. You will soon be a woman. You will soon be respected."

She cries. A tear at first. And then a whimper. Then a sob. Then a howl. Then a scream. A scream so piercing that it leaves the room and travels through her African village and rushes up to the sky. Beseeking the heavens above to help her.

And then she awakes from the dream. Trembling. Sweating. She is shaking so hard that it seems as if her whole room is moving along with her. After what seems to be an eternity, calm returns to her body and she apprehensively closes her eyes again, hoping that her mind will not return her to the day that she "became a woman."

At least once a month, the peaceful sleep of Soraya, 32, is shattered by the memories that come back to haunt her. Although currently a successful filmmaker living in Southern California, thousands of miles away from her native Somalia, that one day, when she was thirteen . . . that one day when her native "rite of passage" was performed on her . . . that one day when Soraya was circumcised always comes back to visit her.

It is estimated that eighty million women around the world have undergone female genital mutilation. Although considered to be a cultural custom (mostly performed in Africa) aimed at ensuring a woman's virginity until she marries, this particular practice is usually performed under the poorest of hygienic conditions by a midwife using no anesthetic with non-sterile instruments.

Many of the girls on whom circumcision is performed die of shock. Others bleed to death. Others like Soraya develop acutely dangerous infections. And, with others, the wounds are in the mind. Invisible for those on the outside to see.

although women make up half the world's population, the problems they are range from being excluded from educational systems to being denied job opportunities and adequate health care. From being forced into prostitution at an early age to infanticide - practiced today in India and China.

According to the recently published Human Development Report compiled by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), women are "the non-participating majority," receiving only a small share of developmental opportunities.

Among the UNDP's findings:

- Women make up two-thirds of the world's illiterates. In South Asia, female literacy rates are only around 50% of those of males. In many countries, the situation is even worse: In Nepal, it is 35% Afghanistan stands at 32%, while, in the Sudan, it is only 27%.

- Fewer job opportunities exist for women than for men. The employment participation rates of women are on average only 50% of those of men (in South Asia, 29% and, in the Arab states, only 16%).

According to UNICEF, teenage girls - particularly those in India and Thailand - are being forced into prostitution at alarmingly increasing rates. In Thailand alone, it is estimated that there are over eight hundred thousand prostitutes under the age of sixteen.

In addressing this worldwide problem, UNICEF has called for an end to "apartheid of gender" and stated:

A new world order should oppose the apartheid of gender as vigorously as the apartheid of race. The developing world's women bear and care for its children, fetch and carry its fuel and water, cook its meals and hop for its needs, wash its clothes and clean its homes, and look after its old and ill. It is less widely known that women also grow and market most of the developing world's food, earn an increasing proportion of its income, and work, on average, twice as many hours a day as men.

In return for his important contribution, the women of the developing world are generally rewarded with less food, less health care, less education, less training, less leisure, less income, less rights, and less protection.

Although the issue is broad and the situation differs so vastly from country to country, progress is being made incrementally in bettering the plight of women around the world. In addition to agencies like UNICEF, the following are three examples of organizations based in the United States that are involved in international efforts aimed at improving the lives of women.

TRICKLE UP

"Change happens in trickles, not waves," says Mildred Robbins Leet, who with her husband, Glen, founded Trickle Up. "Small changes grad-

ually lead to greater and more significant ones."

The key word that Leet emphasizes is *small*. In the case of Trickle Up, an organization dedicated to reducing poverty by helping poor and unemployed people start small businesses or micro-enterprises, change starts with \$50.

"With an initial \$50 loan, we are providing the poorest of the poor an opportunity to break their downward cycle of poverty and despair," says Leet. Since its creation in 1979, the Trickle Up program has helped in starting or expanding more than thirty thousand businesses in Asia. Over two-thirds of those assisted by Trickle Up are women.

"Women are often the poorest and most vulnerable sector of society," states Leet. "They have few assets, are limited in their access to credit, and face cultural, social, legal, and economic obstacles that men-even poor men-do not face."

Two hundred thousand women since 1979 have started their own businesses through Trickle Up funding. The businesses vary. There is a woman who has a sewing business in Cambodia, and there are grandmothers in Kampala, Uganda, who have opened a center to help provide for orphans of the AIDS epidemic that ravages that country.

Trickle Up works directly with in-country agencies that identify and select those who are eligible for loans. The grants are given to groups of five or more people, often in the same family, who decide to join together to start a business. To qualify for the grant, each group member must prove that they are equal partners in the enterprise they plan on running, that they will work a thousand hours within three months, that a profit is anticipated, and that no less than 20% of the profit will be reinvested in the enterprise.

A second \$50 loan is given to each group after it submits a short business report successfully proving that it has established a continuing business. Locally based volunteer coordinators typically provide assistance in filling out the necessary paperwork.

"We want women to take an active role shaping their own destinies. We give people the belief and the hope that they can do that," says Leet. Most of the businesses that have been created throughout Trickle Up's fourteen-year history are still in operation, with many expanding and some diversifying.

Leet cites the example of Sonya Trotman from Dominica. Trotman was the first woman to receive a grant from Trickle Up. She was destitute and had several children to care for, and money from Trickle Up enabled her to start and ice-cream business. When Leet recently returned to Dominica, she found that Trotman had opened a bakery and is now teaching teenage girls cakemaking so that they might open businesses of their own.

"The obstacles that women face, especially in Third World countries, are daunting," says Leet. In many situations, particularly in Africa, the men commonly seek urban employment, leaving women in rural areas to fend pretty much for themselves. The women are trying to survive on a day-to-day basis, in addition to caring for their families."

Leet states that "by giving women the opportunity to generate their own income, we are not only helping them economically. Raising their economic level leads to other improvements. Many of these women have ended their own illiteracy."

In Ghana, Trickle Up entrepreneurs are the main agents of community development; their activities benefit the entire community as well as the environment. Over 125 women owning forty Trickle Up businesses work side-by-side in such enterprises as pottery and bread-making. The women are not just focused on their own enterprises and needs, but they have started a tree nursery for the community and are building a marketplace to attract customers from other villages.

Trickle Up estimates the number of loan applications has tripled within the last five years. "Because the pie is only so big," says Laura Lopez, chief program officer, "we only accept about a fourth of the applications submitted."

The organization receives close to 40% of its income from individual contributions. Corporate and foundational support has come from such organizations as Avon and Citibank. Last year, Trickle Up also received grants from the Agency for International Development (AID) and the government of the Netherlands.

"I believe," says Leet, "that all people, no matter how bleak their current situation may be, have the ability to succeed."

