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INSIDE Sheikh Ghalib Al-Ajda' on the needs of Marib Region. Page 3. Preparing for the 1997 Parliamentary Elections. Pages 5. Earmarking \$20 Million for Aden Airport. Pages 7. INDIA: A Giant Awakens. Page 9.

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German Officials Converge on Yemen

Sanaa is flooded this week with Germans, and they are not just tourists. Senior German officials are here, each trying to give something to Yemen. Let us make a list:

1. First and foremost, there is Helmut Schäfer, Minister of State at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who has just concluded a four-day visit to Yemen. He met with top officials.
2. There is Dr. Mathius Paetzold, Director of the Middle/Near East Office of the German Academic Exchange, who arrives in Sanaa today, April 1st, on a twelve-day visit. He will meet with Yemeni academicians at Sanaa and Aden universities to discuss cooperation.
3. There is Dr. Heinz Bühler, Director General Director of GDS - German Foundation for International Development. The GDS presently sponsors a workshop entitled "Monitoring of Public Expenditures by Efficiency Control".

4. Mr. Willi Erl, Manager of the German Development Service, also arrived on Wednesday the 27th. This convergence of senior German officials in Sanaa this week is a signal of the interest in supporting the faltering Yemeni economy, and in boosting the reform process. These officials, in addition to other German officials resident in Sanaa, like the GTZ director and others, especially at the embassy, have been meeting together to coordinate German assistance to best meet the needs of Yemen. Today, Germany is Yemen's most important aid partner and has provided over the years, more than 1.3 billion Deutsche Marks in various forms of assistance. More on DED as a model of German assistance on page 5.

Al-Izzy As-Selwi,
Yemen Times.

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Setting a Precedent at the Western District Primary Court in Sanaa Prime Minister's Lawyer Blackmails HWA

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وتقبلوا تحياتنا

م. محمد المخلاني

Proof of Blackmail and Intimidation by Prime Minister's Lawyer

Question: How dirty can Yemeni officials play?
Answer: Very dirty. This is what Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA), a non-profit grass-roots level self-help organization, is discovering in the case it has filed against Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani. The Prime Minister had exceeded his authority and abused his powers when he ordered the closing down of the HWA's women's development center in Hadharem village, and when he abrogated the elected board of the HWA and replaced it with his hand-picked men to run the NGO. For that, the HWA has taken the Prime Minister to court. His lawyers have failed to answer the charge. The Prime Minister's lead defence lawyer, Mr. Mohammed Al-No'my, Deputy Minister of Legal

Affairs, has been filibustering in each of the four hearings, so far, each time raising a procedural issue. Last week, he came up with a new tactic - intimidation. He has used his government post to harass the lawyers of the HWA. As the letter adjacent to this article shows, Mr. Al-No'my has written official letters to the work place of the lead defence lawyer, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaflay. Al-No'my also instigated other government agencies, like the Ministry of Civil Service, to write official letters against the HWA lawyers. The objective is to intimidate the lawyers and blackmail the HWA to make it stop the on-going court case and to agree to an out of court settlement of the case. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of HWA, wants to go ahead with the case to make it a

precedent to protect NGOs in the future. Dr. Al-Mikhlaflay said that he will mobilize internal and external support against the foul tactics of Mr. Al-No'my. "This is very unbecoming of a person whose duty is to uphold the law." In a clarification regarding his statement reported in Yemen Times, Issue 12/95 of March 18th, Dr. Al-Mikhlaflay said, "The story was taken from my presentation to Judge Abdul-Malik Al-Jindary. The words are not those of the judge. Many lawyers and observers are going to attend the next hearing on Wednesday, April 3rd, 1996. Dr. Mikhlaflay said that new lawyers like Ahmed Al-Abiadh, Abdul-Ilah Al-Marwany, Mohammed Al-Soufi, Yassin Abdul-Razzaq, Dr. Hassan Mujally and others will join the defence counsel.

Government Officials Continue to Fight Growth of NGOs

The Foreign Ministry has issued a circular to all embassies and foreign donor missions as well as international organizations advising them not to deal directly with or assist local Non Governmental Organizations - NGOs. (Please refer to the adjacent copy of the circular). "Yemeni government officials are swimming against the current," said an ambassador describing the circular. But the real truth behind the effort seems to be the desire of corrupt officials to protect their interests and powers. They have been living off commissions on projects financed by international donors and the Yemeni government. Kick-backs to officials are an important component of projects implemented with international aid.

The world is moving steadily towards dealing with NGOs. It is more direct, more cost-effective, involves small immediate-impact projects. Above all, direct direction removes the middle man - government officials who usually pocket a good part of the money. "If the money is supposed to go to explicitly targeted groups, why shouldn't the donors channel it directly to them?" an ambassador of an aid-donor Western country in Sanaa said. Can Yemeni officials really tell the donors who they can give their money to? Of course they can, and they will raise issues of national sovereignty in an attempt to hide their desire to protect their selfish interests!

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وزارة الخارجية
القاهرة

لقد وردت وزارة الخارجية الجمهورية اليمنية طلباً من السيد...
الذي كلفه المبعوث الدبلوماسي والقنصلي المتمتع بمناصب المنظمات الدولية والاقليمية بمهام...
وتود الوزارة الاحاطة بان بعض الجمعيات والمنظمات الجماهيرية تقوم با لاتصال ببعض المبعوثات الدبلوماسية والقنصليات المتمتع...
وتتسلم منها مبالغاً غير قانونية من وزارة التامينات والضمان الاجتماعي...
بالاضافة الى قيام بعض منظمات هذه الجمعيات والمنظمات بحفر سدود...
واجتماعات تشغف بعض القوى المدنية بحجة انهم يتكلمون للمنظمات...
والجمعيات الغير حكومية بما يهددها بالقانون رقم (١١) لسنة ١٩٩٢م الذي...
حدد صلاحيات وزارة التامينات والضمان الاجتماعي في حق الاصدار...
وا لاتراف على التامينات والمنظمات الجماهيرية وعدم قيامها با لاتصال...
او الحصول على اي دعم خارجي الا بعد موافقتها...
فتمم الوزارة شاكراً الخدم بعدم تقديم اي دعم لاية جمعية...
او منظمة جماهيرية باسم تلك منظمات مؤلفة من وزارة التامينات...
والضمان الاجتماعي وان تفضل تلك الموافقة عبر وزارة الخارجية وذلك...
حرصاً منها على الاحتفاظاً من تلك الاموال لتدعم الفئات الاجتماعية...
التي تحتاجه لئلا هذا الدعم بالاطراف الى عدم التماثل مع اي منظمات...
هذه الجمعيات والمنظمات باسم لدية سند قانوني سنن وزارة...
التامينات والضمان الاجتماعي طبقاً لما عليه القانون المذكور...
بمعاليمه...
وتتفضل الوزارة هذه الفرصة للاعراب عن صادق احترامها...
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OUR VIEWPOINT

Democracy versus Democratizing

In many discussions with Western officials and diplomats, one would feel their favorable attitude towards regimes that are friendly to Western interests. That is logical. But Westerners shy away from justifying such attitude on purely economic self-interest grounds. They use the facade of democracy - such as elections and political pluralism - to justify their position. Again here, the presentation is plausible.

There is one problem. Countries unfriendly to the West have learned the tricks. Now they too are able to use the same facade and tactics. Let me throw in examples.

1. Political Pluralism:

Did you know that political pluralism exists in Iraq, Syria, etc? There are at least half a dozen political parties authorized in each of them. These have offices, newspapers, etc.

2. Elections:

Did you know that Iraq, Sudan, Iran, etc., have recently held presidential and parliamentary elections? Did you know that in each case, foreign observers were invited to watch the competition among numerous candidates for each post?

3. Press Freedom:

Did you know that there are 'independent' newspapers in Syria, Algeria, Iran, etc.? Did you know that these newspapers, including the government-owned ones, run stories critical of various government officials and their decisions?

Now, why does the West view the 'democracy' of Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Syria, etc., in a different light than that of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia or Yemen? Of course, I may be pushing the point a bit too far, and I may be comparing oranges and apples. I contend, however, that these countries are in the same lot. They just represent different shades of the same spectrum.

In this regard, let me make two main points:

1. I think the final arbiter of a real democracy is the ability of society to achieve a peaceful transfer of power from one ruler to another, through direct and free public elections. The rule of law and accountability are part and parcel of everyday civil society. Finally, decentralization of power, whether in terms of competing and viable power forces at the center or in terms of local influence groups in the regions, is an important indicator of a democratic society. Unless these elements - in addition to political pluralism, elections, press freedom, etc. - exist in a society, we cannot claim to have democracy.

2. There is no such thing as a democratizing regime. You either have it, or you don't. Look at East Europe and the Far East. From totalitarian dictatorships, they have moved to democracies. If democratizing is taken in the sense of learning how to improve the systems, we can use the term democratizing. In that same sense, even Britain and the USA are democratizing; i.e., they are working to perfect their democracies.

I will conclude with Yemen. I feel Yemen can move ahead. To achieve that, we need a more forceful interaction from the West in helping our people secure the real conditions for democracy. Many dictators are waiting to see what happens to a regime which reneges even on the facade of democracy. If one can get away with it, then in a domino effect, they will all revert back to the old ways. I hope the West won't allow this to happen, and I hope my Yemen does not become the first country to try to renege on the facade.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Mohammed Y. Al-Rowaishan in Court for Embezzling University Teachers

Last week, Mohammed Yahia Al-Rowaishan was taken to the Southwestern District Court of Sanaa City for embezzlement of YR 4,440,000. According to case No. 71 of 1995, Al-Rowaishan had entered into an agreement on 11/10/1986 with professors and staff of Sanaa University to sell them land for constructing homes for themselves. He received the money at the time, but failed to give the land in spite of repeated appeals and pleas.

Mr. Al-Rowaishan is a major businessman and a powerful sheikh. He does not deny the charge. He says he had given the university professors the land, but they were unable to protect it from unruly tribesmen.

The professors' lawyer, Dr. Hassan Mujally says that is not true. Sheikh Al-Rowaishan sold land to which he does not have legal ownership.

The money out paid ten years ago is estimated to be worth more than twenty times in today's purchasing power.

SOCOTRA Ideas Developed

Following a one-week conference on the island of Socotra, sponsored by Aden University, the local/international participants came up with many ideas as to how to develop the island. These range from an environmental and wildlife/plant sanctuary, to a seaport, to numerous service and infrastructure-related projects. Aden University plans to print in book-form the proceedings and the recommendations of the conference.

