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Yemeni Government Works Hard to Block NGO Growth NGOs Fight Back

A number of active and leading Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are planning to hold a meeting to discuss the new government measures to block their direct interaction with donors. The Foreign Ministry has issued a circular ordering bilateral and multilateral donors not to help NGOs directly. "Any assistance is to be channelled through the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Development, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," the circular orders.

A Committee to Protect NGOs is being established. Many NGO leaders are spearheading efforts to mobilize popular action against a dangerous government attitude and position. "They base their decisions and circulars on laws that belong in past ages - the early 1960s. The spirit and soul of that time are no longer compatible with our times. Yemen is preparing to enter the 21st century," said Yassin Abdul-Razzaq, Secretary-General of Legal Assistance Center, an active NGO.

Mr. Mahfooth Shammakh, Chairman of the Hadhramaut Welfare Social Society, described the circular and its intent as malicious and out of order. Dr. Nizar Ghanim, Chairman of the Yemeni version of Medicins Sans Frontiers, described the efforts of the government as oppressive. Many other NGOs have voiced similar concerns. One NGO Chairperson dealing with children described the government action as "just stupid". "How can they do this?" asked a baffled Basma Al-Qubati, Secretary-General of SOFD.

Preparations are presently under way to hold a meeting this week. It will bring together many leaders of NGOs to draft a joint declaration which will be distributed to donor countries and international organizations as well as the government ministries.

"The government is most welcome to check our ledgers and go through our books to make sure everything is in order. They can mount field visits. But that is it," said Mr. Shammakh.

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The Interior Minister Has No Report on the Thugs Who Beat up Al-Saqqaf ?

Exactly a hundred days have passed since the beating of Professor Abubakar Al-Saqqaf by five thugs who kept yelling at him not to write (critical) articles against the regime. Abubakar, 61, is one of the Yemen's most outstanding intellectuals and human rights activists. He is also one of the founders of the country's first university - Sanaa University, where he is a university professor.

Since the Summer 1994 civil war, he has written articles critical of the regime in the local and international press. He has especially criticized the human rights violations.

On December 30th, the Minister of Interior issued a statement denying that state agents beat up the professor. He also promised to find them.

A hundred days have passed and the Minister of Interior has not produced the culprits. He has not even reported any progress on the matter. I think he is waiting for the public to forget the incident. Unfortunately for him, the public is still waiting for him to do his job.

Dr. Saqqaf was savagely assaulted leading to numerous major injuries. Sanaa University had also tried to sack him. He was re-instituted by a



court order, which the university failed to obey, to-date. Saqqaf says it all proves the intolerance of the rulers of Sanaa.

Of so many cases of beatings of political activists, not one person has ever been arrested/prosecuted.

The Aden Free Zone: Signs of Progress

There are more and more visible signs of progress in the Aden Free Zone (AFZ). "The signing of the deal with Yeminco last month was a milestone in the development of the project. It was a major tangible step in transforming the concept into a reality," said Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed, Executive Director of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies and Chairman of Middle East Shipping Company.

According to Abdul-Wassa, the Aden harbor, which is the heart of the AFZ, has witnessed considerable improvement. "Since labor remuneration has become pegged and indexed to productivity, you can see a difference. Not only that, but the harbor handling costs have come down," he indicated.

That is a good sign for Aden. But some problems still need to be addressed. One thorny issue has been the constant meddling and intervention of soldiers and security men in the affairs of businessmen. At the harbor, for example, there are at least half a dozen kinds of security forces involved - the Central Security, Political Security, General Security, Investigations Security, Immigration Security...

"But all that will change very soon. We are putting the final touches on a special security force serving the Aden Free Zone. All these others will leave, and the new unified force especially tailor-made for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the free zone will be put in place," explained Mr. Dirhem Noman, Vice Chairman of the General Authority for Free Zones and the President of the Aden Free Zone.

Continues on page 7

Canadians Urge Yemen to Keep on Democratic Path



The Honorable Gildas Molgat, Speaker of the Canadian Senate, said that his message to the Yemeni officials he had met was clear - "Continue on your present course of democratization, and we shall support you."

The Speaker is here on a 4-day official visit at the head of a Canadian parliamentary delegation, which includes Senators Allen MacEachern and Brenda Robertson, in response to an invitation from Yemeni House Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar.

Continues on page 2

TENSION IN THE RED SEA

According to informed sources, the situation in the Red Sea is overly tense as armed Yemenis and Eritreans stand facing each other and ready to shoot. The two sides are fighting over ownership of the Hunaish archipelago. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has played it wisely so far by avoiding a confrontation. But as internal pressure increases and Eritrean obstinacy is not allowing progress on a negotiated settlement, Yemen may be trapped into a war.

Continues on page 2

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Structure of International Organizations: Bad Example for Other Countries

I have always been amused by the "holier than thou" attitude of international organizations when they interact with Third World countries. International experts make grand entrances into many a Third World capital. I have often observed them push around Yemeni officials. I could not make up my mind who is worse - the pusher/s or the one/s being pushed. At the end, I decided they deserve each other.

Now, let me give 3 areas in which international organizations trying to "help" Yemen, could use some help themselves.

1. Manpower:

International organizations are asking the Yemeni government to shed off at least 30% of its labor force. That is really required for the sake of efficiency, though it would hardly make a difference in terms of cost. In principle, that is a good idea.

But do you know that all UN organizations, the World Bank and IMF could shed off at least 40% of their labor force? These organizations are vehemently resisting doing exactly what they are telling small governments, like ours.

Let me bring my point home. Do you know that the UNDP office in Sanaa has 79 international positions and almost 200 local employees? Do you know that their salaries and benefits represent a solid 26% of their project assistance?

Most of these people produce very little, and consume a lot!

2. Travel Expenses:

Most UN organizations, IMF and World Bank people spend lots of money on travel, per diem, etc. If you look at any program, you will immediately notice a budget that runs into the hundreds of thousands, and sometimes into the millions to cover exactly this. Over the last months, hordes of UN, IMF and World Bank people have been visiting Sanaa, spending endless weeks. Have you thought about how much it costs to put up these big groups in five-star hotels? Have you thought about their incidentals, travel costs, etc.? Who pays for it all?

Both they and the Yemeni authorities prefer it this way, rather bring in local expertise in the teams. The experts accumulate fat savings, in addition to the tourism, and Yemeni officials avoid exposing the reality of the situation to the locals. This is both inefficient, and contrary to the democratization process which calls for more transparency and local accountability.

3. Subsidies:

Of course, subsidies are anathema to the rule of market forces. That is why their removal is a major element in any reform package. But did you know that most UN, IMF, World Bank and other such agencies enjoy various forms of subsidies, starting with in-house cafeterias to loan programs to educational and housing allowances, etc.?

All this does not mean, Yemen authorities should not do what they need to improve the situation. It does mean, however, they can resist the "holier than thou" attitude.

The Publisher
ASQA

Continues from page 1: Canadian Parliamentarians ...

"We are eager to help the Yemeni parliament improve in its functions. If it needs any skills or its staff need training, or any other similar assistance, we stand ready to help," Mr. Molgat said. Senator Brenda Robertson expressed interest in helping the prospects for female representatives in the Yemeni parliament. "We have a special division that caters to this dimension. We are interested in promoting equitable representation in parliament," she said. Speaker Molgat also indicated that his country has decided to extend assistance to Yemen to help prepare for the coming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 1997. "Canada has also decided to send observers," he indicated. Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland indicated that his country is already providing some limited assistance which could grow in the future. The Canadian delegation paid a quick visit to Shibam and Seyoun in Hadhramaut.



CAR RALLY IN ADEN

On March 29, Friday morning, a rally race started from the garden of the Aden Movenpick hotel. 27 cars participated, with each car driven by two partners. The rally consists of many stages. Stage one is an information test check point. If the driver fails to pass this stage, a ten minutes delay is applied as a punishment. The competitors were from many countries i.e. German, UK, France, Denmark and, of course, Yemen. The rally was sponsored by Aden Movenpick Hotel, Universal



Travel and Tourism, Al-Rawaishan and DHL. This race is the first in Aden. Valuable prizes were awarded to the first ten winners: The prizes awarding ceremony was attended by Mr. Cypert Schwartz, Ken Hall, the British expert with the Match and Tobacco Corp., Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Branch Manager of Universal Travel and Tourist. An atmosphere of joy prevailed during the whole time.

- The ten winners were:
- 1- Mr & Mrs Steinar Danielsen 340 Naeem Manna/Farid Nafees Mohamed Manna/Alawi Jaffer
 - 2- Arnie Bennett 310
 - 3- Aziz & Fattah Mufleh 291
 - 4- Mohamed Kamel 290
 - 5- Aidrous Obeid Konsitanze Huebler 270

More rallies are planned for future.

By: Ibtisam Qudar
Aden Branch

Yemen and Qatar Exchange Notes

Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani paid a quick visit to Doha, Qatar, to exchange notes. The Yemeni official also delivered a letter from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Qatar's ruler Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Aal Thani.

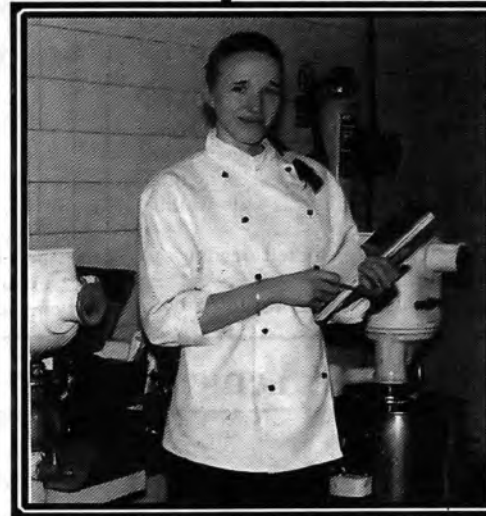
Yet Another Lawsuit Against Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani

Last week, Sanaa witnessed yet another lawsuit against the Prime Minister. Lawyer Abdul-Ilah Al-Marwani, who is handling the new case, said that his clients have filed for a large compensation against the PM for damages done by his decisions. "We are thankful for a system which allows aggrieved citizens to challenge in the courts even the head of government," the lawyer said. The first hearing on the new case will be in two weeks.

Cont'd from p. 1: Yemen & Eritrea...

Many observers worry that the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute could quickly degenerate into a full-blown war. "This could blow up any day, now," explained a frightened Yemeni individual who just came back from Zuqar. Yemen has succeeded into gaining world sympathy by calling for a peaceful resolution of the problem. "If it allows itself to be drawn into a conflict, it stand to lose a lot," said an ambassador who is very sympathetic to Yemen. Over the last few months, Yemen has been able to shore-up its naval capability and it can now handle the Eritreans on sea, if push comes to shove.

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- Pineapple Cake with Fresh Creme
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Advertisements/Classifieds: 268-276
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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

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Dr. Heinz Buhler:

“Imparting knowledge & skills is crucial for development.”

The Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung (DSE or The German Foundation for International Development) has provided a forum for development policy dialogue since 1959. Its job is really the software dimension in the development process. Therefore, it sponsors training courses, holds seminars and meetings, organizes workshops and other programs. The three key concepts are participatory development, efficient/effective systems, and sustainable processes.

Over the years, more than 100,000 decision and policy-makers from over 140 countries have been on the DSE list of participants. Every year, some 8,000 join in.

The organizations and centers under the DSE include:

1. The Development Policy Forum (EF),
2. Education, Science and Documentation Center (ZED),
3. Economic and Social Development Center (ZWS),
4. Area orientation Center (ZA),
5. Public Administration Promotion Center (ZOV),
6. Industrial Occupations Promotion Center (ZGB),
7. Food and Agriculture Development Center (ZEL), and
8. Public Health Promotion Center (ZG).

Dr. Heinz Buhler, DSE's Director-General, visited Sanaa last week. An old hand in the development process, he has had first-hand experience in various Third World countries.

On the occasion, Yemen Times interviewed him, as follows:

Q: You are very familiar with Third World development needs on a first-hand basis. Can you share with us your relevant background?

A: Yes, I spent many years in various parts of Africa, South-east Asia, the Middle East, and other parts. In fact, I have worked between 1973 and 1977 in neighboring Ethiopia. Those were the hard years under the Menghistu regime. Earlier, I had lived in Rwanda, now so famous for the disasters that have befallen it.

My experience also covers the Philippines, Turkey and others. Beyond the Third World, I have

also worked in the United Kingdom and Austria; and of course, Germany.

Q: So you are fairly well aware of development-related problems and needs?

A: I should think so. In general, development needs are more software-related rather than hardware-related. That means things like education, training, skills, proper application of knowledge, etc. This is more important than the buildings and other physical assets, which are, no doubt, important.

Q: Is this your first visit to



Yemen?

A: Yes, it is. But my wife visited here more than 20 years ago. So now we share similar experiences of the same country, though with a certain time lag. Before this trip, my wife and I went through some of the pictures she had taken of Yemen. It is a beautiful country and the people are very kind.

Q: What kind of projects do you have in Yemen?

A: Basically, the DSE does mainly training of executives, policy-makers and decision-makers. We have carried out three workshops or short training courses for Yemenis. This one we just finished was on monitoring of public expenditures with an eye on efficiency.

We also have many Yemenis who come to Germany for training in Germany in various fields and for variable durations.

On average, I think some 120 Yemenis are engaged in short-term training in Germany every year.

Q: What kind of duration are you talking about?

A: These range from a few weeks to two years. Of course, medium-term training programs have a language component to them.

Q: What is the intent of this visit?

A: I am here to discuss and study possibilities of stronger cooperation. We can intensify and expand our programs depending on the situation and needs of the country. We think that we can offer a considerable level of training in how to manage enterprises and offices under conditions of decentralization, for example. I understand your country is moving into that direction.

Q: What do you think of Yemen's reform package? Can we get your preliminary impressions?

A: You know I have been here only a short time, and I cannot pass judgement. But I believe the Yemeni people have decided they need to reform the structure of the economy and the relationships among the various factors. So, I think the question relates not to the need or viability of the reform program, but how to best go about it. It is hard to give an assessment on this, but I am sure the country is on

the right track. I met and talked to a lot of people. It is clear that Yemenis have no problem expressing themselves to one another, which is a good sign. So, all sides can express their views on the reform, and then the country can be guided to the best options open to it.