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Mary Anne Schwalbe sensed change coming in her life. In her late fifties, Schwalbe, a school principal, was approaching retirement. "I felt a need to be stretched during the last few years of my working life. I felt an urge to go outside my own circle."

And so in 1989, instead of overseeing class curricula, Schwalbe found herself taking a leave of absence to work in the Ban Yinai Refugee Camp on the Mekong River in northern Thailand. There she spend. There she spent three months of her life helping handicapped children and teaching an advanced English class for adult male refugees.

Instead of the breathtaking view she had had from her Central Park West apartment, Schwalbe and a shack with no electricity or indoor plumbing. She remembers her first day in Thailand, tripping over chickens and goats on her way to the only running water in her village to brush her teeth.

"What was remarkable," says Schwalbe, "was that in comparison to life in the refugee camp several miles away, life in the village was like being in the lap of luxury. In the refugee camp, there was no water at all, and none of the people living there had any of their possessions."

Those three months changed Schwalbe's life. After having seen firsthand the conditions at the refugee camp, Schwalbe decided to spend her remaining working years bettering the conditions of refugees around the world.

Instead of returning to her job as principal, Schwalbe accepted an offer to become the first staff director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

founded in 1989 by Liv Ullman, Catherine O'Neill, and Susan Forbes Martin, the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children is the only organization in the United States with the mission of speaking on behalf of the fourteen million women and children around the world who have been forced to flee from their homes because of war, civil strife, famine, or persecution.

Eighty% of all refugees in the world are women. "The conditions of the women at the Ban Yinai Refugee Camp were intolerable," says Schwalbe.

"Most field staff at the refugee center were men who would quite often take advantage of the women's vulnerable condition." According to Schwalbe, women's survival depended on those men in the camp who serve them medicine and food in exchange for sexual favors.

"There was no group that existed anywhere in the world that spoke on behalf of these women and their situation," she says. "The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children serves as that advocacy organization, educating American women and students to the plight of refugee women." Advocacy outreach takes many forms, including testifying before congress, hosting international symposiums, and speaking to various groups.

In 1992, the organization sent delegations to such places as Bosnia, Somalia, Ethiopia, Central America, Liberia, and Malawi. The organization has been credited as being one of the first to highlight the rape and violence being directed against women and children in the Balkans.

The breadth of activities taken on by the commission (which is run almost entirely by professional women volunteering their time) is considerable. According to board director Susan Alberti, most of the women who become members are professionals in their forties. Many of them are mothers, and for a majority of them, this is the first time they have been involved with international issues. In addition to contributions received from individual women, the commission is supported by grants from the Ford, Mellon, and Rockefeller foundations.

"This is the plight of women. There is a bond between one woman and the next. We all share the same fears, hopes, and dreams for our children," says Alberti.

"when I speak to a group of women," says Schwalbe, "quite frequently I am asked 'Why should I concern myself with matters around the world when there are problems right here in my own backyard?' respond by saying that one problem isn't exclusive of the next. Just because we are interested in the homeless here does not mean we should not concern ourselves with the plight of the less fortunate elsewhere."

"A homeless woman in this country," continues Schwalbe, "difficult as her situation is, can sleep on a sidewalk grate or go to Grand Central and lie on a bench. A refugee woman has no claim to even that. And she has had to walk for days before she knows that she won't be killed. She is no longer in her country. No longer in her culture. No longer with her family. She has nothing!"

WORLD VISION

"Protecting the girl child is the key to saving the woman of tomorrow," says Cathy Wickman, communications manager at World Vision, one of the largest international relief and development agencies. World Vision was founded in 1950 to respond to the needs of abandoned Korean War orphans and now serves over a million children around the globe.

"Girl children the world over are in peril," asserts Wickman. "One just needs to take a look country by country to see the real impact of this tragedy." Wickman cites the following as examples that



illustrate her point:

- In Bangladesh, many mothers stop breast-feeding their daughters after only twelve months but continue to breast-feed their infant sons for up to two and a half years. This is done to spur another conception that will hopefully produce a son.

- New technologies like ultrasound have made it easier for mothers to know the sex of their children before birth and then opt to abort the fetus. In India, data from six hospitals reveal that out of eight thousand babies aborted, only one was male.

- In China, where strict family-planning rules went into effect at the end of the 1970s limiting couples to one child, parents fearful of wasting their quota on a girl have turned to ultrasound to weed out unwanted females.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," says Wickman. "In a number of Third World countries, girls are married as early as seven or eight in the hopes that the family's financial burden will be lightened with the receipt of a dowry and the certainty of there being one less mouth to feed. If a family cannot find the right 'suitor' who will pay the agreed-upon dowry, it is not uncommon for that girl to be sold into prostitution."

Recognizing the magnitude of this international problem, World Vision, which supports more than sixty-two hundred projects in ninety-four nations, recently launched the Girl Child Initiative to heighten staff and public awareness to specific needs of girl children.

"We felt that we were in a very unique position," says Wickman, "as advocates and implementers to bring change and hope into the lives of girls around the world."

Under the Girl Child Initiative, research is being conducted on the problems that affect the development of girls and women. Innovative programs to help them are being designed and tested with the hope that the programs can be replicated.

Some examples of the World Vision Girl Child Initiative at work include:

- Supporting a two hundred bed fistula hospital in Ethiopia for women whose urinary tracts have been damaged during childbirth or female circumcision. Fistula problems remain a lifelong ailment of women in sixty developing countries.

- Working with the Guizhou provincial government in China to improve and expand caring and teaching facilities for abandoned girls in that province.

- An AIDS prevention/education program in Bombay Through its "Women and AIDS" program, World Vision has launched an AIDS prevention program aimed at teenage girls in Bombay.

- Educating adolescent girls in Guatemala who have no access to regular schooling. Guatemala's culture places greater importance on the education of boys than of girls and, thus, family funds available for education are usually spent on sons rather than on daughters. Many girls cannot attend school because they are too busy working. This program teaches reading and health care.

- A literacy program in Mali aimed at teaching women, who have an astounding 94% illiteracy rate, how to read and write. It is hoped that they will help their children learn to read.

"In a lot of situations," says Wickman, "we have to tread very carefully in the communities in which we work. For example, in the case of a father who, out of economic necessity, needs to marry a daughter off, we will arrange for him to obtain a loan in order to start a business. This will enable the girl to continue her studies."

In addition to the Girl child Initiative, World Vision operates thirty-five programs aimed exclusively at women around the world. They range from teaching women management and leadership skills in Kenya to hygiene and immunization training for mothers in Haiti, or an agricultural loan program in Cambodia enabling women (who make up 60% of Cambodia's population) to farm their own lands.

Although much work still needs to be done to reduce gender inequities the world over, the work done by UNICEF and private organizations like these means that women are being offered more aid than ever before.