Syrian Speaker Concludes Visit

Mr. Abdul-Qader Qaddoorah, Speaker of the Syrian Parliament, and the accompanying delegation left Yemen following a three-day visit. He extended to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Yemeni Speaker, to visit Damascus.

Yemeni Hajjis Start their Journey

Some six thousand Yemenis will perform the Haj (pilgrimage) to Mecca this year. The first batch will leave on the 4th of current April. The Haj this year will fall around the 27th of April.

Oman Offers \$21 m to Build Road Linking It to Yemen

The Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman have signed an agreement according to which Oman will put up \$ 21 million towards the construction of the road connecting the two countries. The two countries also signed an agreement to set up a customs-free zone at Al-Mazyoonah village, at the border.

Saudi Arabia Pushes Yemeni Laborers to Death

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been rounding up Yemenis who do not have legal residence permits. Some 200 such persons were packed in one large truck last month. "We were put in a double decker-like truck used to carry livestock and driven off to the border," said one of the victims. Unfortunately, the truck did not make safely. It overturned, killing 44 persons and injuring some 100. The Saudi driver was not hurt.

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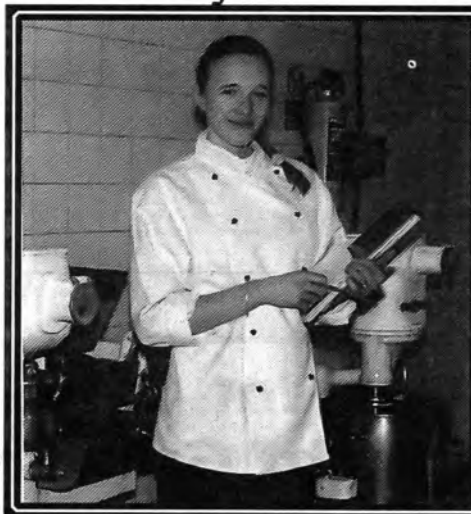
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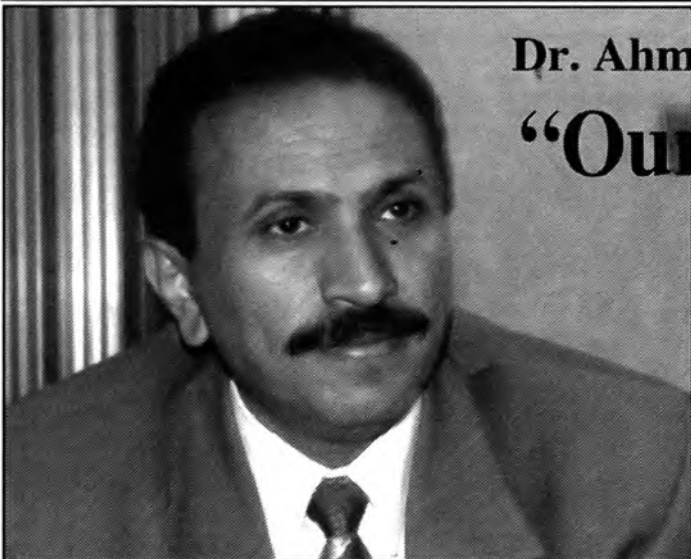
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Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishary:

“Our success depends on Finance Ministry.”

One of the most important financial institutions in the government is the General Authority for Insurance and Pensions, (GAIP) which has been a source of controversy. Its officials have been subjected to repeated scrutiny by the House of Representatives. Recently, Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Bishary was named Chairman of the GAIP. Ahmed is professor of economics at Sanaa University. He is also a member of the General Committee of the People's General Congress. One friend described Dr. Al-Bishary as the man with many friends. To steer back the PASSP to the right course, Dr. Al-Bishary will need all the friends he can get. He talked to the Yemen Times, as under.

Q: In March, the House of Representatives approved the Law of Social Security. Is this a new law?

A: The Law for Social Security

and Pensions was issued by Republican decree in 1991. It is one of the unification decrees issued by the government. What you referred to is the ratification of Parliament in keeping with Article 119 of the Constitution.

Q: Does this entail that the law requires amendments, in your opinion?

A: Yes, indeed. As you know the law had been passed in rather great haste. Moreover, the experience with the law so far, shows the need for some amendments. An example is the rate deducted from public employees and the private sector staff. Government employees contribute 12% of their basic pay (6% payable by the state, and 6% by the employee) towards their pension, whereas private sector employees contribute 15%. Another difference is that the 12% is paid to the GAIP, while the 15% goes to the Public Corporation for Social Security. This differences in rates causes confusion when the effected staff member transfers from the private to public

service or vice versa. This problem will become more acute in view of the trend towards privatization, which leads to transfer of manpower from the government service to private employers.

The composition of the Board of Directors is another problem. The seniority of the officials involved makes the board look like a small Government Cabinet. Involved are 5 ministers, two of whom are Deputy Prime Minister level, the Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, and the Chairman of the GAIP. While the decisions taken by the Board are important, it goes without saying that several decisions of less significant nature have to await until very busy people find time. We are now preparing for a Board meeting that has not convened since 1992!

Q: Can you give us an idea as how many people are insured with the Authority?

A: The Authority is concerned with managing the pensions of all employees in government, the public sector and mixed sector enterprise, whose exact number nobody knows. We are now working diligently to adjust (read, raise) the pensions of some 28,000 persons recently retired according to the government's decisions. We are also working on the transfer of some 35,000 government employees who have qualified for early retirement, in accordance with the government's reform program.

Q: This presents a heavy burden on the Authority. Are you able to pay out so much in pensions?

A: With regards to those who have been put on retirement and who fall within the dictates of the law, there is no problem, because the funds collected from them over the years, should suffice. The problem arises when we refer to the retired persons who have not fulfilled the requirements of the law. An additional question is what if the Ministry of Finance fails to meet its obligations. (The money is with the ministry, and the GAIP can't draw on it). Our ability to meet our commitments to the retirees depends on cooperation from the Ministry. I have no qualms in stating that, to date, the Ministry of Finance has failed to meet any of its obligations to the authority. Its dues to GAIP run in the billions of Yemeni Riyals. This is in the form of advances and credit provided by the GAIP to help finance the Ministry's deficits. We are now trying to get the Ministry pay up YR 5 billions to the Pension Fund.

Q: In addition, we understand the GAIP is sitting on a lot of cash. Don't you think you should invest the money?

A: It is true our account with the Central Bank of Yemen shows a credit of more than YR 10 billion. We are now completing the necessary studies that will help us determine how best to invest these funds. We are going

to use all the expertise to complete these studies.

Q: What kind of investments are you considering?

A: We have an ambitious plan in this respect which we intend to present to the Board of Directors in its next meeting. The plan contains projects in various sectors. These include housing projects for the teaching staff at Sanaa and Aden Universities. We have a similar project for housing for banking staff. You can see we are oriented towards people who can pay back the loans. We rely on projects that are economically feasible and provide returns. The minimum return is the interest rates offered by the Central Bank. We also considering 2 projects which consist of large parking lots in the heart of Sana'a. We are looking for suitable sites in the congested areas such as Tahreer Square and Jamal and Abdul Moghni Streets.

Q: Is there cooperation or areas of conflict between the various pension funds in the country?

A: There are 4 pension funds in existence at the moment. The GAIP handles the government staff's pension fund. Then there is the fund for private sector employees. Third, there is the pension fund for the military personnel. And finally, there is the fund for the security forces run by the Ministry of Interior. No coordination between these funds exists. I called to the first

meeting of the heads of these funds last February, in an effort to solve problem of transfer of staff from one sector to another. We also assessed the investment opportunities available to us and the administrative and technical aspects to managing investment portfolios and studies. We hope additional meetings will be arranged in the future. Immediate and effective coordination is needed between the GAIP and the Corporation for Social Security. These two bodies should be under one Board of Directors, during the discussion on the 1996 budget, the House of Representatives demanded that the GAIP and the Corporation be merged. Most countries have one pension fund that handles the pensions of all civilian employment.

Q: What problems are particular to the GAIP?

A: There are, of course, the routine problems, and there are those problems which require much patience and tact. The main thing is convincing the Ministry of Finance to pay up to allow us meet our obligations to the employees. We are also trying to get the Ministry of Finance to deduct centrally all the dues to the GAIP directly rather than have each authority handle its own deductions. Another problem has to do with the lack of awareness on the part of employers and employees regarding social security. For example, only 30% of the private sector employees are covered.

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RAAD SALIM

First of
2-Part Article

In a YIDD/CFS Seminar in Sanaa Last Week:

Discussing the Ground Rules for the 1997 Elections

Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy, (YIDD) kicked off the two-day seminar. "The purpose is to study the 1993 parliamentary elections, and draw lessons in order to minimize irregularities. Even though the 1993 were a bitter harvest to a large extent, they were a milestone in our political evolution. Let us take our evolution one step further in the right direction in the 1997 elections," he said.

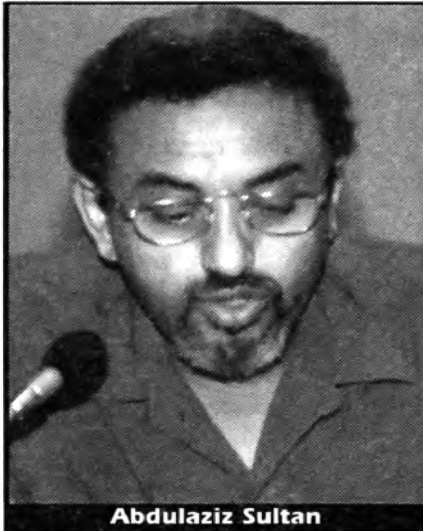
For two days (March 27+28, 1996), the YIDD/CFS organized seminar brought together prominent politicians from the government, opposition and independent intellectuals.