Q: What is the one thing that you would put your finger on as an important factor?

A: I encourage the government to show more control on the affairs of government work. More accountability is probably needed at this stage. Another helpful tool in better management is decentralization. Yemen needs to develop a good system in this regard. We in DSE are willing and able to help in both fields - accountability and decentralization.

Q: Your workshop has just been completed. Do you think you can make a substantial contribution through these workshops?

A: Of course. Otherwise we would not bother. We have seen the enthusiasm and strong response among the trainees. Some follow-up through continued training is going to be necessary.

Q: How many Yemenis have you trained so far?

A: I don't have an exact number, but I think it is more than a thousand. And the fields are many.

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The General Corporation for School Book Printing Press: An Example of Yemeni-German Cooperation



The General Corporation for School Book Printing Press flourishing today is the fruit of an extended and deep cooperation between the Yemen and Germany.

The Corporation was first established in 1976, but that was a humble beginning, with only 35 employees and technicians and 6-hour work days. In 1979, the first German input upgraded the facilities and equipment, thus raising the number of manpower to 97 persons. As a result, total output increased from 50,000 textbooks to 6,000,000 textbooks.

The next upgrading came in 1984, when President Ali Abdullah Saleh officially inaugurated the establishment. For the first time, color products were possible with speedmaster machines.

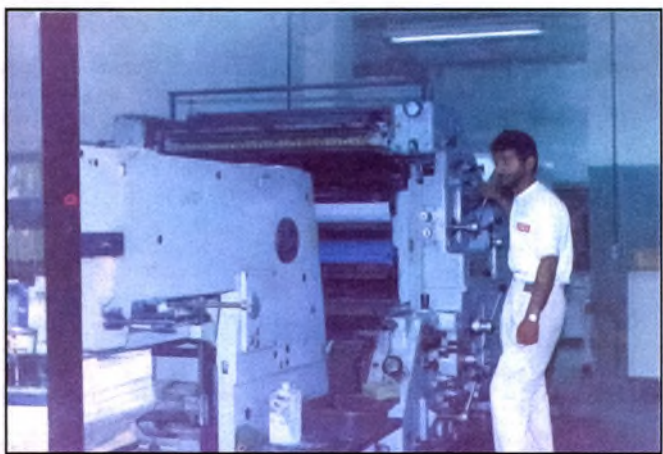
With the country's re-unification in 1990, the Aden branch was added to the corporation.

The most dramatic jump, however, came in 1992, when the publishing house was transformed into a corporation. With the growth in capacity and capabilities, the labor force grew to 352 persons, and total output soared to 26,000,000 books. The printing facilities today are very modern.

Mr. Abdo Ali Qubati, Chairman of the Corporation and Minister of Education, indicated that without the commitment and assistance of Germany, the corporation would not have been the success it is today. "I would like to especially thank the Federal Republic of Germany for its generous assistance. I also want to mention the Unicef for its support," he said.

The future plans of the Corporation are equally ambitious. Among the high priority issues are:

1. Repair and renovation of the Aden branch which has been damaged during the civil war.
2. Training and re-training of personnel.
3. More mechanization and upgrading of machines.
4. Expansion of capacity to meet the rising demand for schoolbooks in the educational system.
5. To produce unified curricula for the schools.



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When Public Authority Is Flagrantly Used for Personal Ends

Authority, according to my humble knowledge, means to provide honest, freely selected capable people with power to serve the general public in order to improve their life-styles and to create better conditions for the people. The end-result is improvement of standard of living and growth of the nation. That is, in any case, what is generally repeated in our very democratic country, today. Imagine a country in which Authority means that there are men with absolute power, who are provided with FREE never-off electricity (even to their villages), with FREE never-off mineral water (swamp's water for common people), with various telephone lines (the payment of bills is optional), with three or four new government cars (eventually owned by them), international satellite reception 'fishes on the roofs of their uniquely sculptured villas which are located in the best parts of our cities. Authority means powerful men who are escorted by tens of military guards, whose role is:

- 1- To protect their lords - day and night - and anything that belongs to them;
- 2- To raid on lands of other people if their Lords just think to take it,
- 3- To harass, abuse and sometimes murder anyone who dares to refuse one of the Lord's orders. It also means anyone who dares to ask the Lords the foolish question: 'Where did all this come from?'

Law and order in my beloved country is deaf, dumb, and powerless. But there is only one law, and that is, the law of Authority. Those with Authority get their wish, however burdening it is on the rest of us.

Look at the burden.

Have you seen the number of crazy civilians on the streets? I do not mean people who are ordered (by PSO) to pretend to be crazy in order to trap an idiot who may speak his mind. I am talking of the really crazy Yemenis.

Have you noticed the number of beggars? I do not refer to the traditionally beggar class. I am talking of decent people who are forced to beg because they cannot make ends meet.

Have you seen the rising hordes of young men roaming the streets? They cannot find jobs. Some of them are university graduates.

In this fabulous country, Authority means to live a luxurious life with no problems at all. All the wishes of the Lords are only a phone call away.

If - and I say if - some of the lowly creatures come in contact with them, then they have to submit totally to the Lords. Say, if you are lucky to happen to be the neighbor of a man of Authority, that means you must submit - body and soul. Not only that, but you must remember the now-famous poem:

Praise Authority, it is always Right!
If you cry, complain or claim for your Right,
You'll confront torment by day and night,
And of regret, on your lips you'll bite,
For any right dares to oppose our Might,
We, by Power, shall poison it or fight!

In our country, you are authorized for a limited number of years to engage in "personal savings"

by looting the public. Then, you must retire. You are allowed to hold on to the job that generates savings, so long, of course, that you make yourself indispensable.

Legally, a government official can't practice any commercial work along with the official duties. But nobody follows this dictum.

In our country, you can be an everlasting big shot. People remain stuck on their government seats until death does them part. It seems that comes to release those seats from the men, rather than the other way around.

However, they even beat up death. These officials have learned to make their children inherit their seats. As men of power, their sons must have the priority in local universities, in military colleges, in scholarships to other countries, and of course, in contracts with the government and agencies for companies working in Yemen.

In other words, we are witnesses to a rebirth of the feudal system molded in a modern fashion.

All the government equipment and machinery - including the high tech gadgets which came from others as alms or debts - are devoted to comfort those supermen of Authority, who are immortalized in Power. Any accusation - direct or indirect - against the Sacred Authority is unacceptable, regardless whether you are right or not.

Nowadays, those people of Authority have adopted new methods in updating their secret accounts in foreign banks. Our rulers must have completed a course on 'How to Waste Incomes from Oil on Trivialities'. During that course, they were taught

how to apply the newly acquired theories of Corruption in practice.

Their strategic aim is to sell the most successful companies of the public sector to themselves 'in order to save the remains of such dying companies'. To achieve that aim, they will establish their new motto of 'Toward Privatization'. Accordingly, new tactics are being used. Among those tactics is how to convince the public - in one way or another - that the companies are collapsing and they cause a very destructive loss to the public treasury. As a result, the only solution is to sell the whole public sector in an auction sale, in which the bid shots are the only bidders.

If the heat increases, the big sharks will resign from their jobs, and they will be rewarded with another similarly lucrative job. A bankrupted government to manage their newly owned spoils or properties. Thus, AUTHORITY BECOMES AN OPEN PRIVATE SECTOR. Life would be difficult if not impossible in such a country, isn't it? Thank God, for our country - which is peaceful, democratic and quotable - isn't it like that!

In fact, the hellish country formerly mentioned is merely a fictitious one based on my imagination and has no ground in the world of reality. It can't be, never ever, compared with our quickly developing country which lives in its GOLDEN AGE!

Imagined by:
Adel Abdulwahab Zo'ail,
Universal Institute for Language & Typing,
Taiz.

CPJ Report on Freedom of the Press in 1995

Reproduced below is the Yemen section of "ATTACKS on the Press in 1995" issued by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists in March 1996.

YEMEN

Yemenis enjoy the freest press in the Arabian Peninsula. But many journalists in Yemen believe that the independent press has not fulfilled the promise of its golden era. The period after the 1990 unification of the former Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) witnessed the birth of political pluralism and of hundreds of new publications, all protected by the most liberal press laws in the region. The government has maintained full control over all broadcast media.

The Yemeni press soon discovered that its freedoms were subject to political developments. The war resulting from the attempted secession of the south in 1994 has had a lasting effect on the press. Papers associated with the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which had led the secession, were closed. Other publications that were critical of government actions during the war or its aftermath were suspended.

In 1995, the government used indirect means to curb critical voices. Authorities have yet to apprehend the perpetrators of an attempted bombing of the home of a newspaper publisher. Abu Bakar al-Saqqaf, a prominent intellectual and contributor to opposition papers, was twice abducted and beaten by men he believes are agents of the Political Security Office. During the second attack, in December, his assailants beat and shocked him with electric batons as they yelled at him to stop writing. The government has denied responsibility for the attacks.

In another case, the government exploited an intra-party dispute to shut down that party's newspaper, which has served as a forum for government critics. *Al-Shoura* remains closed despite a court ruling that its closure was illegal.

Economic hardship remains a tremendous obstacle for the independent media.

One of the few success stories is the English-language weekly *Yemen Times*. It has managed to maintain its financial - and hence its editorial - independence because of its advertising revenues. Its target audience is the relatively affluent foreign community (and urban middle/merchant class). For Arabic newspapers the market is much less promising. Yemen is one of the world's poorest countries and has a high illiteracy rate.

January 3
Al-Ayyam, CENSORED

In the evening, the state-downed 14th of October Press returned the money the independent Aden-based weekly *Al-Ayyam* had given it to print its 200th issue. The press claimed it could not do job because its equipment was in disrepair. The next morning Hisham Bashraheel, the paper's editor in chief and one of its publishers, obtained a court order requiring the 14th of October Press, the only printing press in Aden, to print *Al-Ayyam*. Presented with the order, the printers still refused to do the job, apparently because the Interior Ministry

had instructed them not to. CPJ wrote to the Yemeni government and urged it to allow *al-Ayyam* to print without further interference.

January 10

Abu Bakar al-Saqqaf, *Free-lancer*, ATTACKED

Zain al-Saqqaf, *Free-lancer*, ATTACKED

Abu Bakar al-Saqqaf, a philosophy professor and frequent contributor to opposition newspapers, and Zain al-Saqqaf, former secretary general of the Writers' Union and director of the Institute for Fiscal Analysis, were abducted by armed men, taken blindfolded to a remote site on the outskirts of Sana'a, then beaten up and left by the roadside. Prior to the abduction, the two men attended a friendly gathering at the home of Hisham Bashraheel, editor in chief of the independent weekly *Al-Ayyam*. His home also serves as the paper's Sana'a office. When they left Bashraheel's home, their car was followed by two unlicensed vehicles, one of which was a military car reportedly belonging to Political Security. When Abu Bakar and Zain arrived at the former's home, five armed men emerged from the two vehicles and forced each of the writers into separate cars. After a short drive, the abductors took them from the cars and beat and kicked them. The armed men abandoned them there, then returned to Abu Bakar's house and stole Zain's car. Both victims were briefly hospitalized. Zain's wrist was broken. The writers believe that their abductors were Political Security agents, due to their clothing and appearance. Abu Bakar and the publishers of *Al-Ayyam*, attribute the attacks to a series of articles he wrote entitled "The Invasion of the South and Domestic Imperialism."

April 5

Hussein Muhammad Nasser, *Al-Jadid*,

IMPRISONED

Fadi Ali Mubarak, 14th October, IMPRISONED

Ali Abdullah Munser, SABA, IMPRISONED

Nasser, editor in chief of the now-defunct weekly *Al-Jadid* and former deputy director of the journalists' syndicate in Abyan province; Mubarak, Abyan correspondent for the Aden-based daily *14th of October*; and Munser, Abyan correspondent for the SABA news agency, were detained by political security agents in a roundup of members of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and other opposition parties. Mubarak had previously spent a month in detention; he was released in early March 1995. CPJ wrote to the Yemeni government asking for a clarification of the reason behind the arrests. The journalists were released a few days later.

July 18

Al-Shoura, CENSORED

Al-Shoura, organ of the Union of Popular Forces Party (UPFP), was shut down following an armed attack on the UPFP's Sana'a headquarters. The minister of legal affairs and the chairman of the Political Party Affairs Committee sealed the party's offices and suspended *Al-Shoura*. The minister cited the attack on UPFP headquarters, which he asserted was the result of factional deference within the party, as justification for his action. A Sana'a court later ruled that the suspension was illegal and ordered that the paper be permitted to reopen. However, the authorities have not complied with the court's ruling. CPJ urged the government to allow *Al-Shoura* to reopen.

July 31

Ibrahim al-Wazeer, *Al-Balagh*, ATTACKED

Early in the morning, a group of unidentified people began planting explosives at the home of Ibrahim al-Wazeer, publisher of *Al-Balagh* newspaper (an opposition political figure, and a well-known religious leader). The perpetrators reportedly fled from the house, in an eastern suburb of Sana'a, after they accidentally set off one of the explosive devices.

CPJ wrote to the Yemeni government and urged authorities to conduct a thorough investigation of the attack.

December 23

Abu Bakar al-Saqqaf, *Free-lancer*, ATTACKED

Abu Bakar al-Saqqaf, a philosophy professor and frequent contributor to opposition newspapers, was attacked by three men who beat him with electric batons. Al-Saqqaf reports that, throughout the assault, the men yelled at him to stop writing. Al-Saqqaf believes that his attackers were agents of the Political Security Office (PSO), noting that two of the men were in uniform. The PSO denies that its men perpetrated the attack. Al-Saqqaf, who suffered broken teeth, contusions on his face and bruises on his arms, was hospitalized.