India's Grain Stocks Fall

The foodgrain production, after reaching 191.10 million tons in 1994-95, is likely to fall short of the target by about two million tons in 1995-96, according to official Indian sources. The output is likely to be around 190 million tons against the target of 192 million tons, the sources say. Though the sources were allaying fears of any adverse impact on foodgrain prices, the buffer stock position has slightly suffered.

The grain buffer stock of India rose from 13.13 million tons on January 1st, 1993, to 23.52 million tons on January 1st, 1994, to 31.02 million tons on 1st, January 1995. On January 1st, 1996, however, it dipped to 28.44 million tons. Such a buffer is still an adequate cushion against any eventuality on the availability of foodgrains as well as on the price levels.

This comfortable situation reflects increasing production and productivity. Aided by successive good monsoons and greater availability of inputs, there has been a marked increase in productivity

level over the past seven to eight years.

The productivity has risen from 1173 kilograms per hectare in 1987-88, to 1547 kilograms per hectare in 1994-94.

The production of rice almost remained stable - from 80.3 million tons in 1993-94 to 81.16 million tons in 1994-95.

The bright scenario has helped Indian government relax restrictions on exports, thus adding to the improvement in foreign exchange position. The value of exports of all types of rice has increased from Rupees 30.8 million in 1994-95 to Rs 89.2 million in 1995-96, according to official estimates. Wheat production increased from 59.84 million tons in 1993-94 to 65.47 million tons in 1994-95. The total production of cereals, including coarse cereals increased from 170.95 million tons 1993-94 to 176.98 million tons in 1994-95.

Over the last few years, India has been granting food aid to various Third World countries in emergency need.

Turkey's Civil Servants Moonlight to Survive

Turkish civil servants sell bags at markets, work as heavy-duty porters and drive taxis at night to supplement their meager \$155-a-month state salaries. Others rely on the support of relatives for survival.

An average 53% state pay rise later this year will bring little relief to their misery, they say, especially with inflation running at an annual rate of about 80%.

"I sell plastic bags and handkerchiefs at markets in weekends to be able to survive," said Khalil Yurtseven, 40, a civil servant in the power sector for 12 years.

"I earn 7.6 million lira (\$150) a month. This isn't enough for anything. Even after the raise I will only get 12 million (\$230)," he said. "That will change nothing much."

Yurtseven, whose teenage children are studying and whose wife does not work, said his family had not eaten any meat since a long time.

Turkey's 1.5 million civil servants - generally non-manual public workers - are resigned, even after the pay rise, to taking odd jobs to provide the bare necessities for families.

Khidir, a 37-year-old civil servant in the transport sector, says he takes paid work outside office hours carrying heavy loads for people moving house or doing weekly shopping at the market for large families. "I have three children. My wife can only find work as a cleaning lady, but that only pays for the bread," he said. "I will be carrying loads whatever the raise."

Khidir lives in a rundown Ankara bungalow he built himself. Many civil servants drive friends' taxis at night.

"This is the only way we get a

night-life - and a bite to eat," taxi driver Ahmet Ozulku said, smiling wryly. By day, he is a primary school teacher.

Adem Yaylaci, 39, who has been doing accounting as a civil servant in the power sector for 19 years, says he only has around three hours a day left for sleep from doing odd jobs.

"I sell lemons, plastic bags, whatever I can find at bazaars and work as a manual worker on building sites in the evenings and at weekends," he said. "We are called non-manual workers, but we work as laborers."

Yaylaci, who said he was the second most senior official in his department, earns 11.5 million lira (\$220) a month. He has three children at school, and his wife does not work.

Many civil servants are propped up by their families.

Neziha, 43, and a civil servant for 20 years, said she and her civil servant husband must work to keep them in food and clothing. They live, in a house they inherited, with her husband's aunt, whose pension helps the family budget, and whose cooking and cleaning at home saves the couple time and money.

"We calculated, after tax we each only get about eight million lira (\$155) a month. We earn just about enough to survive. We do not have any social activity.

People who earn up to 10 million lira (\$190) must get help from their families or live on the absolute bare minimum."

The civil servants, working in the state administration, lost out when Turkey's manual public workers were given the right to strike and bargain collectively in 1951, in line with the 1948 International Labor Organization

(ILO) treaty.

Past Turkish governments have said their access to such rights would threaten public security. MPs threw out proposals in July to amend Turkey's military-era constitution to give civil servants the right to strike and bargain collectively, leaving them spectators to a major public workers' pay strike that helped sink Ciller's minority government in a vote of confidence two months ago.

Mention of workers' rights sparks off a stream of civil servants' grievances, and sometimes leads to animosity. "They have nothing to complain about," said Neziha, as she slapped a young "worker" secretary, sitting across her gloomy office, on the shoulder. The slap was only half in jest.

By some quirky employment practice, some people doing the same job as civil servants are classified as workers, enjoying higher pay and better conditions.

"They have so many rights, we cannot even get them to do any work," said 45-year-old Hassan Yildirim, a civil servant in the agricultural sector for 23 years.

"There are workers in our business who earn more money than their civil servant bosses." But even workers are hard pushed to get by, despite pay awards following their strike. Ciller's government gave the workers retroactive 16% pay rises for each half of this year. She also pledged a rise of 18% for the first six months of 1996 and 20% for the second half.

"I earn nearly three times what civil servants do," said Sabahattin Altin, 29, a communications worker. "I get about 17 million (\$330). I don't do odd jobs, but I have trouble making it to the end of the month."

Greater Jakarta Menaced by Floods

The Indonesian Planning Board has earmarked around Rp 12 billion (nearly US\$ 5.4 million) of the coming 1996/97 budget for flood control projects in Greater Jakarta.

Minister of National Development Planning and Chairman of the National Planning Board, Ginandjar Kartasasmita, said that the money would be used to fund short-term programs, including dredging, enlarging, and cleaning the 13 rivers, and also removing illegal squatters.

"We're working on a two-year budgetary time-frame," he indicated at a gathering at his office last month. He said that a huge amount of money is required for the whole flood control system. Therefore, funds from the Jakarta municipal administration are also expected to be forthcoming.

The January and February floods killed more than 30 people, forced thousands of families to flee their homes, and created traffic gridlock. The floods also cut off hundreds of thousands of telephone lines and caused untold material damage.

Official statements said that the January and February floods in Jakarta had caused almost Rp 90 billion in material losses.

In a recent meeting with Ginandjar, the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Radinal Mookhtar and Jakarta Governor, Mr. Surjadi Soedirdja, President Soeharto suggested that Muara Angke tributary, the Banjar canal drainage and the Ciliwung river be dredged to allow faster drainage into the Jakarta Bay.