The first substantive paper was presented by Abdulaziz Sultan. He provided a detailed analysis of the results of the 1993 elections, and showed the results would have been different under the different election systems. One interesting analysis he made was of the election results if we compare the popular votes and the number of seats each of the political parties achieved, as shown in the table below:

Comparing Present Seats in Parliament & by Popular Votes

Political Party's Name	% of Popular Votes	Seats by Popular Votes	Present Number of Seats
PGC	29.0%	86	122
YSP	18.6%	56	56
Islah	17.2%	51	62
Baath	3.6%	11	7
Nasserite	2.4%	7	1
Al-Haq	.8%	3	2

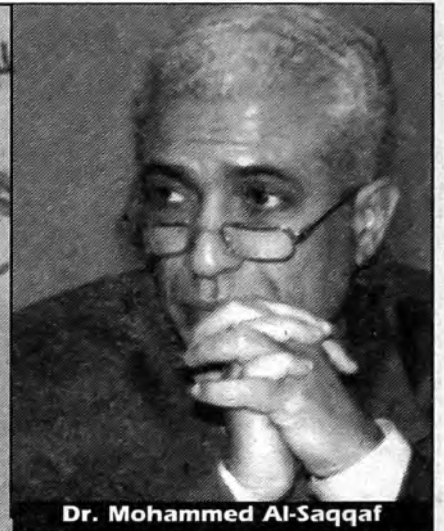
The discrepancy is very clear. Some parties are represented a lot more than their real support base, while for other parties, the opposite is true. He attributed to gerrymandering as the main cause for this injustice.



Abdulaziz Sultan



Dr. Mohammed Sharafuddeen



Dr. Mohammed Al-Saqqaf



Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi, Vice Prime Minister, Attended the Inauguration Session of the Conference

The second paper was presented by Dr. Ahmed Sharafuddeen, a professor of law at Sanaa University. In direct support of the results reached by the first paper, Dr. Sharafuddeen reviewed the various systems of elections process and indicated that the country is best served if the smaller parties are adequately represented to match their support base. "If the country had a slightly stronger opposition -

and would actually reflect the reality - our democracy would have been functioning more smoothly," he wrote. He then worked out a new hybrid system which brings the present system with that proposed by the intellectuals. He then showed how the results would have been different - in close parallel to the pattern of popular votes. He warned against gerrymandering which would let the ruling

politicians dominate the political scene through the elections. The third speaker was Dr. Mohammed Al-Saqqaf. He demanded three changes in the present elections laws, as follows: First, the naturalized Yemenis should be able to exercise their rights as any other citizen. "They should not be made to wait for fifteen after being naturalized in order to exercise their citizen-

ship rights. Second, there are several million Yemenis abroad who are unable to interact with the country's elections. "We should make allowances for their participation either through embassies or any other means." Third, the results of the past elections show that the quality and abilities of the elected members is inadequate. Therefore, the law should reserve a quota for highly

educated individuals and for women - as a transitional requirement - in order to ensure their participation. Floor discussions further enriched the issues. Both the ruling and opposition parties presented their views on the elections and papers. Next week, more papers will be reviewed.

Yusuf Sharif, Yemen Times

DED: A Model of Yemeni-German Cooperation

On the occasion of the arrival of Mr. Willi Erl, Manager of the German Development Service (DED) in Berlin, at Sana'a, Yemen Times is happy to write about an institution which has been helping Yemen for more than 25 years with substantial development aid. Mr. Erl will attend the annual general meeting of GDS Yemen that will take place between March, 30 until April, 1st at the Taj Sheba Hotel.

The DED: A Short History:

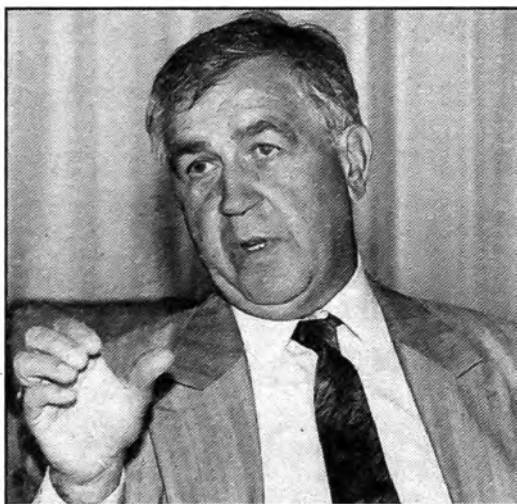
The German Development Service was established in 1963, in the decade which the United Nations had optimistically declared a "Development Decade". With the colonial era drawing to a close, the newly independent "infant-states" needed external support. The aim of the UN initiative was to encourage joint international efforts to combat mass poverty in the Third World and close the social gap between the rich North and the poor South.

This idea was adopted in the Federal Republic of Germany as in many other Western countries. But the West's hopes that underdevelopment could be overcome quickly were no fulfilled. The development model of the successful industrialized nations could not be transferred to Third World conditions. Through into the 90's, there are only a handful of countries from the South which have come near to achieving their development goals - most are poorer than ever.

The German Development Service (DED) supports programs in many countries of the Third World, with the purpose of improving the living conditions of the people and of contributing to national autonomy.

DED Philosophy:

For 30 years, qualified and dedicated men and women have collaborated in government and private projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The DED also assists local organizations and self-help initiatives through financial and/or logistical



support and promotes local expertise. Being a non-profit organization, the DED's priorities are always to serve the interests of its Third World partners, to respect their right to self-determination and their responsibility for their own futures.

The importance of international development work is, of course, appraised in a realistic way. Compared to the global economic environment and the efforts being undertaken by Third World countries themselves, development cooperation has only a modest and complementary role to play. Negative experiences with costly, large-scale projects and doubts about global solutions have led to new development strategies based on a step by step approach more in line with the basic needs of the people.

This concept has guided the DED's work from the start and it has stood the test of time. It includes cooperation with local organizations, manageable programs integrated into the structures of the host country, close professional and human contact

between development workers and target groups, and support for self-determined development. However, the DED has also changed over the year and found new answer to the varying requirements of its partners in the Third World. It co-operation has become both more versatile and more flexible: "idealistic volunteers" have given way to "socially-committed development workers", whilst regional and programmatic priorities have shifted as the challenges faced have changed. But help towards self-help still remains the guiding principle.

DED in Yemen

The legal basis for cooperation is a general agreement between the governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Germany in which DED is entrusted with the task of providing development workers. This government agreement was signed in June 1979.

DED only operates upon written requests of a local partner and with the agreement of the Ministry of Planning and Development. The Resident Representative of DED in the Republic of Yemen is Mr. Gerd Winkelhane.

Since then, almost 200 German development workers, all specialized in particular professions, have worked in the country in various fields of development. The ultimate aim of this cooperation is to support Yemeni partner institutions to improve services for the people and to increase their standard of living.

At present, 30 development workers are working in various institutions in different governorates of the Republic of Yemen, such as 6 Health Centers and Rural Hospitals in Amran, Dhibin, Maswar Hajjah, Manakha, Rehab al-Qafr, and Qadas al-Kadarah, the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) in Sana'a, the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning (in Sana'a, Aden and Mahweet), and the National Beekeeping Project in Taiz.

DED Development Workers:

DED offers professionally experienced and ded-

icated personnel. All DED development workers have completed their vocational training or studies and have several years of working experience. The average age is about 38 years.

All development workers are selected by DED on the basis of their vocational and personal qualifications. They attend specially conducted orientation and training courses for their work, both in Germany and in the Republic of Yemen.

During this preparation period, which lasts for a minimum of six months, emphasis is put on learning the Arabic language, acquiring knowledge of the host country's socio-cultural values, and general awareness of development problems and questions. In addition, development workers are prepared to be able to live and work in a new setting and environment. A special course on tropical diseases is provided for development workers seconded to health projects.

The development workers spend at least 2 years in the Republic of Yemen and may extend their contracts, if the local partner wishes so.

All development workers, independently of their professional qualification, receive the same subsistence allowance from DED, as well as full social security and repatriation assistance upon their return to Germany. In addition, DED covers their international travel costs.

DED: The Focus:

The German Development Service has been concentrating on those sectors which have a direct bearing on the quality of life of the people of Yemen. Therefore, it has been assisting in the fields of health, community development, vocational training, education, cottage industries, management and administration, agriculture and forestry housing and urban planning, and infrastructure.

In addition DED supports non-governmental organizations such as youth organizations, women's groups and other self-help groups. DED is just one of several German organizations involved in development assistance to Yemen.

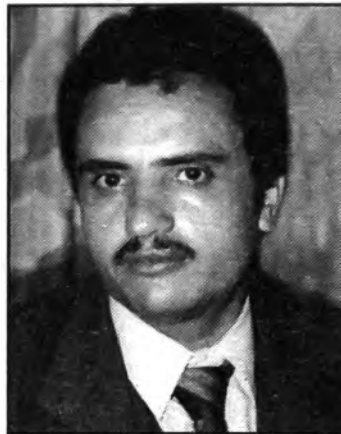
Common Sense

This week by: Ismail Al-Ghabry

Impressions from the Sudanese Elections

Sudan, Africa's largest country, carried out parliamentary and presidential elections during 6-17 of March, 1996. That was the seventh parliamentary election, and the first presidential election taking place in Sudan since its independence in 1953. Many Arab, African, European, American observers as well as

representatives of international organizations attended all the phases of the elections process. It was an open and clean process. Whatever grudges any one may have against the Sudanese regime, one cannot but conclude that the elections and their results reflected truly the wishes of the Sudanese people.



While in the country, I spoke to all kinds of people - rulers, opposition, independents, Islamicists, secularists, southerners, northerners, etc. In spite of the differences and diversity, one can see that there is a new feeling in the air. Let me use a few of the interviews to substantiate:

Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi:

Dr. Al-Turabi is the mentor of the Islamic movement in the Sudan. I did not know what kind of picture I had of the man, but given the international media reports, it was not sympathetic. But I changed my mind after talking to him. To me, he - more than any other person - represents the epitome of the Sudanese Muslim intellectual. The soft-spoken Turabi is a man of vision, even if you don't agree with his vision. "We are trying to implement what we think is best for us. This is derived mainly from Islamic values. Why is the West upset with this experiment? Why is the West trying to clone all nations according to its vision of the world should be like?" he asked. He questions the integrity of the West in forcing "their model on us". Given the election results, he added, "We have a mandate for the next four years. Sudan needs to proceed with what it had started. Once completed, we can

then pass judgement on what we hope to achieve." Mr. Al-Turabi indicated that he does believe in a rigid Islam. "I believe in dynamism. Religion and its teachings must help people in bettering their lives. It is this objective of betterment of people's lives that must govern our understanding of Islam and its values," he said. Finally, with respect to human civilization and relations, he indicated that the human civilization is an accumulation of the contributions of various nations. "All peoples of the world of all religions and colors have contributed to the reserve of human knowledge - what we call civilization. So in reality, today's civilization is not the product of the West alone, it includes the contributions of all past nations and civilizations. That is why it is absurd to doubt our sincere interest in interacting with the current civilization and its champions," Dr. Turabi added.