VACANCY

The office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is seeking for a suitable candidate to fill a Programme Assistant Post in Sana'a.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under General supervision, performs a variety of information gathering monitoring, technical and administrative services in support of programme activities:

- Collects information mainly from records and reports and prepares periodic and ad hoc reports on programme and project activities;
- Organizes data and information, prepare and maintains records documents and control plans for the monitoring of project/programme implementation;
- Contributes to the preparation of reports, project documents and submission to Governments by providing information, preparing tables and drafting relatively routine sections. Prepares background information for use in discussions with Government and other organization. Participates in the briefing and debriefing of project personnel;
- Scrutinizes plans of operations, exchanges of letters and takes appropriate follow-up action. Assists in the processing of Government requests;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualification Requirements:

Knowledge & skills:	University Degree in Agriculture Sector related disciplines.
Experience:	Six years of progressively responsible work closely related to support of Agriculture Sector particularly programming. Good computer skills (Microsoft Word & Microsoft Excel).
Languages:	Excellent knowledge of English and Good drafting ability.
Desirable:	Experience of working with FAO projects or UN Organization local offices.

Application should be accompanied by FAO Personal History Form together with a handwritten statement in English expressing the reasons for his/hew application for this post and should be submitted not later than 20 April 1996

to:

FAO Representative
7, Mogadishu Street,
P. O. Box 1867,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Waiting ... for the Minister!

The Director of the Minister's Office was talking on the outside line in almost a whisper:

"He should be in this office today, where he is scheduled to meet the public every week. Maybe you should come tomorrow and I will set an appointment for you. Be sure to be here before 9:30 in the morning as he is going to the weekly cabinet meeting."

Ibrahim then went on to scribble something on a small pad that he keeps in his shirt pocket. A petitioner came up to Ibrahim to plead: "How about this week? Will I be able to see the Minister?"

Ibrahim was fumbling through the files stacked in front of him. The petitioner repeated the question. The internal line phone rang and Ibrahim picked up the receiver:

"Oh yeah, Ramzy! Where are the attendance rolls? You know the minister wants to see how many employees are absent." He hung up the phone.

Again, the petitioner repeated the question, while Ibrahim went back to his paper search.

"Look, it has been 5 weeks since I came trying to see the minister, although the first time I came you told me to come back on Tuesday, which is the day he meets the public," said the petitioner.

"Look, friend. Can't you see I am looking for an important paper? Besides, you can see that the minister is not in yet," said

Ibrahim while still searching, "If the Governor of Sana'a calls and the Minister has not seen his letter, it will not be good".

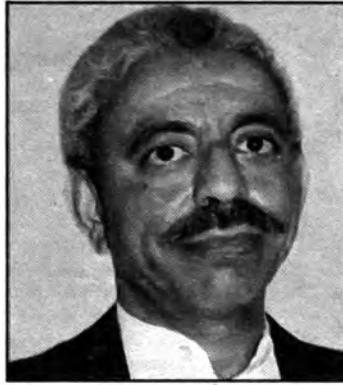
The petitioner pointed at the 'in' basket: "Is it this one?" "Now, wait a minute," said Ibrahim, now looking at the petitioner: "Muflih! You have no right to read official documents. Sit down."

"I was not trying to read official documents. I was only pleading with you to give me a chance to explain my problem to the Minister. Every week, I have to travel from Al-Mahara to see the Minister, who is the only one who can solve my problem with the ministry's office in Al-Mahara. And I was not reading through your files, I just happened to see the stationery letter head on the letter and surmised that this was the Sana'a Governorate memo you are looking for," explained the petitioner.

"If you do not sit down, I will have the guard take you out of the building," Ibrahim said clearly unsatisfied by the explanation of the petitioner. The guard by the door came to stand next to the petitioner to emphasize the seriousness of the Office Manger's warning. The petitioner sat down.

The Public Relations Officer attached to the Minister's office walked in: "Good morning, Ibrahim!"

Ibrahim, "Where have you been? You are late, Imad." Imad



explained the reason for his late arrival. "I first went to the minister's house to pick up the passport. You told me to complete processing his visas to the European countries he is visiting later this week."

Ibrahim knew Imad was just giving excuses, because he himself had been to the minister's home to pick up "the mail" which is the paperwork the minister takes home with him. The passport had been picked up the day before. Ibrahim gave him the necessary memos to the appropriate embassies, as well as to the Foreign Ministry to issue the visa requests as protocol requires: "How much money do you need? Please, settle all your advances. You have too much money outstanding."

"I have been so busy. I have prepared the necessary forms. Get the Minister to approve them and I will come to your house to pick them up later. Settle them out of the office account, as I do not have time to go through the Ministry's Finance Department? They always seem to want a cut!" remarked Imad.

The Office Account was a special account that all the agencies and public companies under the Ministry's authority contribute to in order to meet "Board of Directors" expenditures. It provides the Minister's Office with more money than is normally allocated in the Ministry's budget and it circumvents the normal cumbersome bureaucratic routine tied to

normal ministry finances.

"All right then, how much do you need?" asked Ibrahim

"Ten Thousand, will do! Hay, I will buy your qat today, so don't buy!" The last sentence was quietly whispered into Ibrahim's ear as the latter took out a bundle of YR 100 notes out of his briefcase.

At the door of the office, a crowd suddenly formed in addition to all those that had followed the Minister up the 3 storied building which did not have any elevators. All those in the room stood up as the guard opened the door for the Minister.

"Good morning," said the minister, as a collective greeting to all those in front of him and behind him and to those beside him both ways. At that moment, he knew he was the center of attention!

He walked into his office, the director of his office following with a stack of files with him. The latter closed the door of the minister's large newly modernized office. The furniture was plush and leathery. The Minister sat behind his desk.

"Ibrahim, cancel all appointments today. I will only meet the Ambassador of Guinea Bissau and go to the Authority of Public Real Estate to make sure that they do not leave me out of my plot of land, given to us ministers by a cabinet decision," said the Minister.

"Today, no appointments were made except that a lot of people are thinking that they can see you today. Today is the day you honor the public by meeting people face to face. Unless of course, you are busy." Ibrahim was very gently and softly telling the Minister that today was "public" day.

"Shall I send in your coffee, first!" said the Office Director.

"Good idea! While I have a quick look at the newspaper!"

"Bring me no papers today. Go through them yourself and refer them to the responsible department," said the minister, glad that he is not going to go through those same files with his Office Director again, tomorrow. He has been seeing the same files for a week!

The Office Director was also glad. In effect, these arrangements gave him an opportunity to influence others. A feeling of authority rushed through his slim figure, which made him tighten his hold on the files. "Influence is very important these days," he said to himself. All the things he could accomplish this way ran through his head. He could get a loan from the bank to build the third floor of his house. He could get his car refurbished with leather upholstery. His car really did not need it. The Minister had just ordered the car purchased for him from the contribution to the budget by the public companies under the ministry's control normally spent as a training expense for administrative staff.

The minister is quite good at juggling allocations from one use to another within the ministry's budget. The petitioner was the first to jump to Ibrahim as the latter came out of the Minister's very comfortable office. "Please, Sir, let me put my case to the

Minister."

"Sorry, folks," said Ibrahim: "The Minister has a busy day ahead of him. Come tomorrow and your papers will have the appropriate referrals *by me* to the responsible person in the ministry to deal with your petition!"

"Look! We do not want your referrals! We want to see the Minister, himself. He was the one who decreed that he was going to give the public one day of his busy week. I have been here five weeks, so far, and I have not seen any common citizen enter that door," said the petitioner, pointing his right hand to the Minister's Office door for emphasis letting all his frustration come out, hoping that maybe at least his voice can go through the door, if he himself is unable to make it.

A familiar face entered the office and Ibrahim left the petitioner to shake the hands of a successful contractor. He was ready to give him the red carpet treatment. Ibrahim, all of a sudden, turned towards the Minister's Office and the contractor was lead by the hand to the Minister. "You are lucky, you can enjoy a cup of coffee with His Excellency, the Minister. I am sure he will be very pleased to see you.

But, make sure you finish your business before the Ambassador of Guinea Bissau arrives to see the Minister. You see, after his upcoming European tour, the Minister is going to Guinea Bissau for a vacation and the Ambassador has volunteered personally to make all the necessary arrangements. Our Minister had pushed a government decree through the Cabinet, whereby all our imports of nails must come from Guinea Bissau. The ambassador was pleased to report this achievement in trade relations between our two friendly countries to his government."

The contractor seemed somewhat puzzled: "Oh! But, as far as I know they do not make nails in Guinea Bissau!"

"What difference does it make? It is still important for both countries! The Minister had to apply a lot of pressure to get the decision through. For three whole weeks, that is all he worked on." The office Director was explaining to the contractor the dedication the minister displays when he concentrates on an issue his ministry must deal with.

The Minister lifted his eyes above the wide-spread open newspaper in front of his face. He immediately dropped the paper so that he could greet the contractor at the door! "Welcome, Mr. Saeed, We are indeed honored by your visit. Ibrahim, 2 coffees please," he said as he guided his guest to the comfortable couch in his office. He continued talking: "Ibrahim is now building the third floor in his house. Maybe, you can help him out a little bit. We can make it up to you on one of our projects."

"I am sure you can," said the Contractor. "By the way, we have a problem with your Projects Dept. The Manager of the Department is new and he is a bit fussy about the specifications. Nobody before him has given us trouble about these minor points, when processing our invoices. What do you think of the design

we proposed for your son's house?"

The Minister patted the back of the Contractor as a gesture of his appreciation. "My son and his mother were so overjoyed to see it. The Minister of Urban Planning has given the orders for the permit to be issued at once. Somebody had said that the area is not planned and mapped out. The Minister did not hesitate to approve the permit on an exceptional basis. He is my wife's cousin."

"I know, that is why, I was already moving the materials to the site where you want it built. The Contractor showed his attention in seeing to the Minister's needs."

The Minister buzzed for his Office Director as Coffee was being served. Ibrahim walked in. The Minister said, in his usual Ministerial voice of authority "Draft a ministerial decree to send the Projects Director to our Al-Jouf Office for three months to oversee our projects there."

The contractor again wore that puzzled look, hiding it as much as possible: "You have projects in Al-Jouf and I was not informed?"

The Minister laughed: "No, of course not. That is why we are sending the clown out there."

Ibrahim was trying to clear his office of the petitioners. "Come back tomorrow to pick up your papers with my appropriate referrals on them. You must leave. An important Ambassador is coming in five minutes." He gave a signal to the guards to boot out the confused petitioners.

The Al-Mahara petitioner asked for his paper, and Ibrahim gladly returned it to him: "Now maybe we can get some work done with you out of the way!"

The Minister's driver walked in. He immediately recognized a face: "Muflih, how are you? What brings you to our Ministry? Do you need any help?"

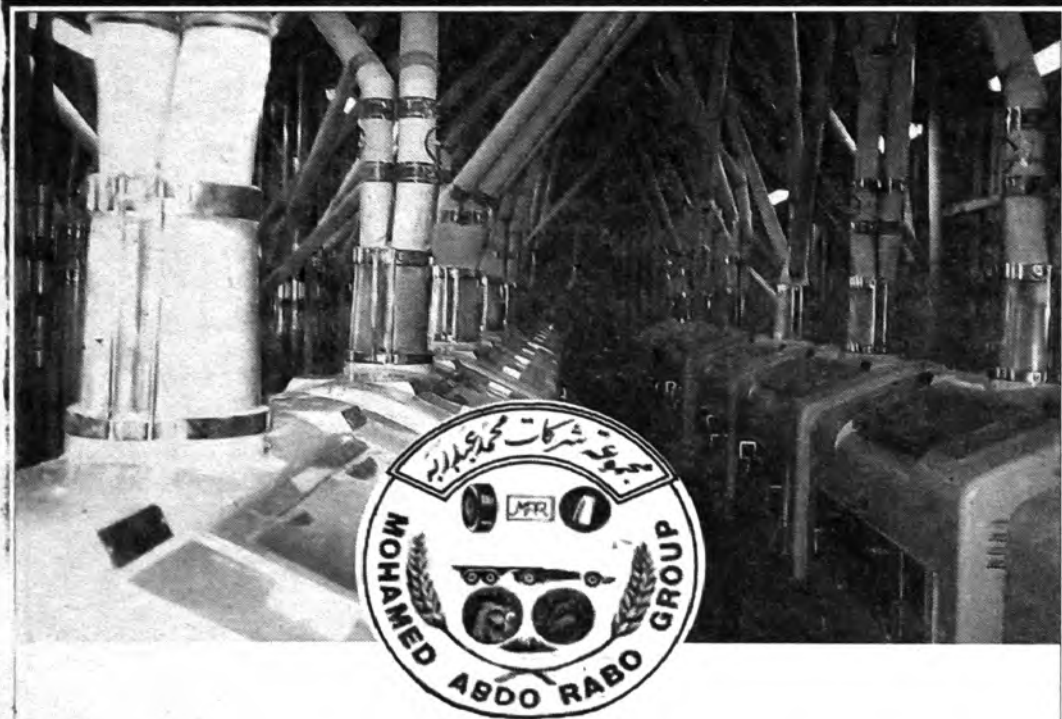
Muflih explained his problem to the Minister's driver. The driver ran to Ibrahim: "You know this guy is a unionist. He saved a whole brigade from dying of thirst when the brigade had advanced too far into the desert in Al-Mahara, while chasing the secessionists who fled to Oman at the end of the Civil War. My brother was commander of the brigade and he had shown me a picture of the guy taken when they reached the Oasis which Muflih lead them to."

"Your brother knows Muflih?," said Ibrahim with a slight frown tainting his voice. The Minister's driver's brother was a big shot in the Army.

He took Muflih's paper to the Minister's Office and 2 minutes later returned to gently give the paper back to Muflih: "The Minister has called the Al-Mahara Office of the Ministry and the Governor to immediately deal with your problem. You should have told me, you knew Abdulaziz's brother!"

The petitioner still felt that something is wrong: "Why should that really make a difference?!" he said as he took the paper from his hand and turned away.

Ibrahim whispered to himself: "It does!" and he set out to prepare for the Ambassador's arrival.



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صنعاء: ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٢ تلسكس: ٢٧٨٠ تاجيل يمن فاكس: ٢٣٢٤٦٥
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For the First Time in Yemen, Jailing a Lawyer for His Style of Defence

Judge Abdul-Malik Bin Abdul-Malik Al-Marwani of the Bani Al-Harith Primary Court imprisoned lawyer Dr. Mohammed Al-Khateeb for one month because of his style of defence.

The lawyer who was defending a client in the Bani Al-Harith court in front of Judge Al-Marwani "asked for a fair chance to present his case," according to sources. "The judge did not give him an adequate opportunity, thus making him speak while the court was in session on 6/4/1996."