Ginandjar said that his office had planned integrated flood control systems long before the floods hit Jakarta this year. "The recent floods just underline the need for a realization of our plans," he added.

The combination of heavy downpours, tides, waterways clogged by garbage and the environmental degradation in the upstream areas of Bogor, Puncak and Cianjur in West Java have been blamed for the floods.

Ginandjar said that the government will not issue new permits for the building of hotels, restaurants and villas in the areas of Bogor, Puncak and Cianjur.

Buildings will only be allowed in certain villages which are designated by the West Java administration.

"Buildings with no permits and those erected against the spatial planning system will be demolished," he said.

According to Ginandjar, the flood control programs will continue with mid-term and long-term programs which will be implemented at the beginning of the Seventh five-year Development Plan which starts in 1999.

The protected zones in Bogor, Puncak and Cianjur will be maintained properly, and people living in the areas will be ordered to plant trees in an effort to regreen the region.

A passage connecting the Cisdane river in West Java and Ciliwung will be constructed to relieve the pressure of the Ciliwung river especially during the rainy seasons.

"All of these projects will commence in 2000 as they will swallow at least Rp 2 trillion, Rp 1.2 trillion of which is for land appropriation," Ginandjar said.



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SPECIAL, SPECIAL, SPECIAL

TUNISIA: Where History & Modernity Merge



BACKGROUND:

Tunisia is situated in the center of the Mediterranean basin on the Africa side. On its northern shore is Cape Blanc, the northernmost point of the African continent. It has a 1,298 km Mediterranean shoreline (islands excluded), and a population of 8.7 million inhabitants on a surface area of 162,155 square kilometers.

It borders Algeria in the west and Libya in the south.

Most of Tunisia is fairly low-lying. The highest point, Jebel Chaambi (in the west), is 1,544 meters high.

Three main regions can be made out as regards both relief and

climate: the North, covering the richest and most populated part of Tunisia with its fertile soil and heavy rainfall; Central Tunisia, a region of high and low steppes extending to the Sahel coast; and finally Southern Tunisia, a land of vast desert space interrupted by lush palm groves huddled round the rare springs, where the local population crowds into the oases or scatters through the country looking for pasture.

There are two rivers - the River (Oued) Mejerda and the Oued Meliane. In addition, the Zeroud, the Merguellil and the Nebhana are irregular torrents which rise in the Tunisian Dorsal and flow into the Kelbia Lake in Central Tunisia.

Rainfall is irregular and varies according to season and region (75% of total annual rainfall comes in the cold season). The average rainfall in Ain Draham, in the far north, is over 1,500 mm a year whereas in the far south it is less than 150 mm per year. It rarely snows, except on certain mountain peaks.

3,000 YEARS OF HISTORY:

Tunisia has been inhabited since prehistoric times. The first known signs of human occupation whose traces have been found in the regions of Le Kef and Gafsa belong to the Paleolithic and Capsian eras. The Neolithic period has left us dolmens and megaliths, particularly in the Cap-Bon area.

The Berbers, the first inhabitants of the Maghreb, constitute the ethnic base of the Tunisian population. They called themselves the "Amazighs" (i.e. free men) and their origins and history remain shrouded in mystery. They lived in tribes and wandered freely over enormous stretches of land, breeding animals and engaging in agriculture.

With the arrival in the 11 century BC. of the Phoenicians, Tunisia broke out of prehistory. The new members set up numerous establishments along the coast, in particular Utica (before the end of the second millennium) and then Carthage (in 814 BC.), a very important town. The "new town" (Qart Hadasht) prospered and established settlements all over the western Mediterranean to become the metropolis of a vast empire stretching from Spain to Tripolitania. Carthage was a sea power and the heart of a flourishing civilization and, for centuries, it had considerable influence in the Mediterranean world, both economically and culturally.

In the third century BC., Carthage and Rome came into conflict with one another. After the first Punic War (264-241 BC.), Carthage was forced to evacuate Sicily. Hannibal sought revenge and took his army across the Pyrenees and the Alps to win many victories in Italy (especially the Cannae victory in Apulia in 216 BC.). But Rome attacked Carthage in Africa and won the decisive battle of Zama (202 BC.).

Annexed to the Roman Empire, the old Punic land gave birth to the province of Africa. But Rome had to face a Berber resistance led by Jugurtha, (112-105 BC.), and then by Juba. At the end of these wars, the "pro-consulship" (whose extent coincided with that of modern Tunisia) entered upon a long period of prosperity. It became the "granary Rome" and developed both the culture of trees, particularly the vine and the olive, as well as undergoing unprecedented urban development. Carthage, rebuilt, became a great Mediterranean capital city; a rich archaeological heritage bears witness to the wealth of that epoch.

In the early 6th century, the Vandals settled in the country and ruled for a century. In 533, they were chased out by Byzantine; these however, were unable to restore the land's former prosperity.

MUSLIM TUNISIA

In the mid-7th century, Tunisia was brought into the Muslim World and Kairouan, founded in 670 by Okba Ibn Naffe, became the brilliant capital of Ifrikiya. After a transitional and organizational phase which lasted up to the 8th century, one marked by Kharijite uprisings, Ibrahim Ibn El Aghlab founded the dynasty which reigned for over a century. This was a time of stability, calm and prosperity for Ifrikiya.

Agriculture and handicrafts developed; naval building sites operated in Tunis and Sousse; towns saw the advent of town planning with the building of mosques and magistrates' and defense edifices: the Kairouan mosque, pools and palace; the Ribats of Sousse and Monastir and the ramparts of Sousse and Sfax. Kairouan was the center of intellectual ferment. The Malekite faith triumphed, with Imam Souhoun.

At the end of the 11th century, Shiite propaganda disseminated by the missionary Abou Abdallah and supported by the Kutama Berbers caused a revolt which

put an end, in 909, to the Aghlabite rule.

Set up by his supporters in power, Obeid Allah Al-Mahdi took the title of Caliph and founded a new capital city, Mahdia.

The victorious Caliph El Mansour built a new capital, Sabra Al Mansourya, which blossomed. The rule of Al Mansour and his successor Al Moiz saw both great economic prosperity and immense intellectual activity. But the Fatimids saw Ifrikiya as a base for conquering the east under the Abbassid usurpers' rule. In 973, Caliph El Moiz, after conquering Egypt and founding Cairo, went to live in his new capital, leaving the power in the hands of Buluggin Ibn Ziri, the son of the Berber Sanhaja tribe's chief (the Sanhaja had supported the Fatimids against the Kharijites).