Mohammed Al-Amin Khalifah:

Mohammed Al-Amin Khalifah is a military man converted civilian. He was the head of the former parliament. "We discussed at length what kind of system to apply. The controversy was highest regarding the election of the president. Many people had different ideas. Not only did the parliament members discuss among themselves, but we also invited all kinds of people to give us their opinion. In the final analysis, we decided that a direct and popular vote was the best way to go about it," he said. The parliament had many thorny issues to handle. There was the concept of leadership (wilaya) as stipulated in Islam. There was the issue of the South, and how to handle that objectively and fairly. There was a doubting West which mobilizes the world against us, and how to react to such aggression and violation of our sovereignty.

Options for Family Care, John Snow, Inc.

P. O. Box 4239 • Sana'a, Republic of Yemen • 967-1-275503/4 • Fax: 967-1-276876

Computer Services Required

The Options for Family Care Project, implemented by John Snow, Inc. (JSI), is seeking a computer consultant to provide the following services: training for maximum use of network capabilities and use of software; how to establish and utilize E-Mail; trouble shooting for hardware and software problems that arise; ordering and servicing of additional equipment. The eight computers currently in use are Gateway 2000, Pentium processor with 8MB of RAM. JSI also uses Dell and Compaq laptop computers and Hewlett Packard printers. The Options For Family Care (OFC) Project operates in four governorates - Hajjah, Hodeidah, Hadhramaut, and Lahej with its central office in Sana'a. The Company/individual awarded this service contact will be required to travel to these areas for servicing of computers and training. Consultant will begin work on scheduled daily or weekly basis until initial work is complete and then on "on-call" as difficulties and servicing needs are required. Interested parties should send a letter of interest and references to the address above or by fax to the attention of Janne Hicks, OFC Program Specialist.

Deadline is April 10, 1996.



"In the final analysis, we have been able to rise up to the moment and create something of which all Sudanese can be proud of. We have carried out elections in all of the Sudan in a fair and clean way," he said. He indicated that all kinds of foreigners were invited to come and go wherever they wanted. "They were even encouraged to check out the way the elections were going. They spoke to all kinds of people."

John Aboa:

John is a southern intellectual who was a former rebel. "I used

to fight along side the forces of Garang and the others. Finally, I decided I could better help my people in the South if I worked through the system. I think that was a correct decision," he said. Mr. Aboa was on the board of the elections supervisory committee. He was especially active in the southern governorates. "We are interested in creating a certain degree of self-rule, away from the hegemony of the northerners. But that will be within the one-nation system."

The elections were a landmark in the country's political evolution.

Video Library

This month the British Council will start a video lending and showing facility. This will commence on 1st April 1996.

The British Council video library offers a unique collection of over 300 videos and consists on a wide range of topics.

Membership is open to Yemeni residents of any nationality over the age of 18 and is by annual subscription. There are four types of membership:

Student	1000YR	1 video
Yemeni	2000YR	1 video
Foreigner	4000YR	1 video
Family	6000YR	3 videos

The loan period is for one week. A refundable deposit of \$20 is payable when the first video is loaned.

Videos will also be shown fortnightly in the British Council library. Entrance is free and anyone is welcome to attend. April's programme is as follows:

1st April	3pm	Pickwick Papers	children's film
1st April	7.30pm	Oliver Twist	feature film
15th April	3pm	Lord of the Lions	education
15th April	7.30pm	Robin Hood Men in Tights	feature film

Exhibition

This months exhibition to be held in the British Council library is entitled **Muslims in Britain**. It is open to the public from 1st -25th April 1996 during library opening hours

This exhibition looks at the Islamic community in Britain. It is a photographic display which includes information in English and Arabic.

The British Council

As-Sabain Street
PO Box 2157
Sana'a, Yemen
Telephone: 244 121/2 Fax: 244 120

April Cultural Events



THE RED SEA FLOUR MILLS - HODEIDAH THE MOHAMED ABDO RABO GROUP A GIANT CORPORATION GROWS FURTHER

Sana'a: Phone: 240702-240952; Tlx: 2780; Fax: 263086; P.O. Box 2528.
Hodeidah: Phone: 3-232465; Tlx: 5661; Fax: 211551; P.O. Box 4015.
Khartoum: Phone: 74569/ 74610/ Tlx: 22369; Fax: 74561; P. O. Box 11926.
Port Sudan: 74562; Tlx: 70071; P. O. Box 160.
Phone: 2630/ 2979/ 4465;

صفاء: ت: ٢٤.٧٠٢ - ٢٤.٩٥٢ تلکس: ٢٧٨٠ تاجیل یمن فاکس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ ص.ب. ٢٥٢٨
الحديدة: ت: ٢/٢٢٢٤٦ تلکس: ٥٦٦١ أبوجبة یمن فاکس: ٢١١٥٥١ ص.ب. ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تلکس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سیحان فاکس: ٧٤٥٦١ ص.ب. ١١٩٢٦
پورسودان: ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تلکس: ٧٠٠٧١ یارن فاکس: ٧٤٥٦١ ص.ب. ١٦٠

"US\$20 Million for Projects at Aden Int'l Airport."

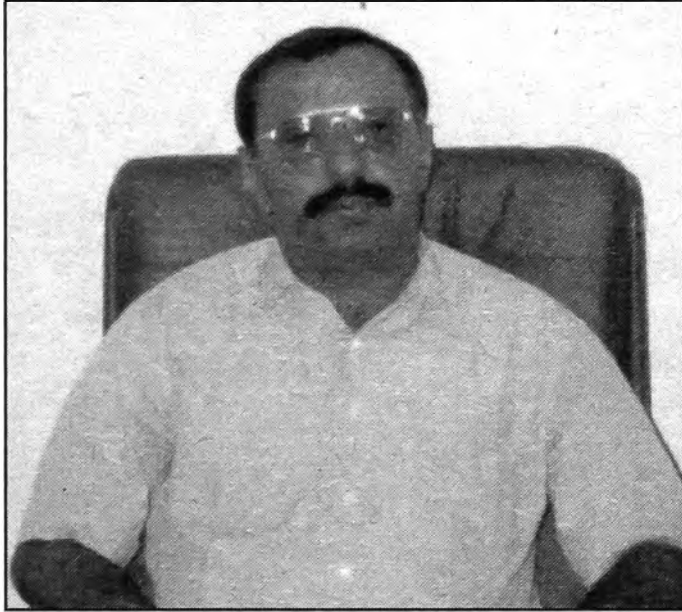
"The 1996 government budget Alongwith loan agreement already signed allow for a handsome allocation for the development, expansion and improvement of the Aden International Airport," explained Mr. Mohammed Jumai, General Manager of the airport.

In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, the airport official disclosed that some US\$ 26 million are allocated for Aden International Airport (AIA). Mr. Jumai indicated that the business prospects of the airport make it necessary to undertake immediate expansions and improvements. "Actually, such expansions and improvements were scheduled to take place during 1995. But the aftermath of the secessionist war and the destruction to which the airport was exposed did not allow progress according to schedule," he added.

The airport authority is preparing the tender documents for expansion of the airport and facilities. "This will be financed through a \$14 million loan from the World Bank. The formalities are completed, and we are now in the process of announcing the tenders," the general manager indicated.

In addition, a French group is completing the lighting of the airport. This project is financed through a FF 17 million loan agreement with the French government. "Within the next few days, we should start the trial phase of the lighting system of the airport. We are now extending cables to connect the various parts of the airport," Mr. Jumai stated.

Among the projects that will be financed through government resources is the runway. "We are planning an extension and improvement of the present runway. This will be carried out once the lighting and other cables



have been put in place," the official pointed out. In addition, the AIA official said that his office has presented to the government details of the needs for communications and fire equipment. "There is also some construction that needs to be done as the main building of the airport was hit during the civil war."

"Given the role anticipated for Aden to play, and the successful completion of the Free Zone agreement, we expect the services of Aden International Airport will be in ever greater demand."

Indeed, already the number of domestic and international flights has increased, the volume of cargo has risen, and the number of passengers has grown.

In response to a Yemen Times question regarding the hassle of passengers and travellers by the many government and security people, at the airport, Mr. Jumai said that he and his colleagues work hard to solve all problems.

"My office is open at all times, and we try to solve problems smoothly. But coming in the aftermath of a civil war, you should expect extra inspection," the official said.

He also indicated that some citizens abuse the system. "There are people who engage in smuggling currency, others come in with loads of taxable goods and they don't want to declare anything. Some may have illegal goods. There are reasons why there are extra searching at Aden airport. The experience has proven the need for this," he confirmed.

Mr. Jumai, however, was optimistic and he said that the procedures will loosen up, and they already have. "The main thing is that we have the support of the leadership of the country in making progress at the airport."

By: **Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf**, Aden Bureau Chief, Yemen Times.

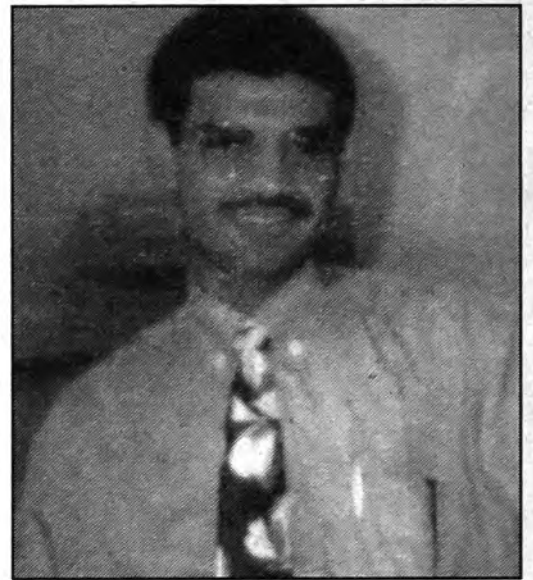
YEMINCO Celebrates Signing of Final Agreement on Aden Free Zone

On 28th March, 1996, the Yemen Investment Development Company (YEMINCO) celebrated the signing of the final agreement on the Aden Free Zone project. On hand to partake in the enjoyment were Mr. Dirhem Noman, Vice Chairman of the General Authority for Free Zones (GAFZ) and President of the Aden Free Zone, and Mr. Waheed Rasheed, Deputy Governor of Aden, other senior officials, dignitaries, the diplomatic corps, businessmen, journalists, and others Notable persons to attend were

Mr. Osama Bawazeer, Director General of YEMINCO, told the Yemen Times, "We are happy to celebrate this occasion with the people of Aden in particular, and the people of Yemen, in general." Indeed, the whole city of Aden felt like rejoicing in the successful completion of the long and hard negotiations.