This gave the judge the excuse to issue the one-month imprisonment sentence.

Lawyers from all over the country immediately descended on Sana'a to form a pressure group in defence of their colleague. "This is a dangerous precedent," said Lawyer Abdul-Ilah Al-Marwani, a human rights activist. "In cases of disputes between a lawyer and a judge, the law has specified how such situations are to be handled - not by the judge himself passing a sentence," he added.

The New 100 Dollar Bill : It Ain't Here Yet !

On Monday, March 25th, 1996, the US Treasury Department ordered the release of \$80 billion - the first installment - of the new 100 dollar bills. The word is that this is the first of a series of new counter-proof bills. The old bills will neither be recalled nor will they be devalued. They will remain legal tender. As the old notes reach the Federal Reserve, they will simply be replaced with the new money.

Two factors triggered this move. A) Forgeries of US currency has been on the rise, recently. This was sometimes sanctioned by pariah states as well as major outlaw operations. The 100 bill was especially targeted. American authorities estimate that a good 4% of all high-denomination bills are forgeries. B) Many states whose assets were frozen because of political issues have long learned to stash away much of their assets in cash. Their vaults are full of bills. Of course, they forsake earning return on the cash, but - in their view - having it with them is better than not having access to it.

The new 100-dollar bill with a bigger, off-center picture of Benjamin Franklin and several innovations to thwart counterfeiters has gone into circulation all over the world. Packed in book-size bricks worth \$ 400,000 each, the new notes are issued only to branches of the Federal Reserve System, the US government's central bank. The branches pass them on the commercial banks, including three that distribute abroad: Union Bank of Switzerland, Bank of America and Republic New York Corp.

Ahmed Thabit Al-Abdi, Vice General Manager of International Bank of Yemen, told the Yemen Times that so far the new bill has



not made its way into Yemen. "It may be another six weeks before the first of these it trickles in," he said.

This bill represents the first significant change in the appearance of US currency since 1929. The new bill has the same green and black color as the old ones, but one of the new safety features is a large figure '100' in the lower right-hand corner. Color-shifting ink makes it appear green when viewed straight and black when seen from an angle. The paper also includes a watermark.

The words 'United States of America' are printed in microscopic letters on Franklin's coat. Fine lines, hard to reproduce even by the computerized technology used in state-of-the-art counterfeiting, appear behind Franklin's head and above the

picture of Independence Hall in Philadelphia that covers most of the reverse side.

The treasury says there are other security devices it does not want to talk about, to avoid giving tips to the counterfeiters.

The bills are expected to get more notice abroad than in the United States, where smaller denominations rule for all but the biggest cash transactions. Even US-based counterfeiters tend to favor the 20-dollar bill, while those abroad prefer the bigger bill.

The general accounting office, which makes reports to the Congress, has warned about a new high-quality counterfeit operation, dubbed "Superdollar," reportedly produced by Iran and Syria. It questioned whether the treasury has deployed sufficient

resources to detect the new fake version of the old 100-dollar bill. Russia has an especially big demand for the new bills, since dollar cash is popular as a hedge against the huge inflation of rubles. The Russian Central

Bank estimates that \$12 billion to \$13 billion in American currency already circulates in the country, making it the biggest foreign user of US currency abroad.

There is widespread fear in

Russia that the old will lose value, partly because it is easier to fake. But US officials stress that, at least to the US government, both bills will always have equal value and there is no plan to call in the old bills.

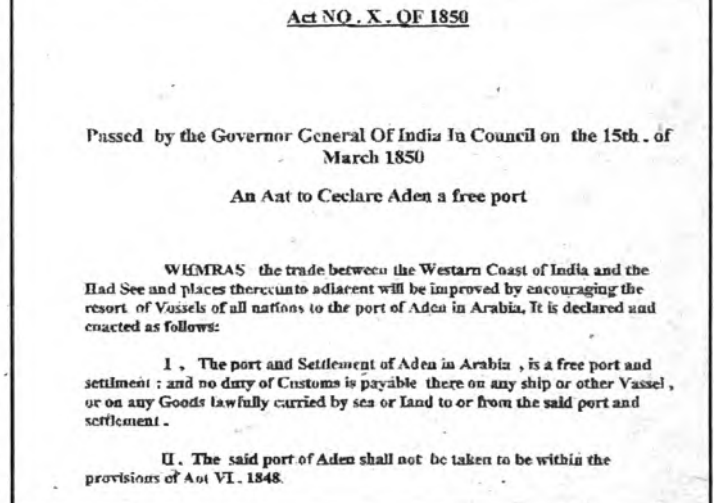
Continued from page 1

Aden Free Zone ...

Such a special force will be created before this year is out. The target date is during the anniversary of the September-October Revolution celebrations. At another level, Mr. Noman disclosed that a delegation representing the Saudi Federation of Commercial and Industrial Chambers is waiting for word to visit the AFZ. "We have received a request to notify them with a suitable time for their visit. They are interested in joint investments," he added.

Interest in the AFZ has also come from various other circles. These range from Southeast Asia, the Far East, all the way to Europe and to North America. "We have received - not just inquiries - but firm interests and offers. These are investors who are willing to jump in as soon as we are ready to take them."

For the Aden Free Zone to play a major role in the economic well-being of Yemen and the region, two factors are crucial. "In order for the AFZ to mean something, on the Yemeni side, we need to put our act together. That means stability, logical decisions, and above all, sensible management. Then there is the factor of resources. The AFZ will need lots of investments before it can



As above document shows, Aden was declared a free zone in 1850

match up to the dreams and aspirations," Dirhem said. "Realistically speaking, both need a lot of doing, but they are not beyond reach. I need to emphasize the money part a bit. A lot of money is needed before we can say that something is happening," explained Mr. Ahmed Thabit al-Abdi, Deputy General Manager of International Bank of Yemen.

That same sentiment was echoed by Mr. Jamal Al-Mutarrif, a rising young businessman. "Please do not forget that two competing new free zones which have just been announced. One in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman, and the other in Colombo, Sri Lanka," he said. Even then, prospects for the AFZ are improving steadily. Keep your fingers crossed!

شركة مجني وحازم حسن وشركاهم - محاسبون قانونيون

وجميع العاملين بالشركة يقدمون لزميلهم

الاخ أمين محمد الشامي

التعازي القلبية بوفاة والده المرحوم

الوالد ((محمد علي الشامي))

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته

وأن يلهم جميع الأهل الصبر والسلوان

وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الكابتن أنور غفوري في ذمة الله

انتقل إلى جوار ربه الشاب الخلق والإنسان الوديع الكابتن

((أنور غفوري))

الذي فجع به الوسط الرياضي والسياسي والثقافي

ونحن إذ ندعو الله له بالمغفرة والرحمة

ندعو لأهله بالصبر والسلوان، وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون طاقم صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

Halaqa is coming ...

The Halaqa festival will take place in Sana'a from 20th to 24th April 1996.



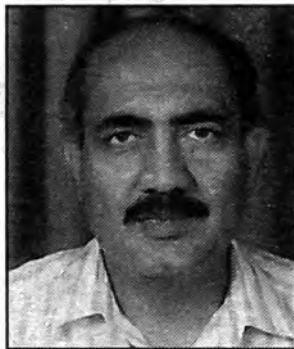
Events will include: dance and music evenings, a variety of art and photographic shows, design, films, tours of Sana'a, art workshops and poetry.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

For further information on the programme get the next edition of Yemen Times.

On Occasion of the Formation of the Yemeni Section of the ICS

Last month, a large number of Yemeni surgeons held a conference in Aden to discuss and approve the formation of a Yemeni section of the International College of Surgeons (ICS). With the successful accomplishment of this objective, Dr. Hussain Al-Kaff, the dynamo behind the effort and the unanimously elected Head of the Yemeni ICS (also Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Aden University), gives below an overview of the ICS.



Organization

ICS is composed of approximately 14,000 general surgeons and surgical specialist from 100 countries. Members are organized into 62 national sections, each directed by its own national officers. These sections are grouped into six federations: Europe, Latin America, North America, South Asia, Africa and the Pacific, and each is coordinated by its federation secretary. All fellows in good standing for leadership positions, and geographic representation is customary.

Congresses and Meetings

National and International ICS scientific meetings provide an opportunity for members to exchange professional knowledge, establish friendships, and create mutual respect and understanding in an international setting. They are held throughout the world, from Mexico City to Buenos Aires to Vienna to New Delhi. Meetings range from the Biennial Congress, held every two years in a different country, to national Section Meetings in which members of one national section present their scientific observations. Many congresses are targeted to meet the requirements of Continuing Medical Education accreditation. Biennial Congresses often make free or reduced admission available to young surgeons of the country in

which the congress is held, so those doctors have the opportunity to learn from renowned international speakers.

Clinical Surgical Teams Project

The Clinical Surgical Teams Project spreads surgical knowledge by sending groups of qualified teaching surgeons directly to the developing countries in which they are needed. Because these surgical teams are an ICS program, they are backed by a strong support system in every country they visit. Since the

project's 1974 inception, teams have been sent to such countries as: Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan, Israel, China, India, Iran, Kuwait, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

The ICS Clinical Surgical Teams Program:

- * establishes long-lasting links between the host hospitals and the visiting teams and their hospitals or universities, so that there can be a fruitful exchange of information even after the visit.
- * assures the full support of local ICS sections in the host countries.
- * sends teams that include colleagues from nearby countries who are sensitive to local cultures.
- * generally organizes stays of two to five weeks in the host country in order to guarantee that the service of the team is really effective.

International Museum of Surgical Science

Housed in a 4-story, historic landmark structure completed in 1917, the museum's collections portray the mysteries, breakthroughs, failures and milestones that have shaped modern surgical science. Fascinating exhibits include: a collection of 2,000-year-old skulls showing holes bored to relieve pressure caused by illness or injury, or to release evil spirits; artifacts that chronicle the

development of Oriental medicine; and an authentic turn-of-the-century apothecary. An impressive medical library contains more than 5,000 volumes, some dating from the 15th century. The museum is located next door to the ICS international office in Chicago, and is open to the public at no charge.

Two unusual museum programs:

- * The International Museum of Surgical Science is a partner in the Chicago Science Explorers Program, sponsored by Chicago's public television station and by the US Department of Energy. The program encourages local elementary and high school students to pursue careers in the sciences.
- * The MED Project is a 2-week summer program that brings together minority high school students and health professionals. Students learn to conduct laboratory tests and use medical equipment, and receive a comprehensive background in health care. After students get hands-on experience with medical technology, they feel more comfortable in considering health care as a potential career.

Publications

- * The quarterly journal *International Surgery* contains scientific contributions by outstanding surgeons throughout the world. special features include symposia and editorials on current and often controversial medical and surgical subjects.
- * The newsletter *International News* keeps members up to date with reports of national section activities, surgical team outreach, and reports from research and scholarship recipients.
- * A membership directory lists ICS members alphabetically and geographically.
- * Many national sections publish their own national newsletters with in-depth reports of activities in their countries.

Surveys

A survey is in progress to assess

surgical training as it varies throughout the world. Results of such research help in evaluating methods for standardizing surgical teaching around the world to ensure a universal standard of high quality training and practice.

Scholarships

ICS research and scholarship grants focus on increasing surgical expertise in developing countries. Recent examples: a Filipino surgeon traveled to Australia to study cardiovascular surgery in children with congenital defects, a surgeon from India studied ophthalmology operating techniques in the United States, and a young Russian surgeon has been awarded a grant to visit Japan to learn advanced surgical procedures for cancers of the esophagus and stomach.

Other Services

ICS issues an International Surgical Passport that helps members gain access to hospitals and medical schools when traveling abroad. The college also includes and International Woman's Auxiliary that is instrumental in fundraising.

Affiliations

ICS works closely with a number of important international health organizations, including: the World Health Organization (WHO), the economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), the World Medical Association (WMA), Action in International Medicine (AIM), Medisend, and UNICEF.

New Frontiers in Nano-Technology GREATER THAN GODZILLA

A windfarm smaller than a chip. A robotic surgeon no bigger than a red blood cell. Wristwatch-size molecular supercomputers. These are some of the futuristic visions evoked by exponents of nano-technology. Taken from the Greek word for dwarf, nano-technology, however, means different things to different people. To some, call them dreamers, nanotechnology promises nothing less revolutionary than the end of economics in an age of superabundance of custom-built materials made atom by atom. Others, the doers, equate it simply with "micro-machine technology", where objects are measured in nanometers, or billionth parts of a meter.

Over 300 of these dreamers and doers met recently in Palo Alto, California, at the Foresight Institute built by Eric Drexler, for the promotion of molecular nano-technology - an engineering project founded on the ultra-small scale. Unfortunately for our region, there was not one single Arab in the 300 group looking into the future of this technology, although there were four Israelis and a dozen additional Jews.

The work they described at the fourth Foresight conference would have been considered visionary and implausible just a few years ago, much as Drexler's dream does today.

Drexler believes that we could reshape our world with billions of microscopic molecular machines or 'assemblers' that could put together any structure we wanted from cheap raw materials. According to Drexler meat may come, not from animals grazing on shrinking grassland, but from molecular assemblers weaving tender steaks from reservoirs of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen judiciously combined into meaty fibers. Wow, just watch out for the new cow disease that threatens the UK

livestock.

The construction industry, says Drexler, will convert cheap carbon into the planks of the ultimate building material, diamond. These will be light and strong enough to create the world's tallest skyscrapers.

Then there are gloomier versions such as the minuscule disassemblers evoked by Admiral David Jeremiah of the US Navy at the Foresight conference. These are expected to undo with the same ingenuity what Drexler's nanomachines do.

To be sure, none of these machines exist. No one knows if they will ever be built. What is certain, however, is that the relentless drive toward miniaturization in the electronics industry is now inspiring micro-miniature technology. This reaches far beyond the pocket telephone and the personal computer. "In the next 50 years, this structural engineering of silicon may have as profound an impact on society as did miniaturization of electronics in the preceding decades," writes Kaigham J Gabriel in a special issue on Key Technologies for the 21st century brought out by Scientific American.

Using materials and processes of micro-electronics, researchers have fashioned microscopic beams, pits and gears, membranes and even motors that can be deployed to move atoms or to open and close valves that pump microliters of liquid. The size of these Lilliputian elements is measured in microns - a fraction of the width of the human hair.