In the middle of the 11th century, the Hilalis, unleashed on Ifrikiya by the Fatimid Caliph, who wanted to punish his Zirid rebel vassal, sacked the country. It split up into tiny principalities.

The dislocation of the country allowed the Normans from Sicily to seize the major towns along the eastern coastal strip (Jerba in 1134, Gabes, Sfax and Sousse in 1136 and Mahdia in 1148).

The people, who had never tolerated the conqueror, called for help on the Almohad prince Abdelmoumen, who chased the Normans out (1159-60), ended the little dynasties, and united the Maghreb.

Ifrikiya was put under the orders of an Almohad governor, Abu Mohammed Ibn Abi Hafs, whose son, Zakaria, proclaimed independence in 1236 and founded the Hafsid dynasty. Tunis became the country's capital and underwent unprecedented urban development; economic prosperity.

Two exceptional men dominated intellectual life: Imam Ibn Arafa (religious sciences) and the great Ibn Khaldoun (historian and founder of modern sociology).

In the 16th century, the Spanish and the Ottomans clashed over Tunisia. The 1574 victory of Sinan Pasha enabled the Turks to take over the country. Tunisia, now an Ottoman province, was governed by a Turkish Pasha. In 1613, Murad Bey founded the Muradite dynasty, which ruled until 1702.

The 19th century saw a reformist movement appear (Kheireddine, Ibn Abi Dhiaf) as well as the founding of the College Sadiki in 1875.

THE PROTECTORATE:

In 1881, France invaded Tunisia and set up a protectorate under the Bardo Treaty. But Tunisians bitterly resisted the military occupation and foreign control.

In 1920, on the initiative of Abdulaziz Thaalbi, the Constitutional Liberal Party, or Destour, was formed, calling basically for an elected assembly and responsible Tunisian government.

Having obtained from the



colonial authorities nothing but words, and being repressed by them, the Destour fell, between 1925 and 1931, into a deep lethargy. The discontent of the Tunisians grew as the country succumbed to a catastrophic economic crisis in the early 30s. In 1933, young intellectuals in the Destour started to criticize the old guard as to the party's methods of actions, and the split between the two groups became clear in 1934 with the setting up of the Neo-Destour, led in particular by Mohmoud Materi, Habib Bourguiba, Bahri Guiga and Tahar Sfar.

INDEPENDENCE:

The new team took a leading part in the struggle for national independence. The determination of Tunisian patriots forced the French government to enter into negotiations, which led to internal autonomy in June 1955 and to full independence on 20 March 1956. Independence once gained, the country rapidly moved forward: the monarchy was abolished and a republic proclaimed on 25 July 1957. The work of the Constituent Assembly led to the drawing up of a Constitution, which was promulgated on 1st June 1959.

From the early 1960s, the country knew a planned, global development action, which allowed an economic and social infrastructure to be laid down and permitted a massive provision of education and public health. Economic growth and employment were boosted by the development of manufacturing industries, tourism and service industries. A big effort was made to promote housing.

THE NEW ERA:

In the mid 1980s, Tunisia went through one of the most difficult phases of its history. There was a feeling of uncertainty and

despair. Inside the country, politics, dominated by intrigues and bitter inter-party strife, was paralyzed. Improvisation, incompetence, contradictory decisions. Abroad, the country's image was tarnished and its future was a source of great anxiety.

Confronted with this situation, the Prime Minister, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chose to shoulder his national and historic responsibility and respond to the call of duty to save the country.

In conformity with article 57 of the Constitution, and in the context of the strict legality, he took over as President of the Republic on 7 November 1987. The change enjoyed the enthusiastic support of the Tunisians. This event was also welcomed by the world.

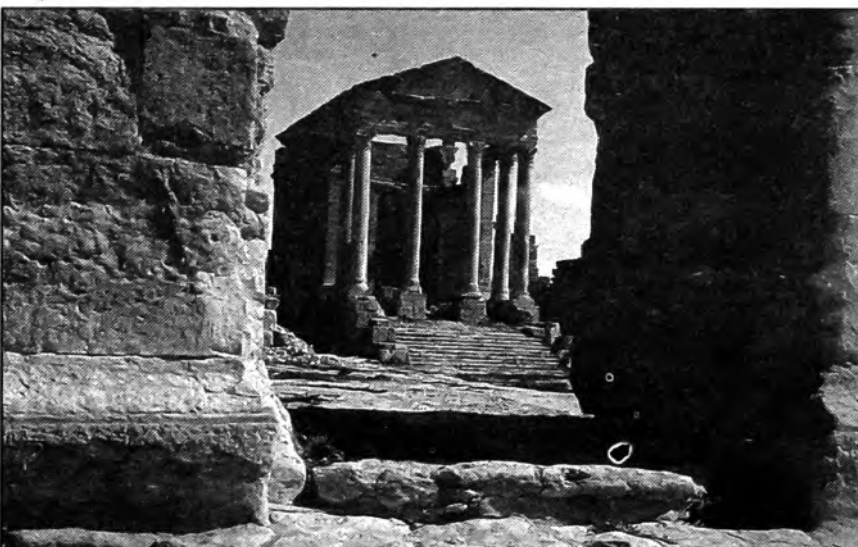
The crisis which was endangering the country's future thus came to an end. Since 7 November 1987, Tunisia has started on a new era in its history.

This is especially visible in the remarkable achievements in the economic domain. Among Third World countries, Tunisia has been able to attain exceptionally high rates of annual growth, in spite of meager resources.

Two factors explain this: a) The top priority attached to human resource development, including full participation and potential for women.

b) A reform program based on long-term vision. Economic deregulating was founded upon perfectly clear rules: recognition for the key role played by the state in the development of strategic sectors and encouraging the private sector to fully participate in the areas of competitive production; especially in joint ventures by appropriately setting the incentives that will bring them about; adopting a policy aiming at social progress by developing a new approach to the notion of national solidarity via social transfers and cooperation among the different social groups, among regions and among generations; and finally, the acknowledgment of the overriding interest of the nation which must in all cases transcend other categories of interest.

Today Tunisia looks forward to a bright future for the welfare of its children and all of humanity.