"For over three months, we have been negotiating the agreement with the GAFZ," he said. "We are happy that we have finally succeeded."

"We are not going to waste any time. We are going to go ahead with the work immediately," he added. Indeed Aden and Yemen are waiting impatiently for the fruits of this important effort.

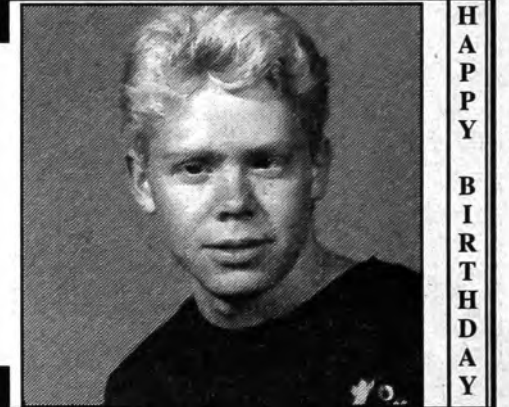


Happy Sixteen SANTIAGO

On the 17th of March, **Santiago Gonzalez El-Zaim** celebrated his 16th birthday.

Family, friends and all with the young man a long, happy and prosperous life.

Happy Sixteen SANTIAGO



The TUMBLE & the RECOVERY

By: **Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**, Yemen Times.

Last week, the foreign exchange market went crazy. The ruckus was caused by the receipt of the Cental Bank of Yemen the first installment from a total cash loan of \$193 million which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had authorized on Wednesday, March 20th. In addition, the CBY has been accumulating reserves by buying dollars in small bits from the local market. The signal for CBY intervention

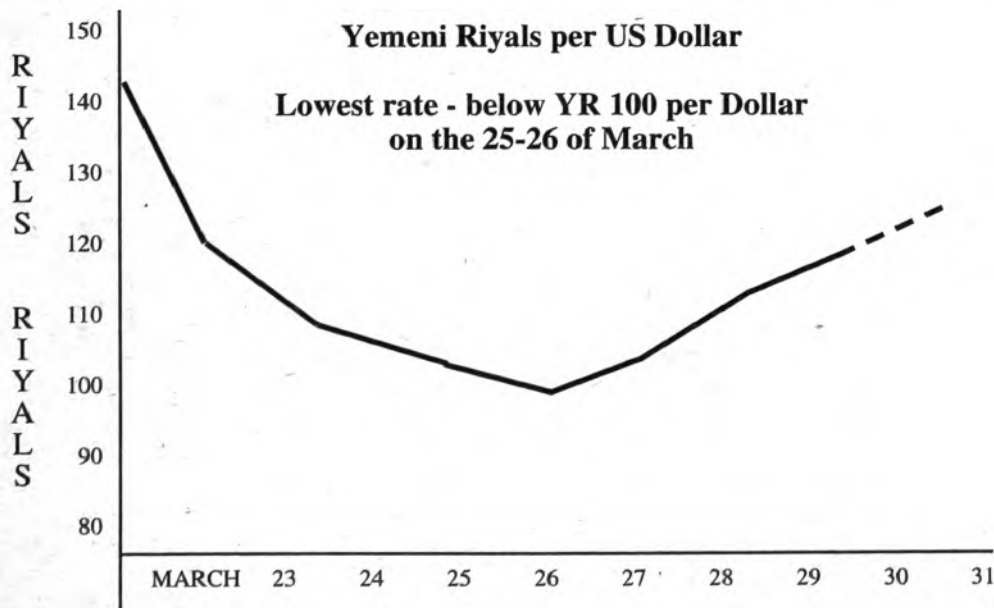
to push the dollar rate down came when Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani gave his economic policy statement in Aden. He explicitly stated: "We will push the dollar's exchange rate to below YR 100, and maintain it there," he said.

That bold statement drove the jittery dealers to panic, and the rate plummeted. To maintain the downward pressure, the CBY started selling daily \$2-3 million for a few days. The rate fell rapidly until it dipped below the YR 100 mark (see graph).

But once the ten million dollars or so which were thrown in by the CBY were quickly absorbed, the market started forcing the rate up again. In a matter of days since the curve hit bottom point on March 25-26, the rate was back to around YR 130 per US dollars. And it is still rising.

A frustrated CBY has stopped ploughing more dollars. the rate will fall. Unless the CBY continues to do so, it will recover shortly thereafter.

Folks, you are better off holding on to your greenbacks!



تعازينا الحارة

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره ، نتقدم إلى
 الشيخ عبدالرحمن محمد علي عثمان واخوانه
 بوفاة المغفور لها عمه الأسرة وشقيقة المغفور له
 الشيخ المرجوم محمد علي عثمان
 وهي آخر الرعيل الأول الذي كافح في سبيل اليمن .

تغمدها الله بواسع رحمته ، وأسكنها فسيح جناته
 وألهمنا جميعاً الصبر والسلوان ، وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسিয়ون:

الشيخ عبدالسلام شمسان ، الشيخ عبدالرحمن احمد نعمان ،
 الشيخ عبدالرحمن صبر ، د/ عبدالوهاب محمود ، د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف

Halaqa is coming ...



Halaqa is primarily a co-ordinating body for cultural events. It aims to liase between individuals and organizations and so facilitate cultural activities, the sharing of skills and knowledge, and more importantly bring them to the attention of a wider community.

There will be a festival this month (20th to 24th April 1996) to officially launch Halaqa.

INDIA: A Giant Awakens

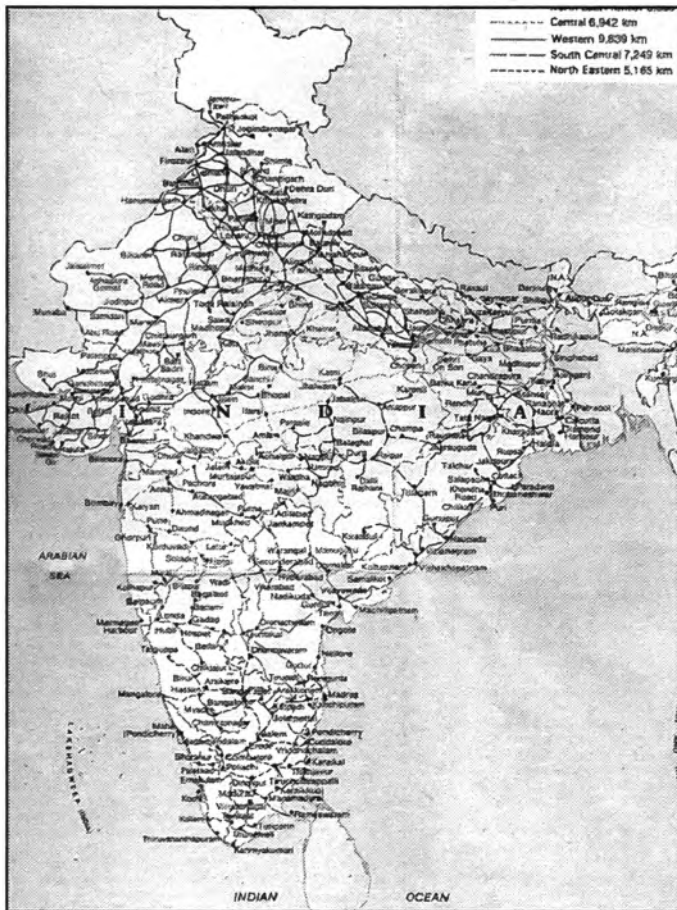
By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

I was there when it happened. The perfect launch of the nearly one-ton space satellite by India some ten days ago. It was a source of much pride and ecstasy for India. The country has firmly claimed its presence among an exclusive club. India is indeed crossing a threshold as it steadily moves to command its rightful place among the leader nations of the 21st century. But that could not have been possible in the past given the isolationist and xenophobic policies. India has come of age, developed self-confidence, and is ready and willing to interact with the world. Since 1991, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has been slowly but firmly opening up the country.

The Economy:

Economic growth in India has been accelerating - averaging at more than 4% per annum. Some would say the economy is heating up. The success is visible in the traditional economic sectors such as agriculture, industry, services, etc. In agriculture, output has been increasing to the extent that the country is exporting grains. In terms of fruits and vegetables, the packing and packaging industry has been competing against time in an effort to export the surplus. In industry, most giant manufacturers worldwide have set up plants. In services, the least advanced of the sectors, the country is trying to catch up. But it is in the advanced razor edge technologies that the country has made enormous headway. In the computer business, India has been producing more than its share of both hardware and software. Bangalore has been tapped as the silicon valley of the nation. In space-related technologies, the hub is at the bay of Bengal. India looks forward to tapping the growing space communications technologies. In the medical field, India supplies the West with a considerable part of its needs of medicine and technical manpower. Foreign investment in the Indian economy has been forcing the door wide open in spite of a reluctant bureaucracy. Last year (1995), the country approved \$9.4 billion of foreign investments, which is double the 1994 figure. Actually the volume of foreign investments in India has been doubling every year since 1991 when the reforms were launched. Most of this has gone into communications, energy, retail/distribution, tourism and transportation projects. In 1996, foreign investment authorized in India is expected to range between \$15-20 billion.