At this scale, a grain of sand looks like a boulder and the humble flea looms larger than a Godzilla or King Kong, where

mechanical principles such as friction, wear and tear and lubrication take on exotic, poorly understood meanings. For instance, if you go to IBM's research labs at Yorktown Heights in the US, you might be intrigued by the lighted wax candles kept near hi-tech equipment for exploring tomorrow's chips. No, the IBM scientists led by India-born Praveen Chaudhuri are not in a prayer meeting.

The lighted candles protect nano-electronic devices from static electricity generated by the friction of a person's movement - the swishing of a tie or a lab coat or simply a hand movement through the air - near the equipment. Soot particles from the flickering flames discharge the air, protecting the circuits from tripping. If all this seem implausibly small, remember that the wires Chaudhuri worked on 15 years ago were 10 nanometres wide. Compare this with a fat human hair which is 10,000 nanometres in diameter.

Today, the world is entering a realm where a transistor is too tiny to 'print' on silicon. The latest commercially available chips already have circuits as narrow as 350 nanometres and components on some experimental "quantum devices" are less than 10 nanometres - only a few atoms wide.

Scientists are now thinking in terms of angstroms or tenths of a nanometer. In this ultra-small realm, materials and devices are being made by piling elements in layers as thin as two angstroms which is equal to a single atom's thickness.

For all its atomic antics, this is the conventional end of the nanotech spectrum, where engineers are trying to push engi-

neering techniques such as precision machining and etching to the limits of miniaturization. Which brings us to the next wave, what is known as 'bottoms-up fabrication.'

Instead of starting with a large block of material and whittling it away, parts are grown or assembled in the material form the opposite end with atoms being manipulated by devices like the scanning tunneling microscope (an invention for which Gerd Binnig and Heinrich Rohrer of IBM won the 1986 Nobel prize).

Atomic manipulation with a scanning probe is a painfully slow process of molecular manufacturing. Still, it proves the concept. Nor is the only route making nanodevices. Chemists like Joseph Michl from University of Colorado are exploring the so-called Tinkertoy approach, building from scratch structures from chemical chains, rods and rings which might one day lead to molecular machines and computers.

What does it all mean?

That is the real question. If our scientists and engineers succeed, it may mean the end of business for economists. It will mean the ability of the world to create abundant supplies of everything at almost no cost. Well, not exactly, no cost, but a small cost indeed. That still leaves the door open for economists. There will always be the need to match supply and demand, if there is a cost.

In any case, nano-technology opens a new frontier. Again, unfortunately for the Arab world, the very word is unknown, even among the intellectuals.

Abridged and adopted by:
Anwar Al-Sayyadi.

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- e. Good command of English spoken/ written
- f. Abilities to use Word Processing

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Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Do not forget to give your telephone number

Second of
2-Part Article

In a YIDD/CFS Seminar in Sanaa Last Week:

Discussing the Ground Rules for the 1997 Elections

After the first three speakers finished giving their papers, the Peoples General Congress was scheduled to give their views on the past Parliamentary Elections (27-3-96) and their position on the upcoming elections. For some unexplained reason the PGC did not deliver a statement. Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaflay, Secretary General of the Nasserite Unionist Party delivered what he considered as the unofficial position of the opposition as well.



Al-Mikhlaflay pointed out that in a democracy the transfer of authority can only be realized through free and clean elections, otherwise we do not have a democracy. On the 1993 elections, the positive sides are that the experience can be used to determine what needs to be done to make the 1997 elections more meaningful and better.

On the negative side, we have the absence of a balance of power, which was the climate that existed in the last elections. The Balance of Power is a good guarantee for free elections. What guarantees are we looking for? Al-Mikhlaflay said three: Legal, procedural and the guarantee that the executive authority in power will execute a clean election?

- There are definitely amendments needed. There are amendments proposed, but they are not the product of a collective effort by all the political forces. Suggested amendments:
- 1) Possible reconsideration of party states or having 2 rounds of voting, to allow a winner to take a majority vote.
 - 2) The Armed Forces should not be used to persuade the outcome of results in the districts they are based.
 - 3) We should not stay with a fixed electoral district distribution based on population, but a more practical approach is needed.
 - 4) The resignations of candidates should be really settled from a legal point of view.
 - 5) Qualifications of candidates should be clearly defined and there must be some way of controlling the number of candidates per district (through agreement of such between all their political forces in the arena.)
 - 6) Election campaigns must be

guided by controls and equitable chances should be given to all candidates, especially funding wise

- 7) Punishment should be set and meted out to any violators of free and democratic election rules.
- 8) Legal Guarantees: Equal opportunity for all candidates to use the media of the state. On the other hand clear texts should be issued to determine how best to control the use of public funds. Regarding election procedures, Al-Mikhlaflay suggested:

- 1- The issue of illiterates voting must be clarified. No "helpers" to shape public opinion (Abdulaziz Sultan had previously pointed out in his paper that the illiterate votes constituted 50% of the voters almost)
- 2- More polling places and ballot boxes to overcome the scattered population centers.
- 3- The Election Committee composition/selection of members needs review. The Judiciary cannot be relied on to taken on role of independent supervision, it is not independent or every clean. Consensus must be reached on the meaning of "independent" supervision and monitoring. The Election Committee should be of multi-party composition.
- 4- The Election Committees in the polling stations should be selected based on agreed method of selection between all the political forces.
- 5- Internal as well as external monitoring of elections is still necessary, especially in view of absence of a balance of power. Finally, Mr. Al-Mikhlaflay discussed how the executive authority can become committed to clean and free elections:

1) Political consensus on date for elections. An elections government. Suggested commitments by the rulers:

1. Compliance with Constitution and Agreement for Pledge and Accord with regards to holding of Municipal Elections, now long overdue, before the General Parliamentary Elections.
2. Basis of not using public funds for any of the parties to "illicitly" influence results.
3. Judicial elements: The Supreme Court should be the only authority to deal with appeals/objections in elections.

Dr. Wahiba Fara', who chaired the second session of the first days session pointed out that the wide dispersion of the population is indeed on important technical issue of Yemeni elections, where there are now 105,000 population centers distributed throughout the Republic.

In the free for all discussion, Mohammed Al-Maqalih, of Al-Haq Party and Spokesman for the Coordination Council of the Opposition concurred with Al-Mikhlaflay on Local Council Elections before the Parliamentary Elections. Mohammed Sabry of Sana'a University stated that it is always difficult to apply agreed upon procedures because power and influence is not equitably distributed. Can the Islah Party play the same balancing role of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the last elections. He also stated that there must be total freedom to obtain all the information that maybe required. There is no monopoly on information. The main instrument for controlling clean elections is the power of public opinion, and the results of Research Center Studies and outside pressure on the authority in power. Hatim abu Hatim of the Popular Nasserite Party pointed out that the population of Yemen is influenced in the South and Middle Part of the Country by force. In the north, it is by money. Mr. Ali Al-Dailamy suggested that 60% of the government staff are illiterates.

On the 25th of March, the Presidency of the first session was by Professor Zain Al-Saqqaq. The Fourth Paper of the Workshop was a study done by Dr. Hamood



al-Awdy on the "Social Position of Woman Taking an Active Role in Political Life in Yemen. Which was read by Dr. Wahiba Fara', who also commented on the paper afterwards. The essence of the paper is an opinion sample of 80 men and women. The results:

- 56% agree in principle to women participating in politics-a positive sign according to Dr. Awdy.
- 80% of the women agree
- 52% of the men agree
- Regionally: 100% of the men in Arhab tribe say not to women in politics. 80% of the women disagree with this.
- In Sana'a city and Abyan 80% agree (Abyan is rural)
- Societies feelings: 75% think that Yemeni society is against women participating (men only), where as women 63% think the same.
- Other results: 53% of Yemenis think that women are still inactive politically. 47% of disagree Dr. Wahiba Fara' own comments:

In 1982, women first entered

politics, as women were candidates in Local Council elections in the North

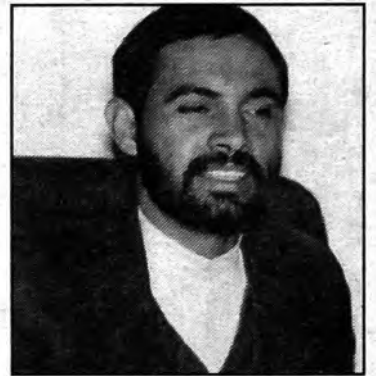
In 1993-49 Candidates were women. 2 winners. Both religions parties (Islah, Haq) declared the right of women to participate. no position by the Opposition parties

In 1993 - 600,000 participated out of 4,000,000 eligible female voters. Women were used to supervise and monitor elections. Women must first be upgraded educationally and then democracy shall become the women's source of power since they are more than 50% of eligible voters.

The Fifth Paper dealt with the election systems and their effects on Political Practice which basically repeats what other papers have delved in to regarding proportional individual results versus party-slate results. The paper was presented by Abdul Nasser Al-Muwadda'. The Sixth Paper dealt with the Controls in Elections with a follow-up by Mr. Mohammed Al-Ruba'yi.

The author of the paper Abdul Hafiz Al-Hakimy discussed why observers are needed, particularly in Third World countries, whose populations lack political awareness and have little experience in democratic practice.

Mr. Al-Ruba'yi commented on the widely stated suggestion that democracy is the product of the international transformations of the last ten years, especially in Yemen. Mr. Ruba'yi is a long



time advocate and promoter of democracy, in addition to the institutionalizing the National Cooperative Movement which for a number of years was a successful initiative towards democracy and popular community spirit, especially in the mid 1970's. In one of the Presidential elections by Parliament, Mr. al-Ruba'yi was the only member who responded "No," which he has no qualms in stating that the purpose was "for the sake of democracy, only I must say 'No'." Mr. Ruba'yi firmly believes that democracy must be coupled with guts and faith. He responded to the suggestion with a question: "Where is the role of the nationalist movement in the suggestion? We want democracy because we want it not because somebody has to spoon feed us democracy. Because it is right and it is our right to have it... If we just apply or implement the constitution with regards to the higher Election Committee, then that is the guarantee of its complete independence.

3 Main Problems

Ali Mohammed Zain, Crater, Aden.

Nowadays, our people in Yemen feel frustrated on three main counts.

First, there is the issue of Hunaish island. Most people feel humiliated because of the Eritrean occupation of the island. Yemen's attitude in addressing the problem is a further source of humiliation.

Second, there is the virus of corruption. Government officials have been promising a lot in terms of fighting this deadly disease. But, so far, there is no real action.

Third, there is inflation, which has become the nightmare for all Yemeni families. The rising cost of living is a real monster with which most Yemeni families contend with almost on a daily basis.

I believe these issues are related

and they have many common elements between these subjects. Therefore we must ask ourselves a few questions. Which should we handle first? What is the relationship between law and crime? How seriously can we take the promises of our politicians? How are senior government officials appointed? By the politicians or by the common people? What is the fate of the honest and noble government employees? And last, but not least, what is the role of the public is traightening up the bad officials?

President Ali Abdulla Saleh has given us the master key when he opened up the accountability file. But, a lot of people are still waiting to know what is the next step. Some citizens are not even sure whether the President was really serious about reforms or whether it was all for media purposes. This hesitation is there because some of the bad people are really his proteges.

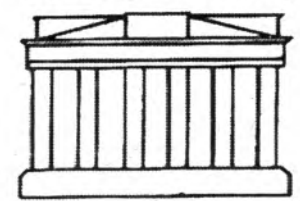
Regarding corruption, it is very important, at this stage, to collect evidence and document the cases in the courts. This is a battle that has to be fought legally by the government itself.

Regarding inflation, the ball is again with the government. It is the government that is responsible for the inflation because of the rising money supply, and bottlenecks in the economy.

Also do not forget qat. More than 75% of the population chews qat. You can see more and more satellites on the roofs. This means people must have money to spend money. It is this purchasing power that drives the cost of living higher.

Finally, let me say that an old international map of Yemen issued by the British Government in 1839 shows Hunaish island as Yemeni. I hope that the Yemeni government and academic institutions have this and other maps in the library.

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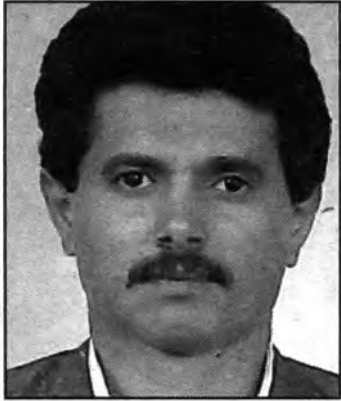
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Go for it. Learn Another Language

By: Hussein Al-Maqtary,
Sanaa.



Learning a foreign language is a very difficult task because it involves learning a new culture (the way of life and mentality of the people of the targeted language).

In fact, it is not usually successful for many people to learn a foreign language in spite of their strong wish and efforts they may exert. Their failure comes as a result of their unawareness of what it really means to learn a foreign language and the proper way of doing that - of which the cultural dimension is thought to be the most important one.

According to many modern linguists, language and culture are inseparable and a student who is outgoing and who has empathy towards other cultures learns languages better and faster. That is logical because the most important objective of learning foreign languages is to establish understanding and cooperation among the different races and cultures of the world.

Therefore, one should not think that he or she is learning English, for instance, just to find a better job or to improve his or her financial income. Those people, however, might succeed in achieving their goal, but they fail to be real translators or interpreters as their language lacks the cultural knowledge and depth. They might even fail to adapt themselves to the new life if they happen to live in the English-speaking world.

So, before knowing the "ideal" way of learning a foreign language as well as the characteristics of a good language learner, it might be useful for us to know first the advantages of mastering a foreign language.

According to C. tin (1979), the ability to use another language opens up a new world and extends one's mental horizons.

Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982) state: "Neuro-linguistic research is beginning to suggest that people who know more than one language make use of more of the brain than monolingual do."

On the basis of the above assumption and our common sense, it is reasonable that knowing a foreign language has the following advantages:

- 1- People who control more than one language are verbally more skillful than monolinguals.
- 2- Bilinguals have better auditory memory than monolinguals and are also better at intuiting meaning from unknown words.
- 3- It is commonly noticeable that bilinguals are culturally more tolerant and more open-minded than monolinguals.
- 4- Bilinguals have a better chance for financial and social progress than monolinguals.
- 5- Bilinguals have more access to education and certain kinds of knowledge which are available only through foreign languages.