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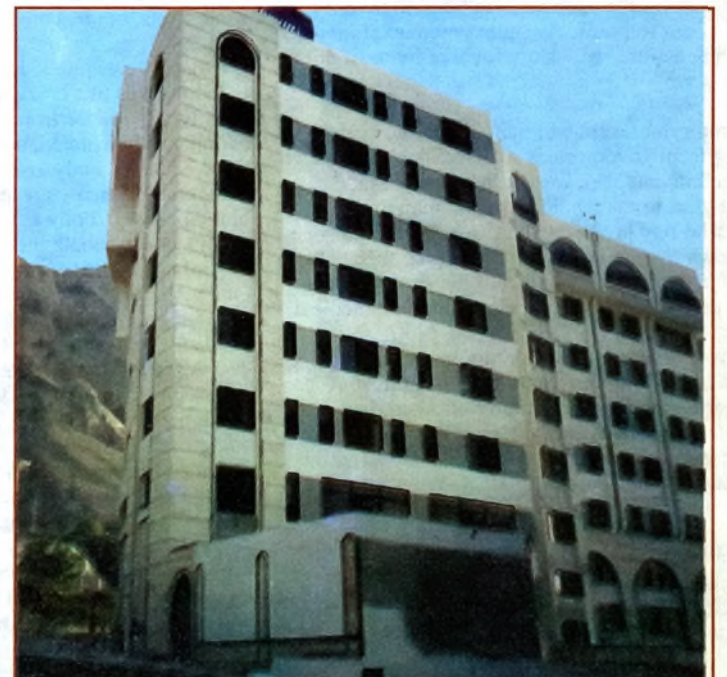
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AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly): 13-3-96

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Seizure of a Boat After Being Loaded with Scrap Belonging to the Air Force and the Armed Forces
- 2) A Seminar on Greater Hunaihs in Cairo
- 3) Arrest of the Most Dangerous Prison Escapee
- 4) 2 Bombs Kill One and Injure 6 in Al Basstain

Article Summary:

1) A Malaysian Trade Mission Visits Yemen
On Tuesday 12-3-96, an official Malaysian delegation arrived in Sana'a to speak to Yemeni officials on expanding trade relations between Yemen and Malaysia. The delegation is composed of a number of officials including the Non-Resident Ambassador of Malaysia to Yemen, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Primary Industries, and others. The mission carries an invitation for Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, the Prime Minister to visit Malaysia.

2) The Weapons of Corruption

In its editorial, the paper comments on the refusal of officials to respond to information requests from the press on the grounds that the national interest is protected accordingly. The paper states that hiding information only leads to suspicion. By holding back information, the official is only hiding the corruption he most likely is involved in. The commentary also pointed out that the paper fully supports the President's program for fighting corruption, heart and soul. For this program to succeed, the beginning must be in implementing the law which asks officials: "Where did you get all this?". Corruption also means Declaration of Non-Conflict of Interest and Clearance from any illegitimate activities and to present the most well-known corrupt officials to court for trial.

AL-HAQ: Sana'a (Weekly) 10-3-96

(Rabat Abna Al-Yaman)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Wider Rift Between the Islah Party and the Puritan or Orthodox Islamic Activists.
- 2) In Taiz: Robberies of Stores and Homes: A Thief Steals Gold from a Neighbor's House.
- 3) Seyoun Reside Ask the Whereabouts of Money Collected to Rehabilitate the City.

Article Summary:

1) Yemeni Gas: Preparations for Construction of Processing and Treatment Plant and for Laying of Pipes

The stage to follow the signing of the Hunt-Exxon-



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

Yukong agreement for participation in the gas deal signed with Total will primarily entail the implementation of 2 projects: Gas Treatment Plant at site of extraction (Marib) and the Gas Export Pipeline to the still unselected port for exporting the Liquefied Gas. Most likely the Port will be in Shabwa (sic).

2) Is It True?

In its regular column, "Is it true?", the paper points to rumors which state that the confiscated cigarettes, fruits and other smuggled goods which were burned in public were not really the whole quantity that had been confiscated. A good part of the quantity was taken away (put aside) or "robbed" by some persons with the intention of selling them once "the heat cools down."

3) Fighting in Many of Hadhramaut's Mosques

Violent efforts by "Al-Muqbalite" Puritan Muslim Groups to take over mosques in Hadhramaut have led to several outbreaks of fighting. The local population continues to resist this sectarian imposition of an extremist version of Islam by this Muslim group in the Shibam area of Hadhramaut. The Muqbalis - who are promoting a puritan version - tried to outlaw religious ceremonies which have been practice for centuries. They say such ceremonies violate Islamic teachings.

AL-TAJJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly): March 1996

(The Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Expectations of Big Dispute in the Ranks of Higher Coordination Council for the Opposition
- 2) "Peacemaker" in Fight Gets Killed
- 3) Yemen's Virgin Island: Socotra

Article Summary:

Protection of Israel and Perez is the Objective of the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit

In its major headline article, the paper points out that President Ali-Abdullah Saleh had read (to the opposition whom he received in audience) the invi-

itation letter sent by Clinton asking Yemen to attend the conference in the person of the President. While the President had advised a meeting of several political leaders that Yemen will attend, it was not clear determined who would go. The paper said that Clinton tried to convince Yemen to participate as the letter put it because the conference will work towards resolving the American proposal for protecting Israel and Perez.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a, (Weekly), 14-3-96

(Yemen Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) An Explosion Kills 3 in Yarim (in Cinema)
- 2) The Farmers in Abyan Threaten to Cease Planting Cotton
- 3) Sharm El-Sheikh Summit Gives One Month Deadline for Presenting Resolutions

Article Summary:

Multiple Sovereignty over Hunaish and the Other Red Sea Islands

The article points out that the objective of stalling in reaching a settlement on the dispute over the Red Sea Yemeni island of Greater Hunaish is to convince all the parties involved (especially Yemeni) that the settlement most likely to be adopted would be to share sovereignty and control of the strategic islands. Yemen is likely to be the country with the least influence in the area. In a press release in Cairo, Mr. El-Baz, First Undersecretary for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, stated that after the peace process is completed in the Middle East, new arrangements for security and stability would require the presence of more than one regional or international power in the disputed area.

This arrangement would nullify the right of any one country to have full/independent control in the area of the Red Sea. On Hunaish, El-Baz said that a new instrument will be announced to end the dispute in a peaceful way. On Israel's role in the problem, El-Baz stated that no evidence is found to implicate Israel in the dispute.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 14-3-96

{(Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))

Main Headlines:

- 1) World Leaders Meet for 3 Hours to Discuss a Half Century Long Crisis
- 2) Dr. Najeeb Ghanem (Minster Of Health): Reported Deterioration of Health Service is Untrue.
- 3) Financial Reforms and the Game of the Dollar

Article Summary:

1) Magazine Cover Girls

The Paper complains that local magazines are trying to imitate the West's exploitative press by having women pose as cover girls. The paper states that this is against the desires of the Yemenis who are a religions people and this practice should stop.

2) Al-Haswa Power Station (Repaired)

Khalid Rashid, General Manager of the Power Station at Al-Haswa, declared that the fifth turbine in the station and its auxiliaries have been repaired. After six months of repair work, the turbine now operates generating 25 megawatts of electricity into the Aden grid. Lack of spare parts had caused the long delay in repair work.