Tourism:

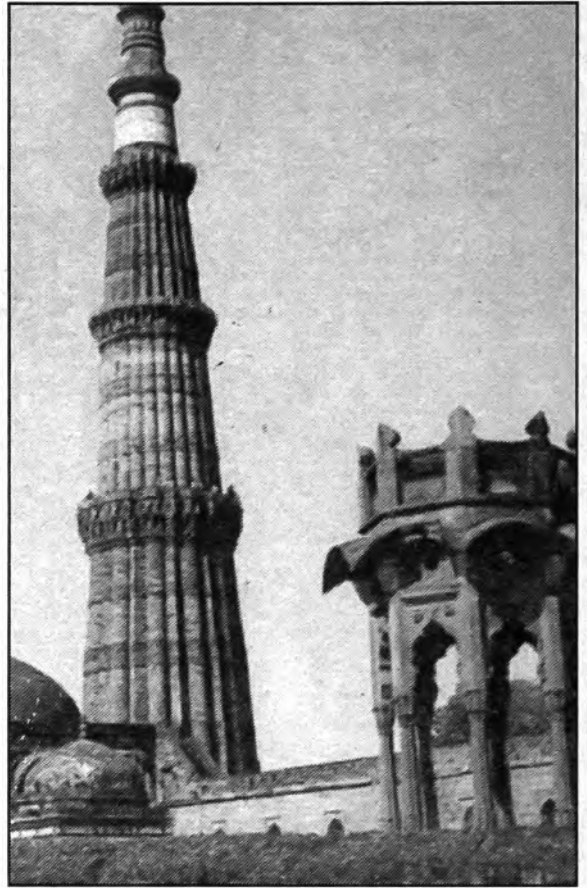


Another important signal of the country's opening up process. The numbers have rising and rising. In 1993, 1,764,830 foreign tourists visited India, in 1994, 1,886,433 tourists visited, and the number for 1995 was 2,123,683. Domestic tourism has also been growing. Although statistics are not as firm, but estimates of internal travelling is put at over 100 million persons in 1995. The country's versatile and numerous attractions make India a favorite destination. From wildlife to magnificent palaces, from snow-covered mountain peaks to vast coastal strips, from lush greenery to arid deserts, from a highly developed folklore and culture to modern amenities - India indeed has much to offer to the visitor. Based on the National Action Plan for Tourism, the country's goal is for India to catch 1% of the world

tourist movement by 1997. The target in terms of net revenue foreign tourism is \$30 million. Tourism is also expected to generate full/part time employment for 20 million persons directly and/or indirectly. According to Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the country is gearing to receive 2.5 million tourists in 1996.

Politics:

India is often referred to as the world's biggest democracy. In terms of population that is quite true, and a democracy it is. Various factors play a major role in the success of India's democracy. These include a fiercely independent Election Commission. The troika running the EC, headed by the infamous Seshan has tried and succeeded in remaining neutral and above the competing political parties. Then there is the judiciary, which has often been called upon to reign in the ruling politicians. Not only that, but the integrity of the justice system has been repeatedly bolstered by holding politicians who stray accountable. A presently famous case in this regard is



very very senior politician said, "They spare no one." The privatization of the radio and television stations will further strengthen an already aggressive newspaper journalist class. Those three factors are important guarantees that Indian democracy will develop and flourish. India looks set to move into the 21st century. It is doing so with confidence and vision. Indeed, the

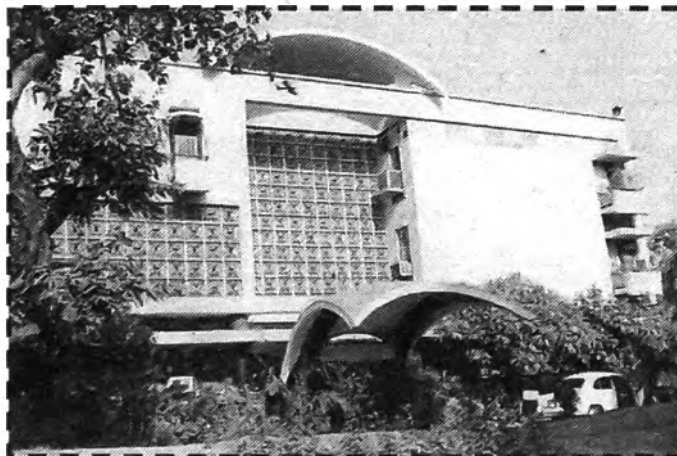


the 'hawala' scandal which has led to the resignation of several key officials. Last but not least, there is the media. Indian media effectively plays its watchdog role. And as one 21st century will herald the leadership role of India among the community of nations. That should not be surprising. With a civilization dating back to some 5000 years, India is a microcosm of the world itself.



The ICCR: A Vital Link Between India & the World

Ms. Meera Shankar was a refreshing change from the meetings I have had in the various offices in New Delhi. The charming young woman is the General Manager of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).



In a confident tone, she explained how the Indian government was trying to fulfill its obligations in assisting the less developed nations. "Every year, we provide over 1000 scholarships from over 70 countries to come to India for studies. In addition, there are some 200 scholarships in special programs," she said.

The ICCR is not just limited to financing foreign students in India. It carries out cultural exchange activities, organizes exhibitions and symposia, sponsors publications and cultural centers, and fosters all kinds of cultural and social exchange between India and the rest of the world.

"We are an autonomous arm of the Indian government. Our mandate is clear. We are into the business of presenting India to the world, and encouraging better understanding which leads to more harmony and cooperation," Meera said.

Evidently, the thrust of the ICCR activities is towards areas and countries which have historic and other ties with India. This covers the immediate neighbors as well as countries as far flung as Fiji, South Africa, the UK, Haiti, etc., where descendants of Indian live in harmony with the local communities.

"In that sense, we have a special link with Yemen, especially Aden. That is why Yemen is the recipient of the highest number of scholarship outside the range of South Asian countries."

Yemen received in 1996, so scholarships (23 on the regular program and 7 on the general cultural program).

"We are very happy with the level of cooperation and the caliber of students coming from Yemen, who often opt for the hard sciences.

"We are eager to further strengthen this cooperation, and we will take all steps towards that end," explained the DG of the ICCR.

And towards that end, she said, she plans to put Yemen on the list of countries she plans to visit later this year.

Sprechen Sie Deutsche ?

Yes folks, you can now learn the language of Goethe in Sanaa. Starting on 06/03/1996, German language classes are being offered at the British Council.

The initiative was taken by German Ambassador Dr. Helga von Strachwitz, and was followed through by the Information/Cultural Attache', - Mr. Christian Antone.

In the first experiment, 37 students were enrolled in three classes - two beginners and one intermediate - all intent to master this heavy-duty language. The male-female classes are a Yemeni majority.

The students are excited. They say they look at their effort as an investment. "The German language is growing in importance. It is the language of some 100 million Germans as well as the second language of at least another 100 million in Central/East Europe," said a student.

Ms. Judith Labs, a teacher of two classes, is highly optimistic about the prospects for German language in Yemen. "I am positively surprised with the enthusiasm among the Yemenis.



This is due to demand for learning Deutsche in Yemen," she stated.

The other teacher, Astrid Rolle-Rimer, said that the early phases of language learning are quite difficult. "This is

especially true of German," she stated. The present courses are scheduled to finish on April 10th.

Yusuf Sharif, Yemen Times.



Come to Taj to Enjoy Exquisite French Food

David Beckett, a native of the UK, has become one of the outstanding specialists on the French cuisine. Over the next few days, residents and visitors of Sanaa will get the opportunity to enjoy some of his sumptuous master-pieces at the Taj Sheba Hotel. That is part of the French Food and Cultural Festival next week.

"We will be offering many dishes. But there are three broad varieties. The fish variety for which we are flying in the salmon, include pave de saumon genevoise, Filet de saumon au caviar d'aubergine, Redsnapper soufflé aux crevettes sauce

eminence, etc.," he explained. In the meat group, the diversity is even more. There is the Cuisse de lapin a la creme de ciboulette, Paleron de boeuf a la mode, Saute de canard aux navets, etc. Then there is the dessert. Again here the assortment has something for every taste. They include Clafoutis aux poires, Tarte aux pommes, Charlotte au chocolat, Miroir au cassis, Bavaroise au fruits, and many more.

What David is promising is a delightful multi-course meal that will bring a part of France to Sanaa. He brings with him an extremely diversified cuisine background that includes the UK, Continental Europe, and the USA. But his specialty is the French cuisine.

Mr. Beckett was pleasantly surprised with the facilities and abilities at the Taj Sheba Hotel kitchen. "I came a little bit early to check out the kitchen. They have here all the main facilities, although some of the European dishes may require the much larger equipment we are used in Europe," he said.



He has yet to try out some of the local dishes, but that is in the plans. "As the world is getting smaller and smaller, many of the cuisines borrow from each other."

Speaking about the obsession with dieting, the British chef blamed it all on the media and the advertizers. "They tell you margarine is better for you than butter. But I know this is not true. Yet people have accepted this fact because of the publicity," he explained. He went on to indicate that the French, for example, eat lots of cheeses (fromage), but that has not made them any less healthy.

David promised delightful and enjoyable meals. "Every evening, we will be serving a different menu. We will provide the whole spectrum of French dishes. It will be fun."

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times

Discussing the Impact of the Government Reform Effort on Women

The British Council has embarked on a drive to help increase the status and public awareness of the role of women in society. That the Council hopes to achieve through a series of workshops, meetings seminars, and gatherings.

The first of the series was held on Wednesday and Thursday - March 27-28, 1996. Some twenty women attended to discuss how the reform programs of the government are affecting the female community.

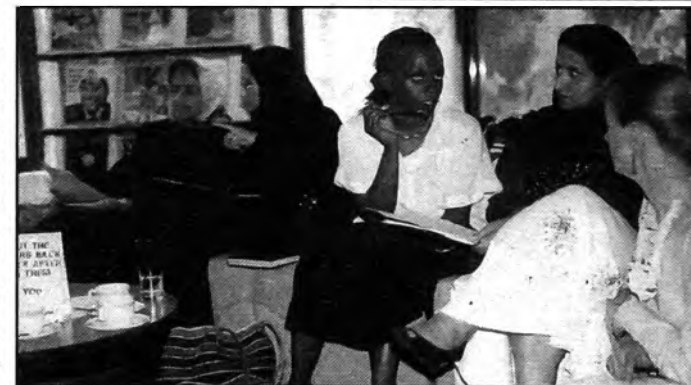
The idea is basically to learn from the experiences of other countries.



According to literature distributed to the women - both in English and Arabic, reforms have different effects on different groups. "70% of the world's poor are women. Poor women face particular cultural, social, and legal obstacles." That is why a gender-blind reform program can fall harder on women than on the rest of society.

The Yemeni women, being more aware of these facts, can bargain and argue better in the future.

Imad Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times



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- Willingness and ability to travel outside Sana'a to rural areas.

Part-Time Translator (15 hours per week):

Based in Sana'a office to be responsible for English and Arabic translations of reports, letters and documents.

Skills required:

- Accurate written Arabic and English,
- Computer literate with knowledge of windows, wordperfect and excel.
- Reasonable speed in translation.