Having all these advantages in mind, people have a good reason to try to learn at least one foreign language. In Yemen, as an example, there is a general tendency to learn English, for people here think of it as the main international language. Almost all Yemeni educated people believe that English is important for their academic and career

development. However, not many Yemenis succeed in acquiring the English language whether through their own efforts or through formal instruction in public schools.

In fact, it is rare to find a Yemeni student who is able to say or write a single correct English sentence after six years of formal instruction in public schools. We all know that Yemenis like to learn English and their motivation is high, and the Yemeni government spends millions of hard currency in recruiting Arab teachers to work in the Yemeni schools. What's wrong, then?

Based on my own experience in learning and teaching English, the problem is in the way of teaching/learning English, as well as the syllabus itself which aims only at grammatical accuracy and ignores the cultural aspects.

It might also be the fault of the negative attitude of both the parents and the student him/herself towards the target culture. There are also economic, political and may be religious factors which affect negatively the learning of a foreign language.

We will not discuss all these things, but it is useful and more practical for the reader to know about the proper way of learning a foreign language and the conditions in which the learning/teaching could be more successful and even more enjoyable.

So, I list below some recommendations which are the outcome of my experience and my readings in related literature.

1. Language learning should take place in a rich linguistic and cultural environment. This can be achieved through having friends from the English-speaking world. Doing extensive reading in the literature of that language also helps.
2. The learner should deal with the target language not only as a school-subject, but also as a living language that must be practiced outside the classroom. Speaking and interacting with native speakers of the language is very helpful.
3. The learner should always seek situations in which he/she may practice the target language. The word practice here does not mean speaking only, but also involves the other three language skills... listening, reading and writing.
4. The learner should learn and memorize patterns (sentences, phrases, dialogues) rather than isolated words.
5. The learner should not think that learning a foreign language could be achieved in a specific period of time (six months or so), but he/she must realize that it is an on-going activity and a life-long task.
6. The learner should overcome frustration that happens to everybody while practicing his/her language. He/she must realize that it is normal to be frustrated or to make mistakes or even to appear foolish sometimes during the process of practicing his/her language.
7. The learner should be always on the look-out for new language entries, idioms, expressions.
8. The learner should be confident and out-going with the target language speakers and willing to accept the challenge and hardship of learning a foreign language.

Language teachers believe the above recommendations are essential to succeed in learning a foreign language. I welcome comments, suggestions and feedback from readers and language specialists.

The Muslims of Britain at the British Council in Sanaa

Last week, the British Council kicked off a picture exhibition on "Muslims in the UK" with two presentations, the first was made by Hamish Daniel, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the British Embassy, and the second by Dr. Tawfeeq Soufian, Assistant Rector of Sanaa University for Research and Higher Studies.

"The Muslim community in the UK is over a million strong, and it makes a substantial contribu-

tion to the country," he said. He also indicated that the first wave of Muslims to Britain actually came from Yemen.

Dr. Soufian who had himself lived in the United Kingdom for 16 years, described the Yemeni community in the UK as a bridge which helps increase understanding and cooperation between the two sides. "They play a vital role in bringing us together," he said.

The largest segment of the Muslim community in Britain is actually from the Indian Sub-continent. It is well integrated and suffers from no real discrimination.

Brendan MacSherry, Director of the British Council, disclosed that the Council is planning to hold a similar event exclusively on the Yemeni community in the UK. "Much preparation is required for this," he added.

Air Tanzania's Area Manager Relocated to Aden

The area manager for Air Tanzania has been moved from Djibouti to Aden. Mr. Urbano Mtabo is now established in Aden to his company's presence more felt in the country.

Air Tanzania launched its once-a-week flight to Aden on May 31st, 1995. "Since then, traffic has picked up well," he said.

But Mr. Mtabo wants more. He is now looking into tourist flows so that the two destinations - Yemen and Tanzania - are linked. "There is also the historic ethnic link between the two countries," he pointed out.

Air Tanzania is represented in Yemen by Universal Travel & Tourism which has a vast network



At the Taj Sheba This Week French Food, French Music & French Paintings



If you get psyched up by French lifestyle, this week is for you. The Taj Sheba Hotel has just launched its French Food and Cultural Festival featuring different aspects of French living.

If you like art, then there is Ms. Dominique Basquin, a full-fledged artist. "I am gradually moving into oil paintings," she says. She does beautiful portraits and landscapes, as well. Based at Montmartre in Paris, Dominique is overly excited about the trip to Yemen and the chance to pick up

a few pointers from "this ancient culture of Yemen".

Speaking of ancient culture, also this week, there will be an exhibition of the pictures/portraits of August Bartholdi which he drew during his visit to Yemen. But Bartholdi is, of course, famous from another thing. Yes, that is right, he is the guy who made the Statue of Liberty, in partnership with Gustav Eiffel who did the internal engineering work of the statue. Gustav is, of course, famous for another thing - the Eiffel Tower.

If you like music, the Joli Coeur orchestra has delightful songs for you. The nine-person band has been together for the last twenty years. They really play in beautiful harmony. Only five are in Yemen now.

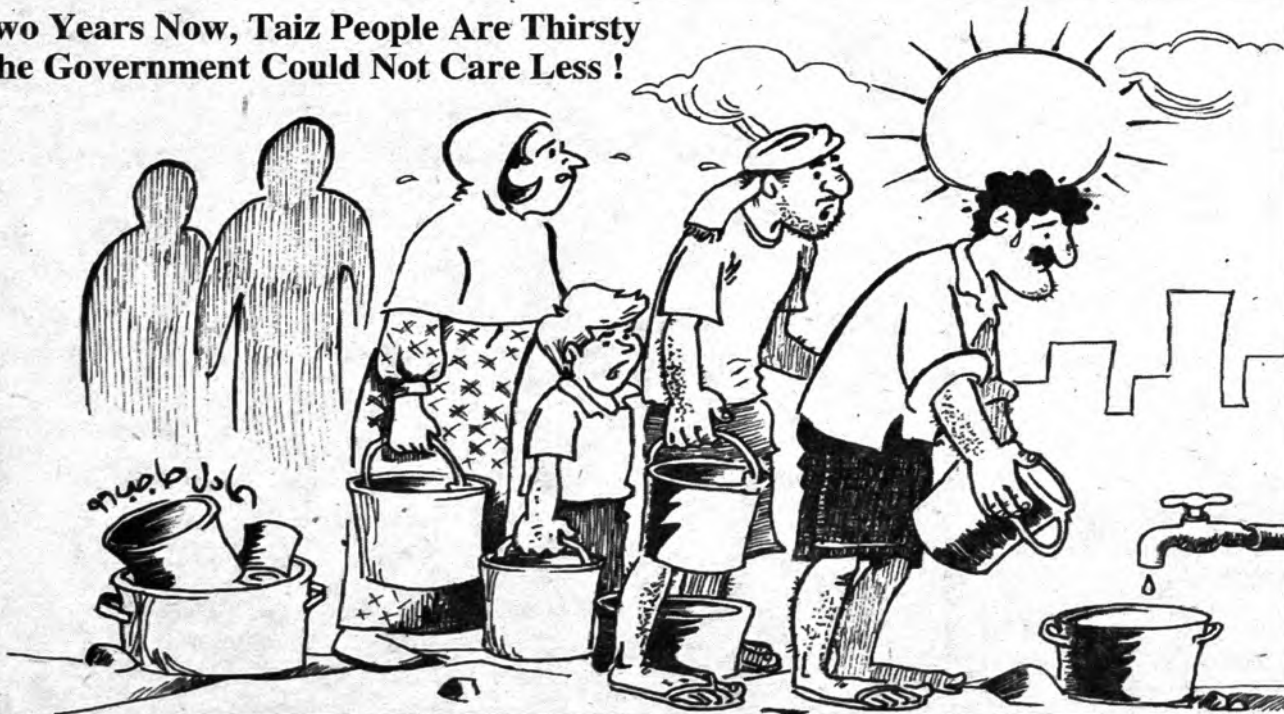
Daniel Guillet, lead singer, was in Yemen in January. He says he liked the place, and now he is back with the band.

"Our presentations in Taiz and Aden - last week, were an immediate hit. The public was fantastic, and we hope to receive a similar response in Sanaa," said Daniel, who has bought himself a local ood instrument and wants to try it out.

In addition, there is the French cuisine and other aspects of French.

Mr. Vijay Albuquerque, General Manager of Taj Sheba Hotel, says the hotel's management has made it a policy to bring part of the world to Sanaa through these festivals. "I want to thank the many sponsors who support us in this endeavor," he added.

For Two Years Now, Taiz People Are Thirsty But the Government Could Not Care Less!



The Joli Coeur





Algerian President Leads National Reconciliation Effort

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual chaired a meeting on Saturday April 6th, which brought together leaders of the opposition, community elders and influential national figures in a dialogue to overcome the country's crisis. The effort is based on an initiative by the president who seeks to bring about a national reconciliation. Zeroual had addressed letters of invitation to leaders of political parties, unions, social organizations and prominent figures to exchange views about the crisis in Algeria. He strongly expressed his belief that it was within the Algerians to find solutions to the political fragmentations, and it was possible to strike a middle ground.

"The aim of the talks is to find the best ways and means to establish a pluralistic democracy born of our authentic values and the legitimacy to which our people aspire," said an official spokesman for Presidential office. President Zeroual who was returned to office with a crushing victory in last November's elections, has pledged to end Algeria's civil strife through dialogue with main opposition parties while continuing his iron policy to wipe out militants trying to destabilize his government. Zeroual had tried to negotiate with jailed FIS (Front for Islamic Salvation) leaders twice without success. The government blamed FIS hard-liners for

sinking the last round of talks in July with their relatively moderate detained leader Abbasi Madani. "National dialogue constitutes the best way in the Algerian's approach to lift the country out of the crisis and put the finishing touches to the democratic process," said a statement issued by the presidential office following the meeting. Although the level of violence has subsided, the bombings continue, however. Last week, two bombs exploded killing innocent civilians and by-standers. Often, the attacks target the military and police forces, but the actual victims are generally from among the civilian population.

India's Spectacular Growth Is based on a Solid Educational System

The Indian educational system is assessed universally as one of the most professional worldwide. This is especially true regarding university and post-university education. The highly technical information dose given to students enables them to compete well on a worldwide plane. One example of such professionalism is the group of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). These are a group of six centers of excellence for higher training, research and development in science, engineering and technology. They are well-equipped and well-staffed so that they may pursue training on a "hand-on" basis. "We have earned the worldwide recognition for excellence and professionalism," said Dr. C. V. Ramakrishnan, Dean of the Board of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Applied Mechanics. One of the reasons for such a standing is the highly selective, yet objective, admission policy of the institutes. As Dr. T. C. Goel, Chairman of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) explains, "Every year, we receive thousands of applications and we can only accept a small fraction. So there is a rigorous exam. the process is transparent and objective." Indeed, the IITs JEE shifts every year from one center to another. The 1996 admission coordination committee has moved to Kharagpur.

Integrity in the school system is an important factor in the confidence and reputation of university education. That is why, last month, the University of Delhi found it necessary to sack three of its professors, including the Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, for having been implicating in raising half a mark on the paper of the dean's son so that he may qualify for the seat. In addition, the controller of examinations has been let go on open leave pending disciplinary action. As a result of the highly mathematical approach in the school system, Indian students have been able to excel once they graduate. Career advancement has increasingly become contingent on abilities in logic and mathematics. Thus, the Indian labor force has found attractive job opportunities abroad. The Indian diaspora, like the Chinese before, is increasingly making its presence felt, wherever it went. Even in the international organizations and multinational companies, Indian individuals have quickly climbed to the top, thanks to a major extent to their first-class education. There is one additional reason why Indian graduates have fared better than their peers in other countries. The medium of training in India is English, although some would want to change that. That fact has given them an edge in a world that is growing smaller and that uses English as its vehicle.

For Aideed, the Dream of Being Number One Drifts Away

Rivals of Somali warlord General Muhammed Farah Aidid blamed him for the death of a "deputy minister" in his self-proclaimed "government" who was found dead in south Mogadishu over the last weekend. A radio station controlled by Aidid's main rival Ali Mahdi Muhammed, accused the south Mogadishu general of killing Elmi Nur Sharmarke, "deputy minister" for resettlement and rehabilitation. Sharmarke was found dead in his residence on Saturday and Aidid's loyalists said he died of "natural causes." But Sharmarke's nephew Omar Inbrahim Ali said he had seen a pool of blood under Sharmarke's bed and that the body bore wounds on the forehead and bruises thought to have been caused by a rope tied tightly around the shoulders. Ali said Sharmarke had opposed Aidid's capture of the central towns of Baidoa and Huddur, and his continuing military offensive against fighters of the Rahawein resistance army. "I believe my uncle had asked Gen. Aidid to withdraw from Rahawein territories," Ali added.

Sharmarke's family had demanded an autopsy before burial and that they be allowed to bury him in north Mogadishu, but both requests were refused by officials in Aidid's "government" who said he deserved a "state funeral." In another development, an ongoing conference of Ali Mahdi's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) has set up two committees to discuss political and militia affairs. The SSA would also have a common military command to coordinate the fight against Aidid in the Baidoa, Bakol and the lower Shebelle regions. Aidid announced the formation of a "government" in his south Mogadishu fiefdom in June last year, after his supporters declared him "interim president." His administration has, however been vehemently denounced by other Somali faction leaders, who say Aidid had no mandate to form a government in the war-torn Horn of Africa country, which has been without a recognized administration since the overthrow of dictator Muhammed Siad Barre in 1991. A group of 64 heavily-armed

militiamen defected from Aidid's forces in the southern port of Merca and returned to Mogadishu to join forces of his arch-rival Ali Mahdi, their commander said here yesterday. Gosar Issak Jesow, 35, told journalists that 58 of his men escaped from Merca on Saturday and returned to Mogadishu to join Mahdi's forces controlling north Mogadishu, while six others went to Medina district of south Mogadishu to join the camp of SSA supporters. Over the last several months, General Aidid had increased the area under his control in many ways. Often, he would work out arrangements absorbing local chieftains and warlords to his camp, and other times, his men would simply gobble up more territory. For a while, it looked feasible that Aidid would, in fact, end up in control of most of the country. Two factors worked against that possibility: The international community, in general and the UN system in particular, work against it. Second, the other warlord have now ganged up against him.