26 September: Sana'a, (Weekly), 14-3-96

(Mouthpiece of the Military)

Main Headlines

- 1) Presidential Press Spokesman: The Press Interview of President Saleh Printed in "Al-Watan" (Kuwaiti) Newspaper Was Deliberately Changed.
- 2) New Appointments in the Armed Forces
- 3) Yemen in Sharm El-Sheikh Summit Denounces Terrorism and Calls for a Just and Total Peace
- 4) Council of Ministers:
 - Approves Saudi Participation in the Merged National Airline (51% Yemeni, 49% Saudi).
 - Approves Memo of Understanding between Yemeni's Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum.
 - Looks at Memo on British Gas Excavation off Socotra Coast, Total Gas Deal.
- 5) Permanent Voting Cards to be Distributed in Early June

Article Summary

The Just Peace

In its editorial, the paper stated that the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit needs to first of all define what terrorism is. The so-called Peace Summit which discussed how to stop terrorism, the leaders fails to stop the atrocities worldwide. Controlling terrorism requires that justice be dispensed in a full way. Fighting back cannot be termed terrorism.

Letters to the Editor

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Letter to: The UN Secretary General

Dear Sir:

This letter carries a cry from a Yemeni intellectual on behalf of millions of Yemenis who are forced to keep silent by the oppression of a corrupt regime that abused every right granted by the constitution. After the civil war of 1994, we Yemenis celebrated the victory of having our unity intact and hoped that the political system will work for the development and prosperity of Yemen. However, we are sad that all our dreams are gone with the wind. The harsh reality that we have today is that a group of thugs, sick and unaccountable people control us with the help of military force. Due to the severe actions of such regime is going, in particular in the southern and eastern governorates of our Republic, we urge you to explore the following actions, which are favored by most of the people here:

1. Monitor the revenue of the oil and the wealth coming from governorates such as Shabwah, Mareb and Hadhramaut. We want to make sure that the benefit goes to the whole Republic than to the rulers who buy lavish cars and construct expensive castles while the majority of the people suffers from hunger and deprivation, even of the simplest necessities such as water supply, electricity and medical care.
2. Bring pressure to bear in order to make the regime respect human rights and forbid it from imprisoning or chasing human rights activists.
3. Inquire into the fate of the promises made by the Alattar government in its letter to the UN after the war ended in the summer of 1994. We want to know why those promises were not fulfilled.

There are some of the many demands we urge you to look into, Mr. Secretary-General. We have to resort to you in the absence of an active political opposition to which we can resort.

*Dr. Yassin Ali M.,
University Professor.*

Qat is a Problem !

I want to write about how qat affects nutrition and public health in Yemen.

We notice that every person who chews qat doesn't do that until he/she becomes very thirsty. He/she doesn't eat any fruits or drink much water or juice, so that he/she won't quench his/her thirsty. These steps are taken in cool climates, but in the hot areas qat chewers are thirsty because of the weather. The chewer doesn't care for his clothing and his family requests or any other thing except qat. He goes out of his house in the morning to earn money in order to buy qat and at the same time he doesn't buy enough food for his family. Furthermore he buys qat at an expensive price. Imagine the kids are waiting for their father to bring some fruits, but he comes home with this devilish plant.

Qat also affects public health. It makes people talk to themselves like crazy people. Heavy addicts are actually not too far from craziness. They lose sleep, become easily irritated, and ill tempered.

Qat affects the body also in many other ways. For example, it increases respiration, heart pulse and blood pressure, body temperature and sweating. It often leads to mouth inflammation and constipation and loss of appetite.

One major effect which leads to many social and familial problems is the loss of sex drive. Addicts just can't perform.

The next morning, qat addicts almost invariably start with a hangover, headache and a feeling of being tired or exhausted. To add insult to injury, addicts have to consume a lot of pepper in order to warm up for the qat. Hence the famous sahwaiq, which is the most important breakfast dish.

These qat effects are dangerous to our community and yet, qat consumption grows. Is it not time to directly attack this problem, rather than let it strangle our people? Isn't there a duty on our social and political and leaders to help educate the public?

*Ayman Ahmed Mohammed Ghanem,
Khaled Bin Al-Waleed School,
Ibb.*

An Example of the State of Chaos and Anarchy Presently Going on in Yemen

World-wide, clear laws govern the relationship between the landlord and tenant. Neither side can write the lease contract according to his own whims.

Unfortunately, the relationship between the tenant and landlord in Yemen is not governed by any laws or regulations and there are a lot of sad stories which tell how landlords kick out the tenants together with their family.

So what do we do? Recourse to law is no use . . . Referring the matter to police stations in no use. Many tenants are at a loss.

I have come across many decent young persons who are at a loss as to how to handle this problem. It seems they can do very little about it, other than simply accepting the situation. The alternative is to get in trouble with the system or non-system. This simple example is just one of many reasons why Yemen is going backwards - towards more and more primitive norms and systems. Eventually, we may go to the most primitive of systems - anarchy.

Saleh Muthana Ali,

VACANCY

AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN SANA'A

Yemeni males interested in filling a vacant post of "General Clerk" at the Embassy of Japan, are invited to send their applications, attached with resume and copies of appropriate certificates to:

The First Secretary, Embassy of Japan,
Post Box No. 817, Building No. 2, Street No. 38,
Off Algiers Street, South West Safia, Sana'a

or to fax C. V. to the Embassy Fax Number:
00 (967+1) 209531.

The Applicants should be in possession of an impressive background education or University Degree, with proficiency in spoken and written English and Arabic languages, plus typing experience in both the languages with a minimum work experience of 5 years.

The Candidates will be required to stand translation and typing tests in English and Arabic plus interviews.

The Applications should reach the Embassy by not later than Thursday March 28th, 1996. The contact telephone number of the Applicant must be mentioned in the C. V.



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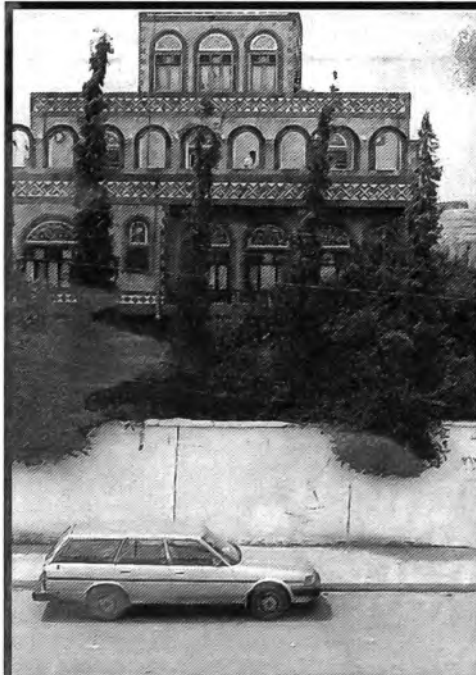
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فيلا أنيقة - أمام مؤسسة التجارة الخارجية والحبوب - شارع بغداد
لمزيد من المعلومات اتصلوا بتلفون ٢٠٧٤٢٦ .