These positions are for Yemeni nationals only, and preference will be given to women.

Interested persons, may please submit CV and application letter by 9th of April, 1996.

For further information, contact Abdullah
in the main office, Sana'a, at:

Tel: 275-222, Fax: 276-576

Turkish Prime Minister Extends Olive Branch to Greece

In the first foreign policy statement since he has taken over as Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Mesut Yilmaz has offered Greece the olive branch. Extolling the Ataturk-Venizelos agreement of several decades ago, the Turkish official said, "I am therefore calling on Greece to enter into negotiations without preconditions with a view to settling all Aegean questions."

Turkey and Greece are at odds regarding their territorial waters as well as regarding ownership of various scattered islands between them. Early this year, the two countries almost went to war over a small uninhabited island. The naval forces of the two sides were put on alert and small forces were mobilized and moved to the island in dispute. The tension was diffused in the last minute and because of intense American pressure on both sides.

The Turkish offer calls on Greece to accept a third-party intermediation based on whatever methods are agreed upon. "Turkey does not rule out from the outset any method based on mutual acceptance.... Accordingly, we are prepared to discuss with goodwill appropriate third party methods of settlement. The form, conditions and legal requirements of such methods can be taken up in detail in the course of the talks," he said.

Mr. Yilmaz also proposed a simultaneous confidence-building process which entails military-related measures that will enable the two sides to bring about a swift agreement.

In addition to the Aegean dispute, Turkey and Greece are also at loggerheads regarding the Cypriot island which is divided along the lines of its Greek and Turkish inhabitants.

BAHRAIN: The Problems Increase !

The problems in Bahrain have taken a nasty twist last week with the execution of a political activist (or criminal, depending on whose point one takes) called Issa Ahmed Qambar. That was the first execution known to have been carried out in Bahrain in nearly 20 years.

This action was condemned by Amnesty International, which explained: "Issa Ahmad Qambar was sentenced to death after a trial which ignored internationally accepted human rights standards requiring adequate legal assistance at all stages of the proceedings. He was denied access to a lawyer throughout his pre-trial detention."

Mr. Qambar was sentenced to death by the Bahraini High Criminal Court on 4th of July, 1995, after being convicted of the murder of Sergeant Major Ibrahim Rashed Abdul-Kareem Al-Saeedi. The death of the security officer took place on March 23rd, 1995, in the Shi'ite village of Nuwaidrat in the wake of riots and clashes between the citizens and security forces.

For nearly 20 months, Bahrain has witnessed mass demonstrations and riots against the government. The citizens are demanding more civil and political rights, and the Shi'ite population is asking for a more equitable share in the nation's fortunes.

It all started when an increasing number of graduates and other individuals started gathering around the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in search of employment. As the numbers increased, the gathering was transformed into a mob with visible economic and political grievances.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have both intervened in different ways in the Bahraini internal problems. While the Saudis are backing the regime of Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Aal Khalifah, Iran is backing the demands of the Bahraini people.

Amnesty International demanded stopping any further executions.

Former Minister & Member of the Ruling Family on Trial for Corruption in Kuwait

The next court hearing is on the 9th of current April. The key person on trial is Sheikh Ali Khalifah Al-Sabah, a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family and the former Minister of Oil.

The first hearing on the case was held on March 19th by a five-judge presided over by Judge Mohammed Bin Hindi. The charges against the former minister and four co-defendants involve losses of up to \$100 million incurred by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC). Sheikh Al-Sabah who personally attended the first session, denied the graft charge.

Among the other co-defendants, only Hassan Qabazard, KOTC's former deputy chairman for financial affairs - a Kuwaiti, attended. The others, former KOTC chairman Abdul-Fattah Badr, also

a Kuwaiti, Timothy Stafford, a Briton, and Nassim Mohsen, a Jordanian, are abroad and have not interacted with the court proceedings.

The trial is based on a law enacted in 1994 repealing a much softer law enacted in 1990. The new law is strict in its measures in bringing senior government officials accused of embezzlement to law. This is the first use of the law and the chances for indictment look good.

Since the case came out to the open some two years ago, Kuwait has been discussing how to go about it. The media handled the issue, and parliament pressed for making officials accountable for their mistakes, irrespective of their positions in the government or within the ruling family.

Finally, in November 1995, the

case was moved from the criminal court to the Ministers' Court, according to the 1994 law which regulates trials of serving and/or former ministers.

Sheikh Ali's lawyers deny that he had made illegal profits from the KOTC deals. "He is only liable in that as minister of oil he had ultimate responsibility for the KOTC," lawyer Mohammed Hosni said.

On the other hand, the only other plaintiff to attend, Qabazard, had told the criminal court that he had indeed gained money from KOTC operations illegally on orders from his superior, Abdul-Fattah Badr.

The case is bound to be a precedent, and the media is regularly reporting its development. "It is part of a reform process," said a member of parliament.

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Yemenis Honored Abroad Are Belittled by Sanaa Regime Friends Congratulate Ahmed Al-Muhany on Golden Knight Award in Cairo

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الجمهورية اليمنية

March 27, 1996

Mr. Amin al Haimy
Commercial Director
Yemenia Airways
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

Dear Mr. Al Haimy,

I want to complement you and the staff of Yemenia for the excellent service recently received by one of our Yemen Hunt employees.

On March 10, 1996 our employee inadvertently left a piece of carry on luggage on Yemenia flight #IY 756 to Dubai. Airport personnel in Dubai told him the bag couldn't be retrieved and it had to proceed with the flight to Karachi, Pakistan. Our employee then proceeded to London all but giving up hope that he would see his bag again.

However on Friday, March 22, Yemenia Captain Saeed Al Huraish personally returned the retrieved bag to our employee's house complete with all the valuables intact.

In view of all the negative publicity currently in circulation, I think it particularly important to point out this outstanding commitment to excellent service exhibited by Capt. Huraish and the Yemenia staff.

Again our thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Ulrich

Richard E. Ulrich
Director, Human Resources and Administration

cc: Abul Aziz Al Saqqaf, Yemen Times
Ken Harbin, YHOC



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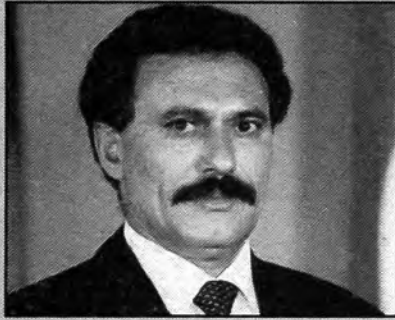
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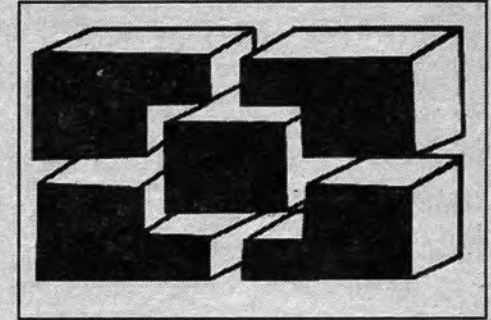
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**presents its deep appreciation and gratitude to
General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic,
the Government of Yemen,
the General Authority for Free Zones (GAFZ)
and the Yemeni People**

**on the occasion of the successful completion and signing of
the Aden Free Zone Agreement**

**We take this opportunity to highlight
the constant and effective patronage and support of
President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Prime Minister
as well as the efforts exerted by the negotiating team,
especially Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal,
Vice Premier Minister of Planning & Development and Chairman of GAFZ,
and Mr. Dirhem Noman,
Vice Chairman of GAFZ and President of the Aden Free Zone,
and all members of the GAFZ Board of Directors.**

**We finally extend our thanks to
all those who supported and assisted this project.**

**We pray to God to bless this project
and to help in participating in the development of Yemen**

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AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 28/3/96
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform- Islah)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Al-Akwa'a (Minister of Electricity and Water Returns from Seminar (Islam and the West) in London)
- 2) The Conference on Socotra: The Present and the Future Ends Today
- 3) Workers Are Beaten and Humiliated In Wisab District.

Article Summary:

The Treasury Bills: Big Publicity, and Weak Public Enthusiasm

The paper contends that the Central Bank of Yemen issuance of the Government's Treasury Notes is not going according to expectations, in terms of market response and improvement of government finance. The big publicity and promotional campaign to sell the notes has not been met with large scale enthusiasm to buy the Notes. The Notes have not been successful in absorbing the cash liquidity in the market. The paper then gives an overview sampling of opinions by experts and different kinds of purchasers of the notes. The cash liquidity problem will not be solved because the liquidity problem will not be solved by the Treasury Notes because 80% of the money in circulation is outside the banking system and it is inconceivable that all the loose funds can be absorbed into the system by these notes since the seller of the notes is the Central Bank and thus are regarded by the holders of these funds as usurious. On the other hand the other hand, according to the paper, the buyers of these notes are mainly seeking quick profits and are not looking for ways to effectively contribute to helping the economy out of its demise. While it does not directly say so, the paper regards the TB's as illegitimate from a religious point of view and thus contradict Islamic Sharia'a laws.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 21-3-96
(Mouthpiece of the Military)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Council of Ministers:
-Decrees the End of Debating the Five Year Plan (1996-2000) Next week
-Discusses the Law of Local Rule or Government
-Decrees YR 156 Millions for Port Facilities and YR 100 Millions for Airport Improvements in Socotra



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

2) More than 1000 Corruption Cases Will Be Sent to the Courts of Public Property and Funds: The Chairman of the Central Organization for Control and Auditing

3) Kuwaiti Foreign Minister: The Statements Said to Have Been of the Yemeni President (In Alwatan Newspaper Interview) are Distorted

Article Summary:

Tourism Projects in Sana'a and Shabwa

The Universal Travel and Tourism Group announced that it is due to inaugurate the Tourist Village, located in the old US Embassy Compound in the Bir Al-Azab Area of Sana'a, on March 1997. The project is said to cost US\$ 128 Million and comprises 107 rooms, 5 restaurants, a complete health club, parks and 5 old renovate palaces. In addition, Mr. Alwan Shaibani, the Managing Director of Universal also said that the significance of the project is that it incorporates traditional style art with modern services and convenience in an attractive setting. He added that the President was overjoyed by the success of the project execution and encouraged Universal to proceed with all his support. On the other hand, preparatory work has begun for a Tourism Village in Shabwa by the Coast. The project comprises 750 rooms, village staff housing, boating docks and facilities and 7-10 restaurants. The estimated cost will be US\$ 110 Millions

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 19-3-96
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Arrest of a Saudi Espionage Network
- 2) The People's General Congress Takes Possession of the "Big Gate" in Ta'ez and Trades in Real Estate
- 3) Ta'ez Court Judges In Protest Moratorium Due To Threats Made Against the Chairman of the Appellate Court in Ta'ez

Article Summary:

The Government

Journalist and syndicated columnist Ali Al-Sarary criticizes the government for being almost useless in performing the minimal functions expected of it. In fact, the government acts to give legitimacy to improprieties by the rulers and other senior officials in the various government organs. This poor performance by the government is also matched by a powerless House of Representatives which does not have the freedom to legislate nor does it fulfill its role in regulating and controlling government activity and functions.