Peres Visits the Gulf

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres concluded last week official visits to Oman and Qatar aimed at showing voters back at home that the Middle East peace process is reaping rewards despite a wave of bloody suicidal attacks. With only weeks before the May general elections, Peres is anxious to prove the "new Middle East" he holds dear is not a pipe-dream and that countries across the region are now opening their doors to Israeli officials. Indeed, Peres was the first Israeli prime minister to set foot in Qatar where he arrived on Tuesday, April 2nd. That is not all. The visit led to a reciprocal agreement which set up economic representation offices. The main function of the offices will be to approve tourist visas to Israelis for shopping trips to the Gulf, as well as coordinate commercial deals. Qatar's discussion on a gas deal with Israel is at an advanced stage. Charged with building new bridge with the Arab World at the Madrid conference in 1991 which launched the peace process, Peres chose to target the Gulf Arab states. Relations with Oman date back to the 1970s when the Israeli secret service Mossad established a listening post in Muscat. Oman was also one of the

very few Arab countries that supported Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative in 1977. The Omani foreign minister also represented his country at the funeral of slain Premier Yitzhak Rabin on November 6th. Rabin had made the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Oman (and the Gulf) in December 1994. Peres' visit had been planned for an earlier timing, but it was postponed because of the suicide bombings inside Israel. In addition, there are plans for lower ranking Israeli officials to visit other Arab countries which are unable to take the bold steps taken by Qatar and Oman. Reports have it that ministerial-level officials from Israel will pay official and announced visits to other countries. Israel is heading for elections next month. Shimon Peres has found that Benjamin Netanyahu is a formidable opponent. To handle the competition, Peres had enlisted the support of the countries which are promoting the peace process. Netanyahu is opposed to the present peace process and has pledged to sabotage it if he take over. He has made his appeal to the fundamentalist and militant portion of the Israeli society. He has also received support from the Palestinian militants.

A Military Man Rules Supported by a Religious Leader

Sudan Follows the Yemeni Model

The Sudanese parliament elected Hassan al-Turabi unopposed as speaker, last week. With that, Sudan seems to have completed copying the Yemeni model. A military man rules, and a leader of the religious bloc takes charge of the legislative body and wields lots of power. Such combination of military-religious alliance has now become a norm. The 400-seat parliament, in its first session after elections last month, voted for Turabi by acclamation. He was nominated by Muhammad al-Amin Khalifa, the speaker of the outgoing appointed parliament. No one stood against him.

The new Sudanese parliament has wide powers and cannot be dissolved by the president. "We are looking forward to fruitful cooperation with the government ... to lead Sudan for the public interest," Turabi said in his acceptance speech. Turabi told the house that the Sudanese people wanted "equitable development in all fields and the achievement of peace between northern and southern Sudan." President Omar Al-Bashir, sworn in as elected president, also told parliament that peace would be top of his government's agenda. "Our first duty and utmost

priority will be realization of peace in southern Sudan," Bashir said. "War has never been and will never be a solution for the southern Sudan question." Bashir also pledged that his new cabinet would represent all Sudanese people and said a new constitution would be drafted and put to referendum. He also called on the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to favorably respond to his peace efforts. "We call upon the other party to respond to the call for peace," said Bashir, who was wearing civilian clothes rather than his usual military uniform.

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2. Please confirm order and finalize arrangements by Thursday to make sure advertisement is printed on following Monday.
3. All payments are to be made in favor of Yemen Times by crossed check.

AL-FAROUK, HERE & ABROAD

Al-Farouk Institute of Languages and Computer is already well-known in Sana'a. It provides services to thousands of students and encourages them to continue their study abroad.

We met Mr. Al-Warad and asked him to give us an idea about the Institute.

He said that the main thing they are concentrating on is good teaching through different modern teaching aids. He added that the teachers at Al-Farouk are fully trained in language teaching skills, and have adequate knowledge and high qualifications that enable them to do a first class job.

Regarding arrangements for the students who want to continue their studies in UK or USA, he said that al-Farouk is coordinating with well known colleges which were established 40 years ago. These are St Giles Colleges which are represented by Al-Farouk in Yemen. He added that the institute arranges for the students courses as well as accommodation. Other dimensions like cultural aspects are also taken care of.

The picture reproduced with this

article is an example of a gift that will be hand-delivered to St Giles Colleges in San Francisco next month by a delegation from Al-Farouk who are expected to visit the college to participate in the 40th anniversary of establishing St Giles. They will also discuss the possibility of establishing an Arabic Department in the College in cooperation with Al-Farouk. He added that a similar gift will be delivered to St Giles College in Eastborne in Britain by the students **Anees** and **Sami Zuhrah** who are leaving to Britain next week for studying there.

Al-Warad congratulated the two students **Sami** and **Anees** wishing them good luck. He also thanked **Mr. Reynold Elder**, the director of **St. Giles College** in Eastbourne for the speedy and adequate arrangements for the two students. Finally, he expressed appreciation to the consulate section of the **British Embassy** in Sana'a for facilitating the students' visas.

By: Yussuf Sharif,
Yemen Times.



Mr. Al-Warad



Mr. Elder



Samee



Anees

Yemen Celebrates International Health Day



On the 6th of April, the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) organized a meeting attended by Dr. Najeeb Ghanim, Minister of Health, The Chairman of the Environmental Protection Council, the Deputy Minister, the WHO Representative in Yemen, and many other officials. The theme of the talk was on the general health conditions of Yemen.

The minister reviewed the increasing demand for health care, while at the same time, available resources were falling. "The ministry was pushing ahead with preventive medical efforts in the country," he said. He also indicated that the 1996 budget for health, which is roughly YR 6 billion, is less in real terms than the YR 5 billion spent during 1995.

The WHO representative pointed to the rapid urbanization process resulting from high population growth rates as well as the rural-to-urban migration. "The urban population represented 27% in the 1994 census, and it is rising," he said.

By: Walid Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

Yemen Company for Fisheries and Marine Life

SHARES AVAILABLE

We are happy to hereby announce availability of share in the stock of Yemen Company for Fisheries and Marine Life for all Yemeni - whether inside the country or outside.

Shares, valued at YR 100 per share, are available with the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the National bank of Yemen, and all their branches.

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"Speak Out, Man!"

Do you find difficulty in talking to new people you meet or become tongue-tied with a crowd of people? If you lack confidence in your ability to converse readily, you can't expect to become a fluent conversationalist suddenly, but you can if you practice speaking regularly.

It is easy for a shy person to be overwhelmed by self-confident, vociferous people in a group. But everyone should have an opportunity to participate in a general conversation.

Think clearly before you make any comment and you'll express yourself more confidently. A muddled thinker makes a poor talker.

An old proverb says, "To talk without thinking is to shoot without aiming."

Many people say, "I never know what to say when with strangers..." Yet resources for conversation can be cultivated in the course of your life. Almost any subject can be the topic of an enjoyable conversation.

If you tend to wonder if your ideas are worth voicing, or feel embarrassed when expressing your thoughts, you are probably too concerned about the impression you are making than in the subject being discussed.

Try to switch your concern from yourself and become engrossed in the topic, then you will find conversation a delight.

Good conversation is rather like a ball game in which the ball passes from one player to another. It is not an individual juggling act. We all know people who hog a conversation and never allow others to air their opinions.

A stimulating conversation consists of a continual parry and thrust, with each person having the chance to express their views and beliefs.

To be a confident conversationalist, interest and enthusiasm are important qualities. Enthusiasms as distinct from obsessions, is one of the secrets of effective conversation.

If you are interested in a number of subjects so that you want to discover more about them, the chances are you will be equally enthusiastic in sharing your new knowledge with other folk.

Anyone who is only interested in talking about one or two subjects can be boring. If a woman always steers a conversation to her children or shopping or a man keeps referring to his job or favorite sport, others would think: "Oh, she or he is on his band-wagon again."

Aldous Huxley wrote, "There are not enough bon mots in existence to provide any industrious conversationalist with a new stock for every social occasion."

Conversation has to be made - fashioned rather - as a craftsman produces his masterpieces. We can't prepare our actual conversation in any situation, but we can certainly prepare ourselves.

If you are going to meet one or more strangers, try to discover something about their interests before your encounter. This will enable you to ask suitable questions such as, "I hear you're just back from a trip. Which part was most interesting?"

Everyone likes to talk about themselves and their experiences. So a well-directed question will encourage the conversation to flourish.

To be reasonably knowledgeable about current affairs, films, music, art, literature, television and radio gives plenty of scope

for conversation. Talk about economics, sports and holidays is nearly always popular. But for Yemenis, politics is the first theme of discussion.

Nothing is drearier at a dinner than being seated next to a person who keeps silent. When you make a friendly overture to your mute neighbor, avoid asking any questions which can be answered by a "Yes" or "No" or other single word.

Remember that a smile will help to make the other person want to chat to you.

Look at the person you are addressing, not at something or someone else which can be off-putting.

Speak clearly and reasonably slowly as a fast talker can bewilder a listener.

Sit up straight or stand erect when talking, then you'll breathe more deeply and your voice will be clearer.

Never allow your voice to become high-pitched if you are tense, but don't speak in a dead-pan voice which will depress any listeners. Breathing exercises will make your voice more soft and flexible.

Snatch a quick breath or two before expounding your opinion - this will make you feel more relaxed. By making the most of your voice, you will soon notice the increased influence you have on others.

Listen carefully to the other person's conversation and resist the temptation to interrupt. Take notice of the other's point of view and appreciate that there are two sides to every issue.

Disraeli once observed, "If every man were straight forward in his opinions, there would be no conversation."

Avoid being too dogmatic or too critical of other people's opinions, or friends may say about you, "He/she thinks he/she is always right."

Our minds are being furnished continually with the material we need for intelligent and pleasant conversation. But it is an advantage to have some particular subject or subjects on which you are, even in a limited sense, an expert.

This enables a friend to ask "What have you been reading lately?" or "Which film have you seen lately?"

Many people condemn small chat, but this does allow you to find out what interests a new acquaintance. Within a few minutes you may discover the other person enjoys walking, writing poetry, playing tennis, collecting stamps or visiting museums. At a subsequent meeting you will be able to ask suitable questions to display your interest.

When you genuinely want to hear about other people's experiences, books they have enjoyed, hobbies, or their employment, you are more than halfway to mastering the art of effective conversation.

Conversation is something we can richly share. Because communicating with others can inspire, inform, gladden and amuse us, it can be one of life's most rewarding pursuits.

Sydney Smith said, "Conversation is one of the greatest pleasures in life." Develop this attitude towards it and you will soon be relaxed and articulate in any company.

By:
Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times.

KLM Flies Boeing 767 on Yemen Sector: Another First in the Service of Customers



Starting from Sunday, March 31st, 1996, KLM (The Royal Dutch Airlines) is flying the ultra-modern Boeing 767 on its service between Sanaa and Amsterdam. "This is another milestone in the company's service on this sector," said Dutch Ambassador Antonie Pijpers who was on hand at the airport to welcome the arrival of the first 767 Boeing flight to Yemen.



The Sanaa office of KLM was similarly excited. "KLM is continuously working to provide better and better services to its customers. This means higher reliability, better comfort, more accessories on board and efficiency at the airport," said Mr. Nasser Batha, Regional Manager for Yemen and Oman. The public too is excited, as passengers look forward to using this service.



AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 21-3-96
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) It Happens Now.. It Would Have Been Impossible Before: A Mosque Is Wrecked In Aden
- 2) A Parliamentary Dialogue: The Islah Drops Its Conditions that the YSP Should Repent.
- 3) Continuation of the Trial of "Al-Shoura" Newspaper

Article Summary:

An American Report: Real Possibility of a Military Showdown Between Yemen and Eritrea

As a result of the reluctance of the Eritreans to respond to the mediation efforts by the French in the dispute between the Yemenis and the Eritreans over the Greater Hunaish Island in the Red Sea, which Eritrea occupied on 15 December 1995, the US government does not rule out open military confrontation between the two countries facing each other across the southern part of the Red Sea. A report issued by the Library of Congress is based on visits by US officials to the area, including the visit of Arthur Hughes, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs for the Middle East. The report indicates that the US strongly supports the French mediation effort, and warns that unless the peaceful efforts succeed, the possibility of Yemen launching a counter occupation effort of the island of Hunaish cannot be ruled out. The President of the Republic of Yemen, General Ali Abdulla Saleh has expressed his hopes in a joint press conference with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, that Yemen will not be forced into reverting to another alternative, if the peace efforts are rejected by his Eritrean counterpart Asaias Afwerke.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly), 1/4/1996
(Yemen Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) President Ali Nasser Mohammed and an Eye on the Future
- 2) A Fire in the Ministry of Fisheries
- 3) 6 - 7 Thousand Workers Are the Victims of the Minister of Finance

Article Summary:

All of Them Go to Cairo

In his weekly column, Omar Al-Jawi discusses the fact that a lot of people in the Yemeni political scene were in Cairo last week. Most were there to

participate in the conference sponsored by Ali Nasser Mohammed's Center for Middle East Strategic Studies. Some where there as the external opposition "Mawj", on a permanent basis or just in time for the President's visit. What was significant was the availability of so many political currents in the Yemeni scene, all of which just happened to be in one place at the same time, whether planned or inadvertently. Perhaps it could be an opportunity to make a successful effort towards real national reconciliation and an agreement to get back to the Document for Pledge and Accord, which Al-Jawi and many others believe a real basis for any reconciliation. What is also needed is that the 16 "Wanted" Secessionists must be removed from the Prosecutor's "Chaste" List, because the condition of the country requires that everybody gives a hand to bring it out of its pitiful demise.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly), 3-4-96
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Poor Preparation of the Teachers Is Among the Most Important Reason for the Low Quality of Teaching
- 2) Ali Abdulla Saleh Confirms the Ability of Egypt to Return Arab Solidarity to its former Status
- 3) The Reconciliation of Financial Obligations Between the Ministry of Finance and the Pensions Authority

Article Summary:

An Open Letter to The Mayor of Sana'a

Ahmed Najee Ahmed starts a strong critical letter of the Mayor of Sana'a with the title: "Have Fear of God in Managing Sana'a". The beginning of Mr. Al-Maswary's reign as Mayor of Sana'a saw the construction of decorative landmarks on major road intersections and city centers of the town, and it was thought that the Mayor is on his way to make the town a fortress of beauty and charm. But as

time passed, the Mayor neglected to take any effective measures in solving the problem of overflowing septic tanks and wells throughout the city that have filled the city with continuously flowing streams of filth.