نداء إلى أهل الخير

هذا الطفل- مراد عبد الرحمن شجاع الدين - لا يسمع !
بإمكانك المساهمة في تجاوز عاقته وأن تجعل حياته طبيعية.
هلا مددت يد العون.
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**معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER**

Contest No. 64 مسابقة رقم ٦٤

Prepared by:
**Al-Farouk Institute of
Languages & Computer**

إعداد:
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

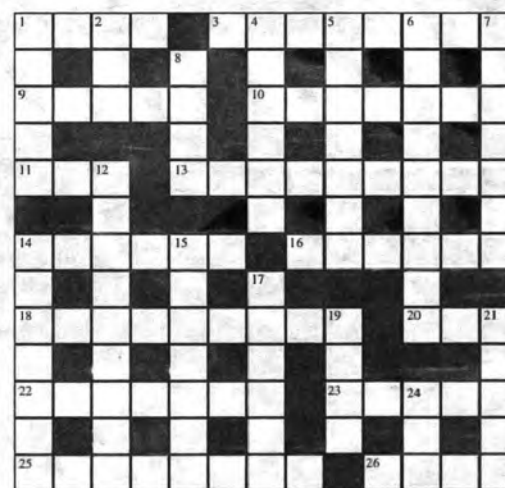
P.O.Box 3637, Al-Raqas St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sanaa; Telephone (967-1) 209721, Fax 218 231
مس ب رقم (٢٦٢٧) ، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء ، تلفون ٢٠٩٧٢١ (١-٩٧١) ، فاكس ٢١٨٢٣١

Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouq Institute by

Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

يرجى قطع المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى المسجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس.

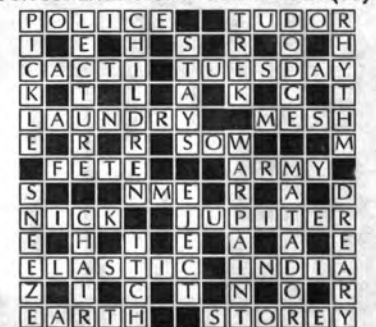
سيعلن أسم الفائز في العدد القادم من «يمن تايمز» .



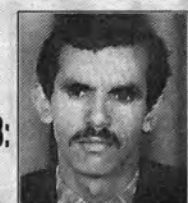
- Across**
- American tramp.
 - Go to live abroad.
 - Paris underground system and Austin model.
 - Quick service for a racing-car?
 - Part of a pen.
 - Jumpers from down under?
 - Mouse sound.
 - and Cambridge: boat-race teams.
 - Making less (anagram of GENTLE DIP).
 - Hairy Tibetan ox.
 - Involves.
 - Friendly.
 - Floating banner.
 - Captain —: Peter Pan villain.

- Down**
- Like all of us!
 - Wager.
 - Being miserable.
 - Rich creamy cakes.
 - Patrick Moore's favourite subject.
 - Out in the open.
 - Royal duke.
 - Colorful children's TV program.
 - Unhappiness.
 - The 'A' of USA.
 - Paper hanky.
 - The Generation — (TV show).
 - Eskimo canoe.
 - Also.

Correct answers for contest No. (63)



**WINNER OF CONTEST NO 63:
Hussain Dahiah**



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The Aden Free Zone:

A Professional Gives the Facts... and Makes an Appeal



For the past five years I have sat quietly reading the curious editorials about the Aden Free Zone. I feel that the time has come to tell the people of Yemen clearly that the Aden Free Zone is real. The time for paper studies is over. The time for real progress has come. Even as you read this, there are many professionals and businessmen actively working on the design and tendering of the new container terminal, the industrial estates, and an upgraded Ma'alla Port. These people are not bureaucrats or politicians, they are engineers, port operators, shipping companies, and general businessmen experienced in turning good ideas into successful international businesses.

Make no mistake about it, the Port of Aden is a natural gift on one of the world's crossroads in an international market where the transportation of goods will always be growing. Yes, the process is difficult and frustrating to us all! Yes, it is made worse because of the lack of coordination and cooperation among government organizations! Yes, the political, social and economic environment in Yemen is among the most complex in the developing world. Yes, there are many special interest groups which would like to see the new container port, and the rest of the free zone, fail if they cannot control their portion of it. Yes, there are still many with small minds that think about personal

gain and worry about how to catch more rain than others. But all of these things should be seen as hurdles, not impenetrable walls. They can be overcome, and in fact they are being overcome even as I write these words. The development team understands the critical importance of this program. Make no mistake about it. It has been a long and painful process. So is the birth of a child. And just like watching our children grow, it will continue to be a challenging but rewarding process. The day will soon come when every family in Yemen will see and feel the positive effects of the Aden Free Zone development program! Think about it. A project this large has never been done in Yemen before. Is it any wonder that the inexperience of many government officials is showing? Yet they do their best. Even though our negotiations have been long and frustrating, we have never questioned the dedication of the officials involved. They care about what is best for Yemen and do the best they can with what they have been given. Because this major development program is being funded by private groups, there is a tendency for some people to assume that profits are the only motivation. They are not! The majority of the people who have been actively fighting to make this program a success are driven by a personal desire to see Aden bloom again so that some of the burdens of the people can be lifted. We are an international team made up of professionals from the Gulf, the Pacific, Europe, America, and Yemen. Some on the team were born in Yemen, moved

away, and now return because they hear the call of their ancestors. Others on the team, five years ago could not have told you where Yemen was on a map. Yet, after five years of planning and working, they all share a clear vision of what can grow in the soil and sea in Aden -- and we are excited to be a part of this great project. There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who will tell you every day why something is broken or cannot work. These people make their contribution by pointing out the problems, challenges and obstacles. However, there are also those who

note the warnings, but still are willing to work hard and make the personal sacrifices required to make dreams come true so that prayers can be answered. There are many of these people working now to make the new Aden Port and Free Zone a reality. Have faith in them. Help them overcome the obstacles. Support their efforts in any way you can so that one day soon we can all stand side by side and view with pride what our hands together have done.
By: William A. Tolbert,
President, Meneren Corporation.



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