The cure: A full review of policy and approaches and the [placement of the nation in a new phase of real reforms and transformations and the application of the Constitution and the return to the adherence to law and order and the implementation of systems and controls.

Al-Sarary States: "The government has committed to abide by the Constitution last week in front of the House of Representatives. That should have been enough to pass a vote of no confidence vote against the government for its admission that it has not abided by the Constitution in the past".

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 20-3-96
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Has the Right to Increase the Election Committee Membership
- 2) Al-Tharihy (Governor of Sana'a Province and a mediator in dispute) Confirms Lack of Decision or Ruling On Malaysian Oil Case
- 3) Flooding In Abyan Changes From Normal Patterns

Article Summary:

The Bearers of the Message

The article discusses the role of the Media and requests all those overseeing the media to pay greater attention to this important sector. The media channels, audio and visual, and the staff are in need of support and the philosophy should be the media first and then the economy, in order that

Yemen can join the fold of modern nations. All people in the media should pay special; care in promoting Yemen as a viable economic sanctuary worthy of investment. The senior officials in the media channels should strive to improve the lot of those who work in the media so that they can really deliver a message?1 \ Yemen's economy to the world without the pressures of day to day life becoming an obstacle to their free thought. The article gave similes to show that the plight of the poorly cared houses or outlets which no one will rent because the promotion for the places was not properly done

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 18-3-96
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Hunaish Between Internationalization, Peaceful Resolution or War
- 2) Al-Jifry's Name on the Walls of Abyan Province
- 3) New Illnesses Old Sicknesses (Electricity)

Article Summary:

The Orders of the Governor by Force

The Governor of Abyan issued an order to replace the official assigned to run the Housing Office in the Province by the Ministry. The office was broken into to allow the newly assigned officer to take over the office.

On the other hand the previous Manger of the Ministry of Transport Office in the Province came to reaffirm his position by a letter from the Minister reinstating him and clearly stating that the Governor will hold complete responsibility for not allowing the Ministry official from taking his position. The Governor sent out a squad of security men to arrest the returning official!

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly) 20-3-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Opposition Maintains the Need for a Peaceful Struggle to Achieve Total National Reconciliation
- 2) Yemeni-American Cooperation to Improve Family Health
- 3) The Israeli Press Promotes Yemeni Tourist Attraction Locations

Article Summary:

1) Foreign Experts to Control Government Revenue

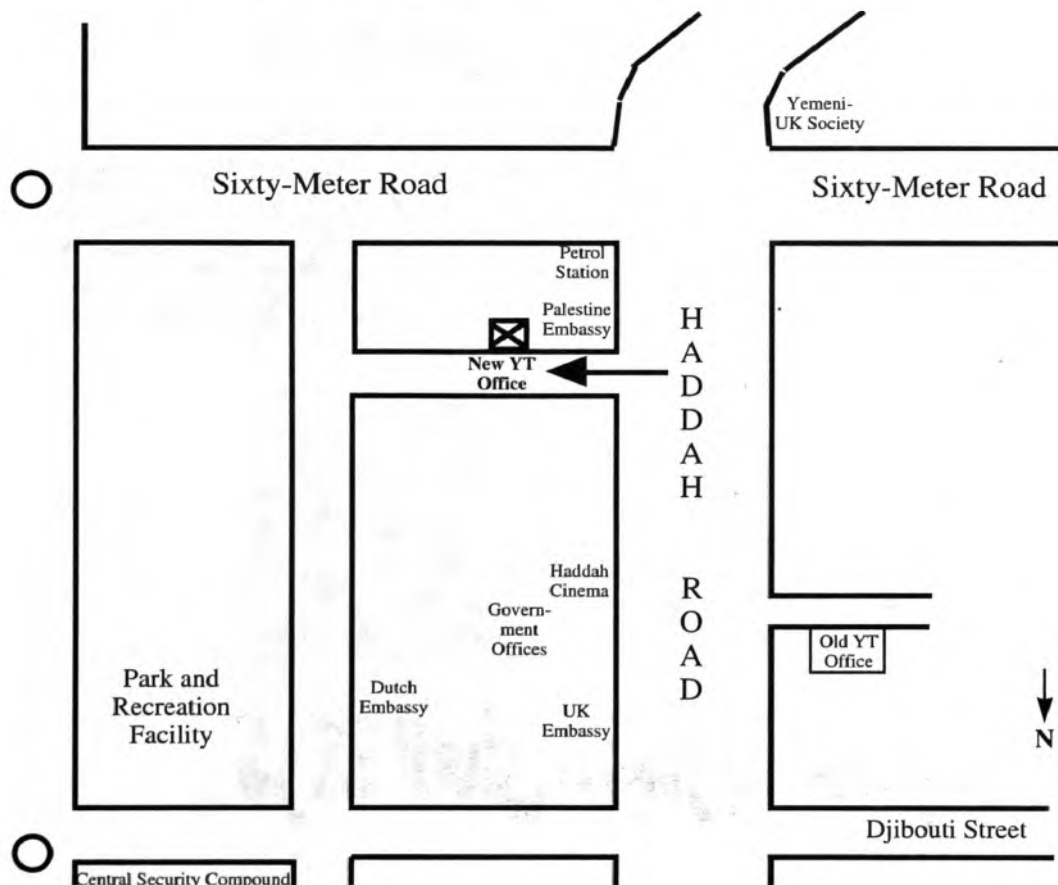
Around 50 experts from the World Bank have arrived at Sana'a as part of the agreement between

YEMEN TIMES MOVES... TO NEW PREMISES

The lease for our current premises has not expired. But we are forced to move out. We are told external pressure is brought to bear on our landlord. "He is forced to make us vacate," he says.

So, Yemen Times is moving, again. The newspaper has found a new place, behind the Palestinian Embassy on Haddah Road. (Please refer to the map).

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Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
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Aljumphury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
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Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	332001-3
Radio Station	200060/61
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Y.I. & ReInsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sanaa	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
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Iran	243439/40/43
Iraq	216682
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	268876/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	267636/4
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
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Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
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Turkey	241395

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2. Honorary Consultates:	
Austria	266725
Belgium	205925
Canada	208814
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Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
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3. International Organizations	
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UNHCR	204963
UNIC	274000
UNICEF	231256/7/8
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Egypt	231610
Ethiopia	231335
France	255896
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Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
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Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
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Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13

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

Sabena	285865/925
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Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Thai Airways	275028
Universal Travel H.O.	275028/9/30
Universal - Zubeiri	267929/ 273924
Universal - Albania	272861/2/3
Universal - Aden	221146, 243475
Universal - Taiz	225383/4
Universal Hodeidah	226980/958
Universal - Mukalla	05354842/3/5
Yemenia Branches:	
Abdul-Mughni	274803/4
Haddah	204538/550

COURIERS

Aramex / Sana'a	243-925
Aramex / Aden	255-683
Aramex / Taiz	213-489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218-168
DHL / Sana'a	248017-249878
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DHL / Hodeidah	217490
DHL / Mukalla	05354844
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
TNT Express Aden	253097, 253049, 255600
Mukalla	7921888(mobile)
American Express	272435/6

HOTELS

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	215212/4/5
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Yazan	217997
Royal	
Marib (0630)	
Bilquis Marib	2372
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
Mukalla (05)	
Hadhramaut	2060
Al-Jetamad	552493

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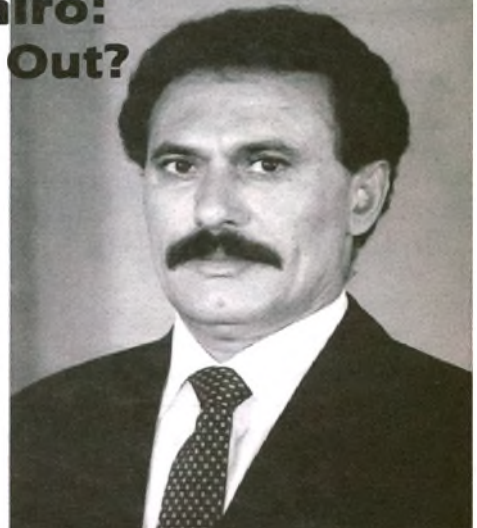
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President Saleh in Cairo: How Far Did He Reach Out?



President Ali Abdullah Saleh, just concluded a two-day visit to Cairo. The main topic on the agenda of the summit with Egyptian Hosni Mubarak was the issue of Hunaish Island and how to entice the Eritreans into accepting the French-spearheaded three-party mediation effort. The peace effort of France, Egypt and Ethiopia has fallen on deaf ears in Asmara. The last agreement proposal which would have regulated the arbitration plan was refused by Eritrea. Officials in Asmara say they have not really refused, but they have several reservations. So President Ali Abdullah Saleh is in Cairo to see how far he can go to win the Eritreans aboard the peace plan. The Eritreans have in reality painted themselves in a corner. Domestically, they have embarked on a media campaign driving their people to a frenzy on this issue. On the ground on the occupied island itself, they have constructed various military installations. In other words, the very possibility of giving back the island has not crossed their mind. So what is the negotiation all about, if there is no way they will return the island? At the same time, Yemen is showing much flexibility and leniency. Beyond a certain point, this leniency is seen as a weakness, if at least by the Yemenis.

That is the dilemma of the Sanaa regime. President Saleh has said repeatedly he will not go to war over the island, even while boosting the naval forces and capabilities of the country. That is a wise move that has earned Yemen's position much respect and sympathy abroad. Yet, consistent one-sided concessions will backfire. Something has to give rather quickly, if the regime is to justify continuing on this peace process.



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