"Who is responsible?", the letter asks. It puts no doubt on placing the Mayor fully and directly responsible and accountable to the people of the city for all the mess that the city finds itself in. The people of Sanaa have the right to boot him out of office through a round of local elections. So, what is the problem? Is it a question of authority and powers? Is it a question of means? Or is it really a question of conscience? Two [sic] million people of Sana'a the capital are demanding an immediate solution to a serious problem both from human and health points of view (and from the point of minimal cosmopolitan good taste - the Editor).

AL-WAHDAWI : Sana'a (Weekly), 2-4-96
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The People's General Congress Continues the Rape of State Property
- 2) American Intelligence Is Involved in Terrorist Operations In Iraq
- 3) US Human Rights Report: Apologetic Language and Misses out on a Lot of Flagrant Violations (in Yemen).

Article Summary:

1) Projects of the Ministry of Youth

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahab Rawih, told the paper that the Ministry is putting out a tender inviting bids for the construction of a youth center in the village of Al-Hadharem. The Ministry is putting in half of the YR 10 million project cost, while the other half will be contributed by the Hadharem Welfare Association. On the other hand, the Japanese Embassy has inquired with the Prime Minister's office regarding the fate of the equipment donated by the Japanese government to the Women's Development Center

managed by the Hadharem Welfare Association. Recently the center had been looted and vandalized. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the HWA said that the government is refusing to arrest the people responsible for this action.

2) On the Elections, Forgery and the Opposition

The paper, on its editorial column (Al-Wahdawi's Position) discussed the significance of the Seminar on Guarantees for Free and Clean Elections jointly sponsored by the Yemeni Institute for the Development of Democracy and the Center for Futures Studies. The editorial delves into the unfortunate violations of the rulers during the last parliamentary elections (April 1993) and relates all the difficulties that the country is currently facing to all the violations of the rulers during the elections.

Those gross violations and forgeries resulted in a relatively weak parliament that gives the executive authority unlimited authority and fails to exercise any of its constitutional powers to regulate the activities of the government. The editorial states that the April 1993 elections only prove that holding of free and clean elections as called for by the Opposition Bloc is the only way for Yemen to come out of its present crises. One prerequisite is preventing the rulers from utilizing public funds and organs in the elections. The rulers have managed to create a parliament that is docile and to complies with all their wishes, throwing aside the hopes and dreams of the people that "elected" them.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly), 3-4-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) A Filipino Firm to Manage Aden Port for 25 Years
- 2) A Tribal War in Mareb
- 3) Security (Criminal Investigations) Officers Rape a Woman and her Daughter in Mukalla.

Article Summary:

Islamic Banks Between Legitimacy and the Economy

Mohammed Hayel Uthman in his weekly column, Straight Talk, discusses the plight of Islamic Banks in Yemen. He points to the necessity for them to systematically and professionally manage the funds already at the disposal of their founders. The writer, a veteran Yemeni banker of Saudi Arabia (National Commercial Bank) and Yemen (International Bank of Yemen) then advises the founders not to fall in the trap of employing expatriates from only one country to hold the senior management positions.

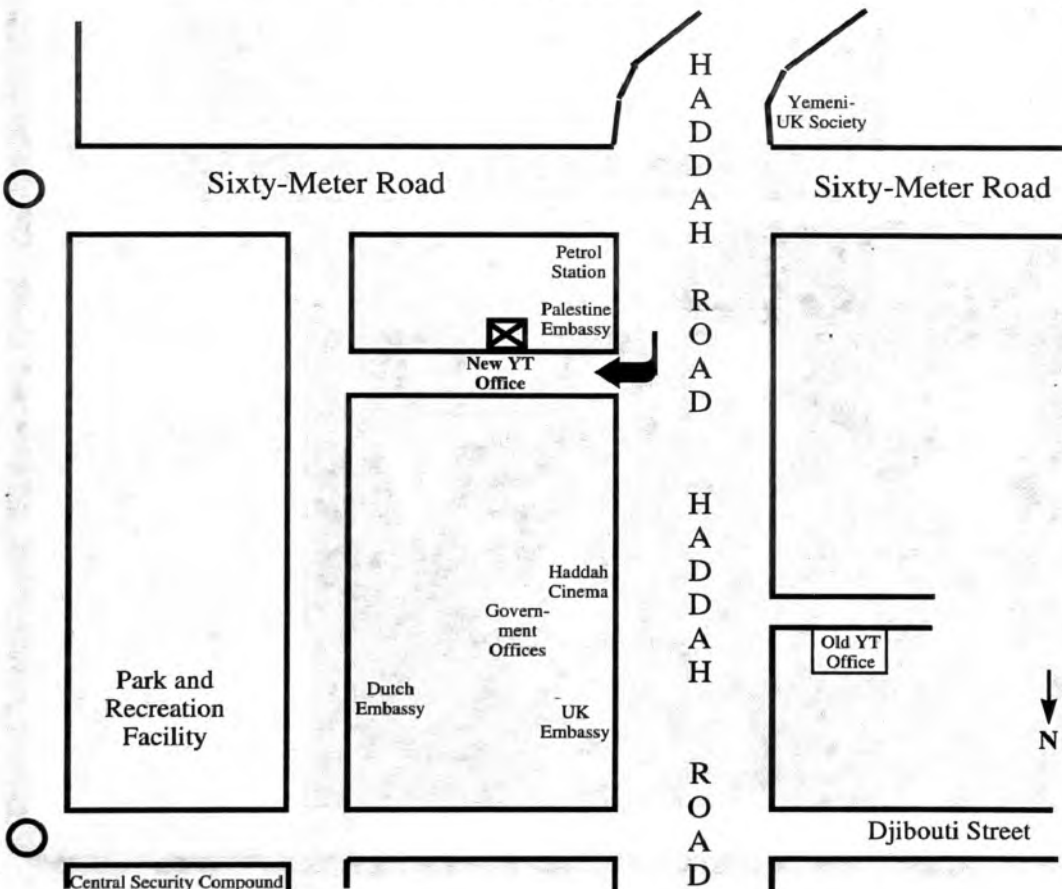
YEMEN TIMES HAS MOVED TO NEW PREMISES

The lease for our current premises has not expired. But we are forced to move out on 15/4/1996. 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).

Telephone and Fax Numbers are the same.

Tel: 268-661/2, Fax: 268-663



Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

YEMEN TIMES COVERAGE OF A DIFFICULT BIRTH

We consider that the front page article and photo of the March 25th to 31st issue of the Yemen Times (Issue Number 13/95) regarding the birth of male Siamese Twins to be in particular bad taste. The Yemen Times usually presents itself as an informative not as a sensationalist newspaper.

If the purposes of the article were to commend the doctor, to emphasize the lack of adequate health facilities in Yemen or to educate people about congenital twins, then an article focusing on these aspects could have been written. However, to include a photo of a newly born, blood covered, dead baby on the front page shows no sensitivity towards the family of the baby or to your readers who do not wish to see such sights.

We hope that this sort of journalism will not be repeated in your newspaper.

for: Members of the Community Services Committee of the American Women's Group.

Editor's Note:

We are thankful for the flood of mail we get from our readers. This week we have space for only two letters - giving a different perspective. Please keep sending your feedback as it helps us grow and improve. It doesn't matter if it is a word of praise or some criticism. Just state your mind, and we hope to learn as we grow.

BRAVO YEMEN TIMES

A short time ago, I had the opportunity to visit Yemen as a tourist. As you know, a tourist gets acquainted with the country and its people only in a very poor way. He/She scratches the surface only slightly. Accidentally I found some issues of the Yemen Times in my hotel. I read them, and I feel obliged to tell you my high esteem to you and to your team, and I wish you much success in fighting for the truth. Indeed, I felt the enormous work that must go into producing such a good paper.

Among others, I remember your viewpoint on ETHICS IN POLITICS in the issue no. 10/95 (dated March 4th). You refer to moral and ethical standards of politicians and officials in Western countries. I agree fully with you about the importance of ethics in politics, but I am sorry, that we must state a decrease of ethics and morals in general, and also in politics and in the public administration, as well in Germany as in other Western countries too. Unfortunately the number of our corruption cases, perhaps yet small compared with other countries, seems to increase. I wish and I hope, that we will be able to stop or even to reverse this trend. 25 years ago, I spent a few years working as an engineering professor in Egypt. It was only natural, that I learned a little about Islamic life, and I found good friends, who are Muslims. I am Christian, but I hold in high estimate those, who are serious Muslims. I think, we, Muslims and Christians, should feel as brothers.

I heard pf the forthcoming trip to Germany of your chief editor. I wish all you all the best. If there is anything I could do here, please let me know. Meanwhile, all the best for Yemen Times.

Bewhard Wide, Germany.

Ombudsman in Parliament to Send Fact-Finding Mission to Hadharem

At the request of the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA), the Ombudsman and the Committee for Human Rights and Liberties in parliament has formed a delegation to go to Hadharem village. On 24th of January, 1996, an army of 400 soldiers and officers and several mounted vehicles invaded the village and occupied it for one week. The soldiers also occupied the house of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the HWA, for three days. When they left, they looted with them some of the furniture and blankets and carpets. The soldiers also beat up the women and children, imprisoned the old men, forcefully took money from the villagers, slaughtered some of the animals, and fired on the houses.

"Many Yemenis and foreigners simply could not believe the reports. They thought I was exaggerating," Dr. Saqqaf said. I have appealed to the President, to the Speaker of Parliament, to the Judiciary to investigate. He has been pressing for an independent party to carry out an investigation.

At last, that could be happening. Let us wait and see!

Al-Soufi Says He Is Willing to Give YIDD for Dr. Iryani

Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD), telephoned the Yemen Times to state that he is willing to give up the YIDD to Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister and Secretary-General of the People's General Congress (PGC). "I am told by several individuals that Dr. Al-Iryani pledged to dislodge me from the YIDD. I want to tell him he does not need to dislodge me. He can come and I will gladly pass on the reigns to him," Al-Soufi said.

Al-Soufi also indicated that the YIDD is actually more of a burden to him than a privilege. "It is dire financial straits," he added.

The YIDD has been carrying out various seminars and workshops concerning the concept and practice of democracy. The last of these was a successful seminar on the required guarantees for holding clean and free elections in 1997.

Last year, an attempt was made to re-structure the YIDD. Efforts were made to form a new Board of Trustees, but so far, they have failed.

According to Soufi, however, Iryani's efforts are mainly oriented towards taming the YIDD and bringing it under the full control of the ruling politicians, notably the PGC.

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SANAA :	
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Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
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Sadah (051)	
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معهد الفاروق
WELCOME

Two students from Al-Farouk Institute - Sami and Anees Zehra are leaving for Great Britain next week. They will be enrolled at St. Giles College - Eastbourne.

Mr. Farouk Al-Warad joined them in a small celebration and wished them 'Good Luck'. (picture).

معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER

Contest No. 66 مسابقة رقم 66

Prepared by:
Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

P.O.Box 3637, Al-Raqqas St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sanaa; Telephone (967-1) 209721, Fax 218 231
ص ب رقم (3637)، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء، تليفون 209721 (1-967)، فاكس 218231

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 اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من «يمن تايمز».

Across

7. Big top place!
- 8, 11 ACROSS & 3 DOWN. Warden at the Tower of London.
10. Drive backwards.
11. See 8 ACROSS.
12. Arrange.
13. Quite frequently.
17. Unit of weight for diamonds.
18. Star ---: TV space series.
22. House-building block.
23. Tire out under a car?
24. Ordinary.
25. Henry the ---: king who had six wives.

Down

1. Female playing a part.
2. Courage.
3. See 8 ACROSS.
4. Taken away.
5. Containing nothing.
6. Make cross.
9. Another name for 8 ACROSS. 11 ACROSS, 3 DOWN.
14. Type of crow with a grey neck.
14. Not the complete picture?
19. Hard black wood.
20. Dietary roughage.
21. Group of church singers.

Correct answers for contest No. (65)

WINNER OF CONTEST NO 65:
Abdullah Husain Al-Kabas

جائزة هذه المسابقة مقدمة من معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
The prize of this contest is donated by Al-Farouk Institute

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Diplomatic vs Real Views: What Is Your Hat, Mate?

By: Ismail Al-Ghabry, Yemen Times

I regularly come in contact with foreigners - whether those living among in Yemen or those visiting. And I always go home with the conclusion that they are very optimistic about Yemen and that they see a much rosier picture than most Yemenis. On the other hand, I also come in contact with all kinds of Yemenis - starting with laymen to professionals. They are much more pessimistic about the local conditions. Even government officials express frustration. Given the clear contrast, I thought there must an information gap. Either side must be missing something. So I decided to investigate. I found out that both sides are right because they see the picture from their side. The foreigners have less reason to worry about. The things that worry Yemenis are not an issue of concern among foreigners. As examples, let me list some of the sources of frustration for Yemenis: electric black-outs, high cost of living, shortages of water supply, lack of proper respect from authorities, inadequate security, and of course, the scourge of unemployment, etc.

So, when a foreigner, like an ambassador says to Yemenis "You are on the right track, or things are not really that bad or improving," the locals chuckle. They feel the foreigners are "just out of it" or even "mad". Mad they definitely are not. And, they must surely know the realities. Maybe they are just playing nice. Or what is that phrase - yes, they are being diplomatic. That is why foreign researchers and visitors (provided they are not government delegates) are more accurate about their assessment of Yemen's conditions. Even the tourists offer a more realistic picture than the resident lot.

So there you have it, folks. Next time you engage foreigners in a conversation, first consider the kind of hat they are wearing. That will help assess what they say in proper perspective. My only hope is that the diplomatic assessment is not carried over to their officials back at home.